

MOLAS LIBRARY



DUA

letter  
**News**

ISSUE No. 11

August 1989



## INTRODUCTION

As it is now nearly a year since the emergence of the Newsletter, there is another questionnaire for you to complete (please) where you can say constructively what you think about it. With reference to a comment on the Letters page, if everyone returns it rather than a mere 14% it may be possible to cater for the wishes of more of you.

The Excavations Office staff also wish to thank everyone for the effort that has been made to get in to work on strike days.

## STAFF

### Resignations in July

Martin Smith  
Sue Cole  
Tove Oliver

### Staff Appointments

Barry Bishop - Senior Archaeologist: Cannon Street Station  
Vicky Ridgeway } - Senior Archaeologists: St Mary Axe  
Nick Elsdon }

### Job Vacancies

Roman Pottery Researcher: closing date 9th August  
Finds/Site Liaison Supervisor: 9th August  
Roman Pottery Researcher (DGLA): 9th August  
Medieval Pottery Researcher (DGLA): 9th August  
Museum Shop Assistant: 15th August

## AUGUST DIARY

7th August - Staff Forum  
12.30pm Education Room C  
Peter James  
'The Work of the Greater London SMR'

## DEPARTMENTAL NEWS DIGEST

### HBMC and Huggin Hill

I know that colleagues have been dismayed at what they see as a lack of public comment by the Museum on press statements by members of HBMC. I would like to put our dignified near-silence in context.

The Museum is currently restraining itself from further comment in the press about Huggin Hill or general relations with HBMC. This has also been requested by the Council of IFA, who have written to

the Director pointing out that the recent spate of comment 'may have the effect of discrediting archaeology and its profession'; the Council thinks that 'archaeology in Britain as a whole will be better served by a restrained and professional approach than by the public denigration of another archaeological body'. IFA has sent a similar letter to Miss Sophie Andraee of HBMC who wrote the original 'artics' letter to Chartered Surveyor Weekly.

I agree this is the best policy. Meanwhile I have written to Miss Andraee to correct her misunderstanding of circumstances surrounding the DUA's attitude both to the survival of the monument at Huggin Hill and the department's wish for it to be preserved. As far as I am aware, nobody in the DUA agreed to the monument's disposal by granting of Scheduled Monument Consent. The DUA was not party to that decision, and we therefore felt we could, as in previous cases, gently suggest that preservation might be worthwhile. After all, monuments such as the Roman interval tower at Crosswall and the arch and chapel at Mitre Street are proof of joint Museum-HBMC successes in this direction. Miss Andraee is being invited to come and see the extent of our operation, which in 1988 secured 2.9 million in funding from developers - probably rather more than HBMC did for the whole country.

We are also continuing with business as usual - an energetic press release for Fleet Valley, compilation of the Annual Review for 1988, and other ways of promoting a wider understanding of the services we provide to the development industry.

Meanwhile, however, a larger strategic chess-game in which Huggin Hill was only one incident has been revealed. This is HBMC's intentions in the long term for archaeology in the London area. HBMC currently puts 1.7 million a year into archaeology in London, of which the DUA enjoys 0.6m, totally for the post-excavation and publication programme which is to end in April 1991. HBMC has a general intention, in London as in York, that the local councils should take more responsibility for archaeology. That is, by itself, worth looking at; though there are 33 councils in the Greater London Area, and to put only one archaeologist in each borough would increase the present salary bill. What is insidious is the background intention that by creating these posts, HBMC would separate preservation issues from excavation. The Museum - or perhaps some other body, and an independent trust is suggested - would carry out excavation when the preservation issues had been settled by someone else.

HBMC is concerned about the Museum's 'monopoly' of excavation work in London; and feels that contract archaeology should be encouraged. Though these intentions are focussed for the moment on the DGLA area, they are applicable also to DUA work in the City.

While the merits of placing an archaeologist in the Corporation's Planning Department can be debated, the other

proposals have little to contribute and considerable dangers for the archaeology. There is no evidence that an independent trust would secure any more money from developers than current practice; on the contrary, developers like being associated with the Museum, through which they gain so much good publicity. As to the 'monopoly', the DUA is happy to enter the marketplace and prove that its operation is cost-effective; but it is unhappy to compromise standards to secure contracts. The archaeology of London is best served by a common standard of recording, archive compilation and finds curation, and that will not be sustained by a free-for-all of cowboy archaeological contractors.

Further, the Museum is not just an archaeological contractor; it has a statutory duty to manage the recording and records of London's past. HBMC is now moving the goalposts by suggesting that the future management of archaeology in London is a matter for discussion preferably between only itself and the boroughs (or in our case, the Corporation of the City). And some strange alliances are now being sought: HBMC wants to side with developers, to tell them their rights and sell the idea of contract archaeology, with the Museum being held off at arm's length. This seems a strange way for a heritage service to go.

It is early days yet in this debate. One piece of good news is the appointment of Chris Patten to Environment Secretary. In his previous job as Minister for Overseas Development he was sensible and dynamic. Let us hope he displays these qualities in his new post.

#### Corporation moves to support archaeology

The Corporation of the City of London is showing several signs of friendly co-operation with the Museum. The Corporation owns a large proportion of the freehold of city properties. We have heard of at least one case where the Corporation, apparently on the Surveyor's instruction, has inserted a new clause into a building lease requiring time (though not money) for archaeological access for the Museum during any future building works on the site. And the Planning Department have shown us two forms of an archaeological condition which could be inserted into planning permissions, if we persuaded the Planning Committee that a condition was necessary. The stronger of the two requires a period of time, for which we would fill in the number of months, to be allowed for excavation on the site. Clearly this is a step forward, but, not being attached to any statement about funding, is to be used with care. We don't want to get into a situation where the developer says 'you can have the time because it is a legal requirement, but no money.' This is however a useful addition to our negotiating equipment.

**John Schofield**

PROVISIONAL SCHEDULE OF FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS  
TODAY'S DATE: 20/JULY/1989 July

NAME OF SITE		August				September				October							
		17	24	31	7	14	21	28	4	11	18	25	2	9	16	23	30
America Square	TN							8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8	8
Dominant House	HB	5	5														
Thames Exchange	JN	2	2	2													
Cannon Street Station	ST	11	11	11	5												
25-43 St. Mary Axe	RE	4	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12	12
8-11 Crescent	TN																
158-164 Bishopsgate	HB	6	2	6	6	6	6										
1-3 Pemberton Row wb	TN																
78-79 Leadenhall	HB							10	10	10	10	10	10	10			
34-35 Leadenhall	TN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10							
41-63 Bishopsgate	ST																
52-62 London Wall Phs II	HB	16	16	16	16	16	16	16	8								
W. Smithfield/Giltspur St	TN									12	12	12	12	15	15	15	15
55 Basinghall St	TN																
25 Savage Gardens	HB				3	3	3										
40 Queen St/Skinners Lane	TN									8	8	8	8	8	8	8	
Guildhall Yard	JN																
1-7 Whittington Ave w b	RE																
1 Threadneedle Street	TN																
Wardrobe Place	ST	2															
28 Bush Lane	ST			1	3	3											
63 St. Mary Axe	ST/EN												4	4	4	4	4
145-146 Leadenhall	HCB												10	10	10	10	10
Bishopsgate/Spital Square	RE														12	12	12
52 Gresham Street	EN		2	2													
<b>SUB-TOTAL REQUIRED</b>		56	60	60	55	50	57	56	68	68	60	50	67	67	69	61	61

Fleet Valley	RE																
Car Parks Area C2																	
Car Parks Area D																	
Car Parks Area E																	
Car Parks Area F																	
Car Parks Area H																	
Pilgrim Street																	
Shafts BT wb																	
2/Ludgate Cellars 1																	
2/Ludgate Cellars 2																	
2/Booking Hall Bridge																	
3/Monty Christo																	
6/Old Seacoal Lane		11	11	11	11	11	11										
7/Mother Bunch's 1								30	30	30	30	30	30	30			
7/Mother Bunch's 2													18	18	18	18	18
8/Fleet Lane A		15	15	15	15	15											
8/Fleet Lane B		15	15	15	15	15											
B/Holborn Viaduct			2	2													
PC and APC		2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
<b>SUB-TOTAL FLEET VALLEY REQUIRED</b>		43	55	52	66	62	65	54	54	54	42	60	50	50	20	20	20
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF REQUIRED</b>		99	115	112	121	112	122	110	122	122	102	110	117	117	89	81	81
<b>TOTAL NUMBER OF STAFF AVAILABLE</b>		102	105	106	106	104	106	102	104	107	107	109	111	112	112	112	112
		3	-10	-6	-15	-8	-16	-8	-18	-15	5	-1	-6	-5	23	31	31

## TRAINING NEWS

Zoe and I are currently distributing and collecting computer questionnaires; if you have not received one yet you should do soon. The response so far has been encouraging and the comments constructive. The next training committee meeting will be on Tuesday 15 August applications for funding should reach me by 4 August.

Don't forget the statistics seminars. Posters will be displayed on all sites and DUA work stations.

Susan Greenwood

## FINDS DEPARTMENT

**Displays**  
A developers display was held for Copthall Avenue (COV 87) on the 3rd July.

Emma and Ruth held a finds training session for field staff on the Fleet Valley on the 21st July. They also arranged an on-site display for a press open day on 24th July.

### Small Finds of note

From London Wall came a London Ware bowl dating between 70-120 AD with applied metal decoration. The use of applied metal on London Ware is unknown. There are examples of metal decorated vessels in Rome but precious metals were used, the LOW bowl decoration being in tin. The metal may have been applied with some sort of glue, as a brush hair has been found by the Conservation Department on the rim underneath the metal!

A large oak trough was found at Thames Exchange. The base and part of the back survived machine damage. This early Medieval object may have been used for animals or for brewing.

Some very fine painted Medieval window glass was found in the stone construction of a Post-Medieval well on the Fleet Valley.

### People

Nick Oakley joined the Finds Department on the 3rd of July to process the finds from London Wall. Lynne and Douglas have been promoted to Research Assistants. Lynne is now away on holiday in Ireland for two weeks. Maria is on unpaid leave for three weeks writing up her PH.D. on the corrosion of archaeological copper alloy objects.



A revised rate of Clothing Allowance has been calculated at 154.70 per annum (12.89 per month).

This is in accordance with the Retail Price Index effective from 1.4.89. All staff currently in receipt of Clothing Allowance shall be paid the revised rate and the arrears in August.

A copy of 'Opportunities' is now posted on the notice-board in the Excavations Office. This newspaper advertises Local Government job vacancies and is published weekly.

Please contact Annie on x306 if you require more details.

## STAFF FORUM

The last series seemed to meet with the approval of large numbers of staff, so a programme has been arranged for the rest of the year. Apologies for the cancellation of Chris Ellmers's talk: this was due to a clash with an exhibition launch and then illness.

Each session (except for the one on 18 October) is held on a Monday in the Education Department Room C at 12.30pm. A half-hour talk is followed by an informal discussion in the refectory, where coffee is served and people can eat their lunch.

We hope as many people as possible will be able to attend, so please circulate this programme widely. Suggestions for further topics are welcome, especially on archaeological issues.

7 August - Peter James - 'The work of the Greater London SMR'

4 September - speaker to be announced - 'Contract Archaeology'

25 September - Dave Evans - 'Museums as Information Centres'

18 October - 'Marketing the Arts' (showing of an Arts Council video, followed by discussions)

6 November - Geoffrey Toms - 'Current Issues in Museum Education'

27 November - Dr Robert Bud (Science Museum) - 'Museums as Mythmakers'

## Building Materials

Victoria has now moved to the Guildhall to continue finds processing and power-hosing the Dominant House building material.

Emma Stapley

## CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

David Carrington is getting established in his workspace in Burdett House, which he shares with Joy, the Environmentalist. The finds are really starting to come in now and he is kept very busy. Dana is still off work after her accident, but with the last of the physiotherapy for her leg she hopes to be back with us around the middle of August. Helen Ganiaris went out to London Wall to consolidate and lift some glass which was so degraded it resembled sugar crystals. Fortunately the other side was in better condition and it could be identified as a Roman bottle handle.

London Wall also provided our most noteworthy object - sherds of Roman pot decorated with metal strips over the rim and in criss-cross patterns. This appears to be unique and so has created much interest. Helen has identified the metal as tin and she will be investigating how it was attached to the pot - possibly in a joint project with the British Museum.

To bring everyone up to date on 2 earlier 'goodies', the wooden African-headed scoop and pan-pipes were completed this month, after a long soak in resin, and they both look very good. Alex from the Finds Section helped with this while working with us for 2 weeks. We were very glad to have her with us and look forward to Jane's sojourn in Conservation later this year.

As this is being written, we are preparing for a visit by Mrs Yazova, wife of the USSR Minister of Defence and Mrs Younger, wife of the British (ex!) Secretary of State for Defence and their party. We are honoured to be the only Department they are visiting after their Gallery Tour and hope they enjoy it.

Helen Jones

## ENVIRONMENTAL DEPARTMENT

There have been quite a few changes in the Environmental Department over the last couple of months with new people joining and old friends leaving. William Forde has moved from the bulk sieving team to work with Josie and Pilar on current DUA material. Sharon Parfitt, who was working for Southwark and Lambeth has been appointed in William's place to work with Perle and Andrea on the sieving at Bishopsgate.

Nigel Nayling joined the department in April to work as a second dendrochronologist, concentrating on DUA material. He is also responsible for the identification of wood samples.

Joy Ede is now in post as the Site Environmentalist for the Fleet Valley project. She is based at Burdett House.

During June we had Ann Dick and Steve Allen working with us for two weeks helping with the processing of environmental samples from Eldon Street and some of the Bishopsgate sites. Their work and enthusiasm for the subject was much appreciated.

Rachel Bennet, who has been working on backlog material for the next publication on the medieval waterfronts, has now finished her work and returned to the Field Section.

Pilar Alliende, who has been working with Josie for the past year on current DUA excavation material, has now left the department to return to Chile for a year, where she has a job at the National Museum of Pre-Columbian Art.

### Site Work

The sedimentary sequence at London Wall has been of great interest to the department recently and we hope to be undertaking some more detailed work in the near future involving specialists from outside the Museum.

Two pits at Bishopsgate (OPS88) yielded an incredible number of whole and fragmentary horn cores. The recording of these was undertaken recently by Alan Pipe, our guest bone specialist for 1989, and William Forde, who have reported an amazing 500+ measurable cores from which it is hoped to obtain information on the age, sex and breed of the beasts, eg if they were long, medium or short horned. In addition to that it is possible to gather information on the use of the horn, as some of the specimens had been sawn.

The bulk sieving team have been doing a great job at Bishopsgate, sieving samples from Vintry House, Cannon Street Station, Bishopsgate and Innholders Hall. They will remain on this site for at

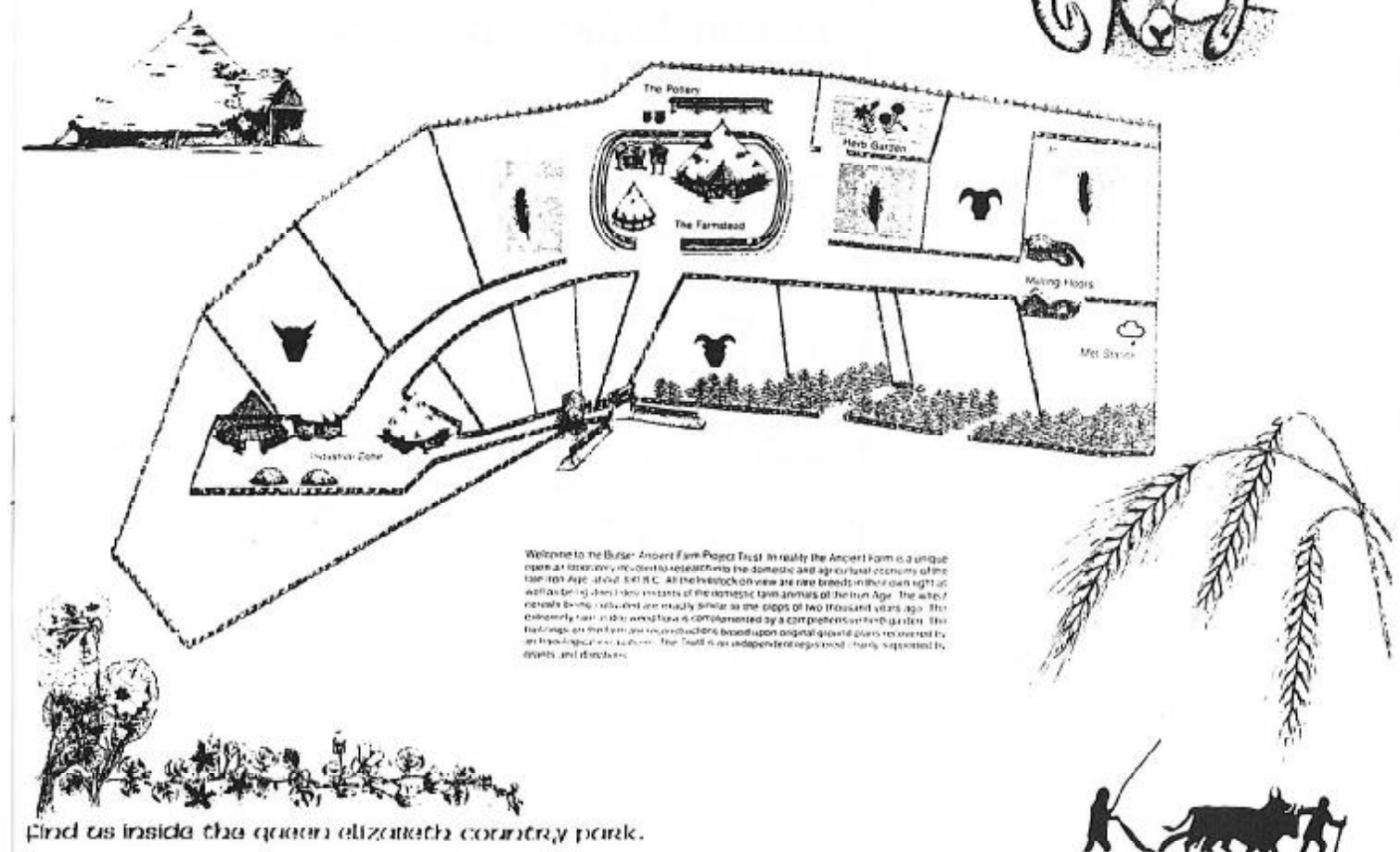
least the duration of the current excavation, and it is hoped to have another open day so that all those who missed the first one at Courages can visit Bishopsgate.

### Visit to Butzer

Members of the department went to Butzer Farm for the day last week. Butzer is an outdoor 'laboratory' where various archaeological experiments are carried out: reconstruction of Iron Age structures, growing of crops under various conditions, raising of animal stocks believed to have been used during the Iron Age. The structures that have been built are large round-houses, four-posters, storage pits and malting ovens. Peter Reynolds, the director of the farm, has demonstrated in the last 18 years that storage would have been adequate in pits and does not believe that four-posters were used for this purpose. These would have been used for animal pens or chicken houses. He has also demonstrated that the so-called corn driers were completely unsuitable to dry cereal crops but were excellent for the malting process. These are only one or two examples of the results obtained in the prehistoric 'laboratory'; many other interesting ones have been obtained, such as ditch cutting and wood burning. We have documentation about the farm in the Environmental Department, you are welcome to come and look at it or discuss it with one of us if you are interested.

Josie Murray  
Dominique de Moulins

*the celtic experience*  
Butzer ancient farm.



## COMPUTING

The shell script programming workshops to be run during August by Francis Grew have been over-subscribed. If you were unlucky and did not get a place on the course, sorry, but they will be re-run later in the year. If you would like to attend this next series and I don't already have your name, please contact me or Susan Greenwood.

The workshops run in finds over the past few weeks on how to use the basic commands of the Xenix C-shell, have been well attended and even enjoyed! (Who ever said computing wasn't fun!) A series of more advanced C-shell workshops will be run over the next few weeks. Again please let Susan or me have your name if you would like to attend. These workshops are being run in the finds section, but they are open to everyone. If you would like a separate session run for your section then please let me know.

Don't forget the first statistics seminar is on Monday 31st July. Robin Boast will be giving a very general introduction to statistics for archaeologists. It is suitable for everyone, people who know nothing about maths, statistics, calculators, computers etc. are especially welcome.

### 4.00pm in the Board Room

The 2nd statistics session is the following week on Monday 7th August. This will be given by Barbara Davies, again it's suitable for everyone and will be based on the extensive work done at the DUA with the large amounts of Roman pottery that we have.

Apologies to Tim Williams whose seminar was accidentally missed from the list last month. Tim will be giving a seminar on the 14th August, about the statistical work done in the Field Section (same time, same place.)

Last but not least, a big thank you to everyone who filled in the computer awareness questionnaire. If you haven't got around to returning yours yet, just put it in the internal mail to Susan Greenwood in the Excavations Office. Hopefully the results will be out in time for the next Newsletter.

Zoe Tomlinson  
(796-3040)

### The DUA presents an exciting summer season of seminars

Statistics and data manipulation in archaeology

Come along to these seminars and the mysteries of where archaeologists get their amazing facts and figures from will be revealed to you!

No previous knowledge of statistics is required for full enjoyment of these sessions but it is recommended that you attend the introductory session if you feel you need to.

Monday 31st July - Where long division stops and MYA starts: an introduction to statistics for the uninitiated.  
Robin Boast (Computing Section).

Monday 7th August - Basic statistics and their application to Roman pottery at the DUA.  
Barbara Davies (Pottery Research).

Monday 14 August - The recent statistical applications used by the Field Section.  
Tim Williams (Field Section).

Monday 21 August - Manipulating and retrieving data from the environmental database.  
James Rackham (Environmental Department).

Monday 4 September - The statistics of the medieval small finds from the town of Winchester.  
Clive Orton (Institute of Archaeology, University College, London).

All sessions will be held in the Board Room or education C in the Museum at 4.00, see posters for details.  
ALL WELCOME

### Great Computer Myths of our Time....



Fear #6: If You Press the Wrong Button the Computer Blows Up

## SPORTS AND SOCIAL CLUB NEWS

Events organised by the Sports and Social Club are well underway. Softball practice takes place every Monday from 5.30 pm onwards at Regents Park. Enough people for 2 teams turned out last week and took advantage of the fine weather. Anyone interested is welcome to play - contact Naomi Crowley (extension 302). Netball practice appears to be imminent, and plans are afoot to organise a Bridge Club. Darts matches take place on Tuesday's in the Queen's Head, with food provided.

We also arranged a party at Doggett's Coat and Badge on Friday 21 July. This was quite well attended, despite a few last-minute upsets (the caterer let us down, so the food was rather 'ad hoc' and the vegetarians got a bit of a raw deal). Those present seemed quite happy however, and managed to consume large amounts of drink.

Our intrepid tug-of-war team participated in a Tug-of-War Fun Day at the Guildhall on Sunday 23 July. In the first round we quite excelled ourselves and were the only team in the competition to get through to the second round without losing a 'pull'. Having qualified for the final 12, however, we came up against some stiff competition (they all looked like professionals!), and lost 4 out of 5 matches. But our confidence was restored somewhat when we came back from 1-0 to beat Dexy's Midnight Tuggers (some of the biggest people I have ever seen!) 2-1. Not bad considering our team wasn't decided until about 10 minutes before the competition started. We lost to the eventual winners of the competition - City of London Police team A - the team we most wanted to beat. We all received t-shirts, mugs and cans of beer for competing, and Alan McKeown was quite deservedly acknowledged the 'noisiest team manager in the competition', and gained the Sports and Social Club its first trophy.

Thanks and congratulations to everyone who tugged for us, and managed to maintain an excellent team spirit in the face of severe adversity, excessive heat and lack of practice! Our team was: Dave McEwan-Cox, Gus Milne, Lis Dyson, Jessica Poole, Martin Bates, Damian de Rosa, Stuart Bedford, Nick Truckle, Thanuja Madanayake (cheer leader), and Alan McKeown who organised everything and maintained team enthusiasm with his maniacal behaviour. See you next year!!

### MUSEUM OF LONDON CRICKET CLUB

Fixtures for the rest of this season

July

Wednesday 19 - practice net - Hackney Marsh  
 Sunday 23 - Birkbeck College - Greenford  
 Sunday 30 - Small Departments - Chiswick

August

Sunday 6 - White Swans - Hampstead  
 Sunday 13 - Worldwide TV - Muswell Hill  
 Sunday 20 - TBA  
 Sunday 27 - no fixture - Bank Holiday

September

Sunday 3 - New Statesman - Alexandra Palace  
 Sunday 10 - Natural History Museum - TBA

### *Is anyone interested in playing or learning how to play Bridge?*

The game is very easy to learn and play, basically a version of 13 card whist. Do not be put off by people who tell you that a degree in advanced calculus is needed to even understand the bidding. It is claimed that even Princess Di can play this game, so need I say more . . .

I would like to try and organise an occasional Bridge league for later in the year, but need to know whether there are enough people in the Museum interested in playing. We need a minimum of 8 players to form a league.

As a start I am willing to arrange a couple of sessions to teach new players the basic rules or remind people who have played before of the basic rules. If interested, could you get in touch with me either through the Bridge House pigeon hole, or on 236 5654/329 0825, or see me in the pub!!

If you can play the game already, and are interested in either helping tutor new players or playing in a league could you do the same.

**Kevin Wooldridge**



## FROM OUR FOREIGN CORRESPONDENT



### The 'Proyecto de Antropologia': Salango, Ecuador

Over the past few years at least a dozen archaeologists from the Museum have spent time working for an archaeo/anthropological project based in the village of Salango on the Pacific coast of Ecuador, South America. This account of the project's activities may show that it was not just the temptation of an exotic holiday in the sun that has inspired so many people to head off to Equatorial climes (although of course that may have played some part in the decision....)

Salango is a typical small S.American coastal 'pueblo', straight out of any novel by Garcia Marquez. The roads are mud tracks, pigs cohabit with people in the bamboo houses, and vultures perch proprietarily on the roofs of palm fronds. Yet on the main square of this primitive town is a museum whose presentation is worthy of the most developed city. The museum houses many of the finds unearthed during the 12 years that the project has been running, and many more somehow salvaged from the destructive efforts of the treasure hunters prior to the existence of the project.

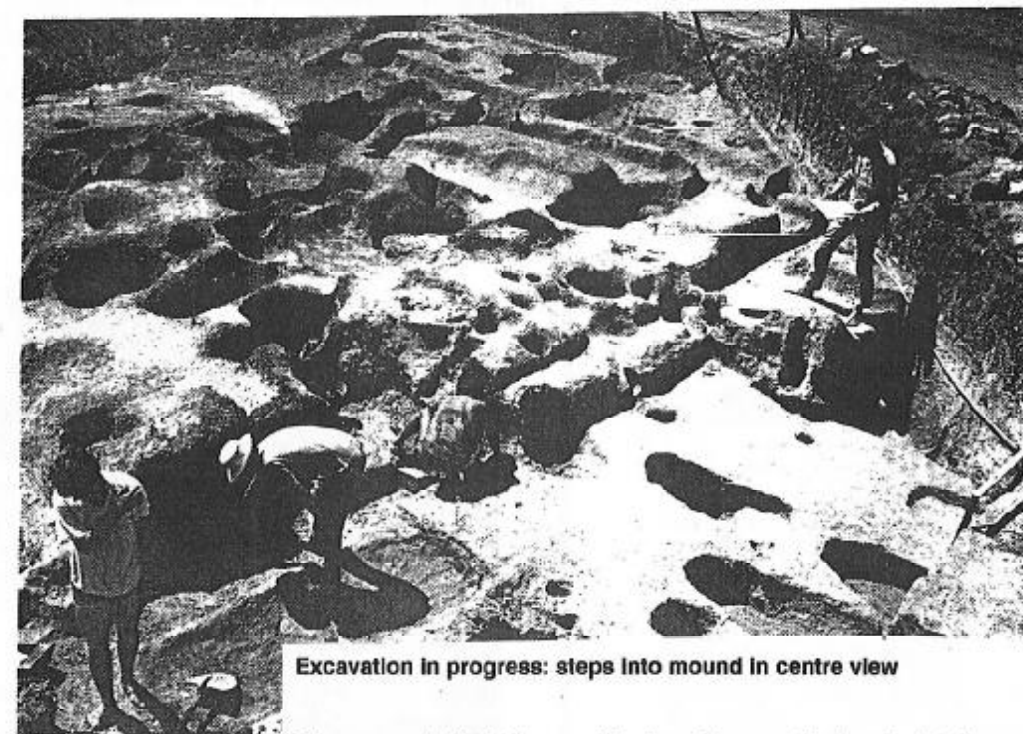
The town lies on an area of largely untruncated, continuous stratigraphy containing archaeological deposits dating as far back as 5000 years ago. These deposits contain evidence of the earliest Valdivian civilisation and progress through the six other prehistoric cultures up until the arrival of the Spanish Conquistadors in the early 16th century, who destroyed much of the work of the most recent and refined of these cultures - the Manteno civilisation.



Human scale demonstrates impressive depth of stratigraphy



There are two excavations currently in progress in Salango, each quite different from the other in both content and in the method of excavation employed. The site towards which most effort has been directed lies in the grounds of a fish-canning factory. This site has been running continuously for seven years - this must constitute the longest ever rescue site! It lies over part of a ceremonial/religious centre, and the present 10x10m area was opened to investigate the east corner of ceremonial structures seen in earlier excavations. The most striking aspect of the Factory site is the continuity of occupation over each successive culture so far recognised in coastal Ecuador. Moreover, it is the continuity of the ceremonial structures in the later periods that is the most interesting. Since October 1988 concentration has been focused on the Bahia levels (500BC-500AD); these deposits consist of clay wall-bases of several successive rectangular buildings enclosing a mound area. Within the mound area were burials of the Bahia and earlier Chorrera period (1000-500BC) surrounded by deliberately laid surfaces. The most exciting discovery of recent excavations has been the location of an elaborate entranceway from the north. Several phases of construction were noted alternating in form from ramps to steps, leading through the walls to an area over the earlier mound; this confirms that the internal surface was raised in the same manner as present day buildings.



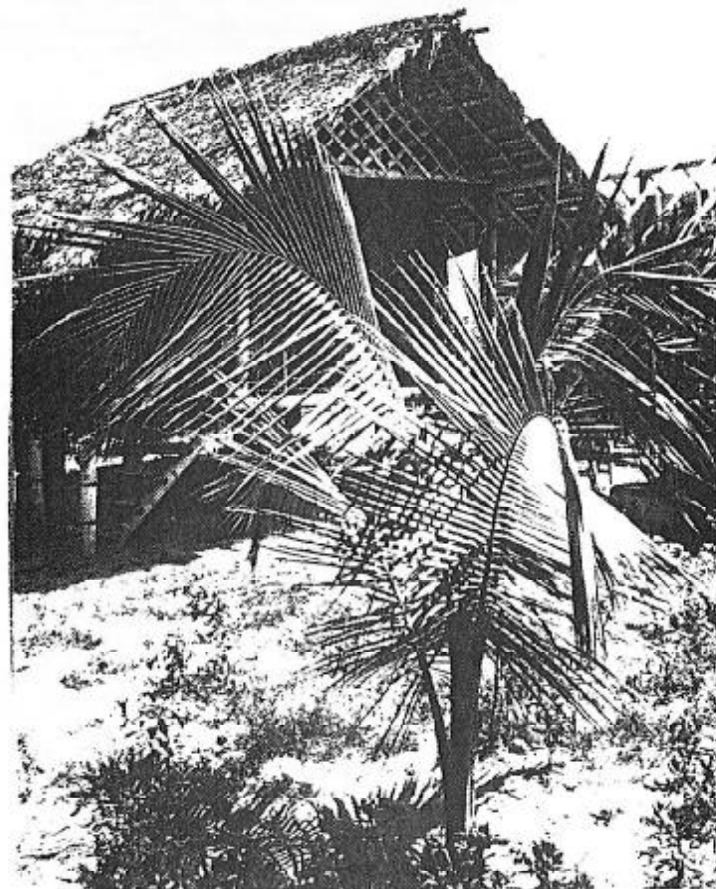
Excavation in progress: steps into mound in centre view

The second site further south along the coast is located at the mouth of a dry river called Rio Chico. This site has been worked upon sporadically over the years, and so far has consisted largely of test-trenching rather than open-area excavation. The site lies on a sandy cliff overlooking the Pacific shoreline, and stretching away to foothills in the east. Earlier surveys and excavations on the islands of Salango and La Plata (about which Stevenson's 'Treasure Island' is written) just off the mainland explored the theory that these islands serving as important ports of trade, were sacred to the peoples of this coastline. Navigation and long-distance trade based upon the

exchange of the seashell 'Spondylus' was one of the areas concentrated upon. The La Plata island revealed trading caches of the shell, and the mainland was consequently investigated for evidence of workshops. The site at Rio Chico was investigated as part of the mainland survey after examination of 'ready-made' beach/cliff sections. Pits over 3 metres in depth revealed great middens in apparent continual use, with much evidence from the earliest two civilisations, Chorrera and Valdivia. These middens produced mostly pottery - especially decorated loom-weights, and worked Spondylus fish-hooks and other objects, and also gave much information about dietary customs. Other trenches revealed vast quantities of post-holes and a shaft burial. Future exploration will include the opening of a large area on the site. Aside from an incident in which a mad gunman threatened to kill one of the Ecuadorians, this was a gloriously peaceful place to work.

Excavation and recording techniques used at Salango have been based on DUA methods and to date in excess of 12,000 contexts have been excavated over a depth of 5 metres of stratigraphy on the Factory site alone.

One of the most striking things about working in Salango is that its function has changed little since it was settled by the Valdivian civilisation in c.2300BC - it was and still is a fishing village, although progress has now given it a fish factory - a much needed source of work for the inhabitants. Then as now, they practised some pitifully unyielding agriculture which provides coffee and some of the staples such as yucca and plantains, depending on the ferocity of annual droughts and floods. The patterns of postholes found on the sites represent precisely the sort of bamboo and palm huts on stilts lived in still today, so little is left to the imagination.



Typical bamboo dwelling on stilts



decorated loom-weight



The irony is, though, that the Mantenos managed to adapt their environment with sophisticated irrigation and terracing, and whilst the relics of these earthworks are still visible in the hills overlooking Salango bay, the modern Salanganians have lost the knowledge of how to utilise such systems and thus control their surroundings.

Site work in Salango left much to the invention and improvisation of the excavators as equipment was sadly lacking: after days of searching for the only staff, for example, it was eventually found leaning against a palm tree where it had naturally been used to knock down coconuts; likewise, the missing first 5 metres of the handtape was located wrapped around the handle of the disintegrating sandwich basket. Unfortunately, Health and Safety was also completely unknown with daily work on the Rio Chico site taking place down pits over 3 metres deep in dry crumbly sand.... Generally, though, there was a lot of enthusiasm from the Ecuadorians working alongside us, and it is they who provide the link on site between the groups of 'gringos' who come and go; the women would not have been likely to have been allowed to hold jobs if the museum had not had such a prominent role in the village, and they had the good fortune to be trained to use computers - normality for us, but decades away from their lifestyle.

We were extremely privileged to be absorbed into the life and identity of Salango; we socialised with the people, and there was little ill-feeling towards us from anyone: we learned to live a way of life that could never be experienced from merely travelling in a country.

Nina Jaffa  
Deirdre Power

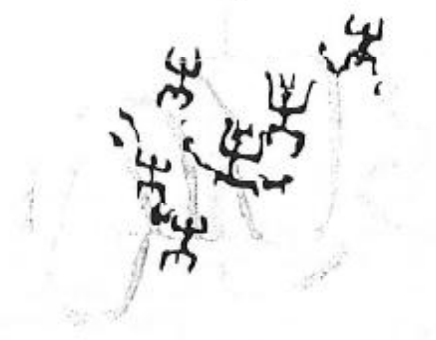
ARCHAEOLOGICAL WEEKENDS IN YORK

YORK ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST  
A UNIT OF THE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS  
DEPARTMENT OF CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

THE DELIGHTS  
OF  
BRITISH  
ARCHAEOLOGY  
1989



## SACRED and PROFANE URBAN ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE WEST MIDLANDS



A Conference on Archaeology, Ritual and Religion  
Oxford, 28th-29th October, 1989.

Correspondence to: The Organizing Committee, Archaeology, Ritual and Religion Conference 1989, Institute of Archaeology, 26 Brunel Street, Oxford OX1 2YU, United Kingdom



A CONFERENCE TO BE HELD AT  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM  
SEPTEMBER 8th - 10th, 1989

**And now for something a little more literary...**

Dedicated to those working on the Fleet Valley project:  
 excerpts from *'On the Famous Voyage'* (subtitled 'up the Fleet')  
 by Ben Jonson 1616

*In the first lawes appeare'd that ugly monster  
 Ycleped Mud, which when their oares did once stirre,  
 Belch'd forth an ayre, as hot as at the muster  
 Of all your night-tubs, when the carts doe cluster,  
 Who shall discharge first his merd-urinuous load*

.....How dare

*Your daintie nostrills (in so hot a season,  
 When evry clerke eates artichokes and peason,  
 Laxative lettus, and such windie meate)  
 Tempt such a passage? When each privies seate  
 Is fill'd with buttock? And the walls doe sweate  
 Urine and plasisters? When the noise doth beate  
 Upon your eares, of discomforts so unsweet?*

Not one of his best, perhaps. Here's a second account, still  
 about the Fleet, from *the Tatler* of October 1710. A report from the  
 Environmental section perhaps?

*Now from all parts the swelling kennels flow,  
 And bear their trophies with them as they go:  
 Filth of all hues and odours seem to tell  
 What street they sail'd from by their sight and smell...  
 Sweepings from butcher's stalls, dung, guts, and blood,  
 Drown'd puppies, shaking sprats, all drenched in mud,  
 Dead cats, and turnip tops, come tumbling down the flood.  
 Miaow! Wuff, wuff! Glug, glug, glug...*

(Research indicates last line may be a later Insertion, Ed.)

In the light of the current socially responsible pre-occupation with 'green' issues and the conservation of the planet's arboreal heritage, we would suggest that a considerable saving on paper could be made by targetting this Newsletter on those members of staff who actually want to read it. This could be achieved by making it available only on payment of a nominal charge of say 10p per issue, which could be donated to an ecologically oriented charity. This would also shed light on the much-debated question of whether the Newsletter reflects a genuine interest in excess of the 14% who responded to the questionnaire, or is merely an expensive PR exercise imposed by management on an alienated workforce.

Angus MacBluer

## DUA EXCAVATION NEWS

### Summaries of sites for July 1989



#### 1. 34-35 Leadenhall

The site is situated to the east of the Basilica and Forum, and should reveal Roman extra-mural building and road layout. During the medieval period there was probably a large scale metal-working industry in this area. The trenches currently under investigation show a fairly good sequence of Roman and medieval survival despite heavy truncation. A large area on the south side of the site is covered by mixed grey silt dumps in which bellmould fragments have been found. Excavation by the contractors on the east side of the site is being observed and sections drawn. This has revealed large deep pits, and horizontal dumps and surfaces. There is also some evidence for a large horizontal timber raft above a dump of brickearth: its function is as yet unknown. This was later sealed by a clay dump, resulting in very good preservation of the timbers.

#### 2. Bishopsgate

The site lies 100m to the north of the Roman city wall and 50m east of the line of Ermine Street. To date, Roman burials and cremations have been found on the site, and the January excavations revealed Roman quarry pits, medieval cesspits and a 16th century brick wall along the face of Devonshire House. Three areas were finished off in July; these produced the same archaeological sequence as before. Further possible Roman quarry pits were revealed, and a ritual double-dog burial was also found.

### 3. Cannon Street Station

Work continued in arches 13 and 10. The usual delays resulted in a late starting date of 24th July. In arch 13 a trench has been opened which will include an east-west Roman terrace wall, a large north-south timber drain, and associated dumping. Both date from the 1st century AD and have been observed during machine clearance.

In arch 10 the west wall of the 12th century Hanseatic League Guildhall runs north-south in the western edge of the trench. The southern east-west return wall of this phase of the building was also revealed during machining. It is anticipated that 10th-12th century occupation levels and the southern edge of the Saxon waterfront embankment and foreshore will be uncovered during the next 3 weeks of the excavation.

### 4. America Square

Careless machine work resulted in Bastion 2/3 being revealed once again and superficially damaged. This was however sufficient to reveal that the core of the structure consisted almost entirely of moulded stone. The damage is being remedied to HBMC specifications at present. The 30 metre stretch of city wall that is to be preserved in the new building is at present protected by hoardings and scaffolding, and it is to be recorded after the completion of the ground floor - probably in August-September.

### 5. Fleet Valley

There are currently 3 areas under investigation on the site. In the Ludgate Cellars area, four early medieval metal-working furnaces/hearths and their associated floor surfaces were excavated. Large quantities of 17th century pottery and glass as well as 15th century window tracery were recovered from the well described last month. In the Booking Hall Bridge area a small timber revetment has been excavated, and a series of slit trenches have revealed natural sands and gravels at a height which implies a sharp incline in the river bank at this point. In the Old Seacoal Lane area, four rebuilds of what is presumed to be the perimeter wall of the Fleet prison have been excavated. To the south, outside the prison, a brick sewer has been found showing evidence of modification from an open to a closed structure, and within the perimeter wall several walls and an area of concrete 'yard' have been uncovered. In the Fleet Lane area, 18th century building foundations, brick drains and pits have been recorded, one of the latter containing re-used worked stone. Natural clays found here suggest that it overlies an extremely steep section of the original riverbank. The radar survey produced no satisfactory results. Interesting finds include a rust-encrusted knife blade which when X-rayed revealed a maker's mark; it is thought to date from the Saxon period.

### 6. Wardrobe Place

The site lies within the Roman and medieval city walls on the south side of Ludgate Hill. A large water channel is expected to be found on the site, as well as the King's Great Wardrobe - a storage place for the king's belongings between the dates of 1359 and the Great Fire. Two trenches have been opened so far: one revealed Natural, cut by a quarry pit and a post-medieval brick soakaway. The other also exposed Natural cut by a quarry pit - this one infilled and sealed by Roman dumps which may derive from the cutting of the expected water channel.

## MEMO FROM THE DIRECTOR

TO HEADS OF DEPARTMENTS AND SECTIONS

I know this is a hot summer, but...

there are acceptable standards of dress.

The Museum of London has never insisted on particularly formal standards of dress from the staff knowing that it can rely on their good sense to dress appropriately for the occasion.

However, recently I have become concerned that standards of dress have lapsed on part of some staff. This does not present an acceptable image for visitors, those who come to the Museum on business, and those who come here who may be donors or sponsors. The Museum has to rely on the good will of these people; deviation from convention does not help.

I do not require the formality of the financial world or the Civil Service; I certainly do not want to see the excessive informality of the archaeological site. I am content with an acceptable informality of dress.

However, please inform all your staff that when visiting or working in the Museum building, bare chests, brief shorts, scruffy or skimpy T-shirts and dirty shoes and boots are not acceptable. Site staff should wherever possible change into something acceptable before coming to the Museum.

This instruction also applies when using Corporation of London facilities or visiting their offices, and when representing the Museum in other places.

Heads of Departments and Sections are responsible for ensuring this instruction is observed.

MAX HEBDITCH.

# Dig uncovers Fleet prison remains

By Robert Bedlow

LONDON'S Fleet Prison, dating from the 12th century, has been uncovered beneath railway arches in the heart of the City during one of the country's largest archaeological digs. Its outline has emerged as teams of experts from the Museum of London found artefacts, from the period, including a three-seater communal lavatory seat.

The £2 million project on the site of what will become a railway station and office block in the Blackfriars and Farringdon area, near Fleet Street, has yielded a wealth of information.

Mr Bill McCann, project co-ordinator, of the Museum of London, said: "We have found two Roman roads, many highly-unusual mediaeval items, and we are uncovering more of the outline of the walls of the Fleet Prison."

"It was apparently quite a nice prison for the time and during the Tudor period people were sent there by the Star Chamber."

The king's prison on the Fleet river was first mentioned in the early 12th century. Demolished in 1846, it housed many debtors and political prisoners.

The lavatory seat was found over a small wattle-lined pit. "It had not been finished off to a very smooth surface and was probably uncomfortable to sit on," said Mr McCann.

"We know the Romans had communal lavatories, but this is the only three-seater we have ever found from this period, so it is very unusual."

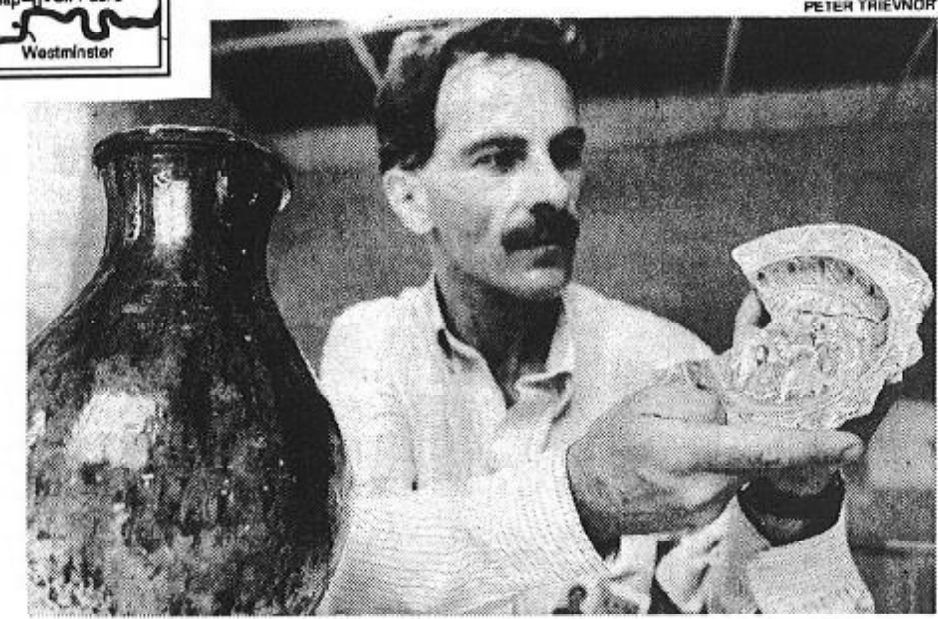
There were signs of it being burned underneath. "Probably they used the fire for hygiene purposes and I can only hope nobody was sitting on it at the time."

One important find is a near-perfect Kingston Ware jar from a previously unknown form dating from 1250-1350. It was uncovered from a barrel-lined well, apparently accidentally dropped there by someone collecting water.

The earliest excavated example of a wagon axle, dating between the 11th and 12th centuries, has also been found, along with a Palissy-type plate from the Saintonge region of France around 1540.

There are also Saxon brooches, plates, jars and stones from the 12th century, and Venetian stained glass, associated with the Black Friars priory of the 13th century.

The dig, financed by Rosehaugh Stanhope Developments, is due to end early next year. Mr McCann said the archaeologists were very grateful for the firm's help, "but this is not going to be another Rose Theatre."



Mr Bill McCann, assistant project co-ordinator in London, they have found stones from the twelfth-century priory of the Black Friars and the thirteenth-century city wall beneath Pilgrim Street. They have also unearthed the foundations of what could be the lost Tower of Montfichet, a fortress built after the Norman Conquest, two Roman roads, large mediaeval buildings, a late Saxon cemetery and a timber river wall. Mr McCann said the development was unlikely to become a repeat of the Rose theatre fracas. "The developers have said that if we find something extraordinarily important they are willing to consider changing their plans." The dig, funded by Rosehaugh Stanhope Developments, will continue next year. The Rose theatre campaigners are to present alternative plans to Southwark council tonight, allowing more ceiling space above the theatre.

RIM

THE TIMES MONDAY JULY 31 1989

## SPECTRUM

# A last chance to save the past

The discovery this month of what may be a second Tower of London near the walls of the old Fleet Prison confirms 1989 as an outstanding year for the archaeologists working in or near the capital. George Hill looks at their race against time — and the pile-driver

L empires of sand have already returned the remains of the Rose Theatre, which came to light so briefly in February to become the scene of the most unopposed battle over an archaeological site that London has seen for 30 years. A stone's throw away, preliminary probes began four weeks ago into the public covering the even more notorious Shakespearean dust of the Globe itself.

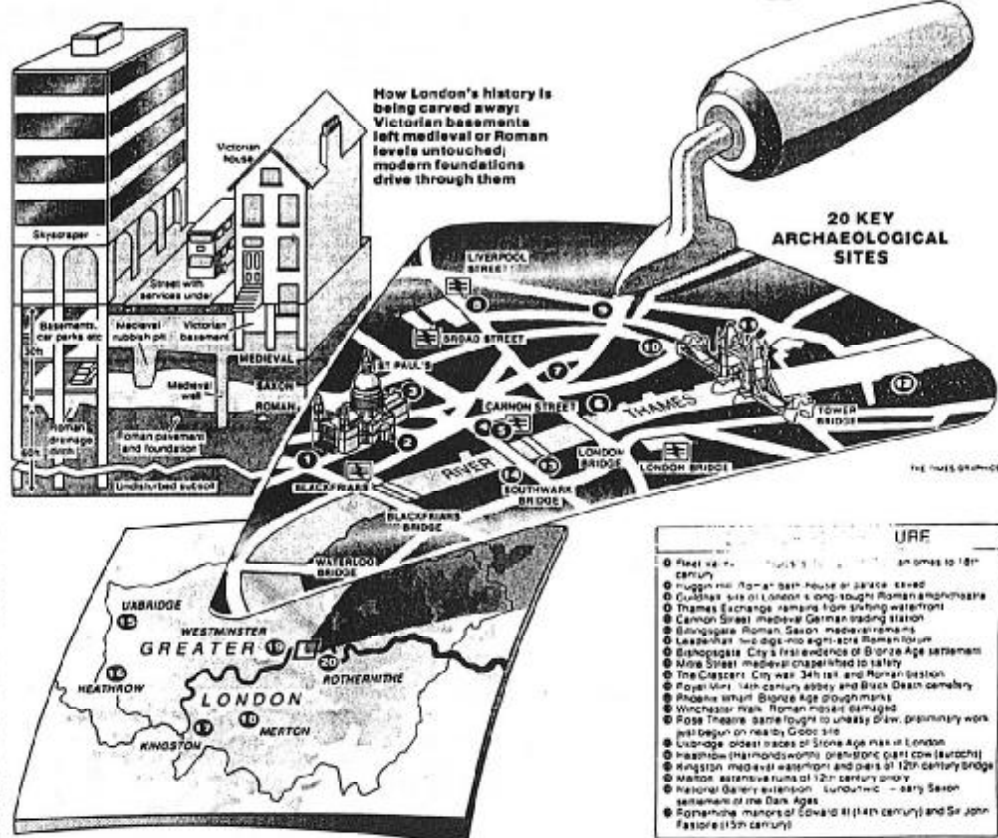
These two digs alone might have been enough in normal times to mark 1989 as an archaeological year of London. Although the Globe suggests that the site is more badly disturbed than the Rose and may have less to reveal, but the activity has become so hectic that the year would have been extraordinary even if the researchers had never lifted an axe of soil on the Scutts Bank. Almost all the sites listed in the map have seen activity within the past two years, many excavations only the more recent examples from a list of more than 100 projects.

In the process, tension between diggers and developers has risen high. In spite of a voluntary code of conduct designed to defuse such problems, three major controversies have already broken out this year. The one over the Rose has been fought in a compromise unsatisfactory to campaigners and to the developer, who played by the rules but has been obliged by pressure of public opinion to incur £10 million in additional costs to give the already damaged remains what conservationists regard as minimal protection.

Across the river at Huggin Hill (2) on the map, where unexpectedly rich remains of a Roman built complex (and perhaps part of the city wall) were uncovered, the outcome has been happier. The whistle was blown at an earlier stage, and the developer offered a £3 million release which will leave the remains buried but unexcavated.

Close to the two Elizabethan theatres, another clash is a reminder of how badly things can still go wrong. At Winchester Wall (11), an owner scrounged damaged a Roman mosaic while making alterations to a building. It is a matter of dispute whether he knew that the remains were under statutory protection and should not have been touched without permission.

"We are seriously considering prosecuting the owner for the damage that has been done at Winchester Wall," Stephen Wilton, of English Heritage, the body that advises the government on such issues, said last week. At the future, tomorrow's



The giant 18-month Fleet Valley project (1), the largest excavated by the Museum of London in the City, has been made necessary by the demolition of the Victorian truss railway viaduct. A site 400 yards long along the edge of the medieval walled city is being opened up, exposing the remains of the old Fleet Prison and far older waterway traces from the centuries when the Fleet River was a thriving port. A Saxon graveyard has been found on what must once have been a green promontory between the two rivers. Foundations of a stone tower, commanding the City's western entrance across the bridge where Ludgate Circus stands, are probably the remains of the long-lost Montfichet's Tower, western counterpart of the Tower of London.

"What we have found has already surpassed our expectations," Bill McCann, co-ordinator of the Fleet project, said. "We have weekly meetings with the developers and ourselves are good whenever they stop for a tea-

break, we go in to look at what they have just uncovered." Construction workers and diggers were working almost side-by-side on the north side of the site, all sweating in the summer heat and wearing the same hard hats. As the earthmovers clear a stretch of ground, the researchers move in to salvage items of manageable size, and measure and record the rest before the earthmovers return and the remains are bulldozed into oblivion.

The City's development boom has moulded archaeology into its own image. As the pace has accelerated, rescue digs have had to learn techniques which mirror those of the developers. "Five years ago, planning and building a major City block took four or five years, and we could count on having the site to ourselves for six months," says Sue Riveter, one of the museum's researchers. "Today the process has been cut down to 18 months, and we are lucky if we get as much

as six weeks on the site, sharing it with the construction workers." John Sciffeld, head of the department, accepts that these changes have imposed a cost. "Yes, we are going to be a bit less satisfactory to some, but that's a fact of life. We have to improve our professionalism as the building industry improves. To be frank, our first line of negotiation is always to see if we can avoid digging at all. That cuts down our work and slows down the erosion of the resource, leaving more archaeology for future generations, who will have techniques better than ours."

Since the code of practice was drawn up, the relationship between archaeologists and developers has been one of guarded alliance. The archaeologists accept that the rebuilding of London cannot be stopped for the sake of the past, they also feel the drama of the opportunity and relish the copious funds the developers make available in the interests of scholarship and prestige. The developers appreciate that the

- 1 Fleet Valley - 18 months, 180,000 sq ft
- 2 Huggin Hill - Roman bath house on palace street
- 3 Winchester Wall - Roman mosaic
- 4 Rose Theatre - Roman amphitheatre
- 5 Thames Exchange - Roman pottery
- 6 Cannon Street - Roman road
- 7 Ludgate Hill - Roman road
- 8 Bishopsgate - Roman road
- 9 Mile Street - medieval chapel
- 10 The Charterhouse - 14th century abbey
- 11 Winchester Wall - Roman mosaic
- 12 Fleet Valley - Roman road
- 13 Fleet Valley - Roman road
- 14 Fleet Valley - Roman road
- 15 Fleet Valley - Roman road
- 16 Fleet Valley - Roman road
- 17 Fleet Valley - Roman road
- 18 Fleet Valley - Roman road
- 19 Fleet Valley - Roman road
- 20 Fleet Valley - Roman road

## Our past in Beth's hands

THE VALUABLE collections of Canterbury's museums are in the capable hands of new senior assistant curator Beth Richardson, pictured right. The 31-year-old archaeologist has come to the city from the Museum of London where she has worked for the last 10 years, after graduating from Reading University.

But Beth is no stranger to the Canterbury area. Her parents live at nearby Elham.

And she is thrilled to have got the newly-created post, because of the exciting opportunities currently developing in the city.

"I was getting a bit fed up working in London because of the traffic and general aggravation and looking for an opportunity to come to Canterbury where I had heard there might be a new job," she said.

Beth's new post involves not just caring for the museum collections, but interpreting and expanding them with new displays.

She is also looking forward to helping develop the Roman mosaic museum in the new Longmarket development.



THE INDEPENDENT Tuesday 25 July 1989

# Second London tower is found

By David Keys  
Archaeology Correspondent

ARCHAEOLOGISTS have discovered a second Tower of London immediately outside the western edge of the early medieval city, just east of what is now Ludgate Circus.

Known as Montfitchet's Tower in medieval times, this second London castle was built with the Tower of London after the Norman Conquest to keep the City subjugated.

Historians, who describe the find as sensational, have puzzled over the exact position of London's second tower.

The remains being unearthed include the foundations of Montfitchet's Tower and part of an internal spiral staircase.

Excavations are revealing that the castle consisted of a nine-yard square keep with walls three feet thick.

The fortress would have stood just outside the City walls guarding the bridge across the 100-yard-wide River Fleet.

Some historians suspect that London's western fortress, which guarded the route between the City and Westminster's royal palace, may have had a second medieval keep that became known as Baynard's Castle and has yet to be located.

Excavations around the emerging remains of Montfitchet's Tower have yielded material

which may have been used in the castle — a glazed jar, scraps of leather and pottery and Britain's earliest wagon axle, dating from around 1100.

Montfitchet's Tower is believed to have been built originally by a Norman baron, Robert Gernon, who fought at Hastings alongside William the Conqueror.

But in the twelfth century the Gernon family died out, and Henry I gave their estates — Stansted, Essex, and probably London's western fortress — to a noble family, the Montfitchets, newly arrived from the village of Montfiquet, near Bayeux, in the area of Normandy from which the king drew his followers.

The castle was demolished in the 1270s and its masonry used in the construction of Blackfriars Priory.

Excavations on the site, under the direction of the archaeologist Bill McCann, of the Museum of London, have also unearthed fragments of the medieval Blackfriars Priory, and the eighteenth-century south-east perimeter wall of the notorious Fleet Prison. Other finds include two Saxon brooches, and a sixteenth-century painted French plate.