

Mayor a draft strategy containing proposed policies with respect to culture, media and sport in Greater London. SCOLA made contact with the 'shadow' Group but was initially greatly disappointed when the appointments to the real Group included no-one with an identifiable interest in archaeology. However, there was still a vacancy, and this was in the gift of the Green Party. SCOLA is delighted that this slot has been filled by Mike Webber of the Thames Foreshore project.

A strong body that can speak for London's archaeological needs will continue to be necessary for three basic reasons. First, there is a continuing need to ensure that archaeology in its broadest sense is given due weight by those who govern London in the decisions they take on planning, culture and much else. The present arrangements seem to envisage that the principal responsibility for advice will fall on English Heritage. But will English Heritage have sufficient and sufficiently stable staff to do the job? Will English Heritage be able to keep in touch with the grass roots among local societies, for example? The need for a body identified with London to watch and lobby seems irrefutable.

Second, from time to time it will undoubtedly be necessary to question or support the actions and policies of English Heritage, archaeological contractors or the museums. To do this in an informed way requires a standing body that keeps in touch.

Third, there is a need to encourage professional archaeologists to remember their public. For exam-

ple, again and again it requires a deliberate effort to discover what the Dorsetshire Archaeological Trust found when they excavated on that site in Hounsney last month. It shouldn't do: they should tell us without being chased.

Down the years the Working Party had frequently been approached by the CBA with a request that it should transform itself into a Regional Group of the CBA but, in the absence of volunteers to fill the necessary officer posts, the suggestion never appealed, though for some time the Working Party had a seat on the executive of the CBA. Once upon a time there had been a London group (Group 10) but this had collapsed when Francis Celoria -- who had done all the work to keep it going -- left London. In the late 1980s, CBA made a direct attempt to re-establish a London Group but this did not succeed and London was divided between CBA Mid-Anglia and CBA South-East, the boundary lying along the Thames.

CBA has recently approached SCOLA, renewing its proposal for a London Group. Discussions are continuing, and wide consultation is planned; it is too soon to guess what the outcome will be. It is probably fair to say that the question is not at the top of either organisation's agenda, so don't hold your breath. CBA Regional Groups are probably better at the 'social side' than SCOLA (SCOLA has run several successful conferences, recently in association with CBA Groups, which have increased its individual membership, but sees them as incidental to its prime purpose), but are they so dedicated to monitoring and lobbying?

Excavations and post-excavation work

City of London. Museum of London Archaeology Service, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (020 7410 2200).

Croydon & District, processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Tuesday throughout the year. Archaeological reference collection of fabric types, domestic animal bones, clay tobacco pipes and glass ware also available for comparative work. Enquiries to Jim Davison, 28 Blenheim Park Road, South Croydon, CR2 6BB.

Greater London, by Museum of London Archaeology Service. Excavations and processing in all areas. General enquiries to MOLAS, Walker House, 87 Queen Victoria Street, London EC4V 4AB (020 7410 2200).

Borough of Greenwich. Cataloguing of excavated and other archaeological material, the majority from sites in the borough. For further information contact Greenwich Borough Museum, 232 Plumstead High Street, SE18 1JT (020 8855 3240).

Hammersmith & Fulham, by Fulham Archaeological Rescue

Group. Processing of material from the Borough. Tuesdays, 8.00 p.m.-10 p.m. at Fulham Palace, Bishop's Avenue, Fulham Palace Road, SW6. Contact Keith Whitehouse, 85 Rannoch Road, W6 9SX (020 7385 3723).

Kingston, by Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society (KUTAS). Processing and cataloguing of excavated and museum collections every Thursday (10 a.m.) at the North Kingston Centre, Richmond Road, Kingston upon Thames KT2 5PE. Enquiries 020 8546 5386.

Surrey, by Surrey County Archaeological Unit. Enquiries to Rob Poulton, Archaeological Unit Manager, Old Library Headquarters, 25 West Street, Dorking, RH4 1DE (01306 886 466).

Individual membership of the Council for British Archaeology includes 10 issues a year of British Archaeology, as well as the supplement CBA Briefing, which gives details of conferences, extra-mural courses, summer schools, training excavations and sites where volunteers are needed. The individual subscription rate of £20 p.a. includes postage; payment should be sent to C.B.A., Bowes Morrell House, 111 Walmgate, York, YO1 2UA (01904 671417).