



— society

NEWS

The Bulletin of the ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

—
September 2003 No 170

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Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December
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FORTHCOMI NG 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, who are asked to pay a small entrance fee of £1.00, are very welcome.

Friday 17 October 2003

Planning for Archaeology: Current Thoughts on Evaluation Methodologies

Kim Stabler (English Heritage, Greater London

Archaeological Advisory Service)

Each day, judgements are passed on the archaeological potential of an area, and methodologies are set in place to investigate and progress individual sites. But the decision making process is often based upon incomplete and partial data, such as SMR records and insufficient evaluation. Can we improve how we identify and investigate archaeological sites, to obtain "best value" for the resource?

Kim Stabler

Friday 14 November 2003

More Mysteries of the Lea Valley Industries Revealed

Dr 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.

Dr Lewis first spoke to the society on Lea Valley industry in March 1999, and following further research has recently published a second volume of his book. We are pleased to welcome Jim back to shed more light on the history and achievements of this underestimated region.

Deamer), *Before the Place Became a Suburb* (David Pam), *The Rise of a Middle Class Suburb* (Graham Dalling), *A Small Business – JP Heaton, Bookseller and Stationer* (Betty Smith) and *Broomfield House: History and Archaeology* (Geoffrey Gillam).

The charge is £3.00 for either the morning or afternoon session, or £6.00 both.

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

HENDON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

All meetings are held at 8.00pm at Avenue House, East End Road Finchley

Tuesday 11 October 2003

Roman Silchester
Prof. Michael Fulford

MEETINGS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Wednesday 15 October 2003

Alexandra Palace and the Electronics Connection
Jim Lewis

Saturday 25 October 2003

10.00am to 4.00pm, Jubilee Hall – see below
Day Conference

Tuesday 18 November 2003

2.15 for 2.30pm, Jubilee Hall
Dig for Victory
Russell Bowes

Wednesday 17 December 2003

Seasonal Evening

Day Conference

The Edmonton Hundred Historical Society will host a Day Conference on "People, Places and Events in Southgate" on Saturday 25 October 2003 at Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield. The agenda includes an introduction (Jim

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP
7.45pm in the 6th Form Unit, Woodford County
High School, High Road, Woodford Green

Monday 13 October 2003

Mithras in London

Chris Lydamore (Harlow Museum)

Monday 10 November 2003

Wetwang Chariot Burial – the Latest Discoveries

Tony Spence (British Museum)

Monday 08 December 2003

Medicine in Ancient Canaan

Dr Walter Loebel

SOCIETY MATTERS

COMMITTEE MEMBERS REQUIRED

As reported in *Society News* 169, Jon Tanner will not be seeking re-election to the committee at the AGM in April 2004, and the Society therefore requires a new Editor, Secretary and Membership Secretary.

The role of Editor requires the use of a word processor, and includes compiling the list of forthcoming events from information supplied from other societies, posting various society notices, and laying out meeting reports and articles. Copy is provided by authors variously on disk, by email or as hard copy. Access to a photocopier or scanner is also required in order to include illustrations and diagrams. The master copy is then copied at a commercial copying and printing agency, and distributed by post to the membership, by liaison with the Membership Secretary.

The position of Secretary entails attending and committee meetings every two months, taking and distributing minutes and agenda. The society's general correspondence is also received and distributed to the committee as appropriate by the Secretary, who is also responsible for the Annual report and the AGM Agenda. Use of a word processor, or at least an electric typewriter, is required.

The Membership Secretary maintains the society membership database, currently using MS Access. Membership enquiries, new memberships and removals are also dealt with, and the membership is reported to the committee at meetings.

If any member is willing to step forward and help the society in for any of these ways please contact Jon Tanner (020 8367 8000 day,

020 8350 0493 home) or Dennis Hill (020 8440 1593).

SOCIETY WEBSITE

Society member David Wills is creating a website for the Society. The site, which is still under construction, will eventually contain details of the society and its activities, news, contact details and updates on fieldwork with photographs, and can be found at www.enfarchsoc.org

CHAIRMAN AND VICE-PRESIDENT MEET A PRINCESS

The Princess Royal visited Forty Hall on Monday 6th October 2003 to formally open the new walled garden at the rear of the Hall to commemorate the Golden jubilee of her mother's reign. After cutting the traditional tape she was introduced by Bob Ivison – Enfield's manager of Parks and Countryside – to a number of senior members of local societies such as Enfield Preservation Society and the Enfield Archaeological Society. The latter was represented by Chairman Dennis Hill and Vice-President Geoffrey Gillam.

They explained to the Princess that Society members had been asked by Enfield Council to keep a watching brief on the excavations associated with the new garden and this had enabled mapping of the paths and a tree lined avenue from the former Victorian walled garden. Society members had also been watching the recent excavations of trenches for a closed circuit television system on the lawns close to the front of the house. These had revealed intricate Victorian brickwork and the foundations of a servant's hall.

The Princess asked questions and showed a real interest in front of the Mayor and Leader of the Council. She was told that the Society had previously excavated the site of Henry VIII's Elsyng Palace in the grounds of Forty Hall and was currently carrying out a geophysical survey of the likely site of the Palace's gatehouse.

It was also a pleasure to talk with Mr Peter Parker Bowles – the last private owner of Forty Hall – and with the Duchess of Devonshire. The new teaching and library block - the Duchess of Devonshire pavilion – at Capel Manor College has been much appreciated by Dennis Hill in his time as a Capel Manor Garden Design student.

The princess had previously visited Capel Manor College – arriving by helicopter – and went on to visit a new sheltered housing development near Carterhatch Lane.

Dennis Hill

MEETING REPORTS

Presidential Address:

Romans and Time Team in Greenwich

Friday 16 May 2003: Harvey Sheldon

Harvey Sheldon, President of the Enfield Archaeological Society, gave a lecture to the Society with this title on 16 May 2003. He opened with a comprehensive history of Greenwich Park. It has an area of some 200 acres and was first enclosed by Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, in 1430. It has continued as a Royal Park and is still an orderly oasis in London's urban sprawl.

The Roman site is on elevated ground about 30m higher than the City of London and is located on the Blackheath gravel beds which has made geophysical surveys unworkable. The fact that it is within a Royal Park has served to protect this site on its mound. Roman Watling Street heads up from the Kent ports towards the site but its precise location in Greenwich remains unknown. Deer are still present in Greenwich Park long after their hunting by Henry VIII. There is also a group of barrows to the south-west of the Royal Observatory and these are thought to be of Saxon origin, post-Roman.

The Roman site was enclosed by iron railings and was first excavated by Jones in 1902, who found an area of tessellated floor, decorated Samian ware and ring-necked flagons together with Roman keys, two ivory plaques (one was a sword fitting), a range of coins dated from AD50-60 to 4th century AD, part of an arm from a statue and three or four inscriptions cut into stone blocks.

The site is on high ground with thin soil, not an obvious location for a villa but more likely a temple.

Dutch Elm Disease was prevalent in the 1970's and the Department of the Environment investigated if new planting would endanger the site. Harvey Sheldon and colleagues were engaged to dig three trenches, which disclosed that there had been a massive erosion of the site over the years. It was confirmed that there had been two phases of building extending until the late mid-third century AD. The remains of a robbed out tessellated floor were found and of what appeared to be the south-west corner of a Celtic/Roman temple.

In 1999 Time Team, together with archaeology students from Birkbeck College and Museum of London staff excavated the site. A row of post-holes and chalk foundations were found on a flat area to the east of the original mound with some quite large pieces of Samian ware. An important find was an inscribed dedication to the Spirits of the Emperors and a procuratorial stamp on a tile of the Procurator of Britannia in London.

Dennis Hill

ANNUAL OUTING – KINGS LYNN Saturday 17 May 2003

This year's combined Enfield Archaeological Society – Enfield Workers Educational Society coach trip was to the historical port and town of Kings Lynn, Norfolk. The town was entered via its South Gate and a tour of the old buildings along the waterfront of the River Great Ouse was undertaken under the direction of blue badge guides.

The tour commenced at the Saturday market place by St Margaret's Church, founded in the 1110's and adjacent to which was the site of a Benedictine priory. The South Quay contains some lovely old merchants' houses and a college for chantry priests together with well-preserved examples of guild halls. The merchants' houses were usually L-shaped with the warehouse behind next to the quay. There is a good example of a courtyard Hanseatic warehouse. The Hansa League included the towns of Bergen in Norway and Lubeck in Germany whose ships traded regularly with Kings Lynn. The famous old Customs House lies on the quay. The tour finished at the Tuesday market with its Corn Exchange. We were told of the current archaeological excavations in the town. Afterwards a visit was made to the Gaol House – a former police station with exhibitions of punishments including the stocks, gallows, gibbet and ducking stool plus town charters dating back to before Henry VIII, and town silver and gold plate.

Thanks are due to Margaret Christie and Ian Jones for a well organised and thoroughly enjoyable day out.

Dennis Hill

THE SAMIAN POTTERY, GLASS, COINS AND OBJECTS FROM THE RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT 102 LEIGHTON RD.

The excavations carried out by the society at 102 Leighton Rd. in 2001 and 2002, the main findings of which were outlined by Les Whitmore in a previous bulletin, produced one of the largest groups of Roman finds to be recovered by the EAS since the Lincoln Rd excavations in the 1970s. As with any archaeological site the post – excavation work needed both on the records of the features found and on the finds frequently takes much longer than the digging itself and only when all its aspects have been completed and integrated and a detailed archive for the site created can a definitive report be written on the site's archaeology. Indeed, much of the site's key dating evidence, the coarse pottery, is still being laboriously sorted and identified by a small band of stalwarts led by Les, Roger Dormer and Mike Dewbrey. However, I have separately been working on the recording, identification and conservation of several other categories of finds (i.e. the 'samian' pottery, glass, coins, and small objects) for over a year and can now give some interim details of these finds, albeit without yet being in a position to relate most of them to the features Les described.

One of the surprises of the site was the 'samian' pottery from it. Although we excavated pretty much a whole back garden we came away with far more of this pottery than we would normally expect from one dig, over 200 sherds. Samian was the glossy red best table china of the whole western Roman world from before the conquest of Britain until at least about AD 200, it was mould made, at first in southern France (or South Gaul as it was then), then in Central Gaul and finally in East Gaul (today west Germany) and both because the potters stamped their names on many pieces and because where it is decorated it has been studied in minute detail for well over a hundred years it is possible to date and attribute to a potter even quite small pieces. Our collection included pieces of 76 different vessels notably in at least 24 different shapes ranging from common cups and shallow bowls through highly decorated large bowls to some of the rarer shapes like a roulette decorated jar. The earliest little scraps belonged

to types just about surviving in use into the AD 70s and a majority of the pieces were later first and second century as is usual but we also had some bowls from East Gaul, far fewer of which ever reached Britain and the latest of which

might be early third century in date. One or two of the more interesting pieces included a large piece of a bowl made at La Graufesenque in S. Gaul by the potter Mercator (c. AD 80 – 100 / 110) showing deer either side of a palm tree and hounds chasing hares, two pieces of a bowl by Cinnamus of Lezoux (Central Gaul) which date the beam slot on the site to after its date of manufacture (c. AD 150 – 65), pieces of two bowls by the late second and early third century Rheinzabern (E. Gaul) potters Comitalis VI and probably Cerialis VI (many potters with the same name existed and they are differentiated by the Latin numerals after their names); and a piece of a similarly dated samian mortarium (mixing and grinding bowl) with not a red but a black surface (a relatively rare variant of samian, in this case probably made at what is today the town of Trier).

The people in Roman Enfield who could afford this quality imported pottery would also have put blown glass jugs and bowls on their tables but only in exceptional cases (like the complete jug that was found in the 70s at Lincoln Rd.) do we find more than little chips of them because glass was thoroughly recycled in Roman Britain. So, the 36 small pieces from Leighton Rd. is not a surprisingly small amount and it included some possible window glass and fragments both of common kitchen jars as well as table vessels (four of them, perhaps just coincidentally all dateable to c. AD 50 – 75 / 80). Other dateable finds of course included coins of which we recovered 25 (plus a George V farthing). Unfortunately, except in a few contexts like the deep ditch in trench J, the soil conditions on the site were such that a majority of coins had corroded beyond close identification. The earliest identifiable, and only silver coin, was a denarius of Faustina junior (wife of Marcus Aurelius) minted AD 146 – 61 but as is usual on Roman sites the majority of coins were third and fourth century in date. Most of ours in fact

belong to the House of Constantine's issues of the AD 330s and 340s (rulers such as Constantine II, Constans and Constantinus II but also the decidedly obscure Delmatius and even a posthumous issue of the empress Theodora which had to go to Emeritus Professor David Shotter at Lancaster University for identification). As is again usual with late Roman coins some pieces were barbarous (contemporary forgeries).

We found around 350 other Roman or later objects made of copper alloy, iron, lead, jet, stone or fired clay as well as a few pieces of iron working slag and just a little pre – Roman material. The latter comprised flakes from flint pebbles (suggested as Late Bronze Age by staff at the LAARC (London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre)), two or three actual tools (still being researched) and quite a lot of burnt flint, which is usually linked to prehistoric activity (though debate rages as to what that activity was!). Of the Roman and later material most was Roman, the rest comprising small amounts of clay pipe, one or two eighteenth / nineteenth century shoe buckles etc from just below the topsoil and a small collection of items we kept to illustrate the modern losses in an Enfield garden (cheap enamelled jewellery, lead soldiers and the like are the archaeology of tomorrow!). The Roman finds included quite a range of items, though by far the largest single category were iron nails and other carpentry fittings, showing probably the presence of structures in the vicinity, though iron nails are almost ubiquitous on any Roman site.

Four Roman brooch fragments were recovered, a circular 'repoussé' decorated type lacking its decorative face plate, the head of a 'Colchester derivative' brooch, an iron 'T-shaped' brooch and perhaps most interesting an iron 'Drahtfibeln' or 'poor man's brooch', a simple one piece type known from before and after the Roman conquest. Its presence in Roman Enfield which was not founded before c. AD 70 helps to confirm that the type persisted in use into the later first century, a point which has been the subject of debate by brooch specialists like me. Perhaps surprisingly there were only three other jewellery items, a crude, perhaps home made, bronze finger ring and fragments of two small jet bracelets. However, one find, a bronze stud called a fungiform type, does raise the intriguing possibility that there were soldiers around in later Roman Enfield as they were used to secure the buckles of third century Roman soldiers' belts (see Figure 1). This stud could have been lost by a soldier just passing through Roman Enfield but we can say with a little more confidence that some other finds which tell us something about the people who owned them belonged to residents of the settlement. Some at least were literate as we found an iron stylus used for writing on wax tablets. At least two iron keys, probably from boxes not doors (though we found parts of door hinges and perhaps an iron door reinforcing bar) also hint at people wealthy enough to have valuables to lock away. Indeed, on the very final

day of the dig we found a large folded up lead sheet with ridges which would have formed the decorative binding of something like a strong box and we recovered one bronze stud and a bronze tack which could also have belonged to boxes or pieces of furniture.

How people made their money might be hinted at as well. We found quite a number of knife fragments, which is usual on most Roman sites and most were probably everyday, multi-purpose kitchen items, but a rather unusual iron tool head combining a hammer at one end and a small axe like blade at the other probably belonged to a mason and we recovered several patterns of hobnails from a small area. The latter represent hob nailed shoes or sandals thrown away at least partly intact and whilst the leather has long since rotted as the iron nails corroded they welded themselves together in the pattern they had formed on the soles of the shoes. They could just have been thrown out when the shoes fell apart but the number in a small area (not far from Ermine Street which ought to have provided a ready stream of customers and might suggest that a cobbler was at work hereabouts serving the needs of the travellers along it,) and we found numerous other isolated hob nails and 'blakeys'. Ermine Street might explain the number of hipposandals from Roman Enfield as well. Hipposandals were a type of iron tie on horseshoe used for horses and probably oxen when they were on metal surfaces and there are a more than average number from Enfield in general to which we added at least two more on this occasion including a very large one found in the backfill of the wartime slip trench, as well as an 'ox-goad', a little iron spike fitted to the end of a stick and used by farmers and drovers to encourage animals along.

Though there was little in the way of industrial debris such as slag there were one or two possible smith's punches and two large pieces of lead which had clearly solidified while flowing, along with one or two smaller examples and some off cuts of lead sheet. This sort of evidence usually indicates someone working in lead, be it a plumber, a weight maker or whoever. Indeed, he could have made our sole find relating to mercantile activity, a lead weight with an iron suspension loop from a type of weighing device called a steelyard.

There were domestic objects too including an iron ladle, its handle bent in half and corroded to another iron bar possibly suggesting that someone had been collecting up scrap iron to reuse. Though small there were pieces of domestic querns for grinding grain as

well, the stone of which they were made suggesting they had come both from near (Hertfordshire) and far (Sheffield area). But in general there were relatively few personal and domestic items which adds to the suspicion that the site was for much of its life an open area or yard even though there were probably buildings, and perhaps ones belonging to moderately wealthy people, in the immediate vicinity. Perhaps it was from one of these, and perhaps because it had become just scrap iron that our most important find came. This was a just over 9 cm high iron tripod candlestick, virtually complete, though with at least two of its legs bent (see Figure 2). It appears to have been forged from a single piece of iron, deeply rebated at one end for the candle and divided into three strips at the other, which were then formed into 'legs' with 'knees' and pointed 'feet'. Only thirty-one other iron tripod candlesticks are known from Roman Britain and whilst they come from a variety of site types and areas of Roman Britain there is a bias towards small town/rural

sites especially in the south east and south west and some at least may have had a ritual use. Only one other example with strip rather than rod legs as here appears to be known (from Richborough in Kent) and is undated but in general, whilst examples are known as early as the second century, the vast majority of tripod candlesticks are third and especially fourth century in date. Certainly preliminary analysis of the pottery and other dating evidence from where we found this one points to the fourth century.

The Leighton Road site has therefore provided much of interest in the way of Roman samian, glass, coins and objects and once all have been fully recorded it is hoped that their integration with the work on the other pottery will enable us to give a more detailed evaluation of the implications of the features we excavated.

Dr Martin Dearne

FIGURE 1: THIRD CENTURY MILITARY BELT STUD (Actual size)

**FIGURE 2: THE IRON CANDLESTICK AS FOUND
AND A DIAGRAMATIC VIEW BASED ON X-RADIOGRAPHS
(5cm scale)**

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group

The Pastfinders Fieldwork Group has been busy working on several projects around the borough this year. Although many members expressed an interest in helping out on excavations, only a small handful of volunteers have been coming along at weekends. Don't worry if you have no excavation experience, plenty of energy and enthusiasm is just as important. If you would like to come along to one of our excavations this year just call my office number 020 8364 2244 and ask for Mike.

Younger members may be interested in the fieldwalking this year at a local farm site. If you would like to take part just call my office number and bring mum and dad along too – they will probably enjoy themselves!

Earlier this year I received a phone call from Jon Tanner asking me to meet him at a farmyard in Ponders End. As far as I knew there were no farmyards in Ponders End but on arrival we found that amazingly a farmyard had survived to the rear of a Listed house called "The Limes in Sout Street. Remarkably a 200 year old timber framed barn also remained albeit in a ramshackle state together with some fragile wooden cowsheds. A photographic record and measurements have been taken of the barn, which will be demolished when the site is developed for housing. Close inspection of some of the main support beams suggests they have been re-used from an even older structure.

A little later following another phone call from Jon the Pastfinders found themselves in a back garden in Grange Park. The house owner had unearthed what appeared to be a cobbled surface while digging a fishpond. Closer inspection revealed that the cobbles were a type of postglacial mudstone deposited by alluvial action at the end of the last ice age!

Following a report that dog walkers had seen some fragments of dressed stonework in

Turkey Brook we waded in and recovered a large piece of window mullion and floor tile from Tudor Elsyng palace which was taken to Forty Hall for safe keeping. A report on the resistivity survey, which was carried out in May in the gardens of Myddellton House to look for the

remains of the Elizabethan Bowling Green house, which was demolished in the 18th century, will appear in a later bulletin.

Two trenches were opened at Capel manor in our search for evidence of Roman Ermine Street. More early medieval pottery has been recovered from the ploughsoil and a worn layer of gravel with ruts and potholes beneath the ploughsoil may turn out to be the remains of a medieval trackway following the line of the Roman road. The trench has been extended to look for a roadside ditch.

In Trench 2 on the eastern side of the road alignment we have uncovered seven lower brick courses of the 18th century boundary wall for the Capel Manor estate but alas no evidence of the elusive Ermine Street.

Our activities over the Easter weekend attracted a lot of interest from the public who kept asking if we were the Time Team! Well, I suppose we are Enfield's Time Team but our excavations take a bit longer than three days!

The post-excavation work on the pottery from Leighton Road is still ongoing simply because there is so much of it! Anyone interested in learning about Roman pottery is welcome to come along on Wednesday evenings.

Dr Martin Dearne, our Roman finds specialist, has examined two bronze bowls that were donated to the Forty Hall museum. The bowls, which were found in the River Lea early in the 20th century, are Roman and quite a rare find for the area.

If all goes to plan we hope to organise a mini-museum display at Forty Hall and Capel Manor later in the year.

Finally if you took part in the Time Team Big Dig in June and if you found anything

interesting do let us know so that we can tell everyone about your discoveries in the next bulletin, even if it is just an old air raid shelter it is still a part of Enfield's history!

Mike Dewbrey

SMALL FINDS

NEW MAGAZINE LAUNCHED

No doubt many members subscribe to the popular magazine *Current Archaeology*. **Current World Archaeology** is a new magazine which will publish news and articles of the best archaeological sites from around the world. It is being edited by Andrew Selkirk, who has edited *Current Archaeology* for the last 35 years and is Chairman of our neighbouring society, the Hendon and District Archaeological Society. The magazine follows a similar glossy, easy to read non-technical format to the original. For details telephone 020 7435 7517 or see www.archaeology.co.uk

EARLY USE OF FIRE

Archaeologists in Wiltshire think they may have discovered the earliest use of fire in Europe. A new report reveals details of a major archaeological discovery on the route of the proposed Harnham Relief Road. The ancient site, which dates to 250,000-300,000BP is thought to be of national importance. A range of items was recovered, including 44 flint hand

axes, and horse and other animal bones. Helena Cave Penny (Wilts CC county archaeologist for the Salisbury area, said "The presence of charcoal at the site suggests the people there made fires – this would seem natural when it is known that the climate was cold and damp at the time. It could be the earliest evidence of such fires in Britain and probably in Europe".

The evidence suggests that the site was next to a tributary of the River Avon and may have been used as a seasonal riverside camp. The report by RPS and Gifford and Partners can be inspected at Salisbury Reference Library. Source: Britarch archives 06.10.03

PREHISTORIC ARROWHEAD FOUND IN BUSH HILL PARK

The illustration below shows a small worked flint, about the size of a penny, that was recently discovered by Mike Dewbrey in a flowerbed in his own garden. Society members have tentatively identified the artefact as a late Neolithic arrowhead.