

## **West Essex Archaeological Group**

**Fifty-sixth AGM, 9<sup>th</sup> March 2015**

### **Chairman's Report 2014 - 2015**

2014-15 has been my first year as Chairman of the West Essex Archaeological Group and, for me and the depleted General Committee it has been a period of introspection and reflection on the future of our Group.

For my part, as a professional in our discipline, I have resigned as Chairman of the Essex Congress so that I can give as much time as possible to WEAG.

For the General Committee, as reported in Andrew Madeley's email to the group on the 24<sup>th</sup> February, the need to reflect on our future has been brought to the fore by the change in numbers of our managing committee. I repeat Andrew's words here:

..we need to draw members' attention to our need to fill some of the roles to run the society.

This situation has arisen as a result of the high turnover that we have had over the last couple of years, especially some of the longer term and senior members of committee. As with any group like ours, we need to share the load of running the society so that we can move forward and, where possible, grow.

The most urgent need is to fill the role of Secretary - if we can get a suitable candidate the role could develop over a period of time, initially as the minute taker and first point of contact to distribute enquiries then expand to take on other responsibilities once they have settled in.'

As part of the introspection process, we have considered those areas of the constitution which require clarification and updating to enable us to function as a 21<sup>st</sup> century group and also we are completing an appraisal of the numerous tasks which comprise a successful group. The outcome of the former will be considered by this AGM, the latter is still ongoing within General Committee.

WEAG are one of only a very few Greater London-based local societies that offer field opportunities, and our very successful work at Copped Hall will continue to allow this - we hope as many members as possible to come to help. Along with excavation, this year will also be a period of consolidation as we start work on the large finds backlog. This should give an opportunity to those who may wish to help but do not wish to dig.

I apologise for the tardiness in finalising the programme for this year - that was entirely my own fault. It is when tasks such as that fall on us that we realise just how much people such as Gil Burn did for us all, making use of her many and varied contacts throughout the museums and galleries of London for our benefit. Sadly we said farewell to her at her funeral on a very cold January afternoon.

**John Shepherd FSA MCIfA**