

SUMMER 2020

Volume 16 Number 1 £4.50

# London Archaeologist

WEST END GREEN, WESTMINSTER IN THE 17TH–19TH CENTURY

AN INSCRIBED ROMAN BRICK FROM WESTMINSTER

PRE-ROMAN LANDSCAPE AT THE WALBROOK

THE FUTURE OF GREENWICH PARK

OLDER LONDONERS' PROJECT

THE THAMES AT WAR



## Alastair Ainsworth (1947–2020)

It is with great sadness that we have to report the death of Alastair Ainsworth, Treasurer of *London Archaeologist*. He died suddenly of cancer in May at the age of 72. During his professional career he worked as an accountant and company secretary and was an Associate of the Chartered Institute of Management Accountants. When he moved from Uxbridge to Newport in Shropshire, he was still able to attend the LA quarterly Publication Committee meetings while staying with his sister who still lives in Ruislip.

He took early retirement to pursue his real passion for archaeology and having studied archaeology at Exeter, he chose to assist various archaeological societies – as erstwhile Treasurer to the Prehistoric Society from 2002–2011 as well as serving as Treasurer of the Devon Archaeological Society. He came to *London Archaeologist* as a result of a plea for assistance in Gromaticus in the winter 2006–7 issue. The single post of Treasurer and Membership Secretary was divided into two: Alastair was elected to the Treasurer post at the AGM in May 2007, with Jo Udall becoming Membership Secretary.

Upon his appointment he guided LA through changes to charity law (for example, the concentration on public benefit), and revised the financial reporting and the organisation of the accounts. He was very experienced in the ways of the Charity Commission, assuring the Committee of the Association's legal position and status. The healthy state of finances is largely down to his advice on gift aid, and then the investment of what was once a fairly small surplus.

As a member of the Publications Committee, he contributed various book reviews stating modestly in one that he was a 'general reader with an interest in archaeology' but he was more than – he was especially interested in the Iron Age and spent much of his time investigating Iron Age hillforts. He was not only conscientious, resourceful, helpful and thoroughly professional but was also happy to pitch in with LA activities – members may remember him assisting Jo Udall on the LA stand at various events, most recently at the LA@50 Conference in 2018, and he was very supportive of the publication of the conference proceedings, now published.

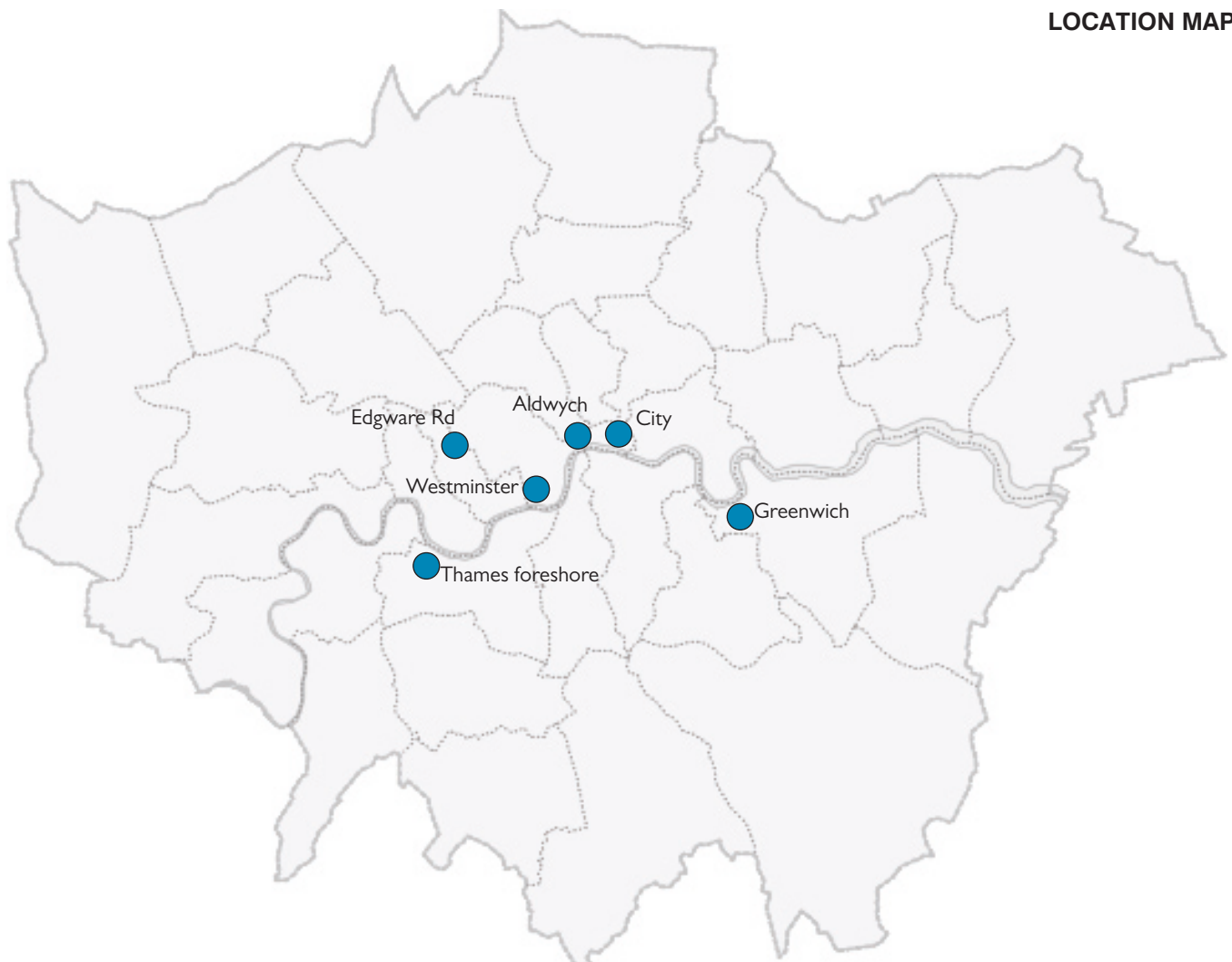
Unassuming and self-effacing, he often said that he preferred to say as little as possible at AGMs or Committee meetings as he thought people weren't that interested in accounts but without his knowledge and skill, LA would not be as financially healthy as it is today. We have a lot to thank him for, and his expertise and cheerful manner will be much missed.

Becky Wallower and Jenny Hall



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### LOCATION MAP



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**ISSN number**

0024-5984

**SUBSCRIPTIONS**

For four issues per year:

£16 post free UK and EU

£12 under 25s UK and EU

£25 rest of world

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**London Archaeologist**

is published quarterly by

The London Archaeologist Association

17 Cholmley Gardens

London NW6 1UP

**Registered charity number 262851**

**Printed by**

Charlesworth Press

Wakefield, WF2 9LP

**Website**

Visit our website:

[www.londonarchaeologist.org.uk](http://www.londonarchaeologist.org.uk)

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The waterlogged pair of Roman leather briefs, along with a long wooden ladder were found in a deep well of Flavian or earlier date, in Queen Street in 1955. Both were in a remarkable state of preservation. The wood-lined well cut through the terrace gravel into the London Clay below (see **Tony Taylor, this issue, 9**).

When found, the soft goatskin leather briefs were unique in the Roman world, but London now has several other, more fragmentary, examples. Thought to have been worn by a young teenage girl, they would have been tied at both hips, similar to the modern bikini. Pictorial representations indicate that such a garment may have been worn by an acrobat.

Currently on display in the Roman Gallery of the Museum of London, it is to be hoped that they will also be important features in the galleries of the new Museum of London (see **Gromaticus**).

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