

# Mosaic

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## Lottery millions for Capital City

The Museum of London has been awarded £10.6m by the Heritage Lottery Fund towards its Capital City project. The £18m plan will transform the Museum's lower floor galleries, telling the story of London from the Great Fire of 1666 to the present day. There will also be a new Clore Learning Centre, with an e-learning suite, object handling areas and a state-of-the-art theatre.

## Finds re-united

Another local project recently supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund is *Layton's Legacy: celebrating a Brentford treasure*, a two-year community project launched by CIP, Hounslow Council and the Layton Memorial and Museum Trust. The project will reveal the life and times of Brentford antiquarian, councillor, benefactor and collector, Thomas Layton (1819–1911), who left to the people of Brentford his collection of 8000 books, 4000 prints and maps, 3500 coins and medals and 5000 archaeological objects.

The main exhibition in 2006 will re-unite Thomas Layton's collection, currently scattered in museums across London. It will include a good cross-section of his collection of books, prints, maps and archaeological objects, as well as some items housed in the Museum of London that have never been seen before. Other activities include a series of exhibitions, a publication about Layton and his legacy, and a new website including a gallery, enabling the collections to be accessed by all.

There is an opportunity for community groups, colleges, universities, historical societies and individuals with an interest in this area to get involved and volunteer to work on the project. For more information please contact CIP's Project Officer Mike Galer on 0845 456 2824 or [layton@cip.org.uk](mailto:layton@cip.org.uk).

## Archaeology in the community

This summer there are several 'community archaeology' projects taking place across London. In Hendon, the Kingsbury High School Project, reported in our last issue, continues for a second season, and is branching out into looking at the surrounding area as well as just the immediate site. The project with the highest profile is the one in Shoreditch Park, near MoLAS headquarters in Eagle Wharf Road, where four

Georgian houses, destroyed by bombing, have been excavated. Politicians from APPAG (the All Party Parliamentary Archaeology Group) have given their support and have been seen working on site. The project has aroused much local interest and support, showing the value of recent history to people in the neighbourhood. In Carshalton, the Young Roots project (funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund) has excavated the cellars of the 18th-century mansion of *Stone Court* under the lawn of a public park.

## Medieval bone store re-opened after 300 years

On 7 July English Heritage launched the 2005 edition of its *Buildings at Risk Register* at a 14th-century charnel house in Spitalfields, discovered six years ago and about to be opened to the public after 300 years. It is one of the 91 entries that has been removed from the Register this year and now has a secure future. The Charnel House, the remains of which measure 13m by 7m, and up to 4m high, had been buried for more than 300 years, when it was discovered in 1999 during archaeological excavations by the Museum of London Archaeology Service for a major new development in Spitalfields.

The Charnel House was a sacred resting place for the bones which were inevitably disturbed when grave-diggers buried new bodies in the medieval hospital churchyard at Spitalfields. It now forms an integral part of a vast Norman Foster-designed building, thanks to a partnership between English Heritage, the Museum of London, Spitalfields Development Group and the Corporation of London. The Charnel House is located in the basement and visible through a dedicated entrance-court and a glass viewing gallery, and is a striking visual reminder of the rich and layered history of the capital.

## Oldest door in Britain

The oldest door in Britain has been discovered at Westminster Abbey, following a study supported by the Dean and Chapter. The Abbey's Architect, English Heritage experts, working with the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory, have proved that the door to the Chapter House outer vestibule is the only surviving Anglo Saxon door in this country, dating back to the time of Edward the Confessor, the Abbey's founder, who was born 1,000 years ago this year.