



# Society News

The Bulletin of the Enfield Archaeological Society



Top: Theobalds dig (see p. 5)  
Bottom: The Tudors event (see p. 2 & flyer)

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18 September: Kensington Palace and Excavations 2008  
16 October: Prehistoric London Archaeology  
13 November: Waltham Abbey Excavations 2008

### EAS Festival of British Archaeology Digs:

11-12 July: Theobalds Palace, Cedars Park, Cheshunt  
18-19 July: Elsyng Palace, Forty Hall, Enfield

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

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

# Forthcoming events



If you would like to attend the EAS lectures, but find travelling difficult, please contact the Secretary, David Wills (Tel: 020 8364 5698) and we will do our best to put you in touch with another member who can give you a lift.

## Lecture Programme

### 18th September

#### Kensington Palace & Excavations 2008

Tim Bradley, Preconstruct Archaeology

Pre-Construct Archaeology recently conducted a series of archaeological investigations on behalf of Historic Royal Palaces in the grounds of Kensington Palace, including trenches adjacent to the east wing, in the White Court (the supposed core of the Jacobean Palace), and the Rose Garden. (*Lest you thought that the EAS were the only people excavating royal palaces at the moment...Ed.*)

### 16th October

#### Prehistoric London Archaeology

Jon Cotton, MoL

Jon Cotton is senior curator of Prehistory at the Museum of London, and a leading expert on the prehistory of the London region. His talks bring to life the wealth of knowledge that has been built up in recent years, but also demonstrate how much still waits to be discovered.

### 13th November

#### Waltham Abbey Excavations 2008

Peter Huggins, Waltham Abbey Historical Society

When Peter last spoke to us in 2007, he promised to return to update us on the results of the excavations he directed last summer (with help from several EAS diggers) in Abbey Mead, on the site of what he believed to be the infirmary chapel of Waltham Abbey.

## Other EAS events this summer:

### 11 – 12 July

#### EAS dig at Theobalds Palace, Cedars Park, Broxbourne

As part of our contribution to the annual “Festival of British Archaeology” (once more conservatively known as National Archaeology Day), the EAS will be digging again at Cedars Park. Our trench will be located across the suspected location of the entrance drive to the Palace, in an area subsequently built over with a group of 18<sup>th</sup> century villas.

### 18 – 19 July

#### EAS dig at Elsyng Palace, Forty Hall, Enfield & Forty Hall/Enfield Museum Service ‘The Tudors’ event

Followers of our long-running campaign at Elsyng Palace will know that our excavation results and recent air photo evidence have often differed from the interpretation of earlier geophysical surveys. We aim to put this to the test with a trench over the eastern side of the outer court – or will it turn out to be another gravel surface? Whatever the result of the dig, there will plenty to see and do for young and old as the dig and our usual finds stalls etc. are just part of a Tudor event run jointly by Forty Hall and the Enfield Museum Service. **See the enclosed flyer for further details.**



### 5 September

#### Enfield Town Park Show

# Meetings of other Societies

## HENDON & DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

**13 October**

Excavations at St Martin in the fields

*Alison Telfer*

## EDMONTON HUNDRED HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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

**16 September**

The Co-op Then and Now

*Ted Graham*

**21 October**

How Rural Tottenham Disappeared

*Ken Barker*

**31 October**

Day Conference

Jubilee Hall, 10.00-4.30 pm

*(Note: Most society's annual programmes run from September, and in most cases details for 2009/10 have not been received yet)*

## Book Review

### Reappraisal of the Battle of Barnet, 1471

By Brian Warren.

*Available from: Potters Bar Historical Society, £2 plus £1 p&p from Mrs. M. Hammett, 4, Heath Cottages, Heath Road, Potters Bar, EN6 1LS.*

As with most medieval battles our sources for this one can best be described as inadequate. Any potentially reliable eye witnesses would have had other things on their mind at the time apart from detailed topographical and other descriptions of an area with which they were probably not very familiar anyway.

Brian Warren has spent many years considering the evidence and the various problems like the exact location of the battlefield and the disposition of the forces on it, the site of the memorial chapel and the lack of human and other remains which you might expect to result from the actions of some 24,000 men which left some 3000 dead.

He suggests that the battle took place somewhat north of the generally accepted site between Monken Hadley church and Old Ford manor with the armies facing east-west on either side of the Barnet-Potters Bar road in which area he has

discovered the site of the memorial chapel built after the battle, locating it just behind the line of the defeated Lancastrians where the greatest number of casualties would probably have occurred.

His detailed reasoning is well worth close study and provides a most convincing case as well as highlighting an area in which a metal detector/geophysical survey might well yield physical evidence despite the best efforts of post-battle scavengers.

*Ian Jones*

## EAS Fieldwork



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

# Enfield Archaeological Society

FOUNDED 1955

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

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

## Minutes of the of the 53<sup>rd</sup> Annual General Meeting of the Society

Held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield at 8.00 pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009

The 53rd Annual General Meeting of the Enfield Archaeological Society was held on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April 2009, chaired by Mike Dewbrey.

The minutes of the previous AGM minutes were approved as an accurate and correct record.

The Report of the Executive Committee for 2008 was published in the March 2009 edition of *Society News*. No queries were raised on the report.

The Financial Statement for 2008, prepared by the Treasurer Geoff Lamport, was presented and approved.

The meeting continued with the Election of Honorary Officers and Committee Members. All the existing members of the committee stood for re-election. In addition, Alisa Moseuere stood for the vacant post of Social Secretary and Publicity Officer. These arrangements were proposed and seconded, with the floor giving their approval. The position of Society Auditor remains vacant, and the Chairman renewed the appeal for a volunteer.

The Committee members are as follows:

President:	Harvey Sheldon, BSc FSA FRSA
Vice Presidents:	Dr Ildid Anthony Ivy Drayton
Chairman:	Mike Dewbrey
Vice Chairman:	Ian Jones

Hon. Treasurer:	Geoff Lamport
Hon. Secretary:	David Wills
Hon. Meetings Secretary:	Tim Harper
Hon. Membership Secretary:	David Wills
Hon. Social Sec & Publicity Officer:	Alisa Moseuere
Hon. Editor:	Jeremy Grove
Director of Fieldwork & Research:	Dr. Martin Dearne
Auditor:	Vacant
Committee:	Roger Eddington Les Whitmore

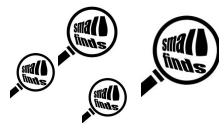
The Chairman concluded the AGM by thanking all those members and friends whose hard work makes such an essential contribution to the successful work of the Society. In particular, he presented the Society's "Golden Trowel" Award to Angie Holmes for her very hard work with the digging team over several years, often in the deepest and most uncomfortable corners of our trenches. Angie has also provided the Pastfinders with our unofficial mascot in the form of her dog Pippa, whose good behaviour and popularity on site was recognised in her being named as a joint recipient of the award.

Following the AGM, Mike Dewbrey, Martin Dearne and Ian Jones presented an illustrated talk on the substantial amount of work the Society Carried out in 2008. (*See Annual Report in the March 2009 edition for a summary*).

*Jeremy Grove (deputising for the Secretary)*

## STOP PRESS !!!!!

### *Small Finds...by the dozen!*



You may have seen reports in the paper of our discovery of a 17<sup>th</sup> century midden (rubbish pit) just outside the staff entrance to Forty Hall. It was packed with finds, including pottery, clay pipes, glassware, delftware tile and even leather. More details in future issues – for now here is a 'just found' photo of a moulded glass head of a woman with a coloured blue crown.



Excavations at the edge of the Great Garden Of Theobalds Palace, Cedars Park, Cheshunt, July 2008

Part 1: The Site  
(Site Code THE08)

By Martin J. Dearne  
with photographs by Neil & John Pinchbeck

## Introduction

Though heavily committed at the site of one royal palace (Elsyng) the society has recently become involved at a second one. Theobalds Palace, the site of which is now covered by Cedars Park, Cheshunt, though there are just a few fragments of palace structure still to be seen, was in some ways a successor to Elsyng.

The structure that became the palace was built by William Cecil between 1564 and 1585, visited by Elizabeth I, acquired by James I and VI in 1607 and remained a royal palace until the civil war, after which it was largely demolished and its very extensive and important gardens abandoned. The core of the site saw major redevelopment as Theobalds Square from the 1760s, with the erection of four gentlemen's houses and later a Victorian school, elements of the surrounding area being remodelled as new gardens.

Today part of the site is a Scheduled Ancient Monument and the EAS have recently been working with its owners, Broxbourne Borough Council, on a Heritage Lottery Fund bid connected to the improvement of Cedars Park and which it is hoped will see considerable archaeological work by ourselves and others in years to come.

As part of this cooperation, and partly as an exercise in raising local public interest in the site's archaeology, we cut the first ever properly excavated and recorded trenches on the site in an area outside that scheduled as an ancient monument during National Archaeology Week in July 2008.

Our target for this first work was the overgrown site of what relic landscape features and contemporary maps lead us to believe was the north side of an island within a canal right at the

edge of the Tudor and later formal gardens. The gardens of the palace are of considerable archaeological importance and included numbers of water features but only vestiges of them are left and there are many questions about them to which we do not have answers as yet.

## The Excavation

Documentary evidence assembled before the excavation suggested that an elaborate banqueting house lay at the south side of the palace's Great Garden roughly where today there is a brick and flint folly.

As early as 1611 maps show double tree avenue also leading south from the banqueting house. Whether the expansion of the canal really was rectangular though, when it had been created, and whether it always had an island in it (as it does not appear on maps till 1785) was unknown.

By 1883 OS maps show a bridge on to the island and a rectilinear network of paths between the canal and the folly suggesting a Victorian or earlier garden landscape had been created and the 1842 Cheshunt Tithe Map describes the area as a garden

However, from 1895 OS maps mark only the island and bridge at the south end of a fenced path running from the folly while at some point between 1883 and 1914 the southern arm of the canal was evidently filled in and then a modern fence line was established along the centre of the island, cutting the northern part of it off from the site of commercial greenhouses and subsequently gravel pitting.

By 1935 maps only show a single fence running between the folly and the island and by 2008 even this had gone, the site we were presented with having only traces of the northern side of the canal circled island, though tree growth on the island was considerable and the whole area was overgrown.

## Trench 1

With the mass of brambles cut back by the parks staff we were able to set out two trenches, one north south across the slight traces of the canal ringing the island and nearby one east west to look for evidence of features such as paths and landscaping on its northern edge.

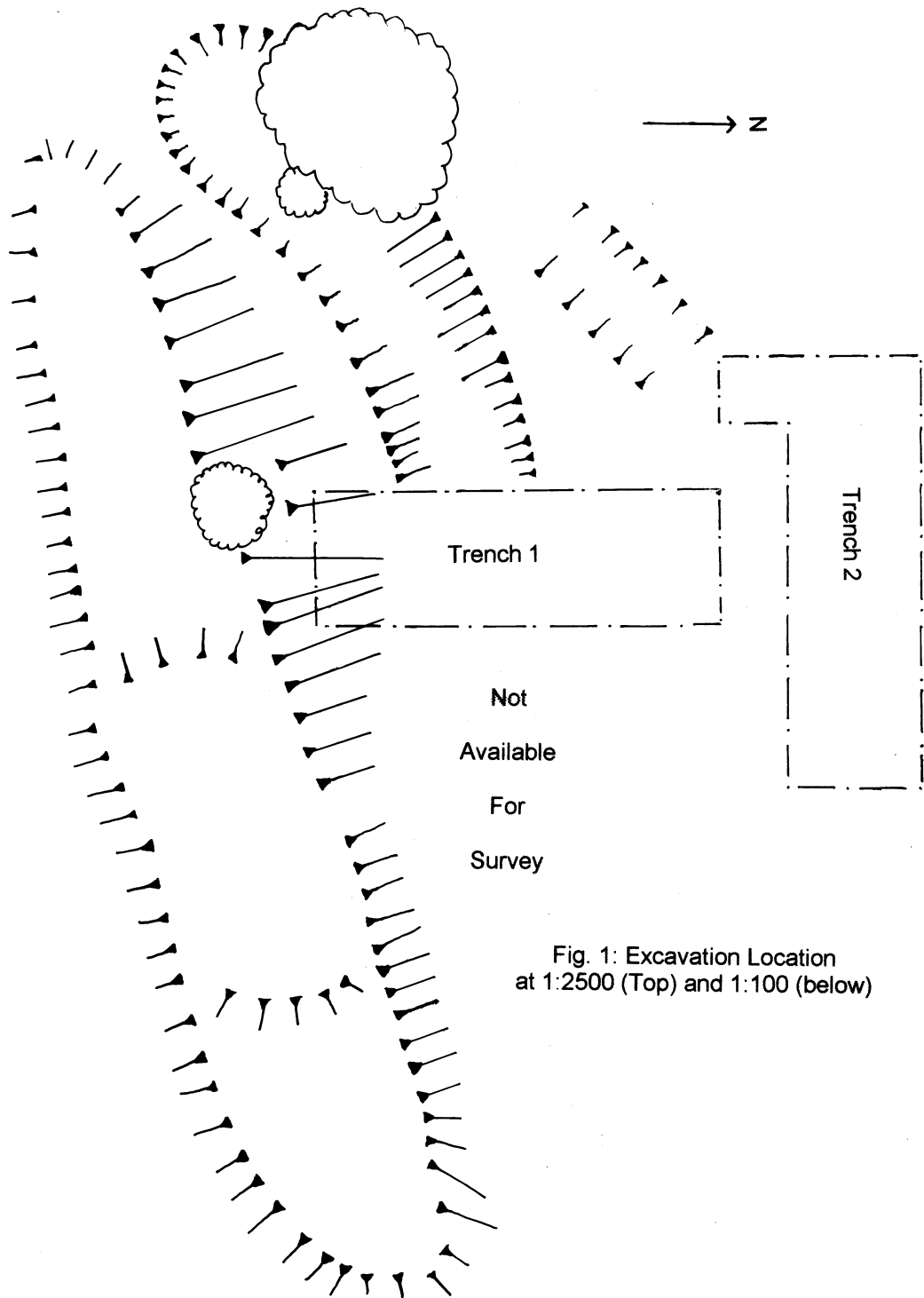
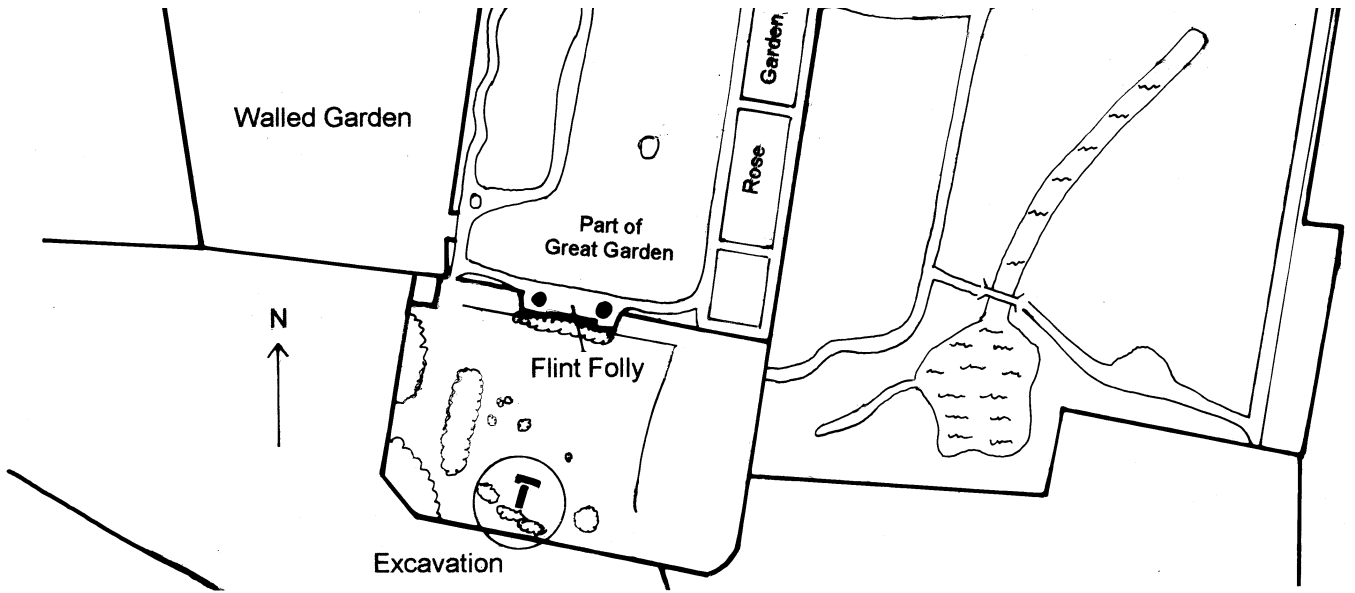


Fig. 1: Excavation Location at 1:2500 (Top) and 1:100 (below)

The borough supplied a minidigger and driver to deturf and take off the topsoil. This was fortunate as it rapidly became clear that the canal had in fact still been quite a prominent and deep feature until the 1970s/1980s when it had been machine filled with a layer of litter bin material (glass bottles, drinks cans, plastic bags, food wrappers etc) up to 60 cm thick and then with up to 65 cm of loose brick and concrete demolition material plus a number of blocks of worked stone probably cleared from some other part(s) of the park. This made for a potentially hazardous situation as the dumps were less than stable and limited what excavation could be undertaken of the lower fills of the canal.



**Fig 2: Trench 1**

However, we were able to sample two lower fills. The upper was a silt which had clearly been deposited from the north and had built up on the north side of the canal to such a thickness that it had effectively reduced the canal's original width by c. 1.5 m. It had probably resulted from a period of accelerated erosion of the area to the north, probably connected to the removal of stabilising vegetation/trees leading to increased surface run off, but its date was problematic.

The pottery and glass recovered would suggest a broad late nineteenth/early twentieth century date, but the deposit may have continued to build up into the third quarter of the twentieth century (even if it had principally accumulated earlier).

The lowest fill we were able to sample, though almost nowhere fully excavate, was a more evenly spread silt containing occasional brick fragments and several pieces of ironwork including a ?railing (?from the bridge on to the island) that had been pushed through it into the underlying natural. Again it had been deposited from the north but whether it represented dumping to some degree was unclear and it may just have again represented silting. It produced little good dating material, but the glass and pottery appeared to be pre twentieth century and it is tempting to associate it with erosion and perhaps rubbish deposition into the canal concurrent with one of the two phases of landscape modification to the north discussed below.

What was clear though was that the northern arm of the canal had been broad and U-shaped in profile, probably c. 6.3 m wide and probably a maximum of c. 1.6 m deep. Its profile was probably slightly asymmetrical with a longer southern side and shorter northern side and topographical survey confirmed its curvilinear course to the west, suggesting that the map evidence for its being rectangular should be dismissed.

The island it surrounded had evidently been slightly raised by a 'cap' of redeposited natural brickearth which the majority of two hand blown, thick walled, high kicked black brown cylindrical glass wine bottle bases likely to date c. AD 1800 – 1850 suggested had been a Victorian addition. Very large flint nodules also lay directly on this 'cap' and appear to have been deposited to form a decorative margin to the island, the fact that trees have grown around some of them adding to the evidence for deposition as part of garden landscaping works in the (?earlier) nineteenth century.

But the island itself, today c. 2.0 m wide and c. 7.2 m long with a maximum height of 15 – 30 cm above the surrounding area (though it may have suffered from erosion), appeared to be composed of undisturbed natural brickearth, indicating that it had always been present within the canal.

The date of the canal was not established however as it was unsafe to excavate in its centre where any early deposits would have been concentrated (if they had not been removed by later cleaning out, which must be a strong possibility).

## Trench 2

The second trench again produced little from the time of the palace except part of a Frechen Bartmann (Bellarmine) jug with a bearded face mask from a much later drain trench, but it was full of evidence for the later history of the area as gardens running down to the canal.



**Fig 3: Bartmann jug**

The earliest evidence was for a network of land drains and an open channel at the west end of the trench. The network included a somewhat serpentine north east to south west open topped channel, 2.7 m long, 26 – 30 cm wide and 8.3 cm high, internally 8 – 10 cm wide and 6.5 cm deep with a gentle fall to the south west. It had been reasonably carefully constructed of unmortared reused bricks and part bricks lain on edge on top of the margins of a line of (?roof) tiles with a part brick blocking the north east end, which widened a little, and what appeared to be two part bricks on top of each other blocking the south west end just beyond a rectangular (12 x 14 cm) basal void.



**Fig 4: Trench 2 from the east, showing open channel in foreground**

Surrounding two sides of slightly expanded end of the channel, and with a flat surface at the level of its top, was an area of redeposited brickearth with fairly straight sides that appeared likely to be the corner of a ?rectilinear feature over 1.0 x 1.9 m, perhaps the base for something such as a decorative rain water cistern for which the channel was an overflow. It included only two sherds of

pottery, the latest of which was from a perhaps eighteenth century well glazed relatively thin walled ?bowl in Post Medieval Redware.

Through the void the channel connected to a drain with a steep southerly fall towards the canal. This drain appeared to be identical in construction to a second which also met its top at right angles 30 cm north of the channel. These drains were constructed of unmortared red bricks and part bricks identical to those in the channel, the floor of bricks lain as headers along the orientation of the drain, the sides by bricks lain on edge at the level of, but not overlapping, the top of the flooring course, and the roof by bricks lain on the tops of the sides as stretchers with respect to the orientation of the drain. The internal dimensions of the drains were 10 x 10 cm. The second drain clearly fed (down) into the first but how far the second extended is uncertain. Only c. 50 cm of it survived (and then damaged) and whether two bricks c. 60 cm further north east also represented a remnant of it (if so curving to the north) was not clear. However, it clearly had a steep fall to the south west implying that, as it could not have remained in tact long unless buried, the ground surface rose steeply towards the north and east, implying the presence of garden landscaping which was subsequently truncated along with most of the drain.



**Fig 5: Close-up of the two drains**

Around the drains, and below the second one, there may have been a remnant of a hard standing or consolidation dump, or even the remnant of a pre-existing path, but it could not be investigated without destroying the drains. The drain and channel network can be absolutely dated only as earlier than its nineteenth century successor (below) but the bricks used suggest a late eighteenth or earlier nineteenth century date



and it probably relates to some point between 1785, when maps fail to show anything but a single path here, and 1883 when they suggest a rectilinearly planned garden unlikely to be so landscaped. In fact the network is very likely to be part of the garden here which we know was held by a Robert Kennard in 1842 and it is tempting to attribute the renovation and flint decoration of the island to the same phase.



**Fig 6: Trench 2 from the north**

Probably at the same time that the area was flattened, removing much of the second drain the original drain and channel network seems to have gone out of use and been replaced by a new set of drains which cut across it. This new land drain system comprised glazed and collared 11 cm diameter and unglazed 10 cm diameter nineteenth century pipes including a junction unifying three drains into one running south towards the canal and they were laid in a partly excavated U-shaped cut.

Probably as part of the same reorganisation of the garden, creating the garden layout represented on the 1883 OS map and so likely in the later Victorian period, the new drain complex was buried by the first of what may have been more than one phase of compacted dumping which included varying amounts of demolition material and could represent the creation of a path flanking the canal (or further east perhaps more of a building rubble hard standing area) then the use of the area for the dumping of demolition material, be it to build up the path or not.

Thus, especially at the west end of the trench, the lower part of this dump, overall up to 36 cm thick, was mainly what might be called hoggin (an orange brown slightly clayey sand with frequent

small stones) with just occasional pieces of brick and tile. But, there was an upper horizon, further east especially, which was more of a rubble dump in a very gritty very clayey silt with much white mortar in small lumps and flecks, sometimes becoming a brown crushed mortar and clayey silt mix, and including some small rounded stones. The demolition material varied in density but in the eastern part of the trench tip lines of part bricks were identifiable in section and, if the material had come from a single structure, the impression was of one including materials dating into at least the nineteenth century but also possibly as early as the seventeenth century and in the case of a little worked stone perhaps deriving from the palace (be the materials original or re-used).

Relatively little pottery and glass came from the demolition material and the latest of what did was only broadly dateable to the nineteenth or late nineteenth/early twentieth centuries, though there was a little earlier material. Coupled with the demolition material, a later nineteenth century date is probably most likely for the lower horizon and the upper could well be contemporary, but with the possibility that it was a separate dump possibly as late as the early twentieth century.

The identity of the structure(s) providing the demolition material is unknown and it/they need not necessarily have been immediately adjacent. Few complete and reusable items were present so that this was probably the residue of demolition debris from which salvageable materials had been removed and could have been carted from anywhere in the general area. The presence of building materials of several dates including a few stone elements perhaps deriving from the palace is though suggestive of a structure or structures already partly built from salvaged materials.

It is also very possible that the first major silting phase in the canal was approximately contemporary with one of the two phases of landscape and drainage change, especially if the area to the north of the canal was left without stabilising vegetation for a time or, if vegetation was removed, if and when the area became a dump.

At the west end of the trench the dump was overlain by a rammed pebble surface (probably the north south path mapped in and after 1895). Only the eastern part of this ?path was within the excavated area and it was clearly heavily worn/damaged, its eastern margin being patchy and without a clear edge and two slightly sinuous ruts or more likely tree root voids crossing it west

east, so its original width was difficult to gauge, but it was probably over 2.2 m. It did not produce any dateable material. At the west section it was cut by a circular post hole 12 cm in diameter, at least 19 cm deep, straight sided, probably flat bottomed and which may have represented a pile driven post rather than a cut. It probably relates to the single fence running along the alignment of the path on OS maps of 1935.

Covering the whole excavated area above the preceding was then a general subsoil layer including some brick and tile and much modern ironwork, glass etc. It also included a piece of dressed limestone flagstone and a coin of 1914, but glass finds indicate that it continued to build up or be reworked into the third quarter of the twentieth century and it may have been cultivated to some degree (one might speculate that the area could have been used for food production during WWII; indeed, the second phase of canal silting could have been caused by rapid run off from unstabilised soil sometime in the first half of the twentieth century and possibly continuing (?at a reduced rate) well into it). Above the subsoil was the modern topsoil.

### Acknowledgements

The EAS are grateful to the Borough of Broxbourne, and especially Clare Watson, for permitting and encouraging the excavation and for funding the necessary post excavation work. The resident manager of Cedars Park, Adrian Hall, was instrumental in the genesis and smooth running of the project and thanks are also due to Richard Bames for his skilled machine stripping of Trench 1, to Neil Robbins, Curator of the Lowewood Museum, Hoddesdon for his assistance and agreement to house the site archive and to Kate Tyrer of the Borough of Broxbourne for publicising the coincident public event. The society is grateful to all the members of the EAS who constituted the excavation team, especially Mike Dewbrey, (co project manager and site supervisor), Peter Spindley (site surveyor) and Neil and John Pinchbeck (assistant site recorders).

*Part 2 of this report will describe the large fragments of worked stone recovered from the Park during the dig, which are thought to have originated from the Palace and to have been re-used in later buildings, such as the gentlemen's houses mentioned above. Ed.*

# Meeting Reports

## Algeria: Nomads, Merchants and Oil Barons

13 February: Ian Jones

Algeria is the largest country in North Africa, but also the least known, due to years of civil war. Recent improvements have allowed Ian to complete a series of talks covering the whole of Roman North Africa which he began 12 years ago.

Neolithic paintings at Tassili dating from 5000BC, and impressive burial monuments such as those at Tinamali show that the native Berbers ranged over the whole of modern Algeria and beyond, including deep into what is now the Sahara. As the Sahara dried out development shifted north towards the coast, adopting the horse by the 16<sup>th</sup> C BC through contacts with Egypt. Finds demonstrate how they were increasingly affected by other developing cultures, particularly the Phoenicians, with whom they traded, and whose influence is seen in Berber ceramics, metalwork and funerary monuments.

The kingdom of Numidia was allied with Carthage against Rome, but changed sides during the second Punic war, gaining much territory as a result. But later the kingdom revolted against Rome, then chose the wrong side in the civil wars of the first century BC, losing much territory as a result. Octavian annexed most of Africa in 33 BC. King Juba II was married off to the daughter of Mark Anthony and Cleopatra and given what was left of Mauritania to the west.

The provinces of Numidia and Mauritania remained generally peaceful and prosperous for the next 4 centuries – only one legion was required to garrison the whole of Roman Africa, compared with three in Britain. The III Legion was based at Lambaesis from AD 81 - most surviving structures are from the late 2<sup>nd</sup> century. Hadrian visited the fort in 128 and excerpts of the speech he gave survive. The civil settlement nearby has some of the most lavish mosaics in Africa, and the

gravestones of successful farmers attest to the agricultural wealth of the province.

Large amounts of olive oil, cereals, fruit and textiles were produced. The climate was similar to today, with aqueducts such as that at Cherchel carrying water from the mountains to the fertile coastal plain. The oil works at Brisgane is one of the few surviving factory buildings of the Roman world, with a large covered area for storing olives and amphorae, and smaller rooms for the presses. The construction method of stone beams with rubble masonry infill seems to have been a Carthaginian development – this Opus Africanum was used for a while in Rome until abandoned in favour of concrete (Opus Signinum).

At Khamisa is an inscription to Lollius Urbicus, son of a prominent local family, who became an energetic governor of Britain and built the Antonine Wall. Almost the whole of the colonia of Timgad has been excavated, so the contrast between the colonia laid out in 100 and the sprawling suburbs of c. 160 is clear. There are well paved, colonnaded streets and large courtyard houses. Judging from the gravestones, stock raising was the main economic activity.

The colonia of Djemila was founded in 96-7 and flourished as a prosperous small country town. Remains of the typical range of Roman public buildings survive, along with a Christian area built in the early 5<sup>th</sup> C comprising two churches, a baptistery and a bishop's palace. Its bishops attended a synod in Constantinople in 553, the last documentary reference to the town. Early Christianity flourished in north Africa, and St Augustine was bishop of Hippo Regius from 396.

Many of the numerous small country towns were abandoned either when the Vandals invaded in the 5<sup>th</sup> C, or the Moslems in the 7<sup>th</sup>. The Byzantines, who had retaken the region from the Vandals in 533-4, were quickly driven out by the Moslems from 647, but Berber resistance continued until the end of the century.

In 1492 Moorish refugees from Grenada took refuge on the coast, and the Barbarossa brothers landed at Tunis in 504, taking Algiers from the Spanish in 1529. Thus began the depredations of the Barbary Corsairs, as they were later known. European and later American efforts to contain them did not meet with lasting success until the French occupied Algeria in 1830, although they left their mark in the form of coastal forts. A war for independence finally succeeded in 1962, but internal problems continued, culminating in the civil war which began in 1991.

Ian joined the first English group tour to visit Algeria for 25 years, allowing him to bring us a rare and fascinating tour round the historic monuments of this little known country.

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## EAS/WEA Outing to Stratford-on-Avon and Charlecote Hall

17 May: Ian Jones

This year's outing on May 17<sup>th</sup> took me back to Stratford on Avon for the first time since I was at school, while some others admitted they had never been there before.

The town has suffered a not quite fatal attack of Heritage while the smallness of the various houses that are central to a visit must cause problems in the height of summer.

The Birthplace, Nash's House and Hall's Croft show reconstructed living and working areas that were generally impressive. Entry was through the inevitable visitor centre with the equally inevitable audio-visual presentation from which escape was not possible. Considering the small amount of material available the displays covering aspects of the Playwright's life were well done. The most interesting feature here was the Shakespeare Found temporary exhibition featuring the Cobbe portrait of Shakespeare of around 1610 by an unknown artist which could well be the only portrait done during his lifetime.

The afternoon stately home, with tea, was Charlecote House near Stratford. This Tudor mansion begun in 1551 and much restored in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century was built by Sir Thomas Lucy whose descendants still occupy part of this national Trust property. The estate has belonged to the Lucy's since 1247.

The largely Victorian interiors contain a vast range of furniture and objets d'art including family portraits, a classical Greek vase and an inlaid cabinet once the property of the eccentric William Beckford. Service rooms including the kitchen and tack room are open and the coach house still holds an unusually extensive collection of family carriages of 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> century date.

*Ian Jones*

# PASTFINDERS NEWS

News of the Excavation and Fieldwork Group



When undertaking an archaeological excavation it is never guaranteed that you will find what you expected to find in the first place! Cullings at Easter was a classic example of this when the Past Finders set out to uncover evidence of Medieval Cullings Manor which many generations of local people had believed to be situated just west of the A10 adjacent to the M25.

The moat when located and sectioned was found to be much narrower and also shallower than expected and strangely very little in the way of medieval pottery was recovered. Much of the site had been used as a rubbish tip since the 19th century and this overburden revealed what we believe to have been a late 16th to early 17th century sunken ornamental water garden feature with gravel pathways running between four bedding areas and possibly a central arbour. Alas my vision of uncovering a lost medieval manor house rapidly began to fade by day two of our three day dig.

Among the best small finds of the dig were the foot of a splendid Tudor glazed slip ware vessel and a beautiful prehistoric worked flint blade. A cobbled surface had everyone excited as it lay at quite a depth, until a fragment of 20th century lemonade bottle was recovered from below the cobbles! This indicated quite clearly the depth of disturbance and dumping on the site. The dig appears to support early 17th century cartographic evidence which clearly shows this garden feature but at time of writing there appears to be no evidence that a manor house ever stood on the site. Small fragments of early Saxo-Norman pottery fabrics were however found field walking further west of the site.

It was encouraging to see some new faces on the excavation team both young and slightly older and I would like to thank everyone who gave up their Easter weekend to help out. A full report on this excavation will appear in a future bulletin.

July is the month of the 'Festival of Archaeology' and this year we will be opening trenches once again at Cedars Park on the site of Theobalds Palace Waltham Cross from 10th-12th of July and also at Elsynge Place Forty Hall Enfield from 17th-19th July. If you wish to take part or help out in any way and have not received a letter with details of the digs please call me on my office number at 01707 870888 There is always a strong sense of teamwork on our excavations and we always try to involve the local community as much

as possible by inviting children to help with finds washing. The mini-dig will once again be in action for the very young Indiana Jones and display boards will show some of the work your Society has carried out over the past few years, so do come along and support us.

It is looking as if we will be quite busy for the rest of this year with important discoveries from work at Forty Hall already, from the forecourt and in the basement, where we discovered the foundations of an early possibly Tudor structure underneath the basement floor, directly below where it had been intended to build a disabled lift shaft! Further excavations are also planned later in the Summer at Myddelton House in Bulls Cross Ride where work will soon be commencing to reinstate the Kitchen Garden of the 18th century house.

MIKE DEWBREY



## Golden Trowel Award (Joint) Winner 2008

Those who attended the AGM in April will know that this year's "Golden Trowel" was awarded jointly to Pippa and her human Angie Holmes.

Pippa is nearly two and has been a regular member of the Pastfinders group from the age of about seven weeks. She has a particular interest in osteoarchaeology and her favourite item of archaeological equipment is brushes. She can also do a passable impression of the Enfield Beast (see cover).



Debut, 2007



Directing at Cullings  
Manor, 2009