

# *The Newsletter*

January 2013

VOL. 29 No. 2

## COVER PICTURE

This is a photo taken from the collection held by Terry Goulding.



This is the Ritz Cinema in April 1938 with a demonstration by the Barnet Territorial group of one of the latest searchlights and aircraft sound locating sets. Note the remote handling gear for the light to try and protect the crew from being machine gunned if the enemy should try and shoot out the light. The Cinema was featuring Howard Hughes and Jean Harlow in *Hell's Angels* and Sonia Henie in *Lovely to look at*.

*(2 one and nines please – and the back row)*

Photo by Frederick Cole.

## **FROM THE CHAIRMAN**

To all our Members.

The Committee and I hope you had a Happy Christmas and we wish you all a Happy New Year.

Never mind the weather, we have had the shortest day and it can only brighten up from now on with spring around the corner. I know that this time of year revives old memories in me of cycling to work at Hatfield in all weathers, in the dark mornings and late evenings. It brightened up though as soon as I got four wheels and driving became a pleasure and fun time. I am not so sure about the pleasure of driving now though, especially into London.

Our yearly Christmas Social was on one of the coldest nights this year but many brave souls turned up to experience a splendid evening with entertainment by Mr Geoff Hales. He revived old seasonal times with quotes and quips from the days of Dickens and Pepys etc.

We start the New Year lectures with *A Walk through Enfield Town* with Mr Stephen Sellick on Friday the 25<sup>th</sup> of January; I hope to see you all then.

*Terry Goulding*

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## **MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY & MEMBERS**

After more than 20 years, Eileen Field is to stop maintaining the Membership List, and the Committee are very grateful for her help. In the 1991/92 AGM minutes it was said that “*In view of the large membership Eileen Field agreed to accept responsibility of Membership Secretary*”. Membership was then about 200 (and is about that now!).

Brian Warren reminds me that when her late husband, Len, was a Recorder, he and Eileen used to host the December meetings. They were well remembered for Eileen’s excellent mince-pies.

Mrs. Chris Ruge-Cope will be our new Membership Secretary and can be contacted at 21 Chace Avenue, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 5LX. Her telephone number is 01707 653221. The subscription year runs until March 31st at a cost of £3 for individual adults, and £5 for a family or group. An Membership Form will be sent round in the May Newsletter to subscribe to the 2013/14 year.

We should like to welcome Mrs. Joyce Wilkinson on joining the Society. We hope she will come to our lectures and occasional outings that are part of our yearly programme, and will take an active part in our Society.

*Richard Lee*

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## **NOTE TO ALL MUSEUM STEWARDS**

We are now nearly full to capacity for objects to display in the museum. We have very limited storage space. Can we please ask you to only accept objects or information associated with Potters Bar or the close area.

*Mabel Hammett (PBHS Committee)*

## SPRING LECTURE

Friday January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2013

*A Walk through Enfield Town*, by Mr. Stephen Sellick.

THE MEETING WILL START **PROMPTLY** AT 8PM IN THE 60 PLUS CENTRE, WYLLYOTTS CENTRE. EVERYONE WELCOME.

### SPRING LECTURE PROGRAMME (PREVIEW)

Friday	February	22 <sup>nd</sup>	<i>Epping Forest</i> by Mr. Stan Ewens
Thursday	March	28 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The Concise History of White Friars Glass, from 1750 to 1980</i> by Mr. Mike Beech
Tuesday	April	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Annual General Meeting, followed by <i>The History and Design of Gloves</i> by member Mrs. Mabel Hammett.
Thursday	May	30 <sup>th</sup>	<i>The 1951 Exhibition; Festival of Britain</i> by Mr. John Ghafur

Colin Field

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### THE SOCIETY'S RECORDER GROUP

A meeting was held on Monday, 12<sup>th</sup> November to reconstitute the Group. As a result the following members agreed to cover the areas below:-

	<u>Recorder</u>
Area 1 - Cranborne (includes Cranborne Parade and the bottom of Mimms Hall Road plus the Cranborne Industrial Estate)	Sarah Bulling
Area 2 - Laurel Avenue, The Broadway and Station Close	Joanne Arnold
Area 3 - Darkes Lane West and The Avenue Conservation area	Andy Hardy
Area 4 - Darkes Lane East and the Service Road	Dave Jones
Area 5 - Hill Rise, Barnet Road and the High Street including The Hollies	John/Doreen Scivyer
Area 6 - Potters Bar Residential (East of Mimms Hall Brook and North of the M25)	
Area 7 - South Mimms Rural (West of Mimms Hall Brook and South of the M25)	

All recorders will record Areas 6 and 7 if they spot anything.

John Scivyer, who had been the Chairman for the past 13 years, was thanked for all his efforts in keeping the Group going over such a long period.

Brian Warren

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### ***MUSEUM STEWARDS REQUIRED***

Members are needed to help look after the Museum. Perhaps you could help for just one day a month? It would be of great assistance and you would be on duty with an experienced steward.

<b>Tuesdays</b>	2.30 - 4.30pm, contact Ian Cumming on	01707 642296
<b>Wednesdays</b>	2.30 - 4.30pm, contact Arnold Davey on	01707 654179
<b>Saturdays</b>	11.00am – 1.00pm, contact Mabel Hammett on	01707 657120

## CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

On December 6<sup>th</sup> about 40 members enjoyed the Christmas Social in the 60+ Centre at Wyllyotts. Brian Warren and team decorated the room and Terry Goulding ran the social.

Before the evening meal, Mr. Geoff Hales did his *Christmas Readings*. These were short amusing and serious poems etc from Charles Dickens to Samuel Pepys.

Geoff  
Hales



Mabel Hammett, Marion Cant and Margaret Stanbrook prepared the food, and others members served wine, ran a raffle, and served the coffee.

Mabel Hammett made the table decorations which were given to one lucky person on each table. Other members helped clear away and tidy up.



The Food Buffet



Terry Goulding, Ian Cumming and Mabel Hammett

*Richard Lee, Mabel Hammett, Bruce Chanter*

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## CALLING ALL THOSE WITH E-MAIL ADDRESSES

In order to save on ever increasing postal costs, it would be helpful to have e-mail addresses for sending the Newsletter to our members who live at a distance. Rest assured, you will still receive a copy through the post if you are unable to be sent the Newsletter in this way. Some local members might also prefer to receive the Newsletter electronically, for storage purposes (and possibly to forward to others who might be encouraged to join the society).

Details of events learned of after a monthly talk but occurring before the next can be forwarded to interested parties by e-mail. These might include: Hertfordshire Archives & Local Studies; East Herts Archaeological Society Lecture Programme or other events brought to the attention of PB&DHS Hon. Sec. Perhaps, as a trial, all such publicity [there is not much!] can be forwarded & you may opt out if you find you are not interested.

To register your e-mail address with the Society, please send an e-mail to Sarah Bulling [Hon. Sec] at [pbdhs.sjb@btinternet.com](mailto:pbdhs.sjb@btinternet.com). Your e-mail address will be added to your membership details. It will only be used by the PB&DHS to contact you: it will not be forwarded to another organization without your permission; neither will it be visible to others receiving the same e-mail [the *bcc* element will be used by the sender].

*Sarah Bulling*

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## **ARCHIVIST'S REPORT**

In the *Cheshunt and Waltham Mercury* (23-11-2012) it was announced that up to £411m. would be spent on widening the 15-mile stretch of motorway between junction 23 (South Mimms) to junction 27, for the M11. The hard shoulder would be converted permanently to a running lane and work would start as early as spring 2013 and take 2 years.

On the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1972 the *Enfield Archaeological Society* held its first field walk from New Cottage Farm, on the line of the proposed M25. At the S.W. corner of the now J24 roundabout was found the internal cast of a Belemnite fossil, preserved in flint. It was the first of the fossils found on the line of the M25 (J24 – J25) and is on display in the *Potters Bar Museum*.



Whereas the other erratic fossils from J24 and the erratic rocks from Theobalds Park Farm were brought to the North of the M25 by the proto-Thames and the glacier, Larvikite was not. A small sample of this rock was found at Theobalds Park Farm and like other samples from Hertfordshire and East Anglia it came from southern Norway. Exactly how it crossed the North Sea and joined the British ice stream is unknown.

I am grateful to Dan Ruge-Cope who loaned me his copy of *Most Secret War* by R.V. Jones, which when it was first published in 1970s caused great controversy, as no-one then knew of Bletchley and other secret WW2 establishments. There were references to Denys Felkin and the work at Trent Park, which subsequently moved to Latimer, in Buckinghamshire. Mention was made of No. 80 Wing, under Wing Commander E.B. Addison, whose headquarters were at Radlett. A branch of Military Intelligence was headed by 'Gubby' Allen, the England Cricket Captain. I was particularly interested in the Photographic Reconnaissance Unit at Benson, near Oxford, as my cousin's husband worked there. In all over 500 pages of interesting reading, and the last three final lines state, "*will lead to the nation over-paying itself beyond its true income, and thus ruin. Until we learn that lesson we shall have lost the battle that we in the war fought so hard to win.*"

Just before Christmas I made one of my occasional visits to *Barnet Museum*, where I saw upstairs an exhibition on Barnet's Foundling Hospital, which had been researched and prepared by Yvonne Tomlinson. It was well-presented and very interesting. Barnet Museum, Wood Street, is worth a visit and it now opens Saturday a.m. and p.m., and two hours on Sunday afternoons, besides Tuesday to Thursday 2.30 – 4.30 p.m.

*Brian Warren*

## THE LIMERICK HOUSE SITE (Part 1)

### Acknowledgements

I express my grateful thanks to the staff at The Guildhall, London, for their courteous service. My thanks are expressed to Sarah Bulling for putting me in touch with Lynda Dawson, the Area Administrative Officer and Archivist for the British Red Cross, who allowed me access to their records relating to Limerick House, held at Hertford.

### Introduction

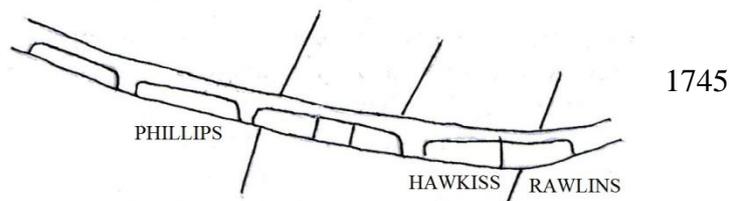
I contributed an article entitled '*The History of the Bridge House Site, Mutton Lane*' (The Newsletter Sept. 2011). When preparing another article on Limerick House I noted there were inconsistencies in the history of the Bridge House, which required further extensive research, in the Williotts Manor Court records, at The Guildhall, London.

Mr. H.J. Butcher (footnote 1) had produced an extensive list of owners of a property in Mutton Lane, commencing with Eleanor Phillips (2<sup>nd</sup> June 1743) and applied it to Limerick House. If he had referred to the map, which resulted from Edward Vickers' Survey of the Manor of Williotts, in 1745 (footnote 2) he would have seen the Phillips' property was more than likely near '*The Bridge House*' (see below).

From subsequent research using M.S.5454 Court Rolls Williotts, volumes 1-8 (from 1727) and the surviving rent lists of Williotts, it is possible to trace the owner/occupier of a property to before 1678. Also, for earlier dates there survives an Index to Court Rolls, in alphabetical order (M.S.5455), of which the earliest entries are 1488, 1490, 1503 etc.

### The Early History

The earliest reference to the Limerick site occurs in a rental dated before 1678 (M.S.5521 Box A Bundle 2, No. 19) to a John Brock paying one shilling. Elizabeth Brock paid the rent in 1742, but the following year the rental noted, '*Elizabeth Rawlins late John Brock*'. Her death was recorded in 1745, the same year as Edward Vickers' Survey marked Rawlins on the later site of Limerick House.



Elizabeth was succeeded by Daniel Staines, who pulled down part of his cottage (1746). William Farrer was admitted in 1750 and six years later he had not repaired his cottage. Did it fall down? In 1764 William Sandall enclosed about a rood of land late Farrow and in 1771 William Low (sometime *Lowe*) enclosed a piece of ground formerly William Fairways (footnote 3), which he added to his own adjacent cottage and land.

### Footnotes

1 - Mr. H.J. Butcher came to Barclays Bank, High Street., Potters Bar, in 1914 and retired as manager in 1939. In the 1950s he wrote up his local history researches.

2 - A copy of the 1745 map can be purchased from Potters Bar Museum for £1.

3 - William Farrer/Farrow and Fairways are one and the same person.

William Lowe surrendered to John Bateman, Potters Bar, husbandman, in 1789, who was followed by Charles Whaley, Potters Bar, farmer, in 1795. His wife, Mary, died in 1807 and his son, Charles Whaley the younger succeeded the same year. The next significant date was 10<sup>th</sup> November 1823 when John Hopewell the younger, Chipping Barnet, grocer, surrendered to James Able Brett, St. Albans, innholder, as by then the one building had been divided into three. At the Court held 21<sup>st</sup> April 1851, by Deed Poll dated 7<sup>th</sup> May 1847, the other parcel (2 roods 5 poles) had been sold to the Great Northern Railway, for £375 (Williotts Manor Court 21-4-1851).

From the Railway Book of Reference deposited with the Clerk of the Peace for Middlesex



Later Limerick House

No.	Parish of	Lessee	Occupier	Acres	Roods	Poles
59	South Mimms	—	Mary Welch	0	0	6
58	“	Mary Welch	Henry Cartwright	0	0	18
58 <sup>a</sup>	“	Mary Welch	Mary Welch	0	0	17
60	“	Mary Welch	same	0	1	4
				0	2	5

In his Will dated 8<sup>th</sup> March 1838 James Able Brett (Proved 19<sup>th</sup> February 1849) left the tenement he had lately erected on one piece leased to Francis Complyn of Hatfield, brewer, and the other to the use of Ann Hibbert, widow, who was living with him. She was to inherit providing she survived his wife, Susanna Brett, which she did, as Susanna died 7<sup>th</sup> September 1848. The third proclamation for the death of Ann Hibbert was presented 28<sup>th</sup> March 1853 and at the Williotts Court dated 9<sup>th</sup> April 1855 James Humphrey of Rustington, near Arundel, farmer, was admitted to the property. In December he surrendered out of Court to Richard Holmes the younger of Arundel. The Masters and Keepers of the Brewers and Lords of the Manor of Williotts for £61 8s (£61.40) agreed with Richard Holmes the younger to enfranchise the property, on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1867.

(Part 2 of this article will be concluded in the May 2013 Newsletter.)

© Brian Warren

## POTTERS BAR MUSEUM

In the Museum, Arnold Davey has set up the new display entitled *Boudicca, aka Boadicea*.

In 60-61 A.D. Roman Colchester, London and St. Albans were burnt by Boudicca, leader of the Iceni tribe, and her followers. These were followed by a pitched-battle somewhere in the Midlands.

The Museum is open from 2.30 to 4.30 pm Tuesday and Wednesday, and 11 am to 1 pm on Saturday.

Boudicca and her daughters as portrayed in Civic Hall, Cardiff



Richard Lee

**SOUTH MIMMS CASTLE OBSERVATIONS 1977-79 A1(M) CECIL ROAD – ROESTOCK GREEN**

**(PART 3 OF 3)**

**SOIL SAMPLES**

Wooden fence ----->  
 Soil samples were ----->  
 taken from the  
 black Eocene infill  
 Later A1(M) road ----->



Looking N.W. 27<sup>th</sup> December 1977

On the 4<sup>th</sup> January 1979 ten soil samples from the Eocene infills indicated above were submitted to Mr. R A Ellison, at the *Institute of Geological Studies*. Samples (SM77/52) were round black Tertiary flint derived from Reading Beds. Five other samples were classified as Reading Beds or Reading Beds disturbed. Green-coated flints were characteristic of basal Tertiary Beds overlying Chalk, as did another sample being classed as Tertiary on Chalk. Borehole evidence (No. 101-104) on the line of the road to the south-west of the “castle”, showed Reading Beds inter-mixed with glacial and post-glacial material. The conclusion on the evidence submitted confirmed the opinions expressed in ‘*Solution of the Chalk in the Mimms Valley, Herts*’ by J F Kirkaldy (Proc. Geological Association, Vol. 61, Part 4, 1950).

SM77/101 was a piece of ironstone and SM77/130 was an erratic derived from Bunter Pebble beds in the Birmingham area.

**CONCLUSIONS**

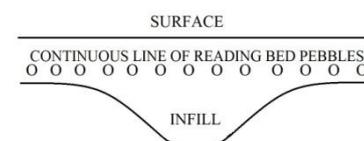
**Evidence for the Outer Bailey**

V-ditch section  
 of the ‘supposed’  
 Outer Bailey ----->



31<sup>st</sup> July 1977

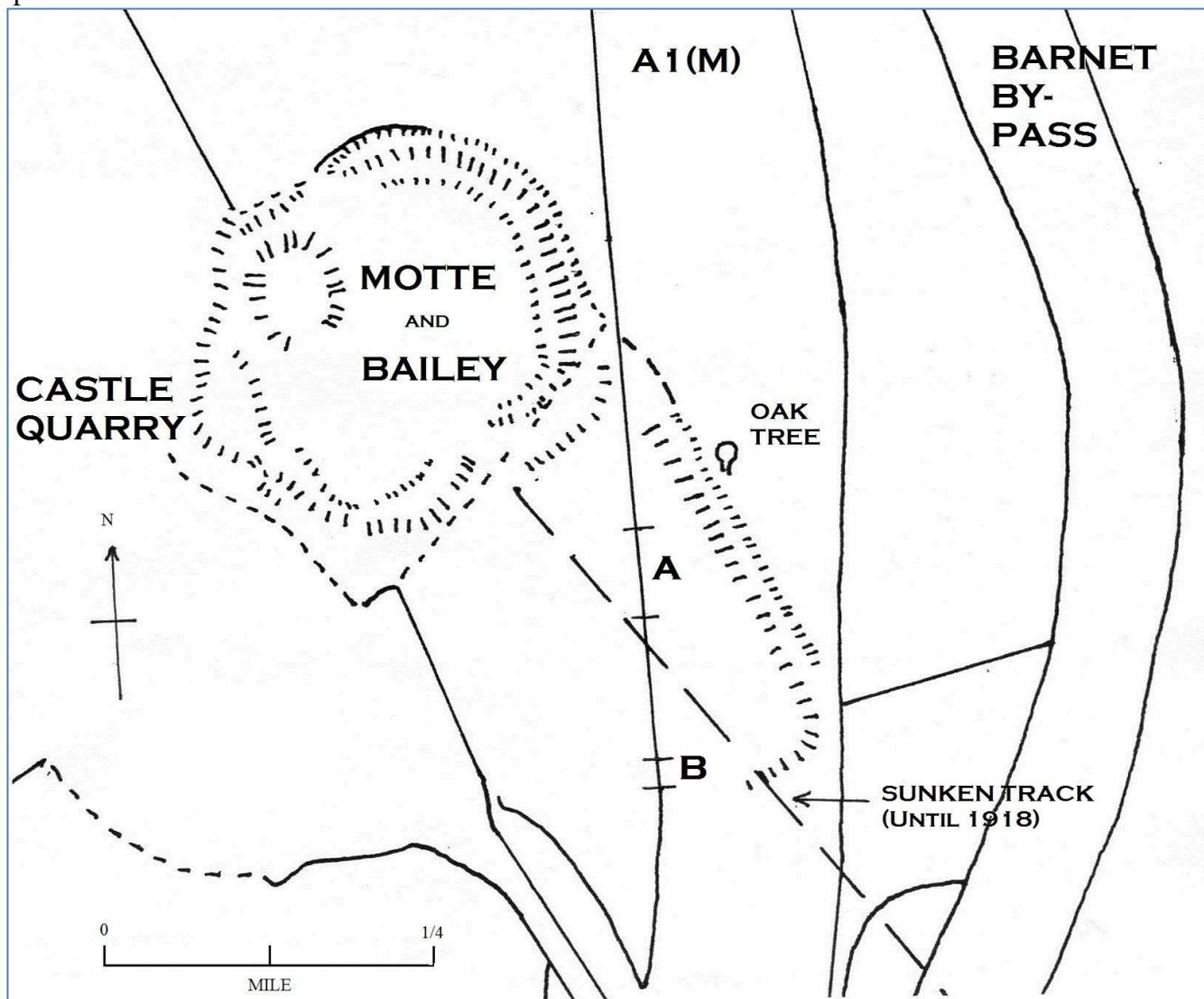
Reading Bed Pebbles  
 (SM77/52)



The section above was observed to have a continuous line of Reading Bed pebbles above the ditch and on either side. To substantiate the observation Geof. Gillam, chairman of the *Enfield Archaeological Society* confirmed the line. On a contour map the lines showed a slight curve towards the castle, which indicated the line of a horizontal Eocene pipe. The ditch was confirmed as a natural pipe infill and therefore of a geological origin. Though of a geological origin that does not preclude a later surface use e.g. a field boundary. However, the problem of whether there was an Outer Bailey is still an open question. Around the castle site there were numerous horizontal, vertical and oblique pipes where the chalk had collapsed.

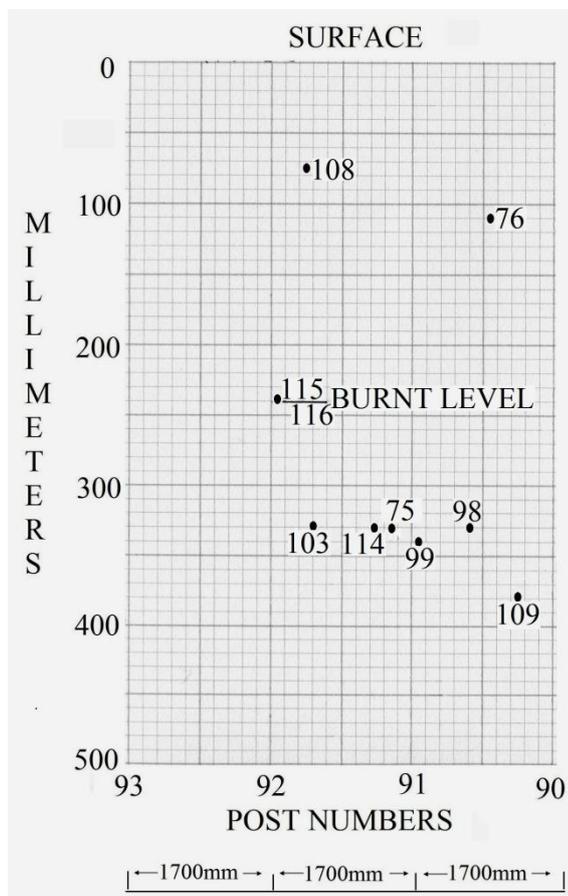
### Distribution of Finds

When all the finds were plotted along a vertical section of the drainage ditch there were two distinct groupings from Post 54 – 68 (78 metres) and Posts 90 – 93 (17 metres), 'A' (54-68) and 'B' (90-93) on the map below.



In area 'A' sixty-seven sherds of pottery were recovered, of which twenty-four were Early South-Hertfordshire Coarseware (ESHER 1050-1200) as were twenty-four South Hertfordshire-Greyware (SHER 1170-1350). The possible origins of some were from Northolt, Oxford, Arkley, Pinner and the St. Albans' area. At Post 56, eight out of ten pieces of brick and eight out of thirteen pieces of tile were found, all very small. A fragment of an oyster, a large rabbit tibia, a sheep/goat scapula, three bone fragments, land snails and evidence of charcoal (SM77/90) were within this area. This evidence suggests medieval ware. Area 'B' indicates an earlier occupation site dating to the late Mesolithic/Neolithic periods.

On the graph below the vertical measurements are exact but in some cases horizontal records are noted between posts, e.g. 92-93, 90-92.

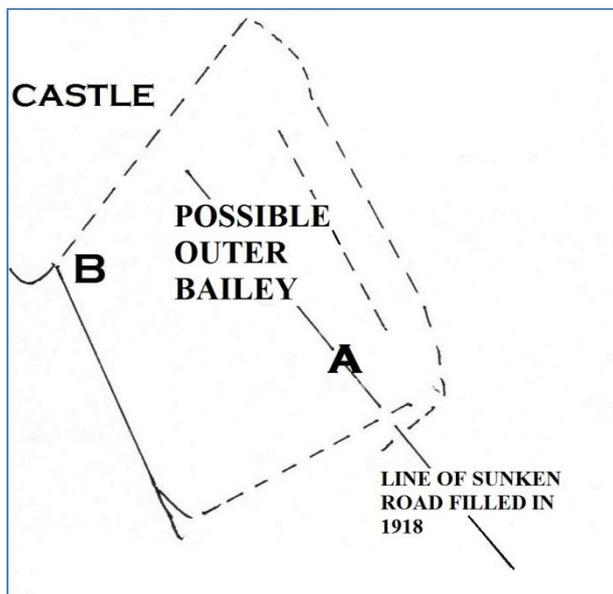


**KEY**

108	}	ESHER 1050-1200
76		
115		WORKED BURNT FLINT
116		? THREE NATURAL FLINTS
103		FLINT BLADE
114		PATINATED FLINT
75		IRON AGE
99		? MAN-MADE FLINT
98		FLINT BLADE
109		IRON AGE PLATTER

The most important result of the 1977-79 observations has been to prove the existence of human occupation on the site much longer than previously known. The castle site was used from Mesolithic times through the Iron Age period. The evidence for Roman occupation on the site remains slender.

LATER USE OF THE CASTLE SITE



Though the castle was possibly destroyed in about 1143 or later there has been some evidence of a subsequent use. During the construction of the A1(M) Cecil Road – Roestock Green, in April 1977, S. Castle discovered a small pit within the supposed outer Bailey (see ‘A’ to the left, Herts SMR 4835). He found 13/14<sup>th</sup> century pottery, iron slag fragments and burnt clay daub, also a decorated sherd and glazed jug rim. To the north-west of this find he also found a 12/13<sup>th</sup> century greyware body sherd from a ploughed field (see ‘B’ to the left, Herts SMR 4836). There is a record of three small silver coins but at the present time they are lost.

Dr. Kent, in his report to the *North Middlesex Archaeological Research Committee*, dated 21<sup>st</sup> February 1966 noted, “*a jeton hitherto classified as later C15.*” Later in 1966 Dr. Kent (ed. Rutherford Davis, 1966) wrote, “*The discovery of Fourteenth century material should also warn us against supposing that the disuse of the earthworks was immediate and complete.*”

Dr. Kent further wrote in 1968, “*There is need for much more work on the castle. Virtually nothing is yet known of the Bailey, its buildings or defences, and the pre-castle phase of the site requires further elucidation.*”

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- P B Pugh (editor) 1976. The Victorian History of the Counties of England, Volume 5, Middlesex. University of London, 282.
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- B Warren, April 1987. Mesolithic Man in our area. Potters Bar and District Historical Society, The Journal No. 3, 19-24.

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**The PB&DHS Newsletter is produced in September, January & May of every ‘season’. Richard Lee and Mabel Hammett manage the printing and collation, and Michael Cawrey organises, with volunteers, the distribution of The Newsletter**

**If you wish to submit an item for inclusion (preferably of a ‘local-history’ nature), please phone the Editor, Richard Lee (01707 652975) at least one month before the publication month (i.e. August, December or April). Note: inclusion of such items is at the Editor’s discretion.**

## POTTERS BAR & DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The 54th Annual General Meeting is to be held at 8PM on Tuesday 23 April 2013 at the Sixty Plus Room, Wyllyotts Centre. The Society would like to invite anybody wishing to become a Committee Member to fill in the form below, with a Proposer and Seconder's signatures. Completed forms need to be returned to the Hon. Secretary by Tuesday 12 March 2013. (Sarah Bulling, 94 Mimms Hall Road, Potters Bar, Herts EN6 3DX).

The positions available:

Chairman  
Vice-Chairman  
Secretary  
Treasurer  
Archivist  
6 Committee members

After the AGM has been closed, there will be a talk given by Mrs Mabel Hammett on *The History & Design of Gloves*.



### Potters Bar & District Historical Society

#### NOMINATION FORM

AGM 23 April 2013

I propose	
For the office of	
Proposed by	
Seconded by	
Candidate's Signature	