

STEEP HOLM TRUST, 1962

TRUSTEES:

E. L. KELTING, O.B.E., *Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*

H. H. DAVIS, *Bristol Naturalists' Society*

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E. J. MASON, *Bristol Folk House Archaeological Club*

During Whitsun 1962, Mr. Harry Savory cleared an appreciable amount of privet and sycamore from the peony glens and it is no doubt due to this work and similar work by him during the years the Trust has been in possession of the island that the peony was saved from extinction. Indeed the glens have produced the most magnificent display of blooms known for a very long time. The sudden death of Mr. Harry Savory during 1962 was a severe blow to the Steep Holm Trust, in which he took such a keen interest until the time of his death. Indeed he had been partly responsible for the creation of the Trust and, since it was established, had given willingly of his services.

During the Whitsun weekend, excavations were recommenced on the site of St. Michael's Priory. Work on this project had been delayed for a number of years due to the fact that voluntary labour was used to carry out the necessary repairs to the barracks buildings. Excavations during 1962 revealed the return walls of one corner of the buildings, exposing several yards of the inner surface of the lower courses of the wall, still with some of the internal plaster intact. During the course of the excavation, some fragmentary human bones were discovered and sherds of medieval pottery, known today as Ham Green ware. One or two fragments of worked stone probably forming part of the facing of the building were found and removed to the barracks building. They have been placed close to the grave stone, which was removed from the 1867 side-arm store at Tombstone Battery on a previous occasion.

During 1962, the visits to the island by interested groups have been constant and there are no signs of a decrease of interest compared with previous years.

A full report on the year's work by the Gull Research Station will be found in *Somerset Birds*, 1962.

Mr. Howard Davis has been elected a Trustee on behalf of the Bristol Naturalists' Society in succession to the late Harry Savory. The writer has been elected to take over the office of Hon. Secretary, a post which Mr. Savory filled up to the time of his death.

EDMUND J. MASON,

Hon. Secretary.