

Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



*Visit our
Festival of
British
Archaeology
Events!*

Theobalds Palace
(Cedars Park)
Sunday 15th July

Elsyng Palace (Forty
Hall)
Sunday 22nd July



Top: Face from a German Frechen stoneware 'Bartmann' found at Cedars (see p. 8).

Forthcoming EAS Events:

Festival of British Archaeology:

See left

Lectures:

14 Sept: Update on Copped Hall Excavations

12 Oct: Post-Medieval Archaeology in London

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

The Editor is Jeremy Grove

Evening meetings 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



If you would like to attend the EAS lectures, but find travelling difficult, please contact the Secretary, (Tel:) and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.

Enfield Archaeological Society

(with The London Borough of Enfield Museum Service and Forty Hall)

invite you to join us as we

UNCOVER THE RAINTONS OF FORTY HALL

From 10am on the 22nd July 2012
(within the tree lined avenue in the grounds of Forty Hall, Enfield)



Come and watch the culmination of several days of archaeological excavation. Will we discover more about a building believed to have been built by Nicholas Rainton the younger in the 1650s after he demolished the Tudor royal palace of Elsyng which once stood here ?

Learn about the royal palace and the finds made on its site in recent years

See how local archaeologists and others unravelled the story of the building of Forty Hall itself by the first Nicholas Rainton (and how subsequent owners altered it) during its recent redevelopment.

And then visit the newly refurbished hall to learn more about its history.

A free 'Under Your Feet: The Archaeology of Elsyng Palace' event
for the annual Festival of British Archaeology

www.enfarchsoc.org.uk

Updates at enfieldarchaeology.wordpress.com

EAS Evening Meetings:

14th September

Update on the Excavations at Copped Hall

John Shepherd, Copped Hall Trust Archaeology Project

12th October

Post-Medieval Archaeology in London

Jacqui Pearce, Joint Editor, Post-Medieval Archaeology

16th November

Vice Presidential Address

Jon Cotton

EAS Fieldwork



The Society carries out a busy programme of excavation and other practical activities in the Borough. Please contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) for more details if you are interested.

Regular diggers please note the following confirmed dates:

Sat 14th – Sun 15th July

Festival of British Archaeology dig at Theobalds Palace, Cedars Park

Tue 17th - Sun 22nd July

Festival of British Archaeology dig at Elsyng Palace, Forty Hall.

Note that for the first time we will be digging through the week in preparation for the weekend Festival of British Archaeology event.

Meetings of other Societies

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

18 July The History and Mystery of Oakfield Road, Southgate
Geoff Jacobs

19 Sept John Constable - artist
Jeffrey Page

17 Oct *Tales from an heir hunter tracing beneficiaries*
Alan Lamprell

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

9 Oct The Life and Legacy of George Peabody
Christine Wagg

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

7.45pm, Woodford County High School, High Rd, Woodford Grm

10 Sept Mithras in Britain
John Shepherd

8 Oct Finding Neanderthal Tools in Norfolk
Ken Ashton

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm, Parish Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey

20 Sept 19th Century Experiences of Essex Farmworkers
Ted Woodgate

18 Oct The Crown Jewels & the Tower of London
Gerry Wykes

SOCIETY

MATTERS

AGM Minutes

The AGM was held on 20 April. For ease of reference, the minutes will be published in the March 2013 edition of Society News, along with the agenda for the next AGM.

Meeting Reports

Enclosing Londinium: the Roman Landward and Riverside Walls

16th March 2011: Harvey Sheldon

In March we were pleased to welcome Harvey Sheldon once again, to deliver his Presidential Address, on a subject close to his heart, the walls of Roman London.

The existence of the landward walls, running from the Tower of London in the east to the River Fleet in the west, has never really been in doubt, since the medieval defences largely followed the same line, and the survival of Roman fragments has long been known.

Proving the existence of the riverside wall was much more difficult. It now seems that the riverside wall was destroyed by river erosion, just as a 12th century chronicler, William FitzStephen, said. But until excavations at Baynards Castle in 1975 it was difficult to prove its existence. Writers still argue that it was a relatively late (late 3rd – early 4th century) addition – wrongly in Harvey's view.

The wall at Baynards Castle was built on timber piles. The anaerobic conditions allowed dendro-dating to be carried out in the 1980s, once the dendrochronological sequence for Roman Britain had been worked out, by which time further stretches of the riverside wall had also been found. The results suggested a construction date of about AD 255-275 or slightly later.

The founding fathers of LAMAS feature strongly in the early history of the investigation of London's defences. Indeed LAMAS was founded largely to fight the destruction of ancient remains in the city, including the wall – such as the stretch south of Tower Hill station. It was largely thanks to Charles Rouch-Smith, a city chemist, that enough Parliamentary pressure was got up to stop “the destroyers”. But other impressive survivals were destroyed during the construction of the inner circle railway.

Ralph Merrifield concluded that the landward walls were a unified creation. With a length of around two miles, this would have been a massive project, using about a million Kentish ragstone blocks in its facing alone. Fragments survive to the fourth tile levelling course in places, suggesting a height of around 14½ feet (4.5m) to the wall walk, and therefore 21 feet to the top of the battlements. Oolitic limestone was used for the coping stones. Turrets appear to have been incorporated, of which four are known.

Dating relies on assumptions about style, dating of pottery fragments and early 3rd century coins in a turret. This has left room for views to vary, but most now accept a date of around AD 200.

Twenty or more bastions on the wall have been identified, numbered (in modern times) anti-clockwise from the Tower. Most are regarded as later additions. Some, like Bastion 14 outside the Museum of London, were hollow, while those on the east were solid. Today the hollow bastions are considered to be medieval, and the solid ones late Roman.

In 1852 bastion 2 was encountered, with up to 125 re-used Roman stones in it, many bearing inscriptions. It was suggested that one of these could be from the tombstone of one Julius Classicianus – the Roman Procurator after the Boudiccan revolt mentioned by Tacitus. Remarkably, this was proved in 1935 when a further fragment was identified by Frank Cottrell.

The gates occurred at angles in the walls, probably suggesting that they were in existence before the walls were built between them. The only archaeological evidence for the gates comes from Newgate at the end of the 19th century, where gatehouses were found flanking a double gateway. The structure was different to that of the walls.

Peter Grimes, investigating bomb sites after World War Two, located an extensive fort, probably of the early 2nd century, the north and west walls of which were incorporated into the city wall. This explains the odd kink in the north west of the circuit. The fort came as a surprise, as it is the only stone fort to have been found in the 'civil' zone. Four times the size of a standard auxiliary fort, it would have dominated Ludgate Hill.

An earlier phase of Londinium's defences may be represented by very military style ditches and a timber revetment found at Plantation House in 2004.

JEREMY GROVE

Watching Brief at Broomfield Park
December 2011

(Site code BPK11)

By Martin J. Dearne

Many will be familiar with the sorry tale of Broomfield House in Southgate, the originally, if much altered, sixteenth century Grade II* listed house which was ravaged by fire in 1984 and whose future remains uncertain despite many initiatives to see it restored. However, fewer are perhaps aware of the significance of the garden (now park) within which it sits.

The house was altered in the early eighteenth century when a staircase with a significant set of murals (dated 1726) by Gerald Lanscroun was installed, but probably at the same time the pre-existing Tudor garden around it was re-modelled as an (unusually partly surviving) 'Dutch' style Baroque water garden (first depicted on Rocque's mp of Middlesex of 1754). Extant or cartographically/archaeologically known elements of it include a line of three square and rectangular ponds on the west and two north south pond fed canals on the north, while west of the ponds a series of parterres are likely to have existed. West of them the west wall of the garden including entrance gaps/piers giving on to an originally Elm (now Lime) tree avenue are also likely to be of the early eighteenth century and in late 2011 the London Borough of Enfield, who were considering replacing the gates that would once have stood here, asked the EAS to monitor two small contractor cut evaluation trenches between the piers.



Fig 1: looking west towards the now gateless piers

The work identified the demolished sixteenth/early seventeenth century buttressed west boundary wall of the garden and recorded elements of the construction of the standing early eighteenth

century gate piers, the probable settings for separate gate posts and a brick threshold for the main gates.



Fig 2: The buttressed Tudor wall running up to a brick reinforcing for the C18th gatepost, next to the standing pier in one of the smaller gaps



Fig. 3 Part of the larger central gap with the Tudor wall on the left, C18th gate threshold higher on the right and again slightly projecting brick packing for the gate post next to the pier

Although a relatively small piece of work which (thankfully as it was a freezing cold day) took only a few hours, this adds to our understanding of just how the gardens at Broomfield were bounded or accessed at different periods and will hopefully inform the borough's plans for any restoration of what was probably quite an imposing gated entrance.

MARTIN DEARNE

Excavations at Theobalds Palace, Cedars Park, Cheshunt, 2010 & 2011

(Site Codes THE10 & THE11)

By Martin J. Dearne
(Illustrations by the author & Neil Pinchbeck)

Theobalds Palace was created by William Cecil between 1564 and 1585, acquired by James I and IV in 1607 and remained a royal palace until the Civil War, after which it was largely demolished and its very extensive and important gardens abandoned.

Continuing work at the site focused in 2010 on a toppled wall already seen in 2009 (Marked THE09/10 in Fig 3 overleaf – the 2010 trench is the enlarged area to the north. For a full summary of the 2009 work see Society News 19*). In 2011 work moved on to try and locate other elements of an outer court of which the wall may have formed a part (Fig. 3 marked THE11).

While we know that there were three main courts to the palace (whose plans were reconstructed in the mid twentieth century by the architectural historian Sir John Summerson), an inventory taken prior to demolition seems to indicate the presence of a fourth court, and this could explain the presence of the large wall found in 2009 running north from the main approach road to the palace (known as the 'Old Drive'), which we also excavated then.

The 2010 work essentially examined in more detail a longer stretch of the wall and more of the rubble deposit burying it to try and establish if it was indeed a free standing wall and not part of a building (which was confirmed) and to try and date it. It was found that the wall, which might have had a buttress at one point near the edge of the road, had been partly demolished, and then the rest of it was toppled into a ditch cut along it on the east side. It was then covered by demolition rubble and in part by a resurfacing that widened the approach road to the palace.

Although the wall's construction date remains unknown, a fair amount of pottery, clay pipe and wine bottle glass recovered from the rubble suggested that its demolition happened in the final decades of the seventeenth century (perhaps in the time of William Bentinck, Earl of Portland, who

was granted the former palace estate by William III in 1688). The road, however, was probably still in use and being kept in repair until the later eighteenth century at least.



Fig 1: The demolished wall with the rubble filled ditch visible in section to the right (photo Neil Pinchbeck)

To try and show whether the 2010 wall was indeed the east wall of a fourth court, attention switched in 2011 to walls marked further north, but still to the east of the palace, by John Thorpe on a (not very reliable) map of 1611. These walls might conceivably have formed the north side of this court (be it one not fully marked by Thorpe or only fully enclosed later, perhaps by Charles I who lived at Theobalds much of the time but was (rightly!) very nervous for his personal safety).

Excavation conditions here were difficult due to ground drying and, as it turned out, considerable early nineteenth century disturbance, but no walls were found, suggesting that they may have lain further north, or that all trace of them had subsequently been removed.

However, what was found was a very large east-west running arched brick drain which crossed the middle of the trench at some depth. It may well belong to the palace, but had been extensively repaired in the early nineteenth century, probably because it had been re-used by one of the large houses that formed Theobalds Square, the development of gentlemen's houses which was erected on the site from c. 1765.

At the south end of the trench we also identified a gravel surface with a probable flanking ditch running east-west and holding a silt with a little pottery in it which suggested that it may well have belonged to the palace phase and so could have been part of this outer court.

This surface had been replaced by another (softer) surface in the second half of the seventeenth century and it is very tempting to link this to the demolition, at roughly the same time, of the wall excavated in 2009 and 2010 and the resurfacing of the palace approach road. This surface may then have been extended to form the road-bounded 'island' at the centre of the Theobalds Square development (and after its demise have had a nineteenth century path or ride lain over it). However, the degree of early nineteenth century disturbance and probable backfilling associated with the drain repair meant that interpreting the stratigraphy was challenging to say the least!

Finds in 2010 amongst the rubble burying the wall included parts of Metropolitan Slipware vessels (a jug, a chamber pot and a dish decorated with wavy lines and spirals probably made at Harlow), a Surrey/Hampshire Borderware porringer (breakfast bowl), numbers of Post Medieval Redware vessels including a colander and much of a Midlands Purple Ware butter pot, together with clay pipes of 1610 – 40, 1640 – 60 and 1680 – 1710.

In 2011 there was a Jetton (Nuremberg Token) from the ?Palace phase gravel surface and a sixteenth/seventeenth century copper alloy belt clip (Fig. 4) which was unstratified. Parts of two masks from perhaps seventeenth century Frechen

Bartmann stoneware jugs (Fig. 4) also came from nineteenth century levels and complement a complete one (Fig. 4) on a bottle neck found in the park in 2011 by Adrian Hall, the park manager.

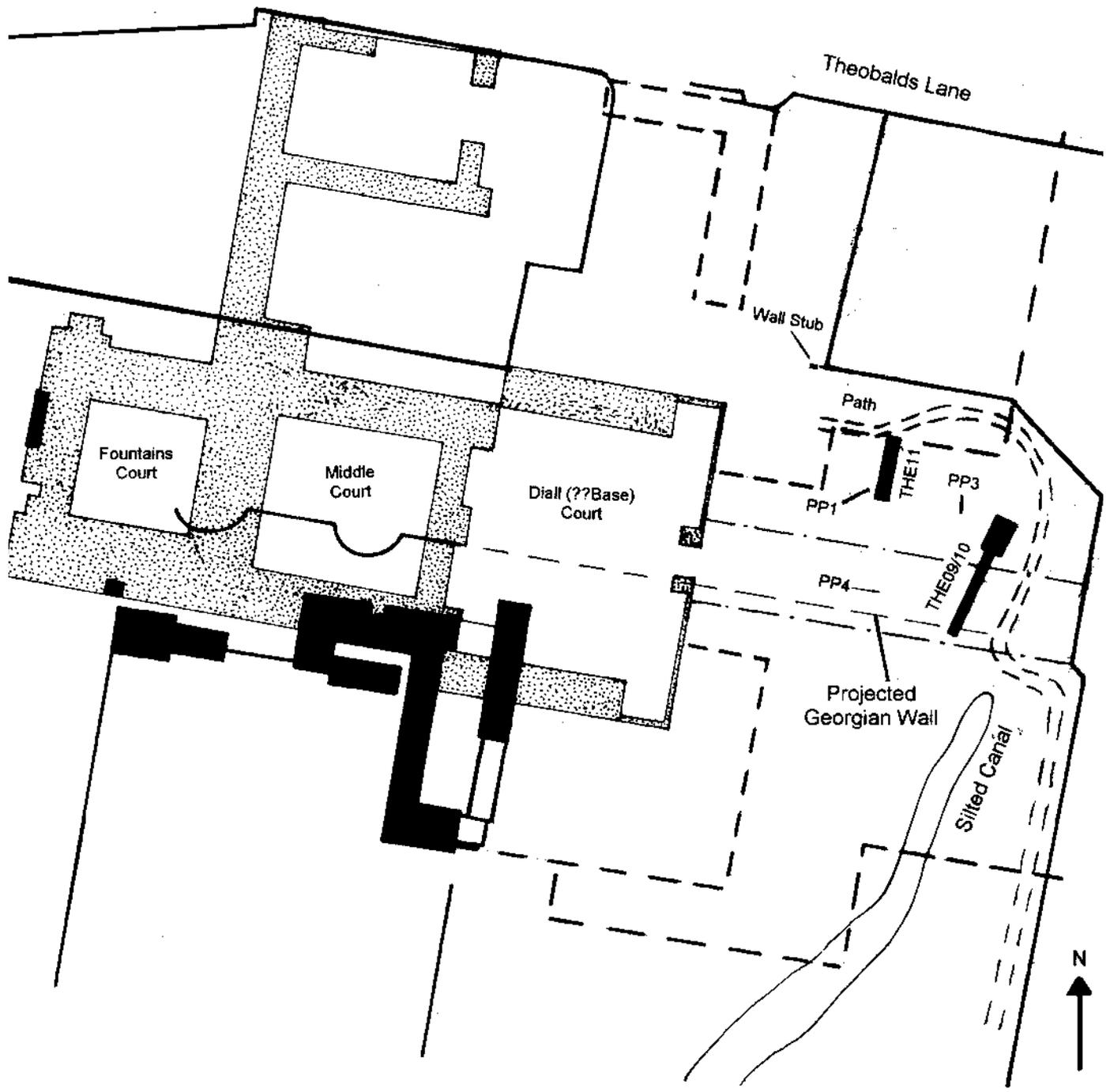


Fig 2: Metropolitan slipware dish, probably made in Harlow

Archive reports have been issued on both sites and it is hoped to examine the palace drain further in 2012. In the meantime other work is ongoing, including test pits cut by Neil Pinchbeck in 2011 (including PP1 – 3 shown on Fig 3) which have given us some idea of the causes of magnetic anomalies disclosed by a geophysical survey commissioned by the Borough of Broxbourne (who own the site and we are working closely with).

Ian Jones has also continued to identify and Neil Pinchbeck to record items of palace stonework which appear from time to time. In the topsoil of the 2010 trench was part of a fireplace overmantel in the form of a figure, either a Caryatid (full length female), Atlante (full length male), Herm (3/4 length figure on a pedestal) or a Term (tapering pedestal merging into a human figure at the top). Scrub clearance in 2011 revealed parts of four balustrade balusters.

MARTIN DEARNE.



Key

- Selected Standing Buildings/Boundaries
- Summerson's Palace Plan
- Old Drive Line Assuming 14m Width and Summerson's Palace Axis
- Features from Thorpe 1611

Fig 3: Trench location in relation to Summerson's plan and speculative mapping of other known Palace features at 1:1,000 (based on a scaled mapping of Summerson and a suggested interpretation of other features by Neil Pinchbeck)

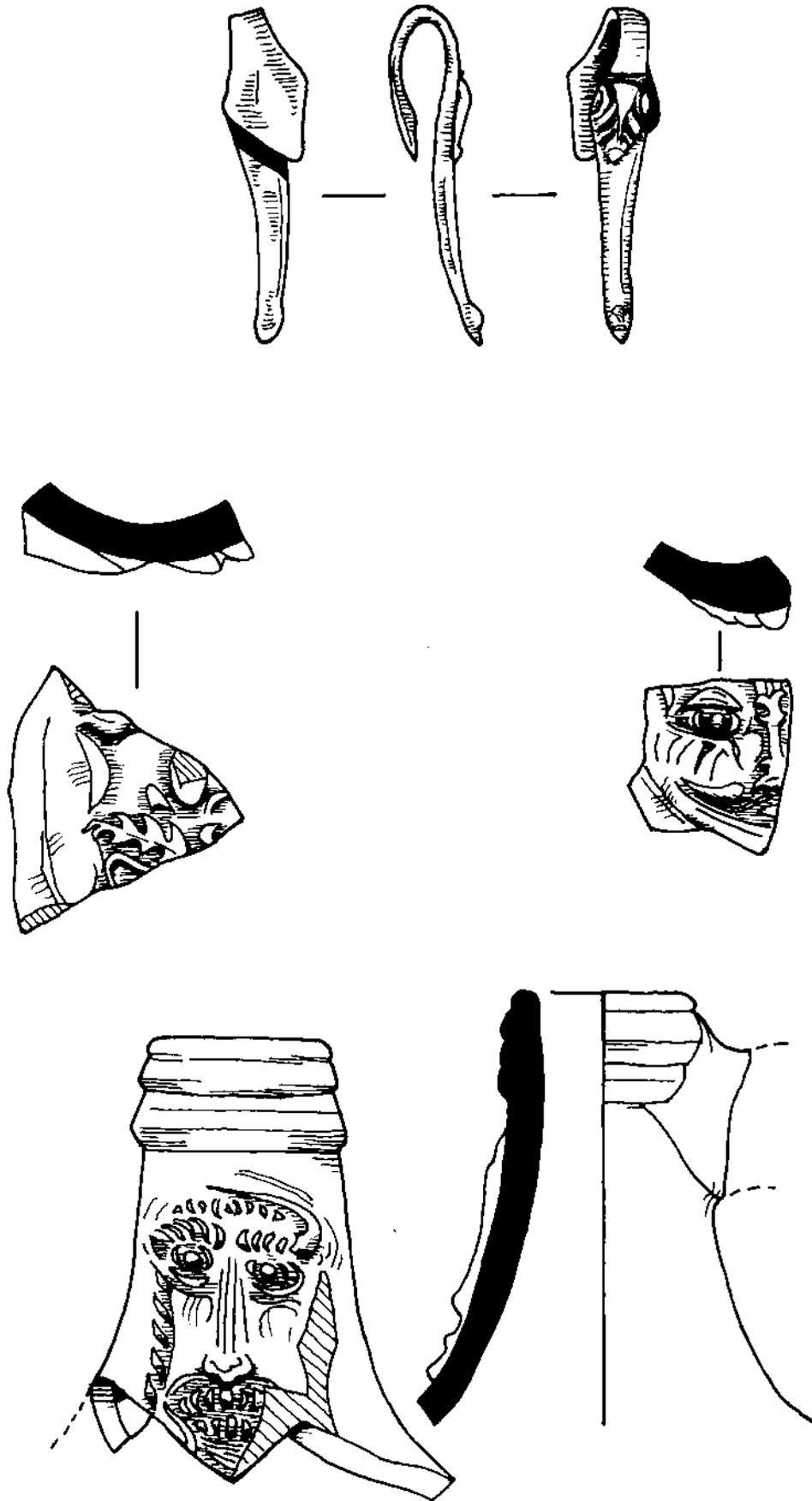


Fig 4: Copper alloy belt clip (top) and Frechen Bartmann masks from the 2011 excavation (centre) and Frechen Bartmann mask on a bottle (casual find)

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



In April the great British weather thwarted all our attempts to organise a field walking event on the site of a medieval manor which has produced a scatter of Mesolithic flint over the last few years after ploughing.

However over the May bank holiday weekend, regardless of the elements, the E.A.S. Pastfinders turned out in force for three days digging at Cedars Park, to the west of the site of Theobalds Palace. We were grateful to the driver of the mini digger who gave up his Saturday morning to strip the top soil from four trenches across the projected line of a silted up ditch. Cartographic evidence did little to explain the origins of this drainage channel which will eventually separate the site of the new relocated car park from the area of the scheduled monument that is or was Theobalds Palace.

Once the overburden of 1970s building rubble had been removed it became apparent that the ditch had been re cut and scoured on more than one occasion over time but the origins of this feature alas lay in the 19th rather than the 17th century. With the landfill and rubble removed frustratingly little evidence of primary silt remained. Small fragments of cream ware and Victorian pottery were the only finds with hardly any material from the demolition of the palace.

It was concluded that the ditch was probably an overflow channel from the Old Pond which is close by and utilised within living memory as a convenient dumping ground for local rubbish. The diggers were rewarded for their efforts with the discovery of a brick lined culvert feeding water from the channel under what appeared to be a footbridge that once led east towards the garden of 18th century Old Palace House.

We were pleased to see some new diggers who were given the chance to get their trowels dirty and thanks to everyone who came along to help out including Ailsa, Caroline and Val for manning

or should I say ladying the interpretation table and marquee.

In July for the Festival of Archaeology we have two large scale excavations on the calendar. This year for the first time the Elsyng dig will last a full week (see website for dates) opening trenches over the barn like structure we discovered last year. The excavation at Theobalds, also in July, will cut a trench locating the point where a substantial brick lined 17th century palace drain we discovered at the end of last year's dig runs under(?) a demolished wall we uncovered the year before. The question we hope to answer, are the two contemporary or does one structure pre-date the other? Watch this trench to find out the answer.

If you wish to come along and help this summer all you need to dig is enthusiasm, a paid up membership for insurance purposes, and a stout pair of boots. If you intend to dig with us on a regular basis it is well worth investing in a good quality 4 inch hand trowel, which will last many years if you don't lose it on the spoil heap! We always hope for dry weather on a dig which is always a bonus but the downside of too much sunshine is a ground surface that is so hard especially when digging under trees that it necessitates the use of a mattock to peel away the stratigraphy. Mattocks are never kind to fragile finds such as clay pipe bowls or pottery so perhaps a good downpour the day before would be a blessing. A more detailed report on the Theobalds dig will appear in a later Bulletin in due course.

Other news - a small team carried out a watching brief while two wildlife ponds were dug by machine close to Myddelton House. The report was that despite the proximity of 17th century Bowling Green House hardly any evidence of human activity was revealed in the well cultivated soil of Gussy Bowles gardens.

MIKE DEWBREY