



# NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2021

## Letter from the Editor

Hello – how was the summer for you, such as it was? An Indian summer is a little consolation, though too late for my tomatoes! 😞

Did you manage to get down to Copped Hall over the bank holiday weekend? What a treat it was to catch up with real live archaeology friends who I have not seen in 3D for the best part of two years, an absolute and unexpected joy and also lovely to connect with some newer members. Worry not if you did not make it, Lee has provided a report on the archaeology from the weekend (scroll down) and below also some photos from the weekend courtesy of shotsbyschwartz.

***More to discover in Y trench...***



*Our most well-behaved dig dog Wendy taking it easy...*



*David working hard in G trench...*



### **A SPECIAL "THANK YOU"**

There has been many members contributing in various ways to keeping WEAG running, a special "thank you" should go to **Chris** and **David** who have spent many hours looking after and preparing trenches at Copped Hall, **Theresa** and **Lee** and all the **RandEx team** for arranging the dig over the weekend and cleaning and preparing the archaeology room which **John Avis** then manned for the day. **John** along with **Andrew Madeley** are continuing to work on the new website. **Chris** and **David** again for the new shovels. So many more people to thank including **Vicky**, **Ian** and **Tony** for the lecture program and all of the **main committee** who are plate spinning and giving up their time and expertise in many ways. It takes quite a lot to keep our little group running, if you have any time or feel you would like to contribute to WEAGs ongoing success please get in touch.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Lee'.

# CAPTION COMPETITION



## Donate to WEAG for Free

Donate to WEAG for free using Amazon, you can generate money for WEAG by putting [smile.amazon.co.uk](https://smile.amazon.co.uk) into your browser, choosing West Essex Archaeological Group as your chosen charity or just click the image below.



## 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](https://weag.org.uk)  
[Facebook.com/westsexarchaeological](https://Facebook.com/westsexarchaeological)  
[Twitter.com/WEAGarchaeology](https://Twitter.com/WEAGarchaeology)  
[Instagram.com/weag\\_archaeology](https://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's dig at Copped Hall, 2021!

Over the August bank holiday weekend (29th – 30th) WEAG at last returned to excavations

at Copped Hall. It was decided that given the restrictions we would concentrate our main effort in one place and we chose to look for evidence of the continuation of the revetment wall on the change of level on either side of the staircase we have been excavating for a number of years and to cut a section on the staircase



trench. Over the weekend 25 WEAG members took part in the excavations and some good progress was made. The Sunday coincided with the Copped Hall Open Day and the archaeology drew a lot of interest, as can be seen from our first photo of Vicky and Marion talking to the public. We also had the archaeology rooms within the house open and here John can be seen talking to two interested visitors. Alex Lyons also attended on the Sunday manning the Copped Hall Book stall where she took £50.

Meanwhile back down in the trenches three 1 x 0.5m trenches were located to help us find evidence of the retaining wall, two to the east of the staircase and one to the west. Over the course of the weekend evidence of the wall was found in both of the eastern trenches and although nothing was found in the one to the west it is hoped that with a little more digging this will also come to light. On the Sunday site records for the staircase were tidied up and a sondage cut



through the brick rubble between the balustrades. This work continued on the Monday revealing five rebates within the wall in which the treads of the earlier staircase would have sat, with a possible sixth at the base with what maybe the lowest tread still in situ. All this can be seen in the picture above. On the upper terrace immediately behind the staircase sondage, another trench was cut, in order to investigate what happens at the change of level. This trench was eventually joined up with sondage trench within the staircase and revealed the back wall of the staircase and the beginnings of a pebble path which appear to abut it. In Trench G the Hollands were cleaning up an earlier section for recording. While doing this they had some interesting finds including a clay tobacco pipe which dated to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century with maker's initials which we will study further once the pipe has been cleaned. In Trench Ya, the eastern most of the small test trenches, a small selection of

pottery was found including some early English stoneware and two sherds of Surrey Hampshire border wares. Trench Y (the main staircase trench) had two very interesting finds, a prehistoric worked flint (pictured below) and a large piece of dressed stone which can be seen in the picture above resting on the bottom step and again to the left after it had been removed.



All in all it must be said it was a very successful if short, excavation season with interesting finds and new discoveries. It was good to be discussing the archaeology with visitors again. But I think all who attended would agree that the highlight was to be with old friends again in these wonderful surroundings and doing the thing that we love. This was made all the better by a visit from our old friend Sara Hale (nee Wollard) who we have not seen for such a long time and Odette's wonderful birthday cake which can be seen in the photograph being used as a photographic stand

for our flint find. Hope to see you all soon, let's hope we don't have to leave it so long next time!

Lee Joyce



# WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Lecture Program

2021 Lectures are accessible via Zoom at 7:15pm – All except for the Christmas Social which will be in the committee room at Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9LA from 7:30pm.

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

**Monday 13 September 2021 @ 19:15**

'New Discoveries in West Essex'. *Speaker: Maria Medlycott MA MCIfA FSA.* Maria is the Senior Historic Environment Consultant at Essex County Council.

**Monday 11 October 2021 @ 19:15**

'Trees in History'. *Speaker: Georgian Green.*

**Monday 8 November 2021 @ 19:15**

'Verulamium'. *Speaker: Tony O'Connor.*

**Monday 6 December 2021 @ 19:30**

Christmas Social (book sales and refreshments) and roundup of member activities at Woodford County High. See next page for list of books available and their special member prices.

## CHRISTMAS SOCIAL BOOK SALE

	RRP	Special Offer Price
The Romano-British Temple at Harlow	£ 7.00	£ 3.50
Exploration and Discovery in South West Essex	£ 7.00	£ 3.50
Archaeology – what it is and how to do it	£ 9.50	£ 8.50
Copped Hall Report 2003	£ 4.00	£ 2.50
Copped Hall Report 2004 / 5	£ 7.00	£ 2.50
Copped Hall – A Short History (Cassidy)	£ 2.50	£ 2.50
Annual Review 2008/2009	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2009/2010	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2010/2011	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Annual Review 2011/2012	£ 0.50	£ 0.50
Wanstead Park – Revealed (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50
Wanstead Park – Living Park (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50
The Wanstead Archive (DVD)	£ 3.00	£ 1.50

