

# Mosaic

## EXPLORING THE CITY

IN A SENSE, London is its own living museum, and it is good to see the Museum of London exploiting the possibilities of combining 'field-work' with a visit to its excellent displays. The City of London Archaeological Trust has teamed up with Citisights (introduced to readers in our previous Mosaic) to produce daily walks around the City, guided by professional archaeologists. Each walk costs £1 per person (under 4 year olds go free) and the profits are given to the Trust to help pay for excavations in the City.

The walk starts outside the Museum of London at 2 p.m. (Monday to Friday) or 4 p.m. (weekends), and last for up to two hours, but participants are free to leave the group at any time. One would make an ideal addition to a visit to the Museum, by relating material on display to actual sites and areas of the City.

The present season of walks ended on 22nd October, but we hope that further seasons will be planned.

## SOUTHWARK SITE CONTINUES

IN JULY a second area was opened on the excavations at Calvert's Buildings, 15-23 Southwark Street, London S.E.1. The new area, which covers approximately 250 square metres (2700 sq. ft.), is particularly important as it is relatively undisturbed by modern cellars, and archaeological deposits survive some 1½ metres (5ft) higher than elsewhere on the site.

Initial findings suggest that as in the first area, there are two major phases of Roman masonry buildings. The higher level of stratigraphy means that much of the floor of the later phase of these buildings remains, and already several areas of tessellated floors and *opus signinum* surfaces have been uncovered. The earlier phase of stone buildings has so far only been glimpsed in the sections of later features where they are represented by massive stone foundations. These sections also show that the two phases of masonry buildings are preceded by a succession of clay and timber buildings.

Both parts of the site contain a number of graves cut into the last phase of Roman buildings. Those in the first area appear to be mid-4th century, and are orientated east/west; by contrast, the graves in the second area are all of north/south orientation. These graves have not yet been dated.

In addition to the Roman phases on this site it is hoped that the new area will produce further evidence of pre-Roman activity as an important aspect of the excavations has been the discovery of a number of Iron-Age gullies, the first time such features have been found in Southwark or in the City.

## ST. MICHAEL FOR ARCHAEOLOGY

ANOTHER WELL-KNOWN name has joined the list of companies that have given practical or material help to archaeology. Following the example of Lloyds Bank, Legal and General and others, Marks and Spencer recently presented £3,000 to Kingston upon Thames to enable archaeological excavation to be carried out by the borough's Heritage Centre at the old Knapp Drewett site in the town centre, where the store plans its new extension (see front cover).

The site is thought to include the west bank of a former branch of the Thames, and a Surrey white ware kiln or waster dump. The western portion of the site is a gravel terrace on which Saxon occupation may be found. Excavations are being carried out by the South-West London Archaeological Unit on behalf of the Kingston Heritage Centre, with the assistance of the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society.

At a ceremony on 29th July, the store's manager Don Heaven presented the cheque to the Mayor, Councillor Kenneth Goodling, and said that in conjunction with Boots (whose new store will also be built on the site), Marks and Spencer would make the site available for excavation for at least three months before construction work began. The builders, Bovis Construction Ltd., are also co-operating with the archaeologists.

As well as supporting the excavation, Marks and Spencer have donated a further £1,000 towards the Mayor's Church Tower Appeal for renovation work at All Saints' Parish Church, and staff at the store had decided to celebrate the firm's centenary in 1984 by presenting £16,000 to the Heritage Centre for a permanent exhibition of the work of Edward Muybridge, the pioneering Kingston photographer.

## SURREY IRON RAILWAY THREATENED

ONE OF LONDON'S major industrial archaeology relics is the Surrey Iron Railway, the world's first public railway which was incorporated in 1801 and ran from Wandsworth to Croydon. Already little of it survives, and some that does is not recognisable — for example the anonymous pile of sleepers in The Grove Park, Carshalton. Now there is a threat to one of the few areas where there are still remains *in situ*: the northern end of the Railway at Bell Lane Creek, Wandsworth. The G.L.C. have made application to create a 'hard standing' there for the purpose of transferring refuse to barges on the Thames.

The London Branch of the Inland Waterways Association are opposing the application on the grounds that (if the site contains relics of the Surrey Iron Railway and the only surviving section of Mae Murray's Canal, opened in 1802, which once served the Ram Brewery and Wandsworth Gas Company; (ii) the site has potential amenity value, recognised by Wandsworth Borough Council and (iii) the hardstanding is unnecessary as there is plenty of wharfage on the river nearby.

## REMINDER

PLEASE REMEMBER to address all correspondence about subscriptions, back numbers, binders, and especially changes of address, to the Subscriptions Secretary (address on p.197). Your letter will be answered faster if it goes straight to the right person.