

# OBITUARIES

## LESLEY BOATWRIGHT, MBE (1932–2012)

Lesley Boatwright, also known by her married name Lesley Wynne-Davies, was a member of both the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society and the Buckinghamshire Record Society (BRS). For the latter, she edited two volumes based on documents at The National Archives (TNA), both of which made full use of her first-class skills as a Latinist and palaeographer: *Inquests and Indictments from Late Fourteenth Century Buckinghamshire: The Superior Eyre of Michaelmas 1389 at High Wycombe* (BRS, Volume 29, 1994) and *The Buckinghamshire Eyre Roll of 1286* (Volume 34, 2006). The latter was based on her PhD thesis at King's College, London, which she undertook after her retirement from teaching. As she made clear in the introduction, Volume 34 contains only civil pleas from the Eyre of 1286. Sadly, her hopes of publishing a second volume on the crown pleas (those relating to criminal cases) were not fulfilled. She had, however, made a draft transcript and, if this can be located, the proposed second volume may yet appear.

Although she contributed much to the history of this county, Dr Boatwright was neither a native nor a resident of Buckinghamshire. She grew up in Watford, where she was educated at the Grammar School, and for many years lived in south London, teaching Latin and ancient history at Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Girls School. Her interest in the history of Buckinghamshire may in part have stemmed from her interest in John Hampden and also her own Buckinghamshire ancestry. Among

her research papers, which have been deposited by her executors in the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies, are several files of notes on early members of the Hampden family, including a draft biography of Edmund Hampden (d.1420).

Dr Boatwright was also prominent in national societies, including the Richard III Society, for whom she served on their executive committee, chaired their visits committee and edited their members' magazine, the Ricardian Bulletin. She lived long enough to hear the news of the putative discovery of Richard's bones in Leicester, but not of their scientific confirmation as his. She was also a member of the Friends of the Public Record Office, later the Friends of TNA, and for many years held the key role of volunteers' co-ordinator, managing teams of volunteers cataloguing and indexing public records. For her work for the Friends, she was appointed MBE in the New Year Honours list for 2000.

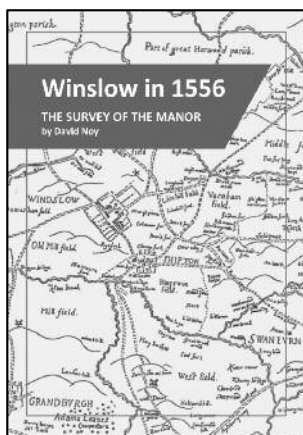
As a mark of Dr Boatwright's interest in Buckinghamshire, on 28 August 2013 and with the permission of the Woodland Trust, a small group of her friends scattered her ashes by an oak tree in a small clearing in Pepperboxes Wood near Great Missenden. A quarter-acre of land elsewhere in the wood has been formally dedicated in her memory, so there is a permanent memorial to her in the county.

*Roger Bettridge*

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BY DAVID NOY



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