

LONG CRENDON COURT HOUSE.

A COMMUNICATION has been received from Mr. Hugh Blakiston, the Secretary of "The National Trust for Places of Historic Interest" that there is a possibility of the acquisition of Long Crendon Court House by the National Trust, and that the Lords of the Manor have consented to transfer the building to the Trust if the Trust is prepared to raise the funds for its repair. It is understood that if the building is not taken over by the Trust it will be demolished by the District Council. The repairs required will cost about £200, and the Trust has no funds in hand which it can apply to the purpose. They must therefore be raised by subscription. Mr. Blakiston, in a letter to Mr. J. L. Myres, remarks that "apart from its value as a specimen of Fourteenth Century architecture, the Court House has always been a centre of the village life, and it would be a great misfortune were it lost for want of timely interest and aid."

The Society visited Long Crendon in 1889, and Mr. J. L. Myres on the occasion read some notes on this Court House, referring to Crendon being assigned to Catherine the wife of Henry V.; her great steward Walter Beauchamp held several Courts here from the first to the eighteenth year of the reign of Henry VI. The estate was subsequently granted for the foundation of All Souls College in Oxford, and the Warden and Scholars held their Court here in 1449 and 1459. It should be noted that after the death of the last of the Giffards, the Manor of Crendon was partitioned between the Earl of Pembroke and the Earl of Clare, and subsequently became again subdivided. It was the Hastings portion which is said to have been given to the foundation of the collegiate church of Windsor by King Edward IV., and the Dean and Canons held their Courts at Crendon in 1482-1488, and in the sixth, tenth, and thirteenth years of Henry VII.'s reign.

The Court Rolls of the Manor of Crendon date back to the reign of Edward III.

Although the Manor was thus divided the probabilities are that the Court House was the recognised place for holding the Manorial Courts from very early times. The historic interest of this building is therefore undoubted, and the attention of the members of our Society is called to Mr. Blakiston's appeal for funds for its preservation. It is hoped that the appeal will commend itself, particularly to those who are connected with the locality, and that our Society, through many of its members, may be able to materially assist in so commendable a work as that initiated by The National Trust.—ED.