

Mosaic

FOUNTAINS FOR ALL

THE MUSEUM OF LONDON'S 'temporary' coffee shop in the lobby of the Lecture Theatre had taken on a very permanent appearance in the years since the Museum opened. It therefore came as rather a surprise to hear that the Museum's own real restaurant was at last due to open on 17 May. The new restaurant, named *Fountains*, is situated in the rotunda (the roundabout outside the Museum), and seats 70 inside with a further 50 outside in good weather. The opening hours are longer than the Museum's – 10 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. Mondays–Saturdays and 12.00 to 6.30 p.m. Sundays – so it is aimed at tourists and local workers as well as Museum visitors. The menu varies through the day, from continental breakfast through morning coffee to lunch (soup, hot and cold dishes, wine, puddings and ice creams), followed by afternoon tea and finally light luxury suppers.

Knowing the reputation of the caterers, Suffolk Caterers (London) Ltd., who also run the National Gallery's restaurant, I was glad of the chance to entertain a visitor to lunch at *Fountains* soon after it opened. Although no Egon Ronay (I still lament the closing of *Reno's!*), I'll try to give a subjective impression. The building is light, airy and very pleasantly decorated, and the terrace is a real sun-trap. The lunch menu has a good range of salads and other dishes, at reasonable (not cheap, but reasonable for the City) prices. However, nothing on the menu was really suitable for children (especially small children). Admittedly I didn't see any children there, but I feel the caterers may have misjudged the market slightly: the Museum of London's clientèle is not the National Gallery's. My main criticism is of the queuing system. When we arrived there was only a short queue, but it moved extremely slowly. There was no obvious reason for the delay, but it could deter some visitors.

It's also worth mentioning the access to the restaurant, which is outside the Museum doors. The sign says 'across the podium and down the rotunda', which may elicit the response 'yer what?' from some visitors. There are special arrangements for wheelchairs.

Despite my criticisms, this is a valuable addition to the facilities offered by the Museum, and is to be welcomed by Londoners and visitors alike.

CLIVE ORTON

THE LONDON WALL WALK

A NEW AND EXCITING scheme, the *London Wall Walk*, has been devised by the Museum of London and was opened to the public on 21 May by the Rt. Hon. Patrick Jenkin M.P. (see cover). The public will be able to follow the route of the City Wall and defences, one of the capital's most important ancient monuments, from north of the Tower of London to the Museum of London at London Wall.

The scheme consists of 21 numbered blue and cream ceramic panels. Specially commissioned illustrations explain surviving remains of the City Wall and drawings bring to life important but now vanished elements of the City's defences. The panels start at the surviving remains of the medieval postern gate at the Tower Hill underpass. Introductory panels are placed at both ends of the Walk, outside the Museum of London and at Tower Hill, and the

route (1¾ miles/2.8km) can be followed in either direction. Completion of the Walk will take between 1 and 2 hours.

The Walk has been sponsored entirely by numerous City businesses and charitable bodies, and has been developed in collaboration with the Corporation of London and the Department of the Environment. The route is one of the new features included in the 2nd edition of *Londinium: a Descriptive Map and Guide to Roman London*, the 1st edition of which was reviewed by Nicholas Fuentes in Vol. 4, no. 7 (Summer 1982).

The new edition is a considerable improvement on the old. It has proper contours (with no heights attached), which give a much better idea of the natural relief. The Wall Walk is very well marked, and should prove a great attraction to the 'do-it-yourself' tourist. There are also a number of minor corrections.

The opening of the Wall Walk and the publication of this map should encourage more local societies to put the City Wall on their list of outings. And why not finish the walk with a meal at *Fountains*?

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE MUSEUM

WE HAVE RECEIVED an appeal from The Florence Nightingale Museum Trust, concerning a proposal to create a Florence Nightingale Museum in the St. Thomas' Hospital complex.

A very considerable collection of Nightingalia – personal memorabilia and books, letters and photographs, a comprehensive selection of writings by and about Miss Nightingale, clothing, honours, medals, jewellery, presentation gifts, statuettes, portraits, prints, furniture and items related to the Crimean War – is housed in St. Thomas' Hospital under the care of the Chief Nursing Officer. The scale of the collection and the lack of space to display it have led to a growing demand for a museum in which it can be suitably housed and made available for viewing and research by a wider public.

Documents relating to the Nightingale Fund and the School would also be available for study, together with a bank of information on the development of nurse education and higher nurse management not only in Britain but internationally.

Further information can be obtained from the Secretary, The Florence Nightingale Museum Trust, Gassiot House, 2 Lambeth Palace Road, London SE1 7EW (tel. 01-928 9292 x2720 or 2232).

TESSERAE

THE ADDRESS OF Citysights of London (see Vol. 4, no. 7, 196) is now 102A Albion Road, London, N.16.