



NEWSLETTER

September 2023

Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone! Welcome to the September Newsletter.

This edition features a look at this year's excavations and the results of Dr Paul Drury's visit to examine our medieval floor tiles. Both have revealed fascinating insights into the evolving story of Old Copped Hall.

We are also pleased to include details of our first few lectures of the season, starting on 13th Sept with an in-person talk by our Chairman Tony O'Connor on 'Ritual Landscapes in Prehistoric Ireland'.

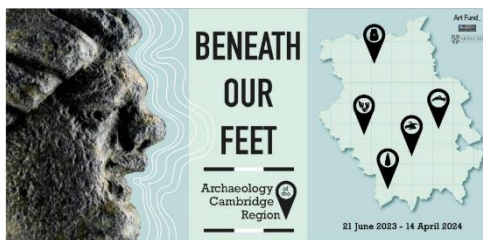


What's on locally?

For information on museum and local historical societies visit.

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

Recommended Exhibition



Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology



21 June 2023 - 14 April 2024

Li Ka Shing Gallery, Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology
Free entry

Beneath Our Feet: Archaeology of the Cambridge Region

This exhibition explores what local archaeological discoveries can tell us about the lives of those who walked this landscape centuries before us. The exhibition includes objects from the Museum of Archaeology and Anthropology's collection, as well as loans from: The British Museum, the Fox family, Girton College, Cambridge, Museum of Cambridge, Peterborough Museum and Art Gallery, Oxford Archaeology, Cambridgeshire County Council and Robert Law.

Material on display includes Neolithic axes, textile fibres from the Bronze Age, a mysterious Roman lead tank which continues to baffle experts, the stunning burial goods of a teenage girl from the early medieval period, evidence of one of Cambridge's medieval friaries, a 17th century Germanic Bellarmine jug (which were often reused as so-called witch bottles) and much more!

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 for more details.

We plan to run a mixed program of in-person and zoom lectures and where possible hybrid meetings.

- Wednesday 13th September - Tony O'Connor - 'Ritual Landscapes in Prehistoric Ireland' - in-person at WCHS
- Monday 9th October - James Wright of Triskel Heritage (topic to be confirmed) - virtual meeting via Zoom
- Monday 13th November - Maria Medlycott, Senior Historic Environment Consultant 'Medieval Landscapes of Essex'.
- Monday 4th December - member's mini-talks and Christmas party - in-person at WCHS
- Monday 8th January - Harry Platts of Pre-Construct Archaeology - in-person at WCHS

WEAG 2023 work at Copped Hall

We initially planned to have three taster weekends this year but we had so much demand we added another, we also had our usual WEAG member's dig which was well attended. The students on our tasters were all very positive about their experience and three have been back as volunteers on other events already.

We had some good results from the archaeology with trenches ZA and ZB both containing evidence of robber trenches ZA also contained a construction cut.

Work also continued on trench G where



more garden features were recorded and work was carried out on a large E-W section which has now been drawn. The section also contained some nice finds near its base including a number of clay tobacco pipe bowls and a thimble. We also returned to work on the bank and excavation continued on the small exploratory trenches we opened a few years ago. John Avis took students on the first three Sundays and gave them a talk on geo-physics, those who wanted to and who were appropriately dressed then had a go themselves.



John assures me that he had some good results and we hope to include them in a subsequent edition.

Due to popular demand we decided to run a fourth weekend. Over the weekend the students continued to excavate the trenches on the bank. Malinda Bahram led a session on non-invasive technics. Due to the fact it was open day it was not practical to do any real surveys.

Grace set up the flotation tank and gave a demonstration, the students were the given a chance to have a go themselves. Each of the weekends also contained a brief talk on finds, including pottery.



On the second weekend while Vicky took the students for a tour of the Georgian house, some of use took the opportunity to look at the recent work on the upper floors attic spaces and as you can see from the photo the new work on the roof.

The Medieval floor tiles at Copt Hall

Claire Hooper and Lee Joyce

In June Dr Paul Drury, (renowned medieval buildings expert and excavator of our near neighbour Hill Hall) came to examine the medieval floor tiles that we have found over the last 20 years of work on the site. Below is a brief summary of his findings.

The earliest tiles are probably two decorated Penn tiles, (G132), which presumably relate to work undertaken by Waltham Abbey after they acquired the estate in 1350 (Carlin 2021).



The majority of the tiles are plain Flemish (G160). They are mostly 105-110mm square (G160:CH2), but with a smaller numbers of slightly smaller tiles, (95-100 mm) and slightly larger tiles, (118-120mm square) (G160: CH1, 3). All these tiles are glazed either dark mottled green or yellow, but differ in detail. This suggest three separate but linked phases of supply dating to the late 14th or early 15th century.



Later medieval plain glazed tiles are much less well represented in the assemblage. There is one triangular 150mm tile. It is unusually made and fired, with a sporadic white slip under the glaze and has a fine silt fabric which looks Flemish but has no nail holes, as would be expected. Another (snapped) half is from a Flemish tile (G161.CH1, 2) 190-195mm square. There is a single fragment of a large (37mm thick) local brown glazed tile, probably early 16th century (G172).

As we continue our work to reveal the fascinating stories of the objects we have excavated and the stories they may tell us about our site, it was indeed a pleasure to benefit from the expertise of an internationally recognised academic.

References

Norah Carlin 2021 Old Copped Hall from 1258 to 1748,

Paul Drury. 2023 WALTHAM HOLY CROSS, Essex: Old Copped Hall Typescript draft to be included in future publication.

Contacts

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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

