

THE SOCIETY IN 1967

THE Annual General Meeting, held on 22nd April, elected three additional Vice-Presidents—Sir Henry Floyd, Bart., C.B., C.B.E., Lord Lieutenant and Custos Rotulorum, E. Clive Rouse, M.B.E., F.S.A., Hon. Editor of the *Records* since 1946, and Sir John Guillum Scott, Secretary of the Church Assembly.

Membership declined slightly during the year.

There were five outings:

- | | |
|---------------|---|
| 22nd April | Ashwell Court, Little Kingshill. |
| 6th May | Oxford Libraries (Merton, Bodley and Christ Church). |
| 3rd June | Lampport Hall and Drayton House, Northamptonshire. |
| 1st July | Wilton House and Longford Castle, Wiltshire. |
| 2nd September | The Grand Union Canal, the Waterways Museum and the Pavilions, Stoke Bruerne. |

We were indebted to Mr. A. Hales-Tooke (Ashwell), the Librarians at Merton and Christ Church, Sir Giles Isham, Bart. (Lampport), Colonel Nigel Stopford-Sackville (Drayton), the Countess of Radnor (Longford) and Mr. R. D. Chancellor (Stoke Bruerne) for their reception of our parties. All the outings were well attended).

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

THE Natural History Section has had nineteen meetings during the last year. These consisted of nine field meetings, seven meetings held in the County Museum, one coach expedition and, in conjunction with the Bucks Education Committee, two weekends at Missenden Abbey. Both weekends were fully booked and very successful. All meetings have had a better attendance this year.

The Ornithological Weekend was from 21st to 23rd April with the theme "Ringing and Ornithological Research Techniques". The Botany Weekend was from 12th to 14th April and was about "The Evolution of British Flora". To round off the weekend a visit was made to the Brickhill Woods on Sunday. In one area of the woods, where trees had been cleared, the ground was covered by Lilies of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*) and in another part was a colony of Spring Beauty (*Claytonia perfoliata*). On the roadside near the woods was found one example of Meadow Saxifrage (*Saxifraga granulata*).

In April members of the Chesham Natural History Society were invited to share a coach expedition to Haley Wood near Cambridge. This wood is in the care of the Cambridgeshire and Isle of Ely Naturalists' Trust and is one of the few sites where

the Oxlip (*Primula elatior*) can be found. The soil is boulder clay and the plants thrive in the water-logged part of the woods. On the return journey a detour was made to visit a hillside where the Pasque Flower (*Pulsatilla vulgaris*) flourishes.

On 7th May an outing was held at Dancer's End Nature Reserve, which is always a very productive spot. Of particular interest among the many flowers seen were Birdsnest Orchids (*Neottia nidus-avis*); Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*); Lily of the Valley (*Convallaria majalis*); Solomon's Seal (*Polygonatum multiflorum*); and the False Oxlip (*Primula veris x vulgaris*).

Early in June Bledlow Cop was revisited to continue the snail and plant long-term ecological observations begun in 1966.

On 18th June there was an outing to Park Wood, Bradenham, to see the wide range of flowers growing there. A variety of orchids were seen including the Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*) and the Pyramidal (*Anacamptis pyramidalis*) and Fragrant Orchids (*Gymnadenia conopsea*); a small colony of Wintergreen (*Pyrola minor*) and a plant of Tutsan (*Hypericum androsaemum*). Much of this wood is being cleared, but an agreement has now been reached that Mrs. Cowdy and Mr. John Humphrey will be notified before further felling takes place so that plants of special interest may be saved.

An outing in the Stone area, which included part of the River Thame, was made on 16th July when many aquatic flowers were seen, among them Arrowhead (*Sagittaria sagittifolia*); Water Betony (*Scrophularia Aquatica*); and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*).

There was a walk on Christmas Common on 13th August in search of butterflies, of which the following were recorded: Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*); Small Heath (*Coenonympha pamphilus*); Brown Argus (*Aricia agestis*); Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*); Chalkhill Blue (*Lysandra coridon*); Large White (*Pieris brassicae*); Small White (*Pieris rapae*); Green-veined White (*Pieris napi*); Small Skipper (*Thymelicus sylvestris*); and Silver-spotted Skipper (*Hesperia comma*). Flowers typical of the chalk hills were found including the Clustered Bellflower (*Campanula glomerata*); Frog Orchid (*Coeloglossum viride*); Felwort (*Gentianella amarella*); Candytuft (*Iberis amara*); and Basil Thyme (*Acinos arvensis*).

On Bald Hill on 3rd September were seen many of the same flowers as at Christmas Common and, in addition, the Chiltern Gentian (*Gentianella germanica*); Pale Toad-flax (*Linaria repens*); Common Broomrape (*Orobanche minor*); and Strawberry Clover (*Trifolium fragiferum*).

On 23rd September a most enjoyable day was spent in the Brickhill Woods in search of fungi. A large variety were found, a list of which can be seen at the end of this report.

On 8th October the outdoor meetings ended with a geological outing when several of the chalk pits in the Gt. Missenden and Aylesbury areas were visited. This was followed up by a lecture, held at the County Museum, on the Downland Chalk Formation.

Of the indoor meetings during the winter months one was a Brains Trust with a panel of four who dealt with questions on mammals, botany, ornithology and general Natural History. In spite of snow storms and bad road conditions there was a very good attendance and some excellent questions were asked.

Other talks were on Springtime in Majorca and on the Flora of Minorca; About Snails, illustrated with slides and live specimens; Flowers of the Beechwoods; and, lastly, The Construction and Natural History of the Grand Union Canal.

The year's programme ended on 30th March with a walk in Hampden Forest with the Chief Forester of Hampden Estate as guide. Members were shown trees

in various stages of growth from earliest days to maturity and finally the sawmill in action, and were told of some of the problems of forest management.

The following report has been received from Mr. Geoffrey Glover:

"Ghost Orchid (*Epipogium aphyllum*). It is gratifying to report that this very rare orchid has had in 1967 another good season at the same site as in 1966. Once again a number of botanists have had the opportunity of seeing and photographing several fine specimens, as many as four flower heads on one stem being reported."

Fungi found in Brickhill Woods on 23rd June, 1967:

<i>Amanita phalloides</i>	Death Cap
<i>Amanita citrina</i>	False Death Cap
<i>Amanita citrina var. alba</i>	
<i>Amanita rubescens</i>	Blusher
<i>Amanita pantherina</i>	Panther Cap
<i>Amanitopsis fulva</i>	Tawny Grisette
<i>Amanitopsis vaginata</i>	Grisette
<i>Armillaria mellea</i>	Honey Fungus
<i>Boletus variegatus</i>	
<i>Boletus edulis</i>	Cep
<i>Boletus testaceoscaber</i>	
<i>Collybia maculata</i>	
<i>Collybia peronata</i>	Woolly Foot
<i>Hypholoma fasciculare</i>	Sulphur Tuft
<i>Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca</i>	False Chanterelle
<i>Lactarius rufus</i>	Red Milk Cap
<i>Lactarius subdulcis</i>	
<i>Lactarius turpis</i>	
<i>Laccaria amethystina</i>	
<i>Piptoporus betulinus</i>	
<i>Paxillus involutus</i>	
<i>Psathyrella spadicea</i>	
<i>Russula vesca</i>	
<i>Russula ochroleuca</i>	
<i>Russula atropurpurea</i>	
<i>Russula emetica</i>	The Sickener
<i>Scleroderma aurantium</i>	Common Earth Ball
<i>Trametes abietina</i>	
<i>Trametes versicolor</i>	

J.E.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

(as at 31st December, 1967)

President

LORD COTTESLOE, G.B.E., T.D.

Vice-Presidents

SIR HENRY AUBREY-FLETCHER, BT., C.V.O.	E. CLIVE ROUSE, M.B.E., F.S.A.
G. ELAND, F.S.A.	SIR JOHN GUILLUM SCOTT
SIR HENRY FLOYD, BT. C.B., C.B.E.	BISHOP OF SOUTHWELL
PROFESSOR W. F. GRIMES, C.B.E., F.S.A.	C. M. TRELAWNY IRVING
BISHOP R. M. HAY	

Council

E. H. BAILEY	C. N. GOWING, F.M.A.
A. H. J. BAINES	MRS. J. M. GRIMMITT
S. A. COMBEN (<i>County Council</i>)	J. F. HEAD, F.S.A.
MRS. A. M. DURBRIDGE (<i>County Council</i>)	A. H. PACKE
G. R. ELVEY	BRIAN PULLEN (<i>Chairman</i>)
C. S. FAY	K. R. WEBB

Society's Representatives on the County Museum Committee

J. F. HEAD, F.S.A.	B. PULLEN	ELLIOTT VINEY, F.S.A.
<i>Hon. Secretary</i>		<i>Hon. Treasurer</i>
ELLIOTT VINEY, F.S.A.		J. R. WORBOYS
<i>Hon. Editor</i>		<i>Hon. Archivist</i>
E. CLIVE ROUSE, F.S.A.		MISS CICELY BAKER, F.S.A.
<i>Hon. Librarian</i>		<i>Hon. Secretary</i>
MRS. E. M. ELVEY		(<i>Natural History Section</i>)
		MISS JANET EASTON

Headquarters

THE MUSEUM, CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY
(Tel. 2158)

NOTICE

In 1969 there will be two issues of *Records of Bucks*. The first, Vol. XVIII, No. 3 (1968), will be devoted entirely to the Report on the Excavations at Ivinghoe Beacon, 1963/65, conducted by Professor S. S. Frere, F.S.A., and Dr. M. A. Cotton, F.S.A. It is hoped to publish this extra number in February 1969 and it will be sent to all subscribers unless they indicate to the contrary.

In the second half of the year the normal annual number, which will be Vol. XVIII, No. 4 (1969), will be published.