



society

NEWS

The Bulletin of the ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

March 2001 No 160

CONTENTS

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EAS MEETINGS

- 16 March 2001: The Decline and Fall of Roman Britain
- 20 April 2001: Annual General Meeting: followed by
Reports of Fieldwork and Research
- 18 May 2001: Retrieving London's Prehistory

OTHER SOCIETIES

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

MEETING REPORTS

- Excavating the Crypt of Christ Church, Spitalfields
- Archaeology and the Jubilee Line Extension
- Medieval London Bridge: Lost and Found

THE SOUTHGATE BEAUMONT

Arnos Grove – Part 3

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2000

SMALL FINDS

AGM AGENDA

Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December
The Editor is Jon Tanner, 24 Padstow Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 8BU, telephone: 020 8350 0493

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings of the Enfield Archaeological Society are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield (near Chase Side) at 8.00pm. Tea and coffee are served and the sales and information table is open from 7.30pm. Visitors, for whom a charge of £1.00 will be made, are very welcome.

Friday 16 March 2001

The Decline and Fall of Roman Britain

Dr Neil Faulkner

Combining fresh analysis of the archaeological evidence with the traditional historical accounts, this is a new interpretation of the decline and fall of Roman Britain. The original conquest of Britain was one of the last successes of Roman military imperialism, whereas the Roman's repeated failures on the north British frontier show the limits of this system – once dynamic and expansionist, later faltering and defensive. By the late 3rd and early 4th centuries, a new order was established in Britain: a centralised military-bureaucratic state, governed by a class of super-rich landlords and apparatchicks, who siphoned wealth out of the provinces to defend the frontiers. As a result, the towns declined and the countryside was depressed. The fabric of late Roman imperial society simply rotted away. The process of decline reached a climax in the great military crisis of the late 4th century. The Roman imperial army, bled white by defeats on continental battlefields, withdrew its troops from Britain to defend the imperial heartlands, and the Romano-British elite succumbed to a combination of warlord power, barbarian attack and popular revolt. The talk will conclude with a discussion of the legacy of Rome and the significance of the so-called "dark age".

Dr Neil Faulkner

Friday 20 April 2001

Annual General Meeting

Following the formal part of the meeting (see the attached Agenda) there will be reports of fieldwork and research, and other activities of the Society during the year 2000.

Friday 18 May 2001

Retrieving London's Prehistory

Jon Cotton: Curator of Prehistory, Museum of London

I will aim to bring members up to speed with recent discoveries in this part of the Lower Thames Valley, emphasising all the while the primary importance of the River Thames as highway, boundary, and "sacred stream", and the prehistoric people behind the evidence. I will touch on the reasons why London has been so slow to recognise the potential of its earliest past, and look at how things have improved recently. In particular I will contrast the approaches adopted on major programmes of work conducted on the gravel terraces to the west of the City and compare them with those adopted in areas such as Westminster and North Southwark. I will close by identifying some of the gaps in our knowledge, and ways in which these might be plugged.

Jon Cotton



MEETINGS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8.00 p.m. in Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield unless otherwise stated. Visitors £1.00

Wednesday 28 March 2001

A.G.M. and Churches in Kent and Sussex

Graham Dalling

Tuesday 10 April 2001

At St Pauls Centre

Waltham Abbey Gunpowder Factory

Norman Paul

Wenesday 23 May 2001

The Palace of Westminster

Major Peter Horsfall

Enquiries to the Local History Section, Town Hall, Green Lanes, Palmers Green London N13
Tel: 020 8379 2724

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – NORTH LONDON BRANCH

All meetings are held at 8.00 p.m. in Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

Tuesday 08 May 2001

Shopping in Tudor and Stuart London
Dr Ian Archer (Keble College Oxford)

Tuesday 12 June 2001

The International Brigades and the Spanish Civil War
Dr Matthew Hughes (University College Northampton)

For further details, contact Robin Blades, 020 8368 5328

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Lectures are given in the 6th Form Unit, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, at 7.45 p.m.

Monday 12 March 2001

A.G.M. and Presidential Address
Harvey Sheldon

Monday 09 April 2001

London AD45 to AD120
Hedley Swain

Monday 14 May 2001

In the Sir James Hawkey Hall, Woodford Green
Rudge Memorial Lecture: Hadrians Wall
Mark Hassall

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Lectures are held in the Interpretation Unit of the Museum of London beginning at 6.30p.m.

Wednesday 13 December 2000

London on Ice: The Thames Frost Fairs
Jeremy Smith (Guidhall Library)

Wednesday 17 January 2001

*Hugh Chapman Memorial Lecture:
In Mint Condition*
Jenny Hall (Museum of London)

Wednesday 21 February 2001

In the Lecture Theatre
*AGM followed by Presidential Address:
The Streets of Medieval London*

Dr Derek Keene (Centre for Metropolitan History)

SOCIETY MATTERS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Many thanks to all those members who have paid their subscriptions for the year 2001. A number of you have yet to renew your membership, however and if you have received a reminder form with this edition of Society News, it would be very much appreciated if you would forward the appropriate remittance. This will ensure that you receive the June edition.

Subscription rates for 2001 are as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| Ordinary Members: | £5.00 |
| Joint Memberships: | £7.00 |
| Junior Members: | £2.50 |

VISIT TO ROYAL GUNPOWDER MILLS

A Society visit to the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey is planned for 21 July 2001. Provided that we can muster at least 10 people, the group rate admission is £4.90 for adults, £2.50 for children aged 5 – 16, and £4.25 for students and senior citizens. This is a fascinating old industrial archaeology site, and the weekend has been designated an "Archaeology Weekend". Members wishing to book a place should ring Dennis Hill as soon as possible please, on 020 8440 1593.

ANNUAL OUTING

This year the joint Annual Outing with the Workers Educational Association, will be to the Fens and Cambridgeshire on 26 May 2001. The cost is £13.50; details and a booking form are given on the flyer distributed with *Society News*.

VOLUNTEERS STILL NEEDED

We still require people to help with the running of the Society. In particular, although the programme for 2001 is arranged, and that for 2002 is almost complete, a new Meetings

Secretary is **desperately** needed, to help with the administration.

If anyone is able and willing to help in this - or in any other - way, please contact the Chairman Dennis Hill, telephone 020 8440 1593.

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Of recent weeks, the winter weather has been dull, cold and wet on most days, not really optimal for field archaeology – at least as far as amateurs are concerned.

Having said that, on the morning of Sunday 21 January our friends in the West Essex Archaeological Group invited me to participate in a tour of Copped Hall. When driving anti-clockwise on the M25 and leaving the tunnel shortly after the M11 junction, ahead of you on the right is the mysterious ruin of a burnt-out Georgian mansion. This is Copped Hall, a place I had always wanted to explore, so on with boots and rainproofs and out into a snowy landscape with a howling gale blowing. To my surprise there was a turnout of about 100 people.

The original Hall was held by the Fitzmaurice family from about 1150 to 1337. This early Hall was sited some 250 metres north west of the present ruin. In 1303, the estate comprised a park of 24 hectares, arable land of 40 hectares and 8 hectares of meadowland.

In 1751 the demolition of the Tudor Hall commenced and the building of the new Georgian Hall started. By 1803 the estate consisted of 1206 hectares plus a further 215 hectares of forest land. Sadly the Hall burned down in 1917. The estate was sold in 1952 and anything of value from the mansion and gardens was sold. In 1995 the property and gardens were taken over by the Copped Hall Charitable Trust whose members are busy with renovation and exploration work. WEAG has been invited to open up trenches on the site of the Tudor Hall and is keen to co-operate with our Society. The "dig" is scheduled to start at the end of May. This will be an excellent opportunity to view a fascinating site and work along with a great set of friends.

It was great to learn that no less than three Enfield members had each studied for four years to obtain the Birkbeck College Extra-Mural Diploma in Field Archaeology.

The study of the 610mm (24") pipeline from Whitewebbs Pumping Station which fed the ornamental loop of the New River in front of Myddelton House is progressing well. John Cunningham, a retired Thames Water civil engineer has kindly lent a 1906 set of maps, which show the pipeline and its drainage points. Thus, we now have the complete story of the

pumping station, its gravity-fed pipeline and the use of the water in Gussie Bowles' famous garden. All will be revealed in the Research section at the AGM.

The project to re-excavate parts of Forty Hall's Tudor Elsyng Palace grinds away. An application will shortly be made to the Department of Culture, Media and Sport for Consent to excavate this Scheduled Ancient Monument. Once this is obtained, application will be made to the Countryside Commission for a grant to cover the work.

We have continued with a good series of Friday evening lectures in Jubilee Hall, which has attracted sizeable audiences. On the afternoon of Saturday 21 July, there will be a visit to the Royal Gunpowder Mills at Waltham Abbey. This is a new attraction featuring an Archaeological Weekend (*see Society Matters – ed.*).

Dennis Hill

MEETING REPORTS

Excavating the Crypt of Christ Church, Spitalfields Friday 17 November 2000: Jez Reeves

To the excavators this was a sobering experience and gave rise to much discussion on the ethics of disturbing such modern remains. The view of the Church of England is that all human remains regardless of age or religion should be treated alike with respect and suitably reinterred when research is completed.

The population of early 18th century London was growing fast with the Spitalfields area east of the tower mainly occupied by French Huguenot silk weavers. Christ Church Spitalfields was one of the only 12 churches built out of an original estimated requirement of 72 needed to cope with London's suburban growth. The work of Nicholas Hawksmoor, it was consecrated in 1729 and refurbished in 1816. In the early 1980's it was decided to restore the church to its original condition with the crypt being cleared to be used for services. The many dated burials in the crypt presented a unique research opportunity as their remains could be used to check the accuracy of the forensic methods used to date skeletal material.

A further new field of study explored was the decoration of coffins.

The excavation presented a series of unique problems. These included the handling of possibly partly intact cadavers and the possible preservation of viruses like smallpox. Eventually health and safety concerns were met and permission was granted for the work.

Once the vaults which had been bricked up in the 19th century were entered the excavators were faced with masses of wooden coffins stacked 10 high in some places. Much of the wood had decayed and the layers had collapsed into each other. 5 cwt lead coffins added further problems both in shifting them out on rollers and the need to keep them intact because of the unpleasant liquids they might contain. The contents were very difficult to record and much effort had to be devoted to keeping the individual sets of remains together. Most recording was done from planks suspended over the coffins while some 300 tons of rubble had to be bucketed out. Much fragmentary coffin wood was also removed and after study taken in batches for cremation. Some well preserved and partly dried out remains were found including an almost intact child, which upset several of the excavators.

The decoration and fitting out of the coffins showed immense variety with, for example, 50 different patterns of nails being used to pin velvet on the outside of the wood. Metal coffin plates featuring urns, angles and inscriptions decorated the lids of many coffins with lead, copper and china being used for the handles. Most coffins had internal fabric lining and specimens of all these materials plus wood samples were taken for later research. The study of the dated human remains showed that forensic techniques could underestimate ages by up to 30 years.

Within the vaults children's coffins were often used to fill up odd spaces. The coffin of an important member of the church was found pitched down the stairs leading to one of the vaults; the occupant had presumably upset the sextons at some stage!

This lecture was a fascinating look at a very new type of archaeology and demonstrated again that archaeology has much to add to our understanding of even well documented periods. The slides were splendid, if occasionally gruesome and the lecturer is to be thanked for giving us a splendid evening.

Ian K. Jones.

Archaeology and the Jubilee Line Extension

Friday 15 December 2000:

James Drummond-Murray

This well illustrated lecture to the Society at Jubilee Hall covered major investigations at Westminster, London Bridge and Stratford. The tube tunnels for the line were too deep to affect the archaeology, but this was at serious risk from the associated escape and connecting tunnels, ventilation and escalator shafts.

Starting in the west at Westminster, James showed the original outline of Thorney Island with Westminster Abbey at its centre. There turned out to have been very few prehistoric or Roman finds at Westminster. The bulk of the archaeology was relevant to the medieval period on a site to the north of Westminster Hall. This included a stretch of Tudor river wall. There were also the remains of a Victoria river wall. These walls pushed out into the river as an adjunct to land reclamation. Close to the old Westminster Palace was a timber-lined cesspit utilising former ship's timbers. The wetness of the pit helps preserve items made from wood and leather. An example occurs with a pair of wooden plates used by Benedictine monks living nearby in Cannon Row.

Moving to the houses used by these monks, the gardens contained a chalk-lined drain running down to the Thames. A set of Tudor pottery garden watering pots was also found, together with a beautiful Delftware jug dated to 1627.

The modern London Bridge is a successor of the first Roman bridge crossing the Thames in about AD50 and which represented a key Roman communications point in Southern Britain. The southern side of the Thames in those days consisted of sandy mudflats. Between 1992 and 1996 MOLAS conducted no less than 25 excavations in the vicinity of London Bridge, their largest project to date.

The largest of these was that at Borough High Street where a temporary road surface was laid out with all the live services suspended beneath it in pipes and cables. The High Street follows the line of the original Roman Street coming up from the south.

Working beneath this temporary road surface, MOLAS archaeologists noticed a substantial amount of hammer scale, indicative of the presence of a blacksmith's forge in the

vicinity. The presence of a timber building could be deduced from the pattern of post-holes remaining. This appears to be one of the first wooden Roman buildings in London, dating to about AD55.

There was a row of long, narrow timber buildings fronting onto the main road. The shop or workshop opened onto the road with the living accommodation at the rear. The remains of these earliest Roman buildings were sealed across the whole length of the site, some 60 metres, by a layer of fire debris indicative of a major conflagration, which is likely to be that due to the attack of Boudica and her Iceni army. This debris represents the first evidence that Boudica operated south of the Thames.

Another interesting excavation occurred nearby at Redcross Way where there was a well known cemetery in use in the 18th and 19th centuries to hold the remains of relatively poor persons, often piled into communal graves without coffins.

At Stratford, an Iron Age farm was found, but the main interest occurred with the excavation of Stratford and Langthorpe Abbey founded in 1135 by William de Montfitchet as a house of the French Sauvignacs order. In 1147 it transferred to the Cistercian order. The east end of the later stone-built abbey church was uncovered as was the infirmary, the cloister and a long stretch of the abbey's great drain.

Inside the church were found several graves, of which two were evidently of high status involving a stone coffin and a wooden coffin placed in a stone cist. A total of 683 skeletons were excavated, including many from the monks' graveyard.

MOLAS is on the point of publishing several volumes detailing the results of post-excavation research such as that dealing with palaeoenvironmental factors. An excellent, well-illustrated general publication detailing the major finds from the Jubilee Line Extension project is the MOLAS publication "The Big Dig".

Dennis Hill

Medieval London Bridge: Lost and Found

Friday 19 January 2001: Bruce Watson

Before the nineteenth century, the arches of London Bridge were very narrow, and each pier stood on a boat-shaped structure called a starling. As a result, the Thames passed

through much faster than now. Going under the bridge by boat was like shooting rapids, and the river would soak terrified passengers. There were buildings all along the bridge until 1762, so passengers also had to beware of privies being emptied from above.

Bruce Watson entertained the Society's January meeting with details like these while describing his archaeological work on remains of the bridge at the Southwark side. He cited descriptions by Samuel Pepys, the 17th century diarist, of how passengers would leave their boats just before the bridge, walk around it, and rejoin their boats on the other side. Pepys himself would sometimes remain on board just for the thrill of this "white knuckle" ride.

Bruce explained that the Romans established the first London Bridge, possibly with a clever series of cofferdams, a technique that they were known to have used elsewhere. It would have allowed them to build directly onto the dry riverbed. Vitruvius, the Roman architect, documented this construction technique, but it was not used again in London until the 15th century. Instead, piles were driven into the riverbed from boats.

The Romans chose this location for the bridge as the Thames was a good transport route to and from the rest of the empire and, because of Kent's flood-plains, London was the first convenient crossing point. A large number of Roman coins have been found in the river at the site of the bridge, which probably means that there was a temple on or near it. Almost all the coins date from before AD320, which suggests that this bridge probably fell down around that time. It certainly no longer existed when London was abandoned in about AD400. Bruce's slides included an illustration of a bridge from Trajan's column in Rome. This showed how London's bridge could have looked.

Five hundred years later, Alfred the Great built London's first wooden bridge. This coincided with the refortification of the Roman city in AD886 as a result of Viking attacks on the Saxon settlement of Lundenwic (between the Strand and Westminster). A port and commercial centre were also established at this time. Digging with his team at the Southwark side of the river, Bruce had found evidence for five wooden bridges before the first stone bridge, which was finished in 1209. His slides showed 11th century base-plates and stakes which had been preserved in the waterlogged ground.

A priest called Peter, of St Mary Colechurch, organised a guild which paid for the first stone bridge. Maintenance was important to

replace defective piles which would otherwise allow water to erode the cores of the starlings. Erosion would lead to movement of the starlings, and collapse of the piers that they supported. However, maintenance was poor because Henry III deprived the city of money as punishment for the support that Londoners gave to his rival, Simon de Montfort. As a result, five of the central arches fell down in 1281. By this time there were already houses on the bridge. It collapsed again in January 1437 and Richard Beck, the chief mason at Canterbury Cathedral, was head-hunted at great expense to rebuild it. As Bruce dryly observed, money is often no object after a catastrophe.

Accounting records show that Beck's rebuilding went on by night and day, until a timber replacement section allowed the bridge to re-open in April. Bruce had impressive slides showing objects found from this period, including a section of the river wall with its wedge-shaped blocks, and stone springers, which would have supported the ribs of the arches.

In 1305, William "Braveheart" Wallace was the first traitor to have his head displayed on the bridge. This practice finally ceased in 1670, when two anarchists were executed and had their heads displayed.

Kingston had the next bridge upstream, and London Bridge was less than 4.5m wide, so there was often severe overcrowding. From 1722, traffic was ordered to keep left when crossing it. This was the start of a rule that now applies to all of this country's roads. From 1757 to 1762, George Dance the elder and Robert Taylor modernised the bridge. They improved the flow of traffic by removing the buildings and demolishing a central arch. A new bridge, which was built a few metres upstream in 1831, solved the problem, and the old bridge was finally demolished. Parts of the 1762 bridge are to be found in unlikely places, including Victoria Park in Hackney, the grounds of Guys Hospital, and Beaumont Quay near Clacton. Bruce had a slide showing garden walls at Heathfield Road in Wandsworth, which actually contain material from the original stone bridge.

A lively question and answer session followed the lecture, with Bruce again demonstrating a phenomenal range of knowledge. At the end, there was warm applause for this entertaining and informative speaker.

Mick Breheny

THE SOUTHGATE BEAUMONT

aka SOUTHGATE HOUSE, NORTHMET HOUSE, ARNOS GROVE, ARNO'S, ARNOLD'S: Part 3

Decoration and Furnishing

18th century panelling survives in all the rooms and corridors on first and second floors and to some extent on the ground floor. Photographs taken by Lord Inverforth show how the rooms were furnished in the 1920s **34**. When he sold the house in 1928 Lord Inverforth removed a Sicilian mantelpiece from the drawing room and the clock from the tower on the stable block. The bell of the clock weighed one hundredweight. All these items were taken to his house, The Hill, on Hampstead Heath, formerly the home of Lord Leverhulme **35**.

STAFF

The census returns taken between 1841 and 1891 give details of staff at Arnos House *who were on the premises at the time*. Staff listed in

the census returns as being employed within the house numbered six between 1841 and 1861. In 1841 there were two male and four female servants but their duties are not described. Ten years later, the 1851 census described a butler, cook, kitchen maid, housemaid, under housemaid and a needlewoman. The same situation prevailed in 1861 and 1871 except that a footman appears in 1861 with a second post of under footman in 1871. The latter reached the full rank of footman by 1881 and there were now two men performing these duties. Also in 1871 the post of butler gave way to that of a housekeeper, but was reinstated by 1891 when

there was both a housekeeper and a butler. By 1861 there were several children in the house and the staff now included a ladies' maid and a young ladies' maid as well as a nurse (aged 14) and a nursery maid (aged 16). Of the outside staff only a groom is mentioned between 1851 and 1881 and a coachman in 1861. No doubt there were other members of staff who because they lived out would have been separately listed in the census under their own addresses. .

GROUNDS

The house and 121.4 hectares of land, which finally comprised the grounds of Arnos Grove estate, began as a small house known as Arnolds, the first firm reference to which is in 1584 where it was said to have stood in 9.71 hectares of land, which were sold in that year to Humphrey Weld **36**. He purchased a further 5.26 hectares in 1610 from Robert Cecil **37**, and his son, Sir John Weld bought another 60.7 hectares in 1614 from William Cecil, Earl of Salisbury **38**. Although this made a total of 75.68 hectares it is not known if all this land was contiguous (see note 49a).

It was Sir John Weld who in 1615 erected a small chapel at ease as a place of worship for his family, and local people **39**. There was also a curate's house but this was demolished when the chapel was later extended **40**. In 1645 his widow, Dame Frances Weld, sold Arnolds and the chapel to Sir William Acton **41**. He died in 1651 and the estate passed to his daughter, Elizabeth, who married Sir William Whitmore **42** and on his death it passed by various inheritances to Sir Thomas Whitmore who in 1747 sold it to James Colebrook **43**.

James Colebrook, a London mercer, purchased property in Southgate from 1716 onwards **44** - which would have included the land on which he was to build his new house between 1719 -23. It appears to have been taken for granted by previous writers that the original Arnolds was demolished by James Colebrook, who had been living there while his new house was being constructed, but there is no known reference to its demolition and in any event he was only a lessee of Sir Thomas Whitmore and did not purchase the property from him until 1747 **45**.

His son George, later Sir George Colebrook, inherited Arnolds (was the old house still standing at this time?) and on his death the trustees sold the Weld chapel to the incumbent the Rev H Shepherd **46**. The chapel continued under separate patronage until 1815 when this passed to the vicar of Edmonton. Nearby Christ

Church was erected in 1863, on land donated by Isaac Walker, and the Weld chapel was then demolished **47**.

Could Arnolds have been rebuilt in the mid-18th century as Beaver Hall? Both properties were in the same area if not actually on the same site. It has been shown elsewhere that Sir Robert Taylor was almost certainly the architect responsible for Beaver Hall **48** and it was Taylor who was employed by Sir George Colebrook between 1752 and 1762 to carry out extensive work at Arnos Grove **49**.

By 1823 the grounds of Arnos Grove comprised 40.47 hectares **49a**. Thirty years later, John Walker purchased and demolished Minchenden Hall **50**, a large house built in 1747, which stood at the junction of Waterfall Road and Cannon Hill. (Is there any significance in the fact that this was the same year in which James Colebrook purchased the old house, Arnolds?). The grounds of Minchenden were then incorporated into those of Arnos Grove. Later on the same thing happened to the grounds of Beaver Hall, a large villa built c1763 standing on or close to the site of the earlier Arnolds, when it was purchased and demolished by John Walker in 1870 **51**.

The boundary wall of Beaver Hall along Waterfall Road was retained. Elsewhere, trees and shrubs were planted around the site of Minchenden to screen it from the road **52**. Within the area of the park rows of trees, mainly oaks, revealed the lines of former hedges once surrounding fields where dairy cattle and sheep were grazed in the fashion of the times. The avenue of trees extending from the rear of Minchenden survived the demolition of the house and could still be seen on the 1914 edition of the OS 25 inch plan. On the 1865 OS plan the position of a large vase is indicated on the edge of woodland in the centre of the park. The placing of such large vases, and statues of one sort or another in their parks by landowners was very fashionable in the 18th and early 19th centuries.

An avenue had been cut through woodland in the south-west corner of the park to provide a view, or vista. At one end, where Arnos Grove station now stands was a summer house where occupants seated within would have a deliberately focused view through the woodland to the New River beyond **53**. One can imagine one of the rarely mentioned daughters of Russel Donnithorne Walker escaping for a moment from the restraints of Victorian life sitting there reading her copy of a Walter Scott novel, with perhaps the sounds of an aeolian harp hung in the trees providing a suitable

ambient romantic atmosphere. Another summer house stood near Pymmes Brook, the site of which can still be seen today. If one enters Arnos Park from Morton Crescent and walks through the trees to the point where a terrace descends to a footpath occupying the former course of the New River, a shallow hollow in the ground can be observed and is the site of the summer house in question - there is a photograph of the summer house in the local history library where it is described as 'the temple'. The view from this point encompasses Pymmes Brook where in this section alone there were at one time seven weirs, only one of which has survived. When there is sufficient water it provides a cascade pleasing to the ear and to the eye, which must have delighted people walking in the former parkland.

The front of house is occupied by a semicircular drive enclosing a lawn containing a pool and a fountain and screened from the road by a belt of trees and shrubs. The pool and fountain were there in 1926 **54** and were probably installed by Lord Inverforth. On the north side of the house a belt of woodland extended beyond Southgate Green and covered the site of Minchenden Hall. There were a few

carefully planted trees on the south side of house beyond which were stables, greenhouses and walled kitchen garden(s) **55**. A brick-lined ha ha had been built along the back of the house from a point opposite the entrance to Aldermans Hill to include and enclose woodland on the north side of the house. Beyond the ha ha the level ground was clear of trees and provided a fine view across the Pymmes valley. The four ornaments now standing at the rear of the house were at one time placed on the open ground beyond **56**. These ornaments, two of which represent 18th century wine coolers, are probably made of Coade stone and 18th century in date. Elsewhere, in 1850, there was a shrubbery, with rockwork, a basin, fountain and other ornamental features. There were early and late vineries, a large conservatory and a hothouse. Cedars of Lebanon, Weymouth pines, Scotch pines and many other fine trees and shrubs had been planted in the grounds. All of which could be seen to advantage from a circular walk around the estate **57**.

Geoffrey Gillam

ARNOS GROVE - PLAN OF GROUND FLOOR



REFERENCES

(Part One)

- 1 T Lewis and D Pam: William and Robert Cecil as Landowners in Edmonton and Southgate 1561 - 1600. Edmonton Hundred Historical Society Occasional Paper (New Series) 22 10.
- 2 Prob 11/141 (PCC 20 Swann)
- 3 MRO; Acc 593/2-5
- 4 MLR 1716/4/114-15
- 5 R Garnier: Arno's Grove, Southgate. The Georgian Group Journal Vol V111 1998 114 - 15
- 6 Garnier 131 op cit
- 7 W Watts: Views of the Seats of the Nobility and Gentry 1779, Arno's Grove in Middlesex Pl. 63
- 8 Garnier 132 op cit
- 9 Date stone in floor of entrance hall
- 10 Garnier 124 op cit
- 11 Alan Dumayne: Southgate A Glimpse of the Past 1987 p.125
- 12 Watts op cit
- 13 ibid
- 14 J N Brewer: Beauties of England and Wales 1816 Vol. 10 Pt 4 709
- 15 Garnier 131 op cit
- 16 John Rocque Map of Middlesex 1754
- 17 Ordnance Survey 25 inch plan Middlesex 1865
- 18 Information from members of Southgate Civic Trust

(Part Two)

- 19 Following the fire, which destroyed the building, the damaged plaster carrying the mural was collected and put in store in the hope that it will eventually be restored.
- 20 Palmers Green Gazette 17th October 1969
- 21 ibid. See also photographs taken in 1926 and 1945 in the Local History Collection
- 22 Bulletin of Enfield Archaeological Society 23 December 1966
- 23 Photograph in Local History Collection
- 24 Garnier 126 op cit; photograph in Local History Collection.
- 25 Palmers Green Gazette 7th June 1968
- 26 Photographs in Local History Collection

27 Garnier 126 op cit

28 ibid 130

29 ibid

30 ibid 127 & fig. 7

31 ibid 123

32 H Newby: Old Southgate 1949 75

33 Alan Dumayne: Southgate, A Glimpse of the Past 1987 72-3

(Part Three)

34 Photograph Local History Collection

35 Palmers Green Gazette 7th June 1968

36 MRO Acc 593/2-5

37 ibid /6; c142/322/173

38 MRO Acc 593/7, /9

39 W Robinson: History of Edmonton Vol. 1 1819 122 - 142

40 Victoria County History Middlesex V 184

41 Robinson op cit p. 12

42 ibid

43 MLR 1747/277

44 MLR 1716/4/ 114 - 15

45 MLR 1747/1/277

46 Robinson op cit 130

47 Victoria County History Middlesex V 184

48 R Garnier: Two 'Crystalline' Villas of the 1760s - Beaver Hall, Southgate The Georgian Group Journal Vol VII 1997 11-15

49 ibid

49a Robinson op cit 34. However previous references gave the total amount of land as 80.938 hectares - see notes **36, 37 & 38**

50 Victoria County History Middlesex V 60

51 Garnier op cit 15

52 Ordnance Survey 25 inch plan Middlesex 1894

53 ibid 1865

54 Photograph Local History Collection

55 W Keane: The Beauties of Middlesex 1850 93-95; Ordnance Survey 25 Inch plan Middlesex 1865

ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Annual Report for 2000

The Executive Committee of the Enfield Archaeological Society has pleasure in presenting its 45th Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 2000

historic town (see *Society News* 158: 8-9)

MEMBERSHIP

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

| | Adults | Juniors | TOTAL |
|-------------------|--------|---------|-------|
| Membership at | 228 | 1 | 229 |
| Joined during the | 25 | 5 | 30 |
| Resignations and | 36 | 0 | 36 |
| Membership at | 217 | 6 | 223 |

LECTURES

A high standard of interesting and enjoyable lectures was maintained throughout the year, and we are grateful to all the speakers who visited Enfield to address us. We are also indebted to Geoffrey Gillam, the out-going Meetings Secretary, who arranged the programme, and to the Enfield Preservation Society from whom we hire Jubilee Hall. Thanks are also due to the members who make the meetings possible: Sarah Segar and Mary Cannon who prepare and serve refreshments, Roger Eddington who sets up and operates the projection equipment, Michael Wheeler who transports the light desk, Caroline McKenna who runs the sales and information table, and all those who help in preparing the hall before the meeting and clearing up afterwards. Reports of all meetings appeared in subsequent editions of *Society News*.

VISIT

The annual joint outing with the Worker's Educational Association took place on 14 May 2000 included visits to Fishbourne "Palace" and Arundel. Lunch was taken in Chichester with sufficient time allowed for a brief glimpse of that

LIBRARY, ARCHIVES AND COLLECTIONS

Peter Warby has completed the rationalisation and cataloguing of the Society's books and journals, and will shortly begin work on the collection of maps and drawings. Roger Dormer and Les Whitmore have now re-organised and catalogued the Society's artefact collection.

PUBLICITY

Mick Breheny sends details of forthcoming lectures and subsequent meeting reports to the local papers: we are grateful for the continued interest of the local press. Meetings and other Society activities were also publicised by means of notices on library notice boards, and the exchange of newsletters, bulletins and programme cards with neighbouring societies ensures that we remain informed of each other's activities.

PUBLICATIONS

Society News continued to be produced quarterly and contained notices of forthcoming events, reports of meetings and articles on matters of historic and archaeological interest in the area. We are grateful to the members who distribute the bulletin by hand, considerably reducing the postage expenses.

Sales of the Society's last publication, "*Forty Hall: 1629 - 1997*" by Geoffrey Gillam continue steadily, and the next publication "*An Archaeology of Enfield*" by the same author is currently in preparation.

AFFILIATIONS

We are affiliated to the Council for British Archaeology and the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. The Society is also a member of Broomfield House Historic Buildings Trust; and is represented on the Forty Hall Working Party, the North London Archaeological Liaison Committee and the LBE Green Belt Forum.

EXCAVATIONS, FIELDWORK AND RESEARCH

Excavations of the two garden pavilions in the grounds of Forty Hall were carried out in 1999, and a report appeared in *Society News* 155 (5 – 9) and 156 (7 – 10).

Following the clearing of the Enfield Town loop of the New River, a large quantity of mud and silt was deposited in the Town Park to dry out. Society members Mike Dewberry and David White carried out a metal detector survey of the accessible parts of the deposits and recovered a variety of artefacts from a range of periods. Ian Jones examined the finds, and his report appeared in *Society News* 157: 7 – 10. The Society is grateful to Mike, David and Ian for this work.

Funded by the L B Enfield, the Museum of London Archaeological Service carried out a topographical survey of the site of Elsyng Palace, using a total station and digital terrain modelling technology. A non-intrusive subsurface survey has been carried out by English Heritage using ground penetrating radar: however, the condition of this Scheduled Monument is a cause for concern, and chairman Dennis Hill is pressing for action to be taken to ensure its future protection, preservation and presentation. Permission and funding for a professionally led excavation are being sought.

Investigation of a sluice on the disused loop of the New River in the grounds of Myddelton House revealed other features including a weir and a deep brick pit containing a stopcock on a large diameter pipe. Clearance work on the area is under way, with the assistance of the West Essex Archaeological Group, and Dennis Hill is researching the function of the various pipes and valves.

A construction trench in the garden of a property in Leighton Road revealed a ditch, aligned north-south and containing Roman

pottery. A report from the Herts Archaeological Trust, who carried out a watching brief, is awaited.

An earth mound near the entrance to Capel Manor was examined by means of a machine-dug trench in an attempt to establish the origin and purpose of the mound. Dennis Hill, Geoffrey Gillam and Mike Dewberry inspected the trench, which revealed no stratification or archaeological dating evidence, and it is likely that the mound is part of the original landscaping (see *Society News* 157:10).

Geoffrey Gillam has researched the history of The Southgate Beaumont (Arnos Grove) and the first two (of three) parts of his paper appeared in *Society News* 158 and 159: Part 3 appears in *Society News* 160.

EVENTS AND OTHER ACTIVITIES

An exhibition on the subject of “Elsyng Palace and Forty Hall” was mounted, at short notice, in the long gallery at Forty Hall between * January and 27 February 2000 (*Society News* 156:10). The exhibits included photographs, prints, drawings and artefacts and Geoffrey Gillam presented a series of slide shows accompanied by pre-recorded talks. Despite the short notice, the event was very well attended.

Ian Jones, Geoffrey Gillam and Roger Eddington represented the Society at an Open Day at Salisbury House, in Bury Street, Edmonton, on 29 April. A display illustrated the Society’s 1998 excavation in the grounds, and a pre-recorded talk on the history of the house was accompanied by slides. This was repeated, with a revised talk, at a second Open Day on 23 September 2000.

Geoffrey Gillam again presented his popular “Air Raid Experience” at the communal air raid shelter in the grounds of Millfield House, Silver Street, Edmonton, on 8 October 2000. A fully uniformed Warden Gillam gave a short talk on the effects of the blitz on Edmonton to the recorded sounds of a raid.

OTHER MATTERS

Perhaps the high point of the year came in March, when the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society announced that Geoffrey Gillam has been jointly awarded the prestigious Ralph Merrifield Award for his services to

archaeology and local history. We warmly congratulate Geoffrey, who received his award at the annual LAMAS conference at the Museum of London.

During the year Geoffrey announced his retirement from the Executive Committee and relinquished the duties of Acting Meetings Secretary, in order to reduce his workload. The Committee wish to express their great appreciation of Geoffrey's tireless efforts on behalf of the Society over many years, and of the outstanding contribution he has made both to the Society and to local history and archaeology. Geoffrey continues to represent the Society on various bodies including the Forty Hall Trust, the Broomfield Trust and the Enfield Town Redevelopment Consultation Committee.

Roger Dormer has also decided to stand down due to his other commitments. The Committee is grateful to Roger for his work for the Society over a lengthy period.

There has been no response to the Chairman's numerous appeals for a volunteer to take over as Meetings Secretary, and the position remains vacant.

Our President, Harvey Sheldon, has suggested that we forge links with one of our neighbouring societies, the West Essex Archaeological Group, of which he is also President. Consequently, we now exchange newsletters and WEAG members have joined EAS members on the industrial archaeology project at the sluice on the old loop of the New River at Myddelton House. Further co-operation on future projects is proposed.

Having obtained their Certificates the previous year, Caroline McKenna, Jean Lamont and Jon Tanner went on to successfully complete their studies for the Birkbeck College Diploma in Field Archaeology. Early medieval pewter jewellery, Prehistoric and Romano-British leisure, and Bronze Age shields respectively were the subjects chosen for independent research for the long essay. Chairman Dennis Hill continued his studies with Birkbeck College for his MA in Archaeology, and at the time of writing awaits his results.

FINANCIAL REPORT

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

SMALL FINDS

ROMAN POTTERY

A small trial trench 3.05 x 1.2m was opened in the garden of 13 Landseer Gardens, Enfield by Society member Mike Dewberry. Beneath 750mm of dark loam topsoil a mortar layer of approximately 150mm was found to contain pottery fragments dating to the 2nd/3rd centuries AD, together with a few pieces of coarse 10th/11th century ware, tentatively identified by the excavator as St Neots ware. Other finds included two small bone fragments and small fragments of tile. Two small circular pits some 1.2m deep contained modern debris.

CROFTON ROMAN VILLA

Described as "the only Roman villa open to the public in Greater London", Crofton Roman Villa is adjacent to Orpington Station and is open from 1 April until 31 October on Wednesdays and Fridays, and Sunday afternoons. The remains and graphic displays are contained within a modern cover building and admission is 80p. Bromley Museum, to which entry is free, is located in The Priory at the other end of the High Street. The Museum is open 1pm – 5pm all year. Free guided tours of both the Villa and The Priory are available. For further details telephone 01689 873826.

ENFIELD TOWN CENTRE

Notwithstanding the concerns expressed by several parties about the merits of the proposals for the Enfield Town development, a sub-surface radar scan will be used to indicate preferred locations for archaeological test pits in advance of the building work.





ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FOUNDED 1955

Affiliated to the Council for British Archaeology and
the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society

President: Harvey Sheldon B.Sc. F.S.A. F.R.S.A.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN

that the 45th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00 pm on Friday 20th April 2001.

AGENDA

- 1) Minutes of the 44th Annual General Meeting
- 2) Report of the Executive Committee (herewith)
- 3) Financial Statement. (This will be available at the meeting)
- 5) Subscriptions for the Year Commencing 1 January 2002

The Executive Committee has proposed no change in the subscription rates for the year 2002:

| | |
|--|-------|
| Ordinary Members | £5.00 |
| Junior Members (under 18 years of age) | £2.50 |
| Joint Membership | £7.00 |

- 6) Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members

The Executive Committee will stand for re-election, with the exception of Geoffrey Gillam and Roger Dormer who are standing down. Nominations for the vacant positions of Meetings Secretary and Membership Secretary, or for any other position, should be sent to the Secretary a minimum of seven days before the Annual General meeting

- 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 2000.

Jon Tanner, Hon. Secretary

24 Padstow Road
Enfield Middlesex EN2 8BU

Home: 020 8350 0493
Office: 020 8367 8000
Email: jmt@bhpp.co.uk