

Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



Above: EAS members in full safety gear working in Forty Hall courtyard in May, as part of the renovation work. (Photo: Editor)

Top: An artist's impression of the goose which left its leg in the midden we discovered at an earlier stage of the Forty Hall project – see Report p. 7 (Drawing: Neil Pinchbeck)

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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 contact the Secretary, (Tel: 020 8449 5298) and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.

2011 Lecture Programme

16th September

Life in the Imperial War Museum

Steve Turner IWM

14th October *BBC Digging for Britain site*

Happisburgh Prehistoric site

Dr Nick Ashton, British Museum

18th November

The Roast Beef of Old England

Neil Pinchbeck, EAS Osteo-archaeologist

December – Christmas Break

No Lecture

Festival of Archaeology Events

Sunday 17th July

Forty Hall, Enfield

EAS will be carrying out an excavation on the site of Elsyng Palace, and working with Enfield Museum Service to provide family activities, and an update on the archaeological work which is going on inside Forty Hall (see enclosed flyer).

31st July

Cedars Park, Broxbourne

Including a test excavation by the EAS to see if we can find further evidence of the palace boundary wall investigated over the previous two years.

Roman Enfield Exhibition Weekend Opening

Saturday 9th & Sunday 10th July, 11am - 4pm

The Museum Service exhibition in Thomas Hardy House continues until 29 July (see enclosed flyer), but is normally only open on week days.

Therefore please note this special weekend opening.

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.

Meetings of other Societies

LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

6.00 for 6.30pm, Museum of London

tba

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

17 June

Theobalds Palace – *Mike Dewbrey*
(joint meeting with EAS)

29 June

Bruce Castle, 7pm for 7.30
to be announced

21 September

Flora Robson in Southgate & Palmers Green – *Richard Purver*

19 October

WW1 – Aspects of the Home Front – *David Groen*

29 October

Jubilee Hall 10am-4pm
Day Conference

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8.00pm Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley

14 June

50th Anniversary AGM
Jane Siddel

11 October

Silchester: the revelation of an Iron Age and Roman city
John Creighton

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

tba

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

7.45pm, Woodford County High School, High Rd,
Woodford Green

tba

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm, Parish Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey

15 September

Life in Work Houses – *Jane Pearson*

20 October

From Eton Manor to the Olympics – *Jim Lewis*

Digging Opportunities at Copped Hall

Since 2002, West Essex Archaeological Group (WEAG) has been excavating at Copped Hall (in between Waltham Abbey and Epping, near Junction 26 of the M25) on behalf of the Copped Hall Trust, investigating the remains of the 16th Century Tudor Mansion.

The 2011 programme includes:

Taster Weekends for absolute beginners who would like an opportunity to excavate and handle real artefacts on a 'live' site.

Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July
Saturday 23rd and Sunday 24th July
Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st July.

£50 per weekend

Two 5-day **Field Schools** for people already familiar with the basic techniques of excavation and recording.

Monday 8th – Friday 12th August
Monday 15th – Friday 19th August

£90 per week

Supervision will be given by professional archaeologists assisted by highly experienced volunteers. For further information please ring Mrs Pauline Dalton on 01992-813-725, or email pdalton@gmail.com.

<http://www.weag.org.uk/>

Minutes of the of the 55th Annual General Meeting of the Enfield Archaeological Society

Held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield at
8.00 pm on Friday 15th April 2011

The meeting was chaired by Mike Dewbrey. He opened the meeting by welcoming everyone and reported that 2010 had been a very busy and successful year for the society .

1.0 Minutes of the previous AGM held on 16th April 2010.

These were published in Society News 197, June 2010. They were approved as an accurate and correct record of the meeting.

2.0 Report of the Executive Committee for 2010

This report was published in Society News 200, March 2011. Mike talked through the main points raised in the report. There were no questions.

3.0 Financial Statement for 2010

The financial statement, by Geoff Lamport, was presented and approved. Mike confirmed that it would not be necessary to increase membership fees for 2011, despite the current economic climate.

4.0 Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members.

4.1 The following were prepared to continue in post

Chair	Mike Dewbrey
Vice Chair	Ian Jones
Director of Research & Excavation	Dr. Martin Dearne
Hon. Treasurer	Geoffrey Lamport
Hon. Secretary	Angie Holmes
Hon. Membership Secretary	Lesley Pinchbeck
Hon. Meetings Secretary	Tim Harper
Hon. Publicity Officer	Ailsa Mosquera
Hon. Editor	Jeremy Grove
Committee member	Neil Pinchbeck

All the above were re-elected for the year 2011.

Sharon Lamport agreed to undertake the role of auditor for the Society accounts.

5.0 Any Other Business

Mike stressed that the success of the Society was very much down to the hard work and dedication of a small group of individuals whom he wished to name and thank.

- *Jeremy Grove* for producing the Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society 'Society News'. In addition to being a valued source of information for members, this excellent and very professional publication is the envy of many other local societies.

- *Ailsa Mosquera* for her hard work in upgrading the publicity for EAS, and for her assistance with sales tables at meetings and events.

- *Angie Holmes* for her work as secretary, for assisting with removal of the EAS archive from Forty Hall and for organising in its new location at Palmers Green Museum .

- *Tim Harper* for arranging the first class programme of meetings, ensuring the hall is booked and that tea and coffee are always available at the start of the evening

- *Lesley Pinchbeck* for her work as membership secretary. Lesley has set up a data base of members, including email addresses which is very useful when needing to contact members quickly re excavation work.

- *Ian Jones* for giving talks as part of the lecture programme and for representing EAS at various open days and events. Ian has also taken responsibility for researching the dressed stone found during excavation work and has contributed to a number of reports.

- *Neil Pinchbeck* for contributing in a variety of ways : by undertaking site research, by producing excellent site drawings and plans, and first class finds illustrations. Neil has qualified as archaeological illustrator and is also the EAS bone expert.

- *Rosemary Perkins* for all her hard work with the sales table and raffles at Society meetings; these make a valuable contribution to Society funds. Rosemary also assists at public events .

- *Roger Eddington* for continuing to manage the slides at lectures

- *Jan Metcalfe and Val Munday* from the Enfield Museum service for their support throughout the year. They have recently moved from Forty Hall to

much smaller premises at the Palmers Green Library site and Mike urged members to take every possible opportunity to press for the maintenance of the Museum Service within the Borough.

- Mike and Martin jointly thanked all members of the *Pastfinders* team for their hard work.



The Golden Trowel Award for 2010

The Award was made to *John Pinchbeck*. Mike described John as making a quiet but very valuable contribution in many areas. He is a very good digger, contributes to site recording at digs and takes a lead in surveying work. He has excellent ICT skills and was responsible for producing the 'fly-through' reconstructions for the Roman Exhibition.



Mike concluded the AGM with a special thank you to *Dr. Martin Dearne* for directing excavations and for promptly producing excellent reports which are highly regarded and increase the excavation opportunities offered to the Society. Much of the excavation work undertaken helps raise funds for and awareness of the Society.

The AGM closed at 8.30. It was followed by an illustrated talk by Dr. Martin Dearne on the work the Society had carried out during 2010, especially the extensive and complex excavation of Forty Hall Courtyard.

**ANGIE HOLMES
HON. SECRETARY**

Enfield's oldest pub?

Here is a still from one of the animated 'fly through' reconstructions John Pinchbeck created for the Roman Enfield exhibition – in this case on an inn alongside Ermine Street. This one is not showing in the exhibition, but two others, of the grand *mansio* for official travellers, and of an ordinary household dwelling are showing on a video screen as part of the display, giving detailed interior as well as exterior views. See enclosed flyer for details, and p. 2 above for the special weekend opening.



Copyright: John Pinchbeck

Meeting Reports

Thames Discovery Programme – Digging for Britain at Greenwich

18th March: Natalie Cohen

'Foreshore archaeology' is a newish discipline, but its roots can be traced back a long way – in September 1665 Samuel Pepys observed the discovery of ancient trees preserved in the mud during the excavation of a new dock. (Even today over 1km of prehistoric forest survives on the foreshore at Erith.)

The 19th century was the heyday of the gentleman collectors, competing to acquire finds turned up during building works, including Viking axes and spears from around London Bridge. Remains of vessels have also turned up, such as a Roman boat at City Hall in the early 1900s, then wooden structures at Isleworth and Brentwood, raising interesting questions about changes in the river and its environment over time.

In the 1940s Ivor Noel Hume pioneered walking surveys of the south bank, showing that artefacts of all periods could be found. Amateurs have always had an important contribution to make, especially as until the last 30 years or so there was no planning regime for the foreshore. However, one of the most vital advances in London archaeology was when professional teams excavated Trig Lane and other waterfront sites from the early 1970s, where the successive timber wharf fronts gave accurate dating evidence for all manner of finds associated with them.

The foreshore is a dynamic environment, with the tides giving only 3-4 hours access before the site is submerged again in up to 7m of water. Erosion means that sites are constantly changing, with some features being weathered away, while new ones may be exposed.

From 1995-99 Gus Milne led the Thames Archaeological Survey, a joint venture of the Museum of London and the Institute of Archaeology, which recorded over 2,000 items of interest, including vessel remains, a mid-Saxon fish trap and a Neolithic club.

The Thames Discovery Programme, of which Natalie is the Community Archeology Team Leader, was set up in October 2008, again directed by Gus, in part to build on the work of the Survey. Supported by the National Lottery and many others, it is a community project which trains members of the public as 'foreshore observers', in the hope of fostering self-sustaining groups which will carry on beyond the end of the Programme, which is due in a few months. 'FROG' (Foreshore Recording and Observation Group) training covers health & safety, basic finds identification and recording, with one day indoors and one day on site. The project will have trained about 300-325 people by the time it ends.

Major projects the group has undertaken include the Castle shipbreakers in Charlton, where there are remains of possibly 6 or 7 vessels, and Putney Bridge, which dates from 1729 and was the first bridge across the Thames between London Bridge and Kingston.

Viewers of the recent BBC 'Digging for Britain' series may have seen Natalie at another important site at Greenwich. In 1971-2 a dig at the old naval hospital uncovered remains of the Tudor royal palace, which was built right on the waters' edge. More recently, MOLAS excavated the royal chapel under a carpark to the east, and Time Team investigated the tiltyard and armoury on the west side.

In 1996 the Thames Archaeological Survey recorded the piles of a suspected jetty on the foreshore near the tiltyard – i.e. almost outside the palace precinct, and probably at the 'working end' of the complex. 16-17thC ceramics suggested it was indeed contemporary with the palace.

The Thames Discovery Programme revisited the site, and found more timbers where the foreshore has washed away – in fact more have kept appearing as they have worked. Six or seven base plates survived, but have now been washed loose – one has been sent for dating. The jetty timbers are very substantial, and appear to be 12-13th C timbers re-used. If so, it is not known what they are doing there, but there is thought to have been a tide mill 1½ miles downstream in the 12th C.

Natalie's lively talk packed in a huge amount of information. If you want to know more, visit the web site at <http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/>, where you can also book a place at the free evening lecture at 6pm on 6th July at Southwark Cathedral (where Natalie also happens to be Cathedral Archaeologist), entitled *Priors, Pilgrims, Potters & Pirates*.

JEREMY GROVE

Book Review:

ENFIELD THROUGH TIME

Stephen Sellick

Looking at postcard photographs of old Enfield I have always been fascinated by the extent to which the places shown have changed, or not, in the century and more since the first known postcard view of Enfield was published.

In this fascinating book the photographer has shown how much the area has altered in over 100 years by the seemingly simple device of re-taking old views from the same spot. In reality this is not as simple a job as it seems. As well as trying to match the view angle of older lenses, later changes mean that it is often impossible to stand

in, or locate, exactly the same spot because of later buildings, while taking careful photographs from the middle of some of our roads today could cause problems as some of the pictures of the Hertford Road and Enfield town centre show. While Trent Park and Chase Farm Hospital have changed hardly at all, Chase Side with two hospitals replaced by flats and South Street looking west have changed totally, apart from the roads themselves.

Many people will be fascinated to see both the changes that have taken place in the parts of Enfield they know and probably surprised at what one stood where they now live and work.

Ian K. Jones

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Some unexpected birds in the midden,
Forty Hall, 2009
(Site Codes GCCM02-04a)

By Neil Pinchbeck

It was not surprising that the midden, which came to light just outside the staff entrance at Forty Hall in 2009 (see *Society News 200*, pp. 6-12), contained a considerable amount of animal bone.

What was slightly surprising was that alongside the copious remains of roast beef, pork and mutton were half a dozen avian bones which refused to be classified as the usual chicken.

So it was, that in late November 2009, a small parcel came to be winging its way to the Bird Group at the Natural History Museum: Tring, Hertfordshire. (Formerly more formally known as the Sub-department of Ornithology, British Museum, Natural History).

The package was addressed to our good friend, Dr. Joanne Cooper. I say "good friend", for it was she who identified the falcon's skull from our Elsyng excavations as that of a female Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*). (Pinchbeck 2008 *EAS Archive Report*, also *Society News 190*, Sept 2008).

Jo takes a keen interest in archaeology and draws lithics as a hobby. Some of you may have

seen her on the recent BBC documentary series "Museum of Life". She appeared on the second programme of the series talking about Darwin's Mockingbirds, which actually played a greater part in the formulation of his theories than the better known Finches.

When Joanne's results came back, just before Christmas 2009, the first surprise was two bone fragments of the Tawny Owl (*Strix aluco*). (Fig1.1&2). It seems unlikely that the proximal and distal ends of a left humerus are anything other than parts of the same bone. Yet, with a small mid section missing and no actual break line, this cannot be said with absolute certainty.

Not so surprisingly, the ghost of Christmas past was evoked by the tibiotarsus of a farm or Greylag Goose (*Anser anser*). (Fig.1.3).

A right tarsometatarsus and carpometacarpus from Domestic Pigeon/Rock Dove (*Columba livia*) raise the intriguing prospect of Forty Hall, in common with many other such houses, having a dovecot. If such a thing existed, it remains invisible both in the documentation and archaeology of the house. Another mystery.

The final surprise came in the form of the right ulna of a small passerine bird of the Wagtail/Pipit family (*Motacillidae*). (Fig.1.6). Four and twenty Pied Wagtails baked in a pie? Or maybe the hapless victim of a house cat? We have no way of knowing, but perhaps the little dog (attested by a carnassial pre-molar and phalange) knew something about it.

NEIL PINCHBECK

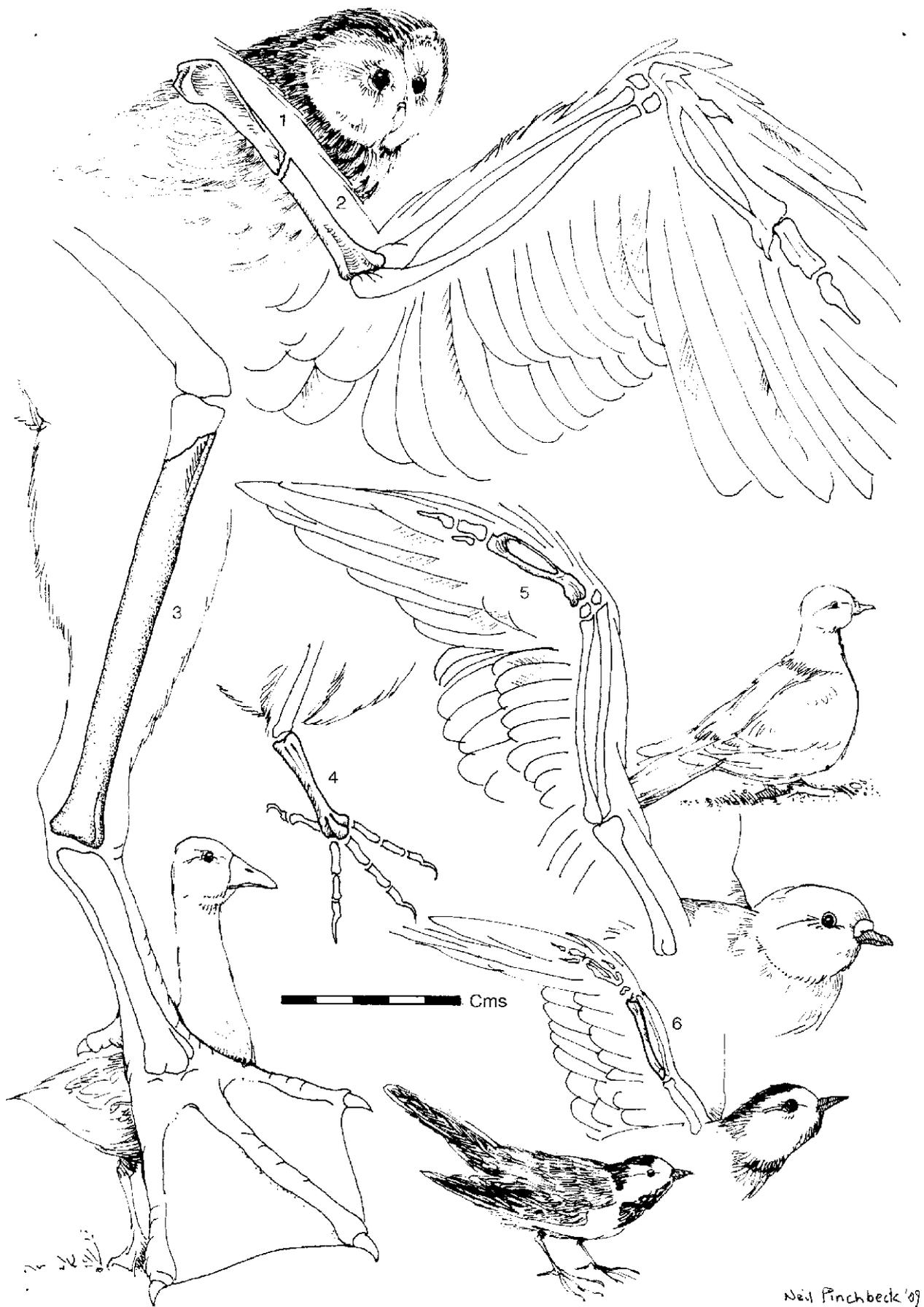


Fig 1: Avian bones from Forty Hall midden, and their owners

Theobalds Stonework, 2010 Season
By Ian K. Jones

The following report covers worked stone recovered in Cedars Park, during the Festival of Archaeology dig in July 2010, and the Make a Difference Day work in October 2010.

EXCAVATION, 23rd -25th JULY

(finds not illustrated)

1. Fragment of sculpture probably from a fireplace overmantel in a fine grained, creamy limestone. [15] (Note 1).

This is the first piece of decorative sculpture excavated from the site. Its unweathered condition with traces of the final tooling and smoothing and a few tiny specks of white paint suggest it came from inside the building. The finished face shows part of the upper right arm and shoulder of a near lifesize human figure the sex of which cannot be determined. The limb is 19.5 cm high and has a maximum width of 8 cm at the turn of the shoulder. The high relief carving extends 6 cms above the flat surface of the rest of the block; the vertical end of which is squared off to a lesser standard of finish than the front.

The piece once formed part of a pilaster or engaged column in the form of a figure; either a Caryatid, (full length female), Atlante, (full length male), Herm, (3/4 length figure on a pedestal) or a Term, (tapering pedestal merging into a human figure at the top). All these can be found on the more elaborate Elizabethan fireplaces either forming part of the jambs or the overmantel. A fine example of this type of fireplace bought from the Cecil property at Quickswood near Baldock installed sometime after 1608 survives in the Winter Dining Room of Hatfield House built by Robert Cecil, the second son of the builder of Theobalds. (Note 2).

2. Fragment of moulding in a fine grained limestone who's faint greenish tinge may be due to the presence of clay. [20]

This convex/concave curved moulding 8.5 cms long with its prominent tool marks could have come from almost any architectural feature in the house or outside; door surround, window surround, fireplace or screen.

3. Angled fragment in a grey/white limestone with small mica flecks. [9]

A chip from th3 corner of a block; it is 7.5cm long with 2 worked faces at right angles with maximum widths of 4.5 and 4cms.

4. Fragment in a greyish oolitic limestone. [Similar to 2].

Possible corner fragment from a floor slab 3.5cm thick. Only the top surface is well finished with toolmarks surviving under a degree of polish probably arising from use. The base is only roughly finished as is the longer, 5.5 cm, of the right-angled sides while the shorter may be just a break.

Notes;-

1. *All the stone identifications in this report are based on information provided by Peter Tandy, Curator; Minerals at the Natural History Museum. Specimens of all the types referred to can be found in the research collections of the EAS. The square bracketed numbers relate to this archive.*

2. *Similar nude or near nude female figures once existed in Montacute House, Somerset. They were installed between 1590 and 1600 and removed sometime after being recorded in a watercolour by C.J. Richardson around 1834. More sophisticated figures in the Fontainebleu style of the 1540's survive in the Great Chamber of Broughton Castle, Oxfordshire.*

MAKE A DIFFERENCE DAY, 30th OCTOBER

(selected finds illustrated below)

Introduction

A small team of Society members were asked to examine the many pieces of worked stone used to edge the paths in Cedars Park. Several dozen pieces, some quite large, were first freed wholly or partly from soil and undergrowth. The most interesting were removed and recorded on paper and electronically and replaced. A small number were placed in store pending a decision on how best to present them to the public. Most were architectural elements from outside and inside the house with the one piece of sculpture discovered and removed with some difficulty proved to be part of a 20th century garden ornament made of concrete.

1. A mantelpiece cut from a shelly limestone now broken into three pieces.

These three pieces were found almost together in the same flowerbed and when moved together fitted cleanly. Each block is 16 cm high and a

maximum of 36 cm. thick and had a total length of 155 cms. (51 cm, 56 cm, 48 cm.) The rear edge on the upper surface is rebated presumably in order to take the slabs of carved stone or stucco forming the overmantel. 8cm in from either end of the piece and 4cm from the inner edge of the rebate are two square holes probably for locating pilasters or similar vertical features of the overmantel. The front edge consists of a horizontal convex moulding with a step below and remains in excellent condition.

2. Three pieces, possibly parts of the jambs of a fireplace cut from a creamy oolitic limestone.

These were in the same bed as figure 1 and had been used to edge a driveway or path built of brick fragments from the palace which presumably gave access to one of the later buildings on the site. The presence of modern tarmac meant that only a small part of this surface could be exposed and it was not possible to see if the feature extended right across under the modern path. It could not be seen if any of the pieces joined together. The pieces each measured 81, 45 and 37 cm. long and each had a maximum thickness of 30 cm. and a maximum width of 24 cm. The pieces were triangular in section and had an angled rebate where the two well finished faces met. Although an exact match has not been found the shape strongly suggests they once formed part of the vertical surround of a fireplace; though being of a different limestone they may not have come from the same fireplace as No. 1.

3. Two white limestone blocks each 34.5 cm. square which were part of the base of one of the piers of a gateway sited where the present path passes through a surviving post-palace wall.

One was 17 cm. high and had the slot for an iron cramp on its upper surface. The other is 60 cm. high and had the slot for a Lewis lifting frame cut in one end. A similar sized block was observed on the other side of the path. The stones probably came originally from the palace and were installed when the later wall was built.

4. A block of fine grained white limestone, possibly part of a window jamb.

In section the block is square with a projection, possibly also square in section. The maximum length is 22 cm. with the sides 15 cm. A groove, possibly for a window, runs along one edge. The overall form is not the same as other window elements from the palace and it could be from one of the later buildings on the site.

5. Two pieces of limestone which join from a mantelpiece similar to, but slightly smaller than No. 1.

The overall length is 39 cm. width 25 cm. and height 14 cm. The convex moulding is similar to the earlier example but with different proportions and the square hole probably also supported part of the overmantel.

6. Part of a door jamb in a limestone similar to 5.

The angled and concave moulding is similar to other examples from this site. On the underside is a rare surviving example of part of an iron building clamp set in lead. This method of joining stone blocks has been in use since Classical times.

7. Rectangular section limestone block.

Broken off at both ends, it has a maximum length of 33 cm., a width of 28 cm. and is 14 cm. thick. On one surface is engraved a large number "2". This is much larger and in a totally different style to the numbers recorded in 2008, (Note 1). At 7 cm. high and gouged deeply into a well finished surface it probably indicates re-use of the block after the demolition of the palace.

8. Curved step in white limestone.

At 80 cm. wide it could have formed the only or top step of a flight to a small door or have been part of a garden feature. The purpose of the square slot rut at one end is not clear; it does not seem to be in the right place to be part of the doorframe.

9. Curved moulding in black slate, (not illustrated.)

This piece of black slate is 43 cm. long with a width of 31 cm. and a thickness of 15. The only references to slate in the sparse documentary record which only mentions "blue slatt" being used to roof four turrets. (Note 2) The shape of this piece makes this unlikely in my view and it would more probably have been used as an engaged column on a fireplace overmantel or a doorway. It is also possible that it was used outside.

Acknowledgements

Many thanks to Tim Harper, Angie Holmes, Lesley and Neil Pinchbeck and Pippa for getting wet, muddy and increasingly cold under the Author's direction.

Notes.

1. *Dearne, M. et. al. EAS Archive Report. Recovery and Recording of Architectural Stonework at Theobalds Palace, October 2008. 3-4 & figure 3, no.6.*

2. *Summerson, J. 1959 "The Building of Theobalds, 1564-1585." Archaeologia 97 (2nd s.47), 119.*

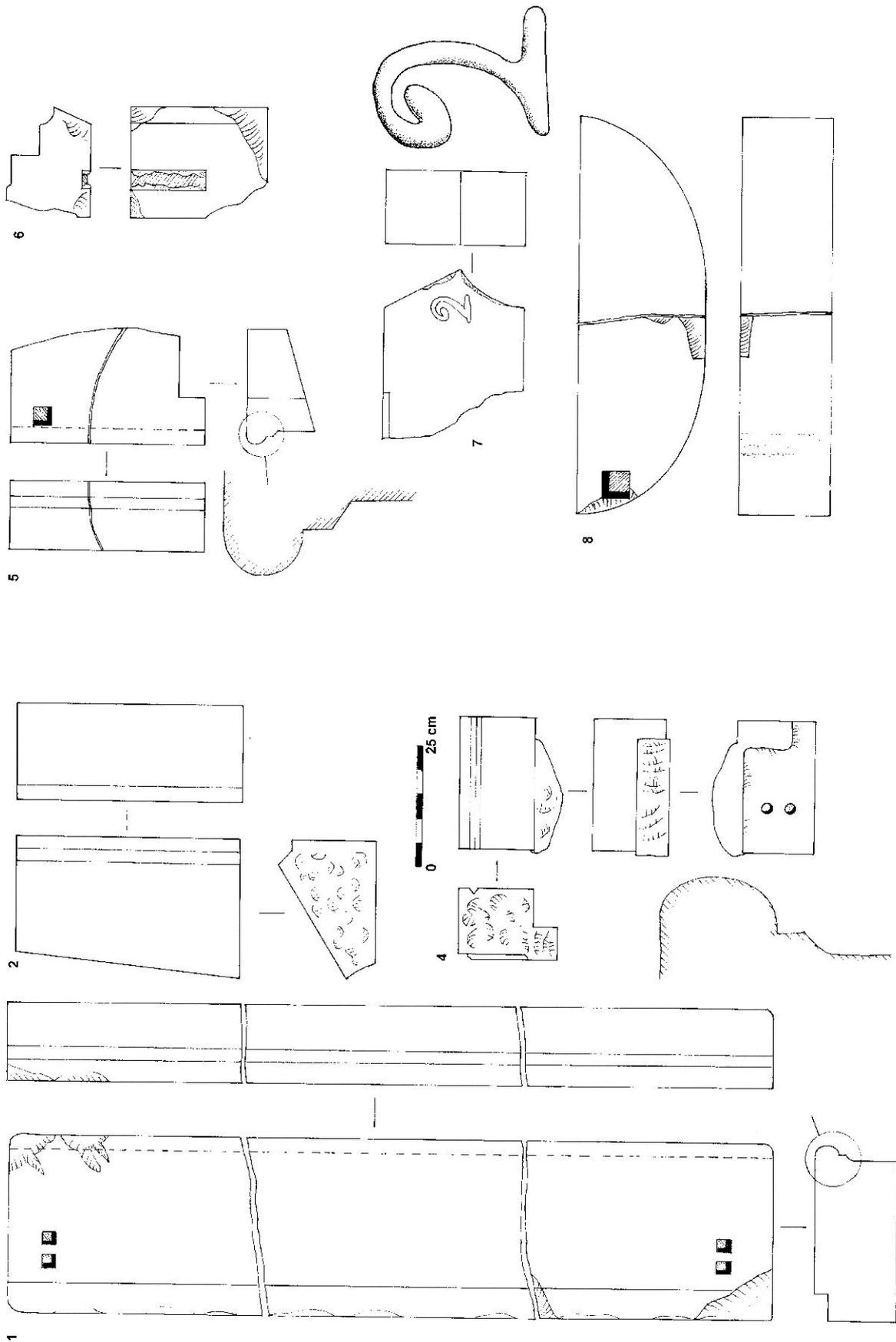


Fig 1: Worked stonework, Make a Difference Day 2010 (Neil Pinchbeck)

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



It hardly seems possible that a year has passed since we were opening trenches for National Archaeology month at Elsyng and Theobalds.

In July this year we shall be returning to both scheduled sites with the usual sense of expectation, hardened diggers will know the feeling when the first trench is opened and the top soil is removed revealing the first tantalising layers of stratigraphy. At this stage no one knows if beneath the obligatory layers of compacted gravel a wall line will be revealed for the first time in hundreds of years. Each digger no matter what their level of experience may be privileged to uncover a remarkable find as they trowel back through time piecing together the story of the site. New diggers often ask me 'what do I need in order to join in the dig' my answer is always the same, enthusiasm and a sense of wonder motivated by a genuine love of the past. I never tire of watching a new digger young or old unearthing their first find, it may be just a humble fragment of pottery or a coin but that moment will normally stay with them forever.

This year as always we will need a strong team of diggers to help on our two 'big digs'. Dates for your diary are Elsyng Forty Hall Enfield over the weekend of 16th-17th July where we hope to take a closer look at the brick building unearthed during last year's excavations and establish its relationship to the Outer Courtyard of the Palace. At Theobalds at Cedars Park Waltham Cross 30th-31st July we will be opening a large trench to try to locate the foundations of demolished courtyard boundary walls contemporary with the Palace that are illustrated on a map dated 1611.

Volunteers need to be on site by 9am and if the weather is hot don't forget your sun cream and a hat! If you are not fit enough to dig help is always needed with our sales table, interpretation displays and to assist with the children's mini dig which is always popular with young budding archaeologists!

The E.A.S. Past Finders group have already carried out a small scale excavation this year in a garden in Leighton Road Bush Hill Park in advance of building development. A full report on this dig will follow but to our surprise we uncovered a substantial Roman ditch running parallel to Saddlers Mill Stream which contained an interesting assemblage of broken Roman pottery including fragments of Samian bowls, amphorae, mortaria and domestic pottery.

Recording and a watching brief are also being carried out at Forty Hall where renovation work is well underway removing the old Victorian central staircase and exposing a substantial 17th century fireplace in the ground floor kitchen, together with an early 18th century courtyard boundary wall under the north lawn. And over the Bank Holiday we donned hard hats and hi-vis jackets in order to complete the excavation of the internal courtyard at Forty Hall, which we began last summer.

The Enfield Museum Service display on Roman Enfield has attracted large numbers of visitors in the new display gallery at the Dugdale Centre in Enfield Town over the last few weeks. It has been many years since the people of Enfield have had the opportunity to view so much of the excavated prehistoric and Roman material from the area assembled together in one place. The display has heightened public awareness of Enfield's rich history and we look forward to working with the Museum Service to coordinate other exhibits in the future.

Finally there is just enough space to report on a recent metal detector find from the borough which was unearthed by yours truly recently. The find a bronze or copper alloy pipe tamper retains traces of gold gilding and dates to the late 18th or early 19th century. The figure of a man wearing a hat with a large chin may well be Mr Punch or a caricature of a politician. It was quite satisfying to recover an ornate pipe tamper such as this intact as mechanised power hoeing of fields in recent years does not bode well for fragile artefacts within the plough soil. Amazingly fine Mesolithic microliths still turn up in this field from time to time, but you need the eyes of a hawk to spot them!

MIKE DEWBREY - CHAIRMAN