

Mosaic

Pristine Roman sculpture discovered

Archaeologists from MOLA have discovered an extraordinary Roman sculpture in the form of an eagle firmly grasping a writhing snake in its beak. Pictured on our front cover, it was found on a site in Minories in the City of London, ahead of a development by Scottish Widows Investment Partnership and its partners Endurance Land.

Specialists have confirmed that the sculpture dates to the 1st or 2nd century AD. Depictions of eagles are typically Roman and the bird is the attribute of the god Jupiter. The symbolism may represent the triumph of Jupiter over evil forces or Rome over her enemies. An important Roman cemetery is known to have been located on the site and similar themes appear elsewhere in funerary art. In funerary art the eagle image could also represent the ascension of the deceased to the heavens and the statue may have once adorned a rich mausoleum, the foundations of which were also unearthed. Its lack of weathering corroborates this theory, as does the absence of detail on its back, suggesting it once sat in an alcove.

Described as 'amongst the very best statues surviving from Roman Britain', the skill of the craftsman is apparent; with the forked tongue of the snake and the individual feathers of the eagle still clearly discernible. Some 65cm tall and 55cm wide, the sculpture is made from oolitic limestone from the Cotswolds, where a well-known school of Romano-British sculptors worked.

All buildings great and small

London's historic buildings have featured much in the news in the past few months: some for good reasons and others not. We start with the good news:

Kenwood House

Kenwood House reopened on Thursday 28th November, restored and refurbished by English Heritage. Since April 2012, the house and its internationally important art collection has been closed to the public for a major repair and conservation programme. Crowning Hampstead Heath in north London, Kenwood was remodelled by the renowned architect Robert Adam between 1764 and 1779 into a majestic villa for the first Earl of Mansfield. In 1925 the house was purchased by brewing magnate Edward Cecil Guinness, the first Earl of Iveagh, to provide a home for his collection of paintings and furniture. On his death, Kenwood and the art collection, including masterpieces by Rembrandt, Vermeer and Gainsborough, were left to the nation.

English Heritage's *Caring for Kenwood* project includes: restoring Robert Adam's original decorative scheme in the entrance hall, the staircase, the antechamber and the library (one of the most important 18th-century interiors in Britain); refurbishing the Breakfast Room, Lord and Lady Mansfield's

dressing rooms, and the Housekeeper's Room; making Kenwood House feel more like a home; repainting and restoring the exterior to its 18th-century appearance and completely repairing the roof, ensuring that the interior and works of art will be protected for generations to come.

Away from Kenwood House, the little-known 18th-century dairy which supplied the mansion with fresh produce and allowed the ladies of the house to take tea or play at being dairymaids, has been restored.

The *Caring for Kenwood* project has been made possible by a £3.89m grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund, as well as dozens of other contributors. Kenwood House will be open daily from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fulham Palace

On Monday 21st October, Fulham Palace hosted the première of *The Dig*, a film about the community archaeology dig that took place in the walled garden in the summer of 2012. The idea behind the dig was to uncover archaeological evidence of the Grade II Listed walled garden's layout from its creation in the 1760s; the evidence recorded is now guiding the restoration of the walled garden. The project engaged the community from the outset, with schools and volunteers participating. The film explores how the project was developed, and the practical issues overcome, and reflects the successes with reference to the community development aims of the Fulham Palace Trust and targets set out by the project's funder, The Heritage Lottery Fund.

The dig attracted 94 volunteers, 21 students of archaeology and associated studies, 239 children from seven local schools and 313 people who dropped in during family days on certain weekends. Professional supervision was provided by archaeologists from Pre-Construct Archaeology (PCA) working closely with the Trust. Key results included the recording of planting beds and pits, and the recovery of associated finds such as pottery, dress fittings, coins and gardening paraphernalia. The mapping of garden features is informing the laying out of the new vegetable plots, which now provide abundant produce for the restaurants of double Michelin star chef Phil Howard.

The Trust is preparing for an equivalent project next year, to search for remains of the octagonal Tudor dovecote. Geophysical surveys took place on 5/6th November 2013.

Cuming Museum

Six months after the devastating fire at the Walworth Town Hall (see *LA 13* no. 9, 252), a commitment to the future of the Cuming Museum has been made by Southwark Council Leader Councillor Peter John: "We are wholly committed to developing a first class civic space in Walworth. This is in response to community views and is why we wish to work closely with them throughout

the regeneration process. Immediately after the fire, we heard from the community groups who have so far helped shape our initial proposals. What's clear is that people treasured the Grade II listed building. Also central to our plans is a new space for the Cuming Museum and Newington Library. Both hold great value within the community for their cultural and educational benefits to locals."

The Ivy House Public House

The Ivy House in Nunhead has won an English Heritage Angel Award for 'the Best Rescue of any other type of historic building or place' in 2013. This Grade II listed building had suffered from under-investment and lack of maintenance over many years. It was in a poor physical condition, with asbestos in the basement and behind the music hall stage. There were leaks in the cellar and the ground floor hallway, and unsafe electrical circuits. Damp was affecting the wood panelling in the ballroom. There was a real danger that the exceptional and increasingly rare 1930s interior and surviving fixtures and fittings would be lost. It was closed in April 2012 and sold to a property developer.

A group of four residents mobilised the local community and successfully applied to Southwark Council to have the building listed as the first 'Asset of Community Value' in the country, using the community right to bid provisions in the Localism Act 2011. Having obtained a grant of £450k from the Social Investment Business Group and loan finance of £550k from the Architectural Heritage Fund, they negotiated with the owner and bought the pub on 15 March 2013. *The Ivy House* became the first building to be bought using the Localism Act, and London's first co-operative pub. To date, a further £75k has been raised through a community share issue to enable the repairs to be carried out.

And the not-so-good news

Two London buildings have been added to the World Monuments Fund 2014 'watch list': (1) Battersea Power Station, which has been on the list before, having closed in 1983, and more than once been threatened with demolition. The WMF considers that its imminent redevelopment does not do enough to protect the iconic chimneys and the important views of the power station's silhouette; (2) Deptford Dockyard and Sayes Court Garden are on the list to support those campaigners (including the CBA) calling on the owners to integrate more of the site's historic vestiges into their redevelopment plans. Excavation has revealed the extensive remains of the historic Deptford Dockyard, founded in 1513 by Henry VIII, and of John Evelyn's home, Sayes Court, famous for its gardens and as the residence of Peter the Great during his visit to Deptford in 1698 to study ship-building.

Diary

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

January

- 10** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. New Year Social Event and Talk. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 14** (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'The Cheapside Hoard' by Hazel Forsyth. Museum of London.
- 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.
- 14** (8 p.m.) Hendon and District Archaeological Society. 'The Naval Graveyards of Greenwich' by Malcolm Godfrey. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.
- 17** (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society 'Archaeological investigations at King's Cross Goods Yard' by Rebecca Haslam. St Olave's Parish Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.
- 18** (2.30 p.m.) Merton Historical Society. 'Recent Researches' by several MHS members. Christ Church Hall, Christchurch Road, Colliers Wood.
- 20** (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society 'E. A. Bowles and Myddelton House' by Bryan Hewitt. Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane/Junction of Chase Side, Enfield.

February

- 1** (3 p.m.) Carshalton and District History and Archaeology Society. 'Treasures of the Thames' by Elliott Wragg. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton.
- 5** (8 p.m.) Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society. 'Pilgrimages to the Holy Land' by John Baxter. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.
- 11** (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. AGM and Presidential Address by Martin Biddle. Museum of London.
- 11** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Excavations at the Churchyard of St Mary Newington' by Alexis Haslam. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.
- 14** (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'By the waters of Babylon' by Ian Jones. Jubilee Hall, junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield.
- 14** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'The Origin of our Species' by Chris Stringer. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 15** (2.30 p.m.) Merton Historical Society. 'Thirty years caring for the vestments at Westminster Abbey' by Rosemary Turner. Christ Church Hall, Christchurch Road, Colliers Wood.
- 21** (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society AGM and 'Art and Archaeology' by Roy Stephenson. St Olave's Parish Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

March

- 5** (8 p.m.) Epsom and Ewell History and Archaeology Society. AGM and talk by Jon Cotton. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.
- 11** (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'The More: Rickmansworth's Royal Palace' by Heather Falvey. Museum of London.
- 11** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Symposium: various speakers on recent local archaeological and historical work. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.
- 11** (8 p.m.) Hendon and District Archaeological Society. 'The Sandridge coin hoard' by David Thorold. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.
- 14** (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Remarkable pots and extraordinary uses' by Jacqui Pearce. Jubilee Hall, junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield.
- 14** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'The Tudor mint at the Tower of London' by Justine Bayley. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 15** (2.30 p.m.) Merton Historical Society. 'Worcester Park, Old Malden and North Cheam: history at our feet' by David Rymill. Christ Church Hall, Christchurch Road, Colliers Wood.
- 21** (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society 'Roman Coins. A Window on the Past' by Ian Franklin. St Olave's Parish Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

April

- 5** (3 p.m.) Carshalton and District History and Archaeology Society. 'Thames road bridges' by Richard Fitch. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Carshalton.
- 8** (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'From coal sacks to treasures: Roman small finds from excavations in the Walbrook Valley' by Michael Marshall. Museum of London.
- 8** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'The urbanisation of south London' by Len Reilly. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.
- 8** (8 p.m.) Hendon and District Archaeological Society. 'Restoring House Mill' by Brian James-Strong. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.
- 11** (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. AGM and 'The excavations and fieldwork of Enfield Archaeology Society' by Martin Dearne and Mike Dewbrey. Jubilee Hall, junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield.
- 11** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Roman brooches found in London and its hinterland' by Frank Pemberton. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 12** (2.30 p.m.) Merton Historical Society. 'Merton Priory: celebrating 900 years' by Richard Chelley and Janette Henderson.

Christ Church Hall, Christchurch Road, Colliers Wood.

Exhibitions

The Cheapside Hoard: London's Lost Jewels, at the Museum of London, until 27th April. 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.

The 'London eagle' (see Mosaic) will be on display at the Museum of London until 30th April.

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, 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 Gainster (020 7639 9091).

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