



# NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2020

## Letter from the Editor

Hello!

Welcome to the April edition of the WEAG newsletter!

What strange times we are living through – I trust you are all keeping well and are practicing social distancing. Please get in touch with me if you are struggling with the practicalities of being holed up at home; I and fellow members are here to help.

At the present moment, we are still planning to go ahead with the Members Dig in May and the Experience Weekends in July – these are particularly interesting this year with the first weekend of (11th/12th July) geophysics on the upper lawn to find paths, the second weekend (18th/19th July) digging basics, de-turfing, washing and trench sheets with third weekend (25th/26th July) to include levels and processing. That enables someone to come for all three weekend without repeating and they can follow a dig from start to finish and all the processes involved. There is also a possibility of a 4th weekend in Sept/Oct with weighing, measuring and discarding included.

### **Lecture Program**

This season's lectures have all been re-scheduled from September onwards (please see below) along with some new speakers already confirmed.

### **Articles**

Would you have an article to contribute to the newsletter, possibly one you have not, until now, had time to write?

We'd love to hear from you and I'm sure your fellow WEAG members would appreciate the extra reading material.

This month we are pleased to include an article by Claire Hooper and Lee Joyce on parish lock-ups.

### **January Subs**

From January subs are changing for individual and family membership to £15 and £20 respectively, this is a gentle reminder ahead of time to change your standing order.

Please look after yourself and please get in touch if you are feeling a little isolated.

## Profile on a WEAG Member

Would you like to be 'our profile on a member'? If so email me on [lexie.lyons@icloud.com](mailto:lexie.lyons@icloud.com) and I'll forward you the questions.

## Stay In Touch

[weag.org.uk](http://weag.org.uk)

[Facebook.com/westessexarchaeological](https://www.facebook.com/westessexarchaeological)

[Twitter.com/WEAGarchaeology](https://twitter.com/WEAGarchaeology)

[Instagram.com/weag\\_archaeology](https://www.instagram.com/weag_archaeology)

Anything you'd like to contribute to the WEAG Newsletter or if you have any comments on the new format, please email [lexie.lyons@icloud.com](mailto:lexie.lyons@icloud.com)

# WEAG CALENDAR OF EVENTS

## Lecture Program

Lectures are in the committee room at Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9LA at 7:15pm unless otherwise stated.

Non-members are welcome to attend Lectures. A voluntary contribution of £2 would be appreciated from guests.

### Monday 14 September 2020 @ 19:15

The Rudge Lecture  
'Highams in Walthamstow'. *Speaker: Georgina Green.*

### Monday 12 October 2020 @ 19:15

'Medieval Church Wall Paintings in Essex'. *Speakers: Lee Joyce & Claire Hooper.*

### Monday 11 November 2020 @ 19:15

'Bricks in Essex'. *Speaker: Anne Padfield.* Anne is a local historian and English Heritage guide at Hill Hall.

### Monday 7 December 2020 @ 19:15

Social (book sales and refreshments) and roundup of member activities.

### Monday 11 January 2021 @ 19:15

'Non-Invasive Archaeology'. *Speaker: Melinda Barham.*

### Monday 8 February 2021 @ 19:15

*Details to be confirmed*

### Monday 8 March 2020 @ 19:15

AGM and 'Future of The Rose Theatre Part II'. *Speaker: Harvey Sheldon, Birkbeck College, WEAG President.*

### Monday 12 April 2021 @ 19:15

*Details to be confirmed*

### Monday 10 May 2021 @ 19:15

The Rudge Lecture – 'to be announced'.  
*Speaker: Mike "Mr Stonehenge" Parker Pearson.*

## Spring Dig

### Saturday 23 May – Sunday 31 May 2020

09.30 – 17.00 | Copped Hall, Crown Hill, Epping, CM16 5HS  
Members Only. A voluntary donation of £2 per day would be appreciated.

## Archaeology Experience Weekends

### 11 - 12 July | 18 - 19 July | 25 - 26 July 2020

Copped Hall, Crown Hill, Epping, CM16 5HS.  
£60 per weekend.

For absolute beginners to "hands-on" archaeology.

Held as part of the Council for British Archaeology's festival of British Archaeology, the course is open for beginners. The first weekend will be geophysics which will encompass ground penetrating radar, magnetometry and resistivity, the following two weekends will follow up the geophysics results with excavations dependant on the results.

## Other Key Events

### Date to be confirmed

Field-walk at Longshaw, Theydon Bois.  
An email will be sent nearer the time

# PARISH LOCK-UPS

submitted by Claire Hooper & Lee Joyce

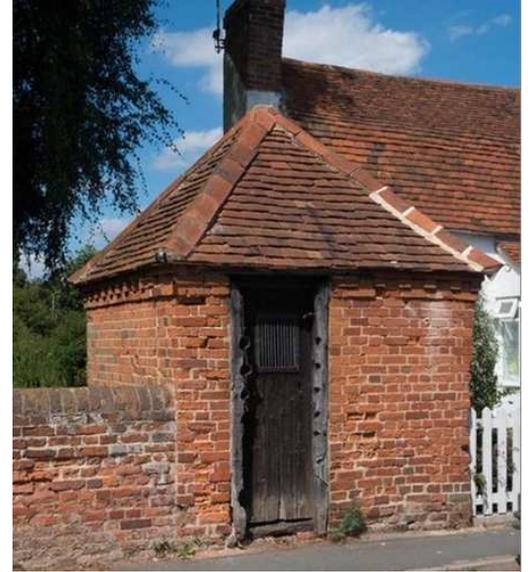
In the late 18th and early 19th century there was general concern about the behaviour of some members of society and a call to find a solution to deal with low-level crime and what we would today call 'anti-social behaviour'.

The rise in social unrest can be attributed to several factors. Firstly, agricultural reforms and the industrial revolution meant that some traditional jobs had been lost and there was an increase in unemployment and vagrancy. By the early 19th century this problem was exacerbated by soldiers returning from the Napoleonic wars to find them unable to find work or, due to injuries sustained in the fighting, unable to take up their previous occupations. In 1830 another factor was added to the mix when the Beer Act was passed. This act meant that anyone who paid rates could, for a nominal fee, open their house to sell alcohol. Many people who had previously been denied a license by magistrates now could open a cheap 'beer house'. Unsurprisingly all over the country drunkenness, late hours, noise, disorder, gambling and petty crime all increased.

At this time there was no organised police force and in most communities law and order was maintained locally by the village constable under the auspices of the Lord of the Manor or in some cases the church authorities. The job was unpaid and each constable was appointed for one year. The constable had limited powers and while most communities still had a pillory and stocks for minor punishment what was needed was somewhere for miscreants to be securely detained while they sobered up or were able to appear before a Magistrate. Some parishes already had a secure building to hold prisoners but from around 1810 there was a dramatic rise in the number of parish lock-ups or cages, built around the country. In 1840 the Essex constabulary was formed and parish constables were replaced by paid police in their own stations with purpose built cells. Parish lock-ups gradually began to fall out of use.

As each parish built and maintained its own lock up there was no standard building shape or list of rules for looking after the prisoners. However, most parish lock ups were built in a central place, contained two separate cells, and had doors with bars and on occasion a chain fixed to a bolt on the floor. The lock-up or cage at Rayne contained a chimney and fireplace but this is rare. Most parishes provided bread, cheese and perhaps surprisingly beer for breakfast so that the prisoner was looked after before facing the Magistrate. In Braintree one inmate carved his name "William Oliver Sept 22 1843 committed" into the brickwork.

Twelve lock-ups survive in Essex. The lock-up at Great Barfield can be visited in the summer months and is brick built, contains two cells and has the date 1816 picked out in studs on the door. The earliest lock-up in Essex is built into the fabric of the Guildhall in Thaxted and was probably built as part of the guildhall around 1400. This shows that while there was a marked upsurge in the building of lock-ups in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century, in larger communities with markets and fairs, they had long been needed.



**Bradwell-on-Sea lock-up**  
*Attached to a lock-up are stocks and a whipping post built into the door jamb.*

