

Finds

Many finds have been recovered from a series of wells of several periods. The lower levels of the wells have remained waterlogged, resulting in a high degree of preservation of organic materials, in particular leather and wood. One of the medieval wells was lined with a wooden barrel. Finds from its backfill include a quantity of leather, including a decorated scabbard for a knife. Pottery dating to between 1250 and 1350 includes a complete Kingston ware jar of unique form. The barrel lining of the well has been lifted intact to be preserved for display in the Museum.

The earliest excavated example of a wagon axle, dating to the 11th or 12th century, has been found. It had been re-used, first as a support within a building and later as one of a group of piles in the foundations supporting a stairwell. It may also have been used as a support for chopping ropes, since there are a number of chopping marks on one side.

An 11-12th century three-seater toilet seat (Fig. 4) was found *in situ* over a small rectangular wattle-lined pit. It is made from a radially-split oak plank and measures 1.85 × 0.37m (6ft × 1ft 3in). It had not been finished off to a very smooth surface and was probably uncomfortable to sit on. A fire within the pit suggested that an attempt was made at sterilisation, and the process charred the underside of the seat. A 12th century single-seater toilet seat has been excavated at Coppergate, York, and a late medieval

example at Winchester. Stone examples are known from monastic and castle sites.

Most of the wells produced post-medieval artefacts. One contained several complete wine or spirit bottles (one with its original contents). Another well produced much late 16th to mid 17th century pottery, including a variety of tableware forms such as a colander, a brazier, a money box and a very beautiful Palissy type polychrome plate. It came from the Saintonge region of France and the moulded polychrome decoration shows an Arcadian scene. It is unusual to discover this type of vessel on an archaeological excavation; they can never have been common and were usually treated with great care and regarded as family heirlooms. Production of this type of ware began in 1540.

From other locations on the site, items relating to metal manufacturing and bone processing may suggest localised industrial activity. The finds have included a stone mould, a crucible, iron slag, copper and lead waste and an unfinished copper brooch. It had one of the four green glass insets remaining. The "screw" – a length of extra metal used to hold the item while it was being worked – was still in place.

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Excavations & Post-Excavation Work

City, by Museum of London, Department of Urban Archaeology. A series of long term excavations. Enquiries to DUA, Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 5HN (01-600 3699).

Croydon & District, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Mrs Muriel Shaw, 28 Lismore Road, South Croydon, CR2 7QA (01-688 2720).

Greater London (except north-east and south-east London), by Museum of London, Department of Greater London Archaeology. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to DGLA, Museum of London (01-600 3699 ext. 241).

Local enquiries to:

North London: 3-7 Ray Street, London EC1R 3DJ (01-837 8363).

South-west London: St. Luke's House, Sandycombe Road, Kew, Surrey (01-940 5989).

Southwark and Lambeth: 6-8 Cole Street, London SE1 4YH (01-407 1989 or 403 2920 – office – and 928 0778/9 – finds).

West London: Town Mission Hall, Mission Square, Pottery Road, Brentford, Middlesex (01-560 3880).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue Group. Processing of material from Fulham Palace. Tuesdays, 7.45 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham

Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 86 Clancarty Road, SW6 (01-731 4498).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Rescue sites in the town centre. Enquiries to Marion Shipley, Kingston Heritage Centre, Fairfield Road, Kingston (01-546 5386).

North-east London, by Passmore Edwards Museum. Enquiries to Pat Wilkinson, Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, E15 4LW (01-534 4545).

Surrey, by Surrey Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to David Bird, County Archaeological Officer, Planning Department, County Hall, Kingston, Surrey (01-541 8911).

Vauxhall Pottery, by Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. Processing of excavated material continues three nights a week. Enquiries to S.L.A.S., c/o Cuming Museum, 155 Walworth Road, SE17 (01-703 3324).

The Council for British Archaeology produces a monthly British Archaeological News (9 issues a year). It gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The annual subscription of £7.50 includes postage, and should be made payable to C.B.A., 112 Kennington Road, SE11 6RE (01-582 0494).