

Mosaic

Roman village in west London

An entire Roman landscape has been discovered at Syon Park by Museum of London Archaeology. The revelations follow excavations undertaken in August 2008 by the museum in advance of the construction for the new luxury hotel London Syon Park, a Waldorf Astoria Hotel, set to open in early 2011, and where some of the artefacts will be displayed.

The Roman remains include a Roman road, settlement and Roman burials, and are of local and national significance. They give a valuable, rare insight into the daily life of an agricultural village on the outskirts of *Londinium*, that would have helped to supply the Roman city. It helps us build a picture of the Roman landscape and shows how the busy metropolis of *Londinium* connected with the rest of Roman Britain.

Saving London

Twenty years ago, English Heritage started to compile data on London's Buildings at Risk, leading to the publication of the first annual *Register of Buildings at Risk in Greater London* in 1991, which identified 939 listed buildings which were vacant, underused or in disrepair – a daunting backlog of years of neglect across the capital. Since then 94% of all the buildings on that first *Register* have been saved and brought back into use. The total number now at risk has been halved. As buildings are repaired, others decline and are added to the *Register*, but despite this a total of over 2,000 historic buildings have been saved over the past 20 years. The new publication *Saving London* illustrates a small sample of these success stories. Each is testimony to the inherent sustainability of historic buildings, and their unique contribution towards a sense of place that makes London unique as a world city. The redundancy and recycling of buildings has always been a part of social, economic and cultural change, but since 1991 there has been a much greater awareness of the opportunities which historic buildings can offer. Many are now snapped up by developers and effectively recycled through market forces, although unfortunately the view that historic buildings are obstacles to urban renewal is still commonplace amongst many involved in the regeneration process.

Through illustrated case studies and analysis of statistical data, *Saving London* considers the lessons learned over those 20 years, and whilst finding good cause to celebrate the many successes, it makes clear the continuing effort that is required both to prevent buildings getting on to the current Register and to tackle those already on it. The case studies include some well-known buildings, such as Bromley Hall (in Tower Hamlets), St Luke's Islington, and Valentines Mansion (in Redbridge), some unusual and little-known ones like The Clapton Portico

and the Eltham Orangery, and industrial examples such as Stoke Newington Pumping Station and the Roundhouse in Camden.

The publication can be downloaded from www.english-heritage.org.uk/publications/saving-london/.

A do-it-yourself guidebook

We have recently been informed of a new historic travel website, called *Historvius*. It consists of a world-wide database of historic sites and museums, which can be searched by location, date, time period or association with historic figures. Users can plan trips, discover sites in an area that they intend to visit, and in effect create their own tailor-made guide books.

No database can be better than the data in it, and *Historvius* scores by using a wiki approach: users can not only add sites to the database, but also add comments, images, etc. to existing entries. So far there are about 1200 sites on the database, a number which the originators expect to grow rapidly.

I tried this out by looking for sites in the London area, which gave me some surprises, particularly in the field of Historic Dates. For example, Lullingstone Roman Villa came up as 100 BC to 1 BC, and Verulamium as 0 AD to 99 AD. Deeper examination revealed that dates between 300 and 999 AD did not exist on the database. Multi-period sites had their own problems: Eltham Palace came up with an association with Edward IV of England and a date of 1900 AD to 1999 AD. While both are in some sense true, their juxtaposition could confuse the user. There is clearly a long way to go, but with some work on the database structures, and support from an enthusiastic user community, the website could in time become a useful tool. It can be found at www.historvius.com.

Revival at the William Morris Gallery

The William Morris Gallery in Lloyd Park, Walthamstow, has taken on a new lease of life. It has restored opening hours and staffing levels, and its commitment to Morris and the Arts and Crafts Movement. Waltham Forest Council has given planning permission for a three-storey £3.75 m extension, which involves adding a new exhibition gallery, tea room and specialist storage space; it is hoped that it will be open in time for the 2012 Olympic Games. Also, the main building will be refurbished to provide educational facilities and more exhibition space. The Gallery will close to the public in April 2011 for just over a year for the building works and refurbishment.

The main challenge was to design an extension in keeping with the Grade II* listed main building, which was built in 1740 and was the home of Morris between 1848 and 1865. The scheme is part-funded by the

Heritage Lottery Fund, which is providing £1.5 m. The rest of the money is being given by a number of organisations, including the Monument Trust, the Friends of the William Morris Gallery and Waltham Forest Council.

The William Morris Gallery still has to raise at least another £1.2 m towards the development project. Donations can be made *via* www.friendsofthewmg.org.uk/, or by sending a cheque made out to The Friends of the William Morris Gallery, c/o Bill Measure, 90 Richmond Road, London E11 4BU, tel. 020 8558 5491.

Archive Awareness

The Archive Awareness Campaign (AAC) was designed to address the issues of under-representation of UK archives, especially in comparison with the museum, gallery and library sectors. It began with *Archive Awareness Month* in September 2003, and celebrates the UK's archives. Since then, the annual campaign takes place over a longer period throughout the autumn and winter. This year's theme is Archives in Science, Technology and Medicine. Special events, workshops and exhibitions go on across the country. A listing of events taking place as part of the campaign can be found at www.archiveawareness.com/events/.

Success at Greenwich

In our last issue, we reported on the opening of *Discover Greenwich*, the new 'portal' intended to provide a focus for the World Heritage Site. It certainly seems to have succeeded: attracting 600,000 visitors since opening in March, it has been short-listed in the *Visit London Awards 2010* for the Best New Tourism Experience Award.

The Old Royal Naval College approach has made significant contributions to tourism and the local economy, with almost 40 extra people employed on site since 2009. The building repair programmes have had an important impact in the local construction and craft skills sectors, providing learning and development training.

Bill White

Bill White, curator emeritus of human remains at the Museum of London, died in November. Bill worked as a chemist before moving to commercial archaeology at MoLAS, involved in such projects as the Spitalfields and St Pancras excavations, before becoming senior curator at the Museum of London overseeing the creation of the Wellcome funded database and the Museum's Centre for Bioarchaeology. Bill retired from the Museum of London in October 2009 and continued his connection in an honorary role.

Diary

January

- 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.
- 11 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Science as a tool to help understand London's archaeology' by Jane Siddell. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.
- 13 (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. 'Finds Recognition Roadshow' by Julie Wileman. Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames.
- 14 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Enfield in WW1' by Graham Dalling. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane / Chase Side, Enfield.
- 18 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Anne Mowbray: London's forgotten 15th-century princess' by Bruce Watson. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2.

February

- 2 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeological Society. 'The work of the Surrey Archaeological Society' by David Calow. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.
- 5 (3 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. 'Town Halls' by Cheryl Bailey. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.
- 8 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'History reflected in churches' by Stephen Humphrey. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.
- 8 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'The Roman wooden water pump: an ingenious machine' by Richard Stein. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.
- 10 (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. 'A Journey through Sites in Jordan' by Richard Watson. Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames.
- 14 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Searching for Roman Surrey' by David Calow and Alan Hall. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 15 (6.15 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. AGM and Presidential Address. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2.
- 18 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'The fourth cradle? New discoveries in Bronze Age Iran' by Ian Jones. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane / Chase Side, Enfield.
- 21 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Vikings and their hoards' by Barry Ager. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

March

- 2 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeological Society. AGM and talk by Jon Cotton. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.
- 5 (3 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. AGM. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.
- 8 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. Symposium on recent local archaeological and historical work. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.
- 8 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'The archaeology of Baldock' by Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.
- 10 (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. 'Fieldwork on Prehistoric Monuments in Wiltshire' by David Field. Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames.
- 11 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Conquering the North . . .' by Nick Ashton. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 14 (7.30 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. AGM and Presidential Address by Harvey Sheldon. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.
- 15 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Moving to Smithfield: a history of the Halls of the Haberdashers' Company' by David Bartle. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2.
- 18 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'BBC Digging for Britain' by Nathalie Cohen. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane / Chase Side, Enfield.

April

- 2 (3 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. 'Food in wartime' by Joan Alcock. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.
- 8 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Ancient dairying' by Bas Payne. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 11 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Religion and ritual in prehistoric Britain' by Ben Roberts. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.
- 12 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Excavations at Holywell Priory' by Hana Lewis. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.
- 12 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Bomb damage in London and Middlesex' by Robin Woolven. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.
- 14 (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. 'Excavations at the Stanley Park School Site, Carshalton' by

Duncan Hawkins. Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames.

Conferences

Surrey Archaeological Society Annual Symposium, Saturday 26th February, at the Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted, Surrey. Speakers include Joe Flatman and Sally Jenkins; also reports on recent work. Tickets £8 in advance or £10 at the door. For further information contact Alison Gaitonde on 01737 812 646, 7gaitonde@googlemail.com.

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 (evenings 020 8203 4506) or Don Cooper at chairman@hadas.org.uk.

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).