

Mosaic

Museum of London to finally shut its doors ...

The London Wall site will close this December, prior to part of the new site opening in 2026. The museum has announced it is to have a 'new' name – The London Museum – after one of its predecessors. From January 2023, the renamed London Museum Docklands will become the museum's main site until 2026.

... but trouble is brewing

Due to rising building costs and Covid delays, the work has been divided into two stages: the first is to move parts of the museum to the General Market in 2026; the second is to move the rest into the adjacent Poultry Market. No date has been set yet for the latter as the building is still occupied by meat traders who have no wish to leave. The City wants them moved to a new facility at Dagenham Docks with Billingsgate and New Spitalfields markets.

The market's role is protected by a royal charter, dating back centuries, requiring an act of Parliament to rescind it. A private bill to Parliament later this year will seek approval to move the markets.

Palace of Westminster

MOLA and PCA have been appointed as two of the 18 contractors, part of the commercial framework of £10 million of contracts to be awarded this year. The contractors will carry out surveys, 20 boreholes and several archaeological digs, in order to decide the best way to repair the crumbling stonework.

Specialist heritage teams are also recording and tagging each of the 13,000 heritage items – including furniture, artwork and statues – so that they can be put into suitable storage during the programme of work. After the next phase of engineering and inspections, a detailed plan will set out costs and timescales for the essential work.

Parliament will be asked to approve this plan next year. According to the National Audit Office, it is expected that £308.6 million will be spent on the repairs and maintenance of Parliament by 2025.

Stonehenge exhibition

A new exhibition, *The world of Stonehenge*, opened at the British Museum in February and will run until July 17th. It looks at the context of Stonehenge reviewing its purpose, cultural power and the people. It tells the story of Britain and Europe from 4000–1000 BC, a period of transformation and radical ideas that changed society.

The wide variety of objects, including the Nebra Sky Disc, the world's oldest surviving map of the stars, the Seahenge



A recent foreshore find – a bone rosary bead, dating to c. AD 1450–1550, with a central vertical perforation for suspension. The bead is a 'memento mori' type with a young female bust, probably depicting the Virgin Mary, on one side and a skull to 'remember thy mortality' on the other. © Stuart Wyatt/PAS

timber circle, and recent archaeological and scientific discoveries point towards the world of the Neolithic people and their beliefs and rituals.

Landscapes under threat

Archaeology South-East (UCL), has been involved in recording Seafood Head, East Sussex, a nationally important heritage site at increasing risk of coastal erosion related to the increase and severity in rainfall and storm events related to climate change.

The headland includes a Bronze Age bowl barrow, an Iron Age hillfort and a WWII reinforced concrete structure. The Seafood Head Project is trialling ways of recording, including 3D modelling and using drones to survey the site.

The project will also trial the use of podcasts and videos to engage local communities in a conversation about coastal change and how they might feel about the eventual, inevitable loss of historic sites. The project will provide a case study and template for other heritage agencies, landowners, and community groups facing similar threats to their local heritage to help plan and deliver local responses.

Further north, along Hadrian's Wall, less than 1% of the route has been explored archaeologically and much of that landscape is protected in wet peat land and many of the artefacts, including organics, have been preserved in this black, peaty soil. The soil drying out from global warming could affect their survival.

Sutton Hoo photographs

Photographs taken in August 1939 were left with the Sutton Hoo National Trust some 12 years ago. Hundreds of images in albums of one of Britain's most famous digs had been taken by Barbara Wagstaff and Mercie Lack, schoolteachers passionate about photography and archaeology. The National Trust has announced that it has completed a project conserving and digitising the images and is making them publicly available.

Prehistoric skis found in Norway

The best-preserved pair of skis from prehistory have been found. In 2014, one exceptional pre-Viking ski, was found in Norway. The complete ski, including the binding, had been preserved, frozen in the ice. It was one of only two skis from prehistory in this condition. Now the second ski of the pair has appeared from the melting ice, only 5m from where the first one was discovered. This new ski is even better preserved than the first one.

Earliest record of *H. influenza*

Analysis of the remains of a six-year-old Anglo-Saxon unearthed in Cambridgeshire revealed that the boy had plague, meningitis and septic arthritis when he died. The child, buried c. AD 540–550, was studied by researchers led by the University of Tartu, Estonia. Genetic analysis of a tooth sample revealed he had been infected with the bacteria *Yersinia pestis*, causing plague, and *Haemophilus influenza* serotype b. This is the earliest known case of *H. influenza*, which causes septic arthritis and was a major cause of infant death before a vaccine, created in 1977, eradicated it.

Vikings with brown not blonde hair

DNA sequencing of more than 400 Viking skeletons from sites across Europe and Greenland has shown that skeletons from Viking burial sites in Scotland were actually local people who may have been buried as Vikings. Viking identity was not limited to people with Scandinavian genetic ancestry.

The study has shown that their genetic history had been influenced by genes from Asia and southern Europe before the Viking Age. Two Orkney skeletons from Viking graves with Viking swords were found to share ancestry with present-day Irish and Scots. The genetic legacy in the UK has left the population with up to 6% Viking DNA.

Roman Carlisle Project

Excavation of a Roman building at a cricket club in Carlisle has yielded tiles with rare imperial stamps of Septimius Severus. Several similar tiles were uncovered in 2017 in a bath-house in Carlisle, suggesting that they all came from the site. An stone inscription dedicated to Empress Julia Domna, wife of Severus and Caracalla's mother, was also found.

This latest excavation is part of a lottery funded grant, the 'Uncovering Roman Carlisle Project'. Volunteers and archaeologists have been working at the site since last summer. The site is located near Stanwix, the largest fort on Hadrian's Wall.

Diary

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

April (Online and Live)

8 (8.00 pm) Richmond Archaeological Society (Zoom). 'The Palaces of Richmond and Kew' by Susan Rhodes. For the Zoom link, email alexander.stephen@gmail.com.

11 (8.00 pm) The Clapham Society. 'William Morris: Arts, Crafts, and so much more' by John Hawks, Trustee, Wandle Industrial Museum. Omnibus Theatre, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW.

11 (8.00 pm) Richmond Local History Society (Zoom). 'Sculptures of Kew and beyond' by Shirley Newton and Shirley Clark. See their website: www.rnflhs.org.uk.

12 (8.00 pm) Hendon & District Archaeological Society (Zoom). 'London in the Ice Age: changing environments and human activity' by Dr Martin Bates, University of Wales Trinity Saint David. See website to confirm format:

<https://www.hadas.org.uk/lectures-2/>

12 (6.30 pm) London & Middlesex Archaeological Society (Zoom).

'The Icehouse at Park Crescent West' by Danny Harrison, MOLA. Book at:

<http://www.lamas.org.uk/lectures.html>

12 (7.30 pm) Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Roman cemetery in Lant Street' by Ireneo Grosso. 106 The Cut, SE1 8LN (direct entrance from the raised walkway, almost opposite the Old Vic).

13 (8.00 pm) Hornsey Historical Society (Zoom). 'Hornsey Wood House' by John Hinshelwood. Email horneyhistoricalchairman@gmail.com for Zoom link.

21 (8.00 pm) Barnes & Mortlake History Society. 'Panorama of the Thames' by Jill Sanders. St Mary's Church, Church Road, Barnes, SW13 9HL.

21 (7.30 pm) Chingford Historical Society. 'Children's workhouses in East London and Essex in the late 19th Century' by John Walker. Church of England Primary School, Cambridge Road, Chingford, E4 7BP.

25 (8.15 pm) Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society. 'Introduction to Kew Gardens and their History' by Mary Done. St Martin's Church Hall, High Street, Ruislip, HA4 8DG.

26 (7.45 pm) Hounslow and District History Society (Zoom). AGM, followed by 'A History of Brentford Bridge and a tour around Victorian Brentford' by James Marshall, retired Local Studies Librarian, LB Hounslow. Request Zoom link via their website: www.hounslowhistory.org.uk/?page_id=66

May (Online and Live)

4 (8.00 pm) Epsom & Ewell History & Archaeology Society. 'Springs and Waterways of Carshalton' by Peter Wakeham. Ewell Hall, London Road, Ewell, KT17 2AY.

4 (8.00 pm) Orpington & District Archaeological Society. 'The Mills of the River Cray and the River Darent' by Janet Clayton & Ann Russell. Christ Church (URC), Tudor Way, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH.

9 (8.00 pm) Borough of Twickenham Local History Society. AGM, followed by 'Boats between Hampton Court Bridge and Platts Eyot, Hampton in Old Images' by John Sheaf, BOTLHS. St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street, Twickenham, TW1 3NJ.

10 (8.00 pm) Hendon & District Archaeological Society. 'The Folklore and Archaeology of Historic Buildings' by James Wright. See website to confirm format:

<https://www.hadas.org.uk/lectures-2/>

10 (6.30 pm) Joint Prehistoric Society and London & Middlesex Archaeological Society lecture (Zoom). 'Hidden depths: revealing new insights into the archaeological human remains from the London reaches of the River Thames' by Nichola Arthur. Book at:

<http://www.lamas.org.uk/lectures.html>

10 (7.30 pm) Southwark & Lambeth Archaeological Society. 'Excavations in Southwark Street' by Antonietta Lerz. 106 The Cut, SE1 8LN (entrance from raised walkway, almost opposite the Old Vic).

12 (8.00 pm) Pinner Local History Society. 'Grim's Dyke: the story of a house and its inhabitants' by Claudia Mernick and AGM. Pinner Village Hall, Chapel Lane Car Park, HA5 1AB.

13 (8.00 pm) Richmond Archaeological Society (Zoom). 'National Trust's sites in London' by Nathalie Cohen, National Trust, followed by AGM. For the Zoom link, email alexander.stephen@gmail.com.

19 (8.15 pm) Bexley Archaeological Group (Zoom). 'Revisiting Lullingstone Roman Villa' by Dr Anne Sassin, Dareth Valley Community Project. Book via website: <https://www.bag.org.uk/events-and-education/>

June (Online and Live)

1 (8.00 pm) Orpington & District Archaeological Society. 'Excavation at Clitterhouse farm, an Anglo-Saxon farm on the doorstep of Brent Cross' by Roger Chapman, HADAS. Christ Church (URC), Tudor Way, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH.

2 (8.00 pm) Pinner Local History Society. 'Commuting from Edwardian Pinner' by Thamar MacIver and Michael Mendelblat. Pinner Village Hall, Chapel Lane Car Park, HA5 1AB.

20 (8.00 pm) The Clapham Society. 'Lambeth Palace Library: The New Building and its Collections' by Giles Mandelbrote. Omnibus Theatre, 1 Clapham Common North Side, SW4 0QW.

July (Online and Live)

5 (1.00 pm) Society of Antiquaries of London (and Zoom). 'Hans Eworth, a Netherlander in London and Antwerp' by Hope Walker. Burlington House, Piccadilly, W1J 0BE.

6 (8.00 pm) Orpington & District Archaeological Society. 'Recent Excavations at Roman Ewell' by Rebecca Haslam, Pre-Construct Archaeology. Christ Church (URC), Tudor Way, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH.

Conference

21 May (10.30 am–5.00 pm) **London's Sailortowns: People, Communities and the Thames.** The Docklands History Group, Weston Theatre, Museum of London, 150 London Wall, EC2Y 5HN. For further details and tickets, visit: <https://www.docklandshistorygroup.org.uk/page40.html>

2022 Festival of Archaeology

This will take place from 16–31 July. The theme for 2022 is **Journeys**. A new website for the Festival is currently under development: for more information, please visit www.archaeologyuk.org/festival.html

From our archives: look back to our previous reports

Articles about LEYTON

Truckle, N, Moore, P & Thrale, P 'Excavations at George Mitchell School Playing Fields, High Road, Leyton, London E4' *London Archaeol* 7 (15) (1995), 397–402. <https://doi.org/10.5284/1070876>
Greenwood, P A (1996). 'Prehistoric and Roman Leyton: some comments' *London Archaeol* 7 (16) (1996), 435. (No DOI given, <https://tinyurl.com/2p9xm4n8>)

Boyer, P, Nicholls, M & Bishop, B J 'Bronze Age environments and burial in the Lower Lea Valley: archaeological investigations in the Stratford City Development'

London Archaeol 13 (10) (2013), 276–80. <https://doi.org/10.5284/1071213>

Articles about the ROYAL MINT

Mills, P J E 'The Royal Mint: First Results' *London Archaeol* 5 (3) (1985), 69–77.

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1070769>

Grainger, I, Hawkins, D, Falcini, P & Mills, P J E 'Excavations at the Royal Mint site, 1986–88' *London Archaeol* 5 (16) (1988), 429–36.

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1070759>

Miles, A & Bekvalac, J 'Excavations at Royal Mint Square' *London Archaeol* 14 (2) (2014),

31–6. <https://doi.org/10.5284/1071272>

Articles about BARNSBURY, Islington

Mackinder, A & Jeffries, N 'A moated site in Barnsbury, Islington' *London Archaeol* 14 (10) (2016), 273–8.

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1071268>

Articles about TOTTENHAM HALE

Bishop, B 'At the river's edge: palaeoenvironmental and archaeological investigations at Ferry Lane, Walthamstow' *London Archaeol* 15 (7) (2019), 197–203.

<https://doi.org/10.5284/1081304>

The London Archaeological Prize 2022

Since its inception in 2004, this biennial publication prize has aimed to promote the highest standards in writing about London's archaeology.

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will be given to the best publication of 2020 and 2021. A second prize of **£100, plus certificate**, will also be awarded if enough entries of a high standard are received.

The prize committee would particularly like to encourage entries demonstrating innovative approaches and ground-breaking formats:

- Any printed or digital publication related to London is eligible;
- Anyone can make a nomination: author, publisher or appreciative reader;
- Past entries have included monographs, popular books and booklets, peer-reviewed papers, shorter articles and blogs;
- Potential audiences have included professional and amateur archaeologists, academics, children and the general public.
- Winning authors have come from a wide range of backgrounds.

The winning entry, selected by a panel of judges appointed by *London Archaeologist*, will achieve its stated aims and deliver quality and excellence to its intended readers.

How to enter

For full rules and official nomination forms, please go to the London Archaeologist website:

[londonarchaeologist.org.uk](https://www.londonarchaeologist.org.uk)

or contact Alison Telfer (details below). Alternatively, you can send written nominations to her, giving:

- details of publication and publisher,
- name and contact details of nominator,
- why the publication is worthy of the prize (in 100 words).

Do not send copies of the publication – these will be supplied by the publishers of the short-listed titles.

Please return your nomination form to:

Alison Telfer (Co-ordinator)
London Archaeological Prize
c/o MOLA
Mortimer Wheeler House
46 Eagle Wharf Road
London N1 7ED
Email: atelfer@mola.org.uk

Nominations **MUST** be received by Wednesday 25th May 2022.

The prize winner or winners will be announced in November 2022.

London Archaeologist



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