



Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



Top: A very young Graham Dalling at the EAS Elsyng Palace dig in the 1960s. Obituary p4.

Above: Part of the Museum's new permanent exhibition space at the Dugdale Centre in Enfield Town Centre. See report on page 6.

Forthcoming Events:

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 - 19 April: EAS Excavations in 2012
 - 17 May: Skeletal Material in MoL
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Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December.
The Editor is Jeremy Grove

www.enfarchsoc.org

<http://enfieldarchaeology.wordpress.com/>

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



If you would like to attend the EAS lectures, but find travelling difficult, please call 020 8449 5298 and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.

Forthcoming EAS lectures:

19th April

The Excavations of the Society in 2012
(preceded by AGM)

Dr Martin Dearne & Mike Dewbrey

Yet again, 2012 was a very busy year, so there will be plenty of work to hear about.

17th May

Skeletal Material in the Museum of London

Jelena Bekvalac, Curator, Human Osteology, Museum of London

14th June

Geoffrey Gillam Memorial Lecture: Elsyng Palace – the First Campaigns

Ian Jones, EAS

Amazingly, it is the 50th anniversary this year of the first EAS dig at Elsyng Palace. To celebrate, Ian will be talking about the early fieldwork from 1963-69, including the documentary background and a fresh look at the finds in the archives, the majority of which are as yet unpublished.

AGM Book and Magazine Sale



Regulars at our lecture meetings may have noticed we have laid off the sales of second hand books recently. Never fear, this was all just to prepare (and stoke up demand) for an improved, bumper book sale at the meeting on 19 April. I'm told that new stocks of recent magazines and glossy books that wouldn't disgrace a coffee-table are being laid in even as I write. So bring all your spare cash, or be prepared to regret it for quite some time afterwards.

** books shown are for illustrative purposes only and are not necessarily those for sale – Ed.*

WEA/EAS coach trip

1st June

Heritage Dockyard, Portsmouth

A great opportunity to visit, among other things, the new viewing area built for the Mary Rose and the amazing collection of Tudor artefacts recovered with her. The ticket also covers HMS Victory, HMS Warrior, the National Museum of the Royal Navy and many other exhibitions, not forgetting the dockyard itself. For further details and a booking form please see the enclosed flyer.

EAS Fieldwork

The Society carries out a busy programme of excavation and other activities. Dates for two summer projects are now confirmed:

Friday 12th – Sunday 14th July
Cedars Park, Cheshunt

Tuesday 16th – Sunday 21st July

Elsyng Palace, Forty Hall, Enfield

Please contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) for more details if you are interested.

Blog: <http://enfieldarchaeology.wordpress.com/>
Website: <http://www.enfarchsoc.org/>

Meetings of other Societies

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY 7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Enfield, unless otherwise stated

18 Apr	Holland Park	<i>Stuart Harvey</i>
15 May	Isaac Walton – The Fishermans Friend	<i>Robert Waite</i>
26 Jun	(7 for 7.30pm at Bruce Castle) Details to be announced	
17 Jul	Samuel Pepys "Plague, fire and Mrs Willett"	<i>Geoff Hales</i>

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH 7.45 for 8.00pm Jubilee Hall, Enfield

9 Apr	The Luddite Disturbances of 1811-12	<i>Katrina Navickas</i>
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LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 6.30pm Museum of London, EC1

9 Apr	200 Years of the Hunterian Museum	<i>Milly Farrell</i>
14 May	Excavations at Old Copped Hall, Epping	<i>John Shepherd</i>

HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY 7.45 for 8.00pm Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley

9 Apr	Nautical Archaeology - past, present and future	<i>Mark Beattie-Edwards</i>
14 May	10,000 years of history beneath your feet: the Bankside foreshore	<i>Fiona Haughey</i>
11 Jun	Annual General Meeting and review of the year's activities	

WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP 7.45pm, Woodford County High School, High Rd, Woodford Green

8 Apr	TE Lawrence & the Hejaz Railway: Excavations in Arabian Desert	<i>Ian Heritage, Odette Nelson & Guy Taylor</i>
13 May	(7.45pm) One Thames or Two? The Archaeology of London River	<i>Jon Cotton</i>
10 Jun	London's Food Plant Remains	<i>Karen Stewart</i>

WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY 8pm, Parish Centre, Abbey Gardens, Waltham Abbey

18 Apr	AGM & President's Address	<i>Stan Newens</i>
16 May	The Lea Valley Glasshouse Industry	<i>Jim Lewis</i>

The Archaeology of the First Peoples into North America

A short course arranged by the Mill Hill Archaeological Study Society.

Theories regarding date and entry via the Bering Strait – routes from Alaska & the Yukon – Clovis and Folsom expansion to the Great Plains – megafauna extinction – questionable sites & theories – language – DNA – living & working with indigenous peoples.

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

Time: 10-12 Fridays beginning 19th April 2013

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).

SOCIETY MATTERS

Membership subscriptions – due 1 Jan

Please remember that your membership fell due for renewal on 1 January 2013, irrespective of when you joined the society, unless you joined after 30 September 2012.

Please send the enclosed Renewal Form, together with the appropriate sum, to the Membership Secretary, Lesley Pinchbeck, 68 Tynemouth Drive, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 4LT.

Obituary:

Graham Dalling, 1949-2012

Many members may by now have heard the sad news that Graham Dalling passed away on Christmas Eve. He had become ill in the summer and was diagnosed with cancer. I am sure members who remember him delivering our January 2012 lecture with his customary aplomb will have been as shocked as me at the news.

Graham's encyclopaedic knowledge of the history of the Borough, his almost total recall of the most obscure documentary sources, and his enthusiasm for storytelling made him one of the most popular and frequent of speakers at EAS lectures. So much so that in recent years we regularly scheduled him in the January slot, as he could be relied on to draw a decent audience even in this darkest and coldest of months. He seemed to accept this backhand compliment with good grace.

His talks, delivered without notes, were packed with detail – names, dates, statistics and verbatim quotations, and yet brilliantly and vividly brought to life the characters and stories lurking between the lines of the documentary sources. The question and answer sessions at the end of the talk were generally lively, and often seemed to last almost as long as the original lecture as our questions prompted recollections of further stories from the archives.

Graham grew up in Enfield, and was fascinated by local history from an early age. As a schoolboy he took part in the 1960s EAS digs at Elsyng Palace.



Elsyng 1963. Left to right: John Adams, Graham (aged 14), Gwen Profitt, unknown

Much of Graham's specialist knowledge of course came from his many years at the Local History Unit, and it is perhaps typical of him that the first time I telephoned him there with a minor enquiry for this newsletter, I co-incidentally learned in two minutes more about the history of my street, including the answers to questions that had long puzzled me, than I have in all the years I have lived here.

His former colleague, Kate Godfrey, has written an excellent obituary of Graham for the EHHS, which has also been published by the Enfield Society. Kate pointed out that one of the many authors who were assisted by Graham described him as “*a prince among local history officers*”. She went on to say “*As well as numerous articles and papers, he wrote three hard back books, Enfield Past, Southgate and Edmonton Past and The Enfield Book. The thought that his books would stand on shelves alongside Robinson's 1823 History of Enfield, Tuff's of 1858 and Ford & Hodson's of 1873, I know, pleased him greatly.... After his retirement in 2009, he continued to help. Queries that stumped us would be put on one side with the words, Graham will know - and he always did. We will miss him, as will a great many others, but he is and he always will be part of the history of Enfield*”.

If anyone is even better qualified than Kate to tell the story of Graham's life's work, it is surely Graham himself, so it seemed appropriate to reproduce below our account of the talk he gave to our Society following his retirement in 2009.

It therefore only remains for the Society to formally record its gratitude to Graham for the immense contribution he has made to the history of the Borough, and its condolences to his family.

EDITOR

(Thanks to Kate for providing the photo and permission to quote from her obituary)

A Life in Local History

15th January 2010: Graham Dalling

Graham Dalling, a very popular speaker at EAS meetings over the years, retired from his post running the Enfield Local History unit last April. There was therefore a respectable turnout for our January lecture, despite the season, as Graham looked back over his career. (Could it be we were hoping for a scandalous revelation or two from a speaker recently freed from the restraints of corporate responsibility?)

Graham was born in Enfield in 1949 to an English mother and a Scottish father. He attended first Worcesters School in Goat Lane, and then the George Spicer School on Southbury Road, and his interest in history developed from an early age – amongst those who influenced him was his geography teacher, Syd Beadle, who in retirement produced a list of Enfield brickmakers.

He was a junior member of the EAS, and clearly remembers seeing the turf removed on the original Elsyng dig to reveal a fine wall immediately beneath the surface. Already interested in architecture, he noticed that notable buildings, such as Carlton House at the junction of Baker Street and Tenniswood Road, were disappearing, and started applying his new hobby of photography to recording them.

In 1967 he started work in the libraries – first in the central library then at Winchmore Hill. In 1968 he met the reference librarian at Edmonton – one David Pam. He began a two year librarianship course which stood him in good stead for the rest of his career, qualifying in 1972. Later he worked under David Pam building up the reference collection – and since he was the only other librarian with a particular interest in history he often deputised for him.

In 1975 the three former local history collections were centralised in the library at Palmers Green, along with the Museums Service. David Pam was in charge, with Graham as local history officer. David arranged unconventional exhibitions to bring people in, while Graham concentrated on building up and re-cataloguing the collection.

A certain amount of resourcefulness was required. The collections themselves were boosted by the acquisition of old records from the council stores, and by rescuing withdrawn library books. Meanwhile new equipment was hard to come by, so some useful plan chests were acquired from the borough engineer, while unused shelving and office equipment around the council offices would be carefully noted and, if unclaimed, recycled.

In 1979 the unit acquired a full time assistant, Kate Godfrey, who is still there. When David Pam retired, John Griffin replaced him – again he concentrated on the museum, and Graham on local history. The 1990s saw cuts and the unit struggled for much of the decade to remain open for 4 days a week. In 2008 the move to Thomas Hardy House, planned for 2010, was brought forward to April 2008, so Graham was rather relieved to be able to retire at this point.

Over the years Graham has been rather appalled at the council's attitude to its own buildings. Broomfield House is a famous case, but the fate

of various Art Deco libraries also seems to have been close to Graham's heart, with the listed 1930s de Bohun library sold off and the 1940s mahogany fittings of Palmers Green stripped in a 1990s refurbishment. Bowes Road was however saved through being listed.

Other unwelcome trends were a perceived deterioration in the quality of local government staff, and some less than ideal accommodation arrangements affecting the history unit – such as a fire escape routed through their 'strong room', or the use of the search room as a homework centre.

On the lighter side Graham recalled some of his favourite customers, and interesting enquiries – such as a woman who turned out to be related to Thomas Hardy, or a local man who was convinced his house was haunted – it turned out that two people died there in an air raid. And how much should one explain when a well-to-do lady enquires about an ancestor who turns out not only to have been from Edmonton, but to have died from syphilis?

Other occupational hazards include professional archaeologists fresh(?) from a site survey, and invitations to give talks, where you can never be quite sure what you will be faced with (*we are sure he didn't mean us – Ed.*).

Stock selection involves keeping a sharp eye on the local press, and using local contacts – the support of local societies such as the EAS, EHHS and Enfield Society has been invaluable. Book reviews, especially the London Journal, and Sunday papers are also good sources. And if you are lucky there may be the odd freebie from a grateful author whose research you have helped with, which can be added to the collection.

Graham's favourite records are from schools – admission books are a great source of demographics, and the odd famous name, such as Lord Jenkins of Putney, while the school punishment books have their own fascination – what, for example, was the “exceptionally vulgar behaviour during PE lessons” that was punished in one early '50s case? The Censuses are of course a valuable source – the more interesting from 1891 onwards when Graham started finding references to people he had met.

The History Unit today is going well and is well supported, though Graham is worried about the potential effect of the current recession on funding. That however, will be another story. **Maybe one for Graham's successor, John Clark, who is booked for our October lecture.**

(Reproduced from Society News 196, March 2012 – Ed.)

Enfield Life

First impressions of the new Enfield Museums Service permanent display at the Dugdale Centre, Enfield Town

By Jeremy Grove

Enfield Museum has recently doubled in size with the addition of the new 'Enfield Life' gallery on the first floor of the Dugdale Centre in the town centre. Enfield Life is the first permanent local history exhibition in Enfield and *"tells the story of the people who have lived and worked in Enfield, who have helped to shape the borough and in turn, have been shaped by it"*.

Sparing no expense, and not wishing to leave any stone unturned, your Editor visited this (free) exhibition in his own time, and without any safety equipment, on a very cold Saturday morning, in order to bring you a first hand report.

The display consists mainly of a mixture of information panels and exhibits. The panels are very clearly written, and give good background information (did you realise by the way, that Enfield's population is now over 312,000, or that 40% of the Borough is open space?).



The Roman and Prehistoric finds

The EAS, through its collections and the efforts of various members, has contributed to the exhibition, and this is most obvious in the first display, covering prehistoric and Roman Enfield. Most of the most impressive finds from our Roman digs are on display, along with other artefacts such as a mammoth tooth and bones, whose discovery in Palmers Green in 1909 led ultimately to the establishment of Broomfield Museum.

Further displays include reconstructions of a late 18th /early 19th century gentleman's study and a 1940s sitting room, and cabinets relating to municipal life, agriculture and industry, and household objects such as glasswares, ceramics and pass-times.

It's often a talking point when people find items they remember turning up as 'artefacts' in museums. So I'm not quite sure what to make of finding the standard lamp from my living room in the 1940s house. But I suspect many an EAS member is still quite happily using something like the Ferguson 'stereo cassette recorder' or 'VCR' as featured in the industry cabinet, and with the cold weather recently perhaps you have also dug out your old Belling electric fire to supplement the heating.

I've not mentioned yet the 'star of the show', the reconstruction of Enfield's lead coffin burial.



The decorated lead coffin

I'll leave this to Martin Dearne, who said, *"Much of the material derives from EAS excavations and it is very nice to see items like the gorgeous Roman millifiori disc brooch from Leighton Road well displayed to the public on a permanent not temporary basis. To have the decorated Roman lead coffin – complete with an accurately dressed figure inside it – as the centrepiece out in the middle of the thoroughfare between meeting rooms should raise the profile of the heritage of the borough amongst the users of the Dugdale Centre. The quality of the way it is displayed should also serve as a reminder of just what the*

museum service is capable of if the borough allows them the display space to publicly present their holdings, which, for the Roman period, few people realise are some of the best in London outside the city itself."

Completing the displays on the first floor are wall panels with a variety of photos from the Borough collections, ranging from Victorian charity school classes and Edwardian cricket teams, via a crowded Southbury Road lido and Brimsdown industry to the topping out ceremony for the North Middlesex hospital in 1970. I was pleased to see all the photos were captioned.

Just round the corner is a small gallery of paintings and photos from the Museum collection, including a rather amazing Enfield beast (a painting by an anonymous artist, that one, not a photo).

All of this material is just outside the door of the Enfield Local Studies Library and Archive, which now has new opening hours of 9.30-5.00 Monday to Friday. The Enfield Life gallery, being in the 'open plan' is accessible at the weekends too – the opening hours are currently advertised on the council's web site as 10-5 Monday-Saturday and 10-1 on Sundays.

Enfield Archaeological Society ANNUAL REPORT FOR 2012

The Executive Committee of the Enfield Archaeological Society has pleasure in presenting its 55th Annual Report, for the year ended 31st December 2012.

Membership

During 2012 membership changed as follows:

	Adults	Juniors	Total
Membership at 31.12.11	146	1	147
Joined during the year	20	0	20
Resignations & removals	25	0	25
Membership at 31.12.12	142	1	142

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.

Lectures

Martin's point earlier about the exhibition space being in a 'thoroughfare' is important – while the displays are set back enough not to get under people's feet, they are obvious to those passing by to use the Centre's meeting rooms, or even conducting their business in the open plan area alongside the exhibits. This must be a good thing in bringing Enfield's heritage closer to the community. I wondered how many passers-by might have been rather surprised to turn round and come face-to-face with our elegant Roman lady lying in her coffin. But that was before I visited the cafe on the ground floor, where I found that the tables nestle cosily around a stone Roman sarcophagus (formerly rather neglected in the corner of Forty Hall courtyard I think) complete with (plastic reconstruction) skeleton. Raw material here for an excellent Halloween event I should think.

Next door to the ground floor cafe is the 'other' Museum space – the temporary exhibition room. This is due to re-open on 26th April with 'Water, water, everywhere : 400 years of the New River'.

JEREMY GROVE

(With thanks to Jan Metcalfe of the Museum Service for photos and technical details.)

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, with the exception of one talk on Roman Galleys, had a strong focus on London and the South East, with talks on our 2011 fieldwork programme and our major project at Forty Hall, updates on Copped Hall and post-medieval archaeology in London, Roman London, an excavation in east London and south eastern towns. Tim also ensured speakers are met at stations, opened and locked up the Hall and provided refreshments, We are also grateful 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 Hailes Abbey and Sudeley Castle. 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 of the Enfield Museums Service and Adrian Hall in Broxbourne for their practical help.

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.

As well as the major report on the work at Forty Hall issued early in 2012 Martin Dearne along with Neil Pinchbeck (and contributors including Ian Jones and others) produced reports on all the excavations detailed below. John Pinchbeck also completed a major report evaluating the aerial photographic and LiDAR evidence for the Elsyng Palace site and its environs which has added significantly to what we know of it.

With Roger Dormer and others Martin Dearne made significant progress on the long running project to re-archive and issue new reports on past Roman sites, reports being completed on the work at 96 Landseer Rd., 106 Leighton Rd. and the 1970s work at Churchfield, Edmonton. As the project is now focused on the last couple of sites to be re-visited, work has begun on a major monograph that will see everything known about Roman Enfield being published in detail. Ian Jones has also begun work on a new updated edition of the late Geoffrey Gillam's book on Enfield during the First World War.

Excavations, Fieldwork & Research and Archives & Collections

The EAS excavated as usual on two royal palaces at Elsyng and Theobalds in 2012. As HLF funded refurbishment work at Cedars Park, Cheshunt (the site of the latter) got into full swing we contributed here especially, undertaking four pieces of work ourselves as well as working alongside archaeologists from Museum of London Archaeology (MoLA) on two others.

In the former orangery we helped reveal not just its well preserved heating duct system but significant stretches of the external walls of the palace.

West of the main palace site we undertook two phases of major excavation and recording on a partly culverted ditch, proving the assumption that it had been a canal serving the palace gardens wrong. In fact it was a late C18th/early C19th ornamental canal relating to the garden of the former Old Palace House, and in the C20th re-used as a quarry boundary.

Nearby we worked with MoLA to reveal more of it, but also the real palace gardens canal which ran parallel to it, up to three well preserved brick built water supply conduits relating to the palace and a large dog burial, speculated to be that of a Royal animal, but which radiocarbon dating later showed to considerably post date the palace.

Elsewhere, in the Great Garden we did the required investigation of a new information point site, though principally revealing only C19th paths and a C20th

hard standing, and, east of the palace, completed the long running investigation of a buried collapsed wall flanking the main approach road to the palace. Here architectural stonework from the palace built into it finally dated its construction to the second half of the C17th while a section of Delft platter showed that it was demolished and the approach road widened in 1710 – 30.

At Elsyng Palace, excavation of one major and several small trenches over the course of a week in July made considerable progress in identifying the large building immediately post dating the demolition of the palace (c. 1657) and first seen in 2010. It can now be confirmed to be a timber L-shaped threshing barn built on dwarf brick walls by Nicholas Rainton the younger and only in use for c. 45 years. As well as further stretches of the walls and a large entrance at one end of it, much of the expanded end was revealed and included an external brick surface, internal partition wall, mortared and gravel floors, a brick grain storage bin setting and features indicating the presence of another subsequently removed and substantial feature.

In the autumn and winter of 2012 Neil, John and Lesley Pinchbeck (with some assistance from Angie Holmes and Martin Dearne) carried out several months of watching briefs for the borough north of the Forty Hall lake down to and along Maidens Brook as a new cycle track was created. Discoveries included a roof tile surfaced path probably leading to part of the palace gardens, a major natural channel filled with palace demolition rubble and an entire drained and bank edged cultivation system east of the palace probably created at the same time as the threshing barn. The palace approach road was also recorded for the first time in detail and C19th features included evidence for the replacement of a palace drain, suggesting that it had continued to function as a land drain long after the palace was demolished.

On the next door Myddleton House estate Martin Dearne directed a watching brief when new ponds were created in the former kitchen garden, but only recent cultivation was present.

Neil Pinchbeck also undertook the recording of foundation trenches at 104 Leighton Rd. within the Bush Hill Park Roman settlement, though all archaeology had been lost to earlier house building. The society was involved in the archaeological response to multiple extensions to many further properties in the Roman settlement requiring only 'pad' foundations, but MoLA have largely been responsible for the excavation of these and results are awaited.

Work in 2013 is planned to again include both royal palaces with a further (probably final) week of excavations on the Elsyng threshing barn and at least one piece of work at Theobalds Palace, though work here is still in the planning stage. More major archaeological work around Forty Hall and on the Elsyng Palace site connected to HLF funded landscape improvements will be partly carried out by the EAS, but a start date for this is not yet known.

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

Any member wishing to volunteer for a committee position should contact Mike Dewbrey (01707 870888) or Jeremy Grove (020 363 9681). Nominations are required at least 5 days before the AGM.

Mr Jack Snary kindly volunteered to take on the role of auditor at the previous Annual General Meeting.

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: Jack Snary

Summary Minutes of the 55th AGM of the EAS held at 8pm on Friday 20th April 2012

(a full copy of the draft minutes will be available at the 56th AGM on 19 April 2013)

1. Apologies for absence *Mike Dewbrey*
2. Chairman's Opening Remarks *Meeting was Chaired by Ian Jones, EAS Vice Chairman*
3. Minutes of the previous AGM *Were agreed, proposed C Williams, seconded J Metcalfe. No matters arising.*
4. Report of the Executive Committee for 2011 *was accepted, proposed A Mosquera, seconded B Warren*
5. Draft Report and Accounts for year ending 31/12/2011 *summary was presented and accepted,*

proposed R Dormer, seconded V Owen. Chairman pointed out there was a small surplus in 2011 and that the Capital Reserve was set up to fund publications.

6. Election of President & Vice President *H Sheldon re-elected, proposed R Perkins, seconded J Grove; J Cotton elected, proposed B Warren, seconded M Dearne.*
7. Election of Officers and Executive committee Members *Continuing members re-elected, proposed J Metcalfe, seconded N Barlow. V Munday elected secretary, proposed I Jones, seconded A Holmes. A Holmes elected Treasurer, proposed A Mosquera, seconded R Dormer. J Snary volunteered to take on the role of auditor.*
8. Golden Trowel Award for 2011 *was made to Vicky Owen.*
9. Any Other Business *B Warren pointed out that the late Irid Anthony had returned to give annual lectures for some time after moving away. Vote of thanks to the committee made from the floor. Meeting closed.*

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 56th Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00 pm on Friday 19th April 2013

DRAFT AGENDA

1. Apologies for absence
2. Chair's opening remarks
3. Minutes of the 55th (2012) AGM *(summary above – full copy available at the meeting)*
4. Matters Arising
5. Report of the Executive Committee for 2012 *(above)*
6. Draft Report and Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2012 *(to be presented at the AGM)*
7. Accounts accepted *(vote – proposed and seconded)*
8. Appointment of President and Vice-President(s)
9. Election of Executive Committee Members *(named and voted on – continuing posts can be voted together but new appointments separately – proposed and seconded).*
10. Any Other Business
11. Chair's closing remarks

PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



The amazing recent discovery of a skeleton which has now been identified by DNA testing to be the mortal remains of King Richard III underneath a car park in Leicester have once again thrust the science of archaeology into the public domain.

Discoveries such as this recently, although romantic capture the public's imagination and inspire whole generations of young people to become involved in what has always for me been a fascinating pastime and for some a career. Those members who have taken part in our annual excavations will have experienced the sense of anticipation we all share at the beginning of each dig, a sense also of expectation as to what may be uncovered and the new discoveries we may make. Sometimes we are rewarded with a wealth of information and finds, sometimes we just learn to appreciate the value of 'negative evidence' which is after all just archaeology speak for 'we were digging in the wrong place!'

Tantalisingly, quite often the most interesting feature in the trench will be seen tucked away in the corner of the section as those of you who are veterans of past excavations will know only too well! By taking a somewhat romanticised view of future discoveries around the locality we can perhaps ask ourselves what we can offer those of you who decide to take up their trowels and join us on our excavations over the coming years. Well we can't promise that you will uncover the bones of a lost king of England! However Enfield and the surrounding area has its fair share of archaeological mysteries just waiting to be solved.

For example what are the early medieval origins of Elsyng and where is the location of the original manor house? Where was the site of the lost Tudor flour mill near Maidens Bridge? Following the discovery of a huge threshing barn over the site of Elsyng Palace last summer how many other hitherto unknown buildings remain to be uncovered on the site? What was the extent of the prehistoric occupation of the area around Forty Hill school? Did Forty Hill ever have an ice house and if so where was it? Does anything remain of the buildings within the main area of occupation in Roman Bush Hill Park; is a high status structure such as a Mansio buried close to

Lincoln Road? What was the age and purpose of the moated site of Oldbury now buried near Seaford Road in Enfield Town? Who fortified the impressive structures and earthworks at Camlet Moat Trent Park and how long have people been living there? Who built the substantial ditches and ramparts still to be seen close to Enfield Golf course and why? The list is endless, and with each new discovery seems to get longer. That is the magic of archaeology - each question we answer uncovers new stories to be told of Enfield's historical past.

I was saddened to hear of the passing of yet another associate and close friend of the society Graham Dalling last year after a long illness. Graham will be greatly missed, his encyclopaedic knowledge of Enfield and witty anecdotes were the subject of many of our lectures over the years. Luckily for us Graham leaves a legacy of his writings which will no doubt inspire future generations of young historians for many years to come. The opening of new museum galleries in the Dugdale centre was long overdue and what better way to remember the people who have added so much to our knowledge of the local past, names such as Graham Dalling, Geoffry Gillam, Dennis Hill by naming these galleries after them? Perhaps this is something the council may consider in the future.

The monitoring work on the new cycle track through Forty Hall which I mentioned last time continued into the new year, but is now complete. An assemblage of pottery sherds recovered during the watching brief have recently been dated to the early medieval period 11th-14th century which would suggest the earliest beginnings of the Manorial Estate. A brick pavement close to the stream was revealed during the recent works constructed of reused bricks from the demolition of the palace, this may be an 18th? Century landing stage or path of some kind. And finally a cross section of the approach road running west from Forty Hill into the palace was seen and recorded during the cycle path construction. The approach consisting of compacted and cambered gravel over brickearth, interestingly the approach had been widened in early 17th century as palace demolition was seen within the gravel dumping. The EAS team were delighted with this, and so, we hope, are English Heritage.

MIKE DEWBREY