

## London Archaeologist – 25 years ‘old’

THE EXCUSE for a celebration was not hard to justify, *London Archaeologist* was 25 years ‘Old’ with the publication of the Volume 7 number 4. Over 70 people attended the Silver Anniversary Lecture at the Institute of Archaeology, which was followed by an informal gathering over a glass or two of wine (provided by Andrew Selkirk) and a bite to eat (provided by numerous members of the Publication Committee).

The Lecture “From Roman Amphitheatre to Medieval Guildhall” by Nick Bateman of the Museum of London Archaeology Service, provided an up-to-the-minute insight into the archaeological evidence of the development of the Guildhall site. This is not the place for a detailed discussion of the results of the extensive excavation and analysis being carried out; perhaps a follow-on report will appear in a future edition of the *LA*.

The less formal part of the evening was enlivened by mercifully short speeches from past and current key players. Nick Fuentes, Managing Editor, looked back to the formation of the Publication Committee when a few like-minded individuals got together under the chairmanship of Ralph Merrifield in May 1968 with the aim of providing an independent magazine which could draw on the wide range of activities being undertaken by both local societies and professionals throughout the London region. The first edition with Nick Fuentes as editor – he claims he was shanghaied – appeared in Winter 1968, a surprisingly short time after the foundation meeting, which confirmed the Publication Committee’s opinion that there was an untapped source of material. By this time the enthusiasm of the subscribers was also evident as over 900 had handed over their money before the first issue hit the letterbox.

Andrew Selkirk, as one of the original Trustees, congratulated all members of the past and present Publication Committees for their achievement in maintaining the high standard of the *LA* over sometimes testing times.

Clive Orton, Editor from Summer 1976, looked forward to the next 25 years. The task of the editor is to ensure a flow of articles to fill the space available, maintaining a subject balance within the financial constraints of printing and mailing costs. Recent

changes in the organisation of archaeology in London and the impact of the recession created additional challenges in the last few years. Interest in using the magazine as a quick route to publication is gaining in popularity, and this augurs well for continued success.

Finally, the Silver Jubilee Cake was ceremonially ‘sectioned’.

Chris Broomfield, CEng, MIEE.

## Museums on the Victoria Line

THERE SEEMS to be no end to the flow of leaflets about various aspects of London’s museums coming from the London Museums Service. The latest, *Museums on the Victoria Line*, uses a new theme of accessibility as a way of selecting museums to visit. The fifteen museums listed here are all within easy walking distance of Victoria Line stations, from Brixton to Walthamstow, enabling several to be visited in a day. Some of London’s most famous museums and galleries are listed, but the leaflet also includes several of London’s more unusual museums such as the British Dental Association Museum, the Petrie Museum of Egyptian Archaeology and Michael Faraday’s Laboratory.

The leaflet was produced with financial support from the Victoria line and is available free from tourist information centres, libraries, arts venues and museums throughout London.

## Tudor Hunting Lodge restored

QUEEN ELIZABETH’S Hunting Lodge, in Ranger’s Road, Chingford, E4, is Britain’s last remaining Tudor hunting lodge. Owned by the Corporation of London, it has recently been restored using appropriate materials and building methods. Displays have been added depicting Tudor life, including a hunting feast and 16th century table ware.

## Claudius comes to Putney

TO CELEBRATE the 1950th anniversary of the Roman army’s invasion of Britain, and the possible crossing of the Thames at Putney by a flanking contingent, the ‘emperor’ Claudius and a contingent of legionaries from the Roman Army Research Group of London paraded outside Wandsworth Museum in Putney last November (see below). (Photo: Liz Shaw)

