

Mosaic

An archaeology of wherries and river stairs on the tidal Thames

A project is under way to document London's waterway in an age when Londoners routinely took to the river to get around their city. Public transport is a major challenge in any large town, and London has tried many different solutions over its long history. The project will rediscover how the Thames was once used as a major transport artery by its inhabitants, before the age of trains, tubes, buses and cars. In the late 16th century, some 2,000 river taxis ('wherries') plied for hire on the Thames; by 1725 that number had increased to 15,000. In this period it is recorded that there were at least 88 regulated landing places on the river bank in the London area, the equivalent of today's bus stops and tube stations. But what did they look like? Most comprised a river stair or jetty, with a causeway laid out over the foreshore that allowed passengers to board the boats at any state of the tide, high or low.

The project team is a combination of traditional university academics, professional field archaeologists and interested volunteers, brought together by the Thames Discovery Programme, currently hosted by MOLA. It is mounting a major survey of the historic sites associated with London's lost waterway, recording whatever still remains of the open foreshore. It will map the known waterway sites, survey the best surviving examples of river stairs and causeways, establish an image gallery, and prepare illustrated histories of the most important landing places. It also wants to fund the set-up of an online (crowd-sourcing) method on the MicroPasts platform (see *LA* 14 no. 1 (Summer 2014) p. 2) to allow volunteers to transcribe relevant documentary material, and then pay someone part-time to make a final check of the results. Finally, there will be a public show-and-tell day at the Museum of London, and the digital datasets will be archived so that they are permanently and publicly accessible.

The project coordinators are Elliott Wragg and Courtney Nimura (Thames Discovery Programme), Gustav Milne (University College London) and Nathalie Cohen (MOLA). The target is to raise between £3,000 and £5,000 towards the cost of the project, which will last for one year. For further information, see <https://crowdfunded.micropasts.org/projects/londons-lost-waterway>.

Remains of Brunel's Great Western railway unearthed near Paddington

Findings during Crossrail's archaeological programme include foundations of a 200-metre-long engine shed, a workshop and turntables. The structures were used for Brunel's broad-gauge railway, which first ran steam trains through the area in 1838. The

Crossrail archaeology team has documented the remains using laser scans, creating 3D models of the buildings which date from the 1850s and were levelled in 1906 to make way for a goods storage yard. These records will help historians understand the early development of railways in the UK and the methods of Brunel, widely regarded as one of Britain's greatest engineers.

The remains were found on a construction site known as Paddington New Yard, to the east of Westbourne Park tube station. The engine shed shows evidence of the change from 7ft-wide broad-gauge train tracks used by Brunel's Great Western Railway, to the standard gauge tracks prescribed in an Act of Parliament in 1846 and widely implemented by the 1860s. Brunel initially resisted this change in the so-called 'Gauge Wars'.

Academic status for MOLA

MOLA (Museum of London Archaeology) has been granted Independent Research Organisation (IRO) status by Research Councils UK. As a result, it no longer needs a university partner to apply for research council funding, but can apply in its own right for funds to carry out pioneering research. MOLA is the first archaeological contractor ever to be awarded IRO status, and this is welcome recognition that developer-funded archaeology can make a genuine contribution to academic knowledge. MOLA joins the British Museum, the National Archives, the British Library and the Imperial War Museum as non-university institutions on the IRO list.

To be granted IRO status, an organisation and its staff must have a track record for leading innovative research projects and maximising the impact and value of its research to the benefit of society and the UK economy. MOLA's outstanding in-house capacity to undertake innovative projects, its peer-reviewed publications programme, its grey-literature reports and the dissemination of its research to the wider public are recognised by this status. MOLA is now eager to hear from potential research collaborators with ideas for further pioneering research studies.

Turner in Twickenham

The members of the Turner's House Trust are hoping that the release of Mike Leigh's award-winning film, *Mr Turner*, will help them in their campaign to rescue Turner's House, the country villa that the artist designed and built for use by himself and his father. Completed in 1813, Sandycombe Lodge, located near the Thames between Richmond and Twickenham, was the place to which Turner retreated to escape the London art world and the hurly-burly of his

own household. Listed at Grade II*, the house remains largely as built, apart from some later additions, but seriously threatened by damp and long neglect. It is now on English Heritage's Heritage at Risk Register and badly in need of restoration.

Turner trained as an architectural draughtsman and declared that, if he could have had his life over again, he would have been an architect. From 1810 Turner's sketchbooks contain a number of preliminary drawings for his planned house, initially to be called Solus House but later to become Sandycombe Lodge.

For more information about Turner's House and the appeal, visit www.turnerintwickenham.org.uk/.

[Source: Salon]

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Karime Castillo Cardenas, whose article 'Pharmaceutical glass in post-medieval London: a proposed typology' was published in our Volume 13, no. 11 (Winter 2013/14). She has won the Society for Post-Medieval Archaeology Postgraduate Dissertation Prize 2012 for the dissertation on which that article was based.

English Heritage to split

Government approval for the separation of English Heritage into two organisations has been announced.

A new charity, retaining the name *English Heritage*, will run the National Heritage Collection of historic properties. A newly-named non-departmental public body, *Historic England*, will be dedicated to offering expert advice, championing the wider historic environment and providing support for stakeholders in the heritage sector. The changes will come into effect on 1st April 2015. The Government will provide additional funding of £88.5m to invest in the National Heritage Collection.

The English Heritage Charity will be responsible, under an operating licence from Historic England, for the care of the National Heritage Collection. Whilst all of its properties will remain in public ownership, it will be able to make the most of commercial and philanthropic opportunities. The additional Government investment will deal with urgent conservation defects and enable the upgrading of visitor facilities, including the renewal of outdated displays. This will provide a better experience for visitors which it is hoped will increase visitor numbers and grow membership.

It is not yet clear how these changes will affect the Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service (GLAAS), on which most London Boroughs rely for archaeological advice.

Diary

Please note that most societies anticipate a donation for attendance by non-members.

January

7 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'Ancient Turkey' by Jeff Cousins. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

10 (3 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. 'The Golden Age of Islam' by Judie English. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

10 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. New Year Social and 'Highwaymen of Hounslow Heath' by Jan Andrea Cameron. Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond.

13 (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Medieval stonemasonry' by James Wright. Clore Learning Centre, Museum of London.

13 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Roman archaeology in Southwark from Kenyon (1945) to today' by Harvey Sheldon. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

13 (8 p.m.) Hendon and District Archaeological Society. 'Late Roman Fortifications in Northern France and their Social Implications' by James Bromwich. Stephens House, 17 East End Road, Finchley N3 3QE.

February

5 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'Some aspects of archaeology in Dalmatia – modern Croatia' by Frank Pemberton. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

7 (3 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. 'The changing historical geography of Wandle industries' by Bob Steel. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

9 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Archaeology uncovered during the Crossrail Tunnelling Project' by Dave Sankey. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

10 (6.15 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. AGM and Presidential Address 'Gog and Magog: a tale of three giants' by John Clark. Clore Learning Centre, Museum of London.

10 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth

Archaeological Society. 'Medieval Southwark and Lambeth, 50 years on' by Graham Dawson. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

13 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Britain's western Vikings' by David Griffiths. Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond.

March

4 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. AGM and Presidential Address by Jon Cotton. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

7 (2.45 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. AGM and reports. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

9 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. AGM and Presidential Address by Harvey Sheldon. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

10 (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'tba' by Caroline Barron. Clore Learning Centre, Museum of London.

10 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'The south London pottery industry' by Brian Bloice. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1.

13 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'The Minorities eagle and funeral rites' by Angela Wardle. Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond.

April

11 (3 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. 'Prehistory in Surrey' by Jon Cotton. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

13 (6.30 p.m.) London and Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Palace foreshores: investigations on the River Thames at Fulham, Westminster, Greenwich and the Tower of London' by Nathalie Cohen. Clore Learning Centre, Museum of London.

13 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Insights from a Victorian Pawnbrokers Burial Ground in Bethnal Green' by Rachel Ives. Sixth Form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

14 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. "Our Park" –

Southwark Park's 150 years' by Pat Kingwell. The Housing Co-op Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1. 17 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'What did the Vikings do for us?' by Simon Coupland. Vestry Hall, Paradise Road, Richmond.

Conferences

Surrey Archaeological Society Annual Symposium, Saturday 28th February, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at Peace Memorial Hall, Woodfield Lane, Ashted. Tickets £10 (£12 on the door) from Surrey Archaeological Society, Castle Arch, Guildford GU1 3SX.

Membership

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology, which includes six issues a year of *British Archaeology*, costs £36 p.a. Visit: <https://shop.britarch.ac.uk/>.

Short courses

Kent Archaeological Field School. Short courses throughout 2014; two-day courses cost £50 unless otherwise stated. Details from the Kent Archaeological Field School, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP, or visit www.kafs.co.uk.

Practical archaeology

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

London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre. Contact Archive Manager, Francis Grew (020 7566 9317).

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

Borough of Greenwich. Contact Greenwich Heritage Centre (020 8854 2452).

Hammersmith & Fulham. Contact Keith Whitehouse (020 7385 3723).

Kingston. Enquiries to 020 8546 5386.

MOLA. Contact Karen Thomas, Head of Archive (020 7410 2228).

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

Surrey. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Surrey History Centre (01483 594 634).