

## REVIEWS

*By River, Fields and Factories: the Making of the Lower Lea Valley. Archaeological and Cultural Heritage Investigations on the Site of the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.* By Andrew B Powell. Wessex Archaeology and Olympic Delivery Authority, Wessex Archaeology Report 29, 2012. Pp x + 471, 175 figs, 96 col pls, 44 tables. ISBN 978 1 874350 59 0. Price: £30.00 hb.

*This large, multi-period report is assessed by three reviewers: Jon Cotton on the circumstances of the project, its publication, and the prehistoric evidence; Susie Barson on the recording and interpretation of the post-medieval and modern built environment of the Lower Lea Valley; and Jane Sidell on the environmental and geoarchaeological investigations. Other aspects have had to be omitted.*

The Lea is London's second river, and links the estuary (and the wider southern North Sea basin) with the Chiltern Hills and beyond. The valley comprises a major land corridor and is also an important topographic boundary that divided East Saxons (Essex) from Middle Saxons (Middlesex); Saxons from the Danelaw; and, later, Essex and Hertfordshire from Middlesex. Today it continues to act as a local government boundary. Yet the river and its valley have never enjoyed an especially high profile, despite the early work undertaken at Broxbourne and the so-called 'crannog' at Walthamstow.

In recent years, however, the Lea has formed the backdrop to several major infrastructure schemes, of which the volume under review reports on the most intensive. Here then is an excellent opportunity to round up and deliver on a large amount of expensively-assembled information. Has it been taken? The answer, on the whole, and

somewhat against the odds, is yes — but that yes requires explanation.

The present volume is the weighty and academic counterpart to a smaller, slimmer and avowedly more popular booklet fast-tracked to publication prior to last summer's London Games (A B Powell *Renewing the Past: Unearthing the History of the Olympic Park Site* Wessex Archaeology with the Olympic Delivery Authority and LOCOG, Salisbury (2012)). But the post-excavation team that produced both publications was not the field team that undertook the site work. It was principally MOLA/PCA who met the on-site challenge of wresting meaningful results from a disorientating, unpleasant and often downright dangerous working environment in the eye of a media firestorm, and always against the clock. And it was Wessex Archaeology who subsequently shouldered the daunting off-site task of synthesising the data generated and delivering a coherent account — also against the clock. This split, while perhaps making bottom-line sense to the commissioning body, does not necessarily work to the benefit of the wider heritage.

Access to buried archaeology within the Olympic Park footprint was restricted for one reason or another, and only a few of the available areas were large enough to produce coherent data. As a result the volume is dominated by exhaustive reports on a series of environmental and geoarchaeological investigations (ch 8), and by accounts of the predominantly industrial and built heritage of the area (chs 5 and 6) (both these topics are reviewed separately below). These shed light on the development and exploitation of the river and its valley floor, but the reader's path could, and perhaps should, have been smoothed by tighter editing. Ch 8 is a case in point: the summary discussion is excellent,

but the trench by trench summaries could have been trimmed and placed in the archive.

The prehistoric evidence set out in chs 2–4 (with the finds reported on in ch 7) is slim, and can be quickly summarised. Much of what there is comes from a handful of mitigation excavations, of which Trenches 9, 43 and 118 are the most informative. The earliest solid evidence derives from Trench 118 and comprises a complicated 13,000-year-old sequence of channel deposits incorporating Early Neolithic activity in the form of a possible timber structure, small deposits of pottery and bone, and an apparently placed chipped flint axe. These form part of an expanding local Neolithic dataset exemplified by an early female inhumation from Blackwall, and a cache of charred cereals from Woolwich Manor Way on the A13. The evidence suggests the presence of small communities episodically engaged in a less than maximising subsistence-based economy in a low-lying floodplain environment. Marine influence is evident close to the mouth of the Lea at this date too, and this begs the question as to how far it extends up the valley. The current project produced some tantalising (but mainly late) evidence, though nothing clear cut.

The depth of the deposits and the constricted nature of Trench 118 meant that the archaeology was mainly seen in section. However, open area excavation was possible in other areas such as Trenches 9, 24 and 43. The most informative was Trench 9, the proposed site of the Olympic Park Aquatic Centre, and one excavated in atrociously wet conditions (a mildly amusing irony quickly lost on the exhausted field team). This revealed traces of a Middle to Late Bronze Age ditch system with associated settlement and un-urned cremations, succeeded in turn by up to seven Middle Iron Age roundhouses, two subsequent phases of Middle and Late Iron Age enclosure and four inhumation burials (two females and two males, one of the latter buried face down). Further scrappy Middle and Late Bronze Age settlement activity was recorded in Trenches 24, 43 and 45, including parts of several possible roundhouses.

This MBA/LBA evidence is a useful valley floor counterpoint to other evidence recov-

ered from the valley sides and the gravel terraces beyond. The establishment of linear boundaries marks a break with the past and introduces notions of ownership and tenure, negotiation of which may have involved feasting and the deposition of special finds. So far, so normal. But is the MIA settlement really permanent as suggested here? Could it not have been seasonally/episodically occupied and linked perhaps with a local transhumant economy? The charred plant remains offer clues, but interpretations as to their significance diverge: the narrative in ch 3 follows that in the charred plant report and opts for year-round occupancy; the discussion in ch 8 is rather less certain and suggests that the pollen evidence indicates the processing of crops brought into the settlement from elsewhere.

This, baldly stated, is the sum total of the prehistoric evidence. Yet, as always, the devil — and much of the interest — lies in the detail. Here the onus is back on the reader to extract the nuggets. The human bone assemblage is regionally interesting, and Jacqui McKinley's report deftly does it justice; the animal bone assemblage is what might be expected, but includes two MIA cattle scapulae with holes through the blades to facilitate hanging for storage or curing, and a complete goat buried close to the terminal of a MIA roundhouse eaves-drip gully. The other finds assemblages are largely unremarkable, although they include sherds of M-LIA saucepan pots which extend the eastern limits of the usual distribution, while the presumably deliberately placed chipped flint axe sheds welcome light on the likely contexts of the many others casually recorded during dredging operations along the lower courses of the Thames and Lea. Finally, tucked away in Damian Goodburn's worked wood report are two eye-catching finds recovered from the base of a MIA enclosure ditch in Trench 9: an oak stud end (squared tenon post) perhaps from a timber-framed building; and part of the peg-holed base or lid of an oak bentwood box or tub.

Despite its fraught political back-story the volume represents a huge achievement on the part of the on- and off-site teams, all of whom worked under enormous pressure. In regional terms the Lea Valley has consistently punched below its weight: this volume is a

timely reminder of just how important it was to human communities from an early period. As such it makes its own particular contribution to the archaeology of the wider region, a contribution that may ultimately prove to be amongst the most enduring of the legacies generated by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games.

*Jon Cotton*

When I was trying to describe the appearance of the site of the Olympic Park in the Lower Lea Valley in 2004, on the eve of London winning the bid to host the international Olympic Games in 2012, I wanted to capture the essence of the empty, bleak character of the place. A wonderful place, romantic even, but bleak nevertheless. I described the area known as the Lower Lea Valley as ‘a little known and largely uninhabited landscape of wild vegetation peppered with pylons, canals, locks, bridges and towpaths — mostly silent and still — a no-man’s land ripe for development’ (in an English Heritage leaflet, *London’s Lea Valley the Olympic Park Story* (2012)). I was berated by an archaeologist colleague who argued that the area was anything but a no-man’s land, but rather the site of intense human activity over centuries; man working the landscape and reclaiming marshland for agriculture, and by the mid-19th century fashioning the area with a solid infrastructure which formed the bones of a busy industrial hub to the east of London.

*By River, Fields and Factory* is a hugely readable, compelling and enjoyable account of the change in land use and associated structures from the prehistoric period to the present day, including medieval watermill sites which exploited the network of river channels to power mills to grind corn, the embankments, canals, and locks of the early to mid-19th century, and the arrival of the railway that was to have a huge impact on the area from the mid-19th century onwards. Each chapter makes extensive use of map regression and analysis, coupled with selected excavation results, and supplemented by use of documentary sources and oral history for the later period, to tease out a rich and rounded cultural, social and economic history. The prose is lucid and rational, with assertions based on either material evidence of the finds, or reliable documentary sources

that are judiciously cited, interspersed with the more technical analysis of the methods, processes and conclusions of the trench-based archaeology. Precise measurements are given, location of trenches clearly marked on maps, and finds such as pottery, clay pipes, tools and building materials given dates where they have been ascertained. Where this was not possible, the authors pose informed conjecture with honesty about the limitations of the evidence.

Ch 5 broadly deals with the increasing sophistication of water management in the area from the rather vaguely termed ‘post-medieval’ period, with the evidence of earth embankments and timber revetments dating from the late 17th and early 18th centuries, to the solid stone and ambitious construction of the Hackney Cut (1769) and the Limehouse Cut (1770), both created with the aim of improving navigation and thus transportation of goods and materials up and down (to the Thames), and across, the lower Lea Valley. The activity of the East London Waterway Company in the early 19th century is recorded with analysis of the survival of entrance gates to the reservoirs (since filled in), with archaeological evidence balanced neatly with contemporary accounts of how the lock gates worked. The remains of terraced cottages, early railway bridges, and even a boat are meticulously described, and understanding is amplified by the use of census returns and trade directories to provide a fuller picture of the status and trades of occupants. The chapter ends with the scene set for the more rapid industrial development of the area in the second half of the 19th century, which provides the meat of the subject for ch 6.

I particularly enjoyed this chapter. Picking up on the development of the major infrastructure for the waterways, with the engineered methods of disposing of drainage and sewage by means of the mighty Northern Outfall Sewer constructed in 1859 in accordance with designs by Joseph Bazalgette, the Metropolitan Board of Works’ Chief Engineer (the reproduced contract drawings and a photograph of the sewer under construction are nicely juxtaposed). The expansion of the railway system is traced from early beginnings in the 1830s to the expansion — especially

around Stratford — in the 1880s and 1890s. The chapter shows how, although a rapid growth of building followed with many varied types of industry growing up in the area, the threat of flooding, and therefore the importance of selective construction on marshy land, was always a constraining factor on the development. The early banks and revetments were flood prevention measures supplemented by the more robust constructions later in the period. The chapter charts the importance of road expansion after around 1860, enabling access to new industrial sites for manufactories of printing ink, soap and tallow-making, oil factories, gas works and timber yards, all businesses which continued to benefit from close location to water, either for transport of goods or for use in the industrial process. An interesting aspect of the team's work was to analyse the levels of pollution and contamination in the soil around these sites, finding high levels of arsenic and mercury used in bleaching and printing ink manufacture.

I relished the detailed discussion of the buildings in the chapter, as we too at English Heritage had engaged in some investigation of buildings in and around the Olympic Park site, and observed the common practice of mixing cast-iron columns with wrought-iron ties and some steel trusses in the construction of the factories and warehouses, until the Steel Frame Act of 1909 made the steel frame more widely adopted in London. The Clarnico King's Yard site, where confectionary and preserve-making were carried out, is a particularly interesting site. I remember being most impressed by the survival of the laminated Belfast roof trusses in the single-storey building on the site, which alas was not listed, but the trusses dismantled (I believe that they are still in storage and awaiting re-assembly in a suitable building). There are clear drawn sections of the building, set alongside contemporary photographs of people at work, to bring the history alive. In relation to other similar buildings containing industrial processes, use is made of interviews with people or relatives of people who had worked in such factories as part of a community project, which adds vivacity and veracity to the account. New bridges over the river and canal cuts are described, as well as the provision of

allotments and sports facilities at Hackney Wick by the London County Council around the turn of the 19th century. The process of expansion and contraction of some industries in the inter-War years is charted, as is the massive impact of the Second World War, which has left a number of structures that can still be seen, such as the pillboxes and tank traps on top of the Greenway which runs atop the Northern Outfall Sewer to the Olympic Park. The chapter concludes with a brief look at the few post-War buildings erected in the area, but notes the shift towards dividing up the large 19th-century industrial buildings into smaller units, and the arrival of new light industrial units and artists' studios, which still characterise some of the buildings around Fish Island near Old Ford Lock.

In the last few words of the book the author states how the arrival of the Games gave rise to the programme of thorough investigation of the area, a large part of East London, 'enabling the past, from the most distant to the most recent, to be brought to a wider audience than would otherwise have been possible'. The author continues: 'the large scale of the investigations and their multi-stranded approach have enabled an understanding of the landscape and the communities it has supported to be pieced together, both in broad patterns and in illuminating detail.' No description on a tin of this sort has summed up so neatly and accurately what it contains and does.

*Susie Barson*

Ch. 8, on environmental and geoarchaeological investigations, is derived from an immense amount of fieldwork and sampling undertaken over several years. A deposit model based on a large dataset of borehole cores and trench data has been created to enable readers to more clearly understand the changing geomorphology of the Lea Valley, which has a complex history over the last 400,000 years. It is worth noting that the authors have undertaken this project without having seen the sites. It is another example of the distressing tendency for large projects to be split between fieldwork and analysis, with different contractors undertaking separate elements. The authors have done an extremely good job in the circumstances;

it is a shame that MOLA(s) and Pre-Construct Archaeology, who undertook the fieldwork, are not acknowledged more for their contribution.

Initially, the broad geology of the area is mapped to provide an overview for the local detail established from the Olympic Park research. The history of deposition is charted and the complexity and difficulty of understanding the development of the Lea terraces in relation to the Thames terraces is stated. A number of key sites are identified in a chronological outline of development, although very little detail of some of the key archaeological sites for the area is given, such as the Stoke Newington Palaeolithic sites, famously documented by Worthington Smith. The geological history is complemented by a detailed summary of the environmental evidence found to show the swings in climate and vegetation type ranging from the cold climate environment of alpine tundra (the famous and elusive Lea Valley Arctic Beds) to the warm Mediterranean environment seen at sites such as the Nightingale Estate. This narrative provides clear detail on the organisms and species found, along with a thorough catalogue of radiocarbon dates. It would have been interesting to consider how what we knew has been modified by the findings from this project, but this does not seem to have been undertaken.

The history of Holocene vegetation change has rather more information to discuss, owing to recovery levels being greater for this period, and it is possible for the authors to draw some themes out, although some caution should perhaps be exercised — for instance, the Early Holocene expansion of pine is mentioned, and is important, but to state that date ranges from a variety of sites of *c.*600 years is broadly contemporary is stretching the term contemporary. The narrative of the area is well supported with an ingenious figure (8.5) which correlates the main sites with the radiocarbon dates and key changes in pollen. However, indicating that pollen can be used to help correlate poorly-dated sequences is also stretching the available information, and it is clear in this chapter (clearly acknowledged by the authors) that there have been problems with dating throughout the project, a factor common to river valley sites.

Moving on to the discussion of the results from the Olympic Project, the aims and methods are clearly outlined — this whole chapter is very much for specialists and well supported with tables and figures, crucial to understanding the hypotheses. The deposit model is outlined next, and gives a clear link to the other key project undertaken in this area in recent years, the Lea Valley Mapping project, published by MOLA several years ago, and the results of which have contributed clearly to the current volume. The methods and selection criteria for data for the model are clearly outlined — often this level of information is omitted, making it difficult to establish levels of confidence and accuracy. The model is represented in a series of figures, showing development of the study area through time, and the range of channels present, in addition to the main Lea river. This is a very useful tool, allowing reasonable understanding of this section of the floodplain, allowing more sense to be made of the location of the archaeological features mapped during the fieldwork, such as the revetments and field system. Descriptions of the Holocene history of the individual topographic areas are then given, with the geomorphology interwoven with the vegetation change, all fully supported with pollen and mollusc diagrams. The data, rarely for East London, cover the historic, as well as prehistoric, period and thus provide rich and invaluable detail on the appearance and species present in East London during the time of Roman Bow, and the medieval manors, farms and religious houses well known close to this area. The issue of deforestation is an interesting one, and it would have been interesting to see more data on this, particularly with reference to the changes in the Saxon period.

Whilst this chapter is very much for the specialist, the period by period summaries at the end provide a clear entry into the very substantial and valuable body of data that was collected as a result of the development of the Olympic Park; and along with the Lea Valley Mapping Project should be required reading for anyone undertaking fieldwork or research in this area.

*Jane Sidell*

*Settlement Sites and Sacred Offerings: Prehistoric and Later Archaeology in the Thames Valley, near Chertsey.* By Graham Hayman, Phil Jones and Rob Poulton. Spoilheap Monograph 4, 2012. Pp xvi + 203, 122 illus, 62 tables. ISBN 978 0 9558846 4 1. Price: £20.00 pb.

This volume brings together fieldwork from four projects near Chertsey: Abbey Meads, Shepperton Ranges, St Ann's Hill and Thorpe Lea Nurseries. The evidence for the sites is discussed individually, following an introduction to the geomorphology and archaeology of the region, including votive deposition in the Thames. A short overview of the region is then presented, drawing the new evidence together. The volume is well illustrated, including colour phase plans, site photos, maps and finds, both drawn and photographed, often in colour. Further specialist information from the Thorpe Lea Nurseries is available online, although much is present in the volume.

The fieldwork was undertaken in the 1980s and 1990s, and as acknowledged in the text, the publication is therefore overdue. A great deal of archaeological endeavour has been undertaken in this area, and has been extensively published — the work of Stuart Needham and colleagues at Runnymede is perhaps the most prominent example, along with the discussions of votive deposition in the Thames by authors such as Jill York and Richard Bradley. The contemporary publication of these sites would have added to the developing narrative and understanding of later prehistory in this region, and it is to be regretted that this did not occur.

It is also worth noting that the authors stress the current publication is incomplete and inconsistent owing to difficulties of revisiting some aspects and, of course, cost. Whilst a grant was obtained from English Heritage, clearly this was not sufficient to complete the work to a full analysis and publication of all the sites. Doubly regrettable. Nevertheless, a good quantity of information and interpretation has been made available for these important sites, excavated during a period when obtaining full costs for publication was significantly more difficult than now, particularly on gravel-extraction sites in the pre-PPG16 days, which in themselves were difficult to access for fieldwork.

A glance at fig 1.1 shows the complexity of the hydrology of this area, with the Thames, its various channels and tributaries meandering for kilometres across the floodplains. It is hardly surprising that the archaeology of the area is rich here, and also that contemporary gravel extraction has led to the discoveries of the quality outlined in the volume. One cannot help but speculate on what was lost in the early stages of gravel working.

The text of ch 1 outlining the geology and network of palaeochannels is unfortunately condensed and whilst clearly identifying the complexity of the area, does not unpick the chronology in the kind of detail needed to understand the evolution of the landscape. The outline of archaeological sites and finds is significantly more detailed with useful mapping. This section, whilst of necessity concise, clearly shows the importance of this riverine confluence as a focus for exploitation and settlement for millennia, from the late Upper Palaeolithic with sites such as Wey Manor Farm, into the Mesolithic at Church Lammas and others. The dramatic changes of the Neolithic are clearly shown, touching on the earthworks created at sites such as Perry Oaks, Yeoveney, Shepperton and Bedfont, and presumed domestic buildings such as that recently found at Horton. The transition from monumental earthworks to widespread field systems across the gravel terraces bordering the floodplain is outlined, although it is noteworthy that these are largely on the terraces north of the Thames. Proceeding into the Iron Age, the focus of distribution changes with identifiable hillforts clearly present in the south of the study area — linked to the presence of iron ore, with less settlement focus in the north.

The final section of this introductory chapter provides context for the new sites with a discussion of votive deposition of metalwork. This area has one of the richest assemblages of riverine objects, both metal and stone, in Britain, and these are (very briefly) discussed, also including finds from the Roman, Saxon and Viking periods, which are considered much less often. It is useful to see all periods considered together, showing that 'votive' need not be confined to prehistory, as often tends to be the case. The distribution and meaning behind the locations of finds are considered, although

unsurprisingly, no firm conclusions could be reached.

The introduction to the chapter on the first site, Abbey Meads, contains words to delight and horrify every archaeologist ‘the dragline operator ... noticed the Chertsey Shield in his bucket’. Back in the days when vast mineral sites were extracted with minimal archaeological control, much must have been lost. This astonishing moment led to more careful examination of the site, and it is that which is covered here. The landscape contained Late Bronze Age, Roman and medieval occupation, and the need for broader wider landscape understanding is made clear when considering the patchiness of Iron Age occupation. A palaeochannel was central to the site, which moved across the area through time. Finds from a wide time period were recovered from the channel and are described, including the Neolithic and Iron Age, although these are not periods for which occupation has been found. A side channel contained a human skull, unfortunately undated, possibly Bronze Age or Roman. Frustratingly, little is said about this find.

A further quarry site was monitored near Shepperton, turning up more impressive finds, almost certainly votive in nature, from further palaeochannels in the gravel, likely to be the prehistoric Thames. Unfortunately many were made by dragline working underwater, so context and relationships are almost impossible to establish. Nevertheless, the group, which includes axes, swords, an antler macehead and pewter plates, gives more insight into the nature and range of deposition over later prehistory and into the historic period.

St Ann’s Hill is a well-known Iron Age hillfort, and the work reported here was undertaken in response to concern over erosion of the site in the late 1980s. The site was surveyed and a small amount of fieldwork was undertaken through the ditch. The results confirm the site’s importance and also stress its significance outside the Iron Age, with microliths and Bronze Age metalwork recovered, and a good medieval pedigree as well.

Thorpe Lea Nurseries is a more satisfying and substantial project, detailing the excavation of an extensive field system and

settlement, covering later prehistory and the transition into and throughout the Roman period. The stratigraphy is supported by extensive illustrations and detailed finds reports, with large pottery assemblages underscoring the primarily domestic nature of the use of the landscape, with evidence for shifting patterns of settlement and cultivation through time. The only likely ritual elements within the landscape come from finds groups in the waterholes, and this can certainly be paralleled with the more recent finds at Heathrow.

In summary, whilst the sites would ideally have been published years ago, and more comprehensively, this is an informative volume about important sites and fills in gaps in a significant landscape. It certainly merits a place upon the bookshelf alongside the Runnymede volumes, the Heathrow volumes and the prehistories of both the upper and lower Thames.

*Jane Sidell*

*Roman London and the Walbrook Crossing.* By Julian Hill and Peter Rowsome. Museum of London Archaeology Monograph 37, 2011. 2 vols: pp 32 + 597, 410 figs, 55 tables, CD-ROM supplement. ISBN 978 1 907586 04 0. Price: £57.00 hb.

These two handsomely-produced volumes report on the excavations in advance of one of the most controversial recent developments in the City of London, Lord Palumbo’s No. 1 Poultry. The background to the excavation, including the long-drawn-out planning dispute with the Prince of Wales in ‘carbuncle’ mode weighing in, is laid out along with the considerable technical feat involved in excavating under the ground-floor slab as the new building was constructed. The effort was fully justified because of the excellent preservation of much of the Roman (and medieval) archaeology, especially the earliest Roman deposits. The opportunity is taken to integrate the results from a number of smaller sites nearby. No. 1 Poultry overlay the point where the main east–west road of Roman London crested the western slope of the Walbrook valley. Because of the steep slope of the lip of the Walbrook valley, terraces were cut into the underlying brickearth to

provide platforms for buildings, incidentally aiding the preservation of the earliest under later build-up; proximity to the Walbrook also meant a degree of waterlogging and thus preservation of organic materials.

The report integrates descriptive text, tables, polychrome plans and line drawings, and colour photographs. The text is clearly laid out with ample sub-headings to guide the reader through a period or a topic. Part I (the first volume) essentially corresponds to a conventional detailed site narrative. 60% or so of Part II consists of a period-by-period consideration of I Poultry within its wider London context, some more specialist material such as religion or timber construction, then a brief Conclusions chapter. The rest of this volume presents a number of specialist reports, mostly as short taster pieces. Further data and tables are available on the CD-ROM, but not the actual detailed specialist reports. I must say I came away with considerable worries over this scheme. Part I as well as presenting a detailed site narrative also presents significant artefactual material (and indicative environmental data) for each period. Now whilst integrating finds with the stratigraphic sequence is highly desirable, the criteria on which this was done are not evident. Glass, metal objects and pottery are illustrated and referred to, but a worry does develop that these can be goodies; for pottery in particular there does seem an emphasis on imported and other exotic items, so we get a lot of amphorae and samian but little by way of greyware. As will be argued below, the pottery is of prime importance in the interpretation of some periods of the site, yet it does not seem possible to access quantified data on what fabrics and forms were represented in each of the phases: much of the pottery report in Part II is concerned with a particular type of storage jar, a tad bizarre. Curiously, in the period discussions of Part II, new artefactual material, principally pottery, is quite often introduced, on top of that in the site narrative. This report really needed a statement of the decisions taken about the inclusion/exclusion, hierarchisation of information and its availability.

Turning to the excavated sequence, the pre-Boudican sequence is justifiably the focus of a good deal of attention. Under the main east-west road was a timber box-

drain, one of the cover timbers yielding a dendrochronological date of AD 48, a *terminus post quem* but congruent with the evidence from elsewhere in London for the laying-out of the principal axes *c.*AD 50. The earliest roadside activity was rubbish-dumping, soon succeeded by terracing and the construction of buildings. By about AD 60 both sides of the road were built up and the branch road heading north-west constructed. The buildings were of rectilinear timber construction, with some alongside the branch road apparently fronted by a portico, reminiscent of the contemporary Verulamium Insula XIV. One building (11) is identified as a tavern on the basis of its fixtures and a high representation of plates and cups and especially large pieces of amphora (olive oil and wine): a possible but not certain identification. Another building (23) is identified as a pottery shop. Along with imported glass, foodstuffs and spices, there is certainly a considerable quantity of imported pottery from the structure and the overlying fire debris. But does this a pottery shop make? And why are identifications of pottery shops in Britain largely restricted to the Boudican period? A predominance of imported material, artefacts and foodstuffs characterises this period of I Poultry. This accords also with the plans, construction and probable use of the *pes Monetalis* in the buildings, all suggesting continental antecedents. At other periods the sudden appearance of such a concatenation of exotic traits would be explained in ethnic terms. Whilst I would not wish to go down that route, the evidence from I Poultry (and elsewhere in London) is for the immigration of new socio-cultural groups. The presence of imported pottery is often couched in supply-led terms, commerce, but surely here there is a better case for a demand-led explanation with these immigrants seeking goods to which they were accustomed, and for which there were no local substitutes. This brings us into a larger area of debate about very early Roman London, origins and population, about which this report is rather coy. On the whole discussion here leans towards a civil/economic rationale for the appearance of London, the Tacitean model, whereas other recent discussions favour a more military origin, with a base on Cornhill

to the east of the Walbrook. The authors note the lack of female material culture here, and there is a quantity of military material. But if the area west of the Walbrook were to be seen as subordinate to a military base (a *vicus*?), then the lack of female material seems odd. But either way the considerable and cosmopolitan immigrant non-soldier community/ies only ten years after the invasion is so far unique for Britain and their origins will be an important topic for future research.

It took some time for the area to recover, but by the end of the 1st century it was thriving again with timber buildings lining the developing road network (despite a fire destroying part of the area *c.*AD 95). The buildings seem largely to have been domestic/commercial, the strip building familiar from so many Romano-British towns and cities. There are a couple of rare finds worthy of note. One is a wooden stylus-tablet recording the sale of the slave-girl Fortunata, already published in detail. The other is a surface composed of about 1,000 Mayen quernstones, a collection unparalleled in Europe and as yet inexplicable. The pottery assemblages seem to contain a far higher proportion of British-made wares than before Boudica. Again, is this supply-led, with import substitution depressing the amount of imported wares? Or is it demand-led, signifying a change to a less cosmopolitan population with imported goods as more luxury items? The area was destroyed in the Hadrianic fire of AD 125. By comparison with the Boudican fire debris, the Hadrianic contains far less material, suggesting the inhabitants had time to clear their premises before the fire arrived. After this second conflagration the character of the building-stock changed, with fewer, more widely spaced, stone-founded structures, including a possible temple precinct. Some of the structures exhibited signs of affluence, such as mosaics, painted plaster, and bath-houses, which dated to the later 2nd to earlier 3rd centuries. In many ways London and other Romano-British cities seem to have been converging in their appearance and functions. It is good to see the authors discussing this not in terms of decline as has so often been the case for post-Hadrianic London, but rather in terms of changes in population and functions: change not decay.

The absence of radiate/barbarous coinage of the later 3rd century, so common elsewhere, poses interesting questions for what was happening here, but the area certainly remained occupied past the middle of the 4th century. It is, though, rather alarming to see Saxon raiding parties suggested as the reason for the abandonment of Roman London towards the end of the 4th century; in fact the sequences for London and their dating fit into a wider British pattern.

1 Poultry was seen as a very important site to have the opportunity to excavate, and the results obtained certainly confirm this. This report, albeit oddly structured, gives us a great deal to think about for the entire date-range of the Roman city and for a wide range of evidence-types. Future research on its databases and new ideas from excavations in London and elsewhere, including across the Channel, will mean it remains a prime resource for understanding Roman London.

*Simon Esmonde Cleary*

*London 1000 Years: Treasures from the Collections of the City of London.* Edited by David Pearson. Scala Publishers, 2011. Pp 160, colour illus. ISBN 978 1 85759 699 1. Price: £29.95 hb.

This finely illustrated volume was published to mark the 600th anniversary of the building of the present Guildhall in the City of London, although as the introduction points out the site had been used by the government of the City since the 12th century. It draws on the collections of what is now the UK's largest local authority archive service, including collections that originated in formerly separate repositories such as Guildhall Library, the Corporation of London Records Office, and the Greater London Record Office. Edited by David Pearson, Director of Culture, Heritage and Libraries, the book draws upon contributions from staff of the archives, libraries and Guildhall Art Gallery, who have between them written dozens of thematic articles that provide important context for the hundreds of illustrations of manuscripts, pictures and objects. It is particularly good to hear from those who care for these archives and artefacts, and it is a reminder of the importance of their expertise and skills as a

resource for the public as well as for students and academic historians. The articles are nicely judged, explaining the images used as well as the significance of the archives from which they are drawn. The images themselves are uniformly of a very high quality.

The volume is divided into five very broad themes: The City and Beyond; The Engine of Finance; London Life; Growth and Renewal; and The Arts and Sciences, each with a series of sub-themes dealing with (in the case of the first chapter, for instance) episodes in the evolution of London's government from the Conquest onwards, and the relationship of the City with the State. The task is a daunting one not least, as the editor points out, because a collection such as this will always have gaps and will always prompt readers to ask why their favourite artefact or document has not been included. Given all this, the achievement is all the greater in giving the reader a flavour of the 90km of material that are held in these repositories and at the same time telling a meaningful story about the development of London, its government institutions and people. The second chapter (Engine of Finance), for example, begins with a discussion of the emergence of the trade guilds (or livery companies), accompanied by an illustration of the Skinners' Company's wonderful Assumption fraternity book, depicting Elizabeth Woodville. It then moves on to chart the rise of London as an international centre of trade and finance, with the aid both of relatively mundane documents such as a Bill of Lading, and Hollar's 1644 depiction of the interior of the first Royal Exchange where the dress of the merchants reflects the many nationalities present. A section on the Bank of England then makes way for an account of the loss of the *Marie Celeste*, exemplifying the importance of maritime insurance and the rise of Lloyd's. Business archives feature prominently in the holdings of the City libraries and archives, and so it is good to have case studies later in the same chapter concerning London breweries, as well as the Lyons archive, which contains 35 linear metres of material relating to the coffee houses and hotels established by J Lyons & Co from the early 20th century to the mid-1990s. A nice counterpoint to these examples of large-scale businesses is the page

from one of the Foot Books of Peal & Co, showing an order placed by Karl Marx.

Some chapters are inevitably much more diverse, especially so in the case of London Life (ch. 3) which attempts the near-impossible task of trying to reflect many different aspects of the City's social, religious and cultural life. Pleasingly it begins with consideration of the nature, form and production of documents themselves — and the extravagant illustrated initials of the churchwardens' accounts of St Botolph Aldgate from the late 16th century show that even relatively mundane administrative records were regarded with pride by their creators. Frost fairs, plague, and crime are also covered briefly but effectively in this chapter, and there is a poignant illustration of a token left with an abandoned baby to accompany discussion of the role of the Foundling Hospital, established by Thomas Coram in 1739.

The narratives presented in this volume are fairly conventional ones, which is perhaps no surprise in a book that seeks to inform and raise awareness of these rich collections rather than engage with academic debates. Here and there it might have been useful to have introduced more problems or areas of interpretation — the survival and evolution of the livery companies as institutions might have been discussed, for example. While there is some good material and accompanying illustrations concerning migration from overseas (*eg* the Huntley archives in ch 3), there might have been more emphasis on migration as a longer-term feature of London's history and growth. Nevertheless, the volume succeeds very well through a combination of well chosen illustrations and clear discussion in the accompanying articles. As well as more widely-known images, the editor and his team have a nice eye for the unusual and the eye-catching — such as the collection of material relating to Florence Nightingale, or (emphasising the importance of modern-day ephemera) the inscribed cards left at Edgware Road Underground station after the 7/7 bombings. There is also a nice balance between images of documents, prints, maps and drawings, with the occasional images of an artefact (such as the Fire Cup, 1580) also included. Most readers will discover something new

in these pages, not least in the sheer range and diversity of archival collections cared for by the City's libraries and archives, and this enables the volume to reflect much more fully the diversity and richness of London's history over the past millennium.

*Matthew Davies*

*Shakespeare's London Theatreland: Archaeology, History and Drama.* By Julian Bowsher. Museum of London Archaeology, 2012. Pp 256, colour illus. ISBN 978 1 907586 12 5. Price: £20.00 pb.

The second half of the 16th century saw major changes — physical, social, economic and cultural — in the life of London, as its population grew rapidly, fuelled by immigration from the English regions and from overseas. The number of people in London virtually trebled between 1550 and 1600, while the built-up area began to expand well beyond the walled city and the limited extramural suburbs of the medieval period. London merchants engaged in an increasingly global import trade, especially after the collapse of the Antwerp entrepôt in the 1560s. This vibrant, expanding society also witnessed a major innovation in public entertainment and popular culture with the rise of commercial theatre, housed in purpose-built or adapted structures within or on the edges of the metropolitan area, and associated with such famous playwrights as Ben Jonson, Christopher Marlowe and, of course, William Shakespeare.

In the late 1980s the sites of the Rose and Globe playhouses were discovered by archaeologists, and the ensuing twenty years saw a great expansion in knowledge of the physical environment within which late 16th- and early 17th-century drama was produced and enjoyed. Julian Bowsher of the Museum of London Archaeology was closely involved in these developments and in the specialised publication of the major excavations. He has now produced an overview of *Shakespeare's London Theatreland* aimed at the general reader, reviewing the new archaeological evidence and placing it in a wider historical and cultural context.

Drama had, of course, been part of the fabric of London life for centuries before

Shakespeare's time, in the form of royal pageants and religious processions, or revels and plays performed in royal and aristocratic residences. Indeed private performances continued to be important throughout the period covered by this book, the first known performance of *Othello*, for instance, taking place at Whitehall Palace in November 1604. Commercial theatre had emerged by the 1540s, however, with performances taking place in hired halls, and by the early decades of Elizabeth's reign the need for dedicated venues was becoming clear. The first known playhouses, or open-to-the-elements theatres, were the short-lived Red Lion, constructed at Whitechapel in 1567, and an unnamed playhouse which opened at Newington Butts in the Elephant and Castle area in 1576. Both these buildings seem to have been rectangular, the characteristic polygonal-shaped playhouse emerging with the erection of the Theatre in Shoreditch, also in 1576, by James Burbage and John Brayne. This was followed by the Curtain in 1577 (also in Shoreditch), where Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet* and *Henry V* would later be premiered, and then by the Rose, the Swan and the Globe on Bankside, which by 1600 had emerged as the centre of London's theatrical world.

Excavations at the Rose and the Globe, together with the rich documentation which survives for the building, re-building and running of the Rose, have revealed much about the structure and life of these most famous of playhouses. Between 22m and 26m in diameter, they were smaller than the modern Globe theatre, but with their galleries and yard for standing could accommodate between two and three thousand spectators. The stage at the Rose was some 490 sq ft in area, and was initially open to the elements, but when the playhouse was rebuilt in 1592 the stage acquired a permanent roof or cover, and was thrust more into the yard. The yard, occupied by the poorest part of the audience, was paved with silt, clinker and hazelnut shells, a by-product of the soap-making industry. Many of the small finds from the Rose and other sites illuminate the lives of actors, impresarios and audience. Shellfish waste — particularly oyster shells — found beneath the galleries, together with fruit and cucurbit seeds, and the remains of drinking vessels, indicate audience refreshments, while

jewellery, dress pins and leather footwear may have been part of the actors' costumes. A cannonball found at the Rose is believed to have been rolled to create the sound-effect of thunder. Hundreds of pottery money-box fragments recovered from the Theatre, Rose and Globe sites reflect the business side of things, being used to store the admission pennies from the large regular audiences.

Bowsher covers both the playhouses and the more exclusive indoor theatres, together with the private venues and the bear- and bull-baiting arenas which shared the south bank entertainment zone. The book concludes with a series of suggested walks for those keen to visit the sites of Shakespeare's theatrical London, although the author cautions that at most sites there is little or nothing to see, and that informed imagination is required of the walker. Overall, the volume succeeds in presenting an entertaining and accessible guide to a fascinating topic, which has been re-energised by recent discoveries. A small quibble might be that the chapter on 'Players, Playhouses and Playgoers', where much of the material is summarised and contextualised, might have been better placed at the beginning of the book, before the detailed discussion of individual sites. Nevertheless this is a worthy attempt to bring much fascinating material to a wide audience.

*James A Galloway*

*New Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, Southwark: Excavations at Globe Academy, 2008.* By Adrian Miles with Brian Connell. Museum of London Archaeology, Archaeology Studies Series 24, 2012. Pp xii+115, 93 figs, 41 tables. ISBN 978 1 907586 09 5. Price: £15. 00 hb.

Tucked away in Deverell Street, Southwark, off the New Kent Road is Chamberlain, Powell & Bon's 1958 Geoffrey Chaucer (formerly Trinity House) School. The land occupied by the school was once part of a much larger market garden before it was acquired in c.1821 for the New Bunhill Fields Burial Ground, which remained in use as a place of Non-conformist burial until its closure in 1853. The site subsequently became a timber yard and sawmill until c.1957 when the factory buildings were demolished for the construction of Trinity House School.

Regardless of its name, the New Bunhill Fields Burial Ground had no connection with Bunhill Fields off City Road, Islington for the Southwark cemetery was an example of private speculation, it being a small burial ground of less than one acre, established in c.1821 by Joseph Francis Hoole (d 1832), an enterprising undertaker trading on the Kent Road; though it was his business partner, Thomas Martin, who undertook the day-to-day running of the burial ground and continued to do the same after Hoole's death. The importance of this information rests in the fact that Hoole & Martin are the first recorded undertakers to have ventured into the private cemetery movement. Precisely how many families of the 33,000 individuals interred within its boundaries between 1821 and 1853 had recourse to Hoole & Martin as undertakers has not been recorded, but it seems doubtful that the burial ground was not set up with an eye to personal profit on their part which, with an average of 1,000 burials a year, would have been considerable as the New Bunhill Fields Burial Ground was not the cheapest place in Southwark in which to be interred.

Between 4 June and 14 July 2008 a small section of the burial ground — about 10% in all — was the subject of an exploratory excavation in association with a proposal to construct a new educational Academy on the site, with the remaining 90% of the site being commercially cleared. The exploratory trench — 22m by 12m, adjacent to the western wall of the burial ground — yielded a total of 827 wooden coffins from which 766 skeletons were assessed and 514 individuals selected for full osteological analysis.

It was a difficult site to contend with as most of the graves were so close to one another that the sides of the coffins in the adjacent graves were touching, and the rows so close that the head-ends of the coffins were touching the foot-ends of their rear neighbours. According to contemporary written accounts of New Bunhill Fields, most of the graves were dug to accommodate up to ten coffins, though in the sampled section this was limited to about three burials in each of the 299 graves examined. Furthermore, as there were no surviving burial registers, identification and date had to be made from the coffin breastplates, 73% of which yielded

a date of 1831–5, the cholera years. Most of the graves appear to have been infilled within a week of opening, although two were in use for a much longer period, or maybe had been the subject of re-openings.

Crowded as this site was, the preservation of the coffins was remarkable and few had disintegrated, a tribute to those entrusted with the responsibility of financing the funerals and of the trade in general. All of the excavated coffins were of 1-inch elm planks, some decorated with upholstery studs, some externally upholstered. All of the coffin furniture was tin-dipped stamped iron, of which only 127 of the 524 breastplates retrieved had partial or complete inscriptions; these were, with three exceptions, of designs previously recorded on other sites within the metropolis. The majority of the limited number of lid-motifs were of the ‘angel and flowerpot’ pairing, though an unusual lid-motif, with the motto ‘Union is Strength’ — possibly alluding to a funeral financed by a trade union or a friendly society — was found amongst the detritus created by the exhumation contractors. In all, 109 cast-iron grips were retrieved, but the number of grip-plates was limited, with most of them being in a poor state of preservation. It was unfortunate that not one item could be compared to those in the catalogue issued by Tuesby & Cooper, Southwark’s most renowned manufacturers of high-status coffin-furniture. Be that as it may, this section of the report is an essay on how coffin-furniture should be recorded and, yet again, shows Adrian Miles to be the master of the craft.

Nothing excites the curious more than to ask if there were any coffins containing unusual items and at the New Bunhill Fields Burial Ground they would not have been disappointed. Apart from a blue paste stone there was no personal jewellery, but one young adult male had been buried with a rosary (Roman Catholics at that time being, of course, Non-conformists) entwined around his right wrist, the crucifix of copper alloy. Buttons from shrouds and shirts, funerary caps and remnants of shrouds are expected to be found, and indeed were, but of the more unusual items was a pewter plate, two willow pattern plates and a fine New Hall porcelain plate of c.1820 with hand-painted

floral decoration. Amongst the plant remains, Charles Sherwood, an infant who died in April 1842, had been buried with a small crop of scented wallflowers, whilst Henry Simpson, who died in November 1833, aged 23, was in a coffin filled with grass.

As for the remains themselves, the skeletal sample consisted of 357 sub-adults and 157 adults, showing a high proportion of immature individuals, but then that is not unusual for burial grounds of this date, though many of the adults survived well into old age, as evidenced by the osteological analysis. In terms of the health status of the individuals, there was a broad spectrum of disease, including metabolic (particularly rickets), congenital, infectious and neoplastic conditions. As for fractures, an unusually high proportion of individuals showed evidence of fractured metacarpals, which might have been due to an, as yet, unidentified trade particular to this part of Southwark. As would be expected for an urban population from this period, dental health was poor, due both to diet and non-existent oral hygiene.

Much was recorded during the 19th century of the excesses of London’s commercial burial places, particularly those such as the Enon Chapel and the New Bunhill Fields Burying Ground, where reverent treatment of the dead was either discarded or ignored for the sake of financial profit. Indeed, such practices galvanised the reformers to increase their zeal for the adoption of the garden cemetery and a more sanitary means of burial. Pre-construction excavation for an educational Academy on the site of the New Bunhill Fields Burying Ground provided the opportunity to examine at first hand whether or not such excesses were true. That they were is an indictment against Hoole and Martin, and it is to be hoped that such excesses will never happen again.

*Julian Litten*

*St Paul’s Cathedral: 1400 Years at the Heart of London.* By Ann Saunders. Scala, 2012. Pp 144, 122 colour pls. ISBN 978 1 85758 802 5. Price: £25.00 hb.

This book appears shortly after a happy coincidence of events: the Queen’s Jubilee

celebrations of 2012, which through the speed of book production these days makes an appearance at the end, and the newly-cleaned cathedral. For the first time in over twenty years, in 2013, there is no scaffolding to be seen either inside or out.

Ann Saunders has written here a summary of the history of the various cathedrals which will appeal to a wide readership, especially those who want a memento of visiting St Paul's. As I work on the archaeology of the Wren cathedral, I will also find it very useful, as the splendid photographs will remind me to do it justice. The quality of printing is high.

The text is an uncontroversial summary, without footnotes. The approach is traditional, so we are given Wren's design for the post-Fire City, which has perhaps been over-emphasised in the past, as nothing whatever came of it. Wren's preferred design, the Great Model kept at the cathedral, is shown with a view of the inside with its internal trench which allows inspection by walking up and down within the model (as did Robert Hooke). Canaletto's view of the Thames of about 1756, showing a Lord Mayor's procession on the water, is a fine illustration of the cathedral in its post-Fire setting (see also review of *Royal River*, below). The book is strong on the Peninsular School of monuments around the crossing and (some relegated) in the crypt today; they have not always had a favourable press. After a peek at the library, we are shown the late 19th-century Richmond mosaics, especially in the vaulting of the choir, with spouting whales and (though not shown here) a range of other exotic wild animals mainly from (colonial) Africa. Queen Victoria came to celebrate her own Diamond Jubilee in 1897, though she stayed in her carriage outside the west end (where the commemorative inscription is today). Nearby, by then, was the replacement statue of Queen Anne, of 1885, that is the present one. The original Bird statue had the queen holding her sceptre so it pointed up; the replacement has the sceptre pointing down (as you can still see). Should we ask for the sceptre to be repointed upwards? There is lots to relish in this thoughtful picture-book.

*John Schofield*

*Royal River: Power, Pageantry and the Thames.* Edited by Susan Doran with Robert J Blyth (guest curator David Starkey). Scala and Royal Museums Greenwich, 2012. Pp 292, colour illus. ISBN 978 1 85759 700 4. Price: £25.00 pb.

Major exhibitions come and go, but their catalogues, when they have one, remain. This is the sumptuous catalogue of the exhibition of the same name held at the National Maritime Museum Greenwich in 2012. The editors assembled ten scholars to write essays and many of the curators of the Museum to write catalogue entries for 246 of the exhibits. The aspects discussed, and illustrated by the objects, comprise royal use of the river (Anne Boleyn, palaces), the Lord Mayor's procession on the Thames, the 18th-century riverside architecture (Greenwich), the 19th-century working river, and a slightly tangential section on royal yachts and the navy. The objects include silverware, uniforms, scientific instruments, pottery, models, flags and paintings. One highlight for those who saw the exhibition, and of the catalogue, is the painting of the Lord Mayor's waterborne procession of about 1750 by Canaletto, which shows St Paul's and the 18th-century waterfront on both banks of the Thames. The painting came from the Lobkowitz Collection in Prague, appearing in Britain for the first time in nearly 200 years. A different foreign view is demonstrated by a famous aerial photograph of a Heinkel bomber over the river and the docks in World War II: now known to be a doctored image by Geobbels, who superimposed the plane on a photograph taken before 1939, when there had been no cover protecting the north terrace of the ground at Millwall Football Club. Careful study of aerial photographs can defeat propaganda.

I have minor quibbles about the historical summaries of the London waterfront, and the 19th century is sketched in only summarily. Bridges, embankments and pollution seem to have little to do with the main themes or the title. But overall this is a fine exhibition catalogue of a body of material, artefactual and graphic, and a lasting resource. Other major museums in London, please take note.

*John Schofield*

The Local History Committee awarded two prizes each of £100 at the Local History Conference for the best book and the best journal published by an Affiliated Society between January 2011 and January 2012. Societies were invited to submit as many publications as they wished, and at an initial shortlisting meeting of the committee all five books submitted were shortlisted for the book award and seven of the publications submitted from ten societies were shortlisted for the journal award, as being most likely to meet the criteria for awarding the prizes. The shortlisted books and journals were then circulated to each member of the committee over the summer so that everyone could read them and make their own assessment of the potential winners against the criteria of research content, readability, aims and presentation. The committee met again to determine collectively the winner of each prize to be awarded at the conference; the winners are reviewed first here; the shortlisted books and journals are also then reviewed.

*The Cranmers, The Canons and Park Place.* By E N Montague. Mitcham Histories 11, 2011. Pp 230, illus. ISBN 978 1 90389 61 8. Price not given, pb.

This is the winning local history publication. The odd time I have found myself in Mitcham in South London it is because I have got lost. I would have been much comforted if, the last time I was trying to relocate the South Circular road, I had known something of its history. This book is interesting not only to the residents of Mitcham itself but also to those interested in the way local history can impinge on national events and vice versa. The story of the Cranmer family and the houses called the Canons and Park Place, reflects not just local development but the social and political history of London through the centuries.

The Cranmer family were descended from the archbishop's elder brother and their story down the centuries is a reminder of how, before the welfare state, even wealthy or professional families were insecure. Success in the professions like the law or the East India Company was crucial. The bread winners in the families had so many dependents in their households to support, and all too often the

children were left orphans, as happened to the Cranmer family during the Great Plague in 1665.

The Cranmers could appoint their own choice to the parish living after the Reformation. One Anthony Sadler proved to be a poor choice of vicar of Mitcham as he quarrelled with both his patron and his parishioners. This appointment also reveals the conflicts between Presbyterians and Anglicans in the 17th century and how tactful you needed to be as a vicar — Sadler wasn't. The Cranmers remained in Mitcham giving their name to a fine house till 1928 when it was replaced by a cottage hospital. In contrast, the property known as the Canons, also associated with the Cranmer family, still remains and the story of this estate is recounted in detail. Park Place also remains, probably of 14th-century origin, the house was rebuilt in the 18th century and is now a pub. The quality of detailed research is what makes the Mitcham story come alive. The book is illustrated by reproduced old prints and maps.

*Eleanor Stanier*

*Brentford & Chiswick Local History Journal* 20. Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society, 2011. Pp 28, illus. No price given.

This journal is a commendable winner of the 2012 Local History Publication Awards, journals category. It is a clear, well organised and attractively laid out publication, containing seven interesting articles and reviews of three books. There is good use of images throughout, well spaced within the individual articles, using both photographs and line drawings. The articles are both interesting and easy to read. All are well researched and either give references or list sources at the end of each one.

'Lilly's tomb' by Gillian Clegg is a short article dealing with a memorial to a dog called Lilly in the gardens of Chiswick House. Gillian postulates that the dog was owned either by Georgiana, 5th Duchess of Devonshire or Lady Elizabeth Foster, the Duke's mistress and second wife. It appears impossible to prove, but interesting and amusing to consider!

'The Firestone strike of 1933' by John Grigg relies on newspaper sources, such as the *Daily Worker* and the *Brentford & Chiswick Times*, and uses extracts and quotes from

both newspapers. Grigg makes good use of images, especially the cartoons from the *Daily Worker*. Details about the work at the factory and the progress of the strike and the support it received are very clear and Grigg analyses the result of the strike and sees the end of total domination by management.

D W Budworth's 'Melbourne House, John Lindley and St. Michael's Church' is a study about the occupation of Melbourne House by the distinguished botanist John Lindley and its ownership by the Church of St Michael a hundred years later. Use has been made of legal sources such as leases and records from the Church of England, but the main source is the pleadings in the Chancery case of *Berrey v Lindley*. I found the use of the pleadings in that case extremely fascinating, and must confess that I had not realised the amount of personal detail that could be obtained from such material.

'The history of Chiswick hospital' by Dorothy Bartram describes the history of the hospital from the opening of a cottage hospital in 1911, through three buildings to the closure on 30 March 2006 and final demolition in 2010. Dorothy adds extra little details such as the use made of the hospital for filming and as a nursing home, which make the article more interesting.

Val Bott has made good use of wills, legal documents, maps, manuscripts and material from the National Archives to give an overview of the brick-making industry in Brentford in the 18th century in her article 'Brentford brick-makers and potters'. Bott demonstrates that local materials, local labour and good transport links enabled Brentford to be regarded as a centre for clay industries from the 15th century until the 19th century. She describes the use of the clay pits and the manufacture of bricks in the locality and the subsequent transport of the bricks.

'The Burges window in Chiswick parish church' by Peter and Carolyn Hammond is a short detailed article on a specific stained glass window in St Nicholas's parish church, Chiswick, utilising information and images from the William Burges Notebook no. 29 at the Victoria and Albert Museum.

Carolyn Hammond also produced 'Extracts from the diary of the Rev Edward Miller 1841–1842'. These typewritten extracts from the diary were given to the Society by a descend-

ant of the one of the families mentioned, but unfortunately the whereabouts of the original document are unknown. Carolyn Hammond is also the editor of this journal, and should be congratulated on a splendid achievement.

*Diane Tough*

The shortlisted books were as follows:

*King and Constitution: The Wandsworth Volunteer Infantry, 1794 to 1809*. By Dermot Jones. Wandsworth Historical Society, Wandsworth Paper 22, 2011. Pp 24, illus. ISBN 978 0 905121 27 7. Price: £4.00 pb.

Wandsworth, a village in Surrey, raised armed Volunteers to counter the threats of invasion during the Napoleonic Wars. This occasional paper tells the story of the parish forces and shows how a small community responded to national events. It is based on an article about the Volunteers which first appeared in 1898 in *Wandsworth Notes and Queries*, written by the local librarian Cecil T Davis (1854–1922). Dermot Jones has divided the story into two parts, 1794–1802 and 1803–1809, and puts it into a national context by including new material about the Wandsworth Cavalry Volunteers and enhancing the narrative with illustrations from the Wandsworth Museum. For those readers who want to delve into the events recorded more deeply there are ample footnotes to follow up. The result is a readable account which gives a good insight into the volunteers.

*Whitton Brook, formerly Birket's Brook: a Small River Journey through Whitton History*. By E Harris. Borough of Twickenham & Richmond Local History Society, Paper 90, 2011. Pp 68, illus and map. ISBN 978 0 903341 87 5. Price: £4.50 pb.

This blend of landscape study, local history and archaeology draws on a wide range of sources to cover the significance over the centuries of a waterway that is now all but lost. The book builds on the work of Alan Urwin, who published the first account of Birket's brook in 1971, and recounts the history of the forgotten waterway from the 15th century to the present day. The brook formed the whole of the boundary between the ancient parishes of Twickenham and Isleworth and took its name from Henry

Birket, a 16th-century landowner. In 1842 Moses Adams surveyed the stream from its source in Whitton Park to its confluence with the River Crane, and some time later the name changed to Whitton Brook; this survey is reproduced as a separate fold-out map. By the time that the Greater London Council came into being in 1965 much of the brook had been covered over and has been overlooked ever since. The book takes the reader on a virtual tour along the stream that would make it an interesting companion to anyone exploring the area on foot.

*Stroud Green: a History and Five Walks.* By John Hinshelwood. Hornsey Historical Society, 2011. Pp 96, illus. ISBN 978 0 905794 43 3. Price: £7.50 pb.

The history of Stroud Green is brought to life by John Hinshelwood from a wide variety of sources which shed new light on the people who lived in Stroud Green as it developed from a wet and marshy place in the 16th century to a north London suburb in the 20th century. For the first time the history of Stroud Green is told as a single coherent account. The itineraries of five walks take in the historic heart of Stroud Green as well as the diverse examples of domestic architecture to be found in the two conservation areas, ranging from elegantly crafted artisans' cottages to Gothic and Italianate revival semi-detached houses. The shops which developed along Stroud Green Road before 1900 reflect the optimism of the time. This was to be followed by two world wars which left their mark on the district, as witnessed by the post-War redevelopment of the Stroud Green Estate.

*John Dee of Mortlake.* By Nicholas Dakin. Barnes & Mortlake History Society, 2011. Pp 96, illus. ISBN 978 0 95420 38 6 3. No price given, pb.

Nicholas Dakin set out to mark the 400th anniversary of John Dee's death by revising a previous biography written by Dilys Henrik Jones, also published by Barnes & Mortlake History Society and now out of print, and ended up writing about 16th-century Mortlake in order to create the impression of what it would have been like for John Dee and his family. In doing this he has avoided writing yet another book about John Dee to join the many scholarly writings on the man,

and has succeeded in writing an account of Mortlake using the well-known figure as the focus. This book is ideal for anyone wanting an introduction to John Dee and details of Mortlake during his lifetime. It is perhaps a shame that the endnotes, with such useful references, are dispersed between the chapters; they would have been better collected with the excellent bibliography.

The shortlisted journals this year were the following:

Wandsworth History Society, *Wandsworth Historian* No. 91, Spring 2011. Pp 26, illus. Price: £3.00.

This 40th anniversary edition has four substantial research articles and a history of the *Wandsworth Historian*. The articles cover a diverse range of subject matter, from the novelist of Wandsworth, A J Dawson, to John Burns' transition from violent agitator to exponent of healthy homes in the 20th century; from 'The abbey, the monk and Doomsday Wandsworth' to 'Memories of the Thames in the thirties and forties'. There is also a tribute to Nick Fuentes, one of the area's greatest historians, as well as four short but interesting notes on Wandsworth history.

*Journal of the Islington Archaeology & History Society* Vol 1 No. 3, Autumn 2011. Pp 30, illus. No price given.

A collection of nine articles covers Islington's pioneering treatment of mental illness; the Festival of British Archaeology; coffin plates; spiral escalators; the killing of one of London's first police officers; Disraeli's birthplace; the early days of the Almeida Theatre; why Joe Orton and Keith Halliwell defaced library books; and Holloway's pioneering birth control clinic.

Pinner Local History Society, *News Reviews Research* 114, Spring 2011. Pp 24, illus. No price given.

Although calling itself a newsletter this Spring edition mixes research notes with interesting summaries of talks and visits. As such the newsletter is a good contribution to recording the history of Pinner which could easily be lost. Rickmansworth's forgotten castle is kept alive and Louis Davis, stained

glass artist of Pinner, and Susan Rayner, whose family name lives on as the name of the main road linking Pinner to South Harrow, are resurrected. The newsletter is produced three times a year and is a good example of a well-presented publication.

*Hornsey Historical Society Bulletin* 52, 2011. Pp 44, illus. Price: £6.00.

This is another 40th anniversary publication, but this is in full colour with eight main articles and three substantial notes. As an anniversary edition there is an understandable emphasis on the history of the society in the form of the two leading articles. The other articles include the origins of a local park, the celebrations in Highgate for Queen Victoria's coronation, a little known collection of topographical paintings of north London, and 100 years of Quakers at Muswell Hill. There is also an interesting account of the town twinning between Haringey and six cities, four in Europe and two in the Caribbean. 'Memories of Trade Unionism in Hornsey' details the recent acquisition of oral history records.

*Ruislip, Northwood & Eastcote Local History Society Journal*, November 2011. Pp 48, illus. No price given.

This journal carries eight main research articles as well as details of the society, its activities and publications. Starting with 'Two hundred years of Ruislip reservoir' and moving on to 'Pleasing poetry, Sir Roger Newdigate, 1719–1806', the articles also cover the Hearn family in the Ruislip Census of 1861–1881, Thomas Marsh Everett, and The Ruislip Spies. There is a photo story of Ruislip postcards, an account of the saving of the Battle of Britain House site, and an article on Eastcote and Ruislip as reflected in festivities and celebrations.

Acton History Group, *Acton Historian* 52, November 2011. Pp 64, illus. Price: £3.00 (non-members).

Although it does not claim to be an anniversary issue, a photo story celebrates 25 years of the Acton History Group. This little journal is packed with interesting articles on Acton, perhaps none more interesting than the poem on p 4 that captures memories of Acton's past. This is followed by pieces on the insignia of

Acton between 1921 and 1965 and on Memories of South Acton. There are articles on the Rothschild House at Gunnersbury Park, a memorial plaque factory, and the Passmore Edwards Centenary Garden. People also figure in the historical record, Joseph Blick, Jobmaster, Richard White, who founded the Mill Hill Park Estate, and the high and low life in early 19th-century Acton. This compact well-presented paperback also has colour illustrations on the cover.

*John Hinshelwood*

Also received:

*A Bioarchaeological Study of the Medieval Burials on the Site of St Mary Spital: Excavations at Spitalfields Market, London E1, 1991–2007.* By Brian Connell, Amy Gray Jones, Rebecca Redfern and Don Walker. Museum of London Archaeology Monograph 60, 2012. Pp xx + 303, 250 figs, 172 tables. ISBN 978 1 907586 11 8. Price: £28.00 hb.

Excavation at the cemetery of the Augustinian hospital of St Mary Spital, off Bishopsgate in the City, recorded over 10,500 individuals, of which 5,382 are studied, including mass burials of 4,000 of them. Discussion of their bones and ailments is presented in a wider survey of the medieval environment of London. The majority of the mass burials can be dated to before the Black Death of 1348–9, and may be the result of documented famines and epidemics.

*Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection Men: Excavations in the 19th-Century Burial Ground of the London Hospital, 2006.* By Louise Fowler and Natasha Powers. Museum of London Archaeology Monograph 62, 2012. Pp xviii + 229, 202 figs, 82 tables. ISBN 978 1 907586 13 2. Price: £26.00 hb.

Excavations at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel (founded 1740, but on this site from 1752) recorded 259 human skeletons, evidently unclaimed patients buried between 1825 and 1841. Many had been the subject of autopsy. The study, which provides the background for the Museum's 2012 exhibition *Doctors, Dissection and Resurrection Men*, asserts 'these nameless dead enable examination of the motives, politics and practicalities of anatomical teaching' in the 1830s.