

Mosaic

Written in our bones

The Museum of London has announced a ground-breaking research project to explore the effects of industrialisation on Londoners. The research hopes to uncover new clues about the nature of disease and how it has affected people as Britain has moved into the age of industrialisation. The research has been made possible by a City of London Archaeological Trust grant from a bequest made by the late Rosemary Green.

The research aims to address some of these questions by analysing diseases affecting the human skeleton. The museum will use the latest clinical techniques, including digital X-Ray scanning, to get a better understanding of what the bones in its collection tell us and to assess their change over time. The research aims to examine the influence of the industrial revolution, a pivotal catalyst in the formation of the modern age, on the changing nature of disease – from the medieval and post-medieval periods through to the present day. The project offers an opportunity to digitise some of London's most important skeletal collections, while simultaneously telling a new story about the health of Londoners over time.

New scheduled ancient monument in Southwark

The Romano-British bath house and medieval remains at 11–15 Borough High Street, Southwark, have been awarded Scheduled Monument Status by the Secretary of State for Culture, Media and Sport. We congratulate all who helped to achieve this, especially Chris Constable, Archaeologist for the London Borough of Southwark.

Congratulations

At a civic ceremony in Southwark Cathedral on May 16th, special awards were made both to Harvey Sheldon and to the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society (SLAS).

Harvey was awarded the Honorary Liberty of the Old Metropolitan Borough of Southwark, the citation stating that he "has lived and worked in Southwark for most of his adult life. He is best known as the archaeologist who led the dig on Bankside which discovered the remains of the Elizabethan *Rose Theatre*. For twenty-five years Harvey has continued his interest as Chair of the Trustees of the Rose Theatre Trust, committing many voluntary hours every month. He has led the transformation of the site into a museum and theatre space attracting thousands of visitors from all over the world every year and is spearheading plans for its evolution into a larger performance area."

SLAS was awarded the London Borough of Southwark Lifetime Achievement Award, the citation stating that it "was established fifty years ago. At the time the excavations of archaeological sites in London were rare, and the Society undertook the training of others in urban archaeological techniques as well as their important work in uncovering some of Southwark's Roman remains – such as those at Potter's Field and Montague Close. More recently the Society has also become an important forum for talks on local history and current development excavations. The original founder members remain the driving force in this fiftieth anniversary year – ensuring the Society itself remains a treasure."

Our congratulations go to both Harvey and to SLAS for these well-deserved recognitions of their work.

Money for the Ally Pally

Alexandra Park and Palace Charitable Trust (APPCT) has announced that it has been awarded £18.8m from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to restore the Palace's most significant historic spaces and secure the Palace's future as one of London's leading heritage destinations.

Under the plans, the eastern end of the Palace, comprising the BBC Studios and the Victorian Theatre, will be repaired and refurbished, together with the glazed East Court in which a new and more welcoming public entrance hall will be created.

The BBC studios – birthplace of high-definition television broadcasts in 1936 – will be turned into an interactive visitor attraction, drawing on the BBC's rich archives and telling the story of popular entertainment culminating in the birth and development of broadcast television. There will be a special focus on schools and learning programmes, displays of historic equipment and hands-on engagement with the art of making television programmes.

The Palace's hidden theatre dating to 1875 will also be brought back to life for community and commercial use with theatrical performances, cinema screenings, live comedy, acoustic music and corporate entertainment among the ideas backed by leading arts figures.

More rooms open at Sir John Soane's Museum

In May, Sir John Soane's Museum opened Soane's private apartments and Model Room, located on the second floor at 13 Lincoln's Inn Fields. The apartments, which have been fully restored, have not been seen by the public in over 160 years. The rooms include Soane's Model Room, Bedroom, Bathroom, Book Passage, Oratory, and Mrs Soane's Morning Room.

This extensive conservation and restoration work is part of the Museum's long-term Opening up the Soane (OUTS) project. The newly completed second phase has been the most exciting and ambitious stage of the OUTS project. Visitors will be able to explore Soane's collections of models, drawings, water-colours and stained glass as he intended. Until now, many items from these rooms have been stored away from public display.

Your Archaeology Competition

What is archaeology? An adventure? The appeal of the past? The magic of marvellous sites? The boredom of a dusty museum? Probably all of these together, and still more. Until July 31st, all European citizens (adults and children) can answer the question and tell us about their idea of archaeology by entering a drawing, painting, photo or video in the European competition *You(r) Archaeology*.

You(r) Archaeology is one of the many initiatives that the European NEARCH project (www.nearch.eu/) has launched in order to analyse how the inhabitants of the European Community perceive archaeology and their archaeological heritage. Sixty entries will be selected to benefit from special international visibility, including an illustrated publication and an international exhibition, and four winners will win a holiday to Rome or Athens. More information can be found at www.nearch.eu/IMG/pdf/call.pdf. To enter the competition fill out and return this form: www.nearch.eu/IMG/pdf/entry_form_your_archaeology.pdf.

YAC re-launched

The Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC), which began over 40 years ago, launched its new interactive website www.yac-uk.org on 19th April. It highlights the activities that take place every month across the extensive network of local YAC clubs. Each of YAC's 70 clubs is run by a dedicated team of volunteers and provides archaeological experiences for young people aged 8–16. Club members get involved in a wide range of archaeological activities, including excavation, field walking, behind-the-scenes museum visits, experimental archaeology, ancient crafts and technology. In 2014, the network of YAC clubs provided over 7000 opportunities for young people to get their hands mucky doing real archaeology. The launch of the website coincided with YAC's nomination as one of the laureates of the 2015 EU Prize for Cultural Heritage / Europa Nostra Awards. YAC is one of just five UK prize winners out of 263 entries from 29 countries. Further information about the Europa Nostra Awards, and YAC's nomination, is at www.europanostr.org.

Diary

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

July

16 (8.15 p.m.) Bexley Archaeological Group. 'The Islington WW1 Project – archaeology and methodology' by John Shepherd. Bexley-Sidcup Conservative Club, 19 Station Road, Sidcup.

31 (8 p.m.) Wandsworth Historical Society. 'A journey from Battle Bridge to King's Cross: the archaeology and history of a London suburb' by Rebecca Haslam. Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

October

13 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Scientific methods in archaeology' by Caroline Cartwright. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

Conferences

Past industries of Kent and relevant buildings Kent Archaeological Society conference at Blue Town Heritage Centre, Sheerness, Saturday 24 October, will include talks on Hayle Mill, Maidstone, and on the restoration of the grounds of Quex Park, Birchington. Tickets cost £20, including light lunch and refreshments. For a booking form email mike@mikeclinch.co.uk or download from www.kentarchaeology.org.uk.

Anglo-Saxon Kent: Old and New Discoveries

Kent Archaeological Society conference at Rutherford College, University of Kent at Canterbury, on Saturday 31 October. Tickets cost £20. Download a booking form from www.kentarchaeology.org.uk or email membership@kentarchaeology.org.uk for full details.

Events

Roman archaeology under your feet 4 and 18 July, 1 and 15 August, 11.15 a.m. to 1.15 p.m. and 2.15 p.m. to 4.15 p.m. at the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC). Tickets price £12.50 must be booked in advance from www.museumoflondon.org.uk/tours or (020) 7001 9844.

Open days

Scadbury Manor Open Weekend, Saturday 12th and Sunday 13th September, 2.00 to 4.30 p.m. (last entry). Self-guided trail leads around the moated manor, 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.

Festival of Archaeology

11 – 26 July 2015

The 16-day Festival of Archaeology this year features over 1000 events nationwide. Londoners can take advantage of a great 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* returns to the Museum of London to participate in the big family day of archaeology on Saturday 18th July. In keeping with the museum's theme of 'the secrets of Roman Londoners', we'll have activities for families and children to write a secret Roman-style curse, create a magic mosaic or craft a

precious item for the mysterious underworld. Also at the museum that day will be activities around the secrets of Roman skeletons, footwear and food, and mysteries of Mithras, all free of charge

Other activities around London include:

- talks and visits around Spitalfields with the Huguenot Society
- Tower beach walk with TDP
- lectures at the British Museum on on treasures and coinage of Roman Britain
- foreshore archaeology walk at Fulham Palace
- descent to the ice wells at the Canal Museum
- an archaeological 'see and sense' tour and other activities at Kingston Museum

For details of all these, visit the festival site: archaeologyfestival.org.uk where latest listings of events in London and across the region will be updated right up to the last minute.

Visit *London Archaeologist* between 11am and 4pm on 18th July at the Museum of London.



Membership

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology, which includes six issues a year of *British Archaeology*, costs £36 p.a. Visit: <https://shop.britarch.ac.uk/>.

Short courses and summer schools

Bexley Archaeological Group Annual Training Excavation, 27–31 July, teaching the basics of field archaeology. Cost £100, including one year's membership of BAG. For further information, or to book a place, contact Pip Pulfer, principalfieldofficer@bag.org.uk, 07961 963 893, website www.bag.org.uk.

Five-day field school at Copped Hall, near Epping, 18–22 July and 15–19 August, by West Essex Archaeological Group and Copped Hall Trust. Full details at weag.org.uk. Also taster weekends 11–12, 18–19 and 25–26 July and 15–16 August.

Kent Archaeological Field School.

Excavation at Roman villa and bath-house in Faversham, 25 July to 14 August. Fee £10 per day (members), £25 per day (non-members) Training week at Faversham, 3 to 9 August. Fee £100 (members), £175 (non-members).

Also short courses throughout 2015; 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.

Sussex School of Archaeology. Programme of day schools and longer courses throughout 2015, day schools usually cost £40. Details from Sussex School of Archaeology Limited, Unit 12, Mays Farm Selmeston, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6TS. Telephone 01323 811785 or visit www.sussexarchaeology.org.

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).