

Mosaic

Deptford decision

The fate of the historic Deptford Dockyard/ Sayes Court area (see *LA* 13, no. 11(2013) 316 and 13, no. 12 (2014) 348) appeared to have been decided on 31st March when the Mayor of London gave outline approval to the Convoys Wharf Planning Application. This 40-acre site will be redeveloped by Hutchinson Whampoa, to create up to 3500 new homes, 2000 jobs, office and leisure space, and improved transport links.

Historic features on the site include the Olympia Warehouse (Grade II listed), constructed in 1846 as cover to Slipways no. 2 and 3 of the former Deptford Royal Dockyard, the site of a Tudor Store House (a Scheduled Ancient Monument), a basin to the front of the Olympia Warehouse, the double dry dock and the site of Sayes Court House. How much will survive the redevelopment is unclear, though the Sayes Court Garden and the *Build the Lenox* projects appear to be safe. *Build the Lenox* is a project to build a full-size replica of the Restoration warship *Lenox* in the dockyard where she was originally built, bringing the Olympia ship-building shed back to life and to its original function.

Deptford has long been a poor relation to its more famous neighbour Greenwich. *Build the Lenox* might do something to redress the balance, or alternatively the area might just disappear under a mass of tower blocks. We wait and see.

Testing times at the Testing Museum

The Kirkaldy Testing Museum occupies the ground floor and basement of 99 Southwark Street, just south of Tate Modern. This building was erected in 1874 specifically to house "Kirkaldy's Testing and Experimenting Works". Here experiments took place on materials to determine their strength. This was done primarily using Kirkaldy's own design of testing machine.

The objectives of the Museum are: to preserve David Kirkaldy's machine in good working order and close to its original condition; to retain as far as possible the Victorian character of the Works; to explain to the public Kirkaldy's role in developing quality control, by regular monthly opening and special open days; to store and exhibit the Kirkaldy archive, and develop a library on the history of materials testing, and to build and maintain a representative collection of working testing machines.

The building, including the Kirkaldy machine, has been listed Grade 2 since 1971. The first museum proposal was made in 1978, and the Kirkaldy Testing Museum was finally set up as a charity in 1983. The Industrial Buildings Preservation Trust obtained finance, bought the whole building from the Crown Estate and divided the space, with the Kirkaldy Testing Museum occupying most of the ground floor and

basement. Three storeys of commercial offices provide an income for the owners of the building, but not for the Museum, which is self-financing. Since its foundation the collection of testing machines has increased; in particular machines have been donated by Imperial College Mechanical Engineering Department.

Until now, the Museum has been open to the public from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the first Sunday of each month. After June, the position is uncertain because the lease expires. The trustees and other interested parties are working to obtain a new lease on satisfactory terms and plan for a sustainable future for the museum. In 2013 a proposal was made by the landlord for conversion of the ground floor and part of the basement to a restaurant, but with the machine retained as the centrepiece and kept in working order with access on open days. The rest of the basement would be a dedicated museum space for smaller exhibits, storage and workshops. The damp and unusable arches under the pavement would be refurbished. While there are many positive features to these plans, the amount of change would destroy the character of the museum and the trustees were not able to endorse them.

If anyone is able to help with funding or fund-raising, the museum can be contacted at info@testingmuseum.org.uk.

Thanks for all the fish

A recent article in the journal *Antiquity*¹ sheds important light on the supply of food to medieval London. Archaeologists analysed data from nearly 3,000 cod bones found in 95 different excavations in and around London. They identified a sudden change in the origin of the fish during the early 13th century, indicating the onset of a large-scale import trade.

Cod were traditionally decapitated as part of preservation for long-range transport, so that head bones found during excavations must represent fresh fish from relatively local waters. Vertebrae, by contrast, might be either local or imported. Comparing frequencies of the two over time, the researchers discovered a sudden switch 'from heads to tails' during the early 13th century. To confirm that the vertebrae were from distant waters, the team used biochemical signatures to match some of the individual bones to their most likely sources. The results supported the archaeological data perfectly: from the middle of the 13th century, the majority of sampled bones had signatures suggesting an origin in the far north, probably Arctic Norway. This shows that local fishing could no longer keep up with demand, that London's ecological

1. David C. Orton, James Morris, Alison Locker and James H. Barrett. 'Fish for the city: meta-analysis of archaeological cod remains and the growth of London's northern trade' *Antiquity* 88 (2014) 516–40.

footprint was increasingly extensive and that growing trade connections were making the world a smaller place in the century before the spread of the Black Death.

The research also shows a temporary drop in imports in the late 14th century that might reflect the Black Death's impact on European trade, plus a further surge in imports from around AD 1500 – coinciding with the beginnings of trans-Atlantic trade and the arrival of cod from Newfoundland on European markets.

This kind of archaeological data-mining is made possible by London's archaeological contractors opening their databases to the researchers, and by the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre that curates the resulting finds and data.

Grants from the City of London Archaeological Trust 2014

The City of London Archaeological Trust (CoLAT) is again awarding grants this year for archaeological work of many kinds in the London area. The application forms and guidelines are at www.colat.org.uk, and the deadline for receipt of the applications is Friday 26th September 2014. The meeting to decide these grants will be held in December, and the grants are available for one year only from 1st April 2015. Additionally, the Trust has announced plans for a new Large Grant Scheme, which will invite applications to support projects of up to three years' duration. This will have a separate timetable of application from the normal grants. Further details of all grants can be obtained from the Secretary, John Schofield, john@jschd.demon.co.uk.

Hot chocolate at Hampton Court

The Georgian royal chocolate-making rooms at Hampton Court Palace have been rediscovered and are open to the public for the first time in almost 300 years. The chocolate kitchen at Hampton Court Palace is the only surviving royal chocolate kitchen in the country. It once catered for three kings: William III, George I and George II, and features faithful recreations of the ceramics, copper cooking equipment, bespoke chocolate-serving silverware, glassware and linens of the time, and will be used to host Georgian chocolate-making sessions so that visitors can experience chocolate-making first-hand.

The opening of the chocolate kitchen is part of a wider celebration of the Georgians across Historic Royal Palaces in 2014, to commemorate the 300th anniversary of the Hanoverian Accession to the British throne. The royal chocolate kitchen at Hampton Court Palace is open daily from 10.00 am to 4.30 pm. Tickets can be purchased on the day, or in advance from 0844 482 7799.

Diary

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

July

25 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'Permanently Magical: Sir John Soane's House and Museum at 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields.' By Helen Dorey. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

30 (8 p.m.) Wandsworth Historical Society. 'Kings Cross Goods Yard: an historical and archaeological approach' by Rebecca Haslam. Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

August

4 (1 p.m.) Gresham College Lecture. 'Magnificence: A Tale of Two Henries' by Simon Thurley. Museum of London.

4 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'Coombe Conduit House, Kingston' by David Kennedy. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

4 (8 p.m.) Orpington & District Archaeological Society. 'Community Dig of the Roman Road, Newham and other 'discoveries'' by Paul Jardine-Rose. The Priory, Church Hill, Orpington.

9 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Roman invasion – what it did to Britain' by Ian Leins. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

13 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Walbrook Square excavations and Temple of Mithras' by John Shepherd. Jubilee Hall, junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

15 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'Wapping walkabout' guided by Peter Smith. Meet at Trajan's statue, Tower Hill Underground.

September

3 (8 p.m.) Epsom and Ewell Archaeological Society. 'The History of Aviation, WW1–WW2' by Nicholas Dunnill. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

12 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'The Rose Theatre discovered and revealed' by Harvey Sheldon. Jubilee Hall, junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

19 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'Life and Death in the Bronze Age of Southern England: new discoveries in the Thames Valley and beyond' by Neil Wilkin. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

October

6 (1 p.m.) Gresham College Lecture. 'Pompeii of the North: the Bloomberg site' by Sadie Watson. Museum of London.

13 (1 p.m.) Gresham College Lecture. 'London in the not-so-Dark Ages' by Lyn Blackmore. Museum of London.

14 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Finding Neanderthal tools in Norfolk Cliffs' by Nick Ashton. Stephens House, 17 East End Road, Finchley N3.

17 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'Beyond the Mithraeum: The MOLA Excavation of the Bloomberg London Site' by Michael Tetreau. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

17 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Life and death in 19th-century London' by Michael Henderson. Jubilee Hall, junction of Chase Side and Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

20 (1 p.m.) Gresham College Lecture. 'Vanishing archaeology: discoveries on the Thames foreshore at Greenwich' by Nathalie Cohen. Museum of London.

27 (1 p.m.) Gresham College Lecture. 'The archaeology of St Paul's Cathedral' by John Schofield. Museum of London.

Exhibitions

Britain: One Million Years of the Human Story, at the Natural History Museum until 28th September. Look back at Britain long before the Romans, Saxons and Vikings arrived and discover rarely seen specimens, brought to life through unique exhibits, film, striking graphics and life-size models. Price: adult £9, concession/child £4.50, family £24, free for children under 4.

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

Headstone Manor Excavation, Pinner View, Harrow, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday 20th July. A free drop-in event, part of the Museum of London's 'Excavate London' project (see below).

Keston Roman Tombs, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday September 28th, at Brambletye, Westerham Road, Keston. K.A.R.U. (Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit). A chance to see Keston Roman Tombs with free entry, guided tours and displays. Information: 01689 860939, email: crofton.roman.villa@gmail.com, web: www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk.

Scadbury Moated Manor, Chislehurst, 2 to 4.30 p.m., 13th and 14th September. Free entry, with a self-guided trail around the

manor site and excavations. For more information visit www.odas.org.uk.

Short courses and summer schools

Bexley Archaeology Group Training Excavation, 28th July–1st August. Minimum unaccompanied age is 16. The fee for the week (1 to 5 days) is £100 for non-members. Application form from Pip Pulfer, Bexley Archaeological Group, tel. 07961 963 893, email: principalfieldofficer@bag.org.uk.

Excavate London, 5-day courses at Headstone Manor, Harrow, taught by MOLA archaeologists and MOL curators. 7th–11th July, 14th–18th July, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day. Fee £295. To book call (020) 7001 9844, or contact communityarchaeology@museumoflondon.org.uk.

Getting to grips with Pots & Pipes: the archaeology of everyday artefacts from Saxon times to Queen Victoria, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday 2nd August, at Stephens House and Gardens, 17 East End Road, Finchley, London N3 3QE. Tutor: Jacqui Pearce, MOLA. Tickets cost £20, which includes morning coffee, buffet lunch and afternoon tea. To book please contact Hendon & District Archaeological Society.

Five-day Field Schools at Copped Hall, near Epping, 9th–13th and 18th–22nd August. West Essex Archaeological Group and Copped Hall Trust. On-going excavation of Tudor grand-house. Also Taster Weekends, 12th–13th, 19th–20th and 26–27th July. Details at www.weag.org.uk.

Kent Archaeological Field School. Wide range of short courses, excavations and field trips throughout 2014; two-day courses cost £50 unless otherwise stated. Details from the Kent Archaeological Field School, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP, or visit www.kafs.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.

MOLA. Contact Karen Thomas, Head of Archive (020 7410 2228).

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).