

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Report of the Council for 1966

1. THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Society was held in the Zoology Lecture Theatre at Reading University on Saturday 23rd April, 1966, Dr Slade occupying the Chair. The Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 1965 having been circulated, were adopted. The Hon. Secretary reported the retirement of Mrs M. A. Cotton after 5 years as President and confirmed the nomination by the Council of Dr Slade for the ensuing period. This proposal, being put to the Meeting, was carried by acclamation. The vice-Presidents with the addition of Mrs M. A. Cotton and the other Officers were re-elected. Miss Swadling continued as Congress Secretary for the year and Mrs Slade was elected Excursion Secretary. Tribute was paid by Miss Swadling to Miss M. Wood for her exertions with the Journal. Mr M. Le Sueur, a retiring member of the Council was re-elected with the additional names of Mrs Slade and Mr J. H. Percival to fill vacancies.

The Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held 1st May, 1965, having been circulated, were adopted and signed by the President. A number of new members were declared elected and the President, Dr C. F. Slade then gave an illustrated address on *Recent Excavations at Reading Abbey*. (see Section 12).

2. MEMBERSHIP

Hon.	Corporate	Ordinary	Deaths	Total
9	12	471	8	484

It is with regret we have to record the deaths of the following:

Mr R. H. Bunting (1956); Mr S. L. Day (1951); Mr Sidney R. Jones (1948); Miss G. M. Lippert (1950); Mrs Dorothy Loyd (1925); Dr J. E. MacFarlane (1951); Mrs Newman (1929); Professor Walter Stiles, F.R.S. (1954).

A note on some of these late members appears in Section 15.

3. THE SOCIETY. There has been some diminution of our membership due to various causes, not the least being the current financial climate, but attendances and enthusiasm at meetings and excursions continue at a high level. Much activity has been seen in the field and in excavations. The joint meeting with the Windsor and Eton Society arranged at the suggestion of the Queen's Librarian, Mr. R. Mackworth-Young created new problems; so many attended that Windsor Guildhall Chamber was filled, the doors had to be closed and many were turned away. Miss Swadling again organised a most successful Congress at Buxton in Derbyshire and this was greatly appreciated by the many members attending (see Section 17). Mrs Slade very happily took over

the arrangement of local Excursions and the programme provided was justly popular.

4. FIELDWORK AND EXCAVATIONS. Mr Copsey made further observations on the Lynch Hill Terrace at Twyford, finding Paleolithic flint flakes. Mr Wymer was in England for a short period during the summer and combined with Mr Copsey in investigating an early site at Down Place, Bray. Mrs Pike investigated ditches in gravel pits at Wick Hill, Abingdon, finding Iron Age and Roman pottery. Mr Davey found sherds of Belgic type from Highdown Hill Road, Emmer Green and Reading Museum promoted the excavation of the Roman villa site at Sutton Courtenay. Mr Nicholas Brooks of St. Andrews University continued his investigations at Wallingford Castle and gave the Society a very full account in a recent lecture. Dr Slade investigated a floor revealed by the collapse of the Refectory Wall of Reading Abbey and, with the collaboration of the Maidenhead Society, commenced excavations on the important moated site at Spencer's Farm, Maidenhead. The Wantage Field Club carried out further work at the deserted village site at Tullwick near Wantage. Observation on street excavations at New Windsor revealed, amongst other finds, a hitherto unknown public well at the corner of St. Albans Street. Information on much of this work has been issued to members of the Field Research Group, and will be published in greater detail in our Journal.

5. PRESERVATION OF BUILDINGS AND MONUMENTS. This again has been a most difficult and very active year, the Council has had before it reports on very many demolitions and alterations and in some instances Preservation Orders. Representation of the Society has been made to Public Inquiries and we can report a certain amount of success also, some serious losses, one of the most noteworthy being the demolition, after many years of correspondence on our part, of the well-known Halfway Tollhouse on the Bath Road at Welford. The route of the M4 motorway across the remainder of the County is now before us and a certain amount of field survey has been carried out along its proposed path. The Society has cause to be grateful to the many members also friends outside the Society who have helped with reports and advice on the many cases which have been brought to our notice.

6. FINANCE. The income from subscriptions remains steady but very welcome donations from certain members coupled with profits from the Congress and excursions have brought in useful

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1966

sums to meet the ever-increasing outlay. As publication of the Journal has been postponed until 1967 a substantial provision has been set aside to meet its cost and has been invested to take full advantage of high interest rates. This investment income added nearly £60 to our resources and was considerably aided by those members who paid their dues promptly at the beginning of the year. Our thanks are again due to Mr Gafford our honorary treasurer who, for so many years has managed our finances with such efficiency.

7. OTHER SOCIETIES. The Congress of the Prehistoric Society was held from 25th–27th March, with headquarters at Wessex Hall, Reading University, and Dr Slade acted as local secretary. Members of our Society had the opportunity of joining two whole-day excursions which were led by Dr Slade and Mr P. Crampton with additional information provided by Mr Paul Ashbee. On Saturday evening 26th March, the Director of Reading Museum, Mr T. L. Gwatkin, arranged a reception in the Museum for the Congress and a special display of the County's antiquities from many other collections as well as the museums, were on display.

The Vernacular Architecture Group held their Congress at Culham College, Dr J. M. Fletcher acting as local secretary and excursion director. After the inaugural dinner on 18th April, Dr Fletcher gave an illustrated lecture on the houses of Steventon, and the following three days were given over to studying these and many other local buildings.

8. SOCIETY REPRESENTATIVES. We have continued to be represented at meetings of the 9th Regional Group C.B.A. at Oxford (Mr Gwatkin and Mr Connah) and their Buildings and Industrial Archaeology section (Mr W. J. Smith and Mr K. Major). Miss Swadling represented us at the annual British Records Congress, Mr Gafford is now chairman of the Watlington House Committee and Dr Fletcher is Chairman of the Berkshire Branch of the C.P.R.E.

9. ARCHITECTURAL RECORDS. The Report of the National Monuments Record for 1964–65 has been received, this now includes the National Buildings Record and gives some details of the progress of this scheme. To add to this, it may be put on record that our Vice-President, Mr C. B. Willcocks, on the 22nd August, 1940 made proposals to Lord Esher which led to the formation of the National Buildings Record. There were delays until 18th November, when a conference was held at the R.I.B.A. which resulted in the scheme being adopted on a National basis on 31st January, 1941.

Mr Willcocks was most anxious to get the Record started in Berkshire and in view of the urgency of the times, the Berkshire Architectural Records

Committee was formed on 10th December, 1940. Immediate help was given by local photographers and others interested, and at different times over sixty helpers were assisting with the work in Berkshire. During the first year the Committee obtained over 3,900 acquisitions, exclusive of duplicate photographs, etc. No National depositories were then available and other arrangements had to be made temporarily for their safekeeping. Ecclesiastical photos were sent to the Central Council for the Care of Churches and secular ones to the Courtauld Institute. One copy of each photograph was deposited in the Berkshire Record Office and from the end of the war all duplicate photos have gone to the National Buildings Record and negatives deposited in Reading Museum for inclusion in its local collections.

10. LECTURES

22 January at Reading

Mr N. M. Herbert, B.A. on *The Borough of Wallingford in the 13th and 14th Centuries.*

19 February at Reading

Mr J. E. Lousley on *Job Lousley (1790–1855) of Blewbury and Hampstead Norris* (Combined with the annual meeting of the Local History Committee).

1 March at the Guildhall, Windsor

By invitation of the Windsor and Eton Society, Mr M. F. Bond, O.B.E., M.A., F.S.A. and Mr P. Curnow on *Recent Discoveries in the Lower Ward at Windsor Castle.*

19 March at Reading

Mr Colin Burgess on *Some Unrecorded Bronze Age Imports to Berkshire.*

Mr Herbert Copsey on *East Berkshire Milestones.*
Miss Esmé Few on *An Introduction to Berkshire Dovecotes.*

23 April at Reading

Annual General Meeting of the Society, Presidential Address by Dr C. F. Slade on *Recent Excavations at Reading Abbey.*

15 October at Reading

Miss Carola Brown of Edinburgh University on *The Animal Art of the Bayeux Tapestry.*

12 November at Reading

Dr Graham Webster, M.A., F.S.A. on *The Roman Army.*

3 December at Reading

Dr Margaret Kaines-Thomas, M.A., F.S.A. on *Norman Domestic Architecture.*

11. EXCURSIONS

26–27 March

Members were invited to join the Congress of the Prehistoric Society visiting the Grims Ditches at Aldworth and Streatley Down, Blewburton Hill Camp, Wittenham Clumps,

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

the Mongewell Dyke, etc., and on the following day, earthworks and other antiquities in the Lambourn Downs region.

18 May

Visit to London including a tour of lesser known parts and the 900th Anniversary Exhibition in Westminster Abbey, arranged by Mrs Slade.

20 July

To Hastings, Battle and Pevensey, arranged by Mrs Slade.

5-9 September

Annual Congress at Buxton, Derbyshire under the direction of Miss M. M. Swadling.

15 September

Dorney Church and Huntercombe Manor, Bucks, arranged by Mrs Slade.

12. HOSPITALITY. Our thanks are again given to the Vice-Chancellor and Council of Reading University for accommodation at meetings, to the Director of Reading Museum for accommodation at Council meetings, to Mr R. Mackworth-Young for arranging our participation in the meeting at Windsor, to Mr. Gafford for accommodation at sub-Committee meetings, and to the many who assisted at these meetings and excursions.

13. HONOURS AND APPOINTMENTS. Dr J. M. Fletcher was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London on 3rd March.

Mr John Wymer came to England for a short leave during the summer months and then returned to South Africa to excavate a series of shore caves of the early Palaeolithic period for Professor Ronald Singer of Chicago University.

14. OBITUARIES.

Robert Hugh Bunting, F.L.S. was born 26th November, 1879 at Swaffham, Norfolk. He studied botany at Birkbeck College and took a position in the department of Botany at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington. In 1909 he was sent to collect small mammals inhabiting islands round the coasts of Great Britain which resulted in his finding a new species of *Microtus sarinus* and one new variety of *Sorex fretalis*. In 1910 he was engaged by the Liberian Rubber Corporation to explore the West African primeval forest for *Funturica elastica*, and by 1912 he was supervising a rubber plantation at Mount Barclay. In 1913 he became Assistant Director of Agriculture at Sierra Leone and the following year he became Government Mycologist on the Gold Coast. Returning to England in 1929, he was Mycologist for Stored Products Laboratory at Slough, and retiring to live at Weymouth became, in 1938, Hon. Editor for the *Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society's Proceedings*. From 1941-

1945 he was Hon. Curator of the Dorset County Museum and coming to live at Windsor in 1956 he immediately joined our Society and did continuous service to the Windsor Guildhall Exhibition where his skill as a draughtsman and in display was most valued. He loved travelling and the sea and his lively interest in local history and antiquities will long be remembered by those of us who were privileged to have known him.

Stanley L. Day served on our Council from 1956-1964 and was associated with the late Col. Rivers-Moore in excavating the Harpsden Roman Villa adjacent to his home north of Henley-on-Thames in 1951. The Report on this investigation is published in Vol. XVI of *Oxoniensia* and the finds were stored in a room fitted out for the purpose in Mr Day's house. A native of Harwell, Mr Day wrote a short account of that village in his childhood days which we received shortly before his passing. This will in due course be included in the Local History Records.

Sidney R. Jones achieved National fame for his illustrations and books on English architecture. These, over 20 of them besides collections of etchings, have long been collectors' pieces. He illustrated for P. H. Ditchfield and Miss Jekyll but wrote most of his 'Studio' productions himself, his last three, *England South, West and East* appearing in 1943, *Old English Cathedrals* being in preparation at the time of his death, 7th September, at the age of 85. His cottage at Sotwell was a place of pilgrimage; writing in May 1965 he said that he acquired it many years ago as a breather from his home in Chelsea, the village and countryside was then most attractive. The house was a storeroom for a big collection of drawings, books and family possessions. The writer of *The Times* obituary (21st September, 1966) said truly 'that . . . it is already impossible for anyone else to produce such a wealth of beauty and interest in so graceful and delicate a fashion'.

Mrs Dorothy Loyd, the widow of our former President, the late A. T. Loyd, M.P. for the Abingdon Division and Lord Lieutenant of Berkshire, always had the interests of the Society at heart and was instrumental in introducing many members to our ranks. We remember Mrs Loyd accompanying her late husband at our Annual Meetings and as a gracious hostess to the Society on occasions when we were entertained at Lockinge House.

Professor Walter Stiles, F.R.S., a member of our Council from 1961, was Emeritus Professor of Botany and Life Governor of the University of Birmingham. A Londoner by birth, he had roots in Reading where he had been Professor of Botany in 1919, moving to Birmingham in 1929. We owe much in the Society to his wise counsels and remember him ever ready to assist in any way, occupying the chair with great distinction when called upon, often at a moment's notice. He was the author of many books

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR 1966

on his subject, having a facility in writing which few scientists could equal. A keen gardener, in his later years he turned to photography as a hobby and the records he made on some of our excursions were of great beauty. See *The Times*, 22nd April, 1966.

15. ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY

Books and pamphlets by gift

1. *Report for 1965*, House of Lords Record Office Memorandum No. 34 (1966).
2. Further materials from an unpublished Manuscript of the Lords Journals for Sessions 1559 etc. (House of Lords Memorandum No. 33, 1965).
3. *History of St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle* by Maurice F. Bond, illustrated by original lithographs by Rena Gardiner, Workshop Press, Blandford Forum, Dorset, 1966. All presented by M. F. Bond, Esq.
4. *The Victorian Society*, Annual Report for 1965.
5. *History of Buckland (Berks)* by A. S. N. Wright. Holywell Press, Oxford, 1966. (per A. S. N. Wright, Esq.).
6. *Stanford-in-the-Vale, Parish Record, Part III*. Written and presented by Mrs Violet M. Howse.
7. *Letcombe Bassett, Then and Now*, 2nd ed., written and presented by F. T. Barrett, Esq.
8. *Ancient Church Bells at Cocking, Heyshott, etc.* Written and presented by F. T. Barrett, Esq.
9. *The Preparation of Archaeological Reports*, by Leslie Grinsell, P. Rahtz and Alan Warhurst. (John Baker, Pall Mall, London, S.W.1., 1966). By the Publishers.
21. Report of the Society of the Friends of St. George's and the Descendants of the Knights of the Garter, 1965, Vol. IV, No. 6. (Contains an illustrated report on the recent discoveries in the Lower Ward, Windsor Castle, by P. E. Curnow).
22. *The Deserted Villages of Northamptonshire*, by K. J. Allison, M. W. Beresford, J. G. Hurst and others. Department of English Local History, Occasional Papers, No. 18. Leicester University Press, 1966.
23. *A Cambridgeshire Community*, Chippenham from settlement to enclosure by Margaret Spufford, ditto Occasional Papers, No. 20. Leicester University Press, 1965.

THE BUXTON CONGRESS

5th-9th September, 1966

Thirty-five members and friends set out on 5th September. On the outward journey we stopped at Lichfield, where we spent a pleasant hour in the Cathedral. Our home was again the Derbyshire Conference House which offers very excellent accommodation, with a fine lecture hall.

Tuesday morning was devoted to a tour of Buxton, visiting first the Museum, where the Borough Librarian and Curator, Mr I. E. Burton, gave a most interesting talk on the collections and on the general archaeology of the Peak District. After visiting the various points of interest, not forgetting to drink the waters at St. Anne's Well, we returned for lunch before setting out for a scenic drive through the Snake Pass, by way of Glossop. By Lady Bower reservoirs we passed over wild moors and through typical Derbyshire villages bound for Castletown, where some climbed to Peveril Castle, while others investigated the Peak Cavern.

The following day we visited Arbor Low, the chief archaeological feature of Derbyshire, again under the expert guidance of Mr Burton. This very complete stone circle of late Neolithic age is more than 1,200 ft above the sea, and commands a wonderful view over the hills between the Dove and the Wye. A brief visit to Youlgreave Church followed on our way to Haddon Hall, most beautiful of Derbyshire medieval houses. After lunch here we left for Edensor, the pretty 'model' village in Chatsworth Park, with monuments of the Cavendish family in the church and churchyard. A visit to Eyam, the village which suffered so greatly during the Great Plague, and our sight-seeing was over for the day.

On Thursday we were fortunate in having as our guide Dr J. W. Jackson, the president of the Buxton Archaeological Society, who gave us most interesting details of the geology and archaeology of the countryside on our way to Ashbourne, an ancient town with

By exchange

10. *Records of Buckinghamshire*, Vol. XVII, Part 5, 1965.
11. *Proceedings of the Cambridge Antiquarian Society*, Vol. LIX, 1966.
12. *Proceedings of the Cotteswold Naturalists' Field Club*, Part III, Vol. XXXIV, (1964).
13. Ditto. Part IV, 1965.
14. *Transactions of the Essex Archaeological Society*, Vol. II. (Third Series), Part 1, 1966.
15. *The Hampshire Bird Report*, Vol. XXIII, Part III, 1965.
16. *Somersetshire Archaeological and Natural History Society*, Proceedings during 1964-65. Vol. 109, 1965.
17. *Oxoniensia*, Volume XXVIII. 1963.

By purchase

18. *Council for British Archaeology, Current and forthcoming offprints*, No. 36, April 1966, No. 37, October, 1966.
19. *C.B.A. Report No. 16* for year ended 30th June, 1966.
20. *Etoniana*, No. 118, 4th June, 1966.

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

a magnificent 13th Century church; the central tower supports the octagonal spire known as the 'Pride of the Peak'. We then made for Dovedale, and walked through this most lovely valley of the Dove as far as Tissington spires on this perfect September morning. Retracing our steps we next visited Ilam Church with its carved Norman font and the tomb of St. Bertram, that notable Anglo-Saxon Hermit.

And now to Hartington where we lunched at the Charles Cotton Hotel, far famed among anglers, before setting off for Hardwick Hall, the greatly loved home of Bess of Hardwick, built by Bess herself, and filled with her own furniture, pictures and needlework.

Returning via Chesterfield, with a glimpse of South Wingfield Manor with its memories of Mary Queen of Scots who was imprisoned there, we had seen much of Derbyshire in this cross-country run.

On Friday morning our homeward journey began, and we took a spectacular route through the Goyt valley on our way to Congleton.

We soon reached Little Moreton Hall, most

delightful of 16th Century half-timbered moated manors, with its remarkable carved gables. And now a great contrast was offered by our journey through the Potteries, and it was a relief to reach the interesting old town of Uttoxeter, where we lunched.

Passing through Abbot's Bromley, Lichfield and Kenilworth we came to Warwick and visited the picturesque Lord Leycester Hospital, where tea was served in the Great Hall.

This was our last port of call before setting out for home. In this brief account of some of our activities we must acknowledge with grateful thanks the assistance given by Mr L. Masters, Chairman of the Buxton Archaeological Society who arranged talks on Derbyshire themes for us each evening, and provided guides for us on our daytime expeditions. Miss E. Carleton Williams gave us a vivid sketch of the career of Bess of Hardwick, and Mr and Mrs Kaines-Thomas were as ever most helpful. Last, but not least, our thanks are due to the Warden, Mr D. L. Jones, for the excellent arrangements he made for our comfort, and for so kindly showing our films and slides.

BERKSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Account for the year ended 31st December, 1966

		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
1965					1965					
36	Printing and Stationery—General	30	6	3	553	Subscriptions	..	..	..	550 11 0
30	Postages and Telephone ..	30	11	7	12	Donations ..	..	..	..	25 7 0
2	Purchase of Publications ..	17	2	8		<i>Dividends and Interest Received:</i>				
	<i>Subscriptions Paid:</i>					4½% Defence Bonds (Gross) ..	4	10	0	
	S.P.A.B. ..	1	1	0	14	4½% British Electricity Guarantees	9	0	0	
	Friends of St. Georges, Windsor					..				
	English Place-Name Society ..	2	2	0	8	Bank Interest (Gross)	..	..	..	13 10 0
	Friends of Reading University ..	5	5	0		Profit on Excursions transferred	..	..	..	45 1 11
	British Records Association ..	1	10	0	8	from Excursion Account	..	..	..	105 8 6
	Berkshire Local History Committee ..	2	2	0	10	Sale of Publications (other than Journals)	..	..	..	2 5 0
	Friends of Abingdon ..	2	2	0						
	C.B.A.—9th Regional Group ..	12	6							
18	C.B.A. ..	5	0	0	605					742 3 5
		20	4	6						
13	Lecturers' Expenses ..	22	9	0	190	Balance brought down	..	..	..	564 13 6
4	Working Projector ..	6	0	0						
25	Rent of Room—Watlington House	25	0	0						
3	Insurance ..	3	3	5						
4	Gratuities ..	4	0	0						
3	Auditor's Fees ..	3	3	0						
—	Cheque Book ..	10	0							
—	Grant to Berkshire Archaeological Records ..	12	12	0						
2	Depreciation—Typewriter ..	2	7	6						
275	Journal—Cost of Printing ..	—	—	—						
190	Balance Carried Down ..	564	13	6						
605		742	3	5						
5	<i>Reserves, Approved by the Council:</i>									
	Berks. Historic Buildings Fund	5	0	0						
	Excavation Fund ..	5	0	0						
	Printing Costs, Vol. 62 ..	550	0	0						
185	Balance being Excess of Income over Expenditure and Reserves	4	13	6						
£190		£564	13	6	£190					£564 13 6

[illegible][illegible]

We have examined the above Balance Sheet which is in agreement with the books and vouchers produced to us.

C. J. HAYWARD & Co.
Chartered Accountants