Issue 168 May 2023

LAMAS NEWSLETTER

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



A mix of tank metal (bottom), glass runnels and droplets. The remaining fragments of glass were possibly to be recycled (cullet). The assemblage was excavated from a late Roman ditch truncating an earlier Roman Road situated between Coleman Street and Moorgate in the City of London.

Photo: S. Duckering/Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd.

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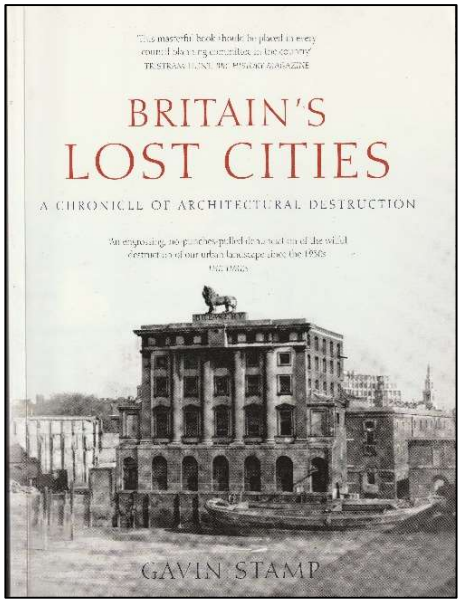
NOTICES

Editor's Introduction

The LAMAS 59th annual archaeology conference held at the end of March explored recent archaeological fieldwork in London and also Roman towns outside the capital. Prior to this, the 167th Annual General Meeting and Presidential Address by the outgoing LAMAS President, Gillian Tindall, was held at the end of February. Gillian Tindall's lecture made me think about past demolition in alignment with, then, contemporary planning policy (particularly road widening and new road building) to the detriment of buildings, streets and garden squares. And, not just in London. The concept of the importance of the car and the necessity for wider roads and dual or multiple carriageways (urban motorways) impacted on many towns and cities across the country as the city planners redrew and redesigned urban space. The destruction of historic urban environments beginning before the Second World War, was speeded up by wartime bomb damage, and the gathering momentum of British Urban Modernism.



The South Bank of the Thames seen from Hungerford Bridge after the Second World War.

Gillian's slide of The Coal Exchange that once stood on the corner of St Mary at Hill and Lower Thames Street was familiar. I pulled Gavin Stamp's *Britain's Lost Cities* (my edition is the 2010 version) from the bookshelf. Turned to the chapter on London, and there was the 1958 monochrome photograph of The Coal Exchange by Edwin Smith. The building being demolished, despite strong opposition, by the City of London Corporation in 1962. This demolition target being predated in 1961 by the gratuitous and unnecessary destruction of the Euston 'Arch'. A structure, which Stamp describes as the greatest monument of the Railway Age, and which he states

fell victim to “the malice and philistinism of British Railways and Harold Macmillan’s government”. I wasn’t born at the time of the destruction of these two buildings. And, these are just two examples from London. The domino effects of the demolition and removal of such structures fanning out across the country. I didn’t know their space be that in London or the provinces. However, I know them through their record. In this instance, the photograph.

I now loop further back in time. Archaeological remains long buried beneath modern ground level are similarly unknown. Long past. Long forgotten. Crop marks, humps and dumps in the landscape, and partial visible ruins. These features give us clues and the evidence that there was once something there. This is not the case with physical evidence for buildings such as The Coal Exchange, the Euston Arch, or the Lion Brewery that once stood on the South Bank of the Thames – and which provides the cover picture of Stamp’s book. Our record, and what becomes our memory of such recent structures and their purposes, is the photograph.

With archaeology we have a similar record in a different format provided by geophysical survey. We have the technology to see beneath the soil without disturbance. Aerial photography and the expansion of drone photography produces images which would otherwise leave us blind to past structures and long-lost and forgotten environmental features. Excavation produces the physical evidence for infrastructure, physical structures (whatever their purpose), past occupation, land utility, and changing topography, over millennia. The recent LAMAS archaeology conference focused on London but incorporated a wider catchment of Roman towns outside the metropolis.

Like Stamp’s tour of Britain, the papers presented at the conference provided a visual record of sites, artefacts (including the static visualisation on the Colchester Vase of the gladiatorial game), zooarchaeological and osteoarchaeological remains that were once real beings, and physical structures and infrastructures of Roman and later dates that, like the Euston Arch and The Coal Exchange, were once used by people and peopled by people. But, unlike a photograph, excavation and scientific analysis adds additional dimensions to the record. Who would have thought when bathing in the bath house at Silchester, that over a thousand years later, the hidden world of the Roman bath house would be exposed to a modern audience? Contaminated water and all – along with the gut health of the users.

Jane Wheeler

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Newsletter: *Next Submission Date – August 2023*

Final copy deadline for the September 2023 *Newsletter* is end-August – ***Friday 25 August 2023***. Note this is the Friday before the August Bank Holiday and articles, news, and items for inclusion will be happily received prior to the 25th. Please send items for inclusion by email preferably (as MS Word attachments). Any structural/layout queries email me and I will try my best to make the process as easy as possible) to: **newsletter@lamas.org.uk The text style is Times Roman at 14' font. No justification or indents. Spacing at x1. S**end text in Word.doc format and a suitably referenced document attached to your email.

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LAMAS Newsletter by email

The LAMAS *Newsletter* is now published electronically in colour (in PDF format) and emailed to members. Printed 'paper' black and white copies are still printed and posted to members for whom the Society has no email address.

Members/Readers who are not currently receiving the *Newsletter* by email, and wish to receive it in PDF format, notify the Hon. Secretary by sending your email address to: secretary@lamas.org.uk.

Should you have a new email address or have not previously suppled an email contact address – please let the Hon. Secretary (Karen Thomas) know.
If you receive the digital version - you will not also receive a hard copy version.

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Please check whether or not you have paid for 2021-2022 and 2022-2023.

The LAMAS year runs 1st October to 30th September.

If you are unsure - do not hesitate to contact the Membership Secretary for clarification using the email address below.
If you wish to pay and set up a Standing Order for your subscription - details are provided below.
Members using either Paypal or a Standing Order to pay your subscriptions - include your 'formal' name/initial as a reference to the payee and not a nick-name.

John Shemilt
membership@lamas.org.uk

Subscription Rates:

Ordinary (Individual) members	£20.00
Joint members (must be at same address)	£25.00
Student members (without Transactions)	£6.00
Corporate/Institutional members	£30.00
Affiliated local societies	£25.00

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Membership Secretary's reflections on the first 100 days

The last hundred days have been a very interesting time and I have learnt a lot. LAMAS members have been amazingly supportive and understanding as I have attempted to get to grips with the tasks of Membership Secretary. I would especially like to thank Robin, the LAMAS Treasurer, and Karen, the LAMAS Secretary, without whose help it would have been impossible. A big thank you to everyone.

The primary objective has been to get to grips with the membership list and make sure it is as up to date as possible. It was clear that a number of members appeared not to have paid their membership fee for this year, which could be because they no longer wished to be members, or the payment had failed in some way. Payment failure could be down to me not associating a payment with a member correctly!
Fortunately, 62% of members have e-mail addresses and those who appeared not to have renewed their membership were e-mailed to check their postcode and payment status.

205 emails to individuals, 21 to corporate/institutions and 26 to affiliated societies have been sent. The response from quite a number of members was that they would really value a reminder about membership becoming due before 1st October each year.
Therefore, in September I propose to send out emails to all members we have an e-mail address for. This email will allow members to check their postal address, membership type, whether they have gift-aided their subscription and, if I can manage it, the method used to pay for their membership the last time.

For those who have not responded by the latter part of October, another email will be sent in case the first one got lost for some reason. If you do not currently get information from LAMAS by email and you would like

to get the reminders, can you e-mail me at **membership@lamas.org.uk** and I will add your email address to your membership record.

So, how many paid-up individual members does LAMAS currently have?

As of 17th March 2023, the current paid-up membership is: 394 individuals, 39 affiliated societies, and 31 corporate/institution members. Of course, the strength of LAMAS is its members, so if you know anyone who might like to join LAMAS, do encourage them to join.

Despite the help I had from members of LAMAS there are still a few issues with the membership list. I have four entries for standing orders that I have not been able to establish any addresses for. The only information I have is the name provided by the bank statement.
The bank statement descriptions for the four are: "D S JACKSON MR & MRS JACKSON", "GEOFFREY ORTON G M ORTON", "WOON C" and "C J YOUNG".
The payments are all for individual membership of LAMAS. If you have an idea who the payments relate to, or have contact details for them, could you please let me know so I can solve the mysteries.
Any questions or comments about your LAMAS membership do let me know, preferably by email to **membership@lamas.org.uk** or alternatively by post. My postal address is provided on the back of this Newsletter.

If I do not have your email address (i.e., you do not get any information currently from LAMAS via email) if you can provide one it would be most helpful. Just email me. This also would help the Secretary with the emailing out of PDF copies of the Newsletter.

John Shemilt
LAMAS Membership Secretary membership@lamas.org.uk

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LAMAS 167th AGM and outgoing Presidential Address

The LAMAS AGM was held in The Gallery at Alan Baxter Ltd on Cowcross Street, EC1, at the end of February. Gilliam Tindall gave the Presidential Address before standing down as LAMAS President. The topic being 'The Long History of Conservation'.

Council thanked Gillian for all her input during her tenure as President. Particularly her contribution during the difficult time of COVID and Lockdown. Whilst it was farewell to Gillian, it was also welcome to the new incoming President – Professor Vanessa Harding.

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LAMAS 59th Annual Conference of London Archaeologists
Saturday 25th March 2023 (held online)

This year's conference was held online and those talks that were recorded will be available on the LAMAS YouTube channel in due course.

As usual the morning session was devoted to recent fieldwork whilst the afternoon lectures were thematic and looked at Roman towns other than London. The morning session began with the presentation of the 2022 Ralph Merrifield Award, which was awarded to Kathryn Stubbs, formerly the Senior Planning and Archaeology Officer in the City of London. Kathryn, who retired in 2022 held this post since the early 1990s and was involved with monitoring all archaeological fieldwork and post-excavation linked with planning conditions within the City of London.

Morning Session - Recent Work

Excavations at Spelthorne Leisure Centre, Staines: Evidence for Neolithic Occupation and Early Bronze Age Burials, and later activity by Andy Hood (Foundations Archaeology).



The earliest activity on site consisted of a cluster of three Middle Neolithic (*c*. 3400-2800 BC) pits, which were packed with finds including: charcoal; pottery; 260 flints (tools including arrowheads, scrapers, and a polished discoidal knife); burnt bones and a fragment of a polished stone axe. Similar pit clusters found nearby at Heathrow's Terminal 5 are interpreted as deliberate deposition connected with the abandonment of temporary settlements. During the Early Bronze Age (*c.* 2000-1500 BC) two adjoining ring ditches were dug. The southern one had diameter of *c.* 18m and the northern one *c*. 14m. Both ditches were relatively shallow due to later cultivation (which had removed any central mounds) and contained few finds. The southern ring ditch had no central burial, but the northern one did – consisting of an inverted and truncated collared urn surrounded by flints and cobble packing. The urn contained no objects only the

cremated remains of three children, all less than nine years old. The impression, due to the scarcity of charcoal, is that these cremated remains had been washed before being deposited in a bag, then placed inside the urn, which was then inverted. These bones seemed to have been carefully selected. Metal detecting during soil stripping produced a large assemblage of coins and other objects, including a silver finger ring and lead weights, and the most amazing discovery of a gold stater of Tasciovanus, ruler of the Catuvellauni (*c*. 25 BC - AD 10) - which was spotted by chance. There were 58 copper alloy Roman coins, six of the late Roman examples were pierced (to allow their suspension). This practice was quite common during the Early Saxon period and could be interpreted as possible evidence of secondary inhumations being added to the former burial mounds during this period. The presence of a Danish silver sceat series X minted at Ribe (*c.* AD 715-50) was irrefutable evidence of Early Saxon activity.

Fine Dining, Quarrying and Manufacturing: Medieval and later land use beyond Aldgate by Dougie Killock (Pre-Construct Archaeology - PCA).

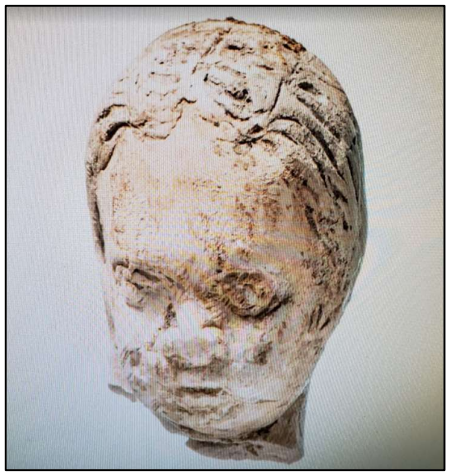


Excavations at Aldgate East along the north side of Whitechapel High Street (the Londinium to Colchester Roman road), a short distance to the east of the walled city revealed a long sequence of suburban activity. Evidence of Roman activity had been largely destroyed by later sand and gravel quarrying, but there was a solitary late Roman clay lined hearth or oven. The whole site was peppered with massive medieval and early post-medieval quarry pits, several metres deep, that were subsequently reused for refuse disposal - particularly butchery waste. Other finds included part of an upmarket ceramic stove tile (bearing the coat of arms of Elizabeth I); part of an expensive century imported Valencian lustreware dish (1425-1475) bearing the IHS monograph which is a common Christian motif derived from the Greek spelling of Christ on its base) (see above); and a number of medieval and Tudor spurs, perhaps discarded along with the dung from nearby stables attached to inns. During the 16th and 17th centuries parts of the site were occupied by suburban housing with brick-paved cellar floors. A bone die from c. 1600 with 5 x holes on both faces was also found – which suggests this artefact was a fixed die!

By the 18th century the locality had acquired a variety of industries including bell casting (represented by mould fragments), glass making (crucible fragments) and cane sugar refining (sugar cone mould

fragments). A refinery or 'sugar house' was constructed on the site in 1794-5 and was still in operation in 1875.

Who was Fredrick? Stories from recent excavations at 4-5 Fredrick Place, in the heart of the City of London by Alison Telfer (Museum of London Archaeology (MOLA)).



This cul-de-sac off Old Jewry is named after Sir John Fredrick, Mayor of the City of London in 1661, who had a large house here. The site was redeveloped for housing in 1776. Due to the massive post-medieval foundations archaeological survival was fragmentary and truncated. Initial Roman activity on the site consisted of reclamation dumps which were superseded during the late 1st or early 2nd century by clay and timber buildings.

Associated finds included an elaboratively carved bone knife handle, plus a variety of glassware including melon beads, bowls and stirring rods. The Roman features were sealed by a 16th or 17th century garden soil horizon, evidence of pit digging and a barrel-lined well. Early post-medieval structures included part of a stone-lined cesspit and fragments of masonry cellar wall foundations.

Evidence linked with 1776 redevelopment included brick-built foundations, cesspits and soakaways. Post-medieval finds included the head of a girl produced in pipe clay, possibly part of a doll or novelty figure (see above).

It is hoped that the finds from the excavations may be exhibited in due course at the Mercers Company. However, it is not currently known when this will be, and if the proposed exhibition with be a target event or an open exhibition.

Roman London West of the Walbrook: Preliminary interpretations on recent excavations between Coleman Street and Moorgate by Ireneo Grosso (PCA).

This site represents another significant investigation in a frequently excavated area of the City of London.

The most important discovery was a well-preserved stretch of an east-west aligned, gravel road metalling, joined on its northern side by narrower minor road with well-defined flanking ditches. In the north-west portion of the site a fragment of 2nd-century AD *opus signinum* flooring was identified. Associated with this floor was evidence of a clay and timber

building, and fragments of painted wall plaster. By the late Roman period the larger road was subject to encroachment by the construction of a clay-floored building, pit digging, and external dumping.



Finds associated with this activity included fine metal-working crucibles and glass-working debris including cullet (see the front page of this Newsletter and picture above). There is extensive evidence of Roman glass manufacturing locally.

The site was complex presenting many problems associated with chronological phasing and activities through time.

Afternoon Session – Recent work in Roman towns

Recent Finds in Roman Canterbury by Jake Weeks (Canterbury Archaeological Trust).

Roman Canterbury or *Dvrovernvm Cantiacorvm* 'the town by the marshes' was the tribal capital of the Cantiaci. Settlement started in the Late Iron Age, and subsequently became a Roman town complete with a civic bath house and a theatre.

Over the last decade a number of archaeological investigations have provided new information concerning the town's layout and development. The 1st century BC settlement at Canterbury represented by a large enclosure with multiple ditches.

Smaller linear Iron Age ditches indicate the existence of a network of fields. In the mid-1st century AD Canterbury became a nodal point on the new arterial network of Roman roads linking the channel ports of Dover, Lympne and Richborough, with London. This stretch of the London Road along the crossings over the River Stour quickly attracted ribbon development.

This was followed in *c*. AD 110 by a much larger planned town with the construction of high-status residential masonry buildings with hypocausts. In *c*. AD 270-90 most of the settlement was encircled by a defensive wall. This arrangement resulted in some late Roman extra-mural cemeteries being established closer to the town - occupying areas previously settled.

By the late 4th century the presence of human burials in roadside ditches, along with the casual disposal of disarticulated human remains, suggest the breakdown of civic order.

Gladiators at Roman Colchester: spectacula and the Colchester vase (Glynn Davis, Colchester and Ipswich Museums).



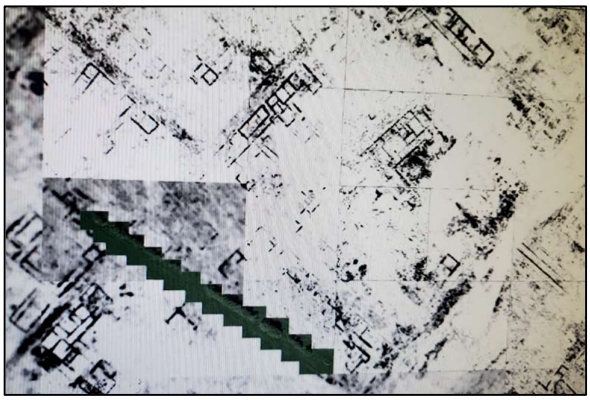
Thanks to the film *Gladiator* (2000) it is widely believed that the amphitheatres of Roman Britain regularly staged gladiatorial contests. In truth, the archaeological evidence for what took place inside Britain's amphitheatres is limited. Whilst their design implies that they staged events like animal baiting, the faunal species involved in these episodes of entertainment remain uncertain. Artistic representations of wild beast hunts and gladiators on imported artefacts like Samian Ware vessels shows that people in Britain were aware of these phenomena, but to date evidence for actual gladiatorial combat in Roman Britain has proved elusive.

In 1853 a vase (228mm high) dating from *c.* AD 200 was discovered in the West Lodge Roman cemetery to the south-west of the walled town of Colchester. The vessel (technically a beaker (see above)) had been reused as a cinerary urn. The vase being decorated with three embossed scenes. The first scene depicts two men baiting a bear. The second, depicts two gladiators - the *retiarus* or 'net man'- (armed with a net and a trident) having been defeated (the raised forefinger of his left hand noted as the sign for submission), while the victorious fighter is a left-handed *secutor* or 'chaser' (armed with a sword and shield). The incised inscription on the vase states that 'Memnon' has been victorious nine times and his vanquished rival is 'Valentinus of the Thirtieth Legion'. By *c*. AD 200 the 30th Legion were based at Vetera near Xanten in Germany on the Rhine frontier. Perhaps, the garrison had a side-line in supplying 'barbarian' human captives. The third scene on the vase is a standard animal hunt.

New analysis of this well-known vase has confirmed it was manufactured locally (Colchester Colour Coat Ware), and that the human remains that were found inside it are those of an adult male (aged over 40) - who according to the results of the isotope analysis was 'non-local'. The impression is that the first and second scenes on this unique vase are conceptualising local events making it some sort of trophy. Skeletal remains of Roman bears have found locally including a mandible from Sheepen, which suggests that bear baiting may have taken place locally. Colchester has no known amphitheatre, but it does possess Britain's only Roman circus, which could have been used to stage other events, including, perhaps, gladiatorial combat. Does this vase immortalise one of the local fights? Intriguingly, what this vase does not tell us is how this particular fight ended. Did the referee give the defeated 'Valentinus' a reprieve or order his execution? His cremated remains, or those of the victorious

'Memnon', might have been interred inside this vase. Highly trained gladiators would have been valuable assets, so choreographed fights that avoided death or serious injury seem sensible. What the scenes on this vase imply is that the residents of Roman Colchester watched on occasion both gladiatorial combat and bear baiting at a local venue. The vase will form part of a new exhibition at Colchester Castle Museum which will open on the 17th July 2023: Gladiators: a day at the Games. The analysis of the vessel and its contents will be published (forthcoming) in *Britannia.*

Mapping Verulamium: highlights from recent geophysical surveys of the Roman City by Kris Lockyear (Institute of Archaeology).



If you ever wondered what Roman London might look like without modern city on top of it, then *Verulamium* gives you a good idea as most of the eastern half of the walled Roman city today is a public park, and western portion farmland. Since 2013 a community archaeology group has been systematically undertaking magnetometer and ground-penetrating radar surveys of the entire city, revealing many previously unknown buildings and other structures (see above). *Verulamium* got its name from the nearby Late Iron Age tribal stronghold and capital in Prae Wood, known as *Verlamio* (the settlement by the marsh) according to the inscriptions on coinage minted by Tasciovanus. His successor Cunobelinus moved the tribal capital to Colchester. The first Roman town was laid out by AD 49-50. The key results of the geophysical survey: confirmed the line of the town's 1st century AD boundary, located the contoured ditch that brought water from the River Ver and served as the city's aqueduct, and identified a possible water cistern close to the end of the aqueduct. Work has also located a large palatial masonry structure with an 80m long columnated frontage. Future survey work will concentrate on the extramural cemeteries.

Silchester recent excavations: the highlights by Michael Fulford (Reading University).

The abandoned Roman town of *Calleva Atrebatvm* or 'the town of the woods of the Atrebates', started as in the late 1st century BC as the tribal capital of the Atrebates. Then, during the reign of Nero (AD 54-68) it was redeveloped as the Romanised capital of a client ruler. Subsequently becoming a substantial walled town which was extensively (and not very skilfully excavated) between 1890 and 1909. Since 2009 Reading




University have been re-excavating areas of the town to reassess the earlier fieldwork. Insula III and IX have both been totally re-excavated revealing a lot of timber structures that the Victorians failed to recognise.
The temple in Insula XXX has been re-excavated. In 2018-21 the town's monumental public bath houses were re-excavated (see above), revealing that its first phase was a small Neronian period structure. Subsequently, the complex had a long and complicated history of additions and alterations implying almost continuous civic investment. One problem appears to have been that the baths never had a proper water supply and relied on a grossly polluted ditch. The baths complex was extensively rebuilt and enlarged in *c*. AD 110-30 and later apsidal ends were added to the hall containing the main hypocaust. By the 4th century the bath house was partly abandoned, with several smaller furnaces constructed inside the existing building.

Shaping the transition to late antiquity: London and the plagues of the 2nd and 3rd centuries by Dominic Perring (Institute of Archaeology).



After the recent pandemic we are all acutely aware that epidemics can rapidly transform our economy, and shows that such events could have also occurred centuries ago. Dominic argued that Roman London as an international port would have especially susceptible to epidemics.
Drawing on aspects of his recent book *London in the Roman World* (2022), Dominic argued that in *c.* AD 165-70 London suffered from the Antonine plague (possibly smallpox) which triggered a period of economic decline. There is a Roman amulet from the Thames foreshore at Vintry which carries an inscription to ward off plague. It is based on the wording of a Greek text produced in *c*. AD 165 which implies that people were afraid of this Mediterranean epidemic. Dominic argued that after a period of economic recovery, London then suffered from the plague of Cyprian (possibly influenza) in *c.* AD 251, which triggered

another period of economic decline. Whilst the archaeological evidence for these two periods of economic decline is convincing, there is no corresponding evidence for mass burials - perhaps due to cremation being the preferred method of corpse disposal. So, there is no direct evidence of mass mortality and, therefore, the demographic impact of these pandemics cannot be assessed.

It is interesting that all the Roman urban centres discussed in the afternoon session were closely linked with late Iron Age tribal capitals. London in complete contrast was a 'green field' Roman development - despite the obvious potential as the Thames as a navigable routeway. This could imply that in the Late Iron Age the Thames was more important as a territorial boundary than a routeway.

Bruce Watson

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LAMAS Lecture Programme 2023

The Society continues to explore alternative venues for its lectures. For the foreseeable future lectures will take place from 6.30pm to 7.30pm on the following dates online **via Zoom**.

Members are requested to book on Eventbrite via the Society's website, https://www.lamas.org.uk/lectures.html. Non-members are welcome but there is a charge of £2.50. We will email members to notify of any changes – please also check the LAMAS website and our social media platforms.

9 May 2023

Joint Pre-Historic Society and LAMAS Lecture

Excavation of a Roman Cemetery, hoard and prehistoric and post-medieval remains at Principal Place, London

Andy Daykin, MOLA

The lecture will present the results of excavations carried out at Principal Place between 2011 and 2016. The talk will focus on the excavation of two areas of Roman cemetery including inhumations, cremations and a large hoard of late Roman coins.

Other remains on the site included the location of some pits with prehistoric pottery, remains of 17th-18th century buildings, and yards and remains of the early 19th-century Curtain Road gasworks.

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LAMAS *Lates*

Jane Sidell does plan to run some Lates in the warmer months when the days are longer. For details, as events arise, keep an eye on the LAMAS website and watch out for email updates.

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LAMAS Research Grant 2022/23

We are pleased to announce that the LAMAS Research Grant has been awarded to two very different projects this year. 'The Roman Gardens of Londinium' is a community research project led by Kate Faccia and Sadie Watson of MOLA; whilst Alfred Hawkins, Assistant Curator of Historic Buildings at the Tower of London, is overseeing a team carrying out scientific analysis of the skeletal remains of two individuals from the burial grounds of the Chapel Royal and Royal Peculiar of St Peter ad Vincula (within the Tower grounds). Look out for more details about these two projects in the September Newsletter.

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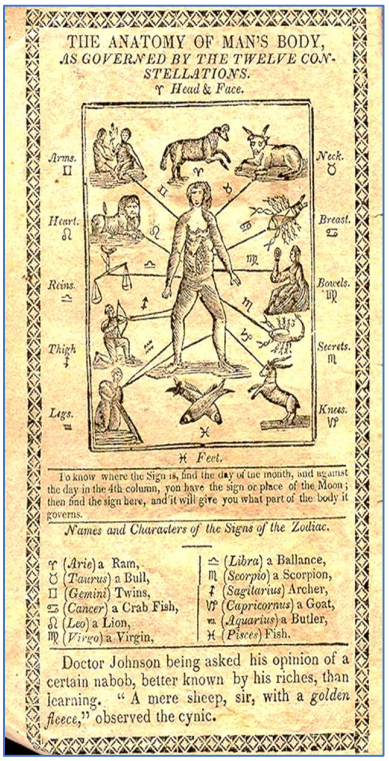
Almanacks:
Ephemeral perhaps, but also a useful source of information about social history, attitudes and beliefs?

The earliest almanacks were simple guides to planetary movements and astronomical events for the coming year. By tracing heavenly motions, almanacks enabled astrological interpretations to be created, and these were accompanied by anatomical information. Woodcuts illustrating the body demonstrated how the functions of particular parts of the body were thought to be governed by signs of the Zodiac (see a 18th century example (right)). Who knew that the health of their knees was governed by Capricorn?

After this there were forecasts and prognostications relating to the weather, disease, wars, famines and plagues. Useful information on a range of subjects was also offered, including notes of fairs, market days, holy days, days when eclipses would occur, and phases of the moon.



THE ANATOMY OF MAN'S BODY,
AS GOVERNED BY THE TWELVE CONSTELLATIONS.

♈ *Head & Face.*

Arms. ♊ *Neck.* ♉ *Heart.* ♌ *Breast.* ♋ *Reins.* ♎ *Bowels.* ♍ *Thigh* ♐ *Secrets.* ♏ *Legs.* ♑ *Knees.* ♑

♓ *Feet.*

To know where the Sign is, find the day of the month, and against the day in the 4th column, you have the sign or place of the Moon; then find the sign here, and it will give you what part of the body it governs.

Names and Characters of the Signs of the Zodiac.

♈ (*Arie*) a Ram,
♉ (*Taurus*) a Bull,
♊ (*Gemini*) Twins,
♋ (*Cancer*) a Crab Fish,
♌ (*Leo*) a Lion,
♍ (*Virgo*) a Virgin,
♎ (*Libra*) a Ballance,
♏ (*Scorpio*) a Scorpion,
♐ (*Sagitarius*) Archer,
♑ (*Capricornus*) a Goat,
♒ (*Aquarius*) a Butler,
♓ (*Pisces*) Fish.

Doctor Johnson being asked his opinion of a certain nabob, better known by his riches, than learning. "A mere sheep, sir, with a *golden fleece*," observed the cynic.

The invention of printing and moveable type led to almanacks being published widely across Europe. Although they tended to appear under one individual's name this does not necessarily mean that almanacks were the product of a sole author: they are best seen as having been compiled rather than straightforwardly authored. On some occasions, the name under which an almanack appeared deliberately misrepresented its actual source. An example of this is *Vox Stellarum: A Loyal Almanack* (purportedly authored by Francis Moore – for nearly three hundred years!).

Members of the Stationers' Company (one of the City of London's Livery Companies) became aware of the opportunities and benefits that almanack publishing could bring, and when in 1603 James I made a Royal Grant to the Company conferring privileges 'for the benefit of the poore of the same [company]', it included not only the sole right to enjoy profits from the sale of psalters and psalms, but also an identical right to enjoy profits from the sale of almanacks and prognostications. The 1603 Grant became the legal basis for what soon came to be known as the English Stock, a book-producing and book-wholesaling organisation run from Stationers' Hall, and effectively gave it a monopoly which swiftly became a major influence on the workings and governance of the Company. Through the years a number of challenges to the Company's monopoly were made, and the greatest threat came in November 1773, when Thomas Carnan published Reuben Burrows's *A Diary for the Year of Our Lord 1774*. The Stationers' Company took out an injunction to prevent its publication, but in May 1775 the Court of Common Pleas (influenced by a 1774 verdict by the House of Lords in a different case) ruled that the Crown had not been entitled to grant the Company its perpetual monopoly in almanacks. This decision must have hit Stationers' Hall like a hurricane, since it meant that Carnan was at last able to compete against the Stationers' Company with impunity. By 1777 he was publishing twelve different almanacks, and London booksellers – encouraged by him – published over a dozen others. For the next ten years his impact on the English Stock's almanack sales were considerable and lead to the Company's almanack turnover falling by a third.

In April 1781, following pressure from the Company, changes were agreed by the House of Commons that effectively put everyone out of business, except for Carnan and the Stationers. Finally, three weeks after Carnan died in 1788, the Company bought all of his almanack interests for £1,500, and a damaging threat was removed. All was quiet for nearly fifty years, then another problem arose. This stemmed from the 1742 requirement for almanacks to carry a stamp purchased by the printer who, unless he had access to capital, could not be a dangerous competitor to the Company. However, in 1834 Stamp Duties were abolished, allowing a new wave of competition to threaten the profits of the English Stock. Such competition meant that, in order to offer value for money, the Stationers had to reduce the cover prices of almanacks while at the same time increasing the number of pages and adding more almanacks to its publication list. This tactic initially worked well, but after ten years the almanack profits started to drop. Once again, previously easy earnings were becoming elusive.

Almanack publishing continued however, but in 1870 The Education Act undermined the influence of the almanacks, and in the following year the Stationers came under a very different attack. An anonymous writer

accused the Company of "making vast profits from the publication of worthless almanacks" and took aim at Francis Moore's *Vox Stellarum*. This had first been published in 1700 and is often referred to as *Old Moore's Almanack*. The criticism was that "Moore, having reached the mellow age of three hundred years, cannot read the stars as clearly as in his younger days", and the Company was forced to react. The Court issued an immediate instruction to the editor, a Mr Woolhouse, to replace four pages of astrological predictions with four pages of popular scientific information. By 1895 only six almanacks were being published from Stationers' Hall, sales were plummeting, and the following year the Company agreed to pay royalties to John Letts to take over the production and publication of the five remaining almanacks. Unfortunately, this arrangement turned out to be only marginally profitable for the Stationers and disastrous for Letts. By 1907 Letts had had enough and Cassell took over until 1929. Then, in a surprising display of optimism, Letts took the almanacks back again. The downward trend could not be reversed, and, after two years of war, almanack publishing was finally discontinued in 1941.

The English Stock continued as an entity, but its influence and relevance were in decline. In 1961 it was wound up. However, it had left a unique physical legacy. Considerable evidence of the English Stock's history in almanack publishing can be seen in the Company's collection of 196 bound volumes of almanacks plus twenty-one unbound copies of *Vox Stellarum* ('Old Moore's') and eighteen unbound copies of *White's Cœlestial Atlas* - all of them in pocketbook format. The bound volumes are stored in chronological order and, particularly for the period of the seventeenth century, there are several years for which the Company has no record. Each volume contains a collection of almanacks but does not include all the almanacks that would have been published in that year. The surviving evidence cannot therefore be seen as comprehensive, but what it does do is offer a significant source of information on social history and attitudes covering over three hundred years.

The Company's almanack collection

The Company's collection of the English Stock's almanacks, which starts before the Civil War, stops at the beginning of the First World War. Thus, bringing to an end nearly three hundred years of a very specialised form of publishing. The almanacks reflect the times in which they were written and published, and give important insights into changes in culture and society during this period.

The almanacks can be seen as the first form of English mass media, and the public demand for them is demonstrated by the huge numbers that were handled by the Company: by the start of the eighteenth century 350,000 to

400,000 were published each year. In order to produce almanacks in such numbers, the task of printing them sometimes had to be given to more than one printer. In an early example of planned obsolescence, the almanacks came out as new books from the end of November to the end of December, despite the fact that much of the material was being repeated from the previous year. In a similar instance of publishing innovation, this time in terms of market segmentation, different almanacks were published in increasing numbers, each aimed by its author/compiler at a clearly defined readership.

There are of course many famous astrologers, such as John Partridge, George Parker, John Gadbury, Salem Pearce and Henry Season whose names have not been mentioned, and there are many almanack titles, such as *The Ladies' Diary: or Woman's Almanack* and *The Gentleman's Diary, or The Mathematical Repository; An Almanack* that have not been referred to, and this is an indication of the richness of this unique source of information.

Richard Gilpin

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Charles I: King and Martyr, but no Saint

Regicide

The coronation of Charles III on the 6th May 2023 at Westminster Abbey is only 600m away the Banqueting House at Whitehall where Charles I was publicly executed on the 30 January 1649. He had lost a protracted civil war (1642-47), and then failed to reach an agreement with his opponents. He was found guilty of misrule after a show trial and sentenced to death. After Charles's execution his kingship was abolished and his realm governed by a Council of State until 1653 when Oliver Cromwell became Lord Protector. One of the ironies of the English Civil War is that both sides claimed that God was on their side, so the importance of religion in this conflict and its aftermath should not be underestimated.

Martyrdom

On the 8th February 1649 Charles was buried at St George's Chapel inside Windsor Castle. This chapel was chosen as his burial place because public access to it could be controlled as it was believed that preventing visitors might stop the development of a cult. Immediately, after Charles's death there was a demand for his personal possessions and clothing as sacred relics. The recent Museum of London Docklands exhibition *Executions: 700 years of public punishment in London* featured: a knitted blue silk vest; four cloak fragments; a pair of fine leather gloves; a sash and a

handkerchief - all supposed to have belonged to Charles. It is claimed that on the day of his execution he had worn this vest and cloak. Within days of Charles's death his alleged final thoughts were published in *Eikon basilike, the Pourtraicture of His Sacred Majestie in his Solitudes and Sufferings*. It was a contemporary best seller and generated a lot of posthumous publicity for Charles. Its frontispiece depicts Charles I as a Christlike figure praying before an altar holding a crown of thorns and gazing up at a heavenly crown. The entire text which is reputed to have been ghosted by John Gauden, an Anglican clergyman, consists of Charles attempting to justify some very bad decisions, complaining how he has been treated by his rebellious subjects, plus a medley of prayers and reflections. This book inspired a cult that still promotes Charles as a martyr, who supposedly died for his refusal to abandon 'high church' Anglicanism (seen by some of his opponents as a return to Catholicism) and adopt a more puritan doctrine.



Blue silk vest or undergarment allegedly worn by Charles I at his execution. (Museum of London A27052 © MoL)



The frontispiece of 'Eikon basilike' published only days after Charles I's death.

Charles's religious problems largely stemmed from his disastrous appointment of William Laud as Archbishop of Canterbury in 1633, who made himself unpopular by encouraging 'high church' practices and forms of worship. For instance, the porch of St Mary's - the new Oxford

University church built in 1637 under Laud's influence - includes a sculpture of St Mary the Virgin and the infant Christ. When Laud was put on trial for treason in 1644, this sculpture was cited as evidence of his 'popery'. Laud was executed in 1645 despite the absence of any tangible evidence of his guilt.

An international royal cult



The burning of Ridley and Latimer 16th October 1655 at Oxford, woodcut from 'Foxes Book of Martyrs (1563). (Source: https://johnfoxe.org.woodcuts - 2023)

In 1660 following the restoration of the monarchy parliament declared Charles a martyr. The anniversary of his death was added to the Anglican Church's calendar of saints until 1894. Incidentally, the Anglican Church never formally canonized Charles (or anyone else), but it does formally recognise some martyrs such as the clerics Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley who were burnt at the stake in 1555 for refusing to denounce their Anglican faith. Instead, the Anglican Church adopted many of the pre-Reformation Catholic and biblical saints. The main reason for the Anglican Church's policy of ambivalence towards the cult of saints is its long-standing association with Catholicism. So, while the 'high church' Anglo-Catholics have enthusiastically filled their churches with statues of the saints (e.g., St Mary Magdalen, Oxford), other Anglicans refuse to allow statues within their churches. The main reason for this policy of toleration is during the adoption of the Protestant doctrine in 1547-53 all religious images were condemned as 'idols' and were systematically removed from English churches. During the 1640s some Puritans removed any images or stained glass that Laud's followers had recently installed in churches.

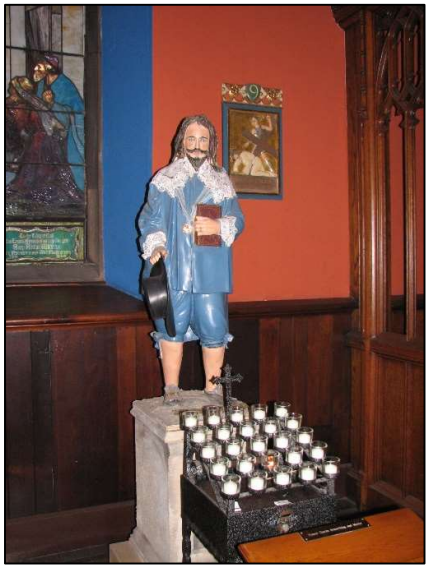
After the restoration of the monarchy there was a proposal to relocate Charles's remains to a grand new London mausoleum in Hyde Park designed by Sir Christopher Wren, but due to funding problems the plan



was abandoned and instead his design was adapted into a new parish church (1676), built in Royal Tunbridge Wells. It is one of six late 17th-century English parish churches dedicated to 'King Charles the Martyr'.

The Church of King Charles the Martyr in Tunbridge Wells, Kent. (Source: Wikipedia – The Voice of Hassocks – 2023)

The earliest of these churches was Peak Forest in Derbyshire, dedicated in 1657 as a blatant act of defiance during Cromwell's dictatorship. Interest in Charles's cult revived in 1894 with the foundation of the 'Society of King Charles the Martyr', who claim on their website that he was canonised by the Church of England, and refer to him as St Charles. There are Anglican churches or chapels dedicated to Charles in: Australia (3 examples), England (6, plus 13 examples of side chapels or shrines located within various parish churches and Canterbury Cathedral); Ireland (2); Japan (2 - both apparently connected with US military bases); Scotland (1); South Africa (1) and the USA (11, several of which are dedicated to St Charles). Other American places of worship including the Episcopal church of Grace and St Peter in Baltimore, Maryland possess shrines or statues of Charles (right). In Greater London there are side chapels or shrines dedicated to Charles inside the churches: of St Katherine Cree in the City of London; St Mary-le-Strand at Aldwych, and St Bartholomew's at Stamford Hill. The first and second London examples were both established during the 20th century, with the third was set up during the 21st century.



Devotional statute of Charles I in the Church of Grace and St. Peter in Baltimore. (Source: Wikipedia – Megan Amoss – 2023)

Future prospects

Will Charles III do anything to promote the cult or canonization of his ancestor and namesake? We can expect some lobbying from interested parties. However, the reputation of Charles I is (and remains) very controversial.

Bruce Watson

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Central London's Young Archaeologists Club News

In December the club celebrated its twentieth birthday, at our temporary base in the Museum of London Docklands, with cake, games and a museum quiz. We are very appreciative of all the help and support we have received down the years, notably from LAMAS, the National YAC, and especially our volunteers past and present, without whom it would be very difficult to keep the club running.

For our first meeting in February this year we learned about some recently discovered interesting and beautiful artefacts. These included intaglios found at the Roman baths in Luguvalium (Carlisle); the wonderful necklace discovered in the Anglo-Saxon bed burial in Harpole, and the large Tudor locket celebrating the marriage of Henry VIII and Catherine of Aragon (found by a detectorist in a field in Warwickshire). We talked about what the artefacts are made of, how they were made, and what they must have meant to their owners. We also learned how conservators use various techniques to lift, clean and preserve artefacts. Members then designed and created Anglo-Saxon style brooches to take home, with some beautiful results.





Young archaeologists making Anglo-Saxon-style brooches.

In our second meeting held in March we learned about organic and inorganic materials and why organic materials such as wood, leather, and textiles made of natural fibres do not generally survive well in the ground, but can survive in waterlogged or anaerobic conditions. We learned about some of the ways conservators preserve artefacts, looking at examples from the Mary Rose, and the 500-year-old skeleton wearing long leather boots found in 2018 on the Thames foreshore.

Members then conducted their own mini "eggscavation", simulating the block-lifting and careful excavation of an inverted pot to discover the finds within - glass beads to make a bracelet and a small coin to take home.

Annie De Saulles

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Review

Hornsey Historical Society, Bulletin 64, 2023. 56 pages with many colour figures. Price £10 plus £2.15 postage.
Contact: sales@hornseyhistorical.org.uk

The annual feast of local history of Hornsey and the surrounding area. There are articles on the Alexandra Park Racecourse, early film making in north London, the course of the New River through Hornsey (and still visible as a fragment in Enfield), Highgate on maps between 1688 and 1842, and other subjects. Peter Barber's scholarly contribution shows how maps are important records of social history. Rocque's map was used to plan how troops would contain and suppress the Gordon Riots in 1780; and in the first half of the 19th century the property owners of Highgate created their own vision of their village with a bank and literary societies, removing most of the poor down the hill and out of the way of the invited topographical artists. This is only one of a bunch of good articles. Support your local history!

John Schofield

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EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

Please check the respective websites for availability and bookings.

Annual Royal Observatory Summer Lecture: 18th June 2023
Royal Observatory Greenwich

The Royal Observatory Greenwich's annual Summer Lecture will, this year, focus on the new James Webb Space Telescope. Dr Henrik Melin will discuss the James Webb Telescope and his research on the atmospheres of giant planets.
Time: 19:00-20:00.
£10 Adult, £5 Child, £9 Concession.

Sir John Soane's Museum
13 Lincoln's Inn Fields, London, WC2A 3BP: 22nd June 2023

London Festival of Architecture: Exhibition Viewing – Architects' Houses and Visions in Porcelain: A Rake's Progress.
Enjoy an exclusive out-of-hours breakfast viewing of two new exhibitions. *Architects' Houses* celebrates five London Houses, like the Soane, designed by the architects who lived – and in some cases still live – in them. *Visions in Porcelain: A Rake's Progress* is inspired by Hogarth's series of original paintings at the Soane Museum.
A light breakfast will be served.
Free but booking is essential. Book online (#LFA2023) at www.soane.org/whats-on-festival-architecture-exhibition-viewing

V&A Academy online: until 27th June 2023
12:00-13:00 Free day course

Join course director Mike Berlin and the V&A Academy team for a captivating, free, hour-long lecture about London between 1851 to 2000, that you can enjoy watching on demand.

In the modern era London has been transformed from an imperial capital to a post-colonial world city. Hear how London has been shaped in the past 150 years, by the rise and fall of empires and the incessant movement of people, ideas and cultures.

Free. Call: 020 7942 20000 to book and enroll \\ hello@vam.ac.uk

China's hidden century, British Museum: 18th May - 8th October 2023
Great Russell Street, London, WC1B 3DG
The Sainsbury Exhibitions Gallery – Room 30

The resilience and innovation of 19th century China is revealed in a major new exhibition.

Between 1796 and 1912 Qing China endured numerous civil uprisings and foreign wars, with revolution ultimately bringing the end to some 2,000 years of dynastic rule and giving way to a modern Chinese republic. This period of violence and turmoil was also one of extraordinary creativity driven by political, cultural and technological change.

Visitors will glimpse the textures of life in 19th century China through art, fashion, newspapers, furniture – even soup ingredients. This extraordinary exhibition will open a new page in public understanding of late imperial China.

Adults from £18. Members and under 16s free.

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Potters Bar and District Historical Society

The Potters Bar and District Historical Society has a new publication

The Development of Potters Bar

Cost £3.50

Available at the Potters Bar Museum
or
from Mabel Hammett (P&P added to cost) Tel. 01707 657120 or email roymabel67@gmail.com

AFFILIATED SOCIETY MEETINGS 2023

Newsletter readers are advised to check with local societies before planning to attend lectures.

Acton History Group

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Church Hall, free for members, £2 for non-members. Contact Secretary David Knights, 30 Highlands Avenue, Acton W3 6EU (020 8992 8698); email: info@actonhistory.co.uk; website: www.actonhistory.co.uk

14 June 2023 – AGM followed by
Talk on his book 'The Mercenary River', Nick Higham

22 June 2023 – 2.00pm to 4.00pm Acton Care Centre, Gunnersbury Lane
Passmore Edwards 200th Birthday celebrations, tea and cake, exhibition on his life and a short talk. Numbers limited so please register your interest with bayscolledge@talktalk.net

5 July 2023 – 2.30pm at Ealing Common Station
Ealing Common Walk, meet a famous computer scientist, tennis champion, assassinated Prime Minister and a world-famous ballet dancer on the way. Please register your interest with bayscolledge@talktalk.net

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Barking and District Historical Society

Meetings held on Mondays at 7.30pm at Harp House, 16 Helmore Road (off Goodey Road), Barking, IG11 9PH. Free to members. £2.00 to non-members.
Telephone 020 8597 7210. Email: barkinghistorical@hotmail.com; website: www.barkinghistoricalsociety.co.uk

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Barnes and Mortlake History Society

Meetings are held on Thursdays at St Mary's Parish Church, Barnes, at 8pm. Meetings are free for members (£2 for visitors). For further details please contact Hon. Secretary on 020 8878 3756 or visit us at www.barnes-history.org.uk

The lecture series will resume in September.

Barnet Museum and Local History Society

All meetings are held in St John the Baptist Church, Wood Street, Barnet at 8pm on Mondays (opposite the Museum). Lectures are free for members (£2 for visitors). Contact Barnet Museum, 31 Wood Street, Barnet EN5 4BE (020 8440 8066) or visit: www.barnetmuseum.co.uk for more information.

8 May 2023
Enfield Chace the making of a Man-Made Landscape, John Leatherdale

12 June 2023
A window into 1930s Barnet: Cole Collection photographs from glass plates, Terence Atkins

10 July 2023
Tree Dating and what it tells us about The Old Barnet Shop, Martin Bridges

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Bexley Archaeological Group

Talks are currently a mix of in person and Zoom, 8pm to 9.00pm. Excavations are carried out at weekends between March-November. Membership is required to participate. For further information contact Pip Pulfer *Principal Field Officer*: principalfieldofficer@bag.org.uk or Clare Lodge *Public Relations Coordinator* pr@bag.org.uk - or visit our website www.bag.org.uk Register for all talks via the website. Non-members also welcome £5.

Bromley Borough Local History Society

The Society meets once a month from September to July, usually on the first Tuesday of the month. Meetings are held at 7.45pm in the Church Hall, St George's Church in Bickley Park Road, BR1 2BE. Non-members £1.00 contribution. Society's website is: www.bblhs.org.uk

2 May 2023
The Zeppelin: from transport miracle to war machine, Pam Preedy

6 June 2023
Digby's Trafalgar, Bob Digby

4 July 2023
Members Evening, Contributions welcomed.

Camden History Society

The society normally meets at 7.30pm on the 3rd Thursday of each month, except August. Venues vary; non-members welcome (£2). For further information please contact the Chair, Malcolm Holmes (01923 461343), malcolmholmes@yahoo.co.uk, or visit: www.camdenhistorysociety.org Talks via Zoom are available free to members. Non-members are invited to join the Society.

18 May 2023 – Primrose Hill Community Library
Pickford's Stables, Peter Darley

Camden New Town History Group

Camden New Town is north of Camden Town, in the London Borough of Camden. Meetings of this group of local residents are generally held at the Irish Centre, 50-52 Camden Square, NW1 9XB from 7pm.
Email: maillist@camdennewtown.info; website: www.camdennewtown.info

10 May 2023
Kilburn – an Illustrated History, Tudor Allen, Archivist at Camden Local Studies and Archives Centre

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Chadwell Heath Historical Society

Meetings are held at 7.30pm from September to June. All meetings are held at the Baptist Church Hall, High Road, Chadwell Heath, RM6 6PP, a short walk from the Chadwell Heath Elizabeth Line station.
Visitors welcome £2 pp.
Enquiries: 020 8590 4659/020 8597 7210; email: chadwellheathhistsoc@hotmail.com.
Facebook page at https://www.facebook.com/chhistorical/

City of London Archaeological Society (COLAS)

Lectures are normally on the third Friday in every month and take place at St Olave's Church, Hart Street, London EC3R 7NB. Doors open 6.30pm for 7pm start, followed by light refreshments. Non-members are welcome to attend lectures but are asked to make a £3 contribution. Also on Zoom, prior booking required. Contact via the website www.colas.org.uk; email: colas_outreach@yahoo.co.uk

19 May 2023
Roman London West of the Walbrook: Preliminary interpretations on recent excavations between Coleman Street and Moorgate, Ireneo Grosso, Pre-Construct Archaeology Limited

16 June 2023 - To be confirmed

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

Meetings are held at 7.45pm in the Small Hall, East Croydon United Reformed Church, 86 Addiscombe Grove, Croydon CR0 5LP, which is within walking distance of East Croydon Station. Donations are welcome. Updates are posted at www.cnhss.co.uk under Latest News & Events/Talks, or email information@cnhss.co.uk

17 May 2023
The Cassini Mission – Rendevous with Saturn, Roy Easto

5 June 2023
Why did so many buildings fail in Turkey's earthquakes? Dr Barnali Ghosh, FICE

26 June 2023
Historic Commodity and Livestock Fairs, Dr Trevor James

19 July 2023
Over 100 years of archaeological investigation at Lion Green Road, Coulsdon, Jessica Bryan, Project Officer, MOLA

Docklands History Group

The Docklands History Group meets on the first Wednesday of each month, except January, at the Museum of London Docklands, West India Quay, Hertsmere Road, E14 4AL. Meetings start at 4.30pm for 5.00pm and finish at 6.45pm. Visitors are welcome (£3). For further details see: www.docklandshistorygroup.org.uk

3 May 2023
Up the Creek with MD: looking back at Deptford Creek's 19th Century industrial heyday from a very different 21st Century, Mick Delap

20 May 2023 – NB this is a Saturday
Shipbuilding on the Thames – DHG Annual Conference, details at https://www.docklandshistorygroup.org.uk/page45.html

7 June 2023 – Talk TBA

5 July 2023 – AGM followed by
Time and Tide Waits for No Man: the relationship between the river and industry around Woolwich and the Royal Docks, Tim Peake

2 August 2023 – Walk TBA

The Eltham Society

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings take place at 7.30pm at the Woodcroft Club, Eltham High Street. Refreshments available from 7.00pm before the talk. Non-members £2.00.
Email: contact@theelthamsociety.org.uk; website: www.theelthamsociety.org.uk

4 May 2023
Russia – a history and provenance, part 1, Nicholas Henderson

1 June 2023
So Far So Good, Malcolm Wells

5 July 2023
Russia – a history and provenance, part 2, Nicholas Henderson

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The EMAS Archaeological Society

Founded over 30 years ago as the University of London Extra-Mural Archaeological Society, EMAS now has a broad-based and diverse membership drawn from many walks of life. Younger people wishing to develop their understanding of archaeology or explore new areas of interest are especially welcome.
The EMAS events programme has now been fully reinstated and includes:

- Evening lectures in central London (Free to members)
- Hotel-based study tours in the UK and beyond
- Day trips, typically starting from central London
- Museum visits

Lectures are given by experts in their field, and tours, trips and visits are professionally guided.

The following lectures are planned for late Spring 2023 and will be held at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL, starting at 7pm.

26 May 2023
Top archaeological ceramics from 50 years of excavation in London, Jacqui Pearce, MOLA

To find out how to join EMAS or for more information visit:
http://emas-archaeology.org/ or contact: theemassecretary@gmail.com

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Enfield Archaeological Society

Meetings currently held on Zoom and start at 7.00pm. See website for event details. The link will be available on the society website www.enfarchsoc.org the day before.

The Friends of the City Churches

The Friends of the City Churches is an architectural heritage charity dedicated to preserving the beautiful and unique churches found within the square mile of the City of London. Its aim is to ensure that the City's churches are preserved intact for posterity and are kept open to visitors on a regular basis. In conjunction with the Archdeaconry of the City of London, The Friends of the City Churches publishes the *City Events* broadsheet, copies of which can be found in most City churches, libraries and the City Information Office. Enquiries about events should be addressed to the venue concerned. Downloads of *City Events* are available from The Friends of the City Churches'

website, which is: www.london-city-churches.org.uk/ Access to these Zoom lectures is via Eventbrite, with links on the website.

The Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery

For information about the activities of Friends of Kensal Green Cemetery, email: fokgc@hotmail.com; website: www.kensalgreen.co.uk The Friends of Kensal Green offer a two-hour introductory tour of the cemetery **every Sunday from the beginning of March to the end of October, and the first and third Sunday only in November, December, January and February.** Tours begin at 14:00 from the Anglican Chapel in the centre of the grounds, and finish around two hours later with tea and biscuits at the Dissenters' Chapel, adjacent to Ladbroke Grove. It is advisable to book via the website. Tickets are £12 per person (concessions £8) which helps the Friends to restore monuments, study the cemetery and attract visitors to Kensal Green.

Friern Barnet & District Local History Society

Meetings are held on the fourth Wednesday of each month (no meetings in July and August) at The North Middlesex Golf Club, The Manor House, Friern Barnet Lane, Whetstone N20 0NL, starting at 7.45pm for 8.00pm. Non-members are welcome (£2). Refreshments are available. Email: friern-barnethistory@hotmail.co.uk; website: www.friern-barnethistory.org.uk. For further details contact David Berguer on 020 8368 8314.

24 May 2023
Terrific Totteridge, Paul Baker

28 June 2023
RAF Museum, David Keen

Harefield History Society

Meetings are held at the Park Lane Village Centre, Park Lane, Harefield UB9 6BJ at 7.30pm on the fourth Monday of the month from September to May. Outings and other events are also arranged. Website: www.harefieldhistorysociety.co.uk

22 May 2023 AGM followed by
"200 Years of Booker" – From Shipping Line to Wholesale, Robert Goodchild

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Hayes and Harlington Local History Society

Most meetings are held at Botwell Green Library, Leisure Centre, East Avenue, Hayes UB3 3HW on the third Tuesday of the month. Please note that the start times vary according to the season: for winter, early spring and autumn at 2pm; for late spring at 7pm.

An evening presentation is being arranged for **23 May at 7pm.** Non-members are welcome. Further information from Mr Robin Brown, 107 Wentworth Crescent, Hayes, Middlesex UB3 1NP (020 8848 7959). Email: hayescanal@hotmail.co.uk

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Hendon & District Archaeological Society

Lectures are held on Tuesdays at Stephens House & Gardens (Avenue House), 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE, and start promptly at 8.00 pm, with coffee/tea afterwards.

Non-members admission: £2. Buses 13, 125, 143, 326 & 460 pass nearby and Finchley Central station (Northern Line), is a 5 to 10 minute walk away. For further information see the website: www.hadas.org.uk.

9 May 2023
'Hopscotch' in High Barnet: a HADAS dig, Bill Bass

13 June 2023 AGM followed by
Top Pots from 50 years excavation in London, Jacqui Pearce, incoming HADAS President

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Hounslow and District History Society

Currently most presentations will be made remotely over the internet using Zoom. However, they are gradually introducing in person meetings at the United Reformed Church Hall, Chapel Road, Hounslow, TW3 1UL from 7.30pm. Non-members welcome for a fee of £2.00 per person. For more information see the website at http://www.hounslowhistory.org.uk/?page_id=10 or contact James Marshall at ajmarshall54@gmail.com

Events will resume in September 2023

Leyton and Leytonstone Historical Society

Meetings are generally on the third Wednesday of the month at 7.45pm in St John's Church Hall, off High Road Leytonstone (between Matalan and the church), E11 1HH. Free to members, non-members pay £2.00. For more information see the website at http://www.leytonhistorysociety.org.uk/events.html or contact Maureen Measure, email measure@btinternet.com.

17 May 2023 AGM followed by
'Unruly and Predatory Cattle', the Cows of Wanstead Flats, Mark Gorman and Peter Williams

21 June 2023
1930s East End artists, Jef Page

19 July 2023
Exploring Life in the 1950s, Pat and Barbara Elliott

London Natural History Society

Talks will take place fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.00pm. All of the talks are free and they are recorded and uploaded to the LNHS YouTube channel afterwards. **Booking is essential** at:
https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/o/london-natural-history-society-30790245484

For a full range of Natural History talks see the website above.

Merton Historical Society

Meetings are held monthly from October until April, at 2.30pm on Saturday afternoons at St James' Church Hall, Martin Way, Merton. For further information please contact the Honorary Secretary, Mrs Rosemary Turner, 27 Burley Close, London SW16 4QQ; email: mhs@mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk
website: www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk

Walks and visits are held during the summer.

8 June 2023 11.00am – 1.00pm
Visit to The Canons and Grounds, Madeira Road, Mitcham

13 July 2023 11.00am – 12.00 noon
Visit to St Mary's the Virgin, Church Pass, Merton

10 August 2023 Meet at the Rushmore Pub on the Ridgeway at 11.00am
Walk on Wimbledon Common – Ladies of Significance

The Norwood Society

Local history talks are held on the 3rd Thursday of the month at 7.30pm at the Upper Norwood Library, Westow Hill SE19 1TJ. Entry is free, but a donation of £3 towards refreshments is appreciated. For all enquiries, please contact Ruth Hibberd at: membership@norwoodsociety.co.uk; website: www.norwoodsociety.co.uk

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Orpington and District Archaeological Society

Meetings are held in Christ Church (United Reformed), Tudor Way, Petts Wood, BR5 1LH, on the first Wednesday of each month (except August and January) from 8.00pm. Non-members are welcome to attend but please check the website before attending. For further information please contact Michael Meekums or Janet Clayton (020 8302 1572); website: www.odas.org.uk .

3 May 2023
Archaeological Work at Smallhythe, Nathalie Cohen, National Trust Archaeologist

7 June 2023
TBC, Rebecca Haslam, AOC Archaeology

5 July 2023
The Restoration of an Iron Age Shield, Dr Sophia Adams, Curator European Iron Age and Roman Conquest Period, British Museum

23 July 2023 – 11.00 – 1.00 and 2.00 – 4.00
Open Day at the Romano-British Bath House, Poverest Road, St Mary Cray, for more details see website

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Pinner Local History Society

All meetings start at 8.00pm. Main meetings take place in the Village Hall, Pinner. Visitors are welcome for a donation of £3. For further information please contact: Janet Brooks, 33 Holwell Place, Pinner, Middlesex HA5 1DX (020 8429 1337 and 07980 366845); website: www.pinnerlhs.org.uk

11 May 2023 – AGM followed by
The Monumental Connections between St Mary's Church, Harrow-on-the-Hill and Harrow School, Judith Shepherd

1 June 2023
'Mr William Curtis's Dilemma': A look at the Middlesex County Council's Architects in the 1930s, Philip Crouch

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Potters Bar and District Historical Society

Meetings are held in the United Reform Church, Darkes Lane, Potters Bar, Herts, starting at 8.00pm prompt. Visitors are welcome (admission £1). For further details please visit the website: http://www.pottersbarhistory.uk

29 May2023
19th Century Hertfordshire, Alan Thomson

26 June 2023
New River, Richard Thomas

31 July 2023
Defending Potters Bar 1940, Mike Howgate

Richmond Archaeological Society

Live lectures take place on the 2nd Friday of every month at the Annexe of the Richmond Library, off Kew Green, Richmond, Surrey at 8:00pm - and are free to members. Non-members are welcome to attend by giving a donation. Some lectures are continuing on Zoom and for information on how to join the online lectures please visit the website:
www.richmondarchaeology.org.uk or email: richmond.archaeology@gmail.com

12 May 2023 in the Library Annexe
Syon Abbey – a summary, Bob Cowie

Richmond Local History Society

Meetings are held on Mondays, if possible, at Duke Street Church, Richmond, TW9 1DH at 8.00pm, and streamed via Zoom. Visitors £4.00. For information on how to join Zoom meetings;
email: membership@richmondhistory.org.uk website:
http://www.richmondhistory.org.uk

22 May 2023 – AGM followed by
Housing the Workers – the birth of council housing in London 1890-1925, Martin Stilwell

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Rotherhithe & Bermondsey Local History Society

The series of lectures below will take place at the Norwegian Church, 12 Albion Street, SE16 7LN and begin at 7.30pm. Booking is not required unless stated below. For more information please visit the website www.rbhistory.org.uk

31 May 2023 5.00pm start meeting at 211 Borough High Street
An Introduction to Southwark Archives – after hours visit

26 July 2023 6.00pm meeting at Union Street, SE1
Visit to Crossbones Graveyard, - after hours visit

Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society

From autumn 2022 we are changing the day and time for our meetings to facilitate a safe return to in-person events. From September 2022 to April 2023 meetings will be held on usually the third Tuesday of each month at 8.00 pm at St Martins Church Hall,

High Street, Ruislip. Visitors are welcome (£2 admission). If COVID-19 restrictions require on-line meetings, these will take place at the same times and dates via Zoom. For further information about the activities of the Society and updates about our plans for meetings please contact the Membership Secretary (membership@rnelhs.uk) or visit our website www.RNELHS.org.uk

Events will resume in September 2023

Southgate District Civic Voice

We are a civic society in the western half of the London Borough of Enfield, which covers Southgate, Southgate Green, Cockfosters, New Southgate, Oakwood, Palmers Green, & Winchmore Hill. Open Meetings are normally held twice a year in the Walker Hall, Waterfall Road, Southgate and Local History Meetings are held twice a year at the Friends Meeting House, Church Hill, Winchmore Hill. Non-members are welcome (£2 admission).
For further information visit our website: www.southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org or email us on info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org

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Southwark and Lambeth Archaeological Society

Lectures are held monthly on the second Tuesday at 7.30pm at the Housing Cooperative, 106 The Cut SE1, (direct entrance from the raised walkway), almost opposite the Old Vic. Coffee or tea and biscuits are available from 7.00 pm. Visitors are welcome but are asked to contribute £1 towards expenses. For further details please contact Richard Buchanan, 79 Ashridge Crescent, Shooter's Hill, London SE18 3EA; email: RichardJBuchanan@aol.com For enquiries please call 020 8764 8314.

Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group

Talks start at 8.00pm. Members free, non-members welcome (£2 admission).
For further details please contact Nick Pollard (01932 564585); email curator@spelthornemuseum.org.uk; website www.spelthornemuseum.org.uk For further details please check our website

18 May 2023 Venue: Spelthorne Museum, Elmsleigh Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4PH
AGM – Members Only

20 May 2023 Venue: Spelthorne Museum, Elmsleigh Road, Staines, Middlesex TW18 4PH Saturday 11.00am – 4.00pm
Family Activity Day: Saxons

The Thorney Island Society

The Society organises talks and visits to places of interest in the Westminster area throughout the year. Non-members welcome although some visits are for members only. See the website at https://thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk/ttis/index.php for details of how to book or email info@thethorneyislandsociety.org.uk

9 and 23 May 2023 at 10.00am. Members only £15
Tour of the Cloister Gardens, Westminster Abbey, SW1P 3PA, Jan Pancheri, Head Gardener

13 June 2023 at 2.30pm. Members only £15

Visit to the RHS Lindley Library, 80 Vincent Square, London SW1P 2PE, Susan Robin, Librarian

4 July 2023 at 6.30pm. Talk via Zoom. Members £7, Non-Members £10
The Famous Thoroughfare of Whitehall, Brian Boese

Borough of Twickenham Local History Society

Lectures are held at St Mary's Church Hall, Church Street, Twickenham, at 8.00pm on the first Monday of each month from October to May. Guests are welcome (£2.50). For further information please visit our website: www.botlhs.co.uk

8 May 2023 – AGM followed by
Victorian Children in Kingston, Dr Helen Geopel

Uxbridge Local History and Archive Society

All meetings take place at Christ Church, Redford Way (off Belmont Road), Uxbridge, starting at 7.30pm. For further information please contact Mr K.R. Pearce, 29 Norton Road, Uxbridge UB8 2PT
website: www.eddiethecomputer.co.uk/history

16 May 2023
Part-time Soldiers in Victorian Uxbridge: The Militias, Yeomanry and the Rifle Volunteers, Fr. Nicholas Schofield

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Walthamstow Historical Society

Talks take place on Thursdays in St Saviour's Church, Markhouse Road, Walthamstow E17 8EP (15 mins walk from St James Street Station). Doors open at 7.15pm for a 7.45pm start. Visitors welcome. For further information:
email: whsmembershipsec@gmail.com
Facebook page https://www.facebook.com/walthamstowhs/events/?ref=page_internal

25 May 2023
AGM

22 June 2023
The Thames – A Mudlark's View, Christine Shaw

Wandsworth Historical Society

Meetings held at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street (opposite Town Hall) on the last Friday of the month at 8.00pm until 9.15pm.
For more information, visit the website: www.wandsworthhistory.org.uk

26 May 2023
Battersea Channel live broadcast: the archaeology of this lost landscape, Mark Stevenson, Historic England Archaeology Advisor, GLAAS South London

20 May - 11 June 2023
Wandsworth Heritage Festival – Talks, walks, exhibitions and more for all ages. More information will be available nearer the time at https://www.better.org.uk/library/london/wandsworth/wandsworth-heritage-service#

The Whitechapel Society

The Society was originally set up to study the murders of Jack the Ripper, but its remit has widened to cover all aspects of late Victorian and Early Edwardian East End social history. The Society holds meetings every 2 months at the Crutched Friar pub, 39-41 Crutched Friars, London EC3N 2AE. Full details can be found on our website www.whitechapelsociety.com and our Facebook page "The Whitechapel Society 1888".

3 June 2023
The Darkside of East London, David Charnick

5 August 2023
Paradise by way of Kensal Green, Trevor Spinage

Willesden Local History Society

The Society meets on Wednesdays from September to June at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Centre, which is in Neasden Lane adjacent to the churchyard. For further information please contact the Secretary, Margaret Pratt, 51 West Ella Road, London NW10 9PT (020 8965 7230); website: www.willesden-local-history.co.uk

17 May 2023
Grunwick Strike 1976-78, Christine Coates

21 June 2023
AGM

LAMAS LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE

The Local History Committee represents the interests of LAMAS's **Affiliated Local Societies**.
Part of its work involves organising the Local History Conference, and also the Publication Awards – for which affiliated societies submit their books, journals and newsletters.

The Committee needs members! Get involved!

If you would like to join contact John Price by email: drbones55@tiscali.co.uk

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