

# PROCEEDINGS

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1965

The Meeting was held in the Somerset Room, Taunton Castle, on 1st May 1965. Over fifty members were present. The retiring President, Mrs. C. W. H. Rawlins, declared the St. George Gray Memorial Library open. She drew attention to the oak plaque recording the long and distinguished services rendered by Mr. St. George Gray to archaeology. Mrs. Rawlins then introduced the new President, Mr. H. F. Scott Stokes, and he took the Chair.

### ELECTION OF OFFICERS

On a proposal by the President, seconded by Maj. Gen. Evans, the following officers were elected:

Two 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

### ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

On a proposal by Mr. T. J. Hunt, seconded by Mr. R. B. Naish, the following five members were elected: Mr. W. J. Wedlake, F.S.A.; Sir R. de Z. Hall, K.C.M.G.; Professor E. B. Ford, F.R.S.; Mr. L. C. Hayward, F.S.A. and Mr. P. A. Rahtz.

### SUMMARY OF THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

**MEMBERSHIP.** During the year 55 new members were elected against a loss of 49. The present membership is 882, consisting of 821 individuals and 61 institutions. Amongst our losses during the year the Society deeply regrets the death of Sir Arthur Hobhouse, who had for a great many years been one of our Trustees.<sup>1</sup> To fill the vacancy caused by his death the Council of the Society has appointed Sir R. de Z. Hall and Dr. Raleigh Radford as new Trustees, thus increasing the number of Trustees from four to five.

**EXCURSIONS.** (i) 3rd June 1964. Ottery St. Mary Church, Cadhay Manor and Powderham Castle.

(ii) 7th July 1964. Newton Surmaville, Brympton D'Evercy and Sutton Bingham Church.<sup>2</sup>

(iii) 28th September to 1st October 1964. Four-day excursion. Places visited: Breamore House and Church, Carisbrooke Castle, Osborne House, Romsey Abbey, Rockbourne Roman Villa, St. Giles's House, Blandford Church, Chettle House.

**EXCAVATIONS.** During August 1964 members of the Society took part in the excavations at Glastonbury Abbey, towards the expenses of which the Society had given financial support. On August 18th Dr. Radford gave a talk on the results of the excavation and on the same afternoon Mr. Rahtz spoke at Glastonbury Tor on his excavations there.

<sup>1</sup> An obituary notice is printed on p. 111.

<sup>2</sup> Descriptions on pp. 30-46.

MEETING OF BRANCH AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES. This was held at the Star Hotel, Wells, on October 31st. Mr. L. V. Grinsell gave an illustrated talk on "Somerset Archaeology" since 1931.<sup>3</sup>

LECTURES. The following lectures were arranged:

- 7th November 1964 "English medieval wall-paintings, their meaning and purpose" by E. Clive Rouse.
- 30th November 1964 "The judicial career of Judge Jeffreys" by Professor G. W. Keeton.
- 27th February 1965 "The Christian Roman mosaic, Hinton St. Mary, Dorset", by R. N. R. Peers.
- 25th March 1965 "The medieval borough of Taunton" by T. J. Hunt.

The Judge Jeffreys lecture was held in Bishop Fox's School hall and was open to the public.

LEGACY. The Society acknowledges with gratitude the receipt of a legacy of £100 towards the St. George Gray Excavation Fund from the late Miss G. Batchelor.

#### ACCOUNTS

The Secretary explained the annual accounts to the meeting and, on a proposal by Major Dowling seconded by Mr. Pearce, they were adopted.

#### SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY

Mrs. C. W. H. Rawlins read the annual report:

As Secretary of the Somerset Record Society, I must begin with an apology. Vol. 67 *Sales of Wards in Somerset*, which was reported last year to be "in the press" is, I regret to say, still there. Unfortunately, the pressure of his work at the University of Sussex prevented the editor, Mr. Hawkins, from completing the index by the date which had been arranged, and a long delay resulted. However, all is now well; the volume has reached the binders and should be in the hands of members in June or July. Until the accounts for this volume are made up, it will not be possible to give a firm date for the appearance of vol. 68, *The Hyll Chartulary*, though we hope it may be in 1967. In the meantime the editor, Mr. R. W. Dunning, may be able to give a pre-view of the contents in a lecture here next year, and the Council will explore the possibility of a grant from some outside source which would expedite publication. There has been a small but welcome increase in membership in the county and a new circular has been sent to universities in this country and the U.S.A., which, it is hoped, may lead to an increase in the number of institutional subscribers.

<sup>3</sup> Printed on pp. 47-77.



#### PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

In the afternoon Mr. H. F. Scott Stokes delivered his Presidential Address, "Avalonensibus Coxendrum".<sup>4</sup> This was followed by tea at the Castle Hotel.

#### BRANCH AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES

*Ornithological Section.* Details of the two lectures and fourteen field meetings arranged during the year will be found in the Section's report, *Somerset Birds*, 1964, published in the late summer of 1965. Membership increased during 1964 to 325. At the end of May 1964 the Section co-operated with the Warden of Dillington House in the organization of a successful week-end course on "Bird Surveys"; the principal speakers were Dr. E. A. R. Ennion and Mr. W. D. Campbell.

*West Somerset Branch* arranged a series of monthly lectures during the winter of 1964/5 and, in the previous summer, some very well attended excursions.

*Glastonbury Antiquarian Society* made two excursions in the summer of 1964, as well as a visit to the Abbey excavations. In the following winter four lectures were given. In connection with the last of these an exhibition was mounted of weapons etc. used at the time of the battle of Sedgemoor.

*Shepton Mallet Natural History Society* included in their programme three summer outings and a series of five winter lectures.

*Wells Archaeological and Natural History Society* arranged six summer excursions and six winter lectures. Mr. H. W. W. Ashworth with other helpers from the Society continued his work on Mendip, and a much enlarged annual report just issued contains a complete account of this.

*Clevedon and District Archaeological Society.* Besides taking part in a full programme of excursions and lectures, members of the Society attended a course of twelve lectures on "Practical Archaeology", given by Mr. Barry Cunliffe. Some members assisted Mr. Greenfield in his excavations at Henley Wood.

*The Historical Association, Ilminster Branch,* arranged four winter lectures and two excursions, one in the summer of 1964 and the other in the spring of 1965.

*Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society* reports a quiet year on the archaeological front, apart from the continuation of the 'marathon' dig at Haywood. The Society's *Journal*, 1964, contains illustrated notes on an early medieval bronze knop (now in the British Museum), found at Ebor Rocks, and on the structural development of Axbridge Church. The usual programme of summer excursions and winter lectures was arranged, and the amenities of the Field H.Q. hut have been improved.

<sup>4</sup> Printed on pp. 14-29.

*Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society* reports that the past year has been one of continuing activity with membership increasing. Under the direction of Mr. W. J. Wedlake, F.S.A., the Society has continued its excavation of the Romano-British site at Nettleton, Wilts., and the south-west corner of the settlement has now been examined.

During the summer months excavations were conducted on the site of the Wallmead Barrow at Timsbury near Bath. The site, excavated by Skinner in 1817-18, was lost until recently, owing to the levelling of the barrow after Skinner's excavation had taken place. The site has now been definitely identified from a sketch in the Skinner MSS, in the British Museum. The recent excavation has confirmed this identification. The finds made by Skinner in this barrow are on display in the Bristol Museum. They include a bronze dagger of the Camerton-Snowhill type, an Aldbourne cup, a bronze pin of Central European type and a perforated whetstone. Skinner also records that he found Roman pottery and coins within the barrow. The recent excavations have shown that the Romans either excavated or looted the barrow. Five Roman coins were found and some Roman pottery. A number of sherds of Beaker pottery were found lying on the old turf line, and there was much evidence of burning suggestive of a cremation pyre on the site. The barrow, a large one, was surrounded by a revetting wall.

A second barrow, mentioned by Skinner as being to the east of the one excavated by him and as having levelled some sixty years before his excavation, will be examined during the summer of 1965.

In addition to the usual programme of excursions, lectures and discussions, the Society has continued its investigations into the industrial archaeology of Bath and some fifty surrounding parishes. A very successful conference was held in November at Bath to receive reports of the work done. A conference on the local history and archaeology of Bath was organized in March, at which over a hundred people were present. Papers read, which dealt with the locality from prehistoric to late medieval times, are shortly to be published by the Society.

*Burnham-on-Sea Archaeological and Natural History Society.* Besides organizing a full programme of six summer excursions followed by six winter lectures, the Society carried out research and excavation at several local sites, under the direction of Mr. S. G. Nash. Material from trenches on a building site suggested that there had been a medieval structure in a field called "Parsonage", 200 yards SE. of Burnham's quondam railway station (ST305485). Excavation throughout the season proved it to be the most notable medieval site yet recorded in the district. The walls were at least partly, and perhaps wholly, of stone; the roof was slated, with glazed crested ridge tiles (two small fragments of similar tiles had already been found in recent years: one in Highbridge, one in Huntspill); there



were also a number of glazed and decorated chimney-pot fragments and sherds of polychrome. The site appears to be dated from the late 13th to the early 14th century. It is hoped that an I.P.M. of 1303 (at which date the lord of the manor, John de Tregoz, died) may help with the identification of the site. At that date the most wealthy tenants were the Mariscos and the Langelondes, both named in the document, and the Church of Wells.

A small excavation of the Roman horizon was carried out at the Somerset River Board's site at Newbridge, Huntspill (ST333462).

A medieval site was located at Berrow, and pottery and a prick-spur of early 15th century date were recovered (ST297524).

*Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society.* A number of visits were paid to places of interest and a programme of seven winter lectures was organized. Further work on the Ilchester Mead Roman Villa was conducted by Mr. Hayward and some exploratory field work was carried out in the area of the county boundary to the east of Marston Magna.

*Portishead Preservation Society.* A memorial service to the Society's founder and first chairman, Mr. Frederick C. Jones, whose sudden death was a great blow, was held in September 1964. Mr. Arthur Penn has been elected to succeed him. Two excursions and seven lectures were arranged during the year. The Society has vigorously supported the Urban District Council's fight against the construction of an iron-ore jetty opposite the Portishead coast.

*Frome Society for Local Study* was unfortunate in losing two chairmen during the year: Mr. J. Davidson who moved away in July 1964 and his successor, Mr. M. A. J. Brown who left the district in December. The present chairman is Mr. D. T. H. Robertson. Membership has been rising steadily this year.

There have been numerous trips and lectures, including a series of six talks by Mr. Harry Ross on local history, and an evening devoted to industrial archaeology with Mr. Kenneth Hudson. A completed batch of record cards was sent to the C.B.A., but the recording of industrial archaeology is in abeyance while the Society is establishing a Museum and H.Q. at the Old Church House, Church Steps.

Two stony ridges in the Friggle Street area of Rodden have been excavated; both were former roads, but no date has been ascribed to them at present.

One of the Society's members, Mr. P. Belham, has completed the writing of a history of Frome, which, it is hoped, will be published soon.

Photographic records and/or floor plans have been made of old buildings prior to demolition or alteration.

Mr. H. J. Norville presented his collection of Frome relics to the Society before sailing to Australia.

*The North Somerset Archaeological Research Group* discovered three areas of pot scatter in Congresbury village, which linked with the kiln site there. Building sites throughout the area were visited and a 13th century rubbish pit and floor were found on one of them. The pottery here was nearly all Ham Green cooking pot, but one small piece of 14th century imported French ware was found. During the winter some members joined the tutorial classes given by Mr. Barry Cunliffe of Bristol University, and Mr. D. Lilly (Hon. Recorder) and Mr. L. Hurley (who deals with post-Roman research) lectured to local groups in order to develop interest in archaeology amongst young farmers, housewives etc.

*Bristol Archaeological Research Group* was addressed at its A.G.M. by Mr. R. A. H. Farrar, Secretary of the recently formed National Monuments Record, on the documentary sources available to the archaeologist and the methods that are being devised to improve facilities for their consultation. At this meeting Part II of the Group's *Survey and Policy*, edited by Mr. L. V. Grinsell, was issued.

Grants have been received from the Ministry of Public Building and Works for excavations directed by Mr. Rahtz at Barrow Mead, near Bath, in September 1964, and at the Roman Villa, Cheddar, adjacent to the Saxon Palace site, in March-April 1965.

Assistance was given to the Bristol City Museum excavation, directed by Mr. M. Hebditch, at the medieval Port Wall near St. Mary Redcliffe, Bristol, in March 1965.

During a week-end course on "Recording in Field Archaeology", held in October 1964, visits were made to a wide variety of sites on Mendip to study the practical problems of recording field monuments. The Sunday trip included a survey of the complicated group of 13 or 14 round barrows at Small Down, Evercreech, under the direction of Mr. N. Quinnell (Ordnance Survey, Archaeology Division). One of the sites visited during this course was a well-preserved Celtic field system at Redhill, Wrington. Prompted by the guest speaker and field guide, Mr. Peter Fowler, who was impressed by the close correlation of many of the features found here with those of the classic sites on the chalk country of Wessex, the Group has embarked on a survey of the Celtic fields in North Somerset, under the direction of Mr. Charles Browne. The survey will comprise a detailed study of the Redhill complex and its settlements, together with a general survey of the other sites in the north of the county. This is being assisted by a grant from the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust.