

Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



*Forty Hall
double bill: EAS
dig turns up
evidence of bay
windows, plus
report of a
recent lecture
on Forty Hall*

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

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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.

Friday 21 October

Royal and Monastic sites in West London

Bob Cowie (MoLAS)

There are a great many royal and monastic sites in west London, both well known and not so well known, many of which Bob has been directly involved with through his work as a Senior Archaeologist with the Museum of London Archaeology Service.

Friday 18 November

Prehistoric London

Jon Cotton, Museum of London

Jon is Curator of Prehistory at the Museum of London and he will be talking about recent discoveries across London as well as the new prehistory gallery launched at the Museum a year or so ago.

Friday 16 December

An English Heritage Building Inspector

Andrew Wittrick

Andrew is a former English Heritage building inspector, and his talk will describe the kind of work with which they are involved. (Read on to find out about some of Andrew's involvement with Forty Hall...)

EAS FIELDWORK

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



Forthcoming events

Meetings of other Societies

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

19 October

7.45 for 8pm, All Saints Church Hall
Edmonton Before WW2 • *Graham Dalling*

16 November

2.15 for 2.30pm, Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield
The History of Pantomime • *Marlene McAndrew*

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

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

10 October

Foreign Bodies from the Canary Islands and Bolivia
Lawrence Owens

14 November

Under the Bandages - the Science of Mummies
Paul Clifford

12 December

The Saxon Monastery at Leominster - 2005 excavations
Bruce Watson

HENDON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

11 October

Palaeolithic Art • *Jill Cook*

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm in the Victoria Hall, Greenyard, Waltham Abbey

28 October

The Time Line - A Journey Along the Greenwich Meridian
Stuart Bale

24 November

Windmills & Water Mills of Essex • *Geoffrey Wood*

**Edmonton Hundred Historical Society
Day Conference, Saturday 29 October:
People and Places in 19th Century Enfield**

£6 whole day (£5 members), £3.50 morning or
afternoon session only (£3 members).

Morning

10-11am David Pam: Edmonton;
its 19th century transformation

11.30-12.30 Peter Hodge:
The Cresswells of Winchmore Hill

Afternoon

2-3pm Graham Dalling:
The Legacy of Victorian England

3.30-4.30pm Geoffrey Gillam:
19th century industrial development in Enfield

Bookings to Pat Keeble, 15 Onslow Gardens, N21
1DY stating name, address, phone number, number
of bookings and for which sessions. Cheques
payable to Edmonton Hundred Historical Society,
enclose SAE if confirmation of booking required.

LAMAS events

This year's conference, on Saturday 19
November at the Museum of London Lecture
Theatre from 10am-5pm, is "When LAMAS
began: London in 1855".

Tickets are £5 including afternoon tea (£4
members), on application to Local History
Conference, 36 Church Road, West Drayton,
Middlesex, UB7 7PX. Please enclose a stamped
self-addressed envelope and state name,
address, number of tickets required, and
whether a LAMAS member. Cheques payable to
'London and Middlesex Archaeological Society'.

Remember also the LAMAS 150th
anniversary lecture programme, 6.30pm in the
Lecture Theatre at the Museum of London,
tickets available on the door, price £5 (£3
members), includes a glass of wine afterwards.

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: 'Old
Buildings: Dead or Alive?'

SOCIETY MATTERS

PROFESSOR DENNIS W. HILL MA MSc PhD DSc 1928 -2005

It is with great sadness that I have to report that
our Chairman, Dennis Hill, passed away in early
September, shortly after his 77th birthday.

After retiring from a career as a medical
physicist and administrator in the NHS, Dennis
devoted much of his time to Archaeology, gaining
both Birkbeck qualifications and experience
before and after joining the Enfield Archaeological
Society in 1992. He was elected Chairman in
1998, which office he held until his death. He was
involved both as participant and organiser in a
wide range of surveys and excavations on sites
ranging from Roman Bush Hill Park to Victorian
water mains.

His first major activity, though not sited in
Enfield, was often quoted by him as an object
lesson in the trials and tribulations of archaeology.
He organised a project to investigate the surviving
remains of the operating theatre at Barber-
Surgeons Hall designed by the architect Indigo
Jones. It was a textbook operation with detailed
documentary research and surveys carried out
and the likely site being located with the help of
the original architect's plans. Finance was
arranged and a team employed to excavate the
site which produced absolutely nothing! Luckily
for the Society and the archaeology of Enfield, his
enthusiasm remained undimmed.

There was nothing the Society undertook that
he was not involved in to a greater or lesser
degree including local events. He was keen to
publicise the Society and formed a close
relationship with both the West Essex
Archaeology Group, arranging tours of the New
River Loop for their members, and with the
Hendon and District Archaeological Society. Later
these and other groups helped out with several of
our projects, including Elsyng. His efforts to

persuade members to help out in various ways continued, despite a limited response. Here, as elsewhere, his refusal to take silence, or no as a final answer showed his determination to further the Society's interests.

He helped out with the vast majority of our excavations and related projects. These included the work at Salisbury House to uncover links with the now vanished Bury Lodge. At Forty Hall he helped with the excavation of the garden terraces between the house and lake and the clearing and recording of two of the three summerhouses on the walks to the west. He took part in the Roman excavations in Leighton Road and spent much time investigating the cast iron mains laid by the New River Company in the Whitewebbs-Maiden's Brook area in the 19th century – tackling the undergrowth personally with a fearsome strimmer. He was involved in the ultimately successful search for Bowling Green House in the grounds of Myddelton House, fieldwalking at Bulls Cross Ride, and the last dig he worked on was a small one at Capel Manor in 2003.

The one project for which he will be best remembered however was Elsyng Palace. He had always been fascinated by the building and the work done in the 1960s and felt this major site deserved fresh investigation. He re-examined and republished sections of the original documentary material previously only seen in summary, wrote a Birkbeck dissertation on the subject. As a Scheduled Ancient Monument we could not just go in and dig it; there were first many bureaucratic hurdles to be overcome. Here, not only his many contacts in the archaeological world but also his NHS experience proved invaluable. Letters, telephone calls, faxes and e-mails poured forth from him as he basically nagged people into letting work be done. He refused to be daunted by either problems of cost or our then lack of an experienced archaeologist who would be allowed to direct the work. Detailed surveys were carried out by both national and local groups and an archaeological unit acceptable to English Heritage approached to do the work. Dennis rarely lost his cool, but at some committee meetings his frustration at bureaucratic obfuscation exploded.

Finally towards the end of 2003 Dr. Martin Dearne, a society member and experienced archaeologist was invited by Dennis to attend an Elsyng meeting at Forty Hall Museum. With a



Dennis with visitors at Elsyng, 2004.

Director of Excavations discovered events moved forward, the finances were agreed for further survey and then two test pits were opened in 2004 as part of National Archaeology Day. Dennis visited the site but unfortunately little was found on that occasion. Later rescue work at the eastern end of the site uncovered the remains of a smithy, one of the palace outbuildings. When one of the 2004 trenches was reopened in 2005 and a substantial drain discovered he was sadly too ill to attend but was able to see the fruits of his labours in photographs. It is certain that without Dennis's efforts this project would never have got underway.

As a fellow committee member I will always remember both his often expressed gratitude for the work done by the committee members and his willingness to let some of us ramble on at great length. For his unstinting commitment to the Society and its aims he will be greatly missed and to his family we send our sincere condolences.

Ian K. Jones

Forty Hall's Historical Architecture

A talk by Andrew Wittrick

26 June 2005

On 26 June, as part of "Architecture Week" (apparently it is not only archaeologists who have "weeks"), Dr Andrew Wittrick gave a talk on the architecture of Forty Hall. His talk drew on a recent survey of the building which included documentary research, fabric analysis, photography and a detailed MoLAS survey, which will complement the Estate Conservation Plan of 1999 (which excluded the hall itself), and it is hoped for a public reference document in a year or two.

Previously surprisingly little has been published on the house, apart from Geoffrey Gillam's book published through the EAS. There is also a RCHME draft report from 1935.

Three dates are to be found in the fabric of the hall itself, two of 1629 and one of 1636 in the west wing. The earliest illustration of the hall is dated 1793 and shows it looking much as it is now, except limewashed.

It is often assumed that the hall has always looked much the same as it does today, but Andrew explained how there have been quite substantial changes. The ground level has been substantially raised, and most of the windows changed. The cellar windows of the south elevation demonstrate this – they are spaced differently from those above, which are not original. Virtually the only original windows are on the second floor of the west elevation, and can only be seen with difficulty from outside by standing near the impressive gate to the former stable yard.

Andrew suspects that this gate has itself been moved, and formerly stood in front of the house itself.

The 'front' of the house has switched, probably more than once, between north and east elevations over its lifetime.

Dendrochronology of the roof timbers has been inconclusive, but it appears little altered – if so it is a remarkably early example of a style associated with the 1650s. There is no evidence that there were ever dormer windows. The floors show evidence of at least three timber phases, not to mention some RSJs from 1950s strengthening.

The cellar appears to have comprised four separate sections each with its own entrance – this theory is part of the reason that the EAS were asked to carry out the dig reported in this Bulletin.

Andrew discussed several parallels for Forty Hall. Wisbech Castle (now demolished) had similar basement windows to Forty Hall, together with dormer windows and a lantern. Forty Hall did not have dormers but Andrew thinks a lantern was quite likely. Kiplin Hall of c. 1630 would, if given a second central corridor, match the plan of Forty Hall. Hall Barn has been modernised and looks very similar to Forty Hall today. Thorpe Hall, Peterborough (c.1650) is probably the best parallel. It may have looked similar, and had shallow bay windows. The architect of Thorpe Hall, Peter Mills, would have been known to Sir Nicholas Rainton as he was a fellow trustee of St Barts.

There was much more besides, particularly on the internal layout and decoration. I am pleased to report that Andrew rounded off his very interesting talk by reporting the hot news from the EAS dig just the weekend before establishing the presence of bay windows on the east elevation. (Incidentally, the newer-looking brickwork below the windows where we were working apparently dates from the 1950s restoration).

Jeremy Grove



FYH05: an excavation to establish the original appearance of Forty Hall

by Martin J. Dearne

Forty Hall, the Grade 1 listed Jacobean home of Sir Nicholas Rainton, Lord Mayor of London, and a succession of owners ending with the Bowles family, is familiar to most members of the EAS. It is the most important of the standing monuments of Enfield and some probably think of it as having been more or less the same since it was built in the early 17th century. But that is far from the case. Those who have read Geoffrey Gillam's book on the hall (still available from the Hall and the EAS) will know that every generation has made some change and that what we see today is a mix of styles and dates.

Recently Dr. Andy Wittrick (then of English Heritage) studied the building and suggested that its original look was quite different to what we see today because it had projecting bay windows – a possibility Geoffrey Gillam had also noted from an early manuscript reference to 'bow' windows. In order to confirm or refute this Enfield Council asked the EAS in June 2005 to excavate a section of the rose beds surrounding the hall at the south corner of the east façade.

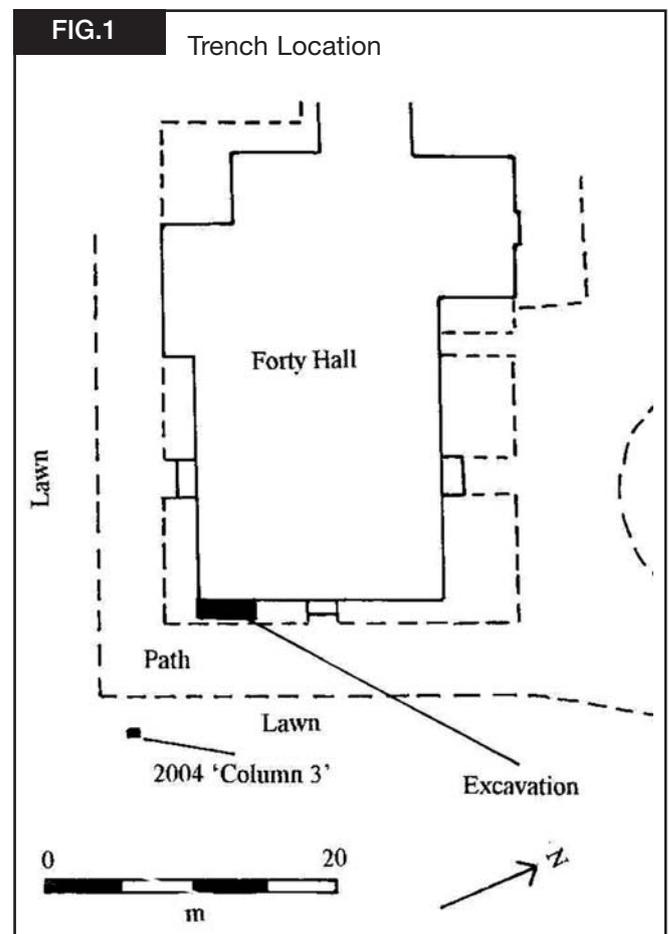
Cutting a 1.3 x 3.8m trench right against the wall of the hall, and in beating sun, we first encountered modern topsoil and planting pits and then, as expected, traces of a Victorian lean to conservatory which was once tacked onto this side of the hall. As well as its clay floor or floor make-up we found an area of 'hoggin' filling a cut and pierced by a large silt-filled stake hole – perhaps the seating and support for a valued specimen plant in a container.

This lay above a dump of material over 44 cm deep with some pieces of mortared brickwork within it (12) and, at the north end of the trench, the foundations (10) of one of the suspected bay windows. These foundations, with a thin layer of rubble above them and surrounded by the

dumped material, indicated that the east façade (and so presumably the others) of Forty Hall once had two rectangular bay windows projecting 0.95m from the wall we see today, and probably about 3m long. The remains of the brick and mortar foundations were engaged in the wall, showing that the bays were original features. Some of the mortar was cream and some of it at a slightly higher level white, suggesting some hiatus in construction. As it would not originally have been seen, here the main wall of the hall, with an offset or thickening the length of the bay, included some irregular construction work using broken and possibly salvaged bricks.

The gap between the wall of the hall and the bay window foundation was filled with a deposit (11) deriving from the demolition of the bay which was full of brick fragments, mortar, nails, moulded plaster work (probably from the window surround), slate, lead off-cuts and a flooring brick fragment.

We need therefore to imagine Forty Hall as originally having had regularly spaced projecting bay windows – perhaps two storeys high – with pitched slate roofs with lead flashings and, inside, perhaps brick floors.



Some time after the demolition of these bays, which documentary evidence assembled by Geoffrey Gillam suggests was c.1700 when the hall was owned by a Mr. Wolstenholme, a mortared brick vaulted drain (13) was inserted, running at an angle to the wall of the hall. It was only seen in a sondage (a deepening of the trench) and not investigated closely as it may still be part of the hall's sewerage system (!), but it was probably of late 18th/19th century date to judge by its bricks.

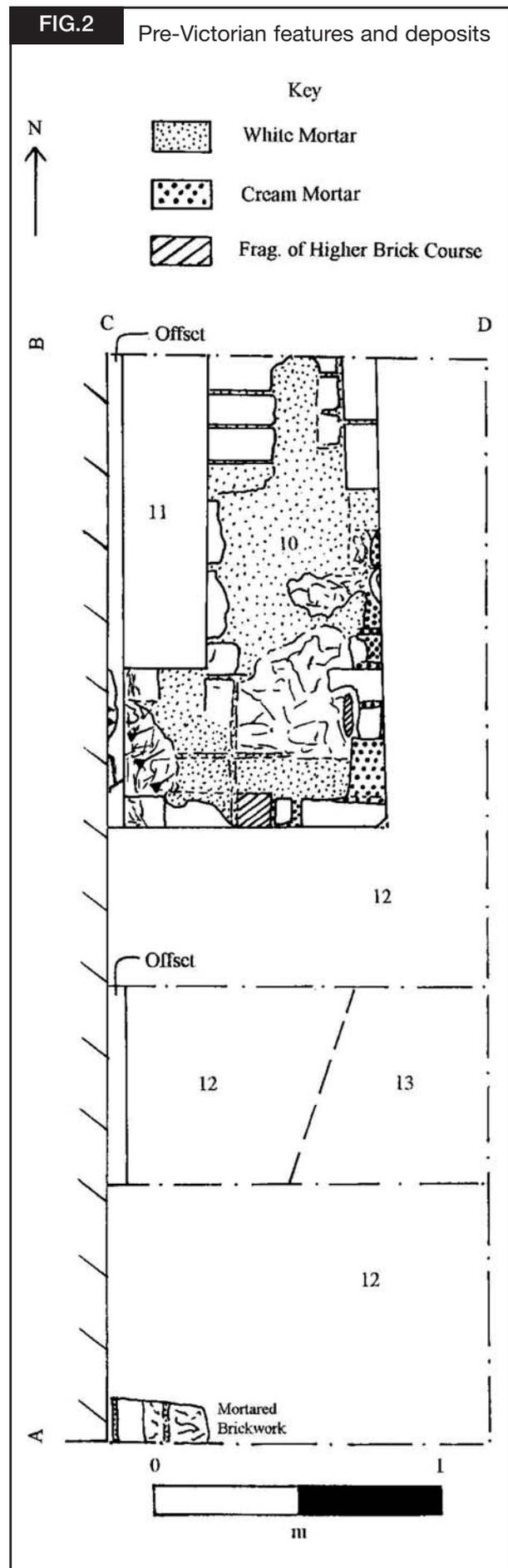
One other suggestion by Dr. Wittrick – that a door into the cellars of the hall had once existed here – could not be confirmed. Though we found evidence in the irregularity of the brickwork at one point for some sort of lintel having been removed at some time, below this at the sort of depth such a door would have been our sondage found only a further offset in the external wall marking a change in the brick bond used. The existence of external cellar access here therefore seems unlikely on present evidence.

Amongst the finds from the excavation a possible pewter goblet or candlestick base fragment may particularly be noted.

Thanks are due to Gavin Williams, the manager of Forty Hall who commissioned the work on behalf of the London Borough of Enfield, Dr Wittrick for sharing his research with us, and especially to all those members of the Society who pursued the excavation despite the scorching sunshine.

References:

Gillam, G (1997) *Forty Hall, Enfield* Enfield Archaeological Society





EAS Outing to Piddington Roman Villa

On Saturday 20th August a full coach load of society members, friends and relations set out for a visit to Piddington Roman Villa to see both the museum and the excavation site.

During the journey Martin Dearne gave an interesting and informative talk on the rise and fall of the Roman villa in Britain and after about an hour and a half on the road we arrived at our destination, the pretty village of Piddington in Northamptonshire.

After dividing the group into two roughly equal halves, one group went off to visit the excavation, while the other half took the short walk to the museum. Inside the museum (an old chapel building converted into a museum, office and educational

area) Liz Friendship-Taylor, one of the archaeologists on the site, gave a talk on the long road to the conversion of the chapel and answered questions. This was followed by a visit to the museum itself, where many of the artefacts discovered at the villa site were displayed, together with information about the development and layout of the villa. The objects displayed included not only artefacts to be found in a well appointed villa, but also military objects.

Leaving the museum, the group then took the pleasant walk through the fields to the excavation site, where Roy Friendship-Taylor explained the layout of the villa and the earlier fort. Piddington was a large and luxurious villa, built on the site of an iron age settlement, probable Roman fort and an earlier, smaller villa and the site has been investigated by the Upper Nene Archaeological Society since 1979. A wealth of material and information has therefore been gathered and anyone interested in Roman Britain would be well-advised to refer to it.

After all the fresh air and exercise, lunch at the pub was very welcome and enjoyable. Altogether, the day was a great success, thanks to all the hard work put in by Martin, David and Tim. A special vote of thanks to Martin for the sacrifice of an ox which ensured good weather throughout the day!

Caroline McKenna

The committee are keen to know what members thought of the trip, to help plan possible future outings. What went right, or could have been better? Do you have any ideas for interesting trips? Please let us know.

CAMLET MOAT

One of the many mysteries about Camlet Moat in Trent Park concerns the origin of the name of this royal hunting lodge and centre of administration for Enfield Chase for part of the Middle Ages. It has often been assumed that the name is a corruption of Camelot, the castle of the legendary King Arthur. The stories of Arthur and the Round Table were very popular during much of the period, especially during the 14th century from which time the earliest of our sparse documentary references to the site come.

However, the word Camlet existed in the Middle Ages and its meaning had nothing whatsoever to do with King Arthur. The information below comes from *A Dictionary of Medieval Terms and Phrases* by Christopher Coredon and Ann Williams published by Brewer in 2004.

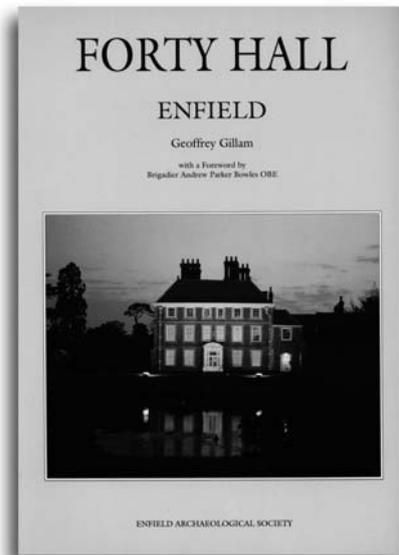
"Camlet. A luxurious material from the East, light in weight and used for cloaks; possibly of mohair (angora wool) among other materials. From the Arabic Kamlat=the nap or pile of velvet."

I leave it to the ingenuity of members to come up with a connection.

Ian K. Jones

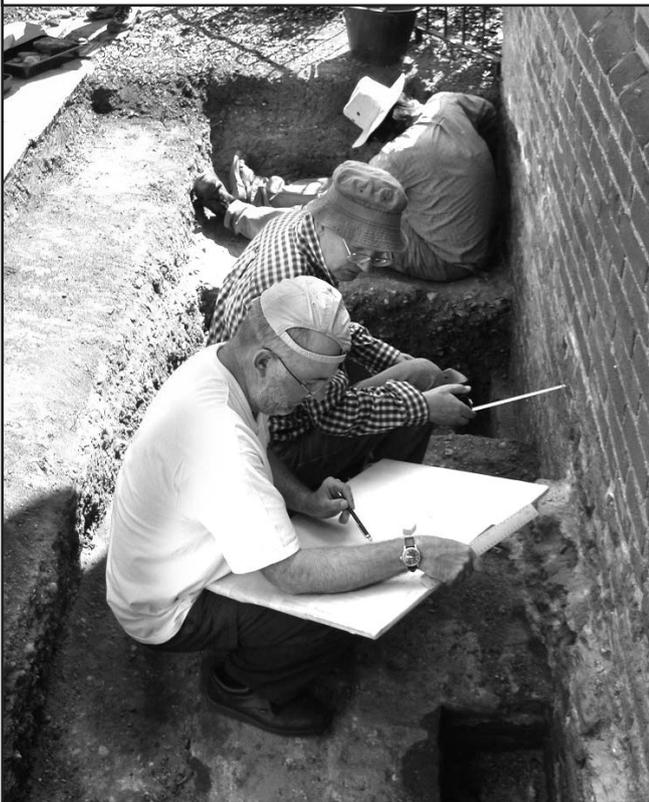
Enfield Archaeological Society Publications, 1966-2005

- 1966 **The Site of Elsyng Hall.** *V. Gregory, I. Drayton, G. Profit*
- 1971 **Industrial Archaeology in Enfield.** *EAS Industrial Archaeology Group*
- 1971 **Roman Sites and Finds in the Parishes of Enfield.....Cheshunt**
EAS Romano-British Research Group
- 1973 **Prehistoric and Roman Enfield.** *G. Gillam*
- 1970s **Histories and Mysteries of Writing.** *J. Green*
- 1977 **A Documentary Description and History of Enfield Palace.** *I. Jones*
- 1982 **Enfield At War, 1914-1918.** *G Gillam*
- 1984 **The Royal Palaces of Enfield.** *I. Drayton & I. Jones*
- 1985 **Enfield At War, 1939-1945.** *G. Gillam*
- 1986 **Theatres, Music Halls and Cinemas in the London Borough of Enfield.** *G. Gillam*
- 1987 **Bury Lodge and Salisbury House.** *I. Jones*
- 1997 **Forty Hall, Enfield.** *G. Gillam*
- 2004 **The Royal Palace of Elsyng at Enfield.** *D. Hill*
- 2005 **Elsyng. The Ongoing Rediscovery of a Tudor Palace.** *M. Dearne*



This list of locally produced publications is complete to the best of my knowledge but does not include articles published in the London Archaeologist and LAMAS journal nor the various archive reports produced both by Society members and by contract archaeologists at various times.

Ian K. Jones



Note on recent EAS excavation reports

Martin Dearne has been working hard over the last year or two to produce full excavation reports promptly after each of our recent digs. Those which appear in the Bulletin are generally summaries – full archives are held by the EAS and/or other relevant parties (such as Forty Hall). We are also working towards making the full archive reports available for inspection at EAS lecture meetings. Anyone interested in obtaining copies of full reports at cost price please let us know via any of the Society officers.

MDL05: archaeological evaluation at Myddelton House, March 2005

summarised from the archive report by Martin J. Dearne

Readers will remember that in a previous excavation at Myddelton House in 2004 (*Society News* 174, Sept 2004) the EAS found structural remains which we believe are probably a part of Bowling Green House, the possibly Elizabethan house which was demolished in the 1820s. These remains lay just to the south of the present house. Therefore when the Lea Valley Park (owners of Myddelton House) planned to lay an area of concrete hard standing in an adjacent yard only 10m or so to the west, head gardener Christine Murphy approached the EAS to carry out test excavations to establish whether there were any further remains which would be threatened.

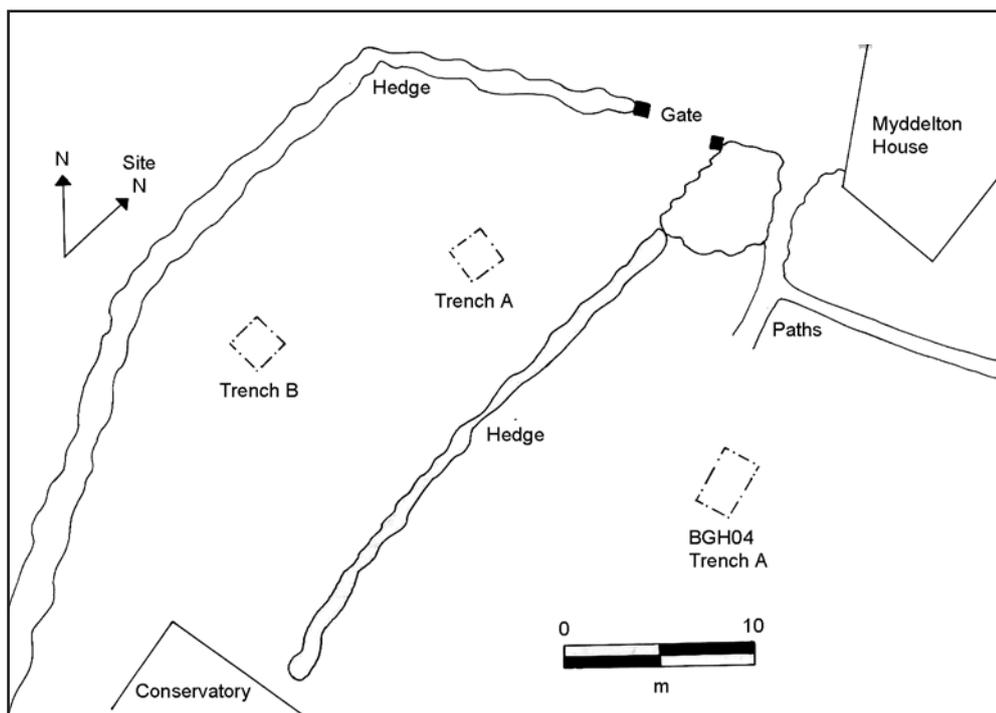
Two 2-metre square test pits were dug over the Easter Bank Holiday 2005 (Fig 1). Trench B to the south did not yield any significant archaeological

features, and so it was discontinued once we had excavated safely beyond the 0.3m depth expected to be affected by the hardstanding.

Trench A was much more interesting and was pursued to a greater depth, though it contained no in-situ structures. It contained several distinct layers of demolition deposits, the finds from which were consistent with an early 19th century deposition date.

The demolition material was quite homogeneous compared with that from the 2004 excavation, consisting mostly of broken hard-fired orange-red unfrosted bricks which originally measured 22.0 x 11.5 x 6.5 (sometimes 7.0) cm, and of hard-fired orange-red peg tiles originally 17cm wide. There was also one well-made ridge tile 31cm long. Many of the bricks retained a white to cream mortar containing small stones (up to 3mm). Interestingly there was very little window glass or roofing slate, in contrast to the 2004 test pit. This might suggest the demolition layers here are associated with a part of the building of different construction to that encountered last year.

Rarer materials included three pieces of dressed limestone, including a possible fireplace dressing slab and a fragment of polished floor flag (possibly of Derbyshire limestone) and a few fragments of



Trench Location

FIG.1

mortar moulding, one of which was similar to a fragment from 2004.

A large amount of bottle glass was recovered, adding to the 2004 evidence of a 'clearing out' of a substantial collection of old bottles at the time of demolition. This included at least 16 bases and 24 shoulders, necks and rims (all string rims) and over 300 other fragments. One partial base may have belonged to an Onion Shaped Bottle of c. 1680-1720, and there were up to six possible Mallet shaped bottles (1720-1735), along with at least 9 post-1735 Cylindrical bottles, at least one of which may have been of early 19th century date (judging by the shallower kick up on the base).

A complete seal from an ?18th century olive green wine bottle was found (Fig 2). This consisted of a separately applied circular pad of glass 4.2cm in diameter impressed with a circular die showing an incomplete impression of a crest composed of crosses and pellets surmounted by a crown, with lettering, possibly to be read as LYRMONT[]W[]I[] around the margin.

Pottery included a dozen sherds of tin glazed earthenware (Delft ware) which could all have come from the same late 18th century jar or drug pot, and ten sherds of German salt-glazed stoneware (Bellarmine) dating from mid 16th-18th century.

Finds in the make-up layers above the demolition deposits tended to be from the later 19th or 20th centuries.

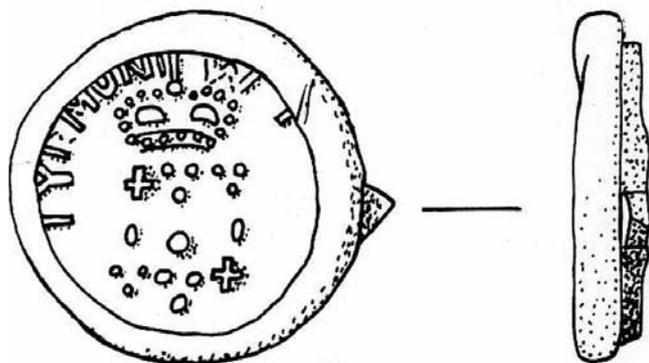


FIG.2

Wine Bottle Seal



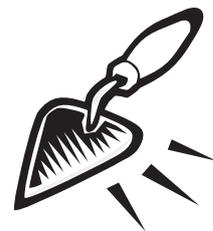
The excavation of 'Trench A' in progress

The excavation suggests that it is unlikely that structural remains of Bowling Green House survive in the area affected by the hardstanding, and that any archaeology affected by the development is unlikely to be of great significance. Those finds which were retained after recording were passed to Lea Valley Park at Myddelton House for their collection.

The EAS are grateful to Lea Valley Regional Park Authority and especially Christine Murphy for commissioning this work and facilitating its progress. The author would like to thank all the members of the EAS who took part in the dig and particularly Mike Dewbrey (assistant project manager), Roger Dormer (site supervisor) and Peter Spindley (site surveyor).

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



The digging season is almost at an end for another year. 2005 has been one of our busiest years so far and the Pastfinders have moulded into quite a proficient excavation team which, thanks to Martin Dearne's timely Archive and Site Reports is now held in high esteem by English Heritage and other organisations such as MoLAS.

Those of you who came along to help out at the Elsyng Palace excavation in July were rewarded with the discovery of a brick built vaulted drainage conduit contemporary in date with the Palace running through our trench. A sluice or garderobe chute had been built into the top and filled with demolition material which contained a fabulous array of finds such as clay pipes wine bottles and a magnificent moulded brick decorated with a heraldic device (featured on the cover of this edition).

A full report on the excavation by our Site Director Dr Martin Dearne will follow but may I take this opportunity to say a big thank you to all the diggers who shifted tons of spoil over the two weekends in searing temperatures and like me enjoyed every minute of it!

The excavation was broadcast live on radio London once again and hundreds of people turned up to watch and help with pot washing. The public as usual bought along objects for us to identify which included a brown paper bag full of bronze Roman bracelets bought at a car boot sale! and a beautifully decorated bead that a gentleman had dug up in his garden which we believe came back from India after a military campaign in the 19th century.

We hope that early next year we will be able to open some more evaluation trenches in the area of the Smithy at Forty Hall to establish the extent of the site and assess tree root damage to the archaeology, but this still depends on the outcome of a meeting with English Heritage and the Council.

The coach trip to Piddington Roman Villa resulted in 28 out of 29 seats on the coach being filled and a full report will follow in the near future, it is hoped that perhaps a further trip can be organised for next year.

Other projects in the pipeline are some fieldwalking of a site off the Ridgeway and further investigation of the garden mound by the lake in Forty Hall which may yet reveal evidence of the 18th century ice house.

Members of the Pastfinders have also assisted Waltham Abbey Historical Society recently who have been excavating the back garden of a house in Church Street close to the Medieval market place in Waltham Abbey, which may reveal evidence of occupation dating back to the bronze age. Others have been taking part in the WEAG training dig at Copped Hall.

The Society also joined the Enfield Museum Service at the Autumn Show in the Town Park with a display of photographs and archaeological material from the work of the E.A.S within the Borough, and also a demonstration in the art of making chain mail by yours truly - it can be quite therapeutic when you get the hang of it!

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

The public examining finds at the Elsyng Palace excavation

