

PROCEEDINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1969

The Meeting was held in the Somerset Room, Taunton Castle, on 26th April 1969. Mr. E. L. Kelting, the retiring President, said that he had thoroughly enjoyed his year of office and he thanked all members for the honour that had been done to him. He said that he was sorry to announce that Mr. Cookson would be retiring from the Secretaryship at the end of the year and he thanked Mr. Cookson for his many services to the Society. Members would, however, be glad to know that Mr. Jeffries would be succeeding Mr. Cookson as Secretary. Mr. Kelting then expressed great pleasure in proposing Dom Aelred Watkin as President for the ensuing year. He said that there was no need to introduce Father Watkin to members. He was a man of great scholarship and learning and was well known for his writings, particularly on the Glastonbury Chartulary.

On taking the Chair, Dom Aelred Watkin expressed the Society's thanks to Mr. Kelting for the work he had done as President. He was himself most grateful to the Society for honouring him with the office of President; it gave him particular pleasure, because he would be following in the footsteps of Abbot Ethelbert Horne (President, 1940-42).

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

On a proposal from the Chair, seconded by Mr. Scott Stokes, the following officers were elected: Mr. E. L. Kelting and Sir R. de Z. Hall (Hon Secretaries); Mr. H. H. Adamson (Hon. Treasurer); and Mr. I. I. Jeffries (Hon. Editor).

On a proposal by Mr. Poyntz Wright, seconded by Mr. Tucker, the following members were re-elected to serve on the Council till 1972: Mr. T. J. Hunt, Mr. E. L. Kelting, Mr. R. B. Naish and Mr. S. C. Morland. On a proposal by Mr. Greening, seconded by Mr. Scott Stokes, Mr. P. Poyntz Wright was elected to fill the vacancy on the Council caused by the retirement of Mrs. J. B. Clark.

SUMMARY OF THE SECRETARY'S REPORT

MEMBERSHIP. During the year 76 individuals and one school joined the Society and 51 old members dropped out, a net increase of 26. In addition to this 10 Libraries from Universities in the U.S.A., Australia and the United Kingdom established themselves as regular subscribers to the *Proceedings* and so these had been added to the membership list. The total membership was 915, consisting of 839 individuals and 76 institutes, an increase over the previous year of 36 in all. The loss of membership, caused by the standardisation of subscriptions at £1 10s. 0d. from January 1st, 1967 had been more than made good.

PROCEEDINGS. The Society was most grateful to Mrs. Sansome for her skilful drawing of the Iron Age Bull's head depicted on the cover of Volume 112, the first in quarto size, which greatly enhanced the attraction of the Volume.

EXCURSIONS. On May 25th the past President, Mr. Kelting, took a party of members on a fascinating tour of parts of the Somerset River Authority area. In the afternoon of the same day the party drove to Blagdon Reservoir where members were received by Lord Waldegrave at the Ubley fish hatchery. After seeing the hatchery, members were

entertained to tea by the Bristol Waterworks Company in a fishing lodge on the lake, and before returning home they watched the feeding of thousands of trout and inspected the old beam engine pumps which remain as mementoes of former engineering skill.

On August 13th at South Cadbury Mr. Alcock gave a talk to 150 members on the excavations. Afterwards the party was split up into groups and taken on guided tours of the various sites.

On August 20th a visit was made to Frome Parish Church, in the forenoon and to Dyrham Park in the afternoon.

From September 24th to 27th a four-day excursion was made in East Anglia based on Peterborough. Places visited were Althorp House, Ely Cathedral, Middleton Tower, Peterborough Cathedral, Longthorpe Tower, Wittering Church, Burghley House, Barnack Church and on the way home, Malmesbury Abbey.

EXCAVATION. During the first two weeks of September 1968 an excavation was undertaken at Norton Fitzwarren Camp by the Society in collaboration with the County Museum under the direction of Mr. P. A. Langmaid.

A brief account of the excavation appeared in Volume 112 of the *Proceedings* and a full report would appear later. For the current year the Society had given £25 to the South Cadbury excavation, and an amount of £20 to the Meare Lake Village 1969 excavation.

LOCAL SOCIETIES' MEETING. The usual annual meeting with the Branch and Affiliated Societies was held in Glastonbury on October 26th. Mr. T. J. Hunt presided and Mrs. Boyd, Mayor of Glastonbury, attended as our guest. The programme consisted of a symposium of five short talks on various aspects of archaeology in Somerset from Bronze Age times to the 19th century. Mr. B. A. A. Knight of the Chard History Group on "The Chard Canal"; Mr. P. A. Langmaid on "The Norton Fitzwarren Excavation"; Dr. R. Everton of the Axbridge Society on "Animal Remains from the Romano-British Rural Settlement at Butcombe"; Mr. D. Tomalin of the Weston-super-Mare branch on "The Romano-British site at Ten Acres Field, Banwell"; and Mr. W. J. Wedlake of the Bath & Camerton Society on "The Wallmead Barrows at Timsbury".

The 1969 meeting of Local Societies would be held in Bath on September 27th and the Bath & Camerton Society had kindly undertaken to arrange the programme.

LECTURES. During the winter season the following Archaeological and Natural History lectures were arranged:

19 October: "Woodland Ecology" by Dr. M. H. Martin.

9 November: "Recent Excavations at Glastonbury" by Mr. P. A. Rahtz.

16 November: "Close Range Natural History Photography" by Mr. A. E. McR. Pearce.

30 November: "The Shrine of Apollo at Nettleton, Wilts." by Mr. W. J. Wedlake.

22 February: "Wansdyke and Adjacent Earthworks from the Air" by Mr. J. E. Hancock.

22 March: "Roman Britain and the Roman Army: Recent Discoveries" by Prof. S. S. Frere.

29 March: "Some Flowers of the Western Mediterranean" by Mr. A. D. Hallam.

Also on October 29th, 1968, the Natural History Section organised a successful Natural History Social Evening in the N.F.U. Hall, Taunton.

The lecture which was to have been given by Professor Frere was sponsored jointly by the Society and the Museum Governing Body and was open to the public. However, on the morning of the lecture news came from Oxford that Professor Frere had been taken ill during the night. At four hours notice our past President, Mr. Kelting, stepped into the breach and gave a talk on the Severn Estuary and the tidal rise which took place in the 3rd century A.D. The Society was indebted to Mr. Kelting for his "rescue operation".

W. A. WILSON BEQUEST. Under the will of the late W. A. Wilson £1,000 had been left to the Society for use on exhibition cases in the Museum. The Society was also grateful for the bequest of Mr. Wilson's entomological specimens and books.

LIBRARY. Thanks were once again due to Mrs. Dodd for her valuable help in the library.

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

The Secretary presented the annual accounts to the meeting and, on a proposal by Mr. Scott Stokes, seconded by Mr. Pearce, these were adopted.

SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY

The Honorary Secretary of the Somerset Record Society, Mrs. C. W. H. Rawlins, then gave her report:

The Hylle Cartulary, edited by Dr. R. W. Dunning was published in May 1968, and Volume 69, *The Letters of Sir Francis Hastings*, edited by Dr. Claire Cross, was in the press and should be ready for despatch in May (1969). Mr. T. D. Tremlett was preparing the MSS. of the late fifteenth century Bridgwater archives which, it was hoped would appear as Volume 70 in 1970. For future volumes, the Council hoped to publish a second volume of Assize Orders to cover the period 1640-1660; the Wells Cathedral Chapter Act Book 1666 - 1682, which was missing when the Historical MSS. Commission calendared the Cathedral MSS. in 1914; and the *Cheddar Cartulary*.

The Council recorded with deep regret the death in March 1969 of Dr. H. Hale Bellot, Vice Chancellor of London University 1951 - 53, for many years Professor of American History at University College, London, and a member of the Society's Council since 1957. Dr. Bellot was much interested in Somerset history and as a member of the County Council Records Committee was concerned in re-starting the *Victoria County History* for Somerset as a joint enterprise of the County Council and London University.

Generous grants from the Marc Fitch Fund (for Vol. 68), from the Twenty-Seven Foundation (for Vol. 69), from the Somerset County Council and from Bridgwater Corporation have enabled the Society to speed up publication, but whether regular publication of an annual volume could be resumed would depend on the support given to the Society in the 1970s.

Dr. R. W. Dunning had kindly undertaken to act as the Society's Hon. General Editor and had arranged a display of the Society's recent volumes and new leaflets for this meeting.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

In the afternoon the Rev. Dom Aelred Watkin delivered his Address on "Some Archaeological Experiences in Somerset". The full text of the Address is printed on pp. 11-16 of this volume.

BRANCH AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES 1968/69

Membership of the *Ornithological Section* continued to rise and reached a total of 364 at the end of 1968. Two lecture meetings were held in the Wyndham Hall, Taunton Castle: "Birds of Ascension Island" by K. E. L. Simmons and the R.S.P.B. film "Birds of Strathspey".

Three out of seven field meetings had to be cancelled owing to the foot and mouth epidemic; however, visits were made to the following places: Portland Bill, Holford, Goblin Coombe, Dunkery, Curry Moor, Shapwick Heath, Chew Valley Reservoir, Kingston Seymour, Blagdon Reservoir, Dunster, Brean Down, Cheddar Reservoir, Steart and Sand Point.

The Section's annual report "Somerset Birds, 1967" was published at the end of August 1968.

During the summer of 1968, the *Weston-super-Mare Branch* ran five excursions: to Trevecca Fawr (house), Llanfilo Church and Brecon; to Holcombe Court and Luppitt Church; to Purse Caundle Manor and Milborne Port Church; and to the Welsh Folk Museum at St. Fagan's. The programme of winter lectures started with a talk on "Museums" by Mr. Tomalin (given at short notice due to a cancellation) followed by a conducted tour of the newly completed South Gallery at the Weston-super-Mare Museum. Lectures later in the winter were on a variety of subjects, ranging from wood-working to British prehistory.

The *West Somerset Branch* now has a membership of about 180, who were able to attend a series of winter meetings on subjects of naturalist and archaeological interest; visits to Sherborne Abbey and Cothay Manor were arranged in the summer.

The *Glastonbury Antiquarian Society* organised a summer excursion to see interesting buildings at Meare and Wedmore. During the winter there were four lectures, two on medieval churches and two on recent excavations in Somerset. The Society now has 67 members.

In the summer of 1968, members of the *Shepton Mallet Natural History Society* took part in a Botany ramble on the east Mendips and visited the excavations at South Cadbury. Their winter programme included an evening of films, as well as five lectures. There are 89 members.

The membership of the *Wells Natural History and Archaeological Society* has been maintained at 322, and lectures and excursions have been arranged as usual. The Society has contributed £100 towards the setting up of a research station at Wells Bottom on Mendip by the Mendip Nature Research Committee. The excavations at Witham Priory have continued, rather hampered by lack of workers, because the site is seventeen miles away from Wells. An account is published in the Society's Biennial Report. Serel's "Short History of the City of Wells", written about a century ago and now brought up to date by the Secretary, has also been published by the Society.

The *Clevedon and District Archaeological Society*, which has 37 members, arranged six monthly lectures during the winter, and an Extra-Mural course on the Archaeology of Europe. Some evening visits to places of local interest took place during the summer, as well as a whole day visit to Caerphilly Castle and Roman Fort, and to the Welsh Folk Museum at St. Fagan's. A number of members took part in various excavations, particularly at Tickenham, Row of Ashes Farm and Henley Wood Quarry temple site.

The annual general meeting of the *Ilminster Branch of the Historical Association* was followed by the showing of slides of places of historical interest, taken by members on their holidays. Six monthly lectures were arranged during the winter. Excursions were made to Martock, Long Sutton, Newton Surmaville and Brympton d'Evercy; to Nunney, Mells, Norton St. Philip, Farleigh Hungerford and Bradford-on-Avon; and to White-lackington Farm and Dillington House. Several members assisted at the South Cadbury excavations.

The *Axbridge Caving Group and Archaeological Society* now has 100 members. In the summer they held five field meetings (four in the Mendip area), and during the winter four lecture meetings. Some members also attended excavations and courses held by the Extra-Mural Department of Bristol University. A growing interest in aerial photography among members has led to the discovery of several new sites, notably at Marchey, Ubley Warren and west of the Ebbor Gorge; investigations are continuing on these sites. The Axbridge Parish Antiquities Check List is progressing, and a comprehensive photographic record has been made of King John's Hunting Lodge and other buildings near Axbridge Square. Members have also helped with the surveying of the M5 motorway route.

The *Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society* celebrated its twenty-first anniversary in 1969; during the last 21 years, the Society has been concerned with major excavations at Camerton and Nettleton, as well as work on numerous smaller sites. During the last year, work has continued on the Roman military camp at Nettleton, and members have helped survey part of the route of the M4 motorway. During the winter a series of lectures was enthusiastically supported, with attendances never dropping below 50. Members continued to meet each Tuesday to work on the finds from Nettleton, which are being prepared for publication.

Membership of the *Burnham-on-Sea Archaeological and Natural History Society* has been maintained at 100, and events arranged by the Society have been well attended. There was a programme of winter lectures, and in the summer, excursions included days at Arlington Court, near Barnstaple, Cefntilla Court, near Usk, and the Folk Museum at St. Fagan's. Excavations directed by Mr. Nash have continued at High-bridge.

During the summer the *Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society* organised nine excursions, including days at St. Fagan's Folk Museum, and at Fishbourne Roman Villa. The seven winter lectures included a visit by Professor Barry Cunliffe. L. C. Hayward continued to direct the excavations at the Ilchester Mead Roman site. The Society now has 59 members.

In the winter the *Gordano Valley Society* held seven well attended meetings on topics of local and general interest, covering subjects ancient and modern. The displays illustrating the talks continued to interest members, who now number 145. Coach outings to Chedworth Roman Villa and to St. Fagan's Welsh Folk Museum were arranged, as well as local walks and visits. The Society is now involved in an attempt to prevent the development of the Tump at Portishead, and takes an active interest in the preservation of trees, public footpaths, etc.

The membership of the *Frome Society for Local Study* has fallen slightly, in spite of an active programme, which included visits to local industries, old houses, Devizes Museum, Shepton Mallet and several local churches, as well as to parts of the boundaries of Selwood Forest, as given in the perambulation of 1298. A fete organised by the Society raised money towards the improvement of the Industrial Archaeology room at Frome Museum. Tomb inscriptions at East Woodlands Church were recorded, and members attended a winter course of lectures by R. Ashley on "A History of the English Landscape".

The *North Somerset Archaeological Research Group* organised two excavations: a kiln site at Congresbury and an extensive Romano-British site at Tickenham. Members of the group gave lectures to a variety of organisations, both locally and as far away as Shepton Mallet. There are now 22 members, with 6 junior diggers.

The *Bristol Archaeological Research Group* organised for the first time a full winter programme, including a series of lectures and a weekend course on Urban Archaeology, held in conjunction with the Extra-Mural Department of Bristol University. Members engaged in their own research projects reported to the annual symposium in November, and the group was associated with excavations at Butcombe and in the City of Bristol. The Group took the initiative in setting up the M5 Research Committee to deal with archaeological emergencies during the construction of the motorway. A fourth volume in the series of Field Guides was published, "Medieval Sites in the Mendip, Cotswold, Wye Valley and Bristol Region", and also "A Guide to the Contents of B.A.R.G. Bulletins, 1962-68".

The activities of the *Keynsham and Salford Local History Society* were much concerned with the damage to the Keynsham bridges caused by the July floods of 1968. Materials relating to the history of the bridges and to the disaster and subsequent rebuilding have been collected. Progress has been made in collecting photographs and other records of the area, and this has included welcome contributions from elderly residents. Co-operation with the Surveyor's department of the local council has allowed members to record buildings of interest before demolition. The Society has between 60 and 70 members.

The *Bridgwater and District Archaeological Society* usually has about 55 members. During the Autumn, lectures on a variety of subjects were organised, and after Christmas, a course by Mr. Ponsford was arranged, in conjunction with the Extra-Mural Department of Bristol University. During the summer, outings were held to local excavations, as well as to places further afield, the most exciting being to the Avebury area and including a talk by Professor Atkinson about the excavations at Silbury Hill.

An excavation directed by Mrs. Miles was carried out at Weston Zoyland in the autumn (see p.17) and members also helped on a rescue excavation on a kiln site at Nether Stowey.

The *Wincanton and District Archaeological Group* has not undertaken any new project during the year. It was decided that no further excavation should take place at the site near South Cadbury Church, and members who wished to excavate joined the main work at South Cadbury or the Roman site on Cattle Hill, Bratton Seymour. There have been opportunities for members to attend lectures and to take part in several outings. There are about 40 members in the Group.

The *Chard History Group's* second publication, "The Roads of Chard", was successfully launched, supported by a display of maps, photographs and relics at the County Library. The Group, with 30 members, is engaged in promoting the case for a museum in Chard, and is collecting every available item of interest connected with the history of the town and parish.

The *Banwell Society of Archaeology* carried out no excavation this year, but arranged several excursions instead; to Bath and Berkeley Castle; to the Roman villa site at Fishbourne; and to various sites in Somerset. A course of lectures was held in the winter, and members have helped with surveying the route of the M5 motorway. During the year the Society has produced the eighth issue of its journal "Search" and held its second annual dinner. Membership has increased to 60.