

Mosaic

Heritage Lottery Fund investment in the Charles Dickens Museum

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has announced a grant of £2m for a radical transformation of the former home of Charles Dickens in Doughty Street, WC1. The project will double the current exhibition space by taking in the adjoining house, allowing for the large letter, manuscript and book collection to be better displayed, and for the architectural fabric of both buildings to be carefully restored. Development funding for further projects, also announced by the HLF, included the restoration of the largest remaining tidal mill in the world, at Three Mills Island, Bromley-by-Bow.

New theatre at the Globe

Shakespeare's Globe has confirmed plans to complete an indoor Jacobean theatre, the shell of which already exists on the Globe site. It will be the most complete recreation of an English renaissance indoor theatre yet attempted. A fundraising campaign has been launched, with a view to begin construction work in November 2012, and to launch the theatre with a first winter season in November 2013. The indoor theatre will seat around 320 people, with two tiers of galleried seating and an authentic pit seating area, which will provide a uniquely intimate and intense theatre experience.

Some of Shakespeare's greatest plays – *The Tempest*, *Cymbeline* and *The Winter's Tale* – were written for an entirely different space to the outdoor Elizabethan playhouses. By restoring the indoor Jacobean theatre, the Globe will be able to further understand theatre practices at that time and explore the relationship between actor and audience in England's earliest indoor theatres.

Designs for the indoor theatre are based around a set of plans discovered in the 1960s in the collection at Worcester College Library in Oxford. The designs show a small 17th-century indoor theatre, similar in shape and design to the Blackfriars theatre, a U-shaped galleried auditorium embracing a platform stage. These plans, originally thought to be drawn by Inigo Jones, though now thought to be by his protégé John Webb, are the earliest plans for an English theatre in existence, and remain the best indication of the nature of an indoor Jacobean Theatre.

Museum re-opens

On Tuesday 2nd November the redeveloped Museum of the Order of St John was opened by His Royal Highness The Duke of Gloucester, Grand Prior of the Order.

The redevelopment has cost £3.7m and was made possible by major grants from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Wellcome Foundation, the Weston Foundation and through the generosity of many individuals.

The museum houses rich collections of paintings, furniture, silver, metalwork and armour, ceramics, sculpture, prints, drawings, textiles, jewellery, manuscripts, and fine books in impressive Tudor and Norman buildings. The history of St John's Gate and the Order is interwoven with the stories of many important characters, including Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Suleiman the Magnificent, William Shakespeare, William Hogarth and Dr Samuel Johnson.

The Museum, located at St John's Gate, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4DA, is open Monday to Friday, 10 am to 5 pm, and Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm, with conducted tours on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, 11 am and 2.30 pm.

Closure of Church Farmhouse Museum and Barnet Museum

Barnet Council has proposed to withdraw funding to operate Church Farmhouse Museum and support Barnet Museum, taking effect from 1st April 2011.

The Hendon and District Archaeological Society (HADAS) is considering taking over Church Farmhouse Museum from Barnet Council, and running it as a community-operated museum, with help from the Friends of Church Farmhouse Museum (FCFM) and with the aid of volunteers. The building, which is listed Grade II*, is 350 years old and was a working farmhouse until the 1930s. The running costs are estimated by HADAS to be about £15,000 p.a., some of which might be met by an expanded range of adult education activities. HADAS has submitted a discussion document to Barnet Council, and we await the outcome.

Meanwhile, the Barnet and District Local History are fighting the proposal to close Barnet Museum. As we go to press, we cannot predict the outcomes, but we wish the societies success. Sadly, they are not likely to be alone in their struggle to preserve and enhance local heritage facilities.

Conservation at Westminster Abbey

Westminster Abbey has announced that the Bank of America Merrill Lynch Art Conservation Programme is to provide funding to enable a number of historical and artistic items in the Abbey's collections to be conserved, including the famous Westminster portrait of Richard II, which hangs in the nave. The anonymous over-life-size portrait is painted in a linseed oil medium on a panel, and it probably dates from the 1390s. Portraits dating from the fourteenth century are exceptionally rare north of the Alps and this full-length image has no parallels. First documented in 1611, it was heavily restored in 1732 and again in 1866, when it was given its frame, decorated with Richard II's arms and badges, by Sir Gilbert Scott. [Source: Society of Antiquaries of London]

The life of London's medieval apprentices

The University of Reading has announced an innovative three-year project into the health of adolescents in medieval London, funded by the Leverhulme Trust. The project will use palaeopathology, lead and strontium analysis to evaluate the life course of apprentices and to trace poor migrant workers.

New Secretary for CBA London

Due to increasing commitments, James Doerer has stepped down as CBA London Secretary, and the trustees have agreed that the job be taken up by Sarah McCarthy – an experienced archaeologist, activist and consultant with a passion for the archaeology of London. Sarah will answer emails sent to the usual address: cbalondon@britarch.ac.uk.

London's archaeologists expand

Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA), has set up a new regional UK operation, MetroMOLA, to assist developers and organisations across the UK and internationally.

MetroMOLA will provide services from offices in Birmingham, Manchester and Portsmouth. The Midlands and Wales service was launched in Birmingham on 7th April.

Also expanding is Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA), who have established a new Central region office at Stapleford, Cambridge to add to its Durham and London locations. Heading up the new enterprise is Mark Hinman.

An archaeology of the Barbican

Two UCL-affiliated researchers, Caroline Sandes and Sarah McCarthy, are embarking on an exciting, new project. The study will analyse how people engage with their local historic environment. It builds on their recent doctoral research: Caroline examined the social and political context of the conservation and display of archaeological sites in urban environments, using the City of London as her primary case study; Sarah developed the research method while examining the dichotomy between public perceptions and the management of archaeology.

The principal focus will be the Barbican area. The aims are to understand the socio-cultural, economic and political values of the area's historic and archaeological elements to the local communities of residents, workers and visitors.

The project has already won some initial funding from the Caroline Humby-Teck Trust and is supported by the Museum of London.

Caroline and Sarah would like to hear from anyone who has information relating to the archaeology of the area prior to the construction of the Barbican Estate. Please email them at barbicanproject@gmail.com.

Diary

April

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.

15 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'Clocks and watches in the British Museum' by David Thompson. St Olave's Parish Hall, Mark Lane, London EC3.

15 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. AGM and 'Excavations and fieldwork of Enfield Archaeological Society' by Martin Dearne and Mike Dewbrey. Jubilee Hall, Chase Side / Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

19 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Expanding City: 1670s – 1850s' by Alex Werner. Clore Learning Centre, Museum of London.

May

4 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'Woking Palace' by Richard Savage. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

9 (8 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Bull leaping and the Cretans' by Andrew Shapland. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

10 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Recent archaeological work in advance of the British Museum World Heritage & Exhibition Centre' by Becky Haslam. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

10 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'The Markfield Beam Engine – the influence of effluence' by Ken Brereton. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.

12 (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. 'The Bayeux Tapestry' by Nick Pollard. Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames.

13 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Recent research on Shakespeare's London playhouses' by Julian Bowsher. Jubilee Hall, Chase Side / Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

13 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'St Mary Magdalene Leper Hospital, Winchester' by Julie Wileman. Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond.

June

1 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'History of Horse Racing in Epsom' by Bill Eacott. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

9 (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. 'Excavation of the medieval Greenwich tide mill' by Simon Davis. Richard Mayo Centre, United Reformed Church, Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames.

13 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. '410 – the year that shook Rome' by Sam Moorhead. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

17 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'The Glassworkers of Roman London' by John Shepherd. Clore Learning Centre, Museum of London.

17 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Theobalds Place' by Mike Dewbrey. Jubilee Hall, Chase Side / Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

Courses

The Bare Bones, the study of human remains, 27th April to 6th July at the Museum of London (6.30 p.m., 2 hours, 10 sessions). Fee £100 (concessions £35). Book via the Museum of London Box Office (020 7001 9844).

Everyday life in medieval London 1000 – 1500 AD, 27th April to 6th July at the Museum of London (6.30 p.m., 2 hours, 10 sessions). Fee £225 (concessions £115). Book via Birkbeck (020 7631 6651).

Faith expressed in Stone: Religious Buildings in Surrey and Southeast England, 3rd to 31st May at The Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead (7.30 for 8 p.m.). Fees £6 per evening, or £26 for all five. Enquiries to Membership Secretary, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX, tel. 01483 532 454, email info@surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

Five-day Field Schools, 8th–12th and 15th–19th August. Continued excavation of Tudor grand house at Copped Hall, near Epping, by West Essex Archaeological Group and Copped Hall Trust. Not for beginners. Full details at weag.org.uk.

Kent Archaeological Field School: a programme of two-day and longer courses throughout 2011. For details see kafs.co.uk or contact at School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP, tel. 01795 532 548, email info@kafs.co.uk.

Events

London's underworld unearthed: the secret life of the Rookery Innovative exhibition blending the art, archaeology and history of this infamous quarter, and site of Gin Lane. Open daily 17 May to 3 June. Coningsby

Gallery, 30 Tottenham St, W1T 4RJ. Tel: 020 7636 1064

CBA London's big Greenwich archaeology day. 4th June. 9.30am to c 2.30pm. Includes foreshore exploration (with Lorna Richardson, TDP/CBAL), visit to new Discover Greenwich exhibitions, and walks around remains of Roman temple, Anglo-Saxon cemetery and Tudor Royal palace (with Julian Bowsher MOLA and Becky Wallower, CBAL/LA). Free and open to all (though CBA members have priority if oversubscribed). Details and bookings through events page at britarch.ac.uk/cbalondon/ or email becky.wallower@dial.pipex.com.

The Time Cheam, at Sutton Central Library, 4th–9th July. 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 the training course, free entry for visitors. Details and booking form from Clive Orton, 39a Benhill Wood Road, Sutton SM1 3SL or email cliveorton@btinternet.com. The project website is cheamware.org.uk.

Excavation Taster Weekends at Copped Hall, near Epping, 16th–17th, 23rd–24th and 30th–31st July. Aimed at complete beginners. For bookings visit weag.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 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).