

Bursaries for participation in training excavations

The Standing Conference on London Archaeology (SCOLA) is offering two bursaries, each of £150, to young students who wish to go on a training excavation in 2005. Recipients will need to be at least 17 years of age by the time they start on the excavation, and will need to live or study within Greater London. Preference will be given to people under 21, and to people studying or having been accepted to study archaeology or a related subject. Successful applicants will need to secure their own place on the excavation, and the money will be paid to the organisers of the excavation.

Applications, with as much detail as possible, should be sent to Peter Pickering, Secretary of SCOLA, at 3 Westbury Road, Woodside Park, London N12 7NY, e-mail: pe.pickering@virgin.net, by 22nd April 2005. Teachers at schools and colleges, and those organising training excavations, are asked to draw this to the attention of any likely candidate.

Back the dig

The media hype about London's bid for the 2012 Olympic Games has focused attention on a neglected area of Greater London: the Lower Lea Valley. While not wishing to comment on merit of the bid as such, or on its potential for regeneration of the area, I would like to draw readers' attention to the considerable

archaeological potential of the area, particularly the possibility of buried prehistoric landscapes in the deep alluvial soils of the Lea Valley, and the industrial archaeological heritage of the area. MoLAS and PCA have joined forces to produce the archaeological and built heritage chapters of the Environmental Impact Assessment.

Another major project with archaeological implications is Crossrail – the proposed east-west rail route through central London. Concern has recently been expressed that the proposed enabling legislation appears to suspend ('disapply' in the legal jargon) legislation such as the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979 and the National Heritage Act 1983, as well as some aspects of planning law. It was therefore re-assuring to hear that MoLAS has carried out an extensive archaeological impact assessment, including the formulation of a mitigation strategy based on preservation by record and where appropriate *in situ*.

Saxons 1, Romans 0

This year's Annual Conference of London Archaeologists, held at the Museum of London on 19th March, included a vote for the 'Site or project making the greatest contribution to the archaeology of Greater London in the past 150 years'. Of the five short-listed sites/projects, the winner was the discovery of mid-Saxon *Lundenwic* in the 1980s, followed by the Spitalfields multi-period project and by the discovery of the *Mithraeum* in the 1950s.

Annual Lecture and Meeting

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. John Clark will speak on the history of the London and Middlesex Archaeological Society, which this year celebrates its 150th anniversary. Before the talk, the annual reports and accounts will be presented. The Proceedings will include the election of Officers, including a new Advertising

and Promotions Secretary to replace Roy Stephenson, who will stand down at the AGM, and the election of the Publication Committee of six Ordinary Members (there will be three vacancies to fill), whose nominations should be made to the Secretary, c/o 8 Woodview Crescent, Hildenborough, Tonbridge TN11 9HD. All are welcome to attend; subscribers are entitled to vote. Refreshments will be available from 6.30 p.m.