

THE SOCIETY

OBITUARY

Sir Frank Markham, a Vice-President of the Society, died on 13 October 1975. He was born in 1897 in Stony Stratford. Before the 1914–18 war in which he served with distinction in the Royal West Kents, the Oxford & Bucks Light Infantry and the 11th Rajputs, he was a messenger boy with the Stony Stratford Steam Tramway. After leaving the army he took a modern language degree at Oxford. He became Labour M.P. for Chatham in 1929 and twice served Ramsay MacDonald as Parliamentary Private Secretary; he followed his chief out of the Labour party in 1931 and was re-elected as National Labour member for South Nottingham in 1935, losing his seat in the 1945 election. In 1951 he was returned for Buckingham which he represented until he finally retired in 1964.

Intensely interested in archaeology and Local history, he served as President of the Museums Association, travelled widely for the Carnegie Trust and was the active and inspiring President of the Wolverton Archaeological Society. His admirable two volume History of Milton Keynes and District (reviewed in Records XIX, 234 and 520) will long serve as a fitting memorial to a well loved man.

Other members who died in 1975 were Miss Helen Barlow, a sister of Sir Alan Barlow, Geoffrey Platt and, tragically as a young man, Andrew Williamson.

The date of Sir Harry Verney's death was recorded last year as occurring in 1975; it was in fact in 1974.

OUTINGS IN 1975. These showed a marked drop in attendance compared with previous years; they were as follows:

- | | |
|------------|---|
| 19th April | <i>Bucks.</i> Bulstrode Park and a perambulation of Gerrards Cross. |
| 28th June | <i>Berkshire.</i> Stonor Park and Chapel. Jesus Hospital, Bray. Provost's, Fellows and Luxmoore's Gardens at Eton College. |
| 18th June | <i>London.</i> Order of St John, Clerkenwell Gate. Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue, Bevis Marks. St. James church, Garlickhythe. Skinners' Hall. |
| 2nd Aug. | <i>Hertfordshire.</i> Verulamium and Cathedral, St Albans. Woodhall Park. |
| 16th Aug. | <i>Cambridgeshire.</i> Hinchingbrooke House. King's School, Prior Crauden's Chapel and Cathedral, Ely. |
| 6th Sept. | <i>Bucks Churches.</i> Little Missenden, Little Hampden, Little Kimble, Monks Risborough, Bledlow, Bradenham and Penn. |

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. This was held on 19 April 1975. A major change in the Rules was passed which laid down that in future elected members of Council would not be eligible to serve for more than three years consecutively. There were a number of changes in the officers: Mr G. B. Ravens succeeded Mr Worboys as Hon. Treasurer, Mrs Elvey followed Miss Baker as Hon. Archivist, Dr Pamela Nightingale took over from Mrs Elvey as Hon. Librarian. Tributes were paid by the president to the work done by the retiring Treasurer, Archivist and members of Council.

NEWSLETTER. An experimental Newsletter was issued to members during the year which was well received and is being continued in 1976.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

It was very much regretted that Mr. Grimmitt, owing to ill health gave up the Chairmanship of the Section towards the end of 1975. He had been one of the founder members and had served on the Committee from 1947 when the section was first formed; it was following the retirement of Lady Barlow in 1968 that Mr. Grimmitt had taken over the Chairmanship. The Committee members expressed their appreciation and thanks for the work he had done and for the devotion he had shown to the Section. His place has been taken by Mr. Victor Scott, a member of long standing and a well known Buckinghamshire naturalist.

Another resignation was that of Miss Dorothy Eyre who had been Programme Secretary since 1966. She was warmly thanked for the part she had taken in the work of the Section.

When planning the programme for 1975 as many interests as possible were covered —

22nd February	Afternoon of films.
23rd March	Field meeting led by Mr. John Field, to see birds at Marlow Gravel Pits.
20th April	Walk to Rushbeds Wood, Wootton Underwood, led by Mr Aubrey Woodward.
18th May	Demonstration of habitat recording at Green Park, Aston Clinton, led by Miss Jill Royston.
1st June	Visit to Rossway Estate, Northchurch, to see forestry and plants.
5th July	Recording plants and insects on roadside verge A41 Bucks/Oxon border. Leaders Miss Phyllis Gardiner and Mr. Aubrey Woodward.
27th September	Fungus foray in Cockshoot Wood led by Mr. Victor Scott.
4th October	Illustrated talk on fresh water fish by Mr. F. Gutterfield.
15th November	A talk by Mrs. Susan Cowdy on 'A new look at birds in Bucks'.
13th December	A talk on ponds given by Miss Lois Buckley.

The visit to Rossway Estate was shared with the main Society and organised by Mr. Horace Brackley. Assisted by Miss Heger of the Hertfordshire Natural History Society, Major Hadden—Paton took the party for a forest walk, explaining the kind of work which is being carried on in experimental culture of beeches and conifers. Miss Heger spoke of the various birds to be found in the woods. The party were most grateful for a very interesting afternoon and for the tea provided by Mrs. Hadden—Paton afterwards.

The outing in mid-summer to record the plants and insects on the roadside verge on the Oxon Boundary of the A41 proved most interesting. On either side of the road the verge was flanked by a deep wet ditch (this is the area of the River Ray). A verge length of 250 yards was examined which provided 64 different species of plants on the south side of the road and 78 on the north side. In a bordering water meadow were found Pepper Saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*), Meadow Thistle (*Cirsium dissectum*), Meadow-rue (*Thalictrum flavum*) and Tubular Water-dropwort (*Cenanthe fistulosa*).

In early June there was a weekend course at Missenden Abbey entitled 'The Naturalist at Work'. The theme traced the development of Natural History Societies in this country from the late 17th century to the present day with their emphasis on conservation.

With the development of Buckinghamshire over the next twenty years or so, more land will become absorbed for house building and for new roads to join up the urban areas. Much recording is needed to find out the natural history sites of importance so that, with the co-operation of the Buckinghamshire County Council, these may be preserved as far as possible for future generations. Doubtless recording will therefore play an important part in the future work of the Natural History Section.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

(as at 31st December, 1975)

President

E. CLIVE ROUSE, M.B.E., M.A., F.S.A.

Vice-Presidents

MISS CECILY BAKER, F.S.A.

LADY BARLOW

SIR FRANK FRANCIS, K.C.B., F.S.A., F.M.A.

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

J. F. HEAD, M.B.E., F.S.A.

MAJOR J. D. YOUNG

Council

MAX DAVIES (*Chairman*)

A. H. J. BAINES

E. J. BULL

J. CHENEVIX-TRENCH

J. COALES

REVD. R. H. COLLIER

MRS A. M. DURBRIDGE (*County Council*)

MRS J. P. A. FENLEY

C. N. GOWING, F.M.A.

BRIAN PULLEN

Society's Representatives on the County Library and Museum Committee

B. PULLEN

MRS P. NIGHTINGALE, Ph.D.

ELLIOTT VINEY, F.S.A.

Hon. Secretary

ELLIOTT VINEY, F.S.A.

Hon. Archivist

MRS E. M. ELVEY

Hon. Editor

G. R. ELVEY, B.Litt.

Asst. Hon. Secretary

H. R. BRACKLEY

Hon. Librarian

MRS PAMELA NIGHTINGALE, Ph.D.

Hon. Secretary

(*Natural History Section*)

MISS JANET EASTON

Hon. Treasurer

G. B. RAVENS, I.P.F.A.

Headquarters

THE COUNTY MUSEUM, CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY HP20 2QP
Tel. (82158)