

the town's marketing past, but the Old Wheel was the last obvious agrarian link.

The manner of its passing was despicable. Early rumours, a pat denial, followed eventually by destructive nibbling, and inadequate provision for what remained, preceded a final decision taken with minimum publicity. All this is typical of the methods by which historically and archaeologically interesting buildings are removed from our towns and countryside. And what has replaced the Old Wheel? The citizens of Reigate have been offered the insult of a "carefully built" pastiche. In place of a building of genuine historic interest and considerable sentimental appeal from which much could be learnt, they have been given yet another sham which does nothing more than demonstrate the low esteem

in which genuine contemporary architecture is widely held.

This sad story can be paralleled all over Britain. It is hard to believe that it resulted from anything but an unholy alliance between avarice, insensitivity and shortsightedness with incompetence as a willing bystander. How much more is going to be lost in the same way in Britain?

The law of the land is sufficient to stop this destruction, but only if it is administered in a wise, alert and sensitive way by our elected representatives on planning committees. The law only sets the rules of the game: how it is played and who wins depends on the abilities and the vigilance of the players—developers, councillors, planners, parliamentarians and ourselves.

Excavations

CITY, by Guildhall Museum, Department of Urban Archaeology. A series of long term rescue excavations. Enquiries to Brian Hobley, Chief Urban Archaeologist, Guildhall Museum, 55 Basinghall Street, E.C.2. (01-606 3030, ext. 2747).

BRENTFORD, by the West London Archaeological Field Group. July 6-September. 9.30-5.30 Sunday to Friday. At the rear of 232 Brentford High Street (junction with St. Paul's Road). Experience not necessary. This site is adjacent to a site excavated 1970-1972. Enquiries to Roy Canham, London Museum, Kensington, W.8 (01-937 9816).

EGHAM, by Surrey Archaeological Society Motorway Rescue Group. Two sites at Thorpe Lea Nurseries, one Bronze Age, one Roman. Digging every day; enquiries to Bernard Johnson, S.A.E.C., Montague Chambers, Montague Close, S.E.1 (01-407 1989).

FULHAM, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Site at junction of Fulham Palace Road, and Fulham Road directed by Keith Whitehouse. The site includes a section of the moat surrounding Fulham Palace. Week-ends. Enquiries to 58 Tamworth Street, S.W.6 (01-385 6038).

HENDON, by Hendon & District Archaeological Society. Various sites on the development area at Church End, Hendon, will be dug throughout the summer. Enquiries to Mrs. Bridget Grafton-Green, 88 Temple Fortune Lane, N.W.11 (01-455 9050).

HOOK, by Martin Dean for Kingston-upon-Thames Museum. The Grapsome, a possible medieval moated site on the Esher by-pass. Week-ends only. Enquiries to Marion Smith at Kingston Museum (01-546 8905).

NORTHLGT, by Northolt Archaeological & Historical Research Group. Work is continuing on the Saxon and medieval site. Saturdays 1-5 p.m. Sundays 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Enquiries to Bob Lancaster, Gunnersbury Park Museum, W.3. (01-922 2247).

PUTNEY, by Wandsworth Historical Society. Site off the Upper Richmond Road behind the Police Station, directed by Pat and Joan Loobey. It is expected that the north/south Roman road will be picked up. Alternate week-ends. Enquiries to 157 Longcilliffe House, Arndale Walk, S.W.18. (01-874 9309).

SOUTHWARK, by Southwark Archaeological Excavation Committee. Several sites from the Roman period onwards. Enquiries to Harvey Sheldon, S.A.E.C., Montague Chambers, Montague Close, S.E.1 (01-407 1989).

STAINES, by London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. A site off Staines High Street, on the outer defences of the Roman settlement. Every day from mid-June. Enquiries to Kevin Crouch (01-560 3880 day) or (09328-62874 eve).

FULL-TIME work is also taking place along the route of the proposed M11 in the Redbridge-Chigwell-Theydon Bois area all summer. Enquiries to the M11 Field Officer, Mr. T. Betts, 3 The Green, Palmerston Road, Buckhurst Hill, Essex (01-504 6708).

EXCAVATIONS

The Council for British Archaeology produces a monthly Calendar of Excavations from March to September, with a final issue in January summarising the main results of fieldwork. The Calendar gives details of extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription is 80p. post-free, which should be made payable to C.B.A., 8 St. Andrew's Place, N.W.1.