

PROCEEDINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1962

The Meeting was held in the Wyndham Hall, Taunton Castle, on the 28th April, 1962. About fifty members were present.

The retiring President, Major General R. Evans, opened the proceedings by paying a tribute to the late Mr. Vivian-Neal for his great services to the county of Somerset, the Somerset Archaeological Society and the Somerset Record Society. The members present stood for a short time as a mark of respect to the memory of Mr. Vivian-Neal.

General Evans thanked the members of the Council and the Secretary for their co-operation during his term of office. He also thanked Mr. Collis for the great help given to him in the preparation of his Presidential Address. In introducing the new President, General Evans remarked that Mr. Raleigh Radford was so well known both nationally and in the county of Somerset in so many fields of archaeology and history that he really needed no introduction.

Mr. Raleigh Radford said that, although his native county was Devon, he had had a fifty year connection with Somerset. His first excavation was in Yeovil and for many years now he had been carrying out excavations at Glastonbury. He had inherited his father's membership of the Society and had himself been a member since 1925. He thanked General Evans for his good work during his term of office and he thanked the members for the great honour done to him in electing him as their President. He then took the Chair.

Apologies for absence were read by the Secretary.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

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

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

General Evans seconded the proposal and the Officers were elected unanimously.

ELECTION OF MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

On a proposal by Mr. I. I. Jeffries, seconded by Mr. J. Stevens Cox, the following were elected as members of the Council: Mr. W. Leighton, Mr. W. J. Wedlake, Sir R. de Z. Hall, Mrs. D. P. Dobson Hinton and Dr. E. B. Ford.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Secretary read the following brief report on behalf of the Council:

At the end of the year under report the membership of the Society totalled 854, composed of 796 individuals and 58 Universities, Schools and Libraries. During the year we lost 44 members through death and resignation, but against this we gained 52 new members, so that the net gain of membership was 8 in all. The year proved to be a successful one, particularly in view of the fact that the Society's financial position allowed an excavation to be undertaken on Castle Neroche. However, the year was overshadowed by the death of the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Vivian-Neal, to whom your Past President just now has paid eloquent tribute. The loss to the Society of Mr. Vivian-Neal's rare gifts both in scholarship and administrative ability is a grievous one.

PROCEEDINGS

The end of 1961 saw the publication of the hundred and fifth volume of 'Proceedings'. It proved to be a well-balanced volume covering various aspects of archaeological, historical and architectural interest in the County.

EXCURSIONS

During the summer of 1961 three successful excursions were arranged: The first in June to Exeter Cathedral and Cothay Manor; the second in July to Lytes Cary, Farleigh Hungerford, and Lullington and Orchardleigh Churches; and the third, a Four-Day Excursion from September 26th to 29th, based on Penzance.

CASTLE NEROCHE EXCAVATION

From August 14th to September 4th an excavation on Castle Neroche was carried out under the immediate direction of Mr. B. K. Davison of Queen's University, Belfast, and under the general

direction of Mr. E. M. Jope of Queen's University and Mr. Raleigh Radford. It was well supported both by volunteer labour and by money contributions from members and from the Queen's University, Belfast. On August 26th Mr. Davison gave a talk at Castle Neroche on the work done, which was attended by about a hundred members, amongst whom were Mr. and Mrs. St. George Gray, nearly sixty years after the excavation done on the same site by Mr. St. George Gray in the year 1903. Some interesting domestic pottery reflecting Norman-French influence was found, but no conclusive dating evidence of the various phases of the fortifications has as yet been established. The excavation will be continued this summer from August 13th to September 1st, when it is hoped that some definite facts regarding this important site will be revealed.

LOCAL SOCIETIES

In pursuance of the policy of promoting closer links between the Parent Society and the Local Societies, a meeting of representatives of the Branch and Affiliated Societies and Members of the Council of the Parent Society was held on October 28th, 1961, in the Red Lion Hotel, Wells. General Evans, the President, presided at the meeting, which was attended by sixty-four people. The programme consisted of a number of interesting talks by members of the Local Societies. Mr. G. P. Rye of the Weston-super-Mare Branch spoke on 'The Use of the Tape-Recorder in Local History'. Mr. L. C. Hayward of the Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society spoke on 'Lufton Roman Villa'. Miss Overend of the Frome Society for Local Study spoke on 'Aerial Photography of the Frome Area', and Mr. L. Tavender of the Yeovil Society gave a short talk on 'The Map of Yeovil'. After the talks tea was served to the members present.

LECTURES

During the winter season four Archaeological Lectures and three Natural History Lectures were arranged. They were all well attended. On November 4th about a hundred members met at Cheddar where Mr. Rahtz gave a most instructive guided tour and talk on the Excavation of the Saxon Palace.

On November 11th Professor G. Keeton of University College, London, lectured on 'The Political Background of the Monmouth

Rebellion'. Major General Cubbon and some members of the South Western Command staff attended by special invitation in return for the fascinating tour of the Sedgemoor battlefield which had been carried out the previous month by General Cubbon and his staff, and to which some of the Executive officers of the Society had been invited.

On December 2nd Father Aelred Watkin spoke on 'The Glastonbury Chartulary'.

On March 3rd, Professor Grimes of the University of London gave an illustrated lecture on 'Excavations in Roman London since the War', and on March 24th Mr. B. K. Davison gave an account of the 1961 Excavation on Castle Neroche.

On a proposal by Mr. A. C. M. Cartwright, seconded by Mr. F. C. Vickery, the Report was unanimously adopted.

ACCOUNTS

The Secretary made a brief statement on the accounts which had been certified by the Auditors, Messrs. A. C. Mole and Sons, and had been approved by the Hon. Treasurer, the Executive Committee and the Council of the Society. On a proposal by Mr. J. de C. Pook, seconded by Mr. C. G. Phillips, the accounts were adopted.

Mr. Leighton expressed the members' pleasure at the satisfactory state of the accounts and a vote of thanks to the Secretary, Hon. Treasurer and Auditors was passed.

SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY

The Hon. Secretary, Mrs. C. W. H. Rawlins, presented the following report for 1961-2:

As Secretary of the Somerset Record Society, and on behalf of the Council and members, I must begin my report by referring to the great loss our Society, in common with the Archaeological Society, has sustained by the death of our chairman, Mr. A. W. Vivian-Neal. He had been a member of the Council since 1933 and chairman since 1950. The Society remains deeply indebted to him for all the work he did for it, especially in encouraging his colleagues to keep it in being during the dark days of the war, and in meeting with perseverance and resourcefulness the problems which arose in completing publication of the Glastonbury Chartulary. Vol. 66 was already in the press in February and the editor and I decided not to

alter the printed report but to insert a separate memorial notice. I hope all subscribers received this with their copy of Vol. 66 in March. The Council would again like to thank Mr. Hunt for all the work he put into this volume, including his most interesting analysis of manorial agricultural organization in the Taunton neighbourhood in the thirteenth century.

As reported briefly last year, Mr. Michael Hawkins of Edinburgh University is now at work on Vol. 67, which we hope may be published towards the end of next year. He is extracting from the records of the Court of Wards and Liveries, the Sales of Wards in Somerset in the reigns of James I and Charles I. These extracts include surveys of the estates involved and should provide valuable topographical and genealogical material.

The publication of Vol. 66 cost a little over £500, towards which we received a generous grant of £100 from the British Academy. Funds are in hand to cover Vol. 67 and the Council hopes to meet shortly to consider future plans. Membership has been just keeping level in the last two years, but this year has made a poor start with three new subscribers as against seven losses by death or resignation. New members would be most welcome both as providing regular financial support, and as showing that there is still sufficient local interest in the Society's work to make its organization worth while.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

In the afternoon at the Empire Hall, County Hotel, Taunton, Mr. Raleigh Radford delivered his Address on 'The Church in Somerset down to 1100'. Mr. T. J. Hunt took the Chair and Mrs. J. B. Clark proposed a vote of thanks. After the lecture the members present had tea in the hotel.

LECTURES

1961

- November 4th (On the site at Cheddar)
 "Excavation of Saxon Palace"
 Guided Tour and Talk by Mr. P. A. Rahtz, F.S.A.,
 Archaeological Consultant to the Ministry of Works.
- November 11th "The Political Background of the Monmouth
 Rebellion"
 Professor G. W. Keeton, M.A., LL.D., Professor of
 Law, University College, London.

- December 2nd "The Glastonbury Chartulary"
Rev. Dom Aelred Watkin, M.A., F.S.A., F.R.HIST.S.
- 1962
- March 3rd "Excavations in Roman London since the War"
Professor W. F. Grimes, C.B.E., M.A., F.S.A., F.M.A.,
Director, Institute of Archaeology, University of
London.
- March 24th "Castle Neroche Excavation"
Mr. B. K. Davison, B.A.

EXCURSIONS, 1961

(i) Exeter Cathedral and Cothay Manor, 10 June 1961.

Through the kindness of the Dean, several guides were waiting at the Cathedral to conduct the members round in parties. While some members were in the Cathedral the rest were visiting the Cathedral Library. Here Mrs. Erskine, the librarian, showed them a number of treasures, including the Exon Domesday and the famous "Exeter Book". This latter manuscript contains one of the very few surviving collections of Old English poetry; it has supplied us with the only versions, which have come down to us, of such well-known poems as "The Wanderer", "The Seafarer", "The Life of St. Guthlac" and so on.

In the afternoon the party visited Cothay Manor (see Vol. 80) by kind invitation of Mrs. Astley-Rushton. They saw over this perfect 15th century manor house with Mrs. Astley-Rushton and her daughter acting as guides. The Hall, with its fine timbered roof with moulded arched braces, was greatly admired, as was the Solar, which has a similar roof.

(ii) Lytes Cary, Farleigh Hungerford Castle, Lullington and Orchardleigh Churches, 8 July, 1961.

The first stop was made at Lytes Cary, where the party was shown round this beautiful part-medieval manor house (see Vols. 38, 71 and 77). After lunch they saw the unique 13th century mace in Ilchester Town Hall, before journeying on to Farleigh Hungerford Castle. Mr. R. S. Simms acted as guide here, showing members the extent of the ground plan. It must in its day have been a formidable stronghold, but little can now be seen of the fortifications except two towers and the foundations of the walls. The visitors were greatly interested in the 14th century Chapel, with its fine monuments,

wall painting and lead coffins (see Vols. 3 and 80). Mr. Simms pointed out the Falconry on the hill above the Castle (see Vol. 87).

After tea at Trowbridge the party went on to Lullington Church (see Vols. 2, 21, 39 and 57). Here they were met by Mr. Duckworth of Orchardleigh Park, who showed them the Church which contains some of the finest Norman work in Somerset. Then he led the party across his finely timbered park to the little Church of Orchardleigh, famous for its 15th and 16th century glass (see Vols. 39, 57 and 86).

(iii) Four-day Excursion to West Cornwall (based on Penzance), 26-29 September 1961.

Sept. 26th. At Truro, in the Museum of the Royal Institution of Cornwall, the Curator, Mr. Douch, kindly produced a number of treasures for the inspection of the party. Amongst these were two crescent-shaped collars of early Bronze Age date, part of a hoard found by a labourer, who thought they were bits of old brass. He threw most of what he found over the cliff, but fortunately kept the collars, being struck by their unusual shape. After visiting the Cathedral the party went on to Penzance.

Sept. 27th. Members were conducted by Mr. R. S. Simms round the Iron Age village of Chysauster. The ruins of almost a dozen houses can be seen. They are roughly oval in shape with thick, dry-stone walls about 4 feet high. In the centre of each house is an open yard with small rooms all round it and opening out of it. These rooms are paved with stone and were evidently thatched when they were occupied. For in many cases a paving-stone, socketed to receive a central post, is still in position in the floor. In some of the rooms stone sleeping platforms can still be seen, while in the court-yards the positioning of stone fireplaces and stone drains bears witness to the forethought of those who planned and built these houses.

At Zennor the party inspected the Wayside Museum, where there is gathered together, under the charge of Mr. and Mrs. E. J. Wigley, an interesting collection of implements used by Cornish folk in their agriculture, mining and fishing. After seeing Zennor Church, the visitors went on to St. Ives for lunch.

The morning had been dull, but dry; now the rain began to fall and it was fortunate that the main event of the afternoon was an indoor one — a visit to the fine Church of St. Just-in-Penwith. Here Mrs. Derrington, assisted by Mrs. Cuddy, deputised for the Rev.

S. W. Barrie, and with great charm described the building. The rain was now so heavy that the proposed drive back by way of Land's End had to be abandoned; and so after a brief stop at the Ballowall Round Barrow and tea at the St. Gurnard's Head Hotel, the coach took the party straight back to Penzance.

Sept. 28th. After a rough night the weather improved so much that the members were able to enjoy to the full the outdoor programme arranged for the day. Much of the morning was spent at Boleigh, where, in the garden of Mr. and Mrs. Gorst's house, there is an Iron Age "fogou". Mrs. J. B. Clark and Dr. E. B. Ford, who have spent much time and labour excavating this "fogou", took the party in small groups down into the chamber and explained what they had found there and the theories which they had evolved about the original purpose of these curious places (see Mrs. Clark's recent book, "Cornish Fogous"). A short visit was paid to the two groups of standing stones nearby — the Merry Maidens of Boleigh and the Pipers.

After lunch at Penzance a visit was paid in glorious weather to St. Michael's Mount. The party was conducted by the Constable of the Mount up to the platforms bristling with cannon, into the Chapel and through a number of rooms, amongst which the Chevy Chase Room, with its 17th century frieze of hunting scenes, is the most remarkable.

Sept. 29th. The return journey to Taunton was made via Launceston, where quick visits were paid to the Church and Castle. At Lydford in Devon the Rev. F. W. Evans described the Church, which contains some fine, modern woodwork. Close to the Church stands the keep of Lydford Castle. Mr. Saunders of the Ministry of Works gave a talk on the history of the building; he showed that the now quiet little village of Lydford had in former times been a place of great importance, with a mint and a prison.

BRANCH AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES, 1961/2

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION, 1961

Two lecture meetings were held in the Wyndham Hall, Taunton. In April, Mr. R. P. Bagnall-Oakley showed his excellent coloured films — "Waders and Rare Migrants in East Anglia", and in November, Mr. R. J. Buxton lectured on a "Scottish Islands Cruise", also illustrating his talk with his own films.

A public meeting was held at the Town Hall, Bridgwater, in November, when the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds film "Reserved for Birds" was shown.

During December a Social Evening was held in Weston-super-Mare, at which Messrs. E. G. Holt and J. A. McGeoch related some holiday birding experiences, and Mr. I. I. Jeffries produced an amusing natural history quiz.

Sixteen field meetings were arranged and visits paid to such places as Muchelney, Steart, Porlock, Sedgemoor and the New Forest.

The Section recently suffered a grievous loss through the death of its President Mr. Harry Savory. An obituary notice appears on p. 117-18 of this volume.

The "Somerset Bird Report, 1960", published last October, has again received favourable comment from outside the county.

Membership at the end of 1961 totalled 289.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE BRANCH

A series of monthly lectures during the winter season included a talk by Dr. R. D. Reid on "Turnpikes"; Mr. Philip A. Rahtz described "Medieval Archaeology in the Bristol District"; Miss Beatrice Playne discussed "Byzantine Art"; Mr. Jeffery Boswall of the B.B.C. Natural History Unit spoke on "Bird Language" and the President, Mr. G. P. Rye, was "At Home in the Museum" when he showed and described a comprehensive collection of archaeological and domestic relics.

On the occasion of the Annual General Meeting in January Mr. Roger Perry, also of the B.B.C. Natural History Unit, related his experiences while "Plant Collecting in the Andes".

Four excursions were arranged during the summer. Athelhamp-ton House and Dorchester were visited in June, and Breamore House and Salisbury in July. There was a half-day excursion to Wayford Manor and Crewkerne Church, and another to Churches at Chewton Mendip, Shepton Mallet and Wells.

At the end of 1961 membership figures stood at 112, which showed a slight decrease from the previous year. Nevertheless, both lectures and excursions were very well supported.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH

The highlight of the year 1961-62 was an "At Home", in October, at Dunster Castle, given by the President, Mrs. G. F. Luttrell. About 170 people attended, including Mr. E. L. Kelting (representing Council of the Parent Society) and Mrs. Kelting. Mr. H. W. Kille (Hon. Secretary) gave a talk about the history of the Castle and its Mohun and Luttrell lords; Mrs. Luttrell provided a very nice tea; and the company enjoyed ample opportunity to look over the Castle. In the previous June three motor coach loads of members made an excursion to Forde Abbey.

The increasing membership — now about 230 — has been reflected in always full, sometimes packed, houses for lecture-meetings. Subjects for these were "Background to R. D. Blackmore's Romance, *Lorna Doone*"; "The History of the Plough" (by Mr. J. W. Y. Higgs); "The Storied Coastline of N. Devon and W. Somerset"; "British Birds in Lore and Legend" (the late Harry Savory); and "Church Music — the Barrel Organ Period" (Mr. Frank L. Balmforth). The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds' colour film, "Highland Birds", was also shown.

The branch has agreed to associate itself with the Exmoor Society and the North Devon Archaeological Society in sponsoring a project put forward through the Exmoor Society by Mr. L. V. Grinsell, Curator of Archaeology at Bristol City Museum, for a field survey of Exmoor. To meet initial costs, which included the purchase of a complete set of air photographs of Exmoor, an application to the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, for a grant of £65 was made.

GLASTONBURY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

In July, 1961, members attended a lecture at Wells Cathedral when Dr. R. D. Reid gave a talk on "The Central Portion".

October 30th, 1961. The Annual General Meeting, followed by a lecture by Mr. P. A. Rahtz, on "The Recent Excavations at Cheddar".

February 5th, 1962. A lecture by Mr. P. V. McGrath, M.A., "The 17th Century Letters of the Bulls of Shapwick".

March 20th, 1962. A lecture by Dr. A. M. Boyd, "The Pillrow-cut; local inland waterways at the time of the Abbey".

SHEPTON MALLET NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Two summer outings were arranged: a botany ramble to Rodney Stoke Nature Reserve under the leadership of Miss Balch, and an excursion to Powderham Castle, Devon, in collaboration with the Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society.

There were five lectures during the winter: "Wild Flowers" (Mrs. Pyke), "European Journey Continued" (Mr. G. Budd), "Hadrian's Wall" (Mr. T. R. Wightman), "Otters Tame and Wild" (Dr. E. G. Neal), and "Turnpike Roads of North Somerset" (Mr. Robin Atthill). In March 1962, the President, Mr. A. Saxon, arranged a programme of films.

WELLS NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

A full report of the series of lectures and excursions arranged by this society is given in its biennial report. This also contains two valuable papers: one by Dr. R. V. Sellers on "The Chantry College in the Mowntroy at Wells", and the other by Dr. C. M. B. McBurney, F.S.A., on "Two Soundings in the Badger Hole at Wookey Hole".

The society has suffered a great loss in the death of Professor L. S. Palmer, a vice-president and curator of its museum. Dr. R. D. Reid has been elected a vice-president.

CLEVEDON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

During the summer three outings were arranged: to visit Mr. Rahtz's excavations at Cheddar, to Tickenham Court, and to Camerton, Wansdyke, Stoney Littleton Barrow, etc.

Lectures were given monthly during the winter season, Mr. Wilmott speaking on "The Failand Ridge", Mr. Grinsell on "Archaeological Societies — Their Past, Present and Future", Mr. Selway on "Excavations", Mr. Hancock on "Air Photography and Archaeology", and Mr. Gray Usher on "Clevedon Court".

Under the auspices of Bristol University, Mr. Rahtz gave a series of ten lectures on Excavation. Over 40 people registered for this course and an average attendance of 31 was maintained.

Following the discovery made in February 1962, by the Chairman Mr. J. Pullan, of Roman roof tiles and pottery on ground cleared for extending the quarry at Henley Wood, Yatton (ST442653), the Society has been excavating a small area in the hope of finding evidence of Roman occupation. The corner of a large building has

been revealed, built on the bedrock on the N.W. side of the hill. Remains of many burials have been recovered; these appear to be of later date than the building. Pottery so far recovered seems to indicate occupation from 1st to 4th century A.D. A few Iron Age sherds have been found on the surface of the bedrock. It is hoped to carry out a large-scale excavation at a later date.

HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, ILMINSTER BRANCH

The 1961-2 season began in September with an evening meeting at Abbots Court, Ilminster, by kind invitation of Miss R. Hatfield, Vice-Chairman, who afterwards showed members and guests slides of Greece.

The following lectures were arranged during the winter: "The Battle of Sedgemoor", by Col. Prevett, "The World of the Wandering Scholar", by Mr. G. Greenaway, and "The Victorian Aristocracy", by Mr. D. Large.

The summer programme included two excursions: one in April to the Dower House, Compton Durville; and the other in June to Whitestaunton Manor.

AXBRIDGE CAVING GROUP AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

During the past year the Society has in some of its activities joined forces with the Clevedon and District Arch. Society. In an attempt to appeal to a wider range of tastes, the trips arranged this year have included opportunities for those interested in Natural History. During the 1961-2 season trips were made to the Mendips, Wansdyke and Stoney Littleton, to Portchester, to Exeter underground, to Bristol underground and Redcliffe Caves, to Crooks Peak and the Compton Bishop area, to Steep Holm, to the Severn Wildfowl Trust and to the Bristol Zoo.

The Society has not entered upon any new excavation this year, but a few members have assisted with the excavations at the Saxon Palace at Cheddar, and at the Henley Wood site, excavated by the Clevedon Society. Work has continued at the Rock Shelter at Hay Wood, Hutton. Mr. E. T. Davies has been appointed director in succession to the late Professor Palmer.

Several members have attended courses of lectures, arranged by Bristol University at the Bristol City Museum. The most important of these was on the preparation of archaeological reports.

CAMERTON EXCAVATION CLUB

Work has continued throughout the past year on the Romano-British site at Nettleton, Wiltshire. Attention was directed to the excavation of the domestic buildings to the south-west of the temple. The club is grateful for the generous financial grants made by the British Academy, the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, the Society of Antiquaries and the Trustees of the Haverfield Bequest towards the expenses of the excavation.

The Society is also indebted to His Grace the Duke of Beaufort and his tenant Mr. L. Webb for allowing the work to proceed.

During the year under review a small excavation was conducted on the site of the medieval village at Camerton.

An arrangement was made with Messrs. Woolworths for members to observe and record significant material from the commercial excavations made necessary by the erection of a large store on the site of the former St. James's Church, Bath. The church lay just within the medieval city wall and it was possible to plan the course of the wall in this area. A report on this work will be submitted in due course for publication in the *Proceedings* of the Parent Society.

Much use has been made of the Club's headquarters at No. 2, Gay Street, Bath. Pottery has been classified during the winter months from the several excavations and this work has proved most useful in familiarising members with the different types of pottery recovered. Pottery drawing and the construction of an electrolysis apparatus for cleaning metals were among the other activities performed at the headquarters.

It is intended that in the future models will be constructed by members and that local finds will be recorded on maps. A start has already been made with a card-index of finds made in the Bath area, and local records and newspapers are being searched at the Bath Reference Library.

A series of interesting lectures was also given during the winter months; these were well attended.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY
SOCIETY

A trial excavation was conducted on the moated enclosure at Edithmead, near Burnham-on-Sea (ST328493). An occupation level

with glazed pottery of approximately 14th century date was revealed immediately below the modern turf. Careful study of the surface features of the site would seem to indicate that much of the central mound has been quarried away.

A quantity of pottery has been collected at low water from the Romano-British debris mounds cut by the Huntspill River. These collections have been made as part of an attempt to establish a better understanding of the extensive Romano-British occupation area round Burnham and Highbridge, which is buried beneath the clay of the suggested 3rd century marine transgression.

A fresh venture undertaken by the Society was the organization by the Field Group of visits to the Islands of Steep Holm and Flat Holm. Other excursions to places of historical interest were also arranged. In addition to the well-attended dinner, lectures or talks were given to the Society by Mr. C. A. Raleigh Radford, Mr. V. G. Tucker, Mr. R. B. Naish, Mrs. M. L. Colthurst and Mr. B. Storer.

YEovil ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The six lectures given during the winter were: "The Approach to Documents" by Mr. I. P. Collis; "Excavations 1961 at Cheddar and Glastonbury" by Mr. P. A. Rahtz; "Resistivity and Other Surveys" by Mr. G. E. W. Hebditch; "West Country Friendly Societies" by Miss Margaret Fuller; "The Prehistoric Archaeology of West Somerset" by Mr. A. L. Wedlake; and "Somerset Newspapers" by Mr. L. E. J. Brooke. Six excursions to places of historical and archaeological interest were made during the summer, one of these being an all-day expedition to Blandford, Thickthorn Cross, Chettle House and the Pitt-Rivers Museum.

At the Lufton Roman Villa, excavations were continued under the direction of Mr. L. C. Hayward. It is hoped that one of the mosaic pavements may be raised and preserved. A number of aerial photographs of the Yeovil area have been bought and it is intended that these shall form a basis for study and work. Several members have helped in the recording and photographing of the George Inn, Yeovil, which has now been demolished.

PORTISHEAD PRESERVATION SOCIETY

During the year the Society has received eight lectures: "The History and Work of the St. John Ambulance Brigade" by Mr.

S. M. Yea; "Kipling and his Poems" by Lt.-Cdr. M. Johnson; "Bird-life of the Severn Estuary" by the late Harry Savory; "The History of the White Funnel Fleet" by Mr. S. C. Smith-Cox; "Old Inns" by Rev. L. W. Fussell; "An Architect Looks at Portishead" by Mr. C. R. Beecroft; "Roman Cities of North Africa" by Mr. B. H. Warmington; and "The Work of the Wells Preservation Society" by Dr. R. Reid.

A geological field-walk around Portishead was led by Mr. A. C. K. Fear. Visits were also paid to Avebury and Marlborough (conducted by Mr. L. V. Grinsell) and to the Clevedon Potteries (conducted by Mr. W. Fishley Holland).

FROME SOCIETY FOR LOCAL STUDY

In order to prepare members for field research at Asham Wood, a series of twelve lectures and six field meetings was arranged during the year in conjunction with Bristol University. Mr. A. C. Gambier was the lecturer. As an introduction to this course, Miss E. D. Overend gave a talk on "Geology in the Frome Area".

In addition to those mentioned above, ten excursions were made, including visits to Wells Museum, Montacute House, Old Sarum and the American Museum at Claverton.

Among many lectures given during the winter months were: "Turnpike Roads" by Mr. R. A. Atthill; "Excavations in Wessex" by Mr. F. K. Annable; "The Origin of Members' Names" by Dr. B. Cottle; "Orchids" by Mr. P. F. Hunt; "Bishop Bekynton" by Rev. Preb. A. F. Judd; and "Excavations in the Yeovil Area" by Mr. L. C. Hayward.

A two-day exhibition was arranged to support Commonwealth Technical Training Week, and a Sale was organized to raise funds for the Society.

More than 70 people attended the Autumn Social Meeting, when a talk on "Ghosts" was given by Mr. Robert Aickman.

For the Annual General Meeting a Parade of "Costume through the Ages" was arranged. The dresses were made by Mrs. M. A. J. Brown, and the date of each costume was chosen to correspond with a period or event in local history. A commentary was prepared by Mr. J. Davidson. The Parade was repeated a few weeks later at a Coffee Evening, when members brought work they had accomplished at home for other members to see and discuss.

Plans have been made to survey all cottages and farmhouses in the district, built before 1800. The first to be surveyed will be those buildings in rural areas scheduled for demolition.

Work has continued on the Registers and Churchwardens' Accounts at St. John's Church, Frome.

The Camp at Downhead was inspected by the late Professor L. S. Palmer and dated as late Bronze or early Iron Age. Worked flints and quantities of charcoal have been found, but no pottery. The area was surveyed and plotted by Mr. R. H. Abbott.

Membership has increased. There were over 100 paid-up members at 31st December, 1961.