

# Mosaic

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## Lottery money for London buildings

Manor Farm, the group of former farm buildings that lends a village atmosphere to the north-west London suburb of Ruislip, is to be rejuvenated with the help of a £2 million grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The farm stands within the curtilage of Ernulf de Hesdin's late-11th-century motte-and-bailey, at the centre of what was the second largest medieval parish in Middlesex, bequeathed by Ernulf to Bec Abbey in Normandy, and owned since 1541 by King's College, Cambridge. Two medieval barns on the site were converted to public use in the 1930s, and the new restoration work will reveal original features hidden under modern additions. A new Interpretation Centre at Manor Farm House will give visitors a chance to explore the King's College archive collection for the first time.

Horace Walpole's 'little Gothic castle', Strawberry Hill, is to receive nearly £5 million in lottery money to help finance a long-awaited £8.2 million restoration project. The Grade I listed house, acquired by Walpole in 1747 and transformed over a forty-year period, is one of the most important and influential buildings of the Gothic revival. Strawberry Hill's pinnacles and tracery, constructed of wood, stucco and *papier mâché*, are now in a perilous state of disrepair. Its vulnerability and uncertain future were highlighted in 2003, when the World Monuments Fund included it on its list of '100 Most Endangered Sites in the World'. The World Monuments Fund is backing the campaign to raise a further £3.5 million to ensure the project can go ahead.

Completion is anticipated in 2010 to coincide with a major exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum on Horace Walpole and his collections.

## Plaudits for Corporation's history collections

The Corporation of London's Guildhall Library and Metropolitan Archives have been officially praised for their collection of important artefacts and documents cataloguing the history of London over the last 1,000 years. The History of London Collection, held between the two venues, has been awarded Designated status by the Museum, Libraries and Archives Council. It is one of nine collections of libraries and archives in London to be recognised as having outstanding national and international importance by the MLA. This year is the first that the Designation scheme has been extended to include archives and libraries, as well

as museums. The Corporation's History of London Collection includes archives and printed sources which tell the story of London and Londoners from 1067.

## Saint's tomb discovered after 1,000 years

What is believed to be the original ancient burial tomb of Edward the Confessor has been discovered at Westminster Abbey – exactly 1,000 years after his birth. The discovery comes as part of an archaeological study at the Abbey that has also revealed a series of Royal tombs dating back to the 13th and 14th centuries.

Archaeologists came across the forgotten, under-floor chambers when, as part of a larger conservation programme, they were using ground-penetrating radar (GPR) technology to investigate the construction of the Abbey's priceless Cosmati mosaic pavement, dating back to 1268, in front of the High Altar. Their work has also identified other tombs, under the Shrine, in an area of the Abbey never before surveyed and on which no known records existed.

Edward the Confessor was buried beneath the sacarium floor in 1066, and in 1163, after he was canonised, his body was moved to a Shrine in front of the altar on the orders of Henry II. When Henry III rebuilt the Abbey church he built the new tiered shrine behind the altar, into which the body was moved in 1269, and here it still lies today – the only major English Saint whose body still rests in its shrine, just a few feet from where the tomb was discovered.

## Tebbutt Research Fund

This fund was established as a tribute to the life and work of the late C.F. Tebbutt, OBE, FSA, and applications are invited, from individuals and groups, for grants towards research into any aspect of the Wealden Iron Industry.

It is likely that about £100 plus will be available from the fund; any interested person should write a letter of application giving details of themselves, together with relevant information concerning the research envisaged. Please bring this fund to the notice of your tutors and lecturers concerned with archaeology or history, as we are concerned that the money available should be used fully.

Applications should be sent not later than 31 March 2006 to Ann Callow, Glazier's Forge Cottage, Dallington, Sussex TN21 9JJ.