

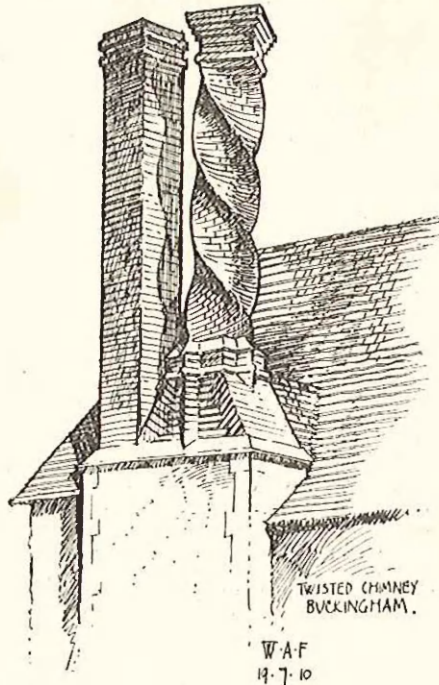
# The Proceedings of the Bucks Architectural and Archaeological Society

FOR THE YEAR 1910.

## THE ANNUAL EXCURSION,

JULY 19<sup>TH</sup>.

The excursion this year was unusually well attended, probably owing to the opportunity it offered of visiting Stowe, the most stately seat and park in this county. The appointment was at Buckingham railway station, at 11.15. A short walk led to the old churchyard, the site of the ancient parish church. Mr. J. T. Harrison, who has lately brought out a very useful account of this town (of which a notice will be found in this issue) read a short paper, and explained that this lower portion of a cross by which he stood was formerly, not the churchyard, but the market-cross which after various vicissitudes had found a resting place. We passed by the twisted brick chimney of the manor house (illustrated) to the present parish church. Here a paper\* was read by the Rev. P. P. Goldingham, based upon the History by Browne



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Willis, published in 1755. Mr Harrison's book, referred to, gives a view of the ancient church before its spire fell, and also views of the present building, dating from 1777 and which, though with some pretence outside to the Gothic style, was before Sir G. Scott's alterations frankly Palladian inside, or somewhat after the style of one of Sir Chr. Wren's galleried churches. A fine pendant brass chandelier was the gift of Browne Willis. Some objects of interest were exhibited at the west end of the church.

Castle House was next visited, its dining parlour with open roof and Jacobean chimney-piece much admired, and a short paper read by Mr. Herbert Bull\*.

Thence to the Chapel of St. John, late the Royal Latin School, described and illustrated in our last issue of RECORDS.

After luncheon at the "Swan and Castle" Hotel we drove to Maids' Moreton, where time was only too short for an adequate inspection of the beautiful church of St. Edmund, King and Martyr (said to be the only church so dedicated in this diocese). The "Maids," of the family of Peovre, did not erect this church (c. 1450) at so much per sitting; there is no evidence of economy in the fabric, but only of a desire to build as beautiful a church as possible regardless of its cost. It is without aisles, and consists of nave, chancel, sacristy (with a beautiful groined roof) of which one cannot help regretting the enlargement, west tower with unusual and beautiful belfry windows, and north porch with ceiling groined in stone. The wall painting at back of Sedilia appeared to me to represent the Institution of the Eucharist. Verbal descriptions of architecture, if read at all, are always unsatisfying without illustrations. Let us hope that some day this beautiful specimen of 15th century architecture may figure adequately in the pages of BUCKS RECORDS.

Thence we drove to Stowe Park, the palatial home of the Temples and Grenvilles, which by the courtesy of the Baroness Kinloss was thrown open for the inspection of the Society. Passing through the hall (by W. Kent) and the imposing elliptical, domed, saloon (by Valdré) the members and their friends assembled on the steps of the south portico, where the Hon. Chandos Morgan-Grenville, after welcoming the Society on behalf of Lady Kinloss, re-read to us the interesting paper which his grandfather, the late Duke, read to this Society on the occasion of the visit in 1884 (RECORDS V, 349). The visitors were then conducted through all the State apartments and were greatly interested not only in the noble dimensions of the library and state dining-room, but also in the choice fittings, rare marble chimney-pieces, &c. The dining-room has four large panels of tapestry, the ceiling of the state dining room is coved above the cornice and decorated in *grisaille* and with *chiaroscuro* medallions. The ceiling of the drawing-room is decorated with reliefs, and the statuary marble chimney-piece contains antique alabaster and porphyry panels. The next room has Pompeian decorations and three painted panels in the ceiling; a beautiful old pendant crystal chandelier. In this room was displayed a sumptuous elephant trapping of crimson velvet with much gold embroidery, presented to the Duke when Governor of Madras.

\* Printed in the BUCKS HERALD, July 23, 1910.

The music-room is charmingly decorated. The chimney-piece has gilt bronze reliefs upon *rosso antico* panels. A very fine inlaid Flemish cabinet and other choice furniture were much admired. The party also visited the chapel which is in the older part of the mansion and is perhaps, with its cedar panelling and elaborate Grinling Gibbons carvings, the most interesting room of all. Proceeding downstairs the collections in the "Armoury" were inspected and the visitors proceeded to take a very hurried view of the famous "Gardens" and church. The latter has been frequently altered, and is not specially interesting to the hurried visitor. There is a monument to Martha, Lady Penyston, wife of Sir Thomas Penyston, Bart., date 1619.

Time only permitted a view of the garden buildings near the church: the well-proportioned monument known as Capt. Grenville's Pillar, the rather grotesque Temple of British Worthies, by Kent, and the beautiful circular Temple of Ancient Virtue by the same architect. Of the latter, the Temple of Venus, Queen Caroline's Monument and the Palladian Bridge views, by Messrs. Walford, of Buckingham, are here given. The return was made through the Corinthian Arch and the great avenue, two miles long, to Buckingham.

An article descriptive of Stowe in the first half of the 18th century, and giving further particulars of the ornamental buildings in the grounds, with a plan, is included in this issue.

W. N.

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### THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Museum, Aylesbury, on the 10th November, Mr. Coningsby R. Disraeli in the chair. The Hon. Secretary submitted his report. Miss Paterson lectured on ancient Egypt on 10th March, and Mr. W. H. Marsh, B.Sc., lectured on a Photographic Survey of the County in the Museum. On the 3rd November the rooms of the Museum were lent to a committee of ladies for a lace exhibition. By the liberality of a few of our members great progress has been made, during the year, in providing metal and glass cases for the large room; Mr. Liberty having given £100, Mr. Berry £100, and Lady Smyth a further £40. Mr. Walter Hazell has also given a show case; and Miss Alice Rothschild special cases for a collection of spurs to be lent by Mr. Julian James.

The Hon. Treasurer presented the audited statement of accounts for the year ended 31 Dec., 1909, showing a total expenditure of £375:4:8. There was a bank overdraft of £74:18:3, and unpaid accounts amounting to about £60. The receipts for the year to date amount to £439:4:6. In addition to subscriptions and the special donations mentioned above the treasurer received: Sums under £1, £3:5; Mr. Lionel de Rothschild, £10:10; Mr. W. Niven, £5; Mr. C. W. Atkinson, £2:2; Messrs. Schweppe, £2:2; Mrs. A. E. Franklin, £1:1; Mr. H. E. Luxmore, £1; but feared there would be a debit balance at the end of this year of about £70. In con-

sidering these accounts it should be remembered that one of our Vice-Presidents has generously paid the curator's salary for the past three years.

The Editor telegraphed regretting his absence at Bournemouth, reporting that this year's issue of RECORDS was well-advanced, and asking for news items for "Bucks Churches."

The Reports were accepted, 17 new members were elected. Dr. Berry, reporting on behalf of the Earth-works Sub-Committee, stated that the list of earthworks in the county was not yet complete, and asked for plans, photographs and other information. Mr. Cocks, chairman of this committee, said he had written to the Secretary to the Royal Commission on Earthworks, offering to co-operate with them, but they had done their preliminary work.

The Chairman suggested the formation of an advisory committee, which might, with the co-operation of the Bishop of the Diocese, be competent to give advice, within this archdeaconry, on the repair or other necessary work on the fabrics of the churches. Mr. Forsyth and Mr. Liberty supported the proposal, and it was agreed that it should be an instruction to the general Committee to consider the matter.

[A full report of this meeting will be found in the BUCKS HERALD, Nov. 12, 1910.]