

EDITORIAL

Dear Founder Members, welcome to the first issue of our new Journal!

This first issue is bound to be somewhat experimental in both content and format, for the Journal can and should evolve according to the needs of the Society. 'Journal' sounds a rather grand title for a relatively small Society to adopt but it is the term often used to distinguish a permanent record of articles from the more ephemeral contents of a Newsletter.

The Journal will be annual and its principal function will be to further the objectives of the Society. These are set out in the constitution and in summary are:

- to study the local history of this area
- to publish the results.

The Journal can therefore carry a wide range of topics covering all periods.

The most important point to make is that the contents must be contributed by members. The editor will supply some material but is not going to fill each issue – no contributions, no Journal! Local history is not confined to the distant past, even yesterday is now history and the sooner changes are recorded the better, before the evidence is lost. Old photos, for instance, remind us of how much can change in just a few short years. So there is plenty of scope for everyone to make a contribution – you don't have to be able to read medieval latin.

Perhaps the only requirement is that contributions should normally make clear the sources of the information given. These may be documents, things actually seen and remembered – or what your grandmother told you (whether correctly or not). The need is not so much to get it 'right' as to prevent rumour masquerading as fact. In science much is achieved by putting forward ideas which are later modified by new information, and local history can proceed in the same way.

In this sense, articles are never 'finished'; something more can always be said after further study, or by someone else with a different perspective, in this issue some of the articles really do represent 'work in progress': the promise of more to come later is not just a device to persuade you to renew your membership!

If friends and neighbours show an interest in your copy of the Journal, don't go to the trouble of photocopying it (which would in any case infringe our copyright) but get them to part with £5 and become a member for 1997/8 – before the spare copies run out.

Contributions for next year – letters, ideas and articles – to the editor, please.