

Mosaic

Earliest Neanderthals in England

Dr Francis Wenban-Smith of Southampton University has discovered two ancient flint hand tools at the M25 / A2 road junction at Dartford in Kent, during an excavation by Oxford Archaeology, funded by the Highways Agency. Tests on sediment burying the flints show they date from around 100,000 years ago, proving Neanderthals were living in Britain at this time. The country was previously assumed to have been uninhabited during this period.

Developments at London's museums

This seems to be a bumper year for new developments at many of London's museums and historic houses. The biggest news is the opening of the Galleries of Modern London at the Museum of London, which we hope to review in our next issue. It is accompanied by a groundbreaking iPhone app, bringing the Museum of London's extensive art and photographic collections to the streets of the capital. *Streetmuseum*, developed with creative agency Brothers and Sisters, guides users to sites across London, where hidden histories of the city dramatically appear. Over 200 sites have been picked where users can look through their iPhones and see the past emerge, locked as an overlay across the present scene. These can be viewed as ghostly alignments, or the archive images can be brought up and explored in detail, along with information about Streetmuseum's photographs and paintings. Streetmuseum is free to download for 3G and 3GS iPhones and is available on iTunes. See museumoflondon.org.uk/streetmuseum for information.

Others developments are at Chiswick House Gardens, Discover Greenwich, and the Geffrye Museum. The re-opening of Wandsworth Museum (see Mosaic in previous issue) has been delayed to September by the discovery of asbestos and power problems. We are also pleased to report that the Museum of London Docklands now has free admission for all.

Chiswick House Gardens

Chiswick House Gardens is a site of international importance, both as the birthplace of the English Landscape Movement, and as the setting for one of the most beautiful houses in London. The regeneration of the gardens is a result of many years of campaigning, four years of fund-raising and two years of work, and was completed and inaugurated in June.

The garden restoration recovers the original vistas and design from decades of disrepair and under-funding, and also repairs and restores the statuary and garden buildings. The result is an inspiring balance between a historic landscape and a public

park. Highlights include the planting of over 1600 trees, including trees propagated from the original 18th-century cedars of Lebanon; the opening up of historic views from the Classic Bridge, the complete restoration of the 19th-century conservatory housing a rare and internationally important collection of camellias; the planting of native trees and shrubs in the Northern Wilderness, and the restoration of the Walled Gardens, which will be open to the public on special days.

To complement the restoration, award-winning architects Caruso St John have designed a new café within the grounds, on a site close to Chiswick House on the east side. It provides indoor seating for 80 people and external seating for over 100, and forms the social hub for the park, with a newly created children's playground beside it.

Chiswick House Gardens, spread over 65 acres, are known throughout the world as the birthplace of the English Landscape Movement and have inspired countless designed landscapes from Blenheim Palace in Oxford, to Central Park in New York. They were originally created by Lord Burlington and William Kent who worked on them throughout the 1720s and 1730s as a setting for Lord Burlington's magnificent Chiswick House, the first and one of the finest examples of neo-Palladian design in England.

The restoration of the gardens at Chiswick was made possible by funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage, the London Borough of Hounslow, The Wolfson Foundation, The Garfield Weston Foundation and The Monument Trust, with additional support from many other individuals and organisations. Chiswick House and Gardens Trust was set up in April 2005 between English Heritage and the London Borough of Hounslow under the Chairmanship of Rupert Hambro. The creation of the Trust unites the management of the site and its key role is to drive forward the improvements to Chiswick House and Gardens. Its Director is Sarah Finch Crisp. Chiswick House Gardens, Burlington Lane, Chiswick, London W4 2RP, website chgt.org.uk.

The Geffrye Museum

The *Green Room* project at the Geffrye Museum has been developed by the Museum and Site Interpretation group of UCL Institute of Archaeology, in collaboration with Christine Lalumia, Deputy Director of the Museum, and Alison Lightbown, its Head of Learning and Education.

The event will take place in the Geffrye Museum period garden rooms and the front garden, integrating local history with global influences. It will feature English garden history in an innovative way. The Geffrye Museum garden display tells the story of

urban green spaces, how they fit into the local area and into a wider social and cultural context. For over 400 years, public and private gardens have been used for pleasure, profit and utility. The unique history of the Geffrye gardens reflects the changing ways urban dwellers view green spaces, and how gardens are framed by our daily lives. The accompanying programme will celebrate the importance of gardens through displays, workshops, educational activities, historical games and cultural events.

The Museum garden will become an oasis in the inner city. The new partnership between the museum and students will make a real difference to the museum practice. During the summer, the museum's gardens will serve as a cultural hub and an outdoor facility for relaxation. The project will offer visitors food for thought on the importance of green spaces in their lives and in what ways they use and maintain them.

The *Green Room* is part of major redevelopments at the Geffrye Museum, including an art installation in the gardens by Kei Ito in September 2010.

Roman return to Highgate Wood

Young people from across north London will re-enact the use of one of the Highgate Wood Roman kilns during two weeks in July with a professional potter who will help design, make and dry clay pots, and build a replica of the original kiln to fire pots with the methods the Romans would have used.

The project is a collaboration between the Museum of London, Haringey Council and the City of London Corporation, which manages Highgate Wood, and is part of the London 2012 Cultural Olympiad programme *Stories of the World*, which aims to encourage museums to team up with young people to re-interpret museum collections and historic sites.

Ordnance Survey datasets made public

The OS has recently made many of its UK map datasets available for public use. The following are included in the OS OpenData and can be obtained from ordnancesurvey.co.uk/oswebsite/opendata:

OS Street View; 1:50,000 Gazetteer, 1:250,000 Colour Raster; OS Locator; Boundary-Line; Code-Point Open; Meridian 2; Strategi; MiniScale; Land-Form PANORAMA; OS VectorMap District.

Congratulations

Our former Managing Editor, David Gaimster, has been appointed to the post of Director of the Hunterian Museum and Art Gallery, University of Glasgow.

Diary

August

4 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. Members' evening. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.
20 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeology Society. Members' night. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, London EC3.

September

13 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Archaeology of the Thames' by Natalie Cohen. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.
17 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeology Society. 'Excavations at Holywell Priory, Shoreditch' by Hana Lewis. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, London EC3.
17 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Recent archaeological work in London' speaker from English Heritage. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

October

6 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'Hatch Furlong 2009' by Richard Savage, and Norman Bull on a new film on the 2008 excavations. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.
11 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'The glassworkers of Roman London' by John Shepherd. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.
15 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeology Society. 'Greek tragedy and the archaeology of the Crimea' by Edith Hall. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, London EC3.
15 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Current life in Enfield Local History Archive' by John Clark. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

Conferences

Roman Villas in Kent and Surrey, Saturday 23 October at the Old Sessions Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Campus, Canterbury. Tickets price £5 from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP (sae please). Website www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk.

Local Churches and Lordship in the European Middle Ages, 13–14 November at University College London. Speakers from across Europe will discuss the role of the aristocracy in private and local churches in medieval society. Further information and booking forms from www.ucl.ac.uk/archaeology/events/conferences/lordship-2010/ or write to Jose Sanchez-Pardo at the Institute of Archaeology, 31–34 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PY.

Courses

Archaeology of Early Prehistoric Europe, by Mill Hill Archaeology Study Society. Tutor: Scott McCracken. Two terms from October 2010. Contact P. Lawrence (020 8959 4757) for details.

Archaeological Training Courses, at Barcombe Roman villa, Sussex. A variety of courses for beginners and those with some experience, until 8 August.

For further information, or to enrol, contact: Centre for Community Engagement, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton BN1 9RF; tel. 01273 678300, email cce@sussex.ac.uk; www.sussex.ac.uk/cce/archaeology.

Traditional Rural Trades and Crafts, weekend courses until September 2010, at the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Chichester, West Sussex, PO18 0EU. Further details from Diana Rowsell at this address, tel. 01243 811 464, or visit www.wealddown.co.uk/Courses/adult-education-continuing-education.htm.

Taster weekends, by West Essex Archaeological Group, July 17–18, 24–25 and 31–August 1. Details at www.weag.org.uk.

Five-day Field Schools, continued excavation of Tudor grand-houses at Copped Hall near Epping, by West Essex Archaeological Group and Copped Hall Trust. August 9–13 and 16–20. Not for beginners. Full details at www.weag.org.uk.

Events

Festival of British Archaeology, 17 July to 1 August, will encompass activities across London, watch for news on festival.britarch.ac.uk.

Sunny Hill Park, Hendon, 12–25 July, survey and excavation of a WW2 building by Hendon and District Archaeological Society and UCL as part of the CBA's *Festival of British Archaeology*. Members of the public are welcome to visit; HADAS would like to hear from anyone with historical information or memories of the facility. Contact: Jim Nelhams, 61 Potters Road, Barnet EN5 5HS, tel (020) 8449 7076, treasurer@hadas.org.uk.

The Time Cheam, at Sutton Central Library, 19–24 July, as part of the CBA's *Festival of British Archaeology*. Volunteers will be trained to study the pottery from a deposit of medieval Cheam ware; visitors will be able to look round, talk with the volunteers and help with the work. Fees for training course, free entry for visitors. Details from Clive Orton, 39a Benhill Wood Road, Sutton SM1 3SL or email cliveorton@btinternet.com.

Exhibition

Archaeology in Action, at the Museum of London from 16 July. Featured sites include Number 1 Poultry and Covent Garden, with a changing display of new finds, starting with the Rose and Globe Theatres. There is a varying programme of events from 17 July to 1 August.

Membership

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology, which includes six issues a year of *British Archaeology*, costs £28 p.a.; full price/renewal price £34 p.a.; joint membership with *London Archaeologist* costs £36 (new CBA members only). See <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/cba/membership/pricelist> for details. Payment should be sent to CBA, St Mary's House, Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ (01904 671 417).

Open Days

Reigate Cave Days 2010. Guided tours of the Barons' cave at Reigate Castle and the Tunnel Road silver-sand mines, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturdays 14 August and 11 September. Charge for admission. Information from Wealden Cave and Mine Society, tel. 01737 243 912 or 07974 748 403 or see www.wcms.org.uk.

Scadbury Manor excavations, 2 p.m. to 4.30 p.m., Saturday 11 and Sunday 12 September. Parking in St Paul's Wood Hill, or limited parking close to the site by ticket only (apply to Mr M. Meekums, 27 Eynsford Close, Petts Wood, BR7 1DP, enclosing a sae and stating which day required).

Practical archaeology

AOC Archaeology Group. Contact Melissa Melikian, Post-Excavation Manager (020 8843 7380).

London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre. Contact Archive Manager, Roy Stephenson (020 7566 9317).

Croydon & District. Contact Jim Davison, 8 Brentwood Road, South Croydon, CR2 0ND.

Borough of Greenwich. Contact Greenwich Heritage Centre, Building 41, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, SE18 6SP (020 8854 2452).

Hammersmith & Fulham. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 85 Rannoch Road, W6 9SX (020 7385 3723).

Kingston. Enquiries to 020 8546 5386.

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Contact Finds Manager, Märit Gaimster (020 7639 9091).

Surrey. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 1ND (01483 594 634).