

# SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2001

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Bishop Fox's Community School, Taunton, on Saturday 19th May 2001. The meeting was attended by 65 members of the Society and apologies for absence were received from a further twelve.

Hilary Binding welcomed members to the meeting and then inducted Lord Rees Mogg as President of the Society for the year 2001–2002. She reported the deaths during the year of Derek Shorrocks, former President and County Archivist, founder of Staplegrave Archaeological Society, and of Liz Clark, whose friendly face and willing help would be missed by visitors to the library.

Major items of business for the Society's Council during the year had been the constitution, the move of the Victoria County History Editor into the Tite Room, and the future of the Castle at the end of the Museum's lease, for which a working group had been set up. Reports of progress would be published in the Newsletter and special meetings held to keep members informed.

Hilary Binding thanked Michael McGarvie, Hon Editor of *Proceedings*, and Peter Ellis, who would be taking over as Editor from Volume 143. She reported that the Publications Committee had been revived. The Society had nearly 800 members in total, including 627 individual members. This figure was disappointing in view of the increasing popularity of archaeology and local history. New members, and in particular younger members, were needed.

The Chairman reported that Her Majesty the Queen, would cease to be Patron next year. The Society's Council had plans for a successor.

The Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December 2001 were presented by the Hon Treasurer and adopted. Attention was drawn to the Gift Aid scheme.

The Chairmen of the Archaeology, Historic Buildings, Library, Local History, Natural History, and House Committees gave reports about their activities during the year.

The County Museums Officer gave his report. This was followed by a report from Mrs Madge Langdon, the Administrator of the Maltwood Fund, on the grants made available during the year.

The resolution, proposed by Council of the Society, 'That the Rules of the Society be amended to incorporate the changes indicated in Appendix A' was carried. The proposed changes were briefly as follows:

- Because of the Charities Act 1993, in every case where the Rules refer to 'Trustees' this would be changed to 'Custodian Trustees'. This would clarify the difference between the Managing Trustees of the Society (Council) and the Custodian Trustees. In Rule 4 they would be further defined as 'bare Trustees', so that the Custodian Trustees should be aware that they bear no liability;

- To differentiate between the Honorary Secretary and the Administrative Secretary, the latter would now be called the Administrator;
- All the Executive Officers would be elected at the AGM.

The Resolution, proposed by Council of the Society, 'That the annual subscription be increased to £20 for Ordinary members (individuals and institutions), £7.50 for Associate Members, and £25 for Overseas members (individuals and institutions), but that Council be empowered not to apply the new subscription on 1 January 2002, if it feels this would not be reasonable at that time' was carried.

The following officers were elected: Chairman – Hilary Binding; Vice Chairman – Tom Mayberry; Honorary Secretary – Alex Maxwell Findlater; Honorary Editor – Peter Ellis; Honorary Librarian – David Bromwich; Honorary Treasurer – Keith Jackson. Revd Brian W Kirk was elected to Council for the period 2001–2002, and Anthony Bruce and Adrian Webb for the period 2001–2004. Mrs Penny Cudmore and Mrs Pat Ellson were re-elected, to serve until 2004. Mr Roger Ford was elected as Independent Examiner of the Society's Accounts. All the members nominated for subject committees were elected.

Dr R W Dunning gave a report on the current work of the Somerset Record Society.

The business meeting was followed by the Presidential Address given by the retiring President, Dr Robert Dunning, on the subject of early leaders of the Society, in both the 19th century and early 20th century (see this volume pp. 1–8).