

MEETINGS

On 7th November, 1936, a general meeting of members was privileged to hear an illustrated lecture delivered by Mr. E. T. Leeds, Keeper of the Ashmolean Museum. The subject was "The Saxons in Bucks."

At the Society's Annual Meeting held 10th April, 1937, the position of President made vacant by the death of Dr. M. R. James, O.M., was filled by the election of Lord Cottesloe, who occupied the chair. Sir Frank Mackinnon and Sir John Forsdyke were elected vice-presidents.

Papers from Doggershall were exhibited by kind permission of Lady Pigott-Brown. They related to the administration of the County in the late 16th and 17th centuries.

ACQUISITIONS

- Three bronze implements found at:—
1. Hazlemere nr. H. Wycombe.
 2. Yewden nr. Hambleden.
 3. West Wycombe.
- } Exors. of the late
Mr. E. A. Taplin.
- Deeds from Mr. J. H. Webber, of Ampthill.
- Mr. R. Griffin,
Col. H. Southam,
Mr. R. Holworthy,
Messrs. Stepping
Knocker & Co.,
Mr. F. S. Blackwell,
- } Per British Record
Association.
- Manor Rolls of Hedgerley
(See note on next page).
Exchequer Roll 1651-2.
Bundle of Hedgerley deeds.
- } Deposited
by
Miss E. Stevenson.
- Buck's Deeds and Militia Rolls late
18th and early 19th Cents.
- } Col. G. R. Crouch.
- Bronze-gilt Thumb Ring, 15th Cent.
Dug up at Slough.
- } Mr. Leonard Gray.
- Collection of Fossils from Arngrove
Stone in neighbourhood of
Boarstall. Described in Quar-
terly Journal, Geol. Soc. 1907.
- } Dr. A. Morley
Davies.
- 17th Cent. Trade Token (unpublished).
Thomas Slauter of Chesham.
- } Purchased,

MUNIMENTS

One of the most important collections of documents received by the Society during the year for preservation in the Muniment Room relates to Hedgerley and Bulstrode. Through the generosity of the Misses Stevenson, of Hedgerley Park, these records have been placed on permanent loan with the Society. The documents fall into three groups:—*Deeds*, *Court Rolls*, and *Miscellaneous records*.

The *Deeds* all belong to the Seventeenth Century and relate to transactions in connexion with the Manors of Hedgerley and Temple Bulstrode, and with properties belonging thereto. If fully investigated they would no doubt fill many gaps in the story of Hedgerley as given in the Victoria County History.

The Court rolls consist in the first place of rolls relating to the Manor of Temple Bulstrode. There are 50 of these and they cover the reigns of Henry VI, Edward IV, Henry VIII, Mary, Elizabeth and James, though the series is by no means complete for any one reign. Even so, it is probable that they represent the largest collection of court rolls relating to a single manor that has yet come to light in this county, and I understand that there is no court roll in the Muniment Room as early as the reign of Henry VI. These rolls have a definite value, quite apart from their local historical significance, for the light they throw on the working of one manor in its legal aspect over a period of two centuries.

There are also a number of Court rolls relating to the manor of Hedgerley for the reigns of Henry VIII, Mary and Elizabeth, as well as some detached papers dealing with Courts held by Richard and John Brudenell *temp.*, Henry VIII and a Court of Marmaduke Darell 1650.

The *Miscellaneous records* consist of (1) An Exchequer Roll of 1651 relating to Marmaduke Darell; (2) 'A note of the Measure of the Lande belonging to the Manor of Hedgilie, Fulmer's Lande and the Manor

of Temple Bulstrode"—no date, but probably 18th century. It gives details of properties with names of woods, fields, etc. and acreages; (3) Hedgerley—Proceedings of Court Baron 14 July 1654; (4) an injunction under the Great Seal 15 Nov. 1647 forbidding Thomas Allanson to cut down trees on the manor of Hugerley pending the result of a Chancery action between him and Marmaduke Darell. A fragment only of the Great Seal of England remains, but one of the two Commissioners is the famous William Lenthall, Speaker of the House of Commons at the time of the attempted arrest of the Five Members. The initials on the outside of the writ may be his and those of his co-commissioner.

J.G.J.

ANNUAL EXCURSION

1936.

The annual excursion took place on 27th June, on an exceptionally pleasant day. Many rival attractions reduced the attendance somewhat.

For a change the County of Oxford was chosen this year and visits were paid to the very noble churches of Adderbury and Bloxham. In both places the work of the 13th and 14th centuries is of great importance; at Adderbury, for example, the transepts show the remains of 13th century arcades (one with painting on the splays), broken by the insertion of 14th century windows. A graceful column of the same period carries the arches which divide the aisles from the transepts. The heads decorating the caps were found to be very interesting, men in liripipes adorning one. The nave roof of the late 14th century aroused admiration. The chancel, however, generally ascribed to William of Wykeham, and supposed to have been built 1380-1390, is the glory of Adderbury; the corbel heads, and the fine sedilia and reredos are typical of his best work. Apart from the architecture proper of the church, attention was paid to some very early tiles (query 13th century?) recently found beneath the vestry floor.

At Bloxham the Society had the great advantage of hearing the points of the noble church explained by one of their members, the Rev. F. J. Winterton, whose familiarity with the fabric enabled him to call attention to many points of detail which might have escaped the ordinary visitor. He began with the exterior, and explained the interesting Doom and Resurrection carved in relief on the outside of the west end. He showed where the best view of the tower, dying into an octagon from a square, could be obtained, and pointed out the numerous niches, the sanctus bell-cot and the superb tracery of the windows in the Milton Chapel.

Inside there are 14th century columns similar to those at Adderbury, though apparently of finer workmanship. The magnificent windows in the Milton Chapel received, and deserved, full attention, and the niches formerly flanking those in the east wall were pointed out. The possibility of the stones in the rear-arch of the east window of the chancel having come from the original chancel-arch was raised, and appeared probable.

The mural painting of St. Christopher and traces of other paintings; the font, which resembles that at Burford, and other details of this magnificent church were all studied with much interest.

From Bloxham the Society went to Banbury, where lunch was served at the "White Lion." The chair was taken by the Rev. R. Bale.

After lunch members went to Broughton Castle, where they were greeted by Lord Saye and Sele, and addressed by Mr. Dunn, at first on the lawn. He outlined the beginning of the De Broughton castle in the early 14th century, and showed how much of it has been preserved. Its acquisition by William of Wykeham in 1377, and its subsequent descent (through an heiress descended from the Bishop's nephew) to the Fiennes family was explained, and attention was drawn to the considerable additions and alterations made in the middle and late 16th century. Since 1599 very little structural alteration has been effected, so that one has the advantage of seeing a mediaeval house brought "up to date" in Tudor times and preserved in that state.

The conspicuous members of the family were mentioned, James Fiennes, the first baron in the troubled times of Henry VI; William, the first Viscount, who presided over many secret meetings at Broughton when the first murmurs against Charles I's rule began.

Members broke into two parties and were shown the house, passing from the great hall through vaulted passages, to the former solar, where the undercroft is now the dining room, lined with linen-fold panelling of unusual pattern, the styles and muntins bearing floral decoration. The chapel above, with its original tiles and fragments of original glass was particularly attractive, and the various squints into it made a somewhat vicarious attendance at family prayers possible. Returning to the great hall members were then taken up the southern 16th century staircase to the Long Gallery, where many portraits hang; one of the great Lord Burghley was particularly noticed. The Star Chamber, lying south of the gallery, with an astonishing chimney piece which contains finely modelled figures, was then visited. From the west end of the gallery the late Elizabethan additions were reached, and a room over the drawing room, with ceiling decorated with enormous pendentives, was visited. Going still higher the famous Council Chamber was reached,—a room in which Hampden, Pym, Brooke, and other Parliamentarians had often met. Above this, access to the roof was gained, and a magnificent view was obtained of the whole house, with gardens on each side, completely surrounded by the moat, down to which the park stretched in every direction. The lead of the roof was marked in outline by the footmarks (traced by point of pike) of the sentries who had thus beguiled their time, perhaps when the house was besieged—not very seriously—during the Civil War. Many such little relics were seen, another one being an immense board at the head of the central staircase

which had served as the tailor's table, when that travelling craftsman brought his wares periodically and renewed the wardrobes of the numerous inhabitants of such a house in those days.

Finally, members were conducted to the great drawing room, with its noble windows on the north and west (some in the room above had been closed in the days of the window tax), its magnificent light oak panelling divided by fluted pilasters into sections of panel-within-panel design, its great stone chimney piece, its interwoven squares of plaster work on the ceiling, and above all its splendid inner porch with cartouche of arms flanked by tall finials, all created surprise by their beauty. It was claimed, and admitted at once, that it was the noblest room one had ever been in, perfect in proportion, admirably lighted, and still exhibiting the decoration designed for it in 1599.

From the house a visit was paid to the church just beyond the moat, and the tombs of the De Broughtons and the Fiennes family, and the fine stone screen were admired; but after the splendour of the Castle's architecture nothing could make much greater impression! and a truly valuable day's excursion concluded.