

OBITUARY

Lady Barlow

Nora, Lady Barlow, widow of Sir Alan Barlow, who was President of the archaeological Society from 1945 to 1962, died in Cambridge in May, at the age of 103. She was the granddaughter of Charles Darwin, the naturalist and founder of the modern theory of evolution. She shared her husband's interest in archaeology, but her main bent was towards botany, in many departments of which she was an acknowledged expert, as anyone who accompanied her on walks in the Wendover countryside, or around the garden which they created at Boswells, will surely remember. She was also a competent ornithologist.

Sensing the lack of a society for natural history in Bucks, she was instrumental in starting a Natural History Section of the Archaeological Society, and became its first president in 1951, a position which she held until 1976.

In her early days she studied plant genetics under William Bateson, and the garden at Boswells contained many species from her experiments with hybridisation. She has a species of aquilegia, 'Nora Barlow', named after her. Gardening and flowers were an abiding interest for her throughout her life, but

she found time too to write four books on the life and work of her grandfather. In addition she was largely responsible for the preservation of Darwin material in the Cambridge University Library, and played a leading part in establishing Down House in Kent, where he lived for most of his life, as a permanent memorial to him.

T.B.

Hilary Bridbury

Mrs Hilary Bridbury, who died in October 1989, was for over fifteen years the very active secretary of the Chalfont St Peter and Gerrards Cross History Society. She will be remembered as a successful leader of fieldwalking parties spotting archaeological evidence on the line of the proposed M25 motorway. Professional excavations followed her discovery of medieval pottery kilns near the Alderbourne stream between Fulmer and Denham, and of an important Mesolithic settlement site near the river Misborne in Gerrards Cross. The former has been published in *Records*.

Her very many surface finds were evidence that Mesolithic occupation in South Buckinghamshire was more extensive than had previously been known.

C. Le M.

Betty Elvey

Elizabeth M. Elvey (Mrs Gerald Elvey), who died in February 1990, was best known to members of the Society, and indeed to a wide circle of scholars for her deep knowledge of medieval documents, particularly Manor Court rolls. She was always ready to share this knowledge with those who came to consult the Society's large collection of Buckinghamshire material, and to put her ability to transcribe and interpret these documents at their service.

Betty was a graduate of Newnham College, Cambridge. She joined the Society soon after the War and served as Hon. Assistant Archivist 1962–5; Hon. Librarian 1965–75 and Hon. Archivist 1975–86. She was elected a Vice-President of the Society in 1981. She was a longstanding member of the Buckinghamshire

Record Society and served on its Executive Committee for ten years. She also rendered much behind-the-scenes assistance to her husband, Gerald, during the many years he was Editor of *Records of Buckinghamshire*.

Her particular interest was in the later Middle Ages and she published a number of articles in *Records*, but her *chef-d'oeuvre* may be considered to be *The Courts of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham 1483–1523*, published by the Record Society in 1975.

L.M.H.

We also record with regret the deaths of J. Collings, Mrs K. Holden, Mrs V. D. James, Amyas Lee, A. D. Lydd, D. O. Manasse, Mrs C. Rowley and Dr J. H. Trenchard.