

# Commentary

by GROMATICUS

## All change

THE LAST FEW MONTHS have seen hectic activity behind the scenes at *the London Archaeologist*. In March Malcolm Reader of Reporter Newspapers, our printers, wrote to us to say the Spring issue would be the last one he would be able to print, at least for some time. His works was to be closed for six months for re-equipping and re-training. Mr. Reader has managed the printing of our magazine since it was launched nearly 16 years ago, and it is appropriate here to thank him publicly. He has always put up with our late contributions, corrections and changes of plan, and perhaps more importantly, has printed *the L. A.* at a price you, the reader, could afford.

How good that price was soon became apparent when we started to get quotes from other printers – usually 50-150% higher than the old price. The only answer seemed to be to split the two jobs of typesetting and printing, and to do more of the work ourselves. The system we have worked out is that the text of the magazine will be typed onto a computer and, when checked and proof-read, sent on a floppy disk to our typesetters, Wordsmiths of Street, Somerset. When they have set the text photographically we will paste it up into pages and send it to our new printer, Trafford (Colour) Print of Doncaster. This may sound complicated – indeed, it is, but it does mean we can afford to continue production.

There are several implications for both readers and contributors, quite apart from the total reorganisation of the editorial side. Firstly, we believe that the quality of the printing will be much improved, and hope that this issue supports that claim. Some 'teething troubles' can be expected while we get used to the new methods, and we apologise for any in advance. They will be the editor's fault, not the

printer's. Secondly, we should at last be able to stick to our schedules (provided authors meet their deadlines) and publish when we say – i.e. in March, June, September and December. We are so far behind that we can't catch up all at once, but we hope to be on schedule by the end of the year.

The main implications for authors are (i) since the text has to be typed into the computer, it does not have to be received by us as typescript; legible handwriting will do, although if you can send in your article in computer-readable form we shall be delighted (but consult us before doing so), (ii) deadlines are now more important than ever, and articles may have to wait for the next issue if they do not come in on time. Notices of meetings and other events for the 'Diary' page need to be received at least five weeks before the publication date. e.g. by late January for the March (Spring) issue. To explain these changes we have produced a *Notes for Contributors* leaflet – please ask if you would like to have one.

The greater flexibility of the new printing arrangements and the approaching end of Volume 4 give us the opportunity to redesign *the London Archaeologist* if we wish. If you have any ideas for improvements please let us know as soon as possible.

Another change we must announce is the resignation of Beth Richardson, who has been Assistant Editor for eight years, making a valuable contribution to the production of 16 issues of the magazine. Her skill in helping to design these issues has contributed significantly to the success of the magazine, as well as to the sanity of the Editor. Thank you Beth for all your help. Her place will be taken by her colleague in the DUA Barbara Davis, who with her abilities in using a computer and in pasting-up is well qualified for the job. Welcome to the team.

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## A.G.M. of the London Archaeologist

THE FIFTEENTH A.G.M. of *the London Archaeologist* was held on 18 May in the Lecture Theatre of the Institute of Archaeology. The following officers were elected – Editor, Clive Orton; Assistant Editors, Barbara Davis and Rhoda Edwards; Secretary, Nesta Caiger; Advertising and Promotion, Betsey Kentish; Subscriptions, Shiela Broomfield; Managing Editor, Nicholas Fuentes – and the auditors were re-elected. Representatives to serve on the Publication Committee were elected

from the following bodies: Hendon & District Archaeological Society, Kent Archaeological Society, London Kiln Study Group, Shooters Hill Historical Society, Waltham Abbey Historical Society and Woolwich & District Antiquarian Society. The accounts showed a deficit on the year of about £80, but the recent price increase was not reflected in the accounts. Following the close of business, Peter Addyman spoke on the Jorvik Viking Centre.