

# BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Report of the Council for the Year 1952

We have to record with the deepest regret, the death of our Royal Patron, H.M. King George VI on 6th February, 1952.

H.M. Queen Elizabeth II has been graciously pleased to grant her Patronage to the Society.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Letters Theatre at the University of Reading on Saturday, 10th May, 1952, Col. C. N. Rivers-Moore taking the Chair in the absence of Sir Frank Stenton who was still indisposed following his illness. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 21st April, 1951 were read and adopted. The Council's Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1951 was received and adopted.

The following honorary officers were then duly elected:—

*President :* SIR FRANK STENTON, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A.

*Vice-Presidents :*

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, K.G.  
THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD.  
THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF READING.  
THE VERY REV. H. S. D. CRANAGE, Litt.D., B.D., F.S.A.  
THE RT. HON. LORD ILIFFE OF YATTENDON, G.B.E.  
SIR RALPH GLYN, M.P.  
SIR JOHN COCKCROFT, C.B.E., F.R.S.  
THE RT. WORSHIPFUL, THE MAYOR OF READING.  
MISS A. BAILY, F.Z.S.  
COL. C. N. RIVERS-MOORE.  
P. S. SPOKES, ESQ., M.A., F.S.A.  
SIR OWEN MORSHEAD, K.C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C.  
MRS. E. HOLDEN.

*Editorial Committee for the Society's Journal :*

P. S. SPOKES, ESQ., M.A., F.S.A.  
S. H. HORROCKS, ESQ., F.L.A.  
MISS M. M. SWADLING, F.L.A.

*Librarian :* S. H. HORROCKS, ESQ., F.L.A.

*Excursion Secretaries :*

COL. C. N. RIVERS-MOORE  
MISS M. M. SWADLING, F.L.A.

*Field Work Secretary :*

W. A. SMALLCOMBE, ESQ., B.Sc.

*Secretary :* F. M. UNDERHILL, ESQ., F.S.A.

*Asst. Secretary :*

MISS M. M. SWADLING, F.L.A.

*Local Secretary for North Berks :*

MISS AGNES BAKER, B.A.

*Treasurer :* J. G. GAFFORD, ESQ.

*Auditor :* T. L. SKINNER, ESQ.

### COUNCIL.

In accordance with Rule 5, the following members retired and were re-elected: C. B. WILLCOCKS, ESQ., MISS E. CARLETON-WILLIAMS and MISS M. MAPLESDEN. The following were elected to fill vacancies on the Council: D. B. CONNAH, ESQ., J. G. GAFFORD, ESQ. and MISS A. M. KIRKUS.

MEMBERSHIP.	<i>Honorary</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st Dec., 1951	6	438	—	—	444
31st. Dec. 1952	—	37	10	25	2
	6	475	10	25	446

## OBITUARY.

With regret we have to record the deaths of the following members during the year: Wing-Comdr. J. H. Morrish, O.B.E., (1946), Mr. H. H. Stevens, (1945), Mr. J. W. Youngs, (1929), Mr. A. H. Leaver, (1933), Mrs. Keefer, (1925), Mr. Basil Fletcher, (1925), Miss La Trobe Bateman, (1935), Mr. Godfrey Morton, (1949), Mrs. M. Morris, (1930), and Mrs. Skinner, (1949). A note on Mr. Morrish and Mr. Stevens is appended to this Report.

## PROGRESS AND FINANCE.

The Society has continued to carry out the objects of its foundation during the year. Membership has been maintained, but it must be emphasised that there is room for increase, particularly from the northern and western parts of the County. An appeal is made during Coronation Year, 1953, for an increase of members by at least 25%, all existing members can assist in achieving this. Our lectures and excursions have been successfully carried through and have been fully attended. The assistance of members in keeping the Secretaries informed of local matters is most gratefully acknowledged, but help is always needed in recording chance discoveries, watching the condition of ancient monuments and in the preservation of churches.

## FINANCE.

The year has again been marked by the continuing rise in costs, especially in connection with the printing of The Journal which absorbs such a large part of our income. In addition, we have had to pay increased rent for our room at Watlington House and our expenditure on stationery has also reflected higher prices. To meet increased costs we introduced an entrance fee for new members and very reluctantly increased the subscriptions slightly. We are again indebted to several of our members for their welcome donations, which have been of great assistance towards our Journal. Once again we are glad to thank those members who have acted as hosts and hostesses for teas, a tradition which preserves the friendly atmosphere of the Society's meetings.

Despite our difficulties, our position at the end of the year was satisfactory with the membership maintained and a balance in hand of £12 14s. 4d. against a corresponding sum of £11 10s. 2d. brought forward from 1951.

We welcome those members who have joined the Society during 1952 and hope that they will find our Meetings and other activities enjoyable and informative.

## DONATIONS.

Thanks are due to the following members who have given amounts totalling £23 8s. 0d. to the Society during the year:

<i>List of Donations, 1952</i>					
	£	s.	d.		
S. A. Warner, Esq.	5	5	0	..	..
Berkshire Society of Architects	4	4	0	..	..
A. C. Vachell, Esq.	2	0	0	..	..
R. W. Tozer, Esq.	1	1	0	..	..
His Grace The Duke of Wellington	1	1	0	..	..
Berkshire County Record Office	1	1	0	..	..
Miss K. Sinclair	2	2	0	..	..
Mrs. Dorothy Loyd	1	0	0	..	..
Sir Frederick Grille	12	6		..	..
Miss M. Spokes ..	10	0		..	..
Mrs. L. M. Butler	8	6		..	..

	£	s.	d.
The Misses Curtis & Woodcock	..	..	..
Mrs. Alexander .. .. .	..	..	..
Admiral Claxton .. .. .	..	..	..
E. H. Ferdinando, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..
Mrs. I. Gerrard .. .. .	..	..	..
W. H. Hallam, Esq. .. .. .	..	..	..
Mrs. M. E. Murray .. .. .	..	..	..
Mr. & Mrs. P. Spokes .. .. .	..	..	..
Sir Felix Pole .. .. .	..	..	..
Miss Hardy .. .. .	..	..	..
Royal Library, Windsor Castle	..	..	..
	1	0	0
	£23	8	0

## GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY.

Mrs. V. B. Hippisley presented a copy of "The Hippisley Family" collected by Alfred E. Hippisley, edited and extended by I. Fitzroy Jones, Wessex Press, 1952. Mr. F. J. Stevens presented two pamphlets by our late member Mr. H. H. Stevens, some Oxford Historical Society Reports and papers, also lantern slides. Mr. Peter J. Seaby presented a copy of his book "The Story of the English Coinage". These items are most gratefully acknowledged.

## APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. W. A. Seaby has been appointed Director of the Municipal Museum & Art Gallery, Belfast. Dr. Felix Hull has been appointed Archivist to the County of Kent. Mr. P. Walne has succeeded Dr. Hull as County Archivist for Berkshire.

## REPORT OF THE LOCAL SECRETARY FOR NORTH BERKS.

## ACTIVITY AT ABINGDON:

In the early part of the year, owing to the sudden death of their first Custodian, the Abbey Buildings could only be open by arrangement. But since the installation of Mr. L. M. Gould as Custodian and Guide, they are again on view daily from 10 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. (5.30 on Sundays and until dusk in winter) except Wednesday afternoons. The number of visitors is increasing. At a Meeting held on 27th Sept. it was agreed to go forward with the scheme for using the Checker Hall (to the west of the Checker) as a miniature theatre for plays in the Elizabethan manner. It will also be useful for chamber music and madrigals. A Theatre Club associated with the Friends of Abingdon has recently been formed, the Secretary and originator being Mr. Alan Kitching, 17, East St. Helens Street. Though the present layout of the theatre is temporary pending a more complete restoration of the building, it is hoped to put on two or three plays during the summer of 1953. During the past year, the Friends of Abingdon have made a great effort to save Fitzharris Manor House (*See Page 133*).

## PUBLICATIONS.

Vol. 52 of the Society's Journal (the Index Volume for Vols. 26-50) has been issued to members and has been in demand by libraries and institutions who have taken our Journals in past years. It is a most valuable key to over 25 years of publication by the Society. Vol. 53 of the Journal is in the process of going through the Press and should be issued shortly. In addition to the Grant mentioned in the 1951 Report, we have received further help from the Council for British Archaeology to the extent of £25 towards publishing a further part of Mr. F. Sharpe's CHURCH BELLS OF BERKS.

## FIELD WORK AND MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES.

A watch has been kept on several important sites, but there has been little active investigation in the County during the year. A proposed continuation of the exploration of Blewburton Hill by Mr. A. E. P. Collins was

prevented by an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease. Watch has been kept on the Kingsbury Site at Old Windsor and it is hoped to arrange some detailed investigation during 1953. Mr. Rhodes and Mr. Connah carried out research on ancient field systems in north Hampshire. Mr. A. W. Randall assisted at the excavations at Wroxeter. Mr. C. B. Willcocks completed the restoration of Buckland Abbey, near Plymouth, as a Drake and West Country Folk Museum, the movement to preserve which building he initiated in 1946. He gave us an account of this work in January and recorded the experience he had gained from his earlier efforts in saving Bulmershe Court and Watlington House. Mr. Peter J. Seaby is to be commended for his admirable book "The Story of the English Coinage". Dr. Ian Yarrow has written "Berkshire" in the County Books series. Mr. P. P. Rhodes has published "The Celtic Field Systems on the Berkshire Downs" in *Oxoniensia*, Vol. 15. The same Journal contains a paper by Mr. W. A. Seaby on "Late Dark Age finds from the Cherwell and Ray, 1876-1886". The long awaited *Guide to the Berkshire Record Office* by Dr. Hull has been issued by the County Council. It contains a summary of the wealth of hitherto little known historical material relating to the County, presented in a scholarly manner. Mention is made of the long negotiations carried out by our Society in the 1930s to bring the County Record Office into being. Miss Lily F. Chitty has written a Guide to the pre-historic collections at Rowley's House Museum, Shrewsbury.

#### EXHIBITIONS, ETC.

Considerable alterations to Reading Museum are in progress and we look forward with interest to the re-opening of all the galleries. The Museum of English Rural Life in Reading University was opened at Whiteknights Park on June 4th. Sir Frank Stenton and the Hon. Secretary attended the ceremony. Later in the year the Society visited the collections by kind invitation of the keeper, Mr. J. W. Y. Higgs, M.A. The Windsor Guildhall Exhibition continued during the year, with marked success.

#### PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS.

The proposal of the Ministry of Works to demolish Fitzharris Mansion, Abingdon has been before the Council for most of the year. There was considerable correspondence in *The Times* on the subject from 10th Sept. onwards to which our Vice-President, Mr. P. S. Spokes, also Mr. W. H. Godfrey and Mr. G. Hutton contributed. The matter was raised in Parliament by Sir Ralph Glyn, who received a reply in the House on 2nd Dec. to the effect that the building was to be taken down. The Council arranged for a stained glass window depicting the Annunciation and the Fettiplace arms to be removed from the abandoned modern Church at East Shefford and placed in store (temporarily we hope) at Reading Museum. The Council met seven times during the year when amongst other matters considered were: the condition of the neo-gothic Church at Denford, the Soane memorial and Oracle Gates at Reading, the trees on Wittenham Clumps, the Round House at Chaddlesworth, Ashley Hill, the monuments at St. John's Church, Windsor, Bray lych-gate, and Mapledurham House. H.M. Ministry of Works have continued their work on the preservation of the remains of Donnington Castle and the cleaning and renovation of Uffington White Horse. With regret we record the serious damage to Coleshill House by fire on 23rd Sept. and it is to be hoped that at least the ruins of this notable mansion may be preserved.

#### HISTORIC CHURCHES PRESERVATION TRUST.

During the year the £4,000,000 appeal has been launched under the Patronage of H.M. The Queen. Our ancient churches are a heritage of fine craftsmanship of every kind of material and age and they have moulded the character of our towns and villages for over 1,000 years. Before 1939 there were problems of restoration and renovation, now 13 years of postponed work has accumulated and this must be met by the inhabitants of often very small villages and more particularly by those of us who are conscious of

the value of these monuments. Donations should be sent to the Trust at Fulham Palace, London, S.W.6. Part or whole of a donation may be allocated to a particular church or churches in a specified area.

#### DELEGATES FROM THE SOCIETY.

As usual, the Society was represented at the meetings of the 9th Regional Group and the Central Council for British Archaeology, the British Records Association Congress, the Berks. Committee of the National Register of Archives and the Watlington House Committee. The Hon. Secretary attended the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Abingdon. The Hon. Secretary has been appointed a Correspondent of the Archaeology Branch of the Ordnance Survey.

#### HOSPITALITY.

Our most grateful thanks are due to the following members who have given donations for the provision of tea after lectures: Miss E. D. Amphlett, Col. & Mrs. Jasper Martin, Miss Hopkins, Miss Lockley Smith, Sir Frederick Grille, Miss A. Baily, Mrs. P. B. Freeman, Mr. M. Le Sueur. The Society continues to be indebted to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for the use of the University Buildings as a meeting place.

#### LECTURES.

The following lectures were given to the Society during the year, and our thanks are due to the lecturers for their services:—

- Jan. 19th. The Restoration of *Buckland Abbey*, near Plymouth by C. B. Willcocks, Esq., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.  
(This lecture was given at very short notice in place of one on Hungerford Church, to have been given by the late H. J. Morrish).
- Feb. 16th. *Discovery from the Air in the Upper Thames Valley*, by J. S. P. Bradford, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.
- Mar. 22nd. *The Legend of St. Catherine*, by Miss E. Carleton-Williams, M.A., F.S.A. (This meeting was combined with the Annual Meeting of the Berkshire Local History Committee).
- May 10th. (Annual General Meeting) *Berkshire Parish Registers*, by Dr. Felix Hull, B.A.  
(This lecture was given in place of the Presidential address which was postponed owing to the indisposition of Sir Frank Stenton).
- Oct. 11th. *The "Ruins" at Virginia Water and their Connection with "Lepcis Magna"*, by G. E. Chambers, Esq., B.A., F.S.A.
- Nov. 15th. *The Excavation of a Roman Building at Kintbury, 1950-1951*, by D. B. Connah, Esq., M.A., F.R.G.S.
- Dec. 13th. *The Civil War in Berkshire*, by T. D. Tremlett, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.

#### EXCURSIONS.

- April 17th. The Vyne (by permission of Major C. L. Chute); Sherborne St. John; The ruins of Basing House under the guidance of G. W. Willis, Esq., F.S.A.
- May 2nd. Winchester, St. Cross Hospital, Castle Hall, The Cathedral, The College.
- May 26-30th. Congress at Dillington House, Somerset (see report attached).
- June 17th. Roman London, by kind arrangement with Mr. Norman Cook, F.S.A. (Keeper of the Guildhall Museum).
- July 14th. Yattendon Church, Bucklebury Church and Old Manor ruins, Stanford Dingley Church and Bradfield College (by kind invitation of Col. John Hills who also entertained the members to tea).

- Aug. 29th. Abingdon Guildhall and Fitzharris Manor House, Inglesham Church, Buscot, Fairford, Faringdon and Wantage. (Excursion arranged by the Rev. F. M. Hodgess Roper).
- Sept. 13th. The Museum of English Rural Life, Reading University, by kind invitation of the Keeper, J. W. Y. Higgs, Esq., M.A.

## OBITUARY.

Wing-Commander HEDLEY J. MORRISH, O.B.E., 8th Jan. 1952. Born Dec. 4th, 1909 at Herne Bay, Kent, he was educated at St. Paul's School and King's College, University of London, where he was vice-president of the University Union, President of the Laws Faculty and Editor of the University Diary. From 1933 he was with the Solicitors' Law Stationery Society, being head of the Legal Publishing Dept. 1936-1940. Joining the Royal Air Force, he was at the Air Ministry until 1946, when he came to live at Kintbury with his family. From 1946, he held a post at the Ministry of Civil Aviation and at the time of his death he was with the Colonial Office. He will be remembered for his practical interest in our Society's affairs, serving on the Council from 1948 and assisting at excursions. At Kintbury he was instrumental in restoring the church muniments. With Mr. Connah he excavated part of the Saxon cemetery site east of the church and discovered a Mesolithic working floor west of Irish Hill. This led to the finding of the Roman building which was investigated 1950-51 by Mr. Connah. Until a few days before his death he was working on an account of Hungerford Church to give to the Society; this exists in manuscript and will be published in a later issue of our Journal.

H. H. STEVENS of Howe Combe Farm, Watlington, 3rd Oct. 1952. A native of Essex and formerly a member and excursion organiser of a Field Club at Walthamstow. He was a member of our Council from 1949 and rarely missed a meeting, excursion or the annual Congress. He was an authority on the antiquities of N.W. Essex and had hoped to organise a Congress for us there at some future date. His collection of MS. notes on Essex has been presented to the County Record Office at Chelmsford and two of his publications: "All Saints' Church, Woodford Wells, 1874-1936" and "Woodford's Country-side" 1933, have been given to our library.

**Annual Congress with headquarters at Dillington House, Somerset.  
May 26th-30th, 1952.**

About 40 members assembled at mid-day at Glastonbury on May 26th when the Museum was inspected. After lunch the ruins and excavations at Glastonbury Abbey were visited under the guidance of Capt. G. P. Gowen, R.N. The Captain gave a very full account of the existing remains and the results from recent researches, some of the finds being on view in the Abbot's Kitchen. After tea, the party moved on to Lyte's Carey Manor house, now under the care of the National Trust where Mr. & Mrs. St. George Gray were awaiting to receive them. The house and grounds were seen under the most perfect conditions and they were a charming introduction to this type of domestic building, of which many were to be visited in the county. The President of the Somerset Archaeological Society was at Dillington House to meet the party upon arrival, and after dinner Mr. St. George Gray gave an illustrated lecture on *The Lake Villages of Somerset*.

*Tuesday, 27th May*: Two fine central-towered churches at North Curry and Stoke St. Gregory were visited under the guidance of their respective vicars, then followed an interesting novelty in the Willow and Wicker works of Mr. George Musgrave; it is an ancient industry which was practised in the Lake villages during late Iron Age and Roman times, and revived with some success during recent years. Continuing to Taunton, the party were met in the great church of St. Mary by Mrs. Heaton-Renshaw who described its main features. Lunch was taken *al fresco* in the Castle Grounds with light

refreshments provided by Mrs. Seaby, after which the Museum and Castle were shown by Mr. St. George Gray and the curator, our member Mr. W. A. Seaby. A reception and tea were given to the Society in the Municipal Buildings, by kind invitation of the Mayor. Poundisford Park, visited by kind invitation of the owner, Mr. L. Vivian-Neal, M.C., F.S.A., is another fine example of a late medieval west country house. Finally, Trull church was inspected under the direction of the Vicar, Rev. C. W. Trevelyan. A social evening followed dinner at Dillington House.

*Wednesday, 28th May :* The house and grounds at Barrington Court were first seen, under not quite such brilliant weather conditions, a move was then made to Martock, where the Church and Treasurer's House were seen, guided by Mr. & Mrs. St. George Gray, who are restoring this ancient building. Lunch was taken at Langport, afterwards Muchelney Abbey was seen under the guidance of Mr. Gilyard Beere of H.M. Office of Works. Montacute House was viewed and at tea there the party heard the broadcast of The Derby, a sweepstake organised by the Hon. Secretary being won by Mrs. Sheppard, our hostess at Dillington. Mr. St. George Gray then led a walking party over Ham Hill where he described most graphically his excavations over a number of years. The evening concluded at Dillington with a lecture by Col. Rivers-Moore on the Legends of Glastonbury.

*Thursday, 29th May :* A long drive over most fascinating country brought the party to Sherborne where the Abbey and School Buildings were seen. Time allowed for a visit to the ancient Alms-houses and other buildings of interest. After lunch the ruins of the Castle were visited under the guidance of Mr. C. E. Bean, F.S.A., who showed much early medieval pottery resulting from his excavations and by his kind arrangement a walk in the adjoining Park was much enjoyed. Tea was taken at Yeovil, where time allowed some of the party to inspect the Museum. The long day concluded with a visit to Newton Somerville House and grounds by kind invitation of the owner, Mrs. Bates Harbin. Here farewells were said to Mr. & Mrs. George Gray who had accompanied the party over much of the tour during the past 4 days and whose help and suggestions had done so much to make the visits pleasant and interesting. The day concluded at Dillington House with an illustrated lecture on the Roman Villas of Somerset from Mr. W. A. Seaby and Mr. Dewer.

*Friday, 30th May :* Dillington was left under cloudy skies, then came Stavordale Priory where the members were most hospitably entertained by Mr. & Mrs. H. A. S. Davies. Nunney Castle was seen in the rain, and here the party divided, some returning home by road across Salisbury Plain, Stonehenge and Basingstoke, whilst the remainder visited Downside Abbey, from thence to Bath, and then to Reading by train. This is the longest excursion attempted by the Society, and the thanks of all are due to Col. & Mrs. Rivers-Moore and to Miss Swadling for the smooth organisation which greatly added to the enjoyment of all the party.

F.M.U.

## THE BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

## Income and Expenditure Account, 1952.

INCOME		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions received and Entrance Fees	..	220	2	6	By Cost of Printing Vol. 52	..	..	..	..
" Donations	..	23	8	0	" General Printing and Stationery	..	..	..	195 10 0
" Sale of Journals and Publications	..	24	11	9	" Postages and Telephone calls	..	..	..	34 12 10
" Grant from Council of British Archaeology for Journal	..	25	0	0	" Books for Library	..	..	..	22 9 10
" Dividend	..	2	10	0	" To Journal Reserve	..	..	..	5 1 0
" Bank interest received	..	8	2	0	SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID—	£ s. d.	..	..	25 0 0
" Donations and Collections towards cost of Teas	..	37	19	7	S.P.A.B.	2 2 0	..	..	..
" Balance from Excursion Account	..	40	10	11	C.B.A. 9th Reg. Group	3 12 10	..	..	..
" Balance forward from 1951 Account	..	11	10	2	S.E. Union of Scientific Societies	7 6	..	..	..
					British Records Association	2 0 0	..	..	..
					Friends of St. George's Windsor	10 0 0	..	..	..
					Dr. Fellows' Memorial	2 2 0	..	..	..
					Eng. Place Name Soc.	15 0	..	..	..
					Local History Committee	4 4 0	..	..	..
					Friends of Reading University	5 5 0	..	..	..
					University Museum of Rural Life	1 1 0	..	..	..
					Friends of Abingdon	3 3 0	..	..	..
					Lecturer's Expenses	25 2 4	..	..	25 2 4
					Rent of Room at Watlington House	8 2 0	..	..	8 2 0
					Cost of Teas at Reading University	19 2 6	..	..	19 2 6
					Working Lantern	34 13 0	..	..	34 13 0
					Insurance	4 10 0	..	..	4 10 0
					Gratuities	1 10 0	..	..	1 10 0
					Travelling Expenses	1 10 6	..	..	1 10 6
					Cheque Book	3 6 7	..	..	3 6 7
					Balance in hand, 31st Dec. 1952	10 0	..	..	10 0
						12 14 4	..	..	12 14 4
						£393 14 11	..	..	£393 14 11





## Report of the Council for the Year 1953

On the occasion of the Coronation of HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN at Westminster Abbey on 2nd June, 1953 the following Address was sent to our Royal Patron:—

TO THE QUEEN'S MOST EXCELLENT MAJESTY, may it please YOUR MAJESTY:

WE, the members of the BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY beg leave, on the occasion of YOUR MAJESTY'S CORONATION, to send greetings and congratulations. We wish to express our loyalty and humbly to state the special bonds which attach us to YOUR MAJESTY in affectionate duty. Through YOUR MAJESTY'S gracious consent to act as our Patron Your Majesty has added lustre to our Society; and notwithstanding that Your Majesty's wide realms both here and overseas are alike Your Majesty's home, Berkshire in a special sense claims that honour, containing as it does Royal Residences to which Your Majesty is linked as well by present use as by childhood memories. It is therefore fitting that we, whose aim as a Society is to preserve and make known buildings and sites of historic interest in this County should send Your Majesty our wishes that Your Majesty's Coronation may prove the auspicious opening of a long reign, bringing peace and happiness to the millions of subjects to whose service Your Majesty unselfishly dedicates Your Life. Dated this first day of June, one thousand nine hundred and fifty-three.

(Signed) Frank M. Stenton, President; C. N. Rivers-Moore, Chairman; F. M. Underhill, Secretary.

The following reply was received from the Home Secretary, Home Office, Whitehall. 24th June, 1953.

Sir,

I have had the honour to lay before THE QUEEN the Loyal and Dutiful Address of the President, Chairman and Members of the Berkshire Archaeological Society on the occasion of Her Majesty's Coronation and I have it in Command from The Queen to convey to you Her Majesty's warm thanks for the expressions of loyalty and devotion which it contains. I am, Sir, Your obedient Servant,

(Signed) David Maxwell Fife.

The ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Letters Theatre at Reading University on Saturday, 18th April, 1953, the President, Sir Frank Stenton in the Chair. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 10th May, 1952 were read and adopted. The Council's Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1952 was received and approved. The following honorary officers were then duly elected for the year:—

*President :* SIR FRANK STENTON, M.A., D.Litt., F.B.A.

*Vice-Presidents :*

HIS GRACE THE DUKE OF WELLINGTON, K.G.  
THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF OXFORD  
THE RT. REV. THE LORD BISHOP OF READING  
THE VERY REV. H. S. D. CRANAGE, Litt.D., B.D., F.S.A.  
THE RT. HON. LORD ILIFFE OF YATTENDON, G.B.E.  
THE RT. HON. LORD GLYN OF FARNBOROUGH, M.C., D.L.  
SIR JOHN COCKCROFT, C.B.E., F.R.S.  
THE RT. WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR OF READING  
MISS A. BAILY, F.Z.S.  
COL. C. N. RIVERS-MOORE  
P. S. SPOKES, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.  
SIR OWEN MORSHEAD, K.C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C.  
MRS. E. HOLDEN

*Editorial Committee for the Society's Journal :*

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*Local Secretary for North Berks :*

MISS AGNES BAKER, B.A.

*Treasurer :* J. G. GAFFORD, Esq.*Auditor :* T. L. SKINNER, Esq.

## COUNCIL.

In accordance with Rule 5, Mrs. Rivers-Moore and Mr. Kaines-Thomas retired from the Council but were duly re-elected. The following were elected to fill Council vacancies: Dr. Margaret Wood, F.S.A., Lt.Col. J. Martin and P. Walne, Esq.

MEMBERSHIP.	<i>Honorary</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st Dec., 1952	6	440	—	—	446
31st Dec., 1953	—	34	4	21	9
	6	474	4	21	455

## OBITUARY.

With regret we have to record the deaths of the following members:—Major P. D. R. Williams-Hunt, F.S.A. (1939), A. C. Vachell, Esq. (1941), Rev. J. Hughes, M.A. (1937), Brig. A. E. Stevens, (1952). A note on Major P. D. R. Williams-Hunt is appended to this Report.

## PROGRESS AND FINANCE.

Coronation year has been one of unusual activity in all parts of the County. Special meetings and excursions were arranged both by ourselves and by other Local Societies and many Exhibitions of local historical material were held, in all of which our members played an active part. The commencement of the investigation of the important Dark Age site at Kingsbury, Old Windsor has attracted a lot of attention in the archaeological world, and several other investigations were carried out by our members. The membership shows a satisfactory increase, but further additions to our numbers as representatives of our work in the villages of the west and north of the County would be most welcome. Our programme of lectures and excursions was most successfully carried through, with large attendances. Once again we have to acknowledge the valuable assistance from members in bringing to our notice chance discoveries, and reporting on the condition of ancient monuments and the preservation of churches.

## FINANCE.

The effect of the small rise in the annual subscription made during 1952 is reflected in the accounts and together with the healthy balance from the Excursion Account has enabled us to close the year with a slightly better balance in hand of £18 4s. 2d. Our income has been greatly assisted this year by donations as our members responded generously to appeals for the Loyal Address to our Patron and the Old Windsor Excavation Fund. We also thank those donors whose names appear below, many of whom regularly contribute to the general funds. This year the list is in alphabetical order without the sums given and it is hoped that this new practice will encourage other members who might wish to make only small donations as this voluntary help is invaluable to our prosperity.

*General Donations received during 1953.*

Mrs. E. Alexander	Miss M. E. Murray
Rev. C. Bourne	Sir F. Pole
Miss J. M. Bowyer	W. H. Saunders, Esq.
Mrs. L. M. Butler	Miss M. Spokes
Mrs. H. D. Cook	Mr. & Mrs. Spokes.
Miss W. Cox	Mrs. Tomlins
Miss M. Curtis	R. H. Tozer Esq.
A. Douglas, Esq.	A. C. Vachell, Esq.
E. H. Ferdinando, Esq.	The Duke of Wellington
Mrs. I. Gerrard	Royal Library, Windsor
W. H. Hallam, Esq.	Miss Woodcock
Miss Hopkins	R. L. B. Work, Esq.
Mrs. D. Loyd	

*Donations to Cost of Loyal Address*

Collected at Excursion on 21.4.53. £5 5s. 9d.

Miss Amphlett	Col. & Mrs. J. Martin
Rev. Canon C. Bourne	Miss Robinson
J. M. Cobban, Esq.	Miss Walker
Miss W. M. Dibdin	

## ACQUISITIONS.

Two old Minute Books of the Society have been discovered by Miss Swadling and placed with our other records in Watlington House. They date: (i) 4. Aug. 1872—Dec. 30. 1873 with Index; (ii) Nov. 27, 1879—Nov. 18. 1890. From the Ministry of Housing & Local Government and the Council for British Archaeology: Lists of Buildings in the Wokingham Area; and List of Buildings in the Rural District of Faringdon. The Preservation of Buildings of Historic Interest (C.B.A. 1953); *Local Records*, their nature and Care, edited by L. J. Redstone and F. W. Steer (Bell, 1953) has been purchased for the Society's Library.

## HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Sir Ralph Glyn has been created Lord Glyn of Farnborough; Sir Owen Morshead has been created Knight Commander of The Bath; Sir John Cockcroft received the degree of Doctor of Science at Cambridge University; Mr. W. A. Smallcombe and Miss M. Curtis received the Coronation Medal, and Mr. Frederick Sharpe was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

## REPORT OF THE LOCAL SECRETARY FOR NORTH BERKS.

The Friends of Abingdon went on with the battle to save Fitzharris House until demolition had begun. They were asked to collaborate with the Ministry of Works over a list of fixtures that ought to be preserved and such of these as the contractors actually saved have been given to them.

During 1953 visitors numbering 4,030 were conducted round the Abbey Buildings.

The outstanding event of the year was the transformation of the hall adjoining the Abbey Checker into a miniature Elizabethan Theatre and the formation of *The Unicorn Theatre Club* with Mr. Alan Kitching as Hon. Sec. Until funds allow heating to be installed, only a summer season can be run. The Theatre opened in Coronation week with performances by Abingdon Drama Club of *Two Angry Women of Abingdon*. Other societies presented Shakespeare's *Much Ado About Nothing*, and two modern plays suitable for an open stage. Chamber music, madrigals, a verse reading and two lectures on subjects connected with the stage, made up the programme until mid-September, when activities had to cease until the return of warm weather.

#### PUBLICATIONS.

Vol. 53 of the Society's Journal has now been issued to members. Material is being collected for Vol. 54.

THE ARMORIAL GLASS OF THE OXFORD DIOCESE, by E. A. Greening Lamborn was published for the Society in 1949. The Publisher's Edition has now been sold out, but the Society has a limited number of paper bound copies which are now offered for sale at 12/6d. each. The demand by libraries and individuals for back numbers of our Journal has continued.

#### FIELD WORK AND MEMBERS ACTIVITIES.

The excavations sponsored by our Society at Kingsbury, Old Windsor, were carried out under the direction of Mr. Brian Hope-Taylor, F.S.A. during the early part of September, and an excursion was arranged while the work was in progress to see the investigations. A preliminary report on the results is appended to this Report. Dr. M. A. Cotton, F.S.A., carried out some excavations at Weycock Hill, Waltham St. Lawrence during August and again in October, and further investigations of this large Roman site are awaited with interest. Mr. A. E. P. Collins excavated some Anglo Saxon burials on Blewburton Hill in August. The course of the Roman Road at West Court, Finchampstead, was examined by Mr. Gafford, and Mr. Underhill found a mound probably of medieval date in the same parish. Mr. Shirreff has reported the finding of Iron Age pottery at Moss Hill in the southern part of Sparsholt Parish. Col. Rivers-Moore has published a report on *Further Excavations in the Roman House at Harpsden Wood, Henley-on-Thames. (Oxonienia. XIV. 1953)*. Mr. F. Sharpe has published Part IV of *The Church Bells of Oxfordshire (Oxford Record Society's Journal. 1952)*. Mr. P. P. Rhodes published his account of his Excavations at Odstone Down (*Trans. Newbury Field Club X.1.1953*). Miss Lily Chitty has published *Prehistoric and other early finds in the Borough of Shrewsbury*, and a *Bronze Palstave found at Pontesbury. (Trans. Shropshire Arch. Soc. LIV. 1951-52)*. The Duke of Wellington has published *The Scaffold George of Charles I. (Antiquaries Journal. XXXIII. Oct. 1953)*.

#### EXHIBITIONS, ETC.

On 5th July our President addressed the Mayor and Corporation of Reading on the occasion of the opening of an Exhibition to mark the 700th anniversary of the grant of Reading's first Charter. H.W. The Mayor gave a reception to the townspeople on the following day when the Charters were on view, this was attended by many members of the Society. On 11th March the main gallery of Reading Museum was re-opened following alterations and renovations. From May 11th-16th there was an exhibition in Abingdon of documents relating to Christ's Hospital in that town. Amongst the many displays of historical material relating to the Coronation celebrations mention should be made of exhibitions at Wantage, Newbury, Maidenhead and Aldermaston, whilst the Guildhall Exhibition at Windsor (which was open from April to October) had special features including a show of Coronation medals from the collections of Mr. P. H. Sellwood, Loyal Addresses to the Crown, and illuminated manuscripts and books from the library of Beaumont College, Old Windsor.

## PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS.

The year started with the loss of the ruins of Coleshill House and Fitzharris House, Abingdon, both of which were demolished in spite of protests from our Society. Our Council has been active in efforts to preserve Mapledurham House and Almshouses, St. Anne's Well, Caversham; the Imp Stone at Silchester; earthworks on Maidenhead Thicket; a bridge at Newbury, Fawley Court (Bucks) and at the end of the year preparations were made for the Society to be represented at the Enquiry into the Reading Development Plan in which several Georgian and Regency houses in London St. and London Rd., Reading (including Albion Place) were threatened, also the remains of the Vachell's town house in Hosier St. known as Finch's Buildings. On 11th Sept. St. Nicholas's Church, Abingdon, was seriously damaged by fire, and similar damage occurred at Radley Church on 28th Sept. During the year some renovation has taken place on the monuments in St. John's Church, Windsor, to which, through the generosity of an anonymous member of our Society, we were able to make a donation. Some renovation of the Upper Cross at East Hagbourne is reported during which the date 1707 and the initials AR were found painted on the block of stone on the top of the cross shaft.

## DELEGATES FROM THE SOCIETY.

The Society was represented at the meetings of the Central Council for Archaeology, the 9th Regional Group (whose meeting on Sept. 15th was held at Windsor when the Kingsbury Excavations were inspected); the Congress at Worthing of the S.E. Union of Scientific Societies (14th May); the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Abingdon (15th May); the Annual Meeting of the Friends of St. George's, Windsor (16th May); the British Records Association Congress; the Standing Committee for Local History, and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings. Our President and Lady Stenton attended the Centenary Meeting of the Oxford Archaeological Society on 24th June, following which they attended a similar function arranged by the Wiltshire Archaeological Society which, on 10th May held an excursion to the Vale of the White Horse where Mr. A. G. Shirreff assisted in arranging the itinerary. Sir Frank Stenton with other members of the Society attended the reception at Reading University on Nov. 4th to mark the inauguration of the commencement of the new buildings for Reading University in Whiteknights Park.

## HOSPITALITY.

Our most grateful thanks are due to the following members who have given donations towards the provision of tea after lectures: Miss A. M. Kirkus, Mrs. & Miss Bentall, Miss Amphlett, Miss Halley, Miss Baily, Mr. & Mrs. Kaines-Thomas. The Society continues to be very greatly indebted to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for the use of the University buildings as a headquarters for our meetings.

## LECTURES.

The following lectures were given to the Society during the year, and our thanks are due to the Lecturers for their services:

- Jan. 17th. *The Iron Age in Berkshire*, by Dr. M. Aylwin Cotton, O.B.E., M.B., B.S., F.S.A.
- Feb. 21st. *Heraldry*, by H. D. Butchart, Esq., F.S.A.
- Mar. 21st. *The Work of The National Trust*, by C. V. Wallace, Esq., B.A., A.R.I.C.S.
- Apr. 18th. (Annual General Meeting) Presidential Address:  
*The Origins of Berkshire Parishes*, by Sir Frank Stenton.
- July 18th. (Summer Meeting held in celebration of Her Majesty's Coronation in the grounds of Watlington House)  
*The Coronation*, by Sir Owen Morshead, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., M.A., M.C.
- Oct. 10th. *Thirteenth Century Domestic Architecture*, by Margaret E. Wood, M.A., D.Litt., F.S.A. (Mrs. Kaines-Thomas).

- Nov. 7th. *Fieldwork in The Archaeology Division of The Ordnance Survey*, by R. L. B. Work, Esq., Ordnance Survey.  
 Dec. 5th. *Excavation of The Romano-Celtic Temple at Woodeaton, Oxon.*, by Miss Joan M. Kirk, M.A., F.S.A.

## EXCURSIONS.

- April 27th. Eversley Church and Rectory (by permission of Rev. R. C. Rudgard); Farnham Castle, Keep and Palace (by permission of the Lord Bishop of Winchester); Albury Park, (by permission of Her Grace Helen, Duchess of Northumberland).  
 May 13th. Stoke Poges Church; Jordans: Friends' Meeting House; Chalfont St. Giles: Milton's Cottage and Church; Penn Church; Hughenden Manor and Fingest Church.  
 June 17th. St. Albans, Roman remains and Abbey; the Wernher collection at Luton Hoo.  
 June 22nd-26th. Annual Congress at Cowley Manor, Cheltenham (see report attached).  
 July 14th. Oxford: St. John's College, Sheldonian Theatre, Bodleian Library, New College, Godstow Nunnery and Magdalen College (arranged by Mr. P. S. Spokes, Vice-President).  
 Sept. 4th. Kingsbury, (Excavations) Old Windsor; The Priory (by kind permission of Mr. & Mrs. W. G. Cleghorn); Ouseley Lodge and Beaumont College (by kind permission of the Rev. Father Rector).

## OBITUARY.

MAJOR PETER D. R. WILLIAMS HUNT, F.S.A., died as the result of an accident in the Malayan jungle on 11th June. A native of Maidenhead where he attended the County Boys' School, he was at one time on the staff of the *Reading Mercury*, and from 1939 he was a most active member of our Society. Williams Hunt first became interested in Archaeology as a school-boy by assisting Col. and Mrs. Rivers-Moore with their excavations at Hurley Priory and he helped to compile the report on the Medieval Floor Tiles found there, which appeared in the *Berkshire Archaeological Journal* XLIII. He made great efforts to revive the museum at Maidenhead, and he discovered and excavated a number of prehistoric sites in that neighbourhood. At the outbreak of war in 1939, he was commissioned in the Royal Fusiliers, being later transferred to Intelligence duties, serving in North Africa and later in Italy. There he took every opportunity of familiarising himself with prehistoric and classical antiquities and with J. S. P. Bradford he investigated crop-marks in Apulia. He transferred to the Paratroops, obtained his pilot's wings and saw service in the liberation of Malaya. After demobilisation he remained in that country, beginning research into the beliefs and customs of the aborigines, amongst whom he took up his residence. Combining archaeology and ethnology he carried out investigations of all kinds, taking his own air and ground photographs with remarkable skill. His publications included papers on beach sites in Australia, earthworks in eastern Siam, and in 1952, Greek Attic pottery from a northern Malayan cave. Whether it was digging single-handed an earthwork on Maidenhead Thicket, working on Roman pottery in Hambleton Museum or making long war-time trips into the north African desert to see Roman sites, he brought a single-mindedness of purpose to everything he undertook. He was keenly interested in everything that our Society was doing, even when in the remote Malayan jungle where our *Journal* and reports reached him. His was a rare and utterly fearless spirit, and his loss at the age of 35 is a severe one for us, as well as for his relatives, and for science generally. (See *The Times*, 13.6.53, 14.6.53 etc. Obituary in *Antiquity* by J. S. P. Bradford. No. 107, 1953. pp. 170-1).

**Annual Congress with Headquarters at Cowley Manor, near Cheltenham.****June 22nd-26th, 1953.**

About 40 members travelling by coach and car journeyed via the Marlborough Downs and the Wiltshire White Horse to Cliffe Pypard Church, a lofty building with a narrow nave, Jacobean pulpit and other interesting features. At Ashton Keynes, Father Thames, (whose source at Seven Springs was seen later) runs through the village, a mere runnel about a foot wide. The church has a fine Norman font and arcade. The great church at Cirencester was then inspected under the direction of the Rev. Potto Hicks, Vicar of Elkstone. Once the greatest Augustinian Abbey in England, the church is outstanding in beauty and interest with its great porch, parvise, and early 15th century tower largely built by a citizen rewarded by Henry IV for his aid in quelling the abortive rising of the Earls of Kent and Salisbury. Elkstone church visited after tea has a fine 14th century tower, probably built by the same workmen who completed Gloucester Cathedral. The body of the church is early Norman with French features. Cowley Manor was reached during the evening and provided under the able direction of Mr. & Mrs. Willink pleasure and comfort during the period of the conference. The house is of modern date, of fine proportions and the grounds are attractive with well-planted undulating prospects and ornamental waters, fed from the river Churn. Included in the domain is a parish church of much earlier date, mainly in the E.E. style. The house is now in possession of the Gloucestershire Education Authority and used as an Adult Education College. During the first evening, Mrs. Clifford gave a lantern talk, introducing the prehistoric and Roman remains of Gloucestershire, many of which were seen during the week.

On Tuesday 23rd, the delightful country of the Cotswold escarpment and the Severn plain was seen on the way to Uley Barrow, where three chambers were inspected by most of the party who crawled in turn through the narrow entrance. A visit to Sherston church and village followed, then came Malmesbury, a survival of one of the great west country abbeys, with its beautiful south porch with Saxon plaques and delicate late Norman carving. At Beverston Castle, the owner Mr. T. C. N. Roberts welcomed the party and gave a brief account of its history. The remains included a handsome tower containing a fine chapel, with the Lord's chamber and private oratory above. A fortress stood here in pre-Norman times, a farm-house was added in 1698, a moat surrounds the whole. The adjacent church has Saxon work in the tower, Norman pillars and an unusual timber roof. A different type of residence was next visited, Chavenage House, a E-shaped house dating back to 1576, shown to the party by Mrs. Loseley Williams. Features seen included the fine hall with minstrel gallery, a Cromwell and Ireton room, a Queen Anne Room, and the church for retainers which has a Saxon font. At Tetbury where tea was taken, many visited the curious neo-gothic church built in 1751. The massive candelabra recently restored here were mentioned by Mr. W. Ivesome Croome, President of the Bristol and Gloucester Archaeological Society, in a lecture on the furnishings of local Churches on June 24th.

Wednesday 24th was a day full of varied interest which included a drive through Cheltenham, visits in the morning to the churches at Deerhurst and Tewkesbury, and the 19th century gothic Toddington. Deerhurst, well-known from the mention of the priory by Bede in 725, has a remarkable Saxon tower of two periods. Reminiscent of the Danish raids are the large dragon heads on the exterior, the carved ends of the labels (again dragon heads) inside the west door, and the capital at the east end, shaped like a ship. The two-in-one font has Celtic designs of the 10th century, not unlike some in the Book of Kells. Tewkesbury Abbey has a massive Gloucestershire-type Norman arcade, and the church, finished in 1123, bears 53 different mason's marks. It was re-roofed in 1320, after the timber roof had been burnt, and the beautiful



liern vaulting survives with its rich central bosses. At the east end of the ambulatory with its 7 radiating chapels, perpendicular chantries and famous clerestory windows were all seen, but time was all too short. Hailes Abbey was visited in the afternoon, and in contrast to Tewkesbury, hardly survives above ground. Founded in 1246 by Richard Earl of Cornwall with the aid of Cistercians from Beaulieu, it received a gift of the Holy Blood from the founder's son, which brought it a mention in Chaucer's Pardoner's Tale. Sudeley Castle has a wealth of treasures, for in addition to the beautiful Spanish leather chairs, (part of Catherine of Aragon's dowry), there is the bedroom of Catherine Parr, whose modern tomb with effigy is in the church. The Long Barrow of Belas Knap was seen on the return journey, with its horne entrance restored after the last excavation; being of the false passage grave type, the chambers are in the sides.

Thursday, June 25th was dedicated to Gloucester, and was a most rewarding day. After seeing the old city conduit and leper chapel, the attractively arranged museum was inspected where are displayed, with other treasures, the celebrated Birdlip mirror of Iron Age date, and the 15th century Woodchester stoup. A complete tour of the Cathedral followed, including the crypt and triforium under the guidance of Canon G. H. Fendick. The initiation of the Perpendicular style, the English development of Gothic architecture, is the chief feature of this wonderful building. First seen in the S. transept as early as 1330, as a veneer to the Norman work, it continued to the great E. Window with its 14 lights, a memorial to the knights who fell at Crecy and Calais. The clerestory of the choir and lovely fan tracery of the cloisters are in the same style. In the afternoon, after seeing the remains of St. Oswald and Llanthony priories and the Black and Grey Friars, there was a reception and tea at the Guildhall at the invitation of the Mayor for whom in his unavoidable absence, the Town Clerk, Mr. L. O. Need deputised. He spoke of the City Charters, which are in excellent state of preservation, and the city plate. The evening at Cowley took the form of a good-bye ceremony with a presentation to Col. Rivers-Moore for his excellent arrangements; flowers and thanks were given to Mrs. Rivers-Moore. The Col. in his turn expressed his gratitude to Miss Swadling for her most valuable assistance. An enjoyable concert with contributions by members and Mr. and Mrs. Willink and their son followed.

Friday the 26th, the last day included Whittington church on the run home, a small church curious in that features like the tower, and an entrance to the S. aisle, usually found at the W. end, are here at the east, apparently due to the proximity of the manor, a typical Cotswold house with its moat still existing. Chedworth Roman villa was next seen under the guidance of Mrs. Clifford, who stressed the size and importance of this site on the Whiteway, near its junction with the Fosse Way. Northleach church is one of those perpendicular buildings which owes its splendour to the prosperity of the medieval wool trade, in this instance mainly to John Forty, whose brass remains with his feet on sheep, wool-pack and shears. The church has several other brasses, a font, East Anglian in character, an E. window over the chancel arch and a fine porch. The final visits were to Burford Priory, once a hospital of St. John, and after the Dissolution a residence, bought by Speaker Lenthall who built a chapel, a surprisingly pleasing mixture of Classical and Gothic styles. The house now belongs to a sisterhood who allowed the party to see the hall with two surviving arcades of the hospital church, and the present chapel which has an elaborate ceiling. The parish church on the opposite side of the attractive street, is an example of growth due to the prosperity of donors over a course of years, and of these there are surely portraits in the bescarfatted heads among the corbels of the nave. This development has superseded the original Norman church and added chapel after chapel, producing a plan of considerable complexity. In the heart of it all stands the base of the Norman tower. Homewards after tea, the journey was past Minster Lovell and through Witney, reviving memories of the 1952 Congress.

MARGARET CURTIS, 1953.

## EXCAVATIONS AT KINGSBURY, OLD WINDSOR, September, 1953

It is most gratifying to report that the first season's work at Kingsbury has been outstandingly successful.

It will be remembered that attention was drawn to the site in 1951 when new sewer trenches revealed large areas of disturbed ground rich in pottery and animal bones. The circumstances of the discovery did not then allow of detailed archaeological investigation, but examination of the pottery indicated that the site had been occupied, continuously or intermittently, from the seventh century to the thirteenth. The historical identification of Kingsbury as the location of Edward the Confessor's palace was so secure that the new discovery could but be regarded as of extreme importance.

During the short term of excavation this year it was not to be expected that the palace itself would be located with certainty, but various indications have combined at least to reduce the field of search. The aims of this season's work were to establish the chronology of the site's occupation and to obtain understanding of the problems which would be encountered in more extensive excavation. Both aims were achieved. Early and late types of Saxon pottery have been found, and fragments of late 11th-early 12th century date bridge the gap between them and the abundant later 12th century forms. The story as told by the pottery, runs on into the thirteenth century and stops abruptly (in agreement, it should be noted, with the historical record). Thus it is now certain that there was long continuity of occupation and such small gaps as may be present in the archaeological record to date are probably due to the limited scale of excavation.

The most outstanding feature of this year's work has been the extraordinary quantity of early Saxon occupation material recovered. Every one of six trial trenches, distributed over a wide area, produced pottery characteristic of this period. Most of the vessels were cooking pots of baggy form, hand-made and extensively marked by the chopped straw and chaff which had been incorporated in the clay in the plastic state (and of course, burned out during the firing of the pot). There is evidence that in some parts of this country this type of pottery persisted into the ninth century and it is not possible to date it with complete precision as yet. It seems probable that at Kingsbury it is of early date, and that the seventh century provides a safe central dating. One or two pieces suggest even earlier occupation, appearing at present to be most closely paralleled by Continental ware.

Amongst the Saxon rubbish-pits excavated this year was one of remarkable size, between thirty-five and forty-five feet in diameter and over eight feet deep. It may originally have been a pond or water-hole. Its presence was indicated by a very slight concavity in the surface of the field, and a trench was cut along one radius. This relatively small cutting did not allow the lowest levels of the pit to be investigated, but yielded so large a quantity of Saxon pottery that the complete excavation of the feature should give important results.

A Saxon hearth was encountered in one of this year's cuttings and it seems likely that it is connected with a hut of this period. This area will be examined on a larger scale in due course, for the discovery of Saxon huts must be one of the goals of future research.

The extensive and intensive occupation of Kingsbury in early Saxon times suggests that this was a place of some importance before the Confessor's manor-house brought it to record, and, although that building itself may not be found until very extensive excavation has been carried out, the earlier remains, which form its archaeological context are so valuable as to have demanded equally extensive research had they constituted the sole interest of the site. An unmortared flint base found this year may have been part of an ancient building, but the evidence is at present inconclusive and judgement must be held over until more work has been done.

These notes will have indicated that the 1953 investigations have produced material of exceptional interest, which has shown Kingsbury to be a site of the greatest importance to Dark Age and medieval archaeology.

BRIAN HOPE-TAYLOR, F.S.A. *October, 1953.*

THE BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

### Income and Expenditure Account, 1953.

	£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions received and Entrance Fees ..	232	16	6
" Donations ..	15	8	6
" Sale of Journals and Publications ..	8	0	11
" Donation by Reading Museum to Journal (Blewburton Excavation Report) ..	35	0	0
" Dividend ..	2	10	0
" Bank Interest received ..	8	9	7
" Donations and Collections towards cost of Teas ..	29	6	9
" Old Windsor Excavations donations ..	66	7	0
" Loyal Address donations ..	11	10	8
" Windsor Parish Church (Anon. donation) ..	5	0	0
" Balance from Excursion Account ..	47	7	8
" Balance forward from 1952 Account ..	12	14	4
	<hr/>		
	£474	11	11
	<hr/> <hr/>		
	£474	11	11

  

	EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
By Part cost of Printing Vol. 53 of Journal ..		58	17	2
" General Printing and Stationery ..		28	6	8
" Postages and Telephone Calls ..		21	19	7
" Books and Bookcase for Library ..		5	18	9
" To Journal Reserve ..		180	0	0
" SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID—			£ s. d.	
S.P.A.B. ....		1	1	0
C.B.A. 9th Reg. Group ..		4	4	4
S.E. Union of Scientific Societies ..		12	6	0
Friends of St. George's Windsor ..		10	0	0
Eng. Place Name Society ..		15	0	0
Friends of Reading University ..		5	5	0
Friends of Abingdon ..		2	2	0
		<hr/>		
Lecturers' Expenses ..		14	9	10
Rent of Room at Watlington House ..		6	16	6
Cost of Teas at Reading University ..		16	10	0
Working Lantern ..		30	19	6
Insurance ..		3	15	0
Gratuities ..		2	2	6
Travelling Expenses ..		2	15	0
Old Windsor Excavations ..		3	11	9
To Old Windsor Excavation Fund ..		62	18	8
Windsor Parish Church (Anon. Donation)		3	8	4
Loyal Address ..		5	0	0
Balance in hand, 31st Dec., 1953 ..		8	18	6
		18	4	2
		<hr/>		
		£474	11	11

## EXCURSION ACCOUNT, 1953.

1953	£	s.	d.
To Balance in hand 31st December, 1952	..	4	19 1
" Profit on Excursions	..	47	7 8
	£52	6	9
	£	s.	d.
	48	0	0
	4	6	9
	£52	6	9

1953  
By Payment to Treasurer 31st Dec., 1953  
" Cash at Bank 31st December, 1953 ..

## KINGSBURY. OLD WINDSOR EXCAVATION FUND.

RECEIPTS.			EXPENDITURE.		
	£	s. d.		£	s. d.
H.M. The Queen	..	25 0 0	Wages and National Insurance	..	61 12 8
Society of Antiquaries	..	25 0 0	Printing	..	1 6 0
Royal Borough of New Windsor	..	10 0 0	Balance	..	3 8 4
Newbury Field Club	..	2 2 0		..	
F. C. Fedden, Esq.	..	2 0 0		..	
Miss Amphlett	..	1 0 0		..	
Miss Kirkus	..	10 0 0		..	
Col. & Mrs. J. Martin	..	10 0 0		..	
Canon C. Bourne	..	5 0 0		..	
	£66	7 0		£66	7 0

## Balance Sheet, 1953.

1952	1953
Capital Reserve brought forward from 1952	178 7 6
Journal Fund brought forward from 1952	£305
Addition during year	180
Investment 2½% Defence Bonds	485 0 0
Old Windsor Excavation Fund	100 0 0
Uncleared items	3 8 4
Credit Balance from Income & Expenditure a/c.	18 4 2
	£793 4 6

Balance of Deposit A/c, Thames Valley Trustee Savings Bank ..  
Balance of Current A/c, Barclays Bank, Reading ..  
Balance of Deposit A/c, Barclays Bank, Reading ..  
Balance of Excursion A/c, Barclays Bank, Reading ..  
Investment ..  
Petty Cash in hands of Hon. Secretary ..

286 9 0  
306 16 1  
80 0 0  
4 6 9  
100 0 0  
15 12 8

£793 4 6

Examined and compared with all necessary books and vouchers and found correct.

(Signed) T. L. SKINNER,

Hon. Auditor.