

Mosaic

Award for the Thames Discovery Programme

We congratulate The Thames Discovery Programme (TDP), on achieving the British Archaeology Award for Best Community Archaeology Project 2012. The TDP was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) from 2008 to 2011 and has produced an invaluable record of the area's archaeology. During the past three years, the TDP was run under the auspices of the Thames Estuary Partnership and Thames Explorer Trust, supported by a number of bodies including the Port of London Authority, English Heritage, University College London, the Museum of London, LP Archaeology and MOLA. The vital work of volunteers will now continue under MOLA's management. MOLA has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Thames Estuary Partnership and Thames Explorer Trust, framing their shared commitment to continuing to explore, understand, record and celebrate the river's famous 'liquid history'.

The project was established in order to study and record the fragile archaeology of the Thames inter-tidal zone. Discoveries to date include London's oldest structure (on the foreshore at Vauxhall), medieval jetties at Greenwich and The Tower of London and the launch slipways for the SS Great Eastern, designed by Isambard Kingdom Brunel. These records are now a valuable educational resource, available for consultation at the Museum of London's Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC). The TDP has amassed a vital and committed group of volunteers, known as the Foreshore Recording & Observation Group (FROG) that is made up of nearly 400 members of the public, who work all-year-round along the Thames foreshore, supported by a professional team from MOLA. We hope to report on their work in more detail in our next issue.

Step inside Shakespeare's first theatre

Cloak and Dagger Studios (CnD) and Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA) have teamed up to create the first digital animation of Shakespeare's

original London playhouse, *The Theatre*. The CGI animation is based entirely on archaeological evidence unearthed by MOLA and offers people today a chance to view the Theatre as Shakespeare would have himself in 1595. Theatre digital animation can be found at www.exploretetheatre.co.uk. CnD employed 3D modelling software used in the film and visual effects industry to produce the virtual simulation of the Theatre. The animation is a highly detailed and versatile replica that explores every nook and cranny of the Theatre. The historical reconstruction is based entirely on real-world dimensions extrapolated from excavation work and has enabled archaeologists to explore how the playhouse would have been used by theatre-goers and performers in the 16th century.

Initial reflections have highlighted the lack of light in the Theatre, which would have dictated when performances could be shown; the dimensions of the galleries have provided an insight into the views that the audience would have experienced; the constraints on space in the stalls reveals to us that conditions would have been extremely cramped for theatre-goers. The representation has also brought to light new questions about how the Theatre would have been used. Archaeological evidence for the stairwells only survived in part and therefore digital artists from CnD and archaeologists from MOLA did extensive research to build up a historically accurately and physically viable solution.

Bidding for *The Rose Revealed*

Plans for the future of the famous archaeological site of the Rose Theatre on London's Bankside, and the bid for a Heritage Lottery grant, were unveiled by the Trustees on Friday 13th July. They include the excavation of the final third of the site, enabling visitor access, conserving the remains of this national monument at risk, and opening a public exhibition above the site in order to develop its potential as a learning centre and performance space. The Trustees believe that the *Rose Revealed*

project should be an important legacy of the World Shakespeare Festival and a focus of the forthcoming national celebrations planned to commemorate the 450th anniversary of Shakespeare's birth (2014), and the 400th anniversary of his death (2016).

Forty Hall refurbished

Forty Hall, built in 1632 for Sir Nicholas Rainton, a former Lord Mayor of London, has recently finished a one-and-a-half-year refurbishment project funded by Enfield Council, who invested £4.3m, and the Heritage Lottery Fund, who contributed just under £2 million. It was re-opened on 30th June and 1st July with two days of dancing, costumed tours and exhibitions.

The refurbishment sees the rooms returning to their original Jacobean alignments and the 17th- and 18th-century interiors painstakingly brought back into vivid detail. The house has been made fully accessible for the first time with the addition of a lift. As well as the physical refurbishment of the architecture and interiors, a programme of new activities is being introduced so that families can experience the hall in a unique way, and to encourage people to learn more about the area's history. Focusing on the themes of Art, Ecology and Heritage, activities include creative workshops, informative talks, archaeological digs, artist residences, and music and theatrical performances. Inspired by the Hall's first resident, Sir Nicholas Rainton, a self-made man who started as an apprentice and worked his way up to become Lord Mayor of London, Forty Hall and Estate is working with young people and older people to help them follow in his footsteps by getting them into work and training.

Congratulations

Brian Philp, Director of the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit, was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Letters by the University of Kent in July. This was in recognition of 60 years directing excavations in south-east London and in Kent, including the Roman forum in London, and villas at Keston and Orpington.

Diary

Please note that some societies anticipate a donation for attendance by non-members.

October

- 8** (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Finding Neanderthal tools in Norfolk' by Ken Ashton. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.
- 9** (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Shaky foundations: the legendary origins of some London churches' by John Clark. Museum of London.
- 9** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'A year in Southwark's archaeology' by Chris Constable. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.
- 9** (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'The life and legacy of George Peabody' by Christine Wagg. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.
- 10** (5 p.m.) Royal Archaeological Institute. 'Royal Windsor: the castle reassessed' by Steven Brindle and Brian Kerr. Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London.
- 12** (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Post-medieval archaeology in London', by Jacqui Pearce. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.
- 12** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Work on Woking Palace' by David Savage. Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 18** (8 p.m.) Bexley Archaeological Group. 'Egyptology' by Elizabeth Chappell. Conservative Club, 19 Station Road, Sidcup.
- 19** (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'London's food plant remains' by Karen Stewart. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

November

- 9** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Recent projects on London's Scheduled Monuments' by Jane Sidell. Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 12** (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Coins and Conquest in Iron Age Britain' by Julia Farley. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.
- 13** (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'The day Parliament burned down' by Caroline Shenton. Museum of London.
- 13** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'The between the wars architecture of Lambeth' by Edmund Bird. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.
- 13** (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Archaeological discoveries in Southwark' by Peter Moore. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.
- 16** (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'New designs for the old Temple of Mithras' by John Shepherd. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

December

- 4** (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'There is nothing like dissecting to give you an appetite': doctors and nurses in Dickens' by Kevin Brown. Museum of London.
- 10** (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Domestic finance in Roman Britain' by Amelia Dowler. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.
- 11** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. AGM and Presidential Lecture: 'These sherds belong to you and me – the Time Cheam Project' by Clive Orton. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.
- 14** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'All change now – how the Portable Antiquities Scheme Roman coin data is helping to rewrite Roman-British history' by Sam Moorhead. Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

January

- 8** (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Shakespeare's London Theatreland: 20 years of archaeology' by Julian Bowsher. Museum of London.
- 8** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Further work on the Thameslink Project' by a speaker from PCA. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.
- 8** (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'The reign of Akhenaten: revolution or evolution?' by Nathalie Andrews. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.

Conferences

- Marking Past Landscapes**, and CBA SE AGM, 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday 13th October, at the Large Hall, Dorking Christian Centre, Dorking. Tickets £10 for non-members, £8 for members and students. Bookings from: Mrs R Hooker, 59 Thornton Place, Horley, Surrey RH6 8RZ rosemary.hooker@blueyonder.co.uk.
- Recent Research on Anglo-Saxon Kent**, 2 to 5.30 p.m., Saturday 20th October, at the Old Sessions Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christchurch University, North Holmes Campus. Tickets £5 from C.K.A., 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN11 8HP (sae please).
- A capital way to go: death in London through the ages**, LAMAS Local History Conference 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 17th November, at the Museum of London. Tickets, price £10 before 31st October or £15 after 31st October, may be purchased on the LAMAS website (www.lamas.org.uk/localhistory2012.html) or by post to Pat Clark, 22 Malpas Drive, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1DQ, enclosing a cheque and sae. Details are available on the website, where an application form may be downloaded.

Exhibitions

Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection Men, at the Museum of London from 19th October to 14th April 2013. Admission £9, children and concessions £7; to book call (020) 7001 9844 or visit www.museumoflondon.org.uk/dissection.

Events

Butser Ancient Farm, weekend events throughout the autumn. Details from Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Chalton, PO8 0BG, www.butserancientfarm.co.uk.

Membership

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology, which includes six issues a year of *British Archaeology*, costs £34 p.a. Visit: <https://shop.britarch.ac.uk/>.

Courses, workshops and study days

Mary Ward Centre, new reasonably priced courses in archaeology are on offer. Visit: marywardcentre.ac.uk/Courses/Humanities/CoursesHumanities.asp

Butser Ancient Farm, workshops in traditional skills, metalworking, art, herbs and cookery. Details from Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Chalton, PO8 0BG, tel. 02392 598 838, www.butserancientfarm.co.uk.

Local History in Schools, 2 to 5 p.m., 17th October, in the Clore Learning Centre, Museum of London. Cost £10. People with experience in this field who would be prepared to offer a short contribution should contact Eileen Bowlt at c.bowlt@tiscali.co.uk or tel. 01895 638 060.

Egyptology, 17th November, led by Elizabeth Chappell for the Bexley Archaeology Group. Agenda for the day to be confirmed. Cost is £20 (£15 to members).

Practical archaeology

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

London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre. Contact Archive Manager, Francis Grew (020 7566 9317).

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

Borough of Greenwich. Contact Greenwich Heritage Centre (020 8854 2452).

Hammersmith & Fulham. Contact Keith Whitehouse (020 7385 3723).

Kingston. Enquiries to 020 8546 5386.

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

Surrey. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Surrey History Centre (01483 594 634).