

# Mosaic

## DNA of Roman Londoners

The Museum of London has announced research findings from Roman DNA and other sources. For the first time, this study has created a detailed 'picture' of the inhabitants of *Londinium*. The project combined analysis of the ancient DNA (aDNA) evidence for disease, sex chromosomes, mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA), stable isotope evidence for travel and diet, bioarchaeological evidence for health and archaeological evidence about identity.

For each of the four skeletons included in the research stable isotopes from tooth enamel were analysed by University of Durham to look at migration. A tooth from each skeleton was sent to McMaster University in Canada for aDNA analysis. This established the hair and eye colour of each individual, chromosomal sex and identified the diseases they were suffering from. McMaster University also examined the mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) to identify maternal ancestry. The aDNA analysis was complimented with analyses of health, and archaeological evidence such as grave goods, making this the first multidisciplinary study of the inhabitants of a city anywhere in the Roman Empire. See *Diary*.

## New tower at Westminster Abbey

Recent excavations by Pre-Construct Archaeology at the Poets' Corner Yard of Westminster Abbey have provided invaluable information concerning the layout and construction of Henry III's abbey church in the vicinity of the Chapter House, the use of this space in the later medieval and post-medieval eras and aspects of the earlier monastic burial ground. The remains of at least 50 individuals, all believed to date from the 11th or early 12th century – including a man buried in a grand coffin made of Barnack stone from Northamptonshire, whose skull was stolen by Victorian workmen, and a three-year old child in a wooden coffin – were found after a 1950s lavatory block was demolished to make space for a new tower, which will eventually bring visitors up into the attics of the building. The new museum space will be named the Queen's Diamond Jubilee Galleries and should be complete by 2018.

## Pitzhanger Manor to be restored

Ealing Council is undertaking a major project to restore and develop Walpole Park and Pitzhanger Manor House & Gallery. The Grade I-listed manor-house is regarded as an architectural treasure, designed and once owned by the architect Sir John Soane. In June 2014, Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery was awarded £4.42m from the Heritage Lottery Fund to carry out the full restoration plans.

A grant of just under £500,000 was awarded in July 2014 from Arts Council England for improvement works to the gallery.

The Pitzhanger Manor & Gallery project, led by Ealing Council in partnership with Pitzhanger Manor Trust, will transform Pitzhanger, reintegrating the house and gallery with the adjoining Walpole Park, originally the grounds of Soane's home. The improvement works will:

- restore Sir John Soane's Grade I-listed historic manor-house completely,
- upgrade the 1939 gallery building for major exhibitions,
- create a new restaurant and event space in the kitchen garden,
- improve visitor facilities,
- make the whole house fully accessible by all visitors.

The project will reveal Soane's original vision for his weekend home, a rare, surviving Regency villa and gardens in Ealing. The north side of the building and the west elevation of Soane's Eating Room will be revealed; original rooms, currently closed to the public, will be opened up; illustrations of Soane's design genius, notably his glasshouse, will be reinstated. The house and gallery will reopen in spring 2018.

## Uncertain future for the London

In 2014 (Vol. 14, no 2 (Autumn 2014), 56) we reported on finds from the wreck of the *London*, which blew up in the Thames Estuary off Southend in 1665. Further work, carried out under extremely poor diving conditions (very low visibility close to a major shipping lane) has revealed the survival of two large sections of the ship about 400m apart, both of which appear to contain a wealth of well-preserved artefacts. Parallels with the *Mary Rose* have inevitably been drawn. There are currently no plans for a full-scale excavation of the wreck, despite the threats posed to both it and its artefacts by the proximity of the major shipping lane and its disturbance to the seabed.

There is local pressure for the plans for a Southend Maritime Museum, conceived in 2008, to be revived to provide a home for at least some of the historic artefacts, and to be a basis for the much-needed regeneration of this fading seaside resort. Whether the necessary funding can be raised is an open question; we wish the London Wreck Project well but find it hard to be optimistic. It has just been announced that the Project has won the Marsh Award for Community Archaeology 2015.

## But a good home for the Gresham ship

Readers may remember the raising of the remains of the Tudor 'Gresham Ship' from the Thames estuary in 2004, and its relocation in the Stoney Cove Dive Centre,

Leicestershire, in 2012 (see *LA* Vol. 13 no. 7 (2013) 171–4). A new interactive photogrammetry survey of the ship is now available on Sketchfab at <https://sketchfab.com/models/cc229d9fc4bf432981c1364b9da69034>. The photos were taken by Nautical Archaeology Society photographer Martin Davies in 2013 and kindly post-processed this year by Brandon Mason at Maritime Archaeology Ltd.

## Brian Bloice

We announce with regret the death in October of Brian Bloice, for a long time a good friend of this magazine, and for even longer a key member of the Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society (SLAS).

Brian played an important part in the early years of the *LA*, contributing five articles to Volume 1 (1968–72), mostly about the tin-glazed ware industries of Southwark and Lambeth. In 1973 he collated and edited the first-ever *Excavation Round-up* (for 1972), which he managed to complete in time to be included in the Spring issue (Vol. 2, no. 2). He completed a further three *Round-ups*, his last being the one for 1975 (published in Vol. 2, no. 14), before handing on the task to Beth Richardson.

Brian also had an important role in SLAS from its foundation in 1965, and he was its Secretary for many years. The Society took part in many large-scale excavations, first the Black Prince's Palace in Kennington, and pioneered the use of formerly derelict buildings for post-excavation processing. SLAS, celebrating its 50th anniversary this year, was honoured by a lifetime achievement award at the Southwark Civic Awards in Southwark Cathedral.

In later years, Brian became well known as a researcher, speaker and writer on the local history of the Borough of Lambeth, and especially of Streatham. He leaves a large archive of information, which we hope will be a valuable resource to future researchers.

## Congratulations

Congratulations to our committee member Vicki Ridgeway on her graduation from Newcastle University. She has been awarded a distinction Master of Letters (MLitt) for her dissertation 'A Ritual Landscape in Roman Southwark. The view from Watling Street and Londinium's southern approaches'.

Congratulations also go to Strawberry Hill House for its Highly Commended Award in the Best UK Tourism Project category at the British Guild of Travel Writers Awards. Strawberry Hill House has undergone a major repair, restoration and conservation project, and has become a valuable cultural hub for the local community of Twickenham (see *LA* Vol. 13, no. 1 (2011) 28).

# Diary

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

## January

**6** (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'Ravenna' by Richard Watson. St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

**9** (3 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. 'Painshill (Cobham) and its contemporaries' by Michael Symes. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

**11** (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. Topic tba. Sixth form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

**12** (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. '100 Minorities – a multi-period excavation next to London Wall' by Guy Hunt. Museum of London, London Wall.

**12** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'The Surrey Docks Farm History Project' by Germander Speedwell. 106 The Cut, SE1.

**12** (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Royal Palaces of Enfield' by Ian Jones. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

**15** (7 p.m.) City of London Archaeological Society. 'The Temples and Gods of Roman London' by Dominic Perring. St Olave's Church Hall, Mark Lane, EC3.

## February

**3** (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'Architecture of the London Underground' by Jon Glover. St. Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

**6** (3 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. 'The Scawens of Carshalton' by Andrew Skelton. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

**9** (6.15 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. AGM and Presidential Address "Sights most strange": tourists in medieval and early modern London' by John Clark. Museum of London, London Wall.

**9** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'From the dark to the light. Crime and prostitution, pubs, cinemas and circuses – 200 years of Waterloo life' by Chris Everett. 106 The Cut, SE1.

**9** (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Medieval Middlesex – the archaeological remains' by Adam Corsini. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

**12** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Lawrence of Arabia's War' by Neil Faulkner. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.

## March

**6** (2.45 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. AGM. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

**8** (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'The Cuming Museum in Southwark' by Judy Aitken. Museum of London, London Wall.

**8** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Solent and Thames watermills' by David Plunkett. 106 The Cut, SE1.

**8** (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'The Crossrail Archaeology Project' by Jay Carver. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

**11** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Rendlesham rediscovered: an East Anglian royal settlement of the time of Sutton Hoo' by Christopher Scull. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.

## April

**2** (3 p.m.) Carshalton & District History & Archaeology Society. 'The Inns of Court' by Ian Bevan. Milton Hall, Cooper Crescent, Nightingale Road, Carshalton.

**8** (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. Neanderthals of La Manche: New Research from the Channel' by Matt Pope. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.

**12** (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society and Prehistoric Society. 'Neolithic ditches, Middle and Late Bronze Age enclosures at West Drayton' by Peter Boyer. Museum of London, London Wall.

**12** (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. Symposium. 106 The Cut, SE1.

**12** (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'In the lift to the beach: a visit to the Lundenwic waterfront' by Douglas Killock. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

## Conference

**LAMAS 53rd Conference of London Archaeologists**, Saturday 19th March at the Museum of London. Details to be announced.

## Exhibitions

**Celts art and identity**, at the British Museum until 31 January. The first major exhibition to examine the full history of Celtic art and identity, organised in partnership with National Museums Scotland. Tickets £16.50 (adults), under-16s free.

**The Crime Museum Uncovered**, at the Museum of London until 10 April. For the first time, never-before-seen objects from the

Metropolitan Police's Crime Museum are on public display in this major exhibition. Tickets £12.50 (adults), £10 (concessions). Pre-booking strongly advised.

**Hoards: the hidden history of ancient Britain**, at the British Museum until 22 May. The exhibition explores the reasons why ancient people have placed precious objects in the ground or in water since the Bronze Age. Admission free.

**Written in Bone**, at the Museum of London. The results of the analyses of four Roman skeletons from London. See *Mosaic*. Admission free.

## 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

**CBA South-East Pottery Workshop Series**, at various locations in Kent, Surrey and Sussex. Saturdays from 16 January to 7 May, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost £15 for CBA-SE members, £20 for non-members. Details from [www.cbasmouth-east.org/events](http://www.cbasmouth-east.org/events), or email [events@cbasmouth-east.org](mailto:events@cbasmouth-east.org).

**Kent Archaeological Field School**, short courses throughout 2016. Details from the Kent Archaeological Field School, School Farm Oast, Graveney Road, Faversham, Kent ME13 8UP, or visit [www.kafs.co.uk](http://www.kafs.co.uk).

**Sussex School of Archaeology**. Programme of day schools and longer courses throughout 2016, day schools usually cost £40. Details from Sussex School of Archaeology Limited, Unit 12, Mays Farm Selmeston, Polegate, East Sussex BN26 6TS. Telephone 01323 811785 or visit [www.sussexarchaeology.org](http://www.sussexarchaeology.org).

## 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).