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LEONIE BREEDS studied Classics at King's College London and worked for 19 years as a full-time lecturer in a Further Education college in North London. She has served as Freelance Educational Consultant for Middlesex University and the London boroughs of Barnet and Enfield. She now works as a freelance journalist, writer and editor, and has had educational materials on communications published on paper and online by Heinemann in Oxford.

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JOHN CRAWSHAW read Classics at New College, Oxford and has maintained a lifelong love of the subject, especially ancient history and archaeology. He is devoted to the exploration of ancient sites and spends at least half of each year on Kefalonia, where he coordinates investigative activities for the Odysseus Unbound Foundation. He co-authored 'The palaeo-geographic development of Livadi Marsh, Paliki: implications for the detection of an ancient harbour and anthropogenic settlement', in *Archaeology of the Ionian Sea* (Oxbow, 2022).

JOHN DAVIE is a writer and literary translator who lives in Devon. He taught Classics at Harrow and St Paul's Schools, and was a College Lecturer in Classics at Trinity College, Oxford.

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ALICE DUNN is a writer and freelance journalist for *The Spectator* and *The London Magazine* among others. She was shortlisted in the 2019 *Surrey Life Magazine/Guildford Book Festival Short Story Competition* and has written her first novel.

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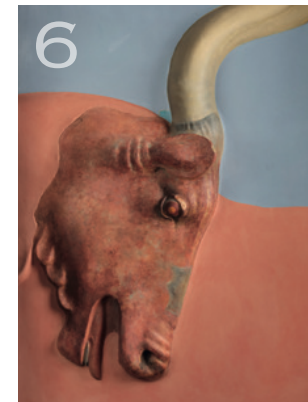
JULIAN MORGAN is the puzzle master for ARGO and a member of the *O Tempora!* crossword setting team for *The Times* newspaper. He served as a teacher and a Head of Classics for many years in the UK and in Germany before retiring from classroom teaching. Julian has written a wide range of classical puzzle books, as detailed on www.j-progs.com. His Imperium Latin course is used in a good number of schools and can be downloaded free of charge by following the links from www.imperiumlatin.com. You can follow Julian's twitter feed (where sample puzzles are often released) on @imperiumlatin

ALEXANDER NORRIS is a third-year undergraduate in Classics at St John's College, Oxford, specialising in early classical Greek literature and historical linguistics. He is currently Treasurer of the Russell Society and Junior Reader of the Canterbury Institute; last year he co-founded the Oxford Society of Metaphysics and helped to convene the Taunton Talks series of lectures at Grandpont House. Outside of academia, Alex is heavily involved in the Royal Air Force Volunteer Reserve, serving as Officer in Command of Force Development at the Oxford University Air Squadron.

ANDREW SHAPLAND (DR) is Sir Arthur Evans Curator of Bronze Age and Classical Greece at the Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford, and a former member of the Hellenic Society Council.

PAUL WATKINS was editor of the *Anglo-Hellenic Review* (1990–2015), published twice-yearly by the Anglo-Hellenic League. He has published numerous travel memoirs, articles and guides, mainly to Mediterranean islands including Sicily, Cyprus, Malta and Corfu. His next book explores the life and landscapes of 1960s America.

DAVID WILLS is an independent scholar specialising in travel writing about Greece published since 1945. He has been treasurer of the Society for Modern Greek Studies since 2012.



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We are thoroughly spoiled this season for exhibitions dedicated to Greek and classical themes.

The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge has mounted an extraordinary display of artefacts from ancient Cyprus, Crete and Sardinia in *Islanders: The Making of the Mediterranean*, which is open until 4 June and to be revisited in our next issue.

The Ashmolean in Oxford, meanwhile, presents *Labyrinth: Knossos, Myth and Reality*, a journey into the pre-Greek world of Minoan Crete, which provides the cover story of this issue. As the curator of *Labyrinth* Dr Andrew Shapland explains in his vibrant feature (pp. 6-9), Sir Arthur Evans often turned to the myths of Crete as a means of understanding his discoveries on the island, spawning some eye-popping theories about the Minoan past.

From 4 May we also have *Luxury and power: Persia to Greece* at the British Museum. This year 'may not seem the right moment for a special exhibition focussing on 'luxury', writes project curator Henry Cosmo Bishop-Wright on pp. 18-23, but changing times remind us of how fluid luxury can be – 'more a register of contemporary socio-economic conditions than a static class of 'thing'. The 'things'

photographed across these pages will nevertheless be sure to inspire awe, if not a little envy.

Elsewhere in this issue, John Crawshaw goes in search of Homer's Ithaca with help from Spyridon Marinatos, the famous Kefalonia-born archaeologist, David Wills attempts to navigate the beautiful island of Symi using a travel book from 1970, Paul Watkins examines the terrible legacy of sponge-diving on the historic population of Kalymnos, and Diana Bentley visits Nicopolis to inspect recent renovations to the ancient theatre.

In addition to our round-up of recent and forthcoming books, we have reviews of a new life of Cyrus the Great; a collection of publications on another Great – Alexander; a novel based on the life of Cleopatra (on her fascinating daughter, Cleopatra Selene, see Jane Draycott's article on pp. 31-3); the latest poetry collection of A. E. Stallings; and a novel tipped to be a read of the summer, *Greek Lessons*, translated for the first time from the Korean.

I hope you enjoy the issue and have a lovely summer.

DAISY DUNN
 Editor, ARGO
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