

THE BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Council for 1973

1. THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Society was held at Reading University on 28th April, 1973. Dr Slade presided, supported by the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Treasurer. The Report and Accounts for 1972 were proposed and adopted. Dr Slade was re-elected President and the Vice-Presidents were also re-elected with the addition of Mr Maurice F. Bond. The other officers were re-elected with thanks for their continued efforts on behalf of the Society during the past year, a special tribute being paid to Mr Gafford for the healthy state of our finances. Under Rule 5 Mrs Feeney, Mrs Pike, Mr Butler, Mr Murphy and Dr Dumbleton due to retire from the Council were re-elected with the addition of Mr R. J. Bradley.

Dr Slade then delivered his Presidential Address on *Excavations at Reading Abbey 1971-73* (see also Section 10).

2. MEMBERSHIP

Hon.	Corporate	Ordinary	Deaths	Total
8	20	455	4	483

Thirty-two new members joined the Society during the year. It is with regret that the deaths of the following are recorded: Mrs Shelagh Bond, Rev S. E. Chavasse, Mr R. M. Ford and Mr H. J. C. Neobard. (For obituaries, see Section 12).

3. THE SOCIETY. All meetings were well supported, a two-day visit to Herefordshire and other excursions however were not so well attended as in previous years. The Council met six times during the year.

4. FIELDWORK AND EXCAVATION. Dr Slade with students of Reading University excavated a barrow at Ascot, the Abingdon Excavation Committee to which our Society donates a subscription and on which two of our members serve as committee members, continued work during the year in and around that town, Mr Michael Parrington succeeding Mr David Miles as Director.

Mrs Ellison and Mr Richard Bradley undertook a second season of investigation at the Bronze and Iron Age hilltop camp site at Ram's Hill, Kingston Lisle, the Society also made a donation towards this research project.

The Berkshire Archaeological Society Field Research Group held a series of lectures and members undertook a number of projects. Construction work on the A329M road was watched, a well and a burnt flint area were

recorded, the interpretation of which is somewhat problematical. About a dozen members carried out preliminary field work along the proposed line of the Drayton-Chilton section of the A34. The line of the road has been flown and an overlapping series of photographs taken. This has been followed by field walking. A brief salvage excavation was carried out jointly with Newbury Museum on a Roman pottery kiln at Newbury.

5. BERKSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY COMMITTEE. This Committee suffered a great loss in the death of Miss Swadling and Mr Willcocks, but its aims have been continued on a reduced basis, aware of the need for changes in recording procedure. The duplicate records were received back at the wish of the British Museum and placed in the care of the Berkshire Record Office.

6. THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP. The course of lectures held under the auspices of Reading University and the Workers' Educational Association has again been a great success with several visiting lecturers. Mr Padley's booklet, *A Village in the Town*, demonstrates the careful recording by this Reading citizen and deals with the small district between Queen's Road and London Road, Watlington Street and Eldon Road. It was an area packed with industries and full of lively characters.

7. PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS. The Architectural sub-Committee reviewed over 90 cases involving demolition or alterations to Listed Buildings, including plans for new roads and estates. Of these 18 were at Abingdon, five at Blewbury, four at Wallingford, six at Wantage and 16 at Wokingham. Most demolition proposals were opposed with varying success and extensive comment was sent both to the Department of the Environment and the County Planning Authority in all instances. Nos. 1-3 White Cottages, Ascot, a case which has been before us for some time, after Public Inquiry, were demolished, but the Ascot Racecourse Authority was persuaded to remove and preserve five unusual Coade Stone plaques which formerly decorated the building's facades. Four Village Plans were received and two complete Lists for Rural Districts.

8. FINANCE. A further increase in our income from subscriptions is welcomed and that from donations

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continues an upward trend (last year's total being influenced by a special gift). Full advantage has been taken of high interest rates and the income from investment and sale of Journals offset a disappointing reduction in profits from excursions.

9. PERSONAL. Mr J. Kenneth Major contributed articles to the Report of the International Molinological Society, and *Industrial Archaeology*. Dr John Fletcher lectured to the Society of Antiquaries at Burlington House and with Richard Bradley contributed to an extended meeting of the Abingdon Excavation Committee at the John Mason School, Abingdon, in June. Mrs Shorland was associated in the production of a 98-foot long mural at Bracknell and the writing and staging of six short plays in Warfield Church during November. Mr Ivor Bulmer-Thomas wrote a letter to *The Times* on the alteration of churches (23rd February). The extensive War Diaries of our former member the late Mr J. W. Dodgson were placed in the Reading University Archives.

10. LECTURES

13th January

Mr R. A. Rutland on *Patterns of Settlement in Prehistoric Berkshire*.

17th February

Mr K. A. Falconer on *Preserving our Industrial Heritage*; the role of the Industrial Monuments Survey.

17th March

Mr John Wymer on *Old Stone Age Archaeology in East Anglia*.

28th April

(Annual General Meeting), Dr C. F. Slade on *Excavations at Reading Abbey, 1971-73*.

13th October

Mr C. S. Stanley on *Excavations at the Hoveringham Gravel Pits, Bray, 1963-1973*.

17th November

Mr Wilfred A. Seaby on *The Girona Treasure*.

8th December

Mr Stephen Blake on *The Expansion of the Borough of Reading during the First 50 Years of the 19th Century*.

11. EXCURSIONS

26th April

Shaw House, Donnington Hospital, Donnington Grove and Sandford Priory.

16th-17th May

Two-day visit to Hereford visiting Gloucester, Ross-on-Wye, Hereford, Leominster Priory, Croft Castle and Church. (Report see Section 15).

7th June

Avebury Henge Monument, Museum and Manor, Marlborough and Marlborough College (the William White Library by arrangement with Mr E. H. G. Kempson).

30th June

Bramley, Chiddingfold, North Chapel, Petworth House, Bignor Roman Villa and Farnham Castle.

17th July

Bath, the Roman baths, Abbey and Museum of Costume, Wells Cathedral.

All the excursions excepting the two-day event were organised and directed by Mrs Slade.

12. OBITUARY

Mrs Shelagh Mary Bond, M.A., F.R.Hist.S., a graduate of Cambridge and former assistant in the Northamptonshire Record Office, became well known in Berkshire as honorary archivist to the Dean and Canons of St. George's Chapel, Windsor, and to the Borough of New Windsor, where she edited for publication the town's First Hall Book (1653-1725) and compiled a Handlist of Borough Records. For St. George's Mrs Bond published *The Monuments of St. George's Chapel (1959)* and *The Chapter Acts, 1430, 1523-1672*. Mrs Bond wrote many articles for our Journal as well as for other learned publications; a full list will be printed later in the Journal. Her death on 11th September at an early age is a great loss to Windsor and the County, and our sympathy is offered to her husband, Mr Maurice Bond.

The Rev. S. E. Chavasse, M.A., who died in his 90th year on 7th November was educated at Wellington College, where he was a contemporary of the late Col. C. N. Rivers-Moore. Until his retirement in 1957 he had been for 30 years Rector of Ufton Nervet, and he served on the Society's Council for a long period. He became well known to members attending excursions, when his knowledge of the history and pedigrees of Berkshire families was often of service. He was also a keen naturalist.

Mr H. J. C. Neobard, who died on 2nd December was the former Clerk to the Berkshire County Council, which he served for 28 years. A Deputy Lieutenant for the County and a magistrate, he was for some time Hon. Secretary of the Berkshire Branch of the C.P.R.E. He was a member of our Council for many years and a Vice-President; his help and advice on difficult county and planning matters was of great service to the Society. He had a distinguished career in the first world war and his decorations included the O.B.E. (Military) and Chevalier of the Legion of Honour.

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1973

1972 £	EXPENDITURE		1972 £	INCOME	
	£.p	£.p		£.p	£.p
37	Printing and Stationery ...	...	518	Subscriptions ...	...
54	Postages and Telephones ...	...	52	Donations ...	...
11	Purchase of Publications ...	...		<i>Dividend:</i>	...
	<i>Subscriptions paid:</i>	£.p	6	5½% National Development Bonds	...
	S.P.A.B.	2.10	—	Profit on redemption of 5½% N.D. Bonds...	2.75
	Friends of St. George's ...	0.50	167	Bank Interest (gross) ...	2.00
	Friends of Reading University ...	5.25	67	Profit on Excursions, transferred from	320.98
	British Records Association ...	1.50		Excursion Account ...	8.49
	C.B.A. ...	7.50	17	Sale of Publications other than Journal ...	16.33
22	English Place-Names Society ...	4.50	100	Legacy ...	...
					...
		21.35			...
6	Lecturers' Expenses ...	19.96			...
10	Working Projector ...	4.00			...
50	Rent of Room—Watlington House ...	50.00			...
20	Rent of Lecture Room—Reading University ...	15.00			...
5	Insurance ...	8.40			...
3	Gratuity ...	1.00			...
—	Testimonial—Miss B. de Cardi ...	5.00			...
5	Auditor's Honorarium ...	5.00			...
2	Wreath ...	—			...
10	Bank Charges ...	5.02			...
3	Depreciation of Typewriter ...	—			...
—	Travelling Expenses ...	2.00			...
689	Balance Carried Down ...	687.60			...
			689	Balance brought down ...	687.60
		£910.90			...
					...
		£927			£910.90
					...
		25.00			...
20	Berks. Historic Buildings Fund ...	100.00			...
25	Excavation Fund ...	—			...
114	Printing Cost—Vol. 66 Journal (Reserve)	—			...
530	Balance being excess of Income over	562.60			...
	Expenditure and Reserves ...	£687.60			...
					...
		£689			£687.60

Reserves approved by Council:

20	Berks. Historic Buildings Fund ...	...
25	Excavation Fund ...	...
114	Printing Cost—Vol. 66 Journal (Reserve)	...
530	Balance being excess of Income over	...
	Expenditure and Reserves ...	...

£689

£687.60

£689

£687.60

Excavation Fund Account

		£.p	
Grants:			£.p
Abingdon Archaeological Appeal	...	25.00	Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1973
Rams Hill Excavation	...	50.00	Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account ...
Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1973	...	165.87	
		<u>£240.87</u>	
			<u>£240.87</u>

Excursion Account

Printing and Stationery	...	4.70	Profit on Excursions:		
Postages and Telephone	...	8.50	Newbury	...	...
Subscription—National Trust	...	2.00	Avebury	...	...
Loss on Excursion—Hereford	...	1.12	Bignor	...	...
Profit transferred to General Account	...	8.49	Bath and Wells	...	...
		<u>£24.81</u>			
					<u>£24.81</u>

Journal Account

Postages and Carriage	...	22.60	Balance of Account at 1st January, 1973	...	1000.00
Purchases—back numbers of Journal	...	1.00	Sale of Journals	...	355.55
Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1973	...	2262.95	Grants:	£	
			Department of Environment	...	531
			Council for British Archaeology	...	400
		<u>£2286.55</u>			<u>931.00</u>
					<u>£2286.55</u>

Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund

Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1973 ...	...	257·19	Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1973 ...	...	215·19
			Bank Interest received ...	...	17·00
			Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account ...	...	25·00
		<u>£257·19</u>			<u>£257·19</u>

Berkshire Field Research Group

Printing and Stationery ...	...	7·06	Balance in Hand at 1st January, 1973 ...	...	76·75
Postages and Telephone ...	...	10·78	Subscriptions ...	...	25·82
Maps and Films purchased ...	...	7·04			
Lecturers' Expenses ...	...	1·00			
Refreshments ...	...	0·90			
Balance in Hand at 31st December, 1973 ...	...	75·79			
		<u>£102·57</u>			<u>£102·57</u>

Silchester Excavation Committee Account

Balance of Account at 31st December, 1973 ...	...	363·47	Balance of Account at 1st January, 1973 ...	...	336·47
			Bank Interest received ...	...	27·00
		<u>£363·47</u>			<u>£363·47</u>

1972 £	£.p	£.p	1972 £	£.p	£.p
<i>General Fund:</i>					
1684	Balance as at 1st January, 1973	1684.27	100	5½% National Development Bonds (redeemed)	...
	Add: Excess of Income over Expenditure and Reserves	562.60	—	Sundry Debtors (Berks. Field Research Group)	...
		2246.87			...
<i>Other Funds:</i>					
141	Excavation	165.87	159	Thames Valley Trustee Savings Bank	...
215	Berks. Historic Buildings	257.19		Thames Valley Trustee Special Investment	...
1000	Journal (Reserve)	2262.95	3072	Barclays Bank Ltd. Current A/c	...
77	Berks. Field Research Group	75.79	39	National Westminster Bank Ltd. Current A/c	...
337	Silchester Excavation Com.	363.47	77		...
—	Sundry Creditors				83.03
		3125.27			5378.10
		7.24			
<i>Cash in Hand:</i>					
			6	Excursion Secretary	...
			1	Berks. Field Research Group	...
					0.78
£3454		£5379.38	£3454		£5379.38

We have audited the foregoing Accounts and CERTIFY that they are correctly in accordance with the books and records of the Berkshire Archaeological Society.

26 CROSS STREET, READING, BERKS.
20th March, 1974

C. J. HAYWARD AND COMPANY
Chartered Accountants