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LAMAS NEWSLETTER

LONDON AND MIDDLESEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY



The 60th LAMAS Annual Conference of London Archaeologists was held at the Museum of London Docklands site at West India Quay in March.

Photo. J. Wheeler.

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NOTICES

Editor's Introduction

The 60th Annual Conference of London Archaeologists was held in March at the Museum of London Docklands. See Bruce Watson's summary of the sessions (page 4). Whilst the morning's papers shared recent excavation results from sites in Southwark, the former GPO site at Newgate Street, Ludgate in the City, and also an introduction to the new GLAAS Historical Environment Record via the new Arches Platform (and I flag up the invitation from those of us who would like to 'have a go' with the new database to contact Stuart Cakebread at GLAAS), the thematic afternoon sessions were a 'who's who' of the DUA and DGLA from the 1970s onwards – and also the development of archaeology to the many systems and practices that are now standard to the discipline.



John Schofield receiving the Ralph Merrifield Award from Harvey Sheldon for his contribution to London archaeology.
Photo: R. Densem.

The reunion of these stalwarts of London archaeology included Harvey Sheldon, John Schofield, Dominic Perring, Robert Cowie, Gustave Milne, and Jacqui Pearce - their professional inputs having driven and shaped archaeology in the capital for over 50 years. Also, the pioneering post-war cohort of Mortimer Wheeler, Shepherd Frere, Peter Grimes et al. whose impacts during the boom time of city renewal and urban archaeology were applauded.

And, see Bruce Watson's *afterthought* on page 13.

Jane Wheeler

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Newsletter: *Next Submission Date – August 2024*

Final copy deadline for the September 2024 *Newsletter* is ***Friday 23rd August 2024***. Articles, news, and items for inclusion may be submitted, and welcomed, prior to this cut-off date before the August Bank Holiday. Note – this is a tight turnaround for the September edition no. 172. Send items for inclusion by email as MS Word documents with pictures either in the same Word document, or as additional pages. Please avoid sending all copy etc. as an email. Text font is Times Roman 14' (not justified and spacing x 1) to: **newsletter@lamas.org.uk**

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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 black and white paper copies are still printed and posted to members for whom the Society has no email address. If you receive the digital version - you will not also receive a hard copy paper version.

Members/Readers who are not currently receiving the *Newsletter* by email, and wish to receive it in PDF format, notify the Hon. Secretary: **secretary@lamas.org.uk** (also use this point of contact for any email address changes).

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LAMAS Membership 2023/2024 Update

At the time of writing at the end of March we are halfway through the LAMAS year and paid-up membership numbers are on a par with 2023.
Planning for a new LAMAS website is progressing and hopefully it will include a members' area with access to the latest versions of LAMAS Transactions online. What else would you like to see in a members' area? Let me know if you have any suggestions.

At the start of September, I am planning to email all members I have an email address for with the current state of your LAMAS membership record. Any questions, comments or changes regarding your LAMAS membership do let me know, preferably by email or alternatively by post, my address is on the back page of the Newsletter.

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

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The 60th LAMAS Annual Conference of London Archaeologists 2024
This year's annual conference was held at the Museum of London in Docklands. As usual the morning session was devoted to recent fieldwork and the afternoon one was thematic, looking at aspects of the work of the Department of Urban Archaeology (DUA) (established in 1973) and the Department of Greater London Archaeology (established in 1983) on their respective anniversaries. Both departments were part of the Museum of London. A tribute to the late Brian Hobley, the head of the DUA from 1973 until 1989 is forthcoming in *LAMAS Trans* 74 (2023).

The morning session began with the presentation of the 2023 Ralph Merrifield Award to John Schofield for his outstanding contribution to London's archaeology over the last 50 years. John joined the DUA in 1974, initially he was a Field Officer involved in the organisation of excavations, latterly he managed the DUA's publication programme. Subsequently he managed the publication programme of the Museum of London Archaeology Service (MoLAS) before working on the 1907-91 City of London Archaeological Gazetteer. He has also extensively published his own research on the medieval buildings of London. Since retiring from the Museum of London in 2008 he has published two volumes on the DUA 1974-84 medieval and post-medieval waterfront excavations. For many years he served as secretary of the City of London Archaeological Trust and as Cathedral Archaeologist at St Paul's Cathedral publishing books on the medieval and Wren cathedrals. From 2002 he has been the *LAMAS Trans* reviews editor and since 2006 he has also chaired the LAMAS Publications Committee.

Morning Session - Recent Work

Further excavations at Landmark Court, Southwark **by Antonietta Lerz (Museum of London Archaeology - MOLA).**
Since 2019 there have been a series of excavations on this site. The most important discovery being a complex of Roman masonry buildings, interpreted as a possible *mansio* (an official residence for government officials), which represent the southern extension of the buildings excavated in 1980-86 (see *LAMAS Trans* 43, 1992, pp.3-191). Excavations in 2022 (reported at the 2023 LAMAS Spring Conference) uncovered two imposing late Roman polychrome mosaics which were situated inside a large dining room. Both mosaics have been lifted and they will be displayed within the new development. The presence of fragments of brightly painted wall plaster, including floral motifs, provide further evidence of a rather 'up-market' interior décor. The most recent fieldwork in the south-western corner of the development revealed the revetted edge of a water channel. The reclamation of this area started during the late 1st century AD and latterly the excavated portion of the channel was entirely

reclaimed and then built over. Finds from the reclamation dumps included a wooden spoon, a pipeclay Venus figurine, the head of a small statuette and a ceramic oil lamp.

Newgate Street revisited: recent excavations at the former GPO site **by Kathy Davidson (Pre-Construct Archaeology).**
The 1975-79 DUA excavations of the General Post Office site (GPO75) were published as *The Archaeology of Roman London CBA Res Rep 70* (1991) *Early Development of Roman London west of the Walbrook, The Cemetery of St Nicholas Shambles* (*LAMAS Spec Pap* 9, 1988) and the medieval parish church of St Nicholas Shambles in *LAMAS Trans* 48, 1997, pp.77-135. Evaluation of this old DUA site revealed a strip of intact archaeological deposits approximately 24m long and 4m wide along the western edge of the property which was totally excavated prior to its redevelopment. The earliest activity on this site dated to *c*. AD 50-70 and consisted of levelling and ground consolidation prior to the erection of the first timber-framed buildings and pit digging. A fire horizon is attributed to the Boudican destruction of AD 60-1. Subsequently, redevelopment (from *c*. AD 100-250) largely consisted of pit digging which implied that most of this area consisted of backyards. Evidence of ferrous slag implies that blacksmithing was taking place. There was also evidence of a possible forge floor. By *c*. AD 250 there was a phase of site-wide levelling prior to the construction of more domestic buildings and further pit digging. There was an Iron Age style round-house of late Roman date, which is unusual. By *c*. AD 300-400 the level of activity on site declined and there was extensive external dumping of waste, particularly ceramic building materials. The site was eventually covered by an accumulation of 'dark earth' into which Saxo-Norman pits were dug. A flint nodule-lined well was discovered within the Greyfriars precinct (POM79). Evidence of DUA activity consisted of a test pit, the backfill of which contained a finds label and a sheet of used permatrace.

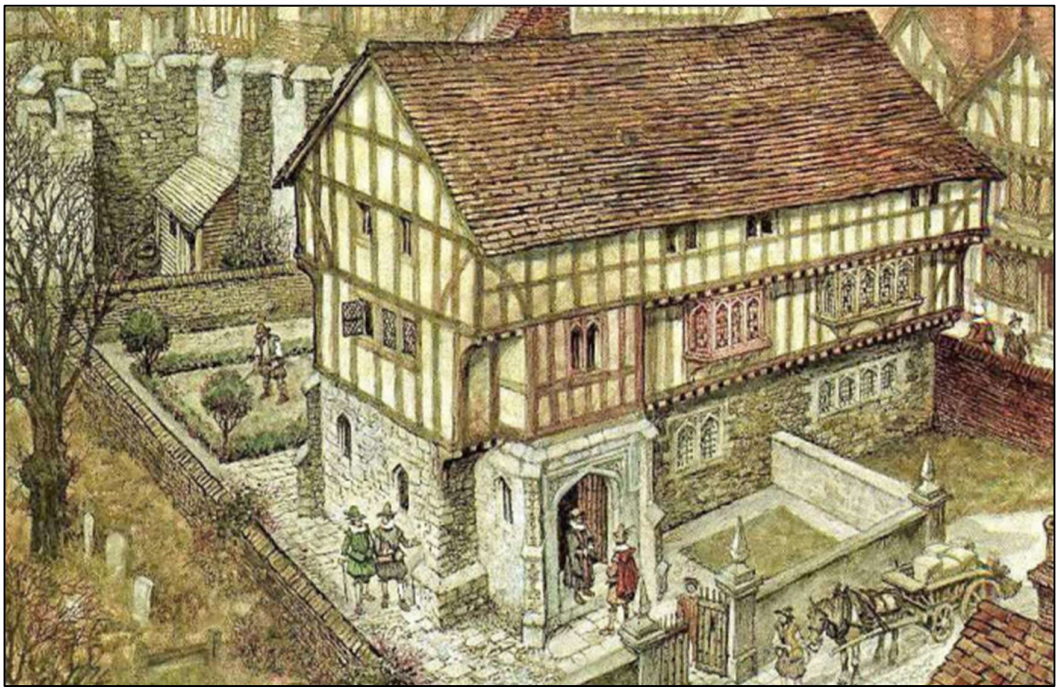
Affluence and Industry in Post-Medieval Southwark: excavations at 67-71 Tanner Street **by Les Capon (AOC Archaeology Group).**
Unfortunately, after the evaluation of this site in 2016, the developer machined out all the archaeological deposits down to the natural alluvium before the main excavation took place, severely truncating the remaining features. The earliest feature was a shallow L-shaped ditch, which produced no finds, but may be prehistoric in date. There was a cattle horncore lined cess and rubbish pit, which produced a rich and diverse assemblage of late 17th and 18th century finds. Within a muddy external area was a cluster of horse hoof prints. The largest feature was a tanning pit containing dog coprolites. This pit was systematically infilled during the mid-18th century with a vast amount of domestic pottery and other finds. The ceramics (an estimated 790 vessels) mostly consisted of

Borderwares, Redwares and English tin-glazed wares, Forms included bowls, chargers, dishes, mugs and plates. There were also clay tobacco pipes (185 bowls), glass wine bottles, a Venetian glass dish, a cockerel pipeclay figurine, a whale bone fan, a folding pocket knife, and some lead tokens. The associated faunal remains were dominated by cattle, pigs and sheep.

The Greater London Historical Environment Record **by Stuart Cakebread (Greater London Archaeological Advisory Service - GLAAS).**

The Greater London Historical Environment Record (HER) is an invaluable resource for locating archaeological monuments and other heritage assets. The maintenance of local HERs is now a statutory responsibility of local government under the terms of the Levelling-up and Regeneration Act of 2023. This change has encouraged GLAAS to upgrade its online HER using the Arches Platform (summer 2024). This upgrade will allow for more sophisticated searches of data by either key words or geographic location. It will also bring together a much wider range of heritage assets than historic buildings and archaeological monuments. Unfortunately, there will still be restricted public access to the upgraded HER. When many HERs are freely accessible online it is regrettable that GLAAS still lacks commitment to open access.

Built on words and fire: excavations at Stationers' Hall, London **by Ian Hogg (Archaeology South-East).**



A reconstruction of Abergavenny House in *c*. 1600 by Peter Jackson. ***Source: © Look and Learn/ Peter Jackson Collection.***

This picturesque City of London livery company hall in Ludgate was completed in 1674. The previous hall having been destroyed in the Great Fire of 1666. The livery hall now forms the centre of a T-shaped complex of buildings. The Stationers acquired the site in 1611 but it has a much longer history. In the early 14th century this property was known as 'Brittany Inn; after its builder John of Brittany, Earl of Richmond, then in 1331 it passed to the Countess of Pembroke becoming known as 'Pembroke Inn'. By the 16th century it was held by Lord Abergavenny. A reconstruction of the property during the Tudor period shows a large rectangular building with a stone built-ground storey and timber-framed upper storeys. In advance of refurbishment of the historic buildings and the construction of a small new extension, limited archaeological fieldwork was carried out (see forthcoming article in the *London Archaeologist*). A substantial medieval masonry foundation probably represents part of a tower built by the Countess of Pembroke. The immediate post-Great Fire redevelopment involved the extensive recycling of earlier bricks and architectural stonework.

Afternoon Session – The DUA and DGLA 50 and 40 years on

Accounts of the establishment and work of both these archaeological units have been published by John Maloney for the DUA (which carried out rescue archaeology in the City of London), and Harvey Sheldon, formerly the head of the DGLA (*ditto* the Greater London area) in the *London Archaeologist fifty years of London's Archaeology: papers from the 50th Anniversary Conference* (2020). In 1991 both these departments amalgamated to form the Museum of London Archaeology Service (now known as MOLA).

The contribution of LAMAS in publishing the fieldwork and research of the DUA and DGLA is discussed in an article in *LAMAS Trans* 74. In *Some major DUA sites 1974-84, and innovations along the way* John Schofield explains the situation facing the newly established DUA in 1974 was challenging as, in many respects, they were starting from nothing. For instance, there was no pottery fabric type series, so it was case of trying to cope with a vast volume of finds including organic material coming from waterfront excavations like New Fresh Wharf. It was strongly felt that the DUA should investigate the archaeology of all periods: Roman; Saxo-Norman; medieval and post-medieval. Previously post-medieval deposits and structures had largely been ignored. The medieval waterfront excavations produced a vast array of finds which led to the series of Museum of London artefact catalogues. One highly significant DUA innovation, which started in 1978, was obtaining funding from developers to cover initially fieldwork costs (to supplement the core funding from the Department of the Environment), then later post-excavation work. Another

important innovation was computing. In 1981 DUA purchased their first computer for cataloguing finds. John Schofield has two regrets. First, not realising the significance of the curve of Basinghall Street (it respects the outline of the Roman amphitheatre). Second, the wholesale destruction of the unexcavated portion of the Billingsgate Lorry Park in 1983 with finds retrieved during the watching brief including a trumpet of *c*.1300 – which indicates what was destroyed.

On Mudbricks and Marxism: the revolutionary intent of single-context planning and the early development of Roman London "west of the Walbrook" **by Dominic Perring.**

Post-war urban 'rescue' excavations generally consisted either of narrow linear trenches or a box-grid arrangement of square trenches. In both situations annotated section drawings were the main stratigraphic record, only walls and large cut features were planned. Each area or trench had a supervisor to direct the labourers or volunteers who did the actual digging. All planning and recording were carried out by either the area supervisors or designated planners. Dominic explained how as a teenage volunteer in the 1960s he had worked on the Brook Street excavations in Winchester where he met Edwin Harris who was developing the novel concept of the stratigraphic matrix, The aim being to incorporate every context on site into a single diagram. Harris's system was linked with the planning and recording of deposits and features as 'single contexts' which allowed the experienced excavator to do the jobs of both the planner and supervisor, ending the previous hierarchy. In November 1974 Edwin Harris gave a seminar to the DUA staff on his methodology and in spring 1976 Andy Boddington introduced loose leaf context sheets and small sheets of permatrace for planning to the GPO excavation (mentioned earlier in Kathy Davidson's paper), this innovation was a huge success as it allowed large amounts of site data to be swiftly and efficiently recorded. While this recording procedure is now standard, it was then seen as quite radical and as a democratization of the recording and supervisory procedure - which fitted with socialist ideology of some DUA staff. In 1980 this recording system was enshrined in the first edition of the *DUA Site Manual*. It is now the basis of the MOLA recording system and has been adopted by many other archaeological units in Britain and beyond.

The next issue the DUA faced was how to analyse and publish the vast volume of excavated data they were gathering. Their policy in the 1980s was to produce detailed descriptive archive reports and publish a synthesis of selective material. *CBA Res Rep 70 Roman London West of the Walbrook* (1991) was planned as one of a series of thematic monographs that would synthesize results of recent fieldwork in various parts of the Roman city. The initial concept for this volume consisted of an account of the vernacular architecture of the excavated buildings by Dominic, an

understanding of the urban topography by Patrick Allen, and an account of the development and subsequent contraction of the settlement by Steve Roskams (who as a devout Marxist believed that as the economy of the Roman empire depended on slave labour its fall was inevitable). The referees rejected this approach and insisted on the addition of site narratives.

Solving the enigma of 'the lost centuries': the discovery of Lundenwic **by Robert Cowie.**

Middle Saxon *Lundenwic* (AD *c*. 650-850) was one of a network of north-west European coastal or estuarine trading centres or emporiums. It was described by Bede (d. AD 735) as 'a trading centre for many nations.' There were contemporary coin finds with a London mint mark, but no conclusive archaeological evidence for the existence of this 'lost' settlement. In 1984 research published independently by Professor Martin Biddle and the late Alan Vince of the DUA concluded that this 'lost' settlement was located within the Aldwych area. The first tangible evidence to support their hypothesis came in 1985 when salvage recording carried out at Jubilee Gardens by the DGLA revealed evidence of Middle Saxon occupation (see *LAMAS Trans* 39, 1988, pp. 47-163). By 1990 a number of excavations carried out by the DGLA had established the spatial extent of *Lundenwic* (60 ha). Details concerning *Lundenwic*'s ceramics (thanks to the work of Lyn Blackmore), its economy, buildings and street layout are now well established, the only under-explored area is its waterfront. In the 2005 LAMAS poll of London's greatest archaeological discoveries *Lundenwic* came top.

The DUA's Trig Lane excavations 1974-76: the Medieval waterfront project takes off **by Gustav Milne.**

In 1972 Max Hebditch, the Director of the Guildhall Museum, organised 'rescue' excavations in advance of the redevelopment the City of London's waterfront. His strategy, due to resource limitations, was to prioritise four areas: Baynard's Castle, Custom House and the bridgehead (because they were both considered 'exceptional'), plus Trig Lane because it considered 'unexceptional'. This excavation (see *LAMAS Spec Pap* 5, 1982) lasted much longer than initially planned as its redevelopment was delayed which allowed time for a small full-time team supplemented by weekend and summer volunteers to excavate a huge area. Therefore, it was possible to study the 13th to 15th-century waterfront timbers in detail, plus hand excavate a lot of the finds from the rich water-logged and reclamation dumps. Precise dates for the different phases of reclamation were provided by tree-ring dating of waterfront timbers. This helped produce a detailed chronology for the form and fabrics of associated ceramics and other types of finds - including shoes. It also proved possible to determine sea level changes from the height of precisely dated waterfronts. Study of waterfront

carpentry established that in 1200-15 there was a local transition from earth-fast to timber-framed buildings. This site gave Gustav a long-term interest in the archaeology of the Thames foreshore starting with the integration of the foreshore structures outside the excavation at Trig Lane into the site sequence; this was followed by the Thames Archaeology Survey (1993-99); then the Thames Discovery Programme, and most recently CITiZAN (Coastal and Intertidal Zone Archaeological Network).

Top Ceramics from 50 years of excavation in London **by Jacqui Pearce, MOLA.**



The nearly complete tin-glazed Maiolica ware jug (height 235mm) from Regis House ***(LAMAS Trans 61, 2010, p.122)***.

Jacqui gave a brief review of aspects of the work of the post-Roman ceramic finds specialists of the DUA, DGLA, and latterly MoLAS/MOLA. In the 1970s Alan Vince of the DUA realized the potential of the medieval waterfront dumps to precisely date ceramics and combined this with a new detailed classification of fabrics, which became 'the dated type series of London Medieval Pottery', part one Mill Green ware was published in *LAMAS Trans* 33, 1982, p. 266-298 (subsequent volumes on London-type ware and Surrey ware were published as *LAMAS Spec Paps* 6 & 10). The study of London's post-medieval ceramics proved more complicated as there are no waterfront dumps for this period. Unusual finds from the City of London include a 16th-century imported maiolica ware jug decorated with instruments of the Passion (*LAMAS Trans* 61, 2010, p.121).
Jacqui's latest research project concerns German stoneware (1550-1700) Bartmann or 'bearded man' drinking jugs.

The Rose Theatre and the DGLA **by Harvey Sheldon.**
This 13-sided polygonal timber-framed theatre was constructed on Bankside in 1587. It was rebuilt in 1592 and then dismantled in *c*. 1606. The probable site of the Rose theatre, a non-descript office block in 'Rose Alley', was due to be redeveloped in 1988 and evaluation by the DGLA proved that there was good archaeological survival.



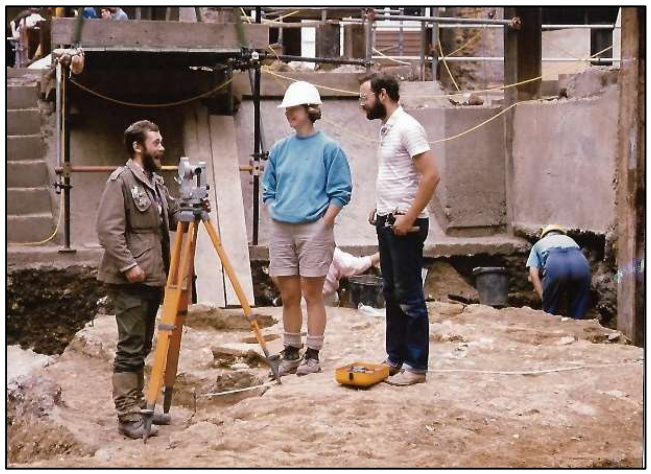
Overhead view of the foundations of the Rose theatre in 1989 showing the two phases of the stage and the inner and outer gallery walls. Notice the visitors in the foreground. The concrete piles are the foundations of the previous building. ***Source: MoL.***

Open area excavation in the summer of 1989 revealed the well-preserved inner and outer walls of the theatre gallery and the extent of two phases of stages. This dramatic discovery brought to life a forgotten Elizabethan theatre connected with Christopher Marlowe (whose plays were performed here) and William Shakespeare (who may have acted here), and captured the public imagination and, thanks to the support of many famous actors, its remains were not be destroyed by redevelopment but were preserved intact under the basement of the new building. The publicity that the

discovery of the Rose generated highlighted how archaeological heritage was often being inadvertently destroyed by the planning process. As a result of the Rose fiasco in 1990 *Planning Policy Guidance 16: Archaeology and Planning* (PPG 16) was introduced to include the developer funded archaeological investigation and the preservation of deposits (where practical) as an integral part of the planning process. Harvey was closely involved with the campaign to preserve the remains of the Rose, and subsequently he has worked with the Rose Theatre Trust to display the site to the public.

Afterthought from Bruce.

The afternoon session brought back a lot of memories as I joined the DUA field team in 1982, and I subsequently worked for the DGLA and the DUA (then MoLAS and MOLA) until 2011. My own recollections of the 1980s fieldwork in London are a spirit of adventure and discovery as I participated in a wide variety of 'rescue' excavations. I can relate to a number of the speakers who said that their own experiences changed their outlook and interests. In 1984 I was involved with recording the southern abutments of Saxo-Norman and medieval London Bridge, which led to a life-long interest in historic bridges.



A certain Bruce Watson entertaining the late Marie Nally and Patrick Allen with a woolly tale at the Leadenhall excavation 1986. ***Photo: courtesy of Ian Blair.***

Bruce Watson

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LAMAS Summer Lates

The programme of Summer Lates is currently being put together but it will include a medieval walk (tbc) in June, and a tour of West Norwood Cemetery in August. Notifications of the events and booking will generally be via email. So, keep an eye on your inboxes.

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New City of London Conservation Area

The City of London Corporation has officially designated a new heritage zone between Creechurch, Leadenhall and Aldgate. This is the 28th to be created in the Square Mile. This new conservation area subsumes three places of worship (the Bevis Marks Synagogue, St Catherine Cree Church and St. Botolph's Church (all listed Grade I). The area was also once home to the medieval Holy Trinity Priory. The forthcoming Appraisal and Management Plan for the area are intended to set out clear guidance and policy rules to developers and building owners to shape new development that is sympathetic to the existing character and heritage of the zone.

The Committee Report and supporting documents pertinent to the Creechurch Conservation Area, including the adopted boundary of the zone, can be found via Google and searching Creechurch Conservation Area or at:
https://www.cityoflondon.gov.uk/services/planning/historic-environment/conservation-areas/creechurch-conservation-area-consultation.

Jane Wheeler

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LAMAS Transactions and Supplements available online

Seven PDF supplements of major papers from volumes 68 to 73 (2017-22) of LAMAS *Transactions* will be available on the LAMAS website which is currently being redesigned, but for the interim they are on a LAMAS page on the CoLAT website: **www.colat.org.uk/lamas**. LAMAS also announces that a single PDF of a whole journal can be obtained by members and non-members of LAMAS for £10 plus p&p for volumes 71 to 73 (2020-2). Contact secretary@lamas.org.uk. Volumes of *Transactions* from 1860 to 2019 can be downloaded from **www.lamas.org.uk/archives**.

John Schofield

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Grants from CoLAT 2024

The City of London Archaeological Trust (CoLAT) is offering grants in 2024 to support archaeological work and research in the City and its environs. Grants to be used in the year after March 2025. The application dates, forms and procedures are on the CoLAT website: **https://colat.org.uk/apply-for-a-grant**.

If you are interested be sure to observe the deadlines and procedures for application. The initial deadline for applications is **Monday 26th August**

2024. Your application will have an initial assessment by the CoLAT scrutineers (who may suggest improvements to the application). You should then amend your application and resubmit it by the final date of **Friday 11th October 2024**. This is also the date by which you should have arranged for a referee from outside the application project to provide a reference to be sent to CoLAT. Further information can be obtained from the CoLAT Secretary, John Schofield, at: **john@jschd.co.uk**.
The CoLAT website gives details of all its activities: **www.colat.org.uk**.

John Schofield

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New Threat of Demolition for Whitechapel's Theatrical Terrace



The current condition of 3-13 Vallance Road. Number 9, which is defined by the DALLAS sign leads through to a courtyard where the Pavilion Theatre's carpentry workshop was located. ***Source: spitalfieldslife.com/Alex Pink.***

The Gentle Author has been writing about Spitalfields buildings for some years. A new proposal for the demolition of Whitechapel's Theatrical Terrace (3-13 Vallance Road (formerly Baker's Row)) within the Whitechapel Market Conservation Area has been made (Planning Application PA/23/02117/NC) to Tower Hamlets Council.

Today the location comprises neglected boarded-shop fronts and decaying above eye-level structures of ornate decorative window surrounds and

parapets. Some premises are still operating as businesses. The florid decoration of the façades reflects the association of these buildings with the Pavilion Theatre which opened in the early 19th century and later became a Yiddish theatre to entertain the Jewish population in Whitechapel.



The Pavilion as a Yiddish theatre during the 1930s.

Source: spitalfieldslife.com/Alex Pink.



The theatre was demolished in 1961. At the southern end of Vallance Road, this surviving terrace is one of the last fragments of standing history of what was known as Mile End New Town. Picture *left* shows the façade prior to demolition in 1961 (City of London, London Metropolitan Archives).

Full details of the proposed demolition/planning application, point of contact to OBJECT, along with the history of the area and a wonderful collection of modern and historic photos, including the history of the Pavilion Theatre, can be found at:
https://spitalfieldslife.com/2024/01/30/new-threat-of-demolition-for-whitechapels-theatrical-terrace

All credit to The Gentle Author

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The Saga of Mark & Spencer continues …

Members should follow what is happening in the case of the proposed demolition for redevelopment of Marks & Spencer at the junction of Oxford Street and Baker Street in Westminster.



The Mark & Spencer building on Oxford Street. ***Source: Google Earth March 2024.***

In 2022 it was announced that Orchard House, the Art Deco M&S store of 1929, would be replaced. In July 2023, Secretary of State Michael Gove refused permission for it, suggesting it should be renovated instead. A judge has now overturned Gove's decision, arguing that he misapplied the appropriate planning policies. The Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities is considering its next move.

M&S states that Oxford Street in general needs to be restored as footfall is 30% down on pre-pandemic levels. They claim that retrofitting the store would be unworkable (vigorously disputed by SAVE Britain's Heritage and others) and that a new building would use less than a quarter of the energy of the present one. Commenting on the judge's ruling, SAVE director Henrietta Billings said it 'represents another twist and turn in the long running saga of M&S's highly controversial plans to bulldoze and rebuild a structurally sound historic landmark building on Oxford Street. Six years on, M&S still don't have a planning consent. By contrast, if from the beginning they had pursued a less environmentally damaging retrofit scheme they could have obtained planning consent quicker, and

could have completed the works and be receiving valuable rental income by now…This case has focused widespread public attention on the wasteful knock it down and build again process that has dominated our construction sector for the last 100 years. Now in 2024 people are demanding action. We need a fresh positive approach to re-using historic buildings and saving precious resources. We also urgently need robust national planning policy on retro fit that aligns with the UK government's law on net zero targets.'

The Historic Buildings and Conservation Committee (HBCC) of LAMAS says: 'Orchard House [the M&S building] itself is not situated in a Conservation Area and currently has a Certificate of Immunity from listing. However, the building is a 'non-designated heritage asset' of significant heritage value which contributes positively to the setting of the adjacent Grade II* listed Selfridges building. In HBCC's opinion, Orchard House should for these reasons not be demolished. The Secretary of State's refusal of the proposed scheme in July 2023 included the impact on heritage assets as one of the grounds for refusal: we note that these particular grounds were upheld by the judge in her recent decision.
HBCC also supports the claims by SAVE and others that Orchard House could, and should be repurposed and reused rather than demolished, and avoid the massive carbon cost associated with the demolition and rebuild.

Historic Buildings and Conservation Committee

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Stretcher Railings in need of TLC



Stacked steel stretchers at a CD training incident during WW2.

Photo: WW2civildefence.co.uk.

Across the country there are the remaining scars and stumps in garden walls where fences and gates are evidence of the removal of often ornate iron gates and railings removed in the 1940s to support the war effort. The national scrap drive was especially active in London. There are a number of schools of thought on what actually happened to the metal collected.

One theory is that the iron was unsuitable for recycling. Another is that much more iron was collected than required and could not all be

processed. The propaganda value of the collection operation turned out to unify the country, and thus the government allowed the removal, collection, and stock-piling of wrought and cast iron to continue away from public view.

As many housing estates fences were removed during the war, these gaps were filled with repurposed metal stretchers. Over 600,000 steel stretchers were constructed by Air Raid Precautions (ARP) (which become the Civil Defence Service (CD) in 1941). The stretchers were mass produced in anticipation of air-raid casualties, and made of metal to enable them to be easily cleaned and disinfected.



A stretcher fence at the Tabard Garden Estate, Southwark, SE1 4XY. ***Photo: J. Wheeler.***



The poor condition of the metalwork at the Tabard Garden Estate – some stretchers are now missing. ***Photo: J. Wheeler.***

As recently as 1960 surplus stretchers were used to replace fencing in a number of London Boroughs. Many have now been removed and many are deteriorating. The stretchers, whilst utilitarian in design and function, have a human association with London and what Londoner's went through during WWII. Work is underway to record locations of the stretchers, but as a surviving tangible artefact, more needs to be done to preserve them and make their origin and history known. See The Stretcher Railing Society website for more information.

Jane Wheeler

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LAMAS Lecture Programme 2024

The last pre-summer LAMAS lecture will take place from 6.30pm - 7.30pm (see below).

Members are requested to book for all online lectures on Eventbrite via the Society's website: **https:/www.lamas.org.uk/lectures.html** As usual, non-members will be very welcome but there is a charge of £2.50.

Lectures will be either 'hybrid lectures' held in-person and on Zoom, *or* on Zoom only.

Please check the LAMAS website and social media for details of lecture locations.

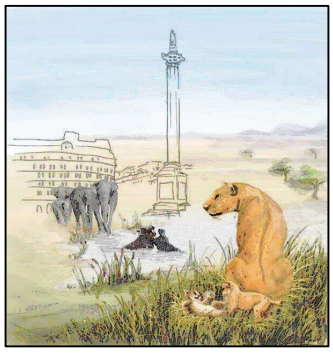
May 14th 2024
Joint Prehistoric Society and LAMAS Lecture
Dr Matt Pope

'Paleo-London, Thinking about the Ice Age Archaeology and Environments of the Capital'

The landscape now covered by Greater London is one which preserves a rich record of our Ice Age past. Spanning in excess of 500,000 years, this record includes a large area of Ice Age geology and environmental records of now lost landscapes, as well as stone artefacts and the bones of now extinct mammalian fauna.

In this lecture we will explore this record through key sites and the history of their discovery.

From the first recorded discovery of a Palaeolithic tool through to the professional commercial excavations taking place in the city in recent years, we'll consider how the London landscape was shaped by ice and water, and the early human populations who adapted, or not, to the dramatic cycles of climate change evidenced in the gravels and clays of the city's deep past.'



Source/Credit: Tabitha Paterson.

** The next lecture programme will start in October. And the autumn programme will be ready and listed in the September Newsletter.*

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What is The Origin of the Place-Name London?



Today, London is known internationally as a place-name and appears in many brand names. It is well-known that London is derived from *Londinium* - one of a number of Latinized urban place-names. Judging from the Antonine Itinerary, Roman administrators in Britian chose to reuse a quite high proportion of existing Celtic place-names. This policy inadvertently created a category of obscure British place-names, including London, the derivation of which is not clear. One problem is that colonial powers appear to be imprecise with their reuse of indigenous place-names, possibly due to pronunciation difficulties. For instance, the Canadian city of Toronto was founded in 1793 as York, then in 1834 it was renamed after a native settlement, described on a 1656 map as *Tarantou*. This place-name is believed to be derived from an Iroquoian source, possibly *taron-to-hen* 'trees/wood in the water' referring to its riverine location or the Huron *deondo* 'meeting place' (*Online Etymology Dictionary* – Toronto, accessed Feb 2024).

London was traditionally interpreted by etymologists as the 'place/town belonging to Londinos' from a supposed Celtic personal name interpreted as 'the active/fierce/merry one', based on the Old Irish *lond* (angry or wild) and an adjectival ending. However, this etymology is now rejected and it has been reclassified as an 'unexplained' place-name (Watts 2004, 379). Three of the 1st century AD writing tablets recovered from the Bloomberg excavation displayed the wording used for London addresses as *Londinio,* a locatival ablative ('in London') (Tomlin 2015,29). It has been claimed that *Londinium* might be derived from a local pre-Celtic river name which was 'Celticized' to 'Plowonida', interpreted as 'the (wide) flowing river (Coates 1998, 227), which is a good topographical description of the meandering inner Thames estuary. More recently it has been suggested

that London may have originated as the Celtic place-name 'Lōndonjon', which is interpreted as the 'place that floods periodically or tidally' (Bynon 2016; Coates 1998).

The debate on the origins of London as a place-name has been raging for several centuries as the etymological evidence is uncertain and invites re-interpretation and speculation. However, in the absence of evidence of Iron Age settlement in the City of London area, this enigmatic Celtic place-name presumably either refers to somewhere in the Thames valley or a much wider geographical area than the City. In *LAMAS Trans* 74 (due to be published in November 2024) there is an article on a new Iron Age settlement discovered in 2015-17 by Archaeology South-East (UCL Institute of Archaeology) at Whitechapel, which along with Bermondsey Abbey and South Lambeth Road represent the main evidence for Iron Age settlement within central London.

Bibliography

Bynon, T, 2016 'London's name' *Trans Philological Soc* 114, issue 3, 281-97, available via Wiley online library (accessed Feb. 2024)
Coates, R, 1998 'A new explanation of the name of London's' *Trans Philological Soc* 92, issue 2, 203-39, available via Wiley online library (accessed Feb. 2024)
Tomlin, R S O, 2016 *Roman London's first voices: writing tablets from the Bloomberg excavations, 2010-14,* MOLA monograph 72
Watts, E V, (ed) 2004 *The Cambridge Dictionary of English Place-Names*

Bruce Watson

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When is a Lamp Post not a Lamp Post?



Answer: When it's a Stink Pipe!
Stink pipes are cast iron pipes, open at the top to allow for the release of gases from the sewer below. Designed by Sir Goldsworthy Gurney these pipes were designed to ventilate the sewers by removing unpleasant smelling, and potentially explosive, gases. Stink pipes are usually wider than conventional lamp posts and painted usually green or grey. This pipe is at 77 Union Street SE1 1SG. The maker's name is on the base but obscured by the café chairs.

Jane Wheeler

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News from the Central London's Young Archaeologists Club

The National Gallery is 200 years old this year and they are marking their bi-centenary with a huge project called NG200. This includes a major redesign of part of the gallery necessitating a huge building project. As part of NG200 the Young Archaeologists Club was offered an exciting opportunity to visit the National Gallery during half-term week in February.



Before the building work on the new design could commence last year, archaeologists from Archaeology South-East (UCL) conducted excavations at the National Gallery site. They are now busy analysing the finds and data from the site to help them interpret and add to what is already known about the archaeological story of the Trafalgar Square area. We had a great visit starting with an archaeological presentation by Stephen White from Archaeology South East who talked about what it is like to excavate in an urban setting next to an iconic building that has remained open to the public throughout the building works. He told us about what was found on site and other finds that have been made in the past in the area. This was followed by an object handling session.

We then had a short but illuminating tour of the gallery with Bethan Durie (Learning and National Programmes) who explained some of the works of art. This was a unique and very interesting experience for all of us.

In our March session our members became archaeology detectives, trying to deduce what some rare and puzzling finds could have been used for. We looked at Neolithic stone balls found at Skara Brae, Romano British cosmetic grinders, the very mysterious Roman dodecahedron and the Nebra sky disk.





Our members demonstrated very good critical thinking skills, asking lots of questions and coming to some of the same conclusions that archaeologists, historians and scientists have reached. As a craft activity members created their own Nebra sky disks.

Annie De Saulles

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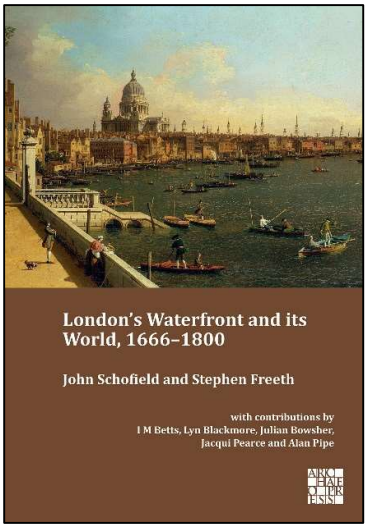
Reviews

London's Waterfront and its World, 1666-1800 **by John Schofield & Stephen Freeth and contributions from I.M. Betts, L. Blackmore, J. Bowsher, J. Pearce and A. Pipe. (Archaeopress Publishing Ltd/Archaeopress.com in association with the City of London Archaeological Trust), hardback RRP £50.00.**

There is a free 300-page download e-book at:
www.archaeopress.com/Archaeoporess/Products/9781803276540



This monograph presents the documentary and archaeological evidence for post-Great Fire development at four waterfront sites excavated by MoL between 1974-1984. The study sites are Swan Lane and Seal House to the west of London Bridge, and New Fresh Wharf and Billingsgate to the east. The four sites are set in their wider context through a study of the waterfront on both sides of the Thames from the City and Southwark to Deptford to the east. Evolution of the post-Fire waterfront culminates with the construction of West India Dock in 1801-6.

Jane Wheeler

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EVENTS AND EXHIBITIONS

Please check the respective websites for availability and bookings.

Barnet Medieval Festival
at Barnet Elizabethans RFC, Byng Road, Barnet, EN5 4NP
Weekend of 8th and 9th June 2024 10.30am – 5pm
Entry: £3 for Children and £7 for adults

The festival weekend offers a programme of battle re-enactments (Battle of Barnet 1471), displays of canon firing and archery, and demonstrations of mounted knights in combat. There will be plenty of opportunities to learn about medieval life from the living history encampments and craft displays, and to enjoy performances of medieval music. The medieval market will provide ample opportunities for shopping and a range of food and drink stalks to keep visitors refreshed.

Tickets are on sale online at:
https://barnet-medieval-festival-committee.sumupstore.com

Brixton Windmill
Windmill Gardens, 100 Blenheim Gardens,
Brixton Hill, London SW2 5DA
Windmill Open Days & Guided Walks of Brixton Hill

Open Days 8-9th June, 13-14th July, 10-11th August 1-5pm
Guided Walks 9th June, 14th July, 11th August

Open Days are an opportunity to learn more about this Brixton landmark. On a tour of the grade II* listed windmill you will see two sets of millstones – the original wind powered machinery, and the smaller stones installed in 1902 that were driven by steam. Today, these stones run on electricity and are used by volunteer millers to produce Brixton Windmill Flour. Full tour is £5 and takes 30 minutes. Bookings in advance. If fully booked there may be the opportunity for "turn up and go" tours throughout the afternoon for a small donation.



Guided walks of Brixton Hill are led by London Blue Badge Guide Liz du Parcq. Walks start from Brixton Windmill at 1pm and last around 1.5 hours. Advance booking only. £12 or £6 concessions (children free), all supports Brixton Windmill. Guided walks coincide with the Windmill Open Days.
For Open Day Bookings and Guided Walk bookings see http://brixtonwindmill.org

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AFFILIATED SOCIETY MEETINGS 2023

Newsletter readers are advised to check with local societies before planning to attend lectures. Please check websites to ensure events are running.

Acton History Group

Meetings are held on the second Wednesday in the month at 7.30pm in St Mary's Parish Church Hall, Acton free for members, £2 for non-members. Contact email: actonhistorygroup@hotmail.com; website: www.actonhistory.co.uk

12 June 2024 AGM followed by
Old Acton Library, "Passmore Edwards" and David Knights

11 September 2024
Willesden Junction and the Railway line to Richmond, Michael Woods

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Barnes and Mortlake History Society

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

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Barnet Museum and Local History Society

All meetings are held in St John the Baptist Church, Wood Street, Barnet at 7.30pm (unless otherwise stated) 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.

13 May 2024
The De Havilland Air Museum, Chris Levitt

10 June 2024
The HADAS Barnet Hopscotch Excavation, Bill Bass

8 July 2024
What Medieval Women Wore, Kathleen Alston Cole

9 September 2024 – at 3.00pm
Another Walk in the Park: More of London's Green Treasures, John Lynch

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Bexley Archaeological Group

Talks are currently a mix of Face to Face and Zoom, 8pm to 9.00pm. Excavations are carried out at weekends (March-November), in which membership is required to participate on site. For further information, please contact Clare Lodge: *Principal Field Officer and 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.

16 May 2024
Witchcraft in Kent – the Archaeological Evidence, Wayne Perkins

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Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society

The Society holds hybrid talks at the Chiswick Memorial Club, Bourne Place, W4 2EL and via Zoom. All talks are on the 3rd Monday of the month and begin at 7.30pm. Non-members are welcome and details of the talks will be available on the Society's website at https://brentfordandchiswicklhs.org.uk.

20 May 2024 AGM followed by
Boston Manor Park Centenary, Janet McNamara

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 £2.00 contribution please. The Society's website is: www.bblhs.org.uk.

7 May 2024
The Commonwealth War Graves Commission and local War Grave sites, Julie Chandler

4 June 2024
Czech Refugees in Chislehurst and surrounding areas, Joanna Friel

2 July 2024
National Trust sites at Petts Wood and St John's Jerusalem, Nathalie Cohen

6 August 2024 via Zoom
TBC, Tudor Davis

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 only. Non-members are invited to join the Society.

16 May 2024
The Streets of Camden Town, Members of the Research Team

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 on the 3rd Wednesday of each month at the Irish Centre in Camden Square from 7pm.
email: maillist@camdennewtown.info; website: www.camdennewtown.info

15 May 2024
Kilburn Priory Past and Present, Paul Shaw

19 June 2024
Hatton Gardens, Chris Foster

City of London Archaeological Society

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 and an opportunity to socialise. Non-members are welcome to attend lectures but are asked to make a £3 contribution to expenses.

Also on Zoom, prior booking required. Contact via the website www.colas.org.uk; email: colas_outreach@yahoo.co.uk

17 May 2024
Excavations at Maritime Academy, Frindsbury, a new Palaeolithic site, Letty Ingrey, UCL

21 June 2024
Archaeologists on page, stage and screen, Signe Hoffos

19 July 2024
81 Newgate Street: the former GPO site revisited, Kathy Davidson, PCA

Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society

The Society holds a number of live events on a variety of topics at various locations and Zoom talks from October to April each year. Details can be found on their website at https://cnhss.co.uk/. The following live talks take place in the Small Hall at East Croydon United Reformed Church, 86 Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, CR0 5LP starting at 7.45pm unless otherwise stated.

Zoom talks for non-members require booking by emailing cnhss.info@gmail.com at least 24 hours before the lecture quoting any references shown below.

8 May 2024
Christopher Wren England's Leonardo, Bernard Winchester

10 June 2024 Zoom talk reference ZOOM BOMBMAPS VISITOR
Mapping the WW2 bombing of Surrey (and the V1s, and the crashed aircraft, and the mines and …, Martin Stilwell

26 June 2024
The lost story of South London's technological excellence, Alan Burkitt-Gray

17 July 2024
Annabel Dott: a tiresome lady architect and vicar's wife, Lynne Dixon

2 September 2024
Continental Drift, Martin Eales

25 September 2024
Overhill in Warlingham, the land, the house and its residents, Carole Roberts and Phil Swallow

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Edmonton Hundred Historical Society

Meetings are held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ, usually on the 3rd Wednesday of every month except August – occasional joint meetings with other societies may be on different days.

15 May 2024 at 8.00pm
TBA

The Eltham Society

Unless otherwise stated, all meetings take place at 7.00pm at the Woodcroft Club, Eltham High Street. Non-members £2.00.

Email: contact@theelthamsociety.org.uk website: www.theelthamsociety.org.uk

2 May 2024
Fanny Rollo Wilkinson: the first professional woman landscape architect, Lynne Dixon

6 June 2024
Historical VIPs to Eltham Palace, Barry Garner

4 July 2024
The Jewels of the Duchess of Windsor, Janie Romsey

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 includes:

- **Evening lectures (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 Spring 2024 and will be held at Conway Hall, Red Lion Square, WC1R 4RL, starting at 7pm. In case of last-minute changes in date or time please check on the website before travelling:

31 May 2024
TBA

28 June 2024
TBA

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 are either held at Jubilee Hall, 2 Parsonage Lane, Enfield EN2 0AJ (doors open at 7.30pm for an 8.00pm start) or online via Zoom (indicated below) - the link will be available on the society website www.enfarchsoc.org the day before.

10 May 2024
Roman and Bronze Age Finds in Walthamstow, Shane Maher

14 June 2024
Historic Building Myths, James Wright

13 September 2024
Whitechapel Excavations, Dougie Killock

Friends of Bruce Castle Museum and Park

Friends of Bruce Castle Evening talks usually take place on the last Wednesday of the month, 7.00pm for 7.30pm start. Munch and Listen talks are usually on the last Monday of the month, 12.00pm for 12.15pm start. Talks are free and open to all (tea/coffee is available for a small charge).
Please see website for details: https://www.brucecastle.org/whats-on/talks

Talks are generally a hybrid combination of actual and virtual, via Zoom link. Both actual and virtual attendance should be booked in advance unless otherwise stated. Details of the programme are available from the website: https://www.brucecastle.org/whats-on/talks or phone Bruce Castle Museum (020 8489 4250). Bruce Castle Museum, Lordship Lane, Tottenham, N17 8NU. Car park on site. (SATNAV for car park N17 7AA entrance on Church Lane).

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 £10) which helps the Friends to restore monuments, study the cemetery and attract visitors to Kensal Green. The following Special Events are bookable online (costs apply).

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.

22 May 2024 AGM followed by
House of Commons – "Stage Sets – Props – Symbols", Barry Hall

26 June 2024
Holborn and Little Italy, Diane Burstein

Hayes & 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, 2pm for a 2.15pm start. 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

21 May 2024
More Old Postcards of Hayes and West Middlesex, Paul Lang, postcard collector and local history author

17 September 2024
TBA

Hendon & District Archaeological Society

Lectures are held on Tuesdays in the Drawing Room, Avenue House, 17 East End Road, Finchley, N3 3QE, and start promptly at 8.00 pm, with coffee / tea afterwards (cash only). Non-members admission: £2. Buses 13, 125, 143, 326 & 460 pass nearby and Finchley Central station (Northern Line), is a 5-10 minute walk away. For further information see the website: www.hadas.org.uk.

14 May 2024
London's Roman Tools, Owen Humphries, MOLA Finds Specialist

11 June 2024 AGM followed by
Clay Pipes, Jacqui Pearce

12 September 2024
Beacon of the Past Hillforts Project, Wendy Morrison, Chilterns Heritage and Archaeology Partnership

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Hounslow and District History Society

Meetings from September to April are held in person are at Hounslow United Reform Church (114 Hanworth Road, Hounslow, on the corner of Chapel Road, TW3 1UF) on the last Tuesday of the month or on Zoom (see below), and commence at 7.30.pm. Non-members visiting are invited to pay £2.00 at the door. Non-members who wish to be added to the society's ZOOM log-in list for a particular talk should contact ajmarshall54@gmail.com

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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. Doors open 7.15pm (refreshments available for a small donation). For more information see the website at http://www.leytonhistorysociety.org.uk/events.html or contact Maureen Measure, email measure@btinternet.com.

15 May 2024 AGM followed by
Epping Forest through the ages, Georgina Green, Ilford Historical Society

19 June 2024
The Great Fire of London, Nick Dobson

17 July 2024
The Orient Way and Lea Valley Railway Line Crossing, Adrian Frost and Claire Weiss

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London Natural History Society

The LNHS Virtual Natural History Talk series will take place fortnightly at 7.00pm. All of the talks are free to everyone 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

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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. Buses 164 and 413 stop in Martin Way (in both directions) immediately outside. Parking in adjacent streets is free. Visits and tours are undertaken in the summer. For further information please contact the Honorary Secretary, Mrs Rosemary Turner, 27 Burley Close, London SW16 4QQ; **to book a visit/tour** email Bea at mhs@mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk.
Website: www.mertonhistoricalsociety.org.uk.

30 June 2024 at 12.00 noon
Visit to Wandsworth Prison Museum, led by Stewart McLaughlin, Curator

5 July 2024 at 11.30am
Visit to Merton Priory Chapter House, led by John Hawks

9 August 2024 at 11.00am
Tour of St Peter and St Paul Church and churchyard, Church Road, Mitcham

20 September 2024 at 2.00pm
Visit to St Bartholomew Church, West Smithfield, EC1A 9DS

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 the cost of tea and homemade cakes would be much appreciated.

For all enquiries, please contact Ruth Hibberd at: membership@norwoodsociety.co.uk
website: www.norwoodsociety.co.uk

16 May 2024
Annabel Dott: a tiresome lady architect and vicar's wife, Lynne Dixon

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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 (£2) but please check the website at www.odas.org.uk before attending in case of last-minute changes.

For further information please contact Michael Meekums or Janet Clayton (020 8302 1572).

1 May 2024
Witch Marks and other Apotropaic Symbols, Nathalie Cohen, National Trust Archaeologist

5 June 2024
Fine dining, quarrying and manufacturing at Whitechapel (medieval and later land use), Dougie Killock, Pre-Construct Archaeology

3 July 2024
Stamped Roman Timbers from London and elsewhere. Tracing evidence of economy and emperors, Dr Sadie Watson, UKRI Future Leaders Fellow, MOLA

21 July 2024 11.00am – 1.00pm and 2.00pm – 4.00pm
Romano British Bath House Open Day, Bellefield Road, St Mary Cray

4 September 2024
The Archbishops' Palace, Otford, Charles Shee, Trustee, Archbishops' Palace Conservation Trust

14-15 September 2024 2.00pm – 5.00pm (last entry 4.30pm)
Scadbury Moated Manor Excavation Open Weekend

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.

9 May 2024
Bletchley Park – People and Places, Peter Marcham

6 June 2024
Pinner's World War I VAD Hospital and its Nurses, Thamar MacIver

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Richmond Archaeological Society

Talks are now in person at the Richmond Library Annexe, Quadrant Rd, Richmond TW9 1DH, usually on the second Friday in the month. Doors open 7.30 for 8.00pm start. Some lectures will still be via Zoom (indicated below) and internet connections and the Zoom setup can be checked from 7.45pm, before the start. Members will be emailed by the treasurer and membership secretary, Stephen Alexander alexander.stephen@gmail.com in advance with the talk and link, if Zoom.

Non-members are welcomed and should email him before each lecture.

For information on how to join the online lectures please visit the website: www.richmondarchaeology.org.uk or email: richmond.archaeology@gmail.com

10 May 2024 (followed by AGM)
Syon Abbey revisited: reconstructing late medieval England's wealthiest nunnery, Bob Cowie, MOLA

Richmond Local History Society

Meetings are held on Mondays, if possible, at Duke Street Church, Richmond, TW9 1DH at 8.00pm. The venue is 5 minutes from Richmond Station and there is parking on Richmond Green Visitors £5.00. All talks are live streamed via Zoom – see website for joining details.
For further information email: membership@richmondhistory.org.uk website: http://www.richmondhistory.org.uk

13 May 2024 AGM followed by
The future of family, local and community history, Dr Nick Barrett

9 September 2024
London Street Food, Dr Peter Ross

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

29 May 2024
A Talk by Dorian Gerhold

26 June 2024 at 7.00pm
Ideals and Realities: A History of Council Housing, John Boughton

25 September 2024
The Wood that Built London, Chris Schuler

Ruislip, Northwood and Eastcote Local History Society

Meetings will be held on usually the third Tuesday of each month from September to April at 8.00 pm at St Martins Church Hall, High Street, Ruislip.

Visitors are welcome (**£3** admission).

We are also organising walks and outings for members during the summer months.

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

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Southgate District Civic Voice

www.southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org 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 (£5 admission including booking fee).

Visit the website for information on how to register for events. For further information visit our website: or email us on info@southgatedistrictcivicvoice.org

18 May 2024 at 2.30pm at Walker Hall AGM followed by
Dolly Shepherd: the Edwardian Lady Parachutist, Kirsten Forrest

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Southwark & 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.

No information currently available on website

Spelthorne Archaeology and Local History Group

Talks from September to May 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 and venue please check our website

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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

18 May 2024 – 11.00am
A Stroll Around Medieval Westminster, walk with Vic Keegan

5 July 2024 – 3.00pm and 4.00pm
Benjamin Franklin House, An Architectural Tour

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 (£4.00).

For further information please visit our website: www.botlhs.co.uk

13 May 2024 AGM followed by
A Postcard Tour of Central Twickenham, Alan Winter, BOTLHS

Uxbridge Local History and Archive Society

All meetings take place at Christ Church, Redford Way (off Belmont Road), Uxbridge, starting at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated below.

For further information please contact Mr K.R. Pearce, 29 Norton Road, Uxbridge UB8 2PT; website: www.eddiethecomputer.co.uk/history

21 May 2024
Prehistoric Uxbridge, Dr Samantha Brummage

18 June 2024 at 2.00pm
Visit to Church Gardens, Harefield, £15 per person including talk and refreshments

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Wandsworth Historical Society

Meetings held either via Zoom or at the Friends' Meeting House, Wandsworth High Street (opposite Town Hall) on the last Friday of the month at 8.00pm until 9.15pm – as indicated below.

Bookings for Zoom talks can be made by emailing:
whsevents@wandsworthhistory.org.uk.

Booking not required for live talks and all are free of charge.

For more information, visit the website: www.wandsworthhistory.org.uk

18 May – 9 June 2024
Wandsworth Heritage Festival 2024 – details of events can be found at:
https://www.wandsworth.gov.uk/leisure-and-culture/libraries/our-libraries/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. **Non-members £5.00.**

Full details can be found on our website www.whitechapelsociety.com and our Facebook page "The Whitechapel Society 1888".

1 June 2024
Francis Tumblety and the Railway Murders, Michael Hawley

3 August 2024
Michael Maybrick, Funny Little Games, Philip Davies

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

15 May 2024
The Mercenary River, Nick Higham

19 June 2024
AGM

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