

for carts and men on horseback to cross, which was a charitable act most praiseworthy. However, in the time of his grandson, Peter de Burghfield, one Theobald le Carpenter, whom the King had lately commanded to repair the bridge, procured before the King that the said Peter should be compelled to contribute to the repairs thereof. A jury was appointed to investigate the matter, and the results of these investigations are not recorded ; but it is an interesting instance of the universal truth that a kindness conferred is regarded as a right.

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## Proceedings of Archæological Societies.

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BERKS ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY.—On July 30th, the Society visited St. Albans, and in spite of unfavourable weather, had a very successful excursion. The ancient Abbey Church was visited and ably described by the President, and after luncheon at the "Pea Hen" the party made a pilgrimage to the interesting churches, and were afterwards hospitably entertained to tea by the President.

On September 19th an excursion was made to Hungerford and Littlecote House (by kind permission of A. Hirsch, Esq.), together with Avington, Wickham, and Welford. About 50 were present, including several members of the Newbury Field Club. Littlecote was ably described by Walter Money, Esq., F.S.A. After luncheon, a public meeting was held at the Corn Exchange, when a lecture was given by the Rev. P. H. Ditchfield on the history of the town. The constable, W. G. Alexander, Esq., presided, and there was a large gathering of residents in addition to the members of the party. The party then drove to Avington, Wickham and Welford, the churches of which were described by the President, and Mrs. Batson gave an excellent account of the histories of the manors of Welford and Wickham. Mr. and Mrs. Batson most kindly entertained the Society to tea and after a brief inspection of the grounds of Welford Park, the travellers returned home, having enjoyed a very pleasant and interesting excursion.

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB.—This Society, last month, visited this county, and the party was hospitably entertained by the President of the Berks Society at Aldermaston, who described the history of the manor and the interesting village church, which he has so beautifully restored.

THE NEWBURY FIELD CLUB during the summer months visited Stoke Poges Church, and Manor House, Burnham Beeches, Dropmore Gardens, and East Burnham Park, Mr. H. Veitch kindly acting as guide at the Beeches and afterwards entertaining the party.

The Geologists' Association of London recently paid a visit to Reading, under the direction of Mr. O. A. Shrubsole, F.G.S., and Mr. W. Whitaker, F.R.S. On arriving at Reading the members proceeded to the large gravel pit in Kensington-road, where Mr. Shrubsole gave a short account of the gravel and of the conditions under which it was deposited. He said that it formed part of a terrace along the side of the Thames valley at a height of about 22 feet above the present river, and was therefore deposited when the valley was not as deep as now. He had not observed any evidence of the presence of man of that period, such as implements or flakes of flint, and the only animal remains found here were those of the hippopotamus. From this he concluded that the climate was very wet and possibly much colder than at present. Flint implements were abundant in older gravels, and also again in more recent deposits but just here they were absent. Mr. Treacher produced for inspection a tusk of hippopotamus which he had obtained from the gravel, and said that he had also found a palæolithic implement there, but as it was of the same type as those found in Mr. Jesse's pit just above it was probably derived from an older deposit. A move was then made to Mr. Jesse's pit, where Mr. Shrubsole produced a number of rude flakes which are characteristic of this locality. A few were also found lying on the gravel heaps in the pit. Mr. Shrubsole said that at times a considerable number of mammalian bones were found here, such as those of horse, ox, deer, and mammoth, specimens of which, as well of the flint implements, might be seen in Reading Museum. The party then proceeded to the Norcot brickfield, where Mr. Whitaker briefly described the section. The greater part of the sand and clay exposed belonged to the Reading beds with the Basement bed of the London clay and a few feet of the London clay above. Search was made for the fossils which are frequently found in the Basement bed, but only a few obscure casts were observed. After inspecting the gravel pit just above where the numerous fragments of igneous rocks were noted, the party returned to Reading and walked to Waterloo brickfield to inspect the well known leaf-beds in the Reading clay. These were found to be in good condition, and many fine specimens were secured.