SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Elected Members (To retire at Annual Meeting indicated)

1962	1963	1964
W. LEIGHTON, F.S.A.	MRS. J. B. CLARK, F.S.A.	J. STEVENS COX, F.S.A.
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Representatives of Branch Societies, Sections and other Bodies

Weston-super-Mare Branch	MRS. M. J. BIZLEY
West Somerset Branch	MISS K. WHEELER
Natural History Section	J. COWLEY, M.A., F.R.E.S.; A. J. DODD; A. H. TURNER, F.Z.S., F.R.E.S.
Ornithological Section	J. H. SAVORY; I. I. JEFFRIES
Somerset County Council	E. P. THURSFIELD
Museum Governing Body	H. F. SCOTT STOKES, F.S.A.
Ministry of Works	R. S. SIMMS, M.A., F.S.A.
County Archivist	I. P. COLLIS, F.S.A.

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Representative Trustee on the Axbridge Town Trust:
L. W. MARTIN

Representative Trustee on the Ilchester Town Trust:
J. STEVENS COX, F.S.A.

Society's Representatives, Leigh Woods Committee of Management:
MISS E. RALPH, F.S.A. — J. H. SAVORY

Society's Representative on the Council for British Archaeology:
MRS. M. G. HARFIELD

Trustees of the Piggott Collection of Drawings, Somerset

The Lord-Lieutenant of the County.
The Lord Bishop of the Diocese.
The Chairman of Quarter Sessions.
The Members of Parliament for the County.
The Clerk of the Peace for the County.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION	*Chairman:* J. COWLEY, F.R.E.S. *Hon. Secretary:* C. A. COOKSON, O.B.E., M.A., Taunton Castle.
ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION	*President:* HARRY SAVORY. *Hon. Secretary:* MISS E. M. PALMER, M.B.O.U., Highfield, Sandford Hill, Bridgwater. *Field Secretary:* T. B. SILCOCKS, Bryher, Kenmeade Close, Shipham, Winscombe.

BRANCH SOCIETIES

Date of Formation		
1891	WESTON-SUPER-MARE BRANCH	*President:* G. P. RYE, F.L.A. *Hon. Secretary:* MRS. M. J. BIZLEY, 13 Seabrook Road, Weston-super-Mare. *Hon. Treasurer:* MISS G. E. C. EDWARDS
1938	WEST SOMERSET BRANCH	*President:* MRS. G. F. LUTTRELL *Chairman:* A. M. N. GARRY *Hon. Secretary:* H. W. KILLE, 1 Millbridge Road, Minehead.

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

Date of Affiliation		
1902	GLASTONBURY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY	*President:* STEPHEN C. MORLAND, *Hon. Secretary:* JOHN LOVERIDGE, 2 Albert Buildings, Glastonbury.
1904	SHEPTON MALLET NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY	*President:* A. SAXON *Hon. Secretary:* MISS M. WATKINS, 3 Charlton Road, Shepton Mallet. *Hon. Treasurer:* A. L. BUTCHER
1905	WELLS NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY	*President:* THE LORD BISHOP OF BATH AND WELLS *Hon. Secretary:* R. D. REID, D.PH., B.SC. 8 Chamberlain Street, Wells. *Hon. Treasurer:* C. H. KENNEY *Hon. Curator:* PROF. L. S. PALMER, D.SC., PH.D.
1948	CLEVEDON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY	*Chairman:* R. HAWORTH, M.B.E. *Hon. Secretary:* MRS. P. M. LEGG, 15 Hallam Road, Clevedon.

1950	Historical Association, Ilminster Branch	*President:* A. J. R. Wilson *Hon. Secretary:* Miss Cunningham, The Chantry, Ilminster.
1952	Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society	*President:* Mrs. D. P. Dobson Hinton, litt.d., m.a., f.s.a. *Chairman:* B. Feltbower *Hon. Secretary:* F. Jarmany, Maricourt, St. Mary St., Axbridge. *Hon. Treasurer:* D. L. Johnston *Hon. Museum Curator:* J. Weare
1952	Camerton Excavation Club	*President:* Sir Mortimer Wheeler, c.i.e., m.c., f.b.a., f.s.a. *Hon. Director of Excavations:* W. J. Wedlake *Hon. Secretary:* Peter J. Greening, 19 Portland Place, Bath. *Hon. Treasurer:* H. F. Moore
1955	Burnham-on-Sea Archaeological and Natural History Society	*President:* V. G. Tucker *Hon. Secretary:* A. J. Holley, Tideways, Burnham-on-Sea.
1955	Shepton Mallet Museum	*Hon. Curator:* M. Unwin, f.s.t.a., f.r.g.s., q.p.m.
1955	Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society	*Chairman:* L. C. Hayward, b.a., b.sc., f.s.a. *Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:* Mrs. G. Aitken, b.a., School House, East Coker, Yeovil.
1959	Portishead Preservation Society	*President:* Miss E. M. Wigan *Chairman:* F. C. Jones *Hon. Secretary:* Miss G. Sawden, Riverton, Slade Road, Portishead. *Field Secretary:* W. H. Herbert, b.a., 7 Lomond Road, Bristol, 7. *Hon. Treasurer:* R. H. S. Wreford
1959	Frome Society for Local Study	*Chairman:* J. C. Hughes *Hon. Secretary:* Mrs. H. M. Massey, Parbury Bungalow, Vallis Road, Frome. *Hon. Treasurer:* Mrs. B. Lam *Hon. Recorder:* Mrs. D. Simon

PROCEEDINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1961

The Meeting was held in the Somerset Room, Taunton Castle, on the 29th April, 1961. About sixty members were present.

The retiring President, Dr. E. B. Ford, first thanked the Secretary for his services to the Society and particulary for the great part he had played in the restoration of its financial stability. He then introduced the President-Elect, Major General R. Evans, expressing the Society's appreciation of all the valuable work he had done in the past, especially during the difficult years when he was Chairman of the Council.

General Evans, taking the Chair, expressed his thanks and paid a tribute to Dr. Ford for the great interest which he took in the Society.

Election of Officers

The President proposed the following Executive Officers:

Hon. Secretaries	Mr. T. J. Hunt, Sir R. de Z. Hall and Mr. E. L. Kelting
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. H. H. Adamson
Hon. Editor	Mr. I. I. Jeffries

Mr. H. St. George Gray seconded the proposal and the Officers were elected unanimously.

Election of Members of the Council

The four retiring Members, Mr. J. Stevens Cox, Maj.-Gen. R. Evans, Mr. C. A. Ralegh Radford and Mr. A. W. Vivian-Neal were, on a proposal of Dr. Ford, seconded by Mr. I. I. Jeffries, unanimously re-elected for a further term of office.

For the remaining place on the Council, Mr. L. V. Grinsell was unanimously elected, on the proposal of General Evans, seconded by Mr. Vivian-Neal.

The Annual Report

The Secretary read the following Report on behalf of the Council:

We are again glad to report that during the year under review

the membership of the Society has been well maintained, and the financial position has still further improved. We are most grateful to all those Members who have agreed to pay their subscriptions by Deed of Covenant. During 1960 the revenues of the Society have benefited from this source by an amount of £197 7s. 10d. The Society also acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of two legacies during the past year — one of £1,000 under the will of the late Mr. H. D. Badcock, and another of £50 under the will of the late Mr. R. M. Williams.

Proceedings

At the end of 1960 the hundred and fourth volume of the Society's *Proceedings* was published. It proved to be a volume of great interest and variety and we are indebted to the Honorary Editor, Mr. Jeffries, for having edited the volume so skilfully. The Society now has a sum of £500 invested in the *Proceedings* Reserve fund, and this amount is to be increased during the current year.

Excursions

During the summer of 1960 three successful Excursions were made: the first in the Quantocks area on June 18th, the second in the Wellington area on July 16th, and the third based on Northampton from September 13th to September 16th.

Local Societies

On October 29th a Meeting of some Members of the Parent and Branch and Affiliated Societies was held in the Council Chamber of Glastonbury. Sixty people attended the meeting, and Mr. C. W. Phillips, Archaeological Officer of the Ordnance Survey, gave a most interesting talk on the work of the Archaeological Division of the Ordnance Survey. Afterwards Mr. and Mrs. Scott Stokes and Mr. Stephen Morland entertained the Members to tea. This was followed by a brief business meeting of the Representatives of the Parent and Local Societies.

Lectures

In the winter season four Archaeological Lectures and four Natural History Lectures were arranged. We wish to express our

special thanks to the Past President, Dr. E. B. Ford, for all the help he gave with the Lecture programme. He arranged for Professor Richmond, Dr. H. B. D. Kettlewell and Dr. Arthur Cain to come from Oxford to give talks on various subjects. He also brought an unusually interesting Natural History film from Oxford for the Annual General Meeting of the Natural History Section.

LIBRARY

During the summer of 1960 the Adam Library was redecorated, and we wish to thank Mrs. J. B. Clark for her generosity in defraying the expenses of the work. Amongst additions to the books in the Library should be mentioned an anonymous gift of the six volumes so far published of the new Victoria History of Wiltshire. A number of "Dexion" racks have been purchased for the housing of the Society's large collection of old Newspapers, and we are grateful to Mr. Jeffries for all the work he has been doing in re-organizing this and other parts of the Library.

EXCAVATION

We are particularly pleased to report that with the improvement of the Society's finances an Excavation on Castle Neroche is to be carried out from August 14th to September 1st. The work will be under the direction of Mr. B. K. Davison of Queen's University, Belfast, and some volunteer diggers will be required. The major part of the excavation will be cutting through the inner bank; it is hoped that this will throw light on the function of the site in the Pre-Norman period. We are indebted to Mr. Ralegh Radford and Mr. E. M. Jope for the help they have been giving in the initial planning of this project.

The President said that he was sure that the report had given great satisfaction to all present. The financial position was most satisfactory and it was very gratifying that the Society was now in a position to undertake an excavation project after a lapse of so many years. The President felt that the improvement in the Society's position has justified the decision made over three years ago to 'demise' the Castle and the Museum to the County Council. The Society was now free of the enormous burden of keeping the building

in repair and the County Council had the necessary funds, not only to preserve the building, but also to improve the Museum.

On a proposal by Miss P. M. Blencowe, seconded by Mrs. Dobson Hinton, the report was passed unanimously.

Accounts

The Secretary made a brief statement on the accounts which had been certified by the Auditors, A. C. Mole & Sons. On a proposal by Mr. Naish, seconded by Major Dowling, the accounts were passed unanimously.

Somerset Record Society

Mrs. S. W. Rawlins, Hon. Secretary, presented the following report for 1960:

Our volume 66, *The Customs of the Manor of Taunton in the Thirteenth Century*, edited by Mr. T. J. Hunt, has been unavoidably delayed, but is now in the press, and will appear, we hope, towards the end of 1961 or early in 1962. The documents, describing manorial and agricultural customs on the Bishop of Winchester's Taunton estates will be printed in Latin and English, and there will be an introduction discussing them in detail. The Council is most grateful to Mr. Hunt for the work he has done on MSS. which are by no means easy to decipher.

For our next volume, Mr. Michael Hawkins, lecturer in history at Edinburgh University, has kindly undertaken to edit the seventeenth century Somerset cases from the Court of Wards and Liveries, a Court on whose proceedings we had a lecture here last year.

Since the last annual meeting there has been a small increase in our membership, though not enough to counterbalance the losses of the previous year. Not having published a volume in 1960, our reserve fund has been increased, but it is not large enough for us to plan far ahead, and an increase in regular annual income is still much to be desired. It is encouraging that new subscribers in the county are coming forward, and we hope that they, in their turn, will be able to interest others in our work of publishing the sources of Somerset history.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

In the afternoon General Evans delivered his Address on "The History of the Defence Forces of Somersetshire". Mr. Vivian-Neal took the Chair and, at the conclusion of the Address, Col. Garton proposed a vote of thanks. Members were afterwards entertained to tea by the President and Mrs. Evans. Mrs. Sansome was in charge of the catering arrangements.

The text of the Presidential Address is printed on pp. 27-36 of this volume.

LECTURES

1960	
November 26th	"Radiocarbon Dating" Mr. Harold Barker, B.SC., F.S.A., Chief Experimental Officer, Research Laboratory, British Museum.
December 10th	"Romans and Natives on Hod Hill, Dorset" Professor I. A. Richmond, M.A., F.B.A., Fellow of All Souls.
1961	
March 4th	"Round the World in a Hundred Days" Sir John Hobhouse, M.C.
March 18th	"A Forgotten West Country Family" Sir Owen Morshead, G.C.V.O., K.C.B., D.S.O., M.C.

EXCURSIONS, 1960

Three summer excursions were arranged during the year:

(*i*) On June 18th sixty-two members and friends toured the north-east Quantocks area. At East Quantoxhead (66, i, 51; 92, i, 31) the party were kindly shown the Court House by Lieut.-Col. and Mrs. Luttrell. Col. Luttrell said that the estate had been continuously in his family's hands since the Conquest. The back parts of the house dated from Norman times while the front had been added in the 17th century.

Of especial interest were the plaster over-mantels, the heavy doors, hinged in their centres, and the yard where cock-fighting used to take place.

In the afternoon the party visited Cannington Church (43, i, 38; 66, i, 42) where the Vicar (Rev. A. R. Moss) gave a talk on the

Church itself and the neighbouring Priory (11, ii, 1; 104, 62). After looking at some of the Church's archives, which the Vicar had laid out for inspection, members were taken through Cannington Court by Mr. W. W. Ballardie, Principal of the Somerset Farm Institute.

At Gothelney Hall (66, i, 56; *S.D.N.Q.* 20, 55), which has been beautifully restored by the present owners, Mr. and Mrs. Hallett, members saw the interesting hall roof with cusped wind-braces, which survives in a remarkably good state of preservation, some fine plaster ceilings and some heraldic glass (? brought here from Gurney Street). The house was built by the Hody family in the 15th century.

Blackmore Farm (*S.D.N.Q.* 16, 81) was visited through the kindness of Mrs. K. W. W. Dyer. Built by the Tremayle family in the late 15th century and little altered since that time, the house, which possesses a most interesting domestic chapel, has never changed hands by sale, the present owner, Lord Wharton, being the heir of the Tremayles and their successors.

While tea was being taken at the Alfoxton Park Hotel, Mrs. C. W. H. Rawlins gave an entertaining talk on the short tenancy of the house by William Wordsworth and his sister.

(*ii*) The second excursion was made by a party, forty-five strong, to the Wellington area on July 16th. In the morning the party were kindly shown over Gerbestone Manor (38, i, 25; 58, i, 36; 81, i, 56) by Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd H. Fox. This house was on the verge of falling into ruin when Mr. Fox bought the property in 1924; he has restored it with care and made of it the beautiful and comfortable house that it is today.

In the afternoon a visit was paid to Holcombe Court (58, i, 57; 80, i, 39) by kind permission of Mrs. Fleetwood-Hesketh. Mrs. Meek conducted the party over the house pointing out the remarkable Jacobean oak doors and panelling, the plaster ceilings and over-mantels and the secret passages in the thickness of the walls. She told them gruesome tales of the five skeletons found immured or buried at different places about the house and a more cheerful one of the tame badger which had been kept in the long plaster-ceilinged gallery at the top of the house.

In Holcombe Rogus Church the visitors noted especially the series of carved medallions, illustrating scenes from the book of Genesis, which adorn the screen around the Bluett pew.

At Milverton Church the Vicar (Rev. P. N. H. Coney) described the building and drew attention to the wonderful carved bench ends. (38, i, 51; 58, i, 83).

(*iii*) The four day excursion was based on Northampton. During the course of the tour the following places were visited:

September 13th, Blenheim Palace.

September 14th, Northampton, All Saints' Church.[1] The Vicar (Rev. Canon J. D. Richards) described the building as having been largely rebuilt after the fire of 1675 in a style similar to the City Churches in London.

Delapre Abbey. The County Archivist, Mr. P. I. King, showed the party round the building which houses the Northamptonshire Record Office and also the Record Society's library.

St. Peter's Church, Northampton. The Rector (Rev. L. J. Chybnalle) described this beautifully preserved little Norman Church.

Brixworth Church. The Rev. J. W. Burford gave a talk on the church, which is one of the outstanding examples of Anglo-Saxon architecture left in the country.

Lamport Hall. Sir Gyles Isham, Bart. kindly showed the party round this lovely house. The building has been much altered and added to since John Isham first built a manor house here in 1568, and it contains many splendid pictures and pieces of furniture.

September 15th, St. Sepulchre's Church, Northampton. The Vicar (Rev. G. P. H. Rowson) explained that the round Norman Nave was modelled on the Church of the Holy Sepulchre at Jerusalem.

The Eleanor Cross at Geddington and Sir Thomas Tresham's extraordinary folly, the Triangular Lodge at Rushton, were shown to members by Mr. R. S. Simms.

Kirby Hall. This great mansion, built by the Staffords and the Hattons, is now an empty shell, which the Ministry of Works are engaged in preserving from further decay.

Warkton Church. The Rev. N. C. Murray showed the party over this little Church with its great monuments to the 2nd Duke of Montagu, his Duchess and their daughter, all three with beautifully sculptured allegorical figures by Roubiliac and Van Gelder.

[1] For descriptions of many of the buildings visited see *The Archaeological Journal*, Vol. 110 (1953).

Boughton House. Through the kindness of the Duke of Buccleuch members were able to make a tour of the great late 17th century mansion. Their guides were Mrs. Foy and Major Sinnett. Amongst the many treasures seen here were pictures by Kneller, Lely and El Greco; two huge cartoons ascribed to Raphael; splendid painted ceilings and Mortlake tapestries; exquisite miniatures; and English carpets of the 16th century with their colours still unfaded, which have been used in Westminster Abbey under the throne and on the steps at recent Coronations.

Earl's Barton Church. A brief stop was made to see the famous Saxon tower.

September 16th, Compton Wynyates. This house was visited during the return journey to Taunton, by courtesy of the Marquess of Northampton.

BRANCH AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES, 1960/1

Ornithological Section, 1960

Membership at the end of 1960 totalled 262 — an increase of 20 over the previous year. Twenty-two meetings were held; of these sixteen were Field Meetings which included visits to places as far apart as Devon and Gloucestershire.

The main indoor meeting was the well-attended Golden Jubilee Dinner held at the County Hotel, Taunton, on 1st October, at which Mr. and Mrs. Peter Scott were principal guests. The occasion was in celebration of the Section's foundation in 1910.

Other meetings of note were the lecture by Mr. Douglas Doward on the British Ornithological Union's Centenary Expedition to Ascension Island, and the talk and excellent film on Iceland given by Mr. Peter Tolson and Mrs. Angela Hughes. The Section also held another public meeting at the Corfield Hall, Taunton, when the Royal Society for the Protection of Bird's film "Seabird Summer" was shown to a capacity audience.

The "Report on Somerset Birds, 1959", was published at the end of the year and copies are still available from the Hon. Secretary at 7/6d. each.

Weston-super-Mare Branch

A programme of monthly lectures was arranged during the winter season, including a talk on "Unearthing London" by Mr. Norman Cook, Keeper of the Guildhall Museum; Mr. E. L. Kelting described "The Rivers and Sea Walls of Somerset"; Mr. Harry Savory spoke about "Wild Nature in the West Country"; Mr. G. C. Boon, Assistant Keeper of Archaeology, National Museum of Wales, described the excavations at "The Temple of Mithras, Caernarvon"; and Mr. Frederick C. Jones talked on "The Glory that was Bristol". In December the President of the Branch, Mr. G. P. Rye, was "At Home in the Museum" and showed a collection of lighting equipment as used through the centuries.

Following the Annual General Meeting in January two natural history films were shown, "Journey into Spring" and "Between the Tides".

During the summer four excursions were arranged. A visit to Powderham Castle, open to the public for the first time, was combined with a visit to Exeter. Sudeley Castle and Tewkesbury Abbey were visited in June. There were also two half day excursions, one to Corsham Court and the second to Crowcombe and Stogumber Churches.

Membership during the year showed a slight decrease, but lectures and excursions were very well attended.

West Somerset Branch

Excursions and Lectures

Two very well supported excursions were arranged — the first to Crediton and Rackenford, and the second to Stanton Drew stone circles and Compton Martin etc.

Half a dozen lecture-meetings attracted large attendances. Speakers and subjects included: "The Field Archaeology of Exmoor", by Mr. L. V. Grinsell (Curator of Archaeology, Bristol City Museum); "Nature my Workshop", by Mr. F. R. Sterne (Hon. Field Sec., Bath Natural History Society); "Some aspects of the Stone Age in Somerset", by Mr. A. L. Wedlake; "The Beauty of our old Churches", Mr. Lawrence Jones; and "Plant and Wild Animal Life of the Rockies", Mr. D. J. Hobbs.

A Protest Supported

The branch associated itself with the protest made by the Exmoor Society and other bodies concerned against the prospect of afforestation on a large scale by an Economic Forestry Group of Exmoor and Dartmoor, urging in particular that the operations of private forestry groups should be brought under planning control.

Membership

Paid-up membership stood at the close of 1960 at 215, plus five honorary members.

Glastonbury Antiquarian Society

Activities arranged during the year included:

An excursion with the Wells N. H. and Arch. Soc. to Keynsham, Saltford and Bitton; a lecture at Wells Cathedral by Dr. Reid on "The Cathedral Outside the Guide Books; Some Details of the Western Portion"; a lecture by Rev. Aelred Watkin on "The Origins of the Glastonbury Legends"; a lantern lecture by Mr. E. L. Kelting on "The Rivers and Sea Walls of Somerset"; and an illustrated lecture by Mr. C. A. Ralegh Radford on "The Pictish and Norse Site at Birsay, Orkney".

Shepton Mallet Natural History Society

During the summer two outdoor excursions were arranged: a Botany Ramble under the leadership of Miss Balch and a trip to Beaulieu Abbey in co-operation with the Wells N. H. and Arch. Soc.

Six lectures were given during the winter: "Women of the Kikuyu", by Dr. Jeanne Fisher; "Beekeeping", by Mr. A. C. Rolt; "South Australia", by Mr. A. C. Cotton; "Austrian Journey", by Mr. Geoffrey Budd; "Caves and Caving", by Mr. D. A. Willis: and "Cornish Fogous", by Mrs. J. B. Clark.

Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society

No fewer than eleven lectures were arranged for the 1960/61 winter season and a number of visits were paid during the summer to places of interest. Full reports of the Society's activities will be found in the biennial report, which is in the press.

Clevedon and District Archaeological Society

During the summer of 1960, members of the Society joined with the Burnham Society in the excavation of a briquetage site in the Brue Valley.

Activities arranged during the year included talks on "Steep Holm" by Mr. H. Savory, and on "A Saxon Cemetery" by Mr. A. Warhurst, the Director of Bristol City Museum. Early this year Mr. Reid lectured on "Waddam Cave", and Mrs. Dobson Hinton on "British Camps and Barrows".

In May 1960 an expedition was made to Rowberrow and Priddy.

Mrs. P. M. Legg, who has taken over as Hon. Secretary, has arranged either a lecture or a visit for every month in the 1961/2 season except August.

Historical Association, Ilminster Branch

The most important event during the year was the reforming of the Ilminster Historical Society as the Ilminster Branch of the Historical Association. The membership remains at about 30.

Four lectures were arranged: "Monasteries" by Mr. E. T. Long; "The Parish Chest" by Mr. H. Ross; "King Monmouth" by Mr. F. A. Ollett; and "The Bronze Age" by Dr. D. P. Dobson Hinton.

On the 8th April 1961 the Association paid a most enjoyable visit to Bindon House near Axmouth.

Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society

In the 1960/1 winter season a course of lectures on "Practical Archaeology" was arranged in collaboration with the Workers Education Association. The lectures were given at the Society's Museum, the lecturer being Mr. K. J. Barton of the City Museum, Bristol. Several archaeological and caving excursions were also organized during the year.

Through the generosity of the Axbridge Town Trust and with the help of donations from members and other local people, the Society was able to move from the premises in Morland Street, Axbridge, to a permanent headquarters in part of the Town Hall. This means that the Museum is now in a central position in the town

and there is also more scope for displaying exhibits. The Museum was officially opened by Professor L. S. Palmer on July 22nd.

STAR ROMAN VILLA (N.G.R. ST.435589)

Owing to the scheduling of the site and the difficulty of finding a suitable director (the former director, Mr. K. J. Barton, having left the district), this excavation is temporarily closed.

The excavation has so far revealed five distinct phases of activity within the area excavated:

(1) The Stone Age encampment of probable Upper Palaeolithic date.

(2) Settlement during the Iron Age.

(3) Several phases of occupation throughout the Romano-British period.

(4) Clearance and farming in the Middle Ages.

(5) Farming etc. during the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

HAY WOOD ROCK SHELTER (ST.583341)

Concerning the excavation of Hay Wood Cave, to which reference was made in the last *Proceedings*, the work has continued steadily throughout the year. A petrol-driven generator was used to illuminate the cave and the two sieving tables during the dark winter evenings.

Parts of at least 10 human skulls and 195 post-cranial bones have now been found. No complete skeletons were present. The neurocrania of seven of the skulls and the splanchnocranium of one have been reconstructed with the result that 94 measurements and indices have been obtained. A further 302 measurements have been made on 43 of the long and irregular bones. As a result of these measurements, it is now possible to say that the human skeletons buried in the cairn of stones were probably not the remains of descendants from the late Palaeolithic aborigines of the Mendip caves, but they may well be the ancestors of the early Neolithic peoples of the Mendip long barrows.

These conclusions are supported by the finding of 8 typical microliths together with extinct rodent remains characteristic of the late Boreal and early Atlantic phases of the Mesolithic period. The ritual practice of adding ochre to the burial is also in accordance with this tentative dating.

It is hoped to draw up a full report in the course of the present year on this communal token Mesolithic burial in the Hay Wood rock shelter. In the meanwhile the excavation is being continued under the direction of Professor L. S. Palmer and Mr. E. J. Chapman.

Camerton Excavation Club

No excavation work was undertaken by the club in the county during 1960. Excavations have continued on the site of the Romano-British mausoleum and associated structures at Nettleton in Wiltshire.

Permanent headquarters have now been obtained at No. 2 Gay Street, Bath, and the opening ceremony was performed by the club's president, Sir Mortimer Wheeler, on the evening of Saturday, June 17th, 1961.

Members meet at the headquarters on Tuesday evenings and much useful work has already been accomplished. Plans for the coming winter season include a series of lectures, pottery reconstruction, model making and instruction in the requirements of archaeological photography.

It is intended to hold an exhibition of the club's work in 1962.

Burnham-on-Sea Archaeological and Natural History Society

The most important field-work undertaken during the year was the study of the many Romano-British debris mounds in the Brue Valley. The Archaeology Division of the Ordnance Survey marks these on the map of Roman Britain with the word "salt". It was felt, however, that this might not be an entirely satisfactory explanation. An excavation was therefore undertaken at N.G.R. ST.381442 in co-operation with the Clevedon and District Archaeological Society, in order to obtain fresh evidence. It is hoped that a report on this excavation will be published in due course in *Somerset and Dorset Notes and Queries*.

A programme of six lectures and six excursions was arranged by the Society; and much time was devoted to the question of a suitable coat-of-arms for Burnham-on-Sea. The coat-of-arms has now been passed by the College of Heralds.

Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society

During the winter season six lectures were given: "Excavations on three English Castles" by Mr. P. Rahtz; "Early Mills and Milling" by Mr. H. S. L. Dewar; "Glastonbury" by Mr. C. A. Ralegh Radford; "Excavations at Litton Cheney" by Mr. J. Bailey; "Hadrian's Wall" by Mr. T. R. Wightman; and "Exploring an Unknown Church" by Mr. C. W. Baty. Six summer excursions were made, the chief one being an all-day expedition to Stonehenge, Old Sarum, Salisbury Cathedral and Salisbury Museum.

Excavations were continued at the Lufton and Ilchester Roman Villa sites, under the direction of Mr. L. C. Hayward and in conjunction with the Yeovil School Archaeological Society. The local history section undertook some 'rescue work' of old papers and records at the offices of a Yeovil solicitor.

Portishead Preservation Society

During the year the Society arranged five lectures: "Life in the Old Welsh Mining Villages" by Rev. G. Thomas; "Tollund Man" by Mrs. M. Herbert; "The History of the Birdcombe Valley" by Mr. C. M. Sykes; "The Flora and Fauna of the Severn Estuary" by Mr. D. Bowles; "The Axbridge Society" by Dr. Gorringe. There was also an evening of films.

There were conducted visits to Steep Holm, Ham Green, Clapton-in-Gordano and the Factory of Messrs. Albright and Wilson.

The discovery of a Romano-British settlement at Redcliffe Bay (ST.443752), which yielded a large quantity of pottery and shewed evidence of iron working, was the main item of archaeological interest together with the discovery of Romano-British pottery near Woodhill (ST.469771). Remains from both sites were on view at the Portishead Flower Show.

The Society provided the material for the "Feature of the Month" exhibition in Bristol Museum for the month of June.

Frome Society for Local Study

In the summer of 1960 a series of combined geology and botany meetings was conducted by Miss E. D. Overend, B.Sc.; visits were made to areas of chalk, greensand, lower oolite, coal measures,

limestone and Old Red Sandstone, all within easy reach of Frome.

Twelve lectures on local history were given in the winter months by Mr. P. Belham, M.A., B.Sc., and this series closed with an exhibition of items of local historic interest.

A series of Forestry lectures and trips commenced in April.

In addition to these three series of lectures there have been talks on "Survey of Architecture" by Mr. H. H. Goldsmith, A.A.Dipl., F.R.I.B.A.; "Aerial Photographs of Frome" by Miss Overend; "Caves and Caving" by Mr. E. J. Mason and Mr. M. Jefferies; "Ranks and Degrees of the Peerage" by Mr. J. Mingay; "Church Bells" by Miss Overend; "The History and Architecture of St. John's Church, Frome" by the Rev. Prebendary P. Cowley, M.A.; and "Spinning, Dyeing and Weaving" with demonstrations by Mrs. I. George, Mrs. D. Appleby and Mrs. J. Griffiths.

There have been excursions to Nunney, Farleigh Hungerford, Bradford-on-Avon, Longleat, Rockbourne Villa, Wadbury, the Pitt-Rivers Museum, Chew Valley Lake, Taunton Museum and Records Office, Westonbirt Arboretum, the Royal Horticultural Gardens at Wisley, Bristol Museum and Hinton Charterhouse.

A small pool near Whatley Villa was baled out by younger members led by Miss Overend, and a Roman Nymphaeum disclosed — the water supply of the villa.

The Society's first archaeological dig was started in April near Downhead, where aerial photographs have revealed a small, and possibly unrecorded, camp. The camp is oval, approximately 200 feet by 160 feet, with a single vallum and ditch.

Church records at St. John's Church, Frome, are being studied by members of the History Section.

Photographic records have been made of anything likely to be of historic interest, particularly old buildings scheduled for demolition.

The Society took part in a four-day Exhibition at the Technical Institute, Frome, last summer, and held an Autumn Social Meeting when two films were shown. The History Section held its first Annual Meeting and a Quiz was arranged to entertain members. Prizes are to be given to local schools for the best essays on local history.

Membership at 31st December, 1960, was 88.