

# REPORT OF THE COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY FOR YEAR 1937-38.

## 1. MEMBERSHIP.

The number of members shows an increase, the figure being as follows :—

	<i>Honorary.</i>	<i>Life.</i>	<i>Ordinary.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
March 31st, 1937 ...	2	I	389	392
March 31st, 1938 ...	2	I	404	407
Lapses and Resignations ...			51	
Obituary ...			7	

## 2. OBITUARY.

We have to record with regret the death of the following members :—Mr. M. T. Tatham, Mr. H. G. S. Williams, Lord Wyfold, Mr. L. Monk-Smith, Mr. F. B. Cornell, Mr. J. L. Hawkins, Mr. H. B. Mole.

## 3. ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Society was held at Reading University on April 3rd, 1937, the Very Rev. W. R. Inge, retiring President, in the Chair. The Report and Statement of Accounts were approved and adopted. The Vice-Patrons and Vice-Presidents of the Society were re-elected. The following were elected Officers of the Society :—President, Mr. A. T. Loyd, O.B.E., J.P.; Hon. Secretary and Treasurer, Mr. H. T. Morley, F.R.Hist.S., F.S.A. (Scot.); Hon. Editor of the Society's Journal, Mr. E. W. Dormer, F.R.Hist.S.; Hon. Librarian, Mr. F. M. Bunce. The retiring members of the Council were re-elected.

Owing to a family bereavement, Dr. R. E. Mortimer Wheeler, V—P.S.A., was unable to deliver his lecture on "The Earliest Towns of England; Recent Excavations," and, in consequence, an illustrated talk on "The Bayeux Tapestry" was given by Mr. H. T. Morley at short notice.

## 4. STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS.

The Statement of Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1937, accompanies this Report.

We have to record with thanks the following donations :—Mr. C. J. Marcon, £5; Rev. Dr. W. R. Inge, £2 2s.; Miss M. Spokes, 10/-; Mrs. Terrell, 10/-; and Mr. H. H. Long, 5/-.

## 5. LECTURES.

The following lectures were given during the Winter Session :—  
1937.

October 9th.

"Early English Masters in Water Colour, and the Romantic Revival." Laurence Binyon, Esq., C.H.

- November 6th. "Church Woodwork." E. T. Long, Esq.  
 December 11th. "Clausentum Excavations." Colonel C. N. Rivers-Moore.  
 1938.  
 January 15th. "The Parish Church of East Ham." The Rev. M. O. Hodson, M.A.  
 February 5th. "The Medieval House." W. A. Pantin, Esq., F.S.A.  
 February 26th. "The Lost Histories of America." Lieut.-Col. C. J. West, O.B.E., M.D.  
 March 19th. "An Historical Sketch of the Forest Town of Wokingham and Windsor Forest." A. T. Heelas, Esq.

(The Annual Meeting of the Berkshire Branch of the Local History Recording Scheme was also held on this date).

#### 6. SUMMER MEETINGS.

Visits were made to the following places of historic interest :—

1937.  
 May 1st. Newbury, including the Museum, Old Granaries Parish Church, St. Bartholomew's Manor, Almshouses, the Litten and St. Leonard's Chapel, the Old Theatre and Pelican Inn, and the Dower House.  
 Guide : Lieut.-Col. C. J. West.  
 May 27th—29th. Canterbury and District.  
 Guide : Colonel C. N. Rivers-Moore.  
 June 19th. Lower Winchendon, Notley Abbey and Long Crendon.  
 Guides : Messrs. E. T. Long and P. S. Spokes.  
 July 21st. Aldworth, Compton, Lowborough Hill, Hampstead Norris.  
 Guide : Lieut.-Col. C. J. West.  
 September 22nd. Inglesham, Lechlade, Fairford and Faringdon.  
 Guides : Messrs. E. T. Long and P. S. Spokes.

#### 7. FINANCIAL POSITION.

The Council has given much time to considering the financial state of the Society and a Committee was appointed to examine the position and make recommendations.

The Council fully approved of the Committee's proposals that, in order to increase the activities of the Society, money should be available to meet (a) the cost of excavation work in the field, (b) contributions towards the preservation and repair of buildings of archæological interest and (c) an increased output in the Society's Journal. In order to carry out these activities, the Council proposed to establish a Reserve Fund into which an annual

sum of not less than £20 should be paid for the next five years and that the expenditure of the Fund should be vested in the Council. To increase the revenue the Council proposes that the subscription rates at present in force shall be retained as a minimum and that all who can afford to do so should be asked to add a voluntary annual amount to their subscriptions in order that the Reserve Fund may be formed to meet the cost of the activities outlined above. Accordingly the Council agreed to bring forward at the Annual General Meeting a resolution embodying the necessary changes in Rule 5 of the Society.

#### 8. HONORARY EDITORSHIP.

It was with much regret that the Council received in January, 1938, the resignation of Mr. E. W. Dormer as Hon. Editor on account of temporary ill-health. The Society, as a whole, is much indebted to Mr. Dormer for his great assistance in editing "The Berkshire Archæological Journal" during seven years, a task which he has most ably carried out.

#### 9. CAVERSHAM BRIDGE CHAPEL.

When Caversham Bridge was re-constructed in 1924 the complete foundations of the thirteenth century chapel on the bridge were discovered on the island on which the centre pier of the present bridge is built.

The Reading Borough Council have, on more than one occasion been asked by the Society to re-construct the foundations on a nearby site but with no result and recently the Borough Council gave instructions for the disposal of the stones. As the outcome of further negotiations, the Borough Council agreed to allow the stones to be re-erected on a suitable site in the grounds of Caversham Court subject to an estimated sum of £150 to £200 being forthcoming to cover the cost of transport and re-erection. Your Council issued an appeal to members of the Society to help and the sum of £50 was collected or promised. As this sum was insufficient, a further appeal was made to the Borough Council to reconsider the proposal that it should re-erect the foundations of the Chapel and provide the additional cost over and above the £50 collected by the Society. The matter is still in negotiation.

#### 10. ARBORFIELD OLD CHURCH.

As noted in last year's Annual Report an endeavour is being made to preserve the ruins of Arborfield Old Church. Mr. E. T. Long and Mr. C. B. Willcocks prepared a report on the necessary work for consideration by the Parochial Church Council. Subsequently it was found that approximately £20 would have to be spent on the roofs of the Memorial Chapels attached to the old Church if they were to be maintained. It was therefore proposed

that, as the Memorial Chapels are of no architectural interest, the memorials therein should be removed to the new Parish Church and that no expense be incurred on the repair of the Memorial Chapels. It was suggested that the balance of the small sum available remaining after paying for the removal of the monuments should be spent on the preservation of the remains of the old Church. It was suggested that the thirteenth century door and surround of the Old Church should be preserved and possibly built into a vestry of the new Church which it is hoped to construct at a future date.

## II. INVENTORY OF CHURCH CONTENTS.

Recently inventories of the objects dating before 1800 in every parish Church have been made in the Dioceses of Winchester, Chichester and Worcester. These inventories have been made mainly with the aid of questionnaires sent to each incumbent and which have been subsequently collected and if necessary amplified by a panel of a few interested antiquaries.

Your Council decided to take the initiative in starting the scheme in the Oxford Diocese and has obtained the approval and support of the Lord Bishop. The Chairman of the Council was asked to act as convener of a Committee consisting of representatives of the Archæological Societies of the three Counties, the Diocesan Advisory Committee and the Diocesan Magazine. The first meeting of the Committee was held on March 26th, 1938, in Oxford.

## 12. BERKSHIRE CHURCH GUIDES.

It is expected that guides to the parish churches of Caversham, Finchampstead and East Hagbourne will be published shortly. Mr. E. T. Long continues to act as General Editor.

## 13. ALDERMASTON CHURCH.

The attention of the Council was directed to the desirability of carrying out the following works of preservation in Aldermaston church :—

- (a) The repair of the brass shield of arms on the south-west corner of the ledger stone to William Forster (1574).
- (b) The cleaning and preserving of the mural paintings in the South Chapel.
- (c) The cleaning and repairing of the Royal Stewart Arms over the west tower arch.

The Council instructed the Chairman to urge upon the responsible authority the desirability of putting these repairs in hand without undue delay and to state that the Society considered the work worthy of the fullest support.

Receipts and Expenditure for the Year Ending 31st December, 1937.

RECEIPTS.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
To Balance from 1936	...	...	...	43 10 9	By Printing :	...	...	...	...
" Subscriptions	...	...	...	154 1 3	General Account	...	...	23 1 0	...
" Affiliation Fees :	...	...	...	...	St. Anne's Chapel	...	...	15 9	...
Berkshire Society of Architects	...	...	...	...	Journal, including Postages, etc.	...	...	133 2 5	...
Windsor and Eton Archaeological and Scientific Society	...	...	...	...					156 19 2
" Donations :	...	...	...	3 13 0	Subscriptions to :	...	...	...	...
Miss M. Spokes	...	...	...	...	University of Reading	...	...	...	...
Dr. W. R. Inge	...	...	...	...	" Porter	...	...	3 3 0	...
Mrs. Terrell	...	...	...	...	Local History Recording Scheme (Berks Branch)	...	...	2 2 0	...
Mr. C. T. Marcon	...	...	...	...	South Eastern Union of Scientific Societies	...	...	1 10 0	...
Mr. H. H. Long	...	...	...	...	Society for Protection of Ancient Buildings	...	...	1 10 0	...
	...	...	...	...	English Place Names Society (2 years)	...	...	1 10 0	...
Contributions towards cost of Teas :	...	...	...	8 7 0	Society of Antiquaries	...	...	1 3 0	...
Mrs. Holden, Miss Amphlett and Miss Walter	...	...	...	...	Society Preservation of Rural England	...	...	10 6	...
Rev. B. S. Spencer and Mr. C. E. Minifie	...	...	...	...	British Records Association	...	...	1 0 0	...
Miss Baily	...	...	...	...					12 10 0
" Excursions to places of historical interest :	...	...	...	7 7 0	Donations :	...	...	...	...
Newbury, etc.	...	...	...	...	Ewelme Church Repairs	...	...	1 1 0	...
Canterbury, etc.	...	...	...	...	Avebury Preservation Fund	...	...	3 3 0	...
Thame, etc.	...	...	...	...					4 4 0
Aldworth, etc.	...	...	...	...	Excursions to places of historical interest :	...	...	...	...
Fairford, etc.	...	...	...	...	Newbury, etc.	...	...	8 13 6	...
	...	...	...	...	Canterbury, etc.	...	...	26 4 6	...
Sale of Journals	...	...	...	98 10 6	Thame, etc.	...	...	18 11 6	...
" Interest on Deposit Account (Barclays)	...	...	...	7 9 3	Aldworth, etc.	...	...	9 5 3	...
	...	...	...	15 0	Fairford, etc.	...	...	15 10 3	...
					University Buttery, etc., for Teas	...	...	...	78 5 0
					Prizes for Measured Drawings	...	...	...	20 14 6
					Working Epidiascope	...	...	...	3 3 0
					Postage, Stationery, etc.	...	...	...	4 10 0
					Rent at Watlington House	...	...	...	5 7 6
					Table for Watlington House	...	...	...	4 16 3
					Removals	...	...	...	12 6
					Lecturer's Expenses	...	...	...	1 11 3
					Cheque Book	...	...	...	1 1 0
					Balance of Expenditure over Receipts	...	...	...	29 9 7
									£323 13 9

Balance Sheet as at December 31st, 1937.

LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.	ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
Balance from Receipts and Expenditure Account	...	...	...	20 9 7	Current Account—Barclays Bank	...	...	...	38 1 0
Owing to Hon. Treasurer	...	...	...	8 11 5	On Deposit :	...	...	...	...
On Deposit :	...	...	...	...	Barclays Bank Ltd.	...	...	...	50 0 0
Barclays Bank Ltd.	...	...	...	...	Reading Savings Bank	...	...	...	100 0 0
Reading Savings Bank	...	...	...	...	" " Interest	...	...	...	4 3 1
" "	...	...	...	...					...
				52 3 6					£192 4 1
				£192 4 1					...

Examined with books and vouchers and found to be in accordance therewith.  
(Signed) MINNIE M. SWADLING.  
March 28th, 1938.

(Signed) H. T. MORLEY,  
Hon. Treasurer.