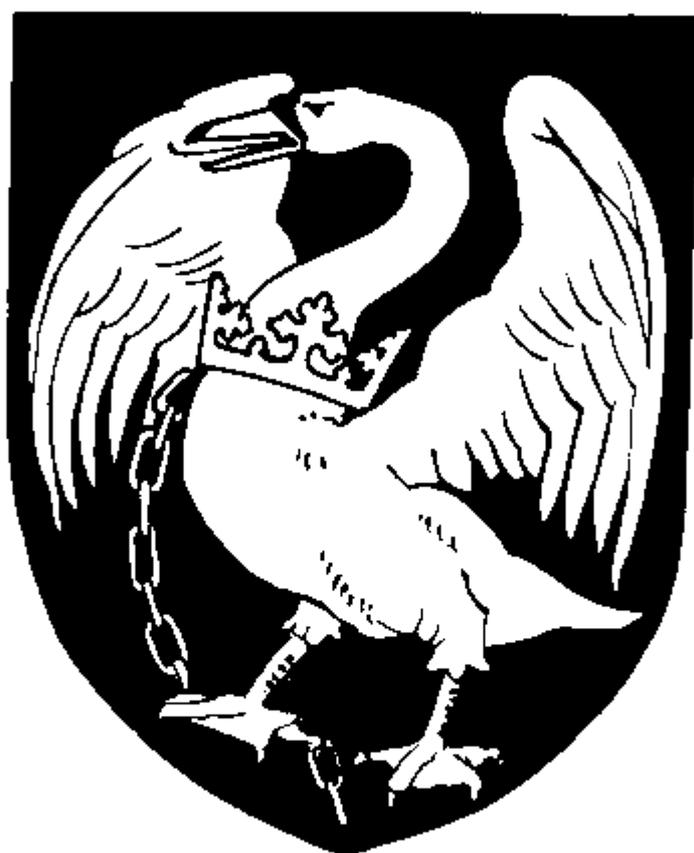


RECORDS OF
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



VOLUME XVII • PART 5 • 1965

CONTENTS

Aylesbury in the Fifteenth Century	<i>Elizabeth M. Elvey, M.A.</i>	321
Some Palæoliths from the Bletchley District	<i>Louise Millard</i>	336
A Mesolithic Industry from Bolton End	<i>Louise Millard</i>	343
Richard II's Servants and the Miscenden Inheritance	<i>Anthony Goodman</i>	350
A Romano-Celtic Temple at Bourton Grounds, Buckingham		356
Bledlow: II—Church and Parsons	<i>Alison Young, F.S.A.</i>	367
A New Roman Site in Chesham	<i>Keith Branigan and Michael Kirton</i>	386
The Manor of the Vicarage of Chalfont St. Peter	<i>John E. G. Bennell</i>	392
The Notitia Parochialis	<i>E. Clive Rouse, F.S.A.</i>	403
Captain John Woodliff	<i>A. Vere Woodman, F.S.A.</i>	406
Archaeological Notes from the Buckinghamshire County Museum		409
Notes		414
Reviews		418
The Museum		421
The Society		422
Natural History Section		423
Officers of the Society		425

Council for British Archæology —
Regional Group 9

One-day Conference held at Luton on Saturday,
7th November, 1964

A Survey and Policy of Research
in Archæology in the South-East
Midlands

Chairman: James Dyer, M.A.

It was sixteen years since the C. B. A. had published its survey and policy of field research in the archaeology of Great Britain. During those years a number of the outstanding problems posed in 1948 had been elucidated, but other problems remained or had developed. It was the purpose of the Luton Conference to survey what had already been done within Group 9, and to consider what were still the outstanding problems.

The Palaeolithic and Mesolithic: John Wymer, F. S. A.

Mr. Wymer mentioned the C. B. A. Gazetteer of Lower Palaeolithic sites, shortly to be published, which contained 225 sites within

Group 9 alone. Since 1948 it had been established that the Clactonian was undoubtedly the earliest tool making culture represented in Britain, followed after a distinct break by the Acheulean, - the dominant hand-axe industry of Britain, and slightly later the Levalloisian, coming in three parts into late Middle Acheulean and mixing with it. Much of the material for the study of the Palaeolithic period had come from 19th century excavations, and much valuable work could be done by small societies in re-examining old gravel and clay pits, exposing clean sections to show the succession, and redrawing the stratification and making photographic records of them.

Again in the Mesolithic period a great deal more information was required, though much that was new had been learned since 1948. Area excavations were urgently needed on sites whose conditions were likely to have preserved perishable materials such as bone and antler. Work in the Colne and Kennett valleys was likely to prove most rewarding here.

The Neolithic and Early and Middle Bronze Age: Humphrey Case, M. A., F. S. A.

Our greatest need was for the discovery of more settlement sites. Causewayed camps were now best considered as occupation sites, but more trial excavations within known and new examples were most desirable. He felt that the spring-line of the chalk hills was likely to produce new settlement sites, as also were the plateau gravels, the greensand and the Bagshot Beds. He also urged the finding of more flint mines. It was his opinion that there was too much excavation at present and too little fieldwork being done in an effort to find new sites. He finally posed a question regarding the whereabouts of Middle and Late Bronze Age settlements. Could not some of the ring-ditches, revealed by air photographs in the river gravels and chalk hills, really be settlement sites?

The Late Bronze Age and Iron Age: Professor Christopher Hawkes,
F. B. A., F. S. A.

In discussing the Iron Age Professor Hawkes suggested that it was only on the evidence of uninscribed coins of the late 2nd century B. C. that we could see evidence of a conquest of Britain by the Belgae at that time, since there was little other change in the material culture of Iron Age Britain. The coins pushed back the Belgic invasion of Britain to at least 100 B. C. Similarly it was the metal work of the Late Bronze Age which showed continental influences and therefore signs of an earlier immigration connected with the Continental Early Iron Age, though pottery continued in Middle Bronze Age tradition. Habitation sites for the Late Bronze Age and transitional period were needed. Hawkes thought that a number of selective hillfort excavations would prove valuable in providing a number of stratified pottery horizons into which the otherwise unintelligible crop-mark sites which abound within the region could then be fitted.

The Roman Period: Professor Sir Ian Richmond, F. B. A., F. S. A.

The Professor began by praising the valuable work of the Viatores in producing their recently published survey of Roman Roads in the south-east Midlands. This book failed only in providing too few sections of Roman roads, and here was something that local workers could conveniently do. It would be useful to compare many sections of the Roman trunk roads built speedily under military supervision, and the more leisurely work of the minor roads with solid bottoming. The occupation of Britain was a slow affair, first military, then civil. The army provided a network of main roads. When the forces moved north and west their forts were often left deserted, to be built over by towns growing up at these former centres of communication. Such may have been the case at Verulamium. Richmond stressed our unequal knowledge of villas and towns. He called for more work on the small Roman towns and wanted more information about their commerce and length of existence.

He also thought that the outhouses and barns of more villas should be dug as soon as possible.

The Dark Ages: Sonia Hawkes, B. A., F.S.A.

Saxon sites were usually discovered by accident and constant observation of likely sites was necessary. Much old material needed publishing or republishing in detail, and sites already partly excavated should be totally examined. The complete excavation of a Saxon settlement, and its cemetery, would once and for all stop historians from referring to the period as 'the Dark Ages'.

The 9th to 14th Centuries: David Sturdy, B. A.

Mr. Sturdy stressed the wealth of work being done, particularly in Oxford, for the early medieval periods; but he also pointed out the enormous amount of destruction carried out on sites of this period, since most of them are under our modern towns. He particularly stressed the need for faster, more mechanised forms of excavation.

A Survey and Policy: Conclusions: Professor R. J. C. Atkinson,
M. A., F.S.A.

Professor Atkinson also commented on excavation equipment and pointed out that we are still using the same equipment that was in use 150 years ago. In an age of technological advance, this was a disgrace.

He considered that three points emerged from the Conference. These were firstly the need for much more fieldwork in the O.G.S. Crawford tradition. Secondly the need for selective total excavation - partial excavation was often misleading. It was essential to know what sort of question we wanted to answer, and then to select and totally excavate a site which was likely to give the correct answers. Finally we needed the factual publication of the material which had become 'buried' in museum storerooms. Many more corpora and catalogues of this material were required.

James Dyer, M. A.

ARCHÆOLOGICAL NOTES FROM THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

THE list given below includes all archaeological finds brought to the attention of the Buckinghamshire County Museum during 1965 and, unless otherwise stated, they were actually made in that year. Where a number is given in brackets at the end of an entry, the material concerned has been given to the Museum and has this accession number.

Grateful acknowledgments are due to finders and to the secretaries and members of Societies in the County for supplying information.

Aylesbury, Bedgrove Farm

Excavations on the site of the Deserted Medieval Village of Caldecote were continued by the Buckinghamshire County Museum. An extensive area of cobbling was cleared and a second room of the building found in 1964 located. A second and later period of occupation on this platform was represented by clay walls, presumably of a boundary nature. A section across the street revealed remains of an oven on the platform opposite. Sherds dating from the late twelfth to the early fourteenth century were found.

N.G.R. SP839127

Aylesbury, 36 Cambridge Street

A Tetradrachm of Claudius II Gothicus was dug up in the garden by Mr. Sheehan.

N.G.R. SP81991391

Aylesbury, St. Mary's Vicarage, Parson's Fee

A Romano-British pot, part of an iron fibula and thirteenth to fifteenth century sherds were found during excavations for a drain by Mr. E. Neary.

N.G.R. SP81701370 (153-4.65)

Aylesbury, Silver Street

Thirteenth-century sherds were collected from an occupation level found during excavations for foundations for new buildings.

N.G.R. SP81901369 (17.65)

Beaconsfield, 27 Stratton Road

Iron Age "A" sherds were found when digging deep holes for planting trees in the garden.

N.G.R. SU92779076

Bledlow, Bec House

An \mathcal{A} 3 of Constantine and an \mathcal{A} 3 of the house of Constantine were found in the garden by Mr. F. H. Pavry.

N.G.R. SP77800214

Bledlow-cum-Saunderton, Lodge Hill

Iron Age "A" sherds were found on the surface and in molehills by Mr. C. Saunders.

N.G.R. SU79549978 (139.65)

- A thirteenth-century sherd was found on the surface by Mr. C. Saunders.
N.G.R. SU78840042 (138.65)
- Bledlow-cum-Saunderton, Saunderton Lee*
The site of a Romano-British villa was found by Dr. J. K. S. St. Joseph in 1962. Aerial photograph published in *J. R. S.*, LV, pl. XIII, 2; p. 88.
N.G.R. SU799990
- Bletchley, 14 Oakwood Drive*
Thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds were found by Mr. R. W. Griffiths when digging a trial trench in the garden.
N.G.R. SP882334 (35.65)
- Bletchley, 13 St. George's Road*
Romano-British sherds were found by Mr. E. Tilley when digging the garden.
N.G.R. SP853331
- Bletchley, 169-171 Shenley Road*
Romano-British sherds, a coin, a bone pin, a bronze stud and building materials were found in foundation trenches by Mr. R. W. Griffiths.
N.G.R. SP853342
- Bletchley, 24 Stoke Road*
Ditches and medieval sherds were found by Mr. R. W. Griffiths during the construction of a new driveway.
N.G.R. SP879329
- Bletchley, Whaddon Way*
Romano-British sherds were found by Mr. R. W. Griffiths in the spoil from a trench dug for a water main.
N.G.R. SP858345
- Bletchley, Whiteley Crescent*
Romano-British sherds were found by Mr. R. W. Griffiths in spoil from a trench dug for re-laying water pipes.
N.G.R. SP856329
- Bow Brickhill, Caldecotte*
Belgic, Romano-British and thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds and part of a Romano-British quern stone were found on the surface of a field and in a ditch by Messrs. A. Knight and H. W. Pengelly.
N.G.R. SP89153555
- Buckland, Church Farm*
A sesterlius of Commodus was dug up in the garden by Mr. L. King.
N.G.R. SP888125
- Chalfont St. Giles, Hay House, Narcot Lane*
A barbed and tanged flint arrowhead was found when digging the garden by Mrs. Wright.
N.G.R. SU98759244
- Chearsley, Regency Cottage, Watts Green*
Thirteenth-century sherds were found by Mr. S. Kelly when alterations were made to the cottage.
N.G.R. SP71881050 (98.65)
- Chearsley, School Lane*
Further thirteenth and eighteenth-century sherds were found by Mr. S. Kelly as a result of road widening.
N.G.R. SP71881069 (99.65)

Cholesbury-cum-St. Leonards

An Acheulian hand axe was found by Andrew Cope fallen from a road bank.
N.G.R. SP950064

Denham, Willowbank

A neolithic polished stone axe was found in dumped material on the stream bank by Mr. Gazzeniga.

N.G.R. TQ050853

Drayton Parslow

Romano-British sherds and a piece of tile were found in 1964 by Mr. R. W. Griffiths in spoil from a trench dug for a water main.

N.G.R. SP852291 (32.65)

Fenny Stratford, Watling Street

Romano-British sherds, part of a lamp and glass were found in the roadside ditch by Messrs. R. W. Griffiths, A. Knight and H. W. Peagelly.

N.G.R. SP886339-892335

Fenny Stratford, Bathing Station, Watling Street

Further excavations by the Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society revealed three graves cut into a late Roman floor, a fourth burial and a late Roman wall, third to fourth-century sherds, animal skulls and 25 late third to fourth-century coins.

N.G.R. SP887338

Fingest, Cadmore End Common

Thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds were found by Mr. S. J. Smith and collected during road construction.

N.G.R. SU793926 (100.65)

Gayhurst

Iron Age "A" and Romano-British sherds, fragments of roofing tile and tesserae were found on the surface of a ploughed field. They were originally from the spoil of a trench dug for a water main in about 1955.

N.G.R. SP85354640

Hardmead

Twelfth to thirteenth-century and seventeenth-century sherds were collected from the surface of a ploughed field.

N.G.R. SP935477 (12.65)

Thirteenth-century sherds were found by Mr. D. Mynard on the surface of a field, the site of a deserted medieval village.

N.G.R. SP926480 (14.65)

High Wycombe, Keep Hill

An Iron Age "A" sherd was found on the surface by Mr. C. Saunders.
N.G.R. SU873921

High Wycombe, West Wycombe Churchyard

Iron Age "A" and thirteenth-century sherds were found in spoil from graves by Mr. C. Saunders.

N.G.R. SU828950 (140-1.65)

High Wycombe, Wood Road, Booker Hill

Further twelfth to thirteenth-century sherds were found by Mr. H. Mumford in a cutting made for a new road.

N.G.R. SU838927 (178.65)

Ivinghoe

Iron Age "A", Romano-British and medieval sherds were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Levy.

N.G.R. SP966171

Lathbury, Lathbury House

A fourteenth to fifteenth-century heraldic pendant was found in the garden.

N.G.R. SP87454499 (110.65)

Latimer, Dell Farm

Excavations were continued by the Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society on the site of the Romano-British villa. Four specific periods of occupation have now been recognised, the first being represented by traces of a hitherto unsuspected timber building. The first period cannot as yet be dated exactly, but the second began about A.D. 130 and occupation continued until about A.D. 375. A trial trench to the east of the villa disclosed what may prove to be a further structure.

N.G.R. SU99769852

Little Missenden, Town Farm

An As of Hadrian, an Æ 3 of Valens and a Roman Provincial Greek coin were found some years ago in the garden by Mr. King.

N.G.R. SU920988 (16-18.66)

Marsworth, Marsworth Great Farm

Stone wall foundations, medieval and post-medieval sherds, and clay pipes have been found in excavations conducted by Mr. I. F. Jelley.

N.G.R. SP91751485

Mentmore, Mentmore Towers

A medieval spearhead was found in the garden by Mr. Pennell some years ago.

N.G.R. SP904197 (211.65)

Newport Pagnell, Chicheley Street

Thirteenth-century sherds were found in a trench by Mr. M. Pratt.

N.G.R. SP88494377

Newport Pagnell, Priory Street

Thirteenth-century sherds were found in a trench by Mr. M. Pratt.

N.G.R. SP88264394

Newton Longville

Thirteenth and fourteenth-century sherds were found on a site prepared for building by Mr. R. W. Griffiths.

N.G.R. SP843312

Olney, Ashfurlong

An Antoninianus of Carausius was found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Mynard.

N.G.R. SP89535267

Olney, Olney Hyde

Thirteenth-century sherds were collected from the surface of a ploughed field on the site of a kiln.

N.G.R. SP88705451 (10.65)

Thirteenth-century sherds were collected from the surface of a ploughed field on the site of a kiln.

N.G.R. SP88505450 (197.65)

Pitstone, Tunnel Portland Cement Co. Ltd. Quarry

The Pitstone Local History Society have excavated a further 150 post-holes, many containing either Iron Age "A" or medieval sherds.

N.G.R. SP949146

Ravenstone

Medieval and sixteenth to eighteenth-century sherds were found on the surface of a field by members of the Wolverton and District Archaeological Society.

N.G.R. SP85335060

Ravenstone

As a result of the discovery after deep ploughing of a heavy scatter of Romano-British building debris and sherds, the Wolverton and District Archaeological Society carried out a trial excavation on the site. This disclosed a hypocaust about 7 ft. by 6 ft. 6 in. and the walls of other structures. The hypocaust appears to date from the fourth century.

N.G.R. SP84045009

Shenley Brook End

Thirteenth to fourteenth and eighteenth-century sherds were found in 1964 by Mr. R. W. Griffiths during excavations for road widening.

N.G.R. SP83393620 (33.65)

Further thirteenth-century sherds were found by Mr. D. Mynard in a trench dug for a footpath.

N.G.R. SP834359 (210.65)

Sherington

A Belgic urn was found by Mr. S. Wilson during commercial excavations.

N.G.R. SP88974676 (128.65)

Simpson, River Ouzel

Romano-British and medieval sherds were found in dredged spoil from the river by Messrs. R. W. Griffiths, A. Knight and H. Pengelly.

N.G.R. SP886362

Stewkley

Romano-British sherds were found in 1964 by Mr. R. W. Griffiths on the bed of a stream

N.G.R. SP82782713 (34.65)

Stoke Goldington, Church Farm

Two $\text{Æ} 3$ of Constantine were found on the surface of a ploughed field in about 1940 by Mr. Harris.

N.G.R. SP833493

Stokenchurch, 2 Elizabeth Road

A large bronze of Hadrian was dug up in the garden by Mr. White.

N.G.R. SU767956

Stowe, Trowetha, Oxford Lodge

A denarius of Severus Alexander was dug up in the garden by Mr. A. J. Chapman.

N.G.R. SP666365

Turweston, Turweston Mill

An As of Hadrian was dug up in the grounds in 1964.

N.G.R. SP60073802

Wendover, 12 Stanhope Close

A thirteenth to fourteenth-century arrowhead was dug up in the garden by Mr. R. Bulpett.

N.G.R. SP865091 (113.65)

Weston Underwood

Belgic or Romano-British sherds were found by Mr. D. Mynard and Mr. C. Price, and collected from the surface of a ploughed field.

N.G.R. SP85805102-85805108

(209.65)

C.N.G.

NOTES

BLETCHLEY: Demolitions. Mr. Edward Legg sends the following:

During 1965 over a dozen houses were demolished within the Bletchley U. D. as a result of slum clearance orders or redevelopment. Most of these were erected in the late nineteenth or early twentieth century and are of little archaeological or architectural interest, although this group does include the house and surgery on the Bletchley road, built at the turn of the century, for the late Dr. Bradbrooke, a former secretary of our society.

More important than these were nos. 22 to 26 Aylesbury Street in Fenny Stratford. Originally erected in the seventeenth century as a single house, it was altered in the eighteenth century and converted into three cottages in the nineteenth. These were not recorded by the Royal Historical Monuments Commission, but as they were already covered with Victorian plaster at that time, they were probably overlooked.

Unfortunately these buildings were not thoroughly surveyed before they were pulled down, but it appears that the central portion (No. 24) was the oldest part, with a timber frame and wattle and daub filling. This had been raised in the eighteenth century and an extension added at the southern end (No. 22). This appeared at one time to have contained a baker's oven. The house at the northern end was added in the nineteenth century as also a further portion at the rear of No. 22. A short history of the property was given in the *Bletchley Gazette*, 7th January, 1966.

BUCKLAND: The Potteries at Buckland Common. Mr. H. R. Brackley sends the following note by Mr. F. K. King.

The first evidence we have of the existence of a Pottery at Buckland Common is in 1701. The Catalogue of the Principal Works of Art at Chequers (1923) mentions (page 23, No. 21):

"Jug, red earthenware, covered with dark manganese-brown glaze, globular, with short neck, small handle with three thumb-marks at its base and reeded round mouth and shoulder. On the front 'H. K. 1701' incised under the glaze. Probably made at Buckland Common, near Aylesbury. This jug has always been at Chequers and is of special interest as the work of a small rustic pottery hitherto unrecorded in the literature of ceramics."

We have been unable to find anyone with the initials "H. K." in either the Buckland (Buckland Common was until 1934 in the parish of Buckland) or Cholesbury Parish Registers, so possibly the initials are of the person for whom the jug was made. However, an old fire-back taken from the Potteries in 1960 has the initials "G. K." on it, so the potter's family may have had the initial "K".

Next, also at Chequers, is another jug, described in the above catalogue as (page 31, No. 94):

"Jug, red earthenware, with dark manganese-brown glaze, globular body, short reeded neck, small loop handle. On the shoulder, star shaped devices, and the inscription JOHN REVET, Esqr. 1759 THOMAS BRACKLEY POTTER AT BUCKLAND COMMON, incised after the application of the glaze but before

firing, Buckland near Aylesbury. H 13½", diam. 10".

"Colonel John Revett, who married Joanna Thurbarne, was owner of Chequers about 1759. This item is of special interest as the work of a small rustic pottery hitherto unrecorded in the history of ceramics."

We can trace this Thomas Brackley. In 1701 a Thomas Brackley married Sarah Higgs (both of Buckland) at Cholesbury and in 1705 a son Thomas was baptised. This son married Sarah Dodman at Buckland in 1726. Thomas, senior, died in 1747 and Sarah in 1751, so the potter in 1759 must have been Thomas, junior.

The catalogue of Chequers in 1923 seems to have been the first time the Buckland Pottery was mentioned in ceramic history, as none of the literature published before that date mentions it, but there are several references to it in later books, e.g.

"Dated red-earthenwares were made at Buckland, near Aylesbury, during the first sixty years of the eighteenth century." (*English Country Pottery*, R. H. Hagger, 1950.)

"At Buckland Common, near Aylesbury, dark-brown wares were made. Dates range from the late eighteenth century until about 1810 or later." (*English Pottery and Porcelain*, W. B. Honey, 1933.)

"Another rustic Pottery which has recently come to light was situated at Buckland, a small village near Aylesbury. At the Prime Minister's House at Chequers are two jugs formerly in the possession of Lord Lee of Fareham." (*English Pottery*, B. Rackham and H. Read, 1924.)

Quite a number of Brackleys appear to have lived in the district in the second half of the eighteenth century, but the registers do not give occupations until about 1813.

There is a jug at Aylesbury Museum reputed to date from the late eighteenth to early nineteenth century, and we have two similar—one dark manganese-brown and one in a light brown, both globular in shape with very small necks. Mrs. Mills (née Sills), whose family lived here for many years, has a jug dated 17 . . . i.e. also incised underneath with the potter's name . . . Brackley. This jug is now in Mrs. Thomas Mills' home at Little Chalfont, Bucks.

In 1818 and 1819 William Cook and James Chandler were described as Pot-Carriers in the Parish Register, and in 1819 Thomas Osborne was a Pot Maker. In 1821 James Brackley was a Pot Maker, but by 1823 appears to have become a Blacksmith, and Emanuel Pratley was the Potter. This name seems to be a derivation of Brackley, as a note in the Register at Cholesbury says "Written above the surname of Brackley is Pratley" (spoken, the names sound very much alike).

Emanuel Pratley is almost the last person in the Cholesbury register described as a Potter or Pot Maker (in 1828), so perhaps the trade ceased soon after that.

However, between 1853 and 1858, three children of Job and Eliza Cox were baptised at Cholesbury. Job Cox was described as a Potter. There is no other reference to this family to be found—possibly the trade was revived for a short period.

In 1844, at the time of the Inclosures, the owner of the Pottery, as it was then called, was Job Brackley, who had married Phebe Brackley in 1805, but the property was now described as "House, Yards and Orchard" in the Inclosure Schedule.

It is said that a young girl relative came to live with the Job Brackleys, who do not appear to have any children. She was Hannah Osborne (possibly a child or descendant of the potmaker Osborne). She married Thomas Sills at Cholesbury in 1858, and after the deaths of Phebe in 1861 and of Job in 1863 they must have taken over the Potteries as a farm. The Sills family remained there until the death of Rosanna, widow of Harris Sills (who was the son of Thomas and Hannah Sills) in 1958, when the last remaining member of the family, Ruby Mills, sold the property to me.

LATIMER: *Excavations on the Romano-British Villa at Latimer.* (Second Interim Note.) Mr. Keith Branigan contributes the following:

A second season's work has been successfully completed on the villa at Latimer, under the direction of Mr. K. Branigan of the Department of Archaeology, University of Birmingham. The area dug in 1965 included two rooms in the main wing, and a large area around and beyond the southern boundary wall.

The results in the main wing confirmed many of last year's conclusions, but one important correction has been made to them. The first building on the site was erected not later than the end of the first century A.D., possibly much earlier. The villa itself was erected probably in c. A.D. 135. This year coins have been found which have helped us to date periods more accurately. Another fortunate find was a group of wall plaster belonging to the third phase of occupation. As we found plaster from phases two and four last year, we now have a complete series for the villa building.

In the area by the southern boundary wall we have found traces of a substantial wooden building, outside the wall. We also have traces of a shoddy wall butting on to the inside of the boundary wall, and there are clearly several interesting structures to be cleared in this area.

GREAT MISSENDEN: Mr. John Bennell sends the following note:

There are two or three lanes leading down from the village of Hyde Heath to the A.413 (Amersham-Great Missenden) road, and one of these is of some interest. An earlier name for this byway (which runs S.W.-N.E. across N.G.R. SU927000) being considered distasteful, popular etymology has transmuted it into the more fanciful, if erroneous, Bullbaiters Lane: its former designation—Bullbeggars Lane—was an extension of the alternative form, Bullhegs Lane. (I am indebted to Mrs. M. A. Bennell for this information.) The Domesday topography of Amersham has been discussed quite recently in the *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XVI, Part 5 (1960), pp. 355-6. By reference to this, and from the name and locale as given above, we may readily deduce that we have here a vestige of the manor of Hugh Bolebec.

CHALFONT ST. GILLS: As reported last year (see *Records*, Vol. XVII, Part 4 (1964), p. 308) work has continued on the wall paintings in the South aisle. The Passion subjects and Life of St. John Baptist having been dealt with, attention has been concentrated at the East End of the aisle, where a considerable cycle devoted to the Life and Miracles of the Virgin is situated. Here, as in the other area, search has continued beyond the edges of Street's cement plaster, with rewarding results. At the top, considerably more of the scroll border has been revealed. And below, the upper part of two or more additional subjects has been ascertained to survive. One of these, by the presence of an Angel, is undoubtedly the Annunciation; and some minor modifications may be made in Professor Tristram's water-colour drawings of the Miracles of the Jewish boy of Bourges, and the Penitent Theophilus. It is hoped to continue the work, and eventually publish a full account.

CHALFONT ST. PETER: Work on the restoration of the parish church has commenced and will be a very large undertaking requiring some £25,000, including the renewal of seating and other fittings. The eighteenth-century roof, as has been already stated, was largely made up of medieval timbers re-used, many of them of large scantling, and elaborately moulded or ornamented with battlemented edges. It is possible to identify parts of screen-work, and woodwork from both nave and aisle roofs.

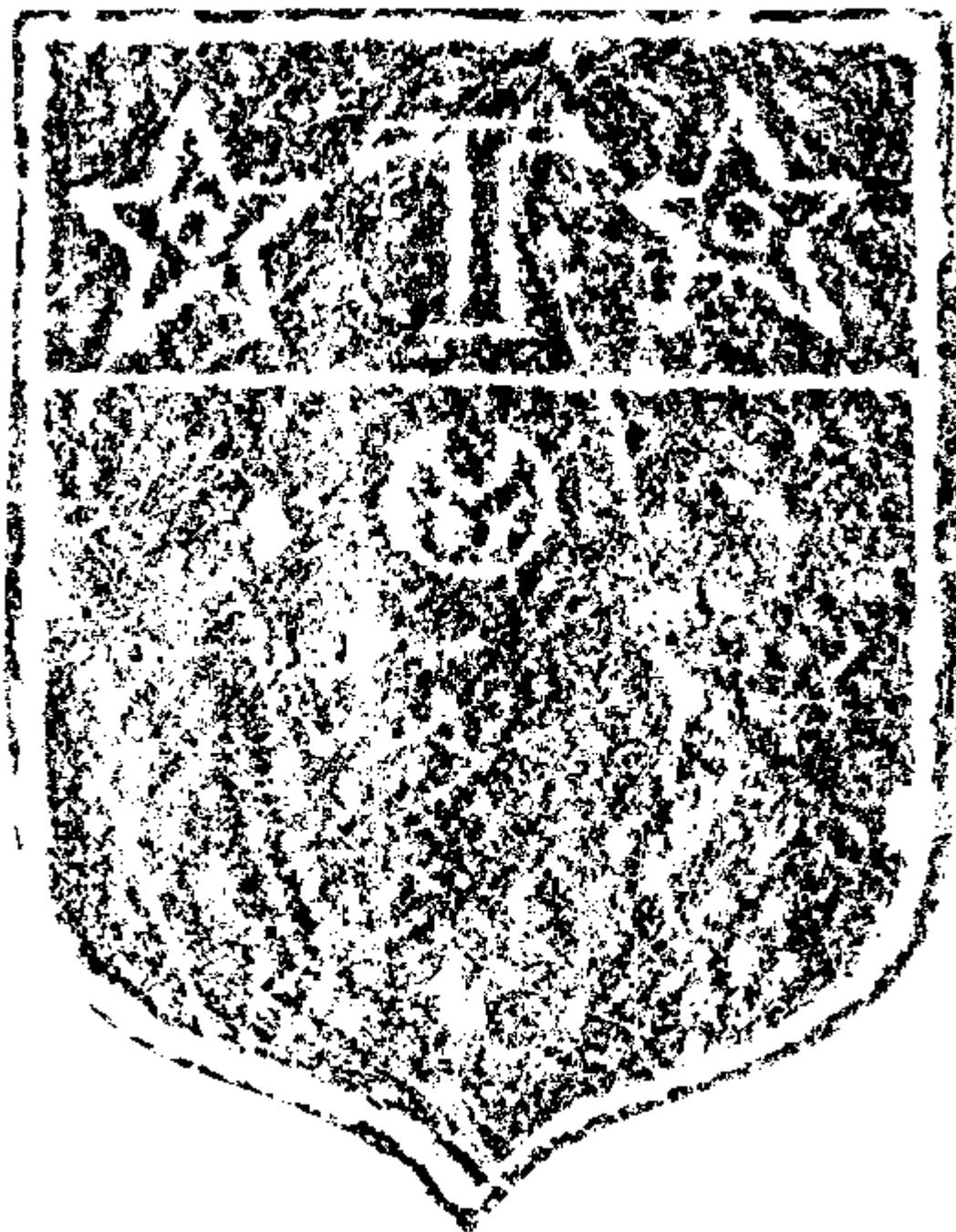
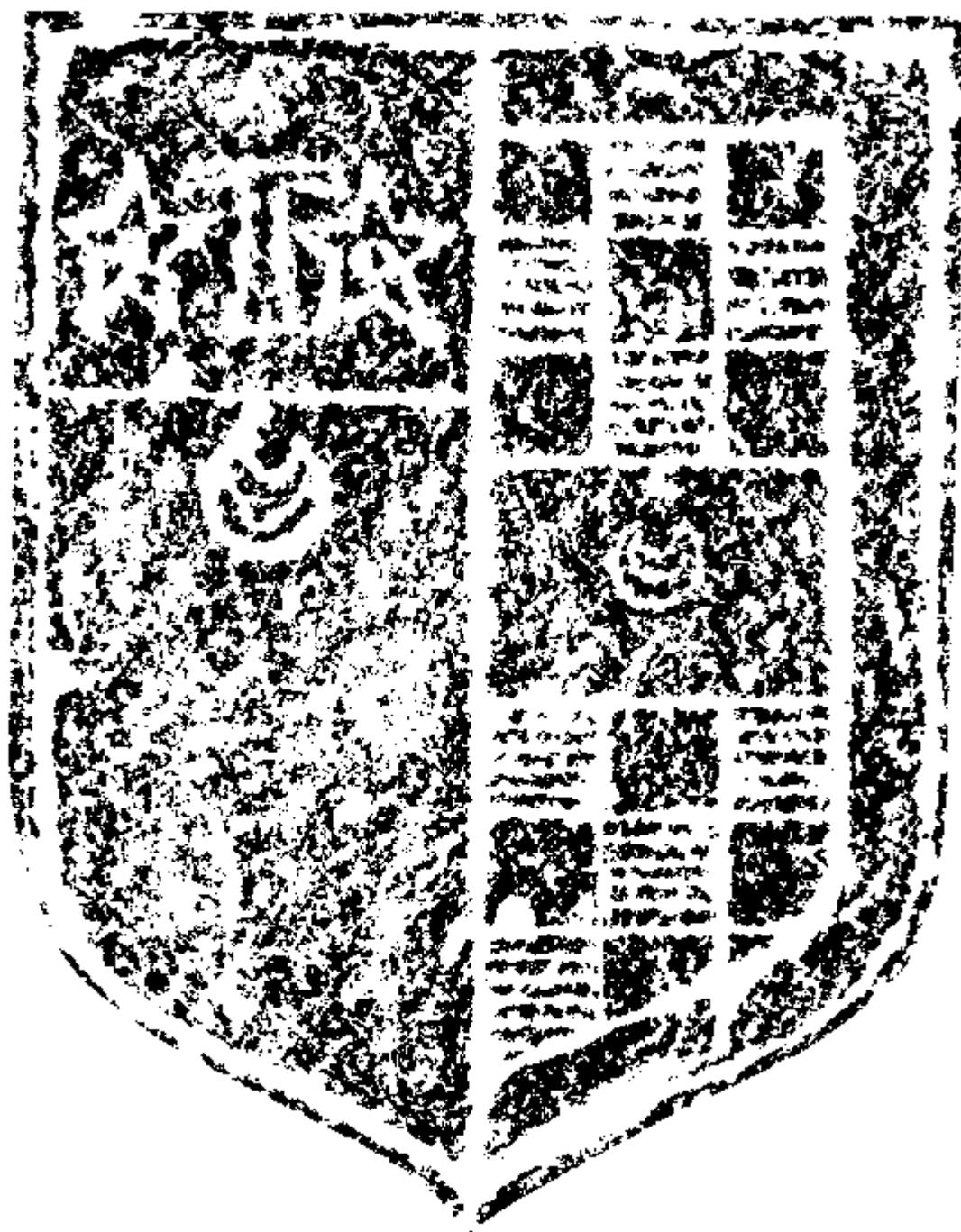


PLATE VIII (a) (and (b) overleaf). Chalfont St. Peter. Two incised marble inset shields from the memorial slab of Sir Henry Drury, 1617.



More moulded stone fragments have been found—one clearly part of a thirteenth-century door-jamb or shaft—and a fourteenth-century glazed floor-tile of Penn origin was recovered.

The brick footings of the eighteenth-century chancel and chancel arch, swept away by Street, have been laid bare and entered on a general plan. They correspond precisely to Browne Willis's measurements.

Two slabs have been taken up in the south chapel and are to be relaid elsewhere, as one was partly beneath the organ and the other under a table. One contained two marble inset shields, and an inscription, two other shields being missing. The slab commemorates "Sir Henry Drury, Knight, who departed this life the sixth day of March in the year of Our Lord 1617", and the burial is recorded in the Registers. Only part of this slab was visible when the Royal Commission made their Inventory, so they did not know whom it commemorated. One shield shows the arms of Drury (*Argent on a chief vert a tau between 2 mullets pierced or, a crescent for difference*); the other those of Drury impaling a chequy coat with a fess and crescent all within a bordure. Without reliable hatching for tinctures it is difficult to attribute this. It might be for Clifford. But Mr. Longden contributes the following suggestions:

The impaled arms are almost certainly those of his mother, Susan Stewkeley or Stewkeley. The Stewkeleys were from Somersetshire and the arms were granted in 1595. The arms are *chequy argent and sable a fess gules within a bordure azure*.

The Drury shield carries the crescent being the mark of cadency for a second son, his father being a second son of the main line of Hawsbend, Suffolk. The Stewkeley Arms also carry a crescent as difference showing that Susan's father was a second son or descended from a second son of the original grantee.

There is a monument in Upper Shuckburgh church to one of the Shuckburgh family. It is to Catherine Shuckburgh, daughter of Hugo Shuckburgh, Baronet, and has the same arms as above, but with no crescent. She died 17th August, 1683. Upper Shuckburgh is in Warwickshire. The pedigree gives the following details: Sir Charles Shuckburgh took as his first wife Catherine eldest daughter of Sir Hugh Stewkeley of Hinton Ampnor, Hants, Bart.

In Mr. Edmonds's book on Chalfont he mentions Sir Wm. Drury, brother of the Henry Drury under discussion. He was a Doctor of Laws, a Judge of the Prerogative Court, and Master of Chancery. He married in 1573 Mary Southwell, daughter of Sir Richard Southwell. He died 15th December, 1589, and is buried in St. Mary Magdalene's Church, Old Fish Street, London." (Rubblings appear in Pl. VIII (a) and (b)).

STOKE MANDEVILLE: The following extract from the *Bucks Herald* for 21st January, 1966, speaks for itself, and puts an end to a sad story. It is alarming how quickly a building decays once it is abandoned; in 1910 it was virtually complete, even the main roof beams of the nave surviving. We hope the Engineers are proud of their piece of destruction, which removes yet another church from Buckinghamshire's list.

"The remains of the church of St Mary the Virgin which have stood in the grounds of Stoke House, Stoke Mandeville, for more than 50 years, were finally demolished on Sunday by a troop of the Royal Engineers of the Territorial Army.

"The Luton-based soldiers—No. 2 Troop 248 (East Anglian) Field Squadron R.E., T.A. were commanded by Captain J. G. Balne.

"The remains of the church were winched down at the request of the Parochial Church Council, who feared that accidents would result from the dangerous state of the building."

E.C.R.

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E.C.R.

REVIEWS

SHERINGTON: FIEFS AND FIELDS OF A BUCKINGHAMSHIRE VILLAGE, by A. C. Chibnall. xxiv+304 pp. 7 in. x 9½ in., with 5 plates and 8 maps. Cambridge University Press, 1965. Four guineas.

To produce a parish history worthy of the name is an arduous undertaking, which is perhaps why so few are written. Certainly no Buckinghamshire local study comparable in scale or depth to this work on Sherington has so far been published and for this reason alone it deserves to be warmly welcomed. At the outset one may ask the question: how is it that a distinguished scientist, a Fellow of the Royal Society, came to interest himself in a North Buckinghamshire village and to equip himself with the technical capacity to investigate and interpret its medieval and later records? The author supplies the answer in his Introduction: it began as "a simple family inquiry" nearly half a century ago. In 1339 a John de Chebenhale appears on the scene in Sherington and thereafter Chibnalls are continuously met with in the parish as farmers and land agents for the next four centuries. But in time genealogical research was subordinated to "a comprehensive study of certain aspects of the feudal and economic growth of the village", and this fine volume is the result. The thoroughness of Dr. Chibnall's investigation of his subject is demonstrated by the inclusion of no less than fifty-seven statistical and other tables, twelve genealogies, six appendixes, and eight maps. Two of the last-named merit special mention. These are the large field maps, reconstructed by the author, of *circa* 1300 and 1580, which are in a sense a distillation of much of the relevant information in the printed book. The detailed story of how this was done is fascinatingly told in Appendix I. For good measure Dr. Chibnall has thrown in a map of Sherington fields *circa* 1950, which shows, incidentally, that not many of the sixteenth-century field-names have survived.

The book comprises a series of essays covering the period from the Roman occupation to the end of the eighteenth century. Where so much is offered, it is perhaps ungenerous to wish that Dr. Chibnall had carried the story of Sherington down to the present time. Village life has changed more profoundly in all its aspects in the last century and a half than in all the centuries of which the book treats and it seems a pity that the modern history of the parish was not written by one so well qualified to do it. As the sub-title indicates, the central theme of the book is the land, its configuration, its cultivation, its economic viability, and the people who extracted a living from it. It is not concerned primarily with the religious and social life of the community. By far the longest chapter in the book is entitled "Agrarian economy under the three-field system of tillage", which underlines the agronomic emphasis of the work and the author's main interest.

Too often the parish historian is hampered by the paucity or fragmentary nature of his sources; "he looks before and after and pines for what is not". Dr. Chibnall has managed to bring under his critical observation a vast corpus of original materials which has enabled him to present a quite remarkable picture of historical continuity. A glance at his impressive class list of documents in the Public Record Office demonstrates the width and depth of his acquaintance with the public records. Private

muniments, too, have been laid under contribution, the collections in the County Record Office and in our Society's Muniment Room, the Throckmorton deeds at Coughton Court, and, in particular, the records of the Mercers' Company. The latter held a Sherington manor from the early sixteenth century down to modern times and its records, including a fine series of court rolls, have yielded a rich harvest. It is good to know that the Company proved itself a lenient landlord and showed special forbearance towards its tenants in times of agricultural distress.

After a topographical description of the parish based on a seventeenth-century perambulation, the account of Sherington in the Middle Ages follows a normal pattern with the descent of its four manors which is treated in great detail. More remarkable is the treatment of land distribution in the medieval period. In two Tables (2 and 3) precise information is given of the holders of land and the extent of their holdings at various dates from the Domesday Survey to 1312, while in Table 4 an areal division of the territory in the latter year into common fields, demesne, woods, etc., is worked out to a total of 1,748 acres, which closely—and very satisfactorily—tallies with the acreage disclosed by the Enclosure Award of 1797. Two chapters are devoted to Sherington in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, periods which present special difficulty to the local historian. On the Black Death Dr. Chibnall boldly states that its effect was to reduce the working population by at least twelve four peasants and eight smallholders—and one may be permitted to wonder whether such certainty is possible. The use of the term smallholder is a little confusing in view of its modern connotation, while elsewhere peasants are described as cottagers and labourers, and even peasant owners. In the medieval period at least, difficulty might have been avoided by using the legal designations of the various types of tenants of land.

The Tudor period was marked by the transfer of the parish from the two-field to the three-field system of cultivation, credit for this somewhat tardy agricultural advance being due to Thomas Chibnall. Throughout the book Dr. Chibnall has made good use of taxation returns as evidence of wealth and population, and in particular he has subjected the great Muster Roll of 1522 to close and informative scrutiny. The ebb and flow of population in the parish is a matter of special interest to him and he has assembled much valuable information on this thorny subject, though one would need to be an expert in demography to venture a worth-while opinion of his conclusions.

As already mentioned, a long chapter is devoted to the agrarian economy under the three-field system, based mainly on title litigation in the mid-seventeenth century, which throws much light on the cropping programme. But something seems to have gone wrong with Table 38, which is a calendar of *circa* 1682 of the operations carried out in the common fields. In the two fields under cultivation (tilth field and pease field) it would surely not be possible to permit the entry of horses and beasts after 10th May while wheat and barley in the one field and beans and peas in the other were in active growth. In the next century changes in the ownership of farms are described, an interesting point to emerge being the gradual increase in absentee ownership which "deprived the village community of the local leadership it needed".

Although the main concern of the book, as the sub-title indicates, is with agrarian matters, Dr. Chibnall does deal with a few other topics, but in rather desultory fashion. His account of the church, whose importance in village life through the ages hardly needs emphasizing, is an example. We have, it is true, an account of the gift of the church by the de Caruns to Tickford Priory in the twelfth century, a brief chapter on the church in the thirteenth century, evidence for the re-roofing of the church in the fifteenth, and not in the sixteenth, century as stated by the Historical

Monuments Commission, and the leasing of Sherington rectory, all excellent and original contributions. But a history of the religious life of the parish is not forthcoming. Even to extract a list of the rectors is a formidable undertaking since the Index gives no help. The incumbents of the fourteenth, fifteenth, sixteenth, nineteenth and twentieth centuries can be hunted down in various footnotes (pp. 136, 155, 176, 253), while those of the eighteenth century appear in the text (p. 252); the writer has failed, however, to discover the seventeenth-century rectors, apart from those who held the living during the Interregnum (p. 212). Nonconformity, too, receives only brief notice. There is a chapter on its "emergence", which treats largely of the establishment in the village of the Society of Friends, but one feels there is more to be said on the history of dissent in Sherington.

The Index, so important in a work of this character, is barely adequate. Under Sherington itself, the following omissions were noted: the bridge (pp. 9, 145, 252), the mill (which is separately indexed under 'water-mill'), church dedication (footnote p. 29, which also suggests a date for the building of the church, not indexed). Under Buckinghamshire [*sic*] archdeacon of, two references are given, to which should be added four more (pp. 48, *n.* 1, 120, 178, 211). But no index is perfect and one must not end on an ungrateful note. *Sherington* is a remarkable achievement and its author deserves our thanks for a most valuable addition to Buckinghamshire historiography.

J. G. JENKINS

THE PRECIOUS BLOOD: A HISTORY OF BURNHAM ABBEY, 1266 TO 1966, by T. W. E. Roche, M.A. (Oxon). Printed by Luff & Sons, Windsor, and are to be obtained from them at 6s. net. pp. 27, 3 plates and a plan, 7 × 9 in.

This beautifully produced booklet is published to commemorate the seventh centenary of the founding of the Abbey by Richard Earl of Cornwall and King of the Romans. There is a foreword by the Bishop of Oxford, an introduction, and sections dealing with a description of the Abbey, an account of the founder, the Abbey from the foundation to the Dissolution, and the Dissolution to the present day, with Appendices on the Arms of the Abbey and the founder, and transcriptions and translations of Charters and other deeds.

The most useful section is the historical account of the founder's life, times and career, and the earlier history of the convent.

Very little attention is paid to the architectural or archaeological aspect of these most valuable remains: and the plan is amateurishly drawn, inadequate and inaccurate (Sir Harold Brakspear's excellent plan in the *Victoria County History*, reproduced from the *Records of Bucks*, Vol. VIII, could well have been used.)

There has always been some argument over the arms of the Abbey: those described on p. 21 are those given in *Burke*, but differ from those blazoned in the *Victoria County History* (sable a chief or charged with 3 lozenges gules). When colour has been used on the cover it is a pity not to have got it right, for the bezants on the border of the Cornwall arms have become plates.

The details in the list of Abbesses vary considerably from those given in the *Victoria County History*: and the booklet is marred by a good many misprints, notably on page 9.

I had always understood that after the Dissolution, several of the sisters went abroad, not to Louvain, as is stated, but to Malines and set up an English establishment. From there they moved, I think in the eighteenth century, to Bruges, where Le Couvent des Dames Anglaises exists to this day as a direct descendant of the original Catholic house.

E.C.R.

BIDDLESDEN AND ITS ABBEY, by Charles W. Green. 67 pp., 7 plates and 2 plans. E. N. Hillier & Sons Ltd., Buckingham. 8s. 6d.

The President of the Buckingham Archaeological Society describes his useful book as a labour of love inspired by his boyhood memories of this remote village in the north-west of the county.

He has constructed, mainly from printed sources, a useful village history which in the early chapters centres on the Cistercian abbey of SS. Mary and Nicholas, founded in 1147 and finally suppressed in 1538. The estate was subsequently owned by the Peckham, Villiers, Sayer, Verney and Morgan-Grenville families. It was Henry Sayer who destroyed the extensive abbey ruins, seen by Browne Willis in 1712, and built the present manor house. He also included a chapel in the new stable wing and this is now the parish church of S. Margaret.

There are five useful appendices.

E.V.

THE MUSEUM

As usual, a considerable amount of time was taken up with archaeological field work. Visits were made to numerous sites and to building and road works in the county. The Museum carried out in August a second season of excavation, with the aid of a grant from the Ministry of Public Building and Works, on the site of the deserted medieval village of Caldecote, Aylesbury.

A card index was made of virtually all the palaeolithic finds known from the county, with the exception of those in the Treacher Collection.

In the natural history field, long-term ecological experiments have been started at Bledlow, Broughton, Iver and Ivinghoe. In addition, much research and preparatory work has been done for the new natural history gallery, which will be opened during National Nature Week in April, 1966.

Miss L. Millard resigned from the post of Assistant Curator on her appointment as Curator of the Royal Museum, Canterbury, and Miss N. E. A. Tarrant, formerly Assistant at the Grosvenor Museum, was appointed as her successor. The post of Technical Assistant was established, but it was not possible to fill the appointment with a suitably qualified person. It was, however, possible to appoint Miss M. May in a temporary capacity to draw some of the archaeological material in the collections, with a view to publication.

In addition to the usual circulating exhibitions borrowed from the Victoria and Albert Museum, there was an interesting exhibition of Town and Landscape Studies by the Students of Hull School of Architecture on Buckingham and Stowe; an exhibition of Creative Art in the Primary School arranged by the County Art Organiser; exhibitions by the Buckinghamshire Art Society and the Society of Graphic Artists; and a selection of embroidery from the 1962 Group of the Embroiderers' Guild.

The number of visitors was 21,758, compared with 22,075 in 1964.

C.N.G.

THE SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held on 27th March. There were no changes in the officers, apart from the resignation of Mr. E. K. Ingram, who had been Hon. Librarian for the past 7 years. Subsequently, Mrs. E. M. Elvey, the Assistant Archivist, was appointed Hon. Librarian by the Council; a considerable reorganisation of the Library is now in progress.

OBITUARY

We regret to report the deaths of the following: Mrs. W. N. Ewer, Mrs. M. E. T. Head, Mr. H. Stevens, Mr. P. E. Tyhurst and Miss M. F. Webb.

IVINGHOE

The third and final year of the Dig at the Iron Age Fort on Ivinghoe Beacon was carried out under the supervision of Professor S. S. Frere and Dr. M. Cotton last September. It will be recalled that Council made an appeal for funds towards the cost of this, and over £200 was raised from members. This gratifying response meant that the net cost to the Society was only £22. It is hoped to publish a full report on the Dig in the 1967 issue of *Records of Bucks.*

OUTINGS

Five outings, the largest number yet organised in one season, took place during the summer. These were:

1st May: Peterborough Cathedral; Milton, the home of Earl Fitzwilliam; and Fotheringhay Church. This was a very successful day, which drew the maximum permitted number to see this superb house which has equally important work, both of the sixteenth and eighteenth centuries, and contains a magnificent collection of pictures and furniture. It is not normally open to the public.

29th May: The day was spent in Winchester, where the Cathedral, College, St. Cross Hospital and other places were visited.

26th June: There was a very good response to this outing to see two houses just over the Oxfordshire border: the Prebendal at Thame, which has a notable garden as well as an interesting house, and Thame Park which, like Milton, combines an eighteenth-century house with a sixteenth-century wing. We were indebted to Mrs. H. G. Keppel-Palmer and Sir Frank Bowden, Bart., respectively, for welcoming us on that afternoon.

24th July: The party spent some time in the morning at Oakham where they saw the mediaeval castle hall and the parish church. In the afternoon the interesting house of Stapleford Park, near Melton Mowbray, was viewed, together with the eighteenth-century church in the grounds. On the way to Oakham a visit was made to the Church of St. Mary's, Wellingborough, perhaps the finest example of the work of Sir Ninian Comper.

18th September: The last meeting was a walk along the line of Grimms Ditch from Wendover to near Wigginton in Hertfordshire. This was in conjunction with the Natural History Section. Not many took part, but those who did were surprised at the scale of some parts of the Ditch.

LECTURE

On 3rd April, a joint meeting with the Beaconsfield and District Historical Society was held, when a large audience heard Dr. W. O. Hassall give an inspiring illustrated talk on the village of Wheatley. E.V.

PARISH REGISTERS: The registers of the following parishes, beginning in the year indicated, have been deposited with the Society for safe custody:

Chalfont St. Giles, 1584.
Haddenham, 1653.
Padbury, 1538.

A.V.W.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

DURING the year just ended the Natural History Section has had twenty-five meetings. Two of these were weekends spent at Missenden Abbey, the first with the theme "Bird Numbers and Conservation" and the second, which was held in June, with the theme "Plants, Insects and Spiders; Causes of Frequency and Abundance". These weekends were very successful and well attended.

Early in the spring there was an outing to Wendover Forest. The leader, Mr. C. S. Christie of the Forestry Commission, had lined up for identification a number of very young trees of varieties which the Forestry Commission are now planting. He also demonstrated the damage glis glis had done to the tops of some of the forest trees.

During the summer there were five botanical outings. A visit was made to Kingston Blount, where Green Hellebore (*Helleborus viridis*) was found, also many orchids and an example of the false oxlip, the hybrid between the primrose and the cowslip. Cirl buntings were heard—birds which are largely confined to the slopes of the Chilterns. A walk along the canal bank between Halton and Aston Clinton was arranged by the Chesham Natural History Society. On another occasion there was a walk in the Wendover hills behind Boswells to look for the Chilton Gentian (*Gentiana germanica*). A good number of this beautiful flower was found; this plant is rare outside the Chilterns but is more frequent than the Autumn Gentian (*Gentiana amarella*). There was a very successful botany and conchology walk in Wotton Underwood. Among the plants seen were Great Mullein (*Verbascum thapsus*); Black Mullein (*Verbascum nigrum*); Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*); Dragons Teeth (*Tetragonolobus maritimus*); Great Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*); Common Dodder (*Cuscuta epithymum*); Zigzag Clover (*Trifolium medium*); Amphibious Bistort (*Polygonum amphibium*); Great Reed Mace (*Typha latifolia*). Among the orchids seen the most notable was the Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*). Fourteen different species of molluscs were seen and a record was made of the plants on which they were found.

A geological field meeting, arranged by the Hertfordshire Natural History Society, was held on Steps Hill in the Ivinghoe area and was on "The Formation of the Coombs in the Chilterns". This was a follow-up of the lecture during the previous year given by Dr. E. H. Brown.

Towards the end of September two very interesting archaeological meetings were arranged by Mr. Elliott Viney, which members of the Natural History Section attended. The first was a walk along Grim's Ditch between Wendover and Wigginton; the other was a meeting on the site of the Ivinghoe Dig when Professor S. S. Frere spoke on the results of the 1965 Dig.

In October there was a Fungus Foray in Cockshoot Wood near Gt. Missenden. Many species of fungi were found; most notable was a patch of seven or eight of one of our most poisonous fungi the Destroying Angel (*Amanita virosa*). An unexpected find in this wood was a nest of dormice, revealed when a rotten tree stump was examined. One of these mice was accidentally taken home in the anorak of one of the members, and is being successfully reared by Mrs. Beer, who is making a photographic record of these little-known mammals.

During the winter there has been a wide variety of illustrated talks which have included "Marine Biology in Pembrokeshire" by Miss Jill Royston; "Work of the Water Research Board" by Mr. R. E. Youngman; "Life on the Shetlands" by Miss Dorothy Eyre; a talk on her Hellenic cruise by Miss D. M. Milnes and, the last meeting of the year, a talk on "Trees and Their Reproduction", given by Lady Barlow, and illustrated with slides by Mr. Geoffrey Glover and Mr. Victor Scott. The attendance at these meetings held in the County Museum has been increasing.

One indoor meeting of note was held at Hampden Hall County Demonstration Farm; this was on "Reptiles and Amphibians". There was an audience of 170, a large proportion of whom were young people of various ages. Captain J. E. Edwards introduced his talk with a film and followed it with a discussion on twenty or more live animals from all over the world, including a tame alligator.

Last year it was decided to make it clear on the programme that young people would be especially welcome at certain meetings, and this experiment has been very successful. The Society is glad to encourage young people to take an interest in Natural History, and it seems that parents appreciate being able to bring their children with them.

In the above report, Mr. Geoffrey Glover, who collated the list of plants for the 1964 *Records of Buckinghamshire*, has supplied the botanical information.

J. E.

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(as at 31st December, 1965)

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