

Medieval mill uncovered at Merton Priory

Recent work at Merton Priory has uncovered exciting new evidence of the monastic mill. During November 2003 Copthorn Homes commissioned the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) to conduct a three-week evaluation. The 12th- to 13th-century mill complex was over 25m long and 11m wide, with chalk walls and evidence of an oven and a possible drying room. In the late medieval period a large stone-lined tank (measuring 12m by 5m) was built inside the mill (see cover picture). A 3m wide head-race was formed by stone and tile abutments on either side of the mill leat. The mill was rebuilt in brick in the 16th century, and continued in use until the end of the 17th century. Over 1,200 people attended a public open day to view the mill and see a temporary display on the history of the site from prehistoric times up to the 19th- and 20th-century Arts and Crafts workshops of William Morris and Liberty & Co.

Digging up the Romans

This new website from the Museum of London aims to give an overview of life in Roman London, under the themes: People, Town Life, Invasion and Settlement, The Army, Beliefs, Crafts, Roads and Trade. The introductory level is aimed at KS2 pupils; a second level of detail expands on the subjects for an older audience. The *Archaeology in Action* section is aimed at students of 16+ and at interested adults, and provides a useful background for anyone interested in what archaeology can tell us about Roman life.

The site's address is www.museumoflondon.org.uk/MOLsite/learning/features_facts/digging/index.html.

England at Work

Another new online resource is English Heritage's *ViewFinder*, which makes some 20,000 historical photographs available for all. The *England at Work* collection consists of 5000 images of England's industrial heritage. The address of the site is www.english-heritage.org.uk/viewfinder.

The future of HERs

To keep up with the world of changing acronyms, HERs (Historic Environment Records) are what used to be known as SMRs (Sites and Monuments Records). The DCMS has recently carried out a

consultation on their future; the outcome is not yet known, but English Heritage has published its response. The main points are:

It should be a statutory requirement on local authorities to maintain or ensure that they have access to a HER that meets minimum standards; there should be secure funding to help maintain and develop SERs;

There should be seamless digital access to all records on a local, regional and national level.

We await the outcome of the consultation.

Ian Robertson

The death of Ian Robertson, former curator of the Passmore Edwards Museum in east London, was announced recently. His long involvement with London's archaeology began in the early 1960s, when as a student he was responsible for the Hendon & District Archaeological Society's excavation at Church End Farm (CEF61-66). His first job was as a junior curator at the Chelmsford and Essex Museum in 1965, but after two years he became curator of the Passmore Edwards Museum in Newham, where he stayed for 21 years. Under his leadership, the museum modernised and expanded, with the creation of a museum trust independent of local government to speed up the acquisition of artefacts, as well as developing an archaeological team which was responsible for much of north-east London. He was president of the London Federation of Museums and Art Galleries from 1986 to 1988, and of the Museums Association in 1986. In 1998 he became Director of the National Army Museum in Chelsea, a post that he held with great distinction for over 15 years.

Dennis Haselgrove

The death has also been recently announced of Dennis Haselgrove, who will be known to readers of *London Archaeologist* for his articles on 17th-century London stoneware. He was heavily involved in the excavation and publication of John Dwight's pottery at Fulham, where stoneware was first successfully produced in London in the late 17th century. Less well known was his reorganisation of its archaeological work for the (then) Department of the Environment, the culmination of a successful career in the Civil Service.