

THE BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Council for 1977

1. THE ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING of the Society was held at Reading University on 30th April, 1977. Dr. C. F. Slade took the chair. The Annual Report and Accounts for 1976 were adopted. Minutes of the A.G.M. held on 1st May, 1976, having been circulated, were confirmed and signed. Dr. Slade was elected President for a further term as were the Vice-Presidents. Mr. Underhill was elected as an additional Vice-President. Mr. Over was re-elected as Hon. Secretary and Mr. Gafford as Hon. Treasurer. Mr. M. Curtis was elected Hon. Librarian in place of Mr. I. Lewis who retired from the position. Mrs. Feeney retired from the position of Schools Liaison Officer. All Officers of the Society other than those mentioned were re-elected. The positions of Hon. Excursion Secretary, Hon. Fieldwork Secretary and Schools Liaison Officer were left open and were to be discussed by the Council at their next meeting. On proposals from the floor, Mr. Hayward was re-elected Hon. Auditor.

Mrs. Pike retired from the Editorial Committee and the remaining members were re-elected.

In accordance with Rule 5 the following Council members offered themselves for re-election:- Mrs. Feeney and Mr. Murphy. Mr. Butler, Mrs. Pike and Mr. Bradley resigned from the Council.

The following, having been proposed and seconded from the floor, were elected to fill Council vacancies:- Mr. M. Curtis and Mr. J. Richards.

The President thanked all resigning members for their work in the past for the Society.

The following new member was elected:-
Dr. M. G. Fulford.

Before his address, Dr. Slade paid tribute to Mr. Underhill for the work he had done for the Society, and his 28 years as Hon. Secretary. He presented Mr. Underhill with a cheque from the Council of the Society in appreciation of his services.

There being no other business, Dr. Slade delivered his Presidential Address, an account of "Excavations at Reading Abbey stables, 1976."

A vote of thanks to the President was proposed by Mr. Cram.

About 50 members were present.

2. MEMBERSHIP

Hon.	Corporate	Ordinary	Deaths	Total
7	21	438	1	467

15 new Members joined during the Year. It is with regret that we record the death of Sir Owen Morshead, one of our Vice-Presidents. Mr. Underhill has kindly supplied the following Obituary.

OBITUARY

Sir Owen Morshead, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., M.A., D.S.O., M.C., Royal Librarian at Windsor Castle 1926-1958 and a Vice-President of the Society, died on June 1st, 1977. After a distinguished Military career in the First World War, when he was awarded many decorations, he returned in 1918 to Magdalene College, Cambridge, where he became Pepys Librarian. His love of books and knowledge of library collections inspired him to make their contents widely known to all who sought his friendly guidance. On appointment to Windsor Castle where, with his wife and family, he offered hospitality to many at Garden House, he re-organised the Royal Collections and built up a great card index of Royal Household Members and Warrant Holders from the year 1660. The Royal collections of Master Drawings were made available for public display and he attracted scholars, both English and Foreign, to help catalogue and write monographs on these and other Windsor subjects.

His own publications include "Everybody's Pepys", a Phaidon "History of Windsor Castle" — which went to a 2nd edition, and "George IV and Royal Lodge". He contributed many articles and reviews to the annual reports of the Friends of St. George's Windsor Castle. A fluent and ready speaker he came on several occasions to Reading to talk to our Society. One of his lectures "Royal Prisoners in Windsor Castle" was published in our journal (Vol. 56, 1958). It was a loss to the County when he left Windsor for retirement in Dorset where he had many friends and entered into a number of local activities. Enjoying his leisure, he wrote a guide to Sturminster Newton Church and could often be met on fine summer days, exploring the rich countryside surrounding his retirement home.
(See also D Telegraph 2.6.77, and TIMES 3.6.77).

3. FINANCE: There has been a reduction in income from members' subscriptions and donations during the year and the funds did not benefit from the usual profit from excursions. Fortunately the income from investments and from the sale of journals more than

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compensated. Despite the exercise of every economy, expenditure, notably printing, stationery and lecturers' expenses, continued to rise and an increase in membership subscriptions can no longer be postponed.

4. PERSONAL: We congratulate our Vice-president, Mr. Maurice Bond, on his C.B. and our member, Miss Joan Likeman, on her B.E.M., both well deserved awards. Dr. John Fletcher continued his dating of wood panel portraits by tree-ring analysis, a special exhibition of some of his results was shown at the National Portrait Gallery in June. Mr. Kenneth Major gave a talk to the C.P.R.E. at Henley on watermills, this was followed by a visit to Mapledurham Mill, shown under restoration by the owner, Mr. Eyston.
(BERKS MERCURY 5.5.77, TIMES 11.7.77, SUNDAY TIMES 26.6.77)

5. LECTURES:

Jan. 22nd

Mr. Kenneth Major on 'INDUSTRIAL WIND AND WATER POWER'

Feb. 19th

Dr. C. F. Slade, Dr. M. G. Fulford and Richard Bradley on 'EXCAVATIONS AT ALDERMASTON 1976'

March 19th

Miss Angela Green on 'THE RESCUE AND PRESERVATION OF THE WRITTEN PAST'

April 30th

(Annual General Meeting) Dr. C. F. Slade on 'EXCAVATION AT READING ABBEY STABLES, 1976'

Oct. 15th

Dr. Michael Metcalf on 'SAXON BERKSHIRE — THE MONETARY SYSTEM AND POLITICS'

Nov. 19th

John Steane on 'MEDIEVAL BERKSHIRE — DEER PARKS'

Dec. 17th

'POST MEDIEVAL BERKSHIRE — THE ROAD SYSTEM'

6. EXCURSIONS: Regrettably, the Society were unable to offer any excursions of their own to members. However the Berkshire Industrial Archaeology Group kindly came to the rescue and invited members to participate in their summer programme of visits to Industrial and Historical Sites.

7. FIELDWORK AND EXCAVATION: The professional activities in the County were carried out by Berkshire Archaeological Unit supported by the Department of the Environment. As one might expect, most of their work was of a rescue nature and included several watching briefs on the gravels and the downs. Their main excavation was at Pingewood, Reading, a large scale undertaking being financed by the Hoveringham Gravel Company. Other sites were investigated on the downs where a gas pipeline was crossing the County.

The Maidenhead Archaeological Society, continued excavation on their site at Heywoods Farm, White Waltham where post medieval buildings are being investigated. During the year a three month excavation also took place at Oveys Farm, Cookham where features dating back to the medieval period were discovered. 1976 saw the completion of the White Waltham parish survey in which several members were involved.

Mr. C. C. Stanley of the Middle Thames Archaeological Society continued his aerial survey of the Middle Thames and sites further afield.

8. BUILDINGS: As usual the year has been a busy one for the Society's Architectural and Archaeological advisors, there have been many consultations by Local District Councils, the C.B.A. and other interested bodies. Thanks are due to several members, Miss V. Garlick, Mrs. Shorland and Mr. Cullingham in particular who have given valuable advice from time to time. Some 40 plans for alterations to Listed Buildings were advised by the District Councils who regularly ask for comment, here notice must be taken of many cases relating to buildings in the town of Newbury. 15 demolitions of Listed Buildings were received; permission to pull down the timbered barn at Manor Farm, West Ilsley was refused by the Newbury District Council. We were able to show that the oldest portion of this building bears the incised date 1615, and is probably the oldest, dated agricultural building left in the County. The barn is in fair condition and appears to be in regular use. A protest was also made against the demolition of 18th century premises in Colnbrook main street, that village now comes within our review. This building is part of the most picturesque and interesting street scene remaining on the Old Bath Road, and a visit to the vicinity confirmed that there was strong opposition to the proposal from local inhabitants. Another unusual objection involved a proposal for felling Field Copse, an ancient area of woodland known to have been in situ since before the 18th century, the copse encloses an interesting earthwork.

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Income and Expenditure Account 1977

1976	EXPENDITURE	£.p	1976	INCOME	£.p
35	Printing and Stationery	73.06	502	Subscriptions	445.95
79	Postages and Telephones	61.56	58	Donations	40.75
6	Purchase of Publications	1.30	304	Bank Interest	296.81
	<i>Subscriptions paid:</i>		46	Profit on Excursions	—
	S.P.A.B.	£.p	—	Sale of Publications other than Journal	1.20
	Friends of St. George's	2.10	50	Legacy	—
	Friends of Reading University50			
	C.B.A.	5.25			
	English Place-Name Society	17.00			
31	C.P.R.E.	6.00			
		<u>2.10</u>			
		32.95			
3	Lecturer's Expenses	21.70			
75	Rent of Room — Watlington House	75.00			
72	Rent of Lecture Room — Reading University	67.50			
10	Insurance	9.68			
5	Auditor's Honorarium	5.00			
12	Bank Charges	21.52			
3	Travelling Expenses	3.70			
5	Presentation — F. M. Underhill (less Members donations £13.50)	11.50			
624	Balance carried down	400.24			
£960		<u>£784.71</u>	£960		<u>£784.71</u>
600	<i>Reserves approved by Council:</i>				
20	Printing Cost Vol. 68 Journal	400.00	624	Balance Brought Down	400.24
	Other	—			
4	Balance being excess of Income over Expenditure and Reserve:-24			
£624		<u>£400.24</u>	£624		<u>£400.24</u>

SCHEDULE 1

FUND ACCOUNTS — YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER, 1977

	Balance at 1.1.77	Interest Added	Other Income	Expenses	Balance at 31.12.77
Excavation Fund	160.87				160.87
Berkshire Field Research Group	26.85				26.85
Silchester Excavation Committee	466.08	61.25			527.33
Berkshire Historic Building Fund	340.23	44.75			384.98
Journal Account	1,411.93			Note 1	1,999.13
ADD: Sale of Journals			132.20		
Grants — Mrs. E. Ettlinger			30.00		
— Courage (Central) Ltd.			50.00		
Transfer from General Account			400.00		
LESS: Cost of Index Vol. 68				25.00	
	£2,405.96	106.00	612.20	25.00	3,099.16

NOTE 1: Journal Account Balance of £1,999.13 does not include provision for 1977 Journal (Volume 69).

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BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER, 1977

1976 £	1976 £	£.p	£.p	£.p
<i>General Fund</i>				
	Balance as at 1st January, 1977	2254.84		
2255	ADD Excess of Income over Expenditure and Reserve	.24	2255.08	
2406	<i>Other Funds</i> — as Schedule 1		3099.16	
<i>Investments</i>				
<i>Cash at Bank</i>				
	Trustee Savings Bank	27		27.77
	Trustee Savings Bank Deposit Account	1702		4868.52
	Trustee Savings Bank Current Account	43		11.56
	Trustee Savings Bank Term Deposit 28.2.78	2800		300.00
	Barclays Bank Ltd.	13		44.54
	Current Account National Westminster Bank Ltd.	25		25.49
	Current Account			5277.88
<i>Cash in Hand</i>				
	Berkshire Field Research Group	1		1.36
	Honorary Secretary (Imprest Account)	50		75.00
				76.36
£4661		£5354.24	£4661	£5354.24

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.

C. J. HAYWARD & CO.
Chartered Accountants