



Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



*EAS trench,
Bush Hill,
1956.*

Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December.

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Forthcoming events

MEETINGS of the Enfield Archaeological Society 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.

Following the summer break, the lecture programme will resume in September

Friday 15 September

Enfield Palace Exchange, The Archaeology

Jon Butler (PreConstruct Archaeology)

As many of you will have noticed a few months ago, archaeological excavations were part of the large-scale redevelopment of Enfield Town Centre, and we will be delighted to welcome Jon Butler from the archaeological contractors involved to talk about what was found. There will surely (hopefully!) be few better opportunities for many years to see what lies under the heart of old Enfield than this.

SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday 16 July

Archaeology Day, Forty Hall

'Under Your Feet'

11am - 4pm (Free Entry)

Once again, along with the Enfield Museums Service, we be running this popular annual event at Forty Hall. We will be excavating in the grounds (*see Pastfinders News for what*), showing artefacts, and trying to identify any interesting finds that people bring along. Also tours and children's activities. See enclosed flyer.

Enfield Town Show

9 - 10 September 2006

We will be at the Enfield Town Show in the Town Park, identifying finds brought to us by the public.

Meetings of other Societies

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield

22 September

A Nice Cup of Tea • *Russ Bowes*

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley

10 October

The Queen of Sheba • *Nadia Durrani*

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm Victoria Hall, Greenyard, Waltham Abbey

29 September

The 19th Century Silk Industry in Essex • *David Possee*

LAMAS

6pm for 6.30, Learning Centre, Museum of London

11 October

New – the first Annual Joint Lecture with the London Natural History Society on environmental archaeology
– details tba

Copped Hall conference

On Sunday 3 September, the West Essex Archaeological Group will be hosting a one day conference at Copped Hall, near Epping, which will be the first full public presentation of the archaeology of Old Copped Hall and its environs, where they have been excavating for the last 5 years (*see Society News 177, June 2005*). The conference will immediately follow this summer's training dig, and will include a tour of the open trenches, finds displays, speakers on both Copped Hall and its wider context, and opportunities for open discussion, mostly, but not entirely focussing on the medieval and Tudor great house. Cost is £12 including lunch.

Among the speakers are Paul Drury, who has worked extensively on the neighbouring Hill Hall and is also a consultant for Forty Hall, and Norah Carlin of Middlesex University, an EAS member, who has been helping with the documentary evidence of Old Copped Hall).

For further details please see the WEAG web site, www.weag.org.uk, or contact the Editor.

Thanks....

We are grateful to Jane Hill, the daughter of our late chairman Dennis, who has recently passed on to the society various archaeological papers of Dennis's, as well as donating to the Society a considerable number of archaeological books from Dennis's collection.

Caroline McKenna has recently done us a great service by cataloguing the Society's library – and no doubt thought she had finished the task until this further endowment came along!

A second recent contribution to the Society's archives came John Sykes, one of the visitors to Geoffrey's January lecture. John is a former member of the Society (as you will see from one of the photos in the write-up below), and presented us with a set of Society bulletins from the 1970s retrieved from his loft.

Finally, the Pinchbeck family have kindly volunteered to take a hand in the important task of sorting and curating the Society's archives – where their various skills in librarianship, graphic design and IT will be something of a godsend.

FLAG FEN COACH TRIP AXED

Unfortunately, we had to cancel the proposed trip to Flag Fen in early June. Our apologies to those who had booked, but we had far too few bookings to cover the costs of a coach by the time we would have had to pay the museum a deposit. Although our trip to Piddington was a success last year, and the joint trip with the WEA continues to attract custom, we feel we would need to think very carefully before arranging any more independent EAS trips in future, in view of the apparently limited interest, and the substantial work involved on top of our already busy workload. If you have any views or ideas that would help our considerations, they would be most welcome.

BIRKBECK ARCHAEOLOGY COURSES

Birkbeck College have published their programme of evening classes, short courses and study days for 2006/7. The programme will be available from their web site (www.bbk.ac.uk/ce/archaeology/) from 10 July, or alternatively contact Natalie Ping at the Faculty of Continuing Education, Birkbeck for details (Tel: 020 7631 6627).

SOCIETY MATTERS



A word from our new Chairman

Fifty years ago - the same year I was born - founder members such as Geoffrey Gillam planted

an acorn which grew (fairly rapidly to judge by his account in this Bulletin) into the oak tree that we are all part of today. If it were not for the vision of these people much of our knowledge about Enfield's past would have been lost forever.

Our aim now is to publish a complete archive of the Society's work over the last 50 years so that it will continue to benefit future generations of archaeologists.

I well remember my parents chastising me at the tender age of six for turning our back garden in Enfield into a moonscape in my pursuit of the past. No hole in the roads escaped my attention and I often came home with pockets full of bits of pottery to go on display in my own private museum in my bedroom. I will always remember the look on my history teacher's face the day I presented him with a World War Two hand grenade (defused, I hasten to add). That history teacher is well known to you all - our vice chairman Ian Jones. And over the last 35 years I have worked on many digs in Enfield and Waltham Abbey.

So archaeology has always been a passion of mine, but I firmly believe that the past should be available to everyone and not just the academics and enthusiasts among us. The popularity of programmes such as Time Team have increased public awareness of the history under our feet and the annual archaeology days at Forty Hall have attracted thousands of visitors – this part of our work is important and helpers always needed.

When we formed the Pastfinders a few years ago we gathered together a group of people who today form the backbone of our society and have helped to establish us as one of the most active and respected local archaeological groups in London, working successfully with the local museum service, and building a good reputation with English Heritage.

I consider myself privileged to have the opportunity to help carry forward the Society's aims into the future.

MIKE DEWBREY

Meeting Reports

Radio Valves and Enfield

Friday 17 March: **Bernard Eastwood**

This talk provided a rare but welcome excursion into local Industrial Archaeology given by a Member who had spent virtually his entire working life in one of the plants described below. The radio valve evolved from the electric light bulb so it is perhaps not surprising that the first factory in the world making valves was sited in Enfield, where the earlier industry already had a large plant.

The electric light was invented by Joseph Swan, born in Sunderland in 1828. Though apprenticed to the chemical industry he became interested in electricity and its application to lighting and spent years experimenting to produce a filament that would glow white hot without disintegrating inside a glass bulb containing a vacuum. A pump invented in Germany in 1865 solved one problem while Swan's experiments with fine carbon rods and later threads would solve the other. Finally in 1878 he demonstrated his first lamp which was improved and shown again early in 1879. He failed to patent it and in November that year Edison in America patented his ideas on the subject though he had yet to produce a lamp. 1880 saw Swan open his first factory, and the next year places as diverse as Craggside House, the British Museum and the Mansion House were lit by self-generated electricity. In 1883 the bulbs cost 5 shillings (£30 today).

Edison, now operating in Britain challenged Swan over patents but the two men agreed to combine forces and, needing a larger factory, moved to a site in Ponders End at the end of Duck Lees Lane. Of the later huge plant that produced lamps, valves and T.V. tubes only a block housing the offices and part of the research labs built in 1890 survives today.

The inventor of the valve was Ambrose Flemming of London University who was employed by Swan as a consultant. The insides of carbon filament bulbs could blacken and to capture some of the particles a platinum plate connected to a battery was inserted in some lamps as an experiment. It was noticed that

depending on how the wires were connected to the battery, current either flowed or did not. While investigating this Flemming was involved in the Marconi Company's experiments to transmit a radio signal across the Atlantic which succeeded in 1901. Despite this there was a serious problem with reception and Flemming realised that the oscillations produced by the experimental lamps could be used to magnify the signal so an operator could more easily hear it. The idea was patented in 1904 and work began on the new valves at Ponders End.

Production began in 1906 and increased as demand rose and efficiency improved. In 1916 the 'R' type valve developed in France went into large scale production at Ponders End as part of a massive increase in production fuelled by the demand for better communications.

By this time a second plant at Brimsdown was operating. This German-owned light bulb factory had been established in the buildings of the failed Walker's Paint Works in 1908 and by 1911 was known as the Brimsdown Light Works. It was confiscated in 1914 and handed over to Vickers in 1918. As well as lamps it would also produce electric fires and cookers and, inevitably, valves.

After radio broadcasts began in 1922 the demand for valves soared and soon after Ediswan, Vickers and the other major producers came together to form A.E.I., Associated Electrical Industries. Valves continued to improve and further expansion began when Ponders End produced its first cathode ray television tube in 1931. TV transmissions began in 1936 but closed on the outbreak of war because of fears that the signals from the transmitter could guide German bombers. Attention now switched to radar and an immense variety of valves and tubes were produced. This continued after the war helped by the resumption of TV transmissions in 1946.

However, in 1948 the appearance of the transistor heralded a new electronic age and by the mid 1950's it was starting to replace valves in many applications. The inevitable happened and the Brimsdown plant closed in 1968 with all production in the area finishing 10 years later.

This fascinating talk was enhanced by the many and rare objects brought along which included an example of the first valve produced in Ponders End in 1906. Amongst the other valves was a massive one produced for a wartime radar set use alongside a tiny one made for the radar transmitters used in proximity fused AA shells. Together with these was a cathode ray tube from a radar set and a small example from a TV.

IAN JONES

EAS AGM and Reports of Fieldwork

21 April: **See separate item**

Roman Southwark

19 May: **Harvey Sheldon**

In May we were pleased to welcome our President, Professor Harvey Sheldon, who gave a fascinating talk on the archaeology of Roman Southwark, with which he has been involved for more than 30 years.

The history of Southwark has been shaped by its geology – in contrast to the high gravel terrace of the opposite bank of the Thames, Southwark sits much lower, and so faced a much greater flood risk. Over the last 30 years archaeologists have built up a detailed picture of Southwark in prehistory, when the area was a complex system of islands, marshes and mudflats.

The modern archaeological study of Southwark was pioneered by Mortimer Wheeler in the 1920s. His 1928 volume on Roman London included a section on Roman Southwark in which he skilfully reviewed the scant evidence and produced a map. He correctly identified the area of the bridgehead on the line of a Roman road, and suggested a settlement of modest wealth without defences.

After the Blitz the Surrey Archaeological Society organised a programme of work in bomb damaged areas (a young Sheppard Frere was once arrested as a suspected spy whilst on an archaeological recce mission), and from 1945-47 Kathleen Kenyon directed excavations on five sites. These digs were small, but she demonstrated that stratified deposits survived below the 19th century cellars.

It was not until the 1970s that the scale of redevelopment combined with public pressure for archaeological investigation gave opportunities for large scale work. The foundations of new buildings were now being cut down to natural strata, so it was essential to record the archaeology before it was lost forever.

This work gave evidence of prehistoric activity, with flint scatters and a few burials, and in 1989-90 ard marks were found which were attributed to the Bronze Age. It has been suggested that the area was already a routeway for crossing the Thames – the river was probably tidal at this point, and Southwark may have been the lowest point where it was possible to ford the river.

This would have been important to the Romans, and evidence of early military activity has been found, with high concentrations of Claudian coins – as at

Richborough or Seamills. There is quite good evidence of two main roads, Watling Street running to the bridge and another to a presumed crossing further upriver. Watling Street was a substantial road with at least seven surfaces, and there is evidence of timbers being used to stabilise the road on the soft ground.

There is evidence for Roman buildings of both clay and timber and stone all over the area, but excavations have often been small and it is hard to discern overall plans. The buildings are likely to have been associated with some kind of administrative complex rather than being residential.

There was activity too all along the creeks of Roman Southwark, and the main river revetment gradually advanced into the river as land was reclaimed. In the anaerobic conditions behind these revetments an amphora was preserved labelled in ink revealing it was part of a consignment of fish sauce from one Lucius of Antipolis (Antibes). Harvey thinks it likely such finds often represent offerings to the gods after a safe passage, rather than accidental losses.

In the mid-1980s an excavation at a demolished warehouse near St Mary Overy wharf uncovered a hypocaust system and finely painted wallplaster – now reconstructed in the Museum of London. Imported pigments, and quite possibly imported craftsmen, were used for these mid 2nd century decorations.

From the fill of a bathhouse stokehole came part of an early 3rd century inscription which seems to represent a list of military cohorts- perhaps either serving in or responsible for constructing the buildings it was originally attached to.

Another exciting small find was an intaglio representing four men in a boat, the design of which very closely parallels the famous Arras medallion of 296. Excavations at the bathhouse at Caerleon in Wales show that similar items were quite frequently lost down the drain of the bathhouse, so perhaps that was the fate of this item.

Among the finds from Tabard Square a few years ago was an inscription fragment referring to Londinaensium, which if it was found in situ could be evidence that Roman Southwark was part of 'Londinium'.

At the moment the big story surrounds an important developer-funded dig at St George's Church. This is in an area expected to contain important Roman archaeology, but large numbers of post-medieval burials higher up have absorbed much of the available time and budget, so it remains to be seen whether the excavation of the Roman levels can be achieved. Let us hope that some solution can be found!

JEREMY GROVE

Enfield Archaeological Society: The First 50 Years

20 January: **Geoffrey Gillam**

We began 2006 with a lecture from Geoffrey Gillam, the only founder member of the society still actively involved with our work, to mark the Society's 50th anniversary. Here, for those who could not attend the lecture, are a selection of Geoffrey's slides and recollections. We cannot do justice to all the society activities or individual contributions that our first half-century has seen, but hopefully this will give a flavour of them and bring back a few memories.

"The story of the EAS begins with the archaeology classes taught by John Kent through the local WEA in 1954 and 1955. At the end of 1955, John suggested that members of the class should remain together and form an Enfield Archaeological Society.

The first public meeting was held on 20 February 1956 when John gave a lecture about the Saxon Shore Forts, and over one hundred members enrolled. The meeting was held in the demonstration theatre above the Eastern Gas showroom in Sydney Road, Enfield, an excellent venue where we continued to meet for the next ten years, and conveniently situated opposite the Duke of Abercorn public house.

During this time many well-known archaeologists were persuaded to come and speak to us, including the Roman experts Graham Webster, Philip Corder and Sir Ian Richmond, and many others. Sir Ian was inadvertently introduced as 'Professor of Archaeology of the British Empire'.

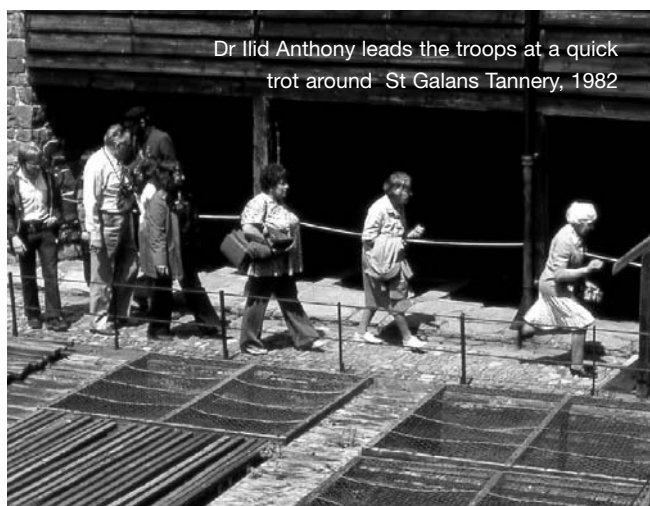
Since it was formed, the society has arranged over 450 lectures, and many visits to places of interest. In the early days we had 4 or 5 coach trips a year, organised by Lionel Faraday, and later Frank Smith. I have many fond memories of Frank, including the notice he issued for one of his trips that the coach would leave from the Market Square "at approximately 8am sharp".

Our conductor on most of the early visits was John Kent. On one occasion we visited the Roman forts at Richborough and Reculver, and the villa at Lullingstone all on the same day (how neat that the recent WEA/EAS coach trip returned to Lullingstone – surely a clever plan by someone with a sense of occasion? – Ed.). Our itinerary was threatened by a caravan which had lodged itself in a roadside ditch, until the members disembarked from the coach to manhandle it back onto the road and send it on its way.



John Kent at Richborough

Another notable visit in 1982 was to St Galans Folk Museum in Wales. The M4 got us there in 4 hours, followed by a 4 hour tour and 4 hours home again. It was a resounding success. We were met by our then President Dr Ildid Anthony, the former director of the site, who took us on a whirlwind but, nevertheless, interesting, entertaining and informative tour.



Dr Ildid Anthony leads the troops at a quick trot around St Galans Tannery, 1982

But being an archaeological society, we wanted to dig. The earthwork at Bush Hill golf course attracted our attention. This is a circular bank and ditch enclosing about 2 _ acres. Part of it was destroyed in the 18th century, and later more of the rampart was sacrificed to allow golfers to drive off from the first tee. In 1956 the EAS cut a section through the

embankment (see front cover), revealing a shallow u-shaped ditch, dug not as a defensive measure but as a quarry for material for the bank. There was no evidence of timber lacing or of different stage in its construction, nor any finds the site was attributed to the later Iron Age on grounds of general probability. Our view was that it was a simple enclosure into which cattle could be driven for culling or in time of trouble. The oppidum of Casivellaunus it certainly was not! We also investigated what appeared to be a linear earthwork (since levelled) running across the lower slopes of Bush Hill, only to be asked by a resident why we were digging up the remains of the light railway which had been used to transport gravel from a local pit to Grange Park station. At least this explained the Victorian teapot lid in our trench, but the moral is, of course, that archaeologists should always do their homework before opening any trenches. (We may have more to report from Bush Hill in the near future what goes around comes around Ed.)



Ermine Street, Cheshunt, 1967

Rather more to our credit, we changed the map of Roman Britain – prior to the founding of the society the Ordnance Survey map of Roman Britain showed Ermine Street in our area as a dotted line, but in subsequent editions this was changed to a solid line as a result of our activities. Indeed over the years we have conducted many searches for sections of Ermine Street as opportunities have arisen – not always fruitfully. Apart from myself, John Ivens, Les Whitmore and Roger Dormer have each sought

further sections of the road. Further afield, we found a stretch of the road in Cheshunt, and in 1960, 61 and 62 a joint exercise between the EAS and Bernard Barr and the East Herts Archaeological Society traced the Roman road network around Braughing. We located the junction of Ermine Street with Stane Street through cropmarks, and confirmed them by excavation. A first century brooch was recovered from the original surface of Ermine Street by Ian Jones. The results of our work were published in the transactions of the East Herts society.

In 1958 & 59 we disappeared into the wilds of Hertfordshire to excavate a large homestead moat, known as Perriors, north of Flamstead End, directed by John Kent. Pictured here you see our happy band, including Mary and Gloria, who had the misfortune to uncover the remains of a dead sheep in their trench and had to be rushed off for some precautionary injections. We located slots for sleeper beams and uprights in the clay, and clay pads on which further uprights rested, together with later flint foundations of a large half-timbered building with at least two floors. We also sectioned the moat - a very smelly experience which I would rather forget. (The unhealthy nature of the site caused the deaths of the last two occupants of the site, from cholera, in the late 19th century).



Perriors excavators, Mary and Gloria to right, 1958

From a discussion at Perriors I came up with the idea of a Society Bulletin. It grew from a one page item laboriously produced on a wax stencil, run off on a duplicator, to a much larger publication – but still using wax stencils, and run off on an electronically operated duplicator. A laborious and at times rather messy business. I worked out a delivery route using my scooter, and then more members got involved, each having a delivery area. Today the wonders of modern science allow us to be more sophisticated

and include illustrations. (And wax stencils are thankfully no longer involved. What are they anyway? Ed.)

We were always aware of the need to publicise the work of the society to keep the public informed and recruit new members. We used to take part in the delightfully old-fashioned Enfield Town Show held in the Town Park – a tradition maintained with the successful stalls run jointly with the Museum Service at the autumn fairs in recent years. On another occasion we rented the charity stall in the Market Place for a small exhibition – much to the annoyance of the neighbouring stallholder who felt her display of goods was being obscured by the crowd we attracted.

To be continued....

Next time – the epic of Elsyng Palace, beating a controversial trail into Industrial Archaeology, a Medieval Frolick, and more of Roman Enfield, not to mention Geoffrey's brush with the Constabulary.



John Sykes raising finance at the Market Stall, 1966

Cover Star

The flying saucer-like object at the top of page one this time is a mortarium (A Roman mixing vessel with a gritted inner surface) from Landseer Road.



EAS Fieldwork



The Society also regularly carries out fieldwork and other practical activities in the Borough. Please see the *Pastfinders News* column or the excavation reports overleaf for more details, and contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) if you are interested.





Roman Enfield and a 'New' Coin Find

Work continues on the long-term project to produce archive level reports on all past

society work on Roman sites in Enfield. The first archive report (on work in 1978 when Lincoln Rd. was being straightened in which possible field boundaries and a ?droveway were found) has recently been completed.

As part of this work, re-examination of our and the museum's finds collections have led to the 'resurfacing' of some items needing reappraisal. Hopefully notes on some of them will appear in future bulletins, but one seems to be otherwise

unrecorded and if any of our longer standing members recall its finding I would be interested in hearing from them. It is a Roman coin (a Follis of Diocletian minted at Trier in AD 296-7) in a packet annotated, probably in the hand of Richard Coxhall (of the British Museum and at one time one of our most active members), and evidently found by a Mr. and Mrs. Chapman in the front garden of 395 Bury St. West. For those who understand the jargon the full details are:

AE Follis Diocletian (AD 296 – 7) Mint of Trier
Obv. Laur. and cuir. bust I. IMP.DIOCLETIANVS
P.F.AVG

Rev. Genius stg. I. GENIO POPVLI ROMANI
In field B F In exergue TR
Die axis ↑ Worn

MARTIN J. DEARNE

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LETTERS

Following a passing remark by Ian Jones about the name Camlet Moat in the last bulletin, Dr Richard White wrote with some further theories:

"[.over 20 years ago..] I considered the relationship of the fabric-name to the local place name and to the Camelot or Camalot of local legend. I could find only one earlier author commenting on this. I was inclined to conclude that, while it looked as if there could have been some late assimilation to the fabric-name, this is not likely to be the origin of the proper name. A connection with the Romano-British place-name Camulodunum is an idea that seems to have been around for a long time, but at that time all I felt able to say was that it might not be the only possibility. While I wish to do some further research....my opinion now on the evidence known to me is that the name of the River Camlad (whose earliest known form Kemelet was also a place-name) on the Shropshire/ Montgomeryshire border is probably another instance, besides that at Enfield, of the name being given as a literary reminiscence of Chretien's Camelot. However, the commote-name Cyfeiliog further west in Montgomeryshire remains a candidate for the original of the last."

And it was pleasing to hear from another member, Mrs Wright, who spent her childhood in Bromley, and therefore not only remembers Bromley Hall (the subject of our December lecture) from those days, but was one of its 'customers' when it housed a baby clinic between the wars.

Old Folks' Home

FOOTNOTE: One of the oldest standing structures in Enfield was sold recently in the form of a weather boarded cottage in Green Street which once formed part of the Durants Arbour estate in the ownership of the Wroth family. The cottage which has a substantial timber frame wattle and daub wall cavities and beaten earth floors is believed to date back to the early 15th century. Although the external appearance has been much altered over time the original fabric of the building has survived the ravages of the last 500 years. The cottage which may have been a rangers lodge has been subdivided into two separate dwellings yet still retains much original studwork.

MIKE DEWBREY

Enfield Archaeological Society

Founded 1955

Affiliated to the Council for British Archaeology and the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

President: Harvey Sheldon BSc FSA FRSA

Minutes of the 50th Annual General Meeting of the Enfield Archaeological Society

The 50th AGM of the Enfield Archaeological Society (21st April 2006) commenced by the acting Chairman Ian Jones asking those present if the Minutes of the 49th EAS AGM were accurate. After all agreed that they were indeed correct.

The second item on the Agenda was the report of the Executive Committee. Ian read out extracts of the report (as published in March 2006 issue of *Society News*). No comments were raised and the report was approved.

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2005 was read out by the Honorary Treasurer Geoff Lampport, and was proposed, seconded and accepted, copies of which had been given to all members present prior to the meeting. Geoff reported that the Society had made a £235.90 'profit' for 2005.

The next item concerned the EAS subscription rates for the year commencing 1st Jan 2007. Ian Jones pointed out that there would be no increase to the current subscription rate and that item 4 should be ignored.

Item five on the Agenda was the Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members. The same committee stood for re-election with the exception of the Chairman's position; Mike Dewbrey was standing in place of the late Dennis Hill.

Ian went on to highlight each committee member's role and thanked their contribution to the Society. He also pointed out that the position of Social Secretary was still vacant. The motion to approve the Executive Committee was proposed and accepted by all members present. The Committee members are listed here.

The sixth item proposed that a Dennis Hill memorial lecture be created in order to remember the dedication and commitment that Dennis had given to the Society. A possible date for the first lecture was suggested for September 2007. All agreed that this was a good idea.

The Committee members are as follows:

President:	Harvey Sheldon BSc FSA FRSA
Vice Presidents:	Dr Iiid Anthony Geoffrey Gillam
Chairman:	Mike Dewbrey
Vice Chairman:	Ian Jones
Hon. Treasurer:	Geoff Lampport
Hon. Secretary:.....	David Wills
Hon. Meetings Secretary:.....	Tim Harper
Hon. Membership Secretary:...	David Wills
Hon. Social Secretary:	Still Vacant
Hon. Editor:.....	Jeremy Grove
Director of Fieldwork & Research:.....	Dr. Martin Dearne
Auditor:	Dianne Taylor
Committee:.....	Roger Eddington Caroline McKenna Les Whitmore

As part of the agenda item concerning 'Any Other Business', one member noted that the Society had only paid out £70 for lecturer fees for 2005 and that this represented a very small cost. Ian Jones proceeded to thank all the speakers who had presented lectures throughout the year.

The Report of the Fieldwork, Research and Other activities of the Society during 2005 was introduced by Mike Dewbrey. He praised the contribution of Dr

Martin Dearne for the high amateur archaeology standing that the EAS is held in and for his professional excavation reports. He went on to thank the diggers and surveying team involved in the Pastfinders Group, each member of the Committee and Jan Metcalfe and Val Munday from Enfield Museum Service. Thereafter, a synopsis of the Society's archaeological activities for 2005 ensued, starting with an overview of the work carried out by the Society at Forty Hall in June 2005 and March 2006.

Mike explained that the Society had been approached by English Heritage to ascertain whether the Jacobean house at Forty Hall had previously had Bay windows on its east side, as well as answering several other questions.

Martin Dearne then described the excavation that had been carried out in June 2005. He reported how at first the remains of a Victorian conservatory had been encountered, before mortared brickwork indicated that a rectangular Bay window had indeed once existed at Forty Hall. In March 2006, a second trench was excavated, locating the other half of the Bay window. However, no evidence was found to indicate whether an entrance to a cellar had previously existed. Martin went on to describe some of the finds which included: lead off-cuts, peg tile, shaped bricks, glazed red ware, green and grey slate, an 18th Century scythe blade as well as demolition material such as mortar, brick and tile.

The report of Society activities continued with Mike Dewbrey briefly summarising work carried out in Leighton Road, Enfield. He thanked Roger Dormer for his help identifying and cataloguing Roman pottery sherds found a few years earlier at 102 Leighton Rd. He then mentioned how in December 2005, he had spotted development work being undertaken at 106 Leighton Road. Martin gave an account of the archaeology that the Society had observed and recorded. He explained that years ago Hertfordshire Archaeological Trust found a large ditch in the vicinity and that the Society was keen to see if this could be located. Examination of the stratigraphy of the trenches cut by development work showed two ditches. Martin showed a plan of the trenches and suggested that the main ditch could represent a boundary ditch. A near intact Barbettine indented beaker (date c. AD293 – 315) had been found and may well have been deliberately placed into the ditch as a ditch closure offering. Other finds noted included fragments of Nene Valley pottery and a possible piece of Saxon pot.

Mike rose again to introduce the Society's work at Elsyng Palace in 2005. He showed a slide of a resistivity survey undertaken in the late 1970s and described the layout of the palace and its history, which at one point had been owned by Henry VIII. Thereafter, Martin gave an account of the Society's involvement on National Archaeology Day, held in July 2005. With permission granted by English Heritage to extend the trench dug in 2004, a bigger trench was excavated. Beneath layers of clay and demolition rubble an intact vaulted Tudor brick drain was found, which was 4 feet high internally and very well built. At a later period a section had been cut into it and a chute built, and may possibly have been used as a toilet from an upper storey. The chute itself proved to be full of interesting finds including: clay pipe, fragments of 17th Century wine bottle, Bellarmine pottery from Germany, a Dutch Jetton gaming piece (c.1650-70) and a moulded brick showing the wing of an eagle and had probably been part of an heraldic coat of arms.

Continuing on the topic of Elsyng Palace Martin gave a report of the Society's dig at Forty Hall (close to Jesus Church) in April 2005. The site produced unmortared bricks many of which had been placed on their side and appeared to exist in regular dumps; ash and evidence of burning and a high temperature process. Initially, it was thought that the site represented an Iron Smithy, especially as iron slag had been found. However, Paul Drury's suggestion that the site could have been used as a brick clamp has since been favoured. Martin described how bricks would have been left to dry and then covered with wood and charcoal and burnt for several days before being retrieved. Thus, bricks would have been made and fired on site in the c.1540s.

Mike showed slides of a Bronze age tanged arrowhead he had found at a site in Enfield, where the Society hopes to undertake a field walk in September 2006. He closed the accounts of the Society's fieldwork by listing the archaeological activities that the EAS hopes to undertake in 2006. These include: excavating tree pits at Forty Hall; initially dug by the Council, the Society has been asked by English Heritage to excavate them in order to assess their archaeological impact; National Archaeology Day, Sunday July 16th, Forty Hall and possible fieldwork on the site of an Iron Age Hillfort.

After the floor was opened to questions, Mike proceeded to thank everyone for attending the AGM.

DAVID P. W. WILLS, Hon. Secretary

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



As this newsletter goes to press we have at last finished evaluation work on a series of fourteen tree pits along the lime tree avenue at Forty Hall, over the site of Elsyng Palace. It took an age for scheduled monument consent to come through before we could start work, but for a local society like ours to be recommended for such work at all is quite a feather in our caps. The objective of the exercise was to reopen some tree pits dug late last year over the site of the palace by the parks department, and to record any evidence of the Tudor Palace, assessing the long term detrimental effect any further tree planting in the area would have on the archaeology. Martin Dearn's report will be submitted to English Heritage and highlights will appear in a future Bulletin.

In early Spring a small contingent of the Pastfinders opened a trench in the rose bed outside Forty Hall next to where last year's excavation revealed the profile of the early 17th century bay windows, and uncovered more information about the former appearance of this front. A notable discovery within the demolition material was the oxidised blade of a hand held scythe. Thanks as always to the small band of diggers who wrapped up like arctic commandos and braved the elements over a bitterly cold and windy weekend.

Sunday 16 July is Archaeology Day at Forty Hall (is it really a year since I had my head down a Tudor drain?). As usual we shall need lots of willing volunteers to man our publicity tent. We will be opening some trenches around the former ornamental gardens at Forty Hall close (but not too close!) to the great cedar of Lebanon. The aim of this excavation, which has been suggested by Paul Drury, the archaeological consultant to the estate, is to try to interpret the layout of the original 17th century gardens around the hall. Anyone interested in helping out should contact any member of the committee.

Our Pastfinders detectives Neil and John Pinchbeck rose to the bait when I mentioned to them that the location of one of the 18th century garden pavilions at Forty Hall had been lost, now thanks to their efforts it may not be anymore. Following the old 1773 estate map they have located an area where 18th century brickwork is concentrated among trees disturbed by the digging of a drainage ditch. Further work needs to be done but the site looks most promising. Fallen trees and ground disturbance to the south of the lakes at Forty Hall continues to reveal Tudor brickwork from the demolition of the palace and Neil has also located another silted up pond that appears to have been used for dumping domestic rubbish in the 19th century. The search for the ice house at Forty Hall has moved up a notch following the discovery of yet another map and a curious anomaly around the lake near the garden mound which I am still convinced has a secret or two under its leaf mould.

As announced at the A.G.M. we are currently negotiating with English Heritage to carry out an excavation across the defensive ditch of an Iron Age hillfort which will no doubt be familiar to the golfers among our membership.

The A.G.M. is often poorly attended by our membership which I feel is unfortunate since most of the evening consists of a round up of the year's excavations and slides of the discoveries made within the borough. Missing the A.G.M. is like turning your back when Howard Carter opened the tomb of a certain boy king because you are not really interested in what is inside! So my first directive as your new Chairman is to make sure that the date of next years A.G.M goes in your diary because this year we are hoping to make some remarkable discoveries. Watch this space!

If you want to find out more about the Enfield Pastfinders Excavation Team I can be contacted during the day on 01707 870888.

MIKE DEWBREY