



# NEWSLETTER

November 2022

## Letter from the Editor

- **Hello everyone! Welcome to the November issue of the Newsletter.**

- This edition features a review of our June lecture on Hadham ware Pottery by Lee Joyce and a review of our September talk "Epping Forest District Museum Rationalisation Project" by Ian Hunter.

- Our December meeting will be a collection of members' contributions! **If you would like to talk about a project you have been involved in, trips, digs etc. please email [membership@weag.org.uk](mailto:membership@weag.org.uk)** We are looking for several members to talk for 5-10 minutes each.



From the WEAG Archives. Copped Hall 2016

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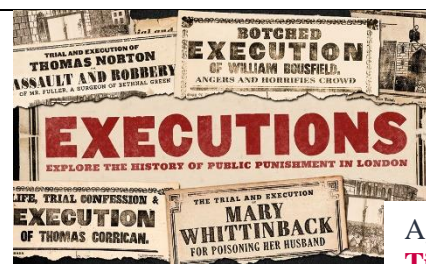
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## Recommended Exhibition



Age 12+  
**Tickets from £12**  
Closes 16 April 23

## What's on locally?

For information on museum and local historical societies visit.

<http://www.weag.org.uk/events/whats-on-locally/>

# WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Lecture Program

Lectures are accessible via Zoom at 7:15pm

For Lecture Meetings shown as 'Zoom', the Zoom details for that meeting will be circulated to WEAG members a few days before the meeting. Non-members are welcome to join in the Zoom meetings (for a £2 contribution).

Contact [membership@weag.org.uk](mailto:membership@weag.org.uk) for more details.

**Monday 14th November** Mapping Verulamium: the latest results by Kris Lockyer of University College London. (Zoom).

**Monday 5th December:** members' contributions. A round-up of Members Recent Activities by *Members of WEAG*, with book sales and seasonal refreshments. **(This will be an in person meeting in the Conference Room at Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green IG8 9LV. 7.30 for 8.00 start)**

**Monday 9th January** The Havering Hoard by Sophia Adams of the British Museum. (Zoom)

**Monday 13th February** London's Waterfront and Slavery by John Schofield formerly of the Museum of London. (Zoom)

## BOOK SALE

	RRP	Special Offer Price
Old Copped Hall from 1258 to 1748	£25.00	£20.00
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



# June talk

## Hadham Ware Roman pottery

**Chris Lydamore**

Our June talk was given by Chris Lydamore, Curator of Bishops Stortford Museum, and former manager of Harlow Museum and maker of replica Roman pottery. Christopher spoke to us on the Hadham Ware Roman pottery industry, focusing largely on the kiln excavations of the 1960s by Bernard Barr, Eric Stacey, Kay Hartley and Val Rigby.

Hadham Ware is by far the most common Romano-British fabric in our local area and makes up a large proportion of the collections of the museums at Harlow, Epping Forest, Bishop Stortford, Ware etc. Hadham Ware had its origins in the 1<sup>st</sup> Century when elegant platters were a speciality, these appear in a black surfaced Romanizing ware, a precursor to the later Hadham Reduced Ware. The production of Hadham Ware continued into the early 5<sup>th</sup> Century with a flet in the late 3<sup>rd</sup> / early 4<sup>th</sup> centuries. A wide range of vessels were produced, notably so called dog dishes (small straight sided bowls), flanged rimmed bowls and Braughing jars.

Hadham Ware came in three main fabrics, Hadham Oxidised Ware (with a red surface, often imitating Samian forms); Hadham Reduced Ware type 1 (grey surfaced ware) most commonly used for platters, bowls and jars (a coarse variant of this was used for cook pots etc.) and a third fabric Hadham Reduced Ware 2 was a local variant of black-burnished wares, most commonly produced for bowls. Despite its relatively small size, Hadham ware was able to compete successfully with larger industries.



Chris Lydamore throwing pots on his replica Roman wheel.  
Photo: Roman Mysteries Ltd  
Pinterest  
"Rome Goes East" at the British Museum, 2002

In 1963 when old pasture land was put under the plough for the first time



Bromley Hall Farm. Kiln 1, from the south,  
Photo: Bernard Barr Archive

at Bromley Hall Farm Much Hadham, Herts, extensive remains from a pottery and tile making industry were discovered. This was confined to two fields named Wickham Spring Field and Barley Hill. Several



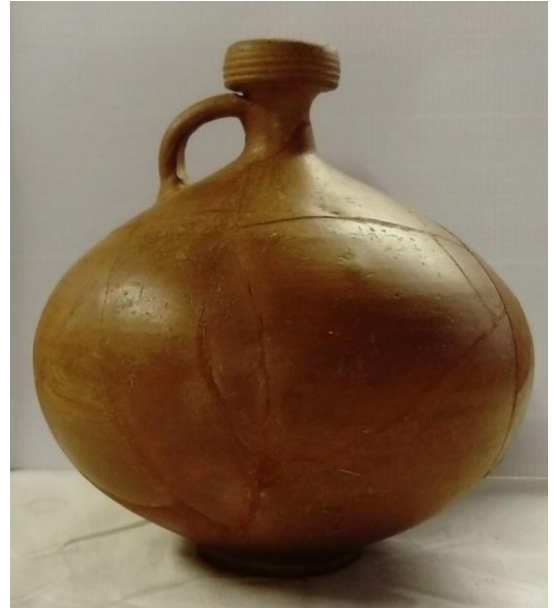
A young Bernard Barr  
Photo: Bernard Barr Archive

pottery kilns are known in the Hadham area. The probable route of a Roman Road had been known for many years and had been reported by OGS Crawford and Rex Hull. A very small scale

excavation was carried on this road by J. Holmes in 1951. It was the line of the Roman road that Bernard Barr and Eric Stacey came to investigate. Having fully excavated the road a 1st century kiln structure was revealed below containing large quantities of Romano-British Grey Ware. The two kilns and a series of large pottery dumps, at Barley Hill and Wickham Spring, were investigated between 1963 and 1966. In 1967 a kiln at Barley

Hill and a tile kiln and further waste dumps were excavated. The wasters included much 4<sup>th</sup> century Roman-Saxon pottery.

In 1968 further excavations were carried out on two further kilns at Bromley Hall Farm by Kay Hartley and Val Rigby on behalf of the Ministry of Works. The line of the road, continued to at least as far as these kilns and was also explored. Both kilns were of the same basic type, oval, with very short flue and no indication of pedestal or of kiln bars, the walls were extremely thin without any of the clay backing one normally expects. A fragment of 4<sup>th</sup> century glass and two 4<sup>th</sup> century coins, one dated c.367 were found in the filling of Kiln B, Kiln A had been reduced in antiquity, but enough of the walls and floors survived to show its close similarity to the multi-layered kiln (re-lined 8 times), excavated by Bernard Barr in 1964. A coin of c. AD335-337 was associated with Kiln A. A fragment from an earlier kiln was discovered beneath Kiln A. Lack of time meant that features could not be fully excavated, but enough was recovered to show that the production included platters copying Gallo-Belgic imports dated by Val Rigby within the period AD75- 150/200 and by parallels at Baldock and Skeleton Green, Puckeridge, Herts. Hadham was on a major part of the Roman road system and this gave good access to all of the important towns of the region. Hadham Ware is common on sites within a 30 mile radius, although on a reduced scale it had a much wider distribution.

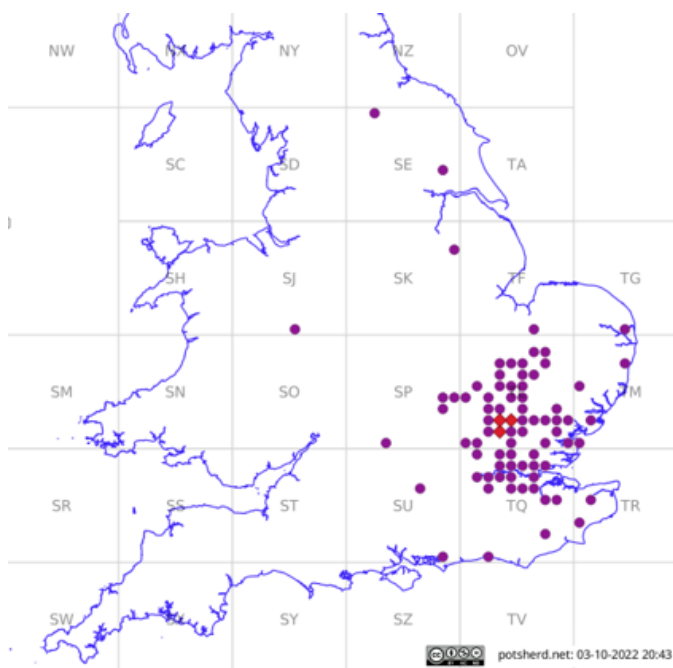


Hadham oxidised ware flagon.  
Photo: Hadham forge museum.

The River Lea would have been an important route in the Roman period and may have been used to supply the London area with agricultural produce and, in the late Roman period, with pottery from Much and Little Hadham.

"Bernard Barr looms large in the story of the archaeology of East Hertfordshire. From the early 1960s through to the 1990s he carried out excavations on some of the most important sites in this part of the world, including the nationally significant potteries at Bromley Hall, the typesite for Hadham Ware. Although he never published his results, he left a voluminous paper archive and more than 400 kg of finds at Hertford Museum."\* The material is currently being reviewed by Roman pottery specialist Isobel Thompson and members of the Braughing archaeological group, and it is hoped that it can finally be brought to publication fully integrating the many subsequent years of work on the industry.

Chris finished by saying in his previous job at Harlow Museum he had enjoyed access to a large archaeological collection but since moving to his current job at Bishop Stortford Museum he has had far less to do with archaeology as they have a different type of collection. Chris said this was about to change as vast amounts of building work had been happening in the region and he was about to receive the archive from a large number of sites and once they had been taken into the collection he would invite WEAG members to see his new treasures!



Hadham ware distribution map with kiln sites in red  
Photo:potsherd.net

## Additional sources

'Much Hadham revisited. SGRP Newsletter 31 Synopsis of' Feb 2002. By Kay Hartley, Bernard Barr and Val Rigby

Our Members and their Lockdown Labours, SGRP Newsletter 70. Autumn 2020 Isobel Thompson\*

Small museum BIG STORIES <https://hadhammuseum.org.uk/small-museum-big-stories/>

Potsherd, Mapping, Hadham wares <http://potsherd.net/map2021/>

Hadham Ware Bernard Barr (Unpublished typescript C1998)

The National Roman Fabric Reference Collection: a Handbook. Museum of London Archaeology Service Monograph 2, 1998. Roberta Tomber and John Dore\*\*

## Hadham Fabrics

\*\*All three fabrics have essentially the same clay body containing a well-sorted suite of inclusions, normally <0.1mm, dominated by abundant rounded and sub-rounded quartz in a micaceous matrix containing silver or occasionally gold mica. Red-brown and black iron-rich grains are common, and the mixture of this and the quartz leads to the distinctive 'salt-and-pepper' appearance of the fabric, particularly in the Oxidised ware. Sparse matrix-coloured clay pellets, up to 2.0mm, can be seen in all three fabrics. All the sherds have an irregular fracture but they vary from hard to soft, depending on their preservation, and as a result they may have a smooth to powdery surface.

## Review & Notes by Lee Joyce

# September talk

## Epping Forest District Museum Rationalisation Project by Ian Channell

Epping Forest District Museum was founded in 1974 and moved to its current location in 1981. The collection comprises of over 100,000 objects with four offsite storage locations (e.g. North Weald)

The Museum receives many donations from other museums and London boroughs, e.g. Newham, Chigwell, and has gallery space over three floors and includes significant objects relating to Waltham Abbey Church

(diss. 1540) such as a 13th century vellum Waltham Abbey bible and documents from the Cottis family, a prominent Epping family with an agricultural machinery empire, from the 1870s onwards.

There are coin hoards from Theydon Mount, Epping (Roman) and Nazeing (Anglo-Saxon).

Why carry out the project?

- A lot of objects we know little about
- Space limitations
- Safety! (some large stone objects, some possibly asbestos)
- Lack of space will impinge on future collecting: historical bias if earlier times are over-represented (e.g. changing demographic)

The project strategy is: RATIONALISE – RELEVANCE – RECYCLE



Epping Forest District Museum,  
Sun Street, Waltham Abbey  
Photo. [visiteppingforest.org](http://visiteppingforest.org)

Criteria included whether items were linked to the district, duplication and condition (some objects were irreparably damaged).

The project is National Lottery funded and will take 2-5 years.



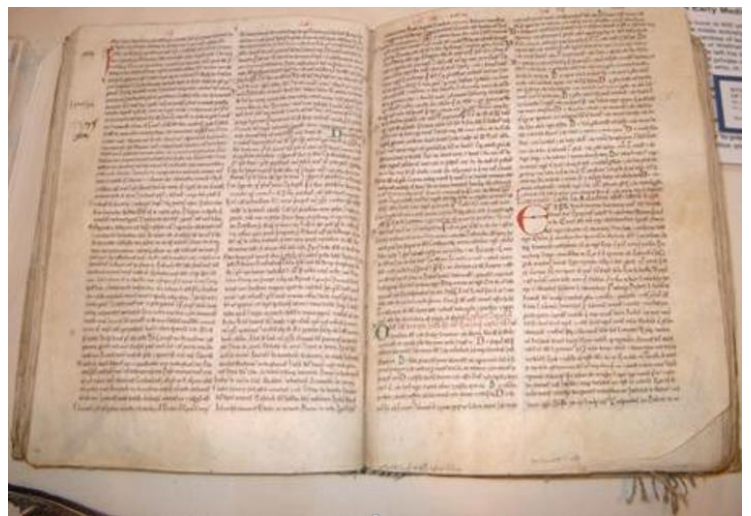
External consultants were appointed but several volunteers worked on the project (e.g. Odette!).

- Phase 1: photographing and condition checking
- Phase 2: researching the object
- Phase 3:
  - scoring and steering
  - Group report
  - Compilation

Phase 1 was done by staff and is almost complete.

The guiding principles were taken from the Museum

Collections Officer, Ian Channell, training volunteers to condition check objects. Photo EFDM



Association Code of Ethics and Digital Toolkit and the Collections Trust.

The project aims to:

- retain objects in public domain
- transfer to accredited museums
- thoroughly record rationale and decision-making

A 'Significance matrix' spreadsheet was used to identify 10,000 priority objects.

The Waltham Abbey Bible Photo EFDM



For phase 2 (researching the object) a variety of sources were used and the description, information and source all consolidated into one spreadsheet. Discoveries included a brown bar labelled 'radium'! (A brand of shoe polish....) Each object is double scored to avoid bias (by 2 Museum managers)

Museum Assistants Yvonne Fackney and Teresa Delle Grazie (Team B) photographing and condition checking objects. Photo EFDM

Objects with borderline scores are forwarded to the steering group (museum team members, committees, external project consultants, community stakeholders and subject specialists). Disposal methods included donating items to other museums based on relevance (e.g. Oric 1 computer sent to Cambridge (national PC collection). The priority in this case is accredited museums. As a last resort some objects are destroyed (usually hazardous objects).

Archaeological material in the collection is often bulky and has minimal display value, and can be difficult to source information about as is often from rescue excavations in 1970s and 80s which were carried out quickly, sometimes with excavation report.

The project was publicly named 'Review and Reimagine', not 'Rationalise, Relevance, Recycle'.

**Review by Ian Hunter**

Our September speaker Ian Channell of Epping Forest Museum has organised a fascinating on-line lecture, details are given below.

## Adult Zoom Talk: Ancient Egypt: Catacombs of Anubis

Join on Zoom on Tuesday 15 November at 7pm for a talk by Professor Paul T. Nicholson, Department of Archaeology and Conservation, Cardiff University.

He will talk about his work on the burial catacombs for the dogs sacred to Anubis at North Saqqara, commonly known as the 'Dog Catacombs'. They have been something of a mystery in that the date of their discovery and the name of their discoverer are unknown. A Cardiff University project has sought to examine the larger of the two dog catacombs and to understand something of its history and use. This talk looks at the work of the project and at the surprising number of animals buried within the catacomb. **£8.20**

<https://www.eppingforestdc.gov.uk/museum/whats-on/activities-for-adults/>

## Contacts

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