

Chairman's Report for the Year 2015-16

In early 2015 the committee canvassed members' opinions on two matters: the proposal to adopt a formal constitution, and a possible increase in the subscription rate. On both issues the majority of members who responded were in favour of the proposals. The first AGM was held on 17th March 2015, during the meeting in Newcastle, at which the constitution was adopted, the committee elected, and an increase in the subscription to £12 was approved. The extra income will help in the provision of a series of RFG finds videos and small grants for work on Roman Finds.

In other ways too 2015 has been an active and adventurous year for the RFG. *Lucerna* No 48 was published at the beginning of the year, the last to be edited by Emma Durham. Then came the two-day meeting in Newcastle, organised by Stephen Greep, with a visit to South Shields fort (Arbeia), including its reconstructed bathhouse arranged by Paul Bidwell and Alex Croom. In the summer we had the next issue of *Lucerna*, the first to be edited by Matt Fittock. In November Jenny Hall organised a one-day meeting at the British Museum with the help of Richard Hobbs and Julia Farley which included a visit to the Celts exhibition and the opportunity to buy the catalogue at a substantial saving.

2016 began with the publication of the 50th issue of *Lucerna*, the first in a new format with a full-colour cover. Two two-day meetings and another issue of *Lucerna* are planned for later in the year.

In parallel with all this the RFG website has been refreshed and the twitter account has become very active, adding a new dimension to the ways the Group communicates with its members and others with similar interests. We have also begun a new initiative, the production of short films about particular categories of finds which we hope will become widely used in formal and informal teaching and learning. The first three have now been edited and will have their first outing at the April 2016 meeting in York; thereafter they will be available on U-tube or via the RFG website.