

Andrew moved from North London to Kew just over a year ago to be nearer his grandchildren and has become a member of RAS. He has spent 53 happy years editing *Current Archaeology*, so thinks he has a good idea about what happens in archaeology, an enthusiasm which began as a schoolboy going on digs, including trips to Greece. In the early days only three universities were teaching archaeology: Cambridge, Edinburgh and Cardiff, plus the Institute of Archaeology in London for graduates. Andrew thought there was no future in archaeology and did not want to be an academic or civil servant, so decided to train as a chartered accountant. The Chartered Accountants students society produced a magazine of which he became editor, which was fun. So what about a magazine about archaeology? He told a girlfriend about it and suggested she could be his co-editor. When she said "Will we get married?", he thought, well, she would be a good co-editor, so six months later they were married (she is now a super-gran); six months later they launched the magazine. The only opposition at the time was an "Archaeological Newsletter" which was failing and for the last three years had only come out once a year. So the way was open for another magazine. Andrew had to study the technical processes involved, but his new wife had a friend married to the publisher of Shire Publications and through him they found a print block maker and designer. The first *Current Archaeology* came out in March 1967 and looked good and professional, plus the contents were not bad!

The late 1960s and early 1970s were a golden age of archaeology: Winchester was being dug by Martin Biddle, Barry Cunliffe was finding the Roman Palace at Fishbourne, the Roman baths, Portchester and the Iron Age hillfort at Danebury, Geoffrey Wainwright was digging Stonehenge and Durrington

Walls plus Marden and Mount Pleasant, and, funded by the Observer, Leslie Alcock was searching for Camelot at South Cadbury Hillfort.

From the 100th issue, the magazine went into colour - the price of printing has actually fallen. From the 120th issue the quarto size became A4, and from issue 200 they were appearing six times a year. It was going well, but what next? You can't stop a magazine when you retire, you need a successor. The answer: nepotism! His son Robert! Although taken on many digs when young, Robert has not been converted to archaeology, but working with his University radio network he found he liked organising things, so was offered the "producing" of the magazine, while Andrew would do the editing and the archaeology. Robert next suggested a World Archaeology magazine, and a company, Current Publishing, was set up for the two magazines. *Current World Archaeology* was launched with 5000 copies distributed for free. By the second issue they had 1000 subscribers and at 5000 subscribers they were financially viable. With offices in Chiswick, next to Fullers Brewery, they employ 20 people, and Robert thrives on it. He next suggested the "fashionable" subject of military history. For editor, they thought of Neil Faulkner. Andrew drove to Sedgeford, Norfolk where Neil manages a community dig. He introduced himself and asked for a tour, which went on till 8 pm in the evening. They got on well, and Neil liked the idea of a military history magazine. And now they are planning a fourth: *Minerva*, a magazine on art history and archaeology, was founded in America in 1980 by Jerry Eisenberg, who runs an art gallery. The magazine didn't go well and he was losing money. He sold it to Christian Levett, an antique dealer who specialises in armour, but he decided to set up a museum near Cannes in the South of

France and the magazine was neglected. Andrew met him at a conference and was asked if he would like to buy the magazine. He consulted Robert, who bought it. This latest acquisition is still finding its feet. And they are moving into the American market with their magazines.

In the later 20th century the Rescue movement came about because archaeology was being destroyed in the towns. Archaeologists such as Philip Crummy at Colchester and Peter Adelman at York were digging in the towns: Peter had the idea of Yorvik to preserve what was found in the dig. The Manpower Services Commission was putting young people in work and they were particularly used at Piercebridge, finding the foundations of the Roman bridge over the river, also at Whithorn, but Post Excavation was not covered by the scheme. Then along came the Big Units, e.g. Wessex, who employ more than 300 people, and Oxford Archaeology, and the introduction of PPG16: if developers want planning permission, they must pay for archaeology to be done first. Now there are new problems: Andrew used to go round digs in his camper van; now he must book in advance and be escorted. Archaeologists used to be enthusiastic about getting articles in *Current Archaeology*. Now they have to influence the planners so they need to get articles in the local newspaper. So now *Current Archaeology* and local archaeological societies are not invited to digs. Big societies like the National Trust are doing well, but times are hard for local societies. When Andrew lived in Hampstead he belonged to HADAS and was Chairman for 14 years.

The remit for charities has changed - are they now only for public benefit? So many societies try to attract young people and not the older generation, who are most of their members.

Current Archaeology runs the popular *Archaeology Live!* Conference at Senate

House in London each year, held in February to liven up a dull month.

Now Andrew has to decide what to do with the rest of his retirement. Write a history of the world? It would have to include Ancient Egypt, the Minoans, Ancient China and Greece and Rome.

His website: www.civilization.org.uk

Yvonne Masson

