

THE MUSEUM

ARCHÆOLOGICAL field work took up a considerable amount of time in the first half of the year. An interesting group of thirteenth to fourteenth-century pottery was obtained from an unlined well in Buckingham Street, Aylesbury, in January. The Middle Thames Archæological Society had drawn attention to the fact that gravel working at Hedgerley was to be extended into the area where Romano-British kilns had been excavated in 1934-35, and as a result two proton-magnetometer surveys were carried out by the Oxford University Archæological Research Laboratory. The Ministry of Public Building and Works kindly arranged for the excavation of a Romano-British kiln which was found. The Middle Thames Society also drew attention to a ring-ditch visible in an aerial photograph of a gravel pit at Thorney. Several visits were made to observe this and other sites which appeared in photographs, and the ring-ditch has been scheduled by the Ministry. A series of visits were made in addition to Iron Age hill forts and to other sites in the county.

Work on the reorganisation of the Museum was delayed by a change in staff, as Miss H. Waugh left at the beginning of June on her appointment as Curator of the Royal Museum, Canterbury, and her successor, Miss L. Millard, did not arrive until October. It was, however, possible virtually to complete a map of Roman Buckinghamshire on a scale of $\frac{1}{2}$ in. to 1 mile, which should prove of interest.

In September Miss J. Royston was appointed Schools Museum Assistant, with the intention that she should also be responsible for the natural history collections. Plans have been drawn up for a new natural history gallery in Church House and this will fill a major gap in the facilities provided by the Museum.

The Museum bought with the aid of a grant from the Victoria and Albert Museum a painting in pen and ink and watercolour of a landscape at Great Missenden by John Minton, dating from 1952. This is, as far as is known, the first work of art bought by the Museum and it is hoped in the future to improve the quality of the art collection.

The number of visitors was 19,929, compared with 19,909 in 1962.

The Museum organised two exhibitions, one in connection with National Nature Week of material relating to Charles Darwin, which was kindly lent by Lady Barlow, and the other of watercolour scale copies of mural paintings, which were mostly by Mr. E. Clive Rouse and kindly lent by him. Both of these aroused considerable interest. In addition to exhibitions borrowed as usual from the Victoria and Albert Museum, the Aylesbury Art Society and the Buckinghamshire Art Society held

exhibitions, the County Art Organiser arranged a most stimulating exhibition of art from Buckinghamshire Primary Schools, and the Buckinghamshire Record Office held an exhibition to celebrate its Silver Jubilee.

C.N.G.

REVIEW

A NEW guide to All Saints Church, Wing, by the Rev. G. W. Willis, was published in 1962. This is interestingly written and contains some good new photographs, mostly reproduced from the *B.A.A. Journal*. Any serious matter produced on this, the most important church in the county architecturally, archæologically and historically, is worth considering.

In this case it is a pity that 16½ pages out of the 20 the pamphlet contains are concerned with discussion of the date and plan development of the Saxon church. This is a matter by no means finally settled: and the author here merely contents himself with the reiteration of the arguments put forward by Messrs. Fletcher and Jackson in the *B.A.A. Journal*, 1962, after a re-examination of the fabric. Many points undoubtedly deserve the most serious consideration, particularly in the light of the clear evidence of building of two Saxon periods in the crypt. But I cannot myself feel that a seventh-century date is established, especially when the opinions of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments, the late Mr. A. W. Clapham, Mr. Raleigh Radford and Mr. A. V. Woodman are ignored. All these, and the literary evidence for the Lady Aelfgifu as foundress (not even mentioned), point to a tenth-century date. No authority is given for the statement that the two-light window (a determining factor in the dating of the Church) is "an unwise restoration of the nineteenth century". The Royal Commission had no doubts of its authenticity.

The later work in the church is very summarily treated; and in particular the superb series of monuments to the Dormer family are merely mentioned as "blocking up so much space in the apse". They are wrongly dated in any event. There is no adequate list or description of other monuments and brasses.

Mr. Woodman points out inaccuracies in the section on Plate—i.e. five not ten chalices; some was sold but not all in 1549 (not 1547); and much still remained in 1552.

E.C.R.