

THE SOCIETY

OUTINGS IN 1971

- Sat. 24th April. Little Gaddesden Manor. Piccotts End Medieval Murals. Hertfordshire.
- Sat. 8th May. Iver Grove. Chenies Manor House and Village.
- Fri. 2nd July. City of London: St. Bride's Church, Guildhall Museum, Goldsmiths' Hall, Grocers' Hall.
- Sat. 31st July. The town of Abingdon. The Berkshire Ridgeway. Compton Beauchamp Church.
- Sun. 12th Sept. Rectory Cottages and Parish Church, Bletchley. Liscombe Park, Chelmscott Manor, Soulbury Church.

The five outings were generally successful and the Society's acknowledgements go to the following owners for their welcome and help: Mr. and Mrs. Nigel Cartwright (Iver Grove), Major and Mrs. A. Macleod Matthews (Chenies Manor), Sir Brian Bonsor, Bart. (Liscombe Park), the Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths and the Master of the Grocers' Companies; the latter was also the Hon. Secretary of the Society. In addition, tea was provided at Chenies and Grocers' Hall whilst our members Dr. and Mrs. John Lloyd Hart generously allowed their garden at Manor Farm, Soulbury to be used for picnic lunches on 12th September and provided wine and coffee. Miss A. Ashby, the Warden, helped with the arrangements to visit Chelmscott, the Bletchley Archaeological Society did the same for Rectory Cottages and the Friends of Abingdon made all arrangements for our visit to the Guild Hall, the County Hall and the Abbey buildings and provided guides. Mr. Ralph Merrifield showed the Guildhall Museum and led the party to some of the sites of Roman London. Rev. Dewi Morgan spoke about St. Bride's Church at the start of the visit there.

E.V.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

From October 1970 to December 1971 there have been thirteen meetings and three weekend courses at Missenden Abbey—

31st October 1970. Illustrated talk by the Warden, Mr. John Humphrey, on the new R.S.P.B. Reserve in Carmarthenshire.

22nd/24th November. Ornithological weekend at Missenden Abbey, entitled "Ducks, Geese & Swans".

19th December. "Deer in Britain", an illustrated talk by Mrs. M. Cunningham.

9th January 1971. An illustrated talk on the 20th century's encroachment on wild life habitats by Miss Molly Hyde.

13th February. An illustrated talk by Mr. Victor Scott on "Flowers of Switzerland".

20th March. Field outing to Foxcote Reservoir led by the Warden, Mr. W. Alderman.

1st May. Field outing to B.B.O.N.T. Reserve at Bix Bottom, led by Miss Ruth Levy.

23rd May. A walk round Wotton Lakes, led by Mr. Aubrey Woodward.

11th/13th June. Botany weekend course at Missenden Abbey entitled "The Chiltern Woodlands".

11th July. A walk through Crowell Woods led by Mrs. Rosemary Blake.

15th August. A visit to the Risborough Cop area led by Miss Janet Easton.

17th/19th September. "Today's Birdwatcher". Ornithological weekend course at Missenden Abbey.

13th November. "Dragonflies"—as illustrated talk by Mr. Victor Scott.

23rd October. Slides were shown by several members of the Natural History Section.

13th November. "Dragonflies"—an illustrated talk by Victor Scott.

11th December. "Wild Life of South Africa"—an illustrated talk by Miss Chaplin.

Altogether the year has been a good one for the Natural History Section with a full and varied programme and an excellent attendance of members at all our meetings.

The survey of the boundary hedges of Monks Risborough has continued during 1971 and considerable work has been done on the Black Hedge. A report is being compiled.

Below are some of the more interesting plants recorded during the year—

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| Sticky Groundsel | <i>Senecio viscosus</i> | Foxcote |
| Spurge Laurel | <i>Daphne laureola</i> | Wotton |
| Green Hellebore | <i>Helleborus viridis</i> | Prestwood; Denner Hill |
| Chalk Milkwort | <i>Polygala calcarea</i> | Aston |
| Adders Tongue | <i>Ophloglossum vulgatum</i> | Wotton; North Dean |
| Fly Honey Suckle | <i>Lonicera xylosteum</i> | Wotton |
| Common Fleabane | <i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i> | Wotton; Kop Hill |

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|-----------------------|---------------------------------|----------------------|
| Blue Fleabane | <i>Erigeron acris</i> | Kop Hill |
| Field Mouse-ear | <i>Cerastium arvense</i> | Watlington |
| Chickweed | | |
| Basil Thyme | <i>Acinos arvensis</i> | Watlington |
| Yellow-wort | <i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i> | Watlington; Kop Hill |
| Candytuft | <i>Iberis Amara</i> | Watlington |
| Thyme-leaved Sandwort | <i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i> | Watlington |
| Dropwort | <i>Filipendula vulgaris</i> | Watlington; Kop Hill |
| Wood Barley | <i>Hordelymus europaeus</i> | Small Dean |
| Pink Purslane | <i>Claytonia alsinoides</i> | Terriers |
| Sand Toadflax | <i>Linaria arenaria</i> | Small Dean |
| Lesser Snapdragon | <i>Antirrhinum orontium</i> | Small Dean |
| *Leopard Marsh Orchid | <i>Orchis pardalina</i> | Small Dean |
| Eyebright | <i>Euphrasia pseudokernerii</i> | Kop Hill |
| Vervain | <i>Verbena officinalis</i> | Kop Hill |
| Stinking Iris | <i>Iris foetidissima</i> | Crowell |
| Blue Sow-thistle | <i>Cicerbita macrophylla</i> | Crowell |

* A very fine specimen of what is thought to be a hybrid between *Orchis fuchsii* (Spotted Orchid) and *Orchis praetermissa* (Southern March Orchid). Although *O. fuchsii* is present in the area, the other putative parent has not been seen there.

J.N.E.

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