

THE MUSEUM

During 1970 and 1971 considerable work has been done on the collections, although much still remains to be sorted out. The work of identifying and labelling geological specimens has been completed, and the insect collections sorted, fumigated, labelled, put in checklist order and card indexed. The egg collection has also been re-labelled and card indexed, and some specimens added to it.

In the historical field a large collection of photographic plates, mainly taken by Taunt of Oxford about 1900, has been sorted and placed in individual envelopes. Racking has been installed in part of the first floor of the stable and most of the collection of pottery sherds transferred to it, where it is easily accessible. A start has been made on the production of a card index of the folk collection and to-date some 1,500 cards have been completed.

At short notice reports on archaeological sites in the Chilterns and in the River Ouse Green Belt were prepared, and at greater leisure one on the Vale of Aylesbury for the County Planning Department. This involved visiting a very large number of sites, which did however yield additional information about some. A start has been made on an examination of air photographs of the county, and a number of new sites, particularly of ring ditches and medieval sites, have been found.

Excavations were carried out by the museum staff on four sites referred to in The Records, three of them on behalf of the Milton Keynes Research Committee.

Amongst the exhibitions was one of Museum Purchases 1960-1970, opened by Earl Howe, Chairman of the County Education Committee, which showed all the purchases made during that period. Grendon Art—An Exhibition of Work produced at the Psychiatric Prison at Grendon Underwood, which was opened by Timothy Raison, the M.P. for Aylesbury, created much interest. The Museum also produced an exhibition on Stowe: The Gardens and Garden Buildings, which was shown at Stowe during the Game Fair and has since been in the Museum and the larger libraries in the County. This is the first of what is hoped will be a series of with me and to M. Farley for information on material in the County Museum. has from time to time had exhibitions by local artists, and Facsimiles of Monumental Brasses by Henry Trivick were shown, and also paintings by Alexander Jamieson, who lived at Weston Turville until his death in 1937. The Bucks Federation of Women's Institutes continued to hold an annual exhibition in the Museum, and a selection from the Buckinghamshire Art Society's Open Exhibition was also shown.

A number of interesting purchases have been made, including a model of a Bucks farm wagon and a Bucks farm cart made by Mr. David Wray of Little Gaddesden. A gold stater from the Whaddon Chase Hoard, a coin of Edward the Confessor minted in Aylesbury, and a watercolour of the Gardens at Stowe dated about 1760 were also bought.

Accessions are listed in the Annual Report for 1970-1971. Mention might be made of two comparatively early examples of costume which have been given—a pelisse of strawberry coloured silk dating from about 1800 in remarkably good condition, and a cambric day-dress of about 1820. A doll's house made in 1845 by a Long Crendon carpenter fills a major gap in the collection of toys.

C.N.G.

NOTES

RECTORY COTTAGES, BLETCHLEY (Grid. Ref. SP 864 336)

Dr. P. N. Jervis writes:

Lord Grey de Wilton (died 1447) lived at Saffron Gardens by the River Ouzel near Fenny Stratford, and his house was demolished in 1618. In 1619 the Tithe Barn adjacent to the parish church of S. Mary, Bletchley, first comes on record. This barn is an unusual hammer-beam roofed structure which shows signs of its having been moved from elsewhere, and it has enough detail to attribute it to the first half of the fifteenth century, so it has been plausibly argued that this barn is in fact a surviving portion of Lord Grey de Wilton's dining hall. The structure is in three bays of about ten feet length; it stands about 25 ft high and 18 ft across. The hammer beams are carved into grotesque heads of a secular demeanour. Unusually, there are intermediate hammers between the principals: these intermediate hammers reach only to the purlins, and only one survives in a reasonably complete condition.

Next to the barn is a cottage, half-timbered and built round a large stone chimney with brick stacks. This is probably seventeenth century, but it is difficult to date because of the extensive use of heavily moulded timbers on an earlier period. There is evidence that it once had the upper storey jettied—a dragon tie survives.

The building is being restored for use as a meeting place for local societies, with provision for exhibitions. Much of the fund for the restoration has been raised locally, and particularly generous grants have been made by the Bletchley U.D.C. (£5,000), the Milton Keynes Development Corporation (£5,000), the Pilgrim Trust (£1,500), the Buckinghamshire County Council (£500) and the Historic Buildings Council for England (£500).

The first stage of the restoration was undertaken two years ago, when the roof was repaired and the building made weatherproof. The walls of the hammer-beam roofed hall were also repaired. The second stage comprises the restoration of the cottages and the completion of the alterations to fit it for public use.

A full account of the restoration will be made after completion of the work.

FAWLEY. In the grounds of Fawley Court are several 18th century follies, in some of which fragments of antique sculpture were incorporated. In May 1971, Dr. Denys Haynes, Keeper of Roman Antiquities at the British Museum, identified one large fragment as the head and torso, in marble, of a giant, originating from Asia Minor in the second century B.C., part of the frieze of the altar of Zeus at Pergamon. The giant was brought to England in the seventeenth century by Thomas Howard, 2nd Earl of Arundel, whose great art collection was dispersed in the 18th century. The head had been inserted upside down in a circular window in one of the "Gothick" ruins.

HARDWICK, *Civil War Monument.* Just outside Aylesbury, on the Buckingham road is Holman's Bridge where the road crosses the River Thames. There are records of a skirmish here in the Civil War and in 1818, during river drainage, many skeletons were uncovered. Lord Nugent who lived at Lilies, had all the remains buried in Hardwick churchyard and erected a tomb, with a long inscription; the latter has

seriously decayed and the Parish Council are trying to raise funds to restore it. It was most unfortunate that an oil storage tank was recently erected within two feet of the monument.

LISTED BUILDINGS. Once again the Society's advice has been sought on numerous occasions in connection with listed buildings. Overall 1971 was an encouraging year. The most important decision by the Minister for the Environment was his refusal to permit the demolition and redevelopment of 1-2 Church Street, High Wycombe, which are to be restored and altered internally. The High Wycombe Society led this particular campaign, supported by many other local and national organisations. Permission to redevelop was refused on two other key sites, 14-22 West Street, Marlow and 60-68 High Street, Newport Pagnell. Application for a large office block alongside Thomas Archer's important house Marlow Place was turned down as were plans to transform High Wycombe's Guildhall (Henry Keene 1757) into a restaurant. On the debit side, the seventeenth century dovecot at Ravenstone was demolished after failure to raise sufficient funds for restoration.

The first building to be purchased and restored under the County Council's imaginative "rolling fund" schemes, Brewery House, Newport Pagnell, an excellent early 18th century house, has been completed and subsequently sold satisfactorily. They intend shortly to restore the impressive, but now near-derelict Bridger (or Langley) House at Langley Marish. In addition a new road bridge will be built at Thornborough, 200 yards downstream from the present bridge, which is of great importance as the only medieval bridge in the County. At present it carries the heavy traffic of the Buckingham-Bletchley road. This solution is far preferable to the most unsatisfactory widening of the 18th century bridge at Sherington, recently completed.

Restoration by private owners include the former Rectories at Old Wolverton and Filgrave (Tyringham), Park House, High Wycombe and the impressive 15th century Dovecote at Notley Abbey. One of Christopher Wren's only two authentic country houses, Winslow Hall, is to have the Victorian plate-glass windows removed in the upper stories and the original fenestration of 1700 restored.

RECORDS OF BUCKS. A printed Index to the Records is available for Volume I-X. Miss G. M. de Fraine has compiled an Index to Volume XI-XVI, two copies of which are available for consultation at the Library.

REDUNDANT CHURCHES. The Pastoral Measure, 1968 set up a procedure for dealing with churches declared "redundant" on pastoral grounds by a Diocesan Committee. Various alternatives are a different use (e.g. as a village hall), demolition or preservation with the help of the newly created (and Government supported) Redundant Churches Fund. Many problems will arise under the first two alternatives, in particular the preservation of wall paintings, stained glass, pulpits, wall monuments and other fittings as well as the future treatment of the churchyard and its graves. The Society hopes to be of practical use to the appropriate Church Committees considering these matters and has formed a sub-committee to deal with them.

PARISH REGISTERS. In 1951, mainly from the initiative of the late A. Vere Woodman, the Bishop of Oxford nominated the Society's Muniment Room as the depository for Parish Registers in the Archdeaconry of Buckingham (i.e. the County). Since then 70 parishes (nearly a third) have deposited their Registers which have been

looked after by the Honorary Archivist and have been available for researchers. It has however been impossible for a voluntary Society to make them available throughout the week. The Bishop of Oxford decided in 1971 that it would be appropriate for the much expanded County Record Office to become the official depository and the Registers were, with each incumbent's approval, transferred there. The Society accepted the Bishop's decision with some regret, but considers it to be logical and appropriate at the present time. In any case the relations between the Society and the County Record Office have always been close and harmonious. The Society's main anxiety is that still far too many Registers remain in the parishes, often uncared for, sometimes missing because of past neglect, and unavailable to researchers. A full list of those deposited with the Society was published in *Records* XVIII. 176.

REVIEWS

THE LETTER-BOOKS OF SAMUEL WILBERFORCE, 1843-68, transcribed and edited by R. K. Pugh, with the assistance of J. F. A. Mason, being Vol. 16 of the Buckinghamshire Record Society and published jointly by them and the Oxfordshire Record Society, MCMLXX. 9 $\frac{3}{4}$ × 6 ins., Pp. xviii, plus 438.

Samuel Wilberforce (1805-73) was the third son of William Wilberforce, famed for his work in the abolition of the slave trade; he was a High Church Evangelical, who had enjoyed a number of important Church appointments (Archdeacon of Surrey, Canon of Winchester, Dean of Westminster) and was in high favour at Court before he became Bishop of Oxford in 1845, a post he held until 1869 when he was preferred to the See of Winchester.

The 700 odd letters contained in this volume cover the period of Wilberforce's term as Bishop of Oxford during which time, as the Dictionary of National Biography says, "he introduced reforms and greatly improved the organisation of his diocese". The letters have a very important bearing on this aspect; but they do far more than that. They afford intimate glimpses of the man, and many of his contemporaries, and the manners and customs of ecclesiastical and parochial life in the middle of the last century.

This astonishing collection of letters came to light only in 1955 in the attic of a bungalow attached to a well-known rest-home in Sussex founded by Elizabeth Robbins and Dr. Octavia Wilberforce. They were eventually acquired by the Bodleian Library. And Dr. Pugh's and Mr. Mason's painstaking transcription is a valuable and monumental task.

Apart from matters of Diocesan organisation and episcopal policy, the main impression that emerges from these pages is of the amazing industry, versatility and personal involvement of the Bishop in what many of us to-day would regard as trivial or domestic matters which ought to have been handled by Rural Deans and Archdeacons. There was the case, for instance, of the troublesome incumbent of Padworth, Berkshire, who had upset his parishioners by changing the position of the prayer-desk; and outraged the influential Lord of the Manor and many others by adopting the dangerous practice of preaching in a surplice. These difficulties with the Rev. G. W. Curtis necessitated no fewer than seven letters and several interviews. And one can see in this instance alone not merely the profound pastoral

responsibility felt, but also something reflected of the Bishop's own doctrinal fears, remembering that a number of members of his own family and connections had gone over to the Roman Catholic Church in the great Manning-Newman epoch.

Again, there was the case of the Rev. F. Burgess, a truly sporting parson, whose over-indulgence in hunting, shooting, fishing and race-meetings, brought him into collision with authority, with a stern letter from his Bishop, and another seeking advice in this difficult case from the Archbishop of Canterbury himself.

The transcription and editing of this massive correspondence is immaculate: and even spelling mistakes or slips in the original are painstakingly noted. The task cannot have been easy in view of the orthography and primitive methods of copying in those days. It would have been interesting to have reproduced in facsimile a page of the original, and perhaps a portrait of the Bishop.

The method of presentation adopted is of course the only one possible, namely to arrange the letters in chronological order. But this has some disadvantages when one wishes to follow the fortunes of an individual, or the outcome of a particular case, or matters concerning one place; scattered references have each to be searched for and looked up in turn. Fortunately there is a very complete index—indeed three—of persons, places and subjects.

This volume is of course of particular interest to Buckinghamshire, since that County had only been taken out of the vast Diocese of Lincoln in 1845 and added to Oxfordshire and Berkshire (1836) to form the present Diocese of Oxford, originally created by Henry VIII. It was fortunate, therefore, that such a profound Churchman, able administrator and shining public figure should have been in charge at that time. And this is reflected throughout the correspondence.

Another feature of the volume having an especial bearing on Buckinghamshire matters is the Appendix concerned with the founding of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society in 1847. Wilberforce became its first *ex Officio* President; and since the inaugural meeting had taken place in the vestry of Aylesbury Church and a high proportion of its original members were clergy, the Bishop made clear his attitude in such a society. He considered "at once the dangers and the advantages of a society like ours". He had undertaken the Presidency, and would only retain it, to avoid those dangers and to secure those advantages. If the Society wandered into Romanising paths, he would leave it. In fact this danger was avoided, and Wilberforce remained President until he left the Diocese. And in later years the Society was urged, led by the clergy, to turn its attention to matters more in keeping with its title—the collection of plans of churches, schools and parsonages, the provision of guidance to those engaged in church restoration, etc. It is regrettable that today only a handful of clergy are members or evince any knowledge of or interest in the historic buildings in their care.

This volume, in short, is invaluable alike to the student of Diocesan organisation and development, church history, individual character and the whole of ecclesiastical and some lay parochial life in mid-Victorian England.

E. C. R.

HILLTOP VILLAGES OF THE CHILTERN: CHOLESBURY, HAWRIDGE, ST. LEONARDS AND BUCKLAND COMMON, by David and Joan Hay. Phillimore (London and Chichester) 1971. £2.50. X + 245.

Of those who love the delicate colouring and pale clear air of the high Chilterns, few are privileged to live there. H. J. Massingham called them the 'unhistoric hills'; Group Captain and Mrs. Hay have refuted him. Much of their book deals with prehistory, and must be provisional until Grim's Ditch and Hawridge Court earthworks have been dated, and the Cholesbury hill-fort further studied. Its banks

enclose a permanent source of water on a plateau where the dry valleys cannot have contained winterbournes; indeed they represent 'summerbournes' at the close of the Ice Age, when the subsoil was still frozen.

Evidence from the 1932 Cholesbury excavation fits in well with recent findings from the Chess Valley; the resettlement of the Catuvellauni along the rivers (c.80-150) was encouraged or enforced by Roman policy, and caused a thousand years' gap in the history of the area. There may have been a Dark Age reoccupation, but the evidence for Saxon Cholesbury and Hawridge is at yet confined to their names, which would originally have described physical features rather than settlements (the derivation at p. 64 is, I fear, unacceptable). The authors would take the church site within Cholesbury ramparts back to the ninth century, but it was surely somewhat later that land-hunger in the Vale of Aylesbury led to secondary settlement in Chiltern woodlands. Weston Turville gave rise to The Lee, Aston Clinton to St. Leonards (Blackmere) with Chivery and Dundridge, Buckland belatedly to Buckland Common, Drayton Beauchamp to Cholesbury, Marsworth surprisingly to Hawridge (for a neat explanation of the pre-Conquest link here, see p. 77). Excavation of the original enclosure at The Lee, where the village shifted eastwards, would help with dating, but there must have been earlier shielings in "alps", related to Vale homesteads as *hafod* to *hendref* in Wales. The practice of transhumance is utterly forgotten and with it the associated English vocabulary.

The hilltop villages emerge as separate manors with their own fields in the 12th and 13th centuries (except Buckland Common, firmly in ecclesiastical hands). The rectors of Hawridge and Cholesbury retained land in the parent parishes. St. Leonard's chapel was endowed before 1187, and the Hermit of the Woods appears on the 1196 Pipe Roll, but the modern chapel trust is shown to date from 1509; a hostile inquiry in 1549 found that it was not confined to religious uses, and by 1587 the chapel was in decay. Cornelius Wood restored it 80 years later, and for a time it was a local Gretna Green. At Hawridge in 1520 the rectory was ruinous and the rector absent; his curate, living in Chesham, came to say all the services, including compline, before 8 a.m., even on Easter Day, and played dice and football. Cholesbury could hardly support an incumbent until the Neale lectureship was founded in 1705; the authors have made effective use of letters from the lecturers to the trustees. Buckland Common had no church except from 1860 to 1939. More could have been said of Nonconformity; William Dyer was not a Quaker in 1662 (p. 133, not indexed) though he inclined to them later.

Some later chapters cover much the same ground as *Records*, xvii, 57-71; xviii, 34-42, 288-305, but with material from wills and court records and, not least, evidence concerning building. An appendix traces one house from 1599 to our own time. There are accounts of enclosure, of potteries and brickworks, of tinkers resorting to Braziers End, of inns and crafts and celebration and yeoman families—the gentry are generally absent. Cholesbury's parochial bankruptcy in 1832 passed into the textbooks, and was seriously quoted in the County Council as late as 1916.

The last chapter deals with village life early in the present century, the end of the manorial courts (Lord Rothschild was amerced sixpence for an encroachment) and the union of the villages into one parish at the 1932-4 review, with Grim's Ditch as boundary. Much has happened since; parish historians are well advised to adopt a 40-year rule, but the reviewer can say that the character of the central Chilterns survives because it is defended, and foremost among the defenders are David and Joan Hay.

Arnold H. J. Baines.

LATIMER: BELGIC, ROMAN, DARK AGE AND MODERN FARM by Keith Branigan. Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society, 1971. £2.50.

Dr. Branigan's report on the excavations which he directed at Latimer 1964-70 includes an account of previous excavations and an assessment of all finds from the site of the Roman villa. He compares Latimer with other Chiltern villas and discusses its significance in the history of Roman Britain. Mr. A. H. J. Baines and Mrs. A. Thomas trace the history of the farmstead from the mid-fifth century to the present day.

A review will appear in the next issue of *Records of Buckinghamshire*.

THE PICTURE BOOK OF BRASSES IN GILT, with 242 illustrations in gilt and black, by Henry Trivick. John Baker, 1971. £3.25.

Mr. Trevick's technique brings out the beauty of the brasses which range in date from the middle ages to the present day. Twenty-six Buckinghamshire brasses are reproduced, including the remarkable memorials to Margaret Dayrell at Lillingstone Dayrell and to Robert Ingyhton and his three wives at Thornton. John de Swynstede, last rector of Edlesborough, 1395, may be a portrait.

WEST WYCOMBE, ITS HISTORY AND ATTRACTIONS, by Herbert Green, Pitkin Pictorials Ltd. 1971.

Mr. Green has skilfully contrived to do justice to the work of Sir Francis Dashwood, second baronet and Lord le Despencer, who created West Wycombe House, Park and Mausoleum, and rebuilt the Church of St. Lawrence, and to the less sophisticated attractions of the village. The illustrations are excellent and varied.

A PLAN FOR THE CHILTERNNS, with Foreword by R. B. Verney, Chairman, Chilterns Standing Conference, 1971. 65p.

The Chilterns Area of Outstanding Beauty stretches along the hills from Goring to Dunstable, with a detached district to the north of Luton, and lies within the counties of Oxford, Buckingham, Hertford and Bedford. The beauty of the region is largely man-made, the work, for the most part, of farmers and foresters through the ages. Modern man could quickly destroy it. The main threats are commercial exploitation and the influx of vast numbers of town-dwellers for recreation. The report outlines policies for the land, minerals, wild life, archaeological sites, communications, leisure and recreation. (This authoritative account of the past and future of Chiltern woodlands should allay the extraordinary passions which forestry arouses). The Plan is comprehensive and shows that a balance can be struck between modern requirements and the conservation of beauty. It is illustrated with photographs, diagrams and maps. The attractive presentation will make sure that it is widely read and discussed.

E. M. E.

LONG CRENDON, A SHORT HISTORY, by Joyce Donald, Part I, with illustrations and maps, 25 p.; part II will extend from 1800 to 1914. A review of the two parts will appear in a later issue.

REPRINTS. Paul Minet, bookseller and publisher of Chicheley House, Newport Pagnell has republished several important Bucks books, long out of print. These reprints are made by photographic means and are not therefore corrected or brought up to date, but will be of considerable value. Those issued to date are:

A History and Topography of Buckinghamshire by J. J. Sheaham (1862) 940 p.p. £8.50

A History of Aylesbury by Robert Gibbs (1885) 688 pp. (£8.50).
The Romance of the Lace Pillow by Thomas Wright (1919) 271 pp. £3.50
A Handbook of Hand-Made Bobbin Lace Work by M. Maidment (1931) 184
pp. (£4.00)

OBITUARY

GEORGE ELAND

The death of George Eland, which occurred on 23rd September, 1971 in Essex, where he had for many years made his home, removes one of the great "characters" from the Antiquarian world, and especially in relation to Buckinghamshire.

George Edward Eland was born in May 1880 at the Manor House, Kettering, the home of his father, Stephen Eaton Eland, who had married Alice Bright. Eland himself was married twice—first to Margaret—in 1912, his wife dying the following year. Subsequently he married her sister, Jessie. He is survived by a son, Thomas, and two daughters, Elizabeth and Margaret.

Perhaps rather unexpectedly Eland's "official" life concerned the City, and he became an almost legendary figure with London Transport. His debut in commercial life was to him entirely repugnant, for he received while "in statu pupillari" no remuneration, and was compelled to wear a tail coat, top hat, and starched shirt. It is the more surprising that he always adhered to this "City" costume, of pin-stripe trousers, short black coat, upright stiff collar and bowler hat, even when tramping his beloved Bucks countryside, the only concession being an enormous pair of black boots with one inch soles.

In the City, Eland rose from Assistant Accountant of the City and South London Railway through various ramifications of the acquisition of Underground railways to bus undertakings in association with Lord Ashfield and Frank Pick, to the post of Audit Officer of London Transport—a post which he held with considerable distinction until his retirement in 1945.

Eland's great love, however, was of antiquities (he was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in March, 1928) and especially of the County of his adoption—Buckinghamshire—where he lived in a splendid black and white timbered house in Weston Turville which had been a Quaker Meeting House.

In spite of his somewhat formidable and uncompromising manner (he did not suffer fools gladly), he was a welcome guest in almost any of the great houses of the County; and his knowledge of them, their owners and history was unrivalled. He was always more interested in people than in things, and his lectures during Excursions of the Bucks Archaeological Society were memorable indeed. He was a stickler for good manners and the courtesies of life, as reflected in his letters—every one of which to myself I have kept.

He edited the *Records* for 25 years and wrote a notable account on the occasion of the Centenary of the Society, published in Vol. XV, 63-69. Mr. J. G. Jenkins, himself an author of note on Buckinghamshire subjects, wrote an appreciation of him and his work in the same Volume, and listed some of his many publications in the *Records*. In addition to these he wrote a number of books—*The Chilterns and the Vale, In Bucks, Thomas Wotton's Letter-book, Shardeloes Papers, Papers from an Iron Chest at Doddershall, Bucks., Old Works and Past Days in Rural Bucks*. After he left the County following a sad family upset, he settled at Great Canfield

in Essex, and continued to write there. *At the Courts of Great Canfield* was one work; and a private publication, *The Lobb Family*, was another. Then there was his masterly editing of the *Purefoy Letters* in two Volumes.

His editing was always immaculate, and he insisted on the highest standards of scholarship, writing and accuracy in any papers he accepted for the *Records*. He was slow to accept change. And I well remember a stormy interview at Weston Turville between him, Kenneth Oakley and myself when we tried to persuade him to allow a two-colour diagram to illustrate the Hedgerley Kilns excavation. Such a thing had never been heard of and was a great extravagance—but he yielded in the end.

In short, the passing of George Eland severs yet one more link with a different world in which he blossomed. But his memory in Buckinghamshire—and no doubt in his shorter time in Essex—will remain, with the old-fashioned sweetness of lavender.

E.C.R.

SIR EVERARD DUNCOMBE. Sir Everard Philip Digby Pauncefort-Duncombe, D.S.O., 3rd Baronet, died at his home at Great Brickhill on 8th December 1971, 2 days after his 86th birthday. He was the head of a family well-known in North Bucks, for his ancestor acquired the Great Brickhill estate in 1549 and other branches were established in the area in the early 15th century. Sir Everard succeeded his father in 1896; he was educated at Eton and Trinity College, Cambridge; he served throughout the 1914-1918 war with the Royal Bucks Yeomanry, winning the D.S.O. and Croix de Guerre. In the county, of which he was a Deputy Lieutenant, he will be remembered as Chairman of the Standing Joint Committee, controlling the County Constabulary, from 1942-60. He served as High Sheriff in 1949 following his grandfather who served in 1855 and his great-grandfather in 1824. He was the "senior" member of the Society, having joined in 1908.

CHARLES W. GREEN. Charles Green died on 9th July 1971. Born in Brackley in 1895, he was at school at Stony Stratford. He joined the printing firm of McCorquodale in 1910 and remained with them all his working life, retiring as Chief Clerk in 1961. His interest in local history and archaeology was keen and lifelong and the Wolverton Archaeological Society owed much to him, as secretary and in many other capacities. The excavations he directed included the Roman Bathhouse at Cosgrove. In 1966 he published *Biddlesden* a short history of that village and he was one of the "Viatores" who were jointly responsible for *Roman Roads in the South-East Midlands*. He was a member of this Society for many years, served on the Council from 1956-59 and contributed *A Romano Celtic Temple at Bourton Grounds* to the *Records* (XVII. 356).

A. W. WHEEN was a member for some years; he died on 15th March 1971. An Australian by birth, in 1915 he came to Europe with the Australian Expeditionary Force with whom he won a Military Medal and 2 bars. He remained in England after the war, went up to Oxford and in 1924 joined the Victoria and Albert Museum of which he was Keeper of the Library 1939-62. His translation in 1929 of Remarque's novel *All Quiet on the Western Front* was acknowledged as a classic and achieved enormous popularity.

W. J. WINTER-TAYLOR. William James Winter-Taylor died on 25th August 1970 at the aged of 94. A solicitor by profession, he moved from Middlesbrough to High Wycombe in 1904 and started the firm of Rutland & Taylor which is now Winter-Taylor, Woodward & Webb of Castle Street. He identified himself completely with High Wycombe and held office in many local organisations. He served on the town

Council 1907-19 (and was Deputy Mayor), on the R.D.C. for 16 years, was Secretary of the Chamber of Commerce for 25 years, Governor of the Girls High School and of Borlase School, Marlow, and founder-President of the Bucks Housing Association. In earlier days he played cricket and tennis for local teams and had a 50 year association with the football team, Wycombe Wanderers. Winter-Taylor joined the Society in 1910 and was therefore a member for 60 years; he served on the Council from 1956-58.

LESLIE WOODMAN, who died in April 1971 was a brother of the Society's late Vice-President. A. Vere Woodman.

NAN. FAIRBROTHER (Mrs. William McKenzie), the author, died on 24th November 1971. An original and lively writer on landscape, she wrote several books in which her homes and their surroundings and her family were the main themes. Her last and most important book *New Lives, New Landscape* was published in 1970 and won the W. H. Smith Literary Award for that year.

She and her husband (to whom our sympathy is extended) attended several outings of the Society; the last was at Liscombe on 12th September. It is a measure of her courage that probably no one present that day and seeing her gaiety and interest, could have realised how seriously ill she then was.

E.V.

THE SOCIETY

OUTINGS IN 1971

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| Sat. 24th April. | Little Gaddesden Manor. Piccotts End Medieval Murals. Hertfordshire. |
| Sat. 8th May. | Iver Grove. Chenies Manor House and Village. |
| Fri. 2nd July. | City of London: St. Bride's Church, Guildhall Museum, Goldsmiths' Hall, Grocers' Hall. |
| Sat. 31st July. | The town of Abingdon. The Berkshire Ridgeway. Compton Beauchamp Church. |
| Sun. 12th Sept. | Rectory Cottages and Parish Church, Bletchley. Liscombe Park, Chelmscott Manor, Soulbury Church. |

The five outings were generally successful and the Society's acknowledgements go to the following owners for their welcome and help: Mr. and Mrs. Nigel Cartwright (Iver Grove), Major and Mrs. A. Macleod Matthews (Chenies Manor), Sir Brian Bonsor, Bart. (Liscombe Park), the Prime Warden of the Goldsmiths and the Master of the Grocers' Companies; the latter was also the Hon. Secretary of the Society. In addition, tea was provided at Chenies and Grocers' Hall whilst our members Dr. and Mrs. John Lloyd Hart generously allowed their garden at Manor Farm, Soulbury to be used for picnic lunches on 12th September and provided wine and coffee. Miss A. Ashby, the Warden, helped with the arrangements to visit Chelmscott, the Bletchley Archaeological Society did the same for Rectory Cottages and the Friends of Abingdon made all arrangements for our visit to the Guild Hall, the County Hall and the Abbey buildings and provided guides. Mr. Ralph Merrifield showed the Guildhall Museum and led the party to some of the sites of Roman London. Rev. Dewi Morgan spoke about St. Bride's Church at the start of the visit there.

E.V.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

From October 1970 to December 1971 there have been thirteen meetings and three weekend courses at Missenden Abbey—

31st October 1970. Illustrated talk by the Warden, Mr. John Humphrey, on the new R.S.P.B. Reserve in Carmarthenshire.

22nd/24th November. Ornithological weekend at Missenden Abbey, entitled "Ducks, Geese & Swans".

19th December. "Deer in Britain", an illustrated talk by Mrs. M. Cunningham.

9th January 1971. An illustrated talk on the 20th century's encroachment on wild life habitats by Miss Molly Hyde.

13th February. An illustrated talk by Mr. Victor Scott on "Flowers of Switzerland".

20th March. Field outing to Foxcote Reservoir led by the Warden, Mr. W. Alderman.

1st May. Field outing to B.B.O.N.T. Reserve at Bix Bottom, led by Miss Ruth Levy.

23rd May. A walk round Wotton Lakes, led by Mr. Aubrey Woodward.

11th/13th June. Botany weekend course at Missenden Abbey entitled "The Chiltern Woodlands".

11th July. A walk through Crowell Woods led by Mrs. Rosemary Blake.

15th August. A visit to the Risborough Cop area led by Miss Janet Easton.

17th/19th September. "Today's Birdwatcher". Ornithological weekend course at Missenden Abbey.

13th November. "Dragonflies"—as illustrated talk by Mr. Victor Scott.

23rd October. Slides were shown by several members of the Natural History Section.

13th November. "Dragonflies"—an illustrated talk by Victor Scott.

11th December. "Wild Life of South Africa"—an illustrated talk by Miss Chaplin.

Altogether the year has been a good one for the Natural History Section with a full and varied programme and an excellent attendance of members at all our meetings.

The survey of the boundary hedges of Monks Risborough has continued during 1971 and considerable work has been done on the Black Hedge. A report is being compiled.

Below are some of the more interesting plants recorded during the year—

Sticky Groundsel	<i>Senecio viscosus</i>	Foxcote
Spurge Laurel	<i>Daphne laureola</i>	Wotton
Green Hellebore	<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	Prestwood; Denner Hill
Chalk Milkwort	<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	Aston
Adders Tongue	<i>Ophloglossum vulgatum</i>	Wotton; North Dean
Fly Honey Suckle	<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Wotton
Common Fleabane	<i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>	Wotton; Kop Hill

Blue Fleabane	<i>Erigeron acris</i>	Kop Hill
Field Mouse-ear	<i>Cerastium arvense</i>	Watlington
Chickweed		
Basil Thyme	<i>Acinos arvensis</i>	Watlington
Yellow-wort	<i>Blackstonia perfoliata</i>	Watlington; Kop Hill
Candytuft	<i>Iberis Amara</i>	Watlington
Thyme-leaved Sandwort	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Watlington
Dropwort	<i>Filipendula vulgaris</i>	Watlington; Kop Hill
Wood Barley	<i>Hordelymus europaeus</i>	Small Dean
Pink Purslane	<i>Claytonia alsinoides</i>	Terriers
Sand Toadflax	<i>Linaria arenaria</i>	Small Dean
Lesser Snapdragon	<i>Antirrhinum orontium</i>	Small Dean
*Leopard Marsh Orchid	<i>Orchis pardalina</i>	Small Dean
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia pseudokernerii</i>	Kop Hill
Vervain	<i>Verbena officinalis</i>	Kop Hill
Stinking Iris	<i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Crowell
Blue Sow-thistle	<i>Cicerbita macrophylla</i>	Crowell

* A very fine specimen of what is thought to be a hybrid between *Orchis fuchsii* (Spotted Orchid) and *Orchis praetermissa* (Southern March Orchid). Although *O. fuchsii* is present in the area, the other putative parent has not been seen there.

J.N.E.

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