

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, APRIL 30th, 1956

OPENING REMARKS BY PRESIDENT, LIEUT.-GENERAL F. H. GRIFFITHS,
D.L., J.P.

LAST year I drew your attention to the very great interest in archaeology taken since the war throughout Hampshire, and how professional curators had been appointed in practically every area of the County. The other point I mentioned was that most museums now concentrate on items of local history. The objects of this Club are to encourage archaeology and foster natural history, and to record the work carried out in Hampshire in our *Papers and Proceedings*. This publication is supplied to all members. Grants, as far as funds are available, are given to assist excavations and similar undertakings, and have always been most appreciated. *Papers and Proceedings*, as you all know, are in the capable hands of Mrs. Carpenter Turner, who has brought them up to date after a lapse due to war conditions. We cannot be too grateful for all she is doing for the Club. To keep the Club posted in any new discovery or any other relevant information, we are fortunate in having local Secretaries throughout the County. They are of very great value in organising field meetings. In addition we have Subject Secretaries who deal with each main branch of our activities, and report briefly at the Annual General Meeting. Both Local and Subject Secretaries would welcome assistants to help them in their most important but onerous work, and it is hoped that any members willing to help will contact them. Our Hon. Secretary keeps in touch with similar organisations throughout the country, which has always proved of great mutual benefit. We also have a representative on the British Council of Archaeology. In order to keep our members interested in the work of the Club, and generally in what is going on in other societies, we have arranged lectures on subjects and excursions to places of interest. This is unfortunately becoming more and more difficult each year as our older members have to retire, and we are, therefore, calling for volunteers for every branch of our work. It is most seriously hoped that any members, who are willing, will give us the benefit of their time and knowledge.

This year, thanks to a small committee, we have arranged both a winter lectures and a summer field meetings programme, which we will discuss later. Whether similar programmes for the future can be arranged will entirely depend on the initiative of those members who enjoy attending, and who will be prepared to assist in arranging them. A small committee should be appointed from the various parts of the County to collect details of subjects and of possible expeditions of interest to our members. In addition to this

year's winter and summer programmes the Hon. Secretary has past records of Field and other meetings turned over by Mr. Frank Warren, who for so many years ran our very interesting and enjoyable outings. For expert advice the Committee would have the Local and Subject Secretaries, the various curators, and the editor of our *Papers and Proceedings* to fall back on. This work takes a considerable time, and at least six months must be allowed in order that each programme may be in the hands of members before the start of the season. The valuable work carried out by the Hon. Secretary for meetings has been greatly reduced by arranging for members to procure their coach tickets direct from the coach company, and for members to bring their own picnic lunches and teas. There still remains the director at each meeting to maintain liaison between the speakers and the members attending, and to supervise the parking of coaches and private cars. This is the crux of the problem and volunteers are urgently required. The new arrangements unfortunately include the fact that no one will be available to supply information over the telephone. It would be a very great pity if our programmes were reduced or even suspended. It is thought that in future the key card and full programme can be condensed into one on the lines of the "Winter Lectures, 1956". You will see in the papers you have received in connection with to-day's meeting that we require more members for the Council, and we hope that members will have assisted in finding some to help us in our work. The Hon. Treasurer also has a great deal of other voluntary work and we are taking every step to cut down his work by persuading members to use Banker's Orders. We have authorised the Hon. Treasurer and the Hon. Secretary to arrange for part-time clerical assistance up to £50 a year between them. We are still greatly in need of a "Home" where we can keep our Cave Library and carry out our office work.