

THE MUSEUM

The major changes occurring in the County Museum continued during 1989. As a result of the building's potentially serious structural problems, most of the County Museum in Church Street, Aylesbury, has been closed since 1 April in that year. A detailed structural survey of the premises is being undertaken by the County Architect, and it is thought likely that most of the County Museum may not re-open for up to five years.

During the year the former Halton Middle School was converted into a 'Technical Centre' for Museum use. It provides excellent and secure environmentally-controlled storage for the Museum's collections, together with laboratory, workshop and office facilities for staff. Nine months were spent packing the collections, a task carried out to the highest standards by Museum staff and temporary employees, and the move commenced in December. The Technical Centre is not open to the public, although enquiries can be taken there and the Museum's collections may be used for research by appointment. The Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society Library has also been relocated to the Technical Centre, and Society meetings have been held in its lecture room.

The Aylesbury Gallery and the Special Exhibitions Gallery remain open to the public with access from a new entrance off St Mary's Square. Visitor numbers have decreased considerably due to the closure of much of the Museum, but despite this 12,791 people visited during the year. The County Museum's other gallery, the Milton Keynes Exhibition Gallery, continues to be popular with visitors. Its exhibitions have ranged from contemporary kimonos to the work of local artists and children.

Despite the upheaval at the County Museum there have been a number of significant acquisitions. Perhaps the most important historical object acquired was the fourteenth-century bronze seal matrix from Bradwell Abbey, Milton Keynes, which had been discovered at Wolverton. Equally special in its own way was an albino badger killed in a road accident. A 1779 silver pocket watch by Thomas Field of Aylesbury was presented by a generous donor, and a fine watercolour, 'Perspective View of a Design for Blythewood, Buckinghamshire' was purchased at auction. These are but a few of many acquisitions made during the year.

Colin V. Dawes

COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Extracts from the report of the County Archivist

Important developments this year were the filling, after a delay of several years, of the two additional posts of assistant archivist and assistant conservator, and the evacuation of the Judges Lodgings overflow store to slightly more spacious premises adjacent to the existing strongrooms. Of even greater potential significance was the appointment in October of an Archives Panel consisting of six members of the Public Protection Committee to consider the needs of the service as a whole. The Panel is expected to report back in early 1991.

There was a total of 116 accessions in the course of the year; the figure for 1988 was 131.

Transfers of records made by seven separate County Council departments included a set of 'Cropping books' containing a very detailed record of cultivation on the Council's smallholdings 1920-1965. Sizeable accessions were also received from the County Engineer, the Chief Education Officer, and the Area Education Office for Aylesbury Vale.

A large and important accession of hospital records was received from St John's Hospital, Stone, the former County Lunatic Asylum. The hospital was opened in 1853 and the records constitute a comprehensive and well maintained archive. The case notes for the period

1853–1916 will provide material for medical research, but are closed to the general public for a hundred years.

A box of Aylesbury parish documents passed over by the Buckinghamshire archaeological Society contained a large quantity of papers relating to the restoration of the parish church in the 1840s and 1850s.

An interesting series of trust deeds and documents of title for the former Baptist Upper Meeting House in Amersham, 1685–1944, was deposited by the Amersham Museum.

There was a considerable influx of education records, including records for Sir William Borlase's School, Marlow, comprising correspondence and other papers, including annual nominations of free scholars, dating from 1735 onwards.

The closure of the County Museum for structural repairs was preceded by the transfer of additional material from the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society comprising the bulk of the remaining archives held by them. The transferred material included a large collection of title deeds or charters, many dating to the thirteenth century; early estate records for the Atkins family of Newport Pagnell and the Paget estates in Iver and Marlow; and letter books and of the 3rd Duke of Buckingham and Chandos. The Society's map collection, together with collections of transcripts and antiquarian notes, were also deposited for the duration of the closure.

Parrott and Coales, of Aylesbury, passed over another mixed bag of records which illustrate the wide range of interests of a provincial firm of solicitors over a period of two centuries. They included records of two manor courts, the account book of a turnpike trust, 1848–1870, and a petty sessions minute book for the Missenden area, 1852–1863.

A batch of records relating to the properties of John Camden Neild (1780–1852) in North Marston, Bledlow, Buckland and elsewhere was transferred from the royal archives at

Milton Keynes Borough Council deposited two attractive maps, dated 1718, of the estates, of Browne Willis (1682–1760), the Bucks antiquary. Photographic copies were obtained of parish maps of Haddenham, Cuddington and Kingsey, 1819–20.

A small group of papers of the Baker family of Penn was acquired by purchase with assistance from the Buckinghamshire Record Society's records purchase fund.

By the end of the year a large proportion of the smaller accessions had been listed. The extensive material transferred by the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society is mostly covered by existing finding aids, also transferred, and will thus be immediately accessible for consultation.

The following transcripts of parish registers were received. Christenings, Burials and Marriages: Amersham 1561–1661, Bletchley 1559–1988, Chalfont St Giles 1584–1812, plus marriages only 1813–1837, Hambleton 1566–1837, Turville 1582–1648. Marriages only: Chalfont St Peter 1813–1837, Cublington 1755–1812, Cuddington 1754–1812, Dinton 1754–1812, Ellesborough 1813–1837, Emberton 1754–1837, Tyringham 1576–1836, Winslow 1560–1776.

Also presented were transcripts of census entries 1851–1881 for various parishes; transcripts of Court Rolls, 1498–1500, and other documents, relating to Princes Risborough; a transcript of a Bucks muster roll of 1535. Copies of Bucks entries in the Sun Fire Office policies were purchased. The names of transcribers and donors are recorded in the Archivist's report.

Over 350 documents were repaired and flattened or de-acidified; maps were repaired, bindings refurbished and photographs and negatives protected.

The number of personal visits to the Record Office was 2599 (2580 in 1988). Postal enquiries were 700 (653). A total of 2830 (2842) telephone calls was logged, of which 1136 (1253) were enquiries. A total of 15664 (15766) items was

produced, including 1766 (1781) reels of microfilm.

Other Collections

At the Milton Keynes Record Centre a second assistant archivist was recruited. In October the County Secretary & Solicitor was authorised to enter into discussions with the

Development Corporation about the future of its records, in the light of the impending winding up of the Corporation.

At Claydon House, cataloguing of the estate deeds was almost completed. A ground floor room in the house was designated for conversion into a muniment room.

REVIEWS

A Calendar of the Feet of Fines for Buckinghamshire, 1259–1307, with an Appendix 1179–1259. Ed. Anita Travers, pp. xvi+153, cloth. Buckinghamshire Record Society No 25, 1989. ISBN 0 900198 24 2. £16.00 incl. p&p from the Hon. Sec., County Record Office, County Offices, Aylesbury.

The 'fines' printed in this volume are 'final concords', agreements reached in the course of disputes over land, enrolled in the records of the Court of Common Pleas. The disputes were nearly always fictitious; the fact that the agreements formed part of the court records made them a simple and effective way of recording conveyances and establishing title. It is as conveyancing instruments that these documents should be understood.

The agreement was written out three times on a piece of vellum: once parallel to each side and once across the bottom. The skin was then cut into three parts, using a zig-zag or wavy cut to ensure that in case of dispute any part could be matched against the others. The third part, that written across the foot, was lodged in the court records, and very many survive in the Public Record Office.

In later fines, the descriptions of the land conveyed became perfunctory; acreages are given in round, and very approximate, figures; the consideration bears little relation to the facts. These tendencies are already detectable in the period covered by this volume, but there is much of great value for historians, and the BRS and Dr Travers deserve our gratitude for making it accessible. Dr Travers's introduction

is lucid and scholarly, and explains much that is obscure (though more might have been said about the various classes of action). Her translation is next door to impeccable, and when we find, for example, *tenuerunt* translated as 'they hold' (No. 7), we do not suspect such a fine Latinist of a blunder, but of being the victim of a misprint. In fact, though, since misprints are commendably hard to find, this may be a deliberate attempt to avoid confusion: to have used the past historic could have given the impression that the tenure in question was a thing of the past. If that is the case, it may be suggest 'they have held' would have allowed continuing tenure to be understood, without doing violence to the text.

The documents have much to tell us about free tenures and renders, and the operation of the land market. There are clues to the economic status of people who appear in other classes of record, and occasional light on genealogy. In a few cases diet is illuminated: the consideration for a grant of land to a religious house might be board and lodging for the grantor's lifetime, with the items carefully specified (Nos. 102, 166).

Sometimes it is possible to identify the actual piece of land, from field and other minor place names. But here, unfortunately, a note of caution must be sounded. The transcription is not impeccable, and place-name scholars would be well advised to check the MS before basing any conclusions on the spellings. A random check in just two files has produced 'Dustleberwe' for 'Dustleberwe' (No. 13), 'Medmenham' for 'Medmeham' (No. 4), 'Folmersham'

for 'Felmersham' (No. 527) and 'Evre' for 'Evere' (No. 559).

Place-names are not the only casualties. 'Duredene' is not a variant form of the surname borne by the lords of Denham Durdent, but an error in transcription. 'Anabel' (623) is 'Amabil' in the MS; and 'Wygam' de Wallingford should of course be 'Wygan'. These are not typographical errors, for such would be evenly distributed through the text, not confined to names.

It must also be noticed as a shortcoming that the fines for that part of Bucks, between Amersham and Beaconsfield, that formerly lay in Herts, have been omitted (apart from two from the 'Divers Counties' files). Since both parties were invariably people who either lived in Bucks or had substantial interests there, this leaves a significant gap in the picture. And since an almost complete list of these fines exists in the PRO (IND 17148), the omission is particularly disappointing.

The blemishes noted may somewhat limit the usefulness of the volume, but only for a minority. Most students will be able to use it with confidence as a primary source, and will gain much from it.

J.C.T.

Haddenham Quaker History 1660-1870. Walter Rose, pp. 68, 10 plates, map. Beechtree Press, Wellington, New Zealand, 1988. ISBN 0 473 00595 6, ISSN 0113 5449. £5 +£1 p & p from Friends Book Centre, Friends House, Euston Road, London NW1 2BJ.

This small booklet published at the other end of the world may startle the unwary reader into an uncomfortable feeling of time-warp. In appearance and typography it is of recent vintage but the contents bear few traces of modern scholarship for they were gathered in the early years of the century and, except for occasional notes and amendments, have lain dormant since they left the author's pen in 1916. To praise the author for his achievements or to suggest that parts of his work might have been better ordered can have little present relevance since

Walter Rose died some thirty years ago. Nevertheless we may rightly express our gratitude to his daughter, Elsie Rose, for making the manuscript available and to the New Zealand Yearly Meeting of the Society of Friends for its publication. But why New Zealand and why hidden so long? Perhaps this was because it is essentially a very personal document, recounting the support given by the Rose family in maintaining the Quaker cause in Haddenham from the end of the seventeenth century; previously the meeting had been upheld by the Belsons, at whose house in 1660 Thomas Ellwood attended but 'found little satisfaction there'. In the following century the Rose family home at Fort End was the place of meeting, where it continued with declining support until the changed fortunes and altered allegiances of its principal adherents caused its eventual extinction. One glimmer of Quaker attachment remained with a related branch of the Ricketts family, who a century ago commenced a new life in New Zealand where the flame of service again burned brightly; from their concern for their spiritual ancestry the present publication derives.

That very little beyond the family connection is to be discovered of *Haddenham Quaker History* is hardly surprising, for a small society patronized by a single family, without any distinct meeting-house beyond a room set aside for the purpose, leaves few tangible traces. The little private burial ground alone remained visible until a few years ago: ignominiously sold in 1850, repurchased by Walter Rose in 1935 but never placed in a secure trust, it and the bones it contained have since been swept away. On another site nearby, reset in a meandering rustic wall, are a few modern tablets recorded (with eight errors of transcription) at the end of this booklet, and a stone inscribed 'site of old Quaker burial ground' which no longer fulfils the uncompromising ideals of the 'Friends of Truth'. Mercifully Walter Rose did not live to write the final 'Ichabod' over the resting place of his ancestors, but he has done them and the memory of their achievements in the village community of Haddenham an immense service.

Christopher Stell

Roman and Belgic Pottery from Excavations in Milton Keynes 1972–82. P. T. Marney, pp. xi+197, 53 text figs. Buckinghamshire Archaeological Series Monograph No. 2, 1989. £15.

This report of 197 pages is just one page less than its accompanying Monograph No. 1, containing reports on the relevant excavations, fieldwork and other finds. The size is daunting—this is a very detailed report. The results of this decade of fieldwork have been reasonably published, at £20 for the two monographs, although the binding of No. 1 is flimsy and one copy missed several vital pages.

Roman Milton Keynes reported on six excavations and 21 minor sites and watching briefs. Since pottery provides essential dating, reports to substantiate the interpretation of these 27 sites are required. Faced, however, with so many sites of disparate archaeological value, many only fragments of larger sites, the choice lies between publishing substantive data for sites, which should be available in the archive, and a synthesis of present knowledge to form the basis for future research. The latter option was chosen, and only three of the six main excavations are represented by pottery groups in this report, the provenances of some of which are difficult to identify in the excavation monograph. This tends to divorce the pottery from the site and other finds, which is worrying, and anyone wishing to examine a site, such as the Bancroft villa, ceramically will have to consult the archive; a statement of quantities from individual sites would have been useful. The importance and accessibility of the primary data in the archive is therefore crucial.

17 groups from ten sites are reported, and the pottery from the first to mid second-century kilns at Caldecotte, the subject of a forthcoming site report, is also included. The groups have been selected as well-stratified assemblages to reflect dated phases in the Roman period, from the early/mid first century to the late fourth/early fifth century. The only quantification is sherd count, which shows that 75% of the pottery came from first to second-century groups, with second to third and third-century groups

and the fourth century being meagrely represented at 13% and 12% respectively. The title, stressing the term 'Belgic', is well chosen. Clearly it is limited by the imbalance of dated groups, presenting a detailed account of the earlier Roman period of considerable interest. Despite the small samples, the analysis of pottery from the later Roman period is reasoned, although more excavated material would be helpful.

The report divides into an initial publication of the groups and an examination of the individual fabrics or fabric groups from all sites in Milton Keynes, containing a wealth of information, fully illustrated and including thin-section analysis results. This major section deals with local (including the Caldecotte kilns) and regional wares, vessels from further afield, mortaria, fine wares including lead-glazed vessels, and concludes with reports on the samian, including some unusual Argonne or Spanish sherds, and finally the notably few amphorae.

Appendix 1, 21 pages, describes 100 fabrics, excluding mortaria described earlier, but including imported and non-local wares, which could have been less detailed. This is perhaps overly comprehensive, detailing all variations of basic fabrics, some of which occurred as single sherds.

The single quantification measure will make the report difficult to use comparatively with other sites; while some groups are very small, there appear to be good samples for the early Roman period. Further quantified data probably exists in the archive, but this is not clearly stated. The separation of the kiln products from the structural report is regrettable although, with the bias to the early Roman period, their absence would have left a 'black hole'.

Some of the detail in this report could be viewed as archive rather than publication material, and economies could have been made to allow space to publish basic data on the pottery from all sites, including quantities, as a guide to their potential usefulness. While the size, specialist nature and separation of this report

from the excavation monograph may further divorce excavation and pottery specialists, which is a matter for concern, this has to be weighed against the value of the information and synthesis it presents.

No archaeologist dealing with this area should be without this report. It is a valuable well-researched contribution to the archaeology of the area, upon which future reports will undoubtedly build, and the author and contributors are to be congratulated.

Margaret J. Darling

The Wigg Family. Ed. Lewis Kirby. Phillimore, 1989. £15.

Part I of this volume reprints in full *The Wiggs of Mentmore*, by Gerald and Elizabeth Elvey, first published by Barracuda Books in 1984. Part II, *The Wiggs of Beaufort*, by Harold de Lorme and others, carries on the family story from the arrival of Richard Wigg in Carolina, where his name first appears in the records in 1705-6, to the present.

The book is attractively produced and lavishly illustrated in black and white and colour.

H.A.H.

OBITUARY

Lady Barlow

Nora, Lady Barlow, widow of Sir Alan Barlow, who was President of the archaeological Society from 1945 to 1962, died in Cambridge in May, at the age of 103. She was the granddaughter of Charles Darwin, the naturalist and founder of the modern theory of evolution. She shared her husband's interest in archaeology, but her main bent was towards botany, in many departments of which she was an acknowledged expert, as anyone who accompanied her on walks in the Wendover countryside, or around the garden which they created at Boswells, will surely remember. She was also a competent ornithologist.

Sensing the lack of a society for natural history in Bucks, she was instrumental in starting a Natural History Section of the Archaeological Society, and became its first president in 1951, a position which she held until 1976.

In her early days she studied plant genetics under William Bateson, and the garden at Boswells contained many species from her experiments with hybridisation. She has a species of aquilegia, 'Nora Barlow', named after her. Gardening and flowers were an abiding interest for her throughout her life, but

she found time too to write four books on the life and work of her grandfather. In addition she was largely responsible for the preservation of Darwin material in the Cambridge University Library, and played a leading part in establishing Down House in Kent, where he lived for most of his life, as a permanent memorial to him.

T.B.

Hilary Bridbury

Mrs Hilary Bridbury, who died in October 1989, was for over fifteen years the very active secretary of the Chalfont St Peter and Gerrards Cross History Society. She will be remembered as a successful leader of fieldwalking parties spotting archaeological evidence on the line of the proposed M25 motorway. Professional excavations followed her discovery of medieval pottery kilns near the Alderbourne stream between Fulmer and Denham, and of an important Mesolithic settlement site near the river Misborne in Gerrards Cross. The former has been published in *Records*.

Her very many surface finds were evidence that Mesolithic occupation in South Buckinghamshire was more extensive than had previously been known.

C. Le M.

Betty Elvey

Elizabeth M. Elvey (Mrs Gerald Elvey), who died in February 1990, was best known to members of the Society, and indeed to a wide circle of scholars for her deep knowledge of medieval documents, particularly Manor Court rolls. She was always ready to share this knowledge with those who came to consult the Society's large collection of Buckinghamshire material, and to put her ability to transcribe and interpret these documents at their service.

Betty was a graduate of Newnham College, Cambridge. She joined the Society soon after the War and served as Hon. Assistant Archivist 1962-5; Hon. Librarian 1965-75 and Hon. Archivist 1975-86. She was elected a Vice-President of the Society in 1981. She was a longstanding member of the Buckinghamshire

Record Society and served on its Executive Committee for ten years. She also rendered much behind-the-scenes assistance to her husband, Gerald, during the many years he was Editor of *Records of Buckinghamshire*.

Her particular interest was in the later Middle Ages and she published a number of articles in *Records*, but her *chef-d'oeuvre* may be considered to be *The Courts of the Archdeaconry of Buckingham 1483-1523*, published by the Record Society in 1975.

L.M.H.

We also record with regret the deaths of J. Collings, Mrs K. Holden, Mrs V. D. James, Amyas Lee, A. D. Lydd, D. O. Manasse, Mrs C. Rowley and Dr J. H. Trenchard.

THE SOCIETY

Membership

At the beginning of 1990, there were 341 ordinary members, 120 family memberships, one junior and 12 affiliated societies.

Council

Council met five times. Dr Arnold Baines, FSA was re-elected chairman. Ted Bull was co-opted as Hon. Meetings Organiser and Newsletter Editor. Council expressed its thanks and appreciation of the many years of friendly co-operation with Mrs Elizabeth Arkell (Chairman, Library & Museum Sub-committee) and Mrs F. Shand-Kydd as County Council representatives and, later, welcomed their successors, Mrs Audrey Moore (now Chairman, Library & Museum Sub-committees) and John Gates.

Bucks County Council

Library & Museum Sub-Committee

Society representatives were Elliott Viney, Dr Arnold Baines and Dr Bob Hagerty.

The move of the contents of the County Museum to what was Halton Middle School was

completed in January 1990. The Aylesbury and Exhibition Galleries remain open with entry from St Mary's Square. The Society's medieval documents and the manuscript collection have been transferred to the County Record Office, while the remainder of the Society library will go to Halton. The school will not be open to the public, except by individual appointment, but members will have access to the Society library on Wednesdays and to the meeting room for Saturday meetings.

County Council decision as to what work will be carried out to repair, refurbish and possibly extend the County Museum will be taken when the results of the County Architect's survey, proposals and costings, are available.

Meanwhile, the Sub-Committee's Museum Panel is studying recommendations as to the future development of the County Museums Service and the County Museum made by the Area Museums Service for South East England and by the County Museums Officer.

Discussions are taking place between the

Milton Keynes Development Corporation, the Milton Keynes Borough Council and the County Council, regarding provision of a museum and art gallery in Milton Keynes.

Cicely Baker Price 1987/8

Four entries were received. The £50 prize was awarded to Mr B.H. Butler of Marlow for an essay entitled 'The Marlow Tithes. The Tithe Commutation Act 1836 and the Rectory of Great Marlow', published in this volume.

Lecture Series

The first three talks were in the County Museum and the remainder at the new location at Halton Middle School.

- 7 *January*: Miss Mary Bosdet gave an illustrated talk on Buckinghamshire Patron Saints covering the dedications of churches in the county.
- 4 *February*: Mike Farley talked, with slides, on Down Among the Dead Men – an archaeologist's view of burial and beliefs in Bucks.
- 4 *March*: Elliott Viney described, with illustrations, the heraldry of the county and the Bohun Swan.
- 18 *November*: Julian Hunt gave a talk, accompanied by slides, on Wilmslow, the Making of a Town.

Outings

Five outings were arranged by the President. All enjoyed good weather.

- 3 *June*: Derbyshire, Notts. Chatsworth (Duke of Devonshire). Southwell Minster.
- 15 *July*: Hampshire. Beaulieu House and Abbey (Lord Montagu). Breamore House (Sir Westrow Hulse).
- 12 *August*: Gloucestershire. Chedworth Roman Villa (National Trust). Gloucester Cathedral, etc. Fairford Church.
- 23 *September*: East Anglia. Audley End House (English Heritage). Melford House (National Trust).
- 11 *November*: Bucks Church Crawl. Newton Longville. Great Linford. Gayhurst. Lathbury. Fenny Stratford, Bletchley. At Fenny Stratford, the party assisted at the traditional

St Martin's Day firing of the 'poppers', instituted by Browne Willis about 1730 to mark each anniversary of the deaths, both on St Martin's Day, in 1675 of his grandfather, Dr Thomas Willis, a famous physician who lived in St Martin's Lane in the parish of St Martin's-in-the-Fields and was buried in Westminster Abbey and, in 1699, of his father, also Thomas.

Environmental

As usual, dealing with Listed Building planning applications has been a noticeable burden on the Hon. Secretary. During the year some 140 such applications were processed and comment made on 20 including definite objection to one series of applications affecting the same house. A few of the more interesting have been mentioned in the Newsletters.

County Museum Archaeological Group

With the dislodgement from 'the County Museum', the regular Tuesday meetings ceased after March. A programme of winter field-walking was undertaken so far as weather permitted. An excavation was completed in Chesham on a site which yielded mesolithic and neolithic material. Late funding by HBMC limited investigation on the line of the M40 in the county to a couple of weeks during which Romano-British ditches were located near the Arngrove Farms in Boarstall. Following discovery by metal detector, a dig at Chalfont St Peter resulted in the unearthing of four spherical pots containing some 5,000 late third-century radiate coins. Exploratory excavation near Stone Hospital failed to uncover the hoped-for traces of Romano-British or other occupation.

Publications

Records of Buckinghamshire Volume 29 (1987) was distributed in April. In addition to thanking all those who helped in the distribution, we must thank the Museum attendants who undertook the task of pasting in the envelopes containing the dreaded fiches. As usual, Spring and Autumn Newsletters were sent to members.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

The Section had a more extensive programme than usual, thanks to embarking on a new venture to include items of geological interest. Our committee meetings have been held at the home of Mrs O. Bradburn and we are grateful to her for her continued hospitality. A note of the year's programme is given below:

14 January: Mrs Beryl Hulbert gave a relaxed but informed talk on the geology, plants and wildlife of five national parks from Phoenix to San Francisco. Forty-five members attended.

11 February: Thirteen people spent a day bird watching at the ARC Wildlife Centre, Great Linford. This is a remarkable example of industry and a conservation organization working together to create a productive new habitat for wildlife on the new wetlands made by gravel extraction. The reserve now supports a large breeding waterfowl community and attracts a great many wintering ducks.

11 March: Kim Kemp gave a lively talk on the fossils and geology of the Chilterns. An interesting collection of fossils was handed round. Forty-seven members were in attendance.

8 April: Following the AGM, Dr Ian Toplis gave a detailed talk illustrated with slides on 'How Buckinghamshire Geology has affected its Buildings'. The meeting was well attended with forty present.

17 May: After a spell of unsettled weather a group of us were fortunate in having a perfect evening to watch three badgers at their sett. In the distance the calls of both the Little and Tawny Owls were heard.

10 June: A dozen members were shown round Pitstone Fen and College Lake. Both Graham Atkins, the warden, and his assistant, Gary Roberts, gave up a great deal of their time to explain how they managed the hundred acre site. The main features included a lake with large islands, shingle beaches and floating nest rafts.

22 July: The conservation aspects of farming were highlighted in our visit to Marston Fields

Farm. In temperatures of 90° Mr Robinson showed us his native tree plantation and a wild flower meadow which contained such species as Great Burnett, Self-heal, White Clover and Tufted Vetch. The heat suited the butterflies and we saw Common Blues and Small Coppers. Greater Spearwort, Water Mint and Water Soldier were established in some of the many ponds on the farm. We were told that ornithological interest on the farm included a Barn Owl breeding experiment, Tawny and Little Owls, Duck, Moorhen and Yellow Wagtails, and that there was an abundance of Quail and Curlew. Our gratitude goes to Mr and Mrs John Robinson whose warmth and hospitality were very much appreciated.

30 September: Twenty-six people joined Dr Eric Robinson on his geological walk round Aylesbury. We learnt that Portland Stone was brought to the town via the canal, and that it was considered the best building stone, perhaps that is why it was used in the construction of the County Court and St Mary's Church. The Church path was of sarsons and its gateway of red bricks made from Hartwell clay. Temple Street sets were of Leicestershire granite and the kerbs blue dolerite from Staffordshire. Dr Robinson showed us that even our modern concrete buildings in Friars' Square have special interest, as local flints and gravels had been used as a filler. In the Market Square our attention was drawn to the favoured stone frontages of various businesses. The Banks were built of either gritstone or white limestone, the Building Societies chose granite façades, whilst the shops preferred marble or larvikite. This was an exceptionally successful event in our programme.

14 October: The fungus foray in Burnham Beeches proved fruitful. Amongst the thirty or so species found were some for which the Beeches are noted such as *Ganoderma applanatum*, whilst the Druid's Oak provided us with fine specimens of *Fistulina hepatica*. Other fungi collected were: *Ganoderma*

adpersum, *Amanita muscaria*, *Amanita phalloides*, *Piptoporus betulinus*, *Hypholoma fasciculare*, *Amanita rubescens*, *Laccaria amethystea*, *Lactarius subdulcis*, *Lactarius turpis*, *Oudemansiella mucida*, *Lycoperdon pyriforme*, *Stereum rugosum*, *Mycena filipes*, *Coriolus versicolor*, *Bulgaria inquinans*, *Leccinum versipelle*, *Crepidotus variabilis*, *Collybia maculata*, *Paxillus involutus*,

11 November: In Chris Smith's talk on Farming and Wildlife we learnt that conservation on a farm is possible without impairing the efficiency of farming operations. The content of the talk and standard of delivery was very high. It was disappointing that only a dozen people attended this talk on a subject of current importance to us all.

2 December: Western Anatolia was the subject of a talk by Victor Scott. The archaeological sites visited proved to be excellent for flowers. Victor was able to interest us with his superb collection of slides and we are very grateful to him for providing another excellent afternoon on the natural history of an area that has only recently been opened up to tourists.

9 December: Dr Chris Green's lecture on Pleistocene Geology at Marsworth (Pitstone) was an extremely informative and comprehensive description of a unique site. This is one

of the most exciting Quaternary sites to have been discovered in the last twenty years in Britain as evidence has been found of a new interglacial in the Riss glaciation complex, with a very rich assemblage of plant and animal remains. Of particular interest were Mammoth remains, a huge tusk, and the jaw of a large lion. We are indebted to Dr Green for a lecture of outstanding calibre.

Margaret Kendrick

Geological Field Trips

Two outdoor meetings were arranged. The first, at Totternhoe lime quarry in July, allowed members to explore the deep channel deposit of 'Totternhoe Stone' with its fossil-rich bed, cutting through the lower chalk. In August there was an excursion to Blockley Brickworks in Gloucestershire, where fossiliferous Lower Lias clay yielded many specimens. Both these meetings were well attended with 15–20 members and guests. The Society is grateful to Dr Michael Oates for his guidance and encouragement in leading both these meetings. As a result of the higher profile given to geology in its programme of events, the Society has gained a number of new members, boding well for the organization of similar meetings in the future.

Kate Rowland

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

(as at 31 December 1989)

President

ELLIOTT VINEY, FSA

Vice-Presidents

DR A. H. J. BAINES, FSA
MRS S. COWDY, MBE
MAX DAVIES
MRS E. M. ELVEY
COMMANDER THE HON. JOHN
FREMANTLE, Lord Lieutenant and
Custos Rotulorum

C. N. GOWING, FMA
T. A. HUME, CBE, FSA, FMA
PROFESSOR W. R. MEAD
BRIAN PULLEN
DR E. CLIVE ROUSE, MBE, FSA
SIR DENIS WRIGHT, GCMG
DR E. V. WRIGHT, FSA

Council

DR A. H. J. BAINES, FSA (Chairman)
K. A. BAILEY
E. J. BULL
A. J. DELL
J. C. GATES (CC)
P. M. GULLAND

MRS BARBARA HURMAN
E. LEGG
MRS A. S. MOORE (CC)
MISS MARY MOUNTAIN
DR I. TOPLIS, FRIBA

(CC Nominated by the County Council)

Hon. Secretary

DR R. P. HAGERTY

Hon. Treasurer

H. I. R. SPRINGTHORPE, IPFA

Hon. Editor

J. G. CHENEVIX TRENCH, FSA

Hon. Archivist & Librarian

MRS L. M. HEAD

Hon. Secretary, Natural History Section

MRS JOAN TAYLOR

The Society's representatives on the County Library and Museums Sub-Committee

ELLIOTT VINEY, FSA DR A. H. J. BAINES, FSA DR R. P. HAGERTY

Headquarters

THE COUNTY MUSEUM, temporarily at THE COUNTY MUSEUM
TECHNICAL CENTRE, TRING ROAD, HALTON, BUCKS HP15 5PJ

CONTENTS

The Marlow Tithes: the Tithe Commutation Act, 1836 and the Rectory of Great Marlow <i>B. H. Butler</i>	1
Willow Vale Farm House, Steeple Claydon <i>John Chenevix Trench, FSA</i>	13
An Iron Age Hill Fort at Brill? <i>Michael Farley, BA, MIFA, FSA</i>	27
A Medieval Site in Priory Road, High Wycombe, Bucks <i>Pauline Cauvain and Stanley Cauvain, BSc, AIFA</i>	33
Osyth, Frithuwold and Aylesbury <i>Keith Bailey, MA</i>	37
Excavation of an Early Prehistoric Site at Stratford's Yard, Chesham <i>Bambi Stainton</i>	49
Windmill Field, Hitcham: the Early Saxon Grave and a Possible Settlement <i>Michael Farley, BA, MIFA, FSA</i>	75
A Late Medieval Tile-Kiln at Shenley Church End, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire <i>G. P. Edmondson, BA, PIFA and A. T. Thorn, BSc, PIFA</i>	78
A Medieval Pottery Production Site at Jack Ironcap's Lane, Great Brickhill <i>H. F. Beamish, BA</i>	88
Peter de Wintonia, Parson of Crawley <i>R. P. Hagerty, PhD</i>	93
A Fifteenth to Sixteenth-Century Pottery Industry at Tylers Green, Penn, Buckinghamshire <i>Naomi Hutchings, BA and Michael Farley, BA, MIFA, FSA</i>	105
Prehistoric, Romano-British and Fourteenth-Century Activity at Ashwells, Tylers Green, Bucks <i>Pauline Cauvain, Stanley Cauvain, BSc, PIFA and Miles Green, MA</i>	111
Excavations at the Medieval Hamlet in Bedgrove, Aylesbury <i>C. N. Gowing, MA, FMA and Alison Macdonald, BA</i>	120
Excavations in Walton, Aylesbury, 1985-1986 <i>Hal Dalwood, BA, MIFA, John Dillon, BA, Jane Evans, BA and Alison Hawkins, BA</i>	137
Archaeological Notes	226
Notes:	
Two Thirteenth-Century Seals	234
The Geology of Woad Farm Gravel Pit, Newport Pagnell, Buckinghamshire	235
A Windmill Mound at Penn Bottom	237
Religious Observance in Early Victorian Wolverton	239
The Museum	241
County Record Office	241
Reviews	243
Obituary	246
The Society	247
Natural History Section	249
Officers of the Society	251