

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

TRUSTEES, OFFICERS AND BOARD OF THE SOCIETY 2009–2010

PATRON:	Lady Gass, MA
CUSTODIAN TRUSTEES:	Lady Gass, MA Revd Brian Kirk, BD Steven Pugsley
PRESIDENT:	David Bromwich, MA, ALA
PAST PRESIDENTS:	Gerard Leighton, FSA Dr Pat Hill-Cottingham, BSc, PhD Mark McDermott, MA
HON LIBRARIAN:	Ann Nix, BA, MSc, Dip Lib, MCLIP
HON EDITOR:	Peter Ellis, MA, FSA

Board of Trustees

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS:	<i>Chairman:</i> Christopher Sidaway, BA (Hons)
	<i>Vice-Chairman:</i> Vacant
	<i>Hon Secretary:</i> Vacant
	<i>Acting Hon Treasurer:</i> David Dawson, BA, FSA, FMA

ELECTED MEMBERS OF THE BOARD (to retire at the Annual General Meeting indicated)

2010	Anthony Bruce, MSc Stephen Croad, MBE, BA, FSA, FRGS Mary Ewing, MSc, RIBA
2011	Adrian Webb, MA, FBCartS, FRGS, FSA, MRHistS Christopher Chanter Robert Croft, BA, MIFA Revd Brian Kirk, BD Brian Murless
2012	David Dawson, BA, FSA, FMA Nigel Pearce, BA, DipArch, Dip Arch Cons, RIBA Christopher Sidaway, BA (Hons) Anita Sims, RIBA, IHBC Hilary Binding, BA George Middleton, MA (Oxon)

COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS REPRESENTING OTHER BODIES:

<i>Archaeology:</i>	David Baker, MA
<i>Historic Buildings:</i>	Nigel Pearce, BA, DipArch, Dip Arch Cons, RIBA
<i>Library:</i>	Dr Roy Haines, MA, DLitt, DPhil, FRHistS
<i>Local History:</i>	Angela Dix
<i>Natural History:</i>	Dr Philip Radford, MB, ChB, DCH
<i>Publications:</i>	Adrian Webb, MA, FBCartS, FRGS, FSA, MRHistS
<i>Somerset County Council:</i>	Councillor David Fothergill
<i>Associated Societies:</i>	Vacant

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2008

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Wells Museum on Saturday 16 May 2009. The meeting was attended by 55 members including the officers and apologies were received from a further 35. The chairperson, Chris Sidaway, thanked the retiring President, Mr Gerard Leighton, for his term of office and welcomed the new President, Mr David Bromwich, to whom a gift was presented to mark his retirement after 30 years of service not only to the Society but to local history in the county. He then reported the deaths of two key and stalwart members of SANHS: Pat Hill Cottingham (see *SANH* 152) and Pam Brimacombe (see obituary on facing page). Thanks were recorded to Barry Lane, the Society's Honorary Secretary for the past four years until his resignation at the beginning of the year, for his important contributions to modernising the Society, updating the constitution and negotiating a new lease for the Castle with Somerset County Council. Chris Sidaway then reviewed developments at the Museum of Somerset, Timestream, Castle House and the Wyndham Hall, noting in particular that he saw the major priority for the Society as working with our partners to make the Museum of Somerset a national exemplar. The Museum was now closed and work had begun, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, on the complete refurbishment of Taunton Castle. The Timestream building at Silk Mills was under construction and would house the Somerset Records

Office, the Museum reserve collection and the Historic Environment Service. The SANHS Office would also be accommodated there although a presence would also be maintained at the Museum of Somerset. Castle House was the subject of a feasibility study by the Somerset Building Preservation Trust in conjunction with conservation architects, Architecton, which would lead to recommendations for a further HLF bid for funding. A working party was looking at the potential refurbishment of the Wyndham Hall to provide enhanced lecture facilities and a future 'home' for the Society. These developments and changes were set in the context of the Vision for Taunton, an element of which would be a major design project focused on developing Castle Green as an urban open space.

Further reports by officers then followed: the report and accounts to December 2008, reports from subject committees, from the Head of Museums for Somerset County Council, from Barry Lane on grants disbursed to the Maltwood and Gray Funds (see below), and from David Dawson who noted the donation of £1000 per year by Professor Mick Aston as a special fund, starting in 2008, for which the Society thanked him most gratefully.

Officers of the Society were then appointed as listed above. Finally Gerard Leighton delivered the Presidential Address on the subject of 'Furniture in Wells Cathedral' which is printed in this volume of *SANH* (see p. 1).

MALTWOOD AND GRAY FUNDS

Maltwood Fund

Dr Matthew Ponting £3000 for lead isotope analysis of Roman artefacts from Mendip;

Dr Michael Allen £1000 for analysis of palaeo-environmental samples from excavation of Priddy Circles on Mendip in 2008;

Beacon Hill Society £1500 for analysis of palaeo-environmental samples and carbon-14 dating of charcoal from a round barrow excavation at Beacon Hill, in east Mendip in 2008;

Phil Knibb £250 towards the costs of analysing and archiving material from the Ford Farm excavation, Bawdrip, by the Bridgwater Archaeological Society during 1997–2003.

Gray Fund

Fairfield Project £2250 towards the costs of three weeks of archaeological training for young people and amateurs at Fairfield House, Stogursey;

Glastonbury Abbey £2000 towards the costs of a touring exhibition about the archaeologist Bligh Bond;

Dr David Robinson £1750 towards the costs of undertaking a geophysical survey and excavation of a World War II site at Tyntesfield by the University of Central Lancashire and University of Bristol;

Beacon Hill Society £300 towards the costs of reconstruction and conservation of a Middle Bronze Age cremation urn and its contents from Beacon Hill, in east Mendip.