

## MORE MONEY URGED FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION

A PLEA THAT an immediate substantial increase should be made in the Department of the Environment's present annual expenditure of £150,000 on the excavation of threatened archaeological sites in England was made recently to Mr. Julian Amery, Minister for Housing and Construction, by a deputation from *Rescue*, the newly-formed trust for British archaeology.

The deputation, which was led by Martin Biddle, called for a doubling of the present expenditure in the first year, with subsequent increases over the next five years to four times the present amount, and with additional annual increases to off-set rising costs. Appropriate increases should also be made in Scotland and Wales. This would provide a sum more adequate to deal with the great and accelerating destruction without record of our archaeological sites.

To encourage land owners and farmers to protect sites the deputation urged that the system of compensatory payments for the preservation of field monuments, recommended in a report to the Government in 1969, should be implemented as soon as possible.

The deputation also proposed that the archaeological investigation and recording of threatened sites should be brought within the scope of planning legislation to give early warning to archaeologists and developers. This would avoid unexpected delays and consequent financial loss to developers.

Another proposal was that at least part of the cost of archaeological work on development sites, and the subsequent publication of the results of the work, should be a charge on the developer, whether public or private. Such a provision would be in line with existing practice of long standing in some European countries.

The Minister welcomed *Rescue's* initiative and said he would give sympathetic consideration to the proposals made by the deputation and would reply to them later.

## POTTERY EXPERIMENT

THE COVER PHOTOGRAPH shows a potter, George Demetriou, finishing a vessel made during an experiment held in Highgate Wood as part of the 1971 season's work. The experiment, carried out by the Horniman Museum, was organised as an I.L.E.A. in-service training course for pottery and craft-work teachers. The practical aim of the course was to manufacture pottery similar to that made in the wood during the last 1st and early 2nd century A.D.; it also involved building kilns based on those previously found on the site.

A report on the 1970-71 excavations will appear in the next issue of the magazine.

## OPEN DAYS AT LONDON BRIDGE

OVER 1,000 visitors took advantage of two open Sundays at the London Bridge excavations, organised by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society, on 29th August and 5th September. These open days, which enable the public to meet the archaeologists, were an unprecedented success. The public expressed its goodwill by generous donations, which, including sales of this magazine, exceeded £150. This was largely due to the efforts of the S.L.A.S. guides at Graham Dawson's Montague Close site and to Harvey Sheldon and his band at Tooley Street.

This successful event was run with the minimum of preliminary preparation, although publicity and press coverage were well handled by Southwark Borough Council.

It is to be hoped that other groups and societies in London running excavations will be able to emulate Southwark. With a few weeks attention to the organisation of displays and the planning of tours to cope with large numbers of people, and a concerted onslaught on press and radio or TV publicity, surely an archaeological event could be planned in Central London that could break all records in numbers of visitors and funds raised.

It may be argued that the organisation of a large scale event would disrupt excavations and divert members from more important work. However, just two days in the year is surely not wasted time, if the cause is to improve the image of archaeology in the public eye, and even the most harassed site director will be appeased by a bulging donations tin.

## FILMING "LONDINIUM"

A COLOUR FILM STRIP on Roman London has been compiled by H. A. B. and H. R. B. White. This film consists of 40 excellent half-frame transparencies and is accompanied by a booklet of full and helpful notes and a short bibliography. It deals with the material remains of Roman London, both visible on the ground and in the museums. Starting with a tour of the remains of the Roman city above ground, the siting and communications, the wall boundary and situation of London as a military station are pointed out. The importance of the city as a centre of commerce and religious culture are next shown, then such specific remaining features as baths and tessellated pavements. Finds now in museums such as wall plaster, pottery, leather and metal work, writing materials and funerary urns and tombs also feature. This film strip is available from H. A. B. White, 34 Waldegrave Park, Twickenham, Middlesex, price £1.50, including postage and booklet of notes.

## THE ENVIRONMENTAL CONSORTIUM

FORMED IN 1970 the Environmental Consortium is a group which aims to ensure that the environment is developed as a whole for the benefit of future generations. By using all forms of mass-media communications and by contacting the developers both public and private, it hopes to show how the environment can be maintained or improved.

The Research and Development Division has just published a report called *Historic London—asset or liability?* The report points out how London is being developed without any co-ordinated overall plan with many areas losing their individual, natural local character. It lists twelve specific proposals on how the old and the new can be combined without wholesale demolition, improving the amenities but still providing tourist attractions.

One such proposal is as follows—"Encourage the setting up of further local museums emphasizing past, present and future of the district as "with-it" centres of the community as opposed to merely being repositories of its past . . ." The Consortium which has applied for registration as a charity, looks for support from all interested groups and individuals; its address is 14 William IV Street, London, W.C.2.N 4DW.