

Mosaic

Furloughs and farewells

The closure of building sites has forced many units to furlough their excavation teams. AOC continued to do some site work as rail sites were able to continue through the lockdown. However, at PCA, ASE and MOLA, the excavation teams have been furloughed for the foreseeable future, and others, office-based or working on post-excavation projects, are gradually being furloughed, while at MOLA several of the staff have taken early retirement or 'voluntary' redundancy in advance of restructuring. As a result, we say good bye to the likes of Fiona Seeley, Portia Askew and Ian Blair.

At the Museum of London, those staff working on plans for the New Museum and temporary exhibitions will be working from home, while those members of staff who needed to be based at the museum, like the hosts and the conservation and photographic departments have been furloughed.

TDP

TDP has been badly affected as Eliot Wragg was made redundant at the end of March, leaving Helen Johnston as the only core member of staff. Will Rathouse is funded by the City Bridge Trust for the follow-up project to the one described in this issue, while Josh Frost remains funded by Tideway to do community outreach and work with schools and young people.

There is now only one core member of staff – so sad when you see what TDP have achieved over the years (see the two TDP features in this issue). They hope to be back on the foreshore at some point this year, but for now all their fieldwork and public events are on hold.

New CBA director

Mike Heyworth stepped down from the CBA at the end of 2019, after nearly 30 years working for the educational charity, the last 15 as its Director. He was instrumental in establishing the Archaeology Data Service and *Internet Archaeology*, a pioneering online journal.

Neil Redfern has been appointed as his successor. With a varied career, he is mindful of the need to strengthen the CBA's core, and wishes to create a greater understanding of cultural value, and to make archaeology more accessible to a wider audience and not just to fellow archaeologists.

Haverling hoard exhibition

The bad news is that the Haverling Hoard exhibition (as featured in LA 15(12)) never reached the Museum of Docklands exhibition – the objects were on their way to Docklands ready for installation when they were recalled to London Wall prior to the museum's shutdown. The good news is that the exhibition is just postponed,



During the period of the lockdown there has been a strong desire to keep in contact – it was no different in Roman London. This fine late 1st-century copper-alloy lid of an ink well, from Drapers' Gardens, is elaborately decorated with silver and niello and came from a tributary of the Walbrook.

© Pre-Construct Archaeology

not cancelled, and will open soon after the museum re-opens.

The way forward?

While other societies were cancelling or postponing their conferences, Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society went online. Two hundred people 'distant-attended' the society's first Conference-on-the-Web on Saturday 4 April. The online conference was a joint effort between the Bucks Archaeological Society and Fusion, the main archaeological contractors for HS2. Fusion provided the speakers and organised the webinar technology which delivered the four-hour conference to those socially distancing and self-isolating.

The talks revolved around the new archaeological discoveries of Roman and Saxon buildings along the route of the construction for the future HS2 from the Colne Valley, as far north as Northamptonshire and Warwickshire. It proved to be a great success and points the way forward (see <https://bas1.org.uk/>).

A report of each talk can be found on their website (see <https://bas1.org.uk/hs2-bas-conference-2020>). Other societies are following the trend and perhaps this may be the way forward.

Tunnel vision

Specialist engineers are being brought in to strengthen the rail tunnel that runs beneath the site of the new Museum of London. The tunnel lies directly below the new £337 million development.

An additional problem could be that the original Poultry Market building was destroyed by fire in 1958 and was replaced by a new building, soon to be the new

Museum of London, in 1963. Leading to the death of two firemen, the fire had been very difficult to control and had spread through a labyrinth of cellars and tunnels under the site – an area of 1.01 hectares (2.5 acres). The fire brigade had concentrated on trying to save the surface buildings.

It is to be hoped that the new museum will have better fire protection for all those nooks and crannies (see <https://tinyurl.com/yb3o57dy>).

Proud Places

Heritage of London Trust was awarded a three-year grant of £300,000 from the Jones Day Foundation in February 2020 to develop and deliver 'Proud Places'.

Work with schools will begin in autumn 2020. Key Stages 2–4 pupils will visit local sites to find out their history and importance with follow-up classroom workshops, and older students will be offered presentation skills training from outside mentors.

Fifty shades of grey

There have been various projects over the last few years aimed to provide access to the varied and numerous reports produced for clients, local government and the like that were not official publications and not easy to access.

The main project was that of the Archaeology Data Service based at the University of York. This was followed by the OASIS (Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations) project to produce a single index of grey literature. Now 55,000 of these 80,000 unpublished Fieldwork Reports reports have been made available on ADS, with 5,000 being added every year, and they are being widely used.

OASIS is now being redeveloped to improve its use, with the ultimate intention of being able to follow the trail through from excavation to its final deposition and curation within a museum.

Pot dates update

It has always been difficult to closely date prehistoric finds but now Professor Richard Evershed, of the University of Bristol's School of Chemistry, has moved on from analysing Roman London's pot of face cream from Tabard Square to coming up with a new method of dating pottery up to 8,000 years old in Britain, Europe and Africa.

Until now, radiocarbon has been used to date bones or organic materials buried with pots. They can now be dated directly from the fatty acids left after preparing food. Organic residues on Early Neolithic pottery from Principal Place, Spitalfields, have been dated by C14 to c. 3600 BC.

Groundhog day

Chris Constable is returning to Southwark as Borough Archaeologist after four years away.



@LondonArchaeo Annual Lecture 2020 with @AdamCorsini talking about @LayersofLondon and its potential for London's archaeological research.

6:58 pm · 14 May 2020 · Twitter for Android

1 Retweet 10 Likes



sinéad marshall @Dais... · 20h
Replying to @JackieKeily, @LondonArchaeo and 2 others

Isn't it a fab site, so much potential for synthesising all the disparate records!

1 2

Jackie Keily @Jacki... · 18h

Amazing. I hadn't realised the full extent of the archaeological records available on @LayersofLondon

STOP PRESS: Annual Lecture, 14 May 2020 – The Layers of London Project: putting archaeology on the map

Adam Corsini of the Layers of London Project described how to discover past excavations online previously published in *London Archaeologist* over the last 50 years. They are currently being mapped by a team of trained volunteers on to Layers of London, a free online, crowd-sourced mapping resource.

Summaries of over 414 articles, previously published in *London Archaeologist*, have now been mapped online, and there are about 60 more issues of the magazine to be prepared for inclusion. The records provide a link to the downloadable PDFs on ADS, making the articles even more accessible and putting them in their geographical context. Other bodies,

like Museum of London Archaeology and Historic England, have also added archaeological material.

He demonstrated the methods of sourcing *London Archaeologist* articles and encouraged the audience to test it and to send him any comments. Twitter comments and retweets that appeared during the presentation expressed amazement at the full extent of the archaeological records now available on Layers of London.

An earlier summary of the project's progress can be seen in a previous issue (LA 15 (11), 310–11) and the film is now available via the *London Archaeologist* website: www.londonarchaeologist.org.uk/news.html

All set to enjoy the online lecture – watching while sipping a glass of white wine! (@ J Keily)

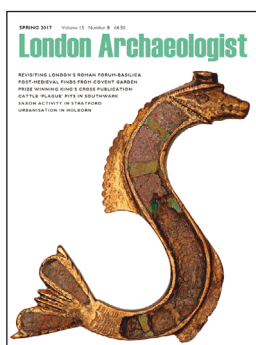
At the time of preparation of this issue, it was not possible to include any listings for societies' events during the summer months in the Diary, due to uncertainty as to whether they can be held.

CBA Festival of Archaeology 11–26 July 2020

Please check the CBA and TDP websites for up-to-date details:
<http://www.thamesdiscovery.org/events>
<https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/find>

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Souvenir!

London Archaeologist
1968-2018

Fifty Years of London's Archaeology: Papers from the 50th anniversary conference

This book presents a collection of papers written to celebrate fifty years of *London Archaeologist* magazine, from 1968 to 2018. It presents broad and multi-faceted views of London's archaeology throughout the latter part of the 20th and into the 21st century. It is to be hoped that this will provide a lasting legacy, both for the magazine and for all of those involved or interested in the archaeology of Greater London.

Part 1: Archaeology in London 1968–2018

Part 2: People in Archaeology

Part 3: New Approaches, New Possibilities

Part 4: Interpretation and Presentation

Part 5: The future of London's Archaeology

Part 6: Period Synopses by five leading specialists in their field:
on Prehistoric London – Jon Cotton; Roman London – Peter Rowsome;
Saxon London – Robert Cowie; Medieval London – John Schofield;
and Post-medieval London – Jacqui Pearce

London Archaeologist

Fifty Years of London's Archaeology:
Papers from the 50th Anniversary Conference



Edited by Victoria Ridgeway, Diana Briscoe, Jenny Hall and Becky Wallower

How to Buy

Published in March 2020, *Fifty Years of London's Archaeology* is now available either through our website, where an order form can be downloaded:

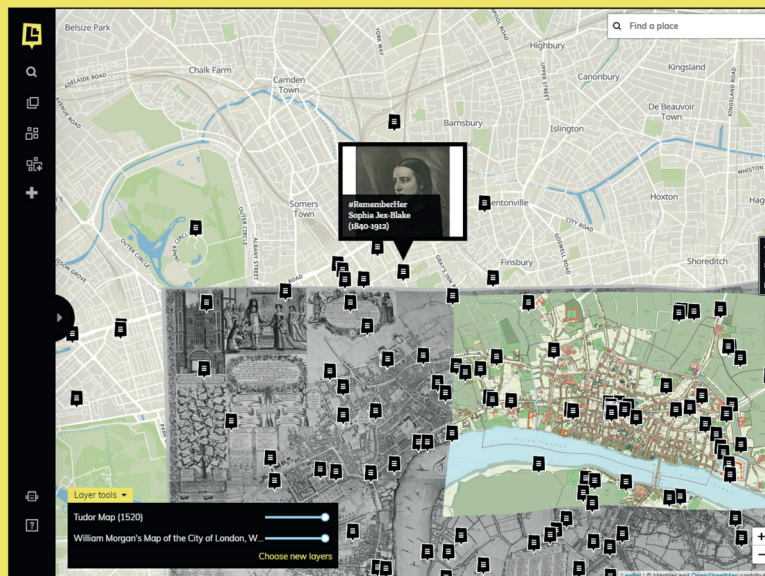
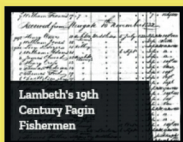
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