

SOMERSET ARCHÆOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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HON. EDITOR

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1964	1965	1966
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West Somerset Branch	MISS K. WHEELER
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Ornithological Section	J. R. H. DOWLING; I. I. JEFFRIES
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 Ilchester Town Trust:

J. STEVENS COX, F.S.A.

Society's Representatives, Leigh Woods Committee of Management:

MISS E. RALPH, F.S.A.

P. V. MCGRATH

Society's Representative on the Council for British Archaeology:

MRS. M. G. HARFIELD

Trustees of the Pigott Collection of Drawings, Somerset

The Lord-Lieutenant of the County.

The Members of Parliament for the
County.

The Lord Bishop of the Diocese.

The Chairman of Quarter Sessions.

The Clerk of the Peace for the County.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTIONS OF THE SOCIETY

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

Chairman: DR. ERNEST G. NEAL, M.Sc.,
PH.D.

Hon. Secretary: C. A. COOKSON, O.B.E.,
M.A., Taunton Castle.

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION

President: E. G. HOLT, M.B.O.U.

Hon. Secretary: MISS E. M. PALMER,
M.B.O.U., Highfield, Sandford Hill,
Bridgwater.

Field Secretary: T. B. SILCOCKS,
Bryher, Kenmeade Close, Shipham,
Winscombe.

*Date of
Formation*

BRANCH SOCIETIES

1891 WESTON-SUPER-MARE BRANCH

President: G. P. RYE, F.L.A.

Hon. Secretary: MISS P. R. SHEPPARD,
Magnolia Cottage, Ebdon Road,
Worle, Weston-super-Mare.

Hon. Treasurer: L. J. HAYWARD

1938 WEST SOMERSET BRANCH

President: MRS. G. F. LUTTRELL

Chairman: A. N. M. GARRY

Hon. Asst. Sec.: MRS. M. E. CORNISH,
Brimleigh, Parkhouse Road,
Minehead.

*Date of
Affiliation*

AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

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

1948 CLEVEDON AND DISTRICT
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chairman: J. PULLAN, M.A.

Hon. Secretary: MRS. P. M. LEGG,
15 Hallam Road, Clevedon.

Hon. Treasurer: K. BATTY

Branch and Affiliated Societies

- 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: P. A. RAHTZ
Chairman: DR. S. CANNICOTT
Hon. Arch. Secretary: J. E. HANCOCK,
5 York Place, Bristol, 8.
Hon. Treasurer: R. SMITH
Hon. Museum Curator: R. 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, F.S.A.
Hon. Secretary: PETER J. GREENING,
61 Pulteney Street, Bath.
Hon. Treasurer: MISS M. JAINE
- 1955 BURNHAM-ON-SEA ARCHAEO-
LOGICAL AND NATURAL
HISTORY SOCIETY
President: V. G. TUCKER
Hon. Secretary: A. J. HOLLEY,
Tideways, Burnham-on-Sea.
Hon. Field Secretary: T. J. MILES,
Gurney Manor, Cannington.
- 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.S.C.,
F.S.A.
Hon. Secretary and Treasurer:
E. H. SILCOX,
13, Lower Wraxhill Road, Yeovil.
- 1959 PORTISHEAD PRESERVATION
SOCIETY
President: MISS E. M. WIGAN
Chairman: F. C. JONES
Hon. 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. DAVIDSON
Hon. Secretary: MRS. H. M. MASSEY,
Parbury Bungalow, Vallis Road,
Frome.
Hon. Treasurer: MRS. B. LAM
Hon. Recorder: MRS. D. SIMON
- 1962 N. SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH GROUP
Director and Chairman: GRAY USHER,
Anglesea House, Victoria Road,
Clevedon.
- 1963 BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL
RESEARCH GROUP
Hon. Secretary: CHARLES BROWNE,
c/o Bristol City Museum, Queens
Road, Bristol 8.

PROCEEDINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1963

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held in the Somerset Room at 11.30 a.m. on Saturday, 27th April, 1963.

Mr. Raleigh Radford, the retiring President, opened the proceedings by paying a tribute to the late Harold St. George Gray, who for nearly fifty years was Secretary and Librarian of the Society. The Members present stood for a short time as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Gray.

An obituary notice on the many achievements of Mr. St. George Gray will be found in this volume.

After the Secretary had announced the apologies for absence, Mr. Raleigh Radford introduced Sir Arthur Elton, Bart., the President Elect. Mr. Radford said that Industrial Archaeology was much to the fore in archaeology at the present time and it was fortunate that the Society should have as its President someone who was a specialist in this new subject. Sir Arthur Elton then took the Presidential chair. In reply Sir Arthur said that he was greatly honoured to become President of a Society with which his family had been connected for over 100 years. His great-grandfather joined the Society in 1859, 10 years after its foundation. His grandfather, Sir Edmund Elton, was President in 1881. In the following year Sir Edmund was succeeded by his cousin, Charles Isaac Elton.

Sir Arthur said that he was delighted that Industrial Archaeology was becoming recognised, but he could deal with only a small fragment of it — railways. He could claim to be only "an amateur enthusiast". However, he thought that it was fair to say that the whole strength of the Society had been founded on amateur enthusiasm disciplined by study.

Sir Arthur said he hoped to see the day when silk, coal, stone, iron and glass — in fact all the industries of Somerset, would be brought within the net of the Somerset Archaeological Society for study and preservation.

Sir Arthur concluded by saying "If I can introduce a broadening of the field of Archaeology and interest in things that perhaps fifty years ago were not considered fit material for this Society, then I shall feel pleased and proud."

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The President moved the re-election of the following Executive Officers:

Hon. Secretaries	Mr. E. L. Kelting, O.B.E. Sir R. de Z. Hall, K.C.M.G.
Hon. Treasurer	Mr. H. H. Adamson
Hon. Editor	Mr. I. I. Jeffries

This was carried unanimously.

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The President moved the election of the following five members of the Council:

Mrs. J. B. Clark, F.S.A.	Mr. R. B. Naish
Mr. T. J. Hunt, F.S.A.	Mr. S. C. Morland
Mr. E. L. Kelting, O.B.E.	

This was carried unanimously.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL

The Secretary gave the following report on behalf of the Council: Since our last Annual General Meeting the Society has gained 70 new Members against a loss of 66 old Members, making a net gain of four members in all. The total membership of the Society is now 860, composed of 800 Ordinary, Associate, Teacher and Junior Members, and 60 University, Society and Library Members.

The year was again a successful one financially and the net revenue exceeded expenditure by a sum of £207. This is satisfactory in view of a gross expenditure of £312 on the continuation of the Castle Neroche Excavation.

During the year the Society lost three distinguished and devoted members. On June 25th, 1962, Mr. Harry Savory, the President of the Ornithological Section died, and on July 17th, Mr. A. H. Turner, the well-known naturalist, died. Obituaries paying tribute to their many services to the Society and to the cause of Natural History will be found in volume 106 of the *Proceedings*.

On February 28th of this year, Mr. St. George Gray died at the age of 91. Your retiring President has already paid tribute to his many great qualities. The splendid Museum and Library, which are the heritage of all Members of this Society, bear witness to the dedicated work of Mr. St. George Gray during his forty-eight years as Secretary of the Society.

PROCEEDINGS

At the end of the year the 106th volume of 'Proceedings' was published. It contained many articles of varied interest including an authoritative account of 'The Church in Somerset down to 1100' which was the Presidential Address of Mr. Raleigh Radford at last year's Annual General Meeting.

EXCURSIONS

During the summer of 1962 three excursions were held. The first was a tour of Bath under the able guidance of Mr. Bryan Little. On the second excursion the Members visited Clevedon Court, which was described by your President, Sir Arthur Elton, and Nailsea Court where the Members were entertained to tea by the owner, Mr. Whitefield.

The visit to Clevedon Court was an historic event in that Sir Arthur is the fourth successive Elton to have welcomed the Archaeological Society to Clevedon Court. The first occasion was in the summer of 1860 when his great-grandfather, also Sir Arthur Elton, was host to the Society. In early October the Society made a four-day excursion in South Wales which, with the help of Mr. Raleigh Radford, and Dr. Savory of the National Museum of Wales, proved to be a tour of very great interest. In July some Members of the Council of the Society were entertained at Ammerdown by Lord Hylton, and a visit was made to Kilmersdon Church to study the 'Heraldic Beasts' on the outside of the Botreaux Chapel. On August 21st, members of the Society visited Glastonbury where Mr. Raleigh Radford gave a talk on the results of his excavations. Mr. Radford will be continuing the excavations this summer from August 6th to August 23rd.

CASTLE NEROCHE EXCAVATION

From August 11th to September 1st 1962, the excavation on Castle Neroche was continued under the joint direction of Mr. B. K. Davison and Mr. F. Hawtin. On August 30th Mr. Hawtin gave a guided tour and talk on the work that had been done. This has revealed that there are several stages of fortifications consisting of banks, the latest of which are contemporary with the bank of the inner bailey, and most probably with the motte, which has still to be explored. The date of these latter stages is definitely post Norman Conquest. This has been established by the finds of large quantities

of Norman style pots made from local clay. The post holes of what must have once been a wooden building have also been discovered near the inner bank. The excavation will be continued from August 12th to August 31st, when the motte will be explored, and further work will be done on the site of the timbered building. The Society is grateful for grants made through the C.B.A., from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust and for a grant from The Society of Antiquaries, towards the expenses of excavation. The thanks of our members are also due to Mr. Davison and Mr. and Mrs. Hawtin for the work they have done in connection with this excavation.

LOCAL SOCIETIES

On October 27th a meeting of our Branch and Affiliated Societies was held in the Star Hotel, Wells. Mr. R. C. Sansome, Keeper of the County Museum, gave a talk on "A Scheme for Museums in Somerset". Representatives from 12 of our Local Societies attended, and Mr. T. J. Hunt, the Chairman of the Council, your retiring President, Mr. Raleigh Radford, and ten members of the Council of the Society, were also present. Mr. Sansome explained that the aim of the County Museum is to help the development of Museums in other parts of the County, and that with its increased staff and up-to-date laboratory the County Museum is now well equipped for doing this. The Bridgwater and Glastonbury Museums have already availed themselves of the scheme to their great advantage, and it is hoped that other Museums within the County will consider making use of the services offered.

LECTURES

During the winter season four lectures were arranged in the Wyndham Hall. On November 17th the Chairman, Mr. T. J. Hunt, spoke on the "Medieval Customs of the Manor of Taunton". On November 24th Mr. Rahtz gave an illustrated lecture on his excavations of the Saxon and Medieval Palace at Cheddar. On March 2nd Miss Rosemary Cramp of the University of Durham lectured on "Anglo-Saxon sculpture in the South-West", and on March 16th Professor Grahame Clark spoke on "The Antiquity of the Long Bow". All the Lectures were well attended.

FINANCE

Before taking you briefly through the Annual Accounts, mention should be made concerning the investment of the Society's Funds.

At the meeting of the Council of the Society held on November 2nd it was agreed that it would be advantageous to the Society to invest all funds that are held by the Charity Commissioners in the newly formed Charities Official Investment Fund. Accordingly the following resolution was passed by the Council:

“That the Tite Bequest money consisting of £2,288 15s. 1d. of 2½% Treasury stock, and the Endowment Fund consisting of £234 9s. 8d. of 3½% War Loan, £264 8s. 9d. of 2½% Treasury Stock, and £1,033 7s. 8d. of Essex County Council 5½% Stock 1975/77, all held by the Official Trustees of Charitable Funds shall be reinvested in the Charities Official Investment Fund.”

This resolution was given approval by the four Trustees of the Society, Lord Waldegrave, Mrs. Rawlins, Colonel Garton and Sir Arthur Hobhouse, and it has now been implemented. Accordingly the Society now holds 2,324 one pound units in the Charities Official Investment Fund. This in the long run should be of benefit to the Society in that the Society's funds now have a wide spread of investments, which include ordinary stocks and shares, real property and fixed interest securities instead of all being invested in Government Stocks which have over the years always tended to decrease in real value.

On a proposal by Mr. J. R. H. Dowling seconded by Mr. R. B. Naish the Report was carried unanimously.

ACCOUNTS

The Secretary explained the accounts to the meeting, stating that they had been certified by the Auditors, Messrs. A. C. Mole & Sons, and had been approved by the Honorary Treasurer, Mr. H. H. Adamson and had been passed by the Council of the Society.

On a proposal by Mr. I. P. Collis, seconded by Mr. J. R. H. Dowling, the accounts were adopted by the Members present.

SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY

The Secretary, Mrs. C. W. H. Rawlins reported that work on Vol. 67 — *Sales of Wards in Somerset*, 1603-41, from the records of the Court of Wards and Liveries — was making good progress and the Hon. Editor, Mr. Michael Hawkins, hoped to complete the MS. shortly, so that it could be published towards the end of 1963 or

early in 1964. As well as illustrating the complex procedure of this somewhat unpopular Court, the documents should provide valuable topographical and genealogical information for the history of Somerset at this period.

Various proposals for vol. 68 had been considered by the Council, the most promising being that of the fifteenth century Hyll Chartulary, and it was hoped that a decision would soon be reached. The Council had considered the scheme for joint publication with local record societies now being operated by the Historical MSS. Commission, but valuable as its financial assistance would have been, no material which would fall within the Commission's terms of reference was available at present.

The Society's reserve fund was adequate for vol. 67, but this was largely based on the sale of past volumes — a diminishing asset. New members who had joined in 1963 had just made good the losses of 1962, but an increase of subscribers and of the regular yearly income would be very welcome, and the secretary thanked the Council of the Archaeological Society for allowing her to draw the attention of members to the Record Society's work.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

In the afternoon, Sir Arthur Elton delivered his Presidential Address on "The Pre-history of Railways with special reference to the early quarry railways of North Somerset". Mr. T. J. Hunt took the Chair.

After the Address the Members had tea at the Castle Hotel.

LECTURES

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|---------------|---|
| November 17th | "Medieval Customs of the Manor of Taunton"
by Mr. T. J. Hunt. |
| November 24th | "The Saxon and Medieval Palace at Cheddar"
by Mr. P. A. Rahtz
Archaeological Consultant to the Ministry of Works. |
| 1963 | |
| March 2nd | "Anglo Saxon Sculpture in the South-West"
by Miss Rosemary Cramp
Lecturer in Anglo-Saxon Antiquities and Archaeology, University of Durham. |
| March 16th | "The Antiquity of the Long Bow"
by Professor Grahame Clark. |

EXCURSIONS, 1962

(i) Bath, 31 May: The tour was made under the guidance of Mr. Bryan Little, who met the party at the Theatre Royal. The morning was spent exploring on foot the early 18th century part of the city. Kingsmead Square and the charming Beauford Square — “Vernacular Doric” in character — which are both the work of the Bristol architect, John Strahan, were visited in this part of the tour. The party then walked through Trim Street (where Gen. Wolfe stayed) before looking at the remains of the medieval city wall. The last place visited in the morning was Queen’s Square, the first of the Georgian squares built by the elder Wood in the “new” City of Bath. After lunch the party made a tour by coach of “Walcot New Town”, the fashionable area of Bath in the later 18th century. Among the places visited were: the Circus, begun by the elder Wood and finished by his son; the Royal Crescent, the masterpiece of the younger Wood; St. James’s Square and Lansdown Terrace, both splendid examples of the neo-classical architecture of John Palmer; and Somerset Place, with its lovely skyline, built by John Eveleigh at the end of the 18th century.

Back in the centre of Bath, the party were conducted round the Roman Baths by the Curator, Mr. M. Owen, and Mr. Little described the “new” Pump Room, built by Thomas Baldwin in 1791. The tour ended with a visit to Bath Abbey.

(ii) Clevedon and Nailsea Courts, 7 July: Nearly 70 members took part in this excursion. Sir Arthur Elton received the party — the fourth successive Elton to welcome the Society to Clevedon Court. The house, part of which dates back to the 14th century, has many interesting features including the famous reticulated window in the chapel, and the room where Thackeray wrote *Henry Esmond*.

Sir Arthur guided the members round his beautiful home, showing them many old records of the house, and the fine collection of Nailsea glass and the Elton ware made by his grandfather, Sir Edmund Elton. Another feature of interest was the Roman site being excavated in the garden; Mr. Gray Usher said a few words about this.

After lunch the party went on to Nailsea Court, where the owner, Mr. Whitefield, received them. The members were given tea in the Tithe Barn and Mr. Whitefield conducted them round in two parties. In the library can be seen 13th, 15th and 18th century work side by

side, and portions of the 15th century additions of Georgius de la More are still to be found in handsome fireplaces, traceried windows carved in Dundry stone, and doorways with pointed arches. The house too has many interesting historical connections — with the Perceval and Cole families in Elizabethan times, and with Nathaniel Wade of Monmouth Rebellion fame, who bought the house in 1695.

On the return journey the party visited Wedmore Church, where Mr. F. J. Pearce gave them a delightful description of the building.

(iii) Kilmersdon Church and Ammerdown, 31 July: A party of members of the Council of the Society visited Ammerdown at the invitation of Lord Hylton. Mr. G. D. Squibb, Q.C., Norfolk Herald Extraordinary, and Mrs. Squibb, were specially invited by the Society to attend. Lord Hylton met the members at Kilmersdon, where he showed them the Church and the interesting "Beasts" on the outside of the Botreaux Chantry Chapel. An article by the Norfolk Herald Extraordinary will be found in this volume.

After seeing the Church the members were entertained to tea by Lord Hylton at Ammerdown. After tea he took them for a walk round the gardens, which were laid out early in the present century to the designs of Sir Edwin Lutyens.

(iv) South Wales, 3 — 6 October: The members stayed at Porthcawl and from there visited sites which ranged from Neolithic times to the present day. On the journey to Porthcawl the members lunched at the medieval New Inn in Gloucester and then proceeded to Chepstow where the President, Mr. Raleigh Radford, described the Castle, famous for its Norman Great Tower and Hall, and the fine Marten's Tower built by Roger Bigod at the end of the 13th century.

On the second morning the members first visited Llandaff Cathedral with its beautiful 12th century Norman chancel arch, which viewed from the West end is skilfully framed by the 20th century concrete arch spanning the nave. This concrete arch is surmounted by a cylinder-shaped organ case, on which is displayed Epstein's striking statue of the Risen Christ. After seeing the Cathedral the members went to the National Museum of Wales where they were received by Dr. Savory, the Keeper of the Department of Archaeology.

Dr. Savory described some of the main exhibits in the Archaeological Department, particularly the unique series of early Christian monuments which illustrate the art of stone carving in Wales between the Roman occupation and the Norman invasion. In the afternoon the members saw Caerphilly Castle which was described by Mr. Lewis of the Ministry of Works. This Castle, only exceeded in size by Windsor Castle, is the first and perhaps the finest example of the 'concentric' system of defence adopted in these Islands under the influence of the Crusades. It was built by Gilbert de Clare in 1271, and so anticipates the castles of similar type in Wales built by Edward I.

On the third morning the party went first to Tinkinswood where Dr. Savory described the well known Neolithic Chambered Tomb, a characteristic fully developed megalithic structure in a state of excellent preservation, and one of the finest examples of its kind in the United Kingdom. The members then visited the Welsh Folk Museum at St. Fagan's Castle. Here the many examples of Welsh vernacular architecture in the form of farmhouses re-erected in the spacious grounds of the Castle, and dating from about 1500 onwards, proved of the greatest interest, as did the 18th century Unitarian Chapel of simple wooden construction. The main features of the Museum were described by Mr. T. M. Owen, the Assistant Keeper.

In the afternoon, the members visited Ewenny Priory, a Benedictine house semi-fortified in style of the 12th century, with a fine Norman Church. From the Priory the party went on to Ogmores Castle, a well preserved and romantic ruin of a small castle on the banks of the Ewenny River a mile from the sea. The castle is part early 12th and part 13th century work of unusual interest from the evolutionary point of view. Both Ewenny Priory and Ogmores Castle were described by the President, Mr. Raleigh Radford.

On the return journey from Porthcawl to Taunton the members saw the Roman amphitheatre at Caerleon, the City of the Legion, and the walls and remains of the Roman Civil City at Caerwent. These remarkable remains of the Roman conquest of Wales in the 1st century A.D. were described by Mr. Boon of the National Museum of Wales.

BRANCH AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES, 1962/3

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION, 1962

The Section suffered a severe loss by the sudden death on June 25th of its President, Mr. Harry Savory. Tributes to his memory have already been paid in the obituary notices published last year in these *Proceedings* and in the *Somerset Bird Report*.

Three lecture-meetings were held in the Wyndham Hall, Taunton. In March, Mr. Robert Spencer outlined his work as Secretary to the Bird-Ringing Committee of the British Trust for Ornithology. In April, Mr. R. E. Hitchcock showed his film "Expedition to the High Arctic". The highlight of the year came in October when the chief editor of *British Birds*, Mr. James Ferguson-Lees, gave an outstanding lecture illustrated by Mr. Eric Hosking's film "Wild Finland."

Thick fog nearly made a fiasco of the Social Evening arranged in December at the Victoria Hotel, Weston-super-Mare, but those who did manage to attend warmly appreciated Mr. J. A. McGeoch's talk on birds seen in Austria and France.

Twenty field meetings were held at places all over the county from Chew Valley reservoir in the North to Buckland Wood on the Devon border. Visits were also arranged outside the county to the Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, and to Braunton.

The Somerset Bird Report, 1961, compiled from members' records was published in October.

Membership again increased reaching a total of 301 at 31st December 1962.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE BRANCH

The 1962-63 series of winter lectures began in October with an illustrated talk by Mr. John H. Thornton on "The History of Shoes". This was followed in November by a delightful lecture on "Otters" by Dr. Ernest G. Neal. Both the December and January lectures had to be cancelled due to the appalling weather conditions. After the Annual General Meeting Mr. Alan Warhurst gave an illustrated talk on "Celtic Art". In February the Rev. J. W. Charley told by word and film of his journey through Israel filming the wild life. An excellent finish to the season was provided by Mr. C. D. Curtis, who entitled his talk "Robert Blake, General at Sea".

During the summer there were four excursions; in May to Stourhead; in June to the American Museum at Claverton Manor; in July to Hereford (including Eastnor Castle); and in September to Dyrham Park.

Although membership again fell slightly, and at the end of 1962 stood at 103, lectures and excursions were still very well attended.

WEST SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The activities of this Society pursued the normal course as regards visits to places of historical interest and lectures.

During the summer journeys were made, first, to Curry Mallet, where by courtesy of Mrs. D. Mallet, members were able to see the Tudor Gardens, the knights' tilting ground, and the eleventh century banqueting hall, part of the original castle; and, second, a whole day was taken up with a visit to Powderham Castle, the seat of the Earl and Countess of Devon, who very kindly provided a good tea for the Society, and looked after the members generally.

The lecture meetings suffered on account of the severe weather, and re-arrangements had to be made; there was, however, a full programme with the exception of January. A film on "Gardens of Britain throughout the Ages", and four lectures illustrated with colour slides: "Recent Excavations at Martinhoe and Romans in North Devon", by Lady Aileen Fox, M.A., F.S.A.; "Geology and Scenery", by Mr. A. Hull, B.Sc. (given at very short notice); "Wells Cathedral", by the Rev. J. G. Brunskill, Rector of Oare and Culbone; and "Some Wanderings in Europe", by Mr. R. C. Sansome, Keeper of the Somerset County Museum.

At the A.G.M., Mr. A. N. M. Garry was re-elected Chairman, and Mr. A. C. M. Cartwright became Vice-Chairman. The number of members remained constant.

The Society suffered a great loss in December by the sudden death of its very active and efficient secretary, Mr. H. W. Kille. So far this office has not been filled.

GLASTONBURY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

The Society visited Hinton Priory, Hinton Charterhouse, and The Old George Inn, at Norton St. Phillip on the 10th July, 1962. Dr. R. D. Reid, D.Ph., gave a lecture at Wells Cathedral on "The Quire", on August 11th, 1962. Mr. Ralegh Radford gave a talk on

the site in the Abbey at Glastonbury whilst the 1962 excavations were taking place. At the Annual meeting on November the 9th, 1962, Mrs. E. V. Clark, F.S.A., lectured on "Cornish Fogous". On March 1st, 1963, Mr. P. A. Rahtz gave an illustrated lecture on "The Saxon Palace at Cheddar".

During the year the Lake Village Museum has been moved from the Town Hall into the first floor of the Tribunal, High Street, Glastonbury. Mr. R. C. Sansome, F.S.A.(SCOT.), has been appointed visiting Curator.

SHEPTON MALLET NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Three excursions were arranged during the summer: (1) to the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge; (2) a Botany Ramble on the Mendips; (3) a visit to Steep Holm, by kind permission of the Trust.

Lectures during the winter included the following: "Israel", by Miss K. M. Willcox; "Old Shepton", by Col. J. A. Garton, C.B.E., M.C.; "Historic Houses", by Mr. Geoffrey Budd (combined with the National Trust film, "Beauty in Trust"); and "The American Museum in Britain", by Mrs. H. Hammitt.

A programme of films on New Zealand was arranged by Geoffrey Budd in March.

WELLS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The biennial report of this society has just been published and contains papers on "The Romano-British Metallurgical Workings at Green Ore" (H. W. W. Ashworth) and "The History of the Chancellor's (Museum) House at Wells" (R. D. Reid). The following meetings were held during the period May 1962 to April 1963: "A Journey to North Island, New Zealand", by Mr. G. Budd; "Corporation Records of Wells", by Mr. H. Dodd; "City Churches of Bristol", by Miss E. Ralph, F.S.A.; "Stone Age Factories", by Mr. F. S. Wallis, D.SC., PH.D.; "Features of Somerset Churches", by Mr. R. D. Reid, D.PH., B.SC.; "The Berkley Family", by Mrs. Costley-White; "Prehistoric Somerset", by Mrs. Dobson-Hinton, LITT.D., F.S.A.; "The Lands of Glastonbury Abbey", by Mr. S. C. Moorland, M.A.; "Belgium: A Versatile Neighbour", by Miss K. N. Willcox, B.A.; "Folk Songs", by Mr. and Mrs. G. P. Rye; "A Bird Watching Holiday in Corsica", by Mr. J. A. McGeoch; and "Bristol in the 1890's", by Mr. R. Winstone.

In addition to the above a number of papers were read by members of the Mendip Nature Research Committee to which all members of the society were invited.

Summer excursions have followed the pattern of recent years, the principal ones being to Powderham Castle, and Buckfast Abbey. In each year there was a short evening trip to places near Wells. Detailed examinations were also made of sections of the Cathedral buildings.

Numbers have remained remarkably constant during the period: 256 for 1961, and 255 for 1962.

CLEVEDON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Two evening visits were arranged in conjunction with the Local History Group: one to Olveston Castle where Mrs. Usher gave a talk on its history, and one to Dundry and Stanton Drew, where Mr. J. Hancock gave a brief account of the Stones.

Two long day excursions, planned and arranged by Mr. Hancock, were joined by members of several other Societies. In June we visited Wayland's Smithy, where we enjoyed on the spot talks by Professors Piggott and Atkinson, followed by the dusty but pleasant walk to Uffington Castle and White Horse. After lunch we visited Avebury and Windmill Hill. In July we went to Cirencester "Bullring" where we were given a talk, and after lunch at Bibury went on to hear Mr. Graham Webster on his Roman Villa Excavation at Barnsley Park, and to Blockley to hear Mr. Philip Rahtz on his medieval village excavation.

The Winter Lectures — "Place Names", by Mrs. Tanner; "Storied Urn or Animated Bust", by Mr. Baty; "Excavations at Portishead School", by Mr. Reid; and "Underground Rivers and Caves in County Clare", by Professor Tratman — were not so well attended as we had hoped, possibly due to the severe weather. But the Tutorial Classes on Pottery held by Mr. Rahtz kept up a good attendance, and quite a lot of practical work was done.

Some of our members joined Mr. Rahtz's rescue dig at Mary le Port Church, Bristol, when possible.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, ILMINSTER BRANCH

The Summer excursion was held in May, when members visited Whitestaunton Manor, near Ilminster.

The Annual General Meeting, held in October, was followed by tea, after which Miss Cunningham showed slides of the Lascaux Caves.

The following lectures were given: "Castle Neroche", by Mr. F. Hawtin; "How I write my local Histories", by Mrs. R. Sixsmith; and "The Black Death", by the Rev. G. S. Robinson, M.A.

The February and March meetings had to be cancelled owing to the severe weather conditions.

AXBRIDGE CAVING GROUP AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

During the past year this Society has again joined with the Clevedon and District Archaeological Society in arranging long distance excursions. On one of these trips visits were paid to the excavations at Cirencester, Barnsley Park and Upton Wold. Two hundred and fifty miles were covered and the itinerary included hill forts, long and round barrows, the Rollright Stones and many of the Cotswold villages. By such a programme members were given a brief view of monuments dating from Neolithic up to modern times. An excursion was also made to Wayland's Smithy during the excavations there. This trip of 230 miles included visits to Avebury and Windmill Hill, as well as to hill forts and barrows, in order that members might be shown the contrast between the Cotswolds and the chalk downs of Wiltshire.

During the winter some of our members attended a course of lectures on Practical Archaeology delivered at Clevedon by Mr. P. A. Rahtz. Professor R. J. C. Atkinson gave his lecture on "Neolithic Engineering" to well over 100 members and visitors from other societies at the Cave Man Restaurant, Cheddar.

The excavation at the Haywood Rock Shelter is continuing under the direction of Mr. E. T. Davies. The Society has now erected a field headquarters on the Mendips, near the Stirrup Cup Cafe (N.G.R. ST515559). This headquarters may be used by visitors from other societies on application to the Hut Warden, Mr. E. J. Chapman, Edgefield, 1 The Square, Winscombe. A charge of 2/6d. per person per night will be charged to cover the cost of gas and electricity. It is hoped that this hut will enable more people to study the Natural History of the Mendips, particularly in the early morning.

CAMERTON EXCAVATION CLUB

EXCAVATIONS. During the past year the Club has again concentrated most of its energies on the excavations at Nettleton, Wilts., but sites within Somerset have by no means been neglected:

St. James's Church, Bath. By arrangement with Messrs. Woolworth's, the Club was enabled to organize a system of observation and recording of the various excavations made by the building contractors during the redevelopment of the site. No basement was constructed, as had been expected; instead, a large number of pile-holes (average depth 24 ft.) were made over the site. Some of the piles encountered the former City Wall, the Church and other foundations. The excavations were carefully watched and a plan was made of the results. From this information it was possible to plot the course of the City Wall and to relate it to the plan of the Church. Verification of the conclusions reached during the Club's 1951 excavation of the City Wall was possible. A full-scale excavation of the site would have revealed more, but it would have been very expensive and would have added little to the knowledge already gained. It is some consolation to know that the City Wall, together with the Ham Gate discovered during the 1951 excavation, and also the Church foundations will remain largely intact under the ground floor of the new Woolworth store, available for archaeologists of the future!

Camerton. During the spring of 1962 a small excavation was organized on the site of the medieval village of Camerton. The Rev. John Skinner recorded in his diary (Brit. Mus. MS.) that a quantity of pottery was found in the field called "Collings Mead". A number of small cuttings were made in this field, by kind permission of Mrs. L. Maconochie of Camerton Court, which produced evidence confirming Skinner's remarks. During the spring of 1963 a small excavation was undertaken in the Camerton Rectory garden (while the living was vacant) by kind permission of the Lord Bishop of Bath and Wells and of the incumbent designate. A small number of cuttings were made in the garden, which is a short distance to the south of "Collings Mead", but nothing of interest was found. It is clear that the medieval village of Camerton did not extend to the south beyond the present roadway to Camerton Court.

HEADQUARTERS

The acquisition of headquarters has been amply justified. Apart from its usefulness in providing accommodation for finds from the Club's field activities while they are waiting to be catalogued, the Tuesday evening meetings have proved very successful and much useful work has been accomplished. The large collection of pottery from the Nettleton excavations has been partially catalogued and the painted plaster from the site is now receiving attention.

EXCURSIONS

Excursions were organized to (1) the Saxon Palace at Cheddar; (2) the excavations at Cirencester, and (3) the West Kennet Long Barrow and Devizes Museum.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

It was not part of the Society's policy to undertake fresh work during the year. It was felt that the results of previous excavations needed further study and considerable progress has been made in this direction. Completed reports should be submitted for publication this year. Members continued their policy of watching building and other excavations in the area, but no finds of importance were noted.

Although there is a fair degree of interest in the subjects covered by the Society all projects have been greatly hampered by an acute shortage of members skilled in the basic arts of practical archaeology.

A programme of popular excursions and lectures was arranged and most of these were well supported.

YEOVIL ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Six lectures were given during the winter session. These were: "Elizabethan owners of some Somerset houses", by Mrs. C. W. H. Rawlins; "Excavations in Somerset 1962", by Mr. P. A. Rahtz; "Celtic Art", by Mr. A. Warhurst; "The Battle of Sedgemoor", by Lt.-Col. R. A. C. Prevett; "The rebuilding of Dorchester Model Prison", by Miss M. B. Weinstock; and "The American Museum in Britain", by Mr. I. McCallum. Among the six summer excursions made to places of archaeological and historical interest was an all-day expedition to Exmoor.

Excavations were continued, under the direction of Mr. L. C. Hayward, at the Lufton Roman Villa where the most interesting discovery was the source of the villa's water supply. This was a spring in a nearby field, whence water was carried in a lead pipe, part of which was recovered.

Membership has increased during the year and now stands at its highest level since the Society was formed.

FROME SOCIETY FOR LOCAL STUDY

Lectures during the year included the following: "Anglo Saxon Christian Art", by Dr. B. Cottle; "Insurance Marks", by Mr. E. N. Linaker; "Monumental Brasses", by Mr. J. B. B. Roberts; "Life in a Benedictine Monastery", by Dom Philip Jebb; "Mells", by the Reverend F. W. Cleverdon; "British Mammals", by Mr. A. C. Gambier; "Local Views and Flowers", by Mrs. O. Bennett; "Know your Birds", by Miss E. D. Overend; "Frome Plants in Britain", by Mr. Peter Hunt. There was also a talk and discussion on the missing section of the Bath to Poole Harbour Roman Road. New finds of Roman pottery on the outskirts of Frome have given additional impetus to investigations in this area.

Field studies continued at Asham during the summer and autumn. Trips were arranged to Corsham Court, Lytes Cary and Tintinhull, Hod and Hambledon Hills, Wilton House, Stony Littleton, the Wildfowl Trust at Slimbridge, the Tropical Bird Gardens at Rode, Grandon Farm, Friggle Street, and to Standerwick Court.

Floor plans were made of cottages scheduled for demolition, and Cloford House (1633) has been photographed and floor plans made. Buildings in the centre of Frome have been graded to provide pre-development information for the Somerset County Council.

Melting snow at Egford revealed the pattern of a village, probably medieval, which has been plotted, and warrants further investigation. The site has produced oyster shells and pottery — not yet dated.

A Publications Fund has been opened as it is desirable that the proceedings of the Society should be published soon, and some £27. raised towards the £80 required.

Membership at 31st December, 1962 was 113, an increase of ten.

PORTISHEAD PRESERVATION SOCIETY

During the year the Society has received five lectures: "The Bristol Forest and the work of the Forestry Commission", by Mr. R. Carnell; "The Rivers and Sea Walls of Somerset", by Mr. E. L. Kelting, O.B.E.; "The Work of the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery", by Mr. W. H. Jones; "The Malago and Bedminster", by Mr. R. Cleeve; and "French Prisoners in the West Country", by Mrs. Dorothy Vinter. There have been visits to the Bristol Forest and to Clevedon Court, also to Maes Knoll, Wells and Cheddar. A walk around part of Medieval Bristol was conducted by Mr. F. C. Jones. There have also been two evenings of slides of archaeological sites in this and other countries visited by Mr. and Mrs. Penn and Mr. Herbert.

NORTH SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

The Group continued its policy of locating, identifying and reporting 'new' sites in the North Somerset Area. Hitherto unsuspected dwelling sites of varying periods from pre-Roman to late medieval were reported in the period under review.

Except in cases where building and other earth-moving operations were proceeding, minimal excavation was carried out and sites marked with an asterisk (*) may well prove rewarding if excavated completely at some future date.

The appended list gives the 13 sites with their nature and O.S. reference. Further details are in the possession of the County Society.

1. Romano-British. 3rd/4th cent. Tickenham Moor. ST 341711*.
2. " " " " " (next field) "
3. Palaeolithic (?) Massive stones ploughed out. Moat Farm. Tickenham Hill. ST 489728.
4. Suspect Long Barrow. Chapel Allerton. ST 409501*. Also reported to Mr. P. Rahtz.
5. Group of standing stones. Cocklake. Wedmore. ST 448492.
6. Romano-British. Walton-in-Gordano. 3rd/4th century. ST 421727*.
7. Lower Langford. Romano-British. 3rd/4th cent. ST 465494*.
8. Romano-British. 3rd cent. Land behind Sawmills. Clevedon. ST 414712.

9. Romano-British. Kingston Seymour. ST 402687. This pot scatter lies within 300 yards of the medieval and later 'Bulbeck Manor site' previously reported.
10. Hewish. Romano-British. 3rd cent. ST 339443*.
11. Research Station. Long Ashton. Medieval cultivation terraces and heavy pot scatter. ST 431702*.
12. Moor Lane. Clevedon. 16th century. Heavy pot scatter. ST 431708.
13. Lower Garden. Clevedon Court. Romano-British*.

During the year members of the Group rendered assistance to Mr. P. Rahtz in the work at Mary le Port excavations at Bristol and attended the course in pottery identification he conducted during the winter. A party also worked at Cannington under Mr. Rahtz, and the Recorder delivered lectures on the Group's work to organisations and schools.

The Group will be delighted to assist any recognised society in the further investigation of any of the above sites, but intend to concentrate upon the further detailed examination of the North part of the county.

A full collection of slides covering all the sites can be shown to any society or group if good notice is given.