



Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



Excavation of a possible brick clamp near Elsyng Palace, April 2005 (p.6)

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

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Enclosed:

Flag Fen Coach Trip & WEA application form

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Forthcoming events

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 17 March

Radio Valves and Enfield, An Industrial History

Bernard Eastwood

Enfield has an impressive and fascinating industrial heritage, and we are delighted to have EAS member Bernard Eastwood to speak about the invention of the Radio Valve and how it came to be developed and manufactured here in Enfield by Edison Swann, a firm with which Mr Eastwood has had many years service and involvement.

Friday 21 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 19 May

Presidential Address

Harvey Sheldon, BSc, FSA, FRSA

It is three years since Harvey was last able to lecture to the society, and his talks have always been popular, with past topics including the early history of London archaeology, Time Team and the Romans in Greenwich, and the forts of the Saxon Shore.

EAS coach trip to Flag Fen

Following the success of our trip to Piddington Roman Villa last year, we are arranging a trip to the internationally important Bronze Age site excavated by Francis Prior at Flag Fen near Peterborough on 3 June.

We will get a guided tour of the site, which includes a preservation hall with exposed Bronze Age timbers, a museum, a stretch of exposed Roman Road, and reconstructions including Bronze and Iron Age Houses.

Book now using the enclosed form. Priority will be given to bookings from EAS members up to Easter but after that any remaining places will be offered to neighbouring societies and others on a first come first served basis.

Joint WEA/EAS coach trip to Kent

Also enclosed is a booking form for the annual coach trip with the WEA on Saturday 20 May. This year the destination is Lullingstone Roman Villa and Knole House in Kent. Prices including entry £20 (£19 concessions), or less if you are a member of the National Trust, English Heritage or both.

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.



Meetings of other Societies

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm unless otherwise stated in the Jubilee Hall,
Parsonage Lane, Enfield

22 March

AGM and Three London Suburbs
(Islington, Ealing, Carshalton) • *Graham Dalling*

19 April

The Cecil Family and Hatfield House • *Richard Cross*

18 May

The Hospitallers and Templars in the Enfield Area
Pamela Willis

28 June

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

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

7.45pm (unless otherwise stated), 6th Form Unit,
Woodford County High School,
High Road, Woodford Green

10 April

Dead Greeks - Funereal Images
Richard Woff, Museum of London

8 May, 8.00pm, Assembly Hall,

RUDGE LECTURE - The Temple of Mithras 50 Years On
John Shepherd, Institute of Archaeology

12 June

London Under Ground • *Denis Smith, Birkbeck College*

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm in the Victoria Hall, Greenyard, Waltham Abbey

23 March

Puddephatt Memorial Lecture –
Waltham Abbey's Inns & Taverns • *Ray Sears*

28 April

AGM & President's Address • *Stan Newens*

19 May

The Boston Tea Party & Paul Revere
Rev Franklin Huntress

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

11 April

Maintaining Order, Fighting Chaos: evidence for Egyptian
warfare in the Petrie Museum • *Kathryn Piquette, UCL*

9 May

Kingsbury Old Church, including a topographical survey
of the churchyard • *Andy Agate*

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

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

11 April

Freakes Memorial Lecture: Musical Interludes in the
History of St Paul's Cathedral • *Rev. Gordon Giles*

LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

6pm for 6.30, Learning Centre, Museum of London

12 April

New London Gallery at the Museum of London
John Clark, Medieval Curator, MoL

17 May

Post-Medieval Burial Grounds in London
Natasha Powers, MoLSS

SOCIETY MATTERS

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER

Please remember that
membership subscriptions fall
due on 1 January each year,
regardless of when you joined
the society.

(Except that subscriptions of
new members who joined
since 30 September 2005
remain valid until 31 December
2006.)

If you have not yet paid for 2006,
please would you send payment
to the secretary, David Wills,
using the form which you should
find enclosed with this bulletin.

Ordinary Members: £9.00

Joint Memberships: £13.00

Junior Members: £4.50

Meeting Reports

Bromley Hall, Tower Hamlets

16 December 2005: **Andrew Wittrick**

In a slight change to his programmed lecture, Andrew Wittrick, a historic buildings surveyor, gave an interesting talk on recent work he has been involved with looking into the little known and intriguing history of Bromley House. This Grade II listed house stands on the A12 a quarter mile from the entrance to the Blackwall Tunnel. Its unprepossessing appearance gave little hint of its long history or its architectural significance, which has recently been uncovered in advance of its conversion to modern office standards.

In recent years the house has been in a poor state, surrounded by oil tanks and rubbish and damaged by squatters. Despite this, its last owner was keen on history and had started removing plasterboard to reveal a fantastic carved ceiling.

The building is much older than it looks – the recent work identified joinery, dressed stone and a doorcase (with hound and hind in the spandrels) of c 1490, and dendrochronology also dated the floor framing to 1490. Original lath and plaster partitions were discovered, and a blocked up window, apparently with tracery.

Most spectacular of all are recently discovered wall paintings. Over the main fireplace is a 1490s work of a large figure looking out of a window, maybe the oldest domestic painting known to survive in London, and probably overpainted in the early 16th century with a classical frieze.

It is thought there were two storeys of brick with timber above this. There is evidence of a 1490s spiral stair which has been removed, and it is suggested there was a small turret on each corner. The front wall is at an angle, respecting an earlier alignment. The frontage was probably adapted in the late 16th century with a new fireplace, and refenestrated around 1710.

MoLAS excavated an extraordinary pit in the principal chamber. The building appears to have been constructed on top of an earlier building. The building arch is supported on earlier stonework, and appears to

have been an opening originally. The hall is close to the River Lee, and a cut once ran right up to the house. Perhaps the pit represents some kind of water gate. The earliest available drawing, of 1573, shows the cut, and the house gabled.

It is thought the hall originated as a hunting lodge. Local newspaper stories would have it that it was a 'love nest' of Henry VIII.

By the 1760s it was a calico works – a rare plan survives from this time, possibly showing re-use of original estate buildings. A 19th century watercolour shows it looking much as it does today. In the 1920s it served as a training hospital and isolation ward (a 1920s style lightbulb survives in one of the light fittings!). The rear was damaged by a flying bomb in WW2.

Andrew talked of parallels with Tattershall Castle (string courses, windows) and Faulkbourne Hall (floorplan of tower) – some strikingly upmarket properties which really brought home what remarkable survivals can be found lurking in unexpected places if you only look hard enough.

JEREMY GROVE

Enfield Archaeological Society: The First 50 Years

20 January: **Geoffrey Gillam**

Geoffrey gave a splendid lecture to celebrate the Society's 50th anniversary, recalling some of the activities and characters from our first 50 years. Given the special subject matter, we intend to give this lecture fuller treatment than usual and include some illustrations – but due to lack of space in this issue you will sadly have to wait until next time for the first instalment! After 50 years, what do a few more months matter?

Antioch to Zeugma: The Archaeology of South East Turkey

17 February: **Ian Jones**

Ian presented another lecture based on his many visits to the Middle East, this time on the south east of Turkey where the Mesopotamian plain meets the Anatolian plateau. In the foothills of the plateau are some of the sites where there is the first evidence of

people settling down and beginning to farm. At Gobekli Tepe are double walled buildings and a shrine from around 9000 BC which housed hunter gatherers who exploited the herds of gazelle, aurochs and boar on the Harran plain below. Settlement continued for at least a thousand years while people only gradually turned to agriculture.

From 4000 BC the use of copper and later bronze was spreading through the Neolithic farming communities and the area increasingly found itself on the fringes of the evolving Mesopotamian world. From around 2000 to 1200 BC the city of Alalakh near the Orontes river flourished as a major trading centre and finally became part of the Hittite Empire. Much of the citadel dates from around the time of Yarim Lim, its greatest king, who reigned in the 18th century BC. The palace consists of a series of assumed public rooms leading off a reception court with private rooms beyond. All that survives are the richly carved stone slabs which formed the base of mud brick walls.

Karatepe, founded in the 8th century BC, seems to have served both as a frontier fortress protecting the plain of Adana and a summer residence for the king. The delightful feast scenes on the walls inside the south west entrance include the king, Atisawada, eating something which looks remarkably like a pastry. To the south-east is the unique site of Yesemek, source of much of the sculpture used in later Hittite palaces. There are still roughed out sculptures here awaiting transport to their intended sites.

At Nemrut Dag, on top of a remote mountain 2150m above sea level is the tumulus of Antiochus I, who ruled the kingdom of Commagene in Anatolia from 69 to 31 BC. The kings of Commagene created a unique fusion of Classical and Persian religions. The site was discovered in the 1880s and Ian showed us a copy of the 1883 site plan and photos of a German expedition, given to him by Geoffrey Gillam. The tumulus is 150m in diameter and originally 75m high, made of fist sized stones and is flanked by terraces on its east, north and west sides. On the east terrace a large altar platform faces the gods of Commagene flanked by slabs showing the descent of Antiochus from Darius I of Persia, through his father and Alexander the Great through his mother. On the north terrace are remains of processional way, and on the west terrace an astronomical slab, now fallen and in pieces, showing Jupiter, Mercury and Mars in a conjunction which can be interpreted as the date July 7 in 62 or 61 BC; the date when Antiochus was given the throne by Pompey. The sculptures here often link Classical, Persian and local deities in one

personification and are fine examples of late Hellenistic idealised work.

Below the Saffron Monastery near Mardin is a passage and undercroft of what is believed to be a Commagenian temple. The carefully bevelled stones of the ceiling form what is structurally a flat barrel vault.

In AD 72 Commagene formally became part of the Roman Empire. Towns acquired the baths and other features of Roman urban life, such as the aqueduct at Issus and the remarkable bridge at Cendere, whose columns honour Septimius Severus and his family. The mosaics salvaged from the now flooded Zeugma on the Euphrates demonstrate the incredible trade derived wealth of the area. The city of Antioch too is known for its superb mosaics, mostly dating from the 1st-6th centuries, but also remarkable is the 1380m canal (130m of which is underground) dug to prevent the harbour silting up

Ian's slides and commentary gave a fascinating insight some relatively little known, but very impressive sites and civilizations. We look forward to him bringing back more treasures (in photographic form of course) from his next round of travels.

JEREMY GROVE & IAN JONES

*Don't miss our
Flag Fen
coach trip and
WEA/EAS
outing -
see page 2*

Bricks or Iron : Excavations on the Periphery of Elsyng Palace 2005 (Site code ENA05) By Martin J. Dearne

INTRODUCTION

In addition to our work on Elsyng Palace in the grounds of Forty Hall (*Society News 176 & 178*) the EAS also examined a site about 150m from it in spring 2005. Following the observation of bricks emerging from the edge of what may be a hollow way track in the area of young woodland beside Forty Hill and roughly opposite Jesus Church (Fig. 1) the borough gave permission for and funded a small resistivity survey by HADAS followed by the cutting of an exploratory trench to determine whether there was archaeology present and whether it was at threat from the roots of the trees in the area. As ever on this Scheduled Ancient Monument (LO59) this was with consent from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and after consultation with Dr. Steven Brindle of English Heritage. The excavation took place on the 16th and 17th April.

THE FINDINGS (Figs. 2 & 3)

The L shaped trench revealed a deposit <4>, with a flat surface which was not excavated but was over 25cm deep where many animal burrows had penetrated it. It was a brown sandy clayey silt and might have been a deliberate floor surface or the flattened top of a dump. In places it was scorched and it had cuts / depressions in it which ran under the northern edge of a brick 'floor' <3>.

Filling at least one of these and spreading north of the 'floor' (which was not removed) to cover part of <4> was a black fuel ash layer <6> at least 5 cm thick, also present where areas of the brick 'floor' were missing, so that it was probably over 1.95 X 1.70m in extent. At least in some areas this had been covered by <12>, a very thin skim of material identical to <4> suggesting some resurfacing or sealing of the fuel ash deposit before the brick 'floor' had been lain. However, in those areas where parts of the 'floor' were missing it was often hard to tell if it sat directly on the fuel ash or if this thin skim of <12> intervened, though it was present where there was a large gap in the 'floor' at the west end of the trench and in the south west it had been discoloured and burnt so hard that it was recontexted as <11>.

The 'floor' itself <3> survived to a maximum extent of 1.80 X 1.63 m within the excavated area, though it clearly continued beyond the southern and perhaps north western limits of excavation. Despite what appeared clearly to be an area where part of it had been deliberately removed at the west end of the trench, where there was evidence of the bricks forming it being subjected to extreme heat, and further damage near the south east trench corner, it was apparent that it had been rectilinear and orientated approximately south east north west. It was constructed entirely of red, relatively soft fired, handmade, unfrogged bricks, 24 X 11 X 6 cm set unmortared, but with gaps between them, as stretchers on their edges in regular parallel lines running south east north west, parts of six lines being recorded. Its upper surface had a slope from south east to north west which may however have been due to heave from the unexposed roots of a

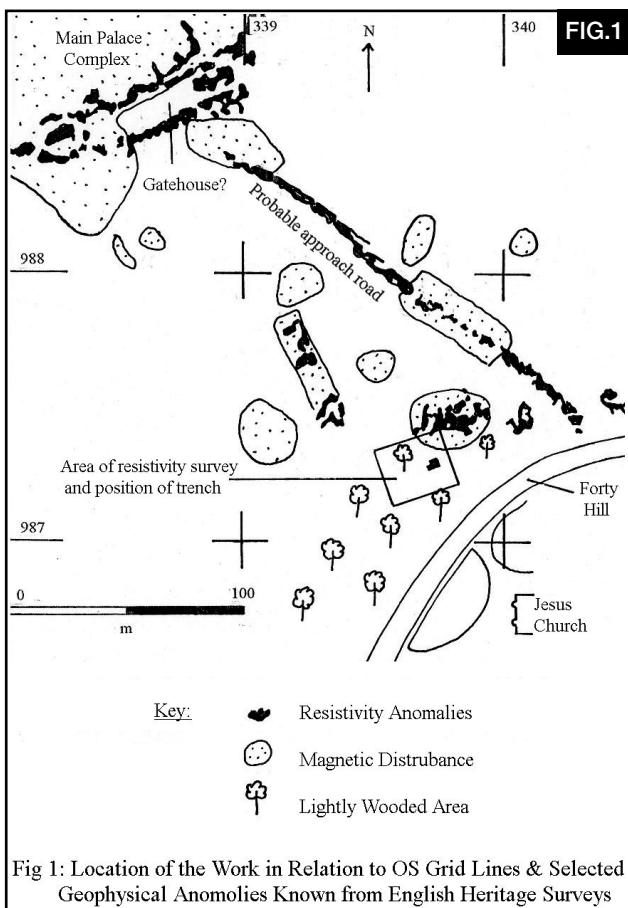




FIG.2

Below: The excavation in progress and left excavation completed



tree immediately to the south east. It was also apparent that some bricks were slightly misformed ('bent'), many had fragmented, numbers had become displaced vertically or horizontally to a degree and others at the east end were missing. Some of these missing bricks at least may have represented pre-burial damage but at this east end especially there was evidence of the destabilisation of the 'floor' and the distortion of its eastern margin by animal burrowing and tree root activity and it appeared again that one or both had resulted in some degree of 'heave'.

Integral to the floor were at least seven 11cm deep, c. 26cm wide 'compartments' filled with slag like material and created by the omission of one or more bricks (<5> and <7> to <10>). <5> had vitrified northern edging bricks and a western edging brick which had fallen to the east to lie flat had subsequently been highly scorched / vitrified. The slag like material completely filling these 'compartments' where they were not disturbed appeared to have built up in situ, forming blocks retaining flat surfaces where it had been in contact with the edging bricks. It was also apparent that at least parts of the surface of <3> may have been covered by a compressed layer of the slag like material including pieces of charcoal and especially coal.

All preceding deposits and structures throughout the trench were subsequently overlain by <2>. This was a dump of bricks, brick fragments and decomposing brick. The bricks were densely

packed and lying randomly despite some fortuitous examples of horizontal or vertical alignment. They included fourteen complete examples, numerous semi-complete, half and quarter complete examples as well as amorphous fragments and composed a layer c. 15 to 30 cm thick , with a 'ridge' on the east up to 42 cm thick (the origin of the bricks which had initially been noticed).

The bricks were completely free of mortar, red, handmade, unfrogged and often brittle in a homogeneous sometimes slightly sandy fabric often including rounded pebbles. They were typically 24 X 10.5 – 11 X 6.5 cm with a length range of 22.5 – 25 cm, a width range of 9.5 – 11 cm and a thickness range of 5 – 7 cm. A single near complete example was over fired and purplish with a prominent ridge on the edge of one face from 'dragging up' on mould removal. Their size variations in particular appeared to differentiate them from the bricks used in the 'floor'. The brick dump was very disturbed by tree roots and lay directly below top soil.

DISCUSSION

The site was initially interpreted as part of a smithy, all the evidence pointing to a high temperature process taking place especially in the north west corner of the trench, coal and charcoal representing the fuel and the slag like material appearing very similar to smithing slag. The thick fuel ash layer below the brick 'floor' was presumed to represent an earlier phase of smithing.

Continued overleaf

However, some problems with this were always apparent. An unmortared brick floor seemed rather insubstantial for the purpose, the ‘compartments’ were difficult to explain as they were clearly not structural, no walls were evident on the resistivity survey (although surveying was extremely difficult in woodland and it was the brick dump that probably produced most of the anomalies recorded), and the surfaces of <4> and the ‘floor’ seemed very clean and unworn for a smithy.

The probable solution was suggested by Paul Drury of the Paul Drury Partnership, who are currently undertaking a conservation review of Forty Hall for the borough. He suggested that the brick ‘floor’ might rather represent the base of a brick clamp (the temporary structure usually used before the development of formal brick kilns, and still used today in the developing world, for burning (i.e. firing) bricks) and crucially he had previously seen material like smithing slag produced by the vitrification of clay in the presence of wood ash in brick claps running at very high temperatures.

Further research is ongoing but it now seems likely that the fuel ash layer <6> represented a phase of brick burning using a clamp cut slightly into the surface of <4> (itself the fill of a pit to obtain the brick earth?). Subsequently, after a thin resurfacing represented by <12> a ‘floor’ of bricks seems to have been lain incorporating gaps between the bricks to supply air and ‘compartments’ to hold additional fuel and or allow air to circulate (possibly because at least a percentage of the fuel was coal). New (dried) bricks and fuel (sometimes incorporated into the bricks themselves as well) would have been stacked in layers above and the whole thing allowed to burn, probably for days, then the fired bricks removed. Whether the ‘floor’ of bricks we found was not entirely removed because it was intended to re-use it or because the heat had become too great and vitrified some of the bricks (as seemed the case at the west end), or alternatively not fully fired them (possible at the east end) is not clear, nor indeed whether the ‘floor’ was of pre-fired bricks (perhaps to give the new clamp a more solid base) or newly made unfired ones, but if the latter it raises the possibility of applying magnetic dating techniques to them. This would be very useful as no dating evidence except the bricks themselves (broadly sixteenth / seventeenth century) was found.

The dump of bricks sealing the possible clamp might have two origins. It could represent cleaned bricks salvaged from the demolition of the palace c.1657 but then dumped as, mostly being part bricks, not worth carrying away for resale; against which is the fact that there was not a trace of mortar adhering to them. Or they may represent the poorly fired and cracked / broken bricks that failed in this or another brick clamp’s firing, though there were few obviously over fired examples here which one might expect from a dump of ‘wasters’.

Whatever the details of the activity on the site (and we only sampled it in a small area in the work so it is too early to begin to speculate about whether for instance this and numbers of known geophysical survey anomalies in the general area (Fig. 1) might represent a series of clamps making the bricks for the building, or one of the renovations, of the palace) it is evident that tree roots and animal burrows are damaging the archaeology here and discussions are ongoing about how to address this.

ARCHIVE AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This summary is taken from the much fuller archive report on the site by the author which we hope to enable members to consult at lecture meetings and to obtain at cost if there is sufficient interest (please see a member of the committee if you are interested). It in turn is part of a larger formal site archive lodged at Forty Hall.

The work would not have been possible without the financial support and permission of the London Borough of Enfield and the practical help of various of its officers, notably Lorraine Cox, Bob Jennings, Grahame Pink, Val Munday, Jan Metcalfe, and Gavin Williams; and the support and advice of English Heritage, especially Dr. Steven Brindle. The author is very grateful as well to members of HADAS led by Christian Allen for undertaking the geophysical survey, and to all the EAS members who undertook the excavation, especially Mike Dewbrey (site supervisor), Peter Spindley and Jeremy Grove (surveying team) and Neil and John Pinchbeck (assistant site recorders). Particular thanks are due to Paul Drury for his assistance with the interpretation of the site.

FIG.3

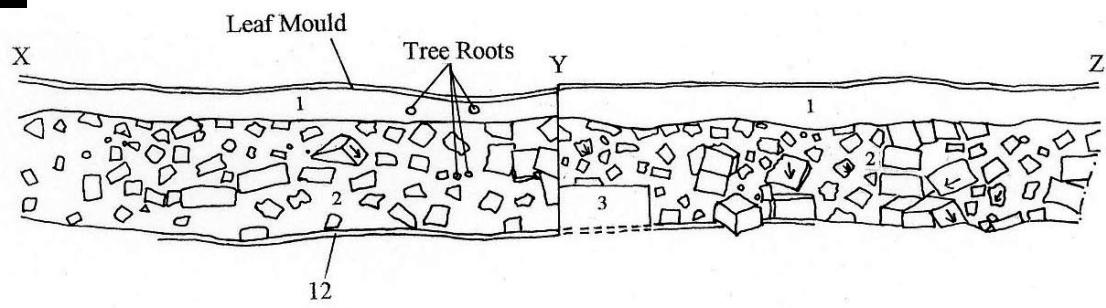
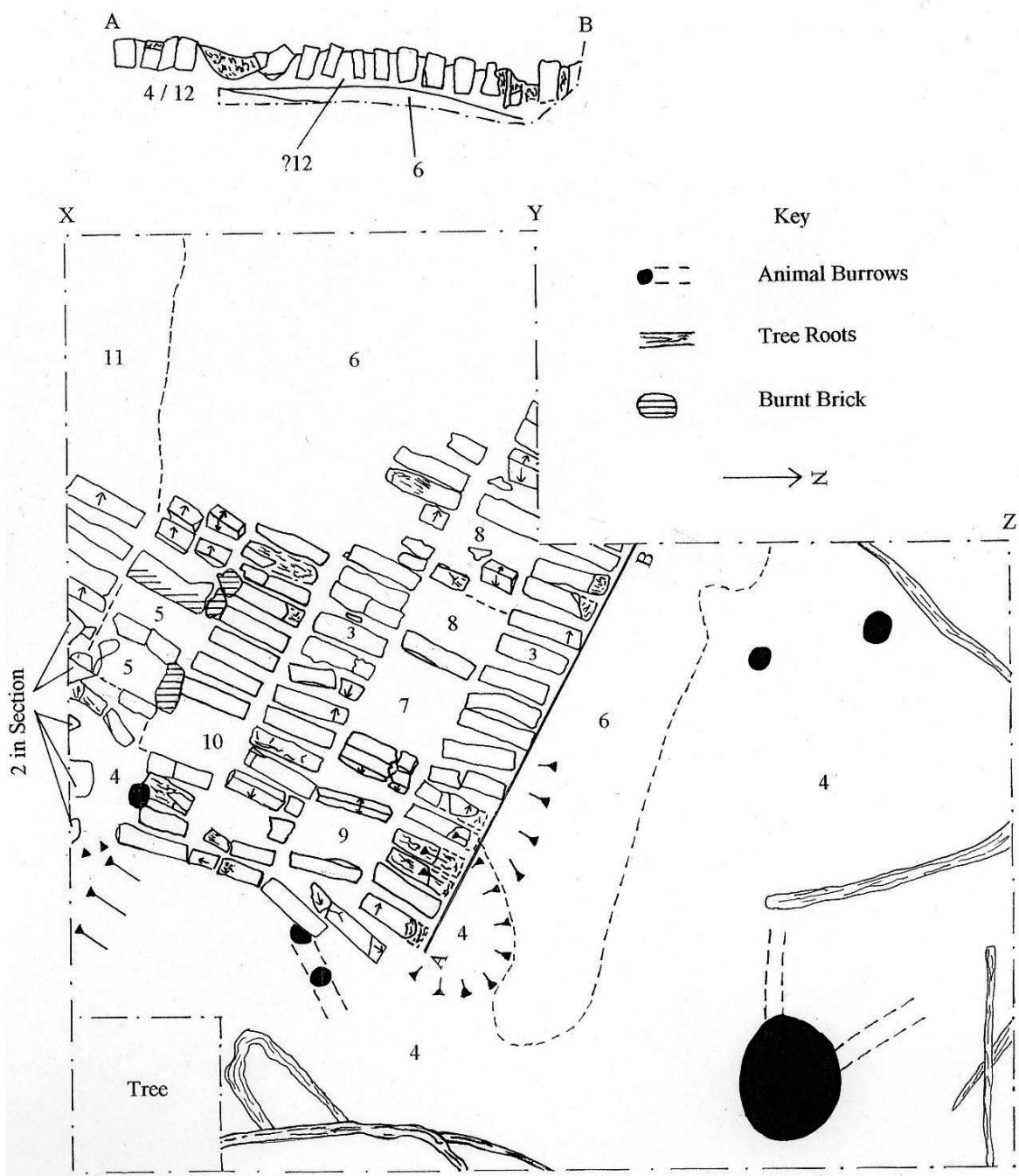


Fig. 3 : Excavated Features, Composite West Section (Above)
and Elevation of Brick Floor (Below)

0 60
cm





Enfield Archaeological Society

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2004

The Executive Committee of the Enfield Archaeological Society has pleasure in presenting its 50th Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2005

DENNIS HILL (1928-2005)

During the year our chairman Dennis Hill sadly passed away. Dennis had served as chairman of the Society since 1998, and had worked hard to further the Society's interests and build useful relationships with officialdom and with neighbouring societies. In particular he was instrumental in getting permission for our renewed work on the Scheduled site of Elsyng Palace. He will be greatly missed both as a servant of the Society and as a friendly presence at its meetings. Representatives of the Society attended his funeral, and it will be proposed at the AGM that a Dennis Hill Memorial Lecture should be instigated.

The Society is very grateful to our Vice Chairman Ian Jones for taking on the role of acting chairman, and to other members of the committee for taking on extra duties, during and after Dennis's final illness. A new Chairman will be elected at the 2006 AGM.

MEMBERSHIP

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

	Adults	Juniors	Total
Membership at 31.12.04	193	8	201
Joined during the year	24	2	26
Resignations & removals	34	3	36
Membership at 31.12.05	184	7	191

LECTURES

The Society is grateful to all the speakers who contributed an excellent programme of lectures during 2005 on subjects ranging from prehistory to the great age of steam. London and the south east were very well represented, with two talks on new Museum of London galleries, as well as Paddington Station, Copped Hall, Bromley Hall, royal and monastic west London and Saxon Kent.

Special thanks go to our Honorary Meetings

Secretary, Tim Harper, who again arranged the programme, looking after speakers, hall and serving of refreshments, and has already arranged another fascinating programme of speakers for 2006.

We are also grateful to the Enfield Preservation Society for the use of Jubilee Hall, Roger Eddington who transports and operates the projector and screen, and Caroline McKenna who meets and greets visitors and runs the sales and information table, and to all our members for supporting the Society in whatever way possible.

VISIT

After a break of many years, the Society arranged an independent coach trip to see the excavations and museum of the Roman villa at Piddington in Northamptonshire on 20 August, where we were shown around by the directors Roy and Liz Friendship-Taylor (*Society News 178*, Sep 2005). The trip was a great success, and as a result we hope to arrange another trip to Flag Fen in 2006.

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 and at Forty Hall: we are grateful to Enfield Libraries and Forty Hall Museum 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, 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 Societies work and especially the archaeology week dig at Elsyng Palace was very successful and greatly assisted again by Suzanne Linsey of the borough's publicity department, who we continue to work closely with.

We again joined the borough Museums Service on a stand at the Enfield show, where our display attracted considerable interest.

PUBLICATIONS

Society News is produced quarterly and contains notices of forthcoming events, reports of meetings and illustrated articles on matters of historic and archaeological interest in the area, in particular summary reports of the Society's fieldwork. Thanks are due to Honorary Editor Jeremy Grove, graphic designer Ernest James and the contributors of articles, particularly Martin Dearne and Mike Dewbrey.

Sales of the Society's last publication, "*Forty Hall: 1629 - 1997*" by Geoffrey Gillam continue steadily.

Limited circulation archive reports have been produced on five sites examined in 2005 and a new popular account of Elsyng Palace by Martin Dearne was produced and sold in leaflet form for National Archaeology Week.

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, promptly writing-up its archaeological reports, and directing its excavation and fieldwork to a professional standard. Special thanks are also due to Mike Dewbrey for organising the Pastfinders team of diggers, and to the team themselves for undertaking excavation work in all weathers.

The EAS fieldwork programme for 2005 was the busiest for some years. This activity has helped the Society to attract a growing team of active diggers, and we have continued to work to build up our skills base, with several training sessions for regular diggers being run by Martin Dearne.

In March the Society carried out an evaluation on behalf of the Lea Valley Parks Authority at Myddleton House, in advance of construction of a concrete hardstanding near to where we found evidence of the former Bowling Green House. We found some

demolition debris and much 18th century bottle glass, but no in situ remains, confirming that the hard standing was unlikely to seriously damage the archaeological record. (*Society News 178*, Sep 2005)

In the spring a trial excavation and (courtesy of HADAS) a resistivity survey near Elsyng Palace produced evidence of a possible brick clamp (*Society News 180*, Mar 2006)

In June an excavation at Forty Hall identified exciting evidence of a former bay window on its east front (*Society News 178*, Sep 2005). Further work is planned for March 2006 to investigate the remainder of this half of the east elevation.

Following test pitting in 2004, and new geophysical surveys by the Colchester Archaeological Group and HADAS in early 2005, the Society obtained permission for and carried out a much larger excavation on the site of Elsyng Palace during Archaeology Week in July. A brick arched drain was discovered, along with possible evidence of ground surfaces and other remains from the Palace, together with a significant number of finds broadly contemporary with the phase of decline and demolition in the first half of the 17th century. (*Society News 179*, Dec 2005). This was again a publicity success, with many visitors to the site, including tours by local schools, and much interest in the EAS stall set up at Forty Hall. LBC returned and once again broadcast from the site through the weekend, and the dig was well covered in local papers.

Towards the end of the year, the Society was involved in watching briefs in the Bush Hill Park area, where further Roman finds have come to light, and in rescue archaeology at Forty Hall. Work in both these areas continues and will be reported in due course.

Work has continued on post excavation work on the Leighton Road and Gilmour Close sites and the consolidation of the societies past work and collections. Our aim is to formalise 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 to publish much of our excavation 'backlog'. Work on a Heritage Lottery Fund bid to allow the publication of a monograph on Roman Enfield is however currently suspended, as it is not possible for the committee to devote sufficient time to carrying through all the commitments this would involve in addition to our existing work.

Any members wishing to take part in fieldwork or other activities should telephone Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (daytime).

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

As mentioned above the post of Chairman is vacant, as is the post of Honorary Social Secretary also remains vacant.

Any member willing to stand for these posts are asked to contact David Wills 0208 3645698 or 07966 203233 (mobile), or email david_wills1972@hotmail.com). Nominations are required at least 7 days before the AGM.

So to do the roles of Archive Officer and Publicity Officer. The committee has discussed the need for such posts and is minded to co-opt or propose for election any members wishing to volunteer for such positions.

THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WILL STAND FOR RE-ELECTION:

President: **Harvey Sheldon**
BSc FSA FRSA

Vice Presidents: **Dr Ild Anthony**
Ivy Drayton
Geoffrey Gillam

Chairman: **Mike Dewbrey**

Vice Chairman: **Ian Jones**

Hon. Treasurer: **Geoffrey Lampert**

Hon. Secretary: **David Wills**

Hon. Meetings Secretary: **Tim Harper**

Hon. Membership Secretary: **David Wills**

Hon. Social Secretary: Vacant (see above)

Hon. Editor: **Jeremy Grove**

Auditor: to be confirmed

Director of Fieldwork
and Research: **Dr Martin Dearne**

Committee: **Roger Eddington**
Caroline McKenna
Les Whitmore

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 50th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00 pm on Friday 21st April 2006.

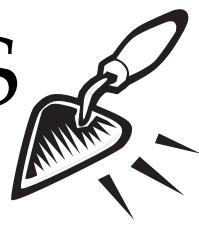
AGENDA

- 1) Minutes of the 49th 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 2007 (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) Designation of a 'Dennis Hill Memorial Lecture' for the 2007 programme.
- 7) 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
- 8) Reports of Fieldwork, Research and other Activities carried out during 2005.

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

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



It is my sad duty to begin the year by reporting the demise of one of Winchmore Hill's most attractive early Victorian villas, 'Cedar House', to make way for yet another development of flats. Those of you who know Winchmore Hill will remember this magnificent early 19th century gentleman's residence which stood opposite Sainsburys on the corner of Highfield Road. Most noteworthy was the ornate rendered facade and a beautiful wrought iron veranda. Alan Dumanyne's book 'Fond Memories of Winchmore Hill' mentions that a Mr Perigrine Purvis lived there in the latter part of the 19th century when it was described as a residence of considerable charm with grounds on both sides of the New River. The property was sold when Mr Purvis died around 1905 and land on the east side of the New River sold off for the construction of cottages in Cedar Road. Two large cedar trees once grew in the front garden giving the house its name. On March 28th 1916 one tree blew down in a gale and the second died shortly after. Mr Purvis filled his home with a fine collection of antiques and curiosities - valuable fittings such as Chelsea china doorknobs and finger plates were sold off in later years when the house changed hands. Later Cedar House was occupied by Chartered Accountants and more recently a day nursery. I have always maintained that buildings such as this should be locally listed to protect them from developers and preserve them for future generations. Why Cedar House was allowed to be bulldozed beggars belief.

On a lighter note the Pastfinders Excavation Team will be continuing its work on the site of Elsyng Palace in the Spring and I will contact everyone

once the dates are finalised. We have also been asked to open another trench in the rose bed close to the Hall to reveal more evidence of the missing 17th century bay windows which

we discovered last year. Please could all diggers ensure that their subscriptions are paid so that they are covered by our insurance if they wish to take part in excavation work.

The search for the elusive ice house at Forty Hall continues but examination of the mound by the lake proved inconclusive. Some broken tile and brick fragments were noted but alas no evidence of a structure. A substantial concrete plinth was located which may have supported a cast iron bench overlooking the lake in the 1930s which was removed, perhaps to be melted down to help the war effort. Since this investigation was more like microsurgery than keyhole archaeology the icehouse may still await discovery.

A phone call from the Borough Surveyors office gave details of a curious discovery by contractors installing new public conveniences at the junction of Turkey Street and the Hertford Road. A large void had been found descending into a bell shaped brick lined chamber. Constructed in the 19th century of yellow and red stocks, a number of arches led off in different directions blocked with rubble. The theory is that this chamber gave access to the drains which discharged into the Turkey Brook at that time. As the structure was unstable the contractors filled the void with concrete.

You will recall the barbed Bronze Age arrowhead from the cover of the last bulletin, found recently in a local farmer's field where an area of gravel is eroding onto the surface and other worked flint artefacts have also been recovered. It is hoped that we can organise some field walking in this area later in the year once the crop is harvested to look for further evidence of prehistoric occupation. The field in question is vast so we will need plenty of volunteers with keen eyesight to be available at short notice!

continued overleaf



On the cover this time we have a fortuitous discovery from the end of last year. A planning application had been submitted on a house in Bush Hill Park, which I had been watching like a hawk as it lay over the Roman settlement. Luckily I happened to be passing on the day the owner hired a mini digger to excavate the foundations for his extension! Needless to say we immediately went into overdrive! The householder granted us access and two days of rescue recording revealed two substantial Roman ditches and a gravel surface. Some small fragments of pottery were recovered but the star find was without doubt an impressive colour coated 3rd century indented beaker

with barbotine decoration buried beneath the gravel surface, probably intact but alas reduced to fragments by the mini digger. Most of it was recovered and painstakingly reconstructed for our cover photo by Martin Dearne. A fuller report will appear in a future issue, and we hope to have the vessel permanently conserved in due course.

The finds from the summer dig at Elsyng are now on display at Forty Hall and will remain there throughout the summer.

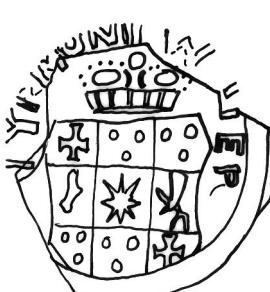
MIKE DEWBREY Tel: 01707 870888 (daytime) .



SNAP!

A casual find by Mike Dewrey at East Lodge Lane of a glass bottle seal (impressed mark) now allows us to better define the crest

on that found in the demolition material from Bowling Green House (in the grounds of Myddelton House) in March 2005 (see Society News 178, Sep 2005) and add a couple of letters to the inscription as it clearly shows the same stamp in a better impression. The illustration shows the new find unfortunately incomplete – with the traces of lettering from the Bowling Green House find added.



Mike's find



Find from BGH05 dig

The crest is now clearly a crowned divided shield featuring a central sunburst flanked by opposing rampant ?lions with the already known triple balls and crosses in the top and bottom rows. The inscription remains incomplete and open to interpretation but LYRMONT W[]?I?T)ER is likely and one is tempted to read LYRMONT WATER (mineral waters were imported in marked bottles in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries).

This is only an interim note prior to research on the crest and inscription but the author would be grateful for any information or suggestions regarding the identity of either.

STOP PRESS

Just as we go to press a third even clearer and complete example of the seal (along with a different one) has been found by Mike, again at East Lodge Lane, adding the detail that the central sunburst on the shield sits on its own shield shaped frame but more importantly enabling a complete and definitive reading of the legend as PYRMONT WATER. Jeremy Grove has suggested that this might refer to Bad Pyrmont, a spa town in Saxony (Germany) or more likely one of the artificial mineral waters deriving its name from here, and we are following up this possibility. Pyrmont water evidently had an established reputation as a natural mineral water by the late 18th century, and by 1798 one Jacob Schweppe was manufacturing artificial mineral waters at Cavendish Square, Westminster and advertising, among other products, 'Pyrmont Water'. His company is with us to this day.

MARTIN J. DEARNE