

OBITUARY

SUSAN COWDY MBE 1914-96

In the tragic death of Susan Cowdy following a car accident a few days before her 82nd birthday both the Society and the County have lost a valued supporter. Born at Lee, the eldest daughter of Ivor Stewart-Liberty and the great niece of Sir Arthur Liberty, that great benefactor of the Society. The early years of her married life, before the war, were spent in Ulster where she hunted fearlessly, rode in point-to-points and brought up her children. Early in the war she returned to Lee and at once became involved in voluntary work.

After the war her interests and influence blossomed and it was not long before she was making her mark in most Natural History activities in Bucks and this led to her becoming a national figure. She was one of the founders of B.B.O.N.T. At different times she was honorary secretary of the British Trust for Ornithology, on the Council for the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds, inspirer and fund-raiser to purchase Bardsey Island as a nature reserve and founder of the Bucks Farming and Wildlife Group. The British Trust for Ornithology awarded her their Tucker Medal and the Royal Society for Conservation the Christopher

Medal. The MBE in 1981 was richly earned. The Bucks Bird Club was yet another of her creations.

Her direct but humorous manner was almost always effective in achieving her many plans and ideas, for her enthusiasm was such that it invariably enthused others. From her base at The Lee she was always on the move – to Ireland, Bardsey, the Highlands or one of the nature reserves in Bucks, many of them her creation. She was deeply involved in conservation and as a valued member of the Bucks branch of CPRE she could be pungently critical of policies which seemed to her to be feeble or compromising.

She helped Lady Barlow to start the Natural History Section after the war and sustained it thereafter. She seldom missed a 'preambulation' or a church crawl, usually sending an appreciative card to the organiser and she enlivened many an AGM with her questions and suggestions. Her election as a Vice-President in 1981 was very well-deserved. So many will miss this great Buckinghamshire character.

E.V.

BRIAN PULLEN

Brian Pullen, who died in his ninetieth year on 16 January 1996 was a key figure in the running of the Society in the post-war years. He was born in Northampton and started work as a reporter on a local newspaper but moved to Scotland and joined a flour-milling firm. This trade he followed for the rest of his life, moving to Bucks before the war working at Mead's Flour Mills and latterly managing director of Hills & Partridge in Park Street, Aylesbury. He retired in 1971.

After the war he soon became involved in the Society and was elected Chairman of Council in 1961, a post he held for fourteen years. He was a

reserved man of few words but he controlled meetings with firmness and was skilled at cutting short verbose members or puncturing the ideas of the more visionary. In all this he reminded me of the manner and technique of Clement Attlee. Under his wise guidance the Society flourished. He was elected a Vice-President in 1987. A keen churchman he devoted much of his later years to his parish church of Marsworth where he served on the Parish Council for fifty years, on the Parochial Church Council for thirty-six years including forty-two years on the Diocesan Advisory Committee.

E.V.

Deaths of other members recorded in 1995–96 were W. Bailey, B. J. Burr, J. F. A. Crofts, Miss Dorothy Eyre, a former Secretary of the Natural History Section, D. Fryer OBE, A. C. Hills, J. V. Palmer, L. W. Redding, Miss E. G. Robinson and Miss M. Whiting.

J. J. H. Griffiths, formerly of Haddenham, never

missed an outing and had served on the Council.

Ken Lingane, of Frieth, was another who seldom missed any lecture or outing.

Mrs F. Shand-Kydd was a member but also served as one of the two County Council representatives on our Council for several years.