

# Mosaic

## Nesta Caiger

It is with regret that we have to announce the death of Nesta Caiger on March 9th. She was responsible for *London Archaeologist* promotions prior to becoming LA Secretary in 1976, a post which she fulfilled until 1999, a not inconsiderable period of service.

Based in Kent, she was also a long-standing member of Kent Archaeological Society but also published in LA (see Vol 3, 1977, 131–5). Shiela Broomfield, LA treasurer/membership secretary at that time, remembers the two of them stuffing envelopes for each issue of LA and that, as an enthusiastic cook, Nesta enhanced LA AGMs with her culinary efforts. With an extensive knowledge of and travels in Egypt, she self-published a book, *Armana Royals or Who was Nefertiti* in 1996.

## Geoffrey Wainwright

Known to many London archaeologists, Geoff Wainwright also died in March. He became an Inspector and later Principal Inspector of Ancient Monuments at DoE/English Heritage until 1990. He was Chief Archaeologist there until his retirement in 1999. He was instrumental in the adoption of PPG 16 (Planning Policy Guidance Note 16: Archaeology and Planning) in 1990 which included archaeology within the planning process. This followed the public outcry after the threatened destruction of such sites as the Rose Theatre (for news, see below).

## The Archbishops' Vault

In 2015, the Garden Museum closed in order to refurbish the interior, build an extension for learning and increase the size of the café. Building works included levelling the floor of the chancel of the church of St Mary's-at-Lambeth, in which the Museum is housed. To lower the floor level, the contractors were required to lift and re-lay ledgers which had been built into the chancel floor in 1851, some of which weighed up to 1,500kg.

Below these slabs a concrete block was lifted to reveal a flight of steps into a recorded vault below the Chancel for high status burials, including those of five Archbishops of Canterbury. Twenty coffins have been found in the vault, and four of these have been identified as: John Bettesworth, Dean of Arches, Judge of the Archbishops Prerogative court; Richard Bancroft, Archbishop of Canterbury; John Moore, Archbishop of Canterbury and his wife Catherine. See [www.gardenmuseum.org.uk/page/the-archbishops-tomb](http://www.gardenmuseum.org.uk/page/the-archbishops-tomb)

## For whom the bell tolls

Despite various groups championing the Whitechapel Bell Foundry after it announced in December 2016 that it was to close, the foundry cast its last bell in March and closed in May 2017. Thought to be Britain's oldest manufacturing company, it was established in 1570 and moved to Whitechapel in 1738. It has been run by the Hughes family for the last 113 years. Among its products, the Big Ben bell, the largest ever cast at Whitechapel, was cast in 1858 and the Liberty Bell, the iconic symbol of American independence, was cast in 1752.

The very last bell was commissioned by the Museum of London, and the foundry is donating machinery and artefacts to be displayed with the bell at the museum's new site in Smithfield. The site has been sold but is protected by its Grade II\* listing, and the foundry's work will continue through two other firms who will cast, hang and tune bells, using Whitechapel patterns and traditions. The firm's records will go to the London Metropolitan Archive for conservation and cataloguing.

## An American in London

Benjamin Franklin House, the only surviving home of Benjamin Franklin (1705/06–90), has received a HLF grant of £85,800 for three specific digital displays for his Grade I listed building. He lived at No 36 Craven Street for sixteen years before the American Revolution.

Pioneer of haematology, William Hewson, lived at No 36 for two years from 1772 at the same time as Franklin. In 1998, workmen discovered the remains of six children and four adults underneath the house. These may relate to medical experiments carried out by Hewson, but one suspects that this information might not be covered by the new interpretations.

## When a house is not a home

The Sir John Soane's Museum, in Lincoln's Inn Fields, re-opened to the public in September 2016 after a five year and £7 million renovation project. The intention was to return the house to how it was when Sir John Soane lived there, fulfilling his wish that the house and his collection should be preserved exactly as it was after his death. By taking over the adjoining house, offices and other facilities were relocated so that the house could be reinstated in the extra space. The museum has been short-listed for Museum of the Year 2017. See [www.soane.org/collections-research/key-stories/opening-soane](http://www.soane.org/collections-research/key-stories/opening-soane)

## A play within a play

*Act 1:* The Department for Culture, Media and Sport, advised by Historic England, has scheduled the sites of various Elizabethan playhouses in London, including The Theatre in Hackney, The Hope in Bankside, and three bear-baiting pits also in Southwark. The remains of Shakespeare's Curtain Theatre, dating back to 1577 and discovered in 2012, will be displayed *in situ* along with some of the excavated artefacts. The opening of the visitor centre at The Stage, a new £750 million mixed-use development in Shoreditch, is one step towards this happening.

*Act 2:* The building that holds the current remains of the Rose Theatre has finally been bought and has a brighter future as it is to become the UK headquarters for WPP, business leaders in advertising and marketing services.

The Rose is to be granted a much needed 25-year lease to enable the Rose Theatre Trust to seek grants and funds to further its display.

Harvey Sheldon, instrumental in the preservation of the Rose and who is now Chairman of the Trust board, said 'This is a very important step forward for the Rose Theatre Trust. With a secure lease, we can actively approach the grant-giving Foundations, seeking the £8 million required to complete the excavations, install a permanent conservation regime to protect the monument, then build the visitor centre. In this way, we will bring the Rose back to a wider public, both as an archaeological site where they can learn about the Elizabethan playhouse and its significance, but also experience and enjoy performances, at a place returned to its original role on the now revived Bankside.'

It is hoped that they will find all of the foundations of the theatre and the remains of a stair turret that theatre-goers would have used to reach the galleries and that the visitor centre will allow the public to watch the excavations, get within touching distance of the remains and to watch performances where the stage would have been.

Although wanting a performance space, the Rose Theatre Trust has no wish to compete with the Shakespeare's Globe. Joint ventures with the Globe have already been held which have included walking tours along Bankside and a guided tour of the site. The site is currently open for viewing every Saturday afternoon with plays being staged on a regular basis. See: [www.roseplayhouse.org.uk/experience/events](http://www.roseplayhouse.org.uk/experience/events)

# Diary

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

## July

**8** (2.30 pm) East Surrey Family History Society. 'The Aircraft Industry in Richmond, Ham & Kingston' by David Hassard. Vestry House, 21 Paradise Road, Richmond-upon-Thames, TW9 1SA.

**20** (8.00 pm) Bexley Archaeological Group. 'Scadbury Manor' by the Orpington and District Archaeological Society. Sidcup Conservative Club, 19 Station Road, DA15 7EB.

**21** (7.00 pm) City of London Archaeological Society. 'From Battle Bridge to Kings Cross: the making of an inner London suburb' by Rebecca Haslam, PCA. St. Olave's Church Hall, Mark Lane, EC3R 7BB.

## September

**8** (8.00 pm) Enfield Archaeological Society. 'Forty Hall: hidden secrets – archaeological monitoring of refurbishment work, 2012–14' by Neil Pinchbeck, EAS. Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield, EN2 0AJ.

**12** (1.00 pm) Society of Antiquaries. 'Smithfield Market: Its Remarkable General Market, those Curious Columns and the Museum of London' by Dr Jennifer Freeman. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1J 0BE.

## Excavations

### Copped Hall Trust Archaeological Project 2017 (West Essex Archaeological Group)

The 2017 season of digs includes two Archaeology Weekends (15–16, 22–23 July) and one Geophysics Taster Weekend for absolute beginners (29–30 July), see: [www.weag.org.uk/events\\_taster.html](http://www.weag.org.uk/events_taster.html) For the more experienced, there are two Field Schools (each of five days) in August (Sat 12–Wed 16 and Sat 26–Wed 30). See: [www.weag.org.uk/events\\_fieldschool](http://www.weag.org.uk/events_fieldschool)

### Scadbury Manor

A medieval moated manor house site in Chislehurst, Kent, currently being excavated by the Orpington and District Archaeological Society. Two open days on Saturday 9 and Sunday 10 September from 2.00–4.30 pm. Free entry, self-guided tours; see [www.odas.org.uk/scadbury/](http://www.odas.org.uk/scadbury/)

## Places to Visit

### Poverest Road Roman Bathhouse & Anglo-Saxon Cemetery

2017 Orpington and District Archaeological Society are holding Open Days on Saturday 22 and Sunday 23 July from 11.00 am–12.30 pm and 1.30–4.00 pm.

## Festival of Archaeology 15–30 July 2017

Over 16 days, the annual Festival of Archaeology this year features more than 1,000 events nationwide, mostly free.

In London, activities for all ages are being organised by museums, local societies, heritage sites and specialist projects, from Upminster to Kingston. Among the highlights of early listings:

- Fulham Palace is offering an interactive archaeology tour
- the Society of Antiquaries' event, 'Blood Royal', showcases its fantastic collection of Tudor portraits
- COLAS heads further afield than usual, to Tower Hamlets and Nunhead cemeteries, with object handling, dressing up and more
- excavations at Upminster Windmill will be open for visiting, and there's an archaeology family fun day too



- it's the once-a-year chance to visit the ice wells at the Canal Museum
- All Hallows by the Tower is organising a big Roman walk
- learn to march like a Roman soldier at Brent Museum's Roman days
- Kingston Museum has a new sensory tour around the town, using touch, hearing, sight and smell to sense history and archaeology.

Events are being registered right up to the start date, so check the festival website for latest details and timings:

[www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk](http://www.archaeologyfestival.org.uk)

### Emery Walker's house

After extensive refurbishment, the House has re-opened. It was the home of a key member of The Arts & Crafts Movement, a close friend of William Morris and father of the Private Press movement. The collection includes William Morris' 17th century library chair, Philip Webb furniture and glass, ceramics by William de Morgan and a Burne-Jones portrait of May Morris. One hour tours run at 11.00 am, 1.00 pm and 3.00 pm on Thursdays and Saturdays until 25 November, but limited to eight visitors, due to the size and fragile nature of the house. You must prebook through Eventbrite from [www.emerywalker.org.uk/visit](http://www.emerywalker.org.uk/visit)

## Walks and Courses

### London History and Walks (City Lit)

These courses offer lively classroom discussions and popular walks around the City so you can discover who and what has left their mark and where. For dates, locations and prices (concessions and seniors prices available), see: [www.citylit.ac.uk/courses/history-culture-and-writing/history/london-history-and-walks](http://www.citylit.ac.uk/courses/history-culture-and-writing/history/london-history-and-walks)

**17 and 24 July** The City's secret spaces. 14:00–16:00, Eleanor Jackson (tutor).  
**2 August** Medieval London: the underworld. 10:45–15:45, Keeley Street, WC2B 4BA, Vanessa King (tutor).

**4 August** Medieval London: healthcare. 10:45–15:45, Keeley Street, Vanessa King.

**9 August** Medieval London: immigration. 10:45–15:45, Keeley Street, Vanessa King.

**11 August** Sightseeing in the age of Chaucer. 10:45–15:45, Keeley Street, Vanessa King (includes a guided city walk).

## 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).