EDITORIAL

At long last we have the second issue of the revamped ARA NEWS, and again it is somewhat late. My apologies for this – some of the recent delays are down to your Editor doing his ‘day job’ as Don Flear euphemistically terms it! However, it is now published, and I hope that you can all find something to interest and amuse.

It has been a bad year in many ways for your Board and other members in Honorary positions and this has contributed in no small measure to some of the inevitable delays. It was a very great shock to lose our Honorary Membership List Secretary, Sue Jones, in the early part of the year. She was so much a part of our tours and a very welcoming personality. Her obituary appears on page 3, together with that for Professor Thied, whom many of you may have met.

There is an Advance Announcement in respect of the 2006 Summer Weekend Tour, linked with the Annual Dinner. If you wish to attend then please advise your interest and book the dates in your 2006 Diary.

Don Flear (now ex-Hon. Treasurer), has detailed the main points to last year’s accounts. The Hon. Treasurer-ship is a very onerous task and we owe a debt of gratitude to Don for his work in guiding the financial work of the Association since its inception. I am also very happy to say that I think the Association has come up with a worthy successor in David Evans – just ensure we don’t work him too hard and wear him out too soon!

Following our last edition, many members have contributed by e-mail and letter and I have used most of the information and pictures supplied. Those of you who are perhaps a little shy can see the type of material being supplied, so now you have no excuse – get writing and snapping. I have a few promises for the next issue, but much more material is required. For contact details see the box on page 2. If you sent me an e-mail and I have not replied, please accept my apologies – I had a technical hiatus earlier in the year and some information was inadvertently wiped from the system – it was called ‘Housekeeping’ and I was never very good at it! If you do send material by e-mail it is always sensible to back it up with a hard copy via ‘snail mail’, it’s not dead yet.

Two members have contributed ‘a plea’ on behalf of projects they are involved with – Stuart Bailey on the Jewry Wall at Leicester and Rebecca Newman on a Roman database project. Please offer them your support; ultimately it will aid the ARA’s profile in archaeological circles and raise the awareness of Roman archaeology in general. We have a Crossword in this issue – courtesy of member Mr. Ronald Pearce; I’m not sure how difficult it is, as I’ve not yet had the opportunity to attempt it. There are a number of other amusing items ranging from poetry to a caption contest.

Our feature article in this issue is by Don Flear, on the Hardknott Roman fort, obviously a site dear to him. If you’ve not yet visited, then this will certainly now encourage you to make the effort, if only for the stunning views.

If you have tried to access our web site recently, you’ll have discovered that it has been taken off line. We are currently in the process of creating a new, more dynamic site, which we anticipate will go live in the early part of 2006. We will advise you of the new web address as soon as practicable.

We have the usual ‘Round-Up’ article – smaller items culled from newspapers or magazines, ably prepared by our Hon. Archivist, Anthony Beeson. Some of these gems can herald the finding of very important sites.

There are still some ‘All Occasions Cards’ for sale. These are unlikely to be repeated, so get in your orders before they all go – one has already sold out. For the newer members, we consider they are value for money.

Finally, our long-standing member, Pat Witts, has had her book on Roman Mosaics published by Tempus, who have kindly offered members a reduction of £2.00 per book on the published price, plus free postage and packing. To avail yourself of this bargain, check out the order form on page 24 – you should be able to purchase in time for Christmas.

Enjoy your magazine.

David Gollins,
Editor.
THE ROMAN CENTURION’S SONG

Roman Occupation of Britain, AD 300

Legate, I had the news last night – my cohort ordered home
By ship to Portus Itius and thence by road to Rome.
I’ve marched the companies aboard, the arms are stowed below:
Now let another take my sword. Command me not to go!

I’ve served in Britain forty years, from Vectis to the Wall,
I have none other home than this, nor any life at all.
Last night I did not understand, but, now the hour draws near
That calls me to my native land, I feel that land is here.

Here where men say my name was made, here where my work
was done;
Here where my dearest dead are laid – my wife – my wife and son;
Here where time, custom, grief and toil, age, memory, service, love,
Have rooted me in British soil. Ah, how can I remove?

For me this land, that sea, these airs, those folk and fields suffice.
What purple Southern pomp can match our changeful Northern skies,
Black with December snows unshed or pearled with August haze –
The clanging arch of steel-grey March, or June’s long-lighted days?

You’ll follow widening Rhodanus till vine and olive lean
Aslant before the sunny breeze that sweeps Nemausus clean
To Arelate’s triple gate; but let me linger on,
Here where our stiff-necked British oaks confront Euroclydon!

You’ll take the old Aurelian Road through shore-descending pines
Where, blue as any peacock’s neck, the Tyrrhen Ocean shines.
You’ll go where laurel crowns are won, but – will you e’er forget
The scent of hawthorn in the sun, or bracken in the wet?

Let me work here for Britain’s sake – at any task you will –
A marsh to drain, a road to make or native troops to drill.
Some Western camp (I know the Pict) or granite Border keep,
Mid seas of heather derelict, where our old messmates sleep.

Legate, I come to you in tears – My cohort ordered home!
I’ve served in Britain forty years. What should I do in Rome?
Here is my heart, my soul, my mind – the only life I know.
I cannot leave it all behind. Command me not to go!

Rudyard Kipling
Sue Jones: 1953 – 2005
Trustee and Membership Secretary to The Association for Roman Archaeology

Remaining resilient to the end and steadfastly determined to make the most of her life, Sue Jones, the Association’s Membership Secretary, lost her two year fight against cancer on the 18th April. Sue was a stalwart member of the Association, being with us through our early days as a Friend of the Roman Research Trust and she enthusiastically supported the change when that body was reconstituted as The Association for Roman Archaeology in 1996. Sue had a great interest in all things Roman and travelled extensively to various parts of the Roman Empire. She enrolled in study classes at Birkbeck College, London University, and successfully gained the Extra-Mural Diploma in Archaeology in 1990.

In August 1999, along with other ARA members, Sue took on the challenge of the Hadrian’s Wall Pilgrimage, the Wall being one of her primary interests in Roman Britain, and she also became a member of the Hadrianic Society, and an Associate Member of the Ermine Street Guard.

Sue worked in industrial administration for 35 years, being especially responsible for administering company pensions. Having an ever-active and inquisitive mind, this led her into several fields of study, quite apart from her Roman interests. These included study at the Putney School of Art; she was the co-founder of the Wandsworth Art Society, arranging many successful exhibitions in southwest London. In May 2003 an event took place which exemplifies Sue’s determination and natural spirit of adventure, when she signed on as a member of the crew on the 160 tonne square-rigged sailing ship Jean de la Lune, taking the ship from the dock at Canary Wharf, London, northwards to Leith, Scotland.

Sue had been an ex-officio Board member of the Association for several years, looking after the register of members, when in November 2004 she was formally elected to the Board of Trustees. Although only able to attend a few Board meetings, she quite obviously enjoyed the camaraderie of those occasions and was a lively contributor to the proceedings. It was Sue’s proposal, at her last meeting, that we should mark our 10th anniversary in 2006 with the tour to Rome. Sue’s proposal was unanimously approved by the Board.

Always a very popular companion on our tours around Roman Britain and beyond, Sue will be greatly missed by our members on these excursions and her personality and vitality along with her input into the administration of the Association will be extremely difficult to replace.

Bryn Walters.

Professor Carsten Peter Thiede
Biblical Scholar and Archaeologist

Professor Thiede, the renowned German scholar and member of this Association died suddenly at his home in Paderborn, Germany, last December, aged 52.

In recent years Professor Thiede had pursued the location of the village of Emmaus near Jerusalem, referred to only in Luke’s Gospel as one of the sites of Christ’s appearance to his followers after his resurrection. Luke (24.13) describes how Jesus met Cleopas and another disciple when they were walking the road from Jerusalem to Emmaus, a distance of 60 stadia (approx. 9.9 kilometres). Thiede did not subscribe to the theory that the site never existed, and doggedly continued to elucidate elements of the story in the Bible in his research to locate the lost village. Following meticulous preparatory work, including aerial reconnaissance and geophysical surveys, excavations commenced near Moza, 4 miles west of Jerusalem in 2001. Excavations quickly revealed structural remains and material artefacts along with distinctive pottery of the early 1st century AD. The material indicated an affluent Jewish village of the period described in Luke’s account. Now called Qaluniyeh, the site of the Jewish village was converted into a colony for veteran Roman soldiers by the emperor Vespasian after AD 71.

In the light of his discoveries, it is intended that Professor Thiede’s planned work on the site will continue.

Professor Thiede’s book, The Emmaus Mystery, was published posthumously in March by Continuum, price £18.99.
ARCHAEOLOGICAL ROUND-UP

POSSIBLE MANSIO DISCOVERED AT COLCHESTER

The Colchester Archaeological Trust have discovered several rooms of an important first- or second-century bath house on the site of the Sixth Form College in the town. Red and white tessellated floors pave the rooms whilst in one is a central tessellated rectangular bath surrounded by red-plastered masonry benches. On the southern side of the pool a niche probably marks the position of a statue base or fountain. Supporting the latter theory is the fact that directly beneath the floor there is an almost complete oak water pipe which may have supplied water to baths and fountain. A small piece of wood was discovered within the silt, and this has provisionally been identified as part of a valve system to control the flow of water from the pipe to a tap feeding a basin or fountain. Wall plaster discovered on the site includes one fragment ornamented with a canthus.

The latest theory as to the building's original purpose is that it was a mansio or government inn, the room with the central pool is possibly to be identified as a combined apodyterium (changing room) and frigidarium (cold room).

Daily Mail – 01.01.2005
www.colchsf.ac.uk/news/

EVIDENCE FOR THE INTRODUCTION OF THE RABBIT IN ROMAN BRITAIN

New evidence that the Romans, and not the Normans, introduced the rabbit to Britannia has emerged at a dig conducted by the Norfolk Archaeological Unit at Lynford, near Thetford. Butchered bones of a rabbit were found in a dump of pottery fragments dating from the first and second centuries AD. They are by far the oldest remains of a rabbit ever recognised in Britain. Previously it has been believed that the Normans introduced the creatures for meat and fur, but others have always claimed the likelihood that they were an earlier introduction. Marcus Terentius Varro (116-27 BC) wrote that the legions brought rabbits from Spain where they were reared in walled enclosures and were considered a delicacy.

Daily Telegraph – 14.04.2005

SOCKS WITH SANDALS

Further evidence that the Romans had no qualms about the wearing of socks with Mediterranean-type sandals has emerged from the River Tees near Darlington. Divers have discovered a copper razor handle in the shape of a foot wearing an open-toed sandal and a sock. In 2003 the foot of a statue discovered on the site of a Romano-British temple complex in Southwark was also depicted as wearing some form of woollen stocking with filmy sandals. Presumably the garments were worn as protection against the British climate, rather than as a fashion statement.

Daily Mail – 20.05.2005

FURTHER BURIALS FROM YORK

An interesting group of Roman burials has been revealed during construction work at The Mount in York. Lying beside the Roman road between York and Tadcaster, the site is part of a very significant burial ground. A stone sarcophagus, six inches below the surface, contained a rare gypsum burial, a lime mixture having been poured over the body with the intention of preserving the remains. Altogether 56 bodies and 14 cremations have been recovered. Most of the bodies appear to be male and under the age of 46 years. The majority had been decapitated, with the heads placed lower down the legs or near the feet. One of the skeletons retained shackles around its ankles.

The remains have been removed prior to development of the site, and are being examined by the York Archaeological Trust.

Extracted from articles by Julie Hemmings, Yorkshire Post, February 2005

Director's footnote:
The Mount is a known and extensive Roman cemetery; a number of rich burials and tombs have been recorded over many years, including a fine intact vaulted tomb discovered in 1807. Some burials and tombs were destroyed when a fort was built on the summit of The Mount during the Civil War of 1644.

Dr. Patrick Ottaway from The York Archaeological Trust will be discussing the latest discoveries at the Annual Dinner Weekend in Yorkshire on August 5th, 2006.

SCULPTURE CACHE FOUND AT VINDOLANDA

Two small stone temples discovered over 200 metres from the western wall of the later stone fort at Vindolanda, Northumberland, have yielded numerous fragments of stone statues in the demolition debris. At the moment a collection of feet, arms and a couple of heads have been found, but it is hoped that more will emerge during the 2006 season. The sculpture is of very high quality and shows sensitive workmanship. This is obvious from one fragment of a base which has a finely carved foot and the remains of the second. A small female head with a hairstyle similar to that worn by the Empress Julia Domna is also notable.

A leg wearing a greave, must have come from a figure almost ten feet in height, and may possibly have been part of the cult statue from one of the temples. Parts from at least four free-standing figures have survived. As yet no torsos have been discovered, so these may have been removed by stone robbers or Christian iconoclasts, when the sculptures were smashed in antiquity. Other finds from the site include fragments of ornamental columns and doric capitals.

The Journal (Newcastle) – 08.07.2005
The Northern Echo – 09.07.2005
www.vindolanda.com/html/latestnews.html
THE JEWRY WALL, LEICESTER

For centuries a massive masonry wall has stood by the Saxon church of St. Nicholas in the centre of Leicester. Certainly Roman, antiquarians have long speculated on its original purpose. Temple of Janus, West Gate and Forum Basilica were all in fashion from William Stukeley to the middle of the last century. Then, from 1936 to 1939 Dr. Kathleen Kenyon excavated the whole site to the west of the wall for an area of some four thousand square yards. This remarkable city centre excavation revealed perhaps the best set of Hadrianic Baths in Britain. Even more remarkable is that the Jewry Wall is not external but one internal division of a huge complex of public buildings. The baths apodyterium and palaestra are missing from this complex and are presumed to lie beneath the church and churchyard to the east, both of which align on the Roman street plan.

It was decided to retain the site in situ but the outbreak of war caused little to be done but consolidation. Then in 1966, the Vaughan College was erected over the western edge of the site, and the opportunity was taken to construct a purpose-built museum and interpretation centre for the Roman Baths. This was located at the Roman level with the three bath house furnaces preserved beneath its floor. The entire east wall of the museum is of glass so that the baths and museum are an integral whole. There are few more excellent facilities for the interpretation of such a site in Western Europe. Furthermore, the museum has since acquired the ‘Blackfriars’ and ‘Peacock’ mosaic pavements from the Roman City and two substantial sections of Roman fresco; one from a first century house north of the Basilica and one from a suburban villa.

Notwithstanding the importance of this site, Leicester City Council reduced opening hours to one day a week from October 2004, with total closure throughout December as a cost cutting measure. Prompt action by the local Civic Society led to English Heritage insisting that the Roman site remained open for six days a week, but the Council owns the museum. They claim that most visitors are school parties. However this is not true – the museum’s busiest month is August.

The closure itself coincided nicely with the October half-term, visitors soon being turned away at the rate of 70 to 80 per day. Pre-booked school parties are still allowed – but they have to pay.

In September 2004 a ‘Friends’ organisation was formed to fight this draconian reduction in opening times and ensure a stable future for the museum. After many months campaigning we have recently secured Sunday afternoon and school holiday opening, but this success is fragile and it is widely recognised that the Council would prefer to see a closure that only the vigilance of the ‘Friends of Jewry Wall Museum’ prevents.

Please support us by joining the ‘Friends’. Membership is £5.00 (Households £8.00, Students and Senior Citizens £3.00), Cheques should be made payable to ‘Friends of Jewry Wall Museum’. Write to me, Stuart Bailey, Hon. Treasurer, 48 Meadow Avenue, Loughborough, LE11 1JT.

To combat this effectively we need an informed and articulate national membership.

Stuart Bailey
A GREEK ISLAND VILLA

In May 2001 the beautiful Greek island of Cephalonia came to international notice through the launching of the film of Louis de Berniere’s excellent book Captain Corelli’s Mandolin. It is difficult to believe that the dreadful scenes of World War II, described in the course of the fictional Corelli’s time on the island, actually took place especially when one is enjoying a sunny holiday amidst the island’s sandy beaches and pine woods.

Cephalonia has witnessed many dramatic events in its long history, including the great earthquake of 1953 which reduced nearly all the traditional and lovely Venetian buildings to rubble. However, some even older edifices survived and remains of the fortress at Sami (ancient Same) built of hewn blocks of rock some two metres in length can still be seen from the coast road to the South. Here the local tribes gave the Romans a hard time in 187 BC before being overwhelmed. The Romans came again in the second Century AD and the remains of one of their villas lies just 50 metres from beach and town centre of Skala.

This building is probably not best described as a ‘villa’ as we generally recognise it, but was rather a wealthy Roman’s summer house. The site is so close to the busy holiday attractions that the experience of entering the quiet, green and shady little valley with its stream running down to the beach is particularly memorable. Unusually for these islands, the villa remains are carefully displayed under a cover building, and during our visit in June the start of the season’s clearing up and dusting down, so familiar to British Roman site volunteers, was taking place.

The ‘villa’ remains were discovered in 1957 and comprise five rooms with an open courtyard (see Fig. 1). An associated bathhouse is known to have existed, but was destroyed by early nineteenth-century construction work. On entering the site, the reason for the careful conservation becomes clear when the beautiful mosaics are revealed. The accompanying photographs show some of the detail of the floors which demonstrate the mosaicist Krateros’ remarkable skill in rendering three dimensional effects and lifelike animals.

The villa was probably destroyed by fire in the late fourth-century, but was partially rebuilt in the late Byzantine period as an early Christian church (the chapel of St. Athanasius) and continued as such until the tenth century, when fire again ended an era.

My apologies for the poor photographs but the sun shining through the open sides of the cover building produces extreme contrasts.

Opening times were not advertised but seem to be daily through late June, July and August when holiday students from Athens volunteer to attend. A general view of the interior can be seen at any time through the surrounding wire mesh enclosure.

Bryan Matthews

Fig. 1. Plan of the Skala Villa from Site Display. Drawing © Local Archaeological Service.

This shows the 3D ‘carpet’ effect in room 1 where Envy or Phthonos (not shown) is also depicted being attacked by a lion, tiger, panther and leopard. Photo © Bryan Matthews.

A corner of room 4 shows the wall construction and a familiar border pattern. Photo © Bryan Matthews.
THE BIG ROMAN DATABASE – BUILDERS REQUIRED

Lots of people know a bit about some ‘villas’ – let’s call them ‘rural buildings’ – but not so many people are familiar with more than a few examples. I want to change this, and I invite other ARA people to join me...

I wrote an essay for my Archaeology Diploma last year on the location of villas, but was surprised to find there are few readily available summaries of villa research. There is a gazetteer with some information about finds. There are some overviews, but often based on only a fraction of the known sites. Yet the recent conference organised by the Upper Nene Archaeological Society, and the recent Time Team programmes show there is a lot of work currently going on. There are also records of previous digs scattered through county archives and local archaeological society magazines, which are well worth re-excavation.

I began a database for my essay, but could only develop it a little in the time available. A full database could be useful in three ways:
1. To provide a readily accessible synthesis of data available to all.
2. To throw further light on many existing debates. Systematic study may elucidate new patterns suggested by recent excavations; e.g. the use of ancillary buildings prompted by the discovery of two buildings of similar appearance, but different uses in Mark Conroy’s excavations at Bradford on Avon.
3. New information could be added to clarify functions; e.g. land use, landscape and soil quality in the vicinity, and proximity to water sources or watercourses for transport. GIS technology would be used where this could be productive; e.g. in overlaying different maps.

I am preparing a project brief written in the modern research framework style so eloquently defended by Tony Wilmott to those of us on the Hadrian’s Wall trip. This will relate to the research agendas set out recently by Jeremy Taylor, Dominic Perring and others in two CBA Research Reports (No.125 – 2001 and No. 134 – 2002).

Obviously I will scrutinise existing resources such as the CBA website, and contact friendly professionals for advice. I am also seeking help from ARA members, because as Bryn and Grahame point out, this is a very big exercise, but it could be very productive. The first step may be the most difficult one. Your support is needed to encourage local societies, visit SMR records, research local archaeology magazines. I also want ARA members to suggest key questions and information they would like such a database to tackle, and advice on some of the inevitable difficulties. I hope that by the time you have read this I will have progressed with the brief, but it will still be preliminary, and capable of improvement by your input.

So please get in touch with me with offers of help, suggestions for information to be collected, or simply to find out more. My e-mail is <rebecca_isis@yahoo.co.uk> which is the best way to keep in touch. If you don’t have access to e-mail then telephone me on 079 3060 4728.

Thank you,
Rebecca Newman.

MASSIVE NEW TIMBER BUILDING DISCOVERED AT VINDOLANDA

Excavations below the recently discovered temple precinct at Vindolanda in Northumberland have discovered traces of a massive wooden building. Oak posts measuring 66 × 43 cms, were sunk at least a metre into the subsoil and surrounded by puddled clay. These posts are four times the size of any previously found at the site. The building appears to have been at least 40 metres in length.

Its floor was kept exceptionally clean, which is bad news for archaeologists, but several clay ovens were situated in one corner. It is hoped that dendrochronology will provide dating for this massive structure which bears all the trademarks of a legionary building.

Intriguingly it does not fit in with any of the ground plans of the known forts at Vindolanda.

www.vindolanda.com/html/latestnews.html
THE ROMAN VILLA AT MINORI

The Italian coastal village of Minori, a few kilometres to the East of Amalfi, is home to a first-century AD Roman villa, well-preserved, with archaeological and restoration work still being carried out at intervals. The villa is of two storeys, and had been topped with a wooden roof. A central garden, with a pond, is surrounded by arcades, with several rooms and passages still bearing many traces of paint. The bath house features a mosaic floor, with several painted patches of wall extant. Water was supplied via a lead pipe from a spring on the hill behind the modern village.

Three sides of the villa are partly below existing later buildings, so the remaining archaeology has to be carried out with some thought for the safety of those buildings. There is a small museum with finds from this and other local coastal projects.

The villa, thought to be a ‘holiday home’ for a wealthy Roman, at one time had access to the shoreline, but the sea has now receded 100 metres or so since the building of the villa. There would have been a garden edging the river, which is now under the main road and discharges into the sea via a tunnel near the landing stage. The site was discovered in 1932, but was not fully investigated until 1954. It is well worth a visit – entrance is free and it is open most days.

Minori itself, away from the bustle of Amalfi, is an ideal base for a holiday, especially if you are keen on walking. The next village to the East, Maiori, is a short stroll along the coastal road. Amalfi is a pleasant 45 minutes or so away, and Ravello can be reached after a fairly steep climb. There is a ruined convent above the village (and this really is a walk – it’s an all-day job), and there is a medieval castle at Maiori. There are Saracen / Norman defensive towers all along the coast, now mainly incorporated into restaurants or hotels. Water-powered paper-making was big business in the area from medieval times until the nineteenth-century, so there are many ruined paper-mills along the river valleys.

Bus services are good – Vietri Sule

To the left is a photograph taken by Chris Flear in a San Franciscan Hotel. The statue, according to the inscription on the plinth, is of Caesar Augustus. One wonders how he came by the flag of the United States of America?

Your editor thought that it might be a bit of fun to have a caption competition. No prizes – but if you can think of an apposite or pithy comment, send it in, snail mail or e-mail (see ‘Contacts’ on page 2). Your editor and other members of the board will choose some appropriate replies and publish them in the next issue of ARA NEWS. Closing date – end of February 2006.

DRAWN WINNERS OF MEMBERS’ QUESTIONNAIRE 2004

The winners of the Members’ Questionnaire, drawn from all identifiable replies, were as follows:

Mr. D. E. Atkins, Cleethorpes, Lincolnshire.
Mrs. Sophie Hawke, Bradford on Avon, Somerset.
Mrs. S. O’Reilly, Welwyn, Hertfordshire.

Thank you and congratulations; the lucky three have been advised.
CROSSWORD – WHERE TO?

Have a go! It's just for fun and seems likely to tax the 'little grey cells' quite a lot. Just the thing after that final helping of Christmas Pud. Answers in the next ARA NEWS. We are indebted to Mr. Ronald Pearce for this compilation. – Ed.

(100% of the asterisked clues are related to the last 80% of 20A).

Across:
1. Annoy, taking in the closest of relations – it can yield a humorous result. (7)
5. Coleridge's sacred river marked the origins of all later poetic hallucinations. (4)
9. *(with 13A) What is the direct way to collect estate rents? (5, 6)
    *(with 21A) Agents eat together beside the wall in the North. (9)
10. To see this ground-squirrel, did I have to order me a trek? (7)
11. A possible description of a horse that is hoarse. (6-6)
12. The reason studies are linked, one hears – it broadens the mind. (6)
13. *See 9A and 12D (6)
16. Painful to handle, this native, in the main… (6, 6)
19. To be a patron once, required placing the Queen next to an unopened window. (7)
20. Is there a hint here of a glorious terminus? (5)
21. *See 9A (4)
22. The mark of kingship that brings a form of respect. (7)

Down:
1. Following a sub? We must get together on a Stealth mission… (4)
2. … With a flight which will lead, perhaps, to a perfect landing. (7)
3. Obviously, the up-to-date report rendered by 11A’s vet! (8, 4)
4. *(and 13A) Does this great work prompt mere interest today? It’s more involving than that! (6, 6)
6. Going back inside Killarney; how the Irishman showed his warm approval … (5)
7. … But, contrariwise, this was what Ella Fitzgerald felt about cold, damp California! (5, 2)
8. Phase out surplus pounds by pumping iron? Heaps do! (3, 4, 5)
12. *(with 13A) What is Walter testing to destruction? – The way southeast, perhaps. (7, 6)
14. Equalise, like winds turning to W, N and S, (4, 3)
15. It keeps back the noise of the barbarians. (6)
17. Conditions in which rumour prevails… (2, 3)
18. To cruise placidly the Romans needed first of all to enter a bay, perhaps, and take a nostrum afterwards! (4)

HADRIAN AND HIS WALL

There was this chap called Hadrian who was Emperor of Rome he came to Britain years ago it was a reet long way from home, His lads were having trouble with the Picts and Scotts you see they kept comming over border on vandalising sprees. They were a-burning and a-pillaging and lads couldn’t hold them back so Hadrian scratched his head and said, things are getting slack. We will have to build a great big wall to hold these beggars back so he picked up a slate and wiped it clean and sketched it there and then of how he wanted it to look and showed it to his men. Geraway, by eck, they said its a reet long wall and it’ll take a long long time I know says Hadrian, it can’t be helpt now get and mix some lime. So get to work, no slacking now there’s plenty of stone round here so off you go, work with a will I’m off home to have a beer.

Howard W. Gibbs
Written in Pub called The Hadrian on visits to Hadrian’s Wall – Summer ‘97.