

Revival at the Museum of London

IT CAME AS something of a shock to hear that the visitor figures for the Museum of London have declined by about 60% since it opened in 1976, but a much more pleasant surprise to hear that action is being taken to reverse the decline and revitalise the museum. The first stage includes enhanced access (opening seven days a week, and a new £5 ticket – £3 for concessions – which will last for a year) as well as improvements to the galleries, entrance hall and shop.

Part of the museum's new look will be a new major series of exhibitions, the first of which, *London Bodies*, is already running, and a series of smaller exhibitions under the title *Capital Concerns*. The *London Bodies* exhibition looks at the changing shape of the bodies of Londoners through various sorts of evidence – skeletons themselves, facial reconstructions, and the effects of the dictates of fashion. I found this exhibition fascinating (if rather stomach-turning) but not always easy to see because of the height of some of the exhibits. I imagine the ghoulish schoolboys who will inevitably be attracted may find it even more difficult to see everything. Nevertheless, it's an exhibition not to be missed.

Things are changing behind the scenes, too. There are plans to open up access to the museum's vast collections and archives, which we will report in detail in a future issue. Meanwhile, readers with access to the Internet may like to visit the museum's website at <http://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/>, and in 1999 they should be able to access site records via the Archaeology Data Service (<http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/>).

Heathrow goes west

A FIVE-YEAR agreement between Framework Archaeology, a consortium of the Oxford Archaeological Unit and the Trust for Wessex Archaeology, and BAA (formerly the British Airports Authority) has been announced. BAA has appointed Framework Archaeology to be its preferred archaeological contractor, providing archaeological services over the next five years at a number of airport schemes, including the proposed Terminal 5 at Heathrow. It is hoped that by pooling their resources, the two units will be able to provide the best possible level of service to both BAA and the archaeological sites involved.

Tony Clark Memorial Fund

LAST YEAR we announced the death of Tony Clark, the pioneer in geophysical prospection (Vol. 8, no. 5, 140). We are now pleased to report that a Memorial Fund is being set up in his name. It will be administered by the Royal Archaeological Institute, and its aim will be to provide support and encouragement towards the application of science in archaeological field

projects. Anyone would be eligible to apply for a grant, but priority would be given to small organisations as well as independent archaeologists and students.

For the initiative to be a success, generous financial support will be required. Donations (cheques or postal orders made out to 'The Royal Archaeological Institute') can be sent to the Assistant Treasurer, Miss C Raison, c/o Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London W1V 0HS.

Tebbutt Research Fund

THIS FUND was established as a tribute to the life and work of the late C. F. Tebbutt; applications are invited, from individuals and groups, for grants towards research, including associated expenses, into any aspect of the Wealden Iron Industry.

It is anticipated that approximately £100 plus will be available from the fund, and any interested person should write a suitable letter of application giving details of themselves together with relevant information concerning the research envisaged. Applications should be sent not later than 31 March to Sheila Broomfield, 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge, Kent TN11 9HD.

Geffrye Museum re-opens

THE GEFFRYE MUSEUM, which specialises in English furniture and domestic interiors dating from 1600 to the present day, was opened by the Prince of Wales on 18 November. Following a grant of £3.75m from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the museum has built an extension to house its 20th-century collections and temporary exhibitions. The extension will accommodate a conservation workshop that will take on apprentices to learn new skills, as well as catering for more school visits, local activities and National Curriculum work. For details contact Christine Lalumia, tel. 0171 739 9893.

Moving forward on Stonehenge

THE CULTURE SECRETARY, Chris Smith, has announced the next step in the resolution of the future of Stonehenge (see Vol. 8, no. 7, 170). The proposal is now to locate a new visitor centre at Countess East with a park-and-ride link to Fargo North (the previous proposed site for the visitor centre). Countess East is outside the World Heritage site but close enough to allow access to the stones within reasonable time. It looks like progress on the whole scheme is now possible.

First Aid for Finds

RESCUE, the British Archaeological Trust, has just published a new edition of the widely-used guide to the safe recovery of archaeological finds, *First Aid for Finds*. It is available, price £15, from bookshops or direct by post from RESCUE, 15a Bull Plain, Hertford SG14 1DX (add £2 for postage and packing).

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Anglo-Saxon Kingston

MUCH AS I enjoyed reading Duncan Hawkin's article on Anglo-Saxon Kingston, it did have one or two errors which should be cleared up. He says that 1850, when the coronation stone was formally erected, is the first time that seven Saxon kings are mentioned as having been crowned at Kingston. This is incorrect. The list of seven kings is first mentioned by Ralph de Diceto in the late 12th century, although that makes it no more valid than a 19th-century guess! The idea that the stone is in fact part of the chapel of St. Mary was first published by Shaan Butters in *The Book of Kingston*, Baron 1995, p. 184; a work

I was surprised to see omitted from Duncan's footnotes and acknowledgements, as it was the first to really pull the history of this period in Kingston together. There is also Shaan Butters' 'Was Kingston once Moreford?' *Surrey History* 5, no. 3 (1996) 155. This mentions that John Blair has discovered charters later than 838 which mention *Freoricburna* and is therefore doubtful that the place equates with Kingston.

Tim Everson
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