
SOCIETY NEWS

THE BULLETIN OF THE ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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CONTENTS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Friday 18th December - lecture
"Some Archaeological Sites Visited in Syria"
by Leonard Hemming.

Friday 15th January 1999 - lecture
"Along the Golden Road: Silk Route Cities of
Uzbekistan"
by Ian Jones.

Friday 19th February - lecture
"From Galleys to Galoshes – The Industries of
Medieval London."
By John Clark.

Forthcoming events of the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society.

Forthcoming events of the Edmonton Hundred Historical Society.

Forthcoming events of the Historical Association (North London Branch)

MEETING REPORTS.

"The King Arthur Cross."

"A Walk Through Gardening History at Capel
Manor."

"London Open House 98 Event."

SALISBURY HOUSE EXCAVATION: PRELIMINARY REPORT

EXCAVATIONS AT INNOVA SCIENCE PARK, RAMMEY MARSH, ENFIELD.

MORE ABOUT FORTY HALL.....

MISCELLANY

Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December and is free to members. The Hon.Editor, to whom all correspondence and articles for publication should be sent is: John C Stevens, 3 Scarborough Road, London N9 8AT. T/N 0181.804.6918.

The statements and opinions of contributors to this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor.

TWO

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following meetings will be held at Jubilee Hall, at the junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00pm. Doors will open at 7.30 when tea and coffee will be served and there will be an opportunity to look at the sales and information table. Visitors are very welcome, for whom a charge of 50p will be made.

Friday 18th December

“Some Archaeological Sites
Visited in Syria.”
Leonard Hemming.

Syria is a beautiful country, somewhat greener than Israel and Jordan as it has two rivers flowing through it. At the moment it does not attract many tourists, perhaps due to its location next to Israel and Lebanon, but it is well worth visiting and a surprising number of its very friendly people speak English and like to try it out on visitors. There are many famous historical sites there and those who are interested in history will find much to see, such as Ebla, Damascus, Aleppo, Mari, Ugarit and the amazing Crusader castles. The sites mentioned, plus Palmyra and others, were all visited by the speaker thus providing much material for this lecture.

LH

Friday 15th January 1999

“Along the Golden Road; Silk
Route Cities of Uzbekistan.”
Ian K Jones.

Central Asia, the land between the Caspian Sea and China now occupied by Uzbekistan and its four neighbouring republics, was once the heart of the Silk Road, the great trade route connecting China with the Mediterranean world. Settlement here dates back well into the Stone Age and from around the time of the birth of Christ the nomadic and settled peoples began to benefit both from the increasingly rich caravans passing to and fro and from the trading of the "Heavenly Horses" of the Fergana valley to China. The resultant wealth is shown especially by the extensive remains left by the native Sogdian peoples of the mid 1st millennium AD. From the 8th century the area became culturally part of the Islamic world and under first a succession of local dynasties and later the Mongols, the great cities including Bukhara, Samarkand and Khiva flourished. Under Tamerlane and his dynasty some of the Islamic world's finest buildings were raised in Samarkand and other cities from the later 14th century but by the 16th century a slow decline had set in as more and more of the China trade went to Europe by sea.

IKJ

THREE

Friday 19th February 1999

“From Galleys to Galoshes – The Industries of Medieval London.”
John Clark.

It is easy to forget that medieval London, as well as being the national capital, a centre of fashion and a major contributor to the country's economy through its trade, was the greatest industrial town in medieval England. The pomp and circumstance that seems to be the main function of today's City livery companies masks the importance of the crafts and industries whose day to day activities they once controlled. The evidence of more than thirty years of archaeological excavation in the City and material in museum collections supplement the wealth of documentary sources and contemporary images to illustrate a wide range of industries and their products from pin-making to bell-founding, from shoe-making to ship-building.

J C.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – London & Middlesex Archaeological Society:

All meetings are held at the Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2 at 6.00pm for 6.30pm.

Thursday 10th December: “The Work of the London Wildlife Trust”.

Thursday 14th January 1999: Hugh Chapman Memorial Lecture:
“From New Troy to Londinium: The Rediscovery of Roman London.” John Clark.

Thursday 11th February: AGM followed by Presidential Address by Mark Hassall,
LAMAS President.

Thursday 11th March: “London's Larder; The Development of the Borough Market”
by Philip Obeney.

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – Edmonton Hundred Historical Society:

28th January 1999: “Isaac D'Israeli, an Enfield 'Man of Letters' “ by Dr Elaine Ross
(At Mount Carmel Centre, Catholic Church, London Road, Enfield 8.00pm)

24th February 1999: “Forgotten Industries of the Lea Valley” by Dr Jim Lewis
(Pre-publication book order form attached to this bulletin)
(At Jubilee Hall, junction of Parsonage Lane and Chase Side, Enfield) 8.00pm

Visitors are very welcome, for whom a charge of £1.00 will be made.

FOUR

FORTHCOMING EVENTS: Historical Association (North London Branch):

All meetings are held at Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

Tuesday 12th January 1999. "Poland - 1000 Years of Civilisation" by Stephen Gilbert.

Tuesday 9th February. "The Cult of Saints in Anglo-Saxon England" by Dr Alan Thacker.
(Victoria County History).

Tuesday 9th March. "Sixty Years On: Reflections on the Origins of the Second World War in Europe" by Philip Bell (University of Liverpool)

Further information available from Robin Blades 0181.368.5328.

MEMBERSHIP REMINDER

OTHER THAN FOR THOSE MEMBERS WHO JOINED THE SOCIETY FOR THE FIRST TIME AFTER 1ST OCTOBER 1998, SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1999 ARE DUE ON JANUARY 1ST. WE WOULD BE MOST GRATEFUL IF YOU WOULD USE THE RENEWAL FORM ATTACHED. MANY THANKS.

MEETING REPORTS

THE KING ARTHUR CROSS.

Geoffrey Gillam.

Friday 18th September

This meeting was preceded by the business of a Special General Meeting convened by the Society to propose the election of Geoffrey Gillam to a Vice Presidency of the Society. Putting the motion to the assembled members, Chairman Dennis Hill described Geoffrey's extraordinary contribution to the

Society since its foundation, including 29 years as Chairman. There was a forest of raised arms in favour of the motion and the election was duly confirmed.

Dennis then introduced Geoffrey in his capacity as speaker for the evening on the intriguing subject of the 'King Arthur Cross'. Taking his position at the lectern, Geoffrey began by recalling that in 1981 an inscribed lead cross was allegedly discovered in one of the lower lakes in the grounds of Forty Hall and that the cross was later claimed to be the very same cross which had been (again allegedly!!) found above the grave of Arthur and Guinevere at Glastonbury Abbey in 1190.

In October 1981, David Pam, then at the Local History Unit, was contacted by Derek Mahoney who claimed to have recovered an artefact from the bed of the lake whilst silt clearance was being undertaken by the Borough of Enfield. (Members of this Society had been carrying out a watching brief throughout these works and had noted the remains of a brick boathouse and the underwater remains of an ornamental feature, neither of which pre-dated Forty Hall itself.) David Pam rang Geoffrey Gillam to tell him that Mahoney was in possession of a lead cross which he

(Mahoney) claimed was the Glastonbury Cross, being about 30cm high and inscribed with the legend "HIC IACET SEPULTUS INCLITUS REX ARTURIUS IN INSULA AVALONIA" ("Here lies buried the renowned King Arthur in the Isle of Avalon").

FIVE

Meanwhile, Mahoney had taken his lead cross to the British Museum but had only shown the object very briefly to an inexperienced staff member before leaving and refused point blank to allow any further examination of his find.

At about this time the story broke in the local press and was front-page news in the Enfield Advertiser. Geoffrey took part in a Radio London programme on the subject and was invited to appear on Canadian television, such was the interest in the "discovery" but another side of the story was now becoming known. Derek Mahoney and his brother had been embroiled in convoluted legal wrangles over a property transaction in Somerset involving unsuccessful legal actions against an estate agent and, subsequently, against their own legal advisors. The brothers felt considerably embittered against the legal profession and within the EAS we were fully convinced that the whole matter of the cross was a publicity stunt. Geoffrey described how he had written to the Chief Executive of the LBE pointing out how important the cross would be if genuine and that the alleged discovery took place on council property. Mahoney consistently refused all entreaties to reveal the whereabouts of his cross and in due course the matter came to court and he was sentenced to two years imprisonment for contempt of court, although he was released after one year since it was considered that his continued incarceration served no useful purpose.

Geoffrey then proceeded to put the "original cross" into historic context with an illustrated summary of the events of the late Roman Empire and explained how Britain had ceased to be a province of the Empire in AD 410. Evidence from the immediate post-Roman period is scanty but Germanic newcomers began to arrive, possibly as invited mercenaries that later turned on their erstwhile employers as described by Bede. In any event, Anglo-Saxon kingdoms comprised most of lowland Britain by AD 600 and it is in the preceding years that the legend of Arthur, the British king or warlord was set. There are a handful of indirect literary references to a specific British leader in the struggle against the Saxons; for example, Bede and Gildas refer to Ambrosius Aurelianus and the British victory at Badon Hill but no direct reference to Arthur can be found until Geoffrey of Monmouth's "History of the Kings of Britain" written in about 1125. This work is largely a fanciful fiction but it is the foundation upon which is based the Arthurian myth with which we are familiar today. Geoffrey of Monmouth placed Camelot at Caerleon but a later French writer identified Cadbury (Somerset) as the site of Camelot and excavations at South Cadbury hill fort do indeed indicate occupation of the site at the appropriate period (early 6th century). Glastonbury Tor in Somerset was an island surrounded by marshland in Arthurian times and is popularly considered to be a candidate for the Isle of Avalon and again there is evidence for Dark Age occupation.

To return to the story of the cross, in 1184 a fire destroyed Glastonbury Abbey and the death of Henry II in 1189 meant that his funding of the abbey ceased. The monks therefore had to procure funds from elsewhere and in 1190, with the aid of an ancient manuscript of an "X marks the spot nature", were able to locate and excavate the grave of a large man and a small woman, buried above which had been found an inscribed lead cross. The abbey was thus in possession of a relic that was almost guaranteed to provide a substantial income. No drawing of the cross exists, however, prior to one appears in Camden's "Britannia" in 1607.

It is difficult to trace the story of the cross after Glastonbury Abbey was again destroyed by fire in 1539. It was said to have been in Wells (nearby) in the eighteenth century and the first supposed connection with Enfield comes at the end of that century when Richard Gough (of the house that bore his name at the foot of Forty Hill – the railings are still visible today) republished Camden. After Gough's death in 1809 his collection of antiquities and curiosities was sold at Sotheby's. It was Derek Mahoney's proposal that Gough had been in possession of the Arthurian cross and that it deliberately or accidentally found its way into the lake in Forty Hall.

At this point the meeting was stunned when the speaker stooped behind the lectern and rose to hold aloft the Arthur Cross! It was only a moment, however, before Geoffrey confessed and

SIX

revealed himself to be a master forger, having cast a fake cross from lead (based upon the drawing by Camden) in order to demonstrate how simply such a task could be accomplished especially if, like Mahoney, one had been a lead pattern maker for a toy company before being made redundant and had had access to a laboratory.

Such is the power of myth and legend that to this day members of the public occasionally ask after the cross, especially during the Society's excavations at Forty Hall in 1993. The story became distorted and exaggerated and enquiries were received about "a golden cross" and other fabulous objects. A local occult society offered a reward for the return of the cross.

This fascinating and entertaining lecture was delivered with the speaker's customary style and panache, illustrated with excellent slides and music including atmospheric still scenes and music from the film "Excalibur".

Tragically, Mahoney became a bitter and disturbed man, finally taking his own life in 1989. His cross was never found.

Jon Tanner.

A WALK THROUGH GARDENING HISTORY AT CAPEL MANOR

Dr Steven Dowbiggin

Friday 16th October

The Manor of Capel, correctly "Honeylands and Pentriches" dates to the 13th century and acquired the name Capel in 1486 when it was purchased by the Lord Mayor of London, Sir William Capel. The Capel family remained the owners until gifting the estate to the Crown in the 16th century and in 1562 Elizabeth I gifted the property to

William Thorn. Capel House was built in the 18th century, being acquired by the Warren family in the 1830's and remaining in their ownership until purchased by Colonel Medcalf in 1932.

Several slides of historic estate plans were shown, including an 1821 plan that confirmed that the present estate layout is very different to that of its predecessors. The original entrance, complete with a small lodge, appears to be from Bulls Cross on the western boundary.

The estate was taken over by the London Borough of Enfield in 1967 for use as a college of horticulture, which opened in 1969, and from the beginning the intention was to design and build a number of small period gardens, to create an experience of, or a walk through, gardening history. Interestingly, in one area it was decided to build three small rectangular formal gardens: plans have come to light in the last six weeks show that the original arrangement was very similar.

A number of historic and exotic trees occupy the site, including the second tallest Caucasian Elm in Europe, which would have been planted at the time of construction of the house, if not earlier. Of three copper beeches, two remain, one having been felled last year. There is also a 270 year old sweet chestnut and a 1937 tulip tree.

During the preparation of a new garden, students discovered (excavated?) a fig box. This is a device placed around the roots of a fig tree to constrain its growth, with the result that the tree understandably feels threatened and responds by producing more figs. Naturally, the fig box is now in use for its original purpose.

A plan from the 1850's shows a pond that does not appear on an 1816 plan. Students have now created a water garden reflecting the work of Frances Perry, the local highly influential garden designer. There is also a Japanese garden, a Victorian style garden, and several gardens based

SEVEN

on more modern designers such as Paul Temple. A small temple, a gazebo and other features have been rescued from a skip following a Chelsea Flower Show and reconstructed at Capel.

Some common myths were exposed, one being the use of picket fences. Although supposed to be an archetypal English garden feature, these appear to be the result of the influence of a Hollywood notion of the English rural idyll. Also, the cottage garden apparently originates from the practice of positioning larger plants around the outer edge of a continental garden, rather than any connection with low status rural dwellings.

Mention must also be made of the new Princess Diana Memorial Garden, for which approval by the Diana Memorial Fund is expected shortly, and which is a very modern design for a child suffering from cerebral palsy.

Dr Dowbiggin concluded with several amusing anecdotes from the college, one involving a former head of state, a Japanese minister, a Duchess and a basket of rare hen's eggs.

This was a very interesting talk on the work and aims of an extremely successful local institution, which as Ian Jones observed in his vote of thanks to the speaker, we are apt to take for granted, being on our doorstep.

Jon Tanner

LONDON OPEN HOUSE '98 EVENT.

Salisbury House, Bury Street, Edmonton
was opened on Sunday 20th September as
part of the London Open House '98 event.

Our information stand was manned by Caroline McKenna and there was a display of some of the material discovered during the Society's excavation earlier in the year (see below) together with photographs and drawings. A short printed account of the history of the building was available. Ian Jones and Geoffrey Gillam each conducted small parties of visitors around the building in a series of guided tours of the house from the cellars to the attic rooms – which in view of the narrow corridors and small rooms, taxed their skills in crowd control!! A total of about seventy people visited the house during the day.

SALISBURY HOUSE EXCAVATION: PRELIMINARY REPORT

A small excavation took place in the gardens of Salisbury House between the 25th of July and the 2nd of August 1998 with the aims of investigating the relationship between Salisbury House and the vanished Bury Lodge and finding evidence to give a date for construction of Salisbury House. Eventually an area two by seven metres was excavated down to what appeared to be the natural gravel and quite a complicated story was revealed. On the one hand the demolition of Bury Lodge in 1936 and that of the building linking it to Salisbury House, which had taken place towards the end of the 19th century, was extremely thorough, leaving only the ghosts of their foundations and a thin scatter of building materials while scattering sherds of Medieval pottery in

every layer and part of the site. On the other hand however, some unexpected traces of much older structures were revealed. Post excavation work is still continuing and so any conclusions set out below must be regarded as somewhat tentative at this stage.

EIGHT

Only the most speculative date can be given to the earliest features uncovered, thanks to a total lack of finds; indeed the whole site had a most non-medieval air of tidiness about it. These early features comprised two sets of post-holes cut into what appeared to be the natural gravel. The first lay at the extreme south end of the trench and disappeared into the side - where else?. It ran parallel with the line of the later house and consisted of a construction trench about a metre long and up to 20 cm wide in which two large posts and two much smaller stakes had been set. No dating evidence or timber traces were found suggesting thorough demolition, presumably prior to the building of the later Bury Lodge. As far as date is concerned all we can say is that the structure was probably raised sometime in the first half of the medieval period. Between 1½ and 2 metres in front were a second set of four post-holes forming the right-angled corner of a structure with three marking one side and the fourth, a second. These much smaller holes were dug individually into the gravel and the whole structure was angled at about 45 degrees in relation to the other. Later tree root disturbance has probably destroyed several other postholes in this sequence. Again we cannot yet give it any sort of date or function.

A clean layer of gravel overlay these features and set into its upper level were faint traces of what we believe to be the foundations of Bury Lodge and the building linking it to Salisbury House. These traces took the form of masses of clean yellow clay some 20-25 cm wide and less than a metre in length forming the north-eastern corner of Bury Lodge with a similar mass extending to the east towards Salisbury House. Hard up against the western side of the trench a large post pit had been dug into the clay but there was no other indication of the form the walls may have taken. The lack of a post pit at the corner suggests that wooden sleeper beams could have been laid on the clay and the frame of the house raised on them. Such construction leaves little or no trace when it is removed. The post pit mentioned above could well represent later repairs. Little rubble survived from the 19th and 20th century demolitions apart from some re-used bricks (see below) which was not wholly surprising as photographs suggest that this timber framed house had earth or plank floors with the only brickwork being in the chimneys. Several fragments of a typical flat brick of late medieval date were found in the rubble.

Much work has still to be done on the medieval pottery recovered from the demolition level and the adjacent gravel spreads outside the house but some types can be recognised. Few rims and bases were found so few vessel types can be identified with certainty. There are some pieces of South Hertfordshire Greyware which flourished in London between around 1150 and 1300. There is a fragment of a flagon of Mill Green Ware with white slip decoration covered in a brownish glaze which probably dates from around 1270-1350 as do the fragments of the thumb impressed base of a Kingston Ware large jug or cistern. Somewhat later is a rim fragment of possible Coarse Border Ware, another Surrey Whiteware found between 1350 and 1500 in London. Few conclusions can be drawn as yet but it looks as if a tentative 13th century date can be given for the building of the house.

The pictorial evidence suggests considerable rebuilding in the 15th or 16th century but once again finds from that period and later are extremely sparse. The pottery types recognised to date include Tudor Green Surrey Ware, 16th and 17th century brown and black glazed finewares including items from the Harlow kilns and a fragment of the distinctive mottled imported stoneware of the type used for the famous "Bellarmine" jugs. Part of a square tile with a blue on white glazed pattern may also date from this period. A sequence of generally unexciting 18th and 19th century wares including the inevitable Willow Pattern finally ended with a selection of the Pratley's flowerpots, two glass marbles and a tiddly-winks counter.

The northern two-thirds of the trench produced the most visually impressive features in the form of two drains and a path edging or garden wall. The presumed oldest of these features lay at the north end of the trench and had been partly dug out and broken down when a new layer of gravel was laid. The structure ran north-south and was only about 80 cm long and some 30 cm wide and may be a small soakaway with a drainage channel originally floored with brick leading into it.

NINE

The bright red bricks, which seem to be of 18th century type, showed no signs of re-use. Needless to say the filling produced no finds at all! Just to the south of this and on the same alignment was a much more elaborate drain whose construction caused much of the damage described above. All the bricks were re-used with many showing traces of mortar and burning, the most likely source of this material being the demolished link building which would date this feature to some time probably in the last quarter of the 19th century. A fine 18th century pantile was laid at the entrance to the channel whose bottom was not lined. The sides were formed of two layers of unmortared bricks and four bricks were found roofing the channel at its north end. At this point it ran into a deeper drain running across the full width of the trench on the same alignment as Bury Lodge. Also built of re-used bricks, the channel here was three bricks deep. No covering survived but a number of nails recovered from inside it suggested that it had had a timber cover.

Alongside, and a little to the south of the start of this drain was a large tree root cavity. This matched the tree shown growing just to the north of the end of Bury Lodge in the 1936 photograph. The position of the drain relative to the house suggests that it took rainwater from the house gutters via a short drainpipe projecting from the end of the house. Much more ephemeral was the believed path edging mentioned above which lay at the north end of the trench and not quite parallel to the main drain channel. This too was made of re-used bricks.

As is so often the case this excavation produced more questions than answers but hopefully matters will become a little clearer as the material is studied in greater depth. A more detailed report will be presented to members at the next AGM of the Society.

My thanks to those Officers of the London Borough of Enfield; John McDonagh the Principal Surveyor, Penny Wilkinson, the Arts Facilities and Development Officer and Lynette Williams the local Parks Manager for permission to carry out the work. Special thanks to Doreen Houlding and Jenny Sherlock at Salisbury House particularly for kettles, cups and safe storage and finally my thanks to those members of the Society who turned out and gave of their time and expertise under the supervision of Les Whitmore: - Roger Dormer, Dennis Hill, Brian Hornby, Caroline McKenna, Jon Tanner, Michael and Sylvia Wheeler.

Ian Jones, September 1998

HELP REQUIRED....

The work of any Society is always inhibited by a shortage of members with specialised knowledge. We are particularly in need of someone who can read medieval documents and if there is anyone out there who has this skill would they please contact Dennis Hill on 0181.440.1593.

Leading on from this, there is also the question of finding sufficient people to help with the administrative duties essential to the smooth and efficient running of the Society. We are lucky in the EAS that we have more than the average number of members willing to participate in its activities but even so we are always on the lookout for more help. The posts of Vice Chairman, Social Secretary (to arrange field trips and visits to places of interest) and a vacancy for one committee member, remain unfilled. Is there a member who is willing to be responsible for bringing the box containing tea, coffee, plastic cups etc to Jubilee Hall at each meeting? We occasionally have to collect a speaker from Enfield Chase or Enfield Town stations and return

them there again after the meeting – are there any members with cars willing to perform this duty? **And it is about time that you had a new Meetings Secretary.** Apart from the above there are all sorts of ways in which you could help. If anyone would like to become involved they are invited to get in touch with Geoffrey Gillam on 0181.367.0263.

TEN

EXCAVATIONS AT INNOVA SCIENCE PARK, RAMMEY MARSH, ENFIELD

The site of the new Innova Science Park in Enfield covers an area of some 43 acres. It lies to the west of the present course of the River Lea and was home to the Rammey Marsh Sewage Treatment Works which is now largely demolished.

In terms of archaeological potential, the River Lea was known to have been used during the Mesolithic era (8500 - 4000 BC) and through into the Roman period (43 - 410 AD). Activity between those periods is largely attested by finds of bronze metalwork in the river and scattered finds along the Lea Valley. The archaeological potential was highlighted by a desk-based assessment conducted by Wessex Archaeology in May 1997, proposals to redevelop the site having been put forward by Thames Water. As part of the planning process English Heritage advised the London Borough of Enfield that a programme of archaeological work would be required and Wessex Archaeology was commissioned by Thames Water to conduct a series of archaeological investigations of the site.

The first phase of site work commenced in August 1997 and consisted of a watching brief on infrastructure groundworks. The first stage of an archaeological evaluation was undertaken in October of that year by way of seven fifty-metre trenches across the site, the objective being to assess the survival, nature, date, extent and significance of any archaeological remains. Six of the trenches revealed nothing of interest but the seventh, situated in the central part of the site, revealed two ditches and a small gully containing Late Bronze Age (1100 - 700 BC) pottery. Further evaluation trenches were dug in Spring 1998 in the centre of the site and revealed further Bronze Age finds as well as Roman ditches, pits and postholes which were suggestive of settlement activity and indicate an extensive field system on the west bank of the River Lea. The ditches are likely to have been used as elements of stock control and drainage on the low-lying meadows. Finds have included pottery and bones of sheep and cattle.

The most significant archaeological remains have been found along the western bank of a now backfilled stream channel which ran approximately north-south across the site. Sealed by a deposit of silts containing Roman pottery and tile lay channel-edge deposits with finds dating from the Neolithic Period (c3000 BC) to the Iron Age (c300 BC). Finds here have included numerous pieces of worked flint including scrapers and blades, a few pieces of Neolithic pottery and significant quantities of Bronze Age pottery and worked flint. In association with the Bronze Age deposits were a complete cow skeleton placed in a ditch terminal, a dog skull, antlers, the remains of timber structures and part of a human skull. The timbers appear to form small, circular structures and a large channel revetment, consisting in total of about 50 pieces - survival of such deposits is very rare. This phase of excavation will be finished by October 9th.

The concentration of such unusual remains on the bank of a channel is suggestive of deliberate actions and it would be tempting to think of communal ritual activity associated with human burial which may be linked to the known prevalence for Bronze Age metalwork deposits to be found in many rivers including the Lea. Following completion of on-site investigations a programme of post-excavation analysis and assessment will lead in due course to comprehensive publication of the results.

John Dillon
Wessex Archaeology

ELEVEN

MORE ABOUT FORTY HALL.....

1) CHILDREN'S NAMES. A complete list of the names of the children and their heights entered on the inside of the cupboard door at Forty Hall between 1800 and 1951, carefully recorded by Roger Eddington showing the relative position of each entry, has now been arranged in alphabetical order. Many of the children seem to have been eager to have their heights recorded as many times as possible while others were content to only occasionally perform this ceremony. In all cases, the date of each entry appears to be at random and not related to birthdays or other special occasions. By using the available knowledge of the family histories concerned, many of the children can be seen as three-dimensional figures. Louisa Joanna Meyer, daughter of Christian Paul and Louisa Meyer, born in September 1816, appears to have had her height first recorded as 2ft 4¼ ins in 1817 when she was about one year old. Subsequent entries show her increase in height to about 5ft as recorded in the last entry for her on 26th June 1831 when 15 years old. Sadly she was to die twelve years later on 9th July 1843 when only 27 years of age, having never married. Her tomb in the Dutch Reformed Church at Austin Friars in London was destroyed during an air-raid in 1940. Several other such figures are beginning to emerge as a result of a close study of the recorded names.

2) VISITORS BOOK. An unusual survival is a visitor's book from Forty Hall which begins in January 1938 and ends in September 1951 when the house was purchased by the (then) Enfield Urban District Council. The entries open a small window on the social ambience of this country house. The duration of each visit was, on average, two to four days, sometimes over a weekend but often during a week. When the book began, such visits were commonplace and hardly a week went by without an entry being made but by the end of 1939, with the stringencies imposed by war, visits became few and far between and the entries are therefore severely limited until 1945. With the war over, life began to return to normal and visitors became more numerous until 1951 when the final, rather poignant, entry on September 3rd marks the last days of Forty Hall as a private house.

In all there are almost 500 entries, including members of the aristocracy, political figures and other distinguished friends of the family some of whom came from far afield: Spain, Norway, Johannesburg, the United States and Australia are amongst the countries mentioned. The right hand page of the book gives room for an address but this space was often used by visitors to make other comments, such as the fact that they were "en route for Switzerland" or elsewhere. There are some entries, the significance of which we shall never know: against one visitor's name is the remark "only nine days more" and the question springs to mind "to what?" Other entries are endorsed "A popular member of the gitch pack", "popular guest" and so on. One guest remarked "two glorious nights" which provoked the comment from the next guest: "Oh!" One of the most descriptive remarks is by a visitor who came down at the start of the shooting season in 1938 and noted "My 1st pheasant, UGH!!"

The book records that the "Christening of the youngest daughter took place Sunday July 15th 1945" when the Godfather, members of the family and friends assembled at the house for the occasion. On Saturday 15th July 1947 the Bishop of London visited St. Andrew's parish church and the book tells us that he and the Bishop of Willesden, the Chancellor of the Diocese, the vicar of Enfield and others were entertained at Forty Hall.

The visitor's book was generously donated by Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles and is now part of the Forty Hall Museum archive.

TWELVE

MISCELLANY

Gifford & Partners of Southampton were contracted to carry out an archaeological **SURVEY OF FORTY HALL**, especially within the area of the Home Farm which is to become an equestrian centre. The Society was able to help the archaeologist conducting the survey by identifying the site of the Society's excavations of part of Elsyng Tudor royal palace carried out in the 1960's and to point out archaeological features elsewhere. We also contributed some photographs of previously unrecorded surface features east of the avenue of trees and copies of period maps of the grounds of Forty Hall.

The restoration of the **NEW RIVER AQUEDUCT** in Flash Lane, Enfield was completed in September. Finance was provided by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Enfield Preservation Society and carried out under the direction of John McDonagh, Principal Surveyor for the LBE. The careful removal of tree stumps which had damaged the side plates of the aqueduct enabled cracks in the ironwork to be carefully and sympathetically repaired. The brickwork was restored using, where possible, original bricks set with lime mortar and into which railings (modelled on those which border the New River in Enfield Town) have been set on both sides of the aqueduct. The Enfield Volunteers reinforced and repaired a nearby path which had become difficult to negotiate and provided it with a gravel surface. Unfortunately, funds did not extend to the removal of accumulated silt on the river bed near the arches of the aqueduct but if winter rain is sufficiently heavy this may dissipate by natural means.

The Society provided prehistoric and Roman artefacts for part of the **PEOPLE OF LONDON EXHIBITION** arranged at Forty Hall during August and September. The exhibition illustrated the activities of communities which lived in Enfield from prehistoric, Roman, medieval and later times and the various ethnic groups who now populate the borough.

A little known **PILLAR-BOX OF EDWARD VIII** stands on the corner of Brodie Road and Browning Road, attention to which was recently drawn by John Cordell. One hundred and sixty one pillar boxes bearing the cipher of Edward VIII were cast during his short reign in 1936, many of which are still in use although only sixteen of the larger "A" size are known to exist. The only other known pillar-box of this monarch in the borough stands in Chase Side, Southgate. Does anyone know of other local examples?

More pottery sherds identical to those previously found near **CAMLET MOAT** in Trent park by Jennie Lee Cobban and identified as Late Medieval Hertfordshire Glazed Ware 1350-1450 (Bulletin 136, March 1995) were recovered from the roots of the same fallen tree by Brian Warren in August and September this year. We now have part of the rim, neck and handle to which the earlier pieces can be fitted. Hopes are high that sufficient sherds will eventually be recovered to enable the making of a drawn reconstruction of what appears to be a wide-mouthed jug.

During a recent examination of the mural at **SOUTHGATE HOUSE aka ARNOS GROVE**, in Cannon Hill, Southgate and some seventy year old photographs, it was discovered that when the house was converted to offices by the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company in 1928 the wall-painting by Gerald Lanscroun painted in 1723 showing Julius Caesar's triumphal entry into Rome was more extensively damaged than previously thought. It was known that the figure of Julius Caesar and his chariot disappeared when a new doorway was cut through the plasterwork at the head of the main staircase, but it has now been found that a substantial part of the lower part of the painting was also removed when alterations were made to the staircase

itself. It is hoped to publish a history of the architecture of the building in a future issue of the bulletin.

GRG

ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

To: John C Stevens, 3 Scarborough Road, Edmonton, Middlesex N9 8AT

Please re-enrol me/us as a member/members of the EAS for the year commencing 1st January 1999.

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