

Mosaic

More from St Martin's

The finds from the excavation at St Martin-in-the-Fields, reported in our previous issue, are on display at Museum of London until 8 August. They include a limestone sarcophagus containing the skeleton of a middle-aged Roman man, who died around AD 410, and exquisite Saxon grave goods. The finds challenge archaeologists' long-held belief that Roman *Londinium* and Saxon *Lundenwic* were unconnected. Whilst the sarcophagus shows Roman civilisation existed for a generation at least after Londinium had been abandoned, other finds from the site suggest Saxon settlement of the city occurred much earlier than previously thought. A clay pot dating to around AD 500, hand thrown, styled and decorated in a manner introduced by Saxon immigrants from the continent, is the earliest such find in central London.

Fine jewellery, glass and metal vessels were found in the graves of high status individuals buried on the site after AD 600, who may well have been Christians. The Museum's display includes a beautiful and perfectly preserved gold pendant with glittering glass stone, a pristine glass cup, amethyst beads, and a rare copper hanging bowl with a delicate enamelled motif (see front cover). The bowl was placed at the foot of a burial with an offering of hazelnuts, in a symbol of rebirth.

It is not known whether there was a church here in the AD600s, but the Museum's display attests to the site's special, perhaps sacred, significance throughout the two hundred years thought to separate Roman *Londinium* and Saxon *Lundenwic*.

Qualification in Archaeological Practice

The first qualification in Archaeological Practice has recently been launched. It is offered by Education Development International (EDI) one of the UK's leading awarding bodies, and was developed by the Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) with the support of the Creative and Cultural Industries Sector Skills Council and EDI. The qualification in Archaeological Practice will be offered at levels 3 and 4 and will be available for both amateurs and professionals.

The Archaeological Practice qualification will allow archaeologists, for the first time, to accredit their skills against a nationally recognised framework. The qualification will be available to all who work in archaeology whether on a paid or voluntary basis and will provide a means of accrediting informal training and on the job learning. The qualification will allow archaeologists to accredit their workplace skills and learning to demonstrate their competencies and also allow aspiring archaeologists to acquire vocationally relevant skills.

The qualification will enable archaeologists to demonstrate that they have a particular set of skills, competencies and experiences in their area of expertise and will be offered by existing EDI heritage centres the IFA and new assessment centres. Those working towards the qualification

will study core units in areas such as research, conservation and health and safety.

Museums under threat

Our report in the previous issue (p. 204) that Wandsworth Museum had been 'saved' by a generous donation now appears rather optimistic. Although the position is confused pending a Council meeting on 2 July, it still appears likely that the museum will close on 28 September and that the staff will be made redundant. For up-to-date news, visit <http://www.putneysw15.com/> or contact WandsworthMuseumGroup@hotmail.co.uk.

Moving over to Walthamstow, The William Morris Gallery is the only public museum in the world devoted to William Morris's life, work and influence, and has internationally important collections reflecting the enormous range of his activities. Morris's original designs and textiles, wallpapers, furniture, stained glass, tiles, fine printing and book arts, are shown alongside works by Edward Burne-Jones, Dante Gabriel Rossetti, Philip Webb, May Morris, and many others. The museum also has applied arts by Morris's followers in the Arts & Crafts movement, as well as paintings and drawings by the Pre-Raphaelites and by Sir Frank Brangwyn, who gifted his own significant collections to form the nucleus of the Gallery.

For the over 50 years since the museum was opened by Clement Attlee, many thousands of people – locals and visitors and researchers from every corner of the world – have made the pilgrimage to Walthamstow to visit for free this museum in Morris's boyhood home, a beautiful Georgian house set in a Victorian park.

On 22 February 2007 Waltham Forest Council agreed a cut of 16% to the Gallery's budget, which would severely limit its opening hours, and also those of the local Vestry House Museum & Archives, and to terminate the contracts of all staff as part of a drastic restructuring. The internationally-renowned Curator of the William Morris Gallery has worked tirelessly for thirty years to build up the collections, to hold inspiring exhibitions, to educate visitors and to assist researchers. Since the cuts were announced, campaigners have received thousands of letters of support. Ken Livingstone, Lord (Chris) Smith and Tony Benn are among the many who have expressed opposition to the cuts, and an online petition attracted over 5000 names in four weeks.

The Friends of the William Morris Gallery ask for your help. There is a link to the online petition at <http://www.keepourmuseumsopen.org.uk/>.

Congratulations

Hedley Swain, Head of Early History and Collections at the Museum of London since 1998, has been appointed Head of Museum Policy of the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council (MLA). He will provide leadership in delivering policies for the long-term transformation of museums services in England. At the Museum of London, Hedley

oversaw the creation of two new permanent galleries (*London Before London* and *Medieval*) and a number of exhibitions, most notably *High Street Londinium* in 2000. He has also supervised the creation of the London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre and the Centre for Human Bioarchaeology at the Museum.

Hedley's experience in the museums sector includes being Chair of the Society of Museum Archaeologists (SMA) and the Archaeological Archives Forum. He is currently the Editor for the SMA and the Meetings Secretary for the Royal Archaeological Institute. In 1998 he undertook a national survey of archaeological archives in England for the MGC and English Heritage and in 2005 chaired the DCMS drafting group for guidance on the care of human remains in museums. He was on the 2003 *Too Much Stuff* working group for the National Museum Directors' Conference and the 2005 Museums Association *Collections for the Future* steering group. He is currently a member of the Museums Association Ethics Committee and the Convenor of the Human Remains Subject Specialist Network. He is also a tutor for Birkbeck College Faculty of Continuing Education, as well as an Honorary Lecturer at UCL Institute of Archaeology, and has also taught for Royal Holloway, University of London. His book *An Introduction to Museum Archaeology* will be published in 2007 by Cambridge University Press.

Professor Peter Ucko

Professor Peter Ucko, Director of UCL Institute of Archaeology from 1996 to 2005, died at home on 14 June 2007. He will be remembered locally for steering the Institute through a period of momentous change; his impact on archaeology world-wide was assessed by Neil Ascherson writing in the *Independent*.

Michael Maitland Muller

We also announce the death, in February 2007, of Michael Maitland Muller, who had been Keeper of the Cuming Museum in Southwark from 1958 until his retirement in 1987. He was responsible for the first permanent exhibition at the Cuming after it reopened in 1959, directed the excavation at New Guys House in 1965, and was Secretary of the Southwark Archaeological Excavation Committee for many years from its re-founding in 1962. He will be remembered for his work in promoting the archaeology of the Borough of Southwark.

Terminal 5 online

Framework Archaeology have recently launched a website dedicated to the excavations at Heathrow Terminal 5. The website will be updated as post-excavation progresses. The GIS data and free viewing package for volume one of the Terminal 5 monograph series are available for download. Visit the site at <http://www.framearch.co.uk/t5/>.