

The Basiliscoe Mercury 422

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

This newsletter has been delayed by on-going wrist issues and a week in Malta. Important stories are a Viking sword from the river, Shogun taking the world by storm and you can't move for treasure shipwrecks.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms

Sword pulled out of Oxford river

<https://metro.co.uk/2024/03/04/magnet-fisherman-pulls-a-1-200-year-old-viking-sword-a-river-20392223/>

Anglo-Saxon helmet turns up in garage sale (me neither...)

<https://www.the-sun.com/money/10583014/bought-football-helmet-garage-sale-million-piece/>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Medieval beasts

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/cn04rd314lro>

Through the gunloop...

Forts of Oman

<https://www.mei.edu/publications/many-lives-omans-forts>

Lost Civil War fort of Louisville

<https://loutoday.6amcity.com/city/fort-elstner-louisville-ky>

Looking back to Fiji's cannon in the 1980s

<https://www.fijitimes.com.fj/look-back-cannon-to-be-restored/>

Miscellany

Medieval "treasure" offered to the nation - and it's not even April 1....

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/mar/08/descendants-of-king-william-i-is-killer-keen-to-donate-triptych-depicting-death-to-british-museum>

Gunpowder explosion in 17th century Norwich

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/1648-rioting-explosion-caused-carnage-060000435.html>

Living in the past

Self-help book for jousters and anyone else....

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/03/new-medieval-books-leading-the-rebellion/>

Princesses and Amazons

Joan of Arc goes riding

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/03/joan-arc-horseback/>

Princesses lead the latest Netflix fantasy

<https://thefulcrum.ca/arts/review-damsel/>

Stained glass windows for Anne Boleyn up for sale, or maybe not

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2024/mar/10/fate-of-precious-henry-viii-stained-glass-in-dispute-as-haunted-house-auction-halted-at-last-minute>

Into the 20th century

Second world war plane propeller found in bog in Scotland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-glasgow-west-68591689>

Nautical news

Lost at sea 1379

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/03/infamous-military-campaign-1379/>

New search for the *Merchant Royal*

<https://greekreporter.com/2024/03/19/shipwreck-gold-uk-coast/>

Updates on two new protected wrecks on the English south coast

<https://uk.movies.yahoo.com/special-protection-remarkable-underwater-finds-040000434.html>

HMS *Tyger*, lost in the 1740s, found off the coast of Florida

<https://www.newsweek.com/wreck-warship-discovered-florida-archaeologists-1879675>

Feature on the *San Jose*

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/world/americas/shipwreck-treasure-colombia-san-jose-b2506790.html>

French ship found off Venezuela

<https://www.breakinglatest.news/world/the-largest-shipwreck-in-history-was-found-by-venezuelan-scientists-in-the-las-aves-archipelago/>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

Major museums attracting more visitors than before the pandemic
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/03/17/museum-visitor-numbers-recover-from-pandemic-related-falls>

But British visitor attractions not completely recovered
<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2024/mar/18/visitors-to-uk-attractions-increasing-but-still-below-pre-covid-levels>

New museums

New Holocaust Museum opens in Amsterdam
<https://artdaily.com/news/167301/With-a-new-Holocaust-museum--the-Netherlands-faces-its-past>

New museum for the US Navy Seals
<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2024/03/08/museum-contemporary-art-san-diego-navy-seal-museum>

Conservation corner

Feature on replica wheellocks and their makers
<https://www.artic.edu/events/5896/lock-stock-and-barrel-armin-konig-and-the-art-of-renaissance-gunsmithing>

Alchemy in medieval London
<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/03/alchemy-medieval-london/>

Objects

Feature on the development of the astrolabe
<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2024/mar/05/extraordinary-islamic-and-jewish-science-merge-in-11th-century-astrolabe>

Sword from Culloden up for sale
<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/ced02n47q7go>

And if you miss the sword, you can buy Bonnie Prince Charlie's hideout
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/clkm9dpxd4ko>

18th century pistol found hidden under brick in Charleston house
<https://www.aol.com/news/flintlock-style-pistol-found-basement-124310359.html>

Exhibitions

Commented [RB1]:

Celebrating 200 years of a Bath Institution with fascinating exhibits - including arms

<https://www.brlsi.org/whatson/the-world-revealed-exhibition/>

Running a palace at Kensington

<https://www.hrp.org.uk/kensington-palace/whats-on/untold-lives/#gs.63z8w1>

Japanese prints in Surrey

<https://artdaily.com/news/167628/Watts-Gallery-opens-an-exhibition-of-19th-century-Japanese-woodblock-prints>

Books

This month in Osprey

<https://www.ospreypublishing.com/uk/discover/available-this-month/>

Popular culture

How they did the special effects on Shogun

<https://www.gq-magazine.co.uk/article/shogun-episode-4-visual-effects-interview>

Which might inspire you to learn the art of sword drawing

<https://globalnews.ca/news/10363197/iaido-ancient-japanese-art-sword-drawing/>

Or to start dressing as a samurai

<https://www.japannakama.co.uk/samurai-inspired-luxury-fashion-a-modern-tribute-to-ancient-artistry/>

Events

Diary Dates

Easter in English Heritage

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/whats-on/family-events/>

Jousting in Leeds

<https://royalarmouries.org/leeds/whats-on/international-jousting-tournament>

Conferences

29 September - 4 October 2024 London & UK

ICOMAM conference

<https://icomam.mini.icom.museum/icomam-2018-conference/>

Sales

Online sale 26-27 March

<https://www.antonycribb.com/auction/details/2-spring-virtual-fine-antique-arms--armour-auction/?au=9&pn=2&g=1>

Websites and Downloads

1066 etc: Damascus, siege craft & crusaders

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/03/crusaders-siege-damascus-1129/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/03/medieval-siegecraft-crusader-vs-turkish-vs-mongol/>

<https://www.medievalists.net/2024/03/defeat-crusader-knights/>

Focus on Malta

Heritage Malta

<https://heritagemalta.mt/explore/>

Palace Armoury

<https://heritagemalta.mt/explore/grand-masters-palace/>

Dive sites

<https://heritagemalta.mt/departments/underwater-cultural-heritage-unit/>

<https://heritagemalta.mt/explore/hms-southwold/>

Publications

<https://heritagemalta.mt/store/>

Watch The Malta Story

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EhFB6WxmAwY>

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