

THE SOCIETY IN 2019

The Hon. Secretary's Report

BAS Council Meetings were held on 5 January, 2 March, 1 June, and 12 October 2019. All meetings were held in the County Museum: minutes are available for review in the BAS library.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 11 May 2019.

Officers of the Society: Before officers could be elected, the AGM had to negotiate a change of Hon. President. The meeting thanked Richard Gem for his many years of service in this role and his guidance of the Society. BAS Council proposed Julian Hunt as the new Hon President and this was accepted by the AGM. Julian took the chair and other society's officers were then re-elected: Peter Marsden as Hon. Chairman, Doug Stuckey as Hon. Secretary, Harry Ball as Hon. Treasurer, Roger Bettridge as Hon. Archivist, Bronwen Lee as Hon. Membership Secretary and John Broad as Hon. Editor of *Records*. Sarah Gray was elected as Hon. Librarian.

Councillors: Five members of Council were eligible for re-election and were duly re-elected: Sarah Gray, John Dodd, Garry Marshall, David Hillier and Michael Ghirelli. The AGM elected Allan Burnett as a new member of Council.

At the Council meeting on 1 June the following co-opted positions were confirmed: County Council Archaeology Service (Eliza Alqassar), County Museum (Sue Shave), Milton Keynes Archaeology Service (Nick Crank), Liberty Trust (Susan Gill), County Planning matters (Nigel Wilson) and assistant Editor of *Records* (Bob Zeepvat). To underpin Council's archaeological experience, the following members were also co-opted to Council: Sandy Kidd, Yvonne Edwards and Charles Le Quesne.

Finance and Membership: Harry Ball, the Hon. Treasurer, reported the Society finances at the time of the AGM showed a minor overspend, with further planned spending on website development during 2019. The 2018 accounts were inspected by Mrs Dharamshi and published in the spring edition of the *BAS Newsletter*. Bronwen Lee, the Hon Membership Secretary, reported at the AGM that membership had grown in 2018 and held steady into the first part of 2019.

The Library and Archives: The Library and Archives Team of Roger Bettridge, Sarah Gray and Julian Hunt have ensured that the BAS Library has been open on 99% of Wednesdays throughout the year. A small number of readers have used the library for research and cataloguing activities during the year.

During 2019 the Society continued to financially support the digitation and cataloguing of the BAS Deeds collection, now in the Centre for Bucks Studies (CBS). BAS members also supported (and organised) the Bucks Local History Network conference on the topic of Social Housing in September 2019. Society displays were also arranged in Aylesbury Marketplace, Milton Keynes and CBS.

Lectures: Following the 2019 AGM, a representative from Bucks County Archaeology Service provided a round-up of investigations and discoveries from the past year. Julian Hunt and Sarah Gray organised a series of Saturday talks given at the County Museum that were well attended and appreciated by society members and the public.

Excursions: A full programme of excursions was organised by Sarah Gray through 2019. These included: Harmondsworth Great Barn & Marble Hill House, The Leasowes, Halesowen & Enville

Hall, Wiltshire Museum, Devizes and Avebury. Michael Hardy's popular Church Crawl focused on North-East Buckinghamshire. A programme is being prepared for 2020: early booking is necessary for anyone keen to get a place on any of these excursions.

Planning Matters: Buckinghamshire continues to be impacted by government-driven housing and infrastructure projects. These projects are tracked by BAS Council to meet our stated objective of preserving and recording the architectural heritage, historic landscape and archaeology of our county. Nigel Wilson, as the Council member for planning, has maintained a watching brief on planning matters and the re-organisation of local government. Eliza Alqassar of the County Archaeology Service provided BAS Council with updates, summarising investigations and excavations at development sites around the county.

In the coming years, the HS2 rail line and the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway projects will provide an unprecedented set of trial trenches and excavations that promise to yield a wealth of knowledge. Council continues, and will continue, to encourage the mitigation of the impacts of these projects and the full recording and preservation of all materials of interest that are excavated.

Active Archaeology Group: The group has been engaged around the county and sometimes further afield, more especially at Ivinghoe Aston, Little Tring and Verulamium. The group has also assisted Chess Valley Archaeology and Historical Society (CVAHS) with an excavation at Kennel Farm, Little Missenden. In addition, a programme of talks and practical sessions was held in the County Museum.

Publications: Bob Zeepvat oversaw the editing and printing of volume 59 of *Records*, which was posted out to members in the spring of 2019. A small publication, 'Pots, Potters and Potteries of Buckinghamshire' was published in November 2019, and is available for purchase via the society website. The *BAS Newsletter* appeared in spring and autumn, printed by Waddesdon Church of England School.

Society Website(s): The Society's new website, <https://bas1.org.uk/>, was activated during the year, providing access to news items, lecture schedules, excursions and conferences. The new site enables the online purchase of society publications and conference tickets. The previous website has been retained as an archive of the society's activity and can be accessed from the new site. Further online features are planned.

Doug Stuckey

The Library

ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE 2018

- BAYNTON-WILLIAMS, ASHLEY (intro.). *Moule's County Maps: the East and South-East of England* [includes Buckinghamshire, published 1837]. 1994.
- BUCKS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S INSTITUTES. *Buckinghamshire within Living Memory*. 1993.
- COOMBES, TREVOR, et al. *Land of the Atrabates: in and around Roman Berkshire*. Berkshire Archaeological Society, Volume 83, 2018.
- EAST, RAY, FLETCHER, KEITH, and HAWKES, PETER. *Pubs and Inns of Chesham and Villages*. Revised ed., 2016.
- EYRES, PATRICK (ed.). *The Political Temples of Stowe: papers on aspects of the political iconography of Stowe Landscape Garden, c.1730–c.1770*. *The New Arcadian Journal*, No. 43/44, 1997.
- HAWKES, PETER. *Chesham Stories Illustrated: a modern social history*. 2017.
- HAWKES, PETER, with COX, PHIL. *Chesham in Living Memory: 'the age of the motor car'*. 2016.
- MACNAIR, ANDREW, ROWE, ANNE, and WILLIAMSON, TOM. *Dury and Andrews' Map of Hertfordshire: society and landscape in the eighteenth century* [with digitised version of the map, 1766, on DVD]. 2016.
- MACNAIR, ANDREW, and WILLIAMSON, TOM. *William Faden and Norfolk's 18th-century landscape* [with digitised version of Faden's map of Norfolk, 1797, on DVD]. 2010.
- O'DAY, ROSEMARY. *An Elite Family in the Early Modern Period: the Temples of Stowe and Burton Dassett, 1570–1676*. 2018.
- POSTGATE, RAYMOND. *That Devil Wilkes*. Revised ed., 1956.
- RIPPON, STEPHEN. *Kingdom, Civitas, and County: the evolution of territorial identity in the English landscape*. 2018.
- RUTHERFORD, SARAH (ed.). *Humphry Repton in Buckinghamshire*. 2018.
- VEREY, CYRIL. *The Verey Family in Buckinghamshire, 1522–2011*. 2011.
- WALKER, ALAN PERCY. *A Country Town, Its People and Places, Friends and Relations: a Buckingham sketchbook with stories*. 1998.
- YOUNG, GEOFFREY (ed.). *Where to go for Wildlife in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire*. 1989.
- Printed primary sources**
- MALCOLMSON, PATRICIA and ROBERT (eds.). *A Vicar's Wife in Oxford, 1938–1943: the diary of Madge Martin*. Oxfordshire Record Society, Volume 72, 2018.
- YURDAN, MARILYN (ed.). *Records of Holton Park Girls Grammar School, 1948–1972*. Oxfordshire Record Society, Volume 71, 2017.
- Bucks Archaeological Society publications**
- HANCOCK, A.J., and ZEEPVAT, R.J. *Wulfhere's People: a conversion-period Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wolverton, Milton Keynes*. Monograph No. 11, 2018.
- VAN DAM, THEA (ed.). *My Dearest Ben...: an intimate glimpse into the world of Benjamin Disraeli, his family and the women in his life – through their letters*. 2nd ed., 2018.
- Bucks Archaeological Society archaeological reports**
- FARLEY, MICHAEL, and HURMAN, BARBARA. *Fieldwalking near Stoke Mandeville old village site*. 2018.
- FARLEY, MICHAEL, and HURMAN, BARBARA. *Quarrendon: fieldwalk and finds analysis*. 2017.
- DVD**
- GREEN, PAUL, and RIXON, DAVID. *Risborough – Origins of Our Settlement: uncovering the town's amazing Neolithic past until Roman times*. 2017.
- Archives**
- ANDREWS, JOHN. *Printed map (photocopy), covering parts of Buckinghamshire (north of Aylesbury) and Oxfordshire* [apparently a single

sheet of a larger map]. 1774.

MEAD, WILLIAM RICHARD (1915–2014).
Appointment diaries, 1939/40–1968/69 (with
gaps).

PRINCES RISBOROUGH. Inclosure Act, 1820.

Unpublished Dissertation

MOSS, LOUISE. Patron, Artist, and Commission: political, social and cultural perspectives on an eighteenth-century garden and its painted views – a study of Balthasar Nebot's Views of Hartwell House, Buckinghamshire. Disserta-

tion for BA (Hons), History of Art, University of Manchester, 2018.

Additional Items

We have also added 11 other accessions, including guides to and histories of churches and other buildings, obituaries, and heritage information. In addition, the usual journals, magazines and local society newsletters were received.

*Roger Bettridge, Hon. Archivist
Julian Hunt, Hon. Librarian*

BAS WEBSITE AND PUBLISHING REPORT

In 2019 the society gained a second website, www.bas1.org.uk

The new website was the work of BAS Council members Doug Stuckey and John Dodd. It has been designed to be brighter and more visual than the 'old' website, and to focus more on the society's news and activities.

One really important innovation on the new site was the ability to take on-line payments. This was tested on the Bucks Local History Network Conference in October 2019, when 17 per cent of tickets were purchased on-line through the new website. This will be extended to all the society's publications and summer outings in 2020.

The new website is also more up-to-date, because news of what is happening in our county's history and archaeology circles can be added more easily. Taking advantage of new web technologies, news that reaches BAS Library can be on the new website's 'home page' within minutes. This includes not just news of BAS activities but information about events being run by other Bucks local history, archaeology and heritage societies and organisations.

Some pages from the 'old' website have been redesigned in the new more visual style: the Membership and Bucks Local History Network pages, for example.

The 'old' website will not disappear. It holds more than 400 articles from earlier volumes of *Records of Bucks*, some from the 1800s, some more recent, along with dozens of more recent reports on historic buildings, the archaeological impact of the HS2 high-speed rail line, and other recent society

projects. This will become the society's 'archive website', with the addition of more articles and reports on the county's archaeology and history each year.

In 2019 the excavation report from *Magiovinium*, the Roman settlement on Watling Street which is today on the southern border of Milton Keynes, was added to the old website. This hugely detailed and copiously illustrated report was first published in *Records of Bucks* volume 29 in 1987.

The old and new websites will gradually be integrated into a new whole. The society has had an 'internet publishing platform' for more than ten years now.

In print, 2019 saw the publication of 'Pots, Potters and Potteries of Buckinghamshire 1200–1910', by Michael Farley and Barbara Hurman. This is a gazetteer, classified by parish, which lists all the county's currently known potters and pottery production sites across eight centuries, drawing information from archaeological excavation reports, surface finds of 'waster' material showing evidence of local production, and multiple documentary sources.

The book brings together the many years of archaeological experience of two leading BAS members, years spent out in the fields, digging and recording kiln sites, collecting potsherds disturbed by the plough, matching written records to identify local potters and potteries. Much of this was first published in *Records of Bucks* volume 55, now published with extra illustrations and information revealed by later research.

Peter Marsden