



## EAST HERTS. ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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# NEWSLETTER 31

# SEPTEMBER 2010

## Hertfordshire after Rome: Business as Usual?



*Did life in Hertfordshire change much after 410AD? Evidence from excavations in Verulamium and other towns around the county is helping to shed light on this transitional period.*

*Image: Przemyslaw Sakrajda*

The first years of the fifth century AD were uncertain times in Britain. In 402AD, one of the island's two Roman legions was transferred to the continent to help fight invaders. Five years later, the last legion left for Gaul under its leader Constantine III. By 410AD, Britain was finally on its own. To mark the 1600th anniversary of the end of Roman authority, in March the Roman Society held its '410AD conference' in London at which **Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews**, Archaeology Officer at North Hertfordshire District Council, delivered an assessment of the fate of small towns in this post-Roman period. Here he considers what the end of the Empire might have meant for Hertfordshire's communities:

"AD 410 has an iconic status in the history of Britain as the year in which Roman rule came to an end. However, historians now doubt the validity of the date and dispute the means by which Britain ceased to be part of the Empire. Archaeologists, who are used to dealing with rather vaguer dates than this, are not so worried by whether we should be thinking of AD 410, 411, 400 or 425: they agree that the first quarter of the fifth century saw irreversible changes to the old Roman Diocese.

The debate about whether there was continuity between Roman Britain and Anglo-Saxon England or a complete break has raged for years. As with most

of these debates, the two polar opposites are both likely to be wrong: in some places and with some aspects of life, there was continuity. In other places and other aspects of life, there was thorough disruption. So where does Hertfordshire fit into this?

The evidence from Verulamium is well known: Sheppard Frere's discovery of a fifth-century building followed by a water pipe seems to point to continuing occupation in the town after 450. Although recently challenged in the pages of *Current Archaeology* (CA237), Frere has given a very robust defence of his interpretation and the consensus remains that the sequence is real. In their

2005 overview *Alban's Buried Towns* (Oxbow Books, 2005) Ros Niblett and Isobel Thompson list ten of the city's sites for which we can be certain of fifth-century activity.

Increasingly, we can see that this sequence is not isolated. In this respect, Gil Burleigh's excavations at Baldock in the 1980s provide us with a star exhibit. In one location, there was a deeply stratified sequence spanning the first century BC to the sixth century AD, which documented the growth of the Iron Age oppidum, the development of the Roman town and its eventual decline and abandonment. What was most surprising about the sequence was that there was little difference between what was happening in the fourth century and what was happening in the fifth.

Contrary to all expectations, it was found that roads continued to be repaired throughout the fifth century, with new metalling and recut drainage ditches. Their lines were modified, some went out of use (one of them had a small

building erected on it) and some saw partial blocking, as if to regulate access. Several cemeteries continued to receive burials, one being used as late as the middle of the sixth century. New buildings were constructed after AD 400, at least one of which had stone founda-



*Sir Mortimer Wheeler working to uncover the shell mosaic at Verulamium in the 1930s*

*Image: Verulamium Museum*

tions, unusual at any date in Baldock. In these aspects, it was as if nothing had changed after AD 400.

In other ways, though, there had been massive changes. For one thing, the economy collapsed. It had always been based on a state supply system, with money circulating as a means to pay government employees (the military and the civil service) and to raise revenues from taxes. In turn, this promoted a consumer-led manufacturing industry that flourished while the money supply remained in place. The production of bronze and silver coins in western mints stopped in 402 and gold coins in 406; by the time production resumed, Britain was no longer part of the Empire. The effect was devastating. Within a couple of decades, the industries that had become increasingly centralised during the third and fourth centuries collapsed. Pottery supply came to a halt and the goods that archaeologists depend on to provide dates for their sites vanish. At Baldock, though, the very late levels

contain new forms of hand-made pottery that look a little like Iron Age types but are not found in Iron Age contexts; we are seeing a return to craft production rather than industrial production. What this means, though, is that we can recognise fifth- and sixth-century pottery



*Tessa Wheeler sweeping the hypocaust mosaic during excavations at Verulamium in 1932*

*Image: Verulamium Museum*

types. There is one type with plant tempering, which has been found on a number of sites across Britain, not just in the Baldock area, and another type with sand tempering, that appears to be a more local phenomenon. Both types have been found on sites in the hinterland of Baldock, most importantly at Danes Field, in Pirton, where the sequence extends to the end of the sixth century. At this site, there is a globular jar with Anglo-Saxon style decoration of around AD 600, albeit slightly bungled, in a hard sandy fabric quite unlike any Anglo-Saxon pottery of this period. There are two other sites in the hinterland of the town where we can see fifth-century activity. At Blackhorse Farm, just a kilometre north of the town, there is a grubenhaus or sunken-featured building

and associated late fifth-century Pagan Saxon pottery. This lay on the edge of a farmstead established in the Late Iron Age and suggests its take over by Germanic settlers. At Queen Street in Hitchin, a cemetery partly excavated in 2001 was found to have burials that

date from the late and sub-Roman period and that are evidently Christian. At this date, they can only be of Britons, suggesting the survival of a community in Hitchin well after the end of Roman rule. Indeed, Hitchin has a Celtic name, seen in the tribal name Hicce, and a minster church, which has been suggested as the site of Clofesho, the mystery location of a series of important synods between the 7th and 9th centuries. Hitchin lies in a well-known gap in the distribution of pagan Anglo-Saxon burials; to the north, the Gifle,

whose name is also Brittonic and is preserved in the River Ivel, and to the south-west, the Cilternsæte, also with a partly Brittonic name, are neighbouring peoples whose territories also lack such burials. It has long been hypothesised that Verulamium was the capital of a sub-Roman state. So far, none of the other 'small towns' in the vicinity - Sandy, Braughing and Welwyn - has produced evidence for definitely sub-Roman activity, though it has been argued for Sandy and Braughing. Sandy, however, also has fifth-century Pagan Saxon burials, suggesting that it was taken over at an early date by Germanic settlers. Braughing became an important royal estate on the western edge of the kingdom of the East Saxons; like Hitchin, the



Were mosaics like this 2nd century example from Verulamium patched up and re-used well into the fifth century and beyond? *Image: Verulamium Museum*

name of the settlement derives from the name of the people, the Breahhingas, whose name in this instance is Old English. An enclosure containing the minster church developed some distance to the north of the old Iron Age and Roman centre and the challenge is to find evidence linking the two settlements. However, the coincidence of location of a locally important Roman settlement and a locally important early medieval church may be an indication that some sort of ecclesiastical or other elite organisation survived the collapse of Roman rule.

At Welwyn, there is also an important early church, which may suggest a similar continuity of function. However, the archaeology of the Roman town remains elusive and it is much less well known than Verulamium or Braughing. Of course, the towns could only continue to exist if there was a rural population to provide them with food. Indeed, the small towns had probably developed partly as markets where farmers could

exchange their surplus for manufactured goods and luxuries. So the survival of Baldock and Verulamium, at least, requires continuity in the countryside, yet the rural archaeology of Hertfordshire at this time is largely invisible. Here is the nub of the issue: there must be people but we cannot (yet) see them. In those areas where Pagan Saxon remains are found, we can safely assume that there were Anglo-Saxon peasant farmers, but in areas where such remains are scarce or even absent, we must explain what happened to the Romano-British population after 400 as it obviously did not just vanish into thin air.

Presumably, the Britons were there, calling themselves Hicce, referring to the River Beane as Beneficcan (the 'little Beane' in Old Welsh) and slowly assimilating Anglo-Saxon culture as the immigrants from northern Europe gained political control. Ultimately, they became English without even realising what was happening.

Seen in retrospect, AD 410 (or whenever we choose to date the end of Roman rule in Britain) appears as a watershed, a moment of transformation when the benefits of being part of a wide-ranging Empire ceased and the barbarian hordes prepared to descend. To someone born in, say 390, the events of their life will not have appeared so traumatic. There had been numerous periods when Britain had broken away from imperial rule; fiscal crises are an inevitable effect of complex economies; the barbarians had been a threat for more than a century. Perhaps the single greatest loss would have been the unavailability of consumer goods. We humans love our possessions a little bit too much!"

**Keith J Fitzpatrick-Matthews**

Proceedings of the 410AD Conference will be available later this year.

## In the Territory of the Catuvellauni: Braughing before and during Roman Occupation By Clive Partridge

In the early 70s BC, Gaul was in some turmoil. The northward advancing Legions began to push the indigenous Gaulish tribes into the Chalon area of Northern Gaul. These tribes were already at loggerheads with each other over territories and the Romans were squeezing them into smaller and smaller areas. This resulted in much upheaval and relocation of the original tribes, which led to inter-tribal squabbles and open warfare over territories. This period is known as the Gallic Wars.

Sometime after 75BC, there was an exodus of tribes from Northern Gaul. They crossed the English Channel to find new territories in southern Britain. Among the migrating tribes were the Catalauni - a tribe described by the Roman scribes as a fierce and warlike people.

It is said that the migrating tribes entered Britain via the Thames Estuary, then penetrated inland along the river valleys looking for new territories. According to the Roman scribes the Catalauni were the largest and strongest tribe. These warlike people followed the course of the River Lea and carved out a tribal area covering most of present day Hertfordshire and parts of Middlesex and western Essex.

Somewhere along the way the original name of the tribe changed. They now appear in history as the Catuvellauni. It is known that their leader at the time was called Cassivellaunus (Caesar names him as Casswallon, in his Commentaries). Little is known about

the period after the new arrivals and settlements until the early 50s BC. Inevitably there was unrest among some of the lesser tribes in Britain. At this time envoys from the small tribes were sent to Rome to petition Julius Caesar for help against the raiding and bullying by certain tribes - especially the Catuvellauni.

Caesar was sympathetic and promised that his Legions would sail to Britain and "sort-out" the offending tribes once and for all - no doubt Caesar had visions of the glory and plunder that he would reap. He brought only two legions, which with Auxiliaries amounted to some 6-7,000 men. The British tribes learned of the invasion and, readying

themselves, elected Cassivellaunus as war leader.

The first attempt by Julius Caesar on 24th August 55BC, was for various reasons, doomed to failure. The Romans were scattered by bad weather in the Channel and poor organisation on landing. Caesar returned to Rome to receive a chilly reception from the Senate. Caesar, no doubt smarting from his previous setback, returned the following year. Yet his second sortie was not exactly an Empire building success either. This time Caesar managed to make an organised landing with a force of some 10,000 legionaries, plus Auxiliaries and Cavalry. After a few indecisive sorties and despite some fierce resistance, the weight of the Legions pushed the Britons back and the Romans penetrated northwards into the territory of Cassivellaunus. At this point Caesar demanded hostages and



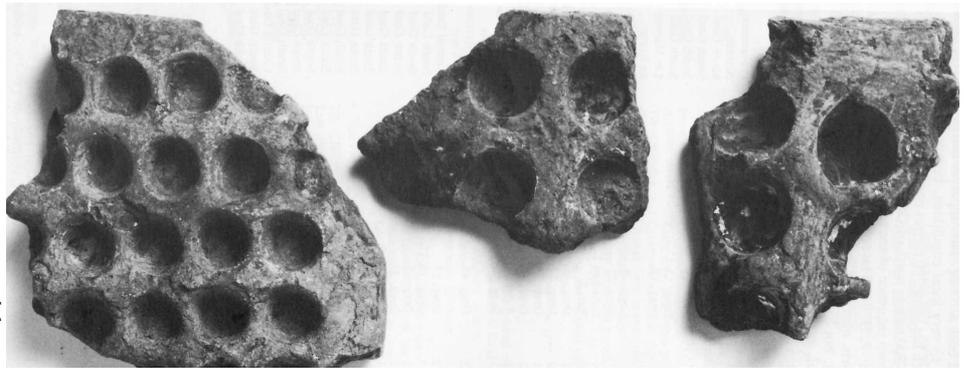
*Finely carved carnelian intaglio, maybe from a ring or pendant, found at Skeleton Green.*

tribute and then, unaccountably, he again returned to Rome, to receive a polite but not overwhelming reception. It can be said that at this time Rome had not conquered Britain, but that the Romanisation of Britain had begun.

Caesar's sorties had opened up channels for the Continental mercatores of Italy, Spain and France to trade with the British tribes. Finds from Braughing demonstrate the value of this trade. Sea-going ships could travel up the Lea to Ware and then the mercatores could travel overland to Braughing, or, using shallow draught boats, could progress up the River Rib.

It was nearly a century before the Romans came again. In 41AD Cunobelinus, then Chief of the Catuvellauni, died. During his reign the Catuvellauni had gradually extended their influence over much of south-eastern Britain. Chiefs of the other tribes had been ousted and several of them had fled to Rome pleading for help against the rampant Catuvellauni. Claudius was Roman Emperor at this time. He was also a known expansionist and he saw the opportunity to extend the Empire.

In 43AD Claudius invaded. He brought four full Legions and a large contingent of Auxiliaries, Engineers and Surveyors (for road and bridge building). Some 40,000 men landed near Richborough in Kent. Caractacus, a son of Cunobelinus, tried to stem the Roman tide

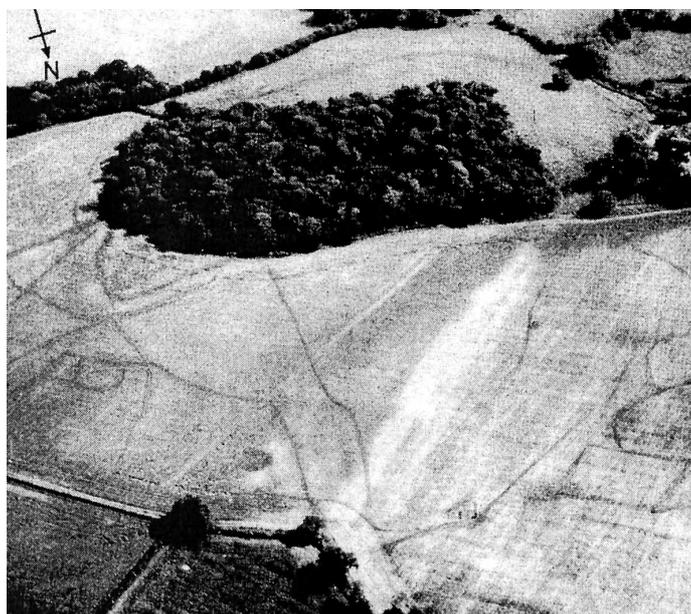


*Late Iron Age coin moulds found in the 1930s near Gatesbury Wood, the Catuvellauni stronghold near Braughing.*

at the crossing of the Medway, but his forces were defeated and Britain was exposed to the Roman Legions - the Roman Conquest had finally arrived. The original fortified stronghold of the Catuvellauni, at Braughing, was the rectangular earthwork known as Gatesbury Wood (see photo below). It is sited on high ground to the east of the River Rib. The fortifications and a widely scattered pattern of boundary ditches and enclosures can be seen.

Over the years, fragments of thick-walled, coarse pottery have been recovered from episodes of ditch clearing at Gatesbury Wood. At the north-eastern end of the earthwork the slighted remains of the original in-turned entrance can still be seen. In the early 1930s, Gerald Henderson, son of Lady Henderson the land owner, established

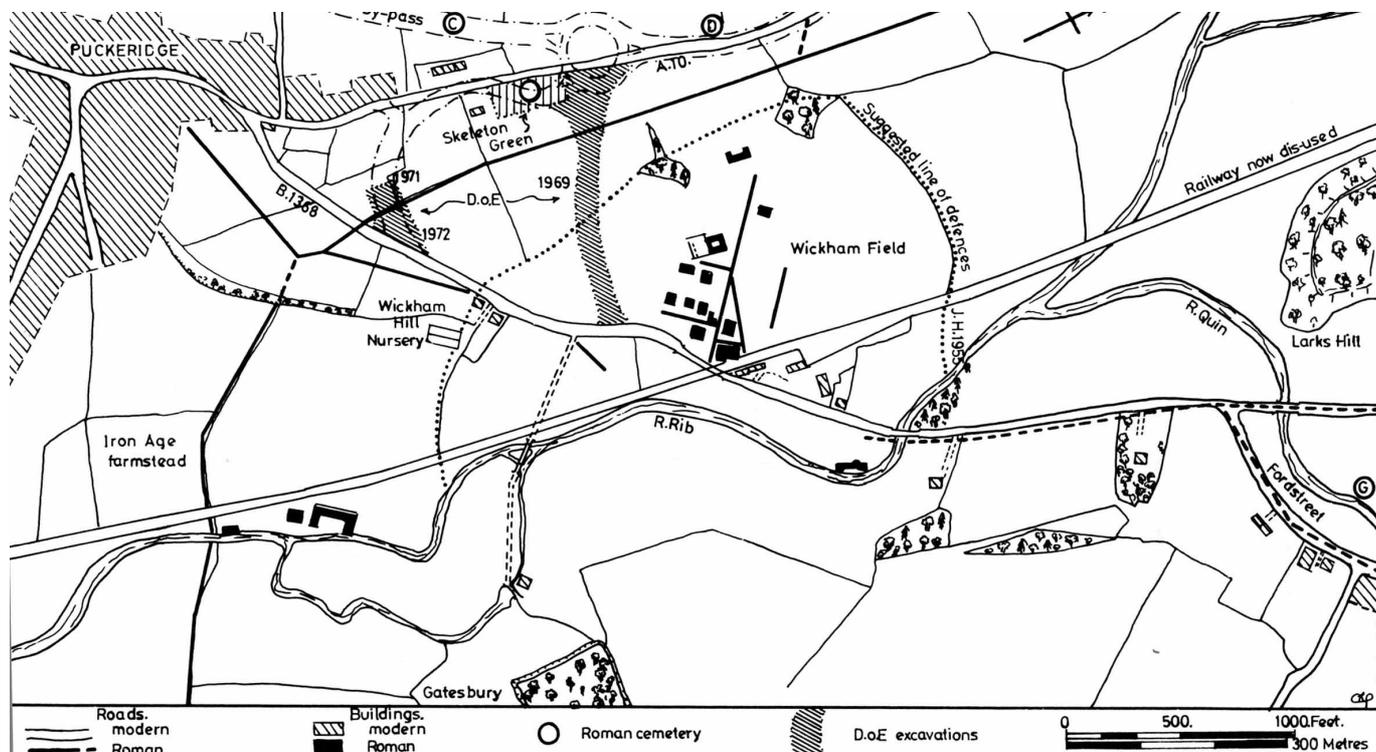
a poultry farm on the east bank of the River Rib. He was a collector of ancient and interesting artefacts. When digging holes for fence posts, he was surprised to turn up various sherds of pottery and some pre-Roman coin moulds (see photo at top of page). He then excavated several trenches



*An aerial photo of the Gatesbury Wood area, with signs of boundary ditches and enclosures.*

from which he recovered much pottery, some pre-Roman coins and various other miscellaneous objects - including several early bronze brooches (see *Skeleton Green* by Clive Partridge, *Britannia Monograph* 1981, p.325 Fig. 123). Also among the collection was early Arretine pottery (from Italy) and some of the earliest Continental potters stamps yet found in Britain on TR and TN platters and cups (*ibid* p.328-335). There were Spanish and Italian wine and oil amphorae and other fine wares as well as many coarse native (pre-Roman) hand-made cooking pots (*ibid* Figs. 129-136, pp 339-350) and also

wealth of the area increased, the population gradually spread out and down from the Gatesbury Track Complex. After the Claudian invasion the main occupation was centred on the west side of the River Rib, in the Wickham Hill area. There, Roman roads, public buildings (see map below), a bath house (see plan on following page), villas and cemeteries have all been recorded. Although Roman Braughing is often referred to as one of the 'Small Towns of Roman Britain', I am not sure that is an apt title for it. At Braughing there are numerous very large and extensive cemeteries - most of which have only



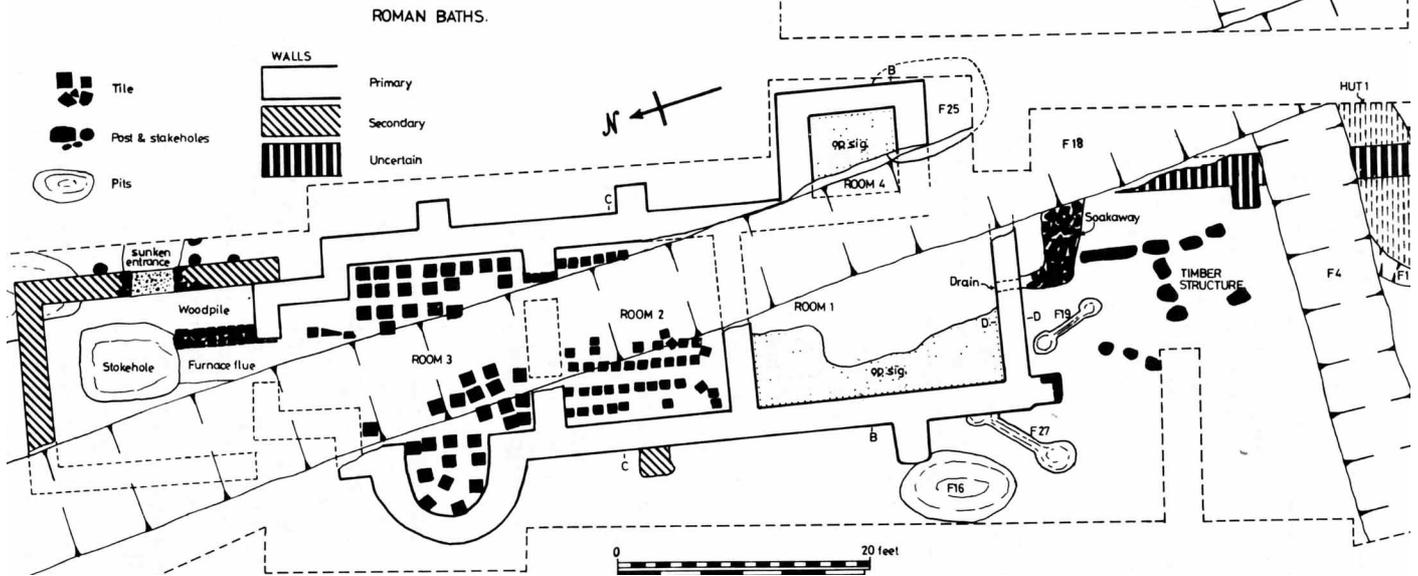
*Roman roads, public buildings and cemeteries recorded around Wickham Hill, west of the Rib. This area seemed to become the main centre of occupation after the Roman invasion of 43AD.*

coin moulds. However, more recent finds of coin moulds have only been of the two largest modules. The smaller modules, from Gatesbury, and one other area, are missing from these finds. The technical examination of the smaller modules revealed traces of silver. They are obviously for coins of greater value than the larger modules, which only show traces of copper, lead and tin. The evidence suggests that as the

been very lightly sampled when the Puckeridge bypass, and various other road works and housing estates have allowed limited access and time for archaeological investigation. The small sample of areas that have been available has revealed very many burials of obviously different status. Some, such as the Skeleton Green cemeteries, revealed many rich cremations with fine glassware and a finely

BRAUGHING, 1969-73.

Plan of a Roman bath house excavated near Wickham Hill.



carved carnelian intaglio (see first page) with extensive arrays of grave goods, sometimes with more than one burial in the same grave and a coin to pay the ferryman for the journey to the Underworld.

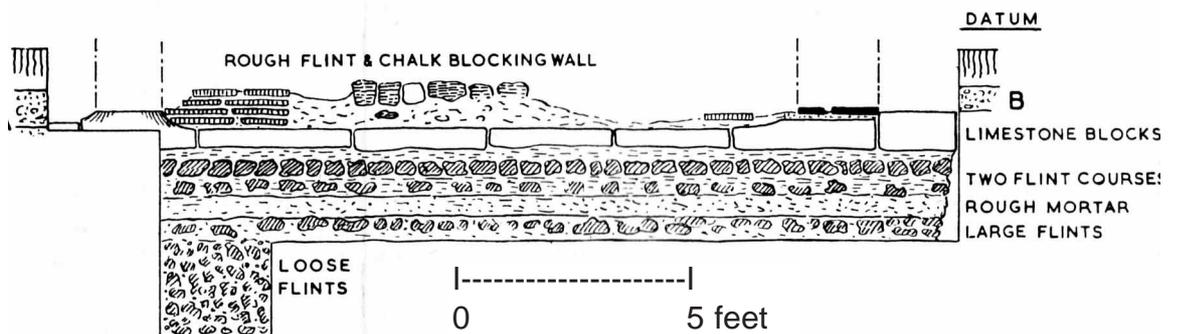
Others, such as the very extensive cemeteries found when the Puckeridge bypass was constructed, are probably less important but still have the statutory burial urn with the cremated remains and two or sometimes three other vessels, such as a Samian platter and beakers for sustenance of the spirit on the journey to the Underworld.

Another clue to the probable importance of Braughing in the Roman Period is the network of roads converging on, and passing through, the town, including two of the earliest Roman military roads; Ermine Street to Lincoln and Stane Street to Colchester.

Even more evidence emerged thanks to John Holmes, a master of nearby St. Edmunds College,

where he founded the college Field Archaeology Group. One day, when he was browsing through *Cussons' History of Hertfordshire Vol. I, 1870-73*, he read that in 1892 the widening of the western platform at Braughing Station had revealed the corner of a large building. The finds were described and comprised "coins, pottery, glass, brooches, roofing tiles, iron nails and oyster shells". Holmes then contacted the land owner and in 1949 obtained permission for his group to carry out some exploratory excavations.

The work they did revealed the imposing frontage of a building, with a colonnaded veranda of herring-bone tiles and worn stone steps leading up. In addition, a section (see below) across an adjacent area revealed what was the main east-west road of the Roman Town; some



A section recorded by John Holmes showing the main road of the Roman town, with evidence of repairs and replacement surfaces.

three feet thick with evidence for a number of repairs and replacement surfaces. A rough opus signinum floor had been laid from the road edge to the steps of the large building. The building is thought to have been constructed fairly soon after the Roman Conquest and to have gone out of use around 350-360 AD. The building, obviously of some pretention, is thought probably to have been a Roman Temple. John Holmes compared it to a courtyard temple found at Verulamium. In addition, a similar temple has been found at Harlow. It was his perception of the importance of these initial finds, and his excavations, that finally confirmed the presence and importance of the late Iron Age occupation and the Roman town at Braughing.

#### **Clive Partridge**

*(As I am a technophobe, my thanks go to Lis Barratt for her computer skills.)*

### **Excursions 2010**

During this last year, our excursions have not been very well supported, but by combining with the Friends of St Michael's we made a viable coach visit to Eton College in May.

On the way we saw the Kedermister Library at St Mary's Church, Langley Marish with the astounding 17th century painting. The painting, on the family pew and the bookcases, is miraculously intact. After a guided tour of the medieval parts of Eton College which was greatly appreciated by members, we had tea at the Quaker Meeting House at Jordans and were struck by the contrast of its extreme simplicity.

In June we were entertained by Mr and Mrs Singer at Kingsbury Manor, dated by dendrochronology to 1419, and saw the newly restored barn built by Abbot Moote of St Albans in the 1390's as part of his investment in barns around the abbey estates.

In July, the Hertfordshire Building Preservation Trust arranged an entertainment in Place House, Ware in which Dorothy Abel-Smith, Colin Broomfield and David Greener gave readings and music for lute associated with Joan, the Fair Maid of Kent, mother of Richard II and lady of the manor of Ware. We were given a walk round Ware, led by David Perman, had tea at the Tap Bar and were given access to the museum by courtesy of Lis Barratt.

On 18th August Colin Lee organised a visit to Ashridge near Berkhamsted during which members were given a fascinating behind-the-scenes tour and changes to the decor and room use during the 19th Century were described. Any suggestions you have for visits for the coming 2011 season will be gratefully received.

**Helen Gibson**

**Hon. Excursions Secretary**

### **Lecture Programme 2010/2011**

Last year, the lecture series included talks on subjects from Ancient Egypt to a new web project by Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies. This coming year's lecture series consists of the following talks:

**Saturday 16th October 2010:** *Roman coins and their message*, by David Thorold from Verulamium Museum.

**Saturday 6th November:** *The History of Windows up to the 18th Century*, by historian Anne Padfield

**Saturday 5th February 2011:** *Railways to Hertford*, by David Dent

**Saturday 5th March:** *The Normans on the Essex and Hertfordshire borders*, by Jennifer C Ward, historian formerly with the University of London.

Lectures take place at Bengeo Parish Church Hall in Duncombe Road, Hertford at 2.30pm. All visitors welcome.

**Brian Shillum**

**Hon. Lecture Secretary**

# The View from the Library

When I first visited Wymondley Priory (situated between Hitchin and Stevenage) in 1992, I became fascinated by its founder Richard de Argentein and his family. According to Noel Farris's book *The Wymondleys*, the family believed in founding hospitals in their various domains, or if there was already one in the area, they donated lands and other financial support for its upkeep. In fact, the originator of the family in England, David de Argentein, gave lands to support the hospital of St Leonard's (which later became St Peter's) in York.

Knowing little about medieval history I began to study the period and the family, and I was delighted when I discovered information in the EHAS library to help my research.

Most useful has been *The Medieval Hospitals of England* by Rotha Mary Clay, which was published in 1909 with a preface by the Lord Bishop of Bristol. As mentioned in this preface, the author presents an amazing amount of information concerning the hospitals of England, including details of hospitals for wayfarers and the

sick, for the feeble and destitute, and for the insane.

A whole chapter is dedicated to the leper - and reading about their plight is very moving, bringing home the fact that lazarus or leper



7. LEPER AND PHYSICIAN

houses were vital for the survival of those struck down, since they would often be driven away from their homes when the disease was discovered.

The detail on the use and organisation of all these hospitals is also fascinating and requires re-reading to absorb it all. The chapter on the patron saints of hospitals is especially interesting as there is often confusion over the exact dedication of these organisations. St John the Baptist, St Mary Magdelene and St Lazarus are given as particularly popular choices. Clay mentions that "the cult of these saints is intertwined with the history of the Religious Military

Order of Jerusalem. The work of the Knights Hospitallers was to care for sick and needy pilgrims."

As Richard de Argentein was known to have been on pilgrimage to the Holy Land, this would suggest why he wanted to dedicate his priory to St Mary. Clay's book gives the date for the foundation of Wymondley hospital as 1232.

Though not light reading, this is a fascinating reference book on a fairly abstruse subject which deserves more attention than it gets.

**Lis Barratt**  
**Hon. Librarian**



26. A LEPER  
 (With clapper and dish)



9. A LEPER

## This and That: Notes from the Hon. Secretary

Membership of the Society remains just below the hundred mark and we would welcome new members. But please remember that our activities such as lectures and excursions are open to non-members at a nominal sum to cover temporary membership, so please invite anyone you think might be interested. For details of events, please see our website [www.ehas.org.uk](http://www.ehas.org.uk) or email [ehasoc@googlemail.com](mailto:ehasoc@googlemail.com)

The society receives a considerable amount of notices from other societies with roughly the same range of interests. Information about open days, lectures, exhibitions etc arrives by email and disseminating this information is difficult, apart from the usual display at winter lectures and the AGM and via the website. To help, we have now added an Events Diary to the Newsletter. But if you have a particular interest let me know and I will gladly pass on anything relevant. Finally, please mark the date of our next Annual General Meeting in your diaries:

**9th April 2011:** The EHAS AGM will be held on Saturday 9th April, at 2.30pm at Great Amwell Village Hall.

The Gordon Moodey Lecture will be given by Dr Sam Moorhead, Finds Advisor for Iron Age and Roman Coins at the British Museum. His talk will be titled: *How the Portable Antiquities Scheme is Changing our Understanding of Roman Coin Use and Loss in Britain.*

### Events Diary:

In addition to the EHAS lecture series, members may be interested in the following events.

**9th - 12th September 2010:** Heritage Open Days. Many interesting places are open to the public free of charge, such as Brickendonbury estate, Place House,

Ware Museum, Hertford Castle, St. Leonards Church, Hertford Museum etc. More at [www.heritageopendays.org.uk](http://www.heritageopendays.org.uk)  
**22nd September:** An evening walk in Hertford led by Jean Riddell. 6.30pm - 8.30pm. To book, phone 01727 857274. Hertfordshire Archives and Local Studies (HALS) has a number of courses and events coming up.

**Starting 7th September,** an 8 week course on Tuesday evenings: *How to Read Old Documents.* 7.30pm - 9pm £60.

**15th September:** One-day workshop on *Manorial Records for Local Family History.* 10am - 4pm £30.

**10th November:** One-day workshop on *Life in the Workhouse.* 10am - 4pm £30. For details see [www.hertsdirect.org/hals](http://www.hertsdirect.org/hals). Those of you who came to Daphne Knott's talk will no doubt have looked at [www.hertsmemories.org.uk](http://www.hertsmemories.org.uk) It is well worth dipping into.

Hertford and Ware Local History Society are holding a series of talks throughout the Autumn and Winter, including:

**14th October:** *Hertford Organists - Charles Bridgeman and Malcolm Heywood,* by Jean Riddell and Sheila White. St Andrew's Church Hall, Hertford, 8pm.

**11th November:** *Braughing Parish Workhouse,* by Peter Boylan. St Mary's Church extension, Ware. 8pm.

**9th December:** *Carrington's Diary Revisited,* by Jean Riddell, Gill Cordingley and Laurie Wright. The Hertford Club, Bull Plain, Hertford. 8pm.

**13th January 2011:** *The Long Struggle Against Poverty in Ware,* by David Perman. St Mary's Church extension, Ware. 8pm.

**10th February:** *The Story of Welwyn Garden City,* by Jenny Oxley. St Andrew's Church Hall, Hertford. 8pm.

**10th March:** *Two Hundred Years of Much Hadham Forge,* by Robin Webb. St Mary's Church extension, Ware. 8pm. Enfield Archaeological Society also has

organised a series of interesting lectures which are held at 8pm at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield. Further details at: [www.enfarchsoc.org](http://www.enfarchsoc.org)

**17th September 2010:**

*Recent Archaeological Work in London*, an update from English Heritage.

**15th October:** *Current*

*Life in Enfield Local History Archive*, by John Clark from the Enfield Local History Unit.

**19th November:** *Prescott St E1*

*Excavations and Roman Cemetery*, by Guy Hunt from LP Archaeology.

**Conferences:**

**24th - 26th September 2010:** The McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research in Cambridge is hosting a conference titled: *Crisis, what Crisis? Collapses and Dark Ages in Comparative Perspective*. For details visit [www.mcdonald.cam.ac.uk](http://www.mcdonald.cam.ac.uk)

**2nd October 2010:** The Ecclesiological Society is holding a one-day conference on *Medieval English Wall Paintings*. This will be held at the St Alban's Centre, Baldwin Gardens, London EC1N 7AB. 10.15am - 5.15pm. £48. For details see [www.ecclsoc.org](http://www.ecclsoc.org) or call 01689 840309.

**16th October:** *Bedfordshire and Hertfordshire Archaeology Review*. One-day event covering recent work in both counties and updates on some of the areas most famous sites. Held at the Spirella Building, Letchworth Garden City 9.30am - 4.30pm. £15. For details call Tim Vickers on 01582 547969.

**23rd October:** CBA South Midlands regional group annual conference on *Recent Fieldwork in Bedfordshire*. Held at the Harrold Centre, High Street, Harrold, Bedfordshire, the event includes 6 speakers from Albion



*Thirteenth century wall paintings from St Leonards Church, Hertford (see The Ecclesiological Society conference below).*

Archaeology, talking on recent projects including work at Bedford Castle and at Marston Moretaine. For details call Julia Wise on 01296 382072.

**26th February 2011:** The McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research in Cambridge is hosting a conference titled: *Place-Names and Landscape - Recent Research*. This one-day event includes presentations on place names and civil defence, people and place in medieval England, Essex salt-marsh and Thames-side place names, and Anglo-Saxon place names. £39.

**21st May 2011:** The McDonald Institute for Archaeological Research in Cambridge is also hosting a conference titled: *Designing with Water: New Work in Garden History*. Subjects include the innovative use of water in the 16th and 17th-century garden and Hertfordshire's lost water gardens c1500-1700. £39. For details see [www.mcdonald.cam.ac.uk](http://www.mcdonald.cam.ac.uk)

**Gill Pollard**  
**Hon Secretary.**

**Editor's Note:**

After many years, our Hon. Secretary Gill Pollard has decided to stand down from the role due to other commitments. The council would like to express immense gratitude to Gill for her hard work and we are sure that all EHAS members will join us in thanking her.