

# Mosaic

## Success for the Thames Discovery Programme

The *Thames Discovery Programme*, the community archaeology project, won a prestigious prize at the British Archaeological Awards 2010 ceremony, held at the British Museum on Monday 19th July. It won the 'Best-Representation-of-Archaeology-in-the-Media' category for its innovative website, beating off strong competition from Channel 4's *Time Team* (series 16) and BBC Radio Four's programme *In Pursuit of Treasure*. The website is the brain child of the Thames Discovery Programme's Outreach Officer, Lorna Richardson, and was developed in conjunction with L-P Archaeology. The winning website can be found at [www.thamesdiscovery.org](http://www.thamesdiscovery.org).

The *Thames Discovery Programme* is supported by grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the UCL Public Engagement Unit and English Heritage; it is based at the UCL Environment Institute with the Thames Estuary Partnership, and also at the Museum of London's Archaeological Archive and Research Centre.

## London Lives

Hundreds of thousands of 18th-century Londoners have been brought to life by a unique online resource. *London Lives* ([www.londonlives.org](http://www.londonlives.org)) provides access to the largest set of handwritten manuscripts ever posted on the internet. Its website is a fully searchable edition of 240,000 pages (40 million words) of handwritten documents from criminal justice and local government. It brings to life the working people who inhabited this first 'world city', to facilitate a new kind of history.

Evidence from a murder or a petty theft, petitions to relieve distress, accounts of money distributed to the poor and the records of hospitals, parishes and guilds, are all made newly available on this website. In addition, these manuscripts have been made cross-searchable with the records of trials held at the Old Bailey, and a set of fifteen further databases, to make it possible to reconstruct individual lives from the fragments left in the archives. The site also provides comprehensive guides to these records, and to the history of everyday life in 18th-century London.

*London Lives*, which was funded by the Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC), was created by academics from the Universities of Sheffield and Hertfordshire, and published by HRI Online, the electronic publishing arm of the University of Sheffield's Humanities Research Institute (HRI).

The website features an interactive facility that allows people from all over the world to search for and link together documents relating to a single individual,

and to group these individuals into communities of shared experience. In the process hidden life stories and new patterns of behaviour will emerge from the mass of documentation. The site is designed to make it possible to reconstruct how 'ordinary' Londoners interacted with government and charitable institutions in the course of their daily lives. By examining how individual Londoners participated in and manipulated these agencies for their own ends, this project will demonstrate how the end users – criminals, victims and paupers – contributed to the making of modern social policy.

Project researchers have already compiled 75 lives as case studies, using material from the site, ranging from casual paupers, foundlings and respectable pensioners to murderers and highway robbers. The lives include Charlotte Dionis, a child named after the parish in which she was abandoned; Sarah Malcolm, an accused triple murderer who mounted an audacious defence; and James Carse, a sailor who served with honour under Horatio Nelson but who ended his life on the gallows.

## A whale from Greenwich



Tracy Heath, Curator Natural History Museum, with the whale bones on display in docklands. Photo © Museum of London

A huge whale skeleton recently excavated by Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited at Bay Wharf, Greenwich, has been on display at the Museum of London Docklands. The headless skeleton of a rare North Atlantic right whale weighs around half a tonne, is seven metres long and up to four metres wide. It is probably the largest single 'object' ever to have been found on an archaeological dig in London. After display the skeleton was transported to the Natural History Museum, where it will be dated and used by researchers to understand more about this now endangered species.

## Hands-on archaeology @ Museum of London

To create more space for future archives, the Museum of London is revisiting the finds

from sites dug in the 1970s and improving the storage and access of these collections by repacking the objects more effectively and efficiently. Visitors have the opportunity to join staff and volunteers from the museum's archaeological archive and Visitor Inclusion Programme (LAARC VIP) and help contribute to the upkeep of archaeological collections. They can take part in hands-on workshops to help Museum staff improve their archaeological collection and join in interactive object handling sessions in the new Archaeology in Action gallery space (10 a.m. to 4 p.m., every Monday, Tuesday and Friday from 4th October to 17th December). In the workshop sessions visitors will have the opportunity to handle pieces of pottery that were excavated in the 1970s, learn how the museum stores its archaeological collections, and help improve the way these important artefacts are stored. These sessions are free, ticketed and led by Archaeological Collections Officers, Adam Corsini and Glynn Davis, who run the Volunteer Inclusion Programme at the London Archaeological Archive & Research Centre. They will also give a talk about the Programme to the London & Middlesex Archaeological Society on 16th November (see Diary).

## Congratulations

The appointment has been announced of John Lewis FSA to the post of General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, following the resignation of David Gaimster to take up the post of Director of the Hunterian Museum, Glasgow. After ten years working as Project Officer for MoLAS, John has worked since 1998 for Wessex Archaeology as Manager of Framework Archaeology, serving the British Airports Authority in leading major archaeological projects across most of its sites.

## Penny MacConnoran

We report with sadness the death in July of Penny MacConnoran, Finds Manager at Museum of London Archaeology, and for many years a key member of staff there (and at MoLAS, and the DUA before that). She had been very ill with a brain tumour for some months. She died peacefully in her sleep, at home in Ireland.

## John Alexander

We have also recently heard of the death of Dr John Alexander at the age of 88. Some readers may, like the Editor, remember him as a tutor in archaeology for the former University of London Extra-mural Department.

# Diary

## October

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.

12 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Recent work on the Shakespearean Playhouses of London' by Julian Bowsher. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

12 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeology Society. 'Behind the scenes on *Time Team*' by Raksha Dave. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

15 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeology Society. 'Excavating a Greek theatre in 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.

19 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Dreams for dinner: the natural and social history of nightshades' by Sandra Knapp. Museum of London, London Wall EC2.

## November

6 (3 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. 'Gold and Garnets (Anglo-Saxon jewellery)' by Judie English. Darby and Joan Club Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton.

8 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'An Archaeologist in Libya' by Tim Reynolds. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

9 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'A history of glassmaking on the Thames Southbank' by David Watts. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

9 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeology Society. 'Archaeology and the Olympics' by David Divers. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

12 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Neanderthals in Sussex' by Matthew Pope. Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

16 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Volunteer Inclusion Programme: inclusive archaeology at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre' by Glynn Davies and Adam Corsini. Museum of London, London Wall EC2.

19 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeology Society. 'The Roman cemetery at 28–30 Trinity Square, Southwark' by Douglas Killock. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, London EC3.

## December

10 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Two Viking Sites in Orkney: Quooygrew and the Brough of Deerness' by James Gerrard. Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

13 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'The pagan Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Mucking' by Sue Hirst. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

14 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'How the Portable Antiquities Scheme is changing our understanding of Roman coin use in Britain and London' by Sam Moorhead. Museum of London, London Wall EC2.

14 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. AGM and 'Sources for fraternalism and freemasonry in south London' by Len Reilly. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

## January

5 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'Military and civilian Roman brooches from London and its hinterland' by Frank Pemberton. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

11 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'The Edwardian architecture of Lambeth' by Edmund Bird. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

## 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](http://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/](http://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.

**London under attack: wars and insurrections**, 27 November at the Museum of London. Tickets price £8 (LAMAS members booking in advance) or £10, from Local History Conference, 22 Malpas Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1DQ (enclose sa.e.) or online from [www.lamas.org.uk](http://www.lamas.org.uk).

## Course

**Looking at finds – a practical course in post-excavation studies**, at Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley. Tutor: Jacqui Pearce. Two terms (22 two-hour sessions) from 29th September 2010. Fees £275 for whole course. To book, please contact the tutor at [jacquiepearce126@hotmail.com](mailto:jacquiepearce126@hotmail.com) (evenings 020 8203 4506) or Don Cooper at [chairman@hadas.org.uk](mailto:chairman@hadas.org.uk).

## Event

**The Museum of London** and the LAARC invite visitors to get involved in caring for their objects. Details in *Mosaic*.

## Exhibition

**The Thames in focus: London's river through a lens**, an exhibition of contemporary photography providing vivid snapshots into the Thames' rich history and fascinating environments, at Discover Greenwich in the Old Royal Naval College, until 1 November. Admission free.

## 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).

## 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).