

THE SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This was held at the Museum on 22nd June 1957. There was no change in the officers of the Society except that the Earl of Buckinghamshire was appointed a Trustee; the other two trustees are Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher and Mr. Ralph C. Hazell.

RULES OF THE SOCIETY

There were several reasons for revising the Rules. The lease of the Museum to the County Council itself meant that several had to be recast, time had made others out-of-date and the effect of recent decisions in the courts meant that further changes were called for if the Society was to continue to receive repayment of income tax of covenanted subscriptions. The new set of Rules was passed at the Annual General Meeting and subsequently circulated to all members.

COUNTY MUSEUM COMMITTEE

This newly constituted sub-committee of the Education Committee of the County Council is now responsible for the running of the Museum. The Society's three representatives on it are Professor Grimes, Mr. Head and the Hon. Secretary. It has met quarterly since the new regime began on 1st April 1957. Already the Museum has benefited by an increased budget and by the addition of a carpenter-handyman to the staff.

Mr. Hume, who was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries during the year, continues as Curator, and although no longer an officer of the Society, remains a valued member.

Mr. A. D. Wilson, B.A., was appointed to the staff following the resignation of Miss R. Austin, who left to become Curator of Strangers' Hall, Norwich.

MARTYN GALLERY

It was agreed during the year that the Art Gallery should be named the Martyn Gallery in memory of Mr. E. A. L. Martyn who contributed so much to the Society as Hon. Secretary and Architect. The extension of Ceely House was a project he had very much at heart and it is right that his name should be remembered in this way.

OBITUARY

We regret to record the deaths of the following members since the last issue of the *Records*:

MR. R. G. I. BURGESS

COLONEL P. A. HALL

MR. C. M. JONES

MR. R. D. MURDOCH

MAJOR R. H. WAY

Despite these losses and some resignations membership increased during the year.

MEETINGS

Apart from the activities of the Natural History Section referred to elsewhere, members have been offered an enlarged programme of lectures in the past year:

October 19. The Custody of Records of Bucks. Miss C. Baker and Mr. E. J. Davis

October 26. The Social and Economic Life of High Wycombe in the 18th century. Mr. L. J. Ashford

November 23. Roman Hoards in Britain. Mr. H. Mattingley.

December 14. Mediaeval Life in Castle, Monastery and Village. (three sound films)

February 8. Early Local Travel Routes. Mr. Annan Dickson

February 22. The New Survey of English Dialects. Mr. S. Ellis

March 22. Darwin Today. Lady Barlow.

March 29. The Flint Industries of the Lower Palaeolithic in the Thames Valley. Mr. J. Wymer.

April 12. Parish Registers. Mr. A. Vere Woodman.

Two most successful outings were also organised during the summer of 1957. On 1st June a limited number of members were privileged to see the house and grounds of Dropmore by the courtesy of Lord and Lady Kemsley who personally conducted them round.

On 27th July members, by the invitation of the National Trust and Mr. Ralph Verney, were able to visit Claydon House just prior to its opening to the general public. They were able to appreciate to the full the restoration of the interior carried out with the aid of the Ministry of Works. Mr. Verney had been generous enough to bring out many documents especially for the occasion which he described with the help of his father Sir Harry Verney. We were most grateful to them both for their great help on this occasion. Middle Claydon church was visited, and later most of the party moved on to Hillesden.

COUNCIL

In 1957 Canon R. F. Bale, who had been a member of the Council since 1922 and Chairman since the death of Major Coningsby Disraeli in 1934, decided to resign. Such a record of voluntary service is indeed something for the Society to recall with gratitude and pride. Nor have they been easy years, covering as they did not only the period of the war, but also all the extra committees which occurred when the future of the Museum was under discussion. Over most of these meetings, which were usually controversial and sometimes stormy, Canon Bale presided with wisdom and tact, and the Society owes him a very great debt.

Mr. J. F. Head, whom we congratulate on the award of an M.B.E. for archaeological services in the Birthday Honours List for 1957, was elected Chairman of Council for 1957-8.

THE MUNIMENT ROOM

Accessions in 1954 include:

Agreement between Sir William and Sir Alan de Englefeud concerning land in Edgcott, c. 1450.

Demise by Isabel Osbern of messuage in Great Linford, and appointment by her of attorneys, 1480.

Grant of land in Cheddington to certain trustees to provide a man equipped for war, 1548.

Will of William Hodson of Bourton, Buckingham, 1658. All deposited by Bucks. County Council.

Survey of the Manor of Farnham Royal, 1562. Deposited by Bristol City Record Office.

Feoffment of land in Mursley, 1532. Given by Luton Glass Co., per Herts. County Record Office.

Court Roll, Stoke Poges, 1809. B.R.A. Deposit No. 846.

Five volumes of notes and translations for the History of Denham by the Revd. P. H. Lathbury. Deposited by his son-in-law, Major Way.

For *Accessions in 1955-6*, see Vol XVI, part 2, p. 123, of the *Records*.

Short list of Manorial material deposited on loan by the Revd. Dr. P. C. Moore:

Manor of Chalfont St. Peter

Court Rolls, 1308-1755

Court Books, 1757-1936

Rent Rolls, 1381-1766 (12 years).

Draft of Court Rolls, Admissions and Surrenders, other papers, and estate accounts, eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Abstracts of Title, 1539-1645.

Fourteenth-century copies of three thirteenth-century grants of land in Chalfont St. Peter.

Conveyance of the Manor of Brudenells, 1626

Manor of the Vicarage of Chalfont St. Peter

Extracts from Court Rolls, Temp. Edw. IV, Eliz. I, James I, Charles II, 1698-1840.

List of tenants, 1366-1487.

Manor of Towersey

Court Rolls, 1693, 1695.

Accessions in 1957 include:

Forty-two grants, agreements, etc., concerning lands in Marsh, Great Kimble, the Risboroughs, Owlswick, etc., early thirteenth century to late sixteenth, some with good armorial seals, *ex* Hartwell archives (originally part of lots 586, 587, 593, Sotheby's Catalogue, 1939). Bought.

Five letters and notes of Dr. G. Lipscomb, 1822 and 1843. Bought.

Court Roll, Manor of Winslow, 1486-1532. Deposited by Simpson & Co, per Bucks. County Council.

Court Rolls, Manor of Burnham *alias* Huntercombs, 1792-1824. Deposited by T. H. Earle, Esq. (B.R.A. No. 989).

C.B.

PARISH REGISTERS

The registers of the following parishes, beginning in the years indicated, have been deposited with the Society for safe custody.

Buckland, 1653

Tattenhoe, 1733

Oving, 1680

Whaddon, 1584

Pitchcott, 1680

Wotton Underwood, 1599

The register of Great Horwood has been reclaimed by the incumbent.

A.V.W.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

President: Lady Barlow

Committee: Mrs. S. Cowdy, Messrs. G. S. Glover, T. A. Hume

Secretary: Mrs. J. M. Grimmitt, Dobbins Lane, Wendover

From January 1957 to 31st May 1958, there have been twenty-three meetings with two week-ends at Missenden Abbey. Attendance has been excellent, with an increasing keenness in most subjects, but we still lack an expert entomologist.

Ornithology. Mrs. Susan Cowdy's enthusiasm has made the outdoor meetings most successful; these have included "Wildfowl Counts". These counts are organised by the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, and take place on a given Sunday once a month during the Autumn and Winter. Six hundred waters are counted on the same day throughout the British Isles. The object is to obtain a sample census of the movement of wildfowl, and in time to discover their individual increase or decrease. A side-line at one of these counts was the sight of hundreds of tree sparrows feeding on seeds in a field, accompanied by linnets, reed buntings and chaffinches. These were first seen in November, but they were certainly there for three months subsequently in great quantity. Redwings joined them in December. A new item was a competitive bird-spotting car-rally between three neighbouring Natural History Societies; the Middle Thames Society won with 81 species, and the total number amongst all competitors was 83.

Botany. We again had Sir Edward Salisbury's leadership on an expedition to the chalk escarpment above the *Lambert Arms* in July, when Mr. R. S. Fitter also joined the party. In August Mr. V. J. Scott took members to the chalkpit where he is making an intensive study of the ecological changes taking place. There was also a coach expedition to the Oxford Botanic Gardens, where Mr. Robinson, the Curator, kindly gave us an interesting account of the history of the gardens; special note was taken of the trees. Trees were also to the fore in September, when we visited the Dropmore Pinetum, where we enjoyed the privilege of Mr. Malcolm's knowledge and racy stories. An early spring walk, led by Mr. Arthur Stewart Liberty, gave members some insight into the practical side of forestry; in our walk on the Liberty estate Mrs. Cowdy was able to point out evidences of mammalian life: badgers' runs and badgers' dung-pits were observed; "fomit" or droppings of deer were seen, and their foot-prints; a fox's earth and the damage caused to trees by the grey squirrel were also pointed out.

Geology. Dr. Kenneth Oakley led a party to survey a traverse of the geological formations from Monks Risborough to Hartwell, which proved most successful and fossils were eagerly sought. The pace was rapid, and we fear that some of the cars lost the scent of the leader.

Fungus Foray. Dr. Findlay again led the party, in conjunction with the Herts Society, this year covering new ground in Penn Woods. Members enjoyed returning to tea with Dr. and Mrs. Findlay to their home.

Indoor Meetings. These have been fairly well attended, and have covered a wide range of subjects. 18th January, 1957: *Personality of Trees*, by Miss P. Hager. February: *The Voyage of the Beagle*, by Lady Barlow. April: Film show at Slough (by ticket), *Birds of Britain*, by James Fisher. 9th November: *Birds of the Lagoons and Sea-Cliffs, Portugal*, by Mrs. Susan Cowdy. 7th December: *Brains Trust*. Panel: Dr. Swinton, Lady Barlow, Mrs. Cowdy, Mr. Fitter. Question Master: Mr. T. A. Hume. March, 1958: *Darwin Today*, by Lady Barlow. March, 1958: *Wild Spain*, a film by Eric Hoskins at Wycombe School (by ticket).

The week-ends at Missenden Abbey in May have again been outstanding events.

We are most grateful to our many helpers who are so generous with their time and knowledge.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

(as at 31st December, 1957)

President

SIR ALAN BARLOW, BART., F.S.A.

Vice-Presidents

SIR HENRY AUBREY-FLETCHER, BART.

CANON R. F. BALE, F.S.A.

EARL OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

G. ELAND, F.S.A.

LADY PIGGOTT-BROWN

MRS. E. STEWART-LIBERTY

C. M. TRELAWNY IRVING

A. VERE WOODMAN, F.S.A.

Council

H. J. EVANS

C. W. GREEN

PROFESSOR W. F. GRIMES, F.S.A.

MRS. J. M. GRIMMITT

J. F. HEAD, F.S.A. (*Chairman*)

DR. KATHLEEN KENYON, F.S.A.

GUTHRIE MOIR (*County Council*)

BRIAN PULLEN

COLONEL F. W. WATSON

(*County Council*)

K. R. WEBB

W. J. WINTER-TAYLOR

MRS. ALISON YOUNG, F.S.A. (SCOT.)

Society's Representatives on the County Museum Committee

PROFESSOR W. F. GRIMES, F.S.A.

J. F. HEAD, F.S.A.

ELLIOTT VINEY

Hon. Secretary

ELLIOTT VINEY

Hon. Treasurer

W. F. SERBY, A.C.A.

Assistant Hon. Secretary

F. W. CLARKE

Assistant Hon. Treasurer

J. R. WORBOYS

Hon. Editors

E. CLIVE ROUSE, F.S.A.

ELLIOTT VINEY

Hon. Archivist

MISS CICELY BAKER, M.A., F.S.A.

Hon. Secretary (Natural History Section)

MRS. J. M. GRIMMITT

Headquarters

THE MUSEUM, CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY

(Tel. 2158)