

# Mosaic

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL WOOD SURVEY

ENGLISH Heritage is undertaking a survey of the archaeological, scientific and display potential of wood remains recovered from archaeological excavations in the UK. Recent discoveries, such as the *Mary Rose* and the Flag Fen lake village, have high-lighted problems of how to interpret, select and preserve those remains which will contribute most to the understanding and display of the original structures.

To help in decision-making and the allocation of resources, English Heritage wishes to have a clear and up to date record of the state of wood studies (e.g. dendrochronology, wood technologies and woodland management), the amount of timber in store and prospects for the recovery of wood from wet sites. To enable English to consult with the numerous organisations, archaeologists, conservators, museum workers and other specialists involved, those concerned with any aspect of this work are invited to contact:

Nigel Nayling,

Ancient Monuments Laboratory,  
English Heritage, Fortress House,  
23 Savile Row, London W1X 2HE  
(tel. 01-734 6010 ext. 526).

## YOUNG ARCHAEOLOGISTS CLUB

THIS IS a new club for young people in Surrey, set up by Surrey Archaeological Society and Guildford Museum, where it is based. It aims to introduce young people to archaeology and local history, using the Museum's resources, practical sessions and outings. This year's programme includes an introduction to archaeological techniques, spinning and weaving, Roman games and a visit to the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum. The club meets once a month, on a Saturday, from 10 a.m. to 12 noon for 8-12 year olds and from 2 p.m. - 4 p.m. for 13-18 year olds, with some joint all-day meetings. The annual membership fee is £2.00, which includes a quarterly newsletter, and there is a charge of £1.00 per session, plus cost of transport for any trips. Details can be obtained from Young Archaeologists Club, Guildford Museum, Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3SX.

## CITISIGHTS BRANCHES OUT

READERS WILL probably be familiar with the Citisights of London programme 'Walk back into London's past', which features regularly on our Diary page, and which Susan Mimmack reviewed for us in 1985 (Vol. 5, no. 3, 68). After five years of walking the streets of London, the company is branching out into other areas, with one-day conferences bringing together experts in a particular field, and coach trips to archaeological sites outside London. Twice a year a newsletter *Ancient Times* is produced and circulated to those on the mailing list. A more ambitious project being carried out by a sister company, Cultural Heritage Resources, is a computerised audio-visual history of London on interactive compact disc. Over 70 brand new historical reconstructions of London have been produced. It is hoped that the disc will be available early next year. For news of these and other developments, contact the companies at 145 Goldsmiths Row, London E2 8QR, tel. (01) 739 2372 or 4853.

## UP IN ARMS AT THE TOWER

ANOTHER organisation providing excellent one-day courses into many aspects of British history is the Education Centre at the Tower of London. Recent days have covered topics such as 'The Kings and Queens of Lancastrian London', 'Anglo-Norman Warfare and Chivalry' and 'What are Museums for?', with 'The Hundred Years' War' to come soon (see Diary). The days usually cost about £5, including tea and coffee but not lunch. Details can be obtained from The Education Officer, Waterloo Barracks, HM Tower of London, London EC3N 4AB.

## ALL ABOARD A BOOK LAUNCH

THE FIRST three books of a new series, designed to make the work of notable, but less well-known, photographers available to a wider public, were published on 20 October by Dirk Nishen Publishing in conjunction with the Museum of London at a launch party on the Thames aboard the *Viceroy*.

The new PHOTO-LIBRARY series of high quality, but popularly priced pocket books will use pictures from the many extensive photographic archives available in this country. The first three volumes in the series feature photographs from the Museum of London's Historic Photograph Collection, and have been edited by its Curator, Mike Seaborne.

In the first two books, the work of the recently discovered photographer, George Reid, is published for what is probably the first time. Active during the inter-war period, Reid used a plate camera mounted on a custom-built stepladder to produce a superb set of photographs of the Cities of London and Westminster. Subjects include the busy riverside wharves, captured by his lens at a time when London was still the trading centre of a vast empire. The photographs in the third volume focus on the City during the Blitz through photographs taken in the course of duty by two serving officers of the City of London Police, Arthur Cross and Fred Tibbs. They are a set of pictures remarkable for their graphic, and sometimes almost surreal qualities.

The titles are **River Thames in the late Twenties and early Thirties** and **Streets of London in the late Twenties and early Thirties**, both by George Reid, and **The London Blitz**, by Arthur Cross and Fred Tibbs. Each book has 32 pages and 27 pictures, and costs £2.95 from booksellers and the Museum of London shop.

## ARE YOUR SLIDES SAFE?

ANY ARCHAEOLOGICAL or historical work seems to generate vast numbers of slides, negatives and prints, which have to be safely stored so that they can be easily retrieved when required. One solution is to hang them in special wallets in filing cabinets; in this way slides, prints and documents can all be conveniently kept together. Recent research has cast doubts on this system, by showing that the pvc used in some such systems is not of archival quality, and may damage contents through chemical instability.

However, Nicholas Hunter Ltd. have announced that all the wallets in their filing system, which can cope with anything from 35mm slides to 8 x 11in prints, are made from polypropylene, which is of archival standard. Prices are very reasonable, at 38p per wallet (plus filing rods, carriage and VAT). For details, price list or a sample, contact Nicholas Hunter Ltd., Unit 8, Oxford Business Centre, Osney Lane, Oxford OX1 1TB.

## BEDDINGTON BEREFT

THE BEDDINGTON prehistoric and Roman site, where excavations finished on 1 May 1987 (see p. 349) is now without staff for its post-excavation phase. Lesley and Roy Adkins, who have directed excavations there since 1981, have moved to Somerset, where we wish them well in their future careers. Andrew Skelton, who had been employed on post-excavation work thanks to a grant from Sutton Borough Council, has moved to the Merton Priory excavation on the expiry of that grant. The future of a team of post-excavation volunteers, and of the site itself, is uncertain.

## FAREWELL AND BEST WISHES

MR M. R. ('MIKE') Maitland Muller retired from his post as Keeper of the Cuming Museum, Walworth Road, Southwark, in September. We wish him a long, happy and successful retirement.