

# Mosaic

## Medieval Palace opens

THE MEDIEVAL Palace within the Tower of London was opened to the public for the first time on 31 March. It comprises the Lanthorn Tower, the Wakefield Tower and St. Thomas's Tower (above Traitors' Gate). The Lanthorn and Wakefield Towers were built by Henry III in the 13th century and form part of the Inner Curtain Wall; the Wakefield Tower was his private apartment. Edward I extended the whole site by building the Outer Curtain Wall, to which St. Thomas's Tower belongs; this was his private apartment.

The Medieval Palace project links all these sections and provides a new route from the Lanthorn Tower, along a wall-walk on the Inner Curtain Wall, through the Wakefield Tower to St. Thomas's Tower, which is the most significant area to be opened up. The rooms have been furnished with careful copies of artefacts from the period of the 1280s, including a reproduction of Edward I's throne, and a candelabra in the Wakefield Tower. A group of trained experts in replicas of medieval costumes will explain the Palace and its contents to visitors, and will demonstrate various 13th-century activities, such as calligraphy, quill-making and chess.

Another aim of the project is to increase the public's understanding of the different phases of building at the Tower — from Roman to 20th century. The masonry of some walls has been deliberately left bare, and there is an exhibition on the history of the building fabric. Other improvements include the removal of some areas of 1970s concrete, the repaving of Water Lane and the excavation and display of a previously unknown medieval drain at the Watergate.

Admission to the Tower is now (April) £6.70 for adults, £4.40 for children, £5.10 for concessions and £19 for families.

## A jewel for the British Museum

THE BOWLEAZE Jewel, a very rare Anglo-Saxon gold and blue glass fitting, as been acquired at auction by the British Museum, with the aid of grants from the National Heritage Memorial Fund and the National Art Collections Fund. It was found in March 1990 at Bowleaze Cove near Weymouth, and declared not to be Treasure Trove at a coroner's inquest in December 1991. It is possibly the terminal of either a rod of office or of a manuscript pointer. The only parallels are the more elaborate Minster Lovell and Alfred Jewels, both in the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford. It has been suggested that all three are handles of manuscript pointers like those commissioned by Alfred to accompany copies of Gregory the Great's *Regula Pastoralis*, which he ordered to be sent out to every diocese to instruct the clergy. The Jewel is on display in Room 35, at the top of the main stairs.

## An ill wind blows for the Globe

TIMBER FROM 300-year-old trees grown in the New Forest is being used to build a replica of the Globe Theatre in Southwark. Taken from oaks damaged in the storms of October 1987 and January 1990, the timber has been donated by Forest Enterprise (part of the Forestry Commission) to The Shakespeare Globe Trust. When it is completed in 1994, the theatre and adjoining museum, education centre and library are expected to attract more than 600,000 students, theatre-goers and tourists each year. For further information contact the Globe Theatre, Bear Gardens, Southwark, London SE1 9EB, tel. (071) 620 0202.

## Church Farmhouse excavation in Hendon

THE HENDON and District Archaeological Society are digging at the Church Farmhouse, Hendon, on most weekends this

summer, and volunteers will be welcome. It is the oldest surviving dwelling house in Hendon (built about 1660) and became a local museum in 1955. The excavation will be in the grounds of the house in advance of landscaping of the gardens. It is hoped that remains of the farm buildings, and possibly evidence of the medieval village of Hendon, will be revealed. There will be an open day on 28th August (see *Diary*). For further information about the excavation contact Brian Wrigley, excavation Director, 21 Woodcroft Avenue, London NW7 2AH.

## Jean Snelling

WE REPORT with regret the death of Jean Snelling on 7th February. Jean had been the representative of Hendon & District Archaeological Society on the London Archaeologist Publication Committee, and had acted as out ears and eyes in her part of north London. She worked for many years on the Society's excavations at West Heath, Hampstead and as a volunteer finds processor for the Museum of London. She will be much missed.

## Friends wanted

THE BUTSER Ancient Farm Project, which many readers have visited, is seeking members to join the Friends of Butser Ancient Farm. The subscription is £5 a year for individuals and £8 a year for families; privileges include free admission to the site, a newsletter, winter lectures and reduced fees for residential courses. For further information, banker's orders and covenant form (the Project is a registered charity) contact The Secretary, Mrs M Tatlow, The Friends of Butser Ancient Farm, 212 Portsmouth Road, Horndean, Hants, PO8 9HR.

## New directory of London history

THE NEW edition of the *Greater London Local History Directory* gives details of non-commercial publications produced by local history organisations between 1988 and 1992. Together with the first edition, published in 1987, and *London's Local History* (published in 1983) it catalogues publishing activity over the last 25 years in London. There are also contact addresses for local societies.

The *Directory* is published by Peter Marcan Publications, PO Box 3158, London SE1 4RA, and costs £15 plus £1.50 postage and packing.

## Tudor country house in Hackney

SINCE 1991 THE National Trust has been restoring Sutton House in Hackney. It was built around 1535, probably for Ralph Sadleir, who later rose to a high rank in Henry VIII's government. It takes its name from Thomas Sutton, who lived immediately to the west of the house in the early 17th century, thus perpetuating an historical error of the 1950s, when it was suggested that he had lived here. Its present 'Queen Anne' style is probably due to Daniel Stacey, who leased the house in 1700. After a varied history, often as a school, the house was purchased for the National Trust in 1936. Used as offices until 1982, it became derelict until the National Trust responded to a local campaign by agreeing to fully restore it and open it to the public. Phase 1 has been completed, and Phase 2 will include work on the East Wing, where a library, museum and education rooms will be created.

The house is open to the public 11.30 a.m. to 5.30 p.m. Wednesdays, Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays, admission £1 adults, 50p children under 17. For more information, contact The National Trust, Sutton House, 2 & 4 Homerton High Street, Hackney, E9 6JQ, tel. 081 986 2264.