

Mosaic

'On dune and headland sinks the fire...'

Firepower, the Royal Artillery Museum located on the Royal Arsenal site at Woolwich, appears to be moving to a site in Wiltshire by the end of 2016. Already Building 41 (the Cold War Gallery) has closed to the public to allow the curatorial team space and time to pack up the collection contained in the stores. A Greenwich Council report states that "Firepower (the Royal Artillery Museum) continues to fail to meet its own target of 200,000 visitors per annum and having undertaken a review of its financial and business viability has indicated a willingness to relocate from Woolwich. There is increasing interest in the Royal Arsenal from a number of heritage and cultural organisations. The potential withdrawal of Firepower presents an opportunity to release a number of key sites and capitalise on this interest and turn the council's long-held ambition to develop a heritage/cultural quarter in the Arsenal into a reality." This move seems likely to detract from the historic appeal of the south bank of the lower Thames, and may make it less, rather than more, likely that Woolwich will gain the place it deserves in London's tourist scene.

No priority at The Priory

Another museum that seems to be in trouble is Bromley's Borough Museum, currently located at The Priory, Orpington. Just over a year ago, Bromley Council announced that it had decided to withdraw from the Priory Revisited Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) application, ahead of the HLF decision meeting in September 2014. The reason given was that the HLF scheme relied on the council entering into a 25-year contract based on Bromley Museum being maintained at the Priory, as it is their standard practice to protect lottery investment into projects for future generations, and that the Council was not able to make such a guarantee. The latest news is that the Council wants to move the museum into Bromley Central Library. The withdrawal from Orpington Priory for cost savings would place a question mark over public access to that venerable building. The priory is one of Greater London's oldest halls, erected in the 13th century with pre-Conquest origins. It would be a pity if the public could no longer discover the area's past from within such an historic structure.

Surrey suffers too

In mid-July, Guildford Borough Council gave Surrey Archaeological Society notice to quit its premises, requiring the Society to leave Castle Arch by January 2016 after over a century of very close collaboration with the

Museum. This was most recently formalised in 1953, in an agreement that was brought to an end by the Council in 2008. Initially the Council required the Society to leave but there was then a change of mind and a new rent was suggested at a level designed to acknowledge the Society's contribution in kind. The Society was willing to pay a commercial rent for the office and library and was routinely providing for such an eventuality until new accounting rules came into force that prevented this.

But good news from Harrow

The Heritage Lottery Fund has confirmed a grant of £3.6m to transform Headstone Manor and Museum. Alongside £1m from Harrow Council and £270,000 from the John Lyon's Charity, this funding will completely transform Headstone Manor. It will be used to restore the medieval Headstone Manor building, the 16th-century small barn and the 18th-century granary, and build a new Welcome Centre. The Manor House will become the home of Harrow's historic and nationally important collections and will re-open in the summer of 2017.

More historic plaques in the City

It is very important for a place to have memories of significant places or events. The City of London has a good history of Blue Plaques and other memorials to people, places and events in its 2000-year history. Recently, and possibly in the future, there are more. In 2013 the Corporation of London, encouraged by the City of London Archaeological Trust, placed a plaque celebrating the medieval Great Conduit in Poultry in the pavement outside Tesco's in Poultry. Now there is a similar memorial in the ground, nearby in St Mary-le-Bow churchyard, to the Eleanor Cross of about 1290 which stood in Cheapside. This has been put in place by the Corporation. CoLAT is also suggesting a plaque to commemorate the epicentre of the Great Fire of 1666, as near as possible to the actual site of Thomas Farriner's bakery in Pudding Lane. This may be one of the few permanent memorials of next year's celebrations.

More from the foreshore

Archaeological projects may come and go, but happily the Thames Discovery Programme (TDP) seems to go on for ever. Its latest newsletter (Summer 2015, see www.thamesdiscovery.org/frog-blog/summer-newsletter-2015) brings us up-to-date with its activities. Fieldwork has been carried out at Greenwich Palace, at Rotherhithe, and at a new site at Town Wharf, Isleworth. At Greenwich, where

erosion continues to be severe, the TDP re-recorded two phases of a Tudor/Stuart jetty, as well as a new structure to the west which may be a 17th- or 18th-century attempt to consolidate the foreshore. At Rotherhithe, continued erosion revealed gun-carriage cheeks below the known ships' keels and other nautical timbers. On the eyot opposite Town Wharf, Isleworth, TDP recorded the remains of ML286, a First World War motor launch, which took part in the Dunkirk evacuation. By the time we publish, the season of public Thames walks will be over, but you can hear about these and other aspects of TDP's work at its Annual Conference at the Society of Antiquaries on 5th December (see Diary).

Seeing London through new eyes

If the Google Glass technology catches on, guided tours may look very different in the future. History-focused travel venture Historivus has launched a new app for Glass™ which takes users on a Glass-led, fully navigated audio-visual tour of Roman London. This pioneering experiment highlights the growing trend for wearable tech and the impact it may have on the future of the travel and tourism industry. The application fuses an expert-produced walking tour of Roman London with the mapping technology and audio-visual functionality of Glass. The result is a Glass tour which guides users around London's Roman sites – providing precise directions, audio commentary, photography and visually-based explanatory information for each location.

Archaeologia Cantiana goes online

Archaeologia Cantiana, the annual journal of the Kent Archaeological Society, has been digitised and is now freely available online at www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/Research by following the link to Publications On-line *Archaeologia Cantiana*.

Obituaries

We report the recent death of Martin Dean, who worked for the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee, and published in *London Archaeologist* in the 1980s. After a spell at the National Maritime Museum, he moved to St Andrew's University, where he pursued a very successful career in maritime archaeology.

We also report the recent death of David Petchey, husband of Sally Petchey, who was the *London Archaeologists'* Subscriptions Secretary from its foundation in 1968 until they emigrated in 1980. David also played an important role in the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society at that time.

Diary

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

October

- 8** (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. 'Ravenna – early Christian churches and Byzantine mosaics' by Richard Watson. Main Hall, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton.
- 9** (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'London in the Not So Dark Ages' by Lyn Blackmore. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.
- 9** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Recent excavations in London' by Jane Sidell. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 10** (2.30 p.m.) Merton Historical Society. 'England's immigrants – aliens in Southwark and Surrey' by Andrea Ruddick. Christ Church Hall, Christchurch Road, Collier's Wood.
- 13** (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Scientific methods in archaeology' by Caroline Cartwright. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.
- 16** (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'Turning the tide: the first year of the national CITIZAN project' by Gus Milne. St Olave's Church Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.
- 30** (8 p.m.) Wandsworth Historical Society. 'A load of old rubbish: artefacts from the Walbrook valley and life in Early Roman London' by Michael Marshall. Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street.

November

- 10** (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'The history of the Royal National Lifeboat Institution (RNLI)' by Keith Cunningham. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.
- 13** (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Archaeology and Conservation at the site of Aphrodisias, Turkey' by Val Munday. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.
- 20** (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'Embalming in practice; the study of mummies at the British Museum' by Marie Vandenbeusch. St Olave's Church Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

December

- 11** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Late Roman fortifications and their social implications' by James Bromwich. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.
- 20** (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. Seasonal social. St Olave's Church Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

January

- 12** (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Royal Palaces of

Enfield' by Ian Jones. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

15 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'The Temples and Gods of Roman London' by Dominic Perring. St Olave's Church Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

Conferences

Archaeology on the North Kent coast, joint study day organised by The University of Kent with the Kent Archaeological Society and the Council for Kentish Archaeology, at Rutherford College, University of Kent, Canterbury, Saturday 17 October. Talks on Gravesend, Hoo, and Faversham Abbey. Tickets £10 from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, TN15 8HP (cheques payable to CKA; please send s.a.e.).

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.

Life in the Mesolithic and new perspective on the Mesolithic/Neolithic transition, CBA South-East conference at the Surrey History Centre, Woking, on Saturday 14 November. Tickets cost £20 for non-members. For details and booking information, visit www.cbasouth-east.org/events/cbase-annual-conference/ or email Martyn Allen at m.g.allen@reading.ac.uk.

Designed Landscapes – Parks and Gardens from 1000 to 1800, Surrey Historic Environment Research Framework Conference at The Abraham Dixon Hall, The Institute, Leatherhead, on Saturday 5 December. Admission price £12 (non-members) from SRF Conference 2015, Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford, Surrey GU1 3SX. No tickets will be issued but please enclose sae for booking confirmation.

Thames Discovery Programme Annual Conference, at the Society of Antiquaries, Saturday 5 December. For details see www.thamesdiscovery.org/events-home.

Events

Gresham College Lectures. Free archaeology lectures at the Museum of London, at 1 p.m. on each Monday in October. Topics are:

Artefacts and the Study of Life in Roman London (Michael Marshall, 5 October), Mass Burials from St Mary Spital (Don Walker, 12 October), Ritual Protection Marks and Witchcraft at Knole (James Wright, 19 October) and The Archaeology of Disease Documented in Skeletons (Charlotte Roberts, 26 October). All are 'first come, first served' and doors open half an hour before the start of each event.

Exhibitions

Celts art and identity, at the British Museum until 31 January 2016. The first major exhibition to examine the full history of Celtic art and identity, organised in partnership with National Museums Scotland. Tickets £16.50 (adults), under-16s free.

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

Kent Archaeological Field School short courses throughout 2015 and 2016. 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).