

MOLAS LIBRARY

news
letter

***bumper
summer
issue***

June 1990

DIARY
Lunchtime Events

Wednesdays and Fridays at 1.10pm:

13th June: *Changing Styles in planting Gardens: Fashions and tastes of Earlier Centuries*, Penelope Hobhouse.

15th June: *Chiswick House Gardens and their restoration*, Edward Fawcett.

20th June: *Kew Gardens: Joseph Banks and the Influence of the Early Plant Collectors*, Laura Ponsonby.

22nd June: *Everyman's Garden: The smaller London Garden in the 18th 19th Centuries*, Gillian Darley.

27th June: *Beyond the Privet Hedge: Display and Play in the Modern Suburban Garden*, Paul Oliver.

29th June: *City Gardens Today and into the 21st Century*, Charles Funke.

Saturday 30th June: Lectures and Garden Visits including Highgate Cemetery and Trinity Hospice, Clapham. Details from the Education Dept.

GRAND PRIORY
CHURCH OF THE
ORDER OF ST JOHN,
ST JOHNS SQUARE,
20th June - 24th August
Mon - Sat 11am - 4pm
(Except Bank Holiday
weekends and 27th June)
FREE

CLERKENWELL'S HIDDEN HERITAGE

A joint exhibition by the Museum of London and the Museum of the Order of St. John of recent facts and finds discovered under the building of this historic London area. Further information from the Museum of the Order of St. John (071) 253 6644.

FINSBURY LIBRARY
FOYER
245 ST JOHN STREET,
FREE

CLERKENWELL'S HISTORY IN PICTURES

Opening Hours: Monday 9am - 8pm
Tuesday 9am - 5pm Wednesday closed all day
Thursday 9am - 8pm Friday 9am - 5pm
Saturday 9am - 5pm Sunday Closed all day

STAFF**New Staff:**

Jim Manning Press
David Divers
John Mc Ilwaine
Rupert Salmon
Patrick Hunter
Mark Turner
Gerry Martin

Dave Robinson
Jeanette Holt
Russel Trimble
Jane Baldwin
Clare Gathercole
Louise Barnes
Daniel Bone
Allison Telfer

Neal Green
Paul Potter
Marie Nally
Ralph Collis
Dave Wicks
Richard Bucht
Andy Richards

JOBS

Assistant Publications Officer: A new post created to manage and edit all aspects of the new London Archaeological Report Series.

Further details from Francis Grew (ext.201). Closing date: 25th June 1990.

Finds Record Officer, Grade 5-5+2. Further information and details from the Personnel Officer. Closing date 20th June 1990.

NEWS DIGEST

New projects

New excavations begun in May include 28-30 Bush Lane (Paul Travers), 5 Pilgrim Street (Bruce Watson) and the intriguing case of St Botolph Aldgate, where Julian Ayre and team, carefully dressed in special suits resembling spacemen, investigate an 18th-century gift to archaeology by the noted City architect, George Dance. He left part of the north side of the medieval St Botolph's church within the crypt under the entrance stairs to his new church, the present structure. There seems to be no structural necessity for this, for he left medieval foundations poking into the new crypt. Thank you, Mr Dance.

The publication programme, after a long period when everybody was preparing manuscripts, is now beginning to produce volumes. You may have seen the flier for the five CBA Research Reports on The Archaeology of London, the first of which, *Excavations in the Upper Walbrook Valley* by Cath Maloney with Dominique de Moulins, is about to appear; to be followed shortly by *West of Walbrook* by Dominic Perring and Steve Roskams.

English Heritage

Despite an understanding that no new arrangements would be made until the joint review of London archaeology had reached conclusions, English Heritage have sent another circular to the planning departments of London boroughs, outlining their intention to go ahead with their plans and establish a service within EH (and presumably at Fortress House) to act in effect as County Archaeologist for the London area. It is not politic for me to detail here the level of remonstrance by the Museum or the reaction of the boroughs, including our own; but rest assured there has been some of each. There may be more to report after a review meeting with EH towards the end of June.

Meanwhile the close working relationship of the DUA planning and negotiations team within the EO and the Corporation Planning Department was scrutinised by English Heritage, as part of the review process; they had already visited DGLA. It is clear that English Heritage regards the two Museum units differently in any changes they have in mind. Like all governments and monarchs since the time of William the Conqueror, they will also find the City corporation a very tough and independent customer to deal with.

To give them credit where it is due, English Heritage have helped us by playing their proper part in the continuing discussions with the developer about Brook's Wharf at Queenhithe, by supporting the DUA position and arguing for post-demolition excavation. Discussions are still in progress.

Premises

Our biggest current problem is overcrowded and insufficient premises. Negotiations for third-floor offices and space at Great Eastern Street have now got to the stage where we hope to complete formalities and occupy during July or possibly August. There is now sufficient certainty to discuss who goes where in the move-round which will follow this acquisition of 4700 sq ft. The main idea is to group together site post-excavation and development of *London Archaeological Reports* in the new offices. This will allow expansion of both the site and finds drawing offices and hopefully, in a related move, expansion for the finds processing team. After discussion of the main moves at Section Heads' meeting on 7 June, I would like to start planning in detail. Please bear with any disruption to your work programmes; it will all hopefully be for the better in the long term.

London Archaeological Reports

Though some hoped to launch LAR sooner, it was clear that we needed to sort out problems of space before attempting this major new venture. We also needed people to run the programme, and cash to run it with. All three elements are now appearing. While setting up Great Eastern Street, we are in a position to allocate the budget for the first year, and the new post of Assistant Publications Officer is being advertised. This person will assist Francis Grew by running several publication projects, but LAR will be the main one. I would also hope that this second post is as permanent as any, in that it will survive resolution of the present temporary arrangements in our publications management.

MoL Standards

On 30 March the Director and a representative selection of DUA, DGLA, conservation and environmental officers decided to proceed further with compiling Museum of London Archaeological Standards, both for internal and external use. Discussion has split into smaller groups on various aspects, and predictably goes slowly because all participants have much else to do. But it might be useful to outline the scheme here.

The Standards divide into four areas and subjects, with the DUA delegates (who discuss with others from the environmental section and DGLA) as follows:

1. Site evaluation and the planning process: A Mackle and S O'Connor Thompson (first draft document available).

2. Excavation:

- (a) Excavation research strategies and research designs: J Schofield, J Maloney (first document available shortly).
- (b) Site recording procedures, building on the new site manual (being examined by DGLA): C Spence, A Westman.
- (c) Finds retrieval and recording: existing document by Finds Working Party, which met in the Spring.

3. Post-excavation:

- (a) Post-excavation research designs: F Grew
- (b) Site records archive and level 3 standards: A Westman
- (c) Finds level 3 analyses and reports: Finds Working Party
- (d) Preparation of finds for permanent retention: Finds Working Party
- [(e) Environmental analyses and reports: J Rackham]

4. Housing, retention of finds policy and long-term curation of finds: Finds Working Party (draft documents on all the WP areas are available).

I would hope that we can bring this together during the summer as a formidable statement of our standards. If you have any particular query, please contact the delegate named.

Housekeeping

The examination of our financial project management systems by ECH Consultants, presented in early May, has now been read by relevant parties and we have agreement to go ahead with their suggested improvements. These include special computer programs for project monitoring and financial accounting, and appointment of an Administrator within the department; the whole package should take five months to implement from as soon as can be arranged (perhaps early July). Hopefully all project leaders will see improvements quite soon.

DUA International

One dimension to our work which is always instructive is to keep informed as to what is happening in urban archaeology, and the investigation of town sites generally, elsewhere in the world. I am trying to encourage foreign colleagues to drop in and tell us about their work. Two potential visits in the near future, their dates so far not definitely fixed, are speakers on (i) Bet She'an (Israel), originally an Egyptian stronghold of the 15th century BC, notable for spectacular Hellenistic, Roman, and Byzantine remains, and (ii) Boston (Massachusetts), founded in 1630, and now producing a good range of post-medieval material.

John Schofield

CONSERVATION DEPARTMENT

Current Sites

Work in the Conservation Department on current site material includes the treatment and stabilisation of a large amount of medieval jet inlay waste from St. Mary Axe (SAY 88). An object of particular interest is a Roman copper alloy ruler from Great St. Thomas Apostle (THM 89) with measuring marks still visible on the surface. The Saxon bone comb (LHN 89) mentioned in last month's DUA news has been successfully extracted from its protective case.

Conservation work continues for the Fleet Valley Project including a series of pewter spoons and dishes. The workload is expected to increase within the next few weeks as new areas are opened up for investigation.

HBMC Publication Programme:

The HBMC publication programme, project 25 - the treatment and repacking of Knives and Shears is nearing completion. The cleaning of project 25 locks, keys and candlesticks continues as does the preparation of lead tokens for photography.

The first load of timbers from Billingsgate have been freeze dried down in Portsmouth for use by the Pageant.

Courses & Outside Meetings Attended:

A UKIC conference on the Identification of Organic Remains held at York was attended by three members of the Department. Much useful information was gained on the analysis of lipids surviving from archaeological deposits, made possible only by the availability of complex and costly equipment.

Other News:

Virginia Neal has transferred to the DGLA position made vacant by the departure of Rob Payton.

We are preparing for the arrival of four students from the Institute of Archaeology and the Tower Armouries who will be working with us in the Department during June and July in order to gain some practical experience.

Virginia Neal



'METALWORKING WASTE' DAY SCHOOL - 25th June

It is to be an informal day with emphasis placed on the displays of metalworking products and waste material. The day will be an excellent opportunity for museum staff; as well as being very useful in identifying some 'mystery' artefacts. There is a minimum of 10 places available to DUA staff, and as numbers must be limited for the talks, the afternoon display/discussion period will be **extended** and **open to all** interested Museum staff: **3:30-5.30pm**. The displays will be set up in the Education Dept.



Further details from Conservation Dept.

FINDS DEPARTMENT

It has been rather a "slow" month in the Finds Section. Most people said that they had not discovered anything very thrilling, and quite a few were away on holiday.

We welcome Sally Holt, who started work on Thames Exchange (TEX88) metals and leather on 28th May. She will be processing these materials for three months. Alex Moore put on a display of accessioned TEX88 finds for the Mudlarks on 20th and 21st May. This Boardroom epic also featured a talk by Gustav Milne.

Patricia Price was married on 5th May, and would like to continue to be known by this name.

Lynne Keys is now processing finds at Pinners Hall. She reported that some very exciting medieval moulded stones have come up, including window tracery and four double column-capitals. Saxo-Norman pits at the same site have produced metal-working crucibles and slag.

Some staff of the Section attended a meeting at Fortress House on 14th May: Approaches to the Study of Archaeological Glass in Britain. It was intended as a collaboration between archaeological scientists and archaeologists working with glass. Some very exotic subjects were dealt with e.g. decorated Iron Age beads, but a general talk on identification and classification of Roman vessel glass was very helpful. A thrilling find of a furnace and Saxon glassworking debris at Barking Abbey was revealed (excavated by Passmore Edwards Museum this year). John Shepherd's talk on Romano-British glassworking sites in London was very useful. If you are interested in seeing notes from the meeting, please contact the Finds Section.

Marla Fabrizi

RESCUE **SCAUM**

**COMPETITIVE TENDERING
IN ARCHAEOLOGY**

A one-day seminar jointly organised by
RESCUE and SCAUM

Friday 29th June
Birmingham University
Small Lecture Theatre, Haworth Building
Starting at 10.30 a.m.

Speakers will include: Tim Schadla Hall (Society of Museum Archaeologists); Paul Chadwick (Association of County Archaeological Officers); George Lambrick (CBA); Simon Buteux (Birmingham University Field Archaeology Unit); John Williams (IFA) and representatives from the British Property Federation and English Heritage.

Morning and afternoon sessions will be chaired by representatives from RESCUE and SCAUM. It is intended that there will be ample time for discussion.

Tickets £4.00 at the door.

Further information from the RESCUE office,
tel 0992 553377

*If you are interested in attending this seminar,
please let Susan Greenwood know in writing.
We hope to organise transport to Birmingham.*

COMPUTING DEPARTMENT

Cut Out and Keep!

Below is some more information about Microsoft Word that users might find helpful. There will be a Word section each month in the newsletter. As you discover more and more useful things that Word can do why not send details to the newsletter via Zoe. This is a cut out and keep page!

Loading files from other directories.

<Esc> [Transfer] [Load]

1. Press <Esc> to activate menu.
2. Choose [Transfer].
3. Choose [Load].
4. Press <F1> to obtain a list of word files and directories.
5. using your <arrow> keys highlight either a directory name or the two dots [..].

Directory names are in square brackets. The two dots in square brackets signify moving up one level in the directory structure.

5. Press <Return>.

If you highlighted a directory name you will now see a list of files and other directories in that directory, you can highlight a file, press <Return> and it will be loaded into Word. If you highlighted the two dots, you will now see a list of files and directories from the directory above your current directory. You can highlight a file and load it into Word or continue to change directories until you find the file you want.

This command will load your existing document out of word if you are already editing one and load the new document in. You will be prompted to save any changes that you have made to the existing document before the new document is loaded in. Your files are in effect transferred from the operating system into the word-processing package. When you quit from word you will be brought back into your original directory.

Zoe Tomlinson.

TRAINING NEWS

The Training Committee met on Tuesday 5 June the following applications were approved:

Damian Goodburn:

Conference on "*Wet Organic Materials*" organised by The International Councils of Museums. The conference will be held in Bremerhaven. Damian has been invited to give two papers on "Recording and Processing Archaeological Timbers in The Museum of London" and "Some Unfamiliar Aspects of Early Woodworking"

Hal Bishop, Al Mackie, Taryn Nixon Caroline Pathy-Barker, Eric Norton, John Maloney, Simon O'Connor-Thompson, and Rob Ellis:

"*Archaeology in The City.*" A talk organised by The Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors and given by Geoff Wainwright.

Crispin Jarman:

Basic Survey Course at The Polytechnic of East London.

Robin Symmonds:

Annual Meeting of Societe Francaise de L'Etude de la Ceramique Antique en Gaule.

Caroline Pathy-Barker:

Learning to negotiate

Ruth Waller:

Drawing Archaeological Finds

Alex Moore:

Funding for MPhil on *Pipe Clay Wig Curlers*

The next Training Committee will be on Tuesday 11 September.

Susan Greenwood

MUSEUM OF LONDON SEMINARS

The Past for Sale

Firstly, I must apologise that my recollection of the seminar is somewhat vague. This is not due to excessive consumption of beer following the proceedings but rather to my omission to take notes (perhaps I can pass the buck for this on to the compiler of the Newsletter who might have reminded me before hand!).

The session was well attended, (Education Room B was full to capacity). I would like to thank our guests, James Clare of the Corporation of London and Alex West of the BBC for giving their time and expertise. I was also glad that messrs. Schofield and Maloney were able to attend to share their thoughts with us, and that there was a significant number of people present from outside the DUA.

The evening began with the screening of the informative and entertaining BBC programme which was broadcast last Autumn.

The film examined the effect that the plethora of new Heritage Attractions may be having on our perception of History. Amid thrill-packed scenes of weekend skullbreaking by amateur soldiers, singing Vikings, and out of work miners selling their bodies for the posterity of the waxworks, a succession of elegantly coliffured gents stated their arguments for and against such portrayals of the past.

Some footage of excavations in London also appeared, but this seemed slight at odds with the flow of the narrative, as though two programmes had been edited together. Alex West, who produced the film, later pointed out that it was intended at the outset to make a programme about the preservation of one aspect of our Heritage:- namely archaeological sites in London. As so often happens, he said when the documentary was compiled and the protagonists had made their case, the end result covered the much wider issue. Alex was disappointed that the film tended to be lead by the ideas of Robert Hewison (Author of "The Heritage Industry") but nevertheless it provided a useful springboard for the following debate.

The consensus of those present was perhaps that Hewison's arguments were based on a very elitist view of History which assumes an objective and real "Past". It is the entrepreneurs' fake "Heritage" according to Hewison, which could be seen as misrepresenting this past. Though they clearly deplored shameless attempts to sensationalise or sentimentalise history as a means simply of making money, most contributors seemed to differ from Hewison's implied objectivism, accepting that history is subjective and that there is a multiplicity of views on the past, even if those views may be better or less well informed or shaped by ulterior motives.

It was ironic that many of the Heritage entrepreneur's interviewed in the programme answered accusations of base popularism by appeals to the "accuracy" and "truth" of their little vignettes. Thus they too implied a belief in a real past against which their assumptions can be checked. Reference was made in the discussion to the Museum's Pageant Project, where a definite effort is being made to avoid adoption of an authoritarian stance.

A fair amount of respect was expressed for some of the more imaginative ideas for involving people in these heritage experiences. For example, the use of £.s.d. currency as tokens for purchasing souvenir goods at Iron Bridge Gorge was seen to have legitimate educational value for children too young to remember decimalisation, even though there must have been sound commercial judgement employed in creating a concept which helps to disguise the actual cost of the merchandise! One criticism which had been levelled at the conventional broadcasting media in the first seminar was that they often failed to interest the public in anything more than the treasure-hunt aspect of archaeology. In this seminar's debate it was pointed out that at least the Heritage entrepreneurs have succeeded in attracting people in large numbers to come and part with cash, to interest themselves in the grime (grease-paint or not) or everyday life and work in past societies. They must, after all, be doing something right!

Jeremy Oetgen.

WEILS DISEASE

Weils disease or Leptospirosis Icterohaemorrhagiae is caused by an organism carried by rats. It is long lived in water and can enter the body through damaged skin or via the mucous membranes.

CONFERENCE REPORTS

Report from the *Computer Applications and Quantitative methods in Archaeology (CAA)* Conference, Southampton.

CAA is a conference where archaeologists working with computers and computer specialists working within archaeology get together to exchange ideas and find out what's happening in the field of computers and archaeology. Most of the papers tend to have a theoretical and statistical slant, but some were more directly relevant to the DUA. Our own Robin Boast gave a paper written by him and Dave Chapman (from UCL), 'SQL and hypertext generation of strategic adjacent matrices'. There were several other papers which also addressed the problem of generating the site matrix and graphic modelling of archaeological data. Two other papers which I found particularly interesting was one by Sebastian Rahtz which addressed the problem of archaeological text and how it can be made to be more informative by using a hypertext system to link it to other site data. He also addressed the problem of standardising text and marking it up so that it can be read by electronic publishing packages. The other paper was by Jonathan Moffett which talked about the day to day problems of large collections of computerised archaeological data and in particular data transfer from one type of database to another. It was a light hearted approach with some pointers in the right direction for people who are putting data onto computer. I have a copy of the program and the abstracts from the conference if anyone wishes to borrow them from me.

Zoe Tomlinson. Ferroners House. 071 796 3040.

Public Inquiry Workshop 16th - 18th May 1990

A three day workshop held in Oxford, which included archaeologists and planners.

Objectives:

1. Familiarising those present with Inquiry procedures, Behaviour etc.
2. Learning to prepare evidence based on two actual cases. As joint inquiries were ran together you were expected to give evidence on all aspects of the cases which lay within your field of expertise.
3. Learning how to give evidence in a precise and truthful manner and to experience cross examination in a mock Public Inquiry set up with a professional barrister and prosecutor.

Preparation:

Prior to the course each participant was asked to prepare a short proof of evidence concentrating on their personal/professional experience. This involved describing from a personal viewpoint: an assessment of importance; the various relevant policies and the effect of the application.

Outcome:

A highly recommended course if participants are prepared to put some work into it and practice public speaking and cross examination skills.

Though tension, occasional ridicule, exhilaration may be experienced, at the end of the three days I felt a sense of achievement.

Caroline Pathy Barker

A day school at the University of Leicester

Saturday 24th March

When talking about wall plaster, people tend to imagine large quantities of decorated fragments which are imaginatively reconstructed for publication. This day school informed us that more information can be obtained from fragments of plaster than design alone.

The first session was given by Graham Morgan of the Archaeology Department at Leicester, and dealt with the analysis of wall-plaster and pigments. We learnt that much information can be gained about the construction of a building by looking at the impressions on the backs of fragments of plaster, such as wattle, lath and reed impressions. Information about the environment can be discovered from plant impressions in the matrix of the plaster. The careful examination of the surface of painted wall plaster can show the techniques used such as: float, trowel, brush marks, over painting and burnishing. The identification of Roman and medieval pigments was discussed, for example, cinnabar - a rare red pigment. It is possible to infer the status of a building from the use of expensive pigments.

The second session dealt with the practical methods used to analyse mortars and was also given by Graham Morgan. He described his techniques of analysing mortar by using dilute acid to remove the lime, sieving the remaining aggregates, and then producing a relative curve from the results. He highlighted the importance of carefully counting and measuring the thicknesses of layers of different mortars, which can be useful in the phasing of buildings if one assumes that different phases use different mortars.

In addition he described his work on the Hadrian's Wall whitewash debate. He discovered that the white deposit on the wall was not in fact white wash at all, but an acidic deposit formed by water dissolving lime out of the mortar which then covered the wall layer after layer.

After lunch Graham Morgan identified some mortar and painted plaster fragments queries that people had brought. He looked at a number of fragments from London and identified a green pigment as being green earth containing the mineral glauconite, and chips of white burnt flint which were added to the final layer of plaster to make it glisten.

In the afternoon session Roger Ling, of the History of Art Department at the University of Manchester, gave a talk illustrated with slides on the art historical approach to the study of Roman painted wall plaster. He emphasised the importance of careful reconstruction and highlighted some of the past errors that had occurred both in reconstruction and interpretation. Finally he discussed the mythological background to some of the designs.

Theo Sturge gave a practical demonstration on how to give a temporary backing to wall plaster with plaster of Paris, followed by a talk on the lifting, conservation and display of painted plaster, with reference to the materials that he had worked on from Norfolk Street in Leicester.

The day ended with a general discussion.

Naomi Crowley
Jackie Kelly

Training for IT Trainers.

A few months ago I attended a training course run by the Industrial Society which was aimed at helping people train computer users in new packages etc. The reason that I went on the course was because of the amount of training that I will be doing at the DUA due to the installation of the new software packages. The course was excellent and has been a major source of help and inspiration while developing the training courses and carrying out the Word training at the DUA. Although the course was aimed at Computer trainers many of the points made are relevant to all types of training and presentation. The main points covered by the course were: - **Instructional skills** (Preparing a presentation, using visual aids, giving a presentation, self confidence.) - **preparing courses** (Course content, aims and objectives, motivation, course material and hand-outs.) - **Writing manuals, & - Monitoring training.** The course content and skills learnt would be relevant to anyone who has to train other people or who has to give a presentation, especially if they are doing it for the first time. If anyone wants to look at or make a copy of the course hand-outs or wants to talk about the course please give me a ring.

Zoe Tomlinson. Ferroners House. 071 796 3040.

LETTERS

I must belatedly reply to Kevin Wooldridge's letter (News No. 19) but without being able to read Dr. Wainwright's comments in their context. The paragraph quoted seems like the usual HBMC/planners jargon which comes a trifle unstuck with the use of the word 'quarry' - shades of eyesore holes in hillsides, and fragmed 'quarry' - shades of eyesore holes in hillsides, and fragmenting a resource from which you can then pick out the bits wanted, discarding the rest. Presumably the management plan referred to can thus be selectively cited for whatever purpose. I cannot quite see how my piece in the March issue contradicts Wainwright as quoted, and the final section seems most laudable with the reference to the 'archaeological heritage' being a 'valuable asset' which might not be 'squandered or over exploited for short term gain'. Where I might differ with GJW is that I doubt English Heritage's will or ability to actually follow through such a policy. At the back of my mind is the statement concerning one historic city that a preservation policy could not be enforced for its archaeological heritage since this might impede development. The use of the word quarry again perhaps belies the inner working of E.H.'s mind.

As to fish bits as fertiliser, yes, it is an old established system to use fish as fertiliser and thoroughly acceptable as long as it really is the bits, not surplus fish, small fish that would have been better left in the sea. When working in the Norfolk area in the 70's I was horrified to see a news item to the effect that a load of fish landed at Yarmouth had not been sold and had been bought up at a guaranteed price only to go for fish meal. This is the sort of waste of natural resources which clearly must be avoided, especially when you consider that cereals grown on such fertilisers might then go into the equally wasteful process of feeding cattle. I am by no means a rigid vegetarian but the raising of cattle from cereals quite palatable for human consumption represents a gross waste of food and energy. Anyway, your gardening correspondent says, yes, put the fishbones on the compost heap along with all your other organic waste, you will soon get a fine source of general fertiliser, avoiding the need to buy expensive peat, the cutting of which despoils our moors - and destroys the archaeology.

Chris Sparey-Green.

How to spend a Sunday in the Museum of London....."Roman London...City of the Emperor?" and Gardeners Question Time 20th May 1990.

This time of the year, my normal Sunday would have involved a couple of hours in the launderette in the morning, followed by an afternoon playing cricket somewhere or other. But, the other Sunday, I decided I'd spend the best part of the day in the Museum of London (and not on "overtime rate" either!)

It was probably unconnected that a half day conference on Roman London coincided with the recording of an edition of 'Gardeners Question Time', but as I'd arranged ticket for my parents for the latter, I decided to kill a few hours in the morning by attending both. (Well, it only cost me a fiver to get in, and I'd arranged to meet my mother at lunchtime outside the Museum anyway..)

AM. Roman London - City of the Emperors?

An amateur magazine editor cum part time archaeologist, Andrew Selkirk was to present 'an exciting new theory, that London (sic) was an Imperial City - the Emperors domain, with resemblances to Trier, Milan and Rome'. Selkirk's theory would be discussed, (and possibly challenged!), by 'a panel of experts involved in the discovery and interpretation of Roman London'.

Selkirk's Theory (In brief)

Roman London is atypical of other provincial towns or cities, both in ground plan and architectural style. The geographic location of Londinium, adjoining the territories of the Cantii, Atrebatians and Catuvellauni may be significant. The Cripplegate fort is highly significant, although no-one is particularly sure why. The basilica forum, is significant because of its size. The buildings beneath Cannon Street Station are significant because if Londinium was an Imperial City, there would be the need for a Governor's Palace. The Huggin Hill baths are significant because there are significant bath buildings at Trier and in Rome (???)

Roman London was not, according to Tacitus, either a *colonia* or a *municipium*, thus it must be something else! (An Imperial City?)

Tacitus's description of Londinium as *copia negotiatorum com meatuum maxime celebre*, indicates a close relationship between the city and the provincial procurator, suggesting the city was something more than a provincial trading post.

Londinium would appear to have been surrounded by a "villa free zone" suggesting perhaps restrictions on building within the city's designated "sphere of influence". This might be the result of Imperial influence.

The "clincher" argument... In the 4th century Londinium changes its name to Augusta, perhaps in honour of its Imperial foundation.

The panel of experts

In general, I thought that the panel of experts, Ralph Merrifield, John Maloney, Harvey Sheldon and Hugh Chapman, dealt with most of Selkirk's points fairly well. Then again, just about all of Selkirk's contentions have been dealt with before in one form or another, Merrifield's 1983 'City of the Romans' for example. We had the usual interjection from the floor in the form of Nick Fuentes, who I'm not too sure wanted to believe or disbelieve Selkirk's theory.

In many ways, both Selkirk's paper and the panel discussion were a disappointment. I would have liked to have heard more consideration of Londinium as a "frontier" town and Britain at one extremity of the empire, especially with regard to its continental European counterparts, and perhaps less time spent on the specific details of particular buildings or historical events. What came across very strongly was that, Selkirk's paper was based very much on information which was current in about 1976, and perhaps both Museum archaeology departments are at fault in not have extensively updated this information, outside of our own closed circles.

Perhaps the most interesting aspect of the day, was that there were something in the region of 200 people in the audience. No offence to the main protagonist or the panel, but I'm sure that the vast majority of these people did not attend just because of the force of personality of any or all of the participants. Which is interesting!! Is there really a market (11 quid a ticket to your average punter) for this form of discussion? If there is, why isn't the Museum doing it, and reaping the profits rather than Citisights or Current Archaeology?

PM. Gardeners' Question Time.

There used to be a BBC programme called the Brains Trust, which pitted the wits of a chosen panel against the combined curiosity of the nation. The BBC doesn't really have a programme like that anymore although I suppose Gardeners' Question Time comes about the closest.

The format is simple. An invited audience submits questions in advance to a panel of gardening experts. The panel and audience bask in the reflected glory of a state of idyllic "rural" consciousness and then presumably all go back to their more typical Sunday afternoon activities. I happen to like the programme, even though I live on the ninth floor of a block of flats in Bermondsey, but I like it because of its utter irrelevance.

After books on cooking and dieting, there must be more literature available on gardening, than on any other subject which might possibly be described as a hobby or pastime. If you really did want to know the optimum conditions for growing tumeric root, couldn't you just as easily go out and buy the 'Spice Growers Handbook' rather than wait 20 years (the waiting list for horticultural societies to appear on GQT) to ask the question to a funny looking guy with the mid-Lancs accent. I suspect there is a certain smugness associated with this programme and I don't really know why.

I won't give away any of the questions that were asked, but tune in towards the end of June to hear friends, colleagues etc. enter into the fun of it all. My mum thought that it was all pretty wonderful. She even laughed at their panellists introductory jokes, one of which wouldn't have disgraced the Jim Davidson Show.

Was the whole day worth missing a cricket match for?

Bluntly no!!

That's not the fault of individually either GQT or the morning discussion. I mentioned the Brains Trust earlier, and it is interesting to note that normally the Brains Trust included an archaeologist on the panel, either Wheeler or Daniels or someone of that ilk. Perhaps the morning session was an attempt to try and recreate that sort of discussion and Gardeners Question Time is a similar, but more specialised type of programme. Both however suffered from the problem of not being sure whether they were supposed to be "entertainment" or whether they were meant to be strictly "factual".

Perhaps both archaeology and gardening are in a similar malaise. There is a perception that "somewhere out there", exists an audience who are interested in one or the other or even both subjects. But, do they actually get the best they could get or merely just whats on offer.

Kevin Wooldridge



DUA IN QUIZ CHALLENGE CUP UPSET

Whilst the attention of the world's media was distracted by the FA Cup replay, a DUA "select" team were upsetting all of the odds to win the Dagenham Football Club Annual Quiz Challenge.

The DUA team scored a staggering 115 points out of a maximum 120 to take the trophy and the 100 pound first prize after a fiercely competitive final round, outscoring the "Masons Arms", Upminster by a single point. Highly fancied, Barking and Dagenham 18+ and Mitchell and Butler Brewery Reps could only manage the minor placings.

The unfancied DUA team showed great strength in depth, surely the result of serious training on the Queens Head Quiz machine. The game began poorly for the DUA team. "Left winger" James Drummond-Murray was taken out early in the game by a scything overruling by team captain Kevin Wooldridge (which is the largest of the Canary Islands?) But, Murray recovered well in the second half to throw in the correct answer to "Which 12 year old jockey won his first race at Haydock Park in 1948?"

An inspired substitution by the DUA team calling in late substitute Queens Head regular Pete Leavis from the Crown Prosecution Service paid off with a hat-trick of trivia teasers, Emlyn Hughes first football club, the surname of the Liverpool sextuplets and the smallest of the British Crow family.

The game was held up for several minutes in the first half when team captain Wooldridge explained to match officials that Beethoven's third symphony was not popularly known as the "Erotica". But apart from that, the game was free flowing, (as was the beer).

Finally, mention should be made of Aedan Woodger, playing in an unaccustomed "sweeper" role. Woodger's sound early training paid off with the occasional biblical long ball, (who was Adams eldest son?) but highlight of the evening came when he not only gave the name of the composer of "Porgy and Bess", but also the librettist and the author of the original book.

After the game, the Mason Arms captain paid tribute to the DUA's all round game. "We thought they came back well after a dodgy start. We were disappointed to lose, especially to a team who from the outside look like a bunch of utter F*!@wits".

Following the game, the DUA team paraded the trophy all the way back up the A13 in Jimmy Murray's Mini.



PEH/DKN

B. Hobley, Esq.,
Chief Urban Archaeologist,
City of London Guildhall Museum,
Gillett House,
55 Basinghall Street,
London, EC2V 5DT.

Dear Mr. Hobley,

Site at 74/83 Shoe Lane

Thank you for your letter of 5th August. It does, however, seem to have arrived approximately five years too late. We are not yet proposing to demolish the recently completed Press Centre and I therefore return your pro forma uncompleted!

In fact, I am informed by my architects and surveyors that you were kept informed at the time that the site was excavated and that nothing of note came to light.

Yours sincerely,

P.E. Hutchins

Directors: A. Howler (Basel), J. French (Chairman), Brigadier P.E. Hutchins (Managing), Lord Nathan, C. Gordon Page, Dr. R.G.V. Hahn, (German) Secretary, L.L.V. Hull, MVO.

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Registered in England under 930042

6th August, 1974

REVIEW

Pastiches et Melanges

"Pericles" consists of odd bits of plot from other plays, cut out and pasted together. It is a series of short-stories, which do not even have a consistent style. Consequently it makes unsatisfactory drama.

The present production of the play in the Pit suffers more from the limitations of the script than from the production. This is generally more than competent. The scene is set c.1805 in a contemporary Western idea of Anatolia. This enables the Regency Greatcoats to be trotted out again.

The Antiochan incest is handled effectively, but with little of the disgust which could surely have effected a 17th century audience. The hung corpses need a lesson in mime from the cast of "The Mask of Orpheus".

Rob Edwards' Pericles is much better at being a lover than a Prince, although he is adequately martial. Russell Dixon plays King Simonides for laughs, and gets them. His Court is vaguely Oriental. His daughter is after a good time.

"Seaspawn and seawrack" is hard to stage, and they don't succeed. Resurrection is hard to believe, but they do. Jane Maud plays Dionyza as a Snow Queen with Barnes vowels. Unadulterated villainy is seldom convincing. Her appearance shifts the play from myth to fairy-tale.

Lysimachus is most definitely slumming it in the Mytilene brothel. It is not a high-class establishment. Suzan Sylvester produces artless integrity, but is saddled with an incredible character. I believe in Olympus. As befits all good fairy-tales there is a happy ending.

Alex Bayliss.

Some proposals for an Archaeological Input to a Green Manifesto

In April I highlighted the particular values of the study and conservation of wetlands as an archaeological and ecological resource with more than local significance for these scientific disciplines but how might the preservation of this particular landscape be effected within a broader policy? This question was addressed by representatives of the three main political parties at the February meeting 'Archaeology - into the 1990's' to which I referred in the February Issue. As I noted it seemed the Labour Party had the most detailed and coherent plans for archaeology but since then I have studied the Green Party's 'Manifesto for a Sustainable Society' and discovered - hardly a mention. So as a tentative effort at political policy making I have picked out those existing elements in the manifesto that seem to me to overlap with archaeological interests and, quite, often, to work to their benefit.

Green Party policy can be characterised as rejecting the growth economy and the wasting of finite resources that growth entails. Instead, a sustainable economy is proposed that entails conservation of physical resources and therefore less disturbance of geological

deposits and any overlying evidence of human activity on the surface of the globe. The sustainable economy is seen as a counterpart of the steady-state system of the biosphere and as a complement to it. Such a system entails not a return to worst features of the past but a revival of some of the better features in ancient societies which we have lost, the ways in which past peoples co-existed with natural systems. Where past cultures have damaged their environment, where we can with hindsight recognise this, we can at least learn from mistakes. As Sara Parkin has stated in the context of policy for the future. 'We are using a time scale of centuries and not just a few years', this also applies in taking stock of our present ecological predicament and its origins, against a perspective of millennia.

In general terms this is where archaeology could inform the philosophy behind a policy for a sustainable future but moving on to more specific policies the following seem to be areas where archaeology has a direct impact.

Green Party Policy on the Urban Environment

The emphasis on maintaining existing housing and the renovation of derelict buildings will entail less new building work and thus less disturbance of the Urban Archaeological Record. What re-development does take place will be within existing built-up areas, not on 'green field' sites. Thus some sites within urban areas will be affected but rural sites will be safe from the construction threat. All buildings schemes would be investigated for environmental impact. Conservation areas and Listed Building machinery would be improved.

Policy on Transport

Emphasis on full use and development of existing rail and water transport systems will allow road construction schemes to be curtailed; no new urban trunk roads or motorways would be built. Thus the destruction of archaeology resulting from such construction would be avoided.

Agriculture

Small labour intensive farms are preferred as more productive per acre than large intensive farms using machinery that continues to damage buried sites. Green farming would develop organic produce, timber, fibres using mixed, rotational low intensity methods without massive machinery. Thus plough damage of buried sites could be minimised and many sites could go under pasture. Farming would be conducted within conservation framework preserving wildlife habitats, man-made landscapes of aesthetic or archaeological value and woodland. Scheduled Monument system would be maintained, local authorities would be able to make orders to conserve vulnerable features. Woodland planting and renewal would avoid destruction of rich habitats or monuments. Ancient woodland in particular would be carefully protected. Farmers would be encouraged by funding to conserve historical, archaeological and geological monuments within the productive farm land - not create token conservation plots within prairie arms. Set aside any extensification would be halted and replaced by less intensive, environmentally benign land use, which would also respect the buried deposits or standing earthworks and monuments.

Like all manifestoes - or proposals for manifestoes - such suggestions can sound impossibly idealistic, but then manifestoes are lists of ideals or goals, albeit attainable.

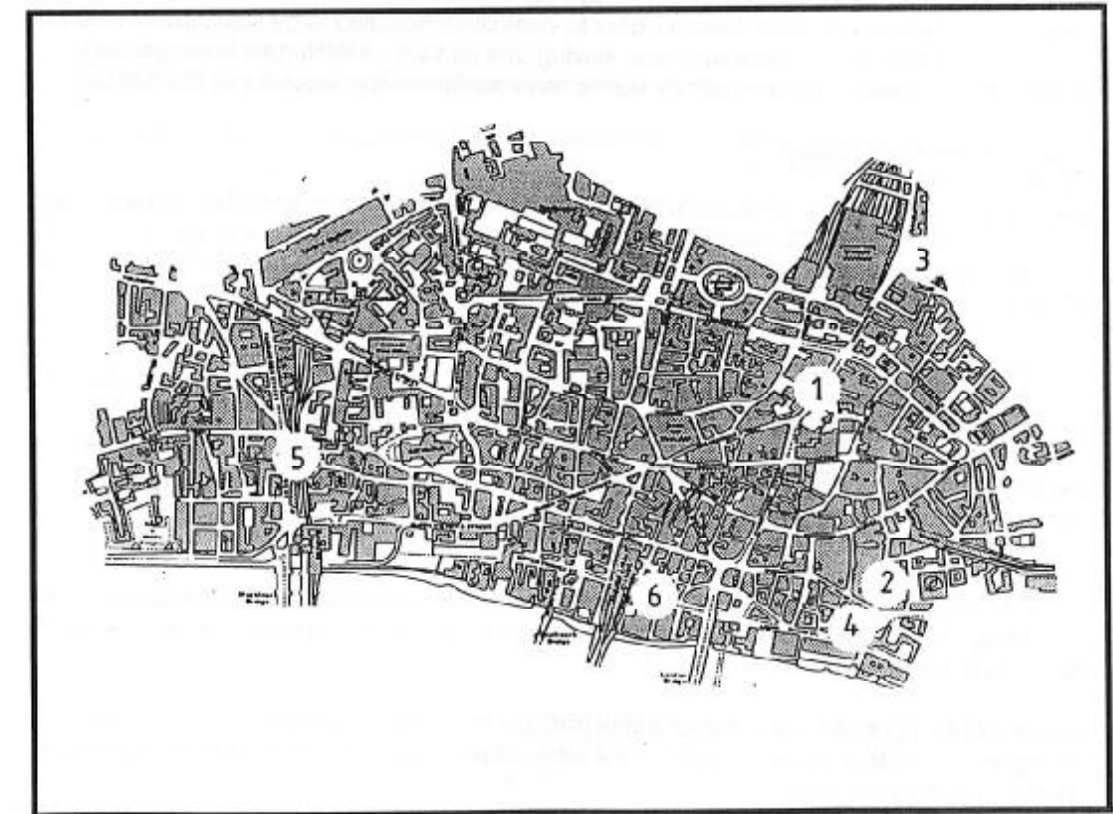
Green philosophy has recently been debated in the Guardian as potentially unscientific and totalitarian or a form of religious fundamentalism (*Guardian* April 20th and June 1st). The followers of the Gaia hypothesis of the living earth clearly are straying into the fields of ley-lines and astronaut deities and would be considered doubtful company by the science based archaeologist. Much of green thinking would be seen as hopelessly subjective and to involve

the independent observer or recorder of the past is a misuse of the data so arduously won from the earth. Another threat identified by Dr. Horsfall in his assault on the excesses of Green thinking is the myth of the 'Return to Nature' or, as he put it, the wish to 'take us back to the stone age'. This I touched on in the introduction to this note, that we must not look on the past with a simplistic nostalgia and recognise that much was wrong with human interventions in the natural works. We cannot divorce ourselves from the context of the present but we can chronicle as objectively as possible past events, data which can be used, or, I feel, should be used, to inform those who seek to use the past in their arguments for the present and future.

The debate continues in the pages of the Guardian and elsewhere, but at least one small success, though maddeningly with little reference to archaeology, can be reported, the recognition that Hardy was wrong about Egdon Heath, that it was not a natural wilderness but a man made desert. Saturday's Guardian reported this as the result of analysis of peat cores from the Morden Bog, but in fact the first evidence came decades ago from work on Mesolithic and Bronze Age sites on the heath, pollen samples from which were studied by Professor Dimbleby. Perhaps a few more people will now realise the disastrous impact of human groups on past landscapes and look again at what we are doing to the last remaining forests, elsewhere in the world.

Chris Sparey-Green.

EXCAVATIONS NEWS



Current sites: May 1990

Site Summaries: May 1990

1 Pinner's Hall

The site lies within the precincts of an Augustinian friary founded in 1253. Several phases of construction have been identified. Parts of the medieval wall foundations were made of reused worked stones and around 200 of these have been recovered, including window traceries, column bases and fragments of painted stone. One stone was covered with incised and painted graffiti.

Pre-friary occupation mainly consists of pits. Several of these have been excavated so far. Some were wattle or timber-lined and have been provisionally dated to 10th-12th century. They have produced interesting finds including evidence of metal-working - crucibles and slag, a bone skate, and bone pins. One barrel-lined well has also been excavated.

2 Corn Exchange

The earliest occupation of the site was represented by a timber-lined Roman well and there was evidence of at least one, though probably two Roman buildings. Also of the Roman period is an enclosure (?) ditch possibly similar to those found at the nearby site of 2 Seething Lane. Medieval occupation is represented by rubbish pits which were encountered on most areas of the site and these produced large quantities of pottery.

Directly beneath the basement slab were two Victorian brick walls which were presumably the foundations of an earlier Corn Exchange.

3 Artillery Lane

Over the past six weeks underpinning works and ground reduction has taken place on the site prior to its redevelopment as an office. The site lies within the extra-mural Roman cemetery outside Bishopsgate. However test pits prior to demolition revealed large scale post medieval truncation of the archaeological deposits, leaving one context - a thick dark homogeneous dump. The observations of the past six weeks have confirmed the accuracy of the test pits.

4 Billingsgate Bath House

The Bath House

The tessellated floor (see (1) on the plan) has been recorded, prior to lifting by Nimbus. The quarter-moulding cover (2), which survived against the southern wall of the room, was found to have been partly reconstructed using cement concrete. This concrete has been removed by Nimbus.

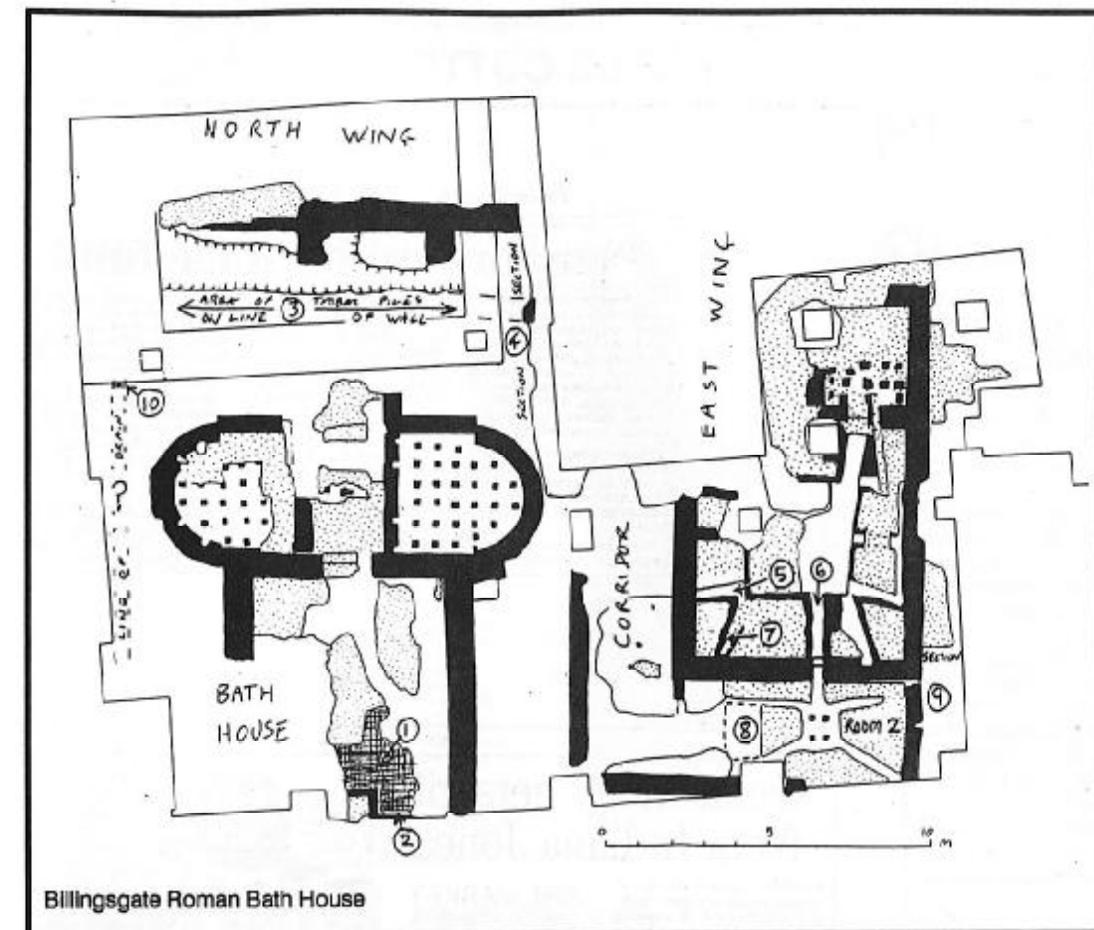
The North Wing

The areas exposed after the sand removal are being cleaned and the deposits recorded. The tops of a number of timber piles are now visible (3) which are probably those on which the demolished southern wall of the north wing was founded. The deposits exposed in section to the east of the area have been recorded (4). A possible wooden floor, predating the Bath House, is visible but it is poorly preserved.

The East Wing

Deposits filling the hypocaust ducts (5) and (6) have been excavated and total samples taken for sieving. Part of the fill of a third duct (7) has been left in situ to illustrate the accumulation of debris in the structure.

Loose rubble (8) used to reconstruct the hypocaust in Room 2 has been removed. This incorporated several chunks of pink mortar with polished surfaces, had probably come from the floors of the east wing.



Sand backfill has been removed from features previously excavated in the corridor and has revealed displaced oak timbers wrapped in polythene. The timbers were probably removed from a drain which was excavated along the eastern wall of the wing.

The Road

An area (9) external to Room 2, has been investigated and, though the area was largely truncated by modern activity, patches of metallurgy were observed. The south facing section to the north of the area, (which was recorded in 1969) was also located.

The Drain

The end of a timber drain (10) was observed in situ in the north-facing section of the foundation trench for the existing building. This is probably the drain previously recorded as running down the western side of the Bath House.

5 Fleet Valley

Demolition has been taking place all month.

Quote of the month: 'Pretend to do some work or Bill will be really annoyed.' (Adrian Swingler)

6 Bush Lane

A curved feature constructed of tiles with a central channel, with a tile baseplate, was found cut into natural. It is thought this served for water supply or drainage. It contained a substantial amount of white tesserae, pottery and some glass. This was sealed by dumps and truncated by a circular brick feature, possibly the remains of a cess pit or ice-house, the fill of which contained a large amount of Roman building material.

Test pits excavated by contractors revealed a Post Medieval square brick feature lying on a Medieval chalk wall, orientated NE/SW.

Graves yield secrets of city's early Christians

By David Keys
Archaeology Correspondent

THE SKELETAL remains of what may be the first Christians in London have been unearthed just north of the City.

A dozen possible Christian graves have been revealed within a large third to fourth-century Romano-British cemetery in Giltspur Street, Smithfield.

The individuals were buried in a matrix of gypsum sludge — a tradition originating in Christian communities in North Africa and which was used in the Christian catacombs in Rome. And nearly all the newly-discovered gypsum burials are orientated west-east, with heads at the west end — the traditional orientation for Christian graves.

Christianity was probably introduced into Britain in the second century AD, but caught on only in the fourth century. The faith became an officially approved religion in the reign of the emperor Constantine in the early fourth century.

The possible Christian graves are believed to date from between AD250 and AD400. However, most were found as a distinct group within a larger cemetery made up of other non-Christian burials. The frequency of eastern orientation among the gypsum burials was double that of non-gypsum burials. Twelve of the 14 gypsum graves were orientated west-east, while only 51 out of the 113 non-gypsum graves faced east.

An analysis of the skeletons suggests that fourth-century London was relatively cosmopolitan, but its inhabitants had short lives. Perhaps 5 per cent of those buried at Smithfield may have been of Middle Eastern origin.

Archaeologists from the Museum of London — who are receiving £280,000 from the Vestey Group — have unearthed almost 130 skeletons, half of which have been examined at Guy's Hospital Medical School, London. Anatomical examination has shown that almost all belonged to people who had died before they reached 40. Only one individual appeared to have survived past that age. This confirms research on life expectancy in the Roman Empire which has found that three-quarters of the population died before the age of 35 — if they survived their first year. Most skeletons



A skeleton at the Smithfield cemetery being examined by a Museum of London archaeologist

had very unhealthy dentition — with evidence of caries, attrition and abscesses. About 20 per cent had perfect teeth.

Most burials in the cemetery are probably those of pagans, and the majority have grave goods — to help them journey to, and survive in, the next world. At least one individual was clutching a pig's tooth — often regarded as a good luck charm. Many skeletons

were accompanied by jewellery, joints of meat — reduced to bones — and pottery.

However, the most intriguing feature is the severe imbalance between the sexes, which was also common at many other Romano-British cemeteries. Examination of the skeletons at Guy's suggests there may have been more than twice as many adult males as females.

One explanation suggests that women were more often cremated. Another suggests that Romano-Britons practised infanticide on newborn girls. However, it may be caused by difficulties in identifying the sex of ancient skeletons.

But the biggest mystery is where all the skeletons have gone. Of the 500,000 Romano-Britons who must have died in London fewer than 1,000 have been found.

London's Pride before the fall

Patricia Morison has mixed feelings about a celebratory exhibition

LONDON is a remarkably green, well-gardened city. That this is not evident within the Barbican Centre is not, of course, something to hold against London's Pride. The History of the Capital's Gardens, the new exhibition at the Museum of London (until August 12). Outside the museum stretch bastion towers and walkways, perfunctorily "groomed up" with pockets of scrawny cotoneasters. Despite the effort and scholarship which has gone into London's Pride, I found the hostile setting east of something of a shadow.

Usually, this is not a particularly lush exhibition, in the lineage of two memorable garden history shows of recent years. *The Glory of the Garden* at Sotheby's and Christie's *The Anglo Dutch Garden*. The London focus sees to that. Down the centuries, the challenge that London has posed to artists has been to capture its teeming life and its Thameside panoramas; Romantic artists were fascinated by the phenomenon of the mighty city. So the paintings and prints in this exhibition have earned their place as social documents and not necessarily because of their artistry.

London's Pride gets off to a slow start. It hardly seems worth scraping the fern to say something about the city's medieval and Tudor gardens when the evidence is so thin. It

a photograph of H.A. Payne's *The Wars of the Roses*, a 1911 mural in the Houses of Parliament, and claim it as a convincing image of a medieval garden.

One problem with historical exhibitions is that they become insipid if the specific theme, London in this case, is overly diluted by material referring to the experience of all societies in the 18th century. Iraitmen decorated their wares with flowers.

There is a little too much dilution in London's Pride. Charles Goods decorated an exquisite long-case clock in the 1690s with floral marquetry. But then, they were flower mad all over Europe. A cascade of costumes, tiles, porcelain, tapestry and the like, all spiced with flowers amounts to a somewhat banal observation about taste.

The exhibition honours the usual great names in gardening: John Evelyn, the Tradesmen, and Sir Hans Sloane, who founded the Chelsea Physic Garden. However, it particularly accentuates describing the tradespeople, the purveyors of seeds, plants, fruit and vegetables, with the market garden produce, the garden produce, and the arrival of Protestant

19th century. A planterman operating in Grosvenor Square used to hire plants for the season to smart hostesses. In 1816, he lent 535 plants, three years later he had a turnover of £211.

We owe London's Pride, the delicate Saxifraga umbrosa in flower now, to a 17th-century nurseryman, George London. He raised the hybrid at his nursery where the Victoria and Albert Museum is now.

In the 18th century two names figure in the annals of garden design: James and James Carter began in Holborn where the firm stayed until 1811 and Messrs Sutton and Sons started up in London as well as Reading.

Edible gardening is another important theme. Early garden plans made for the wealthy lay the emphasis on growing, for example, John Evelyn's garden at Deptford had an avenue of walnut trees, where his cows could be milked in the shade. He had a palisaded hedge of Codlin apples and more

London's labouring class was slow to be convinced that fruit and vegetables were beautiful fare. However, trade with the Low Countries, and the arrival of Protestant

Specimen flowering plants in the museum's internal courtyard are a bonus but futile stab at evoking the pleasures of gardening down the ages. The surroundings are just too alien. The 20th-century section of the exhibition has its moments. War time photographs of "Lent flowers" tending their allotments below the Albert Memorial have period charm. The museum's photo archive of modern Londoners' gardens made last summer is cheery enough. However, I found the presentation of gardening in contemporary London was woefully bland.

Certainly, we are the beneficiaries of Clockwork Ales and the creation of the Green Belt. But gardens and green spaces

city should look like a city which is far from generally recognised. People tend to be sentimental and yet ignorant about the properties of plants. There is a vague feeling that given a few shrubs there is a garden and to hell with the architecture. It never so terrible. I have the suspicion that the distinctive contribution of the late 20th century to London's gardens could well be the use of plants as cosmetic disguises.

Think of those little boxes and beds in Docklands; the developers short-lived appeal to the English love of gardens. Never mind the quality of the buildings; just green up the space in between and put in a craftsman-designed bench.

London's Pride in the next century? I think not.

London's Pride is sponsored by GBE Properties

gees from the continent brought better, vegetable and healthier notions. A lively picture of the piazza at Covent Garden in the 1770s shows well-dressed ladies and ordinary townsfolk alike buying produce from the stalls and carts.

But gardens were, of course, places of tranquillity, where social rituals of courtesy and tea drinking were enacted. A Chinese pavilion newly restored, evokes the aristocratic garden of the great 18th-century town houses. It was built in 1745 for the Duke of Buccleuch at his house in Whitehall. A humorous water colour shows workmen being away at a great statue of Neptune in a stone yard in Lambeth. Here John Coade turned out armies of mock-antique statues made according to a secret recipe for composition.

The Coades appear to have prospered. In 1740 the firm purchased the sole reproduction rights to the famous Towhee vase, excavated 50 years earlier, bearing in mind today's pedants would the vase's fabric be such the majestic specimens set on Victorian banisters.

With the Victorians, the theme expands too widely and nothing other exhibition was so good as where its simply not enough space to deal with carpe diem and island beds. This temporary centre, the plastic produced Venetian and the site of the other suburbs. Above all, I found the exhibition for Jimmy in its location of the Chelsea Park.

With the 19th century, a parliamentary select committee which in 1833 agreed with philanthropists worried that the space were dangerously starved of "breathing places." What's wonderful, has been the survival of the Victorian public spaces; some of us would have been helped particularly for non-London visitors. However, I appreciated the mention of Postman's Park. The chestnut trees of this quiet garden are just visible from the museum's entrance, although no doubt the rising office blocks will soon hide them. I recommend a visit en route for the exhibition.

FR. 26/5/90



Conscientious objectors doing hard labour during the 1914-18 war.

occurs within the next year or two, possibly more defaulters will be imprisoned as civil debtors than previously. There is even a possibility that those who do not pay the poll tax will be disenfranchised. Perhaps the implementation of the poll tax may lead to the fall of the Conservatives in the 1990s just as the passive resistance stand was a decisive factor in the demise of Balfour's government in 1906. However, despite the Liberal landslide of 1906, three attempts to amend or repeal large sections of Balfour's Education Act failed in the Lords between 1907 and 1910, after which the issue faded from the political agenda, as new issues and crises took its place.

There have been other examples of passive resistance in history. That by Nonconformists to a Church Rate has already been mentioned. In the latter part of the nineteenth century many Nonconformists opposed the (smallpox) Vaccination Acts, and some were imprisoned. The anti-vaccination movement was particularly strong around Leicester. However, passive resistance in Britain is more generally recognised in reference to the contemporary suffragette movement, conscientious objection to military conscription (1916-18), and later to the activities of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, both in the 1960s and 1980s. The last link between passive resistance and Liberal nonconformity was in the protest against the 1902 Education Act, which perhaps was the last protest of what is known as the nineteenth-century Nonconformist conscience. My research did reveal one passive resister who became a suffragette. Mrs Mary Hannah Titterton (1856-1922) of Leeds was imprisoned with her youngest daughter in 1912 for suffragette activities. She was nearly imprisoned in 1906 for refusing to pay her education rate. Her son, whom I traced in 1981, remembered the police 'Maria' coming for her and drawing up outside the house. However, the threat receded when an anonymous benefactor paid her rate. The oldest passive resister found in my study was Mrs Elizabeth Haine aged eighty-seven, of Bristol, widow of a Wesleyan Methodist minister.

Liberal nonconformity lost much of its influence in the early twentieth century. A growing labour movement and the Labour Party preached a social gospel and became the conscience in politics. Certain Nonconformist ministers became closely associated with a growing labour movement. Bertram Portnell (1869-1927) was on the Calne Primitive Methodist circuit, Wiltshire, and imprisoned once at Devizes Prison for non-payment of his Education Rate. Later he moved to Kent where he served subsequent sentences at Maidstone Prison. In 1912 Portnell was based at a Methodist Mission in Poplar, East London, where he was actively involved in the London Dock Strike. Portnell became a lifelong friend of the dockers' leader Will Crooks, who later became a Labour member of parliament. However, it was not common for a Nonconformist minister to be involved in socialism.

There is little doubt in my mind that the end of the century will be similar to the beginning. A protest of civil disobedience over a local tax system would have gained momentum. Its outcome may have been determined by the year 2000. But, if history has a habit of repeating itself, it is always prudent to know the source of history. The Liberal nonconformists have much more to tell us about the rule of conscience and passive resistance than the Labour Party. What has been related here is only one example of a very long tradition of Liberal nonconformity and passive resistance.

John Black teaches Business Studies at Lockleaze Comprehensive School, Bristol.



Saying no; a poster from Britain's current anti-poll tax campaign.

Undercutting the Excavators

Scott Goodfellow

Archaeologists are not as other academics: they alone get their hands dirty. Latterly, with the rise of rescue archaeology and developer-funded excavations, this has been happening on building sites (not in the more romantic locations beloved of Indiana Jones or Howard Carter) and now, mostly involuntarily, they are to take a final leap from the dreaming spires into the murky world of commerce. Like refuse collection services and British Rail catering before them,

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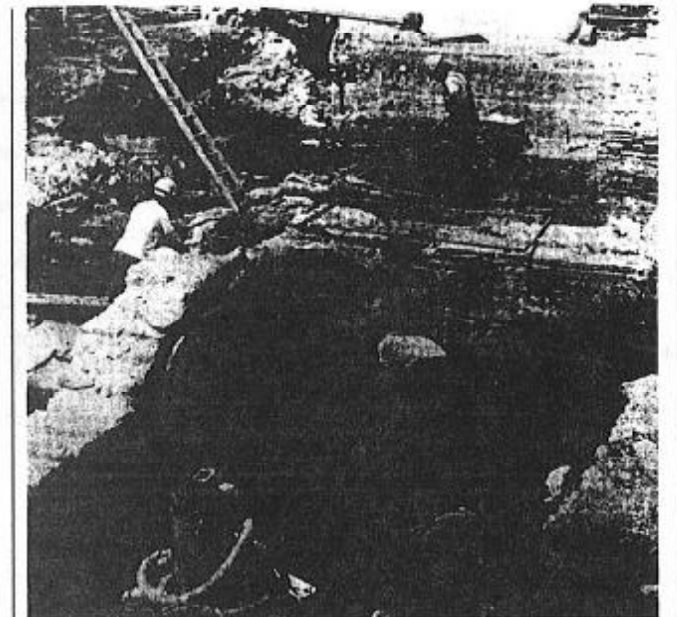
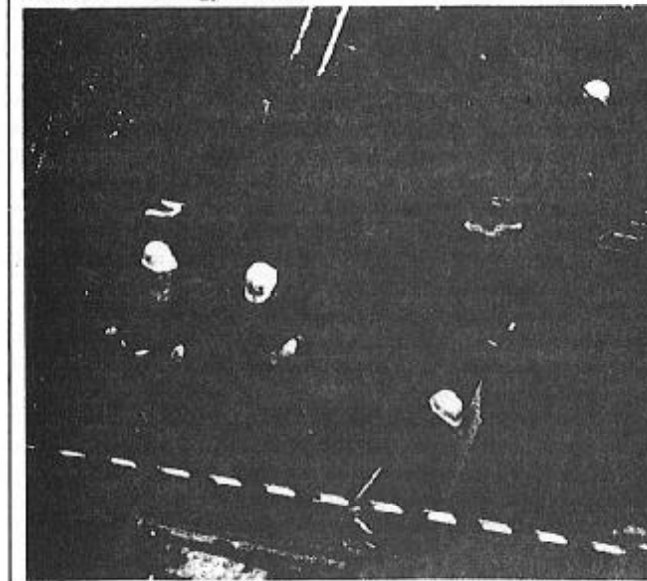
archaeological units are being confronted with the rigours of free market competitive tendering – bidding against each other for developers' contracts.

The gradual withdrawal of state support throughout the eighties and the willingness of developers, for the sake of good PR and an easy life, to provide access and funding for archaeology, has led to its gradual integration into the construction industry. Private finance has outstripped public in the crucial areas of rescue excavation, where deposits that face destruction are recorded and artefacts conserved. Last year developers paid out £15 million nationally in funding – more than double the state grant from English Heritage. Competitive tendering, say its proponents, is the logical conclusion to contract archaeology. After all, demolition and construction companies tender for contracts – so why not archaeologists?

This logic is flawed and spells disaster for archaeology, says the Museum of London, the country's largest archaeological operator. Through its two units, the Department of Urban Archaeology (which last year raised £3 million from developers for work in the City of London) and the Department of Greater London Archaeology, the museum has excavated over 400 sites in the last 15 years and now employs over 400 people.

In January this year it was faced with competition for the first time when a team from the Oxford Archaeological Unit excavated a site in Southwark, on the south bank of the Thames. The resulting furore spilled into the columns of *The Times*, bringing claims from the museum of incompetence and counter-claims of obstruction. Then, there was no tendering: the head of the Department of Greater London Archaeology, Harvey Sheldon, claims (a claim strongly denied by the Oxford unit) that the first he knew of their presence was when two of his staff reported seeing the rival unit's van parked at the site.

John Maloney, principal excavations officer of the The Albany Road, Bermondsey, excavation by Oxford's Archaeological Unit, approved by Southwark Council under a 'contract archaeology' scheme.



Excavating a Roman waterfront warehouse – one of the rescue archaeology projects which the Museum of London has conducted in the shadow of imminent development.

Department of Urban Archaeology, believes that ill-feeling among the country's eighty or so units is only one of the evils of competitive tendering. It is, he says, a 'dangerous attack on a far better system. At the end of the day, the cheapest tender will win. And that will mean a decline in standards.' The museum, committed to exacting excavation and conservation techniques and to paying its employees a reasonable salary – in a profession which pays notoriously badly – would lose out in a price war.

Maloney believes that the museum's successes – in negotiating with developers, in excavations and in published research work – are based on skills built up over the last fifteen years. 'It is difficult enough already to ensure continuity of employment for the staff we have. If you find, at the last moment, other units coming in willy-nilly then in the end it could mean all these skills disappearing in lay-offs. Nationally it would mean the collapse of a regionally-based archaeological service.'

The museum's case is a powerful one: there is, as yet, no nationally agreed regulatory framework or standards for competing units. Archaeologists may be working on a site with other contractors – but there is a critical difference. An unfulfilled demolition contract is difficult to miss, whereas an archaeological contract is, for developers, an expensive luxury. As the building slump begins to bite, cost will become all-important and, with competition, the negotiating power of archaeologists will suffer. Archaeological quality – so dependent on the goodwill of business people with other priorities – will have few safeguards.

Maloney is worried by the equivocal attitude of English Heritage – the Department of the Environment quango with responsibility for advising the government on archaeology and for channelling state funding – in the matter. English Heritage is refusing to comment on the need for a regulatory framework for tendering. 'In the United States, unregulated

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competition led to chaos. English Heritage has to accept responsibility for maintaining standards', says Maloney.

Roger Thomas, English Heritage's London inspector, denies that English Heritage has a responsibility. 'In any profession, whether doctors or archaeologists, the profession itself has an important role to play in regulating their activities,' he says. However the profession is deeply split on the issue and has so far failed to agree on how regulation should operate. The museum points to the confusion surrounding the Southwark excavation as a taste of things to come.

David Miles, head of the now largely itinerant Oxford Archaeological Unit, does not like being cast as the villain of the piece. 'I'm no great advocate of competitive tendering. If it was to be replaced by a regionally based state-funded archaeological service, I wouldn't be fighting to preserve the current system.' However, he does not believe that, academically or commercially, it is morally justifiable for units to hold monopoly rights over an area.

'Knowledge is free,' he says, pointing out that the anti-monopolistic principle is enshrined in the Institute of Field Archaeologists' (the profession's guiding body) code of conduct. 'And how can we ask developers to enter into expensive contracts when they are faced with a monopoly?' He does not accept that there may be a fundamental difference between academic freedom and the freedom of developers to arbitrate on the preservation and research of our past.

The Oxford Archaeological Unit has now worked right across the south of England and is preparing for its first excavation in York. Along with the Wessex unit and a number of smaller university teams – notably Birmingham – it denies that it has any claim over a particular area. David Miles believes that the guarantor of standards should be a local authority appointed archaeological curator, based in a council's planning department. 'The role of the curator in evaluating sites and overseeing work is absolutely fundamental,' he says, pointing out that the Museum of London's combined role of curator and contractor is unique. 'Many developers don't like this', he says of London, 'and I can't blame them'. English Heritage, he points out, is pressing the museum to give up this dual role.

Competitive tendering is the only future for contract archaeology, he says, and contract archaeology is the best hope for continued funding. And there are advantages: he points out that with developers now having archaeological assessments of sites done before they apply for planning permission, the emphasis is no longer on excavation before destruction, but on preservation. 'English Heritage funding was only available if the site was threatened. With this new regime, developers are keen to minimise costs by designing buildings in such a way as to minimise destruction.'

It was during a site assessment that the Oxford unit made the remarkable discovery of a well-preserved Neolithic landscape of settlements and long barrows, waterlogged and sealed under the river sediments of the Nene Valley in Northamptonshire. 'We can manage the archaeology for preservation now,' says Miles. 'In the old system, money to finance that discovery would only have come as it was about to be destroyed.'

The system is still in its infancy and its effects are still difficult to predict. Although some counties in the south –



A brush with authority; the preserved Celtic bog-body of Lindow Man being treated by museum experts – but is the framework of legislation adequate to safeguard the mass of archaeological remains that come to light in Britain?

notably Berkshire, which has pioneered the system – can point to two years or more of archaeological contracts tendered and approved by the county archaeologist, many parts of the country are only now preparing for the onslaught. In York, John Oxley, the newly appointed town archaeological officer, argues that with a proper system of regulation, competition will not lead to a decline in quality – or the break-up of the now world-renowned York Archaeological Trust.

'I've been advised by English Heritage that I can't tell developers which unit they must use,' he says, 'but I can lay down specifications for investigations and appraise proposals from units. Within any appraisal, local knowledge is a very important factor.' He cites the bank of information built up by the trust's ceramics specialists, who have analysed and dated a whole range of local pottery types that an outside unit would require detailed research to identify. 'Of course it's perfectly legitimate for me to nominate subcontractors. An outside unit could be required to work with the trust's ceramics specialists or environmental laboratories.' There will be, he believes, natural advantages for local units. 'They won't have the problems of accommodation, transport and facilities that outside units will,' he says.

But competitive tendering is here to stay, he believes. 'Whatever the difficulties, it will get off the ground because there's pressure from expansionist units, from consultants and from developers.' His role, he believes, is crucial. 'If competitive tendering leads to levelling out at a minimum standard,' he warns, 'that would be a sad day. You could have the loss of local units and experience, and the emergence of large aggressive units pursuing not what is best for archaeology but what is best for their continued expansion.'

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