

# The Basiliscoe Mercury

## The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Few stand-out stories this fortnight, but a few more museums open. Otherwise more Baltic wrecks, more woolly mammoths and, best of all, what they found in the attics of Oxburgh Hall.

### Arms and armour in the news

#### Beasts of assorted varieties...

Bronze Age children played with toy pigs

<https://www.thefirstnews.com/article/pulled-pork-archaeologists-hit-the-pig-time-after-digging-up-bronze-age-childrens-toy-pigs-14965>

Woolly mammoth found in Russia

<https://www.themoscowtimes.com/2020/08/25/oil-workers-stumble-upon-mammoth-remains-in-russias-arctic-a71238>

#### Ancient battles

Feature on the Battle of Actium

<https://www.historyextra.com/period/roman/battle-actium-31-bc-mark-antony-downfall/>

#### Grave stories

Some Yorkshire effigies and their history

<https://www.keighleynews.co.uk/news/18674492.bloody-family-history-written-rocks/>

Investigating Westminster Abbey

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/aug/23/lost-medieval-sacristy-uncovered-at-westminster-abbey>

#### Through the arrow-slit . . .

Rochester castle is falling down...

<https://www.kentononline.co.uk/medway/news/historic-castle-could-be-closed-for-weeks-232671/>

What they found under the floorboards at Oxburgh Hall - fascinating story!

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/17/restoration-of-norfolk-hall-uncovers-tudor-and-elizabethan-finds-oxburgh-hall>

Scottish castle for sale

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/08/16th-century-castle-sale-scotland/>

### **Cannons to the left, cannon to the right**

Roaring Meg and the siege of Worcester

<https://www.worcesternews.co.uk/news/18675593.siege-worcester-cannon-rained-death-says-richard-shaw/>

Windsor Castle east terrace opens for the season - you can see some very fine 18<sup>th</sup> century cannon there!

<https://www.rct.uk/event/east-terrace-garden-08-2020#/>

You can read about them here - worth the journey;

<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1LwSw9AsGmagbDTWJBqbX-pNi7TJ2LJJd/view> )

Cannon returns to upstate New York Community

[https://www.thedailynewsonline.com/news/local/vintage-cannons-returned-to-hlom/article\\_823fae30-781b-503e-8a24-91a46e19b003.html](https://www.thedailynewsonline.com/news/local/vintage-cannons-returned-to-hlom/article_823fae30-781b-503e-8a24-91a46e19b003.html)

### **Miscellany**

Finds including armour fragment and arrows found in excavations in the Kremlin

<https://sputniknews.com/science/202008141080172183-archaeologists-discover-belongings-of-moscow-elite-in-kremlin-dating-back-to-14th-century/>

Exploring 500 years of history underground in Safed

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/from-16th-century-well-to-48-war-centuries-of-history-unveiled-in-safed-639081>

Ideal home for self-isolating

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-hampshire-53838761/three-portsmouth-island-forts-go-on-sale-for-9m>

Exploring graffiti in the New Forest

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/aug/25/from-war-to-witch-marks-graffiti-carved-into-new-forest-trees>

### **Back to the front**

Battlefield in South Carolina from Revolutionary War found

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/archaeologists-locate-south-carolina-battlefield-where-patriot-john-laurens-died-180975626/>

1845 battle in Argentina investigated

<https://elpais.com/cultura/2020-08-21/en-busca-de-las-cadenas-olvidadas-de-la-ultima-gran-batalla-colonial-argentina.html>

## Café Basiliscoe

Wine windows for modern time of plague

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/wine-windows-florence-medieval-disease-180975517/>

Medieval shellfish stew from Jersey

<https://jerseyeveningpost.com/news/2020/08/17/archaeological-finds-shed-light-on-medieval-grouville/>

Washed down with Mesopotamian beer

<https://theconversation.com/brewing-mesopotamian-beer-brings-a-sip-of-this-vibrant-ancient-drinking-culture-back-to-life-142215>

## Nautical news

Origins of England's navy investigated

<https://phys.org/news/2020-08-medieval-texts-reveal-false-royal.html>

Latest finds from the 15<sup>th</sup> century Pandanan shipwreck site

<https://mb.com.ph/2020/08/24/natl-museum-unveils-rare-14th-century-chinese-bowl-in-virtual-series/>

Finnish team find Dutch *fluit* in the Baltic

<https://www.euronews.com/2020/08/21/a-400-year-old-ship-has-been-found-in-the-baltic-sea>

When HMS *Victory* re-opens, visitors can walk underneath

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-53728614>

C19 slows work on the Franklin expedition ships

<https://www.prpeak.com/covid-19-puts-brakes-on-further-exploration-of-franklin-wrecks-1.24187359>

## Museum news and exhibitions

### News

Singapore's war museum and other museums

<https://www.straitstimes.com/lifestyle/six-secret-museums-to-check-out>

International institutions to help culture damage in Beirut

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/beirut-museums-size-up-the-explosion-damage>

National Trust to drastically cut curators and openings

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/comment/national-trust-restructuring-plan-job-cuts>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/22/national-trust-denies-dumbing-down-in-drive-for-new-audiences>

## **New museums and re-openings**

Royal Armouries in Leeds announces re-opening dates

<https://www.leeds-live.co.uk/best-in-leeds/whats-on-news/royal-armouries-announces-reopening-date-18818615>

<https://royalarmouries.org/venue/royal-armouries-museum/>

Met re-opens

<https://artdaily.com/news/127685/The-Met-is-reopening--Grab-your-timed-ticket-and-view-Jacob-Lawrence>

## **Museum developments**

Online exhibitions from Historic Scotland

<https://www.historicenvironment.scot/archives-and-research/online-exhibitions/>

## **Museum musings - statues on the move again..**

British Museum's Hans Sloane bust moved

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/british-museum-sloane-bust>

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/aug/25/british-museum-boss-defends-moving-bust-of-slave-owning-founder>

Scotland and India and country houses

<https://www.nts.org.uk/stories/throwing-new-light-on-difficult-histories>

## **Conservation corner**

British Museum gets ready for re-opening

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/aug/18/british-museum-dusts-itself-down-as-163-day-closure-nears-end>

## **Objects**

High price for Napoleonic eagle

<https://artdaily.com/news/127618/Magnificent-Napoleonic-Eagle-fetches-almost-pound-50-000-at-Dix-Noonan-Webb>

## **Exhibitions**

Paintings from Royal collections to go to gallery for the duration

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/news/beirut-museums-size-up-the-explosion-damage>

Soldiers in WW2 at National Military Museum, Soesterberg, the Netherlands  
<https://artdaily.com/news/120924/Exhibition-shows-two-personal-stories-from-both-a-Canadian-and-a-German-soldier>

## Books

Matthew Moss; *The PIAT; Britain's anti-tank weapon of World War II*  
<https://ospreypublishing.com/store/military-history/upcoming-books/available-this-month/the-piat>

New book on Hapsburgs' homes  
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/review/habsburgs-house-collections>

## Events

### Diary Dates

ICOMAM conference – new dates  
Toledo, Spain  
17 – 21 May 2021  
[https://ejercito.defensa.gob.es/eventos/icomam\\_toledo\\_2021/](https://ejercito.defensa.gob.es/eventos/icomam_toledo_2021/)

### Sales Fairs and auctions

Fort Paull, Hull, sold and contents to be auctioned  
<https://www.yorkshirepost.co.uk/heritage-and-retro/retro/yorkshires-only-napoleonic-fort-has-been-sold-subject-contract-2950557>  
<https://www.the-saleroom.com/en-gb/auction-catalogues/gilbert-baitson/catalogue-id-ibqi10619?fbclid=IwAR0gUoJccaDbtccIGFAPIW7SMWDtabQFiUQZjSApAyzy-s-rSeDshiezkIDI>

23 Sep 2020 London  
Fine Antique Arms & Armour Including An Important Group Of British Firearms  
<https://www.bonhams.com/auctions/25976/#/>

25 Sept 2020 castle of Greiding  
From castles and palaces - selected art and works of art from antiquity to the 20<sup>th</sup> century  
<https://www.hermann-historica.de/en>

## Websites and downloads

Met's C19 series has now reached no19.... series of articles here:  
<https://us19.campaign-archive.com/home/?u=a84329d90ebce21b14f4a0c23&id=1891b1f9ee>

Open Doors month not sure how much will be open this year. Here's a selection of sites with opening times over September

<https://openhouselondon.org.uk/>

<http://www.medievalists.net/2019/09/medieval-sites-to-see-during-open-doors-festival-in-wales/>

<http://www.doorsopendays.org.uk/>

<https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

<http://www.europeanheritagedays.com/Home.aspx>

News from Paris

<https://www.musee-armee.fr/collections/ressources/le-magazine-du-musee.html>

1066 etc: Just 100 years war

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/08/bascot-mauleon/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2020/08/hundred-years-war-end/>

## **Finally**

This fortnight I enjoyed Matthew Champion's tweets on Oxburgh Hall, particularly a long sequence a few days back, under-the-floorboards, worth scrolling down for! [https://twitter.com/mjc\\_associates](https://twitter.com/mjc_associates)

<https://twitter.com/Basiliscoe>

## **Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 28 August 2020**

Some people have asked me about making a contribution to the Newsletter – if you would like to support us, you can make a donation here through our Paypal account – see here for details:

<http://www.basiliscoe.com/id2.html>