

Notes

Stonehenge

A £57 million scheme was announced in July for this World Heritage Site which will transform the ancient landscape, uniting it with Stonehenge, and dramatically improve access and enjoyment for millions of visitors from across the world. According to Sir Neil Cossons, Chairman of English Heritage, 'These funds are the key to reuniting an archaeological landscape rich with ceremonial monuments spanning over 10,000 years.' Further details of the plans proposed by English Heritage and the National Trust are on www.english-heritage.org.uk

Pilgrim Trust Conservation Awards 2002

The following projects have been shortlisted for the annual awards, sponsored by the Pilgrim Trust and organised by Resource (Council for Museums, Archives and Libraries) in partnership with English Heritage, the United Kingdom Institute for Conservation (UKIC) and the National Preservation Office:

Award for Conservation 2002 – £15,000

- **The Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester**
The Collections Centre was created to provide physical, intellectual and virtual access to collections of objects and archives previously held in stores, while maintaining high standards of conservation, care and management.
- **The National Portrait Gallery**
Twelve badly damaged prints, which could not be used or accessed, were conserved and their treatment was highlighted in the 2002 exhibition 'Changing Impressions: a print conservation project in focus'.
- **The National Trust**
Poor environmental conditions were eliminated at an 18th-century house, Nostell Priory in West Yorkshire, helped by computer technology, and the historic fabric of the building and collections of furniture and other treasures were conserved.
- **The Royal Navy Submarine Museum**
Severe corrosion to the Royal Navy's first submarine, *Holland 1*, built in 1901, was

A digital impression of the new visitor reception centre at Stonehenge, designed by Denton Corker Marshall. The building will blend seamlessly into the landscape and offer a range of interpretative exhibitions



Notes halted, extensive conservation work carried out and a specially-designed gallery constructed to display the finished vessel.

- **Strachey and Strachey Conservation**
The damaged stonework of the tower – including almost-obliterated decorative detail – at St Mary’s Church, Beaminster, Dorset, was repaired and restored, and the work was communicated to a local audience and to visitors.
- **The Wallace Collection**
An 18th-century marquetry secretaire by Jean-François Leleu was conserved and displayed in the 2001 exhibition ‘Paintings in Wood’, and the conservation process was communicated to the public.

Student Conservator of the Year Award – £10,000 (£5,000 each for the student and the training organisation)

- **Annie Hall, Royal College of Art/V&A Museum (MA Conservation)**
The project explored the ethical considerations necessary when conserving a spiritually significant collection of Tibetan religious sculpture housed in the V&A.
- **Kathryn Hallett, Royal College of Art/V&A Museum, with the British Museum (MA Conservation Science)**
The effect of UV-filtered light on the degradation of cellulose was determined and the information used to evaluate lighting in the British Museum’s Ethnography galleries.
- **Alexandra Jones, Institute of Archaeology, UCL (MSc in Conservation for Archaeology and Museums)**
A collection of Etruscan Bucchero ceramic vessels in the British Museum was investigated and conserved prior to academic study and publication – contributing to access and understanding of the objects.

Anna Plowden Trust Award for Research and Innovation in Conservation – £2,000

- **The Museum of London**
A cost-effective technique for measuring the air-exchange rate of display cases and storage enclosures was developed using tracer gas decay.
- **The Wallace Collection**
An important 18th-century secretaire by Jean-François Leleu was conserved using rehydration of glue, vacuum bag and heated

panel; a degraded shellac layer was removed by a gel system (see also above).

Lloyd Grossman, Chairman of the judging panel, noted the ‘extraordinary versatility of modern conservators’ and the importance of their success ‘in communicating the excitement of their work to a wider public.’

Presentation of Heritage Research

Awards in the first competition run jointly by the Royal Archaeological Institute and English Heritage to make heritage research more accessible to the public have been won by Dr Harold Mytum of the University of York and Liz Worth of the University of Leicester.

Dr Mytum, Senior Lecturer in Archaeology at York, and Liz Worth, who is studying for a PhD in archaeology, were among five researchers from across the UK shortlisted for the first Award for the Presentation of Heritage Research. The competition is designed to encourage the presentation to the wider public of new research on British archaeology, historic buildings and heritage conservation.

The two competitors claimed the top prizes – £1,500 for the open prize and £500 for the best entrant aged under 30 – after all the finalists had delivered 30-minute talks to a packed audience at this year’s British Association Festival of Science at the University of Leicester. Julian Richards, presenter of BBC TV’s ‘Meet the Ancestors’, chaired the panel of judges; the audience took part in the judging process.

Dr Mytum described his groundbreaking work at Castell Henllys, a 2,500-year-old Iron Age settlement on the Pembrokeshire coast. For 20 years he has been director of an archaeology field school at the site and has supervised ongoing digs and the reconstruction of period houses, allowing over 15,000 visitors each year to gain a vivid insight into life before the Romans arrived.

Liz Worth explored the many different and not always complementary approaches to the conservation and reconstruction of historic buildings. She demonstrated how buildings could change over periods of time to fit in not only with what the public and owners want but also with contemporary historians’ notions of display.

Dr Sebastian Payne, Head of English Heritage’s Centre for Archaeology and organiser of the competition said ‘... the winners succeeded so well in bringing their research vividly to life for non-specialists. We congratulate all the finalists

who have combined meticulous research with clear presentation.'

Other finalists in the competition were:

- Nathalie Cohen of the Museum of London who presented the Southwark Cathedral Archaeological Research Project that has compiled inventories of the building fabric of the Cathedral.
- Dr Robert Prescott of the University of St Andrews on the part played by a water mill in a Hampshire village in preserving evidence about the construction of the USS *Chesapeake*, a late-18th-century American warship.
- Dr Jim Williams of English Heritage's East Midlands Region on how construction can affect buried archaeology and how these effects can be kept to a minimum.

Archaeological Archives Forum

English Heritage in partnership with other organisations has announced the foundation of a new Archaeological Archives Forum to bring generations of invaluable research to a wider public. Kathy Perrin, responsible for archaeological archives policy at English Heritage, hopes the archives will be 'a source of exciting interactive learning and research for everyone, from schoolchildren to professors.'

The Forum plans to provide archaeological resource centres, digital access and training in post-excavation archiving. The Museum of London has provided a blueprint with the opening in February of its London Archaeological Archive and Research Centre (LAARC) in Mortimer Wheeler House. Further information can be found on the Forum web page on the Council for British Archaeology website at www.britarch.ac.uk/archives/index.html

Building in Context

English Historic Towns Forum (EHTF) is running six regional seminars between November and March to promote *Building in Context* (2001), published jointly by English Heritage and CABE. The seminars will encourage good contemporary design in sensitive environments, using the development control process. For more details and a booking form, visit www.ehtf.org.uk/events.asp or ring 0117 9750458.

Building conservation masterclasses

WEST DEAN COLLEGE

Near Chichester,
West Sussex

A collaboration in specialist training between West Dean College, English Heritage, and the Weald & Downland Open Air Museum, sponsored by the Radcliffe Trust

Courses for Autumn/Winter 2002-2003

Mortars for Repair and Conservation

BC 2D11, 8-10 October

Residential £345

Conservation and Repair of Architectural Metalwork

BC3D41, 5-8 November

Residential £515

Conservation Engineering

BC3D42, 3-6 December

Residential £515

Block Printing for Wallpapers

PCIP, 8-11 December

Residential £420 approx

Conservation Plans, CoBRA and Recording for Repair

BC3D43, 21-4 January 2003

Residential £515

Conservation of Masonry Ruins

BC3D44, 4-7 February 2003

Residential £515

Conservation and Repair of Plasters and Renders

BC3D45, 4-7 March 2003

Residential £515

For further information please contact the Building Conservation Masterclasses Coordinator: Tel 01243 818294 isabel.thurston@westdean.org.uk