

Mosaic

Trailing after the Carews

'HERITAGE' ACTIVITIES are becoming a more prominent feature of life in the London Borough of Sutton. The Great Hall of Carew Manor¹, the only Grade I listed building in the Borough, previously open to the public once or twice a year, is now open every Sunday afternoon for guided tours. The nearby Dovecote, an early 18th century building, has been fully restored (except, mercifully, for the doves), and its ground floor converted into a display/sales area. Appreciation of the historic setting of the two buildings in Beddington Park has been enhanced by the setting out of a 'Heritage Trail' around the historic features of the park. Plentiful notice boards explain the history of the park, as well as its wildlife, and a leaflet has been produced (price 25p) to guide the visitor. Although the sketchy illustrations of the historic buildings do not do them justice, the leaflet should do much to make visitors aware of the history that surrounds them in this park.

1. See B. Weston, D. Cluett and J. Phillips 'Carew Manor, Beddington: new light on the house and its garden' *London Archaeol* 4 no. 9 (1982) 227-233; J. Phillips 'The moat at Carew Manor, Beddington' *London Archaeol* 6 no. 2 (1989) 41-5.

Behind the scenes at the Museum of London

TO CELEBRATE *Museums Centenary Year*, the Museum of London is allowing the public to "go behind the scenes". For the first time, the public will be able to visit the Museum's Reserve Collection of over 15,000 items, recently rehoused in a specially converted warehouse in Finsbury. Since space in the public galleries is limited and only a small proportion of the total collection can be exhibited at any one time, the remainder is kept "in reserve", in carefully controlled environmental conditions to ensure safe and permanent preservation.

The range of objects covers all aspects of London life from Roman times to the present day, and differs in size from an early "OXO" tin to a 19th century mailcoach. Among the items are an ornate Roman coffin, an early petrol pump, an Edwardian exercise machine, and the entire contents of a ballet shoemaker's workshop. In addition to such items as Victorian shopfronts, and the old coffee stall from Chelsea Bridge, there are relatively recent artefacts such as a 1960's jukebox and a 1970's cardboard chair.

Visits will be guided by curators who will not only describe the objects, but also discuss the management of the Reserve Collection. Visits will be at 2 p.m. every Tuesday until 12 December. Entrance will be by ticket only, available in advance, and parties are limited to twenty adults. The tour lasts 2 hours, and the cost of £2.50 each includes tea. For further information contact the Museum's Press & Public Relations Office, tel. (01) 600 3699 ext. 240.

New 18th Century Gallery at the Museum of London

THE NEW 18th century gallery at the Museum of London opened in July. It is dominated by a replica of part of Newgate Gaol, with stone-clad exterior and dimly-lit cells. In contrast, the seventeen new display cases (replacing five old ones) are lined with brocades and ottomans. Many aspects of life in London are covered - from shopping to slavery, and from science to ceramics. There is a new reconstruction of a pawnbroker's shop with typical contents, and a display of 18th century Spitalfields silk dresses showing the development of these famous silks from the larg flamboyant

patterns of the 1720s to the smaller, controlled designs of the 1790s.

The gallery is more spacious than before, and covers more themes in greater depth. Contemporary music complements the displays, many of which include objects recently acquired or not seen in public before. Some objects have their own unique associations, such as the guitar which belonged to Lady Hamilton, and Horace Walpole's own theatre pass.

News from Kent

ONE MAGAZINE that we read avidly is our neighbour, the *Kent Archaeological Review*. The Autumn 1989 issue contains two articles which may also be of interest to Londoners. Derek Garrod's 'Research into the Deptford Potteries' describes the documentary background to recent rescue excavations in Deptford¹. At least eight post-medieval potteries are known, as well as a tile works. The earliest seems to have been the Upper Pottery, which was established in 1701. They seem to have started by making red earthenwares, and to have diversified into industrial pottery, flower pots and chimney pots in the 19th century.

The other article is William Foot's 'Discoveries at Woolwich Arsenal in the Public Records'. It is an account of Roman cremations burials found at the Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, in 1841 and 1853, gleaned from papers of the Board of Ordnance in the Public Record Office. The finds themselves are now in the British Museum and the Woolwich Borough Museum at Plumstead Library.

Subscription to the *KAR* costs £2.00 per year (four issues, including postage) from the Subscriptions Secretary, C.K.A., Roman Painted House, New Street, Dover.

1. See *LA* 5 no. 3 (Summer 1989) 75.

Unique pot found

EXCAVATIONS by the DUA at 52-63 London Wall, which we hope to report more fully in our next issue, have revealed a Roman pot which is so far without parallel. It is a London Ware bowl with applied metal strips forming star-shaped patterns on the side and a band round the rim. The metal appears to be tin, and may have been applied with some sort of glue, as a brush hair has been found by the Conservation Department under the band on the rim.

This information has been obtained from the monthly publication *Current work by the Department of Urban Archaeology of the Museum of London*. The annual subscription is £5, from the Excavations Office of the DUA.

No museum at the Mint

IT HAS BEEN revealed that Imry Merchant, developers of the *Rose* site in Southwark (see *LA* 6 no. 3, 59-65), will not be fulfilling their agreement to provide a museum on another of their developments, the old Royal Mint site (see *LA* 5 no. 3, 69-77, no. 8, 224 and no. 16, 429-36).

New numbers for English Heritage

ENGLISH HERITAGE has changed its telephone system. The main switchboard number for all its central London offices is now (01) 973 3000, and individual officers have direct lines as well.

Awash with history

WE HEAR that *The Body Shop* is selling soap made to a Tudor recipe, under the name *Elizabethan Washballs*.