



society

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The Bulletin of the ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

September 2000 No 158

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

Meetings of the Enfield Archaeological Society are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield (near Chase Side) at 8.00pm. Tea and coffee is 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.

Attention is drawn to the change of speaker for the September meeting

Friday 15 September 2000
High Street Londinium
Jenny Hall, Museum of London

The temporary exhibition at the Museum of London reconstructs three Roman timber-frame buildings, based on the archaeological evidence from No. 1 Poultry in the heart of the Roman town. It proved an interesting exercise in how to turn excavated ground plans into three-dimensional realities.

Jenny Hall

Friday 20 October 2000
Medieval Popular Religion in Hertfordshire
Dr. Stephen Dore

The religion of the people has been called “the unscripted history of the Church”. The medieval church as an institution has been much studied. The attitudes and beliefs of ordinary people, however, have remained shrouded in obscurity: most people were illiterate and therefore cut off from the world of books and ideas. Much of what we know about their religious attitudes comes from writings of the educated who, by dint of that fact, inhabited a different mental world: it is difficult for us to penetrate the minds of illiterate people at any time. Towards the end of the Middle Ages richer men, and sometimes women, dictated wills, but even here we cannot always be certain that the religious ideas they contain have not been edited by clergy to exclude unconventional or unacceptable notions.

One way round this problem is to read motives into observed actions. Where evidence exists, it is clear that the most significant type of

religious activity on the part of laymen was church-building, not so much the physical labour of working with stones and mortar but rather the mobilisation of resources that was to make church-building possible.

The purpose of this talk will therefore be to examine the religious attitudes of the broad mass of Hertfordshire people before the Reformation. It will not be primarily about doctrine or the clergy but will attempt to discover what it was that motivated ordinary men and women and what it was that prompted them to confer upon us our greatest medieval legacy: the ancient Hertfordshire churches.

Dr. Stephen Dore

Friday 17 November 2000
Excavating the Crypt of Christ Church, Spitalfields
Jez Reeve, GLAS, English Heritage

At Christ Church, Spitalfields, in 1980, a full-scale excavation of the crypt was bravely envisaged in the course of restoration work. The results of this endeavour are now internationally famous. The project, which was scheduled to take just six months, took nearer three times that to complete. The unforeseen difficulties of extracting 250 tonnes of rubble, 16 tonnes of lead, the remains of more than 1000 human beings and thousands of small finds by hand from the constrained spaces and tunnels combined to extend the timetable. Regular monitoring of blood lead levels and the now famous smallpox scare added to the complications. Thankfully, a similar project planned today would not have to revisit the unknowns that confounded the original Christ Church timetable. This talk will take us through those tunnels and some of the difficulties that were eventually overcome.

Jez Reeve



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 20 September 2000

Costumes pre-1830 from Fashion Plates
Harry Matthews

Wednesday 25 October 2000

The History of Wood Green
Albert Pinching

Saturday 04 November 2000

Day Conference

Tuesday 14 November 2000 at 2.30pm

*The Medieval Merchant-Gentry of
Edmonton Hundred*
David Avery

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – NORTH LONDON BRANCH

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

For details, contact Robin Blades, 020 8368 5328

Tuesday 12 September 2000

Fantasy in Catalonia from Gaudi to Dali
Stephen Gilbert

Tuesday 10 October 2000

Assessing British India
Prof. Peter Marshall

Tuesday 14 November 2000

Oliver Cromwell
Dr. Barry Coward (Birkbeck College)

OTHER EVENTS

SALISBURY HOUSE OPEN DAY

There will be another Open Day at Salisbury House, Bury Street, Edmonton, on Saturday 23 September when the building will be open to visitors between 10am and 4pm. Various societies will be arranging exhibits and our contribution will be a revised 20 minute taped and illustrated talk, which will be repeated throughout the day. There will also be a display of material to illustrate the excavations carried out in the grounds of Salisbury House, as well as other items.

AIR RAID EXPERIENCE

The air raid shelter in the grounds of Millfield House Arts Complex, Silver Street, Edmonton, will again be open on Sunday 8 October between 10.30am and 3.30pm when, at half-hourly intervals, parties of visitors will be conducted into the shelter by an air raid warden to the sound of the warning siren. A short talk on the effects of the blitz on Edmonton will be given together with sound effects to create an "air raid experience". *This is a very popular event so come early to avoid disappointment.*

LAMAS LOCAL HISTORY CONFERENCE

The 35th London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Local History Conference will be held on Saturday 18 November 2000 at the Museum of London and is entitled "Crossing the Thames". Speakers include Derek Keane – *London Bridge and the Identity of London*, Chris Ellmers – *Ferries and Watermen*, Dennis Smith – *The Later Bridges*, Roger Cline – *Railway Crossings*, and Cathy Ross – *The Symbolism of London Bridges*.

Tickets are £4.00 (£3.00 to LAMAS members) and are available on application to LAMAS, Local History Conference, 36 Church Road, West Drayton, Middlesex UB7 7PX. Please send an s.a.e. for your tickets.

News of more events is given in Small Finds

REFLECTIONS FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Autumn is sliding up over the horizon and it is pleasing that the Society has an excellent opening speaker for the Autumn session, in the form of Mrs Jenny Hall, Curator of the Museum of London's Roman collections, who will talk to us about the new Londinium exhibition which has just opened at the Museum. I was fortunate enough to be invited to a preview and the street scenes of Roman London together with the recreation of various shops and workshops all combine to give a lively exhibition, which is well worth seeing.

As a relatively small Society we can benefit from a good working association with the Museum of London, the Museum of London's Archaeology Service (MOLAS) and Birkbeck College's Archaeology Department in terms of good quality speakers and expert advice.

Caroline McKenna, Jean Lamont and Jon Tanner anxiously await Birkbeck's views on the dissertations they have submitted for the Diploma in Field Archaeology, (*I passed!* – Ed.) while I am poised to submit my dissertation for the Birkbeck MA in Archaeology.

Birkbeck ran its annual training dig for student archaeologists, this summer in Bermondsey. Some Roman finds were discovered and there was clear evidence of industrial archaeology in the form of drains with sluices. The excavation was led by our President Harvey Sheldon who was in great form, showing parties of school children round the site.

MOLAS, kindly funded by Enfield Council, carried out a digital topographic survey of the site of the Tudor Elsyng Palace in Forty Hall park. The contours can now be overlaid onto the digital results of the 1998 geophysics survey of the site.

Meanwhile, English Heritage will be carrying out a trial in September of ground penetrating radar with a view to detecting the substantial brick drains found by the Society when it excavated part of Elsyng in the 1960's.

The English Heritage Inspector of Ancient Monuments for the site, Mrs Ellen Barnes, has now agreed to consider new excavations to accurately determine the whereabouts of the remains of the main part of the palace. If, via Enfield Council, we can obtain Scheduled Ancient Consent for this work to proceed, then

on behalf of the Society application can be made for a Local Heritage Initiative Grant from the Countryside Council for a professional team to excavate.

All of this takes many letters and infinite patience, but at least we can hold our heads up, the deterioration of this important site of Henry VIII's is expected to be stopped, the site kept clear and notice boards erected to inform the public of the history involved.

The Society should be involved on a number of fronts, e.g. industrial archaeology. Dr Dowbiggin, Principal of Capel Manor College, invited us to survey and record an iron sluice gate leading off from the old loop of the New River in the grounds of Myddelton House. It opens into a vertical shaft leading to a brick-lined tunnel feeding a series of ditches running down through the fields to Maidens Brook. It was assumed that this was means of regulating the level of the water in the loop when it became an ornamental feature. However, a preliminary investigation has revealed a number of additional features including a large stopcock and extensive brickwork. Society Committee members agree that the area of the sluice should be properly investigated. Society members prepared to help clear the undergrowth, draw up the features, research Myddelton House's grounds and the New River or generally take an interest and provide back-up services such as coffee are invited to contact me to learn of the dates and times.

We are in touch with the Trust which is developing a Heritage Centre on the site of the Machine Shop at the historic Royal Small Arms factory, and also with the Trust which will be opening the Royal Gunpowder Mills site at Waltham Abbey in 2001. There should be some excellent visits in due course.

In January, I wrote to you all requesting that somebody would take over as Meetings Secretary from Geoffrey Gillam who sadly is suffering from ill health. Geoffrey has now resigned, having kindly arranged the programme for 2000/2001. **Please, we must have a replacement Meetings Secretary.** Will somebody **please** contact me! Meanwhile, I have been delighted to hear from three members who are willing to help deliver our excellent Bulletin and two who are prepared to help clear the site of the sluice.

The members of the Committee work hard to make the Society function smoothly and efficiently while you back us by filling the hall and providing good audiences for the encouragement of our lecturers.

Thanks!

MEETING REPORTS

Early Stages in the Development of London's Archaeology

Friday 19 May 2000: Harvey Sheldon

Our President began his address by showing an early view along Clink Street where the Tate Modern stands today. Also in the picture was the Bishop of Winchester's Palace, parts of which were previously concealed by later commercial premises and only revealed after the bombing of 1940. The surviving wall of the palace, with its rose window, was one of the first monuments to be scheduled in London. Other sites were not so lucky: they were either destroyed by German bombs or demolished during subsequent commercial redevelopment.

The destruction of archaeological material began much earlier and this was well illustrated by a contemporary cartoon showing the spread of London suburbs during the late 18th and early 19th centuries. Even where archaeological sites were covered by buildings with shallow foundations, opportunities to explore the ground beneath them after the war were seldom available to the archaeologists. During the 19th century discoveries of an exceptional nature, such as the Bucklersbury pavement, a fine Roman mosaic uncovered near Mansion House, attracted attention. But even in cases such as this, all that happened was that the pavement was lifted to be put on display with no regard for the over or underlying archaeological deposits. In the mid 19th century the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society was formed in an attempt to co-ordinate the work of various antiquarians who were attempting to save what they could. Among them was one outstanding man, Charles Roach Smith, a London chemist who recorded many Roman antiquities – in the process of which he clashed on more than one occasion with the Corporation of London.

Several of the many fascinating discoveries were shown and described to us. The tomb of Classicianus, the first century Procurator of Roman Britain where the inscription on his tomb was correctly interpreted by Charles Roach Smith, but his findings were denied by the professionals who got it

completely wrong. They thought the word was *classis* and that it was the tombstone of a commander of the Roman fleet. It was not until more of the tomb was found in 1935 that Roach

Smith was proved to be right.

Mortimer Wheeler became Director of the London Museum and amongst other ideas he arranged for the Society of Antiquaries to pay observers to keep an eye on what was being uncovered when foundations were being dug. Following the destruction of large parts of the City during the blitz, W F Grimes became director of the Roman and Medieval Excavation Council for London and with a small team he began excavating on some of the bomb sites. Underfunded and understaffed, he nevertheless made some exciting discoveries, amongst which were the Temple of Mithras on the banks of the Walbrook, and the Roman fort at Cripplegate.

Although more evidence was being recovered, a great deal was still being destroyed. An example was Baynards Castle on the banks of the Thames, ruthlessly smashed in the interests of short-term commercialism. When, because of new legislation, it became necessary for developers to arrange to have sites properly explored, careful excavation in the same area of the castle revealed evidence of the riverside wall of the Roman city, which would otherwise also have been lost. It was at this time that an archaeological unit was set up by the Museum of London, whose job it was to carry out excavations in advance of commercial redevelopment.

Another exciting discovery was the Rose Theatre. This too attracted a great deal of attention and there were many protests and representations were made to ensure that the remains were protected.

It is only fair to say that many developers have since embraced the idea of archaeological exploration, and between them they have poured money into excavation work in recent years and taken a very keen interest in the work.

We are grateful to Harvey Sheldon for this well-illustrated and informative review of the development of archaeology in London, which

not only reminded us of just how much was lost but also the progress made in more enlightened

recent years.

Geoffrey Gillam

THE SOUTHGATE BEAUMONT

aka SOUTHGATE HOUSE, NORTHMET HOUSE, ARNOS GROVE, ARNO'S, ARNOLDS: Part 1

THE HOUSE & OWNERS -- EXTERIOR

The original Arnolds house stood close to Waterfall Road in the angle where the road turns almost due south; somewhere between the present junctions of Chandos Avenue and Abbotshall Avenue with Waterfall Road **1**. In 1623 it was described as a small house **2**; an earlier reference in 1584 mentions that it stood in 24 acres of land **3**.

In 1719, James Colebrook, a London mercer then assumed to be living at Arnolds **4**, began the construction of a new and larger house in a more convenient position. He chose a site on high ground in Cannon Hill, at that time part of Southgate High Street, a location with extensive views across the valley of Pymmes Brook and the surrounding countryside. The house was aligned with its long axis parallel to the road, from which it was screened by a high brick wall pierced by two entrances that gave access to a semicircular drive leading to the front of the house. It was further separated from the road by a broad grass verge - which is still there. A substantial lodge stood next to the north entrance, where brick gate pillars supporting wooden gates were capped with ornamental stone balls and a plain iron arch spanned the drive

Constructed of good quality red brick laid in Flemish bond, the house is seven bays wide and two and a half storeys high over a recessed basement **5**, with the three slightly projecting central bays covered by a triangular pediment in brick - an arrangement repeated on the rear elevation. Long carefully proportioned symmetrically placed rectangular windows on the first two floors, with smaller versions on the upper floor, are outlined with rubbed brick dressings and with narrow gauged bricks forming flat arches. The original sash windows have long since been replaced, no doubt on more than one occasion. The small recessed window outlined in the brickwork, with its heraldic device of a blank shield and swags in terracotta, to the right of the entrance, was never glazed and was placed there for reasons

of symmetry as the space behind is occupied by the first stage of the main staircase. Apart from minor details, the front and rear elevations of the house were identical.

The hipped roof in grey slate has a wooden block modillion eaves cornice, a feature that also occupies the edges of the triangular pediment. Tall chimney stacks in brick stand at each corner of the roof of the house and there is also a cupola bell turret.

Wings were added on each side of the central block; although no doubt intended as part of the original design, they were not completed until the second half of the 18th century.

The present portico, c1928, over the centrally placed entrance doorway replaced an earlier 18th century version. This was a massive structure supported at each corner by large square brick built columns. At the sides were two large cylindrical columns with capitals decorated with acanthus leaves. Pairs of similar columns stood on either side of a narrow flight of steps at the front. The portico was capped by a flat stone entablature with a block modillion cornice in brick surmounted by a brick parapet. The whole effect was dark and forbidding. From each side of the portico low stone balustrades extended right round the house.

At the rear of the house is a central, single storey bow, occupying the three central bays where four pairs of Doric columns support an entablature, the frieze of which is decorated with geometric designs. This feature had been added during the latter part of the 18th century **6**. Between pairs of columns are, at the sides, long rectangular windows set in brickwork, and at the front, tall double doors, also set in brickwork. An examination of the bow in 1996 led to the discovery that, although a similar structure had stood there from at least 1784 **7**, it had been rebuilt down to basement level in the 20th century **8**.

Today, the original house is dwarfed by the massive office blocks added at each end by the North Metropolitan Electricity Supply Company after they had acquired the house in 1928 for use as their head office, when it was renamed Northmet House.

James Colebrook constructed his house in 1719 **9**. It has been suggested that the architect of the original block could be (William) Talman (1650 - 1719) built in the austere astylar manner of his closing years"; e.g. Fetcham Park in Surrey 1705, Kimberley Hall in Norfolk c1700 and Panton Hall in Lincolnshire c1719 (now demolished) **10**. Wall paintings in the hall are dated 1723 and must represent the year in which the house was completed and made ready for occupation. There is a story, perhaps apocryphal, that Italian workers employed on the construction of the house had difficulty in pronouncing the name Arnolds which they referred to as 'Arno's' **11**. Between 1752 when he inherited the house and 1762 when it was sold to Abraham Hume, George, later Sir George Colebrook, the son of James, engaged (Sir) Robert Taylor the architect to build a library and eating room in the north wing, which it is said was 'from designs nearly resembling the new offices in the Bank of England' **12**. The south wing, also containing an eating room, was finished by William Mayne, later Lord Newhaven, who lived at Arno's Grove between 1766 and 1775 **13**; although it is now believed that Taylor was responsible for the design of both wings and the remodelling of the drawing room, with the exception of the bow which is not considered to be part of Taylor's work. Lord Newhaven, who purchased the house from Abraham Hume in 1766, is said to have changed the name to Arnos Grove **14**.

A photograph of the front elevation taken in 1926 shows both wings as two-storey, stucco covered structures with flat roofs supporting parapets of stone balustrading. Each wing contained a Venetian window; tall recessed arched windows, the frames of which were set between twin stone columns standing on stone balustrading extending across the full width of each window. The pairs of columns each had a rectangular capital, decorated with acanthus leaves in a similar fashion to those of the contemporary porch, supporting an arch of dressed stone.

The west elevations of both wings are also identical. On the ground floor light is provided by three tall rectangular windows with rubbed brick dressings and narrow gauged bricks forming flat arches similar to other windows elsewhere in the house. Above are two

areas of dressed stone, with egg-and-dart decoration along their lower edges, thought to be part of Taylor's work, supporting small square windows inserted at a later date. In the north wing a brick roundel separates these windows, but in the south wing the roundel has been replaced, probably by Northmet, with a third window matching the others.

At the end of the north wing, on either side of the portico, at ground floor level were unglazed rectangular recessed areas with flat arches and sills identical in shape to windows at the rear. These features appear to have been inserted solely for reasons of symmetry. The brick filling of each space was ornamented with decorative terracotta features similar to the one on the front of the house. Brick roundels occupied the spaces above each of these windows.

The rest of the north elevation was occupied by a massive portico consisting of seven eaves-high stone Ionic columns, each standing on stone plinths, supporting a triangular pediment decorated with block modillion cornicing and containing a bust within a central recess. Inside the portico, which was approached by a flight of three shallow steps, were three doorways. but only the one in the centre would have been functional as fireplaces and chimney stacks stood behind the outline doorways on either side. Above each doorway was a recess containing a bust of what is assumed to be that of a classical figure. The design of this portico is not recognised as being in the style of Taylor **15** but no suggestions have so far been made regarding its designer.

Pairs of tall chimney stacks stood at the ends of each of the two wings. On the 25 inch Ordnance Survey plan for 1865 can be seen what might be a porch at the end of the south wing, but the lack of any known illustration of this part of the building makes it impossible to identify this feature in any detail. A 1920's photograph of the house shows that the south wing had been increased in height to eaves level by the addition of a centrally placed extension running the full length of the wing but only about half its width. When the Northmet constructed the huge office blocks at either end of the house they were faced with the problem of providing means of communication between them. Internally, there was originally a centrally placed matching spinal corridor running from north to south through the house in the basement and all the other floors. On the first floor this corridor continued from the gallery through the south wing only. It was not until the Northmet reconstructed the library and inserted

a new floor was it possible to continue the corridor through the north wing at first floor level. The same restrictions applied to the second floor where the corridor was confined to the central block but by using the previously mentioned extension over the south wing to contain a corridor access to the office block on that side of the house was possible. Using the example of the extension over the south wing as an example a similar structure was added over the north wing thus completing a means of communication to the large office blocks they had built at each end of the house by means of corridors on all floors.

James Brown, who owned the house briefly from 1775, sold it in 1777 to Isaac Walker, a wholesale linen draper, and four generations of the family, who had entered the brewing business, were to remain there. During the ownership of the Walkers the estate was increased in size to over 300 acres, comprising almost all the land bounded by Powys Lane, Cannon Hill, Waterfall Road and Bowes Road. This was achieved by the purchase and immediate demolition of Minchenden Hall in 1853 **16**, which stood on the south side of Southgate Green, and Beaver Hall in 1870 **17**, which stood on or close to the site of the original Arnolds house. In 1918 Russell Donnithorne Walker, the last of the celebrated seven cricketing brothers (there were also five seldom-mentioned daughters), sold the house and grounds to Andrew Weir, later Lord Inverforth, a shipping magnate.

As time went by, the pressure on land increased and in 1928 Lord Inverforth sold the estate. Most of it went to developers and was soon covered with houses. However, 44 acres of land bisected by Pymmes brook was purchased by Southgate Council and became a public open space known as Arnos Park. The

house was sold to the North Metropolitan Electric Power Supply Company for use as their head offices when extensive alterations and additions were made; the wings were remodelled and increased in height, and the east fronts completely rebuilt and fitted with new windows and large areas of stone facing designed to match a large office block added in two stages at the south end of the house in 1929 and 1932. Another office block was built at the north end in 1935, resulting in the demolition of the huge portico there - the materials from which were used to replace the earlier porch on the east front with the present structure. The banded, globular lamps mounted over the doors of both extensions were originally made for the Wembley Exhibition in 1924, as were the smaller versions of the lamps which once stood on the low boundary wall of the garden at the front of the property **18**.

The office block at the north end was extended in 1975 when the property was acquired by Legal and General Assurance in 1975, who changed the name to Southgate House. They left in 1993 and two years later Westminster Healthcare purchased the building when the south wing was converted into private apartments and the central portion and the north wing for use as a nursing centre and living apartments for the elderly. It is now known as The Southgate Beaumont. However, on this occasion, unlike the conversion work of 70 years ago by the Northmet, care was taken not to alter or damage any of the historic features of the house; which is now a Grade Two listed building.

To be continued

Geoffrey Gillam



EAS/WEA OUTING

TO FISHBOURNE AND ARUNDEL, MAY 14th 2000

For nearly 3 decades EAS members have joined members of the local branch of the Workers Educational Association on their annual outing. This year Society members received the application forms first for a change and this was reflected in their dominance of the

coach. The day turned out to be one of the finest of this miserable summer. (It is raining as I write this by the way.)

This was my third visit to the Roman Palace at Fishbourne but my first for 23 years and I was especially pleased to see that the reconstruction of the original garden layout with its ornamental

box hedges and apple trees is now fully mature. On arrival the party were given an introductory talk around the model in the entrance area and later after examining the remains many viewed the statutory video. Some who explored the gardens discovered the "Roman" potting shed tucked in a corner complete with garrulous gardener. Nearby laid out on top of the site of the entrance hall of the palace is a small garden full of examples of the plant types introduced into Britain by the Romans.

Roman interest in the site began in AD 43 when it served as one of the supply bases used during the conquest of Britain and after the military moved on in a few years the site continued as a civilian settlement. In the late 60's a luxurious residence using both imported materials and craftsmen was built on the cleared site. The reasons for its construction remain unknown but it is thought to have been built for the local client king and ally of Rome, Cogidubnus, of whom more later, as a reward for his loyalty and help and also it may have been a symbol of Rome's determination to remain in Britain after the Boudiccan Revolt.

Around AD 75 work began on the massive building which visitors see today. This immense palace consists of 4 blocks around a courtyard garden of which the north wing is fully uncovered and roofed over to protect its unique early mosaics. This wing is thought to have been the guest quarters with 23 rooms arranged around two internal courtyards. Only a few walls of the east and west wings which comprised the formal entrance and state rooms can be seen while nothing of the south wing which incorporated the earlier building is visible thanks to the A259 and various houses. It is assumed that the building belonged to Cogidubnus and is thought to have been a gift from the Emperor Vespasian in return both for the help given him by Cogidubnus and his people when he commanded the II legion in AD43 in its drive to the west and his support during the chaotic Year of Four Emperors after Nero's suicide in AD68.

For the next two centuries the house was altered much like any great country house of later centuries with a new suite of baths being added and later demolished. The room layout was greatly changed with one being fitted with the multicoloured dolphin mosaic around 150. We can only guess what changes occurred in the status of the house but the increasing luxury of the old guest wing and the eventual presence of workshops suggests it may have become the centre of a prosperous farming estate. In the

late third century further work was underway when fire destroyed the complex.

Lunch was taken at Chichester, one of the most attractive of our small historic towns with remains including walls of Roman origin, a not too badly restored medieval cathedral with a rare separate bell tower, some monastic remains and a fine range of vernacular buildings with some small houses of late 17th and 18th century date being especially noteworthy. From an archaeological point of view the most interesting item is the Roman inscription now mounted on the outside wall of the 18th century Council House. This refers to the building of a temple to Neptune and Minerva by one of the local guilds and mentions Tiberius Claudius Cogidubnus the ruler of the Atrebartes. This inscription appeared to give the king the unique title of Imperial Legate in Britain making him the automatic choice for the occupant of nearby Fishbourne. This part of the inscription is now damaged but a copy of it made earlier than the one usually quoted gives a slightly different reading of the critical part reducing Cogidubnus to just Great King in Britain, a much more acceptable appellation for a client king.

Our final stop was at Arundel where an immense range of architectural features survive in what is one of the longest continuously inhabited great houses in England with the Dukes of Norfolk and their ancestors through the female line having occupied it since 1138. The castle was founded in 1067 by Roger de Montgomery on the direct orders of William the Conqueror given at his Christmas court at Gloucester. The oldest visible features are the massive 11th century motte, extensive ditches of the bailey and a stone gatehouse dating from 1070. The mainly complete curtain wall is of late 11th and late 12th century date; a shell keep was built upon the motte in 1140 presumably replacing a timber original and a barbican was added to the main gate around 1300.

Between 1875 and 1900 much of the old domestic range with its later alterations in the south bailey were swept away to be replaced by one of the more dramatic Victorian Gothic Revival houses designed by Charles Butler for the 15th Duke of Norfolk. Within this there survive elements including a door and windows and a vaulted undercroft of the palace built by Henry II in 1180 and the library built by the 11th Duke in 1800 which is one of the best preserved late Georgian Gothic interiors to survive.

The surrounding town is dominated by the huge catholic church begun in 1870 to the designs of Joseph Hansom. Nearby is the Benedictine priory refounded as a college of

secular canons in 1380 by the 4th Earl of Arundel. Much of the accommodation for the canons survives though much altered. Below on the banks of the river can be found the fragmentary remains of a small Dominican friary. In contrast to Chichester much of the rest of the town is 19th century.

Ian Jones

.....SMALL FINDS

STONEHENGE

According to a report in *Building Design* (28 July 2000) English Heritage has announced that following the rejection of the latest design proposals for the new visitor centre at Stonehenge, the project is once again back to square one. The process began 23 years ago when the then Labour government set up a working party to investigate the visitor facilities, which were described as a "national disgrace". Over the years, various schemes and "procurement routes" have been explored and abandoned, including two proposals under the Private Finance Initiative – a form of design, build, finance and operate contract used in recent years to procure school and hospital buildings, for instance. The latest scheme has now been scrapped, *Building Design* reports, and the PFI process has been dropped. The opening date for a new centre is now apparently 2006, although it is not clear how the road improvement scheme is affected – this includes the closure and removal of the A344, and the sinking of the obtrusive A303 into a 2km tunnel – controversially of the cut-and-cover variety. Let us hope that the protracted decision making process will result not only in facilities for extracting cash from tourists "doing" Stonehenge as an item on an itinerary, but will provide a more appropriate context for this unique World Heritage Site.

DARK AGE TRADE CONFERENCE

The Sutton Hoo Society is hosting a conference entitled "North Sea Communities: Evidence for Dark Age Trade and Communication" on Saturday 28 October 2000, in the John Bray Lecture Theatre, Adastral Park, Martlesham Heath, Ipswich. The chairman will be Professor Martin Carver, director of Sutton Hoo Research Project, and speakers include John Davies, Valerie Fenwick, John Hines, Edward James and Keith Wade. Tickets are £12.00, and booking forms and further details are available from S. Salmond, Tailor's House, Bawdsey, Woodbridge IP12 3AJ telephone 01394 411288. Hon.Sec. and Ed. intends to be there.

HIGH STREET LONDINIUM EXHIBITION

As mentioned in "Reflections From the Chairman" the exhibition at the Museum of London on High Street Londinium is well worth a visit. This exhibition is also the subject of the September lecture meeting, and runs from 21 July 2000 until 28 January 2001. Details are given in the flyer enclosed with *Society News*. Admission to the Museum is £5.00.

PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES

The Government has decided not to ratify two international conventions which would hamper the international trade in illicitly obtained antiquities, according to a report in *British Archaeology* 54 (August 2000). However, after pressure from various bodies including the CBA, and some "pointed questioning" in the Lords by Colin Renfrew, the Minister of Arts Alan Howarth announced that an advisory panel is to be set up to reconsider the matter. Much of the trade passes through London's antiquities market, and the panel will also report on how the trade, which promotes the looting of archaeological sites, can best be prevented in the UK

HELLO TO WEAG

Greetings to members of the West Essex Archaeological Group, our neighbouring society to the east with whom we are attempting to establish links, including an exchange of bulletins and possibly co-operation on projects. If any members of WEAG would care to visit us at a lecture meeting, they would be very welcome.

YET ANOTHER HOWLER

Inexplicably, I feel compelled to inflict another howler upon the membership: *David was a Hebrew king skilled at playing the liar. He fought with the Finkelsteins, a race of people who lived in biblical times. Solomon, one of David's sons, had 300 wives and 700 porcupines.*