

## CAMDEN HISTORY SOCIETY

THIS NEW society has recently been formed "to study and record the history, topography and social development" of the former boroughs of Hampstead, Holborn and St. Pancras, and its first general meeting was attended by about 80 people. The intention is to set up research projects in various "antiquarian and historical" topics, collecting pictorial, documentary and other material relating to the history of the area, and providing facilities for its housing and preservation. Lectures and exhibitions are also planned, and the publication of transactions is provided for in the Constitution.

It is intended to form links with similar societies, and to provide a body of knowledge which will assist in the preservation of local landmarks and historic buildings. Membership costs a minimum of £1 for full members, with special provisions for joint membership, associate membership (i.e. institutions), full-time students and old age pensioners. Details from the Secretary, G. D. Gregory at the Central Library, Swiss Cottage, N.W.3.

## ENFIELD MUSEUMS

THE CURATOR of the Forty Hall Museum (built in 1629 by Sir Nicholas Raynton, Lord Mayor of London) and the Broomfield Museum, Enfield, exhibiting local antiquities, pottery and paintings, would be grateful to hear of any material relating to the London Borough of Enfield for loan, gift or possible purchase.

## GLIAS-SLAS VISIT TO DERBYSHIRE

A DARING bank raid, another bank struck by lightning, and the arrival of 35 enthusiasts from archaeological societies in the London area were the notable events in the quiet town of Matlock during the three days 8-11th May. It was the third annual excursion made by members of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society to see sites of industrial and archaeological importance outside London, and this year, for their study tour of Derbyshire, they were joined by members of the Greater London Industrial Archaeology Society.

The programme covered a wide variety of interests and included visits to caves once occupied by palaeolithic man, burial chambers, an important Bronze Age henge and sanctuary, sites showing evidence of medieval field strips, the Peak District National Park, streets of interesting industrial dwellings, one-time cotton mills, old mine workings, canals, the tracks of disused railways, engine houses, windmills, churches, country houses with remarkable architecture, and even "some of the ruins that Cromwell knocked about a bit."

At Bamford Mill, once used for spinning, later for textiles, and now producing electric furnaces, the main item of interest was a horizontal steam engine dating from 1907, which had once transmitted drive by pulleys, to several floors of the mill. This engine is kept in full working condition and the present owners, the Carbolite Company Ltd., set it in action on the last Friday in every month for the benefit of visitors.

Another highlight of the trip was the visit to the British Tramway Museum at Crich, where some 40 British and European trams are on view. Some of them are used to take visitors for short rides.

The tour's success was undoubtedly due to the time and behind-the-scenes organisation contributed by John Ashdown, Paul Carter and Michael Bussell (programme planners); Marion Bennett (keeper of the party purse); Frank Nixon C.B.E. (author of *Industrial Archaeology of*

*Derbyshire*), who gave a talk on this subject to the group; Roger Evans, who arranged inspection of the Middleton Incline winding engine; A. N. Smith, guide for Belper North Mill (an iron-framed fireproof building); the Peak District Mines Historical Society, who pointed out the features (including 400 ft. shafts) of the disused Magpie Mine at Sheldon; and Vernon Radcliffe of Newark Museum, whose brisk conducted tour of the town took in the castle undercroft, the market square and an important Royalist earthwork used during the Civil War.

## ARCHAEOLOGY IN FULHAM

ON APRIL 30, the Fulham History Society held a meeting to discuss the formation of an archaeological group. Roy Canham of the London Museum introduced the meeting with a lecture on "The Archaeology of the London Region." During the ensuing discussion, attended by over 70 people, a motion was passed that an archaeological group should be formed.

The inaugural meeting will be on Wednesday, 8th July, at 8 p.m. at Fulham Library, 598 Fulham Road, S.W.6. Information may be obtained from: Keith Whitehouse, 56 Tamworth Street, S.W.6.

## LEWISHAM ARCHAEOLOGY

LEWISHAM Natural History Society is interested in general natural history but it also has an active archaeology section working mainly in Lewisham and Greenwich.

Building operations at St. Michael and All Angels Church in Blackheath Park revealed massive wall foundations from the 18th century house of Sir Gregory Page; trenches were dug yielding material from all earlier periods to c. 1050, mostly unstratified.

The latest site in Foyle Road, Greenwich is just being brought to a close. This has uncovered a complex of walls with much material from the 16th and 17th centuries, probably connected with the first Westcombe House. Reports on these and other activities are published in the Society's journal "Darenthis" when convenient. Talks are in hand with other local groups whose interests border on archaeology to encourage joint action and cover sites subject to development. The Hon. Secretary is Mr. K. White, 12 Ferner Road, S.E.23.

## NEOLITHIC AT PUTNEY

THE SITE (TQ 232760) is situated geologically on a spur of Flood Plain sand and gravel; bordered to the west by Putney Common; to the north by Beverly Brook, and to the east by the Thames; whilst its southerly aspect rises up to Putney Heath. The area between the Upper Richmond Road (South Circular), and the Thames is reasonably flat, having a gradient of 1:220 feet. The excavation by Wandsworth Historical Society has so far produced more than three hundred pieces of worked flint, most of which are wasters from the manufacture of tools.

None of these artifacts are very big owing to the shortage of natural flint in the area so that pebbles from the river gravels are the main source of supply. The dating evidence gained from the typology of the tools is supported by the discovery of two pieces of Neolithic pottery, one piece, very tiny, has a corky appearance and the other, a much larger piece being of a gritty texture and almost black in colour and part of a decorated rim of a Mortlake on Peterborough type.

The actual floor has yet to be reached, so we still cannot say whether this is a settlement site or a manufacturing area. The dig will continue on Sundays for as long as the site is available.