

Mosaic

At a tilt

A combined project between ASE and the Captivate Research Group at the School of Design at the University of Greenwich has found the possible location of Greenwich Palace's jousting tiltyard. Using ground-penetrating radar, the remains of two octagonal buildings appeared, thought to be the viewing towers of the lost tiltyard. Excavations by ASE will now take place in the grounds of the National Maritime Museum.

Recent press coverage then recorded the fact that this was where Henry VIII had had a bad jousting fall and had lain unconscious for some two hours, when he was thought to be dying. This news was relayed to his wife at the time, Anne Boleyn. She was then pregnant, but shortly afterwards, she miscarried a boy.

A 2016 study in the *Journal of Clinical Neuroscience* concluded that this head trauma may account for a permanent and adverse change in the king's personality.

Sound experience?

An acoustic study of Stonehenge in a recent *Journal of Archaeological Science* has found that the large sarsen ring would have improved the listening experience by amplifying the sound, whether it was speech or music. The sound would have been dull and muffled for those outside the ring.

Perhaps the dull hum of incessant traffic on the A303 was the reason for the Transport Secretary finally granting permission to build a two-mile (3.2km) tunnel out of sight of the monument. To cost £2 billion, it will go against the recommendations of planning officials and many environmental and archaeological campaigners.

English Heritage have said the scheme will restore the ancient landscape around the monument, a world heritage site, allowing the public to experience the monument and its environs to the full.

Preparatory work is due to begin in spring next year, with the five-year construction phase expected to start by 2023.

On the waterfront

In April 2018, Archaeopress published *London's Waterfront 1100–1666* in print form or as a 500-page text that could be downloaded as a free PDF from either Archaeopress or the City of London Archaeological Trust's website.

Two and a half years later, the number of downloads stands at 1,379, far more than for any other London monograph. This is surely the best way for archaeologists to spread the news of scholarship and discoveries around the world.

Abbeys at large



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Excavations by PCA at Westminster Abbey have revealed the remains of the L-shaped foundations of the Great Sacristy, built in the 1250s at the behest of Henry III. Many fragments of medieval wall plaster were found, and the Sacristy was probably decorated with hand-painted white, red and black flowers (see above).

The work also revealed stone-lined graves of early medieval burials. A Roman sarcophagus had been found there in 1869 and is currently on display in the Westminster Abbey Galleries. It had been re-used for a medieval burial, probably in the 11th century.

ASE, while excavating a large site near the surviving remains of Barking Abbey, have found two early medieval buildings and a wall, possibly part of the Abbey's precinct.

Pest ridden

The past year being dominated by death and disease has led to discussions about earlier plagues and what caused them. Some have questioned whether the Great Plague was caused by rats at all. The first areas affected started in the St-Giles-in-the-Fields area west of the City. It then spread to other crowded poorer areas outside the City while the rich living in the City were initially less affected.

Marseilles University has researched the last example of plague in France in the early 1700s and has found that its outbreak started with rats and their fleas, which then transferred the disease to human body lice.

Britain's last example of the disease was in the tenements of the Gorbals in Glasgow in 1900. The medical report was ahead of its time as it listed those that were affected and contact-traced others, noting who became ill. Living close together in the slums, 36 people got the plague and 18 died. So best to keep human lice at bay in clothing and bedding, as well as wearing masks or possibly being vaccinated.

Valuable collections at risk

The Society of Antiquaries has launched a public campaign to stay in its home at Burlington House and to protect its collection of 170,000 historically significant artefacts. The Society has been based Burlington House for over 145 years, in a building specifically built in 1870 for both the Society and the other learned societies in the courtyard.

Since then, under a bespoke Government arrangement, the Societies have delivered immense public value as a hub of cultural and scientific discovery, set as they are in the Royal Academy quadrangle – working to increase public understanding of history and culture through research, conservation, and outreach. Over the last few years public accessibility has been especially to the fore.

Mediation on the terms of the lease in 2005 led to the agreement of a 10-year lease, renewable seven times, allowing a more manageable and slower rise to market rates over 80 years. Now, with the second renewal, the rent increases imposed are far greater than was expected. Since 2012, due to policy changes, the rent has increased by 3100% as the building is now deemed to be an investment property by the Department of Housing, Communities and Local Government.

In 2019, all the Courtyard Societies made a proposal to government to negotiate a long lease at a peppercorn rent, on a 'best value' basis which recognised the public value of the Societies in their historical central London location. A Price Waterhouse Cooper report estimated the 78% (£4.2m) of the annual total gross value delivered each year by the Society (£5.4m) would be at risk if forced to relocate.

Relocation will be immensely difficult – not only expensive and risky for its fragile collection – but will also diminish the impact that the Society has on the cultural heritage community working from its base in the heart of London, and with its international ties. Appeals have been ignored and the Society can no longer stay in the long term.

The Society is a self-supporting educational charity and is highly unlikely to find or afford alternative premises in such a central London location. All the Societies are now appealing to the Government to reach an affordable agreement, keen to show how much of an adverse impact any potential move would have on the UK's cultural heritage community.

Please join the Society of Antiquaries' Fellows in supporting this appeal. To do so, go to the Society's website for details of the campaign (www.sal.org.uk/save-burlington-house/).

Virtual Visits (mostly)

EXHIBITIONS

Museum of London Docklands

Havering Hoard: a Bronze Age mystery.

Runs 11 September to 18 April 2021, free entry with timed ticket. Bookable up to 6 weeks ahead, with more tickets released weekly. Visit <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/museum-london-docklands>

19 March Havering Hoard: Lost London Late an evening spectacular celebrating London's prehistoric past with a series of short talks, workshops, games and interactive displays, plus cocktails and street food.

Book online only (Tickets £12):

<https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/book?instance=724030>

Guildhall Art Gallery

Noël Coward: Art & Style To be rescheduled early in 2021, free entry with timed ticket.

Celebrates the dazzling visual side of Coward's life and work by taking a fresh and vibrant look at the glittering world that Coward created. Never-before-seen materials from the Coward Archive demonstrate vividly the enormous impact that he and his creative circle had on the fashion and culture of his time. <https://tinyurl.com/y2mu8aqm>

FIND OUT MORE

Museum of London: Their unique collection of artefacts from palaeolithic to 21st-century London is well worth exploring: <https://www.museumoflondon.org.uk/collections>

Heritage Calling (Historic England blog): London is full of visual treats, including what decorates its walls, entrances, recesses, corners and niches. Here are 11 historic and

modern sculptures, most well above eye level – symbolic, commemorative, realistic, curious... <https://tinyurl.com/y6cq59v>

Historic Environment Image Resource

(HEIR): Contains digitised historic photographic images from all over the world dating from the late 19th century onwards. Core images come from lantern slide and glass plate negatives held in college, library, museum and departmental collections within the University of Oxford. New resources are being added all the time from other sources. <http://heir.arch.ox.ac.uk/pages/home.php>

National Heritage List for England (NHLE):

The NHLE is the only official, up to date, register of all nationally protected historic buildings and sites – listed buildings, battlefields, scheduled monuments, wrecks, registered parks and gardens. <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/>

LOOK FOR YOURSELF

Go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=> and type the code in **bold** into the Search box. Or type the URL into your browser.

Curtain Theatre excavations: **eVJ2zX059Mo**

Crossrail finds at Liverpool Street station:

SAAMZC49vj4 and (from National Geographical): **ZfUMN1M14vY**

London Museum of Water and Steam:

cXAZMfir-8s OR **qLt-oxg1g9E**

Petrie Museum (UCL): A two-minute tour of the revamped museum of Egyptology.

PKUR2m1T8lc

The Great Stink: how the Victorians transformed London to solve the problem

of waste: <https://tinyurl.com/y4zww25s>

St Paul's Cathedral: Explore the cathedral, including the dome and mosaics. <https://tinyurl.com/y4uw7hjb>

ONLINE LECTURES & FILMS

9 March 'Clitterhouse Farm, an Anglo-Saxon farm on the doorstep of Brent Cross' by Roger Chapman, Hendon and District Archaeological Society. (HADAS has operated in Barnet for over 50 years, and for the last few years, has been exploring this site. *Currently members only.*)

And on YouTube:

'Looking after London's ghosts: the Archaeological Archive' by Adam Corsini (YouTube) **Q8aWhBOYks8**

'Vanishing Archaeology: the Greenwich Foreshore' by Nathalie Cohen FSA **kLHqjkz3vBs**

The Bridges that built London (History of London documentary) **8n15w-s1qIM**

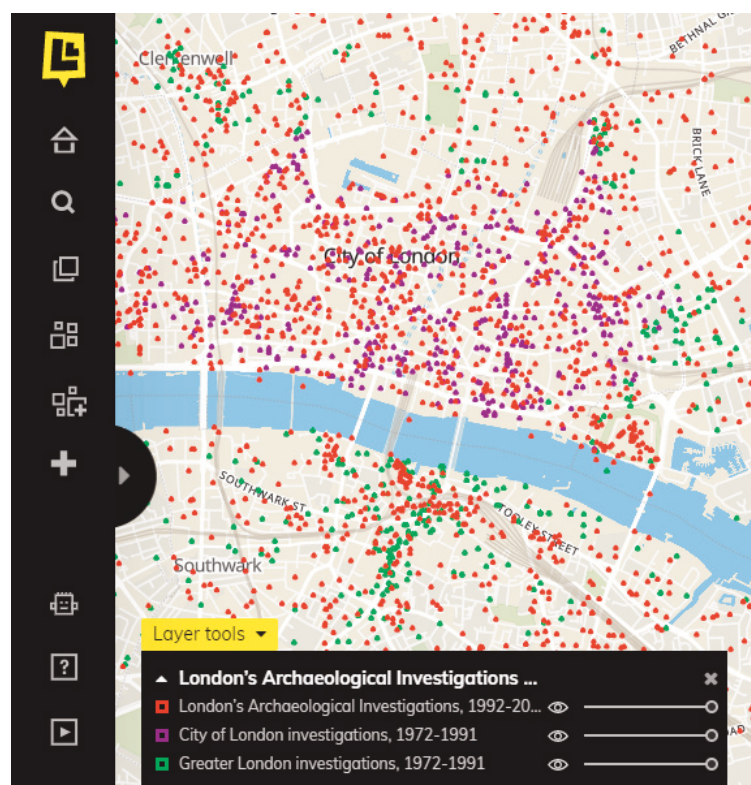
The Pandemic that shook London: the Great Plague (Timeline) **HPe6BgZHWY0**

READ ALL ABOUT IT

'Black and Asian women in the City of London 1600–1800' The Celebrating City Women initiative, set up by the City of London, published an interesting report by Chihyin Hsaio about this group. Download it here: <https://tinyurl.com/y5ugofux>

'Where was the coffee in early modern England?' by Bruce Watson. *Journal of Modern History* **92** (1) 40–75

[<http://eprints.whiterose.ac.uk/142622/>]



Layers of London Project

Layers of London have a magnificent collection of videos about how the site works and how to use it. Please take a look: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCKSICy8FIDCKV0uVifb0sqw/videos>

If you need to find out more and are not certain how to find the London Archaeologist articles, you can see Adam Corsini's AGM lecture on the LA website and on Youtube, explaining how to access the London Archaeologist information:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NyTCORWMU-8>
<https://www.londonarchaeologist.org.uk/news.html>

All the articles from *London Archaeologist*, which are available from ADS have now been entered on to the Layers of London mapping and the database for the Fieldwork Round-up summaries, which are published annually by LA, are now visible in the LA layer. (The 2019 Round-up should have been delivered with this magazine.)

Statistics show that from October 2019 (when the work began) to the end of November 2020, the LA layers have been viewed by just over 1,430 users.

Similarly, in the last 13 months, the Round-up layer has been accessed 305 times, whereas the MOLA layer has been accessed 441 times and Historic England's HERs accessed 420 times.

Please make use of it!



LAMAS NEWSLETTER

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

London and Middlesex Archaeological Society (<https://www.lamas.org.uk>) are seeking a well organised, enthusiastic new Editor to take over production of the Newsletter which goes out to members 3 times a year (past copies can be viewed here <https://www.lamas.org.uk/archives.html>).

A keen interest in the archaeology and local history of London is essential and you will need to be a member of the Society (see <https://www.lamas.org.uk/join-lamas.html> for details on how to join).

As Editor you will be:

- scheduling and planning each issue in advance;
- ensuring regular contents are accurate and up-to-date;
- finding contributions and writing your own material for inclusion;
- proof reading and editing texts;

- using desktop publishing software to pull text and images together;
- liaising with the printers and the Hon. Membership Secretary to ensure timely distribution;
- an ex officio member of LAMAS Council and the Publications Committee.

So, if you enjoy searching the internet for interesting archaeological and historical news stories, have a good understanding of the English language and the relevant IT skills needed to bring everything together in an attractive and entertaining publication, and can spare a week or so every 4 months, then you could be the next LAMAS Honorary Newsletter Editor and we would love to hear from you.

The role is unpaid, but all out of pocket expenses will be met by the Society. For more information or to express an interest in the role, please contact the Hon. Secretary at secretary@lamas.org.uk.

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:

<https://www.londonarchaeologist.org.uk/la--50.html>

or as an online order direct from PCA for **£18 + £3.50 p&p**. To place your order, please go to:

<https://www.pre-construct.com/publications/>