

---

# SOCIETY NEWS

THE BULLETIN OF THE ENFIELD ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
SOCIETY



---

September 1999

No.154

## CONTENTS

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September – lecture:  
“Historic Buildings – the Evidence of the Fabric.”  
Andrew Wittrick.

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October – lecture:  
“Lundenwic: Excavations on the Site of Saxon  
London.”  
Gordon Malcolm.

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November – lecture:  
“Retrieving London’s Prehistory”  
Jon Cotton.

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS:

Edmonton Hundred Historical Society  
Historical Association – North London Branch.

### MEETING REPORTS:

The Work of the Museum of London Archaeology  
Service.  
An Air Raid Experience.

### FOCUS STUDY GROUP.

### FILM LOCATIONS IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD.

### MISCELLANY.

### PONDERS END BREWERY.

### THE ROSE THEATRE EXHIBITION.

Society News is published quarterly in March, June, September and December and is free to members. The Editor, to whom all correspondence and articles for publication should be sent is:  
John C Stevens, 3 Scarborough Road, Edmonton, Middlesex, N9 8AT. T/n 0208.804.6918.

The statements and opinions of contributors to this newsletter do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor.

## TWO

### FORTHCOMING EVENTS

The following meetings will be held at Jubilee Hall, at the junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00pm. Doors will open at 7.30pm when tea and coffee will be served and there will be an opportunity to look at the sales and information table. Visitors are very welcome, for whom a charge of £1.00 will be made.

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> September

Historic Buildings: the Evidence of the Fabric.  
Andrew Wittrick

Andrew Wittrick is an Historic Buildings Analyst with English Heritage. His talk, illustrated by various case studies, will discuss the importance of understanding the fabric of historic buildings and, in particular, how evidence is obtained to enable informed decisions being made regarding the listing of such buildings.

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> October

Lundenwic: Excavations On the Site of  
Saxon London .  
Gordon Malcolm

The area which became available for excavation around the Royal Opera House is an unusually large site within the heart of the Saxon town of *Lundenwic*. From this and smaller archaeological investigations in the vicinity has come occupation evidence in the form of buildings, floor surfaces, alleyways, industrial/craft activities, burials and a range of cut features such as ditches, refuse pits and wells where the associated artefacts give a date range of 7<sup>th</sup> - 9<sup>th</sup> century. The recent work has provided the largest and most complete evidence for the town so far recorded and analysis of the data will revolutionise our understanding of this little known period of the Capital's history. Gordon Malcolm is a Senior Archaeologist with the Museum of London Archaeological Service.

\*\*\*\*\*

Friday 19<sup>th</sup> November

Retrieving London's Prehistory.  
Jon Cotton

Jon Cotton is Curator (Prehistory) of the Department of Early London History and Collections at the Museum of London. He writes, "I will aim to bring your members up to speed with recent discoveries in this part of the Lower Thames Valley, emphasising all the while the primary importance of the River Thames as highway, boundary and 'sacred stream', and the prehistoric people behind the evidence. I will touch on the reasons why London has been so slow to recognise the potential of its earliest past, and look at how things have improved recently. In particular, I will contrast the approaches adopted on major programmes of work conducted on the gravel terraces to the west of the City and compare them with those adopted in areas such as Westminster and north Southwark. I will close by identifying some of the gaps in our knowledge, and ways in which these might be plugged."

\*\*\*\*\*

## THREE

### MEETINGS OF OTHER SOCIETIES

#### Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

Lectures.      Visitors £1. 00

22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Peter Lawrence	<i>The History of Whitehall: Part2</i>	8.00 pm	Jubilee Hall
12 <sup>th</sup> October	Graham Dalling	<i>Edmonton in 1850</i>	10.30 am-12.00 noon	Edmonton Green Library
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Keri Davis	<i>Richard Gough; Enfield Antiquary</i>	8.00 pm	Jubilee Hall
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Frank Byford	<i>Memories of Chase Farm</i>	8.00 pm	Jubilee Hall

Saturday 6<sup>th</sup> November 9.45am-4.30pm: *Day Conference: From Mills to Mass Production*  
at Jubilee Hall.

10.00 am      Graham Dalling      *Railways of Enfield*

COFFEE

11.30 am      Keith Fairclough      *Water Mills at Enfield and Sewardstone - Their Use  
of the River in the Stuart and Georgian Periods.*

LUNCH

2.00pm      Margaret Halstead      *Lighting from Caveman to the Millennium.*

TEA

3.30pm      Geoffrey Gillam      *The Arrival of Gas and Electricity to the London  
Borough of Enfield.*

£6. 00 Full day    £3. 00 half day    (EHHS members £5, 00 & £2. 50 respectively)

Tickets and further details from Betty Smith 82 Halifax Road Enfield EN1 OPR.  
Telephone 0181 363 3931

\*\*\*\*\*

#### Historical Association –North London Branch.

All meetings held at Jubilee Hall at 8.00pm.

Tuesday 14 <sup>th</sup> September	“An Enfield Man in the First World War.”	Michael Rye
Tuesday 12 <sup>th</sup> October	“The Middle Ground – What Is It? Recent Interpretations of American Indian History.”	Prof.P Marshall
Tuesday 9 <sup>th</sup> November	“The Fall of Singapore in 1942.”	Prof. Carl Bridge

EAS members are very welcome at meetings of both of the above Societies.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## FOUR

### MEETING REPORTS

The Work of the Museum of London  
Archaeology Service.

Robin Demsen.

Friday May 21<sup>st</sup>.

Our scheduled lecturer was unavoidably detained in the Far East and the breach was filled by Robin Demsen, Senior Project Manager at MOLAS. He mentioned that at the current time there are about thirty archaeological groups currently excavating in London and that MOLAS is a major player.

During the Christmas period of 1998 MOLAS was excavating a Tower Hamlets site on the Isle of Dogs close to the River Thames and discovered 17<sup>th</sup> century earth-bank flood defences. The site was very wet, favouring the preservation of organic material and an Early Bronze Age wooden platform was found.

The Regis House site, just to the north of London Bridge, was excavated from 1994 to 1996 and metal scales of Roman armour were found. The middle of the site was dated to AD 47 (four years after the Roman invasion) and contained a relatively insubstantial wooden revetment of a wharf and a much more massive oak revetment dated to AD 63 (Boudica's revolt occurred in AD60/61).

The Marks and Spencer site adjacent to Fenchurch Street revealed that the Roman Forum beneath was 150 metres square and burned brick was found dating from the Boudican revolt. At one point the foundations of the Forum were revealed to be cracked, proving that not all Roman buildings were perfect. The floor of a room was made of tiles set on edge in a herringbone pattern.

A recent excavation in Botolph Lane uncovered a 2<sup>nd</sup> century Roman conduit inside a wall. It had walls of ragstone, a roof of tiles and mortar and a timber floor. A site in Newgate Street revealed what is believed to be the base of a triumphal arch of massive proportions which would have spanned a western exit from the Roman city. Excavations for the Jubilee Line extension produced (amongst a great many other items) an elegant Roman terracotta oil lamp in the shape of a human foot six inches long where the wick would have protruded from a hole in the big toe!

A major excavation which has lasted for several years, and still continues, is on the site of Spitalfields Market. Here there are early 17<sup>th</sup> century buildings without basements, the medieval priory of St. Mary Spital and Roman burials. Very recently a Roman stone sarcophagus within a wooden mausoleum was discovered and when opened (amid a great deal of carefully orchestrated publicity) at the Museum of London it was found to contain a lead coffin in which reposed the remains of a young woman aged 20-25 of 5 ft 4 ins in height with no obvious signs of disease. There was no external decoration on the sarcophagus but there was a scallop shell design on the coffin (not unlike part of the design on the lead coffin found in Burleigh Road, Enfield in 1902). Found adjacent to the coffin, inside the sarcophagus, were glass vessels dated to AD 300-350, dating the burial to the period when Christianity was becoming the official religion of the Roman Empire, although it is not being suggested that this was a Christian burial. Nearby was found the remains of the 14<sup>th</sup> century charnel house of the Priory church of St. Mary Spital, the base of a medieval preaching cross and a substantial standing section of the Tudor red-brick wall of the training ground of the Honourable Artillery Company.

Outside of the City MOLAS had excavated at Low Hall Farm (a moated two-winged manor house in Walthamstow built in 1444 and destroyed 500 years later in 1944 by enemy action); Eagle

House, Wimbledon, built in 1623; the remains a 13<sup>th</sup> century Irish wooden seagoing ship found at Southwark and a Tudor Well found near Edmonton Green.

All in all this was a lively, colourful and well illustrated lecture given by an experienced archaeologist to a highly appreciative audience.

Dennis Hill.

## FIVE

**AN AIR RAID EXPERIENCE.** On Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> July visitors to the Summer Festival at Millfield House again had an opportunity to take part in what has become the annual air-raid experience when, to the sound of a warning siren, about 300 people in parties of about 25 at a time, escorted by a uniformed warden, descended into the large communal shelter in the grounds. The scene was set by a recording of Neville Chamberlain's broadcast of the declaration of war on Germany and was followed by a short talk on the preparation of Civil Defence arrangements. Those present were then asked to imagine themselves transported back to a summer evening in 1940 to experience an air-raid when they heard the sounds of a warning siren, enemy bombers, anti-aircraft fire and falling bombs, followed by the sound of the 'all clear'. The distinctive sound of the V1 flying bomb, known to us as the 'doodle-bug', was then played. Between each event popular music of the period, both British and German, was played.

Ian Jones arranged yet another exhibition of items from his collection of memorabilia at the entrance to the shelter and, as it was the 4<sup>th</sup> of July, the theme of the display was Americana, which attracted a lot of interest. Caroline McKenna looked after the publicity table dispensing leaflets advertising the Society. They also arranged for tickets to be issued to people wishing to visit the interior of the shelter.

We are grateful for the help given by Penny Wilkinson and her staff at Millfield House in averting a near disaster when the generator failed to arrive by the means originally promised. Hurried telephone calls made it possible for Dave, the caretaker, to collect the generator and have it installed just in time for the first event.

GRG

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEETINGS SECRETARY.** A vacancy exists within the Society for a *Meetings Secretary* whose main task would consist of reserving Jubilee Hall and arranging nine lectures a year. The job is not so daunting as it might appear as many of the duties can be shared with other members of the Committee and a large file of possible speakers has been built up over the years and a regular trawl through other local society programme cards will produce even more names. Members who would like more information are invited to get in touch with Geoffrey Gillam: 23 Merton Road, Enfield EN2 0LS. Telephone 0181 367 0263.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **FOCUS STUDY GROUP.**

The first meeting of the newly-formed Focus Group is scheduled for Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> October at 8.00pm at Salisbury House. Following the recent success of the Elsyng Palace Exhibition at Forty Hall it has been decided that the subject for the Focus Group will be Tudor Enfield. As you may know, our Chairman has put together a document containing information collected by members of this Society on the subject of Elsyng and it might be useful for those wishing to attend the Focus Group to select preliminary topics from this for discussion and possible future research. For example, several local trades are mentioned and this might be a good starting point for looking at the reality of life in the district during Tudor times.

For those interested, the Local History Library at Palmers Green, under the care of Graham Dalling, has source material. Anyone requiring further information about the Group should contact Carmen Keller Lange (afternoons or evenings only) on 0181.245.8956.

CKL

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## SIX

### FILM LOCATIONS IN THE LONDON BOROUGH OF ENFIELD.

Enfield has always been a popular venue with film directors, providing as it does a wide range of different locations suitable for street scenes, industrial sites, open and wooded countryside. A couple of years ago, when it was proposed to arrange a festival in the borough which would include the story of the moving image, John Griffin, Forty Hall Museum Officer, asked if I would find out all I could about locations in the borough which had been used by film makers. Approaches to the British Film Institute and various other sources produced very little information, but letters published in the local papers asking if people living in the borough knew of any films made here brought in a large number of replies.

Unfortunately, the festival idea was shelved and I filed all the correspondence. However, my interest in the subject was again aroused by a recent article in the Enfield Independent by Chris Creswell entitled "*So, You Want To Be In The Movies*" which reported that Enfield Council had appointed a film liaison officer (no less!) who would list and advertise sites in the borough considered suitable for settings for films. For many years the Council had made a charge to film companies wishing to use streets and public open spaces in Enfield, the administration being carried out by existing staff. It is assumed that the Council hopes that the activities of a film liaison officer will increase the demand for locations in Enfield and result in more revenue accruing from their use by film companies.

A distillation of the information previously gathered is published in the hope that it will not only be of interest to members but that others will be encouraged to either correct what I have written or let me have information about other films not included here:-

- The railway scene in *The Man in the White Suit* made in the 1950s and starring Alec Guinness was made on Brimsdown station - in the film Alec Guinness was chased across the platform into a railway carriage. Workers at Brimsdown power station were asked to be extras in the film.
- *Secrets and Lies*, made in 1995, starring Timothy Spall and directed by Mike Leigh, included scenes shot on and around Winchmore Hill Green. The horse trough there and a photographic shop (Philips) on the corner of Wades Hill featured in the film, as did the bus stop at the bottom of Waterfall Road.
- Chaseville Park Road at the top of Green Dragon Lane and the parade of shops near Oakwood station, in particular a dress shop in the parade owned by Mr Wise, were used in a film being made in the early 1990s. Unfortunately, my informant did not know the name of the film concerned.
- In the early 1930s, Ronald Coleman starred in a film *Sayonara*, when Barrowell Green Baths in Southgate were used for a swimming scene.
- I recall that in the 1960s part of Hillyfields was used as a background for a film set in medieval times. I cannot remember the title but it was mentioned in the Enfield Gazette at the time as Enfield Council had stated that they intended to introduce charges for the use of such open spaces in future.
- Grovelands Park and House (which at the time was a hospital) was the setting for another film *Landfall*, in the late 1940s. Michael Denison played the part of an injured airman who was a patient in the hospital.

- Part of the film *Goldfinger* was made in Jones' scrap yard opposite the Britannia public house in Waltham Cross, just outside the LB Enfield. Large machines that featured in the film were brought over from Germany for the occasion.
- *Life is Sweet* was a film made in 1991 for Thin Man films by Mike Leigh where one scene included Celbic Hall in Lancaster Road, Enfield, which became a dance hall for the purposes of the film. Other, street scenes, were filmed in Ponders End near College Court Library.

## SEVEN

- In the 1950s or 1960s, Roy Kinnear starred in a comedy film called *Simon, Simon*, which included a frantic chase around Gordon Hill station, Brigadier Hill, Enfield, and elsewhere in the locality.
- In the 1950s, David Niven, Yvonne de Carlo and Lionel Barrymore starred in *Happy Ever After* when one scene was shot in the grounds of Forty Hall close to the lake in front of the house.
- The huge Polyline warehouse on the Brimsdown Industrial Estate was used for helicopter scenes in Kubrick's film *Full Metal Jacket*.
- Local children were used as extras in a crowd scene, together with a horse called Jester, for a film, the title of which is not known, in the Co-op dairy in ?Mitchell? Road.
- In the mid-1930s, Kathleen Mauvani starred in a film set in Ireland where some scenes were shot at Crews Hill. About a hundred ponies were used in the film and were kept in fields near the pumping station in Whitewebbs Road where they remained long after the film had been completed. The playground of Lavender School in Rosemary Avenue, Enfield, was used for filming in 1996. Apart from a policeman being part of the scene there are no other details.
- The bandstand in Hillyfields was used for location scenes in an otherwise unknown film 'many years ago'. The steps of Southgate Town Hall featured in yet another unidentified film.
- In 1954, the former public library in Fore Street, Edmonton, featured in the film *A Breed of Heroes*, when it became a police station in Northern Ireland.
- The film *Wilt*, c1990, starring Mel Smith and Griff Rhys-Jones included a scene with an exploding telephone box filmed on Winchmore Hill Green.
- A television feature, *Quadrophenia*, was set in the former nightclub, the Pink Elephant, once the Royalty dance hall, in Southgate.
- A filmed television play *Woman in Black* used scenes shot in grounds of Grovelands. In the final scene a tree fell on a boat in which a man was trying to escape from the ghostly figure of a woman who was pursuing him.
- BBC television used The Grove, Chase Road N.14 for two episodes of the series *Our Friends in the North* made in 1995.
- Angel Road traffic lights appeared in a scene in *Songs of Praise* shown on television !
- A television crew was present to film an event inside Millfield House some years ago but I have no further details.
- Forty Hall has always been popular with film-makers. An episode of *Bread*, another television series, was filmed there in the 1980s.
- An episode of *Dr Who* was made in Trent Park, with Peter Davison as Dr Who, when the Tardis materialised close to the obelisk in the park.
- The grounds of Forty Hall were used in the making of a video featuring Des O'Connor.
- Marty Feldman was at Forty Hall for a television episode made as part of a series in which he starred in the 1960s.

- The Pink Floyd pop group was featured in a film *Final Cut* in 1984 or 85 and this, too, was set in the grounds of Forty Hall.
- An episode of *Tomorrow's World* showing a three-wheeled cycle was made at Forty Hall.
- A murder scene from a recent episode of *Eastenders* was filmed in Trent Park when Martin Kemp murdered his girlfriend and buried her in the woods there.

### EIGHT

- Edmonton Green and Picketts Lock Sports Centre were settings in the 1970s for the madcap activities of Michael Crawford on roller skates in an episode of his series *Some Mothers do 'ave 'em*.
- Eric Sykes and Graham Stark were in a silent comedy film made for television in the 1960s when locations in Chase Green Avenue and at the old fire station in Trinity Street, Enfield, were used.
- Several local settings have been used by television commercial makers.
- Broomfield Park was used as the background for a Kit-Kat commercial.
- Bill Boss, a well-known local rose grower, helped to make television commercials at Capel Manor in 1986 and 1993 and one in 1996 for Japanese television.
- Carlsberg made one of their television commercials in the grounds of Forty Hall.
- Quite recently part of a programme showing the efficiency of different types of vacuum cleaners was made one of the downstairs rooms of Forty Hall
- And last (but not least?) I had my fifteen minutes of fame (well, it was actually half an hour!) when I took part in a *London Today* programme a few years ago about the King Arthur Cross said to have been found in the large lake at Forty Hall. The subject came up again earlier this year when I was asked to take my copy of the cross to Forty Hall where a television crew from West Country Television were making a film about *Glastonbury*; which was one of a series called *Stranger than Fiction* and they wanted to include the story of the lead cross.
- Even more recently, arrangements are being made to include the air raid shelter in the grounds of Millfield house in a film about *North London at War*.
- The work of the Society may be included in a film on which preliminary work has started for BBC television.

The studios of early film-makers were very basic affairs where filming was done using only natural light. Sets consisted of painted wooden scenery, shed-like structures with only three walls to allow interior shots, step-ladders to provide height, simple trolleys (in some cases a perambulator would be used) enabled tracking shots to be made. There were no film studios situated in the area of the London Borough of Enfield. The nearest were the Lion Bridge Film Company whose open air studios in the early 1900s were in Lea Bridge Road, and those of Robert Paul, the great pioneer of the industry, of about the same date, which stood just outside Southgate in Newton Avenue near Muswell Hill golf course. Nothing now remains of either of these studios.

Writing as one who not long ago searched for and found most of the locations used in a film made in 1951, I can vouch for the fact that there is a fascination about tracing sites and locations used by film makers. So much so that a book has recently been published giving details of locations used in several films made in this country. There is, or was a few years ago, a group of people who had formed a club or society whose purpose was to trace all the locations used in the television series called the *Avengers*. There may well be more groups or individuals that have been involved in similar searches concerning other films or television programmes.



\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## NINE

### MISCELLANY.

**FORTY HALL TRUST:** The proposal put forward by the Enfield Preservation Society to form a trust for the operation of the building has been met with qualified approval by Enfield Council and the EPS has been asked to submit a business strategy in time for a meeting to discuss the matter in September. In the meantime, and as reported in the June bulletin, funding previously raised has enabled the museum to be kept open to the public.

**FORTY HALL - CONSERVATION MANAGEMENT PLAN:** A Conservation Management Plan for the Forty Hall Estate prepared for Capel Manor Horticultural & Environmental Centre and the London Borough of Enfield, has been published. The first part of this long and detailed report deals with the historical background, archaeology, buildings, landscape, ecology and use, together with an historical overview and an assessment of the significance of the individual elements which make up the estate. Part two looks at the management issues, conservation plan policies, implementation and review. The report runs to 122 pages, plus a bibliography and several plans of the whole estate. If the proposals made in the report are adopted it will ensure a single and co-ordinated administration of Forty Hall with its gardens, pleasure grounds and park instead of the present unhappy situation where so much of the attractive historical setting, especially the former great park containing the avenue of trees, is being eroded for short term and relatively small financial gain in piecemeal fashion. Perhaps once again a small country house with its grounds can form a major attraction not only for local people but also for visitors to Enfield.

At the time of the preparation of this edition of Society News the report was due to be presented at a meeting of the Green Belt Forum at Forty Hall.

**SALISBURY HOUSE:** Continued efforts by Enfield Arts Network look like being successful in keeping Salisbury House open for use by local societies for the time being at least, but they will need to raise a great deal more money before the future of the building is assured.

**NEW RIVER:** The dredging of the New River Enfield Loop has been completed but there has been a delay in removing the silt deposited in the large lagoon constructed in the Town Park as the butyl lining which the Council were forced to use delayed the drying-out process. It also prevented a more thorough search for artefacts by members of the Society. However, it is hoped to examine the silt more closely when it is eventually removed to its eventual destination.

The second phase of the operation, the replacement of the timber revetments which began in May, is being observed and photographed. Concern was expressed by residents at the construction of areas of hard standing and enclosures with approach roads for use by contractors vehicles and equipment on Chase Green and the Grammar School playing field but the Council has given assurances that full restoration of the areas concerned will be made on completion of the work.

We were particularly interested in the removal of soil and the digging of a drainage trench on Chase Green where there have been many previous disturbances of the ground; we know for instance that a pest house stood there from 1625 until 1910 (David Pam History of Enfield Vol. 1 p94). No doubt the remains of cottages also exist below the grass, and at the time of the First World War a large bandstand stood on the site of the war memorial. One of the more entertaining stories concerning this patch of ground, once part of Enfield Chase, is that plague victims were buried in pits on the Green - a story which has no foundation in truth whatsoever. It may not be too

much of a flight of fancy to suggest that the building of the pest house on Chase Green may have been determined by an earlier leper hospital known to have stood somewhere in Enfield. In 1270 Henry II granted simple protection for three years to poor lepers in the house of St Leonard's without Enfield. (Calendar of Patent Rolls 1266-72 p436; Trans London 7 Middx Archaeological Society 1963 Vol 1 Pt 1). However, an examination of the soil removed and a look at a small drainage trench being dug at the same time failed to find any archaeological evidence of this or any other feature.

## TEN

**BUILDINGS AT RISK:** The 19<sup>th</sup> century wrought iron **bridges over the New River Loop** in Enfield are the most recent additions to the Buildings at Risk Register by English Heritage. Fortunately, these bridges and the associated railings will be restored as part of the work being carried out on the Loop and will therefore soon be removed from the register. Other listed buildings also considered to be at risk are:

- The renaissance **statues of Hercules and Auteus** and another of **Samson defeating a Philistine**, brought to Trent Park by Sassoon in the 1920s.
- **Broomfield House**, Southgate, of 17<sup>th</sup> century origin with later additions and modifications, badly damaged by fires in 1984, 1993 and 1994, and which has suffered further deterioration through indecision and neglect since then.
- The 18<sup>th</sup> century **stable block in Broomfield Park**, which is awaiting a firm decision regarding its future use.
- **Clarendon Arch and Tunnel**, which replaced an earlier bridge carrying the New River over Salmons Brook at Bush Hill Road, Winchmore Hill, has a coat of arms and the inscription "This Arch was Rebuilt in the Yeare 1682, Honourable Henry Earle of Clarendon being Govr". (the arch itself is now in poor condition and has had to be buttressed with timber).
- One of two **Non-Conformist Chapels** erected in Lavender Hill cemetery opened in 1872, has been unused and neglected for many years and until recently occupied by a large pigeon population.
- **Numbers 236 and 238 Fore Street, Edmonton** are fragile survivors from the early 18<sup>th</sup> century - 238 has a Doric doorcase and retains its iron railings.
- **Longbourn**, Forty Hill, is an 18<sup>th</sup> house with its garden walls and railings; one wing of the house is derelict and much of the remainder is in poor condition; the property has recently been sold and the rumours are that it will be converted into flats.
- At the **Royal Small Arms Factory** in Eastern Enfield only the machine shop, with its attractive clock tower and nearby administrative block, constructed in 1845-56, have survived and now stand in the centre of a new housing estate.

**BOWLES FAMILY DOCUMENTS:** With the exception of half a dozen documents written in Latin, all the other documents; conveyances, wills, inventories, receipts, mortgages, etc., relating to land and properties in northern Enfield which were, at one time or another, in the possession of or administered by members of the Bowles family have been transcribed. It is hoped eventually to have translated copies of the Latin documents available and these, together with those already transcribed, will be placed in the Local History Library. Brigadier Andrew Parker Bowles, who kindly allowed the examination of the documents to be made, has since generously agreed that they should all be deposited in the London Metropolitan Archive. A detailed account of the contribution these documents make to our knowledge of local history will be included in a future edition of the bulletin.

**THE SOUTHGATE POUND:** A member of the Museum of London Archaeology Service has made a detailed examination of the pound which stands at the junction of Fox Lane and The Bourne in Southgate in an attempt to find out the date of the earliest timbers which make up this structure. Details of his findings will be published in due course. The keeper of the pound was known as the Pinder and his job was to round up stray animals and place them in the pound where they were kept, to be restored to the owners only upon payment of the appropriate fine. The last official use of the Southgate pound was in 1904.

**GARDEN PAVILIONS AT FORTY HALL:** An enthusiastic but disappointingly small number of members volunteered to take part in the excavation, clearance and surveying of the two garden pavilions in the grounds of Forty Hall. Work on both sites was unfortunately delayed but should be completed by the time this edition of Society News reaches members.\*\*. It remains to be seen if it will be possible to carry out the survey of the sluice on the New River as originally planned.

\*\*Clearance and excavation of the two “garden pavilions” was completed in the last week of July with some intriguing results. The sites will now be surveyed and drawn and a full report will appear in the next (hopefully) newsletter.

**SOCIETY LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE:** Peter Warby, working as Librarian and Archivist, has completed the cataloguing of the Society library and is doing the same for the maps, photographs and various other items of archival material held in our work room at Forty Hall.

### ELEVEN

**MEDIEVAL EDMONTON:** Excavations by MOLAS at 258 - 260 Fore Street Edmonton revealed a boundary wall constructed of hand made red brick, earlier than the existing property, and a ditch set back from but parallel with Fore Street containing early medieval pottery. A detailed report is awaited.

**HISTORIC HOWLER:** (said to be an actual response in a students exam) *“Homer also wrote The Oddity, in which Penelope was the last hardship which Ulysses endured on his journey. Actually The Iliad was not written by Homer but by another man of that name. Socrates was a famous Greek teacher who went round giving people advice. He died from an overdose of wedlock.”*

GRG

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

### **PONDERS END BREWERY.**

Members may remember articles in the local press recently concerning the imminent demolition of a disused off-licence at 237 High Street, Ponders End. Most of the site has been virtually derelict for many years but the shop itself is interesting because it is faced with green glazed tiles which advertise “Ales & Stouts”, “Wines & Spirits” and “Draught & Bottled Beers”. There is also a quite magnificent tiled plinth on a side wall which bears a black eagle and advertises “Truman’s Beers”. This is a very rare surviving example of the architectural style which once characterised public houses the length and breadth of the country in the Victorian and Edwardian eras. The suggestion has been made that the shop frontage should be rescued from demolition and perhaps rebuilt somewhere in the borough - an excellent idea even if fraught with practical and financial difficulties!

My interest was caught by the description of the shop-front in the press as “Victorian” and I remembered that the scene is captured on one of the local history postcards (no.22) produced by the Library Service which is entitled “The White Hart, Ponders End”. The undated scene on the card shows the White Hart public house (which stills exists almost unchanged and was then owned by Christie’s Brewery of Hoddesdon) and also shows the area immediately to the north of the pub which is occupied by the handsome buildings of the Ponders End Brewery. It is just possible to read a wall-mounted sign advertising “Truman, Hanbury & Buxton” and the brewery chimney has two large signs showing the same words above and below a picture of a Black Eagle. The Black Eagle had been the symbol of T, H & B since the founding of its main brewery in Brick Lane, Stepney in 1666. The off-licence that now exists is not present on the card but a tram is!

A brief summary of this information is that the picture must have been taken in 1907 or later (since that was the date when trams came to Ponders End), that the brewery seems to have been in operation at this date but that the off-licence had not yet been built.

My next move was to tap into the encyclopaedic knowledge of our Local History Officer, Graham Dalling, in a quest for more precise dating information. Graham was able to provide the following information:

*“The brewery building is marked as such on the 1:2500 O.S. maps of 1867 and 1896. The 1914 O.S. map shows the building still standing but no longer marked as a brewery. London Metropolitan Archives holds an inventory of the brewery dating from 1870. Kelly’s Directories of 1904, 1908 and 1909 list the premises as Ponders End Brewery giving the name of the proprietor as Harry Joseph Milliken. In the directories for 1910 onwards all mention of the brewery ceases but the 1910 directory lists Harry Joseph Milliken as a beer retailer at 267 High Street, Ponders End. By 1914 Milliken had dropped out and the business was being run by Miss Emily Millen.”*

This information indicates to me that the existing off-licence was built in 1910 and the picture on the postcard must therefore have been taken between 1907 and 1910. It is also highly likely that the brewery was demolished at that time not only because of its disappearance from the local trade directory but because the off-licence was built across the location of the brewery’s main entrance.

## TWELVE

I suspect that the Ponders End Brewery had for many years been a private business, possibly run by the Milliken family, and had been acquired by the ever expanding Truman empire in the second half of the 19<sup>th</sup> century as had scores of other small local breweries. It seems to have continued to trade *in situ* into the 20<sup>th</sup> century but by 1910 it was perhaps uneconomic (sound familiar??) or required expensive structural repairs and the brewery was demolished. An off-licence and storage yard was built on part of the site and supplies were made from the main brewery in London E1.

The site of the brewery is now occupied by part of the White Hart car park, the existing off-licence and yard, the Eagle House medical practice and part of a public car park. A very modern, plastic fascia attached to the shop frontage declares “K.Murphy. Brewery Stores”. I wonder what will be revealed when this sign is removed when redevelopment takes place?

A mystery remains (at least, to me) however. Also visible in the background of the picture on the postcard is part of a large house on the corner of Nags Head Road and Ponders End High Street. This was Eagle House (now remembered by the name of the medical practice) and Graham Dalling informs me that this was “*a large red brick early eighteenth century house which was demolished c.1965 and was in a fairly run down condition in its last years. The site is now occupied by a public car park.*” I am intrigued that “Eagle House” was adjacent to a brewery whose sign – in latter years at least – was a black eagle. Is this simply a coincidence? Was Eagle House always so-called or was there some connection with the brewery? Had the Ponders End Brewery been in the hands of Truman’s for many years (albeit operated by the Millikens) and the house named after the symbol on the brewery tower? It is not important – I am just curious.

JCS.

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THE ROSE THEATRE.**

In 1989 archaeologists from the Museum of London working on the bank of the Thames in Southwark discovered the remains of the Rose Theatre where Shakespeare’s plays were performed in his lifetime and which had remained hidden for almost 400 years. Built in 1587 the Rose was the first playhouse to be erected on Bankside and the fifth such to have been constructed in London and the excavation revealed information which has been absolutely crucial to a reassessment of our understanding of Shakepearian theatre. The remains of the theatre were preserved in the basement of an office block built on the site but now, for the first time, an exhibition developed by the Rose Theatre Trust reveals to the public the results of the excavation. Visitors can view the location of the foundations of the theatre complemented by an on-site video and displays of contemporary maps and documents. The exhibition is at 56 Park Street, SE1 (0171.593.0026) and is open 10.00 am to 5.00 pm seven days a week

JCS

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

\*\*\*\*\*

## **THE BOTTOM LINE.....**

In its Annual Report, the English Heritage Archaeology Advisory Service reports:

“An archaeological investigation of late 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century water and waste management was conducted at 68 Dean Street, Westminster. Evidence of water supply, drainage, waste water and sewage disposal systems were found. The most interesting discovery was a cesspit located below the floor of the rear basement room which was connected with a privy via a brick-built and tile lined chute. It originally had a domed top incorporating an opening to allow it to be emptied, on occasion, by nightsoil men. The investigation has provided valuable and detailed information on a structure which was once so common in London and is now incredibly rare. Virtually every house of a certain class, built from the early 17<sup>th</sup> to the early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries in the Cities of London and Westminster, was provided with a cesspit and related sumps and soakaways. Almost all have been destroyed – usually when connections to the sewers were installed in the mid 19<sup>th</sup> century – or have been obscured by later works.

JCS