

# Mosaic

## PLA introduce access charges

The PLA are introducing a fee for access to the foreshore. Previously it has been the case that people were able to walk and collect material along the foreshore provided they did not scrape the surface or dig down.

The PLA have decided that treasure hunting has become too popular and they hope it will save London's archaeological heritage. It seems that the increase in treasure hunting, metal detecting and foreshore plundering without reporting or recording has taken off massively in recent years and amateur treasure hunters have been failing to report significant finds. It has also been stressed that it was a safety measure to ensure that people wear sensible clothing, carry a phone and check the tides.

The new charges are high: an adult permit valid for 3 years now costs £75; a junior (12–17 years) costs £37 and must be accompanied by a permit-holding adult. The daily permit is £32.

How will it affect the FROGS who have been covered by TDP's licence when on guided walks, or recording or monitoring the foreshore for which TDP have a 'dig and scrape' licence? After meeting with the PLA, Natalie Cohen of the TDP has confirmed that they will be allowed to continue their recording work without charge, while people on their guided walks will be informed of the rules with any collected objects checked before they leave the foreshore.

More details are available on the TDP website, but licences are now required for anyone searching the foreshore for objects.

## Fish for Fridays?

If you've ever wondered about the value of wet-sieving large numbers of soil samples, a paper published this year<sup>1</sup> shows the sort of results that can be achieved from the comparative analysis of samples from thousands of litres of deposits. It builds on the earlier discovery of London's 'Fish Event Horizon': an apparently significant increase in the consumption of marine fish species in London from about the 11th century. Various reasons have been put forward, ranging from the collapse of supplies of freshwater fish to an increase in the amount of deposit sieved from this period compared to other periods.

This paper shows that neither of these explains the apparent increase; it's real and it predates the decline in freshwater fish supplies. The reason remains an open question; it might be due to an increase in the demand for fish or it might reflect improvements in fishing techniques and so of the availability of fish. Apart from throwing light on the diet of medieval Londoners, the paper shows the potential for applying this approach to other topics.

## Funding boost for new Museum of London

The Museum of London is to receive funding of £110m from the City and a pledge of £70m from the GLA (using a 25-year loan from the City), so a total of £180m out of the £250m required to convert the derelict Smithfield Market Victorian buildings into the planned new museum (see *LA* 14 (10) 270–2). The remaining funding is up to the museum to raise from donations from the private sector, charitable foundations and individuals.

A planning application will be made in 2018 in the hope that the new museum will open in 2022. Much of that funding will be spent on the restoration works, one just hopes that there is enough left in the pot to do justice to the wonderful early collections, the unique selling point of the Museum.

## New Film

A new educational film, *Bronze Age Runnymede: Excavations at Runnymede Bridge*, has been published on YouTube,<sup>2</sup> using British Museum archive film about the large excavation of the 1980s, directed by then British Museum curator, Stuart Needham.

To contribute to the understanding of who the people were and what they were doing, the 36-minute film has been produced by Egham Museum and funded by the Young Roots Heritage Lottery Fund. It is a mix of archive film and animations with Neil Wilkin of the British Museum, Heather Knight of MOLA, Jon Cotton and David Bird interpreting the nature of the archaeological evidence and the importance of the site and the use of the River Thames as a highway.

## Crofton Roman Villa

2016 saw the celebration of 25 years of the Crofton Roman Villa, Orpington. A rescue excavation lasting 10 weeks in 1988 led to the remains of the villa being preserved under a building and it was opened to the public in 1992 as a partnership between the London Borough of Bromley and the Kent unit. Over 120,000 visitors have received guided talks around the site and attended special events and displays. The Kent unit continues to run the site jointly with LB Bromley relying on a team of volunteers to open the site through the summer months.

1. D. Orton, J. Morris, and A. Pipe (2017) 'Catch per Unit Research Effort: Sampling Intensity, Chronological Uncertainty, and the Onset of Marine Fish Consumption in Historic London' *Open Quaternary* 3 (1) (2017) 1–20.

2. [www.youtube.com/watch?V=tNd0vOSyM80](https://www.youtube.com/watch?V=tNd0vOSyM80)

## Lambeth Palace Library

Details of the plans for the new Lambeth Palace Library have been announced. The elegant contemporary brick building takes its design cues from the gate tower of the neighbouring Tudor Lambeth Palace buildings and emerges seamlessly from the red brick perimeter wall of the Palace gardens. The single storey building will rise to a well-proportioned eight-storey tower, acknowledging the historically defensive nature of buildings which create an entrance to the otherwise secure Palace gardens. We await to see how it will impact the archaeology in Lambeth Palace Garden.

## Where the Dickens?

A new downloadable GPS has Lucinda Hawksley, author and broadcaster (Dickens' great great great granddaughter), walking in his footsteps. The audio walk starts near the former Furnival's Inn where Dickens began writing the *Pickwick Papers*. The hour-long trip ends at 48 Doughty Street, Dickens' only surviving London home, and close to the Charles Dickens Museum.

Smartphone users can download VoiceMaps free walking tour app and purchase the 'Charles Dickens from Furnival's Inn to Doughty Street' audio tour for £3.99. It uses the smartphone's GPS device to pinpoint locations in Victorian London that Dickens would have encountered on his daily walks.

## Marion Shipley

It is with regret that we announce that Marion Shipley, former Curator of Kingston Museum and a Director of the Surrey Archaeological Society, died on 21 December aged 75. Her rescue excavations in Kingston-upon-Thames included the recording of prehistoric and Roman remains at Eden Walk in the 1970s. She wrote for *London Archaeologist* under the name of Marion Hinton.

## Ivor Noël Hume

Sadly, too, in early February we heard of the news of the death of Ivor Noël Hume, who played a vital role in the history of London's post-war rescue archaeology as excavations assistant of the Guildhall Museum, one of the predecessors of the Museum of London. He then moved to Colonial Williamsburg in the USA to be the chief archaeologist there, thus continuing his career in archaeology and introducing the advanced techniques being practiced in Britain at that time. A full obituary will appear in Vol. 15, No. 1.

# Diary

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

## April

**7** (8.00 pm) Enfield Archaeological Society. AGM and lecture 'Excavations & Fieldwork of the Enfield Archaeological Society [EAS]' by Dr Martin Dearne, EAS. Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield (close to Chase Side), EN2 0AJ.5

**7** (8.00 pm) Richmond Archaeological Society. 'Bucklersbury to Bloomberg: Excavations on a site in the City of London' by Jessica Bryan. Vestry Rooms, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond, TW9 1SA.

**11** (6.30 pm) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Liquid Assets: Interpreting the Prehistoric Finds from the Thames' by Jon Cotton. Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN. Joint lecture with Prehistoric Society.

**11** (7.30 pm) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. Symposium: Short talks on various subjects of local historical and archaeological interest. New Cut Housing Co-Operative Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1 8LN.

**21** (1.30 pm) The British Museum. 'Westminster Palace: the heart of power' by Lloyd de Beer. Room 40, Great Russell Street, WC1B 3DG (free).

**27** (6.30 pm) Ecclesiastical Society. 'The Archaeology of Wren's St Paul's Cathedral' by John Schofield, followed by AGM and informal reception. St Alban's Centre, Baldwins Gardens, EC1N 7AB.

## May

**3** (6.00 pm) Docklands History Group. 'The Forgotten Parish of Denton' by Christopher Bull. Museum of London Docklands, No. 1 Warehouse, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL.

**3** (8.00 pm) Epsom & Ewell Historical & Archaeological Society. 'Worms, ashes and bone: excavations at Cocks Farm, Abinger 1876-2016' by Emma Corke. St Mary's Church Hall, London Road, Ewell, KT17 2AY.

**9** (6.15 pm) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society. 'Roman London's First Voices: The Writing Tablets from the Bloomberg Excavations' by Sadie Watson (Museum of London Archaeology). Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN.

**9** (7.30 pm) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Brandon House: recent excavations in Borough High Street' by Chris Mayo (PreConstruct Archaeology). New Cut Housing Co-Operative Hall, 106 The Cut, SE1 8LN.

**17** (7.30 pm) Islington Archaeology & History Society. "The sky was lurid with

flame" – Germany's First World War bomber offensive against London' by Ian Castle.

Islington Town Hall, Upper Street, N1 2UD.

**18** (8.15 pm) Bexley Archaeological Group. 'Cobham Landscape Detectives: year one' by Andrew Mayfield (Kent County Council Community Archaeologist and Historic Environment Record Officer). Sidcup Conservative Club, 19 Station Road, DA15 7EB.

## June

**13** (7.30 pm) Greenwich Industrial History Society. 'Charlton Riverside' by James Hulme. The Old Bakehouse Theatre (rear of Age Exchange Centre), 11 Blackheath Village, SE3 9LA (opp. Blackheath Station).

## Conferences

### Subterranea Britannica Spring Meeting,

9.30 am to 5.15 pm, Saturday 22 April in Lecture Theatre 1.31, Imperial College London, Royal School of Mines, Prince Consort Road, SW7 2BP.

### Docklands History Group Sixth Annual Conference – Thames River Crossings.

10.30 am to 5.30 pm, Saturday 13 May, at the Museum of London Docklands, No. 1 Warehouse, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL.

## Places to Visit

### 1 April–26 November 2017

#### Billingsgate Roman House & Baths

Take a tour of these surviving remains of ancient Roman life hidden beneath the heart of the city. Join one of the Museum of London's hosts on a 1-hour guided tour of this archaeological site. Explore this fascinating insight into ancient life in the City and discover the remains of the Roman Bathhouse which lies hidden beneath office buildings. 101 Lower Thames Street, EC3R 6DL. Weekends only, advance booking essential via Museum of London website, £8.00 (concessions £6.00).

#### Ongoing: Charterhouse Museum

In January 2017 the Charterhouse opened its doors to the public for the first time since its foundation in 1348. They are asking visitors 'to help us shape this exciting venture before our official opening later in the year. We hope you will come and preview the new museum to discover our fascinating story and share your opinions on all that we have to offer.' Tuesday to Sunday 11.00 am to 4.45 pm (last admission). The Charterhouse, Charterhouse Square, EC1M 6AN.

## Exhibitions

### East End Stories: Londoners in Transition

East London has a long and fascinating history of regeneration and change. This exhibition provides snapshots of everyday lives as the metropolis expanded and new communities emerged over the centuries. Touching on education, trade, leisure and health, East End Stories draws on the collections and archives in UCL Library Services. This exhibition runs in the Main Library of University College London, Gower Street, WC1E 6BT to 15 December.

### Tunnel: the archaeology of Crossrail.

This continues at Museum of London Docklands until 3 September. A complete range of archaeological objects unearthed by Crossrail, Europe's largest infrastructure project, is on display alongside the story of this great feat of engineering. It explores 8,000 years of human history, ranging from Mesolithic tool makers and inhabitants of Roman Londinium to those affected by the Great Plague of 1665. Finds came from locations as diverse as Abbey Wood in the south-east, through Canary Wharf, across to Liverpool Street, Tottenham Court Road and ending in Westbourne Park and Acton.

## Practical archaeology

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

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

**Croydon & District.** Contact Jim Davidson, 8 Brentwood Rd, 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 Märit Gaimster, Finds Manager (020 7639 9091).

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

## Fieldwork and Publication Round-up

Contributions to the Fieldwork or Publication Round-up for 2016 should be sent to archaeologicalarchive@museumoflondon.org.uk before 1 July 2017. Please clearly title them as LONDON ARCHAEOLOGIST ROUND-UP 2016. They should be modelled on entries in the 2015 Round-up. Send details of publications by local archaeological societies for sites within the M25 boundary to the same address.