

GILLIAN CLEGG 1940–2012: an appreciation

Jonathan Cotton and Alison Parnum

Readers of *London Archaeologist* will be saddened to hear of the passing of Gillian Clegg, who died in February after a long illness, characteristically cheerfully borne. Gill will probably be best remembered for her successful tenure as editor of the *LAMAS Transactions* between 1989 and 1999, during which time she delivered eleven volumes to the society's readership. This outstanding achievement led to her

winning the Ralph Merrifield Award for London archaeology in 2001.

Gill was the elder daughter of John Clegg, a freelance writer and photographer who specialised in freshwater biology. Some of her earliest memories were of Haslemere Educational Museum in Surrey, where he was curator between 1949 and 1962, and she was touched and delighted to be a special guest at the

re-launch of the museum a few years ago.

A long-term resident of Chiswick, Gill's interest in history led her to join the fledgling West London Archaeological Field Group, then based in Brentford and under the direction of Roy Canham and Alison Laws. Gill was an enthusiastic and active digger and latterly WLAFG's Secretary. She brought with her a range of skills as a writer and professional magazine editor, and it wasn't long before these were put to good use.

For Gill was a dab hand at producing and editing exhibition text and was never afraid to ask those tricky questions: are you *sure* you want to say this? And what does *that* mean? She went on to collaborate on a short book dealing with the archaeology of Hillingdon, before branching out to produce a string of titles of her own – and all this while editing *Transactions*, and the *Journal of the Brentford and Chiswick Local History Society*! Latterly she was a devoted volunteer archivist of the Chiswick House and Gardens Trust but, sadly, was unaware of English Heritage's decision to stock her latest book *Chiswick House and Gardens: A History* in their Chiswick House book shop at the time of her death.

She retained her youthful *joie de vivre* and inquisitiveness to the end, was ever keen to hear the latest gossip, and was always researching her next project. She had the happy knack of making and keeping friendships too, and her funeral was attended by a huge number of friends including girls she had been at boarding school with. Her vibrant personality and many publications will stand as lasting testimonials to a life well-lived. Our thoughts are with her husband Patrick McHugh and family at this difficult time.

Jonathan Cotton and Alison Parnum wish to thank Carolyn Hammond and Janet McNamara for sharing their memories of Gill.

