



# NEWSLETTER

April 2023

## Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone! Welcome to the April issue of the Newsletter.

- This edition features reviews by Ian Hunter and Lee Joyce of our January and February lectures on The Havering Hoard and London's Waterfront and Slavery.
- As the weather warms up we are planning on resuming our finds processing. Dates will be put on the website soon. Sessions will take place on Sunday mornings from 10.30 at Copped Hall. If you are interested in taking part please contact [membership@weag.org.uk](mailto:membership@weag.org.uk)
- We again include details of this year's WEAG members dig and the experience weekends.



From the WEAG Archives. Andrew Madeley discussing finds. 2017

## 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 to the left.



## What's on locally?

For information on museum and local historical societies visit.

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

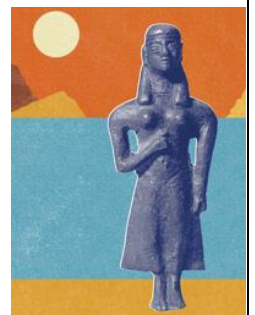
## Recommended Exhibition

### Islanders: The Making of the Mediterranean

The Fitzwilliam Museum  
CAMBRIDGE

*Bringing together extraordinary antiquities, Islanders: The Making of the Mediterranean takes visitors on a 4,000-year journey from life in the ancient Mediterranean to today.*

Many of the more than 200 objects from three of the largest Mediterranean islands, Cyprus, Crete and Sardinia will be seen in the UK for the first time. **24/02/2023 - 04/06/2023**  
**Free**



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# WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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## 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.

**Wednesday 10th May** This is the annual **Rudge Lecture**. A public lecture which is free and open to all. The talk will be *Roman Glass, Vessels and Windows* by *Dr Denise Allen, archaeologist at Andante Travel and formerly University of Cardiff* (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 12th June 2023**

The Breakaway Roman Empire by *Dr Simon Elliott of the University of Kent* (Zoom).

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## WEAG members dig 2023

This year's member's dig will take place on 22<sup>nd</sup>- 30<sup>th</sup> July. Members can attend as many or as few days as they like, no prior booking is necessary. This year among other things we will be once again returning to the staircase on the change of level.



## Archaeology Experience Weekends

The Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project (CHTAP) and WEAG are running our annual experience weekends this summer.

This year we are holding the Archaeological Weekends on the last three weekends in July. Places are still available on the **22-23 and the 29-30 of July, but the 15-16<sup>th</sup> is now sold out.**

Each weekend will cost £60. Starting time each day will be 9.30; finish at 5.00 pm.

If you know anyone who might be interested in attending please let them know. We already have several bookings.

These courses are perfect for students and young people (from the age of 8) as well as those who have always wanted to give digging a try, more experienced diggers are always welcome and we can tailor the experience to their needs.

For more information please see the Fieldwork and Research section of the WEAG website.



# The Havering Hoard

**Dr Sophia Adams, Curator: European Iron Age and Roman Conquest Period, at The British Museum**

WEAG lecture Monday 9th January 2023, reviewed by Ian Hunter and Lee Joyce

The Havering hoard is a hoard of 453 late Bronze-age (900 to 800 BCE) artefacts. It was discovered in September 2018, when Archaeological Solutions were excavating at Wennington, in the east London Borough of Havering, ahead of major gravel quarrying works. The landscape had several known Late Bronze Age enclosures and old aerial photographs hinted at more to come.

While excavating a large number of features were revealed. These included a ditch cut square enclosure, 35m across, in the centre a post built round house with what has been interpreted as a porch. The enclosure had a single entrance to the east.

While investigating the section of ditch immediately behind the roundhouse, the team discovered a collection of bronze objects which soon showed itself to be a hoard. Typically happening on a Friday, the team rallied and by the end of play that day had recovered and recorded 131 items. The hoard was eventually found to contain at least 453 bronze and copper objects and fragments in four caches. This made the Havering hoard the largest Bronze Age hoard ever found in Greater London, and the third largest in the whole United Kingdom.

The four groups were found in the ditch at the back of the enclosure, directly opposite the entrance and with the feature interpreted as a porch in the centre these form an east/west alignment. . (See plan below). Cache 1 contained 131 items. Cache 2 contained 155, Cache 3 contained 122 and Cache 4 (found furthest up the ditch and possibly truncated) was the smallest and contained only 45 items. Cache 1 was excavated on site but the other three were excavated in the lab. There was no sign of any bags or other containers that might have held these objects, but mineralised traces on some of the artefacts suggest that there may have been straw packed around them. Hoards are rarely



An aerial view of the site. **Archaeological Solutions**



Archaeological Solutions staff excavating Cache 1 on site.



Pieta Greaves of Drakon Heritage carefully excavating one of the caches.

discovered during archaeological excavations, more commonly they tend to be found by metal-detectorists. This meant that the Havering hoard could be studied in far greater detail than any other similar previous finds. Three of the caches were block-lifted for micro-excavation which took place in the lab, along with the 131 objects recovered on that first Friday, and have now been conserved by Drakon Conservation and Heritage.

The artefacts within the hoard, belongs to the Ewart Park style, c.900-800 BC. A diverse collection of tools, weapons, metalworking materials, the vast majority (87%) of its

contents are broken fragments, with no two pieces coming

from the same object. Tools are most common, making up 42% of the hoard and they were mainly for woodworking, axes were the most common find with 168 complete and fragmentary examples.

Decorative artefacts such as terret rings, strap fittings and fragments of four bracelets illuminate the

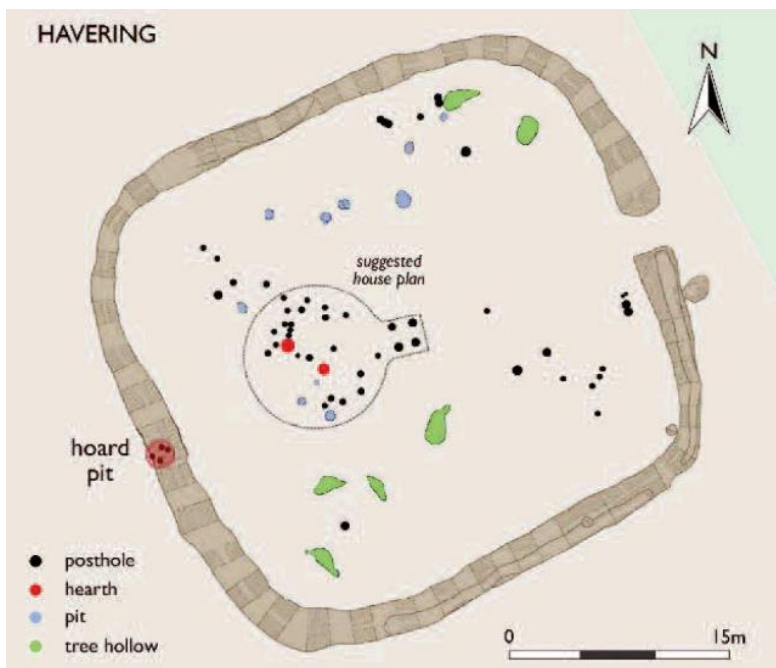
communities taste and far-reaching cultural links, with trade contacts across Britain and on the Continent. Objects strongly suggest links to Wales, the Czech Republic; the French–German border. The copper ingots probably came from the Alps. It is interesting to note that



Sophia Adams recording the metal work. Museum of London Docklands

what appears at first sight to be a remote community in the river valley, had contact with the cultures and artefacts so greater area.

Sophia discussed some of the possible reasons for the deposition of the hoard, starting with the dreaded phrase “Ritual deposition”. Was the deposit a form of storage? Were people intending to come back for them? (Cache 4 looked like it had been revisited). Were the hoards a form of recycling? Some artefacts had been melted down: there could be a ritual as well as pragmatic element to this e.g. melt part of a sword before you make a new one. A final theory was that



Site Plan of main features. Archaeological Solutions Ltd







Billingsgate was excavated down to Roman waterfront – very deep: the excavation took one year - and the site is either side of medieval bridge: Swan Lane to Billingsgate. Thames Street is much wider now than it was then, as more river front has been reclaimed. The site first dug in 1972, has revealed a very rich variety of finds from the Roman to medieval period. Thames Street was raised up with Fire rubble 1666-70 and buildings began e.g. Wren churches such as All Hallows. The Fire devastated only 20% of London: John emphasised that the effect of the fire has been greatly over-stated.

One scheme was for a new quayside – ‘New Key’ – (Billingsgate was a dock until C18th). The edge of quay has never been revealed through archaeology, but it features in paintings e.g. St Paul’s Wharf. John displayed a town plan by Wren and Evelyn – a proposal for the rebuilding of London. Cost and vast number of landowners made the execution of this plan impossible.

Old London Bridge had a drawbridge but it stopped working 1471 and was never fixed. The ‘Port of London’ officially starts just beyond London Bridge. London Bridge was finally pulled down in 1769 after nearly 300 years of not working, and not destroyed by the fire as many believe! Shipping complaints are in evidence from C18th; overcrowding in Port of London meaning that there were tiers of ships in mid-river, which were unable to load or unload. For example at one time there were 200 coal ships from Newcastle. Ships were serviced by barges rather than coming alongside port themselves. People travelled to Edinburgh by sea and Oxford by river. Colliers came monthly from Newcastle. There are no shipwrecks in Thames as it is dredged so often, but items can be found at the edge of the river, one find was a pen, another a memento ring.

Joseph Ashton created a cartel of wharf-owners c1680: he took the vessels to unload ships. In the 1790s the new London Docks – new (Isle of Dogs) were built as a reaction against this by

Henry Ashton (nephew of Joseph). John displayed plans of houses from Wm Leybury (1686) on Thames Street (in front of Fishmongers' Hall): long narrow house, with very regular brick (ground floor plan only). The plan includes the internal layout of a coffee house, this was arranged in booths, and not open plan. It burnt down 1716.

John also showed a plan of 34 Great Tower St from the C19th. The house was built in 1668 and featured a dining room on the 1st floor. (The house was bombed during WW2). At Shipments House at Rotherhithe (1740): cesspits were excavated which contained sherds of pottery including exotic pieces from Italy, Persia and Turkey. Pirates' loot? This was conjectured as piracy was a known trade of Limehouse and there is a connection with Henry Morgan.

John also spoke about a connection with Jamaica. He displayed a plan of Port Reynolds in Jamaica, part of which part fell into sea in 1692 and had a street named Thames Street. In a 1969 archaeological excavation much pewter was found: one piece was stamped St Mary Hill. Other finds included cowry shells found in Billingsgate Warehouses associated with Henry Ashton who was involved in the slave trade. Cowry shells were used sometimes used as currency in parts of Africa at this time and have also been found in Virginia, USA. WEAG first to see this photo!

In the 18<sup>th</sup> century huge warehouses and the Anchor Brewery were built. The Anchor pub is still there. The area was nicknamed Palmyra.

With the north side of the river clogged up by ships, new docks were planned downstream and were completed in 1801. Magnets wanted bigger docks downstream on the far side of London Bridge,

In to the 1900s the area still had boarding places for example, paddle steamers at Swan Lane Pier.

John finished his talk by drawing the following conclusions,

- 1) There continuity in London pre and post-Great Fire was far greater than is generally accepted
- 2) There was a rich urban culture much of it brought on by international cultural exchange
- 3) From 1750s Empire wool warehouses became the dominant form of building.
- 4) The evidence for business and consequences of slavery in London is small but growing.





## 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



## Contacts

General Contact: [enquiries@weag.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@weag.org.uk)

Chairman: [chairman@weag.org.uk](mailto:chairman@weag.org.uk)

Membership Contact: [membership@weag.org.uk](mailto:membership@weag.org.uk)

Taster Weekends and Field Schools Information: [coppedhalldigs@weag.org.uk](mailto:coppedhalldigs@weag.org.uk)

Treasurer: [treasurer@weag.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@weag.org.uk)

Webmaster: [webmaster@weag.org.uk](mailto:webmaster@weag.org.uk)

**Emergency Phone Number: 07802 711 703**