

Little Wittenham, which are now lying in fragments in a barn in that village. The Society therefore appeals to all interested in the preservation of ancient sepulchral monuments to assist them with donations, however small. Such donations may be paid to the Society's Preservation Fund, at the Old Bank, Oxford, or addressed to the Treasurer of the Society, Rev. W. E. Scott-Hall, 3, Staverton Road, Oxford, who will send a receipt for them.

Amongst the Oxfordshire churches which have benefitted by the action of this admirable Society are Aston Rowant, Chalgrove, Chipping Norton, Chinnor, Churchill, Dorchester, Southleigh, &c., and the loose inscriptions to Anne Dunch (1627) at Little Wittenham, Berks, have been fixed to an oak slab on the wall. Can nothing be done to preserve the monuments of the Dunch family at Little Wittenham? The Berks Archæological Society might well subscribe to this object.—EDITOR.

---

ESGARSTON.—("WRONGLY CALLED EAST GARSTON")—For the last three centuries the name of this parish has been miscalled; though its proper form has been partly preserved in the local pronunciation as "Argaston," which is still in common use, at any rate among the older folk. Although it is impossible to set forth fully in this Magazine the proof, which is at hand for the above statement; a short summary may be interesting to the parishioners and to many of our neighbours. In the great Survey of England, called the "Domesday Book," made in 1086, one of the manors in the hundred of Lambourn is entered as having been held before the Conquest by Esgar, who was what we should call Master of the Horse to King Edward (the Confessor); and it is from him that this place gets its name. Eleven instances of this name, between 1086 and 1599 have been supplied by a learned antiquarian, Rev. F. T. Wethered, Vicar of Hurley, a parish in this county, which was connected with our parish for many centuries through the payment of tithes to the Priory of Hurley; and all these instances plainly shew that the real name is "Esgar's Town." It is a great advantage in these days of railway stations and post offices to have a really distinctive name; and it is an interesting fact that there is no place in the United Kingdom, which has a name beginning with "Esgar," whereas there are 160 names in the "Post Office Guide" beginning with "East," which syllable has no more to do with us than with the proverbial man in the moon. Apart therefore from all other considerations, there would be a great practical advantage, if we could by any means restore the old name "ESGARSTON," and the Vicar begs leave to offer this as a small gift to the parish with his most sincere best wishes for a Happy New Year.

[The above is extracted from the "Newbury District Parish Magazine," and we heartily support the Vicar, the Rev. J. L. Tudor, in his endeavour to restore the correct spelling of the name of his old parish. A Petition from the inhabitants to the Postmaster-General and to the Berks County Council might attain this desirable object.—EDITOR.]