

Mosaic

Fire at the Cuming Museum

The Cuming Museum in Walworth Road, Southwark, was seriously damaged by fire on 25th March. The fire, which started in the roof, is thought to have been caused accidentally by roofers using a blow torch. The incident saw the loss of two out of three of the museum's display galleries, and water damage to a number of objects in storage, as over 100 fire-fighters struggled to contain the blaze. However, much of the museum's store and archive appears to have been relatively unaffected.

Following the fire, thieves broke into the burnt-out museum building and stole an ornate Asian tray along with some personal possessions belonging to museum staff; the council believes that the tray was the only object stolen from the museum. The thieves risked death by entering the museum building where parts of the roof have collapsed and asbestos has been discovered.

The Museum is likely to remain closed for some time, as extensive repairs will be needed to this listed building. For up-to-date information on the Museum's services visit www.Southwark.gov.uk/cumingmuseumevents.

New threat to Smithfield Market

An important victory seemed to have been achieved when consent to demolish the General Market, Fish Market and Red House at London's Smithfield Market was turned down after a planning inquiry in 2008. Communities Secretary Hazel Blears stated at the time that these buildings made a significant contribution to the character and appearance of Farringdon and the surrounding area. Campaigners looked forward to these buildings playing a central role in a Covent Garden-style revival of Smithfield. But new plans that emerged for the site in October 2012 proved to be as potentially destructive of the existing structures as the rejected plans.

The new plans involve retaining the three façades that line the edges of the site, but demolishing all the buildings behind, to create what the architects describe as 'low-rise pavilions' to accommodate new office space. Architecture critic Oliver Wainwright says the new scheme 'will leave only a flimsy skin of heritage, a picturesque skirt of Victoriana around the base of yet another slab of generic commercial development'. The proposal entails the loss of a major landmark building, including the splendid market halls and roofs, and will cause substantial harm to the Smithfield conservation area and surrounding conservation areas, as well as to the adjacent Grade II* listed Meat Market and Grade II listed Poultry Market. Important views will be lost, including those from the Holborn Viaduct. The buildings have never been market tested (as recommended by the Planning Inspector's Report following the

Public Inquiry in 2008) to establish that they are needed. There is an alternative conservation-led scheme for the site, backed up by a viable business plan, and there is no convincing justification for demolition. (Source: *Salon*).

Save Prince Henry

I have an emotional attachment to Prince Henry's Room at 17 Fleet Street, as it was there that I studied for the Certificate in Field Archaeology in the 1970s. This room over the small half-timbered gateway to Inner Temple is a remarkable survival of the Great Fire of 1666; it is known as Prince Henry's Room because of the Prince of Wales feathers and the initials "P H" featured in its exceptionally fine plasterwork ceiling. The building certainly dates to the early years of the 17th century. In 1969 the care of Prince Henry's Room was transferred from the Greater London Council to the Corporation of London, which opened it to the public. An exhibition on Samuel Pepys was installed (Pepys was born not far away, and spent many happy hours "drinking and singing" in the room, when it was known as the Fountain Tavern).

In December 2012, the Corporation's Culture Heritage and Libraries Committee declared the room "surplus" and transferred its care to its Property Investment Group, which is seeking a tenant. The room is no longer available for cultural purposes, and the Group do not have the financial resources to facilitate visits. Campaigners argue that whatever rent they could get for this small room could not possibly be as important as the good will that is engendered by making it accessible to those who wish to see an all-too-rare relic of early Stuart life amidst a sea of commercial development. Interested parties (including the Samuel Pepys Club, who paid for the restoration of the room and who have used it for recitals, readings and other events related to 17th-century London) are hoping to convince the Corporation that this room should be made available to interested, scholarly groups at least on an occasional basis.

London's Great Conduit remembered

The Corporation of London has installed a plaque in the pavement of Poultry to mark the location of London's medieval Great Conduit. It was built by the City of London in 1245 to bring a supply of fresh water from the springs at Tyburn, and was removed in 1666 after the Great Fire.

The only way for Essex

After two years of negotiations, Archaeology South-East (the contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology of University College London Institute of Archaeology) has

completed the business acquisition of the Essex County Council Field Archaeology Unit. The Essex County Unit has been at the forefront of archaeological research in East Anglia for nearly 40 years, but changes in the way in which Essex County Council delivers local services encouraged the Council to find an external organisation to take over the operation. As a result of this merger, ASE now has 75 professional archaeologists working from three regional offices: Sussex, London and Essex.

Festival of Archaeology 13 – 28 July 2013

The 16-day Festival of Archaeology this year features over 1000 events nationwide. Londoners can take advantage of a huge variety of activity being organised by museums, local societies, heritage sites and specialist projects to get people of all ages involved in archaeology and heritage.

This year *London Archaeologist* has invited CBA London to join us at our usual stand at the Museum of London so we can offer more activities than ever. Over the weekend of 20/21 July, we'll be creating a Museum of Secret things to complement the MOL theme of 'the secret museum'. We'll be celebrating all the hidden and mysteriously deposited objects that find their way into museum collections. Families and children can create their own version of the famed Cheapside hoard of fantastic Tudor and Stewart jewellery (below) to fill a secret box, or fashion a 21st century Battersea shield to take home – or perhaps throw in the Thames like the original. And to help conjure a magic charm, witch bottles will be filled with tiny objects to protect hearth and home.

Latest listings of events in London and across the region will be updated right up to the last minute on the festival site: www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk. Events include walks and talks; foreshore fun; visits to a Roman bath house, a Saxon church, a Medieval monastery and a Georgian water tower; and hands-on events from Eltham to Wanstead to Richmond.

Visit *London Archaeologist* and CBA London between 11am and 4pm on the weekend of 20–21 July.



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Diary

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

August

7 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. Members' evening. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

September

4 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'These sherds belong to you and me' by Clive Orton. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

9 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. A presentation of archaeological techniques. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

13 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'The Chiseldon Cauldrons' by Alexandra Baldwin. Jubilee Hall, junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

October

2 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'Rudyard Kipling – his life and remarkable story' by Gary Endstone. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

8 (8 p.m.) Hendon and District Archaeological Society. 'Brunel's Tunnel under the Thames' by Robert Hulse. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

Conferences

London Heritage Conference, 10 a.m. to 4.15 p.m., Saturday 28th September, at The Gallery, 75 Cowcross Street, EC1. Cost £30, including lunch and refreshments. Places may be booked on the LAMAS website (www.lamas.org.uk/london-heritage-conference.html) or by post from Richard Buchanan, 79 Ashridge Crescent, Shooters Hill, London SE18 3EA (please include a stamped self-addressed envelope).

Archaeology Abroad, 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday 19. October, at Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury. Organised by the University of Kent, the Council for Kentish Archaeology and the Kent Archaeological Society. Talks on Roman Ostia and on Madeira. Non-members tickets £5, cheques payable to C.K.A. Please send sae to C.K.A., 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP.

Landscapes of South-East Britain during the Roman Period, 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m.,

Saturday 16th November at the Assembly Rooms, Preston Street, Faversham. Council of British Archaeology South-East AGM and Conference. Tickets available in advance from www.kafs.co.uk 'news' page at £8 for members of CBA SE and KAFS or £10 for non-members, and on the day. Conference organised by the KAFS in association with CBA SE.

Events

Roman fort visit, 2 to 2.30 and 3 to 3.30 p.m., 19th July. At the Museum of London, free.

Festival of Archaeology, 16th–21st July. Behind-the-scenes tours of stores and laboratories at the Museum of London and the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre. Details at www.museumoflondon.org.uk/london-wall/Whats-on/Family-events/FOA.htm.

Open Day at the Guildhall Library, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 20th July. Talks, tours and workshops; full programme available at www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/guildhalllibrary.

Excavation taster weekends at Copped Hall, near Epping, 13–14th, 20–21st and 27–28th July. Details at www.weag.org.uk.

Exhibitions

Step into England's story, a series of exhibitions throughout the year at the Quadriga Gallery, Wellington Arch, Hyde Park Corner. Open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. (4 p.m. from 4th November) Wednesdays to Sundays. Admission £4 (concessions £3.60, children £2.40). Details from www.english-heritage.org.uk/quadriga or tel. (020) 7930 2726.

The Cheapside Hoard: London's Lost Jewels, at the Museum of London, 11th October to 27th April 2014. This extraordinary and priceless cache of late 16th and early 17th century jewels and gemstones – displayed in its entirety for the first time in over a century – was discovered in 1912, buried in a cellar on Cheapside. Tickets are available through the Box Office on (020) 7001 9844 or the Museum's website. Price: adult £10 (£9 without donation); concession/child £8 (£7 without donation). Flexible family tickets also available.

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/>.

Open days

Scadbury Manor Open Weekend, Saturday 14th and Sunday 15th September, 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. (last entry). Follow a self-guided trail around the moated manor, visiting the excavations, Tudor kitchen foundations and World War II defences. Access *via* footpath at 14 St Paul's Wood Hill, Chislehurst (5 minute walk) or from Old Perry Street car park (30 minute walk). For details see www.odas.org.uk.

Summer Schools

Bexley Archaeological Group Training Excavation, 29th July to 2nd August. Cost £100 for the week. Details from Pip Pulfer (07961 963893 or pipspad@hotmail.co.uk), or visit www.bag.org.uk.

Five-day Field Schools at Copped Hall, near Epping, 5–9th and 12–16th August. West Essex Archaeological Group and Copped Hall Trust. On-going excavation of Tudor grand-house. Details at www.weag.org.uk.

Kent Archaeological Field School. Wide range of short courses, excavations and field trips throughout 2013; two-day courses cost £50 unless otherwise stated. KAFS members enjoy a discount on full prices, except field trips. Details of courses and membership from The Kent Archaeological Field School, The Classroom, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP, or visit www.kafs.co.uk.

Sussex School of Archaeology. Wide range of day schools and short courses throughout 2013 at various locations in Sussex. Day schools cost £30, weekends £55. Details from The Sussex School of Archaeology, Unit 12, Mays Farm, Selveston, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6TS, tel. 01323 811785, or visit www.sussexarchaeology.co.uk.

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).