



society

NEWS

The Bulletin of the ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Meetings of the Enfield Archaeological Society are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield (near Chase Side) at 8.00pm. Tea and coffee are served and the sales and information table is open from 7.30pm. Visitors, for whom a charge of £1.00 will be made, are very welcome.

Friday 14 December 2001

Poland: 1000 Years of Civilisation

Stephen Gilbert

The first recorded Polish ruler of the area around Gniezno and Poznan was converted to Christianity in 966 and both cities still have their medieval cathedrals. In 1038 the capital was moved to Krakov, which has many preserved medieval and Renaissance buildings. By 1609 Warsaw had become the capital and many fine churches and palaces were built (and later rebuilt following their destruction in the Second World War).

Other examples of Poland's cultural heritage to be shown will include the medieval town halls at Wroclaw and Torun, the Teutonic Knight's castle at Malbork, the Hanseatic port of Gdansk, the planned Renaissance town of Zamosc, vernacular wooden buildings in open air museums, book illustrations, paintings, folk art and traditional costumes.

Stephen Gilbert

Friday 18 January 200

PPG16 – Commercial Archaeology, Has it Worked?

Robin Densem (Compass Archaeology)

The speaker will outline the development of archaeology in England and early models for its practice and the growth of professionalism through the 1970's and 80's. The crisis in York and the cases of the Huggin Hill Baths and the Rose Theatre led to the drafting of PPG16 guidelines in 1989 and its subsequent issue in 1990: what does it say and how far has it been implemented? Mr Densem will ask, "What is commercial archaeology? Who does what and why? What are the effects of commercial archaeology, who are the users, the clients and what are the products?" What is meant by "successful archaeology" and whether archaeology should be local will be discussed, and the varying views of practitioners,

developers and the authorities will be explored to attempt to determine whether commercial archaeology has worked. Finally, the matter of local versus commercial archaeology will be examined - do we need change?

Jon Tanner/Robin Densem

Friday 15 February 2002

Crimea: Melting Pot of People

Ian Jones

There is far more to the Crimean peninsula on the north side of the Black Sea than just being the site of one of our less well-conducted wars and this lecture will show the diversity of cultures that have flourished in the area since the first millennium BC. From around the middle of that millennium much of the area was occupied by a Scythian nomad kingdom. In the early first millennium BC Greeks were also visiting the area to trade and fish and this led in turn to settlements including Kerch with its incredible tombs which were flourishing from the 6th century BC onwards. They eventually came together in a united Bosphoran kingdom, which later passed under the control of the Anatolian kingdom of Pontus. In turn the area passed under the control of Rome and later formed part of the Byzantine Empire some of whose more impressive remains survive at Chersonesus.

The Crimean steppes passed under the control of the Khazar nomads as part of their empire from the 5th century AD. Subsequently they converted to Judaism and though most eventually migrated to the west a tiny minority of Crimean Jews still live there today. During the 12th century the coastal towns passed under the control of Genoa and were fortified as can be seen at Sudak and Caffa. The 13th century saw the arrival of the Mongols and the later establishment of the Crimean Khanate in the 15th century after the decline of the Golden Horde. Though once able to attack Moscow the Khanate eventually fell to the Russians in 1783.

Under Russian rule Sevastopol became a major naval base while much of the coast was covered with summer palaces of the nobility including the Vorontzov Alpuka Palace and the Livadia Palace, the favourite residence of Nicholas II. A visit to the sites of the battles and other actions of the Crimean War, 1853 – 56, should help to make it clear how difficult the task was that the Allies faced after they missed their initial chance to end it quickly. Instead Russian stubbornness and bravery coupled with Allied incompetence at the top forced the armies to suffer through two terrible winters.

Ian Jones

MEETINGS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION – NORTH LONDON BRANCH

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

Tuesday 08 January 2002

Britain and Appeasement in the 1930's
Dr David Stevenson (LSE)

Tuesday 12 February 2002

Medieval Town Life (Illustrated)
Dr Jennifer Ward (Goldsmiths College)

Tuesday 12 March 2002

The Portraits of Elizabeth I (Illustrated)
Dr Susan Doran (St Mary's College,
Twickenham)

For further details, contact Robin Blades, 020 8368 5328

EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

Wednesday 19 December 2001

Seasonal Evening

Wednesday 23 January 2002

The Walker Family of Arnos Grove
Rubu Galili

Thursday 21 February 2002

Ordnance Road Methodist Church Hall
2.00 for 2.30 p.m.
Enfield Wash and Enfield Lock
David Pam

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

SOCIETY MATTERS

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Members are reminded that subscriptions fall due for renewal on 01 January 2002.

Please send the Renewal Form (enclosed with this edition of Society News), together with the appropriate sum, to the Secretary, Jon Tanner, 24 Padstow Road, Enfield, Middlesex EN2 8BU. Alternatively you may prefer to thrust the remittance into my eagerly outstretched hand at a Lecture Meeting. Inspection of the enclosed Programme Card for 2002 will show that once again a wide and varied range of excellent speakers has been arranged, representing remarkable value for your subs – we even throw in tea or coffee (not literally, of course!)

Subscription rates for 2002 are as follows:

Ordinary Members:	£5.00
Joint Memberships:	£7.00
Junior Members:	£2.50

New members who joined the Society after 30 September 2001 can relax – their subscriptions are valid until 31 December 2002

HELP WITH ADMIN NEEDED

If anyone is able and willing to help with the running of the Society in any way, please contact the Chairman Dennis Hill, telephone 020 8440 1593.

FIELDWORK AND EXCAVATION

The Fieldwork and Research Group, known as the "Enfield Pastfinders" has been established and has undertaken a small excavation in Bush Hill Park that featured in the local press recently.

A very informal Induction Evening for new Pastfinders members, and anyone interested in finding out more about the group, has been arranged for 8.00 p.m. on 13 December at Salisbury House, Bury Street West, Edmonton. Pottery and other artefacts recovered from the Leighton Road and other excavations will be on display, with an opportunity to handle some of the material. There will be (very) short talks on excavation and the plans for future activities of the group, and a chance to meet each other over a glass of wine and a mince pie.

Anyone interested in finding out more about the group or attending the evening should telephone or write to Mike Dewbrey on 020 8364 2244 or the Secretary Jon Tanner (details on cover).

MEETING REPORTS

windows in 1338. Nigel's slides showed how

York Minster: England's Largest Stained Glass Museum

Friday 21 September 2001: Nigel Swift

York Minster is built on the site of a Roman legionary headquarters. The first cathedral on the site was a Saxon Minster, of which nothing remains. The Norman cathedral was built in 1080, and then enlarged in 1160. Very little of that building now survives, but its foundations were used when the nave was rebuilt in the Decorated Gothic style, with large windows and flowing tracery. That building work lasted from 1291 to 1338. In England, only Westminster Abbey is taller than York Minster and there is no other church in England where so much medieval stained glass has survived. Using colourful slides and detailed plans, Nigel Swift took the Society's September meeting on a guided tour of York Minster's stained glass.

The 1338 nave re-used dark glass from the earlier building, mainly in the uppermost lights of band windows. The bands were created by placing horizontal pieces of clear, patterned glass in between coloured panes, which resulted in an unusually bright and well-lit cathedral.

The Minster's stained glass windows often feature spiritual themes at the top and more earthly illustrations at the bottom. Many of the nave's windows have heraldic symbols at the bottom. A central window has the King's coat of arms: Edward I was in York when the nave was being built. Similarly, the Mausley window has pictures of various saints at the top, and of Mausley and his family at the bottom. People often sponsored windows in this way in order to promote themselves and their families in God's eyes. Another window includes an image of the donor holding a picture of the window itself. The animal kingdom is also represented in the nave. One window shows two medical monkeys standing over another sick monkey while inspecting a specimen glass.

Nigel described the west window, with its lovely tracery, as a masterpiece. Archbishop Milton commissioned this and the two side

beautifully drawn were the faces and drapery of the apostles. The audience was also impressed by his slide of a doe-eyed ox. Some of the human faces in this window had to be replaced, not entirely successfully, in the 18th century. The originals had been damaged by stone-throwing children who used them for target practice.

The Church of St Sepulchre originally stood beside the cathedral. It was demolished when the nave was rebuilt, but some of the glass survives. Nigel's slides showed figures delicately drawn in yellow and white, including sheep and goats, as well as biblical figures. They were in a style of drawing had become popular for illustrating manuscripts in France in the 1340's.

Shortage of light was a problem in the choir. Most of the glass was blue, which made it difficult for visitors to see the architecture, and for the clergy to read their services. It was also a problem in the transepts. Like the choir, they were completed in the 1250's in the Early English style. By about 1430, age had turned most of the windows here brown. At that time, the Cistercians were building brighter and better lit churches using grisaille glass, and this is what was used for the choir and the transept's new windows. The best surviving example of grisaille glass is in the north transept's famous five sisters window. It is a type which is made up of numerous small pieces of glass, originally white, but since corroded to a grey colour.

The south transept has a glorious rose window, which is an unusual feature for an English cathedral. When Robert Petty, a local glazier, replaced all the transept's large windows from 1515 to 1520, he decorated the rose window with beautiful Tudor roses.

By 1300, the Chapter House had been built. Unlike most chapter houses, it had a wooden rather than a stone vault, which avoided the necessity for a central column but which also greatly increased the risk of fire. Its band

windows and bar tracery, with vertical mullions, were the latest fashion.

The last section rebuilt was the east end. The work lasted from 1361 to 1400. The perpendicular style was used, creating almost a wall of glass. This would have been enormously expensive, at a time when plague was ravaging the country. It included one stained glass window, which was almost the size of a tennis court. The Bishop of Durham commissioned it, giving John Thornton of Coventry three years to complete it, and he finished on time. It was a condition of the contract that Thornton did all the drawing himself, and the results are impressive. However, it was the Bishop who decided the sizes of Thornton's images, and unfortunately they are all too small to see without binoculars. Over the following 30 years, Thornton was given all contracts for large windows, but this later work of his became monotonous and repetitive.

From the time of the Reformation in the 16th century until the Victorian era, there was no new stained glass in York Minster, although there were numerous repairs. At the end of this lively lecture, Nigel answered questions from the audience.

Mick Breheny

Kensal Green Cemetery

Friday 19 October 2001: Robert Stephenson

Kensal Green was the first of seven "hygienic" cemeteries built around London between 1832 and 1841, the others being Abney Park, Brompton, Norwood, Nunhead and Tower Hamlets.

George III's daughter Princess Sophia and her brother the Duke of Sussex chose to be buried at Kensal Green in 1848 and 1843 respectively. This royal seal of approval helped to make the new cemeteries generally accepted as an alternative to the grossly overcrowded cemeteries of London parish churches. Kensal Green also holds Thackeray, Wilkie Collins, Anthony Trollope, Byron's publisher John Murray, Sir Marc Isambard Brunel and Isambard Kingdom Brunel as well as the tightrope walker Blondin.

The General Cemetery Company was founded as a commercial enterprise in 1830. Two years later, Royal Assent was granted to a Bill "for establishing a general cemetery for the interment of the dead in the neighbourhood of the metropolis". The cemetery started in the reign of William IV rather than in Victorian times, and is still managed by the General Cemetery Company.

The Anglican chapel is the centrepiece with its neo-classical design and Doric columns simulating a temple. The chapel contains a catafalque with a hydraulic lift for taking a coffin to catacombs capable of storing 4000 coffins beneath the plinth. Three-layered coffins were used with an inner coffin of wood, a middle one of lead and a grand outer coffin for display. The Dissenter's Chapel was completely restored in 1997 with funding by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

Most of the large private graves have their own brick-lined vaults holding layers of coffins supported on pairs of iron bars.

The spacious grounds are now a wildlife sanctuary and shelter no less than 23 species of butterfly, about half of the total found in the UK.

The elaborate tombs represent a triumph of the stonemason's art. Designs were sent to Italy and the competed classical figures returned to Kensal Green by rail or canal. The advent of water and steam power made it possible to work large pieces of fine marble. The cemetery provides a training ground for recognising the various forms of marble from this county and abroad.

This lecture attracted a number of non-members who attended especially for it and drew a number of questions.

Dennis Hill



The Outfall From the Whitwebbs Pumping Station and the Section of the New River Loop in the Grounds of Myddelton House

Introduction

In 1999 the Enfield Archaeological Society was invited by Dr Dowbiggen, the Principal of Capel Manor College, to investigate a metal sluice which fed a brick-lined culvert leading into a ditch following a tortuous path down to Maidens Brook.

The well-constructed sluice had a vertical gate, which could be raised or lowered by means of a crank handle operating a rack and pinion. It led out of the course of the old New River Loop into a vertical shaft leading down to the culvert. Next to the sluice was a weir to set the level of the Loop; the overflow from weir ran via an iron pipe into the shaft leading from the sluice.

The sluice is first shown in an Ordnance Survey map of 1896 and initially it was thought that this was simply a device for drawing off water from the Loop. However, at right angles to the sluice is a line of blue industrial bricks, which formed the end of the "Ornamental" Loop section in the grounds of Myddelton House. This was the top course of a dam 8.41m wide marking the end of the Ornamental Loop. A few feet behind the dam was a concrete cover for a brick-lined pit. The cover was divided into two parts, the dividing line having a hole at its centre through which could pass the handle of a metal turnkey to operate a large stopcock.

History

In 1859 the Docwra aqueduct, built to carry the New River over Maidens Brook, was opened (Essex-Lopresti 1986). This made the Forty Hall Loop redundant and it was abandoned. Along with the rest of the Loop, the stretch in the Myddelton House gardens would not have been a pleasant sight with its bare banks and stagnant pools of water, presumably similar to the "Dead River" section of the Loop leading on from what was the "Ornamental" section.

Myddelton House was built in 1818 by Henry Bowles and this unpleasant sight would not have pleased him for he was active as a Governor of the New River Company. It is interesting to consider what negotiations lead to the opening in 1898 of the Whitwebbs pumping

station. This was one of a number of steam engine pumping stations drawing water from

deep wells and feeding this into the New River to supplement the supplies from the springs at Chadwell and Hertford. The output from the Whitwebbs station fed by gravity a 610mm diameter metal pipeline, which finished by passing through the dam adjacent to the metal sluice. An accurate description of this is given by Houston (1926).

Thus, a supply of fresh water was made available to refresh the old Loop in the grounds of Myddelton House, the water now flowing down to the New River in the opposite direction to which it did originally. This refurbished part of the Loop will be called the "Ornamental" stretch of the Loop.

Whitwebbs pumping station suffered from a shortage of water and was decommissioned in 1952. The Loop in the grounds of Myddelton House again became stagnant and unsightly, leading to it being filled in with soil from the Victoria Line Tube in 1960.

Its route can clearly be followed through the grounds of Myddelton House. It entered under an iron bridge dated 1832 close to the front wall of the gardens. A good description of Augustus Bowles and his garden is that of Hewitt (1997).

Whitwebbs Pumping Station

In the basement of the pumping station building there is the impressive well which is 123m deep and 3.65 to 4.57m in diameter, the upper section being lined with cast iron segments, the remainder being brick-lined.

The shaft passed through the upper earth strata and then continued down through the underlying chalk. The water level was 56m down and the well had two side galleries 1.98m high by 1.37m wide. The western arm extended 213m to Theobalds Road and contained nine 152mm boreholes going down a further 64m. The eastern arm was 168m long with six boreholes. The depth to the bottom of the

boreholes was 123m and the output was half a million gallons (2 273 000 litres) per day.

The pump hall held two Barring overhead compound surface condensing beam engines each having a 4.87m (16'0") diameter flywheel, steam being supplied by two Lancashire boilers in the boiler house. Pumping was usually for seven days per week, the engine's output being fed to settling tanks in the adjacent Valve House, then via a notch weir to measure the flow (a 127mm flow over the 1220mm weir indicating 1.5 million gallons – 6 819 000 litres – per day) to gravity feed the 610mm main.

The stopcock in its pit in the grounds of Myddelton House was opened, as was the "weed gate" sluice at the far end of the Ornamental Loop where it joined the main New River. If this was not done, flooding could occur in the grounds of Myddelton House. Augustus Bowles complained that well water was a bluish-green colour and very hard, and it was bad for some of his plants.

The start and finish of the pipeline was known, but not in detail its route. Being underground it is not shown on Ordnance Survey maps and lying at a depth of some 2.4m, it is too deep to excavate without the use of a mechanical digger or shuttering. It might be possible to detect its presence from the surface with a magnetometer, but one would have to be hired.

Sheet 14 of the "Metropolitan Water Board's Maps of the New River, the Works and Estates within the New River District" of 1906 shows the course of the pipeline emerging from the pumping station, Figures 1 and 2, crossing the adjacent field, entering Whitewebbs Wood and following the course of the old Loop to emerge from the wood by the Flash Lane aqueduct and then running in a series of straight lines. Towards the end of the first, a 152mm diameter bottom waste pipe empties into maidens Brook. The second runs through the field carrion Pit Bottom and has an air cock in a brick-lined pit just before it passes under the Loop and then near where the footpath runs in from Whitewebbs Lane changes direction to form the third straight section which crosses the Black Bush Bottom field and ends at the dam forming the start of the Ornamental Loop. These two fields are leased to Capel Manor College by Enfield Council and form part of the Forty Hall Farm Estate.

Finale

In practice, the Whitewebbs pumping station was not a success owing to a shortage of water and it was closed down in the 1950's. The beam engines were removed and the boiler house and its chimney demolished. The Ornamental Loop was filled in with earth from the Victoria Line Tube in 1960.

The Forty Hall Loop is an excellent example of Industrial archaeology. It is hoped to have it designated as an Enfield Local Heritage Initiative Trail. Standing by the Loop it is fascinating to recall the army of hard-drinking navvies who dug it by hand around 1611 and the surveyors who managed to achieve a drop of 5" per mile based on the primitive instruments designed by the Romans to survey the routes of their major aqueducts (Smith 1988-1990).

Acknowledgments

Thanks are due to those members of the Enfield Archaeological Society and the West Essex Archaeology Group who kindly assisted with the excavations in the vicinity of the sluice, to Paul Jones, Head Groundsman of the Royal Free Hospital's Sports Ground and to Brian Hewitt, gardener at Myddelton House, who provided much advice on Augustus Bowles and his garden. John Cunningham was invaluable in providing information on the engineering practices involved in the New River.

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Dennis Hill

Figures 1 and 2 follow on pages 8 and 9

Figure 1: Six Inches to the Mile map showing the run of the pipeline from Whitewebbs pumping station on the left by Cuffley Brook almost to its finish, the sluice being just off the map on the right.

Figure 2: Map showing the run of the pipeline as it exits Whitewebbs Wood to traverse the Carrion Pit Bottom and Black Bush Bottom fields to finish at the dam "B" adjacent to the sluice "H"

ENFIELD PASTFINDERS

News from the
Fieldwork and Research Group

Since the "Pastfinders" were formed in the summer of 2001 we have been busy excavating the rear garden of Jim and Cathy Costello's semi-detached home in Bush Hill Park. It is not often that the opportunity arises to excavate an entire back garden, but that is exactly what was handed to us this summer.

The residents had intended to landscape their garden which on closer inspection was full of broken glass and discarded rubbish, so with resolve they began sieving every spade of soil, only to reveal two large amphora jar handles and the neck of a Roman wine flagon! A quick phone call from Jim Costello's mother (who just happens to be a local councillor for the environment) to Geoffrey Gillam, and within days the Pastfinders were on the scene. Fortuitously, the corner of the garden which the owners had previously "excavated" had been disturbed by the construction of a substantial greenhouse with deep brick foundations so very little archaeology or stratigraphy remained. When we arrived on site we were confronted with a large garden sloping from west to east, which promised to fill in another piece of the Roman jigsaw in Bush Hill Park. As the residents intended to sieve the whole garden down to the natural brickearth we saw an excellent opportunity to record as much as possible in the time available.

The southern boundary of the garden had been disturbed in the area between the greenhouse and a concrete patio by a large 20th century rubbish pit, which terminated in the foundations of a large air raid shelter, which had been dug down into the natural brickearth so, alas, our efforts were only rewarded by stray sherds of Roman greyware, and the remains of an iron bedstead.

The third trench, which was opened further towards the north, proved the old adage "third time lucky" as this began to show less disturbance to the stratigraphy. The black

topsoil was painstakingly sifted by the residents who discovered a rather battered Roman silver coin (our first coin from the site), which has been tentatively identified as a denarius of Fastina Junior wife of the Emperor Marcus Aurelius. Although in the loose topsoil the date ties in nicely with the pottery recovered so far. In section the topsoil gave way to a clay-based subsoil, yellowy in colour, which contained large quantities of broken 3rd and 4th century AD pottery. Analysis of the diagnostic sherds indicated pottery being imported from all over the local region, with fragments of New Forest ware, London ware, Black Burnished ware, samian, and mortarium, together with broken pieces of tegulae and amphorae.

The plough soil layer was overlaying a dark occupation soil, which contained a scatter of 3rd and 4th century pottery, the jaw bone of a sheep and fragmented bone. Small finds consisted of an iron fibula brooch (currently undergoing conservation and stabilisation by Dr Martin Dearne, our Finds Specialist), a bronze stud and a bronze coin as yet unidentified. Beneath the dark occupation soil a layer of large pebbles with a greater concentration towards the north end of the trench was noted. Beneath this pebble surface a dark occupation fill contained 3rd and 4th century pottery and the remains of a deer skull. The dark fill overlies the natural brickearth, which dropped away into a shallow gully running west to east across the trench. The gully fill contained more fragments of 3rd and 4th century pottery and to everyone's surprise, at the bottom of the gully a large posthole was recorded cutting down into the brickearth below. The posthole fill contained a single fragment of greyware. A further posthole and several small stakeholes were located just south of the gully. It has been theorised that this may indicate a property boundary running from the raised gravel terrace in the west down towards the line of Ermine Street in the east, perhaps with an animal pen within.

I would like to thank Mr and Mrs Costello for their cordial hospitality over the last few weeks, spoiling us with generous alfresco lunches of pizza and sausage rolls and an

endless supply of cold drinks. To date the excavation is continuing while the weather is on our side and a further update will be included in the next bulletin.

The Pastfinders team at Leighton Road are Les Whitmore, Mike and Christopher Dewbrey, Ernie Jones, Dr Martin Dearne, Mike Best and son, and Gary Cant.

Mike Dewbrey

OBITUARY

Farewell to a Good Friend and Tutor

By chance I had a little time to spare between a grant-awarding committee and dinner in a hotel in Banbury and decided to read *The Times*, which I had brought with me. With a sense of profound shock I realised that the Peter Reynolds whose obituary appeared on 10 October was the Peter Reynolds who ran Butser Ancient Farm and had been my tutor for Iron Age Archaeology on the Birkbeck College MA in Archaeology.

Peter's great interest in life, apart from the British Iron Age, was the scientific evaluation of theories in archaeology. At Butser he built Iron Age thatched conical roof houses and a model Roman hypocaust. These facilitated the testing in practice of different types of materials and construction. He studied intensively the use of pits in which to store grain in terms of storage life, temperature rise and the evolution of carbon dioxide. He was building a test area for use with geophysics methods. Lecture/demonstrations were given on topics such as the uses of wool from Orkney sheep, herbal medicines and dyes and the casting of metals under field conditions.

My week's module at Butser saw many discussions of a lively nature with Peter, particularly on the properties of ancient ploughs – ards and the marks they left. The living accommodation was pretty primitive, but the evening suppers memorable at a variety of locals hostelrys. My fellow students included a serving Lieutenant Colonel and a former paratrooper, so much was debated apart from archaeology. Our practical work dealt with the study of burned flints, as found in many places on the South Downs. Had the heating occurred deliberately, for boiling water for example?

Peter had read Classics at Trinity College Dublin where he captained a highly successful eight. A period teaching Classics at King Henry's Grammar School, Evesham, led him to open a small open-air archaeological laboratory which in turn led to Butser.

With the Birkbeck Extra-Mural Archaeology Society, I visited Butser this summer and enjoyed a grand day in Peter's company. The foot and mouth crisis had severely reduced the numbers of visitors to the farm, but he was as lively and provocative as ever.

Sadly, he died in Turkey, at the early age of 62. Several members of the Enfield Archaeological Society had worked on projects with Peter as Friends of Butser. They, like me,

will mourn the passing of a lovely man and a real champion of experimental field archaeology.

Dennis Hill

Innova Park

Rammey Marsh

Excavations by Wessex Archaeology

Wessex Archaeology have been carrying out more excavations at the Innova Business Park redevelopment on the site of the former sludge farm on Rammey Marsh, in the area to the north of Ordnance Road, west and south of the northernmost part of Mollison Avenue and east of the railway between Enfield Lock and Waltham Cross stations. Previous fieldwork by Wessex revealed the course of palaeochannels of the Small River Lea and associated channels, pits, ditches and droveways, and evidence of activity from nearly all periods, but principally from the Iron Age and Romano-British periods.

Society members Martin Dearne, Les Whitmore, Roger Dormer, Mike Dewbrey, Caroline McKenna and Jon Tanner visited the excavation on 07 November 2001 and were given a tour of the site by Kevin Ritchie, the Project Manager. The most common features are Later Prehistoric and Romano-British ditches, interpreted as intended for livestock control and possibly also acting as boundaries. A neatly cut pit, intersecting a tree throw, contained numerous large Bronze Age pottery sherds, and a Bronze Age shield boss was recovered from close to the river channel.

The most interesting feature however was part of a ring ditch, interpreted as a large roundhouse some 12-14m in diameter, with the suggestion of an east facing entrance, and only a few metres from the channel of the Small River Lea. This would suggest seasonal occupation as of course the site would doubtless be flooded during the winter months. The presence of slag and burnt clay has led the excavators to suggest that industrial activity was taking place at the site.

The report on this, and the preceding excavations, is eagerly awaited. Much work on later prehistoric settlement has been done in recent years particularly in the Upper Thames and Kennet Valleys, and it will be interesting to compare the evidence from the Lee Valley.

We are deeply grateful to Kevin Ritchie of Wessex Archaeology for his time and trouble in giving us a splendid tour of this fascinating site.

Jon Tanner

SMALL FINDS

THE SOUTHGATE ANIMAL POUND

While carrying out restoration work of the animal pound at the junction of Bourne Hill and Fox Lane, Palmers Green N13 on behalf of L B Enfield, contractors exposed brick paving beneath the topsoil and recognising that the surface may be of historical interest, alerted council officers. Enfield Archaeological Society was immediately contacted by Christine White, the L B Enfield Conservation Planning Officer, and invited to view the surface. Consequently Society members Mike Dewbrey and Jon Tanner visited the site to find that the contractors had successfully identified most of the original postholes for the pound fence, and it appears that the general blue-grey paving was bounded at least in part by a two-course perimeter stretcher band of red brick. The fence posts appear to have penetrated this band.

Remains of a timber post, probably the gatepost, were visible adjacent to the entrance, and (ferrous) parts of gate furniture were recovered both from the contractor's skip and from the overburden layers.

On Saturday 29 September Mike Dewbrey arrived with a working party of volunteers from the Society to carefully remove the turf and topsoil to expose the paving, with the objective of determining the extent and condition of the surface, which was found to be in reasonable condition and appearing to extend to the area enclosed by the line of postholes.

On a subsequent visit, the Society opened a one-metre square test pit adjacent to the southeast boundary to evaluate the stratigraphy below the brick surface and to establish whether any previous surfaces existed: inspection of the postholes hinted at earlier gravelled and/or cobbled surfaces.

The turf and topsoil overburden above the bricks was 80 – 120mm deep. The single course of bricks was laid on edge and bedded on a loosely compacted 100 – 120mm layer of topsoil mixed with gravel and pebbles, with some mortar. Below this in turn was a more compacted layer 230mm deep composed of more mortar and gravel, on natural London Clay.

The absence of occupation soil below the brickwork suggests that the area was cleaned off down to the natural clay before the brick surface of the pound was set out. The bricks date to around 1830 – 1850, which does not

contradict the evidence of maps that show that the pound was moved to this location between 1837 and 1867. Fragments of 19th century roof tile, pottery, glass and slate were recovered from the uppermost gravel layer but the lower context provided no dating evidence.

The area of the test pit furthest from the red brick banding shared the same stratigraphy as below the brickwork, suggesting that the paved surface of the pound may have extended further to the southwest beyond the present enclosure, but no such surface survives.

STABILISATION OF THE BANK OF MAIDENS BROOK IN THE GROUNDS OF FORTY HALL

The Borough of Enfield's Leisure Services Division was asked by English Heritage to stabilise two sections of the brook's banks. This was because of the fear that continued erosion might affect the Scheduled Ancient Monument site of the Tudor Elsyng Palace. In addition, health and safety concerns were arising from exposed lumps of concrete and pieces of metal and the sheer riverbanks next to a public footpath.

The problem at the first site was mainly due to pedestrian erosion of the bank consequent upon an adjacent shingle bank providing easy access to the stream's edge. A large erosion gully had formed and the lumps of metal and concrete were a hazard to those climbing up and down the bank. The hazards were removed and minimal grading of the bank undertaken to provide a face to which quilted coir matting was attached. This provides a medium for planting aimed at protecting and enhancing the bank.

Erosion at the second site was largely due to the stream scouring away the lower gravel strata and undermining the overlying layer of clay. The action of water and pedestrians led to a 30m length of bank that was being eroded and was unprotected on the nearside of a bend.

The far side was cleared of diseased trees and silt to rejuvenate the stream's original course, to widen the stream and reduce its depth and velocity. It will be planted to serve as a wildlife sanctuary.

The base of the nearside bank was protected by stone-filled gabions laid on a stone mattress. Fence supports were built into these gabions for a timber post and rail fence to protect the exposed edge. Topsoil was placed in the upper edge of the gabions to encourage



plant growth, further protect the bank and to help mask the fence.

Bill Lee of Enfield Leisure Services kindly provided the detailed information and invited members of the Society to keep a watching brief as the work continued.