

Mosaic

Tiny treasure from the Thames

A very small treasure hoard – a handful of tiny fragments of beautifully worked Tudor gold – has been harvested from the Thames foreshore over a period of years by eight different metal detectorists. The pieces all date from the early 16th century, and their style is so similar that Kate Sumnall, Finds Liaison Officer at the Museum of London, believes they all came from the disastrous loss of one fabulous garment, possibly a hat snatched off a passenger's head by a gust of wind at a time when the main river crossings were the myriad ferry boats.

Such metal objects, including aglets – metal tips for laces – beads and studs, originally had a practical purpose as garment fasteners, but by the early 16th century they were being worn in gold as high-status ornaments, making costly fabrics such as velvet and furs even more ostentatious.

Some of the pieces are inlaid with enamel or little pieces of coloured glass. Although there is not enough gold in them to fill an egg cup, the pieces must legally be declared as treasure. They were an important find as a huge amount of skill had been invested in the intricate pieces. Once they have been through a treasure inquest and valued, the museum hopes to acquire them.

London Stone to move

One of the more enigmatic objects in London is the London Stone, a battered block of Clipsham limestone set into the wall of an office block in Cannon Street, protected by a metal grill. Despite many stories of its origins and purpose, very little is known about it. What we do know is that it will be moved soon, as the office block is due to be demolished and redeveloped. The Stone will be moved to a temporary home on display in the Museum of London, and will be returned to Cannon Street when the redevelopment is complete, hopefully rather better displayed than at present.

Rose Theatre site to be sold

The site of the Rose Theatre is etched deeply in London's archaeological memory. From its remarkable discovery in 1989, through the furore that surrounded the debates on its future (remember 'Save the Rose?'), and its preservation under the new office block, Rose Court, to its present use as the *Rose Playhouse* in the block's basement, it has never been far out of the news. It may have contributed to the formation of the archaeological policy PPG15. Now news comes that the Rose Court block itself is up for sale, with a price tag of at least £98m. The Government's lease on the building runs out in 2018, when it will be nearly 30 years old.

The Rose Theatre Trust now oversees the scheduled archaeological site in the basement of the building with the Playhouse (www.london-se1.co.uk/places/rose-theatre) running a regular programme of performances – access being a prerequisite of any HLF bid. Chair, Harvey Sheldon, trying hard to safeguard the archaeological remains, has said they would need a long-term lease with any new owners to be able to raise further development funds – this could be as much as £8 million as the eastern side of the theatre, beyond the earlier site boundary, would also need to be excavated, as well as the design and building of a visitor centre. If the building were to change from office to residential use, scheduled monument consent would also be needed.

What will the future hold for the Rose Playhouse?

The future of the Geffrye Museum

The Geffrye Museum in Shoreditch is embarking on a £15m capital project to develop its existing buildings and create new spaces – transforming visitors' experience and protecting and preserving the Geffrye for generations to come. In May 2015, the Heritage Lottery Fund awarded the museum a grant of £11m to support these plans to develop the museum for the future. The Geffrye is fundraising the balance of £4m. The plans include:

- Opening up the lower ground and first floors of the main almshouse building so you can explore previously unseen parts of the museum,
- Greatly improving access throughout our buildings and gardens,
- Creating an additional entrance opposite Hoxton station,
- Creating new gallery and library spaces which will allow more treasures from our collections to be seen and enjoyed,
- Building a new activity space and garden, and revitalising the existing learning spaces for people of all ages.

A database of radiocarbon dates from Greater London

Micropasts (see Vol. 14, no. 1, p. 2) have just announced a new project: the creation of a database of all the radiocarbon dates from Greater London. The idea is to start crowd-sourcing the grey literature from the Archaeology Data Service for radiocarbon dates. Beyond that, they hope to get the help of a volunteer with some local knowledge of Greater London to look through the major hard copy publications and any missing grey literature not in ADS, but in archives of the various units. Details can be found at <http://crowdsourced.micropasts.org/project/RadiocarbonHunt/>.

Funding for radiocarbon dates

Archaeological Research Services Ltd and the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre (SUERC) have set up a new Community Archaeology Radiocarbon Dating Fund (CARD Fund). It is intended to provide support to community groups and projects to acquire radiocarbon dates for their projects, and is open to community-based projects across the UK, with a closing date of 30 September each year, shortly after which a decision will be made on which applications are successful. Information is available on the Fund's website; applications can be made via the on-line form.

Good bye and thank you

We are sad to announce that Dr Chris Constable has moved on from his role as Archaeology Officer for the London Borough of Southwark, after nine years in post. During that time he has done an immense amount of work to maintain the importance of archaeology in the life of the Borough, and it will miss him. He is moving to a job in the commercial infrastructure sector, where he will continue to champion archaeology. We wish him continued success.

Phil Jones

We regret to announce the death of Phil Jones, for over 20 years the editor of the *Bulletin of Surrey Archaeological Society*. Although not well known north of the Thames, he made a significant contribution to the archaeology of the 'Surrey' part of Greater London by his work on ceramics, and the development of a regional pottery fabric type series. He also led in teaching many volunteers about the identification and analysis of the ceramics of the region.

Liz Howe

We report the death of Elizabeth Howe after a sudden illness. Liz's archaeological career spanned over 25 years. She trained on MSC programmes in Northamptonshire and moved to London in the 1980s, where she worked on Museum of London excavations including Roman cemeteries and the Huggin Hill Roman baths. In the 1990s she progressed to supervising complex urban excavations including Baltic House and Gresham Street and was author of the MoLAS monograph on the former and co-author of *Roman and medieval Cripplegate, City of London: archaeological excavations 1992–98* amongst other publications. Her last job at MoLAS was as a Project Manager responsible for many London and other sites. In 2006 she qualified as a Town Planner, working in recent years as a planning consultant from her new home in Cumbria.

Diary

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

April

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

9 (2.30 p.m.) Merton Historical Society. 'The Wanborough Hoard' by Alan Bridgman. Christ Church Hall, Colliers Wood.

11 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'The Wilderness of Zin – 100 year on' by Sam Moorhead. Sixth-form block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

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.

14 (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Speaker tba. Main Hall, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton.

15 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. AGM and 'Excavations and Fieldwork of the EAS' by Martin Dearne. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

May

4 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society. 'History of Kingston' by Shaan Butters. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

9 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'The Thames at War' by Gustav Milne. Sixth-form Block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

10 (6.30 p.m.) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Archaeological Investigations and Crossrail' by Jay Carver. Museum of London, London Wall.

10 (7.30 p.m.) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Antiquarian finds from the Thames' by Jon Cotton. 106 The Cut, SE1.

10 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'Hadrian's Wall: life on Rome's northern frontier' by Matt Symonds. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

12 (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Speaker tba. Main Hall, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton.

13 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Flint tools from recent EAS sites' by Neil Pinchbeck. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

13 (8 p.m.) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'The Maya Collapse: myth or reality' by Elizabeth Graham. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.

June

1 (8 p.m.) Epsom & Ewell History and Archaeology Society. 'John Probert, the medical profession, and the development of Epsom College in the 19th century' by Alan Scadding. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell.

9 (8 p.m.) Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society. Speaker tba. Main Hall, Surbiton Library Halls, Ewell Road, Surbiton.

10 (8 p.m.) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Poets' Corner' by a speaker from PCA. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

13 (7.45 p.m.) West Essex Archaeological Group. 'Highgate Wood' by Harvey Sheldon. Sixth-form block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green.

14 (8 p.m.) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. AGM. Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley.

Courses

The Humanities Department at the City Lit offers a number of non-accredited courses on archaeology which would be of interest to both the general public and individuals wanting to volunteer or pursue further studies in archaeology. Contact Zoe Quinn, Humanities Tutor Co-ordinator: Archaeology, Anthropology, London and Victorian Studies, 020 7492 2650, Zoe.Quinn@citylit.ac.uk

Exhibitions

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.

Under London, at the Museum of London until 3 July. Ten objects found at archaeological digs across the capital since the late 20th century have been photographed on the streets of modern day London, close to the places they were found or in locations closely associated to the story they tell. Admission free.

Scholar, courtier, magician: the lost library of John Dee, at the Royal College of Physicians of London, 11 St Andrews Place, Regents Park, until 29 July. Open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday only (but check in

advance at www.rcplondon.ac.uk/about-rcpl/venue/visiting). Admission free.

The Empress and the Gardener, drawings by Capability Brown's surveyor John Spyers on loan from The State Hermitage Museum in St Petersburg, from 28 April to 4 September at Hampton Court Palace.

Fire! Fire!, at the Museum of London from 23 July until 17 April 2017. An interactive exhibition to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London. Admission: adult from £8 online, child aged 5–16 years from £5 online (under 5s go free), concessions from £6.40 online.

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 until 7 May, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Cost £15 for CBA-SE members, £20 for non-members. Details from www.cbасouth-east.org/events, or email events@cbасouth-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.

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.

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, Märli Gaimster (020 7639 9091).

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