

CITY OF LONDON ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRUST

ROSEMARY GREEN GRANT:

The Impact of Industrialisation on London Health

Report summary of project

The project team (Jelena Bekvalac, Gaynor Western and Mark Farmer) are delighted to have been awarded the Rosemary Green Grant in order to carry out the research investigating the impact of industrialisation on London health utilising modern imaging techniques.

Since meeting with the CoLAT panel on February 10th 2015 for the grant interview to answer questions in relation to the project, we were given the exciting news of having been successful with the grant application and awarded the Rosemary Green Grant. Subsequently since February there have been meetings with the panel, Tim Williams has been assigned as the project's CoLAT liaison/coordinator and email communications.

Revisions to the project plan were requested and a Gantt chart to detail the programme plan and timings. The revised plans and costings were done as requested and submitted via email to Tim for consideration and review.

- April 10th 2015 meeting with the panel to go through details of the grant and in particular with relation to the area of publication
- April 20th 2015 meeting at Mortimer Wheeler House with Tim Williams and MoLA to discuss future publication
- 8th July 2015 meeting with Tim Williams, Roy Stephenson and Jelena Bekvalac in reference to the funding and overall costings

Media

CoLAT and Museum of London Press release announcement 24th April 2015

John Schofield kindly sent a press release for use by London Archaeologist, SALON and the LAMAS Newsletter

At the time of the Press release in April Laura Mitchell was the Press Officer for the project, she has since left and there is now a new press officer (Laura Jackson) for the project. Laura at the time liaised with a number of journalists (Guardian, Times, Independent etc.) talking about the project for the Press release, there was a lot of interest in the project from the journalists and they were also keen to be kept informed of the project as it progressed. She felt that there were good opportunities for the future in releasing details and results from the project as it was able to advance.

The new media officer sent the links listed for media coverage which has come out so far on the project

- <http://www.londonlive.co.uk/news/2015-04-27/museum-of-london-to-examine-industrial-age-on-londoners>
- <http://www.culture24.org.uk/history-and-heritage/archaeology/art525239-archaeologists-to-reconsider-origins-of-industrial-era-obesity-and-cancer-by-scanning-museum-of-london-skeletons>
- <http://www.forbes.com/sites/kristinakilgrove/2015/05/20/industrial-revolution-caused-rise-cancer-obesity-arthritis/>
- <http://www.kcwtoday.co.uk/2015/06/20/the-museum-of-london-and-an-exciting-new-research-project/>
- <http://exploring-london.com/tag/museum-of-londons-centre-for-human-bioarcheology/>
- <http://deadmaidens.com/2015/06/19/skeletons-in-my-lifes-closet/>
- <http://thepositive.com/bare-bones-investigation/>
- <http://www.archaeology.org/news/3237-150424-london-industrial-diseases>
- <https://www.facebook.com/cancerantiquity/posts/362246163985912>

Jelena did a live studio interview 27th April 2015 talking about the project on London Live TV

Website

The website for the Centre for Human Bioarchaeology (CHB) and the Museum of London are currently undergoing being restructured and updated, unfortunately this has meant that at the present juncture the CHB is not able to have a dedicated page for the CoLAT funded project. However, once the work has been completed there will be a dedicated webpage for the project which can be updated with information and images accordingly. There is also a new media digital editor in the communications team and I will be liaising with them to get information about the project more visible once the new structure is in place.

CoLAT and Ossafreelance have webpages for the project

The new media digital editor is working now on creating a Facebook page about the project

A blog will also be posted

Jelena will be meeting with the new media officer and digital media officer to discuss the project and liaising with them to provide media updates to the project for the museum website, social media. There is also a new position of content digital officer and Jelena will meet with him in the next couple of weeks. He will be dealing with work based on the museum collections and he will be able to assist in putting web content for research projects, such as the Impact project within the new structured museum website to be launched next year.

Presentations

During the course of the last few months I have had the opportunity to speak at various societies, groups and conferences' enabling me to talk about the project highlighting that it is funded by CoLAT

- 19th May Barbican Group Society meeting

- 10th June Royal Holloway College – Medical Society
- 29th June invited to be a speaker at the Royal College of Physicians as part of the evening event ‘This calamitous year’: plague, doctors and death
- 7th July U3A Bookham Group
- 25th October London Month of the Dead, Brompton Cemetery

Work in Progress - Digital radiography of collections

The radiographic kit (Reveal Imaging Ltd) was set up in the rotunda store in the Museum of London in July for 15 days to begin the radiography of the post medieval collections. Radiography was completed for selected adult individuals from Chelsea Old Church (OCU00) and (BBP07) one of the two excavations that make up the Bow Baptist site. The other excavation for the Bow Baptist site (PAY05) was started and will be completed when the kit comes back to the museum in January 2016.

In September the radiographic kit was set up in Ossafreelance, Wisbech to radiograph the first phase of a post medieval churchyard at Holy Trinity, Stratford upon Avon, Warwickshire (P4442) that has now been reburied. The kit will go back in December to complete the final phase of Holy Trinity and in addition, skeletons from St. Andrew's, Worcester city (WCM101369) and the burial ground in Upton-on-Severn, Worcestershire (WSM43246).

We have been liaising with colleagues at Durham University in the Archaeology Department, with regard to the skeletal material that is curated at the university. We will be focussing on two post-medieval sites, namely Fewston, Yorkshire and Coach Lane, North Shields. Radiography is planned for April 2016 once full recording of Fewston has been completed. Due to a community project involving the Fewston collection, permission has had to be granted by this group in light of any other current projects in place so that there are no conflicts of interests. Jelena Bekvalac will be visiting Durham to examine the completed records in January/February 2016, to create a sample list for the radiographic analysis. Work is ongoing in the formulation and creation of the methodology statement for the project. It is envisaged that this will be completed by end of December prior to visiting Durham, so that a sampling strategy can be finalised with Professor Charlotte Roberts.

External hard drive purchased for the radiographic images

Liaising with Reveal Imaging Ltd for the next phases of the kit coming to the museum in 2016

Preparing submission of abstract (November 19th) for the 2016 Paleopathology Association meeting in Atlanta, USA

Invited to speak about the Impact project at the annual LAMAS (London and Middlesex Archaeological Society) conference March 19th 2016