

expertise. So, when David Wilson and I were discussing the possible formation of a medieval society, it seemed natural to turn to Donald for help as the member of the establishment who might best assist two rather brash young graduates to further their ideas. Donald was immediately enthusiastic and wrote, on 11 November 1956, 'I have long had it in mind that a new periodical covering the later British fields of archaeology is necessary and was thinking of raising the matter after I got to London' (his move to the London Museum). A meeting was arranged within a week and consultations took place with a widening circle of archaeologists. Donald was able to obtain the support of the establishment, getting the approval of the Society of Antiquaries. He persuaded its President, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, to chair the initial meetings, enabling the Society for Medieval Archaeology to be formed in a period of less than six months.

Donald's experience and influence was the main reason that the Society took off. His Editorship of *Medieval Archaeology* for seventeen volumes created a journal of international stature. He was our President from 1975 to 1977 and then became an Honorary Vice-President. The Society therefore owes Donald a great debt. He was a wise and generous counsellor, as I know from personal experience over nearly 50 years. His jovial personality, with his distinctive white hair and bow tie, will be long remembered by members of this Society.

JOHN HURST

THE NORTHERN IRELAND CONFERENCE 1994

The 1994 Annual Residential Conference was held in Northern Ireland and was hosted by the Environment Service of the Department of the Environment for Northern Ireland. It was based in Belfast, and Ken Neill acted as Local Secretary.

The conference began on Tuesday 5 April with a lecture by Dr Tom McNeill on what he argued to be the Three Ages of medieval archaeology in Northern Ireland, followed by a reception at the School of Geosciences, Queen's University. On Wednesday visits were made to Grey Abbey where Marion Meek acted as a guide to the tower houses at Portaferry, Strangford, and Kilclief, to the Mound of Down, Inch Abbey, and to Nendrum, where Dr Ann Hamlin conducted the Society around the site. In the evening there was a lecture by Dr Chris Lynn on his excavations at Greencastle.

On Thursday 7 April conference visited sites in south and west Down: the castles at Clough, Dundrum, Dromore, Narrow Water and Greencastle where at the last Dr Lynn acted as guide, Drumena cashel and souterrain and Lisnagade Rath. In the evening there was a private viewing of the St Patrick exhibition and a wine reception at the Ulster Museum. On Friday sites were visited in Antrim including Antrim round tower, Dunluce castle, Bonamargy Friary, Balleygalley tower house and Carrickfergus Castle. At Carrickfergus a collation was provided by the Environment Service within the refurbished keep. This provided the President of the Society with the opportunity to thank both the Environment Service, and especially Mr Neill, who acted as guide and host on all three days, for organizing such a smoothly run and enjoyable conference.

PAUL STAMPER