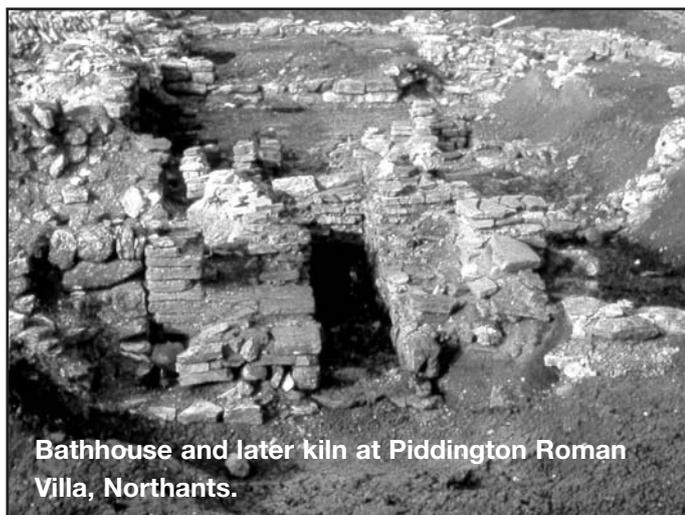




# Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society

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**Bathhouse and later kiln at Piddington Roman Villa, Northants.**

The site director lectured to us in 2003 (EAS News 168), and we are working on plans for a guided tour of this year's excavation and the site museum

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The Editor is Jeremy Grove, 119 Tenniswood Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN1 3HF

tel: 020 8363 9681 email: [jeremy@grovej.freemove.co.uk](mailto:jeremy@grovej.freemove.co.uk)

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**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

A FULL LIST OF THE 2005 LECTURE PROGRAMME IS ENCLOSED WITH THIS BULLETIN

**Friday 18 March**

## Excavations at Copped Hall

**Christine Holloway**

Copped Hall lies near the M25 between Upshire and Epping, and for several years our neighbours the West Essex Archaeological Group have been running an exciting fieldwork programme there, including a burgeoning summer training dig (see below). Excavations to date, of which Tina is a co-director, have uncovered much of the medieval hall and Tudor great house, once home to Mary Tudor, which preceded the 18th century hall which dominates the estate today.



### Training Dig at Copped Hall

One week training courses in practical archaeology are being offered, starting on 21 August, 28 August and 4 September. No previous experience is necessary. The courses are lead by professional archaeologists (including Neil Faulkner who also runs the Sedgeford project in Norfolk) in conjunction with the West Essex Archaeological Group ([www.weag.org.uk](http://www.weag.org.uk)) and the Copped Hall Trust. To find out more visit the web site or contact Pauline Dalton, 01992 813725, or [pmd2@ukonline.co.uk](mailto:pmd2@ukonline.co.uk)

**Friday 15 April**

## AGM and Reports of Excavations and Fieldwork

As ever our aim will be efficient coverage of the AGM agenda (see Annual Report in this issue) to allow maximum time for slides and discussion of the Societies activities over the past year.

**Friday 20 May**

## Medieval Southern Britain and the Kentish Anglo-Saxon Emporia Project

**Stuart Brookes**



## 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 Weekend** on 16-17 July.

Please see the *Pastfinders News* column for more details, and contact Mike Dewbrey on 0208 364 2244 (office number) if you are interested.

## Meetings of other Societies

### EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield

**23 March**

AGM and More English Towns • *Graham Dalling*

**21 April**

Domestic Architecture • *John Donovan*

**25 May**

Salisbury House • *Geoffrey Gillam*

### WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm, Victoria Hall, Greenyard, Waltham Abbey

**18 March**

Puddephatt Memorial Lecture: Forgotten Men – Explosion in the RGPF • *Bryn Elliott*

**22 April**

AGM & President's Address • *Stan Newens*

**26 May**

Recent Restorations at Waltham Abbey

### WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

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

**11 April**

Londinium's Water Supply • *Bruce Watson*

**9 May**

(in the school Assembly Hall)  
Treasures of the Saxon King • *Ian Blair*

### HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

**12 April**

To be announced

**10 May**

The Road to Rome In the steps of a medieval pilgrim  
• *Mark Hassall*

### HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

8pm Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield

**10 May**

Victorian Melodrama • *Rohan McWilliam*

# SOCIETY MATTERS

## Dennis Hill

Our chairman Dennis Hill unfortunately suffered a stroke in January. We are pleased to hear that he is out of hospital, and we should like to take this opportunity to give him our very best wishes for his continued recovery.

## Subscription reminder! Renewals were due on 01 January 2005.

If you have not yet paid for 2005, please send the appropriate sum to the Secretary, David Wills, 43 Millers Green Close, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7BD, along with the renewal reminder form that you should find enclosed with this bulletin. **Any subscriptions not renewed by the Annual General Meeting will be assumed to be resignations.**

The rates for 2005 are:

Ordinary Members: £ 7.00

Joint Memberships: £10.00

Junior Members: £3.50

**New members** who joined the Society after 30 September 2004 need take no action, as their subscriptions are valid until 31 December 2005.

## EAS Outings

### Dover Castle and Environs

This year's joint annual outing with the Workers Educational Association will be on 7 May, and will include a visit to Dover Castle and nearby places of interest. Please see the enclosed flyer for details.

### Piddington Roman Villa

In August, we hope to be able to arrange a guided tour of Roy Friendship-Taylor's long-running excavation at Piddington in Northamptonshire, and their new site museum, coupled with a lecture on Roman villas on the way. This event is not confirmed at time of writing - if we can we will enclose a flyer with this bulletin, otherwise look out for further details in the June bulletin or at meetings, or call David Wills (0208 364 5698).

# Meeting Reports

## Cursus Publicus – The Roman Imperial Post

Friday 17 December

**D**espite the weather and the season, EAS vice-president Geoffrey Gillam attracted a good audience for this lecture, and it was well worth the trip.

The Roman road network and the official postal system were essential for the efficient movement of information, officials and troops around the Empire. The roads were military in origin, and would be maintained by the army while military operations were still in progress, before being taken over by the civil administration.

Roads would be finished with whatever materials were available locally – plenty were gravel-surfaced – but other aspects of the design were more standardized. Ditches 84 feet apart defined the road zone, while two more inner ditches drained the raised causeway or ‘agger’ of the road itself. At least 50,000 miles were built throughout the Empire.

There are several examples close to home, which Geoffrey and the EAS have been active in investigating, for example at Donkey Lane and in Cheshunt, and an interesting site near Braughing, investigated in the 1960s with the late Bernard Barr, where excavation turned up a brooch dated to about 50AD.

The Cursus Publicus relied mostly on light carts rather than horsed messengers – this way an official or messenger could travel virtually non-stop while animals and drivers changed around them. In emergencies very fast journeys were possible – Tiberius once travelled 200 miles in 24 hours – but generally the emphasis was on reliable and regular services, averaging about 5mph.

Light 2-wheeled wagons were used and also heavier 4-wheel vehicles pulled by 8 mules in summer or 10 in winter. All sorts of documents were carried, along with other items such as gold and silver. Weight

limits were imposed to preserve the animals, which had a working life of about 4 years, and the roads.

A warrant was required to use the Cursus Publicus, and there were sometimes complaints of misuse, or other scams such as the appropriation of fodder – emperors such as Hadrian would sometimes act to curb such abuses.

Mansios about 25 Roman miles apart, where possible in towns, provided first and second class accommodation, a bath house and other services. In between would be two mutationes – changing stations with staff accommodation. It is therefore probably significant that ‘Roman Edmonton’ lies about 9 miles up Ermine Street from London, while Ware is at about 18 miles, and the Roman settlement at Braughing at 28 or so.

In the late 3rd century Diocletian split the Cursus Publicus into the Cursus Velox (a fast service) and the Cursus Cabularis (ox-drawn wagons for heavier loads).

Geoffrey rounded off his interesting talk with some ‘personal’ views of Romano-Britons on transport issues of the day, culled from the Vindolanda writing tables found on Hadrian’s Wall. These included complaints about the cost of hiring private wagons, and a message blaming the late delivery of some hides on the bad state of the roads.

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## Isembard Kingdom Brunel and Paddington Station

Friday 21 January

**Steven Brindle**, Inspector of Ancient Monuments for London, began his lecture with an enthusiastic plug for industrial archaeology. The railways in particular were an enormous achievement – built by hand in mostly rural areas, they eclipse the wonders of the ancient world.

The Great Western Railway was a Bristol venture, part of their ultimately unsuccessful attempt to compete with the port of Liverpool for the London market.

The job was given to 26-year old Isembard Kingdom Brunel, who had established himself in Bristol working on the docks. Brunel’s experience of railways was limited to single trip on the Liverpool-Manchester line and a visit to the Stockton-Darlington railway, but this was enough to inspire a visionary design. He insisted on a wide gauge to improve the ride, wide curves and gentle gradients. He pushed

through the novel idea of a trunk route, realizing that intermediate towns could be connected to it by branch lines later. He surveyed the whole route in 9 weeks, working a 20 hour day.

Not everything went well however and a plan to share Euston station fell through. An alternative had to be found and the Paddington Station site was acquired from the Bishop of London. By 1845 a rather messy timber station had been squeezed in around a viaduct.

The early railways were an immediate success, changing society and generating new demand. The next Paddington Station would be much grander, its principle influences being Newcastle Station and the Crystal Palace. Brunel started work in 1850 and for the roof insisted on obtaining the services of his collaborators on the Crystal Palace, Fox-Henderson & Co. He also employed architect Digby Wyatt to ornament the station – to which the board took ‘a decided objection’. Despite this setback Brunel’s ironwork at Paddington still established a new architectural idiom.

As he research a book on Paddington station, Steven realized that Brunel’s first iron bridge had survived under the modern canal bridge outside the station. It had been assumed it had been demolished in 1906, an assumption which a historical survey had failed to correct a few years before. Steven made this discovery a week before Westminster Council was due to sign a £62million contract to demolish it, but as he says they were ‘very good about it’ and paid for it to be carefully dismantled. It is now in store while funds are raised to re-erect it 200 feet along the canal. *‘Paddington Station: Its History and Architecture’ by Steven Brindle is published by English Heritage Publications at £25.*

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## Eyes of the Fleet – Frigates from the Age of Sail

Friday 18 February

**EAS** vice-chairman Ian Jones marked the 200th anniversary year of Nelson’s death at Trafalgar with a talk about frigates, the workhorses of the Georgian navy. Modestly armed, with a single deck of guns, frigates were faster and handier than the more powerful line-of-battle ships, and so were employed in a wide variety of tasks, including reconnaissance, convoy escort, commerce raiding and carrying dispatches.

By 1800 159 of the Royal Navy’s 517 vessels were frigates and the proportion grew even further, but still there were never enough. Few lasted more than a few years, so hard were they worked. Nevertheless, they were popular for their relative comfort - they had a separate berthing deck below the gun deck, so the crew’s gear did not have to be stowed away whenever the ship cleared for action. Five sailing frigates survive. The oldest, USS Constitution of 1797, saw action against the British, using her size advantage to capture 3 British frigates and a sloop. HMS Trincomalee was built in India in 1817, to a design typical of British frigates of the Napoleonic Wars. She is built of teak, preferable to oak as it does not splinter when hit. A training ship in Portsmouth for many years (very familiar to a wartime serviceman in the audience!), she has been superbly restored at Hartlepool, where she remains in the historic dock. HMS Unicorn, now at Dundee, was laid up with a protective roof fitted as soon as she was completed in 1824, and as a result she is the best preserved of all the survivors. Plans are afoot to install her in an indoor dry dock.

Two slightly later frigates also survive. USS Constellation of 1854 is in terrible condition in Baltimore as a result of botched restoration work in the 1960s. The Danish frigate Jutland of 1859 is at Aarhus. The longest wooden warship ever built, she suffered structural problems as a result. She had a steam engine, though sailing was still preferred at this period, and the propeller could be lifted out of the water when not in use. She took part in the victory over the Prussians at Heligoland in 1864, later serving as a royal yacht.

Though we know much from documentary sources and surviving ships, archaeology can still help. Ian showed slides of finds from HMS Pandora, which foundered on the Great Barrier Reef in 1790 and has been under excavation since 1993. The galley stove is the only original example of the period to survive. The brass interior of the surgeon’s watch is in fine condition, marked Jackson of London (No. 9866) – the surgeon, who survived, must have been sorry to lose it. A selection of bottles and other small finds have been recovered – finds from wrecks such as this, which can be precisely dated, can provide valuable dating evidence for archaeological sites on land.

Ian’s fascinating and well illustrated lecture prompted many questions and much discussion afterwards.

*Jeremy Grove*

# Excavations at Elsyng Palace 2004 (Site Code EGP04)

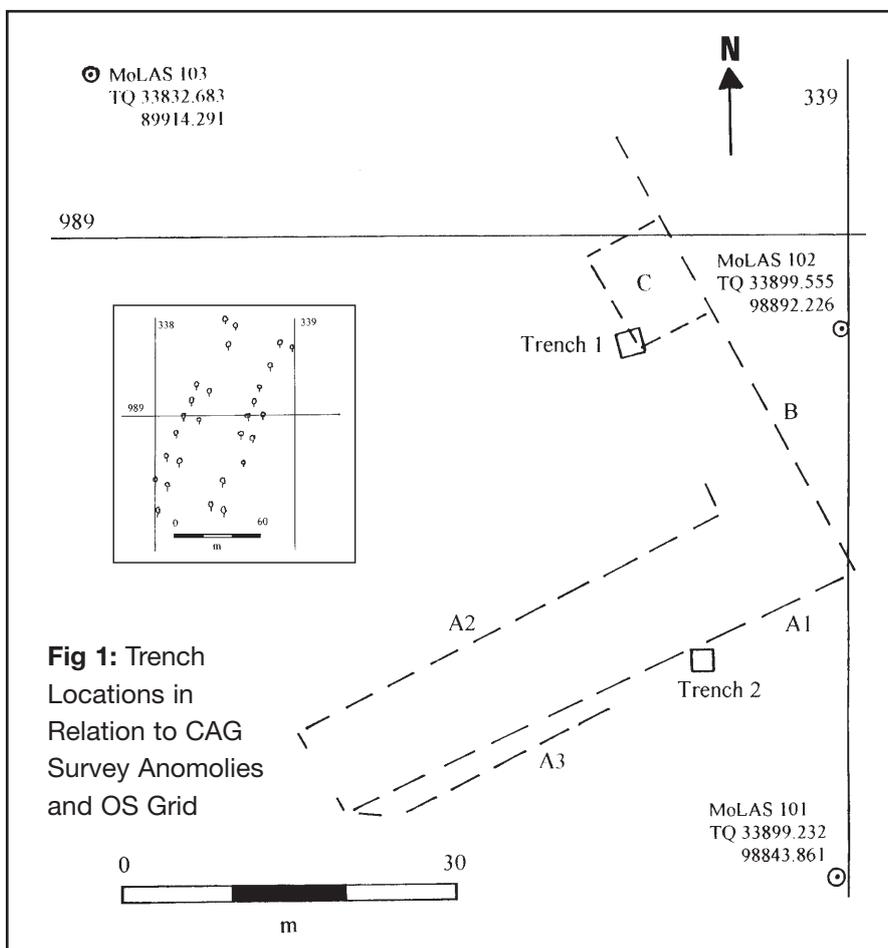
by Martin J Dearne

The Tudor palace of Elsyng, developed by Henry VIII from an earlier manor and courtier house which he acquired, has long been known to lie buried in the grounds of Forty Hall. Probably one of the least known of the many Tudor and Elizabethan royal palaces, the only excavations on the site were conducted by the Enfield Archaeological Society in the 1960s (Jones and Drayton 1984) and revealed the massive brick built remains of just a small area of it. The London Borough of Enfield (in cooperation with English Heritage, the site being a scheduled ancient monument) subsequently commissioned and allowed a series of geophysical and

topographical surveys, including ones by the Hendon and District Archaeological Society and Colchester Archaeological Group organised by our chairman Dennis Hill, as well as a 'desk top' survey of all that was known of the palace. However, by 2004 it became clear that targetted excavation was required to check the geophysical survey results, which had begun to suggest something of the overall plan of the site, and see how well preserved it was.

Thus, after much discussion and planning, the borough commissioned the EAS under the direction of the author, and with the permission of the Dept. for Culture, Media and Sport on advice from English Heritage, to cut two small test pits on the weekend of 17th – 18th July 2004. As we hope that this will be the beginning of a series of pieces of work we will cooperate in, the borough had the Museum of London Specialist Services install permanent markers with very precisely known positions and heights determined by 'total station' satellite technology. These allowed us to achieve the precision surveying (undertaken by Peter Spindley)

modern archaeology, especially on scheduled sites, demands and so, along with creating detailed written and drawn records, to form a professional standard archive for the work (also including reports on the finds commissioned from specialists at the Museum of London) to be held at Forty Hall. The timing of the work was also chosen so that it would coincide with National Archaeology Day, giving us the opportunity of drawing in as many visitors as possible (and many hundreds came) to see our work, learn about the history of the palace and participate in e.g. washing our finds. Indeed, LBC radio even sent a radio car to the site and broadcast hourly updates across London on our progress and interviews with the excavation team.



**Fig 1:** Trench Locations in Relation to CAG Survey Anomalies and OS Grid

As Fig. 1 shows we cut our two small trenches at key points to try and confirm that magnetometry anomalies on the Colchester survey were caused by the suspected brick walls of the gatehouse (marked A) and the eastern range of the outer (service) courtyard (marked B and C); assumptions that were supported by rises and falls in the current ground surface which also reflect the position of a moat around the gatehouse. However, it is in the nature of exploring new areas of sites for the first time that you don't know what difficulties they will present; that is why one starts with so-called test pits. In this case what we found below the topsoil in both cases was a rammed pebble surface (shown in section on Fig. 2).

Excavating through this (and in trench 1 a probable scout camp hearth pit cut into it!) consumed a lot of our limited time and though we suspect that it was a raised walkway created by the seventeenth century owner of Forty Hall (Nicholas Rainton) as a promenade after the Tudor palace had been demolished and its remains buried, the few scraps of pottery in it were later, probably brought down into it by worm activity. Below it in trench 2 were a

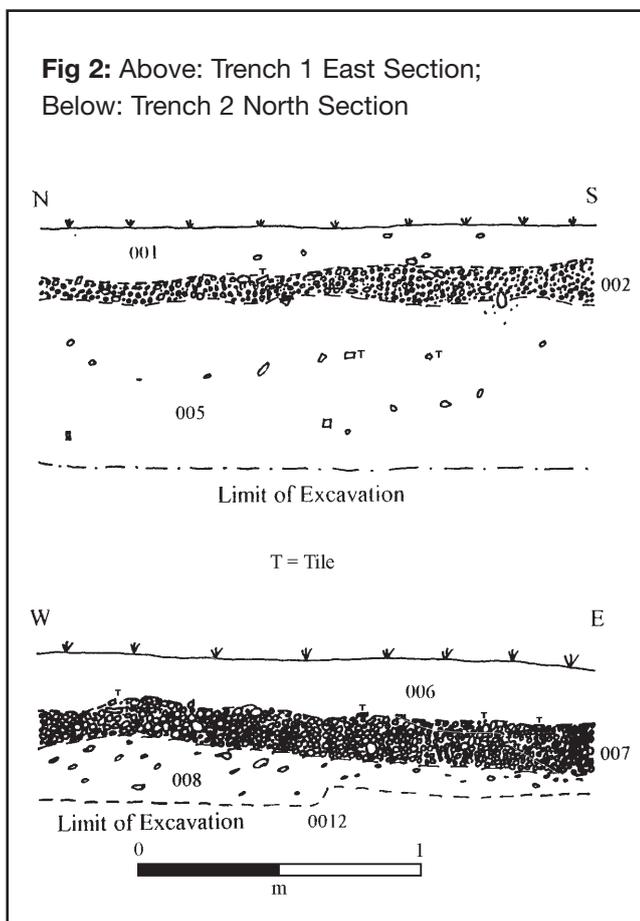
series of thin and overlapping dumps (of which two, 008 and 0012, are shown in Fig. 2), probably intended to level the area of the demolished palace, but we did not have time to excavate further. In trench 1 there was just one thick dump (005) below the rammed pebbles which we excavated in part of the trench as far as it was safe to in a restricted area. However, we had to stop before we reached the building foundations presumed to be below it. All the layers we excavated included pieces of 'peg' roof tile and some brick fragments and we recovered parts of vitrified surfaced bricks perhaps used in decorative 'diaper' work. In most they were abraded but 005 was different. Not only did it yield our only piece of ?Tudor pottery but a piece of glazed Flemish floor tile of c. 1480 – 1600, brick and tile fragments corelatable with Museum of London defined post-Medieval fabric types and most of two tiles clearly smashed in situ as the pieces had sharp edges and fitted back together precisely. One retained the tiler's finger marks on it.

It seems likely that when the palace was demolished in the seventeenth century the new owner had the area of it we were excavating landscaped with thick dumps of clay into which were thrown any remaining building materials before constructing his 'promenades'. Now aware of this we hope to return in 2005 to an expanded trench 1 for longer so that we can excavate deeper and check if the geophysical anomalies really do reflect the ground plan of the palace. Once again we hope to link this with Enfield's Archaeology Weekend. If you want to visit put the 16th and 17th July in your diaries and if you would like to be involved contact Mike Dewbrey (details in Pastfinders News).

*The author would like to thank all the members who helped in the 2004 work, the staff of Forty Hall, Enfield Museum Service and the borough's Publicity Department who were invaluable in so many practical ways, Bob Ivison and Lorraine Cox of the London Borough of Enfield for commissioning and encouraging the work and Steven Brindle and others at English Heritage and the Dept. for Culture, Media and Sport for sanctioning it and discussing it with us.*

#### Bibliography

Jones, I. K. and Drayton, I. W. (1984) *The Royal Palaces of Enfield* EAS Research Report No. 4



# PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



We are going to be busy this year, so there should be plenty of opportunities for members to help out. For full details or to express an interest contact me on the phone number below.

**Our major excavation** in July will once again be looking for remains of Elsyng Palace at Forty Hall. The excavation will be over two weekends - Saturday 9th and Sunday 10th July and over the **'Archaeology Weekend'** on Saturday 16th and Sunday 17th July. The Elsyng dig last year attracted a lot of interest and this year a much larger area will be dug, hopefully revealing structural remains of the Tudor Palace for the first time since our digs in the 1960s.

Volunteers with strong backs will be needed to assist with the heavy digging work and barrowing. There will also be plenty to do for those who are not as young and supple as they used to be and for our members under 16. We will need pot washers to clean the finds on site, for the public to see, buckets will need emptying and spoil will need to be sieved for stray finds. Volunteers will be needed to man our tent to talk to the public about the work of the Society, and hopefully recruit some new members and sell some EAS publications. If you have any digging experience and would like to assist the excavation team please contact me as soon as possible as numbers of diggers within the trenches may need to be restricted for safety reasons.

Before then, just after Easter, we hope to carry out a small investigation of a raised man-made feature closer to the road, where tree root disturbance has revealed some early brickwork. There are many speculative theories about this feature, but it may represent the remains of a Porter's Lodge or Guardhouse at an entrance into the Elsyng Palace complex.

## **More Forty Hall/Elsyng possibilities**

An early map of Forty Hill (marked Four Tree Hall) shows a building to the west of Maiden's Bridge on Turkey Brook. Archive evidence indicates the water driven flour mill for the Elsyng Estate was in this area but its exact position is unknown. This may have been a part brick and part timber structure straddling the stream, with the water wheel turning like a paddle steamer. In Tudor times the brook would have been much deeper than it is today. With this in mind we took a close look at the area to see if there was any evidence of a platform around water level where the mill may have stood. A suspicious looking mound which is much higher than the surrounding area drew our attention. Although much overgrown it could easily have accommodated our mill or the miller's house. We even know the millers name, John Topias. A late 18th century sluice channel cuts through one side of this feature but nothing was seen in this section to indicate any structure or occupation of the site. The mound remains a mystery pending further investigation.

Desilting work in the area of the 'fishponds' to the west of Elsyng Palace has uncovered a substantial amount of Tudor brickwork which may be demolition rubble from the palace, although at first glance it looked like a collapsed vaulted drain. Much evidence of burning was noted and many of the bricks are badly fired with residual drip glaze on them. One suggestion was a brick kiln using local clay to make bricks for the Palace on site. This may be quite a plausible theory if all the raw materials were readily available. The bricks discovered may be kiln 'wasters' and lead us to wonder if some of the smaller 'ponds' in the vicinity may have started out as clay extraction pits for brick making in the 16th century. Obviously further work needs to be carried out to answer some of these intriguing questions.

**As the bulletin goes to press,** we have been asked to do some further work at Myddleton House over Easter, in advance of building work. A concrete hardstanding is being laid, and the Lea Valley Parks Authority owners want us to check the area for further remains of the earlier Bowling Green House, parts of which we located for the first time last year.

### Flash Lane Cottages

The site of the cottages that stood in Flash Lane mentioned in the last bulletin was visited briefly in January and stock bricks stamped 'H.R.' were noted scattered around the immediate area. The Society publication 'The Industrial Archaeology of Enfield' notes that in 1820 when the aqueduct and embankment were constructed parallel to Flash Road to convey water over Cuffley Brook a certain Henry Rogers, a brick maker of Cheshunt, was commissioned to supply the brickwork and construct the brick piers that support the cast iron construction. It may be that H.R. (Henry Rogers) also built our cottages for employees of the New River Company at the time as they only seem to appear on local maps after this date. Some fragments of pottery were recovered from the site as surface finds and one of the stamped bricks has been placed with the curators of the museum at Forty Hall. Two New River Company marker stones were also located and their positions plotted using a G.P.S. system, which was also used to plot the exact location of the well and the cottages.

That's all for now. there will be an update in the June bulletin on some of this work and hopefully we shall see some new muddy faces in the summer!

MIKE DEWBREY  
Tel: 020 8364 2244 (office hours)



# Enfield Archaeological Society

## ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004

### The Executive Committee of the Enfield

**Archaeological Society** has pleasure in presenting its 49th Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2004

### MEMBERSHIP

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

	Adults	Juniors	TOTAL
Membership at 31.12.03	190	7	197
Joined during the year	25	4	29
Resignations and removals	23	2	25
Membership at 31.12.04	193	8	201

### LECTURES

The Society is grateful to all the speakers who presented informative and very enjoyable lectures during 2004. Topics ranged from ancient Egypt and Ethiopia to metal detector finds in Enfield and today's Portable Antiquities Scheme, with four lectures on Romano-British themes (two important recent digs in London, Roman Harlow, and the Cursus Publicus).

Special thanks go to our Honorary Meetings Secretary, Tim Harper, who arranged 2004's lecture programme, and who meets speakers, provides directions, closes up Jubilee Hall after each meeting, and can be found serving tea and coffee before the meeting. Tim has already arranged another fascinating programme of speakers for this year and beyond.

We are also grateful to the Enfield Preservation Society for the use of Jubilee Hall, Roger Eddington who 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 Dennis Hill who not only chairs, but also collects speakers and helps with the refreshments, and to all our members for supporting the Society in whatever way possible.

### **VISIT**

The annual joint outing with the Worker's Educational Association took place on 22nd May 2004 and included visits to Longthorpe Tower (with its Medieval wall paintings), Peterborough and Anglesey Abbey.

### **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 we lack 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. Other society's newsletters are available for inspection on the Sales and Information table at lecture meetings.

The Society maintains a website, [www.enfarchsoc.org](http://www.enfarchsoc.org), so that online users can be kept up-to-date with the lecture programme, National Archaeology Day events, excavations and past Society News editions.

The publicity surrounding the work at Elsyng Palace (see Excavations, Fieldwork and Research) was very successful and greatly assisted by the involvement of Suzanne Lindsey of the borough's publicity department, who we continue to work closely with. For the first time in 2004 we joined the borough Museums Service on a stand at the Enfield show, where Martin Dearne was also interviewed about Elsyng Palace, and in 2005 we hope to have a higher profile there.

Martin Dearne gave a presentation at the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society's 41st annual conference of London Archaeologists (Society News 173:11-12), detailing the work undertaken by the EAS over the past 50 years. He promoted the Society's work, explaining with illustrations excavations such as at Leighton Road, and the small finds and features that were uncovered.

### **PUBLICATIONS**

*Society News* is produced quarterly and contains notices of forthcoming events, reports of meetings and articles on matters of historic and archaeological interest in the area. Jeremy Grove our Honorary Editor produced his first edition of the *Society News* in December 2003, and since then the bulletin has continued to be written and edited to a high quality. It has benefited from a new layout designed by Ernest James, the addition of photographs, and laser printing.

Sales of the Society's last publication, "*Forty Hall: 1629 - 1997*" by Geoffrey Gillam continue steadily. Work continues on the Heritage Lottery Fund bid to allow the publication of a monograph on Roman Enfield. Limited circulation archive reports have been produced on four sites examined in 2004 and a popular account of Elsyng Palace by Dennis Hill sold out and had to be reprinted on a photocopier on National Archaeology Day to keep pace with demand. A companion pamphlet on the 1960s excavations is being developed for National Archaeology Day 2005.

### **AFFILIATIONS**

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

### **EXCAVATIONS, FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH and LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND COLLECTIONS**

The Society is particularly indebted to Dr Martin Dearne for his hard work in maintaining the Society's archaeological archives, writing-up its archaeological reports, and directing its excavation and fieldwork to a professional standard. Special thanks should also be given to Mike Dewbrey for organising the Pastfinders team of diggers, and to the team themselves for undertaking excavation work in all weathers.

2004 was a notable year for EAS fieldwork, particularly as it marked the beginning of what we hope will be a long term programme of work on the Tudor palace of Elsyng (*Society News* 176, Mar 2005), in the grounds of Forty Hall. Not excavated since our campaigns there in the 1960s, this was the culmination of the efforts of Dennis Hill especially and saw us working on behalf of the Borough and with the sanction of English Heritage and the Dept. of Culture, Media and Sport on this scheduled ancient monument. Though the findings in this instance were not spectacular this was only initial exploration work and the excavation was a publicity triumph as it coincided with national archaeology day and was

even covered live hour by hour on LBC radio; plans are already advanced for much more work in 2005.

However, this did not stop us from undertaking other work. The excavation at Myddleton House (*Society News* 174:4-5), incomplete at the last AGM, was finished and disclosed part of the originally Elizabethan Bowling Green House and its demolition deposits; land at Bulls Cross Ride (*Society News* 175:9) was field walked after features were spotted on an aerial photograph and Medieval as well as interesting eighteenth/nineteenth century material recovered; the context of a sword found in Derby Rd. was investigated (*Society News* 174:9); we undertook a watching brief in Private Rd. on behalf of English Heritage; examined the traces of early nineteenth century cottages in Flash Lane; recorded cottages being demolished in Silver St. (*Society News* 172:10); located a Mesolithic site near the Ridgeway earmarked for further attention in 2005 (*Society News* 175:12); and visited other sites to advise the council on features.

Particularly in view of the professional standards we have to meet in working on a scheduled ancient monument, a major effort is being made to bring us into line with 'best practice' in the archaeological world. All our work now uses Museum of London allocated site codes, results in full archives (at Forty Hall) compiled in accordance with London Archaeological Archive guidelines and professional level site reports, and is reported to both the Greater London Sites and Monuments Register via the new OASIS on-line scheme and to the London Archaeologist's annual roundup. In the 2004 English Heritage annual report for London we were the only local society to be identified as involved in planning application relevant (PPG16) archaeology, and with our partners in the Enfield Museums Service, council and English Heritage we intend to maintain this role.

Simultaneously work progresses on post excavation work on the Leighton Road and Gilmour Close sites dug recently and we are undertaking a major review of past work (back to the 1960s) and collections with a view to formalising all society excavation and collection archives, reporting all past work to the SMR etc, developing public displays of Roman Enfield and Elsyng Palace in co-operation with the museums service and ultimately hope to publish much of our excavation 'backlog'. In this connection work continues on developing a bid for Heritage Lottery Funding.

Any members wishing to take part in fieldwork or other activities 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

At the 2004 AGM Geoff Lampport (Treasurer) and Jeremy Grove (Bulletin Editor) were elected to posts they had been co-opted to previously and Martin Dearne was elected to the committee having been co-opted in 2003.

In 2004 David Wills was co-opted as Secretary and Membership Secretary. The committee have discussed the creation of a post of Archive Officer and hope to co-opt a member to such a post once the current review of society archives is complete.

The post of Honorary Social Secretary remains vacant. Any member willing to run for this post are asked to contact David Wills 0208 3645698 or 07966 203233 (mobile), or email david\_wills1972@hotmail.com).

## 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 Lampport</b>
Hon. Secretary:.....	<b>David Wills</b> (co-opted during 2004)
Hon. Meetings Secretary:.....	<b>Tim Harper</b>
Hon. Membership Secretary: .....	<b>David Wills</b> (co-opted during 2004)
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>

# 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 49th Annual General Meeting of the Society  
will be held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield  
at 8.00 pm on Friday 15th April 2005.

## AGENDA

- 1) Minutes of the 48th 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 2006 (To be proposed at the meeting)
- 5) Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members  
The Executive Committee will stand for re-election. Nominations for the vacant position of Hon. Social Secretary 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 2004.

David Wills, Hon. Secretary  
43 Millers Green Close  
Enfield Middlesex EN2 7BD  
Home: 020 8364 5698  
Mobile: 07966 203 233  
Email: david\_wills1972@hotmail.com



This edition's cover star (literally) is a Romano-British enamelled plate brooch of the second century AD, found in the borough.



Art deco houses in Southgate, nos 1-17 Abbotshall Avenue, have been added to the borough's list of buildings of special architectural or historic interest.

Enfield Museum Service is planning a WW2 display at Forty Hall from end May-mid July. If you have any stories or exhibits you would like to offer, please contact them on 020 8379 1469/69 or [enfield.museum.service@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:enfield.museum.service@enfield.gov.uk)

Colchester Archaeological Trust reports the discovery of the only known Roman chariot racing circus in Britain. Fragmentary remains from separate excavations suggest it was at least 350m long. Further research is proposed to banish lingering doubts about the structure. See *The Canterbury Archaeologist*, 18 (2005) or [www.cat.org.uk](http://www.cat.org.uk), or wait for the Time Team Special documentary due in around May.