

Mosaic

New data concerning the Iron Age environment of Southwark

In the Southwark area there are a number of peat or wetland sequences of Bronze Age (c. 2000–800 BC) or earlier date, which have revealed pollen sequences, but to date the Iron Age has remained a bit of a blank, although intertidal or palaeo-channel sediments of Iron Age date have been found at Bankside. However, this blank in the history of Southwark's environment is now being addressed with funding provided by the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Excavation Committee, who have sponsored a programme of research into the wetland deposits located under the early Roman deposits (activity on site begun c. AD 50–60) examined at St George's Church, Borough High Street, in 2006. The top of this wetland soil has been radiocarbon dated to cal BC 40 – AD 80.¹ Preliminary work on the pollen from the top of this wetland soil by Dr Rob Scaife provides a 'snapshot' of the late Iron Age environment. This study has revealed a pastoral landscape, while the presence of a small amount of cereal pollen shows that there was already some arable farming in the locality. This pastoral landscape implies that the natural deciduous woodland had already been cleared and then grazed to prevent its regeneration. The arboreal pollen present was dominated by alder, a species which thrives in damp environments.

Previous work to the south of the church, at the Southwark Leisure Centre, has revealed peat deposits dated to c. 1500–1000 BC. The associated pollen from the leisure centre deposits revealed a high proportion of alder indicating a wet woodland environment.

I. Beta – 294445 SYG05 – I142, 1980 ± 30 BP.

Major grants for museums and heritage in London

The British Museum's World Conservation and Exhibition Centre is one of five major heritage projects to have been awarded funds in the latest round of Heritage Lottery Fund major grant decisions. The HLF confirmed in late May that it had awarded £10m to the north-western extension that will include space for temporary exhibitions, a loans management centre to facilitate partnership work with a range of museums across the UK, environmentally-controlled stores and study rooms, conservation and science studios and laboratories.

The Geffrye Museum succeeded in its bid for £10.9m for a comprehensive redevelopment of its Museum of the Home, set in the former almshouses of the Ironmongers' Company. At Kew, the Grade I listed glasshouse designed by Decimus Burton will be restored and the plant displays rejuvenated with £15m of HLF support.

Visit the LAARC

The London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) is granting special access to the archive, with weekly behind the scenes tours, starting on 5th August 2011. Visitors can walk amongst the 10km of shelving and discover some of the hidden archaeological treasures that have not yet made it into the Museum of London's galleries. As well as touring the vast store, visitors also have the opportunity to see the areas where objects are cleaned and sorted, when they first come out of the ground. Guests will have the chance to handle objects and visit the Glass and Ceramic store. Visits to the archive take place every Friday and on the first and third Saturday of the month.

Streetmuseum Londinium

This iPhone app directs users to locations across London where they can immerse themselves in the sights, sounds and remains of Roman life. At the city's peak in AD 120 approximately 25,000 Romans lived in London, leaving much behind to explore today. Users can digitally excavate Roman artefacts, including leather bikini briefs and an ancient manicure set, which tell the stories of life in *Londinium*. Using their finger to dig and by blowing on their iPhone, users can gradually reveal the objects where they were first found in the capital.

Key Roman sites in London, such as the amphitheatre at Guildhall, will be brought to life through augmented reality video – produced by HISTORY – which will overlay scenes of Roman London against today's modern backdrop. Soundscapes will also allow users to listen to the hustle and bustle of the forum or the sounds of ritual incantation at the Temple of Mithras. All these immersive experiences will be brought together on a new map of Roman London – compiled and produced by Museum of London Archaeology – which will be superimposed on a modern map of the capital, allowing users to see how the city has changed and grown over the last 2,000 years.

Launched in May 2010, the original *Streetmuseum* brought the Museum of London's extensive art and photographic collections to the world, guiding users to over 200 sites across London where hidden histories of the city dramatically appear. Users can look through their phones and see the past emerge, locked as an overlay across the present scene. These can be viewed as ghostly alignments, or the archive images can be brought up and explored in detail, along with information about the Museum's photographs and paintings. *Streetmuseum Londinium* is free to download for iPhones and iPads worldwide on iTunes and Android Market. Visit www.museumoflondon.org.uk/ apps for more information.

Nonsuch Palace revealed

Since its excavation in 1959 by Professor Martin Biddle, there has been much speculation about the appearance of Nonsuch, the last of Henry VIII's palaces around London.

The discussion has been resolved, at least for the time being, by the unveiling of a large (2.2 m by 1.2 m) model of the palace at the Friends of Nonsuch Museum in Nonsuch Mansion. It was built by Ben Taggart (www.mdelhouses.co.uk), took over 1,250 hours to construct and involved the making to scale of thousands of elements of the structure and decorations. The model will be open for public viewing on Wednesdays and Sundays from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. until 5th November. Nonsuch Mansion is approached from Ewell Road, Cheam.

Glassmaking in London

David Watts, the author of *A History of Glassmaking in London* (reviewed in our previous issue) informs us that he is working on an enlarged second edition in which he will mention the Roman glass industry in London. The Romans never made glass in London, relying on pre-made glass imported as cullet, probably made in the salt-lake region of Egypt. Glass was a valuable commodity and well worth the expense of shipping it to Britain.

To date, 27 Roman glassworking sites have been identified in London. With the help of John Shepherd, David has listed all of them on his website www.glassmaking-in-london.co.uk in the section Archaeology, together with a map of their locations, the information available, their MoLAS/MOLA code and a link for those wishing to explore a site further. At the present time only one site has yielded certain information of the type of furnace used. This proved to be of the reverberatory type as would be used for remelting glass.

If readers can provide further or more accurate information, Dr Watts would be pleased to receive it at dcw@daroben.co.uk.

Congratulations

Having been founded in 1961, HADAS (Hendon and District Archaeological Society) celebrated 50 years of archaeology in the Borough of Barnet on 7th August. Over 60 members, including current archaeologists and those whose digging is now well in the past, saw an exhibition of finds from excavations throughout the Society's history, including a cremation urn, dated to between 50 and 160 A.D., which came from excavations at Sunny Gardens Road, Hendon, and until recently on display in Church Farmhouse Museum. They also heard a recorded address from the Society's founder Themistocles Constantinides.

Diary

October

10 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'The Portable Antiquities Scheme' by Ian Richardson. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

11 (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'The Black Death in London 1348–9: new research' by Barney Sloane. Museum of London, London EC2.

11 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Excavations at Holywell Priory' by Hana Lewis. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

11 (8 p.m.) Hendon and District Archaeological Society. 'Silchester: the revelation of an Iron Age and Roman city' by John Creighton. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.

13 (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. 'Excavations at St Martins-in-the-Fields' by Alison Telfer. Mayo Hall, United Reformed Church, Union Street/Eden Street, Kingston upon Thames.

14 (7.30 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Happisburgh prehistoric site' by Nick Ashton. Jubilee Hall, Chase Side/Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

14 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Roman Sculpture in London: the geology of 400 years of quarrying, supply and carving' by Kevin Hayward. Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

21 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'A Hidden Landscape Revealed. Excavations at Syon' by Bob Cowie. St Olave's Parish Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

November

8 (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'History of the Parish Clerks' Company' by Peter Maplestone. Museum of London, London EC2.

8 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Excavations and restoration at Fulham Palace' by Phil Emery. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

8 (8 p.m.) Hendon and District Archaeological Society. 'The Thames Discovery Programme' by Nathalie Cohen. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.

14 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Marden Henge' by Jim Leary. Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

14 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'The Black Death' by Jelena Bekvalac. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

18 (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'The Enigma that is Shadwell' by Alistair Douglas. St Olave's Parish Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

18 (7.30 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'The roast beef of Old England' by Neil Pinchbeck. Jubilee Hall, Chase Side/Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

December

9 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Settlement under the sand: Viking Orkney' by David Griffiths. Vestry Hall, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond.

12 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Discovering Mycenae' by Andrew Shapland. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

13 (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Thomas Layton's Artificial Curiosities: Oceanic Collections of an 'Old World Type'' by Glynn Davis. Museum of London, London EC2.

13 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Olympics and Olympians in Southwark and Lambeth' by Len Reilly. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

January

10 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Results of the Archaeological Thames Link Project' by Jo Taylor. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

10 (8 p.m.) Hendon and District Archaeological Society. 'The Merchant Taylors' Dinner from the 18th century' by Anne Saunders. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3.

17 (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Mapping Roman London: from site context to town plan' by Julian Hill. Museum of London, London EC2.

Conferences

New ideas on some major Roman villas

2 p.m. to 5.30 p.m., Saturday 22nd October at The Old Sessions Lecture Theatre, Canterbury Christ Church University, North Holmes Campus, Canterbury. Speakers include Martin Henig, Bryn Walters and Graham Soffe. Tickets price £5 from CKA, 7 Sandy Ridge, Borough Green, Kent TN15 8HP (sae please). Website www.the-cka.fsnet.co.uk.

Policing the past, CBA Southeast Annual Conference and AGM, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 12th November at the University of Sussex, Falmer. Cost £15 for CBA SE members and students and £20 for others. Tickets can be obtained from Joe Francis, Centre for Community Engagement, Mantell Building, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, Sussex, BN1 9RF, tel. 01273 678 300, email cce@sussex.ac.uk.

Sport in London, LAMAS Local History Conference, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m., Saturday 19th November at the Museum of London. Tickets price £10 *via* LAMAS website or at the door.

Events

Archaeology up close, object-handling sessions at the Museum of London, 12 to 2 p.m., Fridays 21st October, 18th November, 16th December and 20th January.

Meet the expert: meet Adam Corsini, Assistant Curator of Archaeological Collections & Archive at the Museum of London. Wednesday 26th October, 2 to 3 p.m., at Museum of London Docklands.

Roman fort visit, from the Museum of London, 2 to 2.30 and 3 to 3.30 p.m., Fridays 21st October, 18th November, 16th December and 20th January.

Exhibitions

Dickens and London, at the Museum of London, 9th December to 10th June 2012. Tickets: adults £8 (£7 in advance), child/concessions £6 (£5 in advance), under 5s free. Range of flexible family tickets available. Book from Museum of London Box Office, tel. (020) 7001 9844.

Membership

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology, which includes six issues a year of *British Archaeology*, costs £28 p.a.; full price/renewal price £34 p.a.; joint membership with *London Archaeologist* costs £36 (new CBA members only). See britarch.ac.uk/cba/membership/pricelist for details. Payment should be sent to CBA, St Mary's House, Bootham, York, YO30 7BZ (01904 671 417).

Practical archaeology

AOC Archaeology Group. Contact Melissa Melikian, Post-Excavation Manager (020 8843 7380).

London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre. Contact Archive Manager, Roy Stephenson (020 7566 9317).

Croydon & District. Contact Jim Davison, 8 Brentwood Road, South Croydon, CR2 0ND.

Borough of Greenwich. Contact Greenwich Heritage Centre, Building 41, Royal Arsenal, Woolwich, SE18 6SP (020 8854 2452).

Hammersmith & Fulham. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 85 Rannoch Road, W6 9SX (020 7385 3723).

Kingston. Enquiries to 020 8546 5386.

Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd. Contact Finds Manager, Märit Gaimster (020 7639 9091).

Surrey. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Surrey History Centre, 130 Goldsworth Road, Woking GU21 1ND (01483 594 634).