



# Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society

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Exciting results from our April dig in the vicinity of Elsyng Palace at Forty Hall (see Pastfinders News)

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

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*Enclosed with this bulletin: Piddington coach trip application form*

**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 16 September**

## The New Medieval Gallery at the Museum of London

### Hedley Swain (Museum of London)

Hedley Swain is Head of Early London History and Collections at the Museum of London, and he will be giving an introduction to the museum's long-awaited new Medieval gallery, which is due to open in November 2005. Get your sneak preview here!

## SPECIAL EVENT

**Saturday 20 August**

### **EAS Guided Tour of 2005 excavations and museum at Piddington Roman Villa**

We shall be arranging a special coach trip to Piddington Roman Villa in Northamptonshire, where we will be treated to a guided tour of this year's excavations and the new site museum by the excavation directors Roy and Lynn Friendship-Taylor.

On the way there Dr Martin Dearne will give a talk on Romano-British villas to set the scene, and afterwards we will stop at a local pub for lunch (not included in the price).

Coach pick up: 10am Cecil Road  
Enfield Town  
Price: £10.50 EAS members  
£14.50 non-members

**Please book promptly using the form enclosed** – 2 weeks after publication of this newsletter we will start to actively advertise any spare seats outside the Society.

# Forthcoming events

## **Enfield Town Show** 10-11th September 2005

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

### **AND FINALLY SOME 'UNOFFICIAL' EVENTS...**

#### **THEOBALDS PALACE**

Mike Dewbrey has been asked by Broxbourne council to give a guided tour of the Theobalds Palace site at Cedars Park on Sunday 26th June. If any members are interested in joining the tour Mike would be delighted to see you there. Tour starts 2pm in the main carpark at Cedars Park.

#### **COPPED HALL**

If there is a sufficient level of interest, we may be able to arrange a guided tour of the training dig at Copped Hall (see *Meeting Reports*), which runs from 21 August to 11 September. Contact the Editor if interested.

## EAS FIELDWORK



The Society also regularly carries out fieldwork and other practical activities in the Borough. This year we are planning much more work on Elsyng Palace at Forty Hall, in particular around **Archaeology Week**, when we will be digging around 2 weekends, 9-10th and 16-17th July. Come along as a volunteer, or just to have a look (especially on 17th, which is our main 'public' day, organised jointly with the Museum).



Please see the *Pastfinders* News column for more details, and contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) if you are interested.

## Meetings of other Societies

### EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**29 June**

7pm for 7.30, Bruce Castle, Lordship Lane, N17  
Joint Meeting with Friends of Bruce Castle

**20 July**

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield  
The Pike Family of Winchmore Hill • *Peter Hodge*

**21 September**

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield  
A Nice Cup of Tea • *Russ Bowes*

### WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

7.45pm, 6th Form Unit, Woodford County High School,  
High Road, Woodford Green

**13 June**

Secrets of The Dead in London • *Bill White*

# SOCIETY MATTERS

### OUR 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Many Members examining our logo will have subtracted 1955 from 2005 to make 50, and may be wondering when we will be celebrating our 50th birthday.

This is indeed our 50th anniversary year, but the society was founded in the latter part of 1955, so we will be leaving our celebrations until a little later (and concentrating on digs and outings in the mean time).

Our anniversary will be reflected in our January 2006 lecture, which will be on the subject of the history of the Society, and which will be given by Geoffrey Gillam, a founder member of the society and therefore an eyewitness to the momentous events in question.

In the mean time, if any members have particular memories or memorabilia concerning of the Society's past, please let us know through the editor.

## LAMAS events

This year the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, to which we are affiliated, is celebrating the 150th anniversary of its foundation. Among the year's celebratory events is a series of lectures, all being held at 6.30pm in the Lecture Theatre at the Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2.

**15 June**

Maev Kennedy, the Guardian's heritage correspondent: '*Broadsheet archaeology: a narrowing space?*'

**12 October**

Dr Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage: '*How London Past Can Secure London's Future*'

**9 November**

Sir Simon Jenkins, journalist, writer and

architectural historian: (title to be confirmed)

Tickets (£3 for members of LAMAS and for students, £5 for non-members/non-students) - including wine afterwards - are available from: John Clark, LAMAS, Museum of London, London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN Tel: 020 7814 5735  
jclark@museumoflondon.org.uk

**"LAMAS also arrange a variety of historical walks, including:**

**Saturday 23 July, *The Archaeology of the River Thames*, Dr Jane Sidell, UCL**

**Sunday 17 July, Twickenham (plus optionally Strawberry Hill at £4.50)**

**Saturday 3 September, Southwark and Bankside**

Walk booking details vary, contact LAMAS or the editor for details"

# Meeting Reports

## Excavations at Copped Hall

**Friday 18 March** : Christina Holloway

Tina has directed or co-directed all of the excavations by the West Essex Archaeological Group (WEAG) at Copped Hall, between Waltham Abbey and Epping since 2002.

The present Copped Hall is of 18th century origin, much extended in the 19th century by the Wythes family, who also constructed a highly ornamented garden. House and garden featured in *Country Life* in the 1900s. In 1917 a disastrous fire gutted most of the house, although the family maintained the grounds until the house was sold in 1952 and stripped. In 1995 the Copped Hall Trust acquired the house and gardens with the aim of restoring as much as possible for the benefit of the local community.

But the history of Copped Hall dates back at least to Norman times. The present hall was preceded by a grand 3-winged house probably largely built by Thomas Heneage who acquired the hall in the 1564. It survived until the 1740s and is illustrated in Farmer's history of Waltham Abbey and in paintings in the Tate. It was situated to the north-west of the current house at the other end of the gardens. Only a single pillar of the loggia fronting the courtyard survives above ground, apart from sections of cellar wall in the adjacent sunken garden.

The Trust asked WEAG to investigate this site, where. The first dig in 2002 identified several walls and drains near the surviving pillar, some 16th-19th century finds, together with some 11th century shell-tempered ware and some pottery fragments from the 1st Century BC to 1st century AD.

The diggers returned in 2003 and beneath the remains of the 19th century formal garden and a layer of clinker they found a layer of brick rubble the bricks of which dated to the late 15th to early 16th century. Foundations were found, some of which appeared to

match elements of an 18th century plan. A grey water-deposited layer was found containing pottery sherds from the Roman to late medieval periods – it is just possible this could be associated with the moat mentioned in accounts of the pre-1560s hall.

Also in 2003 WEAG and the Trust experimented with running a small commercial training excavation, lead by professional archaeologists and supported by WEAG. This was a great success and was repeated on a larger scale in the late summer of 2004, preceded by a dig for WEAG members at Whitsun. These digs were successful in revealing much more of the floorplan of the hall, revealing that there were clearly distinct phases of construction, though these cannot yet be analysed in any detail.



*WEAG training dig 2004*

There were many questions following Tina's interesting description of the work of our neighbouring society on an attractive site with many similarities to sites our own society is investigating.

*WEAG are returning to Copped Hall again this Whitsun, and will be running another training excavation from 21 August to 10 September. Details of the training dig can be obtained from the WEAG web site [www.weag.org.uk](http://www.weag.org.uk), or from Pauline Dalton on 01992 813725.*

*If any members of the society are interested in a guided tour of the excavation while the training dig is on this summer, please contact the Editor (details on the front cover) and I will see if we can arrange something with WEAG. I will not be able to finalise any details until we can gauge the level of interest, but the most promising times seem to be late Saturday morning towards the end of the dig. (Note – the site is strictly private except on open days).*

*JEREMY GROVE*

# The Kentish Anglo-Saxon Emporia Project

**20 April:** Stuart Brookes

**B**y the late 6th century some of the larger Anglo-Saxon kingdoms were engaged in international trade. The major kingdoms each had a major centre or emporium through which trade flowed – Lundenwic (London), Hamwic (Southampton), Gipeswic (Ipswich) and Eorforwic (York).

In common with others across northern Europe, these exploded in size in the 7th century. All are coastal or riverine. Three key features can be identified – a trading settlement, a religious centre, and a royal presence – although typically spread out rather than all in one centre as we might expect in a ‘town’. For example in London the trading port grew up along the Strand, while religious and civic functions may have been centred around the St Pauls area in the former Roman city. Direct evidence of royalty is less clear, although a recent re-analysis by Bob Cowie of MoLAS suggests a possible thegnly residence nearby. (Bob will be lecturing the Society on the Royal and Monastic sites in West London on 21 October).

Kent saw the first introduction of Christianity to England, the first pre-eminant kings, and the first written laws, and it is commonly considered that the first Anglo-Saxon international trading links developed here in the 6th and early 7th centuries before diffusing to other kingdoms. Early finds concentrated in Kent include Frankish glass and wheel thrown pottery, Coptic bowls and amethyst beads. King Aethelbert of Kent also married Bertha, daughter of King Caribert I of Paris in the late 6th century.

Therefore the Kentish Anglo-Saxon Emporia Project was set up in 1998 with the initial aim of identifying and confirming the status of emporia in Kent. More than 50 students have been involved in three seasons of fieldwork so far, as well as post-excavation work and other studies, including landscape recording and re-analysing 19th century records.

Initially the project concentrated on north east Kent and the Wantsum Channel, which separated the Isle of Thanet from the mainland as recently as the 1590s. The 9th century coastline has been reconstructed, and sites of interest identified including Sandwich, Fordwich, Sarre, Richborough, Reculver and Oare, Oar Farm and Stonar (the –ora place name is usually associated with landing places).

The liberty of Fordwich (England’s smallest town), a few kilometres north east of Canterbury, is thought to represent the extent of a former trading settlement. Fieldwalking and test pits west of the town found little and it is now believed the main settlement lies below a modern plantation to the east of the town, downstream of the ford. Sturry nearby is thought to have been a royal site, while the major religious sites of Canterbury are also nearby. Taken together these three may represent a dispersed town like London or York.

At Sarre an Anglo-Saxon cemetery was excavated in the 19th century, and fieldwalking by the Project found clench nails – associated with shipbuilding (or wrecking). No royal presence is known, though there were many warrior graves. Another location combining burgh, port and religious site is Dover, excavated by Brian Philp.

The project is now turning its attention to Sandwich, where the Anglo-Saxon settlement is thought to lie east of the modern town (on the sand!) and will return there this year.

In conclusion, some dispersed sites have been identified, but several of them, rather than one dominant one as in other kingdoms. Maybe the circumstances were right for these to function alongside one another, or maybe the development of a single major centre was inhibited by London or by Kent falling under Mercian control.

JEREMY GROVE

## ‘William Winters’ History of Upshire

**The Waltham Abbey Historical Society have just produced a very limited number of transcripts of ‘William Winters’ *History of Upshire*, originally published in the 1880s.**

**The transcript runs to 179 A4 pages and includes a host of material collated in somewhat haphazard fashion by Winters, but fully referenced.**

**There are chapters on ‘Upshire and Honey Lane’, ‘Warlies’, ‘Copped Hall’, ‘Nazeing’ and ‘Wood Green and High Beech’.**

**This is the latest in the WAHS’s series of Millenium Projects, price £9.00**

**Enquiries: 01992 716200.”**

# Enfield Archaeological Society

Founded 1955

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

President: Harvey Sheldon BSc FSA FRSA

www.enfarchsoc.org

## Minutes of the 49th Annual General Meeting of the Enfield Archaeological Society

The 49th Annual General Meeting of the Enfield Archaeological Society (15th April 2005) commenced with Dr Martin Dearne (in the absence of the Chairman, Dennis Hill), asking those present if the Minutes of the 48th EAS AGM were accurate; all agreed that they were indeed correct.

The second item on the Agenda was the report of the Executive Committee. Martin read out the report (included in the March 2005 *Society News* bulletin) to members present; a notable addition to the report was news of a forthcoming Society coach trip to Piddington Roman Villa and Museum (details to follow). No comments were raised and the report was approved.

The Financial Statement for the year ended 31st December 2004, copies of which had been disseminated at the start of the meeting, was read out by the Honorary Treasurer Geoff Lamport, and was proposed, seconded and accepted. He pointed out that the EAS had broken even with its accounts for 2004 largely due to £250 which had been raised at the National Archaeology Day.

The next item concerned EAS subscription rates for the year commencing 1st Jan 2006. Martin highlighted that for an annual subscription, members received 9 lectures per annum, high quality quarterly bulletins, and the subs paid for archaeological fieldwork and insurance; all-in-all this represented great value. He pointed out that costs had risen for producing bulletins and paying lecturers. Thereafter, members present were asked for their views. A motion to raise subscription rates to £9 for Adults, £13 for Joint membership and £4.50 for Juniors was proposed, seconded and carried by the vast majority of members in attendance.

The fifth item on the AGM Agenda was the Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members. The same committee stood for re-election with the addition of a Society Auditor - Dianne Taylor. Martin 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 as follows:

President: .....	<b>Harvey Sheldon</b> BSc FSA FRSA
Vice Presidents: .....	<b>Dr Ilid Anthony</b> <b>Geoffrey Gillam</b>
Chairman: .....	<b>Prof. Dennis Hill</b>
Vice Chairman: .....	<b>Ian Jones</b>
Hon. Treasurer: .....	<b>Geoff Lamport</b>
Hon. Secretary: .....	<b>David Wills</b>
Hon. Meetings Secretary: .....	<b>Tim Harper</b>
Hon. Membership Secretary: .....	<b>David Wills</b>
Hon. Social Secretary: .....	<b>Still Vacant</b>
Hon. Editor: .....	<b>Jeremy Grove</b>
Auditor: .....	<b>Dianne Taylor</b>
Committee: .....	<b>Dr. Martin Dearne</b> <b>Mike Dewbrey</b> <b>Roger Eddington</b> <b>Caroline McKenna</b> <b>Les Whitmore</b>

Under Any Other Business, the forthcoming 50th anniversary of the Enfield Archaeological Society was raised. Martin asked members to come forward with any memorabilia that they might have from the early days of the Society. He pointed out that Geoffrey Gillam is to give a talk in January 2006 about the Society's history.

The Report of the Fieldwork, Research and Other activities of the Society during 2004 was introduced by Martin, and with the aid of slides he gave an account of the Society's work at Myddleton House. There had been an earlier manor house in its grounds known as Bowling Green House, which may date as far back as the Elizabethan period. Knocked down in the 1820s, its exact location had been lost. Thus, it was the aim of the Society to find it again. Initial test pits dug had proved unproductive, as had geophysical surveys.

In April 2004, 2 test pits were dug, one of which (Pit A) revealed two layers of clay dumped on top of demolition rubble, the bricks dating from the 17th to late 18th century. The rubble was sitting on top of a natural gully, and more importantly a robber trench where a robbed-out wall had once existed. In the trench cut alongside this, the bottom two courses of a brick wall were found intact, complete with a boot-scraper; Martin suggested this might represent a courtyard entrance. Finds included: window glass, slate, decorated mortar, a complete mallet shaped wine bottle with an R & R inscription, Belamine pottery and an ivory knife handle.

Recently in March 2005, staff at Myddleton House had requested that two more test pits be excavated in an area which was to be concreted over. One trench produced very little finds, whilst the second trench (Trench A) produced demolition rubble together with with limestone, broken wine bottle glass, a shard of which possessed a seal with the possible name (?Lidmont?) of the wine bottle supplier.

An account of National Archaeology Day (18th July 2004) and the Elsyng Palace dig followed. Martin explained that no plans of the palace existed, but it was hoped that excavation would help understand its layout. He briefly mentioned the earlier 1960s excavations, before describing how two (2-by-2 metre) trenches were dug at Forty Hall as part of

National Archaeology Day. Both had revealed rammed gravel surfaces and clay dumps, as well as demolition rubble. Unfortunately there was not enough time to complete the dig, and it was not deemed safe to dig deeper to get beyond these layers. Martin interpreted these layers as landscaping over the remains of Elsyng Palace, by in-filling with gravel and clay. The National Archaeology Day and associated dig proved to be a triumph of publicity, with LBC radio and the local papers taking an active interest, and many visitors to the site.

Martin concluded with an account of the Society's fieldwalk in a field near Bull's Cross Ride, owned by Capel Manor. Pottery from the late Medieval period, late 17th and 18th centuries were found, including glazed, slip, kitchen and Belamine ware.

Thereafter, Mike Dewbrey rose to continue the talk on the Society's fieldwork activities by mentioning how a short sword was found by a boy in the back garden of Derby road, Ponders End, and was possibly from the Napoleonic/Crimean war. The Society dug a small investigative pit, but unearthed nothing of any significance apart from some small pieces of wood, which could possibly have been the sword's? scabbard?

Mike proceeded to describe the 18th century cottages that had existed in Silver street, in Enfield Town. These had been demolished last year, but the Society were permitted to photograph interesting features of the buildings, such as wooden beams, fireplaces etc.

An account of the site at Flash lane followed, where the local park ranger had noticed brick foundations protruding from the surface. They may have revealed the location of cottages demolished in the 1950s, and which had possibly been built by the New River company in order to house its workers. Maps from 1850 and 1867 record two cottages within an enclosure.

Mike moved on to talk about a site recently discovered in Gilmour close, near Capel Manor. Brickwork (possibly 18th century) had been spotted on the surface, and might represent Thomas Dell's lodge, which was one of 6 gatehouses to King James I's Deer Park.

*'EAS Annual General Meeting Minutes'*  
*continued from previous page*

He continued by describing the Enfield Town Palace Exchange development, and how Gifford Archaeological Services had found 3,000 years of occupation at the former site of Woolworths.

Mike closed with an account of the Society's investigations of a site in Forty Hall connected with Elsyng Palace, after brickwork had been spotted near to the surface in woodland. The working assumption was that it might represent a guardhouse to the Palace, as it was located close to the original line of the approach road to Elsyng. With the permission of Enfield Council, English Heritage and the Department of Environment, resistivity surveying was undertaken by members of HADAS, and a 3-by-3 metre trench is planned.

Mike then proceeded to thank everyone for attending the AGM.

*DAVID WILLS Hon, Secretary*

## **Birkbeck BA History & Archaeology**

This is a 4-year degree course taught through evening study in central London. A wide choice of courses are available covering both 'classical' and British subjects and ranging from the ancient period to the 18th century. Entrance requirements are flexible and the course attracts a wide range of students of all ages (and those I've met have been full of praise for the course).

For further details see the web site [www.bbk.ac.uk/hca](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/hca) or contact the School of History, Classic and Archaeology, tel: 020 7631 6266/6217, email: [admin@history.bbk.ac.uk](mailto:admin@history.bbk.ac.uk), (or keep an eye open for leaflets at EAS events over the summer).

And remember that Birkbeck (part of the University of London) also offers certificate and diploma courses in Archaeology or History, together with a wide range of short courses and day schools."

## One-day conference on 'Early Medieval St. Albans - Recent Research'

16 October 2004

by Denis Hill

St. Albans is well known to EAS members and this conference provided a good insight in to the continuing research being undertaken by our friends the St. Albans Archaeological and History Society.

The opening paper "*Early Medieval Pottery from St. Albans*" by Alison Turner-Rugg of St. Albans Museum covered the period AD 400 to 1300. The 5th-9th centuries saw Saxon organic tempered soft pottery fired in bonfires. Tempers included grass, fern, animal dung, barley and wheat chaff. Organic tempers give pots rigidity and work well with low temperature firing. Production was small - for a household. Colours were variable with some areas oxidised and some reduced as the firing atmosphere could not be controlled. The pots were all hand made. Little pottery had been found from the period following the collapse of Roman Verulamium.

From the 7th-9th centuries simple kilns and simple potters' wheels were in use. The greater range of forms included lamps, jugs with spouts and large storage jars made by specialist potters. Sites were Holly Lane and King Harry Lane (a Saxon inhumation cemetery).

The Abbey Primary School site was 9th century and yielded a coin hoard, chalky and shelly tempered ware together with St. Neots ware of the 10th and 12th centuries containing much fossil shell. The infilling of the Abbey's Solarium clunch-lined vault held a large amount of eleventh century chalky ware.

A pit from St. Stephen's churchyard confirmed that after 1300 there was much more lead glazed ware together with greyware - unglazed, hard fired with a white quartz temper. Glazing can require the use

of saggars and is a more complicated process. The Tankerfield Place site of the late 12th to 13th centuries produced chalky, flinty, ware.

The next paper was by Simon West, the Keeper of Field Archaeology at St. Albans Museum, "*I see no Saxons - until late on*". On the basis of DNA analysis, it had been shown that the population of Anglo-Saxon England was largely of British origin. By AD 273 Verulamium was in decline and it is said that by the mid-4th century only ruined buildings were left, but new buildings were arising in AD 275 and there are grounds for supposing that Verulamium showed continuity after AD 275. Many Roman coins have been found dating to the 3rd century but few to the 4th.

At no time were Verulamium's insulae fully occupied with buildings - there were always plenty of open spaces. No masonry buildings were found north of the basilica. The presence of dark earth directly over the Roman layer is taken as indicating Anglo-Saxon occupation. Gorehambury villa was abandoned in the mid-4th century. Roman villas changed to Saxon farmsteads in a landscape similar to the Late Iron Age. This period is often called the Dark Age but the sophisticated jewellery found at Sutton Hoo calls this into doubt. The Saxons arrived later than is usually thought.

No evidence exists for the martyrdom of St. Alban on the hill and evidence so far does not show that Verulamium had a large population.

Brian Adams of St. Albans Museum described "The Topography and Development of Medieval St. Albans". From documents and archaeology Verulamium shades over to a new foundation built near the future site of the Abbey on well drained land close to the Roman road. Roman bricks and stone had been used in the new settlement long before the Abbey was founded.

The final paper "*The international position of St. Albans before and after the pontificate of Adrian IV*" was exciting and given by Brenda Bolton, formerly of Westfield College, London University. In the last few years there has been an outpouring of research on St. Albans and Christina of Markyate in the 12th and 13th centuries.

Little is known about the Pre-Conquest Saxon abbey which came under Dorchester Abbey. Paul of Caen from the Normandy monastery of Bee was the first Post-Conquest abbot and brought Italian style and practices. His uncle was Archbishop Lanfranc of Canterbury. By AD 1200 St. Albans, with 100 monks, was the premier abbey of England. By then it was locked in long-term conflict with the abbot of Lincoln, into whose diocese it had been moved.

However, St. Albans had the powerful advantages of possessing the body of St. Alban and the father of the English Pope Nicholas Breakespear (Adrian IV) was a St. Albans monk. In 1156 the abbot visited the Pope who granted St. Albans exemption from the Bishop of Lincoln's authority allowing St. Albans to choose any bishop to preside at its confirmations and to come directly under the Pope. The Carthusian Bishop Hugh of Lincoln was refused entry to St. Albans abbey and then excommunicated the abbot and monks. The monks apologised to Hugh and later the Pope resumed control of St. Albans, which developed into an international monastery resulting from its strong links with Rome.

*Editor's Note: Excavation reports for King Harry Lane and Gorhambury are in the reference section of Enfield Central Library.*



"Cover picture: Queens Westminister Rifle Volunteers, South Africa, 1900-1902, recovered from an Enfield garden."

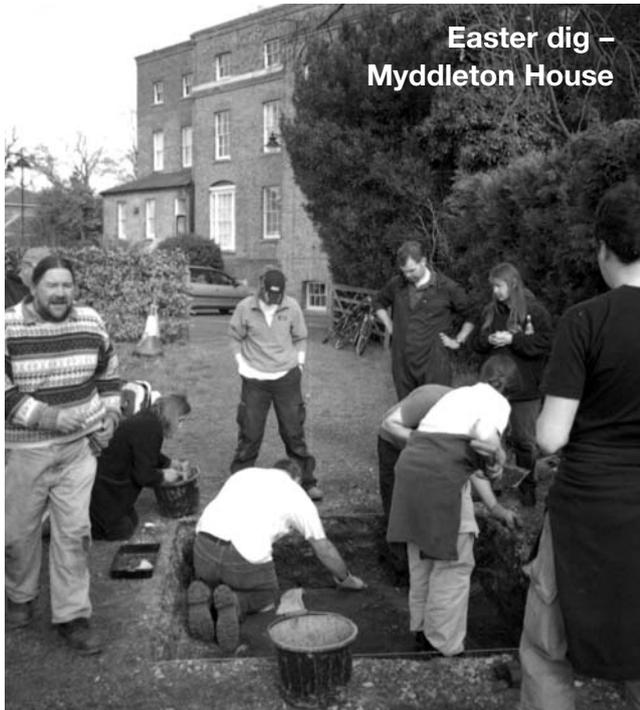
# PASTFINDERS NEWS



## News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group

The Enfield Archaeological Society celebrates its 50th anniversary this year and without doubt it promises to be one of our busiest years of fieldwork so far. We have already carried out two weekend digs, and it was encouraging to see some new faces helping out.

At Myddleton House over the Easter weekend two test pits were opened, revealing demolition rubble from Bowling Green House and numerous fragments of broken wine bottles. A full report will appear in the next bulletin.



A few weeks later on 16-17 April we opened an evaluation trench across a raised platform at Forty Hall in an area where we have long suspected ancillary buildings of Elsyng Palace to lie, just across the road from Jesus Church. Post-excavation work is still continuing so our results are provisional, but they are very exciting. Below a dump of cleaned bricks probably deriving from the palace part of a large brick floor was found which included 'compartments' filled with iron working slag and overlay an earlier fuel ash deposit making

it likely that this was a smithy connected to the palace, either as part of a larger complex of craft workshops or possibly as e.g. a farriers/smiths workshop inside a structure such as a guardhouse. This floor is illustrated on the cover of this bulletin. Publication of our site report will no doubt raise a few academic eyebrows at English Heritage, and we hope we will be able to carry out further investigations to interpret the archaeology and assess the extent of damage to the structures by tree roots and animal burrowing in the near future. A summary of the report will again appear in a future bulletin

Our tireless band of diggers excelled themselves on both days and like me shared a real sense of achievement by the end of the weekend. The dig was very well covered in the newspapers, with a double page in full colour in the *Enfield Gazette* for example. Radio London also recorded a trailer to advertise our summer excavation at Elsyng which will be broadcast live on air on Archaeology day, 17 July.

The Elsyng dig will take place over two weekends, 9-10 July and 16-17 July. We will need volunteers throughout both weekends, but the main 'public' day will be Sunday 17th, when the public will once again be invited to bring along artefacts for identification, and we will need additional helpers for various jobs. If you can spare a few hours to help sell publications help empty buckets or assist the museum staff at the house etc it would be much appreciated.

We have been asked by Forty Hall museum to help investigate the foundations of the main house beneath rose bed, and this work is planned for 18-19 June.

We have also been asked by Broomfield House to submit a proposal for evaluation trenches there in advance of some possible construction work.

Thanks to the efforts and expertise of Dr Martin Deame whose excellent site direction and archive reports have opened many doors within the corridors of English Heritage, to Peter Spindley our site surveyor and the hard core of diggers who give up their weekends to help make our projects such a success.

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