



NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 2022

Letter from the Editor

Hello – Happy New Year – 2022 a year to be optimistic (I've decided).

My number one resolution is to be optimistic; I have a pretty good success rate in keeping my NY resolutions, including running a marathon, learning the ukulele, completing a triathlon, a year of saying yes to everything but this one is going to test me, it means I'll be fighting my natural state of pessimism and low mood. Fortunately for me this is balanced out by my self-confidence and the self-belief that everything I say fascinating (think Gyles Brandreth but without the interesting anecdotes).

So, with this optimism I'm going to say we **WILL** be digging this year, there I've said it. If you write something down, you're much more likely to achieve it. It will happen now....

A full list of dates and speakers is below with the first one of the year being on Monday 10th Jan via Zoom 19.30, Tom Cromwell is giving us a talk on Excavations at Marble Hill, the joining instructions will be sent out before Monday – see you there!

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Donate to WEAG for free using Amazon, you can generate money for WEAG by putting 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.

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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

WEAG Christmas social 2021

THE HAPPY RETURN!



On 6th December we at last all got to meet up again at Woodford County High School for our Christmas social. In total 21 members attended and all the old WEAG favourites were there, the second hand book stall, wine and soft drinks as well as a fine buffet and nibbles including some lovely cheeses and a very tasty homemade olive bread. This was also the first opportunity for many members to see and purchase Norah's new book ("The history of the Old Copped Hall from 1258 to 1748" by Norah Carlin) which has had rave reviews from all who have read it (buy your copy now!) we also had takers for four of our earlier publications. Allestree Fisher gave us a fascinating short talk. The highlight was as ever to meet with old friends in a friendly and relaxed atmosphere. The conversation often did not take long to return to the subject of archaeology and what WEAG might do next, among the many ideas discussed was the possibility of resuming Post-Ex work on the Copped Hall finds and paper work early in the New Year circumstances permitting. Pete Lovell raised the possibility of a few test trenches in the garden of a friend of his, this garden has yielded Roman pottery in the past so there is potentially some interesting material awaiting us. The subject of more digging at Copped Hall is one dear to us all but we will have to wait a little longer before we can say anything on that one. One of the most exciting and important projects we will need to start work on in the not to distant future is the redisplay of our rooms and finds.



WEAG has two display rooms of its own and a third it shares with the Trust & the Genealogists, these have largely been put together piecemeal over the years and contain a wonderful array of our finds and tell some interesting stories but it is now

felt that it is the right time for a more holistic approach using all the knowledge we have

gained over the now 20yrs archaeological work that WEAG has done at Copped Hall and all of Norah and others historical research, it is hoped that a lot of members will take an interest in this project. Tony and I



had a brief discussion on the subject when we last met and plan to speak to Tina (Holloway) and the Trust to discuss the next step. All in all along with a fine lecture program (seamlessly transferred to zoom by our mysterious technical elves) and Alex's hard work on the newsletter there should be plenty to keep all us WEAG'ers happy and busy in the coming year. Our next meeting in person will be our AGM followed by a talk by our President Harvey Sheldon on Monday 11th April 7.15 for 7.30 start. Hope to see many of you there.

Lee Joyce

WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lecture Program

2022 Lectures are accessible via Zoom at 7:30pm – All except for the Annual General Meeting and 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 10 January 2022 @ 19:30

'Excavations at Marble Hill'. Speaker: Tom Cromwell

Tom is an archaeologist with the Archaeology Projects team of Historic England, where he has worked for nearly three decades. Having obtained a Masters from York in the mid-1980s, his career has taken him the length and breadth of the UK, and his work has included sites at Dover Castle, Windsor Castle, Battle Abbey, and Silbury Hill. His interests include Anglo-Saxon settlement, medieval monasticism, and post-medieval gardens. Tom has been a WEAG member for nearly a decade.

Monday 21 February 2022 @ 19:30

'Environmental Archaeology for the Field Archaeologists'.

Speaker: Mike Allen

Monday 14 March 2022 @ 19:30

Annual General Meeting. *Speaker: Harvey Sheldon, Birkbeck College, WEAG President.*

Held at Woodford County High.

Monday 11 April 2022 @ 19:30

'Excavations at Elysyng Palace'. Speaker: Martin Dearne

Monday 9 May 2022 @ 19:30

The Rudge Lecture – *'Recent Discoveries on Hadrian's Wall'. Speaker: Tony Wilmot, Inspector Historic England*

Monday 13 June 2022 @ 19:30

'Roman Pottery at Hadham Wares'. Speaker: Chris Lydamore

Monday 12 September 2022 @ 19:30

Details to be confirmed

Monday 10 October 2022 @ 19:30

Details to be confirmed

Monday 14 November 2022 @ 19:30

Details to be confirmed

Monday 5 December 2022 @ 19:30

Christmas Social (book sales and refreshments) and roundup of member activities at Woodford County High.