

Commentary

by Gromaticus

Congratulations all round

I must admit that I don't usually attend the biennial British Archaeological Awards, but this year I was invited to attend the ceremony at the British Museum on 10 November, as a short-listed candidate for the Lifetime Achievement Award. My surprise at the invitation was compounded by the announcement, at the end of an afternoon of increasing tension, that I had actually won the Award, the first time that it had been made by BAA. I had no idea until the moment of the announcement, and I was quite overwhelmed by the regard that colleagues across the profession have for me. It's a pity that the awards are only made every two years, as many worthy projects and individuals must slip through the net.

Congratulations are also due to our former Managing Editor, David Gaimster, who has been awarded *Fellowship of the Museums Association* (FMA), an honour in recognition of signal contribution, development and advanced individual achievement by people in all areas of museum work.

Publication grants

The Publication Committee has decided to make some of its funds available each year to enable authors to bring projects to successful publication. Grants will be administered by the City of London Archaeological Trust's existing scheme. The first three awards have been made for the monograph *London tin-glazed tiles*, the Occasional Paper *Liquid History: the archaeology of the Thames* and a report on the radiographic investigation of fracture healing in *Londinium*.

London Archaeological Prize 2008

To continue the celebratory theme, we report the outcomes of this year's competition. There were 15 entries: not only books but also magazine articles, showing a welcome trend towards works nominated by other than the author or publisher. A short list of seven included works of reference, site monographs, popular accounts, guide books, and detailed local studies. While

very welcome, this wide variety made the judges' task so difficult that two awards were made. The first prize went to Pamela Greenwood, Dominic Perring and Peter Rowsome for *From Ice Age to Essex – a history of the people and landscape of east London* (published by MoLAS), a well written and attractively illustrated popular account of the archaeology of this region. The second prize went to Jo Lyon for *Within these walls: Roman and medieval defences north of Newgate at the Merrill Lynch Financial Centre, City of London* (also published by MoLAS). We congratulate the short-listed authors on their efforts, and hope that the competition will be repeated in 2010.

Index for Volume 10

We have at last produced the index for Volume 10, which should be enclosed with this issue. If you did not subscribe to Volume 10, you can access it online at the Archaeology Data Service http://ads.ahds.ac.uk/catalogue/library/london_arch/.

Advance notice

The Annual Lecture and Meeting of the *London Archaeologist* will be held at 7 p.m. on Tuesday 19 May at the Institute of Archaeology, 31–34 Gordon Square, London WC1. A formal announcement will be made in the next issue, but please make a note in your diaries now.

Fieldwork Round-up 2008

Contributions to the *Fieldwork Round-up* for 2008 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 2007 *Round-up*, and should be sent on a CD or floppy disk as well as on paper.

Apology

We apologise for two errors in Graham Dawson's letter *Bermondsey Abbey precinct* (Vol. 12, no. 2, 39). The final sentence of the first column should end "there is no mention of tenements in Bermondsey Street", and the last sentence of the paragraph in the second column should end "but these may have been built against the precinct

wall, as buildings were built against the west precinct wall at its southern end".

Retirement

My recent retirement from UCL Institute of Archaeology may have confused some readers. I now have an honorary post there, and retain an office, phone and computer account, from which I run an advisory service on statistics for archaeologists, and continue to supervise students. The same address can therefore continue to be used for letters, emails, books for review, etc.

From the Membership Secretary

If a FREEPOST postcard falls out of this issue of *London Archaeologist*, please don't throw it away. It is about Gift Aid, and is an attempt to reach those subscribers with whom we have not been in contact recently. If you currently pay UK income or capital gains tax, and have not already done so, please fill in your name and address, and tick the appropriate **Gift Aid Declaration** to allow us to reclaim income tax on your subscription. You may return it as an open card, or write the Freepost address on an envelope if you prefer.

Hundreds of people have taken advantage of the special offer launched last March which saves £8 on joint membership of the **Council for British Archaeology** and *London Archaeologist*. The discounted price continues for both renewals and new members, so if you would like to take up the offer, or need more information, please contact me, Jo Udall (address on Contents page), as the special offer at current rates is only available through *London Archaeologist*, and only until the end of March 2009. The rates will rise on the CBA website in January. The offer is available with CBA Individual, Joint or Family membership. As well as becoming a member of the national CBA organisation, you can also join the new **CBA London Group** launched in 2008. If you are already a member of a CBA regional group, you can either switch to CBA London, or join CBA London as well as your current group for just an extra £5.