

London's amphitheatre timbers preserved at York

Oak timbers from London's Roman amphitheatre, excavated under Guildhall Yard, have been conserved at the York Archaeological Wood Centre. The fragile waterlogged timbers, mainly part of the drainage system under the amphitheatre area, were dried in one of the largest freeze-dryers for archaeological purposes in the country. They were then carefully re-assembled and will be displayed in the Roman Amphitheatre under the Guildhall Art Gallery, in exactly the same place as they were first found.

Smithfield Market under threat

The organisation SAVE Britain's Heritage has launched a campaign to save the General Market Buildings at Smithfield, which front onto Farringdon Street and Snow Hill, from the imminent threat of demolition. They are part of the Smithfield Conservation Area, which includes the better-known Meat Market, itself the subject of a current consultation exercise about its future.

SAVE claims that these are high-quality Victorian buildings which enhance the quality of the area and which could, with minimal intervention, be brought back into use in a Covent Garden-like scheme. The owners, the Corporation of London, dispute this claim, and would prefer to replace the General Market Buildings with a modern office development. For more information see:

www.savebritainsheritage.org/smithfield-intro.htm

Shakespeare at Hampton Court

This year is the 400th anniversary of King James I's lavish Christmas and New Year festivities at Hampton Court Palace. William Shakespeare was one of the King's Men who provided dramatic entertainment in the Great Hall.

This July, Hampton Court Palace and the Globe Theatre are collaborating to produce three of Shakespeare's plays in the Palace's Great Hall. Tickets are available from the Palace ticket office, or phone 0870 890 5500, or online at www.seetickets.com

Closure of the London NMR

The London Search Room of the National Monuments Record at Blandford Street closed for ever on 13 February. The London archive collections and books are moving back to the National Monuments Record Centre at Swindon. In order to complete the task of integrating the London archive, the Swindon search room, including the NMR library, will be shut until 3 May. There will be no Saturday openings in April, and only a limited Buildings service.

Lambeth Archives go online

More than 5000 images of London Life are available on a new website created by Lambeth Council's Archives Service at www.lambethlandmark.com. This is an extension of the Landmark Digital Archive service already available in Lambeth's local libraries, and a first for a London local authority archive collection. It was funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

(information from SLAS Newsletter 97, March 2004)

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Chris Thomas, whose book *London's Archaeological Secrets: a world city revealed* won the New Generation Book of the Year Award (for books aimed at or suitable for an 11–16 age range) at the recent History Today Annual Awards.

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the Empire. These changed over time, just as fashions do today. There are detailed explanations of all kinds of baubles and beads, not to mention pins, rings and things, and belts.

The author has produced a book with information on the origins and manufacture of these dress accessories. From the glass bead workshops at Trier, to possible metal-working at Lydney, and

the Snettisham jeweller's hoard, there is much to be considered.

The distribution maps, illustrations and coloured pictures help our understanding of this fascinating area of study. Ellen Swift has a wide knowledge of this field, and the ability to communicate her enthusiasm to the reader. This is a welcome addition to our bookshelves.

Jane Esden