



# NEWSLETTER

AUGUST 2020

## Letter from the Editor

Hello – another month has passed and lockdown is easing a little, I hope you are all staying safe and well. Changes are afoot – we will be starting the lecture program in September either via Zoom or as a recorded lecture that you will be able to access via a link that will be sent to you. Details on how to access the first lecture will be sent in the next newsletter. Digging activities are still suspended and will be reviewed in a month or so. In the meantime if you are missing Copped Hall take a look at Lee's article.

### **Be Cyber Vigilant**

WEAG has been subjected to an attempted fraud – an email purportedly coming from our president Harvey Sheldon.

*Hi John,*

*Sorry i just picked this up. We are keeping safe, thank you.*

*I have been working on inducement lately and i want us to give back to some members as a little support and donations from us during this Covid-19 pandemic.*

*I will be joining a zoom conference meetings shortly, and I'd like to provide them with some gift cards. Would you be able to purchase few amazon gift vouchers for me from the store [Monday morning?](#) It shouldn't be too difficult I imagine*

*Regards,  
Harvey Sheldon  
President - West Essex Archaeological Group*

I'm sure you can see it looks a little fishy but some of the details are correct and probably lifted from our website. Please keep yourself cyber safe and let us know if you have received any similar emails from anyone under the WEAG banner.

### **WEAG Message Board**

Grace Jarvis has some archaeology books for sale and John Avis is asking for your help if you are familiar with Wordpress and/or web design. We could really do with getting the new website up and running – it's looking great but does need your help.

### **Articles**

This month we are pleased to include two articles from Lee. The first one is on '**Copped Hall's first open gardens since Lockdown**' and the second is part 2 on Lee's brilliant article on the '**M11**'. Do you have anything to contribute to the newsletter? However big or small we would welcome your input – please do get in touch via [lexie.lyons@icloud.com](mailto:lexie.lyons@icloud.com).

## WEAG Member Profile

Would you like to be 'our profile on a member'? If so email me on and I'll forward you the questions.

## Stay In Touch

[weag.org.uk](http://weag.org.uk)  
[Facebook.com/westessexarchaeological](https://www.facebook.com/westessexarchaeological)  
[Twitter.com/WEAGarchaeology](https://twitter.com/WEAGarchaeology)  
[Instagram.com/weag\\_archaeology](https://www.instagram.com/weag_archaeology)  
Anything you'd like to contribute to the WEAG Newsletter or if you have any comments on the new format, please email [lexie.lyons@icloud.com](mailto:lexie.lyons@icloud.com)

## WEAG Message Board

*"Barely used, set of three Monographs from MOLA. Monograph 35 London's Roman Amphitheatre and Monograph 36 part 1 & 2 The London Guildhall. They are in good condition, although the roman one has a small tear on the spine. Pages in perfect condition and CD's present too. Originally priced at £94.95 for the set, I am looking to get £20 ONO. I am happy to post."* Grace Jarvis

If interested message Grace directly via [gjarvis93@gmail.com](mailto:gjarvis93@gmail.com)

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*"WEAG is in the process of writing a new website. This is to update the style and content of the existing website and make it more phone and tablet friendly. The existing website is written in a raw HTML (using CoffeeCup) [www.weag.org.uk] and it is being transferred to a new website written with WordPress (using the Astra theme) [the temporary address during construction is www.weag.co.uk]."* John Avis.

If you have experience of WordPress or are interested in helping then please contact John on 07802 711713 or 020 8531 4960 or [john@avis-net.uk](mailto:john@avis-net.uk).

## COPPED HALL – FIRST OPEN GARDENS SINCE LOCKDOWN

submitted by Lee Joyce

On Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> July Copped Hall had its's first Open Gardens event since lockdown. This event was limited strictly to Friends of the Trust. In our continuous show of support for the Trust a small group of us from WEAG went along to man the trenches and talk to the public about the project. The day was great success with over 300 visitors, takings of over £3,000 and all cakes and jams sold out. Similar success was seen in the produce and flower sales in the Walled gardens. We plan to do the same on the next Open Gardens on the 2<sup>nd</sup> August; again this will be open only to the Friends. Replacing the usual August Open Day (30<sup>th</sup> August) this year will be an extended Open Gardens where stalls will be invited as usual but the house will remain closed. We hope WEAG

will be able to do more at this event maybe having some finds and more drawings available to share with the public. If anyone feels able, or wishes, to come along and help that would be great, or even just pop along to the event and say hello and continue to support both Copped Hall and WEAG.



*In the foreground Alex is talking to visitors; in mid-ground is Christine and on the bank is Vicky, both doing the same! Jeremy and David both also came along to lend a hand .and we had more than 50 interested visitors to the trenches during the day.*

# WEAG'S WORK ON THE ROUTE OF THE M11

## PART 2: THE SITES

submitted by Lee Joyce

In the last newsletter I wrote about WEAG's involvement in the excavations of the proposed route of the M11 between November 1972 and May 1975. As was noted earlier WEAG worked in Area 3 (also one site in each of contracts 1 & 2), referred to in the report as contract 3. The map shows the distribution of sites along this section of the M11 excavated by WEAG and/or their partners.

1.02- Chigwell, Luxborough Lane TQ429 930. Site of an 18thc brick clamp.

2.04- North Weald, Weald Hall Lane. TL 479 049. A section was cut across a ditch that contained large quantities of Roman pottery, also found was an irregular round flint feature approximately 5m in diameter, within which was a grey stained area 2.5m in diameter. This was sectioned and below the flints a small gully was found that contained 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup>c pottery and bone and Saxon pottery.

3.01- Harlow, Canes Lane TL 477 069: A small 15<sup>th</sup> c habitation site was found and a scatter of large flints probably from a wall footing. Finds included pottery, a pargetting stamp and silver penny of Edward II.

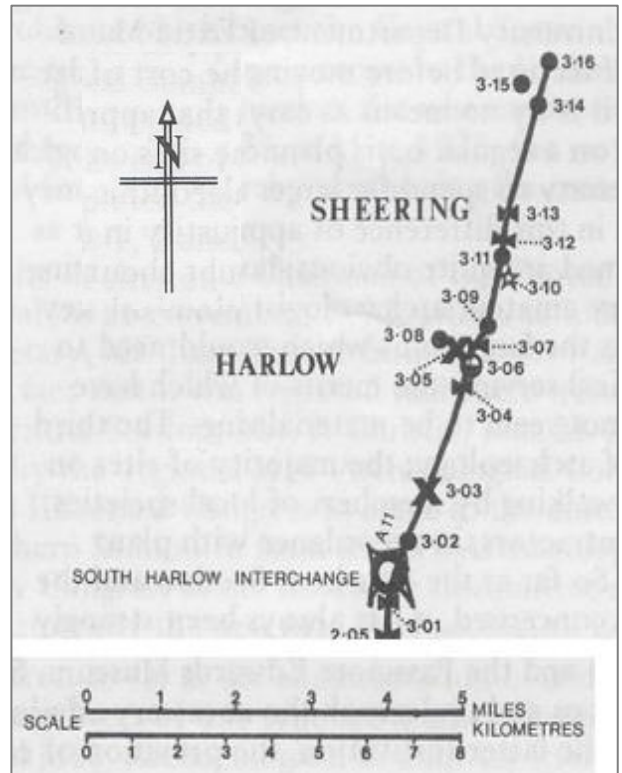
3.02 – Harlow, Park Wood. TL 481 079. Five pits were discovered of early Iron Age date. Within the largest 49 sheds of flint tempered pottery were discovered.

3.03 Harlow Common, Mill St TL481 079. Two kilns of late 16<sup>th</sup> early 17<sup>th</sup>c date were found with associated pottery that pre-date the famous Metropolitan ware industry.

3.04- Harlow, Chalk Lane Harlow Tye Rd. TL 494 109. A small pit containing 15<sup>th</sup>c pottery was discovered.

3.05- Harlow, Black Cottage, Chalk Lane, Harlow Tye. TL 495 113. This was the only building of historical interest that was demolished in the building of this (Contract 3) section of the motorway. The evidence suggests that the house was first build c1640-60 & much altered in the Victorian period.

3.06- Harlow, Much Field, Chalk Lane Harlow Tye. TL 495 112. Building material, pits, ditches a cobbled area and a wood lined well were found, all of Roman date. The best dating came from the coins one an As of Nero dated AD 54-68 & five others of late 3<sup>rd</sup> /early 4<sup>th</sup>c date.

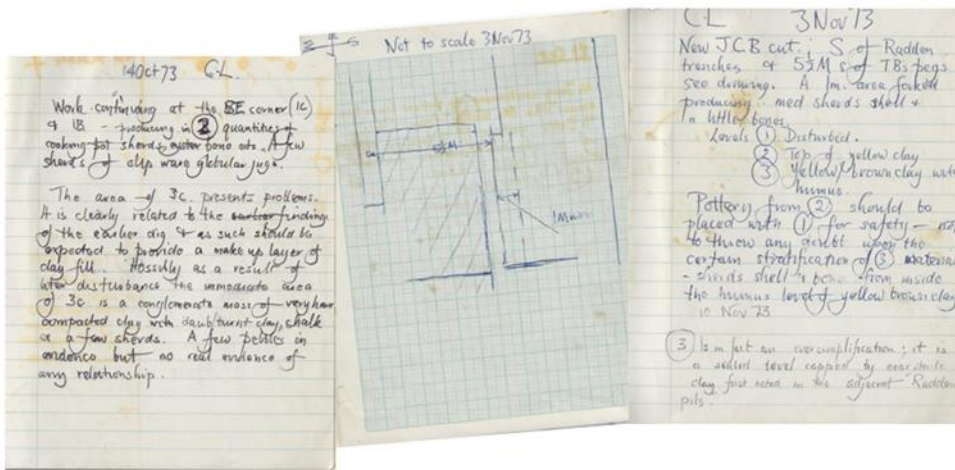


*The newly built M11, east of Harlow, looking north. during the day.*



3.07- Harlow, Chalk Lane. TL 495 113. This site partly overlaps the Much Field site, but the occupation on this site was 12<sup>th</sup> c rather than Roman. Large quantities of shell tempered cook pots and some glazed wares were discovered.

3.08- Harlow, Moor Hall Gravel pit. TL 489 117. 0.8 Hectares (2 Acres) of Iron Age occupation was discovered. Several shallow pits, a ditch and an un-potted cremation were found along with large quantities of course flint tempered pottery (Early Iron Age) some featuring fingernail impressed designs. Late Iron Age black burnished carinated bowls and jars were also found.



Extracts from Wally Davy's original notebook.

3.09- Harlow Common, Moor Hall. TL 497 120. Flint tempered pottery of Early Iron Age date was found during construction work on the Motorway. In nearby fields (not given their own site number) a Neolithic core and arrow head were found.

3.10- Sheering, Pincey Brook. TL 500 130. Field walking discoveries included two Mesolithic blades and a core.

3.11- Sheering, Canny Hills. TL 501 134. Stripping of top soil revealed four pits containing charcoal, pottery and daub and two parallel ditches in an irregular oval. On further excavation three phases of fill were exposed one containing six baked clay pyramidal loom weights and a shale spindle whorl. Pottery from all features can be dated to the late Bronze Age/early Iron Age.

3.12- Sheering, Hall Common. TL 501 136. This field was not excavated as before it could commence the field was stripped to be used as the M11 spoil heap. Earlier field walking had revealed ridge and furrow in what was the time a long L shaped field.

3.13- Sheering, Sheering Back Lane. TL 502 141. The field was not excavated but when the road was cut across it, traces of ditches containing 15<sup>th</sup> c pottery were revealed.

3.14- Little Hallingbury South. TL 508 163. A single small pit was exposed containing early Iron Age flint gritted wares and later Iron Age burnished pottery.

3.15- Little Hallingbury Mid Field. TL 507 163. A rectangular area some 60m x 40m was defined by areas of shallow discontinuous trenches and pits. These were interpreted as the remains of a palisade trench. In addition very fragmentary, heavily flint tempered, bronze age pottery was found.

3.16- Little Hallingbury, Motts Green. TL 511 169. A ditch was discovered which contained shell tempered late Iron Age pottery as well as late Iron Age greywares.

3.17- Little Hallingbury, Goose Lane. TL 512 173. This was found to be a complicated site with an Iron Age hut circle underlying Roman British features which included a complex of ditches and the foundation of a small rectangular wattle and daub building approx. 4 x 2.5 m. Eleven coins were recovered from the site, 1 minted AD148/9 the rest were all dated AD258 -285.

3.18- Birchanger, Birchanger Lodge (Blacklands). TL 508 218. Traces of Iron Age occupation were found including Iron Age flint tempered pottery, Late Iron Age Belgic pottery and 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman occupation including a dupondius of the Emperor Vespasian AD 69-79.

Analysis of Pottery found during Fieldwalking M4 - Skening to Mazon Hall.

	ROMAN			SANDY MED.			SALT GLAZE			BLACK GLAZE				BEALY GLAZE				METRO-POLITAN			SHERDS	TOTAL
	BR	Bs	By	R	Bs	By	R	Bs	By	R	Bs	By	H	R	Bs	By	H	R	Bs	By		
	HALL COMMON	0	0	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2	3	1	5	0	1		
CHANN HILLS	0	0	2	0	2	3	1	1	0	0	0	1	0	2	0	5	0	0	0	4	19	
WOODFIELD	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	0	1	1	0	0	5	12	
WOODFIELD HILL																						
NIGHT ALLEY	1	0	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	1	0	1	2	1	0	0	0	15	
LITTLE ALLEY																						
PARC FIELDS	1	0	0	0	0	4	1	0	1	0	0	1	1	3	3	6	0	0	0	4	26	
% Approx.	8			16			4			12				31				5			27	103

Total. 103

Original fieldwalking recording sheet.

We shall be returning to a few of these sites in more detail over the next few newsletters.

## WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### Lecture Program

September's Rudge Lecture has sadly been cancelled but will now be replaced by 'Medieval Church Wall Paintings in Essex' by Lee and Claire. This talk will be accessible via the internet and NOT in person at the usual venue, further details to follow in the next newsletter. We'd like your help in summarising each of the remote talks/lectures to be included in the following newsletter for those members who do not have internet access.

Lectures are in the committee room at Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9LA at 7:15pm unless otherwise stated.

Non-members are welcome to attend Lectures. A voluntary contribution of £2 would be appreciated from guests.

#### Monday 14 September 2020 @ 19:15

'Medieval Church Wall Paintings in Essex'. *Speakers: Lee Joyce & Claire Hooper.*

#### Monday 12 October 2020 @ 19:15

'Highams in Walthamstow'. *Speaker: Georgina Green.*

#### Monday 11 November 2020 @ 19:15

'Bricks in Essex'. *Speaker: Anne Padfield.* Anne is a local historian and English Heritage guide at Hill Hall.

#### Monday 7 December 2020 @ 19:15

Social (book sales and refreshments) and roundup of member activities.

#### Monday 11 January 2021 @ 19:15

'Non-Invasive Archaeology'. *Speaker: Melinda Barham.*

#### Monday 8 February 2021 @ 19:15

*Details to be confirmed*

#### Monday 8 March 2021 @ 19:15

AGM and 'Progress in the last 12 months at Bankside Rose'. *Speaker: Harvey Sheldon, Birkbeck College, WEAG President.*

#### Monday 12 April 2021 @ 19:15

'Historic Cultural Landscapes in South West Essex'. *Speaker: Tricia Moxey.*

#### Monday 10 May 2021 @ 19:15

The Rudge Lecture – 'to be announced'. *Speaker: Mike "Mr Stonehenge" Parker Pearson.*