

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Elected members (to retire at the Annual General Meeting indicated)

1999	LADY GASS, M.A., R.A. CROFT, B.A., M.I.F.A., B.J. MURLESS
2000	MRS B. LOWE, S.C. MINNITT, B.A., F.S.A., A.M.A., R.A. SETTERINGTON
2001	MRS P. CUDMORE, DR R. DUNNING, MRS P. ELLSON

Committee Chairman and members representing other bodies:

D.P. DAWSON, B.A., F.S.A., F.M.A. (Archaeological); REVD B.W. KIRK, B.D. (Natural History); DR. A.P. RADFORD, M.B., CH.B., D.CH. (Library); MRS H.M. BINDING, B.A. (Local History); C.F.W. CHANTER (Historic Buildings); A. GREEN, M.A., DIP.ARCH. ADMIN. (County Archivist); D.P. DAWSON, B.A., F.S.A., F.M.A. (County Museums Officer); R.J.E. BUSH (Countryside and Heritage Board); MRS J. DAGNALL (Associated Societies).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1998

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Bishop Fox's School, Taunton, on Saturday 30 May 1998. The meeting was attended by 54 members of the Society and apologies for absence were received from a further 10.

The Chairman, Dr Robert Dunning, introduced Mr Max Hebditch CBE as President for 1998–1999. He was welcomed by the Society and Professor Nicholas Orme was thanked for his services.

Details were given of events being prepared to celebrate the Society's 150th Anniversary. These would be held at various venues across Somerset. A conference on the Archaeology of Somerset will be held at Dillington House, Ilminster, in October 1999, and a book on the same subject would be launched at that time. The Bishop of Bath and Wells will be invited to be President for 1999–2000 and the AGM will be held in Wells.

The Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 1997 were presented by the Hon Treasurer and adopted.

The Chairman of the Archaeology, Historic Buildings, Library, Local History, Natural History, and House Committee gave reports about their activities during the year. Captain Roe's botanical library had been received from Mrs Roe and was now housed in the Adam Library Annexe. Refurbishment of the Society's rooms was progressing. New carpet had been laid in the Gray Room, the lead piping had been replaced, two armchairs had been bought for the Adam Library, and the Library Annexe had been redecorated and carpeted.

The County Museums Officer gave his report, which included the fact that a survey of the Castle for asbestos had been carried out and that it had either been made safe or removed. Bye-laws have been approved by the Secretary of State to enforce standards of public behaviour on all property belonging to the Society.

The Administrator of the Maltwood Fund reported on the grants made available during the year.

The following officers were elected: Hon Editor—M. McGarvie; Hon Librarian—D. Bromwich; Hon Secretary—Dr. I. Sinclair;* Hon Treasurer—K. Jackson. The following were elected to Council, to serve until 2001: Mrs P. Cudmore, Dr R. Dunning, Mrs P. Ellson. Messrs Albert Goodman were elected as independent Examiners and Mr C. Palmer as Hon Legal Consultant, as were members of the subject committees.

The business meeting was followed by the Presidential Address given by Professor Nicholas Orme, entitled "Medieval Chapels of Somerset".

* Subsequent to his re-election at the AGM, Dr Ian Sinclair tendered his resignation as Hon Secretary in early June. The Finance and General Purposes Committee decided not to appoint another Hon Secretary for the time being. With the imminent installation of a computer in the Society's office it was decided to employ Mrs Betty Cloke, who had knowledge of the running of the office as a long-term volunteer and also the necessary computer skills. Additionally the Assistant Secretary, Jean Rainer, had intimated that she would be retiring in the near future. The Committee therefore decided to appoint Mrs Cloke as Administrative Secretary.