

THE BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Council for 1974

1. THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Society was held at Reading University on 27th April, 1974. Dr Slade presided and proposed the adoption of the Report and Accounts of 1973, these with the Minutes of the Annual Meeting held 28th April, 1973 were accepted. On the proposal of Mrs Feeney, seconded by Mr Over, Dr Slade, recently appointed Reader in Archaeology at Reading University, was re-elected President. Proposed by Mr Connah, seconded by Mr Cullingham the Vice-Presidents were re-elected with the additional names of Mr J. Kenneth Major and Mr H. Godwin Arnold. The other officers were proposed for re-election from the Chair. For the Council, under Rule 5, Mrs Slade and Mr Percival retired and were re-elected, and Mr Alan Wilson with Mr R. J. Lee were elected to fill vacancies on the proposition of Mrs Jacob, seconded by Miss Rees. Dr Slade then delivered his Presidential Address, his subject being *Archaeology in Berkshire, 1974*. (See Section 11).

2. MEMBERSHIP

Hon.	Corporate	Ordinary	Deaths	Total
7	20	456	5	483

Thirty-five new members joined during the year. It is with regret that the deaths of the following are recorded: Mr C. W. Arrow (joined 1963); Miss R. M. Brown (1949); Dr H. A. H. Crowther (1971); Mr R. J. Lee (1953); Mr Ashley W. Randall (1939).

3. THE SOCIETY. All Meetings were well supported, a 4-day Excursion to Jersey was enjoyed in co-operation with members of the Somerset Archaeological Society. Mrs Slade arranged a day Excursion to St. Albans and members joined with the Industrial Archaeology Group on three Excursions (see Section 12). The Council met five times during the year.

4. FIELDWORK AND EXCAVATION. The Berkshire Field Research Group made a number of field surveys in the area of the Downs, members were engaged also on various village projects. A further excavation on Rams Hill near Wantage was directed by Mr Richard Bradley, its primary purpose being to investigate Bronze Age occupation. Dr Fulford directed an excavation at Silchester on behalf of the D.O.E. with the aim of investigating more of the defences. Dr Slade directed an excavation on the south part of Reading Abbey Mill and briefly investigated another part of the Lady Chapel; for rescue excavation, see under part 5 below. Mr Over

reporting on the work of the Field Group of the Maidenhead Society, recorded the excavation of an eighteenth century mansion at "Sterlings", Cookham Dean, with evidence of twelfth century occupation. At Cannon Hill, Bray a Neolithic pit has been found containing a well stratified group of pottery with wares of the Windmill Hill (Whitehawk) and Fengate types. Another site at Moor Farm, Braywick, has produced evidence of Maglemosian culture with over 10,000 implements and flakes to be sorted and classified.

5. THE BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE. This has now been granted Charitable status after negotiations with the Charity Commissioners. From 1st April, 1975 the Director of the Berkshire Archaeological Unit, Mr G. Astill will take up his appointment. Members of our Society have been active on this Committee; Dr Slade (Chairman), Mr Gwatkin (Secretary), Mr Gafford (Treasurer), Mr Underhill, Dr Pike, Mr Bradley (Committee members). Urban and gravel surveys have been undertaken and rescue excavations took place at Burghfield, Wokingham and Reading.

6. THE INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP. As in former years the nucleus of activity in the Group has centred on the lecture series run by the W.E.A. and Reading University. Excursions were run to the Isle of Portland, down an Iron Mine in the Forest of Dean, and to the Canal and Mills at the Tring and Ivinghoe area of Buckinghamshire. Work has at last started on the re-erection of the horse wheel at Greys Court which had been rescued from Shabden Park, Croydon.

7. PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS. The Architectural sub-Committee were requested to review over 60 cases involving demolition or alterations to Listed Buildings. Of these 12 were at Abingdon, 11 at Wallingford, from 1st April, 1974 now part of the new south Oxfordshire region; applications relating to this area will in future be dealt with by the Oxford Society. Of the others six were in Reading and five in Wokingham. Eighteen cases involved demolition, the most serious of these was the old Pelican Theatre at Speen, Newbury. Two village Plans were received, also copies of the East, Central and West Berkshire County Structure Plans. A copy of the Upper Thames Valley Archaeological Survey of River Gravels was purchased.

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8. FINANCE. The Society's income from subscriptions and donations remained unchanged but was augmented by a legacy, proceeds of the sale of publications, profit from excursions and Bank interest. Grants have been made towards the cost of excavations and to publish a special Centenary number of the Journal (Vol. 66).

9. PERSONAL. The Duke of Wellington opened Stratfieldsaye House and a Country Park on his estate; H.M. The Queen visited the Game Fair, held in the Park on 26th July. The Duke has been appointed Colonel-in-Chief of the Duke of Wellington's Regiment (West Riding). Mr John L. E. Smith of Shottesbrooke Park was awarded the C.B.E. in the New Year Honours List. Mr Smith inaugurated the Landmark Trust in 1965, this Trust has become an effective body in the practical conservation of small buildings of historical interest. Dr John Fletcher contributed an illustrated article on tree-ring dating of panel paintings in the *Burlington Magazine*, May, 1974 (Vol. CXVI). He was also responsible for the historical background to a very successful *Son et Lumière* at Sutton Courtenay during August. Mr Thos. Eyston restored the ancient chapel of Jesus of Bethlehem (known as "Champ's Chapel") at East Hendred, the building has now been opened to visitors and will become a village museum.

10. PUBLICATIONS. Volume 66 of the *Berkshire Archaeological Journal* was issued in March, this was an extra large number, commemorating the Centenary of the Society in 1971.

11. LECTURES

19th January

Mr Richard Bradley on *Excavations at Ram's Hill, Berkshire, 1972-73*.

16th February

Mr Raymond South on *Local Government Reorganisation in the Nineteenth Century at Windsor*, the impact of the Municipal Reform Act of 1835.

16th March

Mr J. Kenneth Major on *The Dutch Windmill*.

27th April

(Annual General Meeting), Dr C. F. Slade on *Archaeology in Berkshire, 1974*.

19th October

Mr T. A. B. Corley on *Early Nineteenth Century Reading and its Industries*.

23rd November

Mr M. R. Hall on *The Thames Conservancy and Archaeology*.

7th December

Dr John Fletcher on *Tudor Panel Paintings and Their Dating*.

12. EXCURSIONS

2nd-5th April

To Jersey, Channel Islands, a combined visit with the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society. Arranged by the Hon. Secretary.

1st June

To St. Albans, Verulamium and Royston. Arranged by Mrs Slade.

By arrangement with the Industrial Archaeology Group, members joined them in three excursions:

20th April

To the Isle of Portland to examine industrial remains.

22nd June

To Portsmouth, Gosport and Southsea.

1st September

To the Tring-Aylesbury area to see the Pitstone windmill, Ford End watermill and the Grand Junction Canal.

13. OBITUARY

Mr. R. J. Lee, F.L.A., former Reading Librarian and honorary librarian to the Society for many years, died at King's College Hospital on 12th July. He was for some time in the 1950s one of the Editors of our Journal and responsible for the production of several issues. He acted also as an assistant Secretary and for over 20 years used his influence to promote the aims of the Society. An expert photographer, he edited a volume of photographs "Reading as it was" in 1973; he was also interested in making tape-recordings of local features.

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Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1974

1973 £	EXPENDITURE	1973 £	INCOME	1973 £	1973 £ p
25	Printing and Stationery ...	...	Subscriptions ...	537	537·61
50	Postages and Telephones ...	...	Donations ...	23	21·85
12	Purchase of Publications ...	...	Bank Interest (gross) ...	321	339·33
	<i>Subscriptions paid:</i>		Dividends ...	3	—
	S.P.A.B. ...	2·10	Profit on redemption of Bonds ...	2	—
	Friends of St. George's ...	0·50	Profit on Excursions, transferred from	9	
	Friends of Reading University ...	5·25	Excursion Account ...	16	12·87
	British Records Association ...	2·00	Sale of Publications other than Journals ...	—	59·73
	C.B.A. ...	7·00	Legacy (Mr C. B. Willocks) ...	—	50·55
	English Place-Names Society ...	4·50	Commission on cheques for Berks. Air		
21	Reading Civic Society ...	10·00	Photo Group ...		0·33
20	Lecturers' Expenses ...	31·35			
4	Working Projector ...	5·22			
50	Rent of Room—Watlington House ...	5·00			
15	Rent of Lecture Room—Reading University ...	50·00			
8	Insurance ...	21·00			
1	Gratuity ...	9·80		£911	£1022·27
5	Testimonial ...	3·00			
5	Auditor's Honorarium ...	—			
5	Bank Charges ...	5·00			
2	Travelling Expenses ...	—			
688	Balance Carried Down ...	1·00			
		776·11		688	776·11
			Balance brought down ...		
		£1022·27			
	<i>Reserves approved by Council:</i>				
25	Berks. Historic Buildings Fund ...	25·00			
100	Excavation Fund ...	50·00			
—	Printing Cost—Vol. 67 Journal (Reserve)	700·00			
563	Balance being excess of Income over				
	Expenditure and Reserves ...	1·11			
		£776·11		£688	£776·11

Excavation Fund Account

		£.p		£.p
Grants:				
Abingdon Archaeological Appeal	...	25.00	Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1974	...
Rams Hill Excavation	...	20.00	Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	...
Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1974	...	170.87		
		<u>£215.87</u>		<u>£215.87</u>

Excursion Account

Printing and Stationery	...	4.69	Profit on Excursions:	
Postages and Telephone	...	9.00	Jersey	...
Subscription—National Trust	...	3.00	St. Albans	...
Profit transferred to General Account	...	12.87		
		<u>£29.56</u>		<u>£29.56</u>

Journal Account

Printing Journal Vol. 66	...	2026.10	Balance at 1st January, 1974	...	2262.95
Postages	...	38.87	Sale of Journals	...	168.07
Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1974	...	1066.05	Provision for printing Vol. 68	...	700.00
		<u>£3131.02</u>			<u>£3131.02</u>

Berkshire Historic Buildings Fund

Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1974 ...	305.34	Balance of Fund at 1st January, 1974 ...	257.19
		Bank Interest received ...	23.15
		Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	25.00
	<u>£305.34</u>		<u>£305.34</u>

Berkshire Field Research Group

Maps and Stationery ...	4.74	Balance in hand at 1st January, 1974 ...	75.79
Postages and Telephone ...	18.21	Subscriptions received ...	23.80
Insurance ...	10.50		
Lecturers' Expenses ...	3.76		
Photography ...	16.72		
Publications purchased ...	4.45		
Subscriptions—C.B.A. ...	3.00		
Other expenses, licences, fees, etc. ...	5.09		
Balance of Fund at 31st December, 1974 ...	33.12		
	<u>£99.59</u>		<u>£99.59</u>

Silchester Excavation Committee Account

Balance of Account at 31st December, 1974 ...	396.18	Balance of Account at 1st January, 1974 ...	363.47
		Bank Interest received ...	32.71
	<u>£396.18</u>		<u>£396.18</u>

