

Mosaic

Archaeology after the Blitz

1996 IS THE 50th anniversary of the Roman & Medieval London Excavation Council, the organisation directed by Professor W F Grimes, which conducted excavations on London's bomb sites principally from 1946 to 1962. That pioneering work, the first concerted programme of systematic archaeological research excavation in London, laid solid foundations for the later development of the subject. The anniversary was commemorated by a series of lectures at the annual LAMAS conference in March 1996 in the Museum of London, and by the compilation of major posthumous studies of Professor Grimes's most famous excavations, one on the temple of Mithras (by John Shepherd, curator of the Grimes London Archive), the other on St. Bride's church (by Gustav Milne, University College London). Further research is now under way on the RMLEC sites in the area of the Cripplegate Roman fort.

Two new galleries at the British Museum

THE SUMMER of 1997 will see the opening of two completely new galleries at the British Museum: one on the late Bronze Age and Iron Age of Europe and one on Roman Britain. The latter, funded by a donation of £1.75m from the Garfield Weston Foundation, will show many objects never before on public display, such as the early 5th-century hoard from Hoxne, and the building facade from Meonstoke.

Behind the scenes, the Bloomsbury and Shoreditch sections of the Department of Prehistoric and Romano-British Antiquities will be rehoused in a new building just south of the Museum in 1999. As the Bloomsbury part will be demolished in 1998, as part of the Inner Court development (see Vol. 7, no. 10, 276), a substantial part of the Collections will not be available for study over this period.

Charity begins at Rome

A NEW NATIONAL charity, the Association for Roman Archaeology, has just been formed, with the aim of bringing a greater awareness of the Roman world to a broader spectrum of the public. Membership is available to all, and members receive free entry to most of the major Roman sites and collections in Britain, e.g. the whole of Hadrian's Wall, the Roman baths at Bath, Chedworth, and Fishbourne. The first edition of the bi-annual bulletin ARA has just been published, price £1.50 (free to members). The association also arranges specialist tours at discount rates, and offers for members of promotional goods, books and videos related to Roman archaeology and history. Membership costs: students £10, individuals £15, couples £20, and families (max. 4) £25. Contact: Director (Administration), 27 Broadway, Swindon, Wilts. SN2 3BN, tel. 01793 534008.

A NEWSLETTER, *Glass News*, has just been launched by The Association for the History of Glass. Initially it will be produced every six months. Free copies of issue no. 1 can be obtained



Archaeology after the Blitz: Professor Grimes (front row, 2nd on the right) conducting a site tour in the ruins of St. Bride's church Fleet Street, following his excavations there in 1952-4.

(Photo from the archive of Mrs M Grimes)

by sending a sae; a subscription of £3 covers the next three issues (nos 2-4) up to the end of 1997. Contact: John Shepherd, c/o Museum of London, 150 London Wall, London EC2Y 5HN, tel. (0171) 600 3699.

Tours of the past

FOR YOUR Society's next outing, you might like to consider a tour of the National Monuments Record Centre, either the main office at Swindon (why not take in Bath or Avebury?) or the London office. Tours, which take about two hours, can take place in the evening or during one of the monthly Saturday openings, as well as during the week, and refreshments can be provided. Tours include material from the NMR and presentations from staff, tailored to the visitors' specific interests. The aim is for any visitor to come away with a clear idea of the content and structure of the NMR, and how it is relevant to them. Tours can be booked from Donnie Mackay, tel. 01793 414 626.

Eric Wood

WE ANNOUNCE with regret the death on 21 May of Eric Wood, author of the *Collins Field Guide to Archaeology*, and at various times Secretary of the Surrey Archaeological Society and Chairman of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee. We hope to publish a full obituary in a later issue.

MOLAS moves

THE MUSEUM of London Archaeology Service (MOLAS) has moved to a new office. The address is: Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB, tel. (0171) 410 2200, email molas@molas.demon.co.uk.

Letter

George Mitchell School

WITH REFERENCE to the recent article 'Prehistoric and Roman Leyton: some comments' by Pamela Greenwood (Vol. 7, no. 16), it has become apparent that it has been widely viewed as critical of the article 'Excavations at George Mitchell School Playing Fields, High Road, Leyton' by N. Truckle, P. Moore and P. Thrale (Vol. 7, no. 15). I should like to point out that the

intention was for these to be considered as parallel discussions. No adverse comment was intended on the work of the authors of the original article and I regret any misunderstandings which have arisen.

Patricia M. Wilkinson
Assistant Manager Archaeological Fieldwork
Newham Museum Service