

## STEEP HOLM TRUST, 1965/6

## TRUSTEES:

E. L. KELTING, O.B.E., *Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society*

H. H. DAVIS, *Bristol Naturalists' Society*

MRS. M. L. COLTHURST, *Mid-Somerset Naturalist Society*

E. J. MASON, *Bristol Folk House Archaeological Club*

This year over 50 blooms of the Wild Peony were counted on the Peony terrace and in the Peony glen. There is no doubt that the survival of the wild peony is due in great part to the work of the late Harry Savory in keeping both the terrace and the glen clear of the scree, privet and sycamore which had been threatening this area. To avoid damage to young peony plants by visitors, a bar fence was erected near the entrance of the glen from which the plants could be viewed. Every year the terrace and glen has been cleared of encroaching vegetation and scree, although the 1966 visit had to be cancelled owing to other preservation restrictions which had been placed on the island at the time. However, a later visit was made and it was found that there had been little encroachment on the plants.

The roof of the 1867 barracks, which is used as a hostel, received further repair works during the year. Rafters and boarding were replaced and, with the exception of a small amount of slating, repair work to the roof is complete. All the work was done by voluntary labour.

Excavations on the Priory site were not possible during the year owing to the presence of nesting gulls, but the area has again been cleared and it is hoped to continue the work of excavation next season.

For the 1966 season, it was decided to impose far stricter restrictions on visiting parties. Bookings for parties have only been taken after consultation with the Gull Research Station and only very few small parties of naturalists and members of the constituent societies have been permitted. On the financial side, these restrictions have inevitably resulted in an income lower than our expenses and a greater burden will eventually fall on the constituent societies to maintain the island.

EDMUND J. MASON,  
*Hon. Secretary.*