

ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the 43rd Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Jubilee Hall, junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00 pm on Friday 16th April 1999

AGENDA

- 1) Minutes of the 42nd Annual General Meeting.
- 2) Report of the Executive Committee (herewith)
- 3) Financial Statement. (This will be available at the meeting)
- 4) The following amendments to the Constitution have been proposed by the Executive Committee.
 - 3) OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE. **Delete existing item e)** *'An Auditor and two Trustees, not members of the Executive Committee, shall also be elected at each Annual General Meeting.'*
Insert new item e) as follows: *'An auditor, not a member of the Executive Committee, shall also be elected at each Annual General Meeting.'*
 - 8) FUNDS AND PROPERTY. *'All the Society's assets, other than cash in hand and at the bank, shall be the responsibility of its Trustees who shall advise the Society as to their use, except that the assets shall not be disposed of without the prior approval of a two-thirds majority at a General Meeting called for that purpose.'* **Delete in full.**
 - 9) ALTERATIONS. **To be renumbered as item 8.**
- 5) Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members.
- 6) 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.)
- 7) Reports of Fieldwork, Research and other Activities carried out during 1998. (For details see Forthcoming Events section of the March 1999 bulletin.)

John C Stevens
Hon.Secretary

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SOCIETY NEWS

THE BULLETIN OF THE ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY



March 1999

No.152

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Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December and is free to members. The Hon.Editor, to whom all correspondence and articles for publication should be sent is: John C Stevens, 3 Scarborough Road, London N9 8AT. T/N 0181.804.6918.

The statements and opinions of contributors to this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor.

TWO

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following meetings will be held at Jubilee Hall, at the junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00pm. Doors will open at 7.30 when tea and coffee will be served and there will be an opportunity to look at the sales and information table. Visitors are very welcome, for whom a charge of £1.00 will be made.

Friday 19th March

The Industrial Heritage of the Lea Valley.
Jim Lewis

It is probably fair to say that the Lea Valley was once one of the most innovative technological regions of the world. The entrepreneurs, industries and technologies which began life in the area have shaped the way we live, and perhaps even think, today. However, although a number of individual industrial and technological achievements have been recognised, there has been little acknowledgement of the Lea Valley's contribution to the world as a whole. In fact, the region could be called the forgotten or the secret valley.

JL.

Friday 16th April

Annual General Meeting: Followed by reports of excavations, fieldwork and research during 1998.

After the business part of the meeting has been completed there will be reports on excavation, fieldwork and research carried out during the year. These will include the excavations carried out at Salisbury House, Edmonton; details of the geophysical surveys on the site of Elsyng Palace; a look at the sites of the garden pavilions at Forty Hall; a sluice gate and flood channel on the New River in the grounds of Myddelton House; a last look at the ABC (formerly the Savoy) cinema in Southbury Road, Enfield; the opening of the Second World War air raid shelter in the grounds of Millfield House, Edmonton; the site of Bowling Green House in the grounds of Myddelton House, Enfield, and as many other items as time permits.

GRG

Friday 21st May

The Work of the Museum of London Archaeology Service.
Taryn Nixon – Head of MoLAS

This talk will review some of the major discoveries of the last year across Greater London, focussing on examples of continuity and change over the centuries. In particular, the talk will consider central themes in the study of London's past, to show how Londoners actually lived and worked and will draw on recent evidence for building and street patterns, diet, waste disposal, light industry and market trade and burial practice.

THREE

MEETINGS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

Edmonton Hundred Historical Society. Visitors: £1. 00

Wednesday 24th March. 8.00pm Jubilee Hall, junction of Parsonage Lane and Chase Side.
AGM followed by "Domestic Architecture in Middlesex."
Graham Dalling.

Wednesday 14th April. 8.00pm Union Church Hall, corner of Ferme Park Rd and Weston
Road, London N8. "London's Country Houses."
Caroline Knight.

Tuesday 27th April. 8.00pm St Paul's Centre, junction Old Park Ave & Church St,
Enfield. "An Alphabet of Buildings (of a sort)."
Philip Venning.

Wednesday 12th May. 8.00pm Jubilee Hall, junction of Parsonage Lane and Chase Side.
"Code-breaking at Bletchley Park."
John Gallehawk.

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. Museum of London at 6.30 pm

Thursday 11th March. "London's Larder: The development of the Borough Market."
Philip Obeney.

Thursday 8th April. "Historic Hospitals of London & Middlesex."
Harriet Richardson.

Thursday 13th May. "Recent Archaeological Work at HM Tower of London."
Dr Edward Impey.

SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER.....

At the time of writing about one quarter of members have not renewed their subscriptions for the current year. It would be very much appreciated if the remaining subscriptions could be renewed as soon as possible using the form attached to the back of the December 98 bulletin or simply sent to me at the address on the front page. Many thanks.

J C S

FOUR

MEETING REPORTS

LONDON'S MEDIEVAL MONASTERIES – THE FRUITS OF POST EXCAVATION RESEARCH

Barney Sloane

20 November 1998

There once existed a total of twenty six major monastic institutions in London, several of which have been excavated in recent years, the results not yet having been published but monographs are expected in the near future. There was a ring of suburban monasteries dating from the 12th

century drawn by the increasing political influence and economic wealth of the growing city.

Mr Sloane, of the Museum of London Archaeological Service, concentrated his talk on three Augustinian institutions, beginning with the Priory Hospital of St Mary Spital, which was excavated by MoLAS in the 1980's. Founded in 1197 by Walter Brown and his wife Rose as a hospital for sick mothers and mothers-to-be, St Mary's was also funded by other wealthy city gentlemen and accommodated about 12 patients at a time. The hospital was about 15m in length and run by a "master".

Excavations were carried out on a part of the hospital cemetery, the boundary of which has been identified from documentary evidence. Nine of the graves were sexable and over 50% were of females.

In 1235, Walter and Rose Brown decided to re-found the hospital, again for sick and poor women. The excavations of this revealed a "T" shaped hospital with a 20m long hall (infirmary) and a large chapel. There were two latrine blocks, suggesting perhaps that both men and women were taken in. This is supported by the evidence from the cemetery for this phase: of some 150 graves, 55% were male burials, most of which were of individuals aged between 18 and 30. Mr Sloane suggested that this might have been due to the large influx of the rural population into London at this time, leading inevitably to overcrowding, poverty and poor health. No surgical work was carried out at the hospital, care consisting of good food and clean water. Care was carried out by lay sisters who were themselves very poorly treated.

During the 14th century, a cloister and church and a new kitchen were built. The infirmary was rebuilt as a small two-storey structure, the old one becoming the transept for the church. A gatehouse was also added. A 15th century Flemish miniature depicting a typical hospital shows beds, barber-surgeons at work, a tiled floor and lanterns and all of these have appeared in the archaeological record from St Mary Spital. Finds from the excavation included tiles, 26 wooden bowls, a bunch of 44 keys and a pair of medieval boots.

Mr Sloane then moved on to the priory of St John, Clerkenwell, another 12th century foundation, being the headquarters of the Knights Hospitaller, a militarised order. The gatehouse, dating from 1504, remains, and a clear alignment of the bell tower, the gatehouse, and St Paul's can be seen. An unusual feature is the circular chapel - this layout ensured that the military order could not see the chancel. The crypt below was extended in 1185; the extant crypt is Norman.

The third institution to be described was St Mary, Clerkenwell. This Augustinian nunnery was founded in 1144 by Jordan de Briset and accommodated about 12 nuns. The modern St. James' church is on the site of the original simple cruciform church of timber construction - typical of early nunneries. By about 1190 St Mary's had developed into a more substantial establishment, equipped with kitchens, refectory, a guest range and probably a cloister.

There was interesting evidence for the diet of the nuns, which included 26 species of fish, both marine and freshwater, swan and partridge. Industry was also evident, a crucible or hearth

indicating the working of glass or metal. Molten lead droplets from a second hearth are possible evidence of repairs to the buildings being carried out, and roof tiles were manufactured on site.

FIVE

The church was demolished in 1797, but engravings made at the time show the stone structure and complete the general imagery.

Mr Sloane not only gave us an extremely fascinating insight into the layout and structure of these institutions, but also a glimpse of the conditions and way of life of the occupants, the patients and previous Londoners. This was a superb lecture thoroughly enjoyed by the large number of members present.

Jon Tanner

SOME ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES VISITED IN SYRIA

Leonard Hemming

18 December 1998

Mr Hemming visited Syria in March and April of 1994, at the start of the dry season. The two main rivers, the Euphrates and the Orontes ensure a relatively comfortable climate. The capital, Damascus, is claimed - perhaps doubtfully to be the oldest inhabited city in the world.

Examples of the local architecture were shown, including the Temple of Jupiter. The three main ancient cities were Mari, Ebla and Ugarit, and slides were shown of the extensive ruins including baths and tombs. The spectacular Crusader castle of Krak des Chevaliers is some 640m above sea level. The first castle dates from 1031 and was rebuilt in 1110, being ceded to the Knights Hospitaller in 1142. Saladin unsuccessfully besieged the castle in 1188, which did not fall until 1271 - and then only due to a cunning plan (Baldric?) involving a forged letter instructing the defenders to surrender.

Ebla was a powerful city-state dating from 3500BC, ultimately destroyed by the Hittites. Apamea was a Roman site and an overnight stop for camel caravans. Slides were shown of St Symeon monastery, and the town of Hama with its enormous water wheels. There are extensive remains of the Roman site of Palmyra, with its triumphal arch, palaces, temples and strange tower tombs.

With many excellent slides, Mr Hemming gave us a spectacular tour of this beautiful country, rich in history and relatively unspoilt. He is to be envied his visit, and his advice to those with a particular interest in classical history to visit Syria should be heeded.

Jon Tanner.

ALONG THE GOLDEN ROAD: SILK ROUTE CITIES OF CENTRAL ASIA.

Ian Jones.

15th January.

The opening slides showing snow covered mountain ranges, steppe grasslands and deserts of Central Asia, through which flow the two major rivers Oxus and Jaxartes to empty themselves into the Aral Sea, set the scene for the lecture.

Once part of the Soviet Union, Central Asia today comprises the five independent republics of Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan, Tajikistan, Kirghizia and Uzbekistan. Settlement in the area dates from the Lower Palaeolithic, about 40,000 years BC and during the second millennium BC the Oxus valley saw the rise of a major civilisation. Much of Central Asia became part of the Persian

Empire during the 6th century BC until it was conquered by Alexander the Great in the late 4th century and Greek influence was to remain a dominant feature of the area for many generations.

SIX

From the 1st century BC to the 3rd century AD the Parthians and Kushans ruled Central Asia, much of which later came under the control of the Sassanian kings of Persia who were later attacked and fell to the White Huns in the 4th century. They in turn were replaced, at first by a federation of early Turkish peoples and then by native Sogdians in the late 5th century whose wealth derived from control of the great trade routes. This civilisation eventually succumbed to attacks by Chinese and Arab forces in the 8th century, from which time Central Asia became culturally part of the Islamic world.

A succession of dynasties ruled the area for the next few centuries. In 1220 Genghis Khan and his Mongols destroyed many of the cities which defied him and in the late 14th century Tamerlane, whose capital was at Samarkand, began his equally spectacular conquests. From the 16th century places such as Bukhara became independent khanates. As part of their southern advance towards India, the Russians began a gradual conquest of Central Asia and in 1868 the city of Samarkand surrendered to Russian forces.

The speaker illustrated his lecture with excellent slides showing some of the places he had visited: rock carvings at Tamgaly Tas; a costume in solid gold excavated from a burial mound at Issyk; painted vases; examples of surviving sculpture; town walls and gateways; palaces & mausolea; mosques; minarets, some of which were very tall and which could therefore be used to as markers for caravans; caravanserai which provided shelter for travellers along the trade routes; water cisterns and Arab madrassas or theological schools. Many of the buildings were covered with elaborately decorative tile-work with the internal surfaces of the domes of others covered in gold leaf. The final illustration was a slide of a Russian palace, described by the speaker as “being built in a sort of royal pavilion style in the 1890s for a visit by the Tsar which never took place.”

During the 1950s, 60s and 70s the Russians carried out a lot of restoration work on the historic buildings; some of it was successful but in other cases the quality of work was very poor. As so often was the case, much of the so-called restoration consisted of virtually rebuilding the structures concerned.

As we have come to expect from Ian, the lecture was very well illustrated and delivered in his usual clear and informative style.

GRG

SCOLA CONFERENCE:
“LONDON UNDER THE MICROSCOPE”

Museum of London.

October 17th 1998.

The day's proceedings opened with a fascinating presentation by Dr Tony Waldron of the Institute of Archaeology called “The Black Death – Good News For Epidemiologists?” He outlined the problems of determining the age, sex and pathology from human bones and described the differences that had

been found between two groups of skeletons buried on the site of the former Royal Mint adjacent to the Tower of London. One group was of plague victims in a plague pit and the other was of ordinary citizens buried in a churchyard. The plague burials showed, unsurprisingly, a higher proportion of younger deaths than the ordinary citizens, most of whom survived childhood.

Following on, Jane Sidell of MoLAS described the changes in the level of the River Thames as determined from studies of the remains of wharves in the old Port of London. At one stage the river level had fallen, causing changes to the occupied shoreline but in more recent centuries the continuing rise in water level has meant that archaeological sites have been submerged.

SEVEN

Ian Tyers from Sheffield University gave a concise account of the role of dendrochronology and its limitations. In order to determine the exact date at which a tree was felled it is necessary to have the bark edge intact but this has often been removed or damaged. Care is necessary to watch for re-used timbers and during the late Roman period younger trees were used for building as most older trees had been used up. In the medieval period timber was often moved for considerable distances overland and even imported (i.e. oak from Poland).

In the afternoon Richard McPhail, a soil scientist from the Institute of Archaeology, outlined the use of thin sections to analyse the composition of "black earth" (often found in deep layers above Roman occupation layers). He had found that in some cases the analysis indicated brick earth with organic additions and a frequently high phosphate content indicated the presence of animal dung.

Alastair Bartlett, an archaeogeophysics consultant, gave the Tony Clark Memorial Lecture outlining the distinguished career of the late Tony Clark of the English Heritage Ancient Monuments Laboratory who pioneered the uses of resistivity and magnetometry in the surveying of many sites, together with techniques for processing and displaying the data.

Dr. Bill McCann of the Clark Laboratory at MoLAS outlined another activity that the late Tony Clark had pioneered, archaeomagnetic dating, which had proved particularly useful in separating out the developmental dates of urban sites in London.

The final paper was by Keith Williamson of King Alfred's College who described the development of the River Thames foreshore in the City of London through Roman and Saxon times from the viewpoint of geoarchaeology.

Dennis Hill.

CLOSURE OF FORTY HALL AND SALISBURY HOUSE AND RESTRICTIONS ON OPENING HOURS OF THE LOCAL HISTORY UNIT.

In December rumours regarding the extent of the financial cuts to be made by Enfield Council were found to be true. One of the casualties is Forty Hall Museum which closes in April (saving £42,000), along with Salisbury House Arts Centre (saving £17,000). The Local History Library and Research Centre has not escaped and will now only open four days a week with hours restricted to between 9.30am and 4.30pm (saving £7,000). In one fell swoop the cultural life of the borough has been drastically diminished.

FORTY HALL is a popular venue and attracts about 30,000 visitors a year - before the reduction in opening times this figure stood at 50,000. It is a listed building and even if closed considerable expenditure will be necessary for lighting, heating and maintenance. Even stranger is the fact that the Museums Officer is still being retained but behind closed doors!! The theory is that visitors will be allowed to see the collections on application but quite how that will work, and for how long, remains to be seen. It is not clear how the amount of £42,000 being 'saved' is made-up. There are, of course, the salaries of Dave Howlett and Ted Bonham, the two attendants who for many years have manned the reception desk and information point and shown visitors around the building. There will also be reductions in the cleaning and lighting bills.

A new museum in the centre of Enfield will be part of the new central library to be erected on the site of the present car park between the shops in London Road and Sydney Road. Such plans are in the unforeseeable future and in the meantime we will have no museum at all.

The Society was well advanced with plans to mount an exhibition illustrating the history and archaeology of the Tudor royal palace of Elsyng which stood in the grounds of Forty Hall. Apart from finds from the excavations carried out by the Society there in the 1960s, many objects of the

EIGHT

period were to be borrowed from the reserve collection at the Museum of London. The results of recent geophysical surveys on the site of the palace were also going to be displayed. With the restrictions imposed by insurance and security, it will be difficult to find a suitable venue elsewhere for such an exhibition.

The decision to close the museum was made without any consultation with the residents of Enfield. There is a wealth of talent and experience amongst the many members of the Enfield Preservation Society, Edmonton Hundred Historical Society, Southgate Civic Trust, the Enfield Archaeological Society and other organisations within the borough that could be tapped for volunteers to man the reception desk at Forty Hall, to act as stewards, and to help with the arrangements for displays and exhibitions in the museum. This is done most successfully at Potters Bar and at Barnet museums. Good exhibitions and sufficient publicity would bring many more people to Forty Hall willing to pay a reasonable entrance fee to such events. A fee could also be charged for conducted tours of the house and for lectures given there by members of the various local societies. These are but a few of the ways in which the building could continue to be used and there are many more.

Built in 1629-32, the house itself is of great historic and architectural interest and the Society has arranged guided tours of the house and grounds and held lectures in the long gallery about the history of Forty Hall. All have been well attended, in some cases being over-subscribed. I have given talks to local schoolchildren who came to the house with their teachers when they were shown some of the archaeological material in the collection, and who were tremendously excited at the opportunity to handle Roman pottery and prehistoric implements found in Enfield. Several teachers attended an inset day meeting at the museum to look at some of the archaeological material and to discuss with me ways in which history, particularly local history, should be taught in schools.

In a recently published document, *The Future of Leisure Services in Enfield*, the Council referred to Forty Hall as the 'jewel in the crown' of Enfield and how important it would be in their plans to attract tourists to the area. They had even drawn up lists of bed and breakfast accommodation for people visiting Enfield and some sort of 'tourist agency' will still exist even after the cuts! Printed on good quality art paper and running to many pages, the documents in question must have cost a great deal of money to produce even though plans to close Forty Hall must then have been known.

If the closure plans go ahead, what will happen to the house in the long term? Will it be put up for sale? Converted for other uses? No mention has so far been made about what will eventually happen to the building. Someone must know.

SALISBURY HOUSE. This, the oldest domestic building in the borough and another popular venue for local societies is now likely to be denied to them and some organisations will be hard pressed to find alternative accommodation for their activities. The building was only recently extensively restored under the aegis of English Heritage at a cost of several thousand pounds. It was the subject of an article in *Society News* giving details of its history and architecture as well as an account of the excavations carried out in the grounds. What will happen to the panelling recently returned, on loan, from Scotland and replaced in the house? This was done on the understanding that the house remained open to the public. Will the panelling now have to be returned to the Scottish museum? Most importantly, what will happen to the house?

LOCAL HISTORY LIBRARY. The restricted hours of opening of the Local History Unit will have an affect on the many schoolchildren who use it to gain information for various projects and examinations. The Unit is small and there is a premium on the space available for researchers which will not be helped by the reduced hours of opening. The Unit, founded by David Pam and since run by Graham Dalling has a wealth of raw material in its archives. Enfield is believed to have more books in print on local history and allied subjects than most other districts in the country, but most of them would not be so complete were it not for the information contained in the local archive (and in the encyclopaedic brain of the librarian, Graham Dalling!).

NINE

Council spokesmen are making much of the fact that Forty Hall and Salisbury House operate at a loss. A financial loss, yes, but should not the relatively small sums involved be regarded as investments, both in the older generation, so many of whom wish to know more about the history of the area, and in the children and students who need these places as source material for their studies?

The savings to be effected by these closures and restrictions are minute in proportion to the sums spent by the Council elsewhere and it is particularly galling to expect us to accept these cuts in order to allow wasteful expenditure to continue on such items as the Council newspaper, *Enfield News*, which contains no information which cannot be easily obtained from our existing local papers or other easily available sources. Incidentally, the meeting was informed that the figures previously published showing the high cost of producing this publication are not correct and that after next year it will be funded entirely from revenue from advertisements - it would be necessary to see the income and expenditure figures before accepting such a statement at face value. There are several other examples of wasteful expenditure by the Council.

At the invitation of the Enfield Preservation Society, a meeting chaired by Joan Ryan, MP for Enfield North, was held on 14th January at Jubilee Hall to discuss the closure of Forty Hall. A great deal of time was spent in going over old ground and listening to the views of those who were convinced there is some great conspiracy theory, the aim of which is for the Council to hand over Forty Hall to Capel Manor Corporation. I personally do not believe there is such a hidden agenda.

Joan Ryan had already made an appeal to local businessmen for funding to raise the £42,000 needed to keep Forty Hall open. The response had been most encouraging as by the time of the meeting, four days later, £7,000 had been raised with more promised in the next few days. Incidentally, in answer to a question a Councillor present stated that to raise the £42, 000 would require an increase in the community charge of 40p.

Many useful ideas were put forward at the meeting and all those present agreed to the setting up of a working party to gather information, such as a statement of the running costs and covenants attached to Forty Hall, a detailed structural survey of the building and to continue to raise funds and to prepare the way for a campaign to keep Forty Hall open. However, even if the campaign was successful, not all of the house would necessarily remain as a museum and, in order to generate private funding, some rooms may well be used for other purposes; for business conferences, seminars, etc., but public access would still be available.

Geoffrey Gillam.
Vice President.

MISCELLANY

WE ARE NOW ON THE INTERNET !

The story of the King Arthur Cross, published as

Appendix Two in *Forty Hall 1629-1997*, now forms part of the Arthurian studies section of the Britannia Internet Magazine under reference <http://www.britannia.com/history/crosshoax.html> Full details of our latest publication and a piece about the Society also appear in the magazine and it may be possible for us to become a regular contributor to its pages. The first result from the entry was an enquiry from West Country Television and a camera team subsequently visited the grounds of Forty Hall to film a short programme about the lead cross said to have been found in the lake there which will be transmitted in the west of England in April.

TEN

THE PURITY LAUNDRY.

A fragment of local history was recently revealed during the renovation of a shop front at 228 Baker Street, Enfield when, following a change of ownership and use, the existing fascia board was removed and a shop sign of the former Purity Laundry was discovered underneath. Street directories for Enfield indicate that the laundry was established just before the First World War, long before the ownership of washing machines or the existence of laundrettes were commonplace. There were four shops or collecting points in Enfield where people could take their laundry, suitably marked to enable ownership to be identified, and arrange its subsequent collection. As well as the shop in Baker Street, there were others at 99 Ordnance Road, 303 High Street and 3 Fourth Avenue. The laundry itself was in Charles Street, Bush Hill Park where clothing was washed and ironed as well as being starched (stiff collars and cuffs were *de rigueur* in very many jobs until after the Second World War when earlier standards began to be relaxed) and a fleet of vans collected clothing to be laundered and delivered it back to the shops concerned. In post war years, increasing affluence enabled many families to purchase a domestic washing machine and dryer from a wide range of models which had become available from the late 1940s onwards and thus do their own laundering at home. As a result the number of customers using the Purity Laundry gradually declined and it closed down in about 1969.

I am grateful to the member who telephoned to tell me about the sign and I am sorry I forgot to ask her name!

ENFIELD CHASE.

What appeared to be part of a boundary ditch of Enfield Chase was recently observed in a trench for new drains dug in the back garden of 11 Gordon Road, which stands on the corner of Gordon Road and the alley between Lancaster Road and Manor Road - whatever deviations may have taken place elsewhere, this alley has always been accepted as the original boundary of the Chase. One side of the trench revealed that the ground there had previously been disturbed but the other section showed the clear outline of a ditch just over a metre deep and about a metre and a half wide; circumstances did not permit a detailed examination and observations had to be made from a position outside the garden. The terrace of houses of which No.11 Gordon Road forms part has a centrally placed stone proclaiming it to be Raleigh Place 1886 - the name perpetuates the legend that Walter Raleigh lived in an earlier adjoining property. The 19th century builders of the terrace utilised the area of land to the full, as is shown by the fact that the front wall of No.11 is much narrower than the rear wall, a situation dictated by the unyielding nature of the boundary line followed by the present alley which must have been a pathway from the time when the boundary of the Chase was defined in the 12th century.

RESTORATION OF THE NEW RIVER LOOP.

In January the first phase of restoration began on part of the New River Loop which was abandoned in 1859. A short length of this is now an ornamental feature running from Enfield Town, past the grammar school, between River View and Gentleman's Row, through the Town Park to Bush Hill.

The first phase of the work consisted of removing the accumulated silt from the river bed and pumping it into a specially built lagoon in Town Park. Once the silt had been pumped into the lagoon, the original intention was to allow the water to drain away and, once dry, remove the silt for use elsewhere but unfortunately a group came forward to express concern about possible contamination of the park soil by the water from the river and insisted that the lagoon should have a plastic liner. This meant that drainage of the water was difficult, if not actually impossible, because as the top layer of silt dries out and sets hard the levels below retain their water content. When one considers the generations of dogs who have made their contributions to the ecology of the park any 'washing' of the soil could be nothing but beneficial!

ELEVEN

David White, acting as an observer for the Society, used a metal detector to scan the soil that was being removed to construct the lagoon. He found quite a few items of interest which range from the exotic: a silver object believed to be Roman but not yet verified, which has gone to the Coroner's office and several coins from the reign of Charles I to the present day (does the depositing of coins in wells, streams etc as a token to the gods apply to the New River?) and lots of pottery sherds of 17th, 18th, 19th (and modern) date. Michael Dewbrey later joined in the observation and found more coins, pottery, clay pipe stems (some bearing the maker's initials) and what appears to be a trade token. All of these finds have yet to be properly examined and a full report will appear in the next bulletin.

Examining the silt itself has proved to be more difficult. The material, in the form of slurry, is being pumped into the lagoon where it lies too deep to allow proper examination. It may be possible to examine the silt more closely when it has eventually dried out and can be removed. The amount of archaeological material likely to be found in the silt is an unknown quantity but one interesting find made so far is a gilded top and shoulders from a gentleman's drinking flask, possibly of 18th or early 19th century date.

The next step will be revetment work on the bank of the river. Following as it does the 300 foot contour line, the river is embanked on one side and any material found there will be derivative but any finds made behind the revetment on the opposite bank could be in situ. There may be places in which constructional characteristics dating back to the period when the river was built in the early years of the 17th century are revealed and it is therefore hoped to maintain a watching brief on the work as it proceeds.

PEVSNER REVISED;
Middlesex

The original slim volume of *The Buildings of England :*

LONDON 4 : NORTH.

by Nikolaus Pevsner, published by Penguin books in 1951 (price three shillings and sixpence!) now forms part of a revised six-

volume London series. *London 4: North* is an extensively revised version by Bridget Cherry of Pevsner's original work, dealing with the boroughs of Barnet, Camden, Enfield, Hackney and Islington. It is well-indexed and contains an excellent account of the London Borough of Enfield. The text, maps, plans and photographs make it an invaluable reference book and Bridget Cherry is to be congratulated on the amount of original research carried out enabling much new material to be incorporated whilst at the same time keeping to Pevsner's original achievement.

810 pages. Price £30.00 Obtainable from all local bookshops.

G R G.

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1998

TWELVE

The Executive Committee of the Enfield Archaeological Society has pleasure in presenting its 43rd Annual Report for the year ended 31st December 1998.

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

	Adults	Junior	Total
Membership at 31. 12. 97	226	5	231
Joined during the year	16	2	18
Resignations and removals	28	1	29
Membership at 31. 12. 98	214	6	220

LECTURES. We are again grateful to the speakers who came to Enfield to address us during 1998. The lectures were considerably enhanced by the comfortable surroundings provided by Jubilee Hall and, of course, the help given by various members; with the projection equipment, the light desk, the information and sales table and serving refreshments before the meeting.

VISITS. The annual joint meeting between the Society and the WEA consisted of a **visit to Castle Hedingham & Oxburgh Hall.**

The communal **air raid shelter at Millfield House** was opened in July as part of the Summer Extravaganza held in the house and grounds when, to the sound of a warning siren, over 350 visitors were escorted in parties of about 25 at a time to the shelter by a fully uniformed air raid warden. Once inside they were given a short talk about the effects of air raids on Edmonton and then, by the use of sound effects, experienced an air raid for themselves.

As part of London Open House 98, we provided guided tours of **Salisbury House** when visitors were given details of the latest research into the history of the house. There was also an information point and an exhibition of the items discovered during recent excavations in the grounds.

A guide was also provided by us for visitors to **Southgate House (Arnos Grove)** during part of the Open House weekend.

PUBLICITY. The important task of publicising the events and activities of the Society was maintained by the Publicity Officer who ensured that notices of forthcoming meetings were placed on library notice boards and that a summary of lectures given, together with details of the next meeting, were sent to the local papers. We are grateful to the local press for their continued interest.

The exchange of bulletins and newsletters between neighbouring societies enabled us all to be kept informed of our respective activities.

PUBLICATIONS. 'Society News', our quarterly bulletin continued to be produced by the editor.

As well as the usual, but nevertheless important, ephemera regarding notices of meetings and other items, the bulletins issued during the year contained several new and original articles on a wide variety of subjects relating to local archaeology and history. Thanks are due to the members who deliver the bulletins by hand and thus save the Society a considerable sum in postage.

There has been a steady sale of 'Forty Hall 1629 - 1997', our only publication in print at the present time.

THIRTEEN

AFFILIATIONS. We continued our affiliation to the Council for British Archaeology and the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society, as well as our membership of the Broomfield House Historic Buildings Trust. We are also represented on the North London Archaeological Liaison Committee and the LBE Green Belt Forum.

CLOSURE OF FORTY HALL AND SALISBURY HOUSE. The Society has added its voice to the many protests made at the closure of **Forty Hall Museum and Salisbury House** and reduction in opening times for the **Local History Library**. The closure of the museum means that it may not be possible to arrange the planned exhibition illustrating the history and archaeology of Elsyng Palace, but we are seeking an alternative venue. We remain responsible for the archaeological material stored in the museum and continue to occupy a small workroom there.

FIELDWORK. At the suggestion of Dr Steven Dowbiggin, the Chief Executive of Capel Manor, the sites of the two 18th century **garden pavilions within the area of the Home Farm at Forty Hall** were marked with stakes. It is hoped to clear both sites of brambles and other undergrowth and to properly record the surviving remains of these features. Dr Dowbiggin also asked us to look at some brickwork he had noticed in the fields north of Forty Hall. A small group of members investigated and found a mechanism for operating a sluice, a brick-lined tunnel and a brick channel leading from part of the old course of the **New River** which lies within the grounds of Myddelton House. A detailed report describing this feature, its date of construction and original purpose will be described in a future bulletin.

English Heritage arranged for a full-scale geophysical survey to be carried out over the site of **Elsyng Palace** in the grounds of Forty Hall producing some very interesting results. Help was given to the operators of this survey in pointing out the site of the excavations carried out there by members of the Society in the 1960s. We were also able to give advice regarding archaeological features during subsequent archaeological and landscape surveys.

At the request of English Heritage, the council removed half a dozen saplings that had been planted over part of the site of Elsyng Palace. An observer from the Society was present during their removal but, apart from a layer of hard packed gravel in one area, nothing of importance was noted.

Brian Hewitt, gardener at Myddelton House, asked if we could find out more about **Bowling Green House**, a Tudor building which was demolished when nearby **Myddelton House** was built in 1818. A visit was made and the site of Bowling Green House was photographed. Subsequent investigation has so far failed to reveal any documentary reference earlier than 1724.

EXCAVATION. A report on the small excavation carried out during the year in an attempt to

find out more about the origins of **Salisbury House and Bury Lodge** and the possible relationship between these two buildings appeared in the December bulletin.

RESEARCH. The results of a detailed study of **Salisbury House**, of late 16th or early 17th century date, and the once adjoining **Bury Lodge**, both of which are thought to have been part of a single L-shaped building in Bury Street, Edmonton, were included in the excavation report published in the December bulletin.

Millfield House, an 18th century building in Silver Street, Edmonton was examined in detail and the results also appeared in the bulletin.

The architectural history of Southgate House, formerly **Arnos Grove**, is being investigated and will be published in due course.

FOURTEEN

Further work on the history of **Elsyng Palace** is being carried out and has already resulted in the discovery of another inventory detailing the contents of the palace, as well as other documents which tell us more about this Tudor building.

A complete list of the names on the inside of the **cupboard door at Forty Hall** has now been entered on a computer; together with a second list where the names and, where known, notes about the families concerned, have been compiled in alphabetical order.

A distillation of the information entered in a **visitors' book at Forty Hall** between 1938 and 1951 was published in the December bulletin.

ENQUIRIES. During the year we received several **requests for information** about archaeological discoveries in the area and other enquiries were concerned with details of where bombs fell in Enfield and Edmonton during the Second World War. We even had someone asking if we could help to compile their family history.

OTHER ACTIVITIES. Photographs were taken of demolition in progress of the **ABC (formerly the Savoy) cinema** in Southbury Road, Enfield. A supermarket has since been built on the site.

Help was given and artefacts provided for an **exhibition at Forty Hall** illustrating the history of our community. This was based on the successful exhibition 'The People of London' previously shown at the Museum of London.

Dennis Hill
Chairman.
