



# Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society

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Foundation of bay window, Forty Hall (see page 7)

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

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**MEETINGS** of the Enfield Archaeological Society 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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**Friday 19 January**

## Pre-1914 Edmonton

**Graham Dalling**

Enfield's Local History Officer Graham Dalling will need little introduction to Society members. On this occasion he will be talking about the growth of Edmonton in the late Victorian and Edwardian period up to the First World War. We are told that among the evidence he will be drawing on will be his own family history.

**Friday 16 February**

## Batavia's Graveyard: Maritime Archaeology in Western Australia

**Ian Jones**

From the early 17th century several Dutch East Indiamen were wrecked on the coast of Western Australia and their excavated cargoes are telling us much about the details of the Eastern trade. The *Batavia*, wrecked in 1629, is famous for the slaughter of most of the surviving passengers and crew in a mutiny led by the ship's apothecary. She has left us a fascinating cargo including a complete gateway and some rather risqué silver bedposts. A full scale replica now sails the seas around Holland. Built to the exact recorded specifications for a ship of its type, it was too late to make changes when the excavations produced a structural surprise. In contrast the loss of an ex-slaver in 1841 had a serious effect on the developing colony of Western Australia, as her recovered cargo shows, while an American salt beef barrel highlights the problems of identifying undocumented wrecks.

**Friday 16 March**

## Recent Excavations in Waltham Abbey

**Peter Huggins**

Peter Huggins has directed the excavations of our neighbours the Waltham Abbey Historical Society for many years, both in the former monastic precinct and elsewhere, and many of our members have assisted on these digs. Peter will talk about the results of some of their more recent work.

**Friday 20 April**

## EAS Excavations in Enfield 2006, preceded by AGM

**Mike Dewbrey & Martin Dearne**

This is your opportunity to see and hear all about the excavations and fieldwork the Society carried out during 2006, with slides presented by our Chairman and Fieldwork Director. As you will know, 2006 was a very busy year for us, so we will be aiming to beat our record of wrapping up AGM business within 10 minutes in order to allow maximum time for the interesting stuff!

# EAS

## Fieldwork



The Society carries out a busy programme of excavation and other practical activities in the Borough.

Please see the *Pastfinders News* column for more details, and contact Mike Dewbrey on 01707 870888 (office number) if you are interested.

# Meetings of other Societies

## EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

7.45 for 8pm, Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield

**17 January**

Public Buildings in Edmonton  
*Eric Smythe*

**22 February**

(2.15 for 2.30pm Ordnance Road Methodist Church Hall)  
The History of Pantomime  
*Marlene McAndrew*

**21 March**

AGM followed by Enfield in World War 1  
*Graham Dalling*

## HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

**9 January**

British Post Box Design & Use - the first 150 years  
*Stephen Knight*

**13 February**

The end of Roman Britain - what ended, when & how?  
*Andrew Gardner*

**13 March,**

The London & Middlesex Archaeological Society in the early days  
*Eileen Bowlt*

## WALTHAM ABBEY HISTORICAL SOCIETY

8pm, Victoria Hall, Greenyard, Waltham Abbey

**25 January**

The Victorian Way of Death  
*Tom Doig*

**22 March**

Puddephatt Lecture: Waltham At War  
*Ray Sears*

**27 April**

AGM and President's Address  
*Stan Newens*

## HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION NORTH LONDON BRANCH

8pm, Jubilee Hall

**9 January**

The Bayeaux Tapestry and the Norman Conquest (Illustrated)  
*David Bates*

**13 February**

'Such a Parcel of Rogues in a Nation': the Acts of Union and whether English Gold was the Bane of Scotland  
*Mark McLaughlin*

**13 March**

The National Service League: Lord Roberts and the Campaign for Compulsory Military Training 1900-1914 (Illustrated)  
*Roger Stearn*

## WEST ESSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

7.45pm 6<sup>th</sup> Form Unit, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green

**15 January**

Social Evening

**12 February**

The Bible as History  
*Johnathan Tubb*

**12 March**

AGM followed by Presidential Address  
*Harvey Sheldon*

## LONDON & MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

6pm for 6.30, Learning Centre, Museum of London

**11 January**

The City Livery Companies before the Reformation  
*Matthew Davies*

**22 February**

AGM (at 6.15 in the Terrace Room), followed by Presidential Address  
*Simon Thurley*

**15 March**

Danish mesolithic dwellings and landscapes preserved underwater  
*Ole Gron*

**Derek Needham** It is with great sorrow that the Society has learned of the death of one of our longest standing members, Derek Needham, who joined, we believe, in 1960. The committee wish to offer our condolences to his wife, Christine, and their family and friends.

# SOCIETY MATTERS

## Membership subscriptions due now!

Please remember these fall due for renewal on 1 January 2007, irrespective of when you joined the society, unless you joined after 30 September 2006.

Please send the enclosed Renewal Form, together with the appropriate sum, to the Secretary, David Wills, 43 Millers Green Close, Enfield, Middlesex, EN2 7BD.

The rates are unchanged from last year:

|                    |        |
|--------------------|--------|
| Ordinary Members:  | £ 9.00 |
| Joint Memberships: | £13.00 |
| Junior Members:    | £ 4.50 |

Please note that Joint Membership is defined as any number of named persons residing at one address and receiving a single copy of Society News.

**New members who joined the Society after 30 September 2006 need take no action, as their subscriptions are valid until 31 December 2007.**

Please note that it is necessary to have current valid membership of the Society before taking part in any excavation or fieldwork, in order to provide adequate insurance cover.

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## Projector

Society member Gary Tew has kindly donated a slide projector to the society – a very welcome backup for our Friday meetings. Thank you Gary!

# Meeting Reports

## Enfield PalaceXchange, The Archaeology

15 September: **Chris Mayo**

For our first lecture of the 2006/7 season we were delighted to welcome Chris Mayo of Pre-Construct Archaeology, to talk about the excavations carried out in advance of the extension of Enfield Town shopping centre. Chris grew up in Southgate, and indeed was a member of our society as a sixth former.

The excavations began with an evaluation programme in 2001 in four areas, (A) the Sydney Road car park, (B) the London Road car park, (C) the site of the extension of Genotin Road and (D) the site of the temporary car park in the Town Park. In area D only paleochannels (old water courses) were identified, and the archaeology in C had been lost to previous development, but areas A and B were more productive, with some residual Roman pottery and quite a few post-medieval features, mainly from the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries, but also relating to the 17<sup>th</sup> century Uvedale nursery and 'Enfield Palace'.

In 2003 more extensive evaluation work began. On Sidney Road were 19<sup>th</sup> century remains of Enfield's first gas works and other properties. Off London Road were east-west Medieval ditches, Neolithic features and a few chance prehistoric and Roman finds. The large 25x35m area excavated next to Woolworths produced Neolithic, medieval and post-medieval evidence, including Neolithic scrapers and a ditch, a well dated north-south medieval ditch, and many late medieval or early post-Medieval post holes. The



finds tended to be post medieval on the west of the site and prehistoric on the east, suggesting a boundary.

Chris rounded off his talk with some slides of two other interesting Preconstruct projects.

At Fulham Palace they have been involved in a large lottery funded refurbishment project. Fulham Palace is a multi-period site with occupation back to Neolithic times, and claims to be the oldest surviving bishop's palace in the country and to have had the largest known moat (no longer extant) in the country. The project included the renewal of services, a complex process with the archaeologists working alongside the builders so that the services could be laid with minimum disruption to the surviving archaeology. The work turned up a coin of Crispus (AD 323-4) and is studying the fine Roccoco ceiling of Bishop Sherlock's dining room, which has been restored as part of the project.

At Woolwich Arsenal, Preconstruct have carried out a series of watching briefs of a truly industrial scale. The site is of some 9-10 hectares, on which were formerly a series of well-built workshops, with features such as lathe beds 30-40 feet long, all supported on this marshy ground by some 200 12 m concrete piles. Perhaps the most notable feature was the surviving bed of an Armstrong 35 ton steam hammer of the 1870s. The anvil was supported on about 100 timber piles 12m long (the previous anvil having sunk!), on which was built a pyramid-like structure of 22 foot square, 12 inch thick steel plates, 700 tons in all, encased in concrete. The cast iron anvil itself weighed 103 tons, and has been left in situ (sensible decision!). Amongst the finds recovered from the site were an important collection of 108 gun carriage fragments, including the base of a rare Coehorn mortar.

Chris's talk was very well received, giving us as he did a well-informed and enthusiastic tour of not one but three fascinating sites.

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## King Arthur, Alive, Well and In Person

20 October: **Tim Harper**

EAS committee member Tim Harper, who organises our lecture programme, bravely booked himself to deliver our October lecture.

His aim was not to repeat the familiar story of King Arthur, or the attempts to justify his existence archaeologically, but to look at why the story of Arthur has become such a well established part of British folklore, when other figures from his time, such as Ambrosius or Vortigern are virtually unknown in popular culture.

He began by briefly describing three of the 150 or so sites with 'Arthurian' links, Tintagel, Cadbury and Glastonbury. Tintagel was proposed as an early 'monastery site' in the 1930s, based on a chapel and other buildings. But a grass fire in 1983 and the involvement of Chris Morris of Glasgow University has revealed a much more complex picture, including 125 new buildings and a huge amount of 5-6<sup>th</sup> century pottery. It is now suggested it was a major trading site, possibly associated with the rulers of Dumnonia.

One tantalising find from Tintagel bears an inscription "Artognou had this made". The word Art or Arth meant bear, and is thought to have been a term for a warrior leader, so 'Arthur' may have originated as a title or appointment rather than as a personal name. There seems to have been a tendency for titles in this period to have become personalised in later tradition – another example being Vortigern, which meant "overlord".

South Cadbury has long been associated with Camelot, the Tudor writer John Leland reporting local tradition that Arthur "much resorted to Camalat". Ashe excavated it in the 1960s and identified an 'Arthurian period' hall and ditch, 5-6<sup>th</sup> century wine jars, and the refortification of the earlier hillfort in the period.

At Glastonbury Radford excavated the original church in the 1930s, and Rahtz found wooden buildings on the Tor in the 1960s. Arthur's tomb was reputedly found here in 1191, and in 1278 Edward I had his remains reburied in a black marble tomb.

Why did Edward I, and other kings such as Henry II, who constructed the Winchester round table, and Henry VIII, who had it repainted, associate themselves with Arthur? Perhaps to bask in his reflected glory or perhaps, Tim suggested, in

Edward's case, to prove that Arthur was dead and that he was not coming back.

The idea of Arthur emerged to fill the void left after the end of Roman Britain, but when exactly is uncertain as the tradition was originally oral. It has been suggested that the idea of the sword in the stone is very ancient and derives from the moulding of swords in the Bronze Age.

Gildas writing in around AD546 mentions Ambrosius Aurelianus – not Arthur but a similar character. Aneirin in around AD600, in describing another leader says either “he was not Arthur” or “he was no Arthur”, depending on your choice of interpretation, and whether you consider Arthur to be an individual person or a title. Nennius in AD810 first mentions Arthur's 12 battles against the Saxons, and later Geoffrey of Monmouth attributed more events to Arthur. Thomas Malory added the French romantic element in the *Morte d'Arthur* in 1469-70 and, critically, this was to become one of the first books to be printed by William Caxton in 1485.

Over time the constant repetition and re-interpretation of literature sources has come to dominate, while what little archaeological evidence there is tends to get drowned out. Tim suggested this is probably compounded by professional archaeologists being shy of investigating 'Arthurian' sites, for fear of the popular conflicts that might be stirred up. Meanwhile the 'industry' of Arthurian folklore goes from strength to strength – as illustrated by the recent Hollywood film and Tim's entertaining slides of the shops and visitor attractions around modern Glastonbury – as he says, Arthur is indeed still “alive and well”.

Tim has made a bit of a rod for his own back by giving such an interesting 'debut' talk, as he is now likely to find himself under pressure to book himself again in the not-too-distant future!

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## The IKEA Site, Edmonton

17 November: **Ron Humphrey**

The IKEA site in Edmonton made the news a while ago as the site of a 'crannog', so we were pleased to welcome Ron Humphrey of AOC Archaeology, who is writing up the site now Angus Stephenson, the excavator has moved to Ireland.

The IKEA store is built on former industrial land near the North Circular Road. A MoLAS evaluation in 1996 found prehistoric flints and environmental deposits. The Lea Valley is known for prehistoric remains and Roman Ermine Street, but there had been no Saxon finds in the immediate area of the site.

AOC's excavation in 2004 consisted of two main areas, a dry area to the west and a waterlogged area to the east. The ground slopes down to the east towards the river Lee, a mixture of river gravels and peat and alluvium filling former river channels. The archaeology is complicated by the very dynamic nature of the landscape, with the course of the river constantly changing over time. Bronze and Iron Age finds disturbed by the river and washed in together were found, along with ditches dated to the Iron Age.

On the waterlogged part of the site a wooden structure consisting of substantial wooden timbers and brushwood was found. Radiocarbon dates of AD430-650 and AD 340-540 were obtained.

The main group of timbers measured 8m by 4m and were on a sandbank within a north-south channel to the west of the modern river. Under the timbers were stakes, which appeared to mark the limits of the structure. It is thought the timbers were re-used from another structure, as they exhibit more complex jointing than required in this context. This jointing, including peg holes and axe cut joints) is of great interest to the project's woodworking expert Damian Goodburn (as seen on *Time Team*), as it is unique for this period in the London area.

The timbers were removed for preservation and further analysis. Other wooden finds included a handled bowl, a club and a wood turning core. The site was extremely difficult to excavate due to flooding (water being pumped from one part of the site to another as it could not be removed entirely for environmental reasons), and because of the limited time available.

It is unclear whether the remains represent a free-standing structure which collapsed in on itself or the remnants of dumped material. Theories for what type of structure there may have been include (1) a building on a platform built out into the channel, (2) a pile of a caisson bridge (3) some kind of tower.



'Crannog' tends to be a term applied to Scottish and western structures not found in southern England, but it is a useful shorthand and seems to have stuck in this case. In Scotland, crannogs are known from the late Iron Age to the 16<sup>th</sup> century. They tend to be in still lakes however, rather than in running water as at Edmonton.

In England, Iron Age lake villages are known at Glastonbury, while there are antiquarian references to 'lake dwellings' in London. In particular there are a couple of 19<sup>th</sup> century accounts of structures in the Lee Valley which Ron has yet to follow up. He will also be making a more detailed comparison with sites in Ayrshire and West Meath of similar date.

It is clear that this excavation will give archaeologists much food for thought, and we were grateful to Ron for struggling round a rain-soaked North Circular to give us a taster.

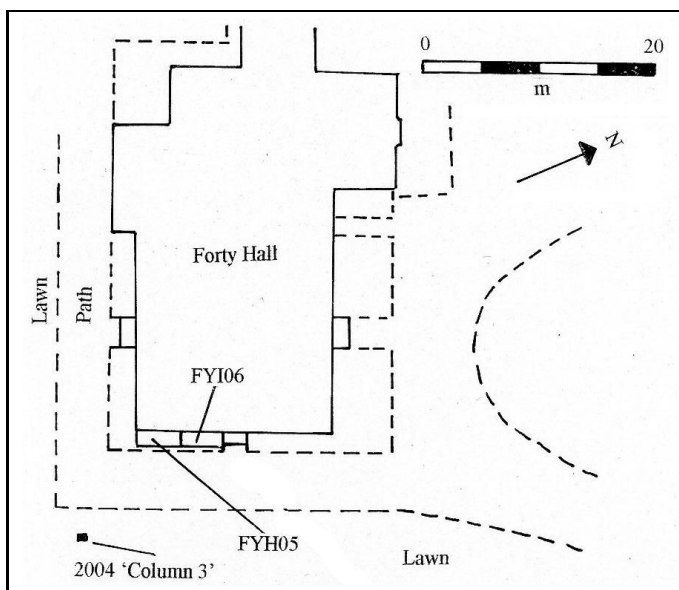
*JEREMY GROVE*

## An excavation to establish the original appearance of Forty Hall: Part 2 (Site Code FYI06)

Based on the archive report by  
Martin J. Dearne

In *Society News 178* (September 2005) we reported the results of a dig carried out in June 2005 on behalf of Enfield Council which revealed the foundations of part of a bay window on the east façade of Forty Hall. On 18<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> March 2006 we returned, again at the request of the Council, to continue our investigation.

A 1.3m x 3.9m trench was opened in the same rosebed, extending from the southern edge of the east porch of Forty Hall to (and slightly beyond) the northern end of the June 2005 trench (Figure 1). The main purpose of the work was to complete our examination of the former bay window feature, and also to investigate any evidence for the construction of the porch.



**Fig 1 : Trench Location**

The excavation successfully exposed the northern end of the bay window, <5> (see front cover

photograph and Figure 4). This was the earliest feature identified. Combining the results of the two digs we know the bay extended 0.94m out from the wall of the house, and was 2.8m wide (that is, 3'1" deep and about 9'2" wide in contemporary measurements).

This time it was possible to establish more of the constructional details in elevation. The foundation was built of 0.24 x 0.11 x 0.06m unfrogged, well-fired hand made red bricks bonded with yellow mortar which had been neatly struck, suggesting that all the excavated courses were originally intended to be seen. The surviving fragment consisted of four courses of slightly irregular English bond, including some part bricks on the north elevation. The interior face however consisted of Flemish bond beneath a row of headers. This foundation was seated on a slightly larger plinth of at least four courses of English bond brickwork, probably 3.02m x 0.99m, giving the face of the bay an offset (the southern end of this plinth was not excavated in June 2005). The construction of the bay was integral with that of the wall of the house.

At some point before the destruction of the bay the ground level seems to have been substantially raised by the dumping of a layer of sandy, clayey silt containing pebbles <10>. A brick earth layer <9> above this may represent the completion of the process of raising the ground level and have created a pathway. The bay window was demolished to the level of the top of <9>, suggesting that this was the ground level at the time. Above it was demolition rubble and the Victorian conservatory floor <3> seen in 2005.

The exposed courses of the east façade of the house, like the bay, had neatly struck mortar, but of a different, whiter colour. It appears that up to 1.3m of the façade below the modern ground level was originally intended to be seen. (Figure 4)

The porch was surveyed in plan, and levels taken, but little of its foundation could be seen in the south section of the trench, and it was not deemed safe to excavate very far here (Figure 2). However, now that we have the dimensions of the bay window, and if we assume there was a matching one on the opposite side of the porch, it

is clear from these dimensions that there must have been a third feature in between. As no traces of a third bay are present it seems very likely that there was always an entrance porch in this position.

The most significant small find was a complete scythe blade lying directly on the demolished surface of the bay foundation. Of 38 pottery fragments most were 19<sup>th</sup> century or from the topsoil, but several dated to the 17<sup>th</sup> or 18<sup>th</sup> century (7.1 – 7.3 in Figure 3), along with a partial clay pipe bowl dated to c1680-1720 (7.4). Both grey (Welsh) and green (Westmorland) roofing slate was recovered, along with some large fragments of peg (roof)tile.

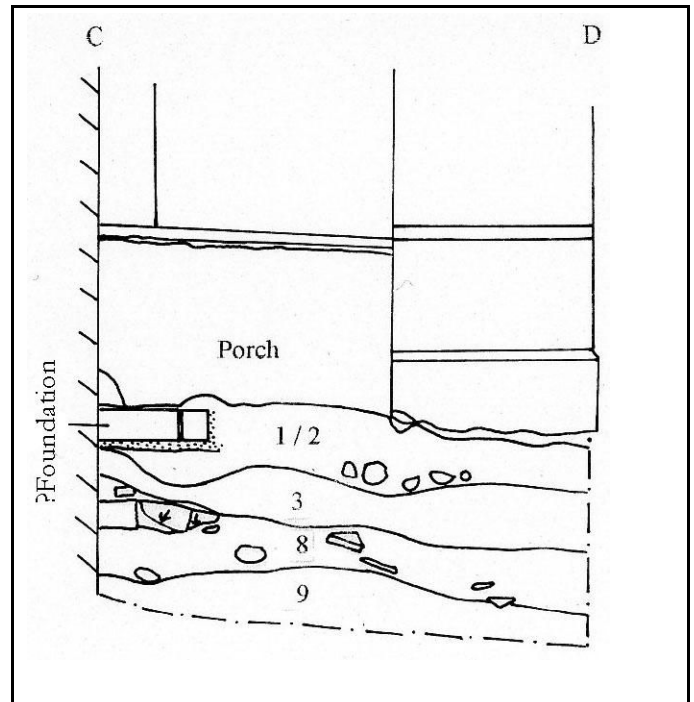
The findings from the two digs are consistent with the hypothesis that the demolition of the bay took place around 1708, by which time the original ground level had already been raised, possibly topped off with a brick earth path. A single course of brick exposed under the porch tentatively supports the presumption that it may also belong to c.1708.

Combining documentary research, analysis of the surviving building fabric and the results of our excavations, the Drury Partnership, the Council's architectural consultants, have produced conjectural reconstructions of Forty Hall as it may originally have appeared. Their reconstruction of the east façade is shown in Figure 5, alongside a photo of the house as it is today. Although the photograph is slightly affected by perspective, the comparison still gives some idea of the different visual effect given by the raised ground level around the hall today.

The EAS are grateful to the Council and especially Gavin Williams, the general manager of Forty Hall, for commissioning this work, to Andrew Wittrick and Geoffrey Gillam for useful discussions during the excavation, and to Richard Peats and Paul Drury of The Drury Partnership for permission to use their reconstruction drawing. The excavation director, Martin Dearne, wishes to thank all those society members who carried out the excavation, surveying and recording on both digs, braving both scorching sunshine in June 2005 and bitterly cold winds in March 2006.

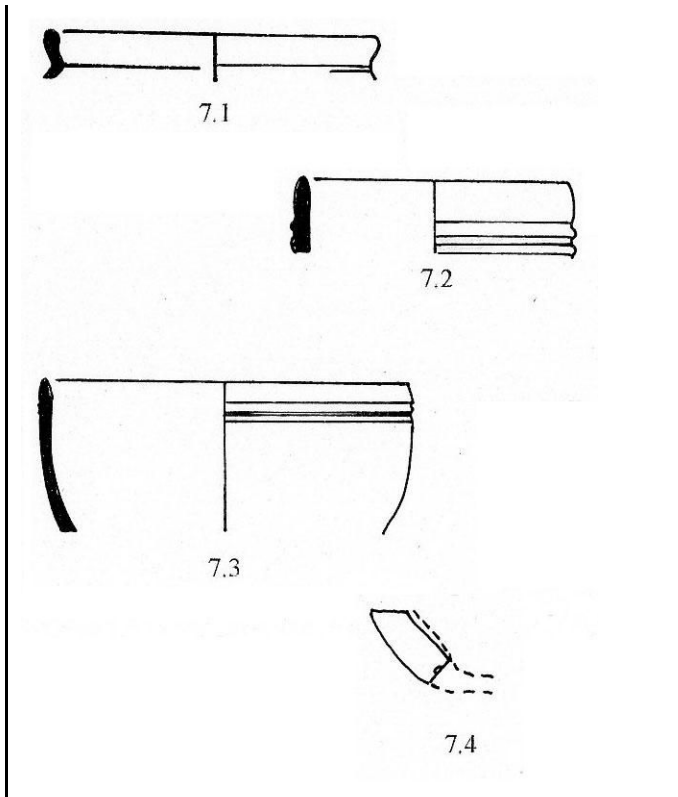
*This summary has been compiled from the full archive report, copies of which are as usual available from the Society at cost price.*

EDITOR



**Fig 2: North facing section (porch) at 1:20**

**Fig 3: Pottery and clay pipe at 1:4**



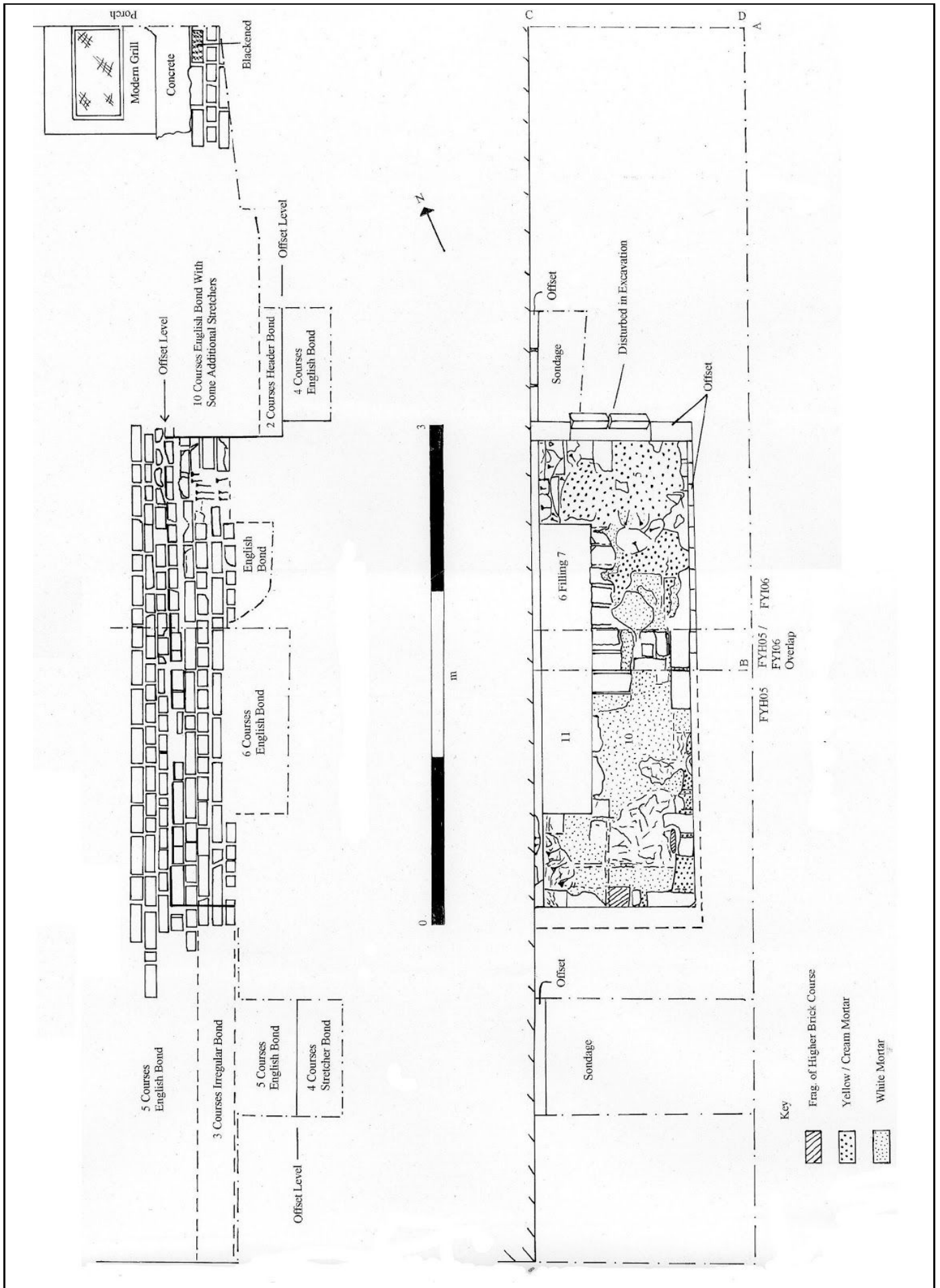
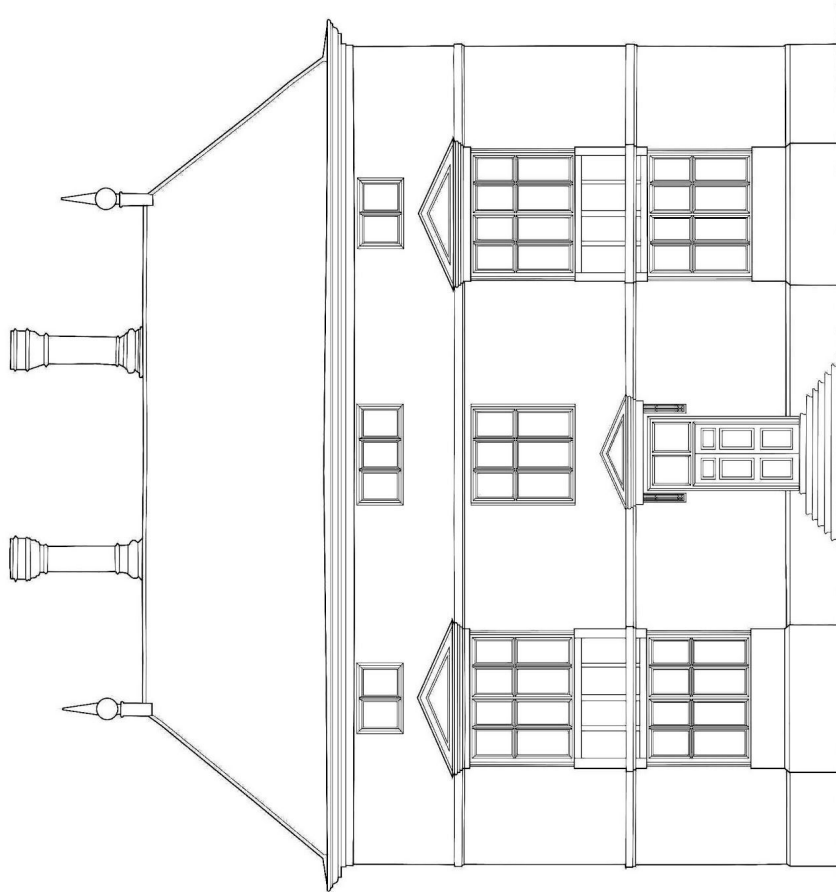


Fig 4: Composite Elevation of East Façade Wall (left) and Plan of Pre-Victorian Features (right)





Forty Hall: Reconstruction of the East Elevation - 1632



**Fig 5: East Elevation of Forty Hall: 1632 Reconstruction and 2006**  
(Reconstruction by Richard Peats used by kind permission of The Drury Partnership)



## “HAVE YOU SEEN OUR ROMAN BATH?”

It's not that often someone throws a question like that into a conversation but that is exactly what transpired while Martin Dearne and I revisited the site of the hill fort at Bush Hill golf club in September.

The head green keeper, a most amicable chap who had assisted our efforts to re excavate the pipe trench there in August with his mini digger, has as a result developed quite a keen interest in the history of the site.

While on a post excavation visit to the site in the distinguished company of Elizabeth Whitbourne of English Heritage, we were invited to inspect the remains of this 'Roman Bath' which were buried deep within a wooded area on the other side of the fairway.

With some trepidation, mixed with a sense of anticipation, we pushed through brambles and nettles to a most amazing garden feature. It took us all of three seconds to establish that what we were looking at was not a 'Roman' bath, but ironically the description was close to reality.

It appeared that a previous owner of the Old Park Estate in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, perhaps inspired by the Roccoco-style garden designs to be seen beside the lakes in Italy, had built himself a grotto that reflected some of these Romanesque styles. Nature had done her best to reclaim the structure, much of which was robed in cloaks of ivy and weeds. A stone and concrete lined basin which resembled a small swimming pool about two metres deep was edged with decorative stone lintels and cornice with a large stone receptacle at one end which may have once supported a statue. Scattered in the undergrowth were carved stone pedestals which also would once have supported statuary, no doubt sold off to pay debts accrued over a hundred years ago by a previous owner of the estate.

It was easy to imagine a time when Queen Victoria was on the throne and ladies with bustles and parasols in crinoline dresses would take a pleasant stroll around the gardens of Old Park with their chaperones. Pausing for a while by these shady arbours to watch woodland cascades that trickled down through the mossy grottoes, emptying into the pool which may have been stocked with lilies and gold fish.

Returning to reality once again we reflected for a while on what other secrets this lost garden had to reveal. As we made our way back to the car park we chatted on the way once again to the head green keeper, this time about a 20 foot deep brick-lined chamber that opened up underneath their motor mower. But that's a story for another day!

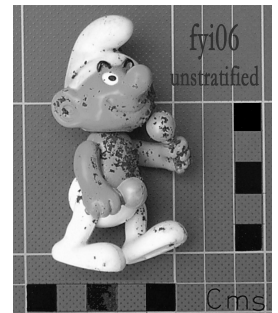
MIKE DEWBREY



The little blue chap on the front cover of this edition may not be the most distinguished cover star we have ever had, but he is the most cheerful.

He earned his place by virtue of being our very first find of 2006 – turning up in the topsoil of the Forty Hall rosebed during the excavation reported in this edition. Our first find of the year but by no means the last – despite our best efforts we have accumulated quite a backlog of excavation reports this year, which we will do our best to squeeze into future bulletins.

Those of you unimpressed by our Smurf may rest assured that we will feature a rather more impressive figurine from Enfield's archaeological record in the next edition, or maybe the one after that.



## 50 Years of the Enfield Archaeological Society – addendum

We didn't have space last time to include this photo of the Society's visit to Wright's flour mill in the late 1960s, which at the time was the last flour mill in the Lea Valley. Sadly it did not survive much longer.



# PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



Without doubt 2006 has been a busy year for the Society. Hardly a month has passed without an excavation taking place somewhere within the Borough. During the year we have carried out rescue excavations in gardens in Bush Hill Park, rediscovered lost bay windows at Forty Hall, carried out evaluation work on the site of Elsyng Palace for English Heritage and reopened a trench across the defensive earthworks at Bush Hill golf club.

Make sure you don't miss the lecture on April 20 next year when colour slides of all the year's finds and excavations will be shown to a no doubt captive audience! (We lock the door so that you can't get out!)

Our work on the 'treepits' at Elsyng Palace has been completed, for now, uncovering many finds and evidence of demolition deposits. Some of the test pits have revealed structural evidence of the Tudor Palace, such as a quite substantial wall and a well-preserved brick floor. The finds included an almost complete 17<sup>th</sup> century clay pipe, numerous fragments of vitrified window glass and part of a bronze 'spectacle' buckle. Some of the test pits revealed only layers of gravel below demolition deposits, which may represent courtyard surfaces, while others contained kitchen midden deposits with butchered bone and fragments of cooking vessels. So many different pottery fabrics have been recovered, some clearly medieval and Tudor in date, that a specialist report will have to be commissioned. One fragment of high status glass from a shallow bowl may once even have graced the kings table!

Our work at Elsyng caught the imagination of passers by and many questions were asked. A time line detailing important dates and events at the Palace attracted much interest and many children studying the Tudors at school were given a fragment of 17<sup>th</sup> century roof tile to show their history teacher! Many people were surprised at the scale of the site and few had much idea how much of the structure survives below ground. A full report on this excavation will appear in a future bulletin. Apart from the talk on 20 April mentioned above, we are also planning a Member's Event at

Forty Hall, probably for 24 June. The programme, yet to be finalized, will probably include a talk about Elsyng and our excavations, a tour of the site, and a 'hands-on' display of our excavated finds in Forty Hall itself.

A further field walk over the Cathale Priory site at Crews Hill revealed no firm evidence of the Priory or the Chapel. However a high status building may have existed somewhere in the vicinity as we once again recovered a number of fragments of dressed stonework. Scattered over the surface of the field were also large nodules of flint, which was a primary building material in the 14<sup>th</sup> century for ecclesiastical buildings. Most of the pottery from the field, which was also believed to be the site of a medieval Bush Fair, was 18<sup>th</sup> century together with scatters of broken peg tile. One or two worked flints were picked up and one small piece of 14<sup>th</sup> century pottery. A metal detector scan of the area proved inconclusive as unfortunately the field has been well searched in the past and only a few pieces of lead were found.

As usual at this time of the year I would like to thank our stalwart band of volunteers who have braved the elements throughout the year. Without their help and tireless dedication much of this work would never have been completed. On behalf of the committee I would also like to thank Dr Martin Dearne who tirelessly offers his professional services to the society and continues to publish reports on our excavations of a very high standard, as a direct result of which the E.A.S. is held in high esteem by English Heritage and the Council for British Archaeology.

Our excellent working relationship with the Enfield Museums Service and the Enfield Parks Department has helped once again to make events such as National Archaeology day a success, attracting many hundreds of visitors. Next year we hope to continue working with the Museums service revealing more of the secrets of Elsyng Palace and we also hope to carry out further rescue excavations over the site of the Romano- British settlement in Bush Hill Park.

As another year of discoveries draws to a close we look forward as always to whatever next year's excavations will uncover with the same sense of expectation that every young child feels at this festive time of year. If you would like details of any future projects and would like to help I can be

contacted at my office weekdays on 01707  
870888.

*MIKE DEWBREY*