

Diary

October

23 (2.30 p.m.) Standing Conference on London Archaeology. 'London and the Vikings', by James Graham-Campbell. Lecture Theatre, Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, WCL.

29 (8 p.m.) Wandsworth Historical Society. 'Mr Lawrence's Golden Age of Thames Finds', by Jon Cotton. Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

November

3 (7.45 p.m.) Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society. 'Field Archaeology in the Salisbury Plain Training Area', by David Field. East Croydon URC Hall, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon.

3 (8 p.m.) Nonsuch Antiquarian Society. 'A History of Addington Palace and the Whitgift Almshouses', by Yvonne Walker. St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

9 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Britain in the shadow of Rome', by John Creighton. Avenue House, East End Road, Finchley, N3.

11 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'The Press Gang: and evil necessity', by Clive Powell. Interpretation Unit, Museum of London.

26 (8 p.m.) Wandsworth Historical Society. Members' Evening. Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

December

9 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Shipbuilding on the Thames', by Chris Ellmers. Interpretation Unit, Museum of London.

January

5 (5 p.m.) British Archaeological Association. 'Viking Art: 40 years on', by James Graham-Campbell. Society of Antiquaries, Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1V 0HS.

12 (7.45 p.m.) Croydon Natural History & Scientific Society. 'Decoding the Landscape: some Surrey Landscape Projects', by Judie English. East Croydon URC Hall, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon.

13 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'In the footsteps of Professor Grimes: an evaluation of London's first medieval archaeologist', by Gus Milne. Interpretation Unit, Museum of London.

Conferences

Historic Towns in Kent, Saturday 6 November at Christchurch College, Canterbury. Talks on Roman towns, Faversham, and Rochester. Tickets £3 (payable CKA) from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP.

Essex Archaeological Symposium, Saturday 13 November at Christchurch Halls, London Road, Chelmsford. Talks on the latest archaeological research and excavations in Essex. There will also be bookstalls and displays. Final programmes and tickets, price £5, available from Pamela Greenwood, Essex Archaeological and Historical Congress, c/o Newham Museum Service, 31 Stock Street, Plaistow, London E13 0BX (tel: office hours 0181 472 4785 Wednesdays only, or 0181 788 0015 other times/answerphone).

Neolithic archaeology in the inter-tidal zone of rivers and estuaries, 10.30 am to 5 pm Monday 15 November, at the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly. Organised by Fiona Haughey for the Neolithic Studies Group.

The afternoon talks are about the Thames. Tickets £5 (cheques payable to Neolithic Studies Group) from Tim Darvill, School of Conservation Sciences, Bournemouth University, Fern Barrow, Poole, Dorset BH12 5BB. Bookings by 1 November.

Post-medieval London (AD 1500-1800): recent archaeological work and related research, Saturday 27 November at the Museum of London. Organised by CBA Mid-Anglia, in association with CBA South-East, SCOLA and the Society for Post-medieval Archaeology. Tickets £25 each (£20 to members of CBA Mid-Anglia, CBA South-East and SCOLA), including a free copy of the conference publication. Details from Bruce Watson, MOLAS, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB, email Watson B at molas@molas.org.uk.

Courses

Practical Archaeology, Mondays, 7.30-9.30 p.m. from 20 September, at Kent Field Study Centre, School Farm Oast, Gravenev Road, Faversham. Tutor: Paul Wilkinson. Enrolments to Faversham Adult Education Centre, Abbey School, London Road, Faversham ME13 8RZ, tel. 01795 534 770. There is also a series of Saturday day schools, which can be booked singly at £25 per day. For details contact Kent Archaeological Field School, School Farm Oast, Gravenev Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP, tel. 0181 987 8827 or 0585 700 112.

Exhibitions

Cracking Codes: the Rosetta Stone and Decipherment, a celebration of the bicentenary of the discovery of the Rosetta Stone, at the British Museum until 16 January. The exhibition tells the story of the Stone's discovery and decipherment, as well as other contemporaneous decipherments. It also presents work in progress on the understanding of Maya hieroglyphs and scripts and languages which still defy decipherment, such as Merictic and the Easter Island script.

Alfred the Great 849-899: London's forgotten king, at the Museum of London until 9 January. Marking the 1100th anniversary of the death of Alfred the Great, the exhibition shows how recent excavations and historical research have changed our understanding of the significance of the events of 886, and how vital Alfred's concept of a new London was. Items on display include weapons, coins, jewellery, manuscripts and fine Anglo-Saxon metalwork. The centrepiece of the exhibition is the famous Alfred jewel, on loan from the Ashmolean Museum.

For further details contact the Interpretation Unit on 0171 814 5777.

London Eats Out, at the Museum of London from 22 October to 27 February. Five centuries of eating out in London – the first exhibition ever to examine the history of dining in a capital city. Highlights include the only surviving interior of an 18th-century coffee house, and historic food items such as a currant bun baked in 1820, as well as excavated food items, including the Tudor banana recently excavated in Southwark. Sponsored by SimplyFood.co.uk, American Express and Crussh (juice bars).

Gilded Dragons: buried treasures from China's golden ages, at the British Museum from 23 October to 20 February. This special loan exhibition, on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China, will include treasures never before displayed outside China. Its main theme, Tang Dynasty (AD 618-906) gold and silver, is a sequel to the British Museum's *Mysteries of Ancient China* exhibition of 1996, which ended with the Han Dynasty (206 BC – AD 220).

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