

# Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



Above: EAS at Forty Hall last August. Now the refurbishment is over, come and hear all about our major programme of work at the site at our June lecture (see EAS events) (Photo: Ed.)

Top: Art Deco-style glass peacock found in air raid shelter in Baker Street. See report on p. 7 (Drawing: Neil Pinchbeck)

## 2 Forthcoming EAS Events:

Coach Trip:

27 May: Sudeley Castle & Hailes Abbey, Gloucs.

Lectures:

20 April: Society Excavations in 2011 (& AGM)

18 May: 19<sup>th</sup> Century Clinker Built Boat for 2012

15 June: Aspects of the Development of Forty Hall

## 3 Society Matters

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## 5 Meeting Report: Happisburgh Prehistoric site

## 7 Fieldwork Report: Air Raid Shelter in Baker Street, 2011

## 9 EAS Annual Report for 2011: with Draft Agenda for AGM, 20 April

## 12 Pastfinders News

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

The Editor is Jeremy Grove

Meetings are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield (near Chase Side) at 8pm. Tea and coffee are served and the sales and information table is open from 7.30pm. Visitors, who are asked to pay a small entrance fee of £1.00, are very welcome.

# Forthcoming events



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*If you would like to attend the EAS lectures, but find travelling difficult, please contact the Secretary, (Tel: ) and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.*

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## **Workers' Educational Association / EAS Annual Coach Outing** 27 May 2012 – Hailes Abbey – Sudeley Castle, Gloucs

*Hailes Abbey*

*Sudeley Castle*

This year we plan to visit Gloucestershire and Hailes Abbey, followed by Sudeley Castle where Queen Katherine Parr lived and died. Many momentos of her life are here in a new exhibition celebrating the 500<sup>th</sup> year of her birth.

The Cistercian abbey of Hailes was founded in 1246 and dissolved on Christmas Eve 1539. Interpretation panels guide you round and an audio tour is recommended at £1.

From there we go for lunch (or bring sandwiches) to Sudeley Castle. The private Victorian rooms are only available during the week, so we cannot view these, but every aspect of the Sudeley story and the life of Queen Katherine will be explained to us in a talk for our group, together with a new exhibition commentated by David Starkey. There are restored gardens with a herbal walk, a pheasantry of rare birds and a shop, where plants are available for sale. St Mary's Church is in the grounds and has Katherine's tomb.

The cost of the day includes all entries, presentation to group and driver's gratuity:

English Heritage/National Trust members	£29.50
EH/NT and Historic Houses Association	£19.50
Full rate	£33.00

We regret the rising price of outings, but you will appreciate that the cost of diesel for the coach is now very expensive.

Coach pick-ups Ridge Avenue Library (in Church Street - 8.30am), Cecil Road (opposite M&S rear – 8.45) and The Ridgeway (near first bus stop – 9.00).

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To book, please **complete the separate booking slip enclosed** and return it with payment to [name and address withheld]

## Evening Meetings:

**20<sup>th</sup> April**

The Excavations of the Society in 2011  
(preceded by AGM)

*Martin Dearne & Mike Dewbrey*

Talks and slides of the EAS's busy programme of work in 2011. (See pp. 9-11 for the Society's annual report for the year, and draft agenda for the AGM).

**18<sup>th</sup> May**

A 19<sup>th</sup> Century Clinker Built Boat for 2012

*Amelia Fairman, Pre-Construct Archaeology*

**15<sup>th</sup> June – Geoffrey Gillam Memorial Lecture**

Aspects of the Development of Forty Hall

*Martin Dearne*

The first full account of the major programme of work the EAS has undertaken at Forty Hall over the last few years in support of the Lottery funded refurbishment of the hall.

## EAS Fieldwork



The Society carries out a busy programme of excavation and other practical activities in the Borough. Please contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) for more details if you are interested.

Regular diggers please note the following confirmed dates:

Sat 5<sup>th</sup>- Mon 7<sup>th</sup> May at Cedars Park (see Pastfinders News section for further details)

Sat 14<sup>th</sup> – Sun 15<sup>th</sup> July – Festival of British Archaeology dig at Theobalds Palace, Cedars Park.

Tue 17<sup>th</sup> - Sun 22<sup>nd</sup> July - Festival of British Archaeology dig at Elsyng Palace, Forty Hall. Note that for the first time we will be digging through the week in preparation for the weekend Festival of British Archaeology event.

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# SOCIETY

# MATTERS

### Obituary: Dr Ilid Anthony

We regret to announce the death of our Vice-President and former President, Dr Ilid Anthony, on 19<sup>th</sup> January at the age of 86.

Dr Anthony was formerly Curator of the Verulamium Roman Museum at St Albans, and served for many years as President of the EAS. Later she returned to Wales to become Director of the St Fagan's Museum of Welsh Life, to which the Society paid a memorable visit in the 1980s.

### Membership subscriptions – reminder

If you have not yet paid your subscription for 2012, please remember this fell due on 1 January, unless you first joined the society after 30 September last year.

**A reminder slip is enclosed for those members who according to our records have not yet renewed.**

# Meetings of other Societies

## LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

6.00 for 6.30pm, Museum of London

**17 April** The Thames Tunnel: Eighth Wonder of the World?  
*Robert Hulse*

**15 May** The Walbrook: its Archaeology and History, A  
Water Engineer's View *Stephen Myers*

## EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

**19 April** Johnny Walker not whisky but beer *Ruby Galili*

**16 May** Lawrence of Arabia *Maggie Radcliffe*

**15 June** Joint meeting with the EAS

**27 June** (7.30pm Bruce Caste Museum)  
Joint meeting with Friends of Bruce Castle

## HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8.00pm Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley

**10 April** Conservation Techniques in Stone Masonry  
*Stephen Critchley*

**8 May** Bumps, Bombs and Birds: the history and  
archaeology of RSPB reserves  
*Robin Standring*

## HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

**8 May** De-Stalinisation in the Soviet Union  
*Dr Polly Jones*

## WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

7.45pm, Woodford County High School, High Rd, Woodford Green

**14 May** Origin of our Species *Chris Stringer*

**11 June** The Cost of Living in Rome  
*Amelia Dowler*

## WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm, Parish Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey

**10 April** AGM & President's Address *Stan Newens*

**17 May** The Magna Carta in Essex *Hugh Docherty*

## The Archaeology of Humans – Update!

Do you share the genes of a Neanderthal? This course gives you the opportunity to find out: it is both an introduction and an update to the study of human origins. We will examine the biological and early cultural evolution of humans from the time when our ancestors first walked upright. Our aim is to look at those factors which make us human: tool manufacture and use; the development of language; material and non-material culture as well as biological studies such as DNA which are revolutionising our ideas of evolution. The discovery of 'new' human species such as *Homo floresiensis* (the Hobbit) and the Russian 'Denisovans' will be examined. And as for the Neanderthals – are we linked genetically? Join the class and see!

The course is arranged by Mill Hill Archaeological Study Society (<http://www.mhass.co.uk>)

Venue: The Eversfield Centre, 11 Eversfield Gardens, Mill Hill, NW7 2AE

Time: 10-12 Fridays beginning 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012

Cost: £40 for 6 classes

Tutor: Scott McCracken

Enrol at the first meeting. If you have not previously attended the Society's meetings, please contact the Secretary, Peter Nicholson, 020 8959 4757



# Meeting Reports

## Happisburgh Palaeolithic site

14<sup>th</sup> October 2011: Nick Ashton

Nick Ashton, Curator of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic collections at the British Museum was the speaker on the 14th October this year. He is currently involved in the Ancient Human Occupation of Britain (AHOB) Project and was speaking about his work at the Happisburgh Palaeolithic site on the East Anglian coast for this project.

AHOB is a research project of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Durham and is funded by the Leverhulme Trust. Its purpose is to examine the human presence and habitat preferences of early humans in Britain over the last 700,000 years has been working at Happisburgh for the last ten years.

Both Nick and this site were featured on the first series of Alice Roberts's "Digging for Britain" for the BBC. And for good reason, as over the ten years of excavation, this site has extended our knowledge of human occupation in Britain and pushed back its occupation by many thousands of years.

The period that the sites covers is the Early Middle Pleistocene, around 700,000 years (0.7myr) ago, with the Happisburgh main site 3 evidence from 800,000 years ago. There is a rich archaeological and environmental record that shows the climate cycle in Northern Europe here. Britain was still joined to Europe at this time and there are many sites that have been examined in and around this area of East Anglia which indicate similar environments and evidence of that at Happisburgh.

High Lodge in Suffolk had flake tools but no hand axes. Lakenheath Suffolk had river deposits. Pakefield is a site that has been known for 200 years, but excavations at site 1 published by Parfit in 2005 pushed back the site 200,000 years to 700,000. Rhino and spotted hyena bones, simple flakes and modified tools were found as well as environmental data pollen, molluscs, beetle, small

vertebrae. Pakefield had a habitat that was suitable for early settlers. The climate was warmer in summer with a Mediterranean Climate 18-27C. As the climate warmed humans and animals moved North in Summer and retreated South in the Winter.

This leads the talk to the main focus, the site of Happisburgh. There are five sites that were found with the talk focusing on sites 1 and 3. Nick pointed out that Site 5 has not been examined as it is a reef half a mile offshore and 10 metres underwater. The seas have been too rough to date to have a look at it.

Graphically illustrated in the talk was a slide that shows how the sites at Happisburgh became exposed through rapid erosion of the cliffs in the area. Sea defences put in 50 years ago are seen right out in the sea. The cliff has lost around 140 metres in the last 20 years and it is these erosions that expose the sites and allow access twice a day at low tide.

However it is a long, arduous process. When the tide comes back in it brings in sand which covers the dig and machines are needed to re dig it at each tide.

The team have sieved 8 tonnes of material through a half millimetre mesh and recovered beetles, pollen and voles for dating. This revealed that the site was 500,000 years with a climate of around 12-15C and largely of coniferous forest.

The use of vole remains "the vole clock" to date sites via rooting in their teeth. That is to say evolutionary changes show that voles lose the roots on their cheek teeth in the early Middle Pleistocene and also evidence shows progressive changes in the distribution of enamel. Voles species can be identified from differences in wear patterns on their molar enamel. As teeth are durable they are quite common in the evidence and can be used for dating on this way. Extinctions are known in some species and the background environmental conditions to sites can be determined by the presence of certain species. The two species were onsite *Miomys* spp. and *Arvcola* show one species that replaced the other in evolution.

The main site that the talk concentrated on was Happisburgh site 3. Discovered in 2006 by a coastal survey, 400 square metres of sediment were excavated from a narrow strip available between the coastline and the sea.

There was good preservation of wood due to water logged conditions. Nick explained that there was ground water in the excavations plus water out of the cliff, the sea was coming over and rain

coming down (and tears of the archaeologists to add to the mix). It was very wet.

The team were digging into the sands and silts of a river bed. The large amount of sediments processed required beer crates to be converted into sieves to extract the large amount of data accumulated. Pine cones survive almost like they were lost yesterday and Bison bones with butchery cut marks were also discovered.

An examination of pollen can distinguish between deciduous woodland and coniferous, the difference between these indicates a cooling of the climate. Pollen had been extracted from a Hyena coprolite, which gives a more accurate view of the site.

The site was, from the environmental evidence, a grassy valley but surrounded by forest. Large animal remains such as giant beaver, early mammoth and what Nick referred to as a "comedy" Elk (*Cervalces latifrons*), with antlers that stick out in the illustration used, which colleagues at the Natural History Museum insist do look like this. The climate from this evidence says that Summers were 16-18C with the Winter minus 3 to freezing. A temperature like modern Southern Sweden.

As well as environmental evidence, flint artefacts were found within these silts and were seen in a lot of different horizons, indicating that humans are present at different times. There were 80 flint artefacts from the 400 square metres excavated but definitely human artefacts. That is hard work. – these flint artefacts have been brought into the area, used and then discarded as there was no evidence of manufacturing taken place.

Among the dating techniques were Paleomagnetism on Site 3 sediments. Around 0.8 to 1.8 million years ago there was a reversal of the earth's magnetic field and polarity due to shifts in the magma within the earth (an event known as the Matuyama Chron). The site 3 sediments have this reversed polarity and therefore the site predates this event.

Biostratigraphy – The extinction of animals. Extinct mammoth (*Mammuthus cf. meridionalis*) and remains of a horse extinct between one million and 0.8mys were present. So the site is later than this. The forementioned "Comedy" Elk

(*Cervalces latifrons*) evolves one million years ago with red deer also evolving then. This gives the site a date of one million to 800,000 years ago. This has been narrowed to 0.95m to 0.85m but not able to narrow it any closer, but this does make the site the oldest site in Northern Europe. The palaeomagnetic evidence is supported by the biological remains, which include several plants that disappeared from northern Europe during the Early Pleistocene.

Nick showed how questions were being asked about the reasons for migration to the site by early man and points to evidence that the people are coming to Happisburgh during the warm season but staying during the cooling period. Were they adapted? The period was too short to evolve so physical adaptation is not possible.

Seasonal migration is highly unlikely. How do they deal with the old and the young and costly for resources. No other primates migrate.

Better technology? The site has some evidence. Parallels for hunting evidence from Boxgrove (500,000 years ago) in the form of punctured horse scapula. Hand axes introduced around 500,000 years ago were ideal for carrying around with you as a butchery tool. Cut marks in bones indicate the removal of hides for practical purposes. Animal hides? and therefore have to be a hunter to get hides rather than a scavenger – or if not clothing were they used as Shelters? Debate on whether these are shelters or not.

Were the unclothed hairy? Nick is working on this one.

This site provided the first human settlers with an East Anglian Coast and North Sea base. This has proved to be the earliest site found to date. With its unique organic preservation, and insights into human occupation. the site as Nick described it is a site of global inspiration and much more is there to be discovered.

Visit the Happisburgh site website, where some of the finds are featured (including the hyena coprolite):

[http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/research\\_projects/happisburgh.aspx](http://www.britishmuseum.org/research/research_projects/happisburgh.aspx)

*TIM HARPER*

## AN AIR RAID SHELTER IN BAKER STREET, ENFIELD

By Neil Pinchbeck

A busy excavation schedule over the past few years has meant that the Society is enjoying a rising profile with other organisations. This often means e-mails and 'phone calls asking for help and advice and one such call came to Martin Dearne at the end of November 2011.

Contractors working for Enfield Homes had unearthed what they believed was an underground WW2 air raid shelter in Baker Street, Enfield and wanted to know more about it.

The site, a piece of undeveloped ground between 329 Baker Street (the barbers) and 323 (the carpet shop) is opposite the Hop Poles pub.



Old maps show that in 1867 this land was the entrance into the main yard of Cannon Brewery. After the demise of the brewery, by 1898, it became the front garden of a large new Victorian house, possibly called "the Lindens" and remained so until at least 1935. The air raid shelter was probably built in this front garden in 1939 although no record of its construction could be found in Council records.

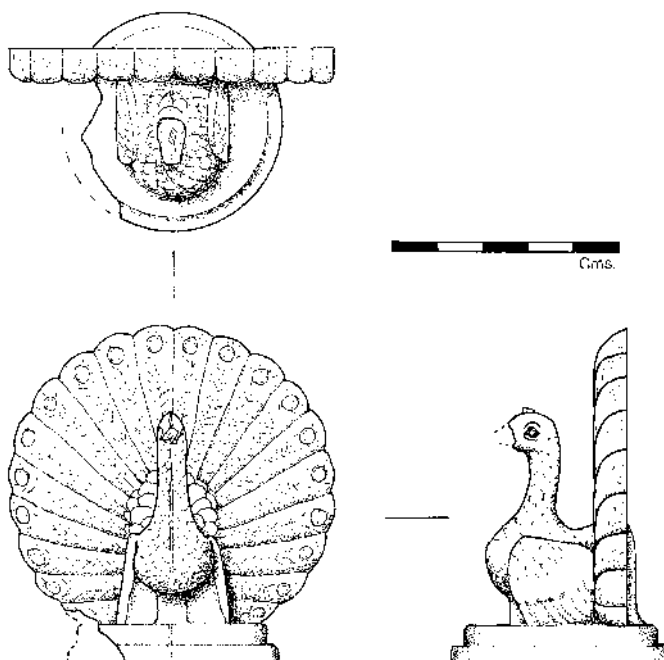
After the war, the house was demolished and its site together with the grounds to the rear became Priors Mead housing development. What had been the front garden and site of the shelter became pedestrian access to Baker Street. The shelter was discovered in the course of clearing the site for development. The contractors stumbled on an entrance and on Dec 2<sup>nd</sup>, Lesley and Neil Pinchbeck met Andy Clark of Enfield Homes, to find out what was inside.

The partially excavated entrance, at the north west corner of the structure, led into a narrow entrance passage formed by the external west wall and an internal brick partition.

The partition stopped 0.62m from the south wall forming an entrance into the main chamber.

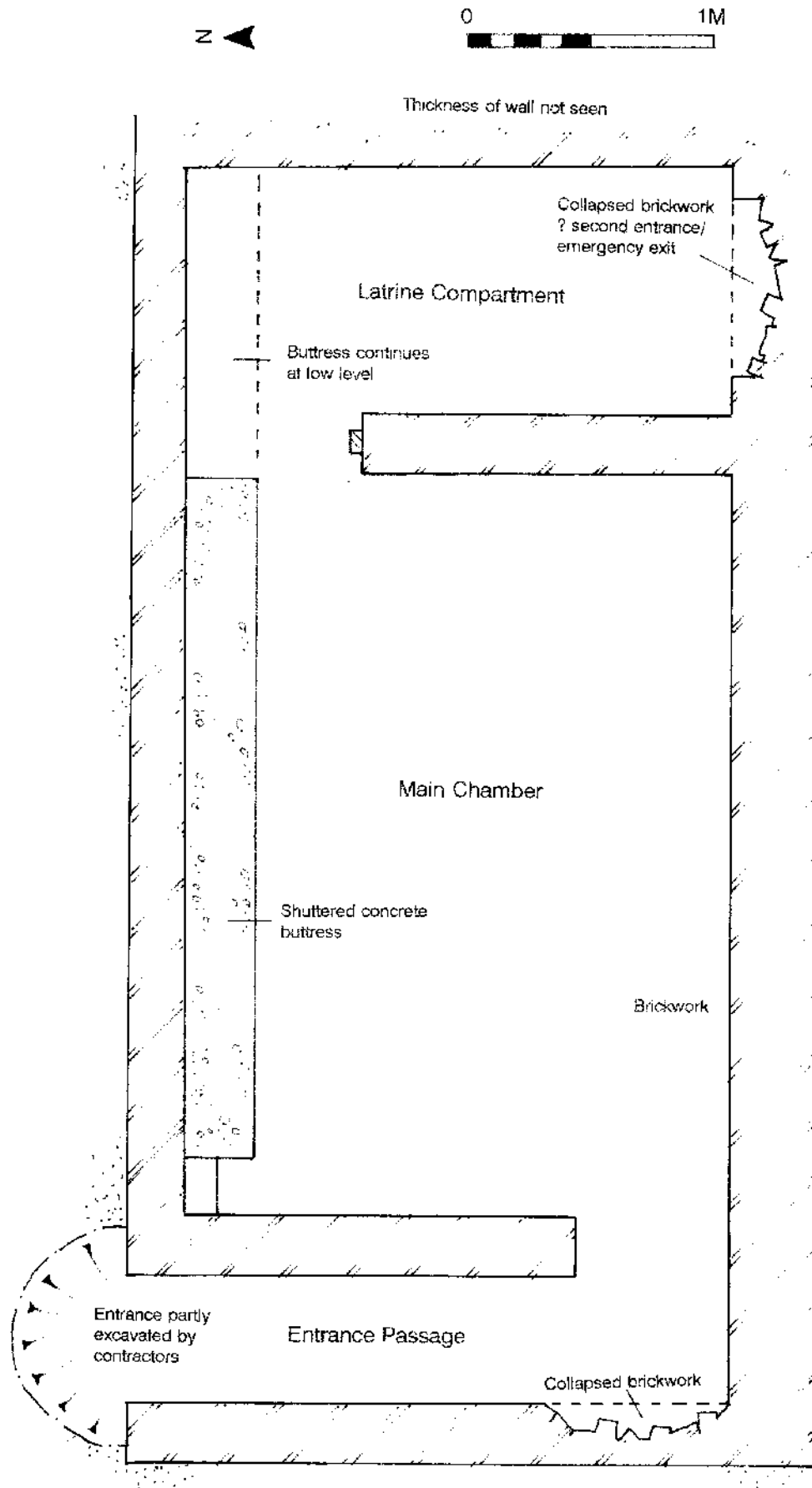
The main chamber was 2.2m x 3m with a shuttered concrete buttress along the length of the north wall.

Another brick partition at the eastern end separated the main chamber from a latrine compartment. This compartment was 2.2m x 1.00m and had the remains of a timber door frame around the entrance. In the south east corner, partially collapsed brickwork masked what may have been a second entrance or emergency exit.



**Fig 1: Moulded glass peacock from main chamber backfill**

The whole structure was partially backfilled with brick rubble and soil. Domestic debris indicated that the shelter was probably finally sealed in the late 1950s. The backfill was partially excavated to find the shuttered concrete floor and measure the floor to ceiling height which was 1.83m. The only find possibly contemporary with the WWII use of the shelter was from the base of the backfill. This was a moulded glass peacock in the Art Deco style – possibly the lid of a dressing table jar or just a free standing ornament



**Fig 2: Plan of subterranean elements of air raid shelter**

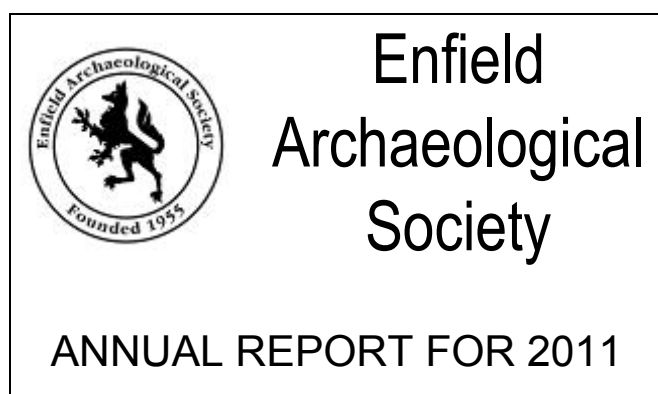


The brick structure was roofed with pre-cast concrete slabs 0.33m thick and covered with soil.

Online research shows this shelter to be typical of a small communal type built throughout the UK in 1939. As such, it is of some interest in the history of home defence in WW2, but does not warrant special conservation.

Who the shelter was for is not clear, but it conjures a nostalgic picture as regulars of the Hop Poles carry a milk stout or pint of mild across the road to safety as the siren at the bottom of Forty Hill wails in the background.

NEIL PINCHBECK



**The Executive Committee of the Enfield Archaeological Society** has pleasure in presenting its 55<sup>th</sup> Annual Report, for the year ended 31<sup>st</sup> December 2011.

### Membership

The changes in the 2011 membership are shown in the below table:

	Adults	Juniors	Total
Membership at 31.12.10	149	10	158
Joined during the year	28	0	28
Resignations & removals	31	8	48
Membership at 31.12.11	146	1	147

### Affiliations, President and Vice Presidents

The EAS is affiliated to the Council for British Archaeology and the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society.

Its President is Harvey Sheldon BSc FSA FRSA

Its Vice President is Jon Cotton FSA

It is with regret that the committee announces the death of the EAS's vice president Dr. Iliid Anthony.

The possibility of inviting a suitable person to serve in her stead is under consideration.

### Lectures

The Society is grateful to all the speakers who visited us during the year, and to our Hon. Meetings Secretary, Tim Harper, who arranged the excellent programme, which this year included talks on the Thames Discovery Programme, Tudor theatres and Happisburgh, all of which had featured on BBC TV, as well as talks by our own local experts on Iran, Enfield in WW1, Theobalds, osteo-archaeology and of course a review of our own busy 2010 season. Tim also ensured speakers are met at stations, opened and locked up the Hall and provided refreshments,

We are also grateful to Roger Eddington for running the projector, to Rosemary Perkins for running the sales and information stall, and selling raffle tickets, and to the Enfield Society for the use of Jubilee Hall.

The joint WEA/EAS coach trip in May was to Wilton House. Special thanks are due to Margaret Christie for organising this very enjoyable trip.

### Publicity

Our activities attracted a good deal of publicity over the year, greatly assisted by the efforts of our publicity officer Ailsa Mosquera. Our two Festival of British Archaeology digs helped publicise the Society's work and we are grateful to Enfield and Broxbourne Councils for their support for these and in particular to Jan Metcalfe and Val Munday of the Enfield Museums Service and Adrian Hall in Broxbourne for their practical help. We again shared a stand with the Museums Service at the Enfield Show.

## **Publications/Exhibition**

The quarterly illustrated Society News bulletin continues to be produced, incorporating reviews of Society lectures, forthcoming events, summary fieldwork reports and other items of interest. Thanks are due to the editor Jeremy Grove and to all the contributors, especially Martin Dearne, Mike Dewbrey, Ian Jones, Neil Pinchbeck and Tim Harper.

Martin Dearne along with Neil Pinchbeck, Ian Jones and Roger Dormer produced a number of archive reports. Sites covered include Leighton Road, Cedars Park, Elsyng Palace and the Baker Street air raid shelter. Completion of a major programme of work at Forty Hall in autumn 2011 is likely to result in a significant amount of further reports being completed in 2012/2013.

Martin Dearne and Neil and John Pinchbeck also contributed significantly to a Museums Service exhibition on Roman Enfield.

## **Excavations, Fieldwork & Research and Archives & Collections**

Although the EAS excavated as usual on two royal palaces at Elsyng and Theobalds in 2011 the year was dominated, as the last two have been, by completion of the major commitment we undertook to the renovation project at Forty Hall. From early in the year until the autumn a core team of Martin Dearne, Neil and John Pinchbeck and Angie Holmes periodically monitored contractor's cuts within the hall and for new drain installation around it and in its grounds, undertaking full excavations where necessary. In two cases, again in the small courtyard of the hall and along its north façade, larger teams undertook weekend excavations as well.

Results will be presented in lectures and the bulletin in 2012/13 and the very major archive report on all the work since 2009 is nearing completion. Significant new discoveries included the 1636 wall of the forecourt to the hall, a late eighteenth century privy block and cess pit, further elements of the Tudor predecessor to the hall, another midden deposit and exposures of boundary walls/roads belonging to the Tudor/Jacobean periods and early eighteenth century.

At Elsyng Palace, despite atrocious weather, the presumed lean-to structure fronting the palace boundary wall was shown instead to be part of a very large building representing unsuspected development of the site after palace demolition c. 1657. It is hoped to explore this further in 2012.

At Theobalds attempts to locate the limits of a suspected outer courtyard to the palace were unsuccessful due to 19th century disturbance but a possible fragment of its surface was seen and a major vaulted brick drain belonging to the palace was revealed. Neil Pinchbeck directed a separate excavation to further examine a shallowly buried Georgian structure previously part excavated, which work recovered another carved stone from the palace and located a late brick surface.

A major excavation, followed later in the year by a watching brief, was conducted on the site of a new house to be built next to 61 Leighton Rd. in the Bush Hill Park Roman settlement. It revealed up to three phases of second century ditched and later ditch and bank and possibly then path fronted bank boundary features along the south end of the settlement. The area had otherwise been used for rubbish disposal before being abandoned in the third century, resulting in a very large pottery and amphora corpus being recovered. A significant feature was the presence of semi complete pots and part of an Iron Age pot in one ditch which may suggest ritual deposits.

A small watching brief/excavation for the borough at Broomfield Park, Southgate examined the west entrance to the park which originated as a Tudor and later garden around the now badly fire damaged Broomfield House and incorporates an 18th century Dutch influenced water garden. The Tudor boundary wall was located and detailed evidence for the form of the standing eighteenth century gateway and mounting of its gates, which may be restored, recovered.

Neil Pinchbeck also undertook the recording and reporting of a large WWII air raid shelter unexpectedly found by Enfield Homes in Baker St., Enfield. Research work has included the study of two pottery vessels from 1938 work on the Roman site at Churchfields, Edmonton which have recently been transferred to the Enfield Museums Service from the Museum of London.

Work in 2012 will also again hopefully include both royal palaces with a week of excavations at Elsyng being in the planning stage and two separate excavations at Theobalds in May and July having been confirmed. Major work may take place in the Bush Hill Roman settlement this year but at the time of writing its details end the extent of EAS involvement in it are uncertain. Amongst other work already agreed or likely to be undertaken is the monitoring of new pond digging at Myddelton House.

As always, the Society is greatly indebted to our Director of Excavations and Research, Dr Martin

Dearne, for directing the excavation team and producing the Society's archive reports to a professional standard, and also to Neil Pinchbeck for organising and writing reports on other projects, as well as to our Chairman, Mike Dewbrey, for organising the Pastfinders team. Thanks are due to our Surveying and Planning teams for their meticulous recording and to all our diggers. Any members wishing to take part in fieldwork or other activities should telephone Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888.

### Financial Report

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

### Executive Committee

Geoff Lamport retired from the committee after serving for 8 years as Treasurer. The committee wishes to take this opportunity to record its gratitude to Geoff for his great contribution, and wishes him well for the future.

The post of Society Auditor remains vacant – any member wishes to volunteer for this role (services are required only once per year) or for a committee position should contact [name and contact details withheld]. Nominations are required at least 7 days before the AGM.

In the absence of applications for the post of Treasurer Angie Holmes kindly agreed to act as Treasurer on the retirement of Geoff Lamport and Tim Harper agreed to assume the duties of Secretary in addition to those of Meetings Secretary. With these changes the members of the Executive Committee will stand for re-election:

President:	Harvey Sheldon BSc FSA FRSA
Vice President:	Jon Cotton FSA
Chairman:	Mike Dewbrey
Vice Chairman:	Ian Jones
Director of Research & Excavations:	Dr Martin Dearne
Hon. Treasurer:	Angie Holmes
Hon. Secretary & Meetings Secretary:	Tim Harper
Hon. Membership Secretary:	Lesley Pinchbeck
Hon. Pub Officer:	Ailsa Mosquera
Hon. Editor:	Jeremy Grove
Committee:	Neil Pinchbeck
Auditor:	Position vacant

# Enfield Archaeological Society

FOUNDED 1955

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

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

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN** that the 55<sup>th</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00 pm on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012

## DRAFT AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Minutes of the 54<sup>th</sup> (2011) AGM (*see Society News 201, June 2011*)
3. Matters Arising
4. Report of the Executive Committee (*see Society News 204, March 2012*)
5. Draft Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2011 (*to be presented at the AGM*)
6. Accounts accepted (*vote – proposed and seconded*)
7. Appointment of President and Vice-President(s)
8. Election of Executive Committee Members (*named and voted on – continuing posts can be voted together but new appointments separately – proposed and seconded*).
9. Golden Trowel Award for 2012
10. Any Other Business
11. Chair's closing remarks

# PASTFINDERS NEWS

## News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



Walking with my dog among the trees in Cedars Park early on a misty January morning I was surprised to see the apparition of a woman in a white gown silently watching me in the distance. Your imagination can play all sorts of tricks in a place imprinted with so much history such as Theobalds. I was almost disappointed when my ghost melted away as I realised that she was just shadows and sunlight reflecting on the ragged bark of a silver birch tree.

I have always felt that sites still retain a sense of history even after hundreds of years. On a warm summer afternoon in Cedars Park once the location of the Great Garden of William Cecil's show palace a German traveller once observed that the Queen (Elizabeth 1st) had been entertained here 'in the utmost splendour' Without doubt the colourful sights and sounds of the Elizabethan court would have been a feast for the eyes of the locals lining the approach into Theobalds as the Queen arrived on her Royal progress, staying on one occasion for 6 weeks at great expense to her Lord Chancellor.

Archaeology gives everyone who shares an affinity with history the opportunity to relive the past by handling the artefacts used by previous generations. Excavating the past for me has always been a privilege as every trench becomes a time machine that may take us back 2,000 years to Roman Bush Hill Park or uncover the remains of a meal eaten in a Royal Place four centuries ago.

This year between the 5th and 7th of May over the bank holiday weekend the E.A.S. Past finders will open the first trench of 2012 in Cedars Park. We will need lots of volunteers to help with this event, where the team will be digging to the west of the Great Garden wall in an area close to the entrance to the new car park. To the north of the site is a large dried up pond once used as a boating lake in Georgian times. Could this pond

have once been a reservoir for feeding the complex system of canals and fountains within Cecil's magnificent gardens? We hope that our trench will reveal in section if the brick lined culvert which we know runs parallel with the wall in this location follows an earlier channel with Elizabethan origins. If you wish to join our excavation or help out with our public information stall just turn up on the day we can always use an extra pairs of hands.

Very little field work has taken place over the Christmas period except for an unexpected discovery by council workmen just east of Baker Street. We were contacted by Enfield Homes after the removal of a tree opposite the Hop Poles Public House revealed the entrance to a small communal air raid shelter. As few records were kept of the location of such shelters during the 1940's it was vital that we recorded as much as possible before the structure was filled in for safety. Neil 'Indiana Jones' Pinchbeck donned his hard hat but left his whip at home and managed to crawl into the shelter which was partly backfilled with rubble. Locating the floor level a notable find was a fine green glass perfume bottle stopper in the shape of a peacock but alas no ARP helmets or gas masks! The interior was photographed and recorded and we are grateful to Enfield Homes their assistance and for notifying us.

Over the winter, small teams of Society volunteers have also been helping Neil and John Pinchbeck to 'ground truth' the results of John's analysis of LIDAR results for the Elsyng Palace site at Forty Hall. This involves examining and surveying humps and bumps on the ground to check that the apparent features identified from the LIDAR images really exist. So far the results are very encouraging, and are giving us a great deal more to think about.

*MIKE DEWBREY*