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EDITORIAL

The principal reason for the long delay in the appearance of this issue has been a change in editorship. Peter Topping, editor since Nag News days, has felt impelled to give up the post to concentrate on the duties of his new job with the Royal Commission on Ancient Monuments and on his new marriage. We are sure all NAG members will want to join us in extending our thanks to Peter for all his past services and our best wishes for the future.

There is now a editorial team : Colin Burgess, Margaret Maddison and Paul Sellers, who is in charge of production. And therein lies the second reason for the belated appearance of this issue, for circumstances have forced us to change production methods for the second number running. There have been the inevitable teething problems, but we hope that there have been ironed out, and that we shall be able to concentrate on producing an even better-looking Northern Archaeology. The next volume will be a bumper issue to bring us up to date - by Ann MacSween, on the Iron Age of Skye.

Our editorial policy remains much the same - 'Northern' as used in our title can mean 'Northern England' or even 'northern hemisphere' if the paper is worth publishing. We want to publish more regularly and on time, and to this end will have to seek material more actively. We particularly welcome contributions from NAG members, and are therefore delighted to include in this issue John Davies' paper on the Northumberland Mesolithic - including, we think, the first map of Mesolithic Northumberland ever published.

Another aim is to ensure an ever-wider distribution for Northern Archaeology, if only because limited distributions deter contributors. We already circulate widely to institutions in this country and in the USA (Harvard College and Cornell University Libraries), and our intention is to ensure that students and readers wherever they may be, are not far from a run of Northern Archaeology.

We have not hitherto included reviews, but plan to do so in the future. Humour we have always had, and will bully Peter Topping into supplying more of his brilliant cartoons. We would also like to see readers' letters, whether or not for publication. So can we start a hare ? Mutterings have been heard that the Northumberland Archaeological Group (NAG) should become the Northumberland Archaeological Society (presumably NASTY) in keeping with its burgeoning role and responsibilities - and bearing in mind that there are other NAGs in the region. What do you think ?

Colin Burgess
Margaret Maddison
Paul Sellers

Department of Adult Education, The University, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 7RU