



NEWSLETTER

October 2025

Letter from the Editor

Hello everyone! Welcome to the October Newsletter.

This edition has a list of our upcoming lectures, and as usual, a wide and varied range of subjects is covered. As in recent years the meetings will be a mix of Zoom and in person events.

We also have a brief summary of our excavations work at Copped Hall this Summer by Lee Joyce. This year WEAG has ramped up its community engagement program and this issue looks at some of the events we have attended and what we might do next.

We also look at an incredibly rare object found in our region, a Saxon Gold ring from Matching. Epping Forest District Museum are hoping to acquire it for their collection and WEAG are giving their full support.



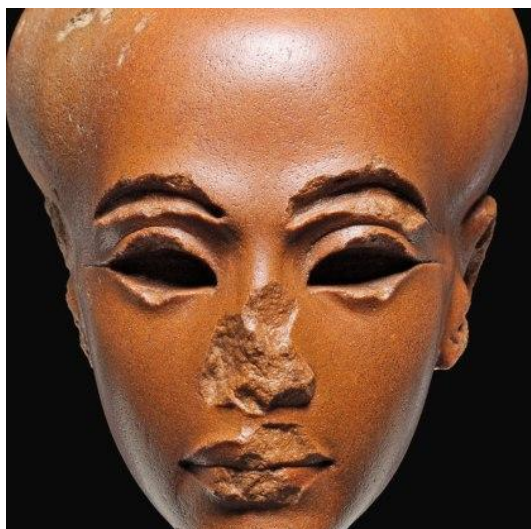
John Sheppard & Frank Clark discussing WEAG's work at Wanstead Park.

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 Fitzwilliam Museum



From elaborately decorated coffins to the Books of the Dead, ancient Egyptians produced objects which remain iconic today. But who were the makers behind them and how were they made?

Made in Ancient Egypt

3 October 2025 – 12 April 2026

Tickets from £14.50 / Free for members / Concessions available

Revealing the untold stories of the Egyptian makers, technology and techniques behind these extraordinary objects, this exciting new exhibition is the first to explore ancient Egypt through the lives of its craftspeople, bringing together jewellery, ceramics, sculpture and more, including spectacular objects never before seen in the UK.

WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Lecture Program

We plan to run a mixed program of in-person and zoom lectures and where possible hybrid meetings. All meetings are on the second Monday of the month at 7.30 at Woodford County High School for Girls, (WHCS) unless otherwise stated.

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).

Lectures are accessible via Zoom at 7:15pm

Contact membership@weag.org.uk for more details.

10th Nov. Richard Bale - Romans - Zoom

1st Dec. Our annual collection of short talks from members. WCHS

12th Jan. Simon Elliott - Septimus, Hammer of the Scots - Zoom

9th Feb. Vanessa Harding - Mapping London after the Great Fire of 1666 - Zoom

9th Mar. AGM and talk from WEAG President Harvey Sheldon - Zoom

13th Apr. Tom Cromwell Rutland update (Roman villa) WCHS

11th May. The Rudge lecture by Dr Sam Lucy of Cambridge University. East Anglia in the 7th Century.

8th Jun. Harry Platts - Romford Roman road - Zoom

Archaeology at Copped Hall Summer 2025

As reported in our last newsletter WEAG and The Copped Hall Trust Archaeology project (CHTAP) had a good start to the year. Continuing our work in the sunken rock garden, the work on these walls has now finished and we now aim to write up our work & pass on our records to the Trust to inform future work in the area (a preliminary note was published in the CHT's last newsletter).



The work this summer began with our Experience weekends where we returned to our work on the



staircase on the change of level and the three associated trenches on the retaining walls. We also opened a new trench on the lower great lawn based on geo-physical results obtained earlier this year (See Barham & Wood in our last newsletter). We had some great successes. Almost the last action on site last year was to uncover a drain was in trench Y.A. We had little time left to work on it, so we lifted a couple of bricks and took a sample of its contents, replaced the bricks and covered

everything up. This year we were able to excavate the drain fully. Work on recording the stairs in Trench Y is ongoing and we hope to finish this over the winter. YB was reduced to the level of the drain and work in YC continues. A lot of the required documentation and drawing has been



completed in YA & YB and we hope to complete these this winter. The new trench across the lawn provided a useful area for training new students and produced numerous finds, it appears to be of relatively modern date and we have closed and backfilled it and hope to open another one or two elsewhere along the feature that may reveal more about its date and purpose.

As part of the usual Taster experience alongside practical excavation, students were given an



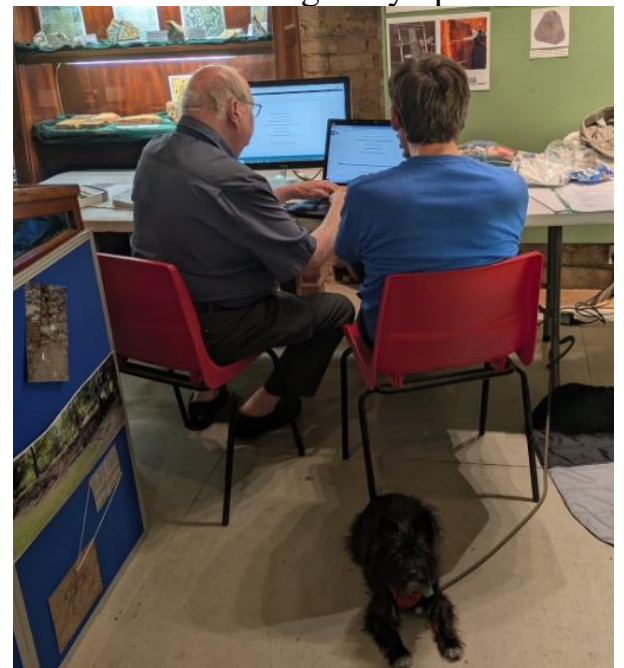
introductory talk on Copped Hall and on excavation techniques and they had an opportunity to try some Geo-physics, environmental archaeology in the form of wet sieving and processing the



residues, as well as finds handling and a tour of the Georgian mansion. Possibly the greatest revelation of the summer was the new found ability to record the site in 3-D with the use of just a personal phone. Thersea has made a great start already and is at the moment ironing out a few practical problems. These images and the detailed photography carried out by John last year have given us a fantastic photographic record

of the remains.

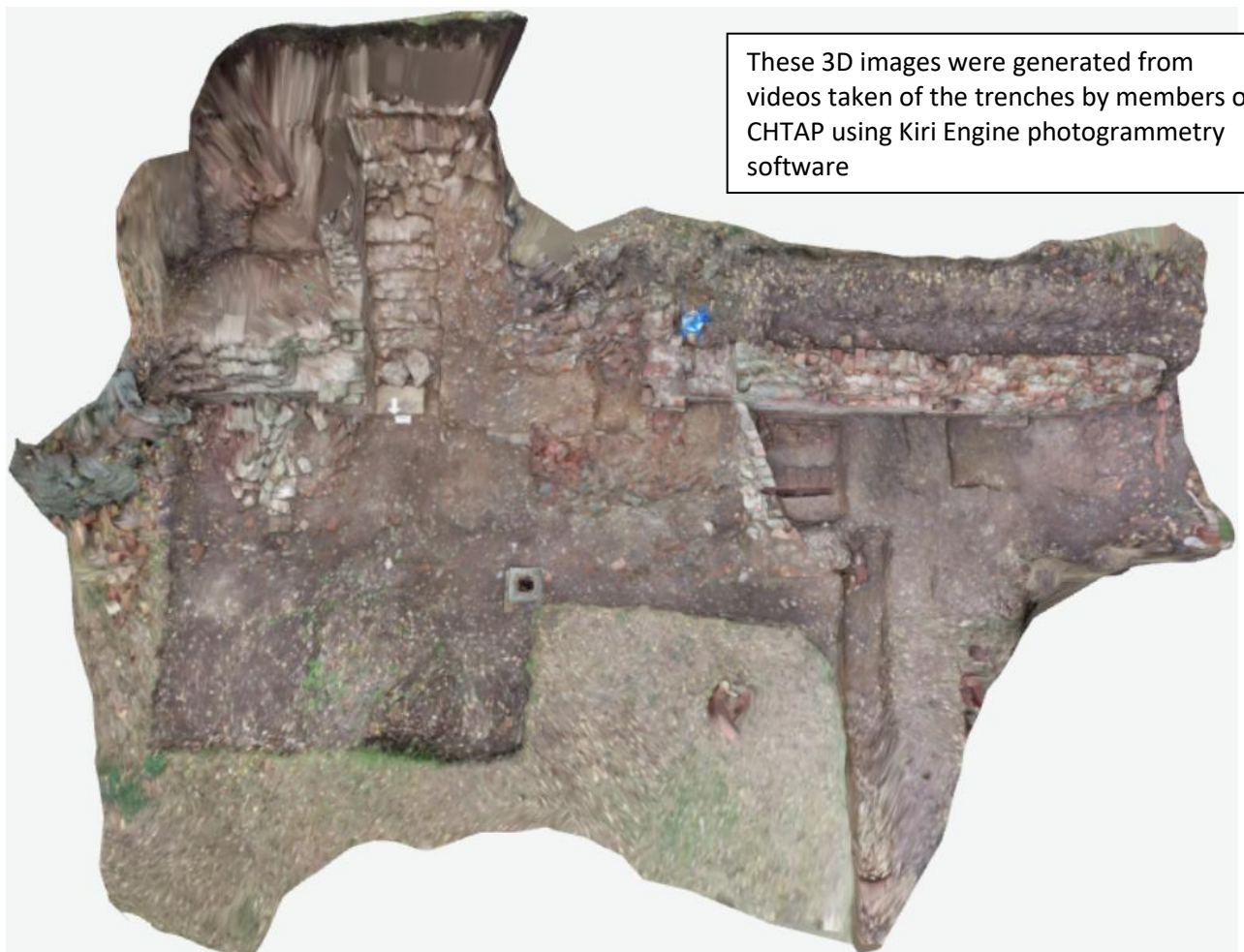
As with all projects what everybody sees is only a small fraction of what actually involved in running a society like WEAG and a project like CHTAP. Our website is regularly updated with our latest work so those who can't make it can keep up with what is going on and we also have a Facebook page



It's not all hard work and probably the best part of all is the chance to catch up with old friends and this year we had the pleasure of a visit from the wonderful Nora Carlin, long term excavator at Copped Hall and of course author of the definitive book on the subject. (still available)

Lee Joyce





These 3D images were generated from videos taken of the trenches by members of CHTAP using Kiri Engine photogrammetry software

WEAG Community engagement

WEAG\CHTAP have had stalls at four major events this year. The first was the Epping Town Show, then we took part in the first Festival of Essex Archaeology and Heritage, this was followed by the Community Day at Harlow Museum and finally Loughton Day. In addition, we always have a large presence at the Copped Hall open days where we have two manned rooms open to the public. The room on the first floor usually has a small activity that people can take part in such as sorting through residues from the flotation tank.

In the ground floor room we try to have a new Find Of The Day for each event, and this will become even more of a feature with the arrival of our two new display



WEAG's stall at the Epping Town Show. **Photo by Matt Looker**



cases. At these events we usually also have a trench or two open and on-site display boards.

As you would imagine these different events drew a diverse audience and that was partly the reason for doing them. With the membership numbers of most societies falling at an alarming rate it is important for a group like WEAG to proactively encourage new membership, we have been doing this in many ways, for instance maintaining the high quality of our lecture programme, updating our website with the latest

information and opportunities and having an active social media presence.

Perhaps the most attractive pull towards WEAG is our continued research and excavation projects, the highest profile in recent times being those at Copped Hall. These have also given us a venue to advertise through their network and open days. WEAG's work at Copped Hall is not its sole focus. In recent years we have also run excavations at Wanstead on three separate sites. The first was the villa site which produced tantalising finds but the villa remains elusive, however our work there did help take the history of the park back to the Bronze Age. Our second dig, which took place in a large private back garden, was the search for a Roman Road. This uncovered unknown WWII defences and a buried car but the road remained elusive. There was also the strange case of the Pyramidion where we worked with MOLA (articles on both of



the last two have been prepared for future newsletter and the villa report is

Two photos of our stall at Essex Arch festival at Cressing Temple earlier this year. (left & previous page)

freely available on the internet). We have also worked on three sites in Waltham Abbey, a Geo-physical survey of the infirmary chapel where we worked with WAHS, and another private garden at the rectory. The Minister had found human bones in his flower beds and he asked us to carry out a small-scale survey and a few test pits.

Our most recent work in Waltham Abbey was on the moated (Orchard?) site. In Harlow again using Geo-physics we went looking for a lost roman villa last excavated by a V2 rocket. At

Loughton we carried out another Geophysical survey at Longshaw but unfortunately bad weather the first year and the Covid pandemic in the second meant the planned scheme of field walking never took place. We have also looked for several sections of Roman road and indeed succeeded in having a sign put up at one. We were the only Essex group involved with ground breaking survey at Verulamium lead by Kris Lockyear. We have also worked with a number of museums where we have contributed exhibitions, photos and objects these include



Our stall Harlow Museum earlier this year.
Photo. WEAG Facebook page

EFDM, QE Hunting Lodge, Lowood in Hoddesdon and Valentines. We are currently working with both EFDM and Harlow Museum to develop future projects. The CHT is planning a long-term strategy

for achieving museum status and in this WEAG|CHTAP if a major figure, and of course, the Lidar project more fully described elsewhere in this newsletter. Alongside this WEAG continues its long tradition of publishing its work in specialist and academic publications such

as ESAH the county journal for Essex the London Archaeologist, Current Archaeology and the Essex Journal

We also regularly update our own members with a report of excavations in each issue our

partners in the CHTAP the CHT also have a page devoted to our work in every issue of their newsletter. We have also appeared in numerous newspapers. Returning to our attendance at



various town shows, attending these events inevitably means meeting a lot of people including members of likeminded groups involved with Archaeology, History and heritage in particular but also in community engagement in general. These events have enabled us to gain contacts within some of these groups and strengthening our historic ties with others. This was especially

true at the Cressing Archaeology festival and Harlow community festival. While the events at Epping and Loughton allowed us to speak to an



**Photo. Copped Hall Trust (Left)
Loughton Town Council (Above)**

audience local to our current project at Copped Hall and encourage them to

join us and take part in our projects. We have even met a couple of Mayors at these events. **By Lee Joyce**

A Saxon gold ring from Matching by Lee Joyce



In April, 2023 metal detectorist Dean Young uncovered a pure gold Anglo-Saxon ring in Matching near Epping, Essex. He reported it to the Finds Liaison Officer (FLO), which has been valued at £22,000. Epping Forest District Museum (EFDM) wish to acquire the ring. It is an almost complete gold finger ring of early medieval date (c.550-650). The bezel is decorated with a central bird-in-flight motif, constructed from five raised cells, three of

which are inlaid with cloisonne settings with garnet overlay, and one a white stone while the other is missing its setting. A central square cell forms the bird's body, while triangular cells form the wings and tail and a lozenge-shaped cell forms the head. The bird is surrounded by five S-scrolls on each side composed of beaded wire. Four lengths of pairs of opposing twisted wire forms a lozenge-shaped border. In each of the four corners created by this border are simple Style II interlaced zoomorphic elements each composed of lengths of beaded wire. Flanking the decorated bezel, are vertically aligned pairs of opposing twisted wire with a length of beaded wire either side of these. The back of the ring is decorated only with beaded wires, arranged in a design consisting of a central row of circles with a border above and below, and coils whose ends both curle inward on the same side. Some of these form pairs which face each other, while other oppose each other. One of these coils takes a different shape, with the ends coiling outward and the centre of the coil creating a loop. The entire band of the ring has a border of applied beaded wire.

A formal letter of support has been provided by the society and a donation of £500 has also been agreed by the committee. I gave a quick summary of the above at the last meeting and received a further £110. EFDM have secured Match funding, i.e. if we give £10, they get £20.

Additional donations are welcome and can be made directly to the museum or contact WEAG who will pass it on.

Technical and legal notice. The above donation was agreed at the last WEAG committee meeting and the funding of the purchase meets criteria set out in our constitution.

Conflict of interest. Tony O'Conner (our Chairman) as former curator and now Trustee of EFDM absented himself from the meeting at this point and did not take part in the vote. Given the longstanding relationship between the two institutions other committee members have also had involvement with EFDM but these were not seen as significant enough to constitute a conflict of interest.

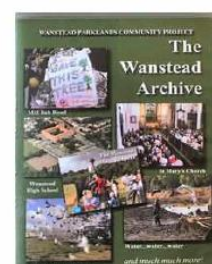
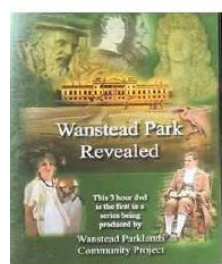
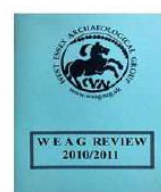
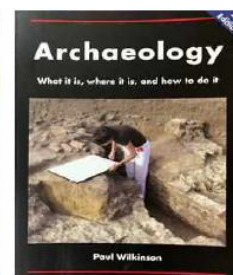
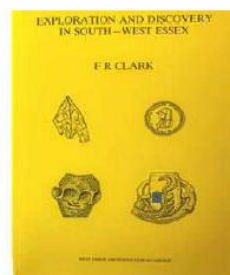
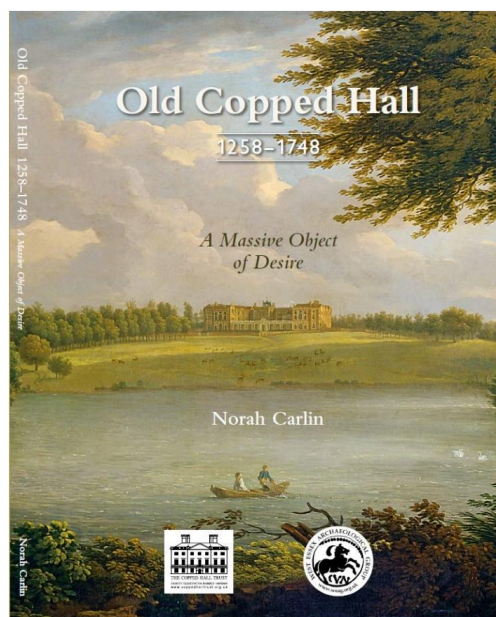
References: The information used in this article was supplied by Ian Channell MA (Hons), MSc, MSc EFDM Museum Manager.

<https://www.deadlinenews.co.uk/2023/04/11/detectorist-stunned-after-unearthing-anglo-saxon-ring-dating-1400-years/>



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

Membership: weagmembership@outlook.com

Experience Weekends:

coppedhalldigs@outlook.com.

Treasurer: treasurer@weag.org.uk

Webmaster: webmaster@weag.org.uk

Emergency Phone Number: 07802 711 703

For full list: <http://www.weag.org.uk/contacts>

