



# Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



Above: This year's Festival of British Archaeology dig on the site of Elsyng Palace, Forty Hall. See report on p4.

Top: An early 2<sup>nd</sup> century rouletted beaker in Highgate fabric C, among the finds from our 1985 excavation in Landseer Road recently re-assessed by Martin Dearne and Roger Dormer. See our blog for more <http://enfieldarchaeology.wordpress.com/>

## Forthcoming Events:

- 2 EAS  
Full 2013 Lecture Programme including:  
18 January: The New Look Cutty Sark  
15 February: Greeks, Romans and Byzantines
- 3 Other Societies
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Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December  
The Editor is Jeremy Grove

Meetings are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield (*near Chase Side*) at 8pm. Tea and coffee are served and the sales and information table is open from 7.30pm. Visitors, who are asked to pay a small entrance fee of £1.00, are very welcome.

# Forthcoming events



*If you would like to attend the EAS lectures, but find travelling difficult, please call 020 8449 5298 and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.*

## 2013 EAS Lecture Programme

### 18<sup>th</sup> January

The New Look Cutty Sark

*Jessica Lewis, Cutty Sark Curator*

### 15<sup>th</sup> February

Greeks, Romans and Byzantines: the Archaeology of Constantinople

*Ian Jones, EAS*

### 15<sup>th</sup> March

Old and New Finds of the Coin Collection

*David Thorold, Prehistory – Medieval Curator, Verulamium Museum, St Albans*

Including the 'nationally significant' hoard of Roman gold coins revealed this October.

### 19<sup>th</sup> April

The Excavations of the Society in 2012 (preceded by AGM)

*Dr Martin Dearne & Mike Dewbrey*

### 17<sup>th</sup> May

Skeletal Material in the Museum of London

*Jelena Bekvalac, Curator, Human Osteology, Museum of London*

### 14<sup>th</sup> June

The Geoffrey Gillam Memorial Lecture  
To be confirmed, but likely to be a local subject.

### 13<sup>th</sup> September

The Chiseldon Cauldrons (*tbc*)

*Alexandra Baldwin, Conservator, British Museum*

### 18<sup>th</sup> October

The Roman Bones of Old Enfield

*Neil Pinchbeck, EAS*

### 15<sup>th</sup> November

Shakespeare's Curtain Theatre – The Whole Story

*Julian Bowsher, Senior Archaeologist, MOLA*

### December

Winter break – no meeting

## EAS Fieldwork



The Society carries out a busy programme of excavation and other practical activities in the Borough. Please contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) for more details if you are interested.

Blog: <http://enfieldarchaeology.wordpress.com/>

Website: <http://www.enfarchsoc.org/>

# Meetings of other Societies

## **EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

16 Jan	Enfield Literati	<i>Joe Studman</i>
19 Feb	(2.15pm for 2.30) History and Mystery of Oakfield Road	<i>Geoff Jacobs</i>
22 Feb	(7.30pm at Charity School, Church St, Edmonton) Enfield Railways Part 1 (East)	<i>Dave Cockle</i>
20 Mar	AGM followed by The Great Bed of Ware	<i>Dave Perman</i>

## **HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH** 7.45 for 8.00pm Jubilee Hall, Enfield

8 Jan	The South Sea Bubble	<i>Julian Hoppit</i>
12 Feb	The Monstrous Regiment of Women in Tudor and Stuart England	<i>Jackie Eales</i>
12 Mar	Christian-Jewish Relations in Medieval Latin Europe	<i>Bernard Gowers</i>

## **LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY** 6.30pm Museum of London, EC1

8 Jan	Shakespeare's London Theatreland: 20 Years of Archaeology	<i>Julian Bowsher</i>
12 Feb	AGM & Presidential Address: London & the Saxons: Wheeler 80 Years On	<i>Martin Biddle</i>
12 Mar	The Medieval Church and Cloisters of Austin Friars	<i>Nick Holder</i>

## **HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY** 7.45 for 8.00pm Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley

8 Jan	The Reign of Akhenaten	<i>Lucia Gahlin</i>
12 Feb	From Longboat to Warrior – the Evolution of the Wooden Ship	<i>Elliott Wragg</i>
12 Mar	The Railway Heritage Trust	<i>Andy Savage</i>

## **WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP** 7.45pm, Woodford County High School, High Rd, Woodford Green

14 Jan	(7.30pm) Social Evening – Fun, Games and Food	
11 Feb	Waltham Abbey and the Reformation	<i>Peter Huggins</i>
11 Mar	(7.30pm) AGM followed by Presidential Address	<i>Harvey Sheldon</i>

## **WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY** 8pm, Parish Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey

17 Jan	Female Munition Workers at the RGPF & Royal Small Arms Factory	<i>Dr David Kenyon</i>
21 Feb	Recent Archaeological Finds & Displays at EFDC Museum	<i>Tony O'Connor</i>
21 Mar	Henry II & the Refoundation of Waltham Abbey	<i>Dr Hugh Doherty</i>

# SOCIETY

# MATTERS

## Membership subscriptions – due 1 Jan

Please remember your membership falls due for renewal on 1 January 2013, irrespective of when you joined the society, unless you joined after 30 September 2012.

Please send the enclosed Renewal Form, together with the appropriate sum, to the Membership Secretary, Lesley Pinchbeck, 68 Tynemouth Drive, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 4LT.

The rates are again unchanged from last year:

Ordinary Members:	£ 9.00
Joint Memberships:	£13.00
Junior Members:	£ 4.50

Joint Membership is defined as any number of named persons residing at one address and receiving a single copy of Society News.

**New members who joined the Society after 30 September 2012 need take no action, as their subscriptions are valid until 31 December 2013.**

# ENFIELD AT WAR, 1914-1918

## Appeal for information and artefacts

As part of the local commemorations of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the outbreak of the First World War the Enfield Archaeological Society has decided, in co-operation with the Enfield Museums Service, to revise and re-issue Geoffrey Gillam's "Enfield at War 1914-1918", originally published in 1982.

The Museum is planning a major exhibition on the period, which the book will accompany.

The work will include additional information that has come to light since 1982 and will have many more illustrations than the original, including photographs, documents and artefacts. The emphasis will continue to be on the Enfield area and its people during the conflict, but it is hoped to include information on the experiences of some of those who served in the forces. This aspect of local involvement in the conflict is a story that has yet to be told.

As editor of this publication I am keen to hear from anyone who has any information not yet in the public domain.

This can take the form of letters, diaries or a whole host of official forms ranging from a temporary exemption from military service to a report to the military police concerning an assault on a soldier. Photographs, including postcards, are a sometimes vital source of information, especially if they relate to events like the Cuffley Zeppelin or other events, or show people involved in some aspect of war work.

Apart from war and other service medals, badges and various commemorative items, artefacts are scarce and the Museum is interested in anything to do with the Great War in this area and those who worked locally or served overseas, especially larger objects like uniforms or equipment.

Apart from war memorials and buildings at places like the Royal Small Arms site, physical traces of the conflict are equally scarce. I would particularly like any information, if it exists, on air raid shelters, and the two local airfields in the Lea Valley and at Oakwood, now both totally vanished under later development. We also have few records of the various guns set up as memorials after the end of the war and I am particularly intrigued by the field gun apparently set up outside the old Southgate School in Fox Lane.

**If anyone has any information which they think would be of interest, however humble it may seem, would they please get in touch with me; Ian Jones, on 020 8363 4094.**

## Elsyng Palace Excavations in 2012 (Site Code FXE12)

By Martin J. Dearne

Our on-going work on the Elsyng Palace site has, since 2009, been focused on a large structure lying across what is now the lime tree avenue.

It has become increasingly clear that its archaeological remains are represented by the shallowly buried dwarf brick walls its timber frame sat on. It appears that it was constructed immediately after the palace was demolished c. 1657 by Nicholas Rainton the younger, owner of Forty Hall, who had just acquired the dilapidated palace; and demolished some time around or before 1700 when a later owner of the hall planted the double avenue of lime trees that cross its line.

A longer annual excavation than in previous years, as ever with the permission of English Heritage and the support of the Borough, allowed us to cut not just a large excavation trench, but also a series of widely spaced smaller ones to confirm wall lines suggested by magnetometry evidence.

This was largely successful in defining the building which we can now say was broadly L-shaped with a north westerly arm internally c. 6.20m wide and 25.50m long. At the south east end it expanded to the north east into a roughly rectangular projection running north east for c. 2.50m beyond the line of the main part of the building. Though only based on geophysical evidence which requires excavational confirmation next year, this projection might have been internally c. 8.80m north west to south east. The implication of the positions and angles of the south east external wall sections seen in the present and earlier work is that, in addition to a 103° angle at the south east corner of the building, it had a south easterly dog leg immediately south east of the wall section seen in 2010.

These and other features point to the building having been an L-shaped agricultural building and the most obvious identification would be a threshing barn. These were often the most important agricultural building on farms in the early modern period, and were used for the

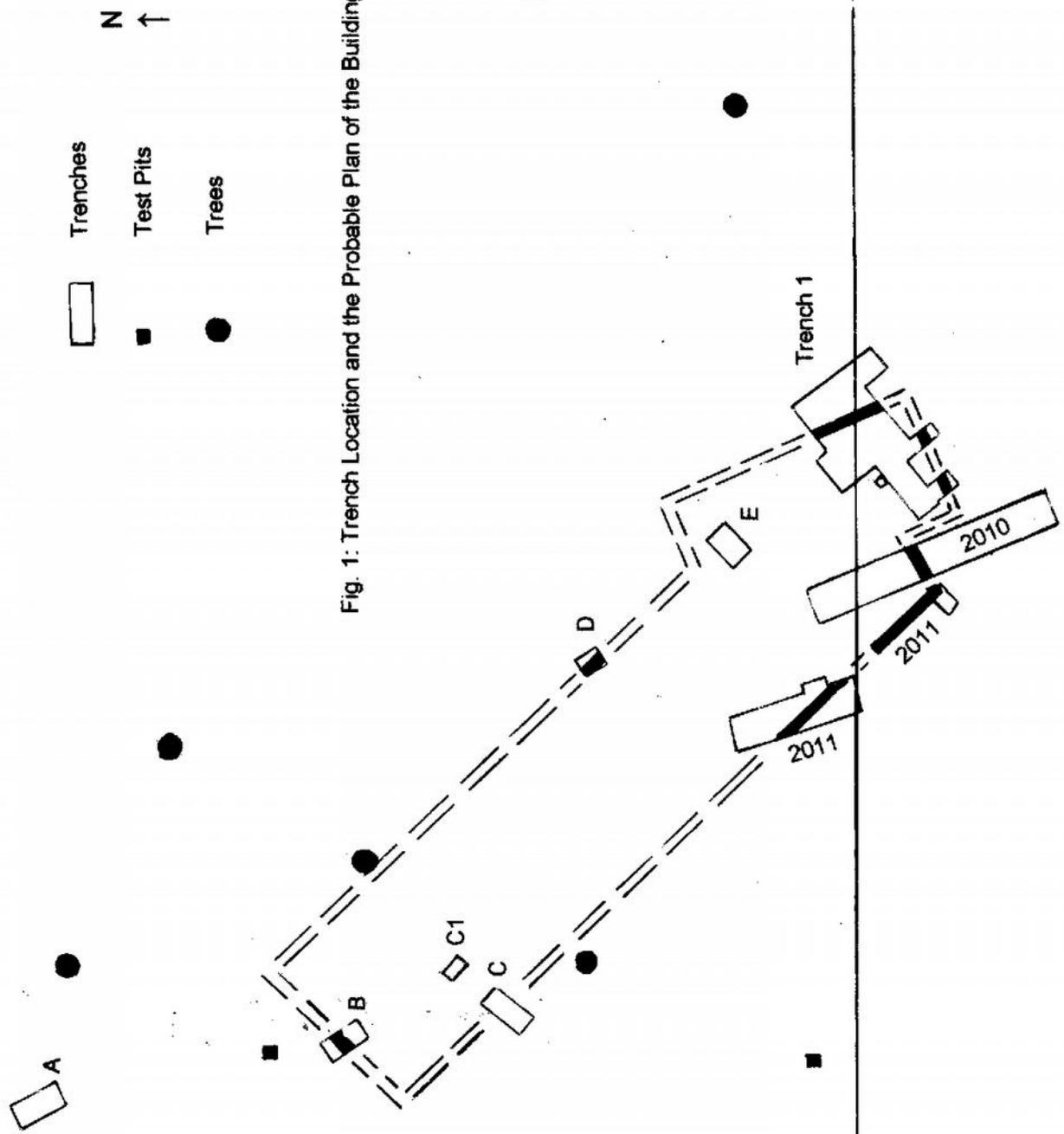


Fig. 1: Trench Location and the Probable Plan of the Building (1:250)

storage and autumn/winter threshing (and perhaps processing) of grain.

It currently appears likely therefore that Rainton put the palace site at least partly to economic uses, as opposed to using it as a recreational space, as had long been assumed. It may well be that the building acted as a central collection point for produce from his wider estates, though it seems to have stood in isolation, Trench A failing to find a second building which magnetometry evidence had hinted at (Fig. 1).

One entrance at the north west end of the building (Fig. 1 Trench B) appears to have been confirmed. This comprised a brick threshold with a mortar spread on its exterior side and a mortar bonded pebble and tile fragment floor within it. This entrance may have occupied the full width of the building, and been for carts.

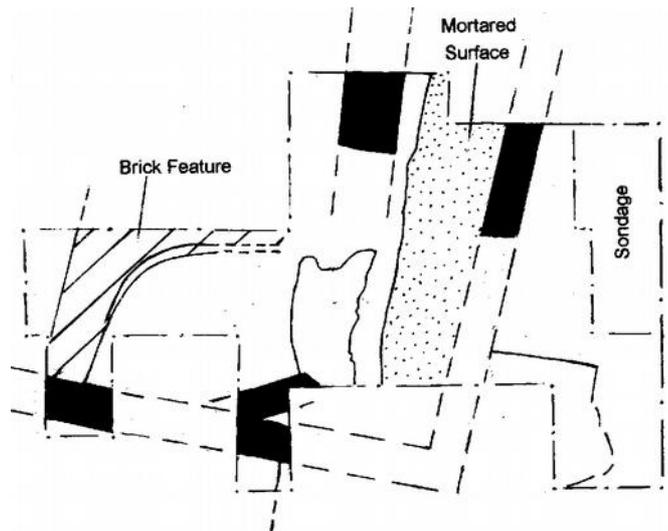
Magnetometry suggests other possible (?large) entrances which are likely to be investigated in 2013. Such buildings often incorporated large opposed entrances or removable wall panels (as well as superstructure vents) to create a through draft for winnowing and to keep the grain well ventilated.

However, one (?smaller, pedestrian) entrance appears to have existed coincident with Fig. 1 Trench C. Here we found only the consistent unmortared pebble and tile fragment flooring seen previously inside and in a band around the outside of the north western arm of the building. This, which may have been the main threshing floor, seems to have run for c. 19 to 20m south east from Trench B as far as a gravel dump which in fact covered the robber trench from the demolition of the palace's southern facade wall and may have been seen again this year in Fig. 1 Trench E. It is possible that the gravel dump would have supported a wooden partition wall.

From work in 2009 we know that south east of this on the west was a brickearth floor with an occupation deposit over it. This suggests that an area of c. 4 x 4m may have formed some sort of temporary or permanent living space (perhaps because, since the building seems to have been isolated, the security of the grain would have been a concern). In 2012 though our main excavation (Fig. 1 Trench 1) concentrated on defining and investigating the projecting part of the building further east.

Given the nature of demolition rubble encountered here, the projection probably had a tiled roof while further north west the building may well have been thatched. The external dwarf

walls of this projection were well preserved except in one area and the evidence suggested that it had been sub-divided by another similar north west - south east running wall (Fig. 2).



**Fig. 2: Trench 1 Outline Plan. The dividing wall is top centre running towards the slightly curved deeper founded feature. The external brick surface is bottom right. Top of this plan is oriented approximately north-west.**

It led to a feature at its south east end that, unlike the rest of the building, had been given deep foundations and been removed when the building went out of use. Its identification is uncertain, but it suggests the construction of something weight bearing (?such as a grain silo or even barrel rack) on one side of this division. Flooring that side of the division was a partly removed sloping, cambered mortar and tile fragment surface (flanked by a gravel ?soakaway strip).

On the other side of the division, demolition had removed much of a gravel surface, but left both a wall buttressing the deeper founded feature and a brick structure with a bay in it largely intact. The latter (Fig. 3) was solidly constructed, might have continued north west with further bays and suggests the setting for wooden storage bins, perhaps for threshed grain (though there are other possibilities).

At least one fragment of an external brick surface (?a threshing area for use on fine days) was also seen at the corner of the projecting part of the building. Again, this will be examined further in 2013, when we hope to excavate north west of 2012 Trench 1 as well and follow the bayed structure and partition wall.



Fig. 3: The external wall (bottom) and abutting brick feature with a bay (Photo: N Pinchbeck)

Finds in the work this year were few, but a clay pipe of c. 1580 – 1610 with the maker's mark of a hand (Fig. 4) and parts of two German stoneware jugs of c. 1550 – 1600 (including Fig. 5) were notable exceptions. They do though represent redeposited rubbish from the palace, not the building we were investigating.

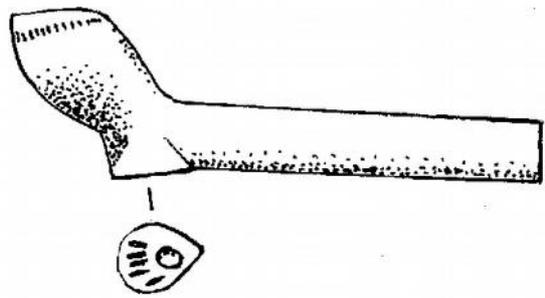


Fig. 4: Clay Pipe with Maker's Mark



Fig. 5: German Stoneware Jug (Photo: N Pinchbeck)

MARTIN J. DEARNE

## EAS Work at Cedars Park in 2012 (Site Codes CED12 & THE12)

By Martin J. Dearne

The EAS were at Cedars Park, Cheshunt (the site of Theobalds Palace) quite a lot in 2012, partly as we helped the Borough of Broxbourne implement their Heritage Lottery Funded regeneration of the park. Some of the work we did alongside Museum of London Archaeology will be the subject of a separate note by Neil Pinchbeck, but this report

focuses on two sites we were entirely responsible for.

The first, excavated in a wet May, was on the west side of the palace complex where there is to be a new car park and a large ditch or canal was to be reused for draining the area. Sections of the ditch were still open, maps showed it as once up to 60 m long, part of it incorporated a brick culvert and it had been speculated to have its origins in supplying the ornamental canals surrounding James I's palace gardens. It seemed to be running away from a now dry artificial lake which first shows up on a map of 1611. However, work by Neil Pinchbeck seriously questioned this, since the ditch did not appear on maps until the 1840s.

Four trenches were cut, three necessarily by mini-digger, as we soon found that the sections of the ditch no longer open had been backfilled with a mass of concrete, barbed wire and general landfill rubbish at the same time as a gravel quarry that existed just west of the ditch until the 1970s. Indeed, it was rapidly apparent that the filled parts of the ditch had been machine broadened and deepened to provide a boundary when the quarry was in operation.

However, a trench across the top of the culvert, which is flanked by the sections of the ditch which had not been machined or backfilled, was more revealing (Fig. 1).



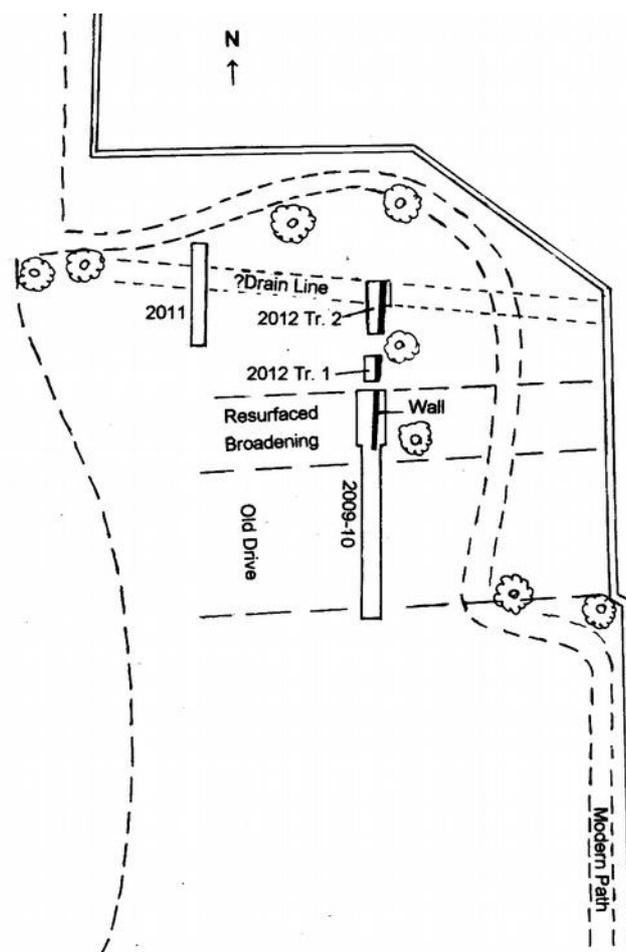
**Fig. 1: The buttressed culvert with path removed and 'cheek' brickwork to right (Photo: N Pinchbeck)**

The bricks of which the 3.10m long, c. 1.50m wide culvert was built had very shallow frogs, suggesting a late eighteenth or very early nineteenth century date and we were able to establish that the culvert was contemporary with the cutting of the ditch. Indeed, scrub clearance and limited excavation at its ends revealed brick 'cheeks' running away from its ends and facing the sides of the ditch. Moreover, the culvert, strengthened by small brick buttresses, had carried a broad path across the ditch and from its gravel surface, which overlay a make up dump, came a few sherds of late eighteenth century pottery.

In our later work with MoLA it was confirmed that the ditch did run up to the lake, but it evidently had nothing to do with the palace. Rather it was almost certainly a small ornamental canal, the culvert allowing it to be bridged and concentrating

the flow of water from the lake (where perhaps there were sluice gates) to produce a gushing effect (thus the necessity for the brick 'cheeks'). In the late eighteenth/early nineteenth century the area it ran through was part of the grounds of Old Palace House, a nearby Georgian residence of which only fragments now survive, and almost certainly the canal was constructed as part of a re-landscaping of them.

The second site comprised our annual July research excavation coincident with a public Festival of Archaeology event, this time, as for the last three years, at the eastern edge of the palace/park. Here a toppled/demolished wall partly covered by a resurfacing broadening the Old Drive (the approach road to the palace) was first seen in 2009 and work ever since has been trying to establish its construction and demolition dates, and so function. This year to try and at least get a relative date, one of our two trenches targeted the point where a large palace drain (seen nearby in the 2011 work) ought to have intersected with it (Fig. 2).



**Fig. 2: The location of the wall and 2009-12 trenches in relation to the old drive**

The drain was not seen (though what may have been the brickearth-filled cut it lay in was), but it

turned out not to matter as the stretch of wall foundations and mass of demolition rubble we uncovered provided the necessary dating evidence. Thus, the rather crude brick foundation for the wall (Fig. 3) incorporated a carved transom (a finely carved stone cross piece) from a palace window. The rubble included further stonework and a moulded brick that could only have come from the palace, but had definitely been mortared into the structure of the wall. Whilst there is just an outside chance that they came from some unrecorded modifications to the palace, it must be virtually certain therefore that the wall was built after the recorded demolition of most of it c. 1650 under Cromwell.



**Fig. 3: Excavation and recording underway with much of the foundations of the wall visible**

This would discount the wall as part of the fourth (outer) courtyard of the palace (which we still think existed) and it now appears likely that it was a new boundary wall to the site probably put up during the Protectorate (when the use of the site is unclear), by the Dukes of Albemarle who held a grant of the site from 1661 (when it probably still included habitable buildings) or even by William Bentinck, Earl of Portland, who was granted the estate by William III in 1688.

As to the demolition of the wall, the rubble from it this year included a crucial piece of dating evidence in the form of a large section of a delft (Tin Glazed Earthenware) punch bowl probably made in Lambeth in 1710 – 30 (Fig. 4). Thus the wall was demolished a little later than we had

previously thought, but it still seems likely that much of the rubbish thrown in to the demolition rubble represented someone clearing the site up at the same time as the approach road was widened. A gravel spread had been put down to cover the rubble, but considerable tree root penetration means that the few tiny sherds it produced cannot be relied on to date it as they could have been introduced by the roots.



**Fig. 4: The delftware punch bowl**

As most of the important questions about this wall have now been answered 2013 is likely to see us switch our attention to another area of the site, in fact not far from where the May excavation took place.

*MARTIN J. DEARNE*



**The extensive trenches of the May excavation**

# PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



I begin this guest appearance in the Pastfinders column by wishing Mike and Linda Dewbrey every joy in their new home. Those who have experienced moving house will well understand why Mike is too hard pressed to put pen to paper at present.

The main digging season of another busy year came to a conclusion over the weekend of 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> of October, at Cedars Park Cheshunt. Martin Dearne led the team to investigate two targets in order to further inform the the Heritage Lottery funded development of the park.

The first of these was the brick built conduit channelling a 19<sup>th</sup> century field boundary ditch and water feature first visited in the summer. Pastfinders finished cleaning and recording flanking brickwork to the conduit and adjoining ditch. This will enable development planners to decide how best to integrate the feature into the landscape scheme for the new car park.

The second target, inside the great Garden, was a geophysical anomaly at the proposed site of a new interpretation plinth. Several path surfaces were revealed and it was identified as a mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century planting bed. The key dating evidence proved to be the leg of a hollow cast lead alloy toy figure of a cricketer, which research revealed was produced in 1947.

The team have been on stand-by for call out to various monitoring and preliminary excavations generated by another Heritage Lottery funded project, this time at Forty Hall. For reasons beyond our control this work is currently on hold, giving us something to look forward to for 2013.

Those Pastfinders available during the week have also been on stand by for two other monitoring projects:-

At Leighton Road on the Bush Hill Park Roman settlement, Museum of London Archaeology are monitoring extension work to several houses. Pastfinders have been available to provide extra hands and eyes but, to date, no archaeology has been revealed and our services have not been needed.

Meanwhile, at Forty Hall, English Heritage have given conditional Scheduled Monument Consent

to the forming of two "Greenway" cycle path tracks across the park. The condition was archaeological monitoring, presenting an unprecedented opportunity to view a broad cross-section of stratigraphy across the park, including the environs of Elsyng palace.

2.6 metres wide and averaging 20 centimetres in depth, the cutting of the first track is complete; from the car park at Forty Hall, downhill parallel with the roadway of Forty Hill, to Maidens Bridge.

The first cut across the grass picnic area adjacent to the car park revealed a made up surface. This ended at a break of slope at its northern edge, with a flat surface of peg tile fragments. Either a crude path, or flanking a lost bank, this surface contained a depression from which just over seventy sherds of the same early post medieval redware vessel were recovered, probably a large water jug. Other pottery suggests that the feature pre-dates Forty Hall and may be associated with Elsyng palace. A first for this area.

The second path, from Maidens Bridge westwards, skirting Maidens Brook, has revealed a cultivation sub-soil with drainage channels. This provides further compelling evidence that Nicholas Rainton the younger made a serious attempt to establish a viable agricultural function for his new estate in the wake of palace demolition, before later 18th Century landscaping superseded it.



**Monitoring work on the Greenway**

Pastfinders have probably been too busy for many social events recently, but the now traditional Christmas Curry Night will provide a festive conclusion to the year. Not too festive mind – 2013 promises to be another busy year!

*NEIL PINCHBECK*