

PROCEEDINGS

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 1960.

The Meeting was held in the Somerset Room, Taunton Castle, on the 30th April, 1960. Forty-five members were present.

The Chairman of the Council, Mr. A. W. Vivian-Neal, introduced the new President, Dr. E. B. Ford, F.R.S., who took the Chair.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE COUNCIL

The following officers were elected:

Mr. T. J. Hunt, Sir Robert Hall and

Mr. E. L. Kelting

— Hon. Secretaries

Mr. H. H. Adamson

— Hon. Treasurer

Mr. I. I. Jeffries

— Hon. Editor

and the following members of the Council:

Mrs. J. B. Clark, Mr. T. J. Hunt, Mr. E. L. Kelting, Professor L. S. Palmer and Mr. R. B. Naish.

THE ANNUAL REPORT

The Chairman of the Council gave the following Report:

We are very glad to report that membership has been well maintained in the year under review, and the financial position has steadily improved. In the current year, the revenues of the Society will be further augmented from Income Tax claims on subscriptions paid under deeds of covenant, and we are indeed grateful to all those members who have signed deeds of covenant and have given the consequent additional assistance. Nevertheless, although our immediate anxieties have been relieved, we are still by no means a rich society, and financial stringency limits our activities.

The hundred and third volume of the Society's *Proceedings* was published at the end of 1959, and the Council is very greatly indebted to those who contributed so generously to the cost of production. The amount subscribed was in excess of the sum required, and the balance is being used to form the nucleus of a permanent Proceedings Reserve Fund. It is generally agreed that the publication of an annual volume of *Proceedings* is essential to the health of a Society such as ours. Much intensive work is entailed in

preparation, and the Council wishes to record its gratitude to the Hon. Editor, Mr. Jeffries, under whose supervision our last volume was produced.

Reference should be made to the death of our valued member, Dr. Watson, the naturalist, who joined the Society in 1912, and to whose learning and kindly guidance, we owed so much.

The financial position does not yet allow us to initiate any considerable new series of excavations, but from 4th to 28th August, 1959, the important excavations at Glastonbury Abbey were continued under the direction of Mr. Raleigh Radford, and on 25th August he gave an address there to over fifty members of the Society on the results of the season's work.

Three successful and well attended excursions were held during the summer:—the first in the Minehead area on 27th June, the second in the Wincanton area on 25th July, and the third, a three-day excursion based on Salisbury, from 8th to 10th September.

The lecture season opened with a special lecture in the Somerset Room by Dr. W. G. Hoskins, F.R.HIST.SOC., entitled "Field Work and Documents in Local History". The lecture was supported by a small but most interesting collection of reference material and documents arranged by Mr. I. P. Collis, the County Archivist. Mr. Leach, the Librarian for Taunton Borough, also arranged a collection of relevant books and other material. Over 140 people attended, including representatives of the Branch and Affiliated Societies and other interested bodies. Immediately afterwards, members of the Society's Council met the representatives of the Branch and Affiliated Societies in the Wyndham Hall to discuss ways and means of promoting closer relationship between the parent society and their members. Then, on 1st October, a meeting was held in the Council Chamber at Glastonbury of representatives of the parent society and the local Societies. In all 27 people attended, almost all the Branch and Affiliated Societies being represented.

Inter alia, the following matters were discussed:—

1. The keeping of a card index record of sites and finds.
2. Annual reports or short notes from local societies for publication in *Proceedings* or in *Somerset & Dorset Notes & Queries*.
3. The deposit of publications and typed reports of local societies in the Society's library.

4. Library policy.
5. The desirability of an annual meeting of representatives of the parent society and local societies.

Sir Robert Hall has kindly agreed to organize the system of a card index record of archaeological sites and finds, and in February, 1960, a letter was addressed to the secretaries of all the branch and affiliated societies to gain the support of their members in furthering this scheme. Assistance has already been promised by six of the local societies. The cards for the proposed record are now ready for issue.

Finally, in closing the report, reference should be made to the happy relationship between the Society and the Museum Governing Body. Our functions are complementary, and it is possible to give mutual assistance in many matters. In particular, the Council of the Society greatly appreciates the generosity of the Museum Governors in allowing space in the old workroom for activities connected with the maintenance of the Society's library.

ACCOUNTS

The Secretary made a brief statement on the accounts for the year 1959. Mr. A. H. Turner proposed their adoption and this proposition, seconded by Mr. A. R. Tucker, was carried unanimously. The President declared the Accounts adopted and they were laid on the table.

Mr. Cookson then made an appeal to members regarding the taking out of Deeds of Covenant.

SOMERSET RECORD SOCIETY

In the absence of Mrs. Rawlins, Mr. Hunt presented the Society's Annual Report for 1959. Mr. Hunt said:

The first and most important matter to report is the publication of Vol. 65 in our series — *Somerset Assize Orders* — 1629-40, edited by Dr. Thomas G. Barnes, which though delayed by the printers' strike of last summer, was issued in September. It contains a record of the administrative activity of the Judges of Assize in Somerset as overseers of local government, the controlling links between the central executive, the King in Council, and the Justices of the Peace in charge of local government in the county.

Secondly, reference must be made to our next volume — *The Customs of the Manor of Taunton in the Thirteenth Century*, edited by Mr. T. J. Hunt—which we hope will appear early in 1961. This will contain a number of documents relating to social and economic conditions on the Bishop of Winchester's estates in Taunton with statistical material extracted from the Winchester Pipe Rolls.

Next we must refer to our financial position. The generous grant from the Marc Fitch Fund for Historical Research towards the cost of Vol. 65 has enabled us to retain our small reserve fund intact to cover the next volume. So for the moment our financial position is satisfactory but the passing of time removes from us many of our older subscribers and though we have welcomed a few new members, there has been for the first time for some years a net decline in our numbers.

There is no shortage of material suitable for publication—Somerset is particularly rich in MSS. Nor do we at present find any difficulty over honorary editors. It is also possible that the Council of the Society may be able to obtain further financial help from outside sources but to do so it is essential to show that our Society has active local support. We cannot expect the great supporters of historical scholarship like the Pilgrim Trust or the Marc Fitch Fund to finance work which lacks adequate backing from the County of its origin. May we therefore appeal once more to the members of the Somerset Archaeological Society to become subscribers to the Somerset Records Society.

The President then brought the Meeting to an end with a short speech in which he expressed his great pleasure at the satisfactory financial state of the Society. He gave special thanks to General Evans for the valuable service he had rendered to the Society, when he was Chairman. He also thanked the Hon. Treasurer, the Hon. Editor and the Secretary. He concluded by saying how deeply indebted everyone was to the Chairman of the Council, Mr. Vivian-Neal.

Mr. Vivian-Neal replied by thanking Dr. Ford for taking the Chair and expressed his great pleasure at the interest shown by the new President in the affairs of the Society and at his appreciation of its problems.

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

In the afternoon Dr. Ford delivered his Address entitled "Butterflies and Moths in Scientific Research". At the conclusion of the Address Mr. Vivian-Neal, who took the Chair, called upon Mr. H. F. Scott Stokes to propose a vote of thanks to the President. Members and their friends, who had formed his audience, were then entertained to tea by Dr. Ford, the catering arrangements being in the capable hands of Mrs. Sansome.

The text of the Presidential Address is printed on pp. 28-42 of this Volume.

CORRIGENDUM

At the foot of page 11, Vol. 103, for "Mr. Marsh" read "Mr. Naish".

LECTURES

1959

- September 26th "Field Work and Documents in Local History".
Dr. W. G. Hoskins, F.R.HIST.S.
- October 24th "Coinage as Evidence of History".
Dr. C. H. V. Sutherland, M.A., D.LITT.
- November 14th "The Lake Villages of Somerset".
Mr. H. St. George Gray, O.B.E., M.A., F.S.A.
- December 5th "The Architectural History of Cleeve Abbey in
the 13th and 15th Centuries".
Mr. R. Gilyard-Beer, M.A., F.S.A.

1960

- March 19th "The Tudor Attitude to Marriage".
Professor Joel Hurstfield.

EXCURSIONS, 1959

Three summer excursions were arranged during the year:

(i) On 27th June the Society toured the Minehead district, stopping first at Crowcombe Church (*Proc. S.A.S.* 54, i, 59). Here Mr. Vivian-Neal gave an account of the Manor of Crowcombe and the families connected therewith, and the Rector (Rev. P. Birkett) described the Church itself. A brief visit was paid to the Church House nearby (54, i, 65) and the coach stopped near Williton Secondary Modern

School, so that Mr. H. St. George Gray might say a few words about the Battlegore site (77, ii, 7).

The Vicar of St. Decuman's, Watchet, (Rev. A. Simon) welcomed the party to this fine Church (54, i, 73; 77, i, 62). Mr. Vivian-Neal gave a talk on its architecture and monuments, and on the great family of Wyndham, so closely connected with it.

At Cleeve Abbey (35, ii, 83; 52, ii, 1; 77, ii, 37), Mr. Bryan Little made some interesting comparisons between the buildings here and at other monastic sites. He also compared the tracery of the late Perpendicular windows of the Refectory with that in the windows of the South Aisle at Crowcombe.

After a picnic lunch at Horner Water, Mr. Little conducted the party round Porlock Church (35, i, 25; 52, i, 28; 77, i, 48).

The excursion ended with a visit to Combe Sydenham Hall at Monksilver (54, i, 87), where members were kindly shown the house by Mr. and Mrs. Campbell Voullaire.

(ii) On 25th July forty-five members visited the Wincanton area, stopping first at West Camel (36, i, 40 and ii, 70; 59, i, 34). Here the Rector (Rev. M. P. Ralph-Bowman) gave a talk on the small Church, with its early 14th century features and fine Norman font. At Queen Camel Church (36, i, 43; 59, i, 32), Judge Armstrong described the building, famous for its bells, its Devon-type rood-screen, and its chancel roof with supporting angels and many bosses; on some of these bosses are carved animals from the Bestiary (83, ii, 89).

On the top of South Cadbury Camp in the shade of a great thorn tree, members ate their lunch and listened while Mr. St. George Gray talked on the history and significance of this mighty Iron Age fort. His fascinating talk included folklore, allusions to ancient Camelot, the fortress of King Arthur, and descriptions of the late Celtic and Roman finds, made by Mr. Gray during his excavations there in 1913. Mrs. Harfield followed with an interesting account of some of the more recent finds from the site (59, ii, i; 99, 106).

At North Cadbury, where the Church and the Court House, standing together, make such a splendid scene, Mr. Bryan Little first described the magnificent 15th century Church (36, i, 54; 59, i, 42) and then brought members to the Court (81, i, 20), where they were welcomed by the Hon. Lady Langman. The house with its wholly

Elizabethan north front and its 18th century south front was much admired, and particular interest was taken in the late 16th century heraldic glass (36, ii, 137).

Again under the guidance of Mr. Little the party visited Bruton Church (79, ii, 1), famous for its unusual 18th century chancel with Rococo decoration. They then walked by the old Abbey wall and over the Packhorse Bridge to Sexey's Hospital (79, i, 72), where they were greeted by the Master, Prebendary Morgan. Mr. Little gave a talk on this ancient foundation, to which Preb. Morgan added some comments.

(iii) The three-day excursion was based on Salisbury and visits were paid to the following places:

Sept. 8th. Wilton House, to see the magnificent rooms, the painted ceilings, and the treasures—pictures, furnishings and china—gathered together there by the Earls of Pembroke.

Salisbury Cathedral, where members were conducted through the buildings after they were closed to the public, by the Succentor (Rev. K. Wedgewood).

Sept. 9th. Old Sarum. Here Mr. R. S. Simms, who represents the Ministry of Works on the Council of the Society, explained the lay-out of the medieval town, cathedral and castle.

At Stonehenge Mr. Simms gave members the latest theories about this puzzling ritual monument.

Avebury, which Mr. Simms described as the type-site of "henge" monuments. From its great surrounding bank, over 3500 years ago, the people would watch the ceremonies being performed within the circle.

Avebury Church, Museum and Manor were also visited.

Sept. 10th. Christchurch Priory and Castle (Hants.). These were described by Mr. S. E. Rigold of the Ministry of Works.

Knowlton Earthworks (Dorset), a small "henge" monument with a ruined Church in the middle of one of the circles.

Fiddleford Hall. This is a 14th century manor house, now a farm, The splendid original Hall roof, with wind-braces forming circles, can still be seen. (*S. & D. N. & Q.* Vol. 27, p. 1).

At both these last two sites the party was conducted by Sir Robert Hall.

BRANCH AND AFFILIATED SOCIETIES, 1959/60

ORNITHOLOGICAL SECTION, 1959

By the end of 1959 the membership list contained 242 names (the highest total yet), including nearly 50 members of the Parent Society and the Natural History Section. Parent Society and Natural History Section members are reminded that they may become members of the Ornithological Section for an annual subscription of 7/6d., which entitles them to a copy of the yearly Bird Report. Members interested should contact the Hon. Secretary, Miss E. M. Palmer.

In February the President, Mr. Harry Savory, gave an interesting illustrated lecture on the island of Steep Holm, and in April, Mr. John Buxton showed colour films of Birds in Iceland and Deer in Scotland. In October Dr. Bruce Campbell opened an exhibition of prints from the Nature Conservancy's National Collection of Nature Photographs which, with the kind permission of the Museum Governors, was hung for two weeks in the Somerset Room, Taunton Castle. Also in October a public meeting was held in the Corfield Hall, Taunton, when the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds film "Island of Birds" was shown.

During the year eleven field-meetings were held at places ranging from the Wildfowl Trust, Slimbridge, to Dawlish Warren, some being joint meetings with other local societies.

WESTON-SUPER-MARE BRANCH

A programme of seven lectures, held during the winter season, included talks on "The Sutton Hoo Treasure Ship" by Mr. C. W. Phillips; "Two Aspects of the History of Bath" by Mr. Bryan Little; and "The Rock Churches of Ethiopia" by Miss Beatrice Playne. Dr. Ernest Neal lectured on "The Badger"; Mr. H. de S. Shortt illustrated "The Development of Sculpture on English Tombs"; and the President of the Branch (Mr. G. P. Rye) gave a further talk describing the early days and development of Weston-super-Mare. Following the Annual General Meeting, Mr. C. A. Raleigh Radford spoke on the Excavations at Glastonbury Abbey.

Three summer outings were arranged in 1959: a visit to Warwick Castle followed by a tour of other places of interest, organized by Miss J. Morris, Curator of the County Museum at Warwick; a conducted tour of Blenheim Palace; and a half-day excursion to Dunster Castle and Stogursey Church.

WEST SOMERSET BRANCH

Very well supported summer excursions were arranged to Holcombe Rogus (Manor House) and Burescombe church; Winsford, for parish church and a local history exhibition which had been arranged; and Gothelney Manor, Durleigh, and Spaxton parish church. A Field Group of younger members formed early in 1959 had five interesting outings to archaeological sites and local manor-houses.

"Full houses" almost every time were also recorded for six lectures, "The Story of Steepholm", by Mr. J. Harry Savory; "The History and Activities of the Ordnance Survey", by Major G. A. Mackay, R.E. (S.W. Region Officer); "Little Harbours of the West Country in Sailing Ship Days", by Mr. M. R. Bouquet; "Slimbridge Wild Fowl Trust", by Miss E. M. Palmer, M.B.O.U.; "With a Camera in Greece", by Miss M. A. Radford; "Fossil Man and his Kin", by Mr. Graham Rix, B.Sc.

An increase in membership, making the total 219, of which five are honorary members, was reported at the annual meeting.

GLASTONBURY ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY

During the summer of 1959, the Society paid visits to (i) West Coker Manor and Church, and East Coker Church, (ii) Breamore House and (iii) Blenheim Palace.

The winter lecture programme included: a lantern lecture given after the Annual Meeting by Mr. Reece Winstone on "Bristol as it was, from the 1860's back to the 1840's"; a paper by Dr. A. M. Boyd entitled "The Government Inspector"; and a lecture by Mr. C. A. Raleigh Radford on "The Glastonbury Excavations, 1959".

SHEPTON MALLET NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Two summer outings were arranged in 1959; a botany ramble to the Peat Moors and a visit to Forde Abbey.

During last winter lectures were given by Mr. R. C. Sansome on "Yugo-Slavia"; by Mr. J. Stevens Cox on "Ilchester Mead Roman Villa Excavations"; by Dr. R. D. Reid on "The Gothic Revival"; by Rev. E. Maurice Hillier on "The Lovely Leewards"; by Mr. G. Budd on "The St. Lawrence Seaway"; and by Mr. L. E. Jones on "The Beauty of Our Old Churches".

An oak tree has been planted in Collett Park in memory of the late C. E. Burnell, President of the Society for many years.

WELLS NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The 1959 programme of summer excursions included visits to Dorchester and Maiden Castle, East and West Coker, Kingston Lacy, the Mendips, Blenheim and Great Chalfield.

The following lectures were arranged for the Winter Session: "Israel" by Miss K. M. Willcox; "Industrial Mendip" by Mr. Robin Atthill; "Lundy; its Scenery and Bird Life" by Mr. J. H. Savory; "Old Buildings and their Contents" by Mr. J. A. Kenworthy-Brown on behalf of the National Trust; "Mendip Above and Below Ground" by Mr. A. H. Hagan; "The Water Courses of Wells" by Mr. S. Kelvin Johnson; and "Mendip Silver and Lead" by Mr. H. W. W. Ashworth.

The biennial report of the Society will be published at the end of the year and a copy deposited at Taunton Castle.

CLEVEDON AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Departing from the normal run of archaeological meetings, the Society organized an experimental social evening in November, 1959, hiring the ballroom suite of the Walton Park Hotel for the occasion. Representatives from the County and all Branch and Affiliated Societies were invited.

Mr. Graham Webster, M.A., F.S.A., gave a most interesting lecture on the "Roman Military Advance in A.D.43", after which the audience of over ninety local archaeologists withdrew to adjacent rooms to enjoy a buffet supper and some lively informal discussion. The event was considered a great success and will be repeated annually.

No official excavations were carried out after the completion of work at the Cadbury Camp, Congresbury, site, but a joint excavation with the Burnham Society on a briquetage site in the Brue valley has been planned for July, 1960. Several excavations were conducted privately by members; the most significant of these was at the medieval pottery kiln at Ham Green.

ILMINSTER AND DISTRICT HISTORICAL SOCIETY

The Society arranged three lectures during the winter: on (i) "Greece" by Miss R. Hatfield; (ii) "Windsor Castle" by Sir Owen Morshead; and (iii) "South America" by Miss B. Schofield.

The lecture on "Windsor Castle" was the Society's effort in aid

of World Refugee Year. It was open to the public and a collection resulted in £10 being sent to the funds.

An excursion was made during the summer to Sherborne, where the Society was conducted round by Mr. E. T. Long.

Membership remains at about 30.

AXBRIDGE CAVING GROUP AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Besides winter lectures and caving excursions, this Society has undertaken three excavations.

In 1954 work was commenced at the Roman Villa at Winthill near Banwell (N.G.R.: S.T.397584). The site had been used as a medieval (?) burial ground and over thirty human skeletons were found lying side by side facing east. Many Romano-British relics including pottery sherds, bronze, iron and bone artifacts were found together with over thirty Roman coins mainly of the mid-4th century. About this time the villa was probably deserted by the Romans and occupied by British squatters. In 1956 a Roman glass bowl with an engraved hunting scene and inscription was discovered. This bowl, which is now in the Ashmolean Museum, has been described by Dr. D. B. Harden in the *Journal of the Axbridge Society*, Vol. 3 No. 2, pp. 11 to 14, 1957. Owing to unfortunate circumstances this work has had to cease.

In 1957 it was decided to investigate a rock shelter in Hay Wood (N.G.R.: S.T.583341). Excavation has led to the discovery of seven human skulls with miscellaneous scattered and broken human bones. These were associated with three microlithic flint implements (two incomplete), some extinct Arctic voles and many pieces of ochre. These relics were enclosed by or buried in a mound of stones. An overlying deposit contained R.-B. pottery, recent animal bones, flint flakes and evidence of fire hearths. The present tentative conclusions are that a R.-B. occupation followed a Mesolithic or possibly Upper Palaeolithic burial, and that a considerable interval of time lapsed between these two events. Work in this cave is continuing under the direction of Professor L. S. Palmer and Mr. E. J. Chapman, and with the help of a grant from the Carnegie Trustees acting through the Council for British Archaeology.

In 1959 Mr. K. J. Barton with Mr. T. Davies as co-director commenced an excavation at a Roman Villa situated at Star near Shipham (N.G.R.: ST.435589). Evidence so far indicates that a pre-

Roman occupation of the site was followed by three periods of Roman building which terminated with a fire about A.D. 355. Over fifty Roman coins, bronze and iron artifacts with pottery sherds and fragments of glass have been found. Work on this site is also continuing.

CAMERTON EXCAVATION CLUB

Due to work outside the county, no excavations have been undertaken at Camerton during the past year; it is intended to begin again there early in 1961.

Members of the Club, under the direction of Mr. Wedlake, assisted with the excavations on the site of the Grand Pump Room Hotel, Bath, early in 1960, but because of the heavy foundations, which were put in when the hotel was built, little stratified material was available for examination.

Six lectures were arranged during the winter at the Bath Technical College: "Hellenic Cruise" by Mr. W. J. Wedlake; "Exploration in Kalat, Baluchistan" by Miss B. de Cardi; "Researches in Western Asia Minor" by Professor J. M. Cook; "Bath from Roman Times to the Present" by Mr. F. W. Beresford Smith; "Excavating Medieval Villages" by Mr. J. G. Hurst; and "Stonehenge in the Light of the Latest Research" by Professor R. J. C. Atkinson.

BURNHAM-ON-SEA ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

Excavations in the form of a rescue dig were continued at Alstone near Highbridge (ST/314468). Widely spaced trial trenches revealed a surface of Burtle bed sand. In the clay immediately above this was a scatter of Iron Age "B" pottery, a few decorated sherds comparable with types from Meare Lake Village. A pit had been cut in the sand. This yielded fragments of the skulls of two cattle, but could not be adequately excavated as the bottom of the pit was below the water table. Various small ditches had also been cut into the surface of the sand but the purpose and plan of these could not be ascertained. A rough floor was possibly that of a first century building. There had been considerable activity on the site during the medieval period, making any plans of earlier remains difficult to obtain.

Roman pottery has been noted from commercial excavations adjacent to the A.38 road at West Huntspill (ST/311456) and further

south at a very approximate depth of four feet in the clay between West Huntspill and Pawlett (ST/304442).

An unpublished moated enclosure has been noted at Edithmead near Burnham (ST/328493).

Twelfth to fourteenth century pottery and the remains of medieval strip-cultivation have been noted in several parts of the area.

In addition, the Society provided members with a varied programme of lectures and excursions at monthly intervals.

YEovil ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND LOCAL HISTORY SOCIETY

The activities of this Society (formerly called the Yeovil and District Archaeological Field Club) have been extended and its membership increased by the decision to make it into a combined archaeological and local history society. In pursuit of the new interest, a class was formed during the winter to learn about the "Study of Local Records", under the direction of Dr. C. Ross of Bristol.

The Archaeological Section, in conjunction with Yeovil School Archaeological Society, has rented the site of the Lufton Roman Villa, where further excavation is being undertaken under the direction of Mr. L. C. Hayward.

Six summer excursions were arranged and during the winter season lectures were given on the following subjects: "Carbon 14 Dating" by Mr. T. P. Blythman; "Sea Walls and Rivers of Somerset" by Mr. E. L. Kelting; "Recent Excavations in Dorset" by Mr. P. Rahtz; "The Religious Houses of Wiltshire" by Dom. A. Watkin; "Local Medieval Domestic Architecture" by Mr. E. T. Long; and "Some Aspects of Local Agricultural History" by Mr. R. N. R. Peers.

PORTISHEAD PRESERVATION SOCIETY

During the year the Society arranged seven lectures: "The Whaddon Cave Site" by Mr. A. B. Reid; "Vanished Buildings of Bristol" by Mr. C. F. Jones; "Ancient Sites on the Moors" by Messrs. C. M. Sykes and J. Gray Usher; "Chapel Pill" by Mr. G. S. Hart; "The Romance of Glastonbury" by Mr. F. C. Jones; "The History and Associations of Crockerne Pill" by Mrs. Oram; "Ham Green Kiln" by Mr. C. Kilsby. There was also a film evening.

A conducted visit was paid to Portishead Docks and to Portbury. The excavations at Weston-in-Gordano were continued.

A new departure was the publication of an annual *Proceedings*, the first two numbers of which have been deposited in the Library at Taunton Castle.

The Society put on an exhibition at the Portishead Flower Show.

FROME SOCIETY FOR LOCAL STUDY

During the winter a series of fortnightly lectures was given by Mr. J. A. Williams on the use of records in local history. There were also talks on Geological subjects by Dr. Wallis and Mr. I. Ford; on Forestry by Mr. G. Rouse and on Gipsy Lore by Mr. D. A. Tipler. Dr. A. B. Cottle lectured on English Place Names and Mr. E. Manley gave a talk on Rural Crafts.

A large number of excursions were made to places of archaeological, historical, botanical and ornithological interest and there were regular weekly trips for caving and photographic enthusiasts.

The Society issues its own Bulletin three times a year. Two groups—the East Mendip Caving Club and the recently formed Local History Section—run their own affairs, but have representatives on the General Committee.

The Secretary received information early one morning that a pair of cottages at Rodden with an early timber roof were being rapidly demolished. The owners were unwilling to delay demolition, but the Secretary was able to contact a school-boy member, who is an expert photographer. With the owners' permission he took some photographs that day before school and further pictures on the next day of an open fireplace revealed as demolition progressed. The photographs have been accepted and paid for by the National Buildings Record.