

THE SOCIETY

Membership

During 1994, we learnt with regret of the deaths of Lord Cottesloe (Society Trustee and ex-president), D Anderson, Dr A M Barrett, J H Broadbent, E B Dorrance, Mrs R A Leaver, Miss G E Mead (left £1,000 to the Museum), and J H P Roberts. At the end of 1994, we totalled 563 members – 316 ordinary, 106 familycounted as two, one junior, 19 honorary and life, 3 ex-officio, and 12 affiliated societies.

The report and accounts for 1993 and the 1994 AGM agenda were included in the *Spring Newsletter*. The 1994 AGM minutes were reproduced in the *Autumn Newsletter*.

Council met five times with Dr Arnold Baines FSA as Chairman. *Council* appointed Ted Bull to serve out the term of Barry Lane who resigned.

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 new Countywide Consultative Committee for Museums and the Countywide Advisory Committee for Archaeology was Dr Hagerty.

On 25 April, Mrs Norma Major unveiled a plaque to commemorate the roofing over of the new Art Gallery structure in the County Museum. She was escorted by Sir Timothy Raison, prime mover of the Art Gallery appeal which achieved its target of £500,000 in the autumn. Three-year £2.3M refurbishment by the County Council of Museum buildings continued on schedule for completion by April 1995. After fitting out the interior and setting out the displays, it was intended to re-open the Museum in October. Meanwhile, every effort was made by the Curator to raise the nearly £200,000 needed to fully equip the Roald Dahl Gallery so that

it can be opened at the same time as the rest of the Museum.

Local Government Commission

The LGC preferred recommendations were that Buckinghamshire County Council should be dissolved and replaced by three or four Unitary Authorities derived from present districts.

Council expressed strong concern at the catastrophic effect dismantling of the County Council could have on county wide "heritage" services, such as the Record Office, Museum and Archaeological services. Also endangered could be the County Historic Buildings service, the Kedermister Library and the County Library with its Buckinghamshire Collection.

Council was aiming to complete a 120-year lease of the County Museum with the County Council, to replace the current lease expiring in 1999, hoping that the existence of a long-term lease would help to guarantee the future of the Museum in the case of demise of the County Council.

Lecture Series

In the TECHNICAL CENTRE at HALTON on Saturday afternoons.

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| JAN 22 | BUCKINGHAM: THE MAKING OF A COUNTY TOWN
by Julian Hunt |
| FEB 19 | TWENTY-THREE YEARS OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN MILTON KEYNES
by Bob Zeepvat |
| MAR 19 | THE CHILTERN LANDSCAPE
by Leslie Hepple & Alison Doggett |
| NOV 12 | BUCKINGHAMSHIRE HOUSES & THEIR OWNERS 1830-1930
by Elizabeth Williamson |
| DEC 3 | CHURCHES & CHAPELS IN POST-REFORMATION BUCKS
by Elliott Viney |

Outings

The outings generally enjoyed good or acceptable weather.

- APR 30 HAMPSHIRE. Portchester Castle with its Roman walls and medieval castle and church. The recently extended Portsmouth Cathedral and other sites in the town.
- JUN 11 WILTSHIRE. Wilton House, the great mansion of the Earls of Pembroke; many consider the 'double cube' to be the finest room in England. Salisbury Cathedral and Close.
- JUL 23 NORTHANTS. Rockingham Castle (Cdr Saunders-Watson) a fascinating house of every period from the 11th century. Kirby Hall (English Heritage) impressive remains of a great Elizabethan 'prodigy house'.
- SEP 3 GLOUCS & WILTS. Dyrham House (NT) a fine late 17th century house. Lydiard House and Lydiard Tregose church with its spectacular monuments.
- OCT 1 BUCKS CHURCH CRAWL (23rd year). Stone, Dinton, Haddenham, Ilmer, Long Crendon, Ickford, Boarstall, Ludgershall, and Wotton Underwood.

Publications

Records of Buckinghamshire VOL 34 (1992) were distributed to fully paid-up members. Our thanks to all who helped. Copies of the *Index for Records Volumes X thru XX* (1919 thru 1978) have been supplied to members on request and copies are still available on request to the Hon Librarian.

At the end of March, the *Milton Keynes Archaeology Unit* finally disappeared, leaving as remembrance of its 20 years' work ten Society *MONOGRAPHS* prepared by Unit staff:

- No 1 *ROMAN MILTON KEYNES*,
No 2 *ROMAN & BELGIC POTTERY*,
No 3 *GREAT LINFORD*,
No 4 *PENNYLAND & HARTIGANS*,
No 5 *CHANGING LANDSCAPE OF MILTON KEYNES*,
No 6 *MEDIEVAL SITES IN MILTON KEYNES*,
No 7 *BANCROFT: LATE BRONZE AGE/IRON AGE SETTLEMENT, ROMAN VILLA & TEMPLE/MAUSOLEUM*,
No 8 *TATTENHOE & WESTBURY*,
No 9 *CALDECOTE: EXCAVATION & FIELDWORK 1971-91*,
No 10 *WAVENDON GATE* (Forthcoming 1996).
Available from Oxbow Books, Oxford.

Dr R P Hagerty
Hon secretary