

FIELD MEETINGS, 1935**Aldershot, Compton (Surrey), Loseley Park and Thursley.**

Dr. J. H. Gibson of Aldershot was responsible for the day's programme, and welcomed the Club on the occasion of its first visit to Aldershot Church on Tuesday, May 14th. He pointed out the sarsen stones under the brick 16th century tower and also a window possibly of the 12th century tower. In the chancel are memorials of the Whyte and Tichborne families, who apparently lived in the manor house which was pulled down 150 years ago.

The Church of St. Nicholas, Compton, was described by Dr. Gibson. The Saxon tower of uncertain date, the 11th century Saxon church, the later church of about 1180, the 12th century upper sanctuary with its contemporary woodwork — perhaps constructed as a reliquary : these are only a few features of a church of outstanding interest.

The Elizabethan mansion, Loseley Park, was visited by permission of Mrs. More Molyneux. It was built by William More, A.D. 1568, and contains a number of portraits of Tudor and Stuart kings and queens, by Holbein and others.

St. Michael's Church, Thursley, is another example of a Saxon church, and of special interest are the late Saxon double-splayed windows of the chancel, uncovered by the vicar in 1927.

Bembridge, Brading and Sandown.

Mr. G. W. Colenutt, F.G.S., local Secretary for the Isle of Wight, was congratulated on arranging his 60th field meeting on behalf of the Club. It was not only a year of Jubilee nationally, but it was a diamond jubilee meeting for Mr. Colenutt, who is one of the two survivors of the founders of the Hampshire Field Club. A visit was first paid to Bembridge Mill, the only remaining windmill in the Island and Mr. Colenutt successfully acted as treasurer for the preservation fund. On Bembridge shore Mr. Colenutt had much of interest to say about the travel of shore materials ; the enclosures or "innings" from the 13th century onwards ; the reclamation of Brading Harbour in 1880 by the Jabez Balfour Syndicate, and the westward drift of shore material at that end of the Island.

After luncheon, Mr. Colenutt spoke in the Rylstone Gardens, near Shanklin Chine, of the geology of Sandown Bay. A visit was afterwards paid to the Museum of Natural History, where the members were welcomed by the Hon. Curator, Mr. H. F. Poole.

Botanical Day at Beaulieu, Bucklers Hard and Exbury.

A botanical and entomological day was arranged by the Rev. H. Purefoy FitzGerald, F.L.S., for Wednesday, June 5th. (See page 170.)

Saxon Churches of Hampshire.

A day for the study of Saxon Architecture, as illustrated by the Churches of Hampshire, was arranged by Dr. A. R. Green, F.S.A., for Wednesday, June 19th. Visits were paid to the principal Saxon churches of the county, with the exception of Breamore, and the day proved to be both interesting and instructive.

Assembling at Titchfield Church, Dr. Green read a carefully prepared paper on Anglo-Saxon architecture in general followed by detailed notes given at each of the churches visited. The members were shown the western porch of Titchfield Church, the earliest piece of ecclesiastical architecture now standing in the county; it consists of a reconstructed Roman arch, part of the original Saxon church; a later western tower, of about A.D. 1200, has been built upon it. At Fareham a halt was made to see the "long and short" Saxon masonry in the N.E. angle of the church wall.

St. Nicholas, Boarhunt, was shown as a complete example of the latest Anglo-Saxon period. The pilaster strip, doubled splayed window, and the chancel arch with the strip work round its opening, were noted as details of late Saxon work.

At Hambledon, embedded in the structure, are to be seen the almost complete remains of a pre-Conquest church, with aisleless nave and chancel. The size would have been about the same as Corhampton church, to which the next visit was paid. Standing on a prehistoric barrow, Corhampton belongs to the late Saxon period, and more details can here be seen of Saxon architecture than in any other church in the county.

Hinton Ampner has been severely restored, but shows traces of its Saxon origin, and original long and short work exists in the N.E. quoin of the nave.

Titchborne, the latest of the pre-Conquest churches has many Saxon features, and the chancel was shown to have been very little altered. The double-splayed windows, at the east end of the north and south walls, were also noted.

The early 11th century church of Headbourne Worthy was the last to be seen. The western wall and doorway and the carved rood above are of particular interest, as being contemporary with the original church.

The opportunity of visiting eight Saxon churches in one day was an exceptional one, and was taken by a large number of members.

King Henry VIII's Castles.

King Henry VIII's entry into European politics led to his building of castles and forts for the defence of Portsmouth, Southampton and the Isle of Wight from the French. Led by their President, Sir Charles Close, the members visited Hurst Castle and Calshot on Wednesday, July 3rd. Assembling at Keyhaven, the journey to Hurst was made in relays by motor boats. Here two brief papers were read by the President: (i) On King Charles I and his captivity at Hurst Castle, after his removal from Carisbrooke; and (ii) On King Henry VIII's Castles, which were twelve in number, and some of which were built from the stone, lead and other materials from the Abbeys of Beaulieu, Quarre and Netley.

The rooms, in which King Charles is supposed to have been quartered, were inspected, and the members were inclined to agree with the unfortunate King's comment: "Indeed, you could not have named a worse" castle.

"Lepe and its Ancient Road" was the subject of a third paper by the President, when the party had motored *via* Beaulieu to the shore at Lepe. Here a Romano-British trackway across Beaulieu Heath ends on the shore

opposite Rew Street in the Isle of Wight (Rew = row or wide ledge). The Saxon invasion of the Isle of Wight and the medieval traffic in stone from the Island to the mainland, were both dealt with in the paper. Discussion then took place upon the probable site of the Roman harbour there.

Henry VIII's Castle at Calshot was afterwards inspected, by courtesy of Group-Captain W. B. Callaway, A.F.C.

Botanical Meeting in the Silchester District.

A day at Marnel Dell, Sherborne St. John, and Silchester Common, on Thursday, July 18th, was organised by the Rev. H. Purefoy FitzGerald, F.L.S. and Mr. G. W. Willis. (See page 171.)

Buckland Rings Excavations, Milford-on-Sea and Boldre Churches.

On Tuesday, July 30th, the members met on the site of the excavations at Buckland Rings, carried out on behalf of the Club by Mr. C. F. C. Hawkes, M.A., F.S.A. Mr. Hawkes' account of the excavations appears on another page of this Part. In the afternoon the two interesting Forest churches of Milford-on-Sea and Boldre were visited. Brief papers on the two churches were read by Dr. A. R. Green, F.S.A. The architecture of the two churches is remarkably similar and both may be the work of the same unknown architect.

Castle Hill, Godshill; Whitsbury and Breamore Miz-maze.

On Tuesday, August 13th, the members saw the little known earthwork, Castle Hill, near Godshill, under the direction of Dr. J. P. Williams-Freeman. The position of the Castle is admirable, with a steep fall to the Avon on one side and the Norman builders of the time of King Stephen had adapted their castle to the shape of the ground. Dr. Williams-Freeman went on to give an address on Norman Castles in general and upon the remains of these "unlicensed" castles in Hampshire.

Lunch was taken at Whitebury and the late Early Iron Age Camp was afterwards explored. Dr. Williams-Freeman pointed out that it was a good example, and the works consist of three banks and two ditches. He proceeded to discuss the significance of the bivallate ditches leading up to one of the entrances; he felt pretty confident that they were roads and not boundaries. He next spoke of the significance of the triple ramparts, and said that the object was perhaps to keep attackers out of range of the huts which they might suppose to have been in the middle of the camp.

On the slopes of Breamore Down Dr. Williams-Freeman talked on long barrows in general, in describing the Giant's Grave Long Barrow. He hoped that one day it would be excavated, and they might find it to be one of the chambered long barrows of about 2000—1800 B.C.

The well-preserved turf miz-maze, in a clearing on Breamore Hill, was seen with much interest. Dr. Williams-Freeman quoted Mr. Heywood Sumner's notes on mazes. The Rev. W. J. Ferrar called attention to two books on the subject of mazes: "Myths in Religion" (Constable), and "Labyrinths" (S.P.C.K.).

Maiden Castle, Dorchester.

The members paid, on Wednesday, September 4th, a second visit to Maiden Castle. They were met by Lieut.-Col. Drew, D.S.O., F.S.A., who gave a brief introductory lecture in the Dorchester County Museum. After luncheon Col. Drew described the 1935 excavations on the site, the two early Iron Age Camps, and the successive occupations down to the end of the 4th century A.D. The five super-imposed roads, approaching the Roman temple site, were described and discussed, and also a Neolithic ditch, covered by the later causeway. Col. Drew led the way to the site of the major excavations, where no less than five levels of hut sites had been traced. He also showed the strongly built dry-stone wall uncovered within the main rampart. It was a wholly unsuspected feature and had been altered and strengthened at least four times.

Fungus Foray at Waggoners' Wells.

A fungus foray was conducted by Mr. E. W. Swanton, A.L.S., on Wednesday, September 25th. (See page 181.)