

Editorial

Thank you all for your response to my 'holding the fort'. Being an editor is one of those 'tightrope walking' jobs; an editor has to keep an objective view, has to stand apart and look at the whole - but also has to be involved enough to stimulate a response from as many as possible; to know who has expert knowledge of a particular aspect and to whom to turn when a crisis occurs! It has also a very mechanical side; an editor has to be a very methodical person, you can't afford to miss details. One job is to count words to fit pages and you can almost bet your bottom dollar that the mind will drift slightly just as you get to the line before the end, so that you have to begin again!

I've looked back fairly carefully at all the previous issues and I've come to the conclusion that we are accumulating a very fine mass of material. There is a great deal of variety, many aspects are being explored; but many more are awaiting examination. I think some of you are hesitant to come forward, but I assure you there is no need to be shy, we are all friends united in a common cause and there is as much room for simple anecdote as there is for learned discourse.

Of the latter, we have in this issue the erudite example of Dr. Blench's exploration of 'the spirit of place', in this case the place being Norfolk. We have also the splendid co-operative venture of John Millar and David Stokes going walkabout in Georgeham. Peter Robins refers us to the fiftieth anniversary of T.E. Lawrence's death - an event which was on the whole ignored by the media. Eric Starr leaps to our defence, whilst John Millar takes us down memory lane - in the first of a series of four articles.

I know there is a long gap between when you send in a contribution and, if accepted, its appearance in print. If it doesn't appear in the next Issue of the Journal, that doesn't mean it has been rejected or has less merit than those that do appear - it is purely a question of space and balance of content - so don't be discouraged. This Issue was so tightly packed that several items have had to be held over, but they will appear in due course.

It would be a great saving in time and postage if, when you send in a contribution, you included a short biographical paragraph suitable for the 'Notes' section. And can I also make a plea for some artwork, please? Peter Rothwell has done a splendid job for us to date, and we are very grateful, Peter, but I am sure there are some artists out there who could offer a little something in the way of a sketch - or two? Again, you don't have to be a professional. We do need artwork - apart from the fact that it enhances and 'lifts' the text - it is very useful to fill in those awkward little gaps between articles!

Anne Williamson