

Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



Recording of an 18th C or earlier courtyard wall at Forty Hall, exposed in 2007 during refurbishment of access to the public toilets (See p. 5). For female head, see Small Finds (pp. 4 & 10)

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- 19 March: Excavations of Roman London 2008

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

The Editor is Jeremy Grove, 119 Tenniswood Road, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 3HF, tel: 020 8363 9681.

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, David Wills (Tel: 020 8364 5698) and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.

2010 Lecture Programme

15th January

A Life in Local History

Graham Dalling

19th February

Rome: City & Citizens

Ian Jones, EAS

19th March

The excavations of Roman London 2008

Neil Hawkins, Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

16th April

The Excavations & Fieldwork of Enfield Archaeological Society in 2009 & AGM

Dr Martin Dearne & Mike Dewbrey, EAS

14th May

Presidential Address: The Rose Theatre.
New developments

Professor Harvey Sheldon

18th June

The Geoffrey Gillam Memorial Lecture

tba

17th September

Recent Archaeological works in London

English Heritage

15th October

Current life in Enfield Local History
Archive

John Clark, Enfield Local History Unit

19th November

Prescot Street E1 Excavations and Roman
Cemetery

Guy Hunt, LP Archaeology

December

Christmas Break - no lecture

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.

Meetings of other Societies

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
7.45 for 8.00pm Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley

12 January
Archaeology of Anglo-Jewry in London 1066-1290 & 1656-c.1850
Ken Marks

9 February
The Trendles Project
William Cumber

9 March
The History of RAF Bentley Priory
Erica Ferguson

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY
7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

20 January
La Route des Tonneaux et des Canons
David & Beryl Holliday

16 February
(2.15 for 2.30pm)
The Story of Ice Cream
Ruth Hazeldine

26 February
(7.45 for 8pm, Charity School Hall, Church St, Edmonton
Joint meeting with Edmonton Branch, The Enfield Society)
John Keats
Ken Page

17 March
Bulls Cross to Ordnance Road & AGM
Stephen Sellick

LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
6.00 for 6.30pm, Museum of London

12 January
A Place by the Thames: Exploring the Ancient Riverscape of
Fulham Palace
Natalie Cohen, Thames Discovery Programme

16 February
AGM & Presidential Address:
The Cult of St Zita of Lucca in London and Southern England
Prof Caroline Barron, President LAMAS

9 March 2010

The New Medieval Europe Galleries at the British Museum
James Robinson, Curator (Late Medieval Europe) British Museum

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH
7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

12 January
Queen Victoria: the First Royal Rebel?
Dr Kate Williams

9 February
The Battle of Agincourt (illustrated)
Professor Anne Curry

9 March
Why was the Monarchy restored in 1660?
Dr David Smith

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP
7.45pm, VI Form Unit, Woodford County High School,
High Road, Woodford Green

18 January (7.30 pm)
Social Evening

8 February
Boudiccan Revolt
Ralph Jackson

8 March (7.30)
AGM followed by report on
Recent WEAG Activities at Copped Hall & Wanstead Park

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY
8pm, Parish Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey
(please note new venue)

21 January 2010
The River Lea - part 1
Richard Thomas

18 February
A Place on the Hill - the story of "Ally Pally"
Jim Lewis

18 March
The Memorials in Waltham Abbey Church
Grenville Welch

SOCIETY MATTERS

Membership subscriptions – due 1 Jan

Please remember these fall due for renewal on 1 January 2010, irrespective of when you joined the society, unless you joined after 30 September 2009.

Please send the enclosed Renewal Form, together with the appropriate sum, to the **new** Membership Secretary, Lesley Pinchbeck, 68 Tynemouth Drive, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 4LT.

The rates are again unchanged from last year:

Ordinary Members:	£ 9.00
Joint Memberships:	£13.00
Junior Members:	£ 4.50

Please note that Joint Membership is defined as any number of named persons residing at one address and receiving a single copy of Society News.

New members who joined the Society after 30 September 2009 need take no action, as their subscriptions are valid until 31 December 2010.

Committee Changes

After many years' service, Roger Eddington has decided to retire from the EAS committee, although he will continue to man the projector at our lectures. We are very grateful to Roger for all his help over the years.

We are pleased to announce that following our recent appeal, Neil Pinchbeck, Lesley Pinchbeck and Angie Holmes have volunteered to stand for election to the committee as general committee member, Membership Secretary and Secretary respectively at the AGM.

Future of the Museums Service

Members may have been concerned to read a letter from the Enfield Society (formerly the Enfield Preservation Society) in the Enfield Advertiser in late September expressing concern at rumours that the Museum Service might not, on its relocation from Forty Hall, move to the first floor of Thomas Hardy House as previously understood.

If this proves to be true it is indeed a cause for concern and so the EAS committee intend to write to the Council clearly expressing our view that a centrally located Museum facility such as that offered by the first floor of Thomas Hardy House is essential for the Borough.

We know from experience what an excellent job the Museums Service do, but we are also aware of how little of the Borough's archaeological collection and other artefacts, often donated by local people, can be made accessible to the public due to lack of space. We do not believe it will be possible to remedy this situation without the provision of a good central space for both displaying and managing the collection.

17th century Venetian glass head from Forty Hall



On the cover this month is Martin Dearne's preliminary drawing of the remarkable glass head which was one of the many finds from the midden deposit we excavated this summer at Forty Hall. She deservedly made quite a splash in the local papers at the time.

Post-excavation work is still going on but it has been provisionally identified as a fine C17th Venetian cast glass head with a blue glass crown from the top of a bird feeder or goblet cover. The drawing on page 10 shows it at actual size.



Recording at Forty Hall, 2007
(Site Code FTA07)

By Martin J. Dearne

As has been said before in these pages archaeology can be a slow accumulation of individually minor findings. Just so the work we did in spring and summer 2007 at Forty Hall at the request of its manager, Gavin Williams, when the access paths for the WC block there were being renewed and slightly rerouted. Only brief clearance and recording was required when the contractors exposed the tops of two demolished walls and one of them was rapidly identified on old maps, though the other wasn't and it, and the details of the structure of the known one, just push our knowledge of the development of the hall forward a little more.

The known wall (Fig. 1 Wall 1), cut across by a later services trench, belonged to the eighteenth century or earlier when it bounded the existing courtyard at the west end of the hall before that courtyard was made more rectangular. It ran from the standing west end of Forty Hall to a point

where the existing courtyard boundary wall still shows the meeting of original and later brickwork (and may have been demolished when a Victorian predecessor of the 1928 extension of the hall was erected). Its three plus surviving courses were of header lain bricks faced on each side by a single skin of stretcher lain bricks, recorded in situ, with probable disturbed rubble from its demolition seen at another point. The new wall (Fig. 1 Wall 2) was (?early) nineteenth century and butted against Wall 1 before its demolition. It had a clay packed lead pipe stub in a void left in the wall and may have been part of a tank base or other feature served by a water pump inside the courtyard.

Not startling finds perhaps, but another little bit of the jigsaw of Forty Hall's development – and that is how archaeology usually works. Thanks are due to the Borough for commissioning the work, to Paul Drury (their heritage advisor) and to the small EAS team who did the clearance and recording. As ever the archive report (available on application at cost) was disseminated to all relevant authorities and archives.

(Much more has indeed been learnt about the development of this area of the Hall since this work, as will be reported in a future bulletin and at the AGM in April - MJD)

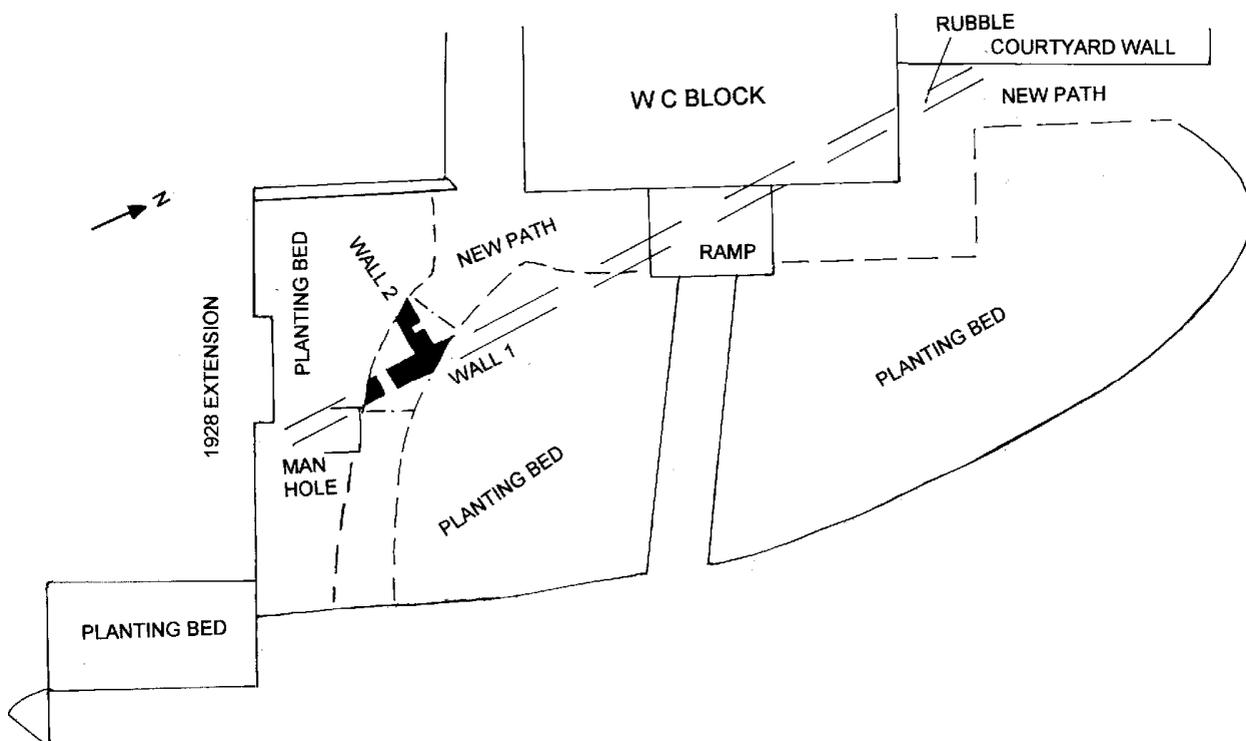


Fig. 1: Site Location and Walls (reproduced at 1:125)

BOOK REVIEWS

By Ian K. Jones

THE MEDIEVAL PERIOD IN THE LOCAL AREA

Brian Warren, Potters Bar & District Historical Society, 2009

For over 40 years Brian Warren has been researching and accumulating material on the South Mimms/Potters Bar area and this is the second in an intended series on aspects of its local history. He begins by reconstructing the geography of the area, principally its roads and bridges and then briefly describes the still surviving St. Giles' church.

Most of the booklet deals with the local manorial estates and particularly their court records which, here as elsewhere, are the most important source of information about the local people and their doings, generally illegal, as one would expect from such sources. The result is a wealth of detail including Amice Saly who was fined a penny after her three pigs damaged the lord's fishpond in 1345 and John and William Sterne of South Mimms who 106 years later broke into a house and stole goods worth 20 shillings including a "little sheet" and a "cartrope."

The author concludes this fascinating study with a look at attitudes to the hereafter, the problem of population size and the relevance of national events.

Price £2 plus £1 p&p from Mrs. Mabel Hammett, 4 Heath Cottages, Heath Road, Potters Bar, Herts, EN6 5US. 01707 657 120 or roymabel@hotmail.com. Cheques payable to Potters Bar & District Historical Society

THE DIARY OF AN AIR RAID WARDEN, 1939-1945

Edward J. Carter Chief Warden Waltham Holy Cross, Essex, 1939-1945

2nd (revised) edition. Waltham Abbey Historical Society, 2009

With 70 years having passed since the start of World War Two, the opportunity to preserve the personal memories of those who took part is slipping away. This is especially important as far as the Home Front is concerned as the official documentary record is often very patchy. Few places are as fortunate as Waltham Abbey to

have documents like this comprehensive diary kept by the Chief Air Raid Warden, Edward Carter, grandfather of our Editor, throughout the war. What makes this record even more valuable was that he was a keen photographer whose camera never seems to have left his side. This new edition of his diary has been lavishly illustrated giving us a detailed view of a small country town on the edge of an important industrial area plus the villages and farms around it. Hopefully people seeing this will be stimulated to search for similar records in other areas.

The training and organization of the ARP Wardens and other emergency services is first described, including a variety of exercises in one of which a "bomb" destroyed the Lea Road waterworks, a garage and two pubs, thus causing a shortage of three vital liquids. From 3rd September 1940 when a filling station and the Pan Britannica industries factory were destroyed (both photographed, the latter while still on fire) to 28th March 1945 when a V-1 Flying Bomb blew up a tree at the Claverhambury Kennels, he and his team helped deal with the aftermath of high explosive bombs, incendiaries, flying bombs and v-2 rockets. He also recorded many events over the border in Enfield and occasionally attended incidents there, sometimes out of pure curiosity.

The wealth of incidents described include hunting unexploded bombs at Lippetts Hill with the proverbial small boy, shovelling up glass in Church Street and dismantling a live parachute flare. This last was accomplished using a car jack, hammer and cricket stump. After accidentally igniting the flare, which they had to leave to burn itself out, they found the (intact) dispersal charge packed with felt pads which were taken to be used as a teapot stand! In 1944 the strain of dealing with the random strikes of the V-1 and the later V-2 rockets shows clearly, especially in his description of the V-2 incident at St. Leonard's Road, which killed almost an entire family and others including a small child. This scene was deliberately not photographed.

The editors have concluded with a large number of the author's photographs to give a detailed picture of aspects of ARP work including warden's posts and air raid shelters, now all presumably demolished, the incident control room and training. This splendid book provides material for military and social historians and even sites for archaeological research.

Price £5 + p&p, available from Waltham Abbey Historical Society, tel: 01992 716200. (Also available over the counter at Abbey Stationers, Market Square, Waltham Abbey)

Meeting Reports

The Archaeology of Bermondsey Abbey

18th September: Alistair Douglas, PCA

The site of Bermondsey Abbey in Southwark was Scheduled after DGLA found remains of the cloisters in 1987. Alistair described the results of further excavations from 1998 to 2008.

The Clunia monastery founded in about 1086 was probably on the site of an earlier Saxon establishment. The abbey was later taken over by the Benedictines. At the Dissolution it was acquired by Thomas Pope, who soon demolished it to build a fine house, which was later sold to the Earls of Sussex.

Evaluation trenches to a depth of only 1.2m in 1998 found little other than late Victorian, but further work in 2003 found packed chalk and sand foundations, since identified as the east and west walls of the cloister.

As a result English Heritage insisted that 22m piles be used when the site was redeveloped as 'Bermondsey Square' to minimise damage, as well as extensive archaeological recording. The project has been a complex one, with some of the pile positions being moved as a result of archaeological finds, and the present day antiques market carrying on while digging was carried out!

Evidence of settlement back to the Bronze Age was found, including more Roman than had been predicted. In one area of the site layers of post-medieval coffins were found, probably belonging to an 18th C dissenting cemetery. There are records of a Presbyterian meeting house here in the late 17th-18th centuries.

12th C foundations – packed layers of sand and chalk, a common London technique – included buildings along the precinct wall, which it is suggested may be guest accommodation. On the east side fragments of the floor of the post medieval house were found built over medieval foundations. Near the inner precinct wall were a

contemporary cess pit and well side by side – not unusual in London. The high incidence of cholera is not surprising. In fact elsewhere a well was cut through an old cemetery which was in use only 40 years earlier.

At the north east corner of the site, half a metre down, were the massive foundations of the south wall of the church, more than a metre thick and surviving to a height of 1.3m. Outside it was the cellar of Pope's house, which it was found had in fact been built re-using the foundations of the south wall of the church and of the north wall of the cloister.

The church was faced in Caen stone, with late 11th C pilasters, while the east end of the wall was later in style. Graffiti on a piece of Caen stone showed a helm, shield and falchion (sword). A western flanking tower to the entrance, perhaps added in the 12th century, also survives.

Later finds included a later medieval well house, a staircase into the cellars of Thomas Pope's mansion which re-used Abbey stone, a 16th-17th C bread oven, and a WW2 bomb crater complete with debris.

Like Grimes before them, Pre-Construct found chalk foundations pre-dating the Norman church. Alistair attributes these to an earlier Saxon minster on the basis that they don't fit the Norman plan (constructionally they use the same techniques as the Norman). Pottery dating throughout the Saxon period was found on the site.

Another section of the site, the 'island', was also packed with medieval foundations, which have not yet been sorted out. There were also medieval cyst tombs, both here and nearer the church, and the excavation has produced over 300 pieces of worked stone.

The site will be the subject of a PCA Monograph.

Prehistoric London Archaeology

16th October: Jon Cotton

Jon Cotton is senior curator of Prehistory at the Museum of London. He began his talk by reporting the results of a Museum survey that found that the top two associations of 'prehistory' for most museum visitors were dinosaurs and film depictions (tastefully illustrated by a slide of Charles Hawtrey in animal skins). Jon suggested that the survival skills of Ray Mears are a better parallel, and that prehistoric people should be

recognised as individuals. Another feature of prehistoric societies was the importance of the landscape and a sense of place.

One of the most investigated prehistoric landscapes is Heathrow, where a huge amount of excavation has been done in advance of airport expansion, especially in the last 25-30 years, and most notably with Terminal 5. There is a great deal of Neolithic archaeology including a 2.5 mile long cursus or bank barrow. This cuts a dead flat landscape, so if it did have a raised walkway in the middle it would have been a major landscape feature. It is cut by later Bronze Age ditches.

The Neolithic grave of a woman aged about 40 at Shepperton was excavated in 1989, and analysis of the lead residues in her teeth (which were ground down but in good condition) showed that she was not local originated from somewhere with a higher lead content in the groundwater, such as the Pennines, Mendips or Derbyshire Peaks.

From about 4000 to 1800 BC the area was dominated by mobile hunter gatherers, but there followed a changeover to more domesticated settlement with the laying out of field systems. Some of these were very long lived, lasting down to the Roman period.

The London Olympic developments have also lead to discoveries, including a 4000BC burial at Blackwall and settlements near Stratford sidings. The flood plain of the Lea Valley probably suited human settlement, and an important question to be answered is where the tidal head of the River Lea was during the period.

Richard Coates has suggested that the name Londinium has its origins in an earlier name 'Plowonida' for the Thames, meaning something like 'flooding river' or 'boat river', referring to the river where it was too wide to ford.

Much ancient drowned forest survives along the banks of the Thames, now being exposed by erosion, together with prehistoric finds including flint and pottery. On former sand islets, especially Southwark, evidence has been found of barrows, ploughing and wooden trackways of the mid Bronze Age. The Vauxhall structure and another excavated during construction of the Eton rowing lake may be causeways across sub-channels of the river. Many bones were found downstream of that at Eton.

There is no reason to suppose that London was a green field site when the Romans arrived, and soil layers may survive in several areas.

At a series of 8 or 9 early Roman period houses at Gresham Street in the City evidence was found of the manufacture of Iron Age-type beads made of crushed Roman glass.

At Harper Road in north Southwick a burial of about AD 50 has been found of a woman aged about 40-50. The broken torc or neck ring at her feet suggests she may have been British, but her other grave goods included a Roman wine jar, a North Italian bronze mirror and Samian pottery.

This evidence of continuity from the Iron Age to Roman period in London will be reflected in the new Roman Gallery due to open at the Museum in 2014.

Waltham Abbey Excavations 2008

13th November: Peter Huggins

In November Peter Huggins returned to report to us the results of the Waltham Abbey Historical Society excavations he directed in the summer of 2008, in which many EAS diggers participated.

The excavation took place to investigate the suspected infirmary chapel of the Abbey, in the Abbey Mead just west of what is now the Parish Office (the former Lea Valley Park Countryside Centre on the site of the Abbey Farmhouse), near to the 'Ancestor' statue.

Excavations under J. Musty in 1972 first identified a large aisled building in the area. This had been sub-divided between the pillar bases, and is now thought to have been the infirmary where sick or elderly member of the religious community were housed. Further sections of this building were excavated in 2003 before the picnic tables were installed.

Just to the south of the aisled building, a 1987 dig by the Passmore Edwards museum located what Huggins now identifies as the robbed out foundations of an apsidal ended building which he believes to have been the infirmary chapel. Glyn Coppack, formerly of English Heritage, suggested on the basis of a further scatter of stone debris seen in 1978 that this may have had a subsidiary apse to either side of the main one.

The 2008 excavation established that this was not the case (the stone debris proved not to be structural), but Peter suggests there may have been a single slightly smaller apse to the north of the previously identified one. It also located a pillar base within the chapel, and a possible west wall. This wall survived slightly better than most of

the other evidence for the chapel, which has been largely robbed away, and was well finished on chalk foundations.

Evidence of the southern end of the aisled building was uncovered, showing that the south eastern corner had been repaired (with Waltham 'Great Bricks') after fire damage, and that a further building had stood slightly to the south, which Peter suggests may have accommodated the infirmarer who ran the establishment.



S. E. corner of infirmary, with extension running further south. Looking S. W. toward 'Ancestor' and Abbey Gatehouse

Another very important find was the lead water pipe which supplied the whole Abbey complex with fresh water from springs at Wormley, some 3km away, passing under the River Lea on the way. This was found skirting very close to the apse of the chapel. A detailed account of the building of this conduit in 1220 survives, giving a remarkable insight into medieval techniques, and allowing the course of the conduit to be reconstructed in some detail – the more so now that the position of the southern end, suspected

from the 1978 records, has been precisely confirmed.

The ground on which this whole complex stood was part of the flood plain of the River Lea, and had been built up several feet from the natural surface by the successive dumping of whatever material was to hand, including iron slag (probably from the nearby bloomery forge excavated by Peter in the 1970s) and demolition material.

These make-up layers did not help a geophysical survey carried out by members of WEAG in 2007. Although this successfully identified features near the surface, it could not reach the more deeply buried chapel foundations.

The excavation also relocated a post-medieval stone trackway running diagonally across the Abbey Mead, part of which had been recorded in meticulous detail by the 1978 excavators, allowing the 2008 team to identify precisely the section they had come down onto. This track appears to run between a bend in the Cornmill Stream (where it would formerly have joined up with the navigable 'Long Pool' channel) and the post-Dissolution mansion. It is suspected that it was used for exporting materials from the Abbey post-Dissolution, and/or bringing in materials for the mansion.

Peter circulated an updated version of his well known plan of the monastic complex, including the results of the 2008 excavation along with other recent discoveries, including documentary evidence uncovered in the last year confirming that the moated garden to the east was formerly, as suspected, the 'New Cemetery' referred to in 1446.

Peter left us with a 'call to arms' for diggers for next year, when he hopes to locate the position of the '16th clearing hole' of the water conduit, which in theory should lie just across the Cornmill Stream to the north of the 2008 site. He would also like to locate a second pillar within the chapel matching the one found in 2008, and ideally the south-west corner of the chapel.

JEREMY GROVE

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



As another year draws to a close, we have barely had the time to reflect on the discoveries we have made over the last 12 months. Without doubt the weekend we spent excavating a 17th century

midden outside of Forty Hall in June and the amazing array of finds that it produced will stay with the excavation team for many years to come.

More recently 'Make a Difference Day' at Cedars Park in October uncovered yet more surprises when 18th century wall foundations were uncovered within the first hour of digging just beneath the topsoil. A worn brick surface within a

later foundation may be the remains of an early Victorian summerhouse or cart lodge. Some interesting finds were recovered on the day including an 18th century clay pipe bowl a bone cribbage peg and a complete stoneware bottle. The demolition deposits contained large quantities of broken window and bottle glass which suggest a date for the demolition of the structure of around 1920 which ties in with map evidence. As always we still have more questions than answers about this site but we hope to return to the site east of Theobalds Palace again next year to look for more pieces of this royal jigsaw puzzle.

I would like to express my gratitude once again to our stalwart team of diggers who have turned out in all weathers to assist with our excavation work this year. A special mention is due to Neil, Lesley and John Pinchbeck for the many hours they have spent sieving soil at Jesus church Forty Hill. They were rewarded with a splendid assemblage of unstratified worked flint tools and microliths which would otherwise have been lost, dating from the Mesolithic and Neolithic periods. Fragments of 18th century slipware and other pottery fabrics which may have originated from Old Sparrow Hall which use to stand where the carriage driveway into the church is today were also recovered, suggesting an early 18th century date for this building. It was demolished when the present Sparrow Hall was built in the 19th century.

It was encouraging to see some new faces on the excavations this summer, both young and old, who admitted they enjoyed themselves so much that they are looking forward to next year's digs

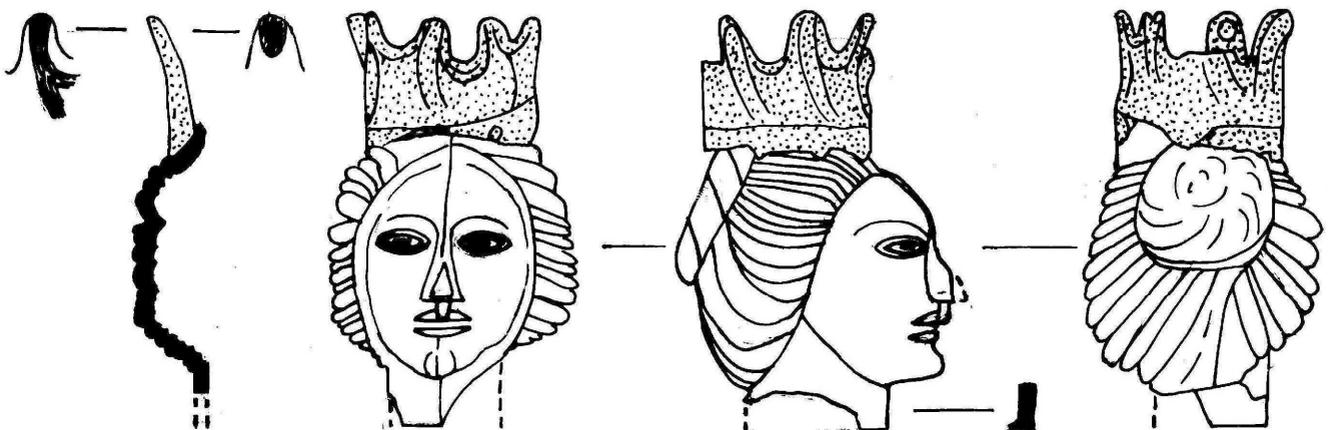
and will no doubt be asking Santa for a 3 inch trowel and knee pads for Christmas!

A new programme of excavation and research will begin in the New Year with further work at Forty Hall and Elsyng Palace.

We wait with a sense of cautious optimism to hear if an adequate museum facility will be made available by the Council in the near future at Thomas Hardy House to display the wealth of excavated material currently in storage under lock and key for the benefit of the children and people of Enfield (see p. 4). Judging by the overwhelming support we have received at public events such as the Autumn show and National Archaeology week there is tremendous interest in the heritage and history of Enfield. Local people especially school children should be able to view some of the hundreds of finds made by the E.A.S. locally over the last 50 years spanning 5,000 years of history in permanent display galleries with easy access centralised in Enfield Town. Barnet, Ware, Hoddesdon, and Hertford all have excellent centralised Museums and Enfield with all it's history should follow their example. In the face of adversity I hope that common sense will prevail and Enfield will finally be rewarded with the Museum it has waited for so long.

All that remains on behalf of the Committee and myself is to wish all our members a peaceful Christmas and a healthy New Year and to thank you all for your support throughout the past year buying raffle tickets and books at our sales table.

MIKE DEWBREY



17th Century Venetian glass head from Forty Hall – actual size (see p.4)