

THE SOCIETY

Membership

The annual general meeting on 26th April heard that membership at the beginning of the year stood at 683 adults, 10 juniors and 14 corporate members. Continually increasing production and postal costs of the *Records* had forced a decision on Council to increase subscriptions from 1st January, 1981.

Council

Four meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Councillor A. H. J. Baines. The Society lost two officers by resignation. Dr. Pamela Nightingale, who was the Society's Librarian and a redoubtable representative on the County Library & Museum Sub-Committee since 1975, resigned in August on moving away from the county. G. R. Elvey, F.S.A., resigned the editorial chair of *Records* after filling it for ten years with a scholarly distinction of which the Society is proud and for which it is deeply grateful.

After discussion with the Milton Cottage Trust, Council agreed to relinquish the Society's right to nominate one of the 12 members of the Trust. Circumstances have changed since the Trust's formation in 1912 and the contribution that the Society is qualified to make is less valuable to the Trust today than that which can be made by a more directly academic body.

Public Lectures

Two public lectures by prominent archaeologists were staged by the Society in association in each case with an appropriate local society. Both drew full houses and were felt to be highly successful in "flying the flag" of archaeology at national level and stimulating local interest. In January D. R. Wilson of Cambridge University's Committee for Aerial Photography spoke in High Wycombe on "Air Photography and the Archaeologist" and in November the Year of the Viking was marked by a lecture at the University College at Buckingham by Peter Addyman, Director of the York Archaeological Trust, on "The Vikings, Danelaw and Jorvik."

Listed Buildings

Two major planning decisions went against the Society's wishes. Approval was given to demolish the Chequers building in High Wycombe and to build a replica on the site. The Society supported the subsequent submissions of the High Wycombe Society and the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings to the Department of the Environment that the Minister should overrule this and require the owning company to restore the existing building, making use of the original materials already removed and stored. The second decision was to allow a development in the grounds of The Prebendal in Aylesbury which, in the view of the Society and of the Georgian Group, very largely destroys the character of the Prebendal's setting which the Department of the Environment's own inspector specifically recommended in 1976 should be preserved. Earlier in the year the Society opposed, in common with the Victorian Society and many other bodies, an application to place some 750 accommodation units of various types for students in the grounds of Mentmore Towers. This application was turned down.

Library

In mid-year the Society's library was graced with a new case designed by Council member E. R. Throssell, R.I.B.A., and made by a young, newly qualified cabinet maker in Long Crendon, Colin Urch. Both as a fine and wholly suitable piece of furniture for the elegant Grinnell Room, and as a relief to

the ever growing pressure on our book shelves the new case is felt to reflect great credit on designer and craftsman alike, for which the Society is very grateful. This addition to our assets and amenities was made possible by a legacy under the will of the late Lady Anson.

Outings

Six outings were arranged; there were well-filled coaches on four occasions but a disappointing turn-out on 9 August; in a generally poor summer five fine days were enjoyed and on the Bath day, although it rained heavily throughout the coach journeys, it was fine for the five hours in the city.

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| 17 May | Hampshire: Broadlands, Romsey Abbey, The Vyne. |
| 14 June | The City of Bath. |
| 25 July | London: The Rooms of the Society of Antiquaries, the Queen's Chapel at St. James, two City churches (St. Helen's Bishopsgate & St. Magnus the Martyr), Fishmongers' Hall. |
| 9 August | Stacey Hill Collection of Industry and Rural Life at Milton Keynes, Two Deserted Village sites (Doddershall & Quarrendon) under the guidance of Michael Farley. |
| 23 August | Bucks Churches: Turville, Fingest, Hambleden and Dorney, followed by a visit to Dorney Court by invitation of Mr. Peregrine Palmer. |
| 6 September | Kenilworth Castle and Farnborough Hall, Warwickshire. Wroxton Abbey, Oxfordshire. |

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

During 1980 the activities of the Natural History Section included six meetings at the County Museum in Aylesbury and four field visits:

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| 5th January: | Mrs. Susan Cowdy, M.B.E., welcomed us to the usual enjoyable afternoon of films at Aylesbury Grammar School arranged by BBONT. |
| 2nd February: | 'The Flowers of Crete and Corfu' illustrated with Mr. Victor Scott's superb colour slides attracted this year's largest gathering. |
| 1st March: | Mrs. Vera N. Paul, O.B.E., kindly consented at short notice to lecture to us on Orchids with fine colour slides. |
| 12th April: | After the A.G.M., Mr. Chris Reid gave a fascinating illustrated talk on Insects. |
| 30th May: | A most successful Friday evening outing to Hell Coppice, Shabington Wood, for the Dusk Chorus & Nightingales' Song, led by Mrs. Beryl Hulbert. |
| 21st June: | Chiltern Open Air Museum & the Nature Trail at Newland Park, Chalfont St. Giles: A most interesting afternoon's visit. |
| 12th July: | Jill Royston took us up to Bledlow Cop, by kind permission of Lord Carrington, to continue the important plant survey on top of the Bronze Age tumulus. This has been taking place intermittently since 1958, when the plants were first recorded by Lady Barlow. The various species are now being plotted over a metric grid system. |
| 27th September: | Miss Margaret Holden gave us good preparation for our annual Fungus Foray with her lecture 'Looking for Fungi' with colour slides. |
| 11th October: | Our 'Fungus Foray' this year was in Cockshoots Wood, led by Mr. Victor Scott, some 28 species being found: |

Lactarius blennius
 Lycoperdon pyriforme (Pear-shaped Puffball)
 Hygrophorus (?)
 Laccaria amethystina
 Clitocybe (?)
 Nectria cinnabarina (Coralspot)
 Russula ochroleuca
 Lactarius rufus
 Pholiota adiposa
 Collybia maculata
 Hypoxylon fragiforme
 Calocera viscosa
 Laccaria laecata
 Trametes (?) abietina

Mycena (?): 4 unidentified species
 Boletus chrysenteron
 Stereum gaussapatum
 Marasmius oreades (Fairy Ring Champignon)
 Rameria (Clavaria) stricta
 Paxillus involutus
 Coprinus atramentarius (Common Ink-cap)
 Trametes versicolor
 Russula nigricans
 Tremella: Exidia albida
 Lycoperdon perlatum (Common Puffball)
 Russula emetica (The Sickener)
 Phallus impudicus (Stinkhorn)
 Marasmius rotula

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

(as at 31st December, 1980)

President

ELLIOTT VINEY, F.S.A.

Vice-Presidents

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

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Co-opted Members of Council

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 C. N. GOWING, F.M.A. (*Curator, The County Museum*)
 MRS. Y. PARMINTER

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 MAX DAVIES

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Hon. Librarian
 MRS. L. M. HEAD

Hon. Secretary (Natural History Section)
 MRS. A. V. COLMER

Headquarters

THE COUNTY MUSEUM, CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY HP20 2QP.

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