

Mosaic

Developments at the Museum of London

It has been announced that the Government will devolve its responsibilities for the Museum of London from the Department of Culture, Media and Sport to the Greater London Authority. The role of the City of London Corporation as co-sponsor of the Museum will remain unchanged.

The Museum's **Capital City** development will start work next spring. This is the biggest investment in the Museum's thirty year history and will see improved access to its collections open in 2009. With confirmation of grants totalling £11.5 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, and substantial private and corporate donations, the Museum has now raised £17 million of its £18 million target.

The **Capital City** development will tell the tale of London over the last 300 years and will reflect the vibrant and unflagging energy of London as a multicultural community. As one of the world's largest urban history museums the new displays will tell the stories of Londoners both rich and poor – those born here, working here, who have moved here – all whom think of London as their city. The plan will completely transform the Museum's lower floor galleries, with new displays around the Sackler Hall offering a fresh approach to engaging visitors with the stories of the city. The scheme will also see the development of a new Clore Learning Centre, providing flexible and inspiring spaces for learners of all ages, including an e-learning suite, object handling areas and a state-of-the-art theatre.

Saxons in Rotherhithe

First we had a Saxon building constructed in the Museum of London's new Medieval Gallery, and now we have a Saxon sunken-floored building constructed in the grounds of the Pumphouse Educational Museum, Rotherhithe (see front cover). It was built in the course of a week by groups of local schoolchildren under the supervision of specialists from the East Sussex Archaeological Museums Partnership, and will be a focus for children's activities and story-telling. The Opening on 14th October was enlivened by the presence of two Saxon storytellers, who held the audience (not just children) spellbound. The Museum, which fills a valuable local role, is well worth a visit. It is open 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Mondays to Fridays.

Bermondsey Abbey revealed

Long-term excavations by Pre-Construct Archaeology at Bermondsey Square (at the junction of Tower Bridge Road and Abbey Street) have demonstrated the survival of large parts of the Cluniac (later Benedictine) Abbey of Bermondsey, and of its successor, the mansion of Sir Thomas Pope. The south wall of the

church building survived, together with elements of the cloisters and the foundations of the southernmost of a pair of western towers. The south wall later become the north wall of the Pope mansion, and much evidence of this too survived. The tower base will be preserved under the raised floor of the restaurant to be built on this part of the site, and, as the floor here will be made of glass, diners will be able to view this part of the monument. Elsewhere, as much as possible of the Abbey will be preserved by careful design of the piling on which much of the new development, including a hotel, is to be built.

Domestic Interiors Database

The Centre for the Study of the Domestic Interior has announced the launch of a free online database of over 3000 images, texts and objects relating to the domestic interior from 1400 to the present day. It can be found at www.rca.ac.uk/csdi/didb; its launch is accompanied by the book *Imagined Interiors: representing the domestic interior since the Renaissance*, edited by Jeremy Aynsley and Charlotte Grant (V&A Publications, £45).

Also going online are the results of 100 years of research on London's history carried out by the Survey of London. The first eight volumes cover St James's, Soho and Mayfair; the rest of the Survey's 45 volumes should be online by September 2008.

Prize for Kent history research

A £3,000 prize is being offered to the author of the best thesis on any aspect of the archaeology or history of Kent. The Kent Archaeological Society's new Hasted Prize aims to encourage scholars to choose Kentish studies for their research, and to promote publications that will advance knowledge of the County's past. Any relevant master's or doctoral thesis that has been successfully examined by a higher education institution in 2005 or 2006 can be submitted, provided that it is accompanied by a recommendation from the thesis supervisor and the names of its examiners. The deadline for the competition is 31 May 2007.

Full details of the Hasted Prize can be obtained from Dr James M. Gibson, Secretary, KAS Publications Committee, 27 Pine Grove, Maidstone, Kent ME14 2AJ.

Tebbutt Research Fund

Grants are available towards research into any aspect of the Wealden iron industry. It is anticipated that some £100 plus will be available from the Fund. Applicants, who can be individuals or groups, should write a letter giving details of themselves, together with relevant information about the research envisaged, to David Brown, Hon. Sec. Wealden Iron Research Group, 2 West Street Farm Cottages, Maynards Green, Heathfield, Sussex TN21 0DG, by 31 March 2007.