



# Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society

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Resistivity survey, Bowling Green House

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

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## 2 Forthcoming Events

### EAS Meetings

Friday 12 March: **Programme Change**

Friday 16 April: **Annual General Meeting**

Friday 14 May: **Amarna Period Project in the Valley of the Kings**

## 2 EAS Fieldwork

## 3 Other Societies

## 4 Society Matters

## 4 Meeting Reports

The Heritage of Iran - 2500 Years from Cyrus the Great to the Islamic Revolution

Blossoms Inn Excavations

Ethiopia: Africa's Empire

## 7 The "Buried Treasure" Exhibition at the British Museum

## 7 Fieldwalking with a metal detector

## 9 "WHIGHTWEBES": Enfield's forgotten hamlet

## 9 Small Finds

## 10 Pastfinders News

## 11 Annual Report for 2003

## 13 AGM Agenda

**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.

# Forthcoming events

**Friday 12 March 2004**

## Programme Change

Unfortunately Dr Fay Stevens of Birkbeck who was due to talk about 'Prehistoric Rock Art', has had to withdraw at short notice.

Another lecture will be arranged for this occasion but at time of going to press the details have not been finalised.

**Friday 16 April 2004**

## Annual General Meeting

To be followed by reports of the society's activities during the past year, including excavations at Capel Manor and Forty Hall, and further post-excavation work from 102 Leighton Road.

**Friday 14 May 2004**

## Amarna Period Project in the Valley of the Kings

Paul Sussman

The project was set up in 1998 to undertake controlled stratigraphic excavation in the Valley of the Kings, ancient Egypt's principal burial ground.

It has two principal goals:

- i. to investigate and record the central area of the Valley of the Kings, including the relationship between the Amarna period burials of tomb KV55 and KV62 (Tutenkharmun) and its bearing upon other possible burials of the Amarna period.
- ii. to elucidate the topography of the site, both in antiquity and in more recent times as a contribution to flood prevention.

## EAS FIELDWORK



The Society also regularly carries out fieldwork and other practical activities in the Borough. Please see the *Pastfinders News* column for more details, and contact Mike Dewbrey on 0208 364 2244 (office number) if you are interested. Among many other activities be:

**11-12 APRIL  
2004**

Test pit in the grounds of Myddleton House, Bulls Cross.



*Photo: Evaluation Trench, Bowling Green House 2003 (see Society News 171, p9)*



*Photo: Archaeology Day 2003 - Forty Hall*

**18 JULY 2004**

'Archaeology Day' **UNDER YOUR FEET.** Archaeology events in the grounds of Forty Hall, Forty Hill".

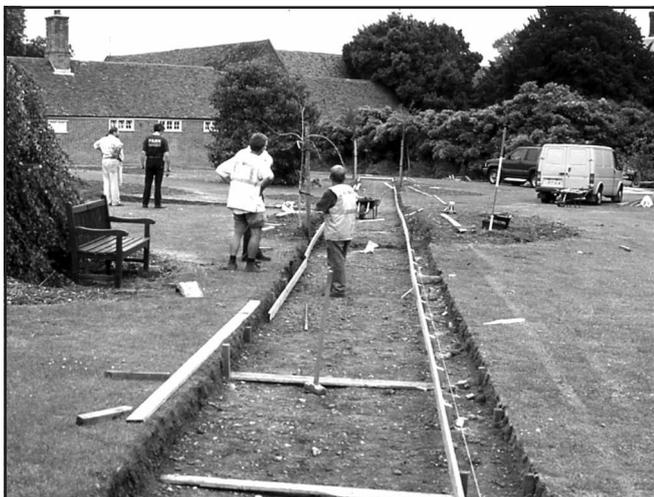


Photo: "Watching brief, Forty Hall 2003 (see Society News 171, p10)."

## ANNUAL OUTING

This year's joint annual outing with the Workers Educational Association is being planned for 22 May, to include Longthorpe Tower (medieval wall paintings), Peterborough and Anglesey Abbey, near Bottisham, Cambridgeshire.

**For further details**, please contact,  
Mrs Margaret Christie, tel: 020 8360 4207.

## OBITUARY

Many members of the society may have known

Dr Kenneth Bascombe of the Waltham Abbey Historical Society, who passed away after a long illness on January 4th aged 71. Ken will be greatly missed by everyone who knew him, a most knowledgeable man who wrote many authoritative and academic works on the history of his beloved Waltham Abbey. I went on my first excavation with Ken and Peter Huggins over 30 years ago and once spent a wet Saturday recording the inscriptions on the memorials in the Abbey churchyard with Ken who shared my macabre sense of humour! To Ken history was a way of life and his love of the past was his life and his books will be read I am sure for many years to come.

MIKE DEWBREY

## Meetings of other societies

### EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm. in Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield unless otherwise stated. Visitors £1.00

#### Wednesday 24 March

AGM followed by More English Towns • *Graham Dalling*

#### Thursday 15 April

Architecture and Historic Buildings • *Peter Riddington*

#### Wednesday 12 May

Potters Bar High Street at the Turn of the 20th Century  
*Brian Warren*

### HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

8pm in the Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield

#### Tuesday 11 May 2004

The Origins of Apartheid • *Professor Shula Marks*

#### Tuesday 8 June 2004

Archbishops of Canterbury: Saints and Shrines  
*Professor Jane Sayers*

### HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

8pm at Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley

#### Tuesday 13 April

Hendon Field and Factory • *Hugh Petrie*

#### Tuesday 11 May

Roman Roads • *Harvey Sheldon*

### WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

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

#### Monday 5 April

London Before Londinium • *Jon Cotton (Museum of London)*

#### Monday 10 May 2004

Rudge Lecture (in the school Assembly Hall)  
The Canaanites • *Jonathan Tubb (British Museum)*

### WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm in the Victoria Hall, Greenyard, Waltham Abbey

#### Friday 19 March

The Lives of People whose Tombs or Memorials are in the Abbey • *Dinah Dean*

#### Friday 23 April

AGM and Presidential Address • *Stan Newens*

#### Thursday 20 May

Waterways Wonders • *Richard Thomas*

# SOCIETY MATTERS

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

Most of you have already paid your subscriptions for 2004 – thank you very much. However, if you have received a reminder form with this bulletin, it would be very much appreciated if you would forward the appropriate remittance. This will ensure that you receive the June edition of *Society News*.

**Any subscriptions not renewed by the Annual General Meeting will be assumed to be resignations.**

Subscription rates for 2004 are as follows:

Ordinary Members: £7.00

Junior Members: £3.50

Joint Memberships: £10.00

Subscriptions of **new members** who joined after 30 September 2003 are valid until 31 December 2004.

## COMMITTEE MEMBERS REQUIRED

We are still seeking a new Secretary and Membership Secretary to take over from Jon Tanner. If you can help please contact Jon Tanner (020 8367 8000 day, 020 8350 0493 home) or Dennis Hill (020 8440 1593).

## *New Look* *Society News*

The bulletin has received a facelift thanks to the efforts of Society member Ernest James, who has also kindly volunteered to help with the graphic design and presentation for this and future editions. I am most grateful for Ernie's generous help.

EDITOR

# Meeting Reports

## The Heritage of Iran - 2500 Years from Cyrus the Great to the Islamic Revolution

12 December 2003: **Stephen Gilbert**

It was a pleasure to listen to one of the Society's members, Stephen Gilbert, deliver a lecture based on a holiday which he took in Iran in May 1999.

Stephen opened by pointing out that Iran was approximately 1000 miles from East to west and 1000 miles from North to South, the latter figure contrasting with 600 miles for the British Isles. The Zagros mountain range exceeds 13,000 feet in height.

In 550 BC, Cyrus the Great of Persia defeated his grandfather Astyages King of the Medes and founded the Achaemenian Empire. His successor Darius I had his capital at Susa and subsequently moved it to Persepolis. This Empire extended from the Aegean Sea to the River Indus under Xerxes until it suffered defeat from the Greek Alexander the Great in 330 BC and Persepolis was destroyed.

After periods of foreign rule, the native Persian Sassanids assumed control of Iran and Iraq in AD 224 and built the city of Bishapur. Zoroastrianism became the state religion with its fire temples where the sacred flames were never allowed to go out. Currently only 0.1% of the population of Iran are Zoroastrians. There were Armenian Christian and Jewish minorities. Jews have lived in Iran for 2500 years and 0.3% of the present population is Jewish. Armenia is part of Europe. Stephen played a recording of part of an Armenian mass. Armenians presently live near Isfahan and Tehran.

The Sassanian Empire continued until AD 637 following attacks by Islamic Arabs. At present 91% of the population of Iran are Shia Muslims. Seljuk

Turks defeated the Arabs in 1051 and ruled until 1220 when conquered by Mongols led by Genghis Khan. Shiraz in southern Iran developed as a trading city on a major trading route.

The Mongols were followed in turn by Uzbek Timurids led by Tamerlane. The Safavids ruled from 1502 to 1722 and rebuilt their capital Isfahan with its many fine mosques, palaces and bridges. The eighteenth century Zand dynasty moved the capital to Shiraz in 1750. Stephen showed views of a 130m high round tower with its fine stained glass windows and beautiful interior.

The Turkish Qajars gained control in 1797 and made Teheran their capital and built several palaces in Shiraz. The Pahlavi Shahs ruled until 1925 and were then deposed by the followers of the Islamic Revolution led by Ayatollah Khomeini who rule today.

The population is mixed with 4.5 million Kurds, many of whom are nomadic with herds of sheep and goats. The 4% of Arabs live nearer to the Mediterranean Sea and the land is marshy close to the border with Afghanistan.

Stephen illustrated his tour of this fascinating country with an excellent set of slides covering: stone relief carvings, stained glass windows, wall paintings, fine carpets, a variety of colourful costumes and various political posters. A good evening!

DENNIS HILL

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## Blossoms Inn Excavations

16 January 2004: **Bruce Watson**

**B**ruce Watson of the Museum of London Archaeology Service showed his dedication to his subject by delivering his lecture with an arm in plaster, having broken it in a fall on a site on 8 December.

The excavations at Blossoms Inn on Gresham Street were carried out jointly by MoLAS and the AOC Archaeology Group during 2001. They had to be fitted around a complex program of demolition and redevelopment, while also coping with some of the wettest weather on record and a Time Team film crew following progress. The site lies between the Roman amphitheatre and Cheapside baths, in the centre of the Roman and Medieval city.

The earliest man-made find was late Neolithic grooved ware pottery of the 3rd millennium BC. Roman London was founded about AD50 and early Roman finds included burials, mostly neo-natal, gravel roads and gravel pits, which later filled with

water and provided a good environment for preservation.

A life sized gilded bronze left arm was found, in a classic "imperial" gesture. Roughly hacked off, it is tempting to believe it may have come from a large civic statue, possibly of Nero, smashed after the emperor fell from favour.

Other finds included timber-framed, mud brick houses; a circular oven; and a large, smart town house with stone herringbone-pattern foundations, at least nine rooms, and mosaics that had been robbed out in antiquity. Some beautiful and rare wall plaster was rescued from amongst material dumped during the Roman period to raise the ground level – this included a figure of Bacchus.

The most outstanding Roman discoveries were two deep wells. After much digging, pumping and shoring, the remains of bucket-chain devices for lifting water were recovered from the bottom of these. Remarkably a similar discovery was made at about the same time on another MoLAS dig in Arthur Street with some of the metal couplings in, which helped with reconstructing the devices. A fourth example had been found in London in the '50s, but was not recognised – Bruce commented that Roman water-wheels are like London buses – you wait fifty years for one to come along, then three turn up all at once! Only one other example has been found in the Roman world, in Tuscany.

It was decided to build a reconstruction of the eastern well – a first for the Museum of London. The company which rebuilt the Globe theatre was employed, sponsored by Swiss Re, and the project featured in a second Time Team documentary. The reconstructed water wheel was demonstrated throughout last year outside the Museum, where it is still standing, although not currently operating. The capstan driving mechanism is conjectural, as no above-ground evidence was found – it may have been driven by a treadwheel.

The wells were 4 metres deep, reaching to the London clay where there is abundant pure water. The timbers of the western well were dendro-dated to AD64, and it went out of use about ten years later, having suffered a collapse. The eastern well was similar, but more strongly shored(!) It dendro-dated to AD109, and was apparently in use for 20-30 years before being destroyed in a fire, which caused some of the structure to collapse into the well, where it was preserved.

Also preserved in the sludge at the bottom of the well was a bronze cauldron, which apart from a dent (where it fell?) looked almost as good as new. It is not known what the wells served – possibly a bath house, or public water supply, which could have

been carried on raised timber chutes. It is estimated the eastern well could yield 3600-7200 litres (800 – 1600 gallons) of water per hour, and they were engineered to a high precision.

The most interesting Medieval find from Gresham Street was a 13th century Jewish mikveh, or ritual bath. Only one other has been found in England, also in London, and this does not survive. It is beautifully constructed, with a greensand ashlar lining and apsidal end, entered by seven steps at the other end. There has been a synagogue in the area since 1701, and it is hoped with the support of the local Jewish community to dry out and reconstruct the bath.

Bruce's fascinating and well-illustrated talk was very well received. We trust his arm is much improved and he is once again fully mobile on London's archaeological sites.

*JEREMY GROVE*

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## Ethiopia: Africa's Empire

13 February 2004: **Ian Jones**

The Society's outgoing treasurer, Ian Jones, opened his lecture by pointing out that Ethiopia is a country south of the Sahara Desert which had developed a proper constitution. It is an enormous country some five times larger than Great Britain with a diverse topography ranging from the highest mountains in Africa to the lowest point on earth. The cool highlands to the North are surrounded by cool, lowlands. The Blue Nile rises in the highlands and supplies ninety percent of the water flowing into Egypt and on to the Mediterranean Sea. The White Nile joins the Blue Nile at Khartoum.

Many areas depend on the rainfall. If there is enough rain, the land is fertile. Its history stretches back some as far as is known. The famous hominid Lucy was dated as some 3.2 million years old, was discovered in 1974 and walked upright. Her skeleton, most of which was intact, was delicate.

At some time after 10,000 BC wheat and barley arrived, perhaps from Egypt. However, geographical obstacles would render this route difficult. Another possible source might be South Arabia.

Ethiopia was thought to form part of the mysterious land of Punt in Egypt renowned for its spices and slaves. By the second millennium BC trade existed between Ethiopia and Arabia and by the first millennium BC there was indigenous architecture. A stone statue of a skirted male figure seated on a throne has been found from this period.

A forerunner of an ancient language is still used by Ethiopian priests. New gods were introduced and a wide range of skills from the southern Arabian peninsular. A temple on a northern plain has been dated to 600-500 BC. and this probably formed part of Ethiopia's first capital.

During the first century AD a new and unique form of African civilisation developed characterised by large granite stelae commemorating various kings. One (Stela 3) weighed 550 tons and was 33 metres high. It is still standing. Another feature was multi-story mud brick blocks of dwellings. Trade routes were actively growing and frankincense was exported. This era was later than that of the famous Queen of Sheba. There are the remains of a royal palace at the town of Dongar.

Christianity travelled down the Red Sea and appeared in the town of Axium. It is alleged that the first son of Solomon and the Queen of Sheba brought the Ark of the Covenant back to Ethiopia. Rock cut churches are built from the solid rock. The Romans arrived and it is alleged martyred fifty nuns. In the 16th century AD Islam was adopted and its traditional styles of decoration for mosques. In the early 17th century Portuguese traders arrived to help keep Ethiopia Christian. Jesuits tried to impose Christianity on the Muslims and this upset the local Christians. In 1636 a new capital was built for the Abasisid empire and this lasted for two hundred years.

In the late 19th century, Sudanese dervishes looted Addis Ababa. There was a royal lion house - lions were the symbol of the Ethiopian monarchy and there was also the Emperor's ceremonial bath house. The Portuguese were later expelled and only Ethiopian citizens remained at the Court. St. George was a favourite saint and doors and columns were decorated with his symbols.

Music and drums featured in Christian services and during the 17th. and 18th. century emperor tried to modernise Ethiopia. Unfortunately, the Emperor killed the British envoy which led to a British invasion from India. In 1889 there was a Dervish invasion and in 1896 the present capital Addis Ababa was founded.

An Italian invasion was defeated, but they returned in the conquest of 1935 under Mussolini and in 1941 the British liberated Ethiopia and Haile Selassie was restored as Emperor. He was defeated in a revolution of 1974 which lasted until 1991.

Severe droughts and a cold war gave rise to marked economic problems. Roads are still very bad, but tourists are being encouraged - hence Ian's holiday.

*DENNIS HILL*

# The "Buried Treasure" Exhibition at the British Museum

This excellent exhibition is aimed particularly at metal detectorists because of the large amounts of treasure trove and other historic items which they have discovered and then worked closely with archaeologists in order to ascertain the contexts.

Currently, treasure is defined by the 1996 Treasure Act as: any objects (except single coins) more than three hundred years old and which contain at least ten percent gold or silver and have been found on land in England, Wales or Northern Ireland; groups of ten or more base metal coins; or groups of two or more of gold or silver coins. Prehistoric tools and weapons also qualify as Treasure .

The Hoxne treasure was found by a farmer, Eric Lawes, who was using a metal detector to find a lost hammer in 1992. It is the largest hoard of Roman gold and silver ever found on British soil.

The Mildenhall fourth century AD Roman silver treasure with its Great Dish found during the Second World War is also on display together with more recent finds such as the Winchester gold jewellery, the East Leicestershire coin hoards, the Ringlemere gold cup, tiny medieval objects of exquisite beauty and finds from the spectacular Viking site in Wales of Llanbedrgoch.

Metal detectorists and others each year find thousands of small pieces such as: brooches, buckles and fragments of pottery. They are not usually made of gold or silver and may seem insignificant - but these items can tell us as much about our past as we can learn from the spectacular treasures.

Under this heading are: Tudor cap badges and dress hooks providing an insight into the changing tastes and fashions of five hundred years ago. Childrens' toys from the fourteenth to the eighteenth centuries have been found on the foreshore of the River Thames and illustrate daily life in the Middle Ages. Cosmetic sets confirm that some Romans may have worn make-up. There is a flint hand-axe at least 500,000 years old found by Mike Flanders when walking his dog on a Norfolk beach. It is possibly the earliest man-made object from North-West Europe. Phil Sheperd, a forestry worker, has found a large number of Mesolithic tools, including a flint sickle and arrowheads. The plot of the sites where these were found discloses the hunting grounds of early man in South Wales.

Pilgrims badges bear an indication of the shrine which was being attended, a case of rings designed to remind the wearer of loved ones who had died, some buried hoards were found adjacent to Civil War battle sites and a case of signet rings is attractive. Facilities were available to date small finds brought in by visitors to the Exhibition.

DENNIS HILL

*The exhibition is open until Sunday 14 March, so you may be able to catch it if you hurry. Tickets cost £7 for adults, £3 concessions, under-11s free (access to the British Museum proper is free). Check details with the Museum (Tel: 020 7323 8299)*

**STOP PRESS** – A recent addition to the Treasure exhibition is the coin of Domitianus reported in most of the national newspapers in the last week of February. This coin seems to confirm the existence Domitianus as a (probably very) short-lived ruler of the Gallic Empire around AD271. The only previous coin of his was found in France in 1900, and was dismissed as a hoax. This new example was discovered in Oxfordshire last April in a 3rd century hoard of some 5,000 Roman coins by...yes, a metal detectorist.



## Fieldwalking with a metal detector

Modern archaeology has now begun to acknowledge the valuable contribution that metal detected finds can make when interpreting the archaeological landscape in and around our towns and villages.

With the exception of a very small minority of irresponsible 'nighthawks' who raid scheduled sites for monetary gain the majority of metal detecting folk are amateur historians and archaeologists like myself with a passion for the past. The artefacts I have rescued from the ploughsoil over the years have no archaeological context but nevertheless each find has its own story to tell. Often these objects are suffering badly from the effects of modern chemical fertilisers and farming methods, which would otherwise destroy these fragile artefacts before anyone can listen to the story that they have to tell us.

With the introduction of the Portable Antiquities Scheme many thousands of finds are reported every

year and logged on the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). Nicole Weller, the portable antiquities officer for Greater London area is keen to promote a close relationship with local metal detecting folk and enthusiastically records and identifies any finds reported to her department.

Since metal detectors usually will only register an object at a depth of no more than 8 inches most artefacts are recovered from disturbed ploughsoil, which is usually the topsoil, which the TimeTeam remove with a mechanical digger on day one! People often ask how so many coins buttons and other miscellaneous objects find their way into the middle of a ploughed field. Well the simple answer is 'nightsoil' In the 18th and 19th centuries the unsavoury contents of the overflowing cesspits in our towns and cities were sold by the nightsoil men to farmers as fertiliser. Many personal belongings such as thimbles, buckles and coins found their way into this slurry which was spread over the fields, accounting for many of the losses discovered today. Deep ploughing on occasion drags artefacts from older stratified layers to the surface, which may indicate a lost building or settlement with only a scatter of pottery tile or oyster shells on the surface. Often by referring to old maps of the local area it is possible to plot the location of a long forgotten dwelling, which may only be visible as a slight discoloration in the soil.

It is important to always obtain the landowners permission before venturing out on a field walking expedition otherwise you are trespassing. Always ensure that there are no scheduled sites in the area, which would be strictly out of bounds. The position of any important artefact should always be plotted on an O.S. map with preferably an 8 figure grid reference for the SMR. It is worth familiarising yourself with the Treasure Act just in case you do stumble across a hoard of coins, but judging by my own experiences digging up pieces of shrapnel and scrap lead you might have more luck buying a lottery ticket!

One of the themes of National Archaeology Day in July will be to emphasise the valuable contribution that is being made to archaeology today by responsible metal detecting. As part of their contribution to the event the Enfield Museums service plan to lay out a display in Forty Hall of local artefacts rescued by metal detecting, and also by fieldwalking, in the local area. Coins dropped from pockets, buttons from clothes, rings from fingers doublet and hose will all be on display spanning over 1,000 years of Enfield's history.

MIKE DEWBREY

## Capel Manor 'Arch' Update

You may recall that two years ago members of the Society were called in to investigate an arched feature beneath the 1620 Theobalds Park boundary wall in the grounds of Capel Manor College. The arch has a span of exactly 10 feet, the same width as the old course of the New River south towards Bulls Cross. However, examination of the feature in section seemed to suggest that the gully post-dated the river, cutting through the surviving courses of the red brick 17th century wall sometime during the 18th century. Therefore a much humbler origin as a drainage channel or boundary ditch must be considered.

This year the horticultural college began landscaping the area around the arch as a fernery for shade loving plants. I was called in one morning to watch and photograph the operation, in which a JCB was skillfully manipulated under and around the 400-year-old wall with amazing precision!

The college Principal thought it would be worthwhile sweeping a metal detector over the extracted soil in case anything of interest had been disturbed by the JCB. Needless to say I needed no further encouragement and I was back on the site the next day. The driver of the JCB had been asked to spread the extracted soil, which made my task a little easier, but alas no less muddy! In all 14 coins were recovered but all were recent losses from students' pockets - ten decimal pennies which had oxidised badly in the acidic leaf mulch due to their low copper content, a patinated ten pence piece and three two pence pieces. Several large fragments of cast iron from fence post brackets were uncovered and a large fragment of white patinated scrap lead. Prize find of the day was a lead musket ball, probably early 19th century.

MIKE DEWBREY



PHOTO: LES WHITMORE

## "WHIGHTWEBES": Enfield's forgotten hamlet

Many of you no doubt have walked or driven along the winding country road from Bulls Cross to Theobalds Park Road that is today called Whitewebbs Lane. Two things have always puzzled me about Whitewebbs Lane – why, when reaching the King and Tinker pub (once the Bull tavern) does the lane run in a straight line down to Crews Hill and why is the tavern not built facing the road? It sits instead at right angles to the road facing the woods.

Some research and study of early maps of the area has hopefully answered these questions and led me back through time following the footsteps of poor Enfield folk who lived and died here 300 years ago.

Whightwebes lane is marked thus on a map dated 1611 as the way from Waltham to Barnet. The lane culminated in a gate close to the Bull tavern and it took a brave soul to travel the footpath for fear of vagabonds and highwaymen such as Dick Turpin who is said to have hidden in his grandfather's ale house the 'Rose and Crown' at Clay Hill.

In the early years of the 18th century the lane turned south in front of the Bull tavern until Enfield Parish extended the old way westward to the junction with Coopers Lane Road following a much straighter route.

At this time the inhabitants of Bulls Cross and Whightwebes were 'poor as a church mouse' and suffered from ill health due to bad sanitation. Frequent outbreaks of cholera often increased the mortality rate among these poor folk, who could barely pay their 'Hearth Tax'.

A map dated 1769 shows encroachments at Whitewebbs onto Enfield Chase outlining in some detail where the muddy trackway past the tavern once led. Three ditches which can still be defined

were marked by boundaries of wooden pales which lay between half a dozen small ramshackle cottages in an area which now backs onto Whitewebbs golf course. In the west an overgrown pond still lies within one of six enclosures marking the boundaries of small holdings which wayward residents had built upon Enfield Chase, the squatters of their day. Armed with a tracing of this 1769 map (courtesy of David Pam's book *'The Story of Enfield Chase'* page 138) I was accompanied recently on a damp January morning by Steve Notman the head park ranger and his dog. Our objective was to identify any evidence of Whightwebes Hamlet that remained above ground among a tangle of brambles and leaves.

Even now this is still an atmospheric place. The little Chapel which once stood opposite the King and Tinker is now a log yard, but as we followed the pathway through the trees we were able to work out roughly where the cottages would once have stood.

I was shown the spot where the Rangers had buried roofing slates and old broken bottles that had been dredged from the pond some years ago and deeper in among the trees is an overgrown orchard together with the remains of a once imposing 19th century brick wall.

The only evidence I found that day of the little hamlet and its way of life was a fragment of clay pipe stem by the pond, but I feel quite sure that a lot more evidence remains deep beneath the leaf mould. Perhaps archaeologists of the future will have the privilege of unearthing the secrets that Whightwebes Hamlet holds so close to its ancient heart.

MIKE DEWBREY

## "Treasures of a Saxon King of Essex"



Until 20 March, Southend Central Museum will be displaying finds from the tomb of an Anglo-Saxon king recently excavated in Prittlewell. This exceptionally rich and well preserved burial hit the headlines recently. Provisionally dated to AD600-630, it is being suggested that it is the grave of the first Christian king of the East Saxons, Saebert, who died about AD616.

Central Museum, Victoria Avenue, Southend-on-Sea. Tel: (01702) 434449

# PASTFINDERS NEWS



## News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group

Hopefully by the time this bulletin is distributed members of the E.A.S. Pastfinders team will have completed a fieldwalking exercise close to the line of the M25 motorway. Capel Manor College who recently acquired the field invited us to investigate some intriguing cropmarks, which had shown up on an aerial photograph taken in 1962. The cropmarks seem to indicate that a ditched enclosure may have existed there at some time in the past. The field walking was carried out in tandem with a metal detecting survey looking for signs of early human activity recovering pottery fragments and metal artefacts from the disturbed ploughsoil. Once the results are analysed we hope to publish them in the June bulletin.

Towards the end of 2003 a small 2x1 metre square test pit was opened to look for evidence of a possible gatekeepers lodge, which is clearly marked on a map dated 1564. Predating King James's deerpark the building may have been of quite high status in the 16th century. No features were revealed of this structure, which may have stood slightly further to the North closer to the M25. Further evaluation will be necessary to find the location of the building which stood to the east of the line of the Roman road and may have been utilised as a lodge when the Royal deerpark at Theobalds was created. The managers of the Capel Manor estate are enthusiastic about identifying the age and location of the building as it helps to put together a picture of the history of the area.

Bowling Green House remains as elusive as ever but study of early maps seems to indicate that the Elizabethan building stood closer to the pond and Myddleton House. Last year's test pit on Tom Tiddlers ground only revealed a tumble of 18th century demolition rubble. This year the Lea Valley Park Authority have granted us permission to open a second test pit in this area to establish once and for all if anything remains of the foundations of Bowling Green House. For those who may wish to volunteer to help out

over the Easter Weekend we have only two days (one day less than the Time Team!) on Sunday the 11th and Monday the 12th of April. If you would like to help us put Bowling Green House on the map call me at my office on 020 8364 2244.

Another date for your diaries is 18th of July when the museum staff at Forty Hall together with members of the Society will be hosting events for National Archaeology Day. It is hoped to follow on from the success of last years event which was well attended by organising activities which will involve the young and not so young. More details will be outlined in the June Bulletin.

The resistivity survey carried out in the area of the Elsyngge Palace Gatehouse during last year's Archaeology Day at Forty Hall has revealed the remains of a substantial structure lie beneath the grass. Once the necessary funding can be secured the test pits that English Heritage have agreed can be opened may reveal that this is the location of the gatehouse, which led into the courtyard of Henry VIII's royal palace. Other projects which we hope will involve a lot more of our members will take the form of some serious detective work, fieldwork and landscape archaeology to look for the location of a 500 year old water mill and ice house at Forty Hall and a 300 year old rubbish dump!

Once again if you would like to take part or help out in any of the activities of the Pastfinders please don't be backward at coming forward call me at my office for a chat - I don't bite, honest!

On a sad note we say goodbye to six tiny Victorian cottages scheduled for demolition in Baker Street to make way for yet another new development. Thankfully an even older detached cottage next door will be spared. The ground floor is currently a barbers shop but at first floor level the roofline reveals an early 18th century date. We also say goodbye to one of the oldest standing buildings in Silver Street Enfield Town, which will be demolished to make way for flats. English Heritage has inspected the building and feel that it is not worthy of listing. The structure

may well date to the early part of the 17th century and the Society have insisted that a PPG 16 condition be attached to the site, which should reveal evidence of Enfield's Medieval past. Let us hope that the developers are as interested in the history of the site as we are!

MIKE DEWBREY





# Enfield Archaeological Society

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2003

## The Executive Committee of the Enfield Archaeological Society

has pleasure in presenting its 48th Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2003

### MEMBERSHIP

The changes in membership that have occurred during the year are shown in the following table:

	Adults	Juniors	TOTAL
Membership at 31.12.02	207	15	222
Joined during the year	16	1	17
Resignations and removals	33	9	42
Membership at 31.12.03	190	7	197

### LECTURES

We are grateful to all the speakers who visited us over the course of the year and ensured that our record of providing excellent lectures for our members was maintained. A wide range of subjects was covered, including periods from prehistory to the 20th century, from Iran and Turkmenistan to Edmonton, Greenwich and Northamptonshire.

Our thanks go to our Hon. Meetings Secretary, Tim Harper, who made arrangements for speakers to be met at stations or sends directions, collects the key to Jubilee Hall and returns it after the meeting, and can usually be found serving tea and coffee before the meeting. Tim has arranged another excellent programme of speakers for 2004.

We are also grateful to the Enfield Preservation Society for the use of Jubilee Hall, Roger Eddington who so efficiently transports, sets up and operates the projector and screen, and Caroline McKenna who meets and greets visitors and runs the sales and information table, and our Chairman Dennis Hill who not only chairs, but also collects speakers and helps with the refreshments. Sarah Segar and Mary Cannon continue to serve refreshments, whenever other commitments permit, and we are grateful for their continued support. Michael and Sylvia Wheeler transported the light desk for some years, until recently moving out of the area: our thanks go to them.

### VISIT

The annual joint outing with the Worker's Educational Association took place on 17 May 2003, and the Kings Lynn area was visited (*Society News*, September 2003, 170:4)

### LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND COLLECTIONS

The majority of the Society's collections, archives and library have been transferred from Forty Hall to the basements of Mike Dewbrey's office premises. We are most grateful to Mike for his generosity in making these facilities available to us. Dr Martin Dearne has overhauled the book catalogue and subsequently a number of volumes have been offered for sale to members at lecture meetings. Martin has also begun the examination, recording and conservation of the Society's collections and excavation archives, and our grateful thanks go to Martin for giving his valuable time and making his considerable expertise available to us.

### PUBLICITY

The local press continues to take an active interest in our activities, and we are grateful for their support.

Meetings are publicised by notices on library notice boards: we are grateful to Enfield Libraries for this service. At present the Society lacks a Publicity Officer, whose main task is to send details of forthcoming lectures and subsequent meeting reports to the local papers. If any member would like to help in this way, the Committee would be grateful.

We continue to exchange newsletters, bulletins and programme cards with neighbouring societies, which ensures that we remain informed of each other's activities. Other society's newsletters are available for inspection on the Sales and Information table at lecture meetings.

### PUBLICATIONS

*Society News* is produced quarterly and contained notices of forthcoming events, reports of meetings and articles on matters of historic and archaeological interest in the area. The Committee was delighted to welcome Jeremy Grove to the committee as Editor, and his first edition was produced in December 2003.

Sales of the Society's last publication, "Forty Hall: 1629 - 1997" by Geoffrey Gillam continue steadily, and the next publication "An Archaeology of Enfield" by the same author has reached first draft stage. In addition, the committee are exploring funding sources for the publication of an academic volume on "An Archaeology of Roman Enfield". This is intended to be a professional standard work bringing together the considerable amount of archaeological evidence of the period in the borough recovered over the last thirty or so years.

## AFFILIATIONS

We are affiliated to the Council for British Archaeology and the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society.

## EXCAVATIONS, FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH

The Society's Fieldwork and Research Group continues to carry out fieldwork in the borough. The work at Gilmour Close was completed and although no trace of Ermine Street was found, evidence of a medieval track way and the boundary wall to Capel Manor was found and a quantity of medieval ceramics was recovered (*Society News* 168, March 2003: 12; 170, September 2003: 9). We are grateful to Capel Manor College for permission to carry out this fieldwork.

Following a second resistivity survey by our neighbours from the Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) on the lawn at Myddelton House, a small evaluation trench was opened in a search for the Tudor house Bowling Green House (*Society News* 171, December 2003: 9). No evidence of the house was found, and following a map regression exercise a resistivity survey elsewhere in the grounds is planned.

HADAS also collaborated with the society on a resistivity survey in the grounds of Forty Hall, with the object of locating the remains of the gatehouse to Elsyng Palace (*Society News* 171, December 2003: 9). It is intended that the survey will be extended. Society members inspected a barn at 75 South Street that is to be demolished and made a photographic record (*Society News* 170, September 2003: 9). The society carried out a watching brief at the rose garden in Forty Hall for LB Enfield (*Society News* 171, December 2003: 10-11).

The society's main task at present however is the post-excavation work on the excavations at 102 Leighton Road (*Society News* 168, March 2003, 6-11; 170 September 2003:5-8). Funding is being sought for the production of a professional standard publication.

Any members wishing to take part in fieldwork should telephone Mike Dewbrey at his office, 020 8364 2244.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The Financial Report will be made available at the Annual General Meeting.

## EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

During the course of 2003, Geoff Lamport and Jeremy Grove were co-opted onto the Committee: Geoff will assume the duties of Hon. Treasurer after the AGM, and Jeremy has taken over as Hon. Editor. Ian Jones will be stepping down as Hon. Treasurer but will remain as Vice Chairman. Jon Tanner is stepping down as Hon. Secretary, and will temporarily continue as Acting Membership Secretary until a replacement steps forward.

Any members willing to help run the Society by volunteering as Secretary or Membership Secretary are asked to contact Dennis Hill (020 8440 1593) or Jon Tanner (020 8367 8000 daytime, 020 8350 0493 home, or email [jontanner\\_enfield@hotmail.com](mailto:jontanner_enfield@hotmail.com)).

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### The Executive Committee will stand for re-election:

President: .....	<b>Harvey Sheldon</b> BSc FSA FRSA
Vice Presidents: .....	<b>Dr Iliad Anthony</b> <b>Ivy Drayton</b> <b>Geoffrey Gillam</b>
Chairman:.....	<b>Prof. Dennis Hill</b>
Vice Chairman:.....	<b>Ian Jones</b>
Hon. Treasurer:.....	<b>Geoffrey Lamport*</b>
Hon. Secretary: .....	Vacant
Hon. Meetings Secretary: .....	<b>Tim Harper</b>
Hon. Membership Secretary:.....	<b>Jon Tanner</b> (Acting)
Hon. Social Secretary: .....	Vacant
Hon. Editor:.....	<b>Jeremy Grove*</b>
Auditor: .....	to be confirmed
Committee: .....	<b>Dr Martin Dearne</b> <b>Mike Dewbrey</b> <b>Roger Eddington</b> <b>Caroline McKenna</b> <b>Les Whitmore</b>

\*(co-opted during 2003)

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# Enfield Archaeological Society

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

President: Harvey Sheldon BSc FSA FRSA

## NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the 48th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00pm on Friday 16th April 2004.

## AGENDA

- 1) **Minutes of the 47th Annual General Meeting**
- 2) **Report of the Executive Committee (herewith)**
- 3) **Financial Statement.** (This will be available at the meeting)
- 4) **Subscriptions for the Year Commencing 1 January 2005**

The Executive Committee proposes no change to the subscription rates for the year 2005:

Ordinary Members	£7.00
Junior Members ( <i>under 18 years of age</i> )	£3.50
Joint Membership ( <i>to include any number of people at the same address</i> )	£10.00

- 5) **Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members**  
The Executive Committee will stand for re-election. Nominations for the vacant positions of Hon. General Secretary and Hon. Membership Secretary, or for any other position, should be sent to the Secretary a minimum of seven days before the Annual General meeting
- 6) **Any Other Business**  
Items for discussion must be advised to the Hon. Secretary not less than seven days before the date of the Annual General Meeting
- 7) **Reports of Fieldwork, Research and other Activities carried out during 2003.**

Jon Tanner, Hon. Secretary

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