



NEWSLETTER

December 2023

Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone! Welcome to the December Newsletter.



As that time of year approaches again, a very merry Christmas and a happy new year to all members of WEAG.

This edition features a look at the on-going work at Copped Hall where our new archive room on the 3rd floor will soon be ready. We also have a few photos of our recent Christmas get together.

At the end of the newsletter you will also find a call for practical help.



What's on locally?

For information on museum and local historical societies visit.

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

Recommended Exhibition



The British Museum



The Roman empire spanned more than a million square miles and owed its existence to its military might. By promising citizenship to those without it, the

Roman army – the West's first modern, professional fighting force – also became an engine for creating citizens, offering a better life for soldiers who survived their service.

What did life in the Roman army look like from a soldier's perspective? What did their families make of life in the fort? How did the newly-conquered react? Legion explores life in settled military communities from Scotland to the Red Sea through the people who lived it.

Legion: life in the Roman army

1 Feb 2024 – 23 Jun 2024

£17

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.

Monday 8th January –

Harry Platts of Pre-Construct Archaeology - in-person at Woodford County High School for Girls.

WEAG's new room on the 3rd floor of Copped Hall.



The location of our new archaeology room. Photo by CHT.

Many of you may have heard that we have been given another large room at Copped Hall. Although work has been slow, as is always the nature of big projects such as Copped Hall, much of the room has now reached completion with fire insulation, plastered walls, sealed floors, electricity and the first of three windows (see photograph), which was kindly funded by Vicky and John Hoskin. The room will need a thorough clean and then we can start to move in shelving, desks etc. We hope to start this

work early in the New Year. If all goes to plan this should allow us to return to the large scale



Up-stairs archaeology room as it looks today. Photo by CHT



Work in progress on our up-stairs archaeology room. Photo by Lee Joyce.

finds processing project that was brought to an abrupt halt by the pandemic and in recent times has awaited completion of this room. The space will allow us to lay out our finds and come the end

of the day there will be no need to pack them away, we can simply lock the door and come back the next time. A much simpler process than it was in the past! We would like to take this opportunity to say how grateful we are to the Copped Hall Trust for their continuing support.

Christmas get-together

Our last meeting of the year was the annual WEAG Christmas Party. As usual a lovely spread was shared, sweet and savoury and more than we could ever hope to consume, along with some great bottles of 'plonk.' As every year we also had our bookstall where members could purchase second hand books at a very reasonable price.

As has become the custom in recent years all the talks were given by group members on subjects of their choosing, recent work they had been doing, places they had visited etc.



Members tucking in the buffet. Photo by Lee Joyce.

The first talk was given by Lee on the subject of Roman pottery discovered during excavations at Felmongers, Harlow. Lee explained that the story



Lee giving his talk. Photo by Vicky Hoskin.

of Roman Harlow was far more complicated than just the Roman

Temple that is so well known to WEAG members. It is hoped that we will include a more detailed story of the Felmongers pottery in the next edition.

Our next speaker was Allestree Fisher who gave us a fascinating talk on the recently discovered Boxford Roman Mosaic where he explained the Greek mythological story



Roman pottery from Felmongers. Photo by Lee Joyce.

depicted on it, how Pelops wins the hand of Hippodamia, daughter of King Oenomaus of Pisa by sabotaging his racing chariot.



Allestree talking about the Boxford mosaic. Photo by Vicky Hoskin.

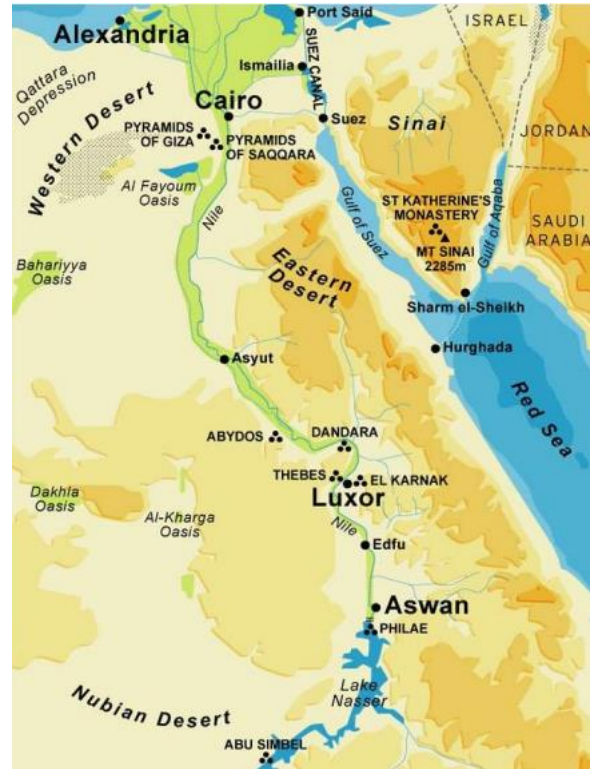


Boxford Roman mosaic. Photo by Cotswold Archaeology.



Peter Glass discussing his holiday to Egypt. Photo by Vicky Hoskin.

Next, Peter Glass talked us through his (and Eileen's) recent holiday of a life time in Egypt where they saw just about everything you could ever want to see of this fascinating ancient culture. This was accompanied by a series of fantastic photographs that they had taken.



Philae Egypt. Photo courtesy of Peter Glass and Eileen Handley.

The final talk of the evening was given by John Avis who discussed some recent geophysics work he had carried out at Copped Hall earlier in the year. This work was carried out as part of our Taster Weekends where students are given an opportunity to get hands on experience in a variety of geophysical techniques. In addition to the continued work on the old house, WEAG were asked to look for some garden features associated with the later house. We won't give too much away as we hope John will provide some more details for a future edition of the newsletter.



John Avis discussing his recent geophysics work at Copped Hall. Photo by Vicky Hoskin.

A very big thank you to all those who spoke at the meeting!

Can you help?

The wet sieving equipment needs repair or replacement. The oil drum used as the main water tank is rusting. It might be repairable but it will need someone with welding equipment. If that isn't possible, we need a replacement. It might be possible to use plastic (eg a repurposed water butt) if it is strong enough. Otherwise another oil drum may be needed (again, welding equipment might be required). We would like the

We would like to ask whether any members have an iPhone 12 Pro, or later. These phones have an in-built LIDAR scanner, and an app that enables 3D "laser scanning". We would like to know if a member with such a phone would be willing to experiment with this facility at a dig next year.

Old Copped hall 3D scan

Below is a link to the Sketchfab website, which contains the 3D scan of Trench G at Copped Hall carried out by MOLA.



<https://sketchfab.com/3d-models/old-copped-hall-remains-3ab3bf9905d344e0b38ead3f8c2de43d>



Contacts

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Webmaster: webmaster@weag.org.uk

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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

