

The Basiliscoe Mercury 442

The Internet newsletter for the arms and armour community

Some fascinating stories this week – a Roman helmet in Denmark and a dead Roman in Spain! Two stories on poisoned arrows and the Welsh heroine who defied the French invaders. And the *Tres Riches Heures* to go on a rare outing. And a downloadable book for Valentine's Day.

Arms and armour in the news

Ancient arms & fortifications

Studying Palaeolithic axes in Iraq

<https://phys.org/news/2025-01-historian-reveals-emotional-impact-white.html>

Investigating the graves of copper age warriors in Germany

<https://arkeonews.net/4500-year-old-three-warrior-graves-found-in-germany-one-still-wearing-an-arm-guard/>

Early tin-bronze knife recovered in China

<https://arkeonews.net/one-of-the-oldest-tin-bronze-knife-in-the-urasian-steppe-discovered-in-a-unique-bronze-age-cemetery-in-uygur-autonomous-region/>

Ancient Greek defensive wall found in Croatia

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/02/11/ancient-greek-defensive-wall-uneearthed-croatia/>

Update on the weapon cache found in Denmark last year - includes Roman helmet

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/02/roman-helmet-discovered-in-denmark/154442>

Viking sword pommel gets home in Lerwick museum

<https://www.shetlandtimes.co.uk/2025/01/28/viking-sword-pommel-from-fetlar-finds-a-home-in-shetland-museum>

More work on the origins of the Galloway hoard

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/archaeology/mystery-viking-treasure-galloway-hoard-scotland-b2694119.html>

Poisoned arrows - 1

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquity/article/evidence-of-the-intentional-use-of-black-henbane-hyoscyamus-niger-in-the-roman-netherlands/A06E000B17E1642C878E469157D5131C>

Poisoned arrows - 2

<https://theconversation.com/discovery-in-south-africa-holds-oldest-evidence-of-mixing-ingredients-to-make-arrow-poison-247250>

Has the hall of King Harold been identified?

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/01/archaeologists-find-lost-residence-of-king-harold/154399>

Beasts of assorted varieties...

Hunting mammoths

<https://phys.org/news/2025-01-dna-radiocarbon-analysis-insights-prehistoric.html>

Parts for an iron age chariot from Anglesey declared treasure trove

<https://artdaily.com/news/177726/Veterans-and-personnel-uncover-Iron-Age-treasures-at-RAF-airfield>

Grave stories

Bodies in the Thames...nothing new...

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/people-have-been-dumping-corpse-into-the-thames-since-at-least-the-bronze-age-study-finds>

investigating a Greek-era warrior tomb in Italy

<https://greekreporter.com/2025/02/08/tomb-warrior-campania-italy/>

DNA and women in Iron Age England

<https://arkeonews.net/beyond-roman-exaggerations-ancient-genomes-reveal-an-iron-age-society-centered-on-women-in-britain/>

Mystery of the murdered Roman soldier in Spain

<https://www.jpost.com/archaeology/archaeology-around-the-world/article-841460>

Latest blog from Gravedigger on Jemima Nicholas who stopped the French invasion of Wales - good read (and pictures of me!)

<https://grave-stories.com/>

Through the gunloop...

Update on Milan's tunnels

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/mysterious-tunnels-sketched-by-leonardo-da-vinci-in-1495-may-finally-have-been-discovered-hidden-under-a-castle-in-milan>

Research into Felixstowe's Martello Tower needed

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c99y15n0jp4o>

Bembridge Fort looking for volunteer guides

<https://uk.news.yahoo.com/chance-step-military-history-traverse-050000534.html>

Investigating Greece's modern defences

<https://www.ekathimerini.com/in-depth/society-in-depth/1260913/exploring-the-saronic-gulfs-modern-fortifications/>

Cannons to the left, cannon to the right

Short illustrated piece on the Cannon of Banastarim, Goa

<https://www.atlasobscura.com/places/canon-of-banastarim>

US Veterans group receive historic howitzer

<https://www.yahoo.com/news/veteran-group-receives-historic-cannon-231950069.html>

Living in the past

Documentary on modern jousts

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/02/documentary-knight-life/>

Trying medieval fighting for fitness

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/01/medieval-fitness-exercise/>

Café Basiliscoe

Taste of medieval Andalusia

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/01/lost-tastes-medieval-andalusian-cuisine/>

Dangers of drinking in medieval pubs

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/02/perils-medieval-pubs/>

Don't forget your beverage filter

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2025/02/rare-bronze-beverage-filter-discovered-in-hadrianopolis/154519>

Nautical news

How the disaster of the *White Ship* effected English history

<https://phys.org/news/2025-01-historian-reveals-emotional-impact-white.html>

Feature on the *Gribshunden*

<https://phys.org/news/2025-02-ancient-shipwreck-reveals-secrets-15th.html>

Museum news and exhibitions

News

National museum of Wales closes and then re-opens

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

Dorchester Military Museum forced to close because of unsafe roof

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/ckgyqvxl51o>

Bell stolen from Nottingham War Memorial

<https://www.bbc.com/news/articles/c627mjr6n87o>

Arrests by Dutch police on the museum thefts

<https://www.euronews.com/culture/2025/01/30/three-arrested-over-theft-of-ancient-romanian-helmet-from-dutch-museum>

New museums

Major new developments planned at the Louvre

<https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/01/28/louvre-seeks-1bn-restoration-unions-hit-back> <https://www.theartnewspaper.com/2025/01/28/emmanuel-macron-musee-louvre-renovations-expansion>

Conservation corner

Sword making in ancient Tamil Nadu

<https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/world/tamil-nadu-s-lost-legacy-the-ancient-iron-swords-that-shaped-history/vi-AA1yw14j>

Objects

Orkney receives gift of historic edged weapons

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/c3w87pp88z6o>

Rockets and weapons go on display in Nagpur, India

<https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/nagpur/exploring-maratha-arsenal-central-museum-unveils-unique-dagger-cum-pistol-historic-rockets/articleshow/118155858.cms>

How one family repatriated a Japanese sword - a very long but fascinating read

<https://www.outsideonline.com/culture/essays-culture/world-war-ii-japanese-sword/>

Exhibitions

Tres Riche Heures de Duc de Berry to go on show in Chantilly

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/01/tres-riches-heures-du-duc-de-berry-to-be-displayed-in-a-rare-landmark-exhibition/>

Online:

<https://les-tres-riches-heures.chateaudechantilly.fr/>

Website for the chateau

<https://chateaudechantilly.fr/en/>

Works from Ukraine galleries in Berlin

<https://artdaily.com/news/177849/Odesa-s-treasures-on-display--Berlin-exhibition-showcases-Ukrainian-art-saved-from-war>

Treasures of the Farnese in Rome

<https://artdaily.com/news/178164/Farnese-Family-treasures-return-to-Rome-for-a-blockbuster-holy-year-exhibition>

Books

Book on Nottingham's "explosive history"

<https://www.nottingham.ac.uk/news/17th-century-local-history-book>

Harvey J S Withers: ***The British Sword from 1600 to the Present Day: An Illustrated History***

https://www.militariahub.com/product/the-british-sword-from-1600-to-the-present-day/?fbclid=IwY2xjawIS_RhleHRuA2FibQIxMAABHQ1PWbtcw99SgfnrBtCKMf6v3m0C6O0ScBl0nsot6wBg78rgN9XIOTyh_A_aem_duDnHXrgZSF2YjmHLqcpzA

This month on Osprey

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

Online Book

Rosalind Brown-Grant & Mario Damen ***Pas d'armes and Late Medieval Chivalry: A Casebook*** (just intime for Valentine's day)

<https://www.liverpooluniversitypress.co.uk/doi/book/10.3828/9781835537664>

Events

9 March Southend

Discover the London: Southend's Time Capsule

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/discover-the-london-shipwreck-southends-time-capsule-tickets-1190587050919?aff=oddtcreator>

Sales, fairs and auctions

13 -25 March 2025 New York

Important Japanese Swords and Armour from the Paul L. Davidson Collection

<https://www.sothebys.com/en/buy/auction/2025/important-japanese-swords-and-armour-from-the-paul-l-davidson-collection?locale=en>

Websites and downloads: Medieval Romances

Pas d'arms and late medieval chivalry

<https://pasdames.org/>

Medieval love tips

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/02/medieval-love-hacks-romance-advice-from-the-distaff-gospels/>

Singalong to Peter Abelard

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/02/romance-music-peter-abelard/>

Adèle and Gilbert: a medieval romance

<https://www.medievalists.net/2023/02/new-medieval-books-adele-and-gilbert-a-ballad/>

Hungary's Order of the Dragon

<https://www.medievalists.net/2025/02/new-medieval-books-charter-of-the-order-of-the-dragon/>

Compiled by Ruth Rhynas Brown – 13 February 2024

Check out our publications

<http://www.basiliscoe.com>