

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Patron

HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN

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Hon. Editor: M. B. McDERMOTT, M.A.
Secretary and Librarian: H. L. M. PATTEN

COUNCIL OF THE SOCIETY 1974

Ex officio Members: The President, Vice-Presidents and the Officers

Elected Members (to retire at the Annual Meeting indicated)

1975 S. C. MORLAND, M.A., F.S.A., P. POYNTZ WRIGHT, C. F. CLEMENTS, B.A., T. J. HUNT, F.S.A.

1976 Dr. C. A. RALEGH RADFORD, F.S.A., F.B.A., F.R.HIST.S., L. V. GRINSELL, F.S.A., J. W. GARDNER, F.S.A., D. DENTON-COX, F.R.T.P.I., F.R.I.C.S., D.P.A., R. D. GOODALL, DIPL. ARCH., R.I.B.A., F.R.S.A.

1977 N. COOK, F.S.A., R. W. DUNNING, PH.D., F.S.A., H. M. LEIGHTON, F.S.A., R. G. GILSON, M.C.C. ED., R. LEECH, M.A.

Nomination of Members for election to the Council at the Annual General Meeting may be made by Honorary, Life and Ordinary Members or by the Council, and must be in the Secretary's hands at least one month before the date of that meeting. Retiring Members are eligible for re-election (Rule 6(b)).

Members representing Branch Societies, Sections and Other Bodies:

Miss K. WHEELER (West Somerset Branch), D. C. WHIMSTER, M.A., J.P. (Weston-super-Mare Branch), Dr. D. A. CADWALLADR, B.SC., PH.D., J. G. KEYLOCK, and J. L. FLEETWOOD, F.Z.S. (Natural History Section), E. L. KELTING and W. T. HARRIS (Ornithological Section), G. MAWSON (Museum Governing Body), I. P. COLLIS, F.S.A. (County Archivist), P. A. STEVENS, M.A., F.M.A. (County Museums Officer)

TRUSTEES AND REPRESENTATIVES NOMINATED BY THE SOCIETY

Representative Trustee on the Axbridge Town Trust: Mrs. F. A. NEALE

Representative on the Ilchester Town Trust: L. C. HAYWARD, F.S.A.

Society's Representatives, Leigh Woods Committee of Management: Miss E. RALPH, F.S.A. and P.V. McGRATH

Representative Trustees on the Wyndham Lecture Trusts:

Taunton Secondary: I. P. COLLIS and R. W. DUNNING

Taunton Elementary: T. J. HUNT

Yeovil, Secondary and Elementary: L. C. HAYWARD

Bridgwater: E. L. KELTING

Wells: R. D. REID, D.PHIL.

Ilminster: T. J. HUNT

Weston-super-Mare: D. C. WHIMSTER

Representative on Steephelm Trust: E. G. NEAL, M.SC., PH.D.

PROCEEDINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1974

The meeting was held in the Wyndham Gallery, Taunton Castle, on Saturday, 11th May, 1974, at 2-15 p.m.

Mr. S. C. Morland, in introducing the new President, referred to Mr. W. J. Wedlake's long experience in archaeology. In his reply the President expressed his great pleasure at the honour being done to him and recounted his early introduction to archaeology and what had followed. Mr. Wedlake then took the chair.

Election of Officers and Members of Council

Mr. E. L. Kelting was elected as Honorary Secretary and Mr. G. Thomson for similar office in place of Sir Robert Hall, who had emigrated to New Zealand.

Mr. Evens had expressed the wish to resign as Honorary Treasurer after the meeting; a replacement was under consideration, but no names could be put forward for election at the meeting.

Mr. M. B. McDermott was elected as Honorary Editor.

The following were elected to serve on the Council until 1977: R. W. Dunning, Ph.D., N. Cook, F.S.A., R. Leech, M.A., H. M. Leighton, F.S.A., R. G. Gilson, M.C.C.Ed. Mr. Hayward had resigned and was thanked for his long and valuable service. Professor Ford was now a Vice-President and as such an ex-officio member of Council.

Amendment to Rules

It was proposed by Mr. Denton-Cox and seconded by Mr. Scott-Stokes that the Resolution amending the Rules, which had been circulated with the Agenda for the meeting, be adopted. This was carried almost without dissent. The effect of the Resolution is that although existing members of the Natural History and Ornithological Sections are not affected, it is no longer possible to join either Section without being a member of the Society as a whole.

Summary of the Secretary's Report

It had been hoped that the Proceedings would have been circulated before the meeting, but unfortunately there had been delays in printing and the copies had only arrived the day before; the saving in time which had been hoped for by using a different process had not in fact come about. Having to wait until the last possible moment in the hope of sending the Proceedings with the Agenda in the hope of saving postage had meant that the letter had not gone out as early as usual.

The proposed enlarged and printed Newsletter was being costed. Whether or not this would be a viable publication depended to some extent on what support it would receive from the affiliated societies, who might be asked to contribute to its cost. The prospects of their doing so were not very good, judging from the fact that of the nineteen societies written to about the joint meeting at Minchhead, nine had not even replied to two letters and only six were represented at the meeting in the morning: this was not very encouraging when the main item on the agenda had been affiliation and what this implied. There was, nevertheless, a useful morning meeting when this and a number of other matters were discussed, and the afternoon session was quite well attended. Some of the points raised were being studied by a sub-committee of the Society, which had been asked to look into its general structure and aims.

The joint lectures with the W.E.A. had produced variable results. The series started off well with some thirty or more people, but attendances fell away to as few as seventeen later. Attendances at Society lectures had generally been rather poor and members were being asked if they had any suggestions to offer about lectures.

The Symposium on the Somerset Levels had gone well, but had largely been a matter

of preaching to the converted. This sort of occasion might be the pattern for future lectures. The possibility of having a Symposium on Exmoor was being considered. There had been the usual number of field meetings, and excursions to Berkeley Castle and Deerhurst and to Brownsea Island.

The three-day trip to Jersey took place successfully, but had only been made possible by the Berkshire Archaeological Society sending seventeen people: only nine members of the Somerset society had come.

The Society had supported excavations at Catsgore and Creech Hill.

The Courtauld Institute had photographed the Pigott Collection and part of the Braikenridge Collection and copies of these photographs would in due course be available for reference in the Local History Library, which had already been a great help in dealing with queries. The public had been making fair use of the Local History Library, but visits by Members to the Society's Library remained few and far between.

Discussion had taken place with the County Council over their plans for the future management of the Museum: these were continuing.

Membership figures had remained much the same, the fifty or so new members being balanced by losses of about the same figure.

It had been hoped to produce a new membership list in time for the Annual General Meeting, but this had not been possible: apart from other pressures this task had been complicated by a number of people whose continued membership was in some doubt since they neither paid their subscriptions on time, if at all, nor answered reminders about this.

During the course of this report the Chairman of Council paid tribute to the hard work which Mrs. Langmaid had put into editing the Proceedings and also complimented Mr. Haldane on his excellent Index.

Annual Accounts

The Honorary Treasurer presented the accounts and Mr. Scott-Stokes, seconded by Mr. Haldane, proposed that they be adopted. This was approved.

Somerset Record Society

In her Report the Secretary said that it was a pleasure and a relief to be able to announce that after long delays Vol. 72, Wells Cathedral Chapter Act Book 1666-83, edited by Dr. D. S. Sherwin Bailey, had appeared. The Society had also made the experiment of reprinting one of its early volumes, Gerard's Particular Description of Somerset c.1630, which had long been out of print. This was now available to members at £3 and to non-members at £4. A short supplement to Vol. 45, Mendip Mining Laws, had also been prepared by Dr. J. W. Gough, the original editor, and distributed to members. Vol. 73, the Cartulary of St. John's Hospital, Bath, should be ready for the press later in the year, and Mr. Morland's volume of seventeenth century records of Somerset Quakers was making good progress. Membership remained at about the same level, though there had been a small increase in the number of institutional subscribers.

Presidential Address

The retiring President, Mr. S. C. Morland, gave an address on 'Somerset Quakers in the Seventeenth Century'.