

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Council for the Year 1959

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Zoology Theatre at Reading University on Saturday, 11th April, the President, Sir Frank Stenton, occupying the Chair. The Minutes for the Annual General Meeting held 19th April, 1958, were read and confirmed. The re-election of Sir Frank Stenton was proposed by Dr. Kirkus and seconded by Mrs. Clark. The Vice-Presidents were re-elected with the addition of Mrs. Aylwin Cotton, O.B.E., M.B., B.S., F.S.A., and the Bishop of Reading. The other Officers of the Society were re-elected with the addition of Mr. Coghlan, Dr. Slade, Mr. Neobard and Mr. Wymer to fill Council vacancies. The report of the Council for 1958 and the statement of accounts were adopted.

MEMBERSHIP:	<i>Honorary</i>	<i>Ordinary</i>	<i>Deaths</i>	<i>Resigned</i>	<i>Total</i>
Dec. 31st, 1958	7	438	—	—	445
Dec. 31st, 1959	—	31	7	22	2
	—	—	—	—	—
	7	469	7	22	447
	—	—	—	—	—

The deaths of the following have been recorded with regret:—

Marcus Adams (1942); Miss W. M. Dibdin (1930); W. Froom (1952); Mrs. C. A. Hawthorne (1956); Dr. Mary Kirkus (1948); F. C. Smallbone (1959); Mrs. M. Treacher (1925).

A note on some of these late members will be found at the end of this Report.

PROGRESS OF THE SOCIETY: Our programme of Meetings and Excursions was carried through with the full support of our members, the Excursions being exceedingly popular during the fine summer which also promoted exceptional activity in field work and aerial observations.

The new Research Group under the joint chairmanship of Mrs. Cotton and Mr. Coghlan co-ordinated the activities of many small groups of workers around the County. The principal effort was made at Cox Green, Maidenhead, where the site of a large Roman Villa with a bath house wing was dug from 27th March until 10th May under the direction of Mrs. C. Bennett. A report on the work will be published later in our Journal, and Mrs. Bennett has promised to give an account to the Society at the March meeting in 1960. Mr. Wymer conducted a further season at Thatcham from 8th August, and the importance of this site was emphasised by Professor J. G. D. Clark at a public lecture in Reading Town Hall in November. At the August meeting of the Group held in Newbury, reports were given of other undertakings at Alfred's Castle, Segsbury Castle, riverside sites at Wallingford and

Bray; also Mr. D. B. Connah mentioned work he had been carrying out with the St. Bartholomew's Grammar School Society on a Roman Updraught Pottery Kiln at Hampstead Marshall.

A Sub-Committee of our Council was appointed to investigate landscape features in the County, and a first list was circulated to members in December. The Friends of Friendless Churches has become interested in the renovation of East Shefford old church, and their Secretary, Mr. Bulmer-Thomas, discussed his proposals with the Council in September. An appeal for funds is to be circulated in 1960, and meanwhile some first stages of restoration are under way. Mr. A. G. Shirreff has made an appeal for funds for the restoration of the ancient glass in Sparsholt Church which has had some response, but more money is needed.

Some success is reported in the Council's recommendations to preserve a half-timbered row of houses in Rose Street, Wokingham, but the Town Council were unable to agree to our appeal to preserve certain other houses in Denmark Street in that town. Our interest in a house known as "Woodleys" in West Hagbourne resulted in its being included in a Supplementary List of Buildings of Historic and Architectural Interest under the Ministry of Town & Country Planning, and Mr. Spokes has been able to arrange for the Conduit at North Hinksey to be scheduled as an Ancient Monument. Progress was being made towards preserving the Marcham Dovecote, when in February the roof and part of the walls fell in. This made further efforts most difficult; an illustrated article on the building appeared in the *Reading Mercury* of 25th April.

News of the fire at Drayton Church on 21st February proved not so severe as was first thought, and the replacement of a late Norman pier in All Saints Church, Wokingham was watched with interest. Some record was also made of the alterations to the Tudor mansion in Shottesbrook Park, while concern continues to be felt for the preservation of the Weaver's Cottages at Newbury, the Oracle Gates at Reading and the Long Barrow in the Seven Barrows Group at Lambourn, which is gradually being eroded by intensive ploughing. It has been regretted that the Corporation of Reading have decided to demolish Finches Buildings, otherwise Lady Vachell's House, in Hosier Street. Mr. Willcocks represented the Society and the Berks Society of Architects at the Enquiry into the fate of Greyfriars Vicarage in Friar Street, Reading, and Mr. Neobard also attended. We were pleased to learn that the Ministry of Works has made a grant for the renovation of Wallingford's ancient Town Hall.

HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS: Our Vice-President, Sir John Cockcroft, C.B.E., F.R.S., has been appointed first Master of the new Churchill College at Cambridge.

Mr. R. Mackworth-Young, H.M. Librarian at Windsor Castle, was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London on January 8th. Mr. P. S. Spokes was elected Convener of the 9th Regional Group, Council for British Archaeology, at Oxford, and Mr. John Wymer is now Secretary to this Group.

OTHER ACTIVITIES: Mr. Wymer has promoted several archaeological Courses connected with the Workers' Educational Association in the district. In May he delivered a short series of Lectures on Field Archaeology in Wantage; Mrs. G. M. Feeney acted as Secretary to this Course.

Mrs. Mary Chitty has also been associated with a W.E.A. Course on Archaeology in her district, and she has contributed a note on May Day Customs at Upton in response to the appeal from the Dept. of English at London University.

The 9th Windsor Guildhall Exhibition enjoyed a successful season, attention being given to the 150th anniversary of the Jubilee Celebrations of George III in 1809. A Diorama was constructed depicting some of the events on that occasion, and this was a subject of an article in *The Times* of 3rd September and in the *Reading Mercury* on 24th October, as well as in other local newspapers. An exhibition of church treasures was inaugurated by the Vicar of Windsor in the north porch of St. John the Baptist's Church in that town to which Mrs. Bond and your Hon. Secretary contributed.

FINANCE: Although the income from subscriptions and donations has remained steady, our funds were augmented by a transfer from the Excursion Account and this has enabled us to place a sum to Reserve for future use. The Society contributed to the cost of excavations at both Cox Green and Thatcham, but the even stronger state of the Excavation Fund at the end of the year anticipates the needs of future field research projects.

The saving in postages was the result of no journal being issued during 1959. A substantial sum has been set aside towards the expected increased cost of printing Volume 57.

Some members have completed bankers' orders for sums in excess of the minimum subscription and these and others who have made donations or who have supported excursions are thanked for their generous help.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

1. *Report of the S.P.A.B. for the 74th-80th years, 1952-1957.* This contains an account of the destruction by fire of Coleshill House, and the restoration of the Jewel Porch at Sunningwell.
2. *The Monuments of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle.* Edited by Shelagh M. Bond, M.A., (Oxley & Sons, Windsor Ltd. Windsor 1958.) Presented by Mrs. Bond.
3. *Branch of Abingdon*, a revision by Peter Walne, M.A. From *The Virginia Magazine of History & Biography*. Vol. 67, No. 1, Jan. 1959. Presented by Mr. P. Walne. This deals with unpublished material and a pedigree of this Abingdon family.
4. *5th-10th Annual Reports of the County Archivist* to the County Records Committee, Berkshire County Council, 1953-1958. These have been stapled together in a cover with an account of the 10th Report from the *Maidenhead Advertiser*, of 20th February, 1959.
5. *15th Annual Report of the Friends of Abingdon.*
6. *Report of the Society of the Friends of St. George's & Descendants of the Knights of the Garter to December 31st, 1958.* This contains an article on St. George's in the Commonwealth by Sir Owen Morshead, the Choir of 1818 by M. F. Bond, and the Royal Maundy by Laurence E. Tanner.

7. *Trabalhos de Antropologia e Etnologia*. Vol. XVII. 1-4. Volume dedicated to Prof. Dr. Mendes Correa, Porto. 1959. This contains several important papers, mainly dealing with African problems, some in English to J. D. Clark and R. Dart.
8. *Cornish Cliff Castles: a survey*, by M. A. Cotton. Reprinted from the *West Cornwall Field Club*. Vol. 2. No. 3. (1958-9). Presented by Mrs. Cotton.
9. *Macaulay*, by Mark A. Thomson. Published for the Historical Association. No. 42. Presented by M. F. Bond.
10. *Records at the Guildhall and Kipling Memorial Building, Royal Borough of New Windsor*. June 1959. Compiled by Mrs. S. M. Bond. Presented by the Town Clerk of New Windsor. This is an invaluable Guide to the Borough Records.
11. *Kentish Sources: some Roads and Bridges*. Edited by Elizabeth Melling, B.A., with a preface by Dr. Felix Hull. Kent County Council, Maidstone 1959.
12. *Canvey Island: The History of a Marshland community*, by Basil E. Cracknell, Leicester University Dept. of English Local occasional papers No. 12. Leicester University Press, 1959.
13. *Current and Forthcoming Offprints*, Council for British Archaeology, April 1959, No. 22.
14. Address on the re-opening of Clun Town Museum, 18th May, 1955 by L. F. Chitty. Reprinted from *Trans. of the Caradoc & Severn Valley Field Club*. Vol. XIV. 1951-56-1959. Presented by Miss Lily Chitty, O.B.E., F.S.A.

The following books were given to the Society by the Executors of the late Mrs. M. Treacher:—

15. *Cassiodori Psalteri Expositio*.
16. *Gilpin's Western Tour*, 1798.
17. *Gilpin's Forest Scenery in Hampshire*, 2 vols. 1791.
18. *Lewis's Atlas of the Counties of Ireland*. 1837.
19. Collection of Maps, mainly old 1" Series of Ireland.

The following books were purchased from Mrs. Treacher's library:—

20. *The Weald*, by S. W. Woolridge & F. Golding. New Naturalists Series, Collins, 1953.
21. *The Prehistoric Foundations of Europe to the Mycenaean Age*, by C. F. Hawkes. Methuen, 1940.
22. *The Romanization of Roman Britain*, by F. Haversfield, 3rd Ed. Oxford, 1915.
23. *The Invaders' Shore*, by W. P. D. Stebbing. E. F. Howe, Deal, 1937.
24. *The Conquest of Civilization*, by H. J. Breasted. Harper, New York, 1926.

PUBLICATIONS: Owing to the printing strike, Vol. 57 of our *Journal* which was in the Publisher's hands early in the year, was not completed, but it is hoped to issue

- 21 Mar. *The Minor Domestic Architecture of Abingdon*, by P. S. Spokes, M.A., F.S.A., (Vice-President).
This Meeting was combined with the Annual Meeting of the Local History Committee.
- 11 April The Annual General Meeting of the Society. The President, Sir Frank Stenton took for the subject of his Presidential Address: *The Anglo-Saxon Borough*.
- 17 Oct. *The Excavations at Glastonbury 1951-1959*, by C. Raleigh Radford, M.A., F.S.A., F.B.A.
- 21 Nov. *Elizabethan Ulster through the Eyes of a Berkshire Military Commander*, by Wilfred A. Seaby, F.S.A., F.M.A.
- 12 Dec. *A Survey of The Devil's Highway across Berkshire*, by James G. Gafford, J.P. (Hon. Treasurer).

EXCURSIONS:

- 29 April Avebury and Lacock Abbey.
- 29 May Wroxton Abbey, Broughton Castle & Bloxham Church.
- 8-12 June CONGRESS AT LINCOLN (see report attached).
- 16 July Cranbury Park, Mottisfont Abbey and Winchester.
- 22 Aug. Stanford-in-the-Vale, Charney Bassett, Denchworth, Lyford and Kingston Bagpuize, etc., arranged by Mrs. Violet Howse.
- 9 Sept. Claydon House and Waddesdon Manor.

OBITUARIES: MARCUS ADAMS, the Royal Photographer, died on 9 April. His successful pictures of children are well known and his great skill in recording architecture is published in the pages of our Journals. Our former President, the late C. E. Keyser collaborated with him in a series of papers on our Berkshire Churches, the last being devoted to Silchester. Mr. Adams gave his Berkshire negatives to the Society in 1942 when they proved invaluable for the newly formed National Buildings Record. He was then elected an honorary member of the Society.

MISS W. M. DIBDIN of Sonning, who had been an active member for nearly 30 years, died on 25th January. Miss Dibdin became interested in the Society's affairs when living at Maidenhead, and in 1951 she was elected to the Council.

DR. A. MARY KIRKUS died on the 16th December. She came to Reading as Assistant Librarian to the University in 1928. In 1943 she became Librarian, a position which she held with distinction for 16 years.

In spite of ever increasing duties, she was able to pursue her historical research, and in 1958 she was awarded the Ph.D., degree of the University of Reading for her thesis on *Sixteenth Century Records Relating to Courts of Sewers in South Lincolnshire*. She had also edited a volume of the Pipe Roll Society. A Fellow of the Library Association and of the Royal Historical Society, she served on various committees of these bodies. She was elected to the Council of our Society in 1952 and has lectured to us

on *Berkshire Presses* (Jan. 1956) and on *Thomas Hughes* (Oct. 1957). Her *Bibliography of Robert Gibbings* is to be published by Dent & Sons Ltd.

MRS. MABEL TREACHER died on 31st October having been a member of the Society for upwards of 35 years. Mrs. Treacher was associated with her late husband, Llewellyn Treacher, in geological researches in this district, and she achieved notice by her discovery of a hitherto unrecorded buried channel of the Thames in South Oxfordshire. Her death severs the last link with Twyford of a family who had been domiciled there for well over a century. Mr. Treacher had formed the largest collection of Paleolithic artifacts ever made by one individual and this, after his death in 1943 went to the Pitt-Rivers Museum at Oxford. Mrs. Treacher was generous in giving many of her husband's photographic records to the Society, and a note of books from her library is mentioned above.

CONGRESS AT LINCOLN, 8-12 June, 1959

Under the direction of Miss Swadling, our Excursion organiser, a party of some 40 members travelled by coach and car from Reading to Peterborough where Longthorpe Tower and the Cathedral were inspected. Longthorpe contains a remarkable series of medieval wall paintings which were restored not long ago by Mr. Clive Rouse who published a paper on them in *Archaeologia*. Although the day was showery, we were fortunate in having fair periods whenever we alighted from the coach for visits. Crowland Abbey ruins and church were next seen, and tea was taken at Spalding. Lincoln was reached in the early evening, our headquarters being the Theological College hard by the Cathedral.

June 9 dawned fair, and we left early for Tattershall Castle, the early brick erection with the superb church like a young cathedral built just outside the ramparts. Time allowed a visit to Heckington Church, a large example of the marshland type in the Transitional style. Lunch was taken at Boston where we were joined by our guide, the Rev. E. R. Cook. He proved a most active and learned companion, and he showed us first the great parish church of St. Botolph. Then came Greyfriars, the old Guildhall with the prison cells of the Pilgrim Fathers and the adjoining house now used as a civic centre. In the gardens a local Society had carried out some excavations on the site of the town wall. On our return to Lincoln we were joined by Sir Francis Hill, the local historian, who gave us a full account of the story of Lincoln after dinner.

Wednesday, 10th June commenced with a visit to the City Museum where the Director, Mr. F. T. Baker, showed us Roman Lincoln. We then returned up the hill to the Cathedral where the Sub-Dean, the Rev. Canon A. M. Cook, took us on a tour of the building which lasted all of two hours and included a talk on the building with us seated comfortably in the Chapter House, and a sight of the Lincoln copy of Magna Carta. After lunch at the College we travelled via Horncastle to Gunby Hall, the home of Lady Montgomery-Massingberd, who, although that day celebrating her 80th Birthday, did the honours of the house, and told us the story of her family. We saw the 14th century brasses of earlier Massingberds in the little church. A breath of the sea was enjoyed at Skegness where tea was taken, we then made for Somersby to see the birthplace of Alfred Lord Tennyson and the church where his

father was Rector. We were delayed on the narrow roads, but we were back in Lincoln for dinner on time, and then by arrangement with Sir Francis Hill we visited Stone Bow, where in the arch over the street, we were received by the Mayor. Sir Francis displayed the Borough Charters Town Plate and other treasures which were placed on view specially for us.

A long day by coach on 11th June took us by the Saxon church of Stowe to Gainsborough, where at the Old Hall, now in course of restoration, we saw the Exhibition arranged by some Gainsborough ladies who had it on a "peppercorn" rent from the Bacon family. The collections displayed were a most varied and important series of bygones and other relics of all kinds which included a Victorian shower-bath, late 19th century cameras, and early wireless sets. We travelled on to Belvoir Castle, the home of the Duke of Rutland where we enjoyed a welcome lunch and then toured the magnificent staterooms and collections. The Duke's care of his local antiquities with well documented labels to all material, prehistoric and modern, was matchless. Then on to Belton Hall, the seat of the Brownlow family, which contains more treasure both in pictures, furniture and Royal relics. The weather remained dull, but we enjoyed the fine gardens and church, and took tea in the orangery. The final day's visit was to Boothby Pagnell Norman House, which was shown to us by Mrs. Kaines-Thomas. The return to Lincoln was by the old Roman Road. After dinner our Hon. Secretary showed us the late Dean Fry's collection of slides, with many details of Lincoln Cathedral which had been beyond our sight yesterday, and Mrs. Kaines-Thomas gave an interesting illustrated account of Lincoln's many Norman houses.

Friday saw the end of our stay, and with regret we took leave of our kind and attentive hosts at the Theological College. Our journey was by Grantham where time allowed us to see the church and the famed Angel Hotel with its oriel windows on to the street. A diversion to Woolsthorpe brought us to the birthplace of Sir Isaac Newton, and being a little ahead of time at Stamford, we visited the Saxon church at Barnack, a most interesting "extra". Lunch at Stamford was taken with our local guide, the Rev. Rowland Taylor, formerly of Reading, who showed us his church—St. Mary's. The golden roof of the north aisle was admired, also the Philips tomb, some ancient houses and shop fronts were inspected, including one with a Norman door. Then by speedy roads homewards, with a distant view of Fotheringay Church, Northampton, to Brackley for tea, where we admired the Town Hall. Reading was reached by 7.30, allowing members to catch their connections home in good time. The whole tour was arranged by Miss Swadling, assisted by Miss Masters and the Hon. Secretary. Colonel and Mrs. Rivers-Moore joined us from their Scottish home.

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Year ended 31st December, 1959

INCOME		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.
1958	Subscriptions	..	..	..	General Printing and Stationery	..	37	13	10
333	Donations	..	..	..	Postages and Telephone Calls	..	22	9	2
2	Sale of Publications (other than Journals)	..	..	..	Publications purchased	..	6	5	0
1	Dividends: Defence Bonds	..	..	..	Subscriptions paid:				
5	British Electricity Stock	4	10	0	S.P.A.B.	..	1	1	0
9		9	0	0	Friends of St. George's, Windsor	..	10	0	0
					C.B.A.	..	2	10	0
					Friends of Reading University	..	5	5	0
12	Bank Interest Received	..	..	..	British Records Association	..	1	0	0
16	Transfer from Excursion Account	..	..	..	Berks. Local History Committee	..	2	2	0
					Friends of Abingdon	..	2	2	0
							14	10	0
							11	8	6
					Lecturer's Expenses	..	..	..	..
					Working Lantern	..	..	..	..
					Rent of room at Watlington House	..	18	3	0
					Insurance	..	..	..	..
					Gratuities	..	..	..	..
					Transfer to Excavation Account	..	4	1	4
					Transfer to Journal Account	..	20	0	0
					Excess of Income over Expenditure	..	240	0	0
							7	2	7
							£389	0	1

Excavation Fund Account 1959

	1958	1959	INCOME		EXPENDITURE			
			£	s. d.	£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1959			14	2 4	Donations: Cox Green Excavations	..	20	0 0
Donations: Maidenhead Corporation			10	0 0	Thatcham Excavations	..	10	0 0
H. P. Wiggins, Esq.			5	0 0	Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1959	..	19	2 4
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account			20	0 0			£49	2 4

Excursion Account 1959

[illegible]

Journal Fund Account 1959

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£	s.	d.
Balance at 1st January, 1959	400	0	0
Grant (C.B.A.)	75	0	0
Sale of Journals	1	15	6
Transfer from Income & Expenditure A/c.	240	0	0
	£716	15	6

Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund 1959

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance at 1st January, 1959	.. .. 37 7 8	Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1959	39 3 7
Bank Interest Received	.. .. 14 11		
Donation	.. .. 1 1 0		
	£39 3 7		£39 3 7

Balance Sheet at 31st December, 1959

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
£	s. d.	£	s. d.
Journal Fund Balance	716 13 0	Cash at Bank:—	
Excavation Fund Balance	19 2 4	Thames Valley Trustee Savings Bank ..	354 0 8
Berks Historic Buildings Fund Balance	39 3 7	Barclays Bank Ltd. Current Account ..	419 6 6
Excursion Account Balance	9 5 1	Barclays Bank Ltd. Deposit Account ..	140 0 0
General Fund:—		Barclays Bank Ltd. Excursion Account ..	3 5 1
As at 1st January, 1959	460 6 3	Barclays Bank Ltd., Deposit Account ..	39 3 7
Excess of Income over Expenditure	7 2 7	(Berks Historic Building Fund)	
General Account	467 8 10	Cash in hand:—Excursion Account ..	955 15 10
		Defence Bonds (2½%) at cost ..	6 0 0
		£200 British Electricity 4½% Guaranteed ..	100 0 0
		Stock 1967-1969 at cost	189 17 0
			<u>£1,251 12 10</u>

We have examined the above Balance Sheet which is in agreement with the books and vouchers produced to us.

48 MARKET PLACE,
READING.
9th March, 1960.

(Signed) C. J. HAYWARD & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.