

OBITUARIES

JOHN LEVESON GOWER, BSc, PhD (1950–2010)

It was with sadness that we learnt of the death of John Leveson Gower, on 16 March 2010. He and his wife Marian were Joint Honorary Secretaries of the Society between November 1982 and November 1987. Following their retirement in 1987, John was elected a Vice-President of the Society, while Marian was elected an Honorary Member.

John was born in Winscombe, Somerset and studied chemistry at Swansea University, where he met Marian and they married in 1972. After gaining his PhD at Cardiff University, John moved to Beecham Pharmaceuticals at Brockham Park, Betchworth, where he worked as an analytical chemist until 1987, when he returned to Winscombe to help his father run the family funeral business.

He joined the Society in 1978, and although his first loves were rugby and Neolithic monuments, he later became absorbed in the Roman period – an abiding interest which he never lost. He was a staunch member of the Roman Villa Studies Group and in 1982 formed a committee ‘to ease the workload’, John acting as Chairman and Marian as Secretary. In the same year, Elizabeth and Herbert Eames retired as Joint Honorary Secretaries to the Society owing to Herbert’s ill-health, and John and Marian were duly appointed in November 1982.

In 1984, they published a paper in Volume 75 of the *Collections*, bringing together all the known data from the Rev T S Cooper’s excavation of the Chiddingfold Roman villa, including an examination of the finds recorded by Cooper and Ralph Nevill.

John organised the first major and successful rescue excavation at Wanborough Roman temple site between 1985 and 1986, following the severe damage to the site by treasure hunters. It was the devastation of such an important site that ultimately led to the Treasure Act 1996. He was enormously interested in the second excavation at Wanborough in 1999, and had undertaken to write the expert report on the Roman tile from both excavations, but sadly, ill-health prevented him from doing so.

He was co-author with Ian Betts and Ernest Black of *A Corpus of Roman relief-patterned tiles in Roman Britain*, published in the *Journal of Roman Pottery Studies* (vol 7, 1994), revising Lowther’s earlier paper on that subject.

John was also responsible for the two-day conference *Archaeology of Surrey to 1500*, organised in conjunction with the Department of External Studies, University of Surrey. This led directly to the publication of *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540*, edited by Joanna and David Bird in 1987.

It was during his term of office that the Young Archaeologists’ Club was formed, jointly run with Guildford Museum. Equally important for the Society was John and Marian’s 1983 initiative in organising the hand delivery of the *Collections*, which over the years has saved the Society a considerable sum of money.

After returning to Somerset, John became immersed in local affairs, taking over his father’s seat on the parish council. He started a local history group and was well known for his knowledge of the history and archaeology of the area. His interest in Surrey remained, however, and he took the trouble to visit the Roman villa site at Cocks Farm, Abinger and, with Ian Betts, examined the relief-patterned tiles from the 1995–7 excavations.

As Secretary he served firstly under Eric Wood, and then Rosamond Hanworth, through whom he became Treasurer to ASPROM (The Association for the Study and Preservation of Roman Mosaics). He had a huge respect for Eric Wood, who was a Quaker and he joined the Society of Friends himself in 1994.

John was a private man, constructive and thoughtful in his stewardship of the Society and much respected. Marian recalls that he enjoyed being Honorary Secretary and particularly the buzz of the Wanborough excavation. He has left a lasting legacy and will be fondly remembered by all who knew him.

AUDREY MONK

PAT NICOLAYSEN (1923–2010)

Pat was born in Tring, Hertfordshire, and moved to New Malden with her family after she left school. She trained as a nurse at Guy's Hospital, qualifying in 1945, and then went to work at a specialist burns unit in Hampshire. There she met and married Harald, who had been a patient at the unit, and they went to live in Norway for a short time, before returning to England. After the births of their two daughters, however, they separated, and Pat went to work as an industrial nurse at Decca's factory in New Malden while bringing up her family.

Pat joined the Kingston upon Thames Archaeological Society (KuTAS) shortly after its foundation in 1969, and her medical knowledge led to her special interest in bones. After leaving Decca she worked for ten years in the Education Department of the Royal Borough of Kingston, and now she was free of shift work she was able to study for the Diploma of Archaeology at evening classes. She was involved in the recording of Coombe farmhouse with Ian West, just before its demolition in the 1970s, and contributed to both the Surrey Archaeological Society's *Bulletin* and the *Collections*. Her taste for research was stimulated when in *Bulletin* 169 (1980), she noted that a collection of survey drawings of Surrey monuments, published by the Rev Downman in 1904, was located in the Kingston Museum archives. These were then transferred to Bourne Hall Museum, where they can still be accessed. Her first published notes in the *Collections* appeared in volume 74 (1983) – 'Three hand axes from Surrey' – and her interest in the Palaeolithic period continued with the discovery during fieldwalking at Ashted and publication in 1989 of one of the few Upper Palaeolithic artefacts in the county in *Collections* volume 79. She assisted John Wymer with research and synthesis for his contribution to *The Archaeology of Surrey to 1540* and later, with Jonathan Cotton and David Field, painstakingly studied the Palaeolithic artefacts from Limpsfield housed in the Pitt Rivers Museum at Oxford, finally published in 1999 in *Collections* volume 86.

She served on the KuTAS Committee for many years, including about ten years as Secretary, and was elected as an Honorary Vice President for life in the early 1990s. She represented KuTAS at the CBA and on the London Archaeological Forum. She first served on the Surrey Archaeological Society's Council in 1986 – initially as an ordinary member, and then as Joint Honorary Editor of the *Collections*. She was elected as a Vice-President of the Society in 2000, and then, in 2007, she became an Honorary Vice-President.

During her archaeological career she worked on many sites, both in Surrey and in London and played a prominent role in most of the many excavations in Kingston town centre and Kingston Hill during the 1970s and 1980s, leading some. Later, she assisted at Cocks Farm Roman villa at Abinger and the moated site at Tolworth Court Farm. She thoroughly enjoyed fieldwork, whether in advance of pipelines or other fieldwalking operations such as those at Abinger, Holmbury and Limpsfield. All aspects of archaeology fascinated her and she was instrumental in helping establish and supervise post-excavation arrangements for the KuTAS material firstly in Surbiton, then Chessington before settling at north Kingston and as a result of this built up a marvellous reference collection of animal skeletons to assist in the identification of excavated material. This will be carefully preserved at Kingston. As a founder member of the Lithic Tools Research Group, she was also a specialist on flint, and contributed to many major excavation reports. Just before her death she had completed work on the bone

report for a site in Ewell, and the bone and flint reports for the two excavations at Tolworth Court Farm.

Pat never lost her enthusiasm for learning or for passing on her knowledge to other people, but always with humility, and she had the knack of communicating to both young and old information that was always relevant and never boring. She is sorely missed by all those who worked with her.

PAT MCKENNA and DAVID FIELD