

THE SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY 2000

The year 2000 was activity-filled from start to finish. Council and Members of the Society were treated to new publications, new events and new initiatives.

At the AGM the President announced his retirement to some 70 members of the Society. Illness and involvement with numerous other roles had led Sir Timothy Raison to make the hard decision to step down; he would, however, remain a Vice-President of the Society. Professor William Mead FBA had been nominated as his successor and was duly welcomed and accepted. Angela Colmer, Honorary Secretary of the Natural History Section, also announced her retirement after 21 years of involvement with the Society. In recognition of her commitment, devotion and invaluable service, Sir Timothy presented Angela with a gift as a token of the Society's gratitude.

The Head of Museum Service, Oliver Green, informed Council that repair works to the exterior of the Museum would be taking place during the year. Subsequent work included repairs to window frames, the doors to the Dahl Gallery and re-rendering of exterior walls. Another event at the museum saw the installation of the Millennium Clock in the foyer.

The publication of *Buckinghamshire in the 1760's & 1820's: The County Maps of Jefferys and Bryant* was a triumph for Diana Gulland and her team. Well received from the moment it rolled off the press, this marvellous book has proved a popular purchase for members of the Society and others. Council recorded its thanks to Diana and her team for their hard work.

The Society was represented at the Bucks Family History Day held on 22nd July at Aylesbury Grammar School. Over 700 people attended the event and a number of Society publications were sold.

On 23rd September, the Inaugural Annual

Meeting of the Bucks Local History Network was held at the Civic Centre, Aylesbury. The event represented the culmination of many months of hard work by Dr David Thorpe and his team. It was very well attended and the audience were treated to a superb range of lectures. The displays provided by local history groups and societies aroused much interest and admiration.

Membership

Total membership at 31st December 2000 consisted of 412 individuals, of whom 17 are life members and 20 affiliated societies. (450 and 20 at the end of 1999).

At a meeting of Council on 29th July, it was agreed to update the layout and design of the membership form.

The Society mourned the death of David Kessler OBE; books and documents were donated to the Society by his family. The Society was also sad to hear of the loss of Mr P Bartholomew, Mr M Waghorn, Mr L Barker and Mrs E Ayres.

Council

Council met five times during 2000 under the Chairmanship of Edward Legg. The meetings were held on 22nd January, 25th March, 27th May, 29th July and 28th October. The AGM was held on 6th May in the auditorium at the museum.

Topics for discussion by Council included the AVDC Local Plan, the draft Bucks Archaeological Management Plan, the Emergency Archaeological Recording Fund and acquisitions made to the museum collections.

Roger Bettridge and Ruth Allcock announced their intention to step down from their respective roles as Honorary Editor of Records and Honorary Newsletter Editor. The Chairman expressed his gratitude to both as extremely valuable officers of the Council of the Society.

2000 Outings

- 13 May: Bolsover Castle and Calke Abbey
10 June: Rushton Triangular Lodge,
Lyddington Bede House and
Canons Ashby House
15 July Great Coxwell Barn, Malmesbury
and Rodmarton Manor and
Gardens
5 August: Lumps and Bumps Tour, led by
Diana & Peter Gulland
2 September: Town Walk of Newport Pagnell,
led by Julian Hunt
30 September: Church Crawl, led by Elliott
Viney

2000 Lectures

- 26 February: The Development of Amersham-
on-the-Hill by Julian Hunt
25 March: Domesday to Millennium:
Aspects of 11th Century Bucks,
by Dr Keith Bailey
23 September: Inaugural Meeting of the
Buckinghamshire Local History
Network
28 October: Buckinghamshire Population and
Maps - Beyond Family History,
by Dr David Thorpe
9 December: Amersham: "A Right Pretty
Market Town", by Julian Hunt

THE LIBRARY

ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY 2000

- ANDREW, M. Francis Frith's Buckinghamshire. Revised edition, 2000.
- ASHE, G. The Hell-Fire Clubs. A history of anti-morality (Sir Francis Dashwood and the Medmenham monks). Revised edition, 2000.
- ASTON ABBOTTS HISTORY GROUP. Aston Abbots 1000-2000, a village history. 2000.
- AYLESBURY DIRECTORIES and official handbooks for the county of Bucks., 1913-14 and 1925-26.
- BLATCHFORD, R. & HESLOP, G. The Genealogical Services Directory, 2000.
- BURNHAM HISTORIANS. Dropmore and Littleworth: the story of a South Bucks parish. 1996.
- CHAMBERS, J. Buckinghamshire machine breakers, the story of the 1830 riots (Swing Riots). 2nd revised edition, 1998.
- CHESHAM BOIS PARISH MAP GROUP. Chesham Bois. A celebration of the village and its history. Booklet + map. 1999.
- CUST, L. A history of Eton College. New edition, 1909.
- DICKSON, A. Chiltern footpaths. 1946.
- EATON, R.G. The Royal Bucks Hussars in the second Boer War. 2000.
- EDMONDS, T. Church and community in Terriers. 70 years of the Church of St. Francis of Assisi, Terriers and Totteridge. 2000.
- FOXELL, C. The story of the Met & GC Joint line. 2000.
- FREMANTLE, A. The Wynne diaries. 3 volumes. 1935-1940.
- GIBSON, J. & PESKETT, P. Record offices, how to find them. 8th edition, 1998.
- GRICE, H.B. The house of Cocks (Marlow) (includes reference to Alfred Heneage Cocks). 2000.
- GRIFFIN, S. Aylesbury in the Civil War. 1998.
- GRIFFIN, S. The Battle of Aylesbury. 1998.
- HANLEY, H. Thomas Hickman's Charity, Aylesbury. A tercentenary history 1698-1998. 2000.
- HARBORNE, L.R. & WHITE, R.L.W. The history of Freemasonry in Berkshire and Buckinghamshire. 1990.
- HAZELL, WATSON & VINEY LTD. With the colours again. News from members of staff...who are serving their country overseas and at home and news of the Firm's home front, 1939-1946.
- HEADLEY, G. & MEULENKAMP, W. Follies grottoes and garden buildings (includes a large number of references to Bucks). 1999.
- HISTORY, TOPOGRAPHY & DIRECTORY OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND HERTFORDSHIRE. c1862.
- HOUGHTON, B. Images of Grendon Underwood and Kingswood. 2000.
- KAIN, R.J.P. & PRINCE, H.C. Tithe surveys for historians. 2000.
- KELLY'S Directory of Aylesbury and Stoke Mandeville. 1974.
- KEYES, E. Geoffrey Keyes V.C., M.C., Croix de Guerre, Royal Scots Greys. (Chapter 6 is on Eton and Tingewick, 1931-33). 1956.
- KRONENBERGER, L. The extraordinary Mr. Wilkes, his life and times. 1974.
- LEAVER, R. Naphill and Walters Ash: looking back at village life in celebration of the second Millennium. 1999.
- LESTER, D. & BLACKSHAW, G. The controversy of John Hampden's death. 2000.
- MANSEL, P. Louis XVIII (includes his time at Hartwell). Revised edition, 1999.
- MEAD, W.R. Aylesbury Grammar School 1598-1998. 2nd ed. 2000.
- MORRIS, J.K. History in Chiltern Woods. A guide to the identification and management of woodland archaeological features. 1999.
- PEMBERTON, J. & J. The University College at Buckingham. A first account of its conception, foundation and early years. 1979.
- POOLE, A. & R. Buckland 2000. Millennium celebration book. 2000.
- POWERS, A. and others, eds. Sir Albert Richardson 1880-1964. 1999.

- REED, A.J. London Railways snapshot miscellany. Mainly signs and stations London and North Western 1947 onwards. 1999.
- REED, A.J. The Met & GC Joint line. More snapshots 1948-1968. 1998.
- REED, A.J. Oh no! Not another book on old Aylesbury. 1999.
- RIGBY, L. Stoke Poges: a Buckinghamshire village through 1,000 years. 2000.
- RODWELL, G. The hamlets of Doddershall and Shipton Lee. 1999.
- RODWELL, G. Quainton clubs and charities. Winwood Charity. 2000.
- SOCIETY OF GENEALOGISTS. Buckinghamshire apprentices pre 1800. 2000.
- SPOONER, P. Whaddon 2000. The past and present life of a village. A souvenir issue of the Whaddon Quarterly, June 2000. 2000.
- STOCKLEY, M. & JOHNSTON, B. The leaves of time. A history of Speen. 2000.
- TAIT, H. The Waddesdon bequest. The legacy of Baron Ferdinand Rothschild to the British Museum. 1981.
- VAUGHAN, K. Aylesbury past & present. 1998.
- VEYSEY, J. & POWELL, E. Hughenden Valley from the middle ages to the end of the second millennium. 2000.
- VINEY, E. 'Never fear to die': Some epitaphs from Bucks churches. 2000.
- WHITAKER, W. The water supply of Buckinghamshire and Hertfordshire from underground sources. 1921.
- WHO'S WHO IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 1936.
- WHYMAN, S.E. Sociability and power in late-Stuart England: the cultural worlds of the Verneys 1660-1720. 1999.
- WINGRAVE MILLENNIUM BOOK ASSOCIATION. The Wingrave with Rousham book 2000. A snapshot of life in the villages of Wingrave and Rowsham at the end of the second millennium. 2000.

In addition to the books listed above 40 smaller items were added to stock. These ranged from church guides to extracts from journals.

Diana Gulland
Hon. Librarian

THE NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

SUMMARY OF FIELD VISITS AND LECTURES ORGANISED BY THE SECTION DURING 2000

15 January: Swifts in a Buckinghamshire Village. Peter Gulland reported on his ongoing study of Haddenham's population of swifts. He charted the current migration of nesting sites from their time-honoured locations in the Conservation area to the post-1960's housing estates which, at first glance, look unlikely places for swifts' nests. Next came the complexities of how the one and two-year old swifts (who do not nest) spend their summers. This led naturally to an account of that most defining of swift activities – the vespers flight in which the non-nesters (and some others) rise into the late evening sky to spend the night "sleeping" on the wing high above us.

19 February: Countryside and Wildlife of Southern Ireland. A large audience settled down to enjoy another of Victor Scott's colourful and entertaining travel talks. We were shown beautiful scenic shots of Connemara, the Ring of Kerry, Killarney and the limestone pavements of the Burren in County Clare. The photography is a joint achievement between Victor and his wife, Christine. Other slides included a superb selection of the Irish flora including pitcher plants growing profusely in the Termonbarry Bog in central Ireland, domestic and wild animals and a series of most unusual marine life including Jewel Anemones.

18 March: Winter Birdwatch at Wilstone Reservoir. Diana and Peter Gulland led a walk around the reservoir on a cold but bright day. 35 species were seen including large numbers of herons, cormorants and wigeon. The highlights included martins flying low over the water (the first of the summer migrants seen by the group this spring) and a flock of Fieldfare, possibly on their return journey to Scandinavia. Woodland birds were heard, more than they were seen, but there were excellent views of Long-tailed Tits. Reed Buntings obligingly flew out of the reeds to settle on the tops of hedges to give us close sightings. Archaeological interest was provided by Peter with details of the origins of the reservoir and the Wendover Arm of the Grand Union Canal.

15 April: Annual General Meeting followed by a talk on Small Mammals. Joanne Hodgkins of the Buckinghamshire Environmental Records Centre provided an informative talk on these surprisingly under-recorded section of British wildlife. Slides illustrating the different species of British shrews, voles, mice and rats were viewed, with identifying features noted. A number of mounted specimens from the Museum's collections were also made available to allow members to take a closer look at these shy animals.

5 May: Badger Watch. On a cool evening with a fresh breeze blowing, five observers joined our watch leader, Ralph Woodward, took up position near the set. Our vigil was rewarded with a couple of glimpses of a young fox, followed by a very shadowy brock keeping a low profile behind the Cow Parsley, while a sparrowhawk flying over caused all the hedgerow birds to start up a racket. Throughout the evening anticipation and sprits remained high.

17 June: Orchids at Granglands. On a hot afternoon members set off to look for orchids on BBOWT's Granglands Reserve. Six species were found with masses of flower spikes covering the grassy slopes – far more than only a few years ago. Many other plants typical of chalkland were also in flower while a total of six butterflies were seen on the wing including the Small and Common Blues.

8 July: Butterflies in Bernwood Forest. Ringlets were in abundance as Beryl Hulbert, led six members into the Forest. During the afternoon eleven more species were seen namely Hedge and Meadow Browns, Large, Small and Essex Skippers, Red and White Admirals, Marbled and Large Whites, Speckled Wood and Small Tortoiseshell. Because of the cool wet summer, the vegetation was lush, and the rides were still sporting drifts of Common Spotted Orchids amongst more high summer favourites like honeysuckle and field rose. Other points of interest included a conversation between a blackcap and a blackbird, numerous burnet moths, a longhorn beetle an a

dizzy Fox Beetle that didn't know where to settle.

26 August: Chalkland Flora, Radnage. The meeting opened with a sighting of a Red Kite flying over the church at Radnage. As we made our way across the paddocks one flew so low that we could clearly see the pale wing-patches and the rufous plumage. Jeanne Glenton led the group of 16 to an area of undisturbed chalk grassland. Amongst the flowering plants were large clumps of Devil's-bit Scabious, Verbena, Yellow-wort, Common Rockrose, Wild Thyme, Marjoram, Basil, Chiltern Gentian, Carlina Thistle, Eyebright, Red Bartsia, Large-flowered Knapweed, Field Scabious, Pignut and Common Centaury.

9 September: Fossil Hunting in Warwickshire. On a sunny September day Michael Oates led a group of eight to a road cutting north of Banbury which had exposed a section of the Lower Lias. Finds included an Ichthyosaur vertebra as well as a number of oyster shells and parts of crinoids and ammonites. Moving on to a landfill site we observed fossils typical of a shoreline.

Finally we visited a working Hornton Stone quarry with dark-brown ironstone. Here we found examples of *Hildoceras bifrons*, *Dactylioceras* spp, *Gryphaea arcuata*, *Pseudopecten equivalis* and *Plagiostoma gigantum*.

14 October: Penn Woods Fungus Foray. Victor Scott led a group of sixteen through the woods on a mellow, if a little wet under foot, October afternoon. The recent rain had contributed to a good

flush of fungi of which thirty-three species were observed. These included the tasty Cep (*Boletus edulus*), brightly coloured Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) and entertaining Stinkhorn (*Phallus impudicus*). Many smaller species, which could have easily been overlooked, were also pointed out such as the Earth Fan (*Thelephora terrestris*), Candle-snuff Fungus (*Xylaria hypoxylon*) and two Stereum species, *S. gausapatum* and *S. rugosum*.

11 November: Flowers of Cyprus. Dr Alan Showler took an audience of twenty-six on a photographic slide tour of the south-western corner of Cyprus illustrating many beauty spots *en route*. He described how the flora included plants from the three surrounding continents while the local terrain also allowed a high number of endemic species to exist. The variations of plants within the same species was observed, particularly in terms of the colouring.

2 December: Wildlife and Countryside of Greece. Thirty people attended Victor Scott's talk as, once more, we returned to the Mediterranean. This time we were looking at plants on mainland Greece starting at Mount Olympus and then moving on to the Peloponese. Slides of several of the rarer species found in more inaccessible areas were accompanied by hair-raising tales of how they were photographed. Victor also noted that many Greek species were now common in cultivation in this country and advised the audience of suitable aspect for planting in the garden.