

BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Report of the Council for the Year 1954.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Letters Theatre at the University of Reading on Saturday, 10th April, 1954, the President, Sir Frank Stenton, occupying the Chair. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of the 18th April, 1953, were read and confirmed. The Council's Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1953 were adopted. The following honorary officers for the year 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.
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.B., K.C.V.O., D.S.O., M.C.
MRS. E. HOLDEN.
C. B. WILLCOCKS, Esq., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

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., F.M.A.

Secretary: F. M. UNDERHILL, Esq., F.S.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 retiring members of the Council, MR. M. LE SUEUR, MR. A. G. SHIRREFF and MR. W. J. BARKUS, were re-elected. The following were elected to fill vacancies: MRS. M. A. COTTON, MR. S. COLLIER and SIR FREDERICK GRILLE.

MEMBERSHIP.		<i>Honorary</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st Dec., 1953	...	6	449	—	—	455
31st Dec., 1954	...	—	48	4	22	22
		6	497	4	22	477

TUARY.

With regret we have to record the deaths of the following members: Mrs. Rivers-Moore (1925), Miss E. Beach (1925), Dr. Kirk, Bishop of Oxford (1938), and Mrs. A. T. Beavis (1939). A note on the valued services which these late members of the Society had rendered is appended to this Report.

PROGRESS AND FINANCE.

Public interest in archæology and historical studies has shown a further marked increase during the year, and this has been reflected by the improvement in our membership. We hope that this may continue, so that our numbers can be brought to over 500, for our influence in the County depends on our strength. Further additions in our representation to the north and west of the County would be welcome. Field work during the year included the commencement of an investigation by Mr. G. Boon of Reading Museum on a newly discovered earthwork at Silchester, whilst the excavations sponsored by the Society in 1953 at Kingsbury, Old Windsor, were continued by Mr. B. Hope-Taylor under the auspices of the Ministry of Works. The Staff of Reading Museum also investigated a Roman site on the banks of the Kennet near the "Cunning Man," at Burghfield. We have again to acknowledge the valued help of members who brought chance discoveries to our notice, and who reported on the condition of ancient monuments and other buildings. All our meetings and excursions were successfully carried out, including the Congress on the Roman Wall which is reported upon separately.

FINANCE.

The Annual Accounts are this year presented in a slightly different form, more in accordance with present-day accountancy practice. They reveal that despite the continuing high costs, the excess of Income over Expenditure was just over £12, representing about two per cent of revenue. It is clear that without the profit on the excursions and the very welcome donations from some of our members the Society would be unable to fulfil its aims on the income derived from subscriptions alone.

The main item of expenditure was for the publication of Volume 53 of the Journal, the total cost of which was £324, partly appearing in the previous year's accounts. The cost of Volume 54, now in preparation, is chargeable to the 1954 income and the reserve of £455 covers this adequately.

Donations were received from the following members and are gratefully acknowledged:—

Mrs. E. Alexander	Mrs. I. Gerrard	Mr. & Mrs. Spokes
Miss A. Bailey	W. H. Hallam, Esq.	R. H. Tozer, Esq.
Mrs. L. M. Butler	Miss Hopkins	Miss E. Vignoles
Rev. S. E. Chavasse	Mrs. D. Loyd	The Duke of Wellington
Miss M. Curtis	Miss M. E. Murray	Royal Library, Windsor
E. H. Ferdinando, Esq.	Sir Felix Pole	Miss Woodcock

ACQUISITIONS.

A large collection of family papers relating to the Pile family with the antiquarian notes of L. J. A. Pile, from the 17th-20th centuries was received and placed on loan in the Berkshire Record Office. Mr. P. Walne, the County Archivist has undertaken to prepare a list of these documents, which already have proved useful in answering a query on the Fortnum family. From the executors of Miss Beach, seven water-colour drawings relating to Reading and neighbourhood and the sketches of a book on the Summer Festival at Lockinge.

From Mrs. Morley, further brass rubbings; a frame of 25 personal seals; a drawing of the Abbey Gateway, Reading, with a note by Dr. J. B. Hurry, dated May 1901; and a framed Grant by the Duke of Norfolk of Medmenham Manor, Bucks, 24 August, 8th Ed. IV with heraldic seal. *The Memorandums of John Watts* (Edited by K. G. Burton, M.A., Reading 1950) and *The Early Newspaper Press in Berkshire, 1723-1855*, by K. G. Burton, M.A. (Reading 1954) were purchased for the Society's library.

HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Mr. M. F. Bond, Keeper of the Records at the House of Lords, received the O.B.E. Mr. P. P. Rhodes was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries.

REPORT OF THE LOCAL SECRETARY FOR NORTH BERKS.

During the past year the organisation known as *Friends of Abingdon* has become registered as a Charity and since adopting a new Trust Deed and set of rules at its Annual Meeting last May, can now receive the financial benefit of covenanted subscriptions.

The year 1954 saw an encouraging increase in the number of visitors to the Abbey buildings, including organised parties from such bodies as the Kensington Society, the Oxfordshire Archæological Society and a section of the British Association during its conference held at Oxford in the autumn. The buildings are now open every weekday from 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m., and from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. (or dusk). The extra income from visitors has been absorbed by running repairs and general expenses; a profit of nearly £112 from a summer garden party and sale is to be used for improving the northern approaches to the Abbey buildings. The custodian and voluntary helpers have greatly improved the gardens, and gifts of memorial rose-trees give promise of a still better show of flowers in the coming year.

In the meantime the Unicorn Theatre Club has carried out further improvements to their Elizabethan Theatre in the Checker Hall, as well as providing excellent dramatic and musical programmes and talks during a short summer season. There can be no winter seasons until funds are available for sealing the roof and installing heating—a costly undertaking.

Certain fixtures from the demolished Fitzharris Manor House were given to the *Friends of Abingdon* by the Ministry of Supply, and the Governors of Christ's Hospital also presented a few fixtures from a demolished 16th century house in High Street where the Friends were able to satisfy themselves that nothing of outstanding interest was destroyed.

The Friends have been given more advance information than formerly of some of the Borough Council's reconstruction plans, and have kept and are keeping a "watching brief" on such projects as street lighting, a new car park and cattle market, repairs to the stonework of the Abbey Gateway, and alterations to St. Helen's Churchyard. (This, of course, does not guarantee that their views will prevail.)

Lectures on Heraldry, Churchyard Masonry and Elizabethan Gardens as well as discussions on work and policy at the Annual General Meeting have helped to keep the interest of members. An invitation was accepted to send representatives in October to a Town and Country Planning Association conference in London, at which its Chairman gave a brief account of the work of the *Friends*.

A second issue of the Abbey Guide has brought it up to date with particular mention of the transformation of the interior of the Checker Hall by the Unicorn Theatre Club.

PUBLICATIONS.

Volume 53 of the Society's Journal was issued to members on April 5th. The Society, having purchased the publisher's remainder copies of *The Armorial Glass of the Oxford Diocese*, by E. A. Greening Lamborn (published for the

Society by the Oxford University Press in 1949), these are now available to members at £1 per copy, bound in cloth. There has been a considerable demand for back numbers of our Journal.

FIELD WORK AND MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES.

Mention has already been made of the excavations at Silchester and Kingsbury, Old Windsor, during the year; several members of the Society assisted at this work. Mr. D. B. Connah led a party of boys from St. Bartholomew's Grammar School, Newbury, to Winchester during August and September, where they assisted in the Roman excavations at that city. Mr. Neville Hadcock has produced a Second Edition of the Ordnance Survey Map of Monastic Britain. Among the recent papers by Mr. E. M. Jope are: *Late Saxon Pits under Oxford Castle Mound (Oxoniensia XVII-XVIII)* and, with Mr. G. C. Dunning: *The Use of Blue Slate for Roofing in Medieval England (Antiquaries Journal XXXIV 3-4)*. Mrs. J. C. Cole has published *The Painting or Staining of Marble as Practised by Wm. Byrd of Oxford and Others (Oxoniensia XVII-XVIII)* and that Journal also publishes a note on Roman pottery from Sunningwell by Miss J. R. Kirk. The Report of the Visitors, Ashmolean Museum (1953) contains a note on the excavation of two Roman pottery kilns at Boar's Hill in the parish of Sunningwell. Mr. M. F. Bond contributed a short account of the *Acoustic Pots in St. George's Chapel, Windsor*, in the 1953 Report of the Society of Friends of St. George's. That Report also contained an account of the King's Beasts on St. George's Chapel, by H. Stanford London. Miss Lily Chitty contributed an account of *A Bronze Axe Hoard from Preston-on-the-Weald Moors, Shropshire*, in Volume LIV of the *Trans. Shropshire Archaeological Society*.

EXHIBITIONS.

The Guildhall Exhibition at Windsor continued its fourth season with special displays of material excavated at Kingsbury, Old Windsor (loaned by Mr. and Mrs. Cleghorn), material relating to the centenary of the Crimean War with items loaned by Mr. A. G. Shirreff and the Royal Berkshire Regiment, and a collection of English Crown Pieces loaned by Mr. P. H. Sellwood.

PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS.

The following Ancient Monuments in the County have been scheduled by the Ministry of Works since the publication of the 1953 List: Stratfield Mortimer, group of Barrows at Holden's Firs; Wallingford Castle; Lambourn, late medieval Cross; Stratfield Mortimer, Barrow in Stephen's Firs. The Society has been concerned in the preservation of the fine Georgian frontage of No. 16 Friar Street, Reading, old houses in Denmark Street and Rose Street, Wokingham, also No. 10 The Broadway, Newbury. We have been able to advise on some proposed alterations to South Fawley Manor house.

DELEGATES FROM THE SOCIETY.

The Society has continued to be represented at meetings of the Council for British Archaeology, the 9th Regional Group, the Annual Meeting of the Friends of Abingdon; The British Records Association Congress; The Standing Committee for Local History; The Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings; The Annual Meeting of the Society of the Friends of St. George's, Windsor; the Council for Visual Education; and The Friends of the University of Reading. Your Hon. Secretary attended by invitation the opening of an extension to the Buckingham Archaeological Society's Museum at Aylesbury on July 10th, and he has also been elected to the Committee of the Society of the Friends of St. George's, Windsor.

HOSPITALITY.

Our most grateful thanks are due to the following members who contributed towards the cost of tea after lectures: Mrs. Neville Dawson, Alderman Field and Alderman Clark (March 20th) and Miss A. Bailly (April 10th). Once again

we have to extend our warmest thanks to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for continued use of University buildings as a headquarters for our meetings.

LECTURES.

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

- Jan. 16th *The Work of the County Record Office during the past Five Years*, by P. Walne, M.A. (County Archivist).
 Feb. 13th *Excavations at Old Windsor, September, 1953*, by Brian Hope-Taylor, F.S.A.
 Mar. 20th *The Story of Caversham Through the Ages*, by Miss M. Maplesden, M.A. (This meeting was combined with the Annual Meeting of the Berkshire Local History Committee.)
 Apr. 10th Annual General Meeting of the Society. Presidential Address: *Charters and the Historian*, by Sir Frank Stenton.
 June 26th Summer Meeting at Watlington House combined with the Local History Committee. Four short papers were given by Messrs. B. Ridler, P. Walne, R. J. Lee and F. M. Underhill.
 Oct. 16th *Acoustic Jars from St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and Other Churches*, by F. M. Underhill, F.S.A., and Ralph Merrifield, B.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.
 Nov. 13th *Heraldic Seals in the Berkshire County Record Office*, by T. D. Tremlett, M.A., F.S.A.
 Dec. 4th *Excavations at Silchester, 1954*, by George C. Boon, B.A.

EXCURSIONS.

- Apr. 27th Childrey Church and Manor; Sparsholt Church; Kingston Lisle Manor and Church, Blowing Stone; Seven Barrows, Lambourn; West and East Shefford, Welford and Wickham Churches; and Donnington Castle. (This excursion was arranged by Mr. A. G. Shirreff and Col. Rivers-Moore.)
 May 23rd-28th Annual Congress at Lambton Castle, Chester-le-Street, Co. Durham. (See separate report attached.)
 June 16th Avebury, Lacock Abbey and Corsham Court.
 July 8th Aynhoe House, Banbury, Sulgrave Manor and Charlbury Church.
 Aug. 24th Checkendon Court, Woodcote House, Cane End House. (Itinerary suggested by Mr. C. B. Willcocks.)
 Sept. 24th The Excavations at Silchester, where the party were welcomed by His Grace the Duke of Wellington, K.G. (Vice-President) and the work in progress was described by Mr. George C. Boon. Silchester Museum and Pamber Priory were also inspected.

OBITUARY

DR. K. E. KIRK, Lord Bishop of Oxford and a Vice-President of the Society since 1938, died suddenly on June 8th. Dr. Kirk's distinguished career is well described in the obituary notices in *The Times* and *Daily Telegraph*, 9th June, 1954. He was the author of many theological works, also a handbook on the church dedications in the Oxford Diocese (Clarendon Press, 1946).

MRS. B. M. RIVERS-MOORE died at Remenham Hill House, Henley-on-Thames, on March 2nd. Mrs. Rivers-Moore's association with the Society goes back over thirty years during which she was a most devoted helpmate to Col. Rivers-Moore in his varied activities, including the many years of excavation

at Ladye Place, Hurley. A most constant attendant at all our meetings and excursions, Mrs. Rivers-Moore will be missed by us all, especially at our Annual Congress.

MISS ELISE SOPHIE BEACH died at Reading on June 21st, in her 90th year. For over thirty years an active member she was an expert with her pencil and water-colours, her sketches were valued additions to many pre-war excursion pamphlets. Miss Beach served on the Council for many years, and, after the late war, did great work in reorganising the Society's records at Watlington House. Several of her original drawings have been presented to the Society by her Executors.

MRS. ANNETTE T. BEAVIS, widow of the late Walter Beavis, died at Ashbury on September 13th. Mrs. Beavis was for many years a member of the Berkshire County Council. She joined the Society in 1939 and took an active interest in the preservation of old buildings in west Berkshire. Her home was ever a pleasant port of call for members visiting her district.

We also regret to notice the deaths of DR. W. R. INGE, K.C.V.O., a former member and our President, 1935-36, which occurred at Brightwell Manor on February 26th, in his 93rd year; also MR. FRANCIS M. BUNCE on June 4th at Higher Bebington, Cheshire. Mr. Bunce was for over twenty years Librarian to the Society and he produced the first Index of our Journal, published in 1927.

THE EXCAVATIONS AT KINGSBURY, OLD WINDSOR, 1954.

Mr. B. Hope-Taylor has contributed the following brief note: "An early Saxon hut was located and explored, and a new and extraordinarily prolific complex of the same date came to light. A huge ditch was discovered, but time did not allow of more than tentative exploration; it would appear to be of early date (probably 7th-8th century), but close dating must wait on further excavation of its filling. The "cellar" of a late 11th or early 12th century hovel was cut into it. Numerous rubbish pits of the early 12th century contained most important material, some of which is clearly referable to the tidying-up of the site after the abandonment of the Confessor's Palace. From fragments of mortar and building material in these pits it appears that at least one building was demolished at this time. A complete prick-spur and several iron arrowheads were contained in one of the pits. Important series of pottery finds represent both the early and late phases of occupation. Amongst the early finds a triangular bronze plate, probably part of a dagger pommel, bearing good interlaced ornament, is outstanding. It was accompanied by a bronze "poor man's brooch." An iron girdle hanger, similar to those occurring in pagan Saxon graves, was found in a slightly higher occupation level. Some fragments of glass (probably late Saxon), loom weights and spindle whorls of late and early types, two coins of Henry I and an intricately fretted circular bone brooch are worthy of special mention amongst the great quantity of valuable material recovered in this season's work."

It should be noted that the excavations were in progress from June to the end of August, and the workers were very unfortunate with the weather during the whole of this period. They were frequently kept off the field for long periods by heavy rain, which did not permit sections to dry out properly. It is to be hoped that the 1955 Season which commences in April will be more propitious.

Annual Congress, 1954, at Durham and Hadrian's Wall.

For many years the Annual Congress of the Society has been, each one in its own individual way, a landmark in the long history of our activities. Few members who went on the expedition to the north from the 23rd to the 28th May, 1954, would disagree with the statement that this was not only the most ambitious but the most successful of a distinguished series.

Numerically, the party was not so large as on some previous occasions—some 32 all told. Accidents had befallen some of the most eager travellers;

business cares kept others from participating, but a faithful band left Reading by coach at 9 a.m. on 23rd May and were joined by a contingent of Newbury members at Oxford. At Lutterworth Colonel Rivers-Moore and his party joined up, and cheered by the presence of the White Horse pennant, we pressed on through county after county, pausing only for lunch at Oxtou and tea at Borough-bridge. We much enjoyed the drive, more particularly our progress through the Dukeries; we finally arrived, slightly before scheduled time, at our headquarters at Lambton Castle, County Durham.

On Monday morning we set out for Finchale Priory, associated with the picturesque legend of St. Godric, who was told in a vision to seek a hermitage on the banks of the Wear and to build a chapel there. Gradually there arose a Benedictine monastery on the spot and in the 14th century, Finchale took on the particular function as a holiday cell for the monks of Durham. The ruins are now cared for by the Office of Works and form a picturesque group of mainly 13th century buildings, with some 12th century and 14th-15th century features. The site is perhaps the most beautiful of any religious house in this country. Leaving Finchale the great Norman structure of Durham was visited, which, with the castle, stands on the summit of a rocky peninsula above the Wear. To this rock in the year 995 the monks of Lindisfarne brought the body of St. Cuthbert, and in this same year the seat of the bishopric was removed hither from Chester-le-Street. In 1093 the church was rebuilt by Bishop Saint Calais, and this is today one of the most inspiring examples of Norman architecture which we possess. A visit to the famous library of the Dean and Chapter in the buildings forming the dormitory and refectory of the Abbey was of extreme interest. The afternoon was spent in exploring the Castle, erected by Earl Waltheof in 1072, and afterwards fortified by Ranulph Flambard. The Norman gallery with its fine arcading, the crypt chapel, Bishop Hatfield's Hall, the 17th century Black Staircase and the ancient kitchens are only a few of the items we could mention in this remarkable group of buildings. After a stroll round the medieval city we were entertained to tea at one of the College halls. An early return to Lambton Castle gave us time to prepare for an evening lecture on Hadrian's Wall by David Smith of King's College, Newcastle. This was a most helpful introduction to our tour of the Wall which began on the following day. We were greatly indebted to Dr. Smith throughout the tour, we could have had no better informed or more helpful mentor. The Society was fortunate in that he so generously and wholeheartedly gave up his time to us.

On the morning of May 25th we made for South Shields to visit the Roman Fort at the mouth of the Tyne. The maximum development of this site occurred in the 3rd century, and it is to this period that most of the visible remains belong. It was the most northerly port within the Roman province available for stockpiling in the campaign aiming at the subjugation of Scotland, and it continued as a supply-base for the northern frontier until its destruction about A.D. 400. The South Shields Corporation has recently established a museum which contains many items found on the site, including some fine inscribed stones and tombstones, altars, pottery, lead seals, bronze and enamel brooches, not forgetting the famous South Shields Sword. As Mr. John Swan, the Curator in charge of the site, pointed out to us, it was Dr. David Smith himself who had been responsible for re-classifying the objects in this museum in preparation for its opening in June, 1953. We next made our way to St. Paul's Church, Jarrow, and the Priory ruins on the cliff side hallowed by their associations with the Venerable Bede. At Jarrow to our pleasant surprise we met our President, Sir Frank Stenton, with Lady Stenton. Sir Frank had been lecturing at Durham University and took the opportunity of greeting us on this historic spot.

But time was pressing, and we had to hurry on to Newcastle, where we were due to visit the Blackgate Museum, with its many interesting inscriptions and other material from the Wall. After lunch we were introduced to Hadrian's Wall by means of a scale model of the whole of its length. After brief explanations, Dr. Smith led a tour of those portions of the Wall visible near Newcastle:

Denwell, Denton and Heddon-on-the-Wall. The return was made to Newcastle for tea, and some members found an opportunity of visiting the Cathedral. After dinner that night at Lambton Castle was held no less a function than our social and musical evening, an indispensable part of the Congress programme. We were pleasantly entertained by talented members and guests, including Col. Rivers-Moore (with and without his saw), Miss Bentall, Mrs. Kaines-Thomas and Mrs. Watkyns. We missed here, almost more than at any other time during the tour, the gracious and unruffled presence of Mrs. Rivers-Moore, who had never failed to encourage and commend our efforts on former occasions.

Wednesday was the highlight of the week, for we spent the whole day near the Wall; in the morning exploring the Roman fort, bridge and bath house at Chesters and visiting its museum. The fort of Chesters (Cilurnum) guarded the bridge which carried the fortifications across the North Tyne and thus its importance can well be realised. The day grew very warm and sunny, and after a picnic lunch at Chollerford, a pretty spot near the river, we made our way to Housesteads Fort, standing on a crest-like ridge where, in Roman times, several roads met. It is the site of a considerable settlement which grew to its greatest extent in the 3rd century and the first half of the 4th. After visiting the museum and Fort, the bravest of us walked a stretch of the Wall from east of the Knag Burn to west of the Milecastle. After tea at Hexham we made for Newcastle.

On Thursday we visited Corbridge church which has a Saxon tower in which is incorporated a Roman arch. The Roman town of Corstopitum was next seen, now in the care of the Office of Works. The central administrative buildings remain of this military base and depot which developed into a town in the 3rd and 4th centuries. Aydon Castle was explored, one of the fortified houses introduced to us by Mrs. Kaines-Thomas. Hexham Priory followed, one of the loveliest medieval churches remaining in the North, built on the site of St. Wilfrid's church, whose crypt is still visible. Etheldreda of Northumberland gave lands to Wilfrid in 674, and he built of stone brought from Corstopitum. It survived the Danish raids of 875, and was rebuilt by Augustinian Canons in the 12th century, to which period the choir and transepts belong. Mention must be made of the Night Stair leading down from the monastery into the church, an almost unique surviving feature. This concluded our tour, and Friday saw us returning safely southwards, through York and Selby to Oxford and Reading.

M.M.S.

BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

INCOME.		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
To Subscriptions and Entrance Fees	...	275	4	6	By Printing Volume 53 of Journal	...	...	...	264 13 6
" Donations	...	...	9	0	" General Printing and Stationery	...	...	...	35 4 4
" Sale of Journal and Publications	...	...	25	0	" Postages and Telephone Calls	...	...	...	21 2 0
" Subscription: Photo Recording	...	...	4	4	" Publications purchased	...	...	...	13 10 4
" Dividend	...	...	2	10	" SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID:—				
" Bank Interest received	...	...	8	6	S.P.A.B.	...	1	1	0
" Donations and Collections towards	...	...	27	3	C.B.A., 9th Reg. Gp.	...	4	0	10
" Cost of Teas	...	...	33	0	C.B.A.	...	5	0	
" Transfer from Excursion Account	...	...	30	0	Friends of St. George's, Windsor	...	10	0	
" Transfer from Journal Fund	...	...	...	...	English Place-Name Society	...	1	10	0
					Friends of Reading University	...	5	5	0
					British Records Association	...	2	0	0
					Berks Local History Committee	...	4	4	0
									18 15 10
					Lecturers' Expenses	...	...	...	2 14 6
					" Working Lantern	...	...	...	3 15 0
					" Rent of Room at Watlington House	...	...	...	12 7 6
					" Cost of Teas at Reading University	...	...	...	25 0 3
					" Insurances	...	...	...	1 10 0
					" Gratuities	...	...	...	2 10 0
					" Travelling Expenses	...	...	...	10 0
					" Cheque Book	...	...	...	10 0
					" Excess of Income over Expenditure	...	...	...	12 6 1
									£414 9 4

Kingsbury, Old Windsor

INCOME.		£	s.	d.
To Donations	...	...	5	0
" Balance brought forward from 1953 Account	...	...	3	8
				4
				£3 13 4

Excavation Fund 1954.

EXPENDITURE.		£	s.	d.
By B. Hope Taylor for Photography, 1954	...	...	3	10
" Balance carried forward to 1955 Account	...	...	3	4
				£3 13 4

BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Report of the Council for the Year 1955.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Letters Theatre at the University of Reading on Saturday, 23rd April, 1955, the President, Sir Frank Stenton, taking the Chair. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 10th April, 1954, were read and confirmed. The Council's Report and Statement of Accounts for the year 1954 were adopted, and Sir Frank Stenton made mention of the great loss to the Society and to Berkshire which had been sustained through the death of Miss Agnes Baker, Local Secretary for North Berks. The following honorary officers for the year 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. BISHOP PARHAM
THE VERY REV. H. S. D. CRANAGE, Litt.D., B.D., F.S.A.
THE RT. HON. LORD ILIFFE OF YATTENDON
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W. H. GODFREY, Esq., O.B.E., F.S.A., F.R.I.B.A.

Editorial Committee for the Society's Journal:

P. S. SPOKES, Esq., M.A., F.S.A.
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Secretary: F. M. UNDERHILL, F.S.A.

Assistant Secretary:

R. J. LEE, Esq., F.L.A.

Treasurer: J. G. GAFFORD, Esq.

Auditor: T. L. SKINNER, Esq.

COUNCIL.

In accordance with Rule 5, the following members retired and were duly re-elected:—Rev. S. E. CHAVASSE, M.A., Miss W. M. DIBDIN, Miss M. CURTIS, M.A., Miss E. D. AMPHLETT

MEMBERSHIP.		<i>Honorary</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Total</i>
31st Dec., 1954	...	6	471	—	—	477
31st Dec., 1955	...	1	26	14	45	32
		—	—	—	—	—
		7	497	14	45	445
		—	—	—	—	—

We have to record, with regret, the deaths of the following members:—Miss Agnes C. Baker (1944); Mr. E. H. Bruce (1947); Mrs. W. Butler (1930); Lt.-Col. C. Bartley-Dennis (1954); Mrs. F. Ditchfield (1925+); Mr. G. R. Hemsley (1949); Mr. T. Rowland Kent (1920); Rev. W. E. McFarlane (1946); Mr. C. F. Newman (1929); Miss G. Platt (1951); Miss Margarette Spokes (1874); Dr. C. S. Orwin (1948); Mr. F. W. Theobald (1944); Col. C. J. West, O.B.E. (1926). A note on some of the valued services which these late members had rendered to historical studies and to the Society is appended to this Report.

PROGRESS AND FINANCE.

The difficulties of the times compelled the Council to recommend an alteration to the subscription rate which was approved by an Extraordinary Meeting of the Society on November 19th. The Resolution passed (which alters Rule 6) was as follows:—"As from January 1st, 1956, the minimum annual subscription for all ordinary members (except those living more than 30 miles from Reading) shall be £1 1s. 0d. to include one copy of the Journal as issued. Two members residing at the same address may pay a joint subscription of £1 10s. 0d. which shall include delivery of one copy of the Journal. Lady members elected before January 1st, 1952, at the old 7/6 subscription shall now pay 10/6." The aims and objects of our Society have been carried out very actively during the year, members of our Council were represented on the Silchester Excavation Committee, Mrs. M. A. Cotton being Chairman and Col. Rivers-Moore Treasurer. The Excavations were carried out under the direction of Mr. G. Boon and resulted in some unusual discoveries. The Belgic ditch and rampart were found within the existing walls of the town, giving clear indication of occupation at the end of the era before the Roman foundation. Several members assisted at the Excavations sponsored by the Ministry of Works at Kingsbury, Old Windsor, under the direction of Mr. B. Hope-Taylor, now in their third season. A Saxon Canal and the foundations of a wooden bridge of the same period were amongst notable discoveries there which aroused very wide interest. Our meetings and excursions have all received the full support of our members, who have continued to give valuable help to our work in many ways, by bringing chance discoveries to our notice and by reporting on the condition of several of our ancient buildings.

FINANCIAL POSITION.

The accounts this year reveal to some extent the reasons which lie behind the need for an increase in our income, although the true position is masked by the fact that the production costs of Volume 54 of the Journal were not available for inclusion. However, the Journal Reserve is adequate to meet the estimated expense and has been strengthened by a further £250 as provision for Volume 55.

During the year we have made a substantial contribution towards the cost of the excavations at Silchester, and you will see that an Excavation Fund has been formed to meet future expense of this nature. We have been enabled to lend our aid to this important work thanks largely to the generous support by our members.

Donations, together with the surpluses derived from excursions and the Congress, formed an invaluable part of our income and we express our gratitude to the following donors as well as to others who have withheld their names:—

LIST OF DONORS, 1955.

Miss E. Alexander	Mrs. Muller
Miss A. Bailly	Mrs. Murray
Rev. J. E. Bowles	Miss D. M. Pimm
Admiral E. W. Claxton	Sir Felix Pole
Miss M. Curtis	Lt.-Col. C. N. Rivers-Moore
Mr. and Mrs. F. W. Davis	Miss I. Rogers
B. M. Dodds	Miss K. Sinclair
F. G. Fedden	Mr. and Mrs. Spokes
E. H. Ferdinand	R. H. Tozer
Mrs. I. Gerrard	A. C. Vaughan Williams
W. H. Hallam	Miss E. Vignoles
Miss I. Halley	The Duke of Wellington
Mrs. Holden	Royal Library, Windsor; and
Mrs. D. Loyd	other anonymous members.
Miss K. Lukin	

REPORT FROM THE HON. SECRETARY OF THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON.

1955 has been clouded for this affiliated Society by the grievous loss suffered in the death of their Secretary, Miss Agnes Baker. Miss Baker had been Secretary to the Friends since their foundation in 1944, and her selfless devotion to the work of that Society and to the wellbeing of Abingdon in general was a source of inspiration to all who knew her. The Friends wished to commemorate her outstanding work with a suitable memorial, and it was decided to carry out a scheme which was very dear to Miss Baker, namely, the renovation of the roof of the Checker Hall. As the result of an appeal launched in June to which many of the members of the Berkshire Archæological Society subscribed, a sum of just over £300 was collected and the work is now going forward. The new Secretary to the Friends, Mrs. B. Smith, was appointed in June. Further improvements have been carried out to the gardens of the Abbey buildings which continue to attract many visitors. Another summer Garden Party was held with most successful financial results. The Unicorn Theatre Club has had another good season, and provided excellent dramatic and musical entertainment. It has now been decided that all members of the U.T.C. shall be members of the Friends of Abingdon, which arrangement, it is hoped, will benefit both parties. During the summer a very enjoyable excursion to Broughton Castle took place, and two lectures are to be held during the winter months. The Society continues to keep in touch with the Borough Council's reconstruction plans and, in particular, keeps a "watching brief" over proposed alterations to scheduled buildings in the town.

OTHER EVENTS IN THE COUNTY DURING 1955.

The celebration of the 800th anniversary of the granting the town's first Charter in 1155 to the Borough of Wallingford was a most noteworthy occasion which attracted some attention in the national Press. An excellent commemorative handbook was produced to which several of our members contributed, the Society loaning the blocks for many of the illustrations. An exhibition of ancient documents and antiquities was arranged in the Town Hall, to which Mr. P. Walne (the County Archivist) contributed. During the week August 24th-28th a Pageant of Wallingford history was produced in the Castle grounds; this production was of exceptional originality, and an excerpt from it was broadcast by the B.B.C. Our members, Mr. H. H. Coghlan and Mr. P. H. Sellwood, have been instrumental in saving from demolition the so-called "Weavers' Cottages" at Newbury. These have been purchased by the Newbury Corporation and may eventually become an extension to the town museum. The Windsor Guildhall Exhibition completed its fifth year of progress; H.M. the Queen presented on July 15th her portrait by Comdr. Dennis Fildes, and this beautiful addition to the Royal Borough's collection now hangs in the Council Chamber. We have noted also a village Exhibition at Chaddleshall from October 27th-30th and some excavations on the site of the Woolstone Roman

villa by the Royal Military College of Science, Shrivenham, Archæological Society. Our friends, the "Reading Standard," successfully started a new County periodical, *Berkshire Life* which has featured popular articles relating to the County's antiquities; many other County newspapers continue to publish articles of a similar nature: we would mention the series, "In the Mercury Country," which was concluded by the "Reading Mercury" after some two years of weekly production. In that paper also our member, Mr. E. W. Dormer, continues his column of Notes and Queries which he has edited now for more than 25 years. He has published therein a great deal of original matter which otherwise would never have been recorded.

THE SCRAPBOOK COMPETITION.

This contest was arranged by the Oxfordshire Rural Community Council and the Oxfordshire Archæological Society, and we were invited to form a panel of judges to decide the best entries submitted from various villages, institutions and schools in that county. A small Committee was appointed by our Council to deal with this matter. They have successfully arrived at their decision, awarding the prizes offered by the *Oxford Times* to: 1st—Iffley (£25); 2nd—Islip (£15); and 3rd—Checkendon (£10). The prize offered by the Oxfordshire Education Committee to the best scrapbook sent in by a school was awarded to Bicester (£5) and Garsington (£2). An additional prize to a Primary School was awarded to Rotherfield Peppard School. The Oxfordshire Archæological Society's Prize for the best article on a rural craft has been given to Bladon for an account of local stone quarrying. This competition aroused such wide interest that our Society intends to organise a similar contest for Berkshire during the coming year, and already support and an offer of prizes has been forthcoming from the *Reading Mercury*.

HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS.

Miss Lily Chitty, F.S.A., has been awarded the O.B.E. in the New Year's Honours for her work in archæology. Mr. A. R. B. Edgecombe has been awarded the C.B.E. for his Civil Engineering achievements in Iraq, Nigeria and Gambia. We offer our congratulations to our friends on this recognition of their merit. We also congratulate our member, Mr. W. W. Fraser, who celebrated his 90th birthday on September 10th. Our former members, the late F. J. Bloomfield and the late H. E. Bannard, have been remembered in the Borough of Maidenhead where roads on a new estate have been named after them.

ACQUISITIONS AND GIFTS TO THE SOCIETY.

The Executors of Col. C. J. West have given a collection of MSS. notes, photographs and lantern slides used by our late member in his lectures on classical archæology and his studies in the theory of the lost Atlantis. The following books and pamphlets have been received into the Society's Library:—*Guide to Abingdon* (1954 edition), by Miss A. C. Baker.

Ministry of Town and Country Planning Lists: No. P. 2653 (2), Rural District of Abingdon; P. 2680, Rural District of Cookham; A. 3995, Royal Borough of New Windsor, with Supplement; LGP. 1668, Rural District of Windsor and Supplement; HLG. 2100, Borough of Wokingham, and Supplement.

Oxford Portfolio of Monumental Brasses, Series 2, Part IV, 1954.

11th Annual Report of the Friends of Abingdon.

Report to December 31st, 1954, The Society of the Friends of St. George's and the Descendants of the Knights of the Garter.

Reports of the Northants Architectural and Archæological Society: Vol. XLIII (1937); XLIV (1938); XLV (1940); XLVI (1941); XLVII (1942); XLVIII (1943); XLIX (1944); L (1945); LI (1946); LII (1948); LIV (1950); LV (1951); LVI (1952); LVII (1953); LVIII (1954); LIX (1955).

Offprint, *The Monumental Brasses of Northamptonshire*, by G. H. S. Bushnell and G. A. E. Ruck (1948).

Council for British Archaeology. Report No. 5, year ended 30th June, 1955.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Birmingham Archæological Society, Vol. 71 (1953).

Transactions of the London and Middlesex Archæological Society. New Series, Vol. XI, Part III, 1954.

Guide to Warfield Church, by Miss E. Carleton-Williams, M.A., F.S.A. (1955).

PUBLICATIONS.

Volume 54 of the Society's Journal was issued to members in December. This was a larger production than we have managed for several years; it contains many valuable papers and has been well received by our members and correspondents. By arrangement with the Council and Sir Owen Morshead, offprints of Mr. G. E. Chambers' paper on *The "Ruins" at Virginia Water* have been made available to members of the Windsor and Eton Society. There is also a supply of offprints of this paper for sale, price 2/-. There has been a steady demand for back numbers of the Journal, and the sale of *The Armorial Glass of the Oxford Diocese*, by E. A. Greening Lamborn (published for the Society by the Oxford University Press) has continued to be satisfactory.

FIELD WORK AND MEMBERS' ACTIVITIES.

Several of our members took part in the excavations at Silchester and at Kingsbury, Old Windsor, the results of which have already been summarised. Mrs. Cotton acted as Secretary for the Verulamium Excavation Fund. Members attended the celebrations marking the Jubilee of the Royal Historical Society; our President contributed an article on the *History of Parliament* to a special number of the *Times Literary Supplement* which marked the occasion. Mr. D. B. Connah and a party of Newbury Grammar Schoolboys put down some trial trenches in a bank immediately east of St. Saviour's Churchyard, Eddington. A quantity of sherds of Belgic and early Roman pottery were found. Mr. Connah's party also carried out further work at Kintbury Holt Farm, finding much Romano-British pottery, and they are making a field survey of the Compton region. Miss Carleton-Williams' research into the history of Warfield Church resulted in the production of an excellent Guide to that building, in which much hitherto unpublished history of the origins of the parish and its connexion with Hurley Priory was included. Among the recent papers by Mr. E. M. Jope should be mentioned *Medieval Pottery Kilns at Brill, Bucks* (*Records of Bucks*, Vol. XVI, Pt. 1). Mr. W. H. Godfrey published *Newcastle House, Lewes* (*Sussex Arch. Coll.*, Vol. 92). Mr. M. F. Bond contributed a paper on *The Crucifix Badges of St. George's Chapel* in the 1954 Report of the Society of the Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter.

Mr. P. H. Sellwood has made some valuable discoveries about the origin of the Cloth Hall at Newbury, and has published in typescript some notes on the building under the date 4th September, 1955. Mr. A. D. Passmore of Wainborough presented an important collection of antiquities to the Ashmolean Museum. These come from N.E. Wilts and West Berks and include some of the finds from the Saxon burial ground at Shefford, early British coins, and a gold Sceatta from Marlborough. (*The Times*, 13th December, 1955.)

PRESERVATION OF MONUMENTS.

Work on the County Hall, Abingdon, has been intensified, in order that it may be completed by July, 1956, when the Borough of Abingdon celebrates its 4th centenary. The Council for British Archaeology has recommended that the Ancient Monuments Board should take into their guardianship the Seven Barrows group at Lambourn. Notice has also been taken of Boyn Grove Pit, Courthouse Road, Maidenhead, as being of special scientific interest. This is a

type locality of the Upper Boyn Hill Terrace gravels with paleoliths. We were unsuccessful in our attempts to preserve No. 16, Friar Street, Reading, but our endeavours have continued in respect of houses at Abingdon, Newbury, Wantage and Windsor.

DELEGATES FROM THE SOCIETY.

The Society has continued to be represented at meetings of the various Societies mentioned in the 1954 Report. Your Hon. Secretary and Miss Swadling also attended two meetings of the Agnes Baker Memorial Committee at Abingdon.

HOSPITALITY.

We are grateful to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for their permission to continue the use of the University buildings for our meetings, and our thanks are due also to our Vice-President, Miss A. Bailly, and Miss Swadling for providing tea after meetings.

LECTURES.

The following meetings were held during the year, and our thanks are due to the lecturers for their services:—

- Jan. 15th *The Architectural and Sociological Significance of Almshouses throughout the Ages*, by L. A. Hackett, Esq., General Secretary of the National Association of Almshouses.
- Feb. 5th *The Early History of Norwich Cathedral*, by Miss Barbara Dodwell, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., Lecturer in Modern History at Reading University.
- Mar. 12th *The Preservation and Repair of Old Buildings*, by Alan Reid, Esq., B.A., A.R.I.B.A. (This meeting was combined with the Annual Meeting of the Local History Committee.)
- Apr. 23rd Annual General Meeting of the Society; Sir Frank Stenton delivered a Presidential Address on *Post-Conquest Charters as Material for the Historian*.
- July 16th Summer Meeting at Watlington House combined with a meeting of the Local History Committee. Miss E. Carleton-Williams, M.A., F.S.A., spoke on *Writing a Church Guide*; Miss M. Maplesden, M.A., on *The History of Watlington House*; and the Rev. A. V. Billen on *The History of Fyfield*.
- Oct. 15th *Windsor Castle in the Eighteenth Century*, by Sir Owen Morshead, K.C.B., K.C.V.O., M.A., M.C.
- Nov. 19th *Excavations at Weycock Hill, Waltham St. Lawrence*, by Mrs. M. A. Cotton, O.B.E., M.B., B.S., F.S.A.
- Dec. 10th *Folk Lore in Place Names*, by Professor A. W. Smith, O.B.E., Ph.D. D.Litt.

EXCURSIONS.

- Apr. 13th Osterley Park, Apsley House, and Marble Hill House, Twickenham.
- May 23rd Watlington, Market Hall; Thame Park Abbey Buildings (by kind permission of F. Bowden, Esq.), Thame Church, Rycote Chapel, Haddenham, Dinton and Stone Churches; Aylesbury Museum and Church, Little Kimble.
- May 9th-14th Annual Congress at Mamhead Park (see separate report attached).

- June 24th Faringdon District, Shellingford Church and House (by kind permission of Mrs. Marshall); Faringdon Church, Kelmescott, William Morris House, Wadley House (by kind permission of the Hon. R. Craven), Wantage.
- July 22nd Rotherfield Greys; Grey's Court, Dower House and Church; Henley Church.
- Aug. 25th Verulamium Excavations (conducted by Mrs. M. A. Cotton, Secretary of the Excavations Fund), Hatfield House and Old Palace.
- Sept. 23rd Silchester Excavations under the direction of Mr. G. C. Boon, and Sherborne St. John.

OBITUARY

MISS AGNES C. BAKER, B.A., died at her home in Abingdon on February 27th. Miss Baker had been a Local Secretary of the Society in North Berks since 1950, and was a founder and Secretary of the Friends of Abingdon. A native of Banbury, she took a history degree at Reading University, having studied under our President, Sir Frank Stenton. She joined the late Arthur Preston in work on historical research mainly associated with Abingdon. After Mr. Preston's death Miss Baker continued her researches, building upon the foundations which he had laid. She had completed a new edition of the Town Guide just before her death. She will long be remembered for her great efforts in preserving the remains of the Abbey and other buildings of historical and architectural importance in Abingdon. Miss Baker was always greatly interested in drama, and was for some years master of the Guild of Abbey Players which, under her leadership, attained great success, winning the British Drama League Festival Award at the Old Vic in 1936. She wrote many plays and, amongst her many productions was responsible for the historical processions celebrating the Silver Jubilee of King George V and the Coronation of King George VI. She had lectured to us on several occasions and we remember many visits to Abingdon where she displayed to us the Town's historic treasures.

MISS MARGARETTE SPOKES, the senior member of the Society, died at Tonbridge, Kent, on December 17th, aged 97. Miss Spokes was a daughter of the late Sir Peter Spokes, of Reading, and her name appears in the first published list of members of the Society in 1874. Throughout her long life she took a great interest in the Society, giving annual donations to the Journal funds and maintaining a regular correspondence with the Secretary and Treasurer. By her passing, a unique record of lifelong association with a County Society has been broken.

MRS. FLORENCE DITCHFIELD, widow of our former President and Secretary, the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield, died on April 29th. For very many years with her husband she worked energetically to further the aims of the Society, and will be remembered best perhaps by many of us as the hostess at Barkham Rectory during her husband's incumbency, dispensing hospitality and good advice to aspiring antiquaries. After Mr. Ditchfield's death she retired to a house near Finchampstead Ridges, and later went to live with her sister at Crowthorne, handing over many of Mr. Ditchfield's papers and manuscripts to Reading Public Library. She was elected an honorary member of the Society, but made frequent donations towards our funds and was always interested to learn about our activities.

MR. T. ROWLAND KENT died on August 20th, aged 89. Born in Reading, he became a practising solicitor in 1905 and was for many years deputy Coroner and a member of the Town Council. His lifelong interest was numismatics and he was honorary curator of the coin section of Reading Museum.

DR. CHARLES STUART ORWIN died at Blewbury on June 30th. Born in 1876 at Warnham in Sussex, he was a well-known pioneer on the subject of agricultural economics and was as widely known to the archæological world by his

studies of the open-field system. His most important book, *The Open Fields* (1929) was written in conjunction with his second wife, and in it he gave a detailed account of the system, taking Laxton in Nottinghamshire as his example. Another edition of this work was produced in 1954. Earlier he had published an account of the reclamation of Exmoor Forest and his *Speed the Plough* appeared in 1942 in the Penguin Series. He joined our Society in 1948, taking a great interest in the excavations on Blewburton Hill. He had lectured to us on the open-field system and was a most valued representative of our Society in the Blewbury area. (See Obituary in *The Times*, 1st July, 1955.)

LT.-COL. C. J. WEST, O.B.E., M.D., died at his home, Wolverton Lodge, Hermitage, on April 26th, aged 90. A member of the Society since before the 1914 War, he served for many years on our Council and frequently lectured to us on his travels, which were worldwide. He was a pioneer of photography and cinematography in medical science. He loved Berkshire in which he had lived since 1904 and was an active explorer of the earthworks, ancient tracks and other antiquities in the Downland region, being a keen cyclist until almost the last years of his life.

Annual Congress, 1955.

This year's Congress was held in South-East Devon from Monday, May 9th, until Saturday, 14th, and was attended by some 40 members who, travelling by road, arrived in Exeter early in the afternoon of the first day. After exploring some of the antiquities of the city, including the Underground Passages and Rougemont Castle, the party arrived at Mamhead Park, our headquarters for the week. This house is very beautifully situated, 4 miles from Exeter and some 500 feet above sea-level on the side of a hill overlooking the coast from Lyme Bay to Exmouth. The house contains much of interest and its 9 acres of grounds show many rare trees and shrubs.

Tuesday was spent on Dartmoor, where we visited many of the most notable tumuli and stone circles under the guidance of Mr. Raleigh Radford. After having viewed the Bronze Age hut-circles in the Haytor and Hemsworth districts, we enjoyed a break for lunch at Widdcombe, visiting the church, the "Cathedral in the Moor". We proceeded all too soon to Grimspound, where the circular walled enclosure was explored, also the hut-circles in the vicinity. After dinner that evening, Mr. Radford lectured on the antiquities of Dartmoor, giving further explanations of the many sites which we had visited during the day.

On Wednesday morning we made an early start and passed through Newton Abbot on our way to Bradley Manor, presented to the National Trust by the owner, Mrs. Woolner, who, with her husband, took us round. This is one of the loveliest old houses in Devon, first built about 1420. Its chapel with great perpendicular windows dates from 1428. About 1495 there were extensive alterations and the east front with its early Tudor windows then assumed its present appearance and now constitutes the chief exterior charm of the house. After a brief visit to the picturesque early 14th century ruins of Berry Pomeroy Castle, we made a pleasant stay at Totnes for lunch. There we saw the Church with its magnificent 15th century tower and remarkable stone chancel screen and stone parcloises to the side chapels. Some members found time for a visit to the ancient Guildhall on their way to the Castle, now in the care of the Office of Works. A fine view over the district was obtained from the top of the ancient Keep. We next made for Dartington Hall, noteworthy for its experimental reconstruction of rural life. In the School, education and art activities are carried out in a medieval setting, the great hall, now carefully restored, being one of the finest of its kind. Our last visit of the day was to Buckfast Abbey. Totally destroyed after the Reformation, the site of this Cistercian foundation was acquired in 1882 by a Community of French Benedictines and the work of rebuilding the great Abbey Church and other monastic buildings was put in hand and carried out by the monks under great difficulties. They finally completed their task in 1932 after 50 years' work. The church is a wonderful monument to their skill and industry.

Thursday was spent in Exeter, where, in the morning, St. Nicholas Priory, Tucker Hall, the Guildhall and St. Mary Steps Church were visited. The afternoon was devoted to the Cathedral. In the evening at Mamhead, Lady Fox gave us a valuable talk on the Iron Age sites in Devon.

On Friday morning we again returned to Dartmoor, enjoying the beauties of Dartmeet and proceeding through Merrivale with some hut-circles to Princetown, and so on to Tavistock. Here we saw the church, a fine perpendicular building erected on an earlier site *ca.* 1430-1445. On our way again we made for Buckland Abbey, one of the finest remaining medieval monastic establishments in Devon. Founded in 1278, one of the last Cistercian houses in the country, it passed after the Reformation, from the Crown into the hands of the Grenville family. It was Sir Richard Grenville of the *Revenge* who built a house into the church. Soon the estate came into the possession of Sir Francis Drake, who made considerable alterations, while the 18th century owners also altered the structure, adding neo-gothic features. Our members are particularly interested in Buckland Abbey since Mr. C. B. Willcocks, one of our Vice-Presidents, was largely instrumental in drawing attention to its importance when the Abbey estate was put up for sale in 1946, and eventually the house was presented to the National Trust. This Trust with the Pilgrim Trustees reconditioned the house and the City of Plymouth took over the building as a Drake Naval and West country Folk Museum. Mr. Willcocks was the architect responsible for the reconditioning and restoration.

Saturday, our last day, was occupied by the journey eastwards. On the way to Taunton we visited Bradninch Church, which contains many remarkable features and also Plymtree Church, which has a magnificent chancel screen with painted panels of the 15th century and carved oak pews of the same date. After brief stops for meals at Taunton and Amesbury we reached Reading in excellent time after a pleasant journey. During the course of the week we found time in our free evenings for some relaxation; once we visited the coast where we enjoyed sea breezes at Dawlish, on another occasion we had our usual concert where talented members of the party entertained us. It was only right that Col. Rivers-Moore himself a man of Devon, should extol his native County, although his saw sang in softer, gentler numbers than the more robust songs of the West Country.

M.M.S.

BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1955.

100

BERKSHIRE ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

		INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
		£	s. d.		£ s. d.
To Subscriptions and Entrance Fees	...	232	11 6	By Printing Volume 55 of Journal	...
" Donations	...	29	11 0	" Journal Reprints	...
" Sale of Journals and Publications	...	46	11 6	" General Printing and Stationery	...
" Grants from Council for British Archaeology	...	75	0 0	" Postages and Telephone Calls	...
" Dividend	...	2	10 0	" Publications purchased	...
" Bank Interest received	...	9	5 6	" SUBSCRIPTIONS PAID:—	...
" Donations and Collections towards Cost of Teas	...	13	11 0	S.P.A.B.	...
" Transfer from Excursion Account	...	15	0 0	C.B.A. 9th Reg. Gp.	1 1 0
" Excess of Expenditure over Income	...	12	7 10	Friends of St. George's, Windsor	4 4 6
				English Place-Name Society	10 0
				Friends of Reading University	15 0
				British Records Association	5 5 0
				Berks Local History Committee	1 0 0
				Friends of Abingdon	2 2 0
					4 4 0
				Prize to Berkshire Society of Architects	...
				" Lecturers' Expenses	19 1 6
				" Working Lantern	4 4 0
				" Rent of Room at Watlington House	7 14 0
				" Cost of Teas at Reading University	3 0 0
				" Insurance	16 10 0
				" Gratuities	14 14 0
				" Travelling Expenses	3 19 9
				" Cheque Book	1 0 6
				" Transfer to Excavation Fund	2 5 0
				" Transfer to Journal Fund	10 0
					25 0 0
					250 0 0
					£436 8 4

Excavation Fund Account 1955.

		INCOME.		EXPENDITURE.	
		£	s. d.		£ s. d.
By Transfer from Old Windsor Excavation Fund	...	3	4	By Roman London Excavation Fund—Donation	2 2 0
" Donations	...	16	1 0	" Silchester Excavation Committee—Donation	25 0 0
" Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	...	25	0 0	" Excess of Income over Expenditure	14 2 4
					£41 4 4

Excursion Account 1955

	INCOME.	£	s.	d.		EXPENDITURE.	£	s.	d.
To Excursions:									
Apsley House	...	7	6		By July Meeting—Watlington House	...	18	5	
Thame	1	11	7	„ Payment to Treasurer	...	15	0	0
Faringdon	...	2	10	3	„ Excess of Income over Expenditure	...	2	5	6
Greys Court	...	5	19	9					
Hatfield House	...	6	3						
Silchester	...	5	3						

Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1955.

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES.		£	s.	d.
Sundry Creditors: Hon. Treasurer ... ..	...	...	...	1 0 11
Journal Fund:				
As at 1st January, 1955	455	0	0	
Add Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	250	0	0	
				705 0 0
Excavation Fund: Excess of Income over Expenditure				14 2 4
General Fund:				
As at 1st January, 1955	307	12	10	
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure—Excursion Account ...	2	5	6	
				309 18 4
Less Excess of Expenditure over Income—General Account	12	7	10	
				297 10 6
				<hr/> £1,017 13 9

ASSETS.		£	s.	d.
Sundry Debtors:				
Hon. Secretary—Cash in Hand ...	...	...	...	1 10 9
Cash at Bank:				
Thames Valley Trustee Savings Bank	306	0	6	
Barclays Bank Ltd.—Current Acct. ...	524	15	2	
Barclays Bank Ltd.—Deposit Acct. ...	80	0	0	
Barclays Bank Ltd.—Excursion Acct. ...	5	7	4	
				<hr/> 916 3 0
Defence Bonds ($2\frac{1}{2}\%$) at Cost ... ..	...	...	...	100 0 0

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

(Signed) T. L. SKINNER,
Hon. Auditor.

£1,017 13 9

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

(Signed) T. L. SKINNER,
Hon. Auditor.

£1,017 13 9