

THE SOCIETY

Membership

At the end of 1992, we numbered 335 ordinary members, 116 family/household memberships, one junior member (without *Records*), 17 life members, 4 ex-officio members and 13 affiliated societies.

Annual General Meeting & Council

In Milton Keynes for the first time. The AGM was held on Saturday, 9th May, at the Exhibition Gallery, when we had a record low turnout of only 11 more members than the quorum of 15. Dr A. H. J. Baines FSA was elected a Trustee. As usual, the report and accounts for the previous year and the AGM agenda were included in the *Spring Newsletter* and the AGM minutes were reproduced in the *Autumn Newsletter*.

Council

Council met four times. Dr Baines was co-opted and elected Chairman, Ted Bull was co-opted and acted as *Newsletter* Editor and Meetings Organizer until incapacitated by illness, causing a pause which we hope is temporary after his 17 years of service to the Society.

Bucks County Council Library & Museum Sub-Committee

Society representatives were the President (Elliott Viney Esq. FSA), Dr A. H. J. Baines FSA and Dr R. P. Hagerty, all three being members of the Museum Panel. Representative on the Countywide Consultative Committee for Museums & Archaeology was Dr Hagerty.

The three-year £2.3m refurbishment of the Museum Buildings undertaken by the County Council commenced in February. The Art Gallery Appeal succeeded in raising the £150,000 required for the first phase of preparing foundations at basement and ground-floor levels planned to start in October. We thank the family of Roald Dahl for a gift of £75,000 toward the planned Touch Gallery and Resource Centre in the Coach House.

Lecture Series

Six talks, with slides, were given on Saturday afternoons in the County Museum Technical Centre at Halton.

- 25 *January*: Elliott Viney took us on a generously-illustrated tour of Literary Buckinghamshire.
- 15 *February*: John Chenevix Trench shared his expertise with us in surveying Timber-frame Houses in Bucks.
- 7 *March*: Bob Hagerty reminded us, with slides of visible vestiges, of the Magnificence of Roman Gaul.
- 21 *March*: Mike Farley reported on the excavation and finds from the Anglo-Saxon Cemetery at Dinton Castle.
- 28 *November*: Eric Sammes covered Prehistoric Finds along the Middle Thames valley.
- 12 *December*: Andrew Pike presented a Look at some Bucks Churches.

Outings

Of the five outings, four enjoyed good weather. The day of the Bucks Church Crawl was wet for the first time since 1984, but without dampening the spirits of the good attendance. This was the 21st Church Crawl and the 182 outing arranged for us by Elliott Viney.

- 23 *May*: Hertfordshire – Hatfield House and gardens, the great Jacobean home of the Marquis of Salisbury; Bishop's Hatfield church. Verulamium Roman forum and theatre, and St Michael's church.
- 11 *July*: Cambridgeshire – Joint outing with the Natural History Section to Wicken Fen Nature Reserve, Wimpole House and Home Farm (all National Trust).
- 15 *August*: Shropshire – The historic town of Ludlow, its castle, church and unspoilt centre. Stokesay Castle, unique surviving example of a medieval fortified manor house (English Heritage).

- 5 *September*: – Gloucestershire – Sudeley Castle, a very historic house with fine contents and gardens. Hailes Abbey, once custodian of the Holy Blood (EH), Chuppen Camden with its fine 15th century church funded from the wool and cloth trade.
- 3 *October*: – Bucks Church Crawl – Starting over the border at Thame; then Ibstone, Turville, Fingest, Hambleton, Fawley, Terriers (High Wycombe) and Penn Street.

Publications

Records of Buckinghamshire Vol 32 (1990) was distributed in March to members then fully paid-up and later to tardy payers as and when subscriptions/ arrears due were received. Once again, we are very grateful to all who helped with deliveries, thereby

reducing the amount that the Society spends on postage.

Index for Records Volumes X – XX (119 – 1978) was prepared by the Honorary Librarian, Mrs Lorna Head, whom we thank most gratefully. Copies are being supplied free to members on request.

Spring and Autumn Newsletters were also sent to members. Contents included – (Spring) an account of the Society and its Museum – (Autumn) the County museum refurbishment, the Roald Dahl Memorial, the Art Gallery Appeal, Listing of the Royal Bucks Hospital, the Council for Independent Archaeology honours Mike Farley as County Archaeologist of the Year 1992, field work and excavations by the County Archaeology staff and work of the County Museum Archaeological Group.