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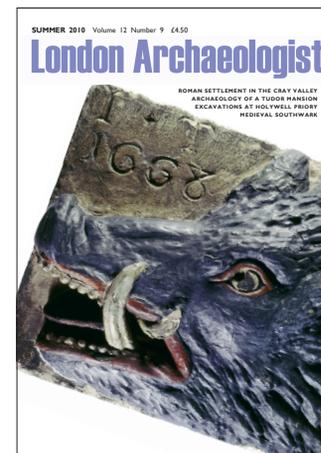
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**Front cover**

This painted stone sign of the Boar's Head Tavern was erected in Eastcheap in the City when the ancient inn was rebuilt after the Great Fire of 1666. The pre-fire Boar's Head is recognised as the setting in which Falstaff plays such a memorable role in Shakespeare's *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2*. For the first time in 180 years, the sign can now be seen by the public in a new display in the main reception area at the Globe Theatre on Bankside. The historic artefact, on long-term loan from the Museum of London, was unveiled in June by Roger Allam, who plays Falstaff in the Globe's first ever productions of *Henry IV Parts 1 and 2* this summer. Sir John Fastolf, said to be the character on which Shakespeare modelled a larger-than-life Falstaff, occupied a grand house in Southwark which is discussed in Graham Dawson's article, p 231.