

THE BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Summary of Report of the Council for 1971

1. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1971. The Annual Meeting was held at Reading University on 24th April, Dr Slade occupying the Chair. The Report and Accounts for 1970 having been circulated, were adopted without discussion. Mrs Feeney, seconded by Mr Connah proposed the re-election of Dr Slade as President, Mr Kaines-Thomas seconded by Mr Hunter proposed the re-election of the Vice-Presidents with the additional names of Lady Stenton and Dr Pitt (Vice-Chancellor of Reading University). The other standing officers were re-elected with the addition of Dr Kemp as deputy Hon. Secretary. The President paid tribute to the labours of Mr Copsey as a deputy secretary; under Rule 5 Dr Fletcher, Mr Hunter, Miss Few, Mr Over and Mrs Shorland retired from the Council but offered themselves for re-election, the names of Mrs Murphy, Miss D. Mason and Mr G. G. Cullingham were added to fill vacancies. The Minutes of the A.G.M. held 25th April 1970 having been circulated were confirmed. The following new members were declared elected: Mr & Mrs Bulmer-Thomas, Mr P. Littledale, Dr H. A. H. Crowther, Mr & Mrs Bodley Scott.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Hon.	Corporate	Ordinary	Deaths	Total
7	18	458	4	483

It is with regret that we report the deaths of the following: Rev Dr Derwas Chitty (1946); Mr R. ff. Hasluck (1936); Miss B. C. Shirreff-Dudman (1950) and Lady Stenton (1969). (see Section 10).

3. THE SOCIETY. Meetings and Excursions continued to be well supported during the year. To mark the 100th anniversary of the Society's foundation a luncheon was arranged at the Great Western Hotel, Reading on 1st May, over 90 members and guests attended. Following grace by Dr Kemp, the President, Dr C. F. Slade proposed the Loyal toast to H.M. The Queen, our Patron. The Hon. David Smith (Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire and a Vice-President) proposed the toast of The Society to which Dr Slade replied, proposing the health of The Guests. Professor Stuart Piggott then addressed the company referring to his long association with the Royal County and his early years at Reading Museum. Dr Slade then proposed "Archaeology" to which Dr Arnold J. Taylor (Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments) replied referring to his own intimate association with the County and its monuments and his friendship with Mr Underhill.

4. FIELDWORK AND EXCAVATION. Reading Museum and the Research Group were occupied in dealing with the finds from the M4 Motorway excavations of 1970. Reading Museum associated with Dr Slade made a preliminary examination of foundations at the east end of Reading Abbey revealed during alterations at Reading Gaol. A watch was kept during cable-laying across the Kinecroft at Wallingford. Reports from associated groups detail much minor work. Mr C. C. Stanley made some further excavations at Bray where another Group examined a Mesolithic floor.

5. THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP. Mr Major reported continuing work in the field, a brewery and malting survey has been undertaken and further records have been made on vanishing brickworks. Particular studies were made of the cooperage at Courages' Brewery, of the brewery at the Wellington Arms (emergency recording and rescue) and of the minor industries in the Queen's Road and Orts Road area of Reading. Training lectures have been well attended, 24 lectures in Reading, 24 in Wokingham, 12 at Woodley and 8 at Newbury. John Gray's article on Buscot Park was published in *Industrial Archaeology*, this gives an excellent study of the many mechanical processes introduced to this estate in the 1860's.

6. PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS. The Architectural sub-committee have been kept very busy during the year, 23 cases of the demolition of Listed Buildings were received against which 7 objections were lodged, 3 of these appear to have been successful. Very strong protests were made at the proposed demolition of premises in London St, Reading and the Caversham Court Gazebo and it is to be hoped that the attitude of Reading Corporation to the preservation of Listed Buildings generally will improve. 10 Development proposals, 6 Village Plans and 46 cases of building alterations with Plans were commented upon. There has been correspondence in respect of the Redundancy Notices for the churches of St. Bartholomew, Lower Basildon and Holy Trinity Hatford. Satisfaction can be expressed that the North Wessex Downs Area has been declared one of Outstanding Natural Beauty, in addition note is taken of 18 places in the County where Conservation Areas have been designated.

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7. PERSONAL. Mrs G. Pike and Mr J. Kenneth Major were elected Fellows of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Mr J. M. Cobban was created a C.B.E., in the Birthday Honours. Dr John Fletcher published *Medieval Timberwork at Bisham Abbey, Radiocarbon Dating of Medieval Timber-Framed Cruck Cottages and Steventon Church & Sir John Calverley*; Miss V. F. M. Garlick *A Newbury Scrapbook*; Mr Luke Over published *Anglo-Saxon Burials in the Middle Thames*; Miss J. Dillaway *A Short History of Maidenhead*; Miss M. C. Hartley *A Guide to the Church of St Giles-in-Reading*, and Mr Godwin Arnold *London St, Reading*, a Report for the Reading Civic Society. (see Additions to the Society's Library no. 13 below). Mr Maurice Bond has written *A Guide to the Records of Parliament (HMSO)*. Mr Neville Hadcock with D. Knowles has published *Medieval Religious Houses in England & Wales (Longmans)*. Mr L. Over and Mr C. C. Stanley were associated in arranging an Exhibition of Ten Years' Activities of the Maidenhead & District Archaeological Society in Maidenhead Town Hall from 4th-16th October.

8. LECTURES

30th January

Mrs Peggy Jefferies on *Some Notes on Shinfield History*.

27th February

Professor Sheppard Frere on *Verulamium*.

3rd April

Mrs J. Greenaway and Mr R. A. Rutland on *Excavations in Berkshire, 1970*.

24th April

Annual General Meeting of the Society, Mr. F. M. Underhill on *The History of the Berkshire Archaeological Society*.

16th October

Mr Rinus de Jong on *The Art of the Carillon in the Low Countries*.

13th November

Mr L. V. Grinsell on *Berkshire Barrows in the Light of Recent Developments*.

4th December

Mr C. R. J. Currie on *Houses of East Hendred and Steventon, 1500-1650*.

9. EXCURSIONS

15th May

Visit to Lullingstone Roman villa, Lullingstone Castle, and church of St Botolph, Knole, Kent.

2nd June

Great Chalfield Manor, Lacock Abbey and village.

26th June

Rockbourne Roman villa, Knowlton Circles, Dorset Cursus and Bokerley Dyke, Old Sarum and Durrington Walls.

19th June

Old Basing House, Bramley Church and The Vyne. All excursions were organised and directed by Mrs Slade.

10. OBITUARY

Lady D. M. Stenton, widow of Sir Frank Stenton and a vice-president of our Society died on 29th December. A lecturer at Reading University from 1917 she had been Raleigh Lecturer in 1958 and Hon. Secretary and general editor of the Pipe Roll Society 1923-1961. Upon her retirement she had seen 35 volumes in print for that Society who dedicated a "Medieval Miscellany" for her pleasure published with a grant from the British Academy; the book contained a list of Lady Stenton's published writings. She also edited nine volumes of Judicial records for the Selden Society and the Record Societies of Lincoln and Northamptonshire. Lady Stenton attained a world-wide reputation as an Angevin scholar, and historical research in England has lost one of its great figures. (See *The Times*, 30th December, 1971, 4th January, 1972, 10th January, 1972; *Daily Telegraph*, 30th December, 1971, *Berkshire Mercury*, 6th January, 1972).

The Rev. Dr Derwas Chitty, former rector of Upton, Berks (1931-1968) died on 19th February following a fall at his retirement home in North Wales. A scholar of New College, Oxford, he had a distinguished record as a naval chaplain in the 1939-45 war. Interested in near eastern religion he worked for a closer friendship between the churches of the East and West. Among his many published works *The Desert City* was widely regarded as a model introduction to Mediterranean monasticism. At Upton his regard turned to local history and customs and the Rectory during his occupation was a friendly home often visited by aspiring fieldworkers. (See *The Times*, 2nd March, 1971.)