

Mosaic

The effects of Brexit

As flagged up in the Gromaticus page in this issue and following the decision by the UK to leave the EU, formal responses have started to be published, despite the great uncertainty that prevails. In advance of the referendum, The Heritage Alliance had issued a briefing 'Heritage & the EU: How the EU impacts on our heritage in England', identifying the key areas of anticipated impact. The obvious impact is in the area of EU funding for research programmes and wider public engagement for supporting the cultural heritage including archaeology. Cultural heritage receives significant amounts of EU funding from 2014 to 2020 with individual UK projects and multi-partner collaborations benefiting. The Museums Association has launched a Museum Taskforce, comprising UK museums, to look at the impact of Brexit and the challenges and opportunities that the sector faces in an increasingly difficult financial situation.

British Archaeological Awards

When the winners of the British Archaeological Awards were announced at the British Museum in July, London's archaeology featured but only in one category where both the winner and one of two highly commended projects were reliant on outside bodies to represent London. The National Geographic Magazine for its *Under London* feature was the winner of the category for the Best Public Presentation of Archaeology. London's Big Dig revealed layers of history and featured the sites of Crossrail, Blomberg London and 21 Lime Street. The published magazine was printed in 40 languages and was accompanied by online articles, films and graphics. A Museum of London display was able to share the archaeology to a more local audience and set the objects in a visual context in an accessible and compelling way. The jury was impressed by the innovative use of mixed media. The Crossrail excavations also featured in the highly commended award in the same category. The award went to True North Productions for Channel 4 for *Secret History, London's Lost Graveyard: The Crossrail Discovery* which was televised during the summer.

What's in a name?

The Museum of London's Archaeological Archive and Research Centre, known by all those who have anything to do with London's archaeology as the LAARC, has had a name change but whether it is for the better has to be seen. Now known merely as 'Museum of London Archaeological Archive' (MoLAA), one wonders the reason – losing the definite article before the name might be seen to weaken the Archive's position within

the Museum. Is it the Museum's intention to sideline the archaeological material and the ongoing research that creates the flesh for the bare bones of London's earlier history? More importantly the loss of the Research Centre in the title makes one fear for its future. Is it destined to become just a dead storage facility? The previous name had gravitas and was widely recognised both nationally and internationally, now it is much diluted and it is to be hoped that the Archive does not follow suit.

Now the good news

Two displays are, at least, celebrating the work of the Archaeological Archive. One is a temporary display: **'Delivering the Past'** which is a free display at the Museum of London providing the Archive with the opportunity to show archaeological material from the 1975 GPO excavations at Newgate Street, and to invite visitors to participate in a voluntary archiving project in November and December. The display continues until 8 January 2017.

The other is a touring exhibition: **'Skeletons: Our Buried Bones'**, a collaborative Wellcome Collection and the Museum of London venture, which is unearthing the stories behind bones from burial grounds across the UK. A small selection of skeletons from the Museum of London's 20,000-strong collection go on a UK-wide tour for the first time, allowing the results of London's osteological research to reach a wider audience. The tour starts at The Hunterian, University of Glasgow, and travels to Bristol and Leeds in 2017 where they will be displayed alongside skeletons from local burial grounds.

Chief Executive of MOLA to step down

It has been announced that Taryn Nixon will be leaving her post in autumn 2016 and the hunt is on for a replacement. Taryn joined MOLA in 1987 as a field archaeologist and rose to become Managing Director ten years later, a post she has held for the last 19 years. She has been appointed as a non-Executive Trustee on MOLA's Board so will be able to follow MOLA's progress in future years. Taryn intends to spend time pursuing her own projects and archaeological research. MOLA's Chairman, Michael Hoffman, said "During her time as Chief Executive, MOLA has become a robust and ambitious organisation which blends a commercial approach with academic and public benefit excellence. We look forward to having Taryn's continuing input as a non-executive member of the MOLA Board."

Good bye and thank you

Readers will also be saddened to hear that Dr Ralph Jackson is retiring from the British

Museum in October. Ralph has been Curator of the Romano-British collections for many years and has been a good friend to London's archaeology, the Roman period in particular. As a youth, he spent weekends digging in the City as a volunteer of the City of London Excavation Group (COLEG) on important excavations in the 1960s including Billingsgate house and baths and in pursuit of his archaeological and research career he has maintained an interest in London, contributing to *Beyond Londinium*, the publication honouring Harvey Sheldon. We wish him a busy and productive retirement.

Reminder of Library closure

In a previous issue of *London Archaeologist* (14.6) we flagged up the fact that Guildford Borough Council had given Surrey Archaeological Society notice to quit its office and library premises at Castle Arch even though it was closely associated with Guildhall Museum. However, subsequent discussions with Guildford have proved unsuccessful and the Surrey Archaeological Society Library moved to new premises in September. It is planned to fully re-open the Library at Abinger on Tuesday 3 January 2017. Please see the Surrey Archaeological Society website for details.

Future of Lambeth Archives

Lambeth Council has engaged a consultancy to look into the long-term future of the archives, especially its location with the possible option of remaining at the Minet. As part of a consultation exercise, the consultancy has created an online survey which is both aimed at users of the archives and to encourage a response from those who do not currently use them as to why they do not do so.

Collage

The excellent website Collage was relaunched in August with the London Picture Map where researchers can seek even more images (over 250,000 images) of London from the collections at London Metropolitan Archives and Guildhall Art Gallery and set them onto their place on a map of London. With this issue of *London Archaeologist* coinciding with the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire, one can call up both Tudor London and images of the Great Fire itself or pore over maps from the 15th century onwards.

Great Fire keeps on burning

In addition to the Great Fire events listed in the Diary for this autumn and an article in this issue, Nigel Jeffries will be reconsidering the archaeological evidence for the Great Fire in our next issue.

Diary

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

October

6 (11.00 am) Totally Thames series. 'Roman and Medieval Waterfronts: Recent Excavations at Sugar Quay, London' by Sadie Watson. National Maritime Museum, Tickets £8.00 (Members £6.00). See: www.rmg.co.uk/see-do/exhibitions-events/maritime-lecture-series-totally-thames

10 (1.00 pm) Gresham College 2016. 'The Early River Thames: the Iron Age and Before' by Jon Cotton. Free lecture. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 5HN.

10 (7.45 pm) West Essex Archaeol. Group. 'The Lea Valley before the Romans' by Ian Heritage. Sixth-form block, Woodford County High School, High Road, Woodford Green, IG8 9LA.

11 (8.00 pm) Hendon & District Archaeol. Society. 'Women in Medieval London' by Prof. Caroline Barron. Stephens House & Gardens, 17 East End Rd, Finchley, N3 3QE.

14 (7.30 pm) Enfield Archaeol. Society. 'Verulamium revealed' by Kris Lockyear. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

14 (8.00 pm) Richmond Archaeol. Society. 'Archaeology of the Thames' by Jon Cotton. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.

17 (1.00 pm) Gresham College 2016. 'The Growth of London as a Port from Roman to Medieval Times' by Gustav Milne. Free lecture. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 5HN.

21 (7.00 pm) City of London Archaeol. Society. 'Quarrying and selective deposition in Roman Ewell' by Alexis Haslam. St Olave's Hall, Mark Lane, EC3R 7BB.

28 (8.00 pm) Wandsworth History Society. 'Excavations at Brandon House in Southwark' by Pre-Construct Archaeology. Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street, SW18.

November

8 (8.00 pm) Hendon & District Archaeol. Society. 'The Cheapside Hoard' by Hazel Forsyth. Stephens House & Gardens, 17 East End Road, N3 3QE.

8 (6.30 pm) London & Middlesex Archaeol. Society. 'Recent Work at Hampton Court' by Daniel Jackson. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 5HN.

11 (7.30 pm) Enfield Archaeol. Society. 'Roman Pottery Making in Highgate Wood: Archaeology and Experiment' by Harvey Sheldon. Jubilee Hall, Parsonage Lane, Enfield.

11 (8.00 pm) Richmond Archaeol. Society. 'Recent Projects on London's scheduled monuments' by Jane Sidell. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.

14 (7.45 pm) West Essex Archaeol. Group. 'The Great Fire of London' by Gustav Milne. Sixth-form block, Woodford County High School, High Rd, Woodford Green.

17 (8.00 pm) Bexley Archaeol. Group. 'St Mary's Spitalfields – burials' by Don Watson. Bexley & Sidcup Conservative Club.

19 Station Road, Sidcup, Kent, DA15 7EB.

December

8 (6.30 pm) London & Middlesex Archaeol. Society. 'Syon Abbey Herbal' by Stuart Forbes and John Adams. Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 5HN.

battling with plague and almost ruined by flames before emerging in a new building designed by Robert Hooke.

SELECTION OF GREAT FIRE LECTURES AND EVENTS PLANNED FOR THE AUTUMN:

Great Fire Perspectives lecture series.

Museum of London, London Wall, EC2Y 5HN. Free advanced booking. See www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london/what's-on/exhibitions/fire-fire

5 October (3.00 pm) 'Plague, War and Hellfire' by Rebecca Rideal, author of *1666: Plague, War and Hellfire*, spotlights dramatic events to reveal an unprecedented period of terror and triumph.

2 November (3.00 pm) 'Resurgam: I will rise again' by Angelo Hornak illustrating how Sir Christopher Wren and colleagues rebuilt London's churches after the Great Fire.

5 December (7.00 pm) 'Out of the Ashes: Forensics, Insurance and Law' discussion by a team of experts exploring the lasting

9 (8.00 pm) Richmond Archaeol. Society. 'By the banks of the Wallbrook – excavations at the site of the Crossrail Broadgate Ticket Hall - total Bedlam!' by Alison Telfer. Vestry Rooms, Paradise Road, Richmond.

Conferences

1066: Interpreting the Norman Conquest in 2016. The Royal Armouries at the Tower of London, 14–16 October. Intended for a general audience. Contact 0113 220 1888 or bookings@armouries.org.uk.

Open Days

Crofton Roman Villa, Orpington, open Wed & Fridays until 28 October. Entry: Adults £1.50; Concessions £1.00; Family £4.00.

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).

legacies of the Great Fire – laws, building regulations and the development of investigation techniques.

Tour the Thames: river and fire

10 December (1.15 pm). Take a boat trip down the Thames and discover how the city was affected by the Great Fire of London and how the new city emerged. The event will be led by Meriel Jeater, curator of Fire! Fire! and Hazel Forsyth, Senior Curator of Medieval and Post-Medieval Archaeological Collections, Museum of London. The tour goes from Westminster Pier to the O2 and back again. For adults (min age: 10); Duration: 3 hrs; Paid advanced booking: £38.00. See www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london/event-detail?id=75408.

Out of the fire

A programme of walks, talks and tours, special sermons & debates to mark the 350th anniversary of the Great Fire of London is taking place until April 2017 at St Paul's Cathedral. For details, see www.stpauls.co.uk/fire.

Commemorating the Great Fire

Exhibitions

Fire! Fire! at the Museum of London until 17 April 2017. Interactive exhibition commemorating the Great Fire of London. Admission: adult from £8.00 online; child aged from 5-16 years £4.00 (under 5s go free); concessions from £6.40 online. See preview in LA **14** (9) 250-1.

London's Baking! Bakers, Cakes, Bread and Puddings from 1666 at London Metropolitan Archives until 1 Feb 2017. Inspired by Thomas Farriner and his bakery, the starting place of the Great Fire, this free exhibition tells the story of London's bakers and their cakes, breads and puddings from 1666 to the 20th century.

To Fetch Out the Fire: Reviving London 1666 at the Royal College of Physicians until 16 Dec 2016. Discover the story of the razing and rebuilding of the Royal College of Physicians. The free display follows the physicians divided by war,