

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Council for the Year 1960

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Zoology Lecture Theatre at Reading University on Saturday, 23rd April, the President, Sir Frank Stenton occupying the Chair. The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting, held 11th April, 1959, were read and confirmed. Dr. Slade proposed and Miss Masters seconded the re-election of Sir Frank Stenton as President. The Vice-Presidents were re-elected as was the Editorial Committee with the addition of Mr. John Wymer. The other officers were re-elected including the three retiring Council members; Miss H. Masters, Mr. D. B. Connah and Mr. S. L. Day. Dr. Kaines-Thomas paid a special tribute to the work of Miss Swadling as excursion organiser. The report of the Council for 1959 and the Statement of Accounts were adopted.

MEMBERSHIP	Honorary	Ordinary
31 Dec. 1959	7	440
31 Dec. 1960	—	25
	7	465
	—	—
Deaths	Resigned	Total
—	—	447
8	20	—3
—	—	—
8	20	444
—	—	—

The deaths of the following have been recorded with regret:—Miss A. Bailey—Vice-President (1900); Mrs. E. Holden—Vice-President (1920); Lord Iliffe—Vice-President (1929); Mrs. M. Clark, M.A. (1937); W. M. Grundy (1925); H. A. Poynder (1936); Alderman T. E. Smart (1958); H. P. Wiggins (1957). A note on some of these late members will be found at the end of this Report.

PROGRESS OF THE SOCIETY: The programme of Meetings and Excursions was fully supported by our members, and in contrast to 1959, the poor summer hampered field work, but some very important investigations were carried out. Mrs. Cotton, directing the Research Group, carried out work at Robin Hood's Arbour on Maidenhead Thicket, Mr. Wymer directed work again at Thatcham and at Highlands Pit near Henley-on-Thames. Dr. Slade carried on the investigation of the enclosures at Sonning and assisted in the survey of the Moulsoford site following the discovery of the gold Torque in April. This last is the most important object ever to have been found in our County, and it is gratifying to know that it will find a permanent home in Reading Museum. The Society sponsored an aerial investigation of the cursus site at Ufton Nervet, resulting in the photographing of unrecorded enclosures and barrows, also a possible Roman building. Investigations were made on a Roman site at Mackney Court Farm, Brightwell and

the foundations of a building connected with the friary in Greyfriars Road, Reading. An account of the work of the Group was published in the *Archaeological Newsletter*, Vol. 6, No. 12. The Council have been concerned over the fate of many ancient Berkshire buildings. At Reading, houses in London Street, St. Mary's and Greyfriars' vicarages, the Cemetery Chapels and 22 The Forbury have been under our notice; further afield the condition of the Ridgeway, Waterside Chapel Newbury, 21 Mill St., Wantage, 21 Market Place and 26 Broad St., Wokingham, Arborfield Old Church; 24 West St. Helens, Abingdon, Edgeworth House, Clewer, Hardwell Manor Farm, cottages at Long Wittenham and at Bray have all been considered. The Council's work in this sphere was noticed in the Annual Report of the Council for British Archaeology.

FINANCE: The Society's income during the year has remained steady but there was an encouraging increase in donations. The expenditure side of the account was dominated by the cost of printing an extra large issue of the Journal, exceeding revenue from subscriptions by over £200. This outlay had been foreseen and the reserves were adequate to meet it.

The day-to-day business of your Society has been effected with the utmost economy, thereby enabling grants to be made towards the restoration of East Shefford Church and Waltham St. Lawrence Church. Once again members are thanked for their generosity, for promptly-paid subscriptions and for their support of excursions and the Congress.

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY:

1. *Trans. of the London & Middx. Archaeological Society*. Vol. 20 pt. 1. 1959 (by exchange.)
2. *Proc. of the Somersetshire Archaeological & Natural History Soc.* Vol. 103. 1958-9. (by exchange.)
3. *The Newberys, an account of some notable members of an old Berkshire family*, by E. Newbery, Rusper, Sussex, Jan. 1960. (by gift from the Author.)
4. *Thirteenth Century Domestic Architecture in England* (Arch. Journal Vol. CV 1950) by Mrs. M. Kaines-Thomas (presented by the Author.)
5. *The Oxford Volume of the British Associations Regional Reports*, presented by Mr. E. G. Kaines-Thomas.
6. *The English ancestry of Col. William Ball of Millenbeck*, by Peter Walne, M.A., (from Virginia Magazine of History & Biography. Vol. 67, No. 4. Oct. 1959—presented by the Author.)
7. *The American Empire, it's historical pattern and evolution*, by Richard van Alstyn (Historical Assn. publication G.43.) Presented by Mr. M. F. Bond.
8. *Report for 1959 of the Society of the Friends of St. George's and Descendants of the Knights of the Garter*. This issue contains: Two 17th Century

- Inventories by Shelagh M. Bond; Some notes on the History of St. George's School.
9. *Parish Registers and the registration of Births, marriages and deaths in England and Wales*: by Peter Walne, M.A., (from Vol. VIII of *Archivum* Presented by the Author.)
 10. *Local Archives of Gt. Britain XVIII*. The Berkshire Record Office. By Peter Walne, M.A. (From *Archives*, Vol. IV, No. 22, 1959.)
 11. *Records of Buckinghamshire*, Vol. XVI. Pt. 4. (By exchange.)
 12. *The History of the Ranelagh Foundation*: By D. G. R. Martin—presented by the Author.
 13. *The Origins of Parliament*: by Edward Miller. (Historical Assn. publication) presented by M. F. Bond.
 14. *Council for British Archaeology*: Report No. 10 for year ended 30 June 1960. Presented by the C.B.A.
 15. *Notes for a History of Henley-on-Thames*. MS. collected by our late member Mr. Harold P. Wiggins: presented by Miss Annette Wiggins.
 16. *The Westward expansion of Wessex*. By W. G. Hoskins. Leicester University Dept. of English Local History, occasional papers No. 13—by purchase.

SPECIAL RESOLUTION: The following Special Resolution was proposed and carried at the Ordinary Meeting held at Reading University, 20th Feb., 1960: "Resolved that the Council and Members of the Berkshire Archaeological Society offer their Loyal Duty to Her Majesty The Queen their Royal Patron and tender their warmest congratulations on the Birth of The Prince". Her Majesty was graciously pleased to acknowledge this message.

OUR PRESIDENT: Sir Frank Stenton celebrated his 80th Birthday on May 17th and as a tribute to him leading Anglo-Saxon Scholars and Numismatists offered him a collection of historical studies entitled *Anglo Saxon Coins* under the editorship of R. H. M. Dolley. The Society has subscribed to a copy of this volume.

PUBLICATIONS: Vol. 57 of the Society's Journal was issued during the year; this was an extra large volume and was well received. The Editorial sub-Committee have been considering the format of publications, and it is intended to enlarge the page size of future volumes to allow for the easier publication of plans and photographs. No. 58 will be the first issue in this new format.

DELEGATES FROM THE SOCIETY: We were represented at the London and Oxford Meetings of the Council for British Archaeology, the Watlington House Committee, the 28th Congress of the British Records Association and numerous local meetings.

HOSPITALITY: We again record our thanks to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for their permission to use their buildings for our Meetings, and for our refreshments in the Buttery. We also thank the Director and Staff of Reading Museum for allowing meetings of our Council on their premises.

REPORT FROM THE SECRETARY OF THE FRIENDS OF ABINGDON. The main concern of the Friends of Abingdon over the year has been to increase further

the Fund for the Restoration of the Abbey Buildings and to get the work under way. The restoration work has now started and will continue throughout this summer.

The Society remains in close touch with the Borough Council over all questions of amenities in the town. Large areas of Abingdon are at present scheduled for redevelopment and there is plenty of scope for town planners.

Four lectures have been held during the year. In February Professor Christopher Lloyd gave a talk on the history and architecture of the Palace, Hospital and the Queen's House at Greenwich. In March, Mr. P. S. Spokes gave a lecture on the Domestic Architecture of Abingdon. This was followed in June by a talk by the Vicar of Abingdon, the Rev. J. H. S. Dixon, on the Holy Land, and in November, Mr. Alan Kitching, Director of the Unicorn Theatre, spoke on "The English Theatre, its Architecture and Traditions."

A successful Garden Party was held in July, which raised £84 towards the Restoration Fund.

During the summer, the Unicorn Theatre again presented a varied programme of drama and music. Outstanding productions were Handel's Opera, "Hercules", and "The Lady's not for Burning" by Christopher Fry.

LECTURES: The following meetings were held during the year, and our thanks are due to the Lecturers, many of them being members of our Society.

- 16 Jan. *Recent Archaeological Discoveries in Berkshire*, a paper by Mrs. M. A. Cotton, O.B.E., M.B., B.S., F.S.A., read in her absence by Mr. John Wymer.
- 20 Feb. *English Antiquaries* by John Lea Nevinson, M.A., F.S.A.
- 19 Mar. *The Excavation of a Roman Building and Baths at Cox Green, Maidenhead, 1959* by Mrs. C. Bennett. (This meeting was combined with the Annual Meeting of the Local History Committee.)
- 23 April Annual General Meeting: Presidential Address by Sir Frank Stenton: *St. Ethelwold of Abingdon & The 10th Century Reformation*.
- 15 Oct. *The Kennet Valley* by Admiral E. W. Claxton.
- 12 Nov. *The Roman Frontiers of Tripolitania* by Olwen Brogan, M.A., F.S.A.
- 3 Dec. *Wood Carvings of Medieval Misericords* by D. R. Maxted.

EXCURSIONS:

- 28 April Waverley Abbey, Compton Church, Guildford—St. Mary's Ch., the Castle Museum, muniment room, Abbot's Hospital and new Cathedral.
- 9-13 May Congress in Derbyshire (see separate Report)
- 31 May Knole Park and Ightham Moat, Kent.
- 11 July Allnut's Hospital, Goring Heath, Stonor Park & North Stoke Church.
- 27 July Excavations at Nonesuch, Ewell & Polesdon Lacey Manor House.
- 6 Aug. The Lambourn Valley, Ashdown House, Ashbury Church & Manor House, Charney Bassett Manor.

- 6 Sept. East Hendred House & Chapel (by kind invitation of Lady Agnes Eyston): Milton Manor House, Abingdon Abbey Buildings.

OBITUARIES:

MISS ANNIE BAILY (Vice-President) died on Jan. 20th. Miss Baily was the Society's oldest member, for she joined us in 1900. She was a friend of the late P. H. Ditchfield and had played a great part in the Society's affairs. She promoted the erection of the Thomas Hearne Memorial in White Waltham Church in 1935 and gave £100 to help our finances shortly afterwards. Miss Baily was a constant member at all Council and Ordinary Meetings as well as Excursions, and for very many years entertained members to tea after the Annual General Meeting.

MRS. EVELYN HOLDEN (Vice-President) died on Oct. 20th aged 98. A great traveller and lecturer, Mrs. Holden made many contributions to the Society's activities and had made us several donations. Her last act was to entertain members to tea on Oct. 15th. Mr. Kaines-Thomas paid a special tribute to her memory before the Meeting on Nov. 12th. Obituary notices appeared in *The Times* (2 Nov.), *Newbury Weekly News* (3 Nov.—by Mr. Kaines-Thomas) and *The Reading Mercury* (4 Nov.—by Mr. E. W. Dormer).

LORD ILIFFE had been a Vice-President for over 30 years. For many years a regular correspondent of the Hon. Secretary, Lord Iliffe took a great interest in the Society's affairs and his work in the County is well known and will long be remembered.

MRS. MURIEL CLARK whose unexpected passing at the end of November was a great shock to many of us had been a very active member of our Council and was well known as a lecturer on Local History. Mrs. Clark had specialised in the history of Reading and neighbourhood, and many will recollect her lecture on *Caversham* on 20th March, 1954 and *Reading in the 16th Century* in October 1949.

Mrs. Clark was engaged on a course of lectures on the history of Woodley at the time of her death. She performed numerous services in arranging meetings and helping with excursions. For years she had acted as Tea Steward, and although her health was troubling her, had been engaged on a catalogue of some of the Society's photographic negatives within a few weeks of her decease.

W. M. GRUNDY, M.A., J.P., a former Headmaster of Abingdon School and member of the Society for nearly 40 years died on Nov. 17th. Although Mr. Grundy had not been able to attend our meetings for some time, he was a frequent correspondent. Obituaries appeared in *The Times* (19 Nov.) and *Reading Mercury* (26 Nov.)

CONGRESS AT BUXTON, DERBYSHIRE,

MAY 9-13

The Derbyshire Conference House proved spacious and welcoming to our 50 members and friends who journeyed thence from Reading in two coaches. Brief visits were paid en route to Kenilworth Castle and to Lichfield Cathedral. On Tuesday morning

the more energetic of our party visited Arbour Low, the "Stonehenge of Derbyshire". A call was then made on Youlgreave Church which contains fine Norman work. Haddon Hall, the chief object of interest for the day, is a very complete example of a medieval and manorial home. After lunch, Eyam—the "plague village" (1665-6) was visited, and after a tour of the Church with its Saxon cross shafts, we made our way to Castleton where the steep ascent was climbed to Peveril or Peak Castle. Some members avoiding the climb investigated Treak Cliff Cavern, with its rich deposits of Blue John Spar. The return journey was made by way of Lady Bower Reservoir, through Snake Pass with views of Kinder Scout and so to Glossop and Buxton.

On Wednesday our first stop was the picturesque town of Bakewell, "capital of the Peak" which has a good 15th century bridge and a church high on the hill. The Chancel of this building is of great beauty and the Vernon tombs in the S. aisle include the monument to John Manners and Dorothy Vernon. On our way to Chatsworth, we spent a few minutes in Edensor Church which has Cavendish monuments. Through the park, with its background of hanging woods we reached Chatsworth, the world famous home of the Dukes of Devonshire, containing a priceless collection of pictures, furniture and books and set in unrivalled formal gardens. After lunch at Baslow we came to Hardwick Hall, built 1590-6 by Bess of Hardwick herself. This supreme example of Elizabethan domestic architecture is still adorned by the furniture, pictures and needlework of the redoubtable Countess of Shrewsbury. To many of us this was the highlight of the expedition. Our last visit of that day was to Bolsover Castle, now a splendid ruin, well-sited on a hilltop, and first erected by Wm. Peveril, the Conqueror's favourite.

Thursday morning proved rather gloomy, and rain began to fall while we were visiting the ruined South Wingfield Manor, completed in the mid-15th century by the Earl of Shrewsbury. In due course it was inherited by George the 6th Earl, husband of Bess of Hardwick and custodian of Mary Queen of Scots, who first came here in 1569. Her apartments are still standing, and the banquetting Hall, with its great windows and oriel overlook the valley. Our next visit was to Ashbourne Church, "the Cathedral of the Lower Peak" which possesses fine stained glass and the Cockayne tombs. Through pouring rain we drove to Dovedale hoping for finer weather after lunch, but the downpour increased and our anticipated walk through the Vale had to be abandoned. A visit to Norbury Church which has good glass and the Fitzherbert tombs was substituted. After tea at the Charles Cotton hotel, most famous of all fishing inns, we returned to Buxton and fine weather.

On Friday morning we said farewell to Buxton and left for Kedleston Hall, perhaps the finest Robert Adam house extant. Our final visit was to Repton where we saw Wystan's Church with its Saxon crypt, burial place of the kings of Mercia. In this brief notice there is no space for the many interesting villages and viewpoints of our tour; our evening activities included illustrated talks on the Peak National Park. Mr. W. H. Lewis, Warden of our House had spared no pains in providing us with Derbyshire material. Mrs. Kaines-Thomas had

interesting slides of S. Wingfield to show us, and Col. Rivers-Moore, who brought coloured slides of his recent tour. Miss Carleton-Williams, who unfortunately could not be with us in person, contributed an interesting paper on Bess of Hardwick which served as a useful introduction to the whole tour. We were most cordially greeted by the Buxton Arch. & Natural History Society whose Secretary, Mr. L. Morten, helped us and whose members

entertained us on the occasion of their Annual Meeting. We were privileged to hear their President, Dr. J. W. Jackson, speak on the Monastic Granges of the Peak District. Our guides, throughout, were most helpful and added greatly to our appreciation of the places visited. Our great disappointment was the rain at Dovedale, and this was probably in the nature of a warning of the wet summer to follow.

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1960

INCOME		£	s.	d.	EXPENDITURE		£	s.	d.
1959	Subscriptions	..	..	8	General Printing and Stationery	..	33	19	10
340	Donations	..	..	0	Postages and Telephone Calls	..	26	16	6
3	Dividends: Defence Bonds	..	..	0	Publications purchased	..	8	8	0
	British Electricity Stock	..	..	0	Subscriptions paid:				
14					S.P.A.B.	..	1	1	0
11	Bank Interest received	..	..	0	Friends of St. George's, Windsor	..	10	0	
20	Transfer from Excursion Account	..	..	0	English Place Name Society	..	1	5	0
1	Sale of Publications (other than Journals)	..	..	0	Friends of Reading University	..	5	5	0
					British Records Association	..	1	0	0
					Berks. Local History Committee	..	2	2	0
					Friends of Abingdon	..	2	2	0
15					Donations to Churches' Restoration		13	5	0
—					Lecturers' Expenses	..	10	10	0
11					Working Lantern	..	8	8	0
5					Rent of room at Watlington House	..	4	10	0
18					Insurance	..	18	3	0
3					Gratuities	..	2	16	8
4					Aerial Survey	..	2	0	0
—					Wreath	..	3	1	8
—					Cheque Book	..	1	2	6
—					Transfer to Excavation Fund	..	10	0	
20					Transfer to Journal Fund	..	20	0	0
240					Balance of Income over Expenditure	..	220	0	0
7							9	7	10
							£382	19	0
							£389		

Excursion Account 1960

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Balance of Account at 1st January, 1960	..	3	18 0	Printing and Stationery	..	12	8 4
Excursions: Guildford	..	4	4 6	Postages and Telephone Calls	..	7	14 8
Knole	..	4	18 0	Delegates' Expenses (S.P.A.B.)	..	10	0
Stonor	..	4	11 8	Cheque Books	..	8	4
Nonsuch	..	4	4 8	Contribution to General Account	..	14	0 0
Charney	..	3	13 6	Balance of Account at 31st December 1960			7
East Hendred	..						
Congress: Derbyshire	..	25	10 4				
			14 6				
		£35	9 11			£35	9 11

Excavation Fund Account 1960

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1960	..	19	2 4	Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1960	..	40	17 4
Donations	..	1	15 0				
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	..	20	0 0				
		£40	17 4			£40	17 4

Journal Fund Account 1960

INCOME				EXPENDITURE			
		£	s. d.			£	s. d.
Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1960	..	716	13 0	Printing Volume No. 57	..	558	18 6
Donations	..	16	0 0	Reproduction Fee (Ordnance Survey)	..	2	6
Sale of Journals	..	17	0 6	Purchase of old Journals	..	4	0 0
Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	..	220	0 0	Balance of Fund at 31st December 1960	..	406	12 6
		£969	13 6			£969	13 6

Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund 1960

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1960	.. 39 3 7	Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1960	.. 50 9 11
Donation (Repair of Conroy Chapel roof)	.. 10 0 0		
Bank Interest received	.. 1 6 4		
	<u>£50 9 11</u>		<u>£50 9 11</u>

Balance Sheet as at 31st December, 1960

CAPITAL AND LIABILITIES		ASSETS	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
Journal Fund Balance	.. 406 12 6	Cash at Bank:	
Excavation Fund Balance	.. 40 17 4	Thames Valley Trustee Savings Bank	.. 367 8 2
Berks. Historic Buildings Fund Balance	.. 50 9 11	Barclays Bank Limited:	
Excursion Account Balance	.. 8 7	Current Account	.. 127 1 4
General Fund:		Deposit Account	.. 140 0 0
As at 1st January, 1960	.. 467 8 10	Excursion Account	.. 8 7
Excess of Income over Expenditure	.. 9 7 10	Deposit Account (Berks. Historic Bldg. Fund)	.. 50 9 11
General Account	<u>476 16 8</u>		<u>685 8 0</u>
	<u>£975 5 0</u>	Defence Bonds (2½%) at cost	.. 100 0 0
		£200 British Electricity 4½% Guaranteed	.. 189 17 0
		Stock 1967-1969 at cost	.. 189 17 0
			<u>£975 5 0</u>

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

48 MARKET PLACE,
READING, BERKS.
15th March, 1961

C. J. HAYWARD & Co.,
Chartered Accountants.