

Mosaic

WANDSWORTH MUSEUM NOW FULLY OPEN

THE NEW WANDSWORTH Museum, whose official opening on 17 July 1986 was reported in our pages (Vol. 5, no. 8, 224), is now fully open for business. There are galleries on Wandsworth in the 20th century, Village and Town, Suburban Life, Thames and Wandle, as well as a shop, study room, portrait and temporary exhibition galleries. There are hundreds of objects on show, from the Borough of Wandsworth's own collections, from local people, from the Wandsworth Historical Society and from other museums. The museum is open daily (except Thursdays and Sundays) from 1 – 5 p.m. at Disraeli Road, Putney, SW15 2DR (near Putney station), tel. (01) 871 7074. Admission free.

WORKING IN HISTORY

THIS IS THE title of a booklet published recently by the Careers and Occupational Information Centre (COIC). It includes profiles of about a dozen people working in areas such as field archaeology, museums, archives, marketing and publicity, fine and decorative arts and teaching. It explains what the jobs entail and what personal and academic qualifications are necessary, and there is a useful address list.

Copies are available, price £1.95 plus 30p postage, from COIC Department VF, MSC, Moorfoot, Sheffield, S1 4PQ.

A 'MUSEUM SHOP' SHOP IN BLOOMSBURY

HERITAGE PRODUCTS Limited and Museum Enterprises, the trading wing of the Museums Association, have come together to open a new gift shop, The Museum Shop, at 34 Bloomsbury Way, WC1. It will not only sell a wide range of gifts and souvenirs covering 2000 years of history, as well as posters, books and maps, models and toys, but will also offer a consultancy service to advise museums how best to improve their retailing operations. It may in time even set up a franchise operation for those museums wishing to employ outside expertise.

Further information can be obtained from Michele Andrew, Heritage Projects Limited, United House, Piccadilly, York YO1 1PQ, tel. 0904 646411, or the Museums Association, tel. (01) 404 4767.

MUSEUM NEWS

MUSEUM NEWS is the name of the newsletter of the Passmore Edwards Museum, the first issue of which was published in Summer 1987. As well as details of the various parts of the Museum – the main building in Stratford, the North Woolwich Old Station Museum and the Museum Nature Reserve and Interpretative Centre in East Ham – it contains interesting short articles on excavations in Stratford, computerising biological records, the GCSE and the Thames Sailing Barge *Dawn*. This wide range of activities may come as a surprise to those not familiar with the Museum, but further developments can be expected as we are also told that the Passmore Edwards Museum Trust now owns House Mill, Bromley-by-Bow, the largest tidal mill ever built in England and dating to 1776, and is raising money towards its restoration. The Museum's address is Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4LZ, tel. (01) 519 4296.

HERITAGE COMMUNICATION AWARDS – STAGE ONE

TO PREVENT any confusion, we must say at once that the Hepworth Heritage Communication Awards are nothing to do with tailors, but everything to do with the Hepworth Iron Company Ltd., makers of clay drainage systems. Their innovative award scheme was described in a previous *Mosaic* (Vol. 5, no. 12, Autumn 1987); the first awards of £1500 each for the five finalists

were made at a ceremony at the British Museum on 2 February. The atmosphere of enterprise and encouragement was slightly tinged by the realisation that the nearest finalist was some 65 miles from London – The Brooks excavation in Winchester. Others were the Flag Fen site near Peterborough, Crickley Hill hillfort, Peel Castle (Isle of Man) and Whithorn (Galloway). All were clearly making tremendous efforts to interest and involve the public in their work, and it will be very hard to judge between them.

AN ILL WIND THAT BLEW BAD AND GOOD

THE GREAT STORM of October 1987 gave unexpected opportunities for archaeological research in the London Borough of Sutton. There were casualties; Beddington Park, Carshalton House and Nonsuch Park were seriously hit by the storm. Nonsuch lost its two remaining pollarded sweet chestnuts, Beddington had its 19th century terracotta bridge badly damaged and Carshalton House, in losing 66 trees, had its historic informal mature plantings badly depleted.

The gains, however, make interesting reading. A team led by John Phillips, Barry Weston and Doug Cluett recovered much detail of a brick structure embedded in the roots of a century-old lime on the Nonsuch Palace privy garden site. The structure is of brick laid in a honeycomb pattern and was probably a fountain or similar water feature belonging to the palace. This has again raised local interest in the Palace in the 450th year of its history (see *Diary*). The same team were involved in the recovery from the bed of the Wandle in Beddington Park of the smashed terracotta fragments of the bridge given by Canon Bridges, with a view to its restoration. Here some idea of the technique of construction and the origin of the building materials has come to light; the terracotta from a firm in Devon, the closely matching brickwork from Suffolk. Finally, due to the fall of a large horse chestnut close to the estate wall of Carshalton House, the writer and Ron Green were able to examine the lower stages of the wall; the lowest courses were a mixture of Reigate stone, brick, chalk block and flint. Against these courses and the brick courses above them had been dumped a series of soil layers and one large layer of chalk rubble, probably excavated from the later 18th century informal lake. All the above-named wish to express their thanks to volunteers who helped at short notice.

ANDREW SKELTON

ARCHIVE USERS' FORUM SET UP

AT A MEETING on 23 March, the London Archive Users' Forum was set up to represent the interests of users of Record Offices in the London area. It will also publish a newsletter and organise educational events. Details can be obtained from the LAUF Steering Committee at Roland House, 29 Stepney Green, London E1 3JX, or from the Chairman, David Mander (01 241 2886).

SOUTHWARK AND LAMBETH MOVE

THE SOUTHWARK and Lambeth section of the Department of Greater London Archaeology, Museum of London, has moved its office from the Port Medical Centre to 6-8 Cole Street, London SE1 4YH (near Borough tube station). The 'phone numbers are unchanged, (01) 407 1989 and 403 2920.

CONGRATULATIONS

OUR CONGRATULATIONS go to Ian Robertson, well known as Curator of the Passmore Edwards Museum, who has been appointed Director of the National Army Museum from 4 January 1988.