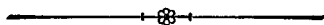




The Berks, Bucks & Oxon Archæological Journal.



Proceedings of Societies.

BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—We have to record with much regret the death of the Rev. J. M. Guilding, F.S.A., the late Treasurer of the Society, who has been for so long the mainstay of the Society, and has guided and directed its labours since its re-foundation in 1871. He was an enthusiastic antiquary, an able historian, a kind and genial friend, one with whom it was a privilege to be associated, whose departure from us will be deeply mourned by his many friends. His energy and zeal in the cause of Archæology were remarkable. In spite of advancing years he undertook the editing of "The Records of Reading" in four large volumes, which must have been a heavy and laborious task. The cost of the work was defrayed by the generosity of the present Member for Reading, Mr. G. W. Palmer. But it was in the work of the Berks Archæological Society that he took the keenest interest, and at its meetings and excursions he always took an active part. An able and ready speaker, he was ever ready to impart his knowledge to others, and could always be relied upon to give a graphic and interesting account of an architectural building, or to discourse pleasantly upon the history and records of his adopted town and county. Reading owes much to him for the valuable work which he accomplished in connection with the Public Library, the charities of the town, and the administration of his large and important parish. We shall miss him much as a true friend and a genial and helpful colleague. His memory will live with us for many a long

year, and we trust that the Members of the Berks Archæological Society will unite in promoting the prosperity and success of that institution in which he took so keen an interest. R.I.P.

At a meeting of the committee held on September 5th, a resolution of sympathy and condolence with Mrs. Guilding and her family was passed, and many affectionate and feeling references were made to her late husband's memory by the Chairman, Mr. Charles Smith, the Secretary and other gentlemen who were present.

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An Excursion of the Society was arranged to Shiplake, Henley, Bisham and Marlow, at the end of June, and it was proposed to visit these river-side places in a steam launch. But the weather was not very favourable at that time, and the number of members who proposed to attend was insufficient, and the Excursion was abandoned.

The second Excursion of the Society took place on Wednesday, August 3rd, and the destination was Lambourn and Ashdown Park, the seat of the Craven family. The recent opening of the Lambourn Valley Railway has rendered this part of the county more accessible, and it was felt that the Society ought to visit one of the most interesting churches in Berkshire. The sun shone brightly on the occasion of the Society's first visit to the neighbourhood, and about thirty members and friends assembled at Reading station. At Newbury they were met by Mr. Watts, the Secretary of the Newbury Field Club, who very kindly conducted the party to the very interesting Cloth Hall, a curious building which sadly needs careful restoration. Mr. Watts told of the glories of the old cloth trade of Newbury, of its hero, John Winchcombe, or Jack of Newbury, who with fifty bowmen marched to the service of King Henry VIII. against the Scotch, and made the "Newberrie Archers" famous, as the old ballad plainly declares. Leaving Newbury the party travelled by the new railway, passing the sites of the two Battles of Newbury, the pretty village of Welford, Shefford, East Garston, (the *Esgarstown* of the Domesday Survey) a manor once held by the service of providing a Knight to serve the King for forty days when he should be at Kidwelly, in South Wales, and finally reaching Lambourn, where they were met by the Rev. J. Footman, the historian of the little town, whose book deserves an honoured place in every Berkshire Library. Mr. Footman ably described the interesting church, with its grand Norman Tower, its perpendicular work and numerous alterations and restorations, its chantry chapels and

tombs, the details of which will be found in his book. After an excellent lunch at the George Hotel the party went in breaks to Ashdown House, where they were graciously received by Lady Craven. The Chaplain conducted the visitors over the house, and an excellent paper by Mr. Walter Money, F.S.A., was read by the Secretary upon the history of Ashdown House and the White Horn Hill. The house was built by Webb, the nephew of Inigo Jones, and contains many portraits of Elizabeth of Bohemia, the devoted friend of William Lord Craven, Prince Rupert, Prince Maurice, &c. After tea Mr. Ditchfield expressed the gratitude which all the members of the Society felt to Lady Craven for her great kindness and hospitality. A visit was paid to King Alfred's camp, a description of which was given by the Secretary, and after a satisfactory day the party returned to Reading.

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NEWBURY FIELD CLUB.—One of the most successful Excursions which the club has ever enjoyed took place on July 25th, when Fairford and Burford were visited. It was a long day's journey extending from 8.44 a.m. to 10.40 p.m., but all the arrangements were so well made that the Excursion was most enjoyable. Cricklade was the first stopping place whence the party drove to Fairford, where are the famous windows in the Church of St. Mary, built in 1490. The story is that the windows were made in Germany for some church at Rome, but the vessel bearing them to their destination was captured by John Tame, a merchant, who with his son, Sir Edmund Tame, built the church to receive the glass. Another tradition ascribes the painting of the windows to Albert Dürer and that the glass was designed for the church, not the church for the glass. During the period of Puritan iconoclasm the glass was taken out of the frames and buried. Burford was the next stopping place, the Anglo-Saxon Beorgford, near where Cuthred, King of Wessex, fought and defeated Ethelbard, King of Mercia. The Church and Priory were visited and ably described by Mr. Monk, the historian of the town. The Excursion was admirably arranged and carried out by Mr. Watts, the hon. secretary of the Club.

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BUCKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—This Society visited Berkshire on July 7th, Silchester being the object of the pilgrimage. Luncheon was partaken of at the Great Western Hotel, when the

Rev. R. Pigott presided, supported by the Archdeacon of Bucks, Mr. Parker, F.S.A., Mr. Cocks, and other leading members of the Society. Mr. Ditchfield expressed a few words of welcome on behalf of the Berks Archæological Society. The members were fortunate in having Mr. St. John Hope as their guide. A visit was paid to the Reading Museum and its treasures described. Then the party proceeded in breaks to Silchester where Mr. Hope again described the story of the Roman City, and showed the results of the recent excavations. A very satisfactory day's Excursion was concluded, which was much enjoyed by all present.

Oxford Ladies' Brass Rubbing Society.

YEAR 1897-8.

President :

MISS SWANN, Walton Manor.

Committee :

President :—MISS SWANN.

Hon. Treasurer :—MRS. DRINKWATER.

Hon. Secretaries :— { MISS ROSA BLAKE.
 { MRS. MEE.

Hon. Librarian :—MISS GREEN.

MRS. WHITMARSH.

MRS. G. EVANS.

46 Members.

The O.L.B.R.S. has completed its fourth year; the number of its Members has increased, and all meetings have been well attended.

Two Honorary Members have been elected, Viscountess Dillon and Lady Edmund Verney.