

THE SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP. At the annual general meeting on 15th April Mr. Rex Wailes, F.S.A., a long-standing member and a leading authority on windmills, was elected an additional Vice-President. A former Vice-President, Dame Kathleen Kenyon, died during the year. The level of general membership has been maintained after the pronounced increase during 1977.

COUNCIL. Five meetings have been held under the chairmanship of Mr. Max Davies. Much time was spent on the question of insurance of the Society's property. Two members of Council have taken responsibility for sales of current and past issues of *Records of Buckinghamshire* and of offprints. Their efforts are showing good results.

LEGACIES. It was decided to devote Sir Eric Ansorge's legacy to research towards the updating of *Macrolepidoptera of Bucks*. During the year Dr. Gordon Wyatt, long an active member, died and left the Society his valuable collection of Buckinghamshire papers. Sadly, he did not live to supervise the publication of his planned authoritative *Maps of Bucks*., which appeared under other editorial hands.

NEWSLETTER. Mr. E. J. Bull has continued to edit the Newsletter, sent to all members in April and October; many appreciations of this service to members have been received.

COUNTY MUSEUM. An important and very welcome alleviation of the County Museum's chronic shortage of space is in prospect with the approval by the County Council of the purchase of Church House, St Mary's Square, Aylesbury, adjacent to the Museum.

BUILDINGS. An important Grade I building which has been at risk for many years, Denham Place, now appears to have passed into responsible hands. Two redundant churches, Boveney and Hardmead, are likely to be taken over by the Friends of Friendless Churches. Over one hundred enquiries concerning listed buildings in the county have been dealt with during the year.

OUTINGS. There were six outings during the year:

- May 12. Packington Hall, Warwickshire.
- May 27. Rycote Chapel and a perambulation of Thame, guided by the Thame Historical Society (who paid a return visit to Aylesbury on August 6).
- June 10. Tewkesbury Abbey, Bredon Church and Honington Hall, Warwickshire.
- July 28. London. Royal Hospital, Chelsea, St Bartholomew-the-Great church, Smithfield, St Lawrence Jewry church and Merchant Taylors' Hall.
- September 2. Avoncroft Museum of Buildings and Hagley Hall, Worcestershire.
- September 30. Bucks Churches: Addington, Buckingham, Lillingstone Lovell, Stowe, Chetwode and North Marston.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

In 1978 the monthly meetings of the Natural History Section continued with four lectures in the Education Room at Aylesbury Museum and eight field visits:

- 14th January: A very colourful and interesting lecture by Mr. Victor Scott on his recent visit to the Himalayas and Nepal, with particular emphasis on the flora.
- 11th February: Mrs. Susan Cowdy led a party to the Tring Reservoir in severe weather when much of the surface water was frozen but a fair selection of waterfowl was viewed from one of the hides.
- 4th March: Talk by Mr. Peter Knipe on his new *Flora of Buckinghamshire*. This was followed by the A.G.M.
- 15th April: Visit to Hedgerley Nature Reserve led by Mr. Aubrey Woodward.
- 13th May: Mr. Roy Maycock gave a most instructive outing at Peterley Corner with the emphasis on grasses. Miss Janet Easton very kindly provided tea.
- 17th June: Mrs. Susan Cowdy took us to the BBONT Reserve at Chequers. Spotted Orchid, Fragrant Orchid and Deadly Nightshade (*Atropa belladonna*) noted. This visit proved to be the first step towards the Society becoming voluntary wardens of this reserve.
- 1st July: The Butterfly Orchid and Lesser Butterfly Orchid, Pyramid Orchid and Bee Orchid were of particular interest at the Warburg Reserve on our outing led by Mr. Nigel Phillips.
- 5th August: Visit to Sydlings Copse Nature Reserve, Oxfordshire.

- 9th September: Outing to Ludgershall Halt led by Mr. Aubrey Woodward. A particularly rich site for flora, finds included:
- Canadian Fleabane (*Conyza canadensis*)
 - Haresfoot Trefoil (*Trifolium arvense*)
 - Pepper Saxifrage (*Silaum silaus*)
 - Pyrenean Cranesbill (*Geranium pyrenaicum*)
 - Snapdragon (*Antirrhinum majus*)
 - Soapwort (*Saponaria officinalis*)
 - Spiny Rest-harrow (*ononis spinosa*)
 - Sticky Groundsel (*Senecio visosus*)
 - Weld (*Reseda luteola*)
- 14th October: Our usual enjoyable Fungus Foray with Mr. Victor Scott at Stockgrove Country Park. False Death Cap (*Amanita citrina*) and Destroying Angel (*Amanita virosa*) were among the finds.
- 18th November: A scholarly and most interesting lecture on Buckinghamshire Naturalists by the author Mr. D. Allen.
- 9th December: A joint lecture on 'Wildfowl' and 'Birds of the World' by Mr. K. S. Robinson and Mr. N. R. Flint, gave us an interesting afternoon with excellent colour slides.

It is with much regret that we record the death of Mr. G. F. Glover, B. Sc., early this year, after a long illness. He was a member of our Committee, which was only one of his many Natural History activities in the County. A well-known naturalist, he will be remembered for the excellent work he did over the years for more than one Natural History Society.

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

(as at 31st December 1978)

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(*Natural History Section*)

H. BRADBURN

Headquarters

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