

Mosaic

You found a what?

An interim report that we published on the excavation of the St Pancras Burial Ground¹ noted that this was in some respects an 'odd' cemetery. Further oddities are revealed in the final report,² in the shape of exotic faunal remains from two of the coffins of the last phase of the cemetery (1822–54). Coffin [5387] contained an assemblage of eight walrus bones (the front right arm and wrist, and the back right leg and ankle) (Fig. 1), together with three human skulls showing signs of cranial autopsy, and remains from at least eight individuals. The walrus remains were from a very large and robust specimen, probably a male of the Pacific sub-species. How it ended up in London is a mystery. Coffin [5005] contained the carapace (shell) of a tortoise, together with disarticulated human remains that showed signs of dissection. One possible explanation of the juxtaposition of these exotic faunal remains with human remains showing signs of dissection/autopsy is that collectively these remains represent material which had been subject to investigation in one of the many anatomy schools in London, and had been gathered up for dignified burial. Depending on the extent of soft tissue survival and any decay, the walrus limbs may conceivably have been misidentified as human, or at the very least did not invite close inspection!

1. P. Emery and P. Miller 'Archaeological findings at the site of the St Pancras Burial Ground and its vicinity' *London Archaeol* 12 no 11 (2010) 290–7.

2. P.A. Emery and K. Wooldridge *St Pancras burial ground: excavation for St Pancras International, the London terminus for High Speed 1, 2002-3* (2011).

Museum of the Year

The William Morris Gallery in Walthamstow has been awarded the £100,000 Art Fund Prize for Museum of the Year. The judging team said that 'the extraordinary collections, beautifully presented, draw the visitor

engagingly through Morris's life and work and through the building itself, setting the highest standards of curatorship, and reaching out impressively to its local community with an ambitious programme of events and activities'. Winning the prize represents a major turnaround for a museum that was embroiled in controversy six years ago. Waltham Forest Borough Council voted in April 2007 to close the museum and make its fourteen expert staff redundant, despite an international 'Keep our Museum Open' campaign led by the Friends of the William Morris Gallery and supported by Ken Livingstone, Lord (Chris) Smith and Tony Benn, among many high-profile figures. The campaign was successful: Waltham Forest realised that it had a major asset in its hands and invested £1.5m, securing a similar sum from the Heritage Lottery Fund. The renovated gallery reopened last August (2012), telling the story of William Morris's life and achievements in the setting of the Grade II* listed Georgian house in which he grew up. Some 100,000 visitors have visited the museum in the last ten months (compared with 30,000 or so annually before the reopening) and the new special exhibition gallery opened by displaying Grayson Perry's fifteen-metre long Walthamstow Tapestry (shown above is Morris's Peacock and Vine tapestry, one of the Gallery's permanent exhibits). (*Source: Salon*)

Fulham Palace guidebook

The Fulham Palace Trust (FPT) has released its first guidebook, written by museum curator Miranda Poliakoff. The guidebook is an illuminating insight into the Palace's history and its relationship with the Bishops of London, to whom it was home for over 1000 years, as well as containing fascinating glimpses into their lives. The book has been split into easy-to-use sections designed to

enable the visitor to explore both the exterior and the interior of the Palace, as well as the gardens. It is available from the Fulham Palace shop and reception and costs £3.50.

The guide is suitable for first-time and regular visitors alike as it contains lots of original information. For instance, a new tree map shows the location of nearly 60 unusual trees and helps unlock the Palace's unique and fascinating horticultural history. The gardens at the Palace gained worldwide significance at the time of Bishop Compton (1675–1713), a keen botanist and collector of rare species. The gardens are in the process of being completely restored.

An unusual listed building

One of the rarest and best preserved signal boxes in London has been given Grade II listed status by the Department for Culture Media and Sport as a result of a joint English Heritage and Network Rail project to safeguard the nation's railway signalling heritage. The signal box at Liverpool Street Station was built in 1875 for the Metropolitan Railway on the initial part of the London Underground system. It was a bespoke design for the Metropolitan Railway by McKenzie and Holland, unusually having glazing on all sides because of its location on what was originally a junction. Its survival at a central London railway terminus is unique. The listings of this and 25 other signal boxes across England come as Network Rail decommissions many mechanical signal boxes to consolidate signalling into 14 regional centres.

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Brian Philp on his award of an MBE for services to archaeology in Kent.



Fig. 1 (left): the front right arm and wrist bones of the walrus (right): the back right leg and ankle bones (photos: Museum of London)

Diary

We apologise for the late delivery of this issue, which had been scheduled for the first week of October. This was due to the installation of new equipment at the printers.

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

October

25 (8 p.m.) Wandsworth Historical Society. 'Recent archaeological work in Southwark' by Chris Constable. Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

November

8 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Palaces, pots and parks: archaeology and the National Trust' by Nathalie Cohen. Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

11 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Excavations in Drapers' Gardens' by Neil Hawkins. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

12 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. '60 years of archaeology in Wandsworth' by Pamela Greenwood. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106, The Cut, SE1.

12 (8 p.m.) Hendon and District Archaeological Society. 'The Lions on *Kunulua*: excavations of the Early Bronze and Iron Age periods at Tell Tayinat, Hatay, Turkey' by Fiona Haughey. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

15 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'The Cheapside Hoard' by Hazel Forsyth. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

December

9 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Pompeii and Herculaneum' by John Shepherd. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

10 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. AGM and '30 years before the masthead: half a lifetime as Editor of the London Archaeologist' by Clive Orton. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106, The Cut, SE1.

13 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'How history works: Gordon Childe and Marxist approached to understanding the past' by Neil Faulkner. Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

January

14 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'A forgotten treasure of Walworth: The Royal Surrey Zoological Gardens' by Stephen Humphrey. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106, The Cut, SE1.

18 (2.30 p.m.) Merton Historical Society. 'Recent Researches' by several MHS members. Christ Church Hall, Christchurch Road, Colliers Wood.

Conferences

Archaeology Abroad, 2 to 5 p.m., Saturday 19th 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.

Holding the forts in Kent, 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 26th October at Harrietsham Community Centre, Church Road, Harrietsham, Kent. Kent Archaeological Society's Historic Buildings Conference. Admission £10 including refreshments. Details from David Carder, email david_carder@talk21.com. booking forms from www.kentarchaeology.org.uk or send s.a.e. to Mr D Carder, 53 The Ridgeway, Chatham, Kent ME4 6PB.

A Miscellany of Glass: New Discoveries and Hidden Treasures, Friday 15th November, at Science Museum's Dana Centre, 165 Queen's Gate, South Kensington. A day of presentations on ancient and historic glass. More details from Sally Cottam (sally.cottam@kcl.ac.uk) or www.historyofglass.org.uk. Costs £20 (members of AHG), £30 (non-members) or £10 (students). Cheques payable to the Association for the History of Glass Ltd to be sent to Denise Allen, 8 St Catherine's Road, Southampton SO18 1LJ.

Surrey Archaeological Society Autumn Conference: The Research Framework, 9.30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 9th November at The Dixon Hall, The Institute, 67 High Street, Leatherhead. Tickets £10 for members, £12 for non-members and £8 for students from SRF conference 2013, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3SX.

Landscapes of South-East Britain during the Roman Period, 9.30 a.m. to 4.30 p.m., Saturday 16th November at Queen Elizabeth School, Abbey Place, 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.

The River and Port of London, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 16th November, at the Weston Theatre, Museum of London. London and Middlesex Archaeological Society Local History Conference. Details from the LAMAS website, www.lamas.org.uk/localhistory2013.html.

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/>.

Short courses

Kent Archaeological Field School. Short courses, excavations and field trips; two-day courses cost £50 unless otherwise stated. Details 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. Day schools and short courses. Day schools cost £30, weekends £55. Details from The Sussex School of Archaeology, Unit 12, Mays Farm, Selmeston, 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).