

WASC 653

# On Her Majesty's Service

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The fall where kings ate

Chestnut and Waltham  
Mercury

Friday August 29 1909.



Cheshunt and Waltham

Mercury

Friday August 29th 1969.

## ***The hall where kings ate***

**WALTHAM** Abbey Historical Society thinks it has unearthed the great hall where kings and queens of England dined before going off on hunting expeditions in Epping Forest.

Frequent visitors could have been King Henry III, Edward I, and Henry VIII.

The historical society and a team of students, led by Waltham Abbey archaeologist Peter Huggins, concluded the bulk of a two-week dig in the Abbey Gardens and the Vicarage Gardens at the week-end.

The team is pretty positive it has discovered the walls of the abbot's house, part of the monastery demolished in 1540 at the will of Henry VIII who ordered the dissolution of monasteries.

The house is about 70 feet long and within it was a room about 40 feet long with a fireplace at one end. The room was probably the great hall where visiting royalty ate as the abbot's guests.

Dr. Kenneth Bascombe, society secretary, said this week that this was a "strong possibility." Royalty made frequent visits to the Abbey for hunting expeditions, he added.

The last abbot to entertain them before the dissolution would have been Robert Fuller.

Other finds have included five 16th-century counting tokens, part of a chafing dish — used for keeping food warm — and fragments of pottery, some dating back to the Saxon and Roman periods.