



EAST HERTS. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Founded 1898

Registered Charity No. 257254

President: C. L. Lee

Hon. Sec: Mrs. G. R. Pollard: 11 St. Leonard's Close, Bengeo,
Hertford, Herts. SG14 3LL Tel: 01992-423433

NEWSLETTER 30

SEPTEMBER 2009

Behind the scenes at Friars Wash

In January 2009, Channel 4 broadcast an edition of *Time Team* filmed at Friars Wash, near Flamstead in Hertfordshire. This three-day dig, which took place in June 2008, threw up a major surprise - in particular, evidence of not one but four Romano-British temples on the site. **Jim Mower**, Development Producer for *Time Team*, discusses the background to the Friars Wash dig, the challenges of showing archaeology on TV and the controversy the series has attracted in almost two decades of broadcasts.

What is your background?

I'm a postgraduate qualified archaeologist so I've done both research excavations and commercial work. Eventually I took a sidestep into TV and after working on history and archaeology programmes, I ended up in *Time Team*, which is great as my first experience of TV was as a digger on the programme. So I've seen archaeology from both sides.

How does *Time Team* decide which sites to investigate?

My job is to find about 13 sites for each series. We've been running for about 17 years, so the production team has built up relationships with most of the major archaeological agencies including English Heritage, Historic Scotland and Cadw. We have collaborated with a number of people in these organisations and they understand the benefits that



One of four trenches opened by *Time Team*, showing evidence of a small Romano-British temple cella or related building.

Wessex Archaeology

working with *Time Team* can offer on particular sites. County archaeologists are another source, plus Finds Liaison Officers with the Portable Antiquities Scheme. We also have a solid viewer base and at the beginning of the year I go through 300-400 of their suggestions that come in by email, letter and phone call. We then go through a longlist using



The site lies close to the assumed line of Watling Street
Wessex Archaeology

certain criteria: Is there enough archaeology to sustain 3 days work? Is there an interesting question we can answer? Is there something for all our team members to do - archaeology in the ground for Phil Harding, some decent geophysical work for John Gater, historical questions for Helen Geake, and something in the landscape for Stewart Ainsworth to sort out? Then is it financially viable and practical?

Why were you so interested in the Friars Wash site?

Friars Wash is an interesting one - it was a punt, basically. In 2007 we were sent an aerial photograph of the field by a member of the public. Taken in 1976, it appeared to show a couple of Roman temples and that was all we knew about the site. So I sent the photo to a couple of Roman experts and they agreed it looked good. Then I managed to track down a local archaeology society that had field walked the site back in the 70s. They had found pieces of what seemed to be Roman material. We knew the field

had been ploughed, so there was a worry that the site had been destroyed. We then contacted the county archaeologist (who knew about the photo and who agreed it was interesting but had never had a chance to excavate), the land owner, and Natural England etc. When we visited Friars Wash, the land owner was very keen; he manages his land with public access in mind. And it was obvious from differential plant growth and visible platforms on the surface that there was something going on. So we decided to take the risk and, blimey did it pay off. We'd been looking for a Roman temple for over 15 years and Tony Robinson was quite sceptical. But we didn't find one; we found four. After the dig, the county archaeologist was delighted, but at the same time annoyed, since he'd had that photo for 30 years. Then we dig it and find what is essentially the type site for rural Roman temples in the whole of the country. It was a great success and it made a cracking programme too.

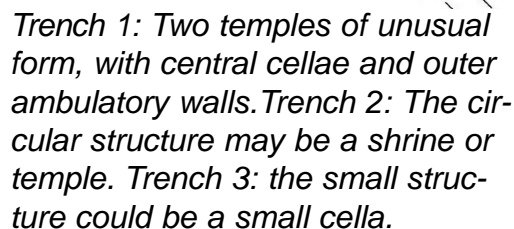
How did you approach the dig at Friars Wash?

Part of the programme is about the process of archaeology: how do you go about investigating a site? How does the decision-making process work? But we also have very specific research questions we want to answer. And we always ask: Where is the site? What's nearby? And what is its context?

At Friars Wash it turned out there was a Roman road running nearby and the major Roman centre of St Albans is fairly close. So really this programme was the story of the Romanisation of the hinterland: the local British in the area adopting the Roman way of life.

We also expected to find evidence of an Iron Age building. There were Iron Age features on the site - a big double ditch feature that turned out to be a land boundary, which was very interesting as

Emperor Eugenius who only ruled from AD 392 to AD 394, and which are rare in Britain. Amongst other things we also found an unusual enamel brooch and a large number of pig bones, possibly indicating mass slaughter and feasting.



Is there a trade-off between making TV and doing archaeology?

The filming and TV side mesh really well with the archaeology. Our TV crews have done this for years and are used to not getting in the way of the archaeologists. And the archaeologists we work with are very speedy and we record features and photograph as we go. Tony filming a scene doesn't interfere with the archaeological work as much as you might imagine. But to be honest 70 per cent of the recording takes place on day four, when filming is complete. And because we're doing an evaluation, the



Finds recovered in one of the trenches suggested 1st or 2nd century AD construction date with occupation until the 4th Wessex Archaeology

technique of archaeology lets us work in a quick and simple way. For example, if you have a post hole, you section it - cut it in half and take out half the fill. That gives you information but leaves half the feature intact for future studies.

It's a funny discipline, archaeology. It's interpretive - I think that's partly what the success of the programme is about. The audience enjoys that level of uncertainty, and they enjoy watching us figure it out, scratching our heads and of course they can second guess us if they like, which is part of the fun.

In your experience, how do archaeologists view *Time Team*?

A lot of them are still a bit sniffy. There are people in national agencies and local government who won't engage with us - they believe what we do is wrong, cheapens the profession and they fail to see any benefits. On the other side, there are archaeologists who champion what we do. Agencies like English Heritage and local archaeologists in the counties have slowly got used to what

we do and we've slowly got to understand how they want things done. We have spent a lot of time and resources resolving incomplete pieces of work from the past. In fact our publication and excavation record is one of the best in the country, for doing extremely high quality work on site and for completing reports. We've done around 170 archaeological evaluations over 15 years or so and have published 50 or 60 academic papers.

So archaeologists have become more confident with what we can offer them - let's face it, we're giving them an expensive piece of evaluation work on sites they usually can't afford to investigate and that's pretty important.

The type of sites we can access has also changed. We've worked at Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle. This year we're investigating 7 scheduled monuments, two of which are unique in British archaeology, and are also able to work at Westminster Abbey, so that tells you about the levels of confidence big institutions have in us.

What kind of impact do you believe *Time Team* has made?

One of the big contributions we've made is that the programme has communicated the techniques and terminology of archaeology. Nowadays you can say "geofizz" and people know what you mean. Since 1993, applications to do archaeology at university have risen 30 per cent and now young archaeologists are turning up on site who watched the programme as children. It's had as much impact as Indiana Jones!

For all the criticism that gets levelled at us, they'll miss us when we are gone!

Details of the Friars Wash dig can be found at www.channel4.com.

Reports on *Time Team* evaluations are at www.wessexarchaeology.org. There are plans to publish the Friars Wash findings in the *Hertfordshire Archaeology and History Journal*.

Hertford Museum Update

It's been a busy year for Hertford Museum as the development project gathers pace. Last December, the museum closed and since then the building has been having a major facelift - complete with a lift, new learning space and new displays. The refurbished museum will open in early 2010 and visitors will be able to enjoy displays about Hertford illustrated through various themes such as work, play, health, and homes, big and small. The total cost of the project is £1.2 million and the Heritage Lottery fund awarded the museum a grant of £985,000. We have been steadily raising the rest through grants, donations and fundraising, though there is still some way to go.

We have also sought ways to fund the conservation of key objects in the collection. The 'Adopt an Object' scheme was devised last year and supporters were presented with a catalogue of objects in need of conservation, detailing what work was required and how much it would cost. 'Adoptees' who contribute towards this receive an acknowledgement and a sneak preview of the newly-conserved object prior to display. This scheme was well received and nearly £4,000 was raised, meaning that 17 objects could be conserved. EHAS has kindly adopted two items from the settlement of Foxholes Farm that was excavated in the 1970s. The Neolithic / Early Bronze Age burial urn (above right) is currently with conservator George Monger who is reapplying adhesive to some of the joins between the shards to make it more stable. It will also need a new acrylic mount for display. EHAS kindly donated £280 towards its conservation. The other item is a semi-circular spade iron (late Roman) found in one of the



corndryers on the site. The spade iron is corroded and has dirt residue on it. The object will be cleaned, stabilised and have a protective surface applied. EHAS has kindly contributed £100 towards its conservation and display.

Without the support of local organisations such as EHAS, Hertford Museum would struggle to fund the conservation of these important pieces so that they can be enjoyed by future generations.

Helen Gurney
Hertford Museum

EHAS enters cyberspace

The Society will shortly have its own website which you can find at <http://www.EHAS.org.uk>. The aim is to help raise our profile, and provide a quick way for members to keep up with the latest news on lectures, excursions etc. Please visit it and if there's anything you'd like changed, or if you have suggestions for things you would like to see included, please contact me on 01992 505368 or email bc@ic.ac.uk

Ben Crystall
Newsletter Editor

From: EHAS TRANSACTIONS Vol IV Part 1 1908-9

Thirty-third excursion, July 15, 1909

Members assembled at the Clockhouse, Hoddesdon, where the late Mr Charles Whitley's collection of antiquities, views, etc, were inspected. A perambulation of Hoddesdon was then made under the guidance of Mr JA Hunt and Mr Howard Warner and the numerous interesting buildings and sites were visited and described.... We may, however, mention the visit paid to Rawdon House, where Mr Hunt unveiled a tablet (to Sir Marmaduke Rawdon)... Mr FW Alington gave an account of this worthy:

"We are assembled here to-day, by kind permission of the Canonesses of St Augustine, to pay a tribute of respect to the memory of a man of whom this town of Hoddesdon may well be proud. Not only did Sir Marmaduke Rawdon cause the erection of this beautiful house, the chief ornament of the town, but he conferred a substantial benefit upon the inhabitants by giving them a supply of water, carried to the centre of the town by means of a conduit. But he was, as I shall hope to show, far more than a merely local worthy..."

"Sir Marmaduke sprang from a younger branch of an ancient family long settled in Yorkshire, and was baptised at Brandsby in that county on March 20, 1582. About the age of 16 he came to London with his elder brother Lawrence, who placed him with a merchant named Hall, and he soon afterwards sent him as his factor, or agent, to Bordeaux, where he was so careful of his master's business that in a short time he raised his master to a fair estate, and so greatly established his own credit that he had employment from several other merchants, by which his own fortunes were much advanced.

"In 1610 he returned to London, and settled in the parish of Allhallows Barking, where he became a churchwarden. In 1611 he married at Broxbourne, Elisabeth, daugh-

ter and heiress of Thomas Thorowgood, of Hoddesdon. At an early period of his career he became a member of the Municipal Corporation of the City of London and a member of the Clothworkers' Company, and in 1639 he was chosen Alderman, but he refused the office and paid the fine.

"Sir Marmaduke enjoyed the reputation of being one of the most enterprising and successful of the English mercantile adventurers of his day. His transactions extended to almost all parts of the known world. He traded largely in the wines of France and the Peninsula, through agencies or factories established at Bordeaux or Porto... It is said that he was one of the first, who for the good of the nation, sent forth a ship for the discovery of the North-West Passage, and in return thereof he had only an unicorn's horn of small value. He was much favoured by Kings James and Charles, of whom the former



A portrait of Sir Marmaduke Rawdon

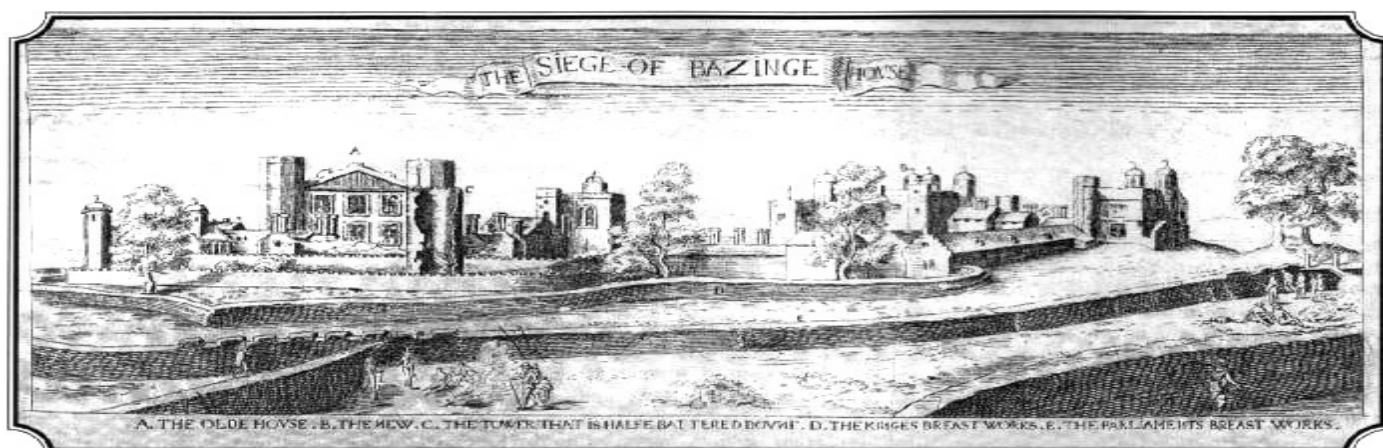
would often call at his house at Hoddesdon on the way from Royston to Theobalds...

"In 1645 (sic) he was chosen High Sheriff of the County of Hertford. In 1617 he had been appointed one of the Captains of the Trained Bands of the City of London, and about 1639 he was made Lieutenant-Colonel of the City, which place he held until the most part of the city began to side with the Parliament, which proceedings he did withstand as much as he durst, but, seeing all to no purport, he laid down his commission, although the citizens, knowing his great abilities and his popularity, offered him any preferment he might be pleased to accept. After a while, fearing arrest, he came to Hoddesdon, and having settled his affairs and taken leave of his friends he proceeded in March 1643 to Oxford, and he

this house good store of sack, and you have good store of good tobacco, I pray let me have some of it for my soldiers, and you may be confident, with the grace of God, as long as there is ever a horse in the house, dog, cat or rat, or anything that is eatable, I will never deliver up the garrison." And he was as good as his word...

"Unfortunately for Basing House, dissention arose in the garrison, with the result that Sir Marmaduke was removed from the governorship in 1645, and the house soon after, in the hands of a less competent governor, being stormed and captured.

"In a short time after he left Basing, Sir Marmaduke was made a Governor of Faringdon in Berkshire, which he held for the King with distinguished bravery and success.



"The siege of Bazinge House"

presented his services to the King, who knew him well, and was very glad to see him.

"While at Oxford he raised a regiment of Foot by the King's order, but at his own expense and he also raised subsequently a troop of horse. He was then appointed by the King to be Governor of Basing House, in Hampshire, where he sustained several fierce sieges from Sir William Waller and Lord Fairfax, Sir Marmaduke's soldiers defending the place with incomparable resolution and valour. One of the sieges endured twenty-five weeks, in which the garrison suffered greatly for want of food, and the Marquess of Winchester, to whom the house belonged, having contemplated surrender, Sir Marmaduke answered: "My Lord, you have in

But his work was nearly done, and he sank under the fatigues and hardships which he had so long endured, and died at his post on April 28, 1646. He was buried in the nave of Faringdon Church under a large blue slab near the pulpit... In 1664 Marmaduke of York visited Faringdon and met an old woman who had been nurse to Sir Marmaduke in his last sickness. She informed him that the sufferer was full of pious ejaculations to God, with penitent prayers for the pardon of his sins, with honest and earnest exhortations to his soldiers to continue their loyalty in the defence of the place, and things of this nature, such as might be expected from so good a Christian and so loyal a subject.

FW Alington

Excursions: an Interesting Survival

By Colin Lee

Excursions have been a feature of this society's activities since its foundation late in 1898. The first excursion, to Chadwell Spring, Amwell Grotto and Ware Priory, was made in May the following year. Others took place in the succeeding years. Owing to the First World War, there were no excursions in 1915 "but after careful consideration the Council decided that it would be in the best interests of the Society to resume them". Accordingly, there was one each in the years 1916, 1917 and 1918.

The programme card for the 1917 excursion has survived. There are some notable differences between then and now. This excursion lasted nearly eleven hours and, including time to get to and from home, it

10.30 a.m.—Depart and

10.50.—Arrive at ROXFORD.

[Formerly a moated manor-house. In Grotto Wood a hill and flint and brick foundations will be seen. Mr. H. Clinch permits members to visit these remains, and Mr. W. F. Andrews give a description of them. The Hon. Treasurer will exhibit

11.45.—Depart, and viewing the picturesquely situated Hall Farm *en route*,

12.5 p.m.—Arrive at WOOLMERS.

Named from the family of Wolmer, who are recorded to have lived in Hertingfordbury parish in the thirteenth and fourteenth centuries. The house, which is approached by an avenue, contains valuable paintings, and in the grounds are some fine cedars. Mr. C. E. Wodehouse courteously permits members to see the house, and Mr. Herbert C. Andrews will briefly allude to the historical features.]

1.0.—LUNCH. There will be an interval for a picnic lunch, with which members are requested to be provided, after which

1.30.—THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING will be held, when the Annual Report and Balance-sheet for 1916 will be submitted for adoption, and members will be asked to re-elect the retiring Councillors and Officers of the Society.

2.0.—Depart and

2.15.—Arrive at ARKLEY or ACHERLEY HOLE.

[A remarkable spring, the depth of which, it is said, has never been found. In dry weather it ceases to flow; during wet seasons it contributes much water to the River Lea. Some account of this natural feature will be given by the Hon. Treasurer.]

East Herts Archæological Society.

THE FIFTY-FIRST EXCURSION

WILL COMPRISE A VISIT TO SOME PLACES OF INTEREST

In the Hertingfordbury and Essendon Districts

ON THURSDAY, JULY 12, 1917.

Members are entitled to bring a friend to these Meetings.

Carriage Tickets 3s. each; Tea Tickets, 6d. each. Members who require these must send the amount to the Hon. Treasurer not later than Friday, July 6. In any case those who intend being present must intimate their intention to the Hon. Treasurer.

9.0 a.m.—Carriages leave SHIRE HALL, HERTFORD.

9.15.—Arrive at HERTINGFORDBURY PARK.

[The old mansion, of which a plate is given in Chauncy's *Hertfordshire*, was pulled down in 1816. Mr. R. W. Partridge kindly permits members to view the house and gardens, and will exhibit a photograph of a painting of the former building. A brief description of the estate and its owners will be given, and the story of "A Hertfordshire Nell Gwyn" will be related if time permits.]

9.45.—Depart and

9.55.—Arrive at HERTINGFORDBURY CHURCH.

[The building, which has been severely restored, dates from the thirteenth century. The chancel has three graceful Early English windows in the east wall, and there are remains of a richly-moulded thirteenth century piscina. Seventeenth century altar-tombs, brass, and bells remain. The plate, also of the seventeenth century, is extremely fine.]

might have been a twelve hour marathon for some members! As well as the full programme, time was also made for the AGM.

At this time, car ownership was rare and only for the wealthy. Hence the use of "carriages" (charge 3s). Sadly there is no indication whether they were motorised or horse-drawn. The society was still offering transport in the years after the Second World War. For instance, on the 132nd excursion to Wheathampstead in June 1952, led by Gordon Moodey, the charge for those in their own car

was 4/- per person and 9/- in the Society's cars.
But back in 1917, greater use was made of public transport and some members returned to Hertford from Hatfield by train on a route long since closed. You

Ewelme was the site of a palace built by the de la Pole dukes of Suffolk, similar to their castle at Wingfield in Suffolk but on land brought to them through the marriage of the son of Geoffrey Chaucer with the local heiress Matilda Burghersh.

Matilda's daughter, Alice, became Duchess of Suffolk and she has a monument in the parish church which was built by her and also a quadrangle of almshouses and a school, both still used for their original purpose. We were able to visit both of these, guided by George Cannon, the former headmaster. The whole ensemble is unique in still being as Alice left it in the 1460s.

Tea was taken in the Watercress Centre which preserves the now closed watercress beds, a flourishing village industry until the 1990s. The centre's setting alongside the stream is very evocative.

At Rycote we visited the chapel built on the estate of the Williams family who occasionally entertained Queen Elizabeth 1 and decorated the chapel with elaborate pews for visits of King Charles 1.

In June Colin Lee organised a visit to the wartime intelligence centre at Chicksands and to the remains of Chicksands Priory.

The August visit, on Wednesday 19th, was to see the excavations at Copped Hall, near Epping which were described at the winter lecture meeting (see accompanying article). We were guided by the excavation director Nick Bateson. After that we visited Hill Hall, the magnificent Tudor house, recently a prison, but now converted to luxury flats, with wall paintings preserved by English Heritage. Finally the excursion on 5th September was to the village churches at Sandon and Wallington.

Helen Gibson
Excursions Sec

3.10 p.m.—Depart and

3.25.—Arrive at ESSENDON CHURCH.

[The tower is of fifteenth century date; the rest of the building is modern. Some old monuments, brasses, and bells remain, and there is an unique Wedgwood vase, formerly used as a font, given to the church in 1780. The plate is of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries. A short account of the fabric, etc., will be given, and Mr. Herbert C. Andrews will read some notes on the Wedgwood bowl.]

4.0.—Depart and

4.30.—Arrive at POPE'S FARM

[A charmingly situated farmhouse, formed out of the stables of a former mansion. The building contains numerous massive beams, and remains of the extensive gardens, old walls, canal, and mound will be seen. A depression marks the site of an earlier house, and a short distance away, in a scene of great natural beauty, are traces of a cascade and ornamental waters. The owner (the Marquess of Salisbury) and the tenant (Mr. Taylor) permit members to see these remains, which will be described by Mr. H. C. N. Daniell, who will exhibit a copy of an eighteenth century plan, and sketches of the old manor-house.]

TEA will afterwards be served. Application for tickets (price 6d. each), as already pointed out, *must be sent to the Hon. Treasurer not later than Friday, July 6.*

6.30.—Depart and

7.15.—Arrive at HATFIELD STATION.*

7.16.—Depart for HERTFORD, via Cole Green and Hertingfordbury.

R. T. ANDREWS,
Hon. Treasurer.

June 23, 1917.

* TRAINS. King's Cross dep. 7.0 a.m., Hitchin dep. 7.35, Hertford (G.N.R.) arr. 8.43. Liverpool Street dep. 7.20 a.m., Hertford (G.E.R.) arr. 8.36. Hatfield dep. 7.30 p.m., Hitchin arr. 8.20. Hatfield dep. 7.42 p.m., King's Cross arr. 8.10.

will note that the interval between the carriage's arrival at Hatfield Station and the train's departure does seem a trifle unrealistic!

Colin Lee

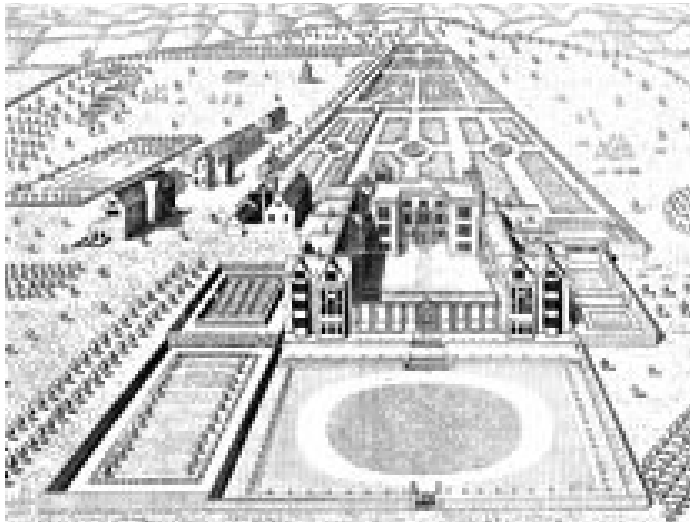
2009 Excursion Programme

The May excursion was to Ewelme and Rycote in Oxfordshire and the coach was shared with the Friends of St Michael's Church as it is getting increasingly difficult to raise sufficient members of the EHAS to make an excursion financially viable.

A Tudor Mansion at Copped Hall, Essex

by Christina Holloway

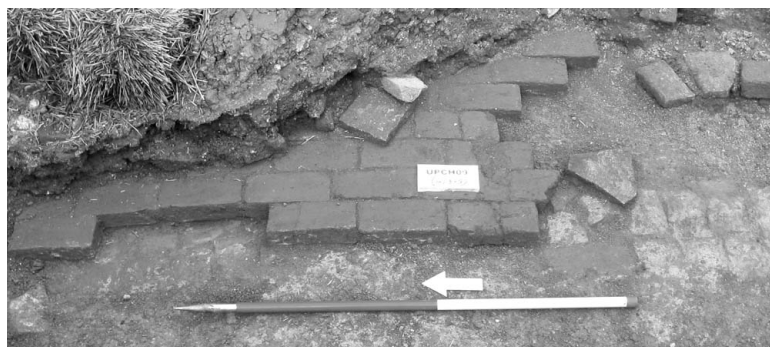
Since 2001 the West Essex Archaeological Group (WEAG) has been investigating the remains of a Tudor mansion at Copped Hall, just outside the M25 motorway in south-west Essex. Documentary research indicates that a house has stood on the Copped Hall estate since the mid-13th century. The



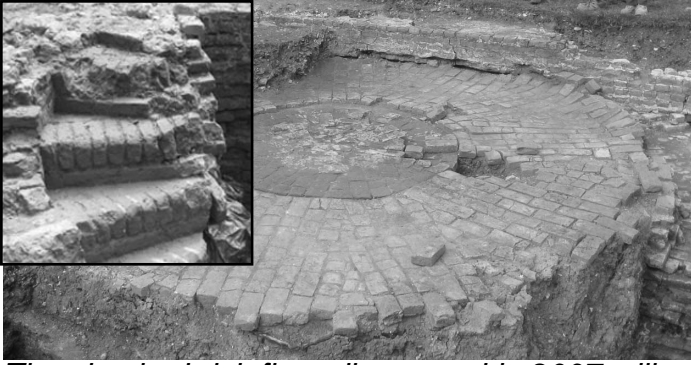
estate was owned by Waltham Abbey from 1350 until 1534, when it was acquired by Henry VIII. Copped Hall remained in royal hands until 1564, when it was granted by Queen Elizabeth to Thomas Heneage, one of her favourite courtiers. At this time, the buildings included a hall, great chamber, kitchen and service rooms, a court with a double gate, and a moat. It is likely that Heneage embarked on a major rebuilding project in order to receive Elizabeth as a guest, with further modifications made by subsequent owners. A drawing (above) of the Hall in 1735, seen from the north, shows three ranges around a courtyard closed on the north side by a single storey loggia or covered colonnade. By then it may have stood in this form for perhaps a century. The estate passed to John Conyers in 1742 and detailed plans and drawings were made of the Hall: the

intention may have been to refurbish but in 1748 it was demolished and construction of a replacement began on a site a short distance to the south-east. The site of the old Hall was landscaped as part of the gardens.

It is this 'new' Hall which can be seen today and is now being renovated by the Copped Hall Trust (CHT) after years of dereliction following a major fire in 1917. As part of its project to restore the gardens, the CHT wanted to establish the layout of the 'old' Hall; the only remnants previously visible were a brick and stone pillar and short section of wall from the west end of the loggia and parts of the East range cellars, recorded in 1984 by the Archaeology Unit of Essex County Council, and which is now a retaining wall for a sunken garden. WEAG's initial resistivity survey and trial excavation evolved into the Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project, with twice-yearly excavations (including a training dig) organised jointly by WEAG and CHT and additional research and finds processing carried out by WEAG. Our excavations have revealed the lower parts of the cellar walls of the south-eastern part of the Hall, largely corresponding to the mid-18th century plan of the ground floor. Other walls, not shown on the plan, indicate phases of building which did not survive above



Excavation of a later stair bay revealed a brick floor, overlying a previously unsuspected wall foundation. This will be a key target for our work in 2010.



The circular brick floor discovered in 2007 will be another target for 2010. We have also found an early spiral stair (inset) that was replaced by an open-well stair, yet a wall foundation beneath suggests it was not part of the original design.

ground at the time of demolition. All are brick-built. The bricks themselves can only be generally dated to c1450-1650, so it is relative dating (from details such as walls butting up against each other, the colours and fabrics of the bricks or mortar and the regularity of coursing) together with the documented history which reveals the sequence of building. In 2007, ground-penetrating radar was used to survey the gardens. To the south-east of the footprint of the old Hall, an intriguing circular feature turned out to be a carefully set out brick surface 7 metres in diameter, with foundations almost a metre thick. This structure's function has yet to be determined, but a dovecote, water tower or summer house are possibilities, and we hope to find out more about it in 2010. Pottery from the site ranges from Roman (redeposited), Saxon and later-medieval to early-20th century. Fragments of medieval and later floor tiles and worked stone, glass and a silver penny of Edward IV dated to 1471-1483, have also been found. Many fragments of flowerpot, clay tobacco pipe, and the land drains installed by the gardeners of the 19th century have also turned up. All this suggests that our site has a very long history indeed and that much more awaits discovery.

Christina Holloway, Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project

Lecture Programme

Last October, Wally Wright gave an enlightening talk titled "Beads, Slaves and Sugar". This related to Parndon Hall and the slave trade. The last lecture for 2008 was given by Christina Holloway, an archaeologist at the Copped Hall Trust. The talk related to an earlier Tudor building and gave details of its excavations (see previous article).

The first lecture of 2009, about the life and work of Adrian Gibson, was given by Helen Gibson. Even though this took place after heavy snow falls, we had a record attendance. Helen had gone to a great deal of trouble to prepare this lecture and her talk was very well received.

The lecture series finished with Bryan Scott, an ex-Welwyn Archaeological Society member, giving a talk entitled "We have been here before". He covered the many methods of Roman building construction and how these relate to modern techniques.

These lectures had an above average attendance, indicating an increase in interest. It is important we maintain the momentum so if any member can recommend a speaker or would like a talk on a particular topic, please inform me.

This year's lecture series consists of:

Saturday 3rd October: *Archaeology and Historic Buildings*, by Matthew Williams, Church Buildings Advisor to the Diocese of London.

Saturday 7th November: *The Work of an Egyptian Archaeologist*, by Chris Naunton, Egypt Exploration Society

Saturday 6th February 2010: *The Roman Temple of Claudius Colchester*, by Mark Davies

Saturday 6th March 2010: *Making Memories and Community Archives*, by Daphne Knott, HALS.

Lectures take place at Bengoe Parish Hall in Duncombe Road at 2.30pm.

Brian Shillum

Hon Lecture Secretary

Librarian's Report

When I had the job of listing the books, papers and tomes belonging to the society's library, I was amazed at the eclectic choice of material. Though named East Herts, early members of the society did not allow that designation to limit the choice of material added to the library over the years. Like the Andrews brothers' choice of material in their collection at Hertford Museum, the EHAS Library contains a variety of material from around the country. Titles include: *Guide des Chemins d'Angleterre: an Itinerary of the 16th Century* by Sir Herbert G. Fordham, *The Celt, the Roman and the Saxon, a History of the Early Inhabitants of Britain* by Thomas



Wright, and *The Great Bed of Ware: History for Exhibition* by Owners written in 1931 by HC Andrews for the owners Frank

Partridge & Sons. Frank Partridge was a distant cousin of Clive's and blotted the family name by trying to sell the Bed of Ware to a wealthy Texan. Fortunately local people stepped in and persuaded the government to purchase the bed for the Victoria & Albert Museum.

The Society also has a number of volumes of the State Papers, Rolls Series, Record Commissioners etc purchased from the Public Record Office. A perusal of this list will enlighten you on the Icelandic Sagas, the *Historica Works*, the *Chronicle of the Reigns of Stephen, Henry II and Richard I*, by Gervase, the Monk of Canterbury and, of course, the ubiquitous Matthew Paris, both the *Chronica Majora* and *Historia Minor*,

1067-1253. Although these are printed volumes, a number are still in their original Latin - so if you want to read them don't forget your Latin phrase book. Unfortunately, the books are still stored in boxes; perhaps the list can be published in the next newsletter?

Elisabeth Barratt
Hon Librarian

This and That - Notes from the Hon Secretary

Membership of the Society is in the low eighties and we are keen to recruit more people so if you know of anyone who would be interested in what we offer, please persuade them to join. Our excursion secretary, Helen Gibson, has tried to reduce the cost of the annual coach excursion by running it jointly with the friends of St. Michael's Church in Bishop's Stortford. It would be interesting to have members' feedback on this venture as it is virtually impossible to run this sort of trip depending entirely on our own society. Is there still support for an excursion by coach? Are there other societies with whom we could join? What is your view?

The AGM in April welcomed our president, Mr. Colin Lee, as treasurer and Dr. Ben Crystall as a new member of Council who will also edit the Newsletter. We are most grateful to both of them. Early this year we received two certificates from the Hertford Museum stating that the East Herts Archaeological Society had part adopted the Bronze Age Burial Urn and the Roman Spade Iron both excavated at Foxholes. This excavation was undertaken by the Hart Archaeological Unit which was the descendant of the EHAS Excavation Group so we felt a 'parental' interest in the artefacts in the Museum.

Gillian Pollard
Hon Secretary