

OBITUARIES

LORNA MABEL HEAD (1920–2015)

Lorna was born on 23rd December 1920 in Ealing, the daughter of Hugh Spencer Stowell, a brewery architect, and granddaughter of Frederick Stowell, the founder of Stowells of Chelsea wine merchants. When the family moved to Plymouth, Lorna was sent to a Girls Public Day School Trust boarding school in Bath. During the Second World War, Lorna served as a commissioned officer in the Womens' Royal Naval Service (WRNS), initially based in Inveraray in Argyll for her training and then at Portsmouth. Being in the WRNS was the one of the happiest periods of her life. After the war Lorna became a Navy Veteran, serving as a First Officer with the Womens' Royal Naval Voluntary Reserve on HMS Flying Fox, a training sloop. She was proud of all things which spoke of service to her country, but never talked about the secret work which she had been involved in. She was reluctant to retire from naval involvement in 1966 when she reached the official age for stepping down. It was very fitting that at her funeral her coffin carried the Union flag and her medals.

Following the war, Lorna worked for the Aquarium at the Plymouth Citadel, where research was carried out on marine life, followed by an appointment to the post of Librarian of the Royal Veterinary College at Bristol University. Her great interest, outside work and the Navy, was in all things historical, with a particular interest in church monuments. She became a life member of the National Trust, enjoying visits and holidays organised by them. It was through the Trust that she met Jack Head, a distinguished member of BAS: they married in 1971 and moved to Prestwood, Great Missenden. Jack made a major contribution to Buckinghamshire archaeology, served as Chairman of BAS between 1957 and 1961, and was elected a Vice President in 1973.

In 1980 Lorna was elected to the post of Hon. Librarian of BAS and, when Elizabeth Elvey had to relinquish her post as Hon. Archivist due to ill health, Lorna combined the two roles and added that of Publications Officer. In 1983 she published her research on the Whitlock memorial

in Fawley Church in *Records* 26 (1984, 17–123).

In addition to providing a valuable service to members and researchers during her long service, Lorna's major contributions to the Society were the cataloguing of the archive material in the Muniment Room and the publication of a cumulative index for Volumes XI to XX (1919–1978) of *Records*, the latter setting the standard for subsequent indices. Major changes from 1986 to 1990 in the County Museum had an impact on these roles. During 1986, structural defects in the Museum were discovered, involving considerable work and resulting in parts of the building being shut during the next year and finally closed at the end of March 1989. Removal of the contents of the Museum to what was then Halton Middle School was completed in January 1990. Lorna organised the removal of the books from the Library to Halton, and the archives from the Muniment Room were deposited with the County Record Office for safe keeping. Lorna worked at Halton for the duration of the closure, continuing to provide a service to researchers from there. It was during this time that she worked on the cataloguing of the archives and the cumulative index. When the Museum finally reopened in 1996, Lorna supervised the return of the books to the Library and the archive material to the newly rebuilt Muniment Room. Always a firm believer that the appropriate place for original historical documents was the Record Office, Lorna took the opportunity, in conjunction with the Society's Council and the County Archivist, to place on indefinite loan the court rolls, early deeds, estate maps and other documents with the Record Office.

In order for her to concentrate on completing the cataloguing of the archives, Lorna handed over the post of Hon. Librarian to me in 1996. The following year Lorna was elected to the Chair of the Society, and at the same time became involved in the preparations for the Exhibition 'Bones, birds, books, buildings' celebrating 150 years of BAS. Unfortunately she suffered a stroke and was unable to continue with the Exhibition, retiring shortly after-

wards. Before she left she completed the archive cataloguing, and BAS was pleased to be able to publish the work as Buckinghamshire Paper No.1 in 2002. She also deposited her personal archive on Buckinghamshire church monuments with BAS.

Initially she retired to Tunbridge Wells, to be closer to her family, where she lived for 10 years enjoying being with them and sharing activities with her niece Ann Newing, to whom she was particularly close. She loved tracing family history, but always insisted that any information

found via the internet had to be checked out in more traditional ways! She had an extensive library of books in which she hunted for answers to her favourite *Telegraph* crosswords, and was much in demand from the younger generation in the family at Christmas because she would know all the answers to Trivial Pursuits! Her final move was to a care home in Kemsing where she died on her 95th birthday.

Diana Gulland

CONTENTS

Bronze Age Burials, Medieval Pits and a Post-Medieval Building at 90 High Street, Marlow <i>Simon Markus</i>	1
A late Iron Age and early Roman landscape at Middleton School, Milton Keynes <i>Bob Zeepvat & Martin Cuthbert</i>	17
The Life and Times of Burghild of Mercia: New Light on Anglo-Saxon Buckinghamshire <i>Keith Bailey</i>	43
A Cistercian Ware Workshop at Brill <i>Paul Blinkhorn & David Gilbert</i>	55
A Decorated Floor Tile from Biddlesden Abbey <i>Michael Farley</i>	71
Sir Hugh Conway and the Building of Hillesden Church <i>Nicholas Orme</i>	81
The Coaching Inns of Colnbrook <i>Julian Hunt</i>	99
The Clarkes and Tan Yard Wharf: a 19 th -Century Industrial Site in Fenny Stratford, and its Owners <i>Bob Zeepvat</i>	109
Reluctant Recruits: Appeals against Military Conscription in Marlow, 1916–1918 <i>Andrew Ford</i>	127
NOTES:	
The probable hillfort at Desborough and a hundredal meeting place revisited – <i>Michael Farley</i>	143
‘The Men Who Dwell in Open Country’: Buckinghamshire Names with OE <i>Fildena</i> – <i>Keith Bailey</i>	145
“New” Buckinghamshire Anglo-Saxon Charter Bounds 2: Aspley Guise – <i>Keith Bailey</i>	149
The Buckinghamshire Gardens Trust Research and Recording Project, 2014-15 – <i>Sarah Rutherford</i>	155
Lost and Found: Objects Recorded on the Portable Antiquities Scheme Database – <i>Ros Tyrrell</i>	167
Archaeological Notes – <i>edited by Nick Crank</i>	173
REVIEWS.....	187
OFFICER’S REPORTS:	
The Society.....	189
The Library.....	192
On-Line Activities.....	194
Buckinghamshire County Museum.....	195
Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies.....	199
County Archaeological Service.....	202
Milton Keynes Archaeology Service.....	204
OBITUARY.....	206