



## Berks Archæological Society.

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*ANNUAL REPORT, 1911-12.*

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**Y**OUR Committee has the honour of presenting the Report of the Society's proceedings for the year ending with this Annual Meeting held to-day, April 17th, 1912.

The year that has closed has not been a very exciting one in the history of the Society, but it has been a period of quiet and successful working which has not been altogether barren of results. We have not to record as we did last year the gracious consent of His Majesty King George V. to be our Patron, nor have we again had occasion to present to him any loyal address. Our year has been spent in the endeavour to increase the knowledge and appreciation of Architecture and Archæology in the Royal County and to further the objects for which the Society was founded.

We have carried out our usual programme of lectures and excursions to places of historic and antiquarian interest. Indeed we have tried with some degree of success a two days' excursion which enabled us to travel further afield and to examine with more deliberation and care such interesting objects as Glastonbury Abbey the Cathedral of Wells, and other attractive features of that charming centre. Encouraged by the appreciation of the large number of members who took part in that excursion, your Committee contemplate a repetition of the experiment and propose to arrange a visit to Gloucester this year, and there to sojourn for two days. It is hoped that such an arrangement will prove agreeable to the members.

We should like to have to record some work of excavation undertaken by the Society, or some transcription of ancient monastic charters and documents ; but such undertakings require the expenditure of much time and money ; and unless we can find members who have sufficient leisure to bestow upon such work the requisite knowledge and ability, and unless the Society can largely increase its membership or double the subscriptions, it is impossible to see

how such work can be attempted. By the exertions of our Treasurer and the ready payment of subscriptions, the Society is only just able to pay its way, to pay the rent of this Abbey Gate which we hold by the kind permission of the Mayor and Corporation of Reading, and defray the cost of lectures, etc., and it is difficult to see wherever a large increase in our funds is to come. Your Secretary last year propounded a scheme for extending the work of the Society throughout the County by forming Committees in Maidenhead, Windsor and other important centres. If this could be done and one strong Archæological Society formed for the whole of Berkshire, much might be attempted which a small body cannot hope to accomplish. We would venture to urge upon all the members to assist in promoting the interests of the Society, forming Committees in various centres, and to help the officials, who are somewhat busy even by undertaking work which will further their objects for which the Society exists.

#### LECTURES AND EXCURSIONS.

During the past year the usual number of excursions and lectures have been held, viz ; two excursions, one of which extended over two days and seven lectures. It may be stated that during the past Winter Session the Society has been especially favoured by its lecturers, many of whom were thorough experts and authorities on the subjects on which they were good enough to address us. Some of them were accomplished and busy architects, to whom time was of much value ; and yet they were willing to journey from London and to devote greater part of a day to our enjoyment and enlightenment. The gratitude of the members is especially due to these gentlemen.

#### LECTURES.

On May 4th, when the last Annual Meeting was held Mr. Gordon Hills gave a very interesting lecture on "Notes on the Customs and Constitutions of the Cathedral of the Old Foundations, with special reference to Chichester." Those who were interested in the lecture may be glad to know that it has since been published in the Journal of the British Archæological Association.

On November 17th, the first lecture of the Winter Session was given by Mr. J. Hautenville Cope on the "History of the Ancient Priory of Herteley Wynteney," a lecture which showed much careful research ; and it is hoped that now Mr. Cope has come to reside in Berkshire and is a member of our Committee, he may be able to extend his researches into the history of the County. We may say

that he has for some years been engaged on the Victoria County History of Berkshire.

On December 15th, 1911, a valuable lecture was given by Mr. Charles Ffoulkes on "Armour on Monumental Effigies, XIII to XVI century," illustrated by an excellent series of lantern slides. Mr. Ffoulkes is the author of an important book on "Arms and Armour," and is recognised as one of the chief authorities on the subject. The Society was fortunate in having secured his services as a lecturer.

On January 18th, 1912, Mrs. Hautenville Cope, the authoress of "How to decipher Ancient Documents," gave an eloquent lecture on "Pedigrees and Genealogy," and brought to her aid her intimate knowledge of Parish Registers, many of which she has transcribed.

On February 18th the distinguished architect Mr. E. Guy Dawber gave a charming lecture on "Fountains" illustrated by lantern slides.

On March 8th, another accomplished architect, Mr. Edward Warren, delighted the members with an exhibition of splendid views of "Collegiate Architecture" of many lands and a graphic description of the same.

On March 28th, the President delivered one of his charming lectures on Berkshire Churches, this year dealing with the Churches of Steventon, Harwell, Didcot and Hagbourne, illustrated by a series of beautiful views specially prepared for the occasion by Mr. Marcus Adams. A very large gathering of the members showed their appreciation of Mr. Keyser's architectural studies.

At the close of this Annual Meeting we shall be again favoured by a lecture from Mr. Mervyn Macartney, F.R.S., who will discourse to us on the pleasant theme of "Old Gardens."

The thanks of the Society are due to all these lecturers for their kind and generous services, and also to those ladies and gentlemen who have entertained the members at the lectures or during the excursions. Among these are the President and Mrs. Keyser, Sir Edward and Lady Barry, the Rev. and Mrs. Morris Williams, Mr. and Mrs. Fellowes, Miss Hissey, Miss Cooper-Smith, Mrs. F. E. Williams, the Mayor and Mayoress of Wells, the Rev. R. A. C. Bevan and Lady Mary Bevan.

#### EXCURSIONS.

On Wednesday and Thursday, July 26th and 27th, the Society visited the Cathedral City of Wells, and it was gratifying to the organisers of the excursion that so many were able to join this,

the first two days' excursion arranged by the Society. The Swan Hotel was their headquarters. By special permission the Bishop's Palace was visited and then the Cathedral where Canon Church and the Dean described the building. After tea Dr. Cuthbert's Church and the Budwith Almshouses were inspected and also the Vicar's Close. The Mayor and Mayoress gave a reception in the evening and exhibited the insignia of the city which were described by the Town Clerk. Glastonbury Abbey was visited on the following morning under the guidance of Mr. Francis Bond, and other interesting objects were inspected in the old romantic town, and in the afternoon the members journeyed to Cheddar and saw the famous cliffs and caves. Pleasant memories will long be retained of the visit to Wells and its neighbourhood.

On October 2nd the Society visited Winkfield, Warfield and Binfield. The Churches were admirably described by the President, Mr. C. A. Ferard, Lord of the Manor, and the Vicar of the parish, welcomed the party at Winkfield. At Winkfield the genial presence of the late Vicar the Rev. B. C. Littlewood, a member of our Committee was much missed. At Binfield after a visit to the Church, Mr. and Lady Mary Bevan kindly entertained the Society to tea in the Rectory.

During the ensuing season the Committee hope to arrange a series of excursions. It is expected that a two-days' excursion to Gloucester will form part of our programme, and also a visit to the villages described by the President in his last lecture. It has been suggested that a visit to London would be agreeable to many members.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

The Editors regret that the third volume of the Berkshire Victorian History has not yet appeared. We can only say that it is approaching completion, and the final proofs were promised to your Secretary this month.

The Journal of this Society has reached its eighteenth volume, and its pages have been enriched for some years past by the President's architectural studies illustrated by many plates most kindly presented by him. The last volume includes the history of Bisham Abbey by Sir Henry Vansittart Neale, Feet of Fines transcribed by Mr. Acton Pile, Tom Hughes' Country by the Hon. A. E. Gathorne Hardy, Proceedings of Societies, Notes and Queries, and other items relating to the County.

## OBITUARY.

We have to record the decease of several old members and supporters of the Society and whose loss we all deplore. Mr. Charles Smith, one of our Vice-Presidents, an able and accomplished architect, will be much missed. He took a keen interest in our Society, was constantly present at our meetings and with felicitous phrase and kindly utterances used to express words of encouragement and help to all those who in any way were aiding the work of the Society. He has enriched the town of Reading and neighbourhood with many examples of his architectural skill.

Mr. Albury, another architect, who was also a Vice-President, has recently been called away from us. In the early days of the Society's existence he took a living interest in its formation and development; and though in recent times stress of work has prevented him from taking an active part in our proceedings, we always knew that we had in him a good friend and well-wisher, while his devotion to archæology is witnessed by a paper he wrote some years ago on Reading Abbey.

The death of the Rev. B. C. Littlewood, Vicar of Warfield, has caused the deepest regret which has been felt by his many friends, amongst whom were many of our members. He was a member of our Committee, and we had no more faithful colleague than Mr. Littlewood. He and his devoted wife were seldom absent from our meetings in this room, or from our excursions. It is with a keen sense of personal loss that we record in this brief notice our tribute to the memory of a kind friend and fellow-worker whose sudden call from earth we so bitterly regret.

With these few words we beg leave to close this Report, and to express the hope that each member of the Society will do his best to further the work of the Society during the opening year, and to aid that work to the best of his ability.

# Treasurer's Report for Annual Meeting, April 19th, 1912.

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## CASH STATEMENT FOR YEAR 1911.

Receipts.				1911.	£	s.	d.
Cash in hand, January 1st, 1911	...				6	0	8½
By Subscriptions for 1908	...	0	5	0			
" " 1909	...	0	10	0			
" " 1910	...	2	0	0			
" " 1911	...	35	2	0			
" " 1912	...	1	10	6			
					39	7	6
Hire of Rooms for 1910	...	7	13	6			
" " 1911	...	14	3	6			
					21	17	0
Profit on Excursions, July 26th and 27th, and October 2nd.	...				2	1	0
					£69	6	2½

Expenses.				1911.	£	s.	d.
Paid Caretaker	...				8	9	6
Wood, Coal and Gas Accounts	...				9	4	4
Rents, Rates, Taxes	...				33	12	4
Cost of Lectures, Lanterns, etc.	...				4	10	0
Postage, Carriage of Parcels, Telegrams, etc.	...				4	13	9
Printing, Advertising and Treasurer's Exps.	...				5	0	0
Address to H.M. the King	...				2	15	0
Cash in hand, December 31st, 1911	...				1	1	3½
					£69	6	2½

Berks Archaeological Society.

Audited and found Correct

W. R. MORRIS,

Shinfield Road, Reading.