

## London Archaeological Prize 2004

The winning publication, announced on 8th November, is *Investigating the maritime history of Rotherhithe*, by Kieron Heard with Damian Goodburn (MoLAS Archaeology Studies Series 11). This report on the excavation of a post-medieval ship-breaking site in Rotherhithe was commended for combining historical with archaeological evidence to produce a fascinating and readable account of what in the wrong hands could have been a rather tedious minor excavation. It also made serious contributions to the history of ship-building technology, a subject about which we still have much to learn.

The judging panel decided to make a runner-up award to *Lambeth unearthed: an archaeological history of Lambeth*, by Graham Gower with Kieron Tyler (MoLAS on behalf of SLAEC), which is reviewed in this issue (p. 307). This was thought to be a model of a 'popular' account of local archaeology, running from the deepest past to almost literally yesterday.

We hope that this competition will be repeated in 2006 for work published in 2004 and 2005. A similar competition, organised by LAMAS for local history publications, achieved nearly 30 entries, in contrast to the seven entries for the archaeological award (but publication in the last five years were eligible). We hope that this too will become a regular event

## Historical perspectives

The announcement by English Heritage of *Change and Creation* ([www.changeandcreation.org](http://www.changeandcreation.org)), a programme of debate and consultation about attitude towards the late-20th-century landscape, set me thinking about what we mean by 'heritage' and the historic environment. Clearly, even the very recent past *is* part of our past, and we need to think now about how we would like our landscapes to develop into the 21st century, just as museums collect contemporary artefacts to inform future generations.

Nevertheless this announcement, left me feeling uneasy. Another English Heritage venture, *Save our Streets* ([www.english-heritage.org.uk/](http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/)

saveourstreets), encourages us all to audit a street and report 'street clutter' to our local councillors. No doubt a worthy cause, but (i) is it 'heritage'? and (ii) it fails to address the main cause of street clutter, the motor car. Combine this with the view that history as taught in schools concentrates far too much on modern (20th-century) history, and we may be seeing a shortening of our collective historical perspectives. Or is it a natural change of gear as we enter the new millennium? Is English Heritage seeking to transform itself from a curating and educating organisation (expensive) to an environmental campaigning one (cheaper)?

## Happy anniversary

London & Middlesex Archaeological Society will celebrate its 150th anniversary in 2005 with a varied series of events: celebrity lectures, city and village walks, and conferences, culminating in the anniversary reception on 14 December (see *Diary*). A programme of events is being circulated to members; others can find details on the LAMAS website, [www.lamas.org.uk](http://www.lamas.org.uk).

## Welcome

We are pleased to welcome Becky Wallower to the Publication Committee as Secretary. She has been co-opted for the rest of this year, and we hope she will stand for election at the next AGM.

## Fieldwork Round-up 2004

Contributions to the *Fieldwork Round-up* for 2004 should be sent to Cath Maloney, Museum of London, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7EE. They should be modelled on the ones in the 2003 *Round-up*, and if possible should be sent in on a floppy disk as well as on paper.

## Advance notice

The Annual Lecture and Meeting of the London Archaeologist will be held at 7 p.m. on Monday 23 May at the Institute of Archaeology, 31-34 Gordon Square, London WC1. A formal announcement will be made in the next issue, but meanwhile please make a note in your diaries.