

# Mosaic

## River Lea Tidal Mill Trust

IT MAY COME as a surprise to know that the largest tidal mill in the country is in London, not far from the centre of Stratford. The House Mill was built in 1776 as part of the Three Mills complex at Bromley-by-Bow. It is a timber-framed building, clad in brick on three sides, built across the river Lea. The mill trapped the sea and river water at high tide to turn four large water wheels on the ebb. It was in operation until 1941; all the wheels and some of the original millstones survive. The House Mill is now a Grade I listed building in a Conservation Area which also contains the Clock Mill (Grade II\*) and the Excise House (Grade II),

Since 1989, the River Lea Tidal Mill trust has been working to restore and develop the Mill. The facade and ground floor of the adjacent Miller's House have been restored, allowing public access and providing administrative accommodation. The Trust has restored about a quarter of the Mill, and hoped to restore the remainder by March 1997. Grants have been made by the ec, English Heritage, and Stratford City Challenge. The Mill is now open to visitors from 2 to 4 p.m. every Sunday afternoon; Bromley-by-Bow tube station is nearby and there is ample parking in the Tesco car park. Special tours for groups can be arranged at other times.

Donations are now being sought for the completion of the work, and members of the public are also invited to join the Friends of the House Mill (minimum annual subscription £5). For further details contact The River Lea Tidal Trust Ltd., The Miller's House, Three Mill Lane, Bromley-by-Bow, London E3 3DX, tel. 0181 908 4626.

## Chinese Jade at the British Museum

ONE OF THE delights of being a student in London is the opportunity to visit the many exhibitions that take place there. One current exhibition that is well worth a visit is *Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing*, at the British Museum until 17 September. Although it is impossible to convey the importance of jade to Chinese culture, this exhibition gives a vivid impression of the great artistic and emotional achievements of this enigmatic material. One's initial impression is of green jade that catches the eye, but on reflection it is perhaps the gold and amber that catches the heart. Particularly striking are the zoomorphic pieces, such as a set of stags from Western Zhou.

The exhibition is well-designed and presented, although with so many Asian visitors, I felt that additional text in Chinese script would have been useful. Advance reading of the accompanying book (*Chinese Jade from the Neolithic to the Qing*, by Jessica Rawson, price £55 from Museum bookshops) would enhance a visit.

Robin Dodds

## New Gallery at the British Museum

*HELLENISTIC* is a term used to describe the period of Greek civilisation after the death of Alexander the Great in 323 BC. The new gallery, *The Hellenistic World: Art and Culture* focuses on aspects of this culture. Topics displayed include the wealth of the period and the political background, illustrated by both coins and marble portraits. There is a special display on the city of Cnidus in Asia Minor, and its sanctuary of Demeter and Persephone. A major theme is the role of philosophy in this period, with Cynic, Stoic and Epicurean philosophies all com-  
*(continued on p. 383)*

# Excavations and post-excavation work

**City of London.** Enquiries to Museum of London Archaeology Service, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (0171-972 9111).

**Croydon & District,** processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Mrs Muriel Shaw, 28 Lismore Road, South Croydon, CR2 7QA (0181-688 2720).

**Greater London** (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Number One, London Wall, London EC2Y 5EA (0171-972 9111).

**Borough of Greenwich.** Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites in the borough. For further information contact Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, London SE18 1JT (0181-855 3240).

**Hammersmith & Fulham,** by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (0171-731 4498).

**Kingston,** by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston (0181-546 5386).

**North-east London,** by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Newham Museum Service, Archaeology and Local History Centre, 31 Stock Street, E13 0BX (0181-472 4785).

**Surrey,** by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Old Library Headquarters, 25 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1DE (01306-886 466).

**Vauxhall Pottery,** by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. Enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, SE17 (0171-703 3324).

*Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology includes 10 issues a year of British Archaeological News, as well as the supplement CBA Briefing, which gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The subscription of £18 p.a. includes postage, and should be sent to C.B.A., Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA (01904 671417).*