

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.

FIELD MEETINGS, 1956.

On 11 May a visit was paid to Portsmouth and Southsea, Mr. A. Corney and Mr. Emery Wallis being the directors. Southsea Castle was visited in the morning and Cumberland House Museum in the afternoon. This was followed by a visit to the old fortifications adjoining the Harbour.

On 30 May the Club was conducted over the Cathedral by Mr. W. J. Carpenter Turner, A.R.I.B.A., Architect to the Dean and Chapter, the entire day being spent there with an interval for lunch. Mr. Carpenter Turner gave a full account of the architectural development of the church, beginning with the Norman Crypts. He explained the reasons for the rebuilding of the tower, and the main alterations at the eastern end. After lunch a tour was made of the roofs, the Library and the Chancies. The Club was welcomed by the Vice-Dean, The Right Rev. Bishop L. Lang.

On 26 June Commander Wrey, O.B.E., R.N., was the director, when three houses in the S.W. of the County were visited. It was one of the few perfect days in a very bad summer. Members assembled at Lyndhurst and were conducted over the Queen's House, which dates from the late 17th century and also the adjoining Verderers' Hall. Then a move was made to Northerwood House, visited by kind permission of the Forestry Commission. It is a charming early Victorian mansion in the style of an Italian villa. Here members were able to take their picnic lunches into the garden which has a magnificent panorama over the New Forest. After lunch Bisterne House and grounds were visited, parties being conducted round by the owner, Colonel J. D. Mills, J.P., and his son. Bisterne is a house of various dates, the oldest portion being c. 1500; it contains a notable collection of family portraits and furniture. Finally, a visit was paid to Hinton Admiral, by permission of Major Sir George Meyrick, Bart. There was no admission to the house, which dates from the 18th century, but members were allowed to walk round the grounds. Picnic tea was taken in the New Forest on the way back to Winchester, which concluded a delightful and interesting day.

On 3 July the Club went to Stonehenge, where an extremely interesting lecture was delivered by one of our most distinguished honorary members, Professor Stuart Piggott, F.S.A., who was then conducting excavations there. A move was then made to Old Sarum, where picnic lunch was taken and afterwards the party was told something of its history and conducted over the site by Mr. R. L. P. Jowitt. After this Longford Castle was visited, by kind permission of the Earl and Countess of Radnor and parties were conducted round the interior by experienced guides. After the beautiful gardens beside the Avon had been inspected by members, coaches were boarded and a halt made in the Park for a picnic tea. The weather, which had remained grey during the earlier part of the day, came out beautifully fine at Longford Castle.

On 11 July Alton was visited in the morning, members being conducted over the Curtis Museum by the Curator, Mr. C. N. Gowing. The historic parish church, dating from Norman times and the scene of a Civil War skirmish, was also seen by members, Mr. R. L. P. Jowitt being the guide. In the afternoon the party proceeded to Selborne, where members were shown the Gilbert White Museum at "The Wakes" by Mr. Gowing, and Mr. Jowitt acted as guide to the church. This was another day when good weather favoured the Club.

On 28 July the Club visited the Southampton region. The meeting began early in the afternoon at South Stoneham House, by kind permission of the University, where an Exhibition had been arranged consisting of engravings of Georgian Southampton, for which the thanks of the Club are due to Mr. P. S.

Peberdy, Curator of Southampton Museums. The members then moved to the Salmon Pool, where Mr. G. M. Howard gave an account of its history. Members then had picnic tea on the lawn and were able to visit the adjoining South Stoneham Church during short intervals between frequent weddings, it being Saturday afternoon! Before leaving South Stoneham, Mr. A. G. Steavenson gave a lecture on the land forms of the Itchen Estuary. Members then visited the Jesus Chapel at Pear Tree Green, where the Vicar, the Rev. L. Bedder, was the lecturer. Miss E. M. Sandell also pointed out various features which could be seen from this commanding viewpoint, with its fine panorama over the town, port and rivers. The directors of this meeting, Messrs. Howard, Peberdy, Simpson and Steavenson and Miss E. M. Sandell, are to be congratulated on the most interesting and varied programme enjoyed by those who attended this meeting. Once again, the Club were lucky as regards the weather.

On the afternoon of 11 August members assembled at the Winchester City Museum for a lecture on recent archaeological discoveries in the city by Mr. Frank Cottrill, M.A., the Curator. A move was then made to the site of the George Hotel, then recently demolished, and also to the site of the long-destroyed church of St. Peter-in-the-Shambles. This stood at the back of the God Begot House, where the foundations of the church, together with Roman buildings of various dates have come to light in connexion with the widening of St. George's Street.

On 27 August the Club paid their annual visit to the Isle of Wight, when Mr. A. G. Steavenson and Mr. R. L. P. Jowitt were the joint directors. Starting in heavy rain, the 9.30 steamer from Southampton was boarded, members transferring to a coach at Cowes. The rain did not cease until the party had arrived at Shorwell, where Mr. Jowitt pointed out the chief features of interest in the church, perhaps the most notable one being the unique 15th century wall-painting of the life of St. Christopher. The party then visited Blackgang Chine, where Mr. Steavenson gave a geological discourse and members partook of a picnic lunch amid beautiful surroundings and in perfect sunshine, which weather lasted for the remainder of the day. Mr. Steavenson then led the party along the old road to Niton Undercliff, which had been broken by the great landslip of 1928, members scrambling over the débris which remains just as it was after the landslip. During this walk Mr. Steavenson pointed out many interesting geological features. The coach was rejoined at Niton Undercliff village and the party was then taken to Niton old church, where Mr. Jowitt pointed out the various features of interest, notably a very handsome specimen of the Royal Arms dating from 1803, then in the vestry, but which may be moved into the nave, where it can be better seen. Picnic tea was taken aboard the coach for Cowes whence members proceeded by the 6 p.m. steamer for Southampton. Thus concluded a delightful day, in spite of its inauspicious start.

On 18 September the final archaeological meeting of the season took place, when Romsey Abbey was visited in the morning, the Vicar, the Rev. Canon W. E. Norris, being the lecturer. He kindly allowed members to take their picnic lunch in the vicarage garden. In the afternoon members visited Mottisfont Abbey, by permission of the owner, Mrs. Gilbert Russell, who kindly conducted parties round the house. This is a Tudor building adapted from the monastic church, of which there are still considerable remains incorporated in the present house. Various alterations were made in Georgian times and the drawing room was decorated by Rex Whistler, shortly before his tragic death during the Normandy landings in 1944. Mr. J. Simpson was the organiser and director of this day, which was much appreciated by all members attending.

THE HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1955.

INCOME.		£	s	d	£	s	d
MEMBERS' SUBSCRIPTIONS :—							
76 Entrance Fees at 5s.	...	...	19	0	0		
14 Annual Fees at 10s. 6d.	...	...	7	7	0		
551 Annual Fees at 15s.	...	...	413	5	0		
						439	12 0
DONATIONS						5	18 0
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME CARRIED TO GENERAL FUND							
						112	10 6
			£558 0 6				

EXPENDITURE.		£	s	d	£	s	d
SUBSCRIPTIONS TO SOCIETIES :—							
Commons, Open Spaces and Footpaths Preservation Society			1	1	0		
South-Eastern Union of Scientific Societies			12		6		
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds			1	1	0		
Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings			1	1	0		
Council for Promotion of Field Studies			10		0		
English Place Name Society			15		0		
						5	0 6
FIELD MEETINGS AND LECTURES			100	15	1		
Less Excess of Receipts over Payments on Field Meetings			1	12	3		
						99	2 10
COST OF "PROCEEDINGS", VOLUME XIX, PART I :—							
Printing and Block Making			260	19	2		
Other Charges			11	0	11		
						272	0 1
GENERAL CHARGES :—							
Printing, Telephones, Postages and Stationery			53	13	2		
Services of Assistant			12	0	0		
Annual Meeting Expenses			12	18	11		
Hire of Rooms			1	5	0		
						81	17 1
EXCAVATIONS RESERVE			100	0	0		
						£558	0 6

BALANCE SHEET, 31st DECEMBER, 1955.

		£	s	d	£	s	d
GENERAL FUND :—							
Balance, 1st January, 1955	...	...	495	19	9		
Add Subscriptions received during year for 1953 and 1954	...	...	2	11	0		
Interest on Deposit Accounts	...	...	9	14	0		
			12	5	0		
Less Excess of Expenditure over Income for the year	112	10	6	508	4	9	
Cost of reprinting List of Members	...	...	16	0	0		
			128	10	6		
TROKE LEGACY :—							
Balance, 1st January, 1955	...	...	...	...	50	0	3
EXCAVATIONS RESERVE :—							
Balance, 1st January, 1955	...	...	100	6	6		
Add Transfer from Income and Expenditure Account	...	...	100	0	0		
			200	6	6		
Less Grants to :—							
Winchester Archaeological Society	75	0	0				
"Friends of Old Southampton" Excavations Fund	...	...	50	0	0		
Silchester Excavation Committee	...	...	10	0	0		
			135	0	0		
"FRANK WARREN ESSAYS" :—							
Subscriptions received	...	...	...	...	39	18	6
SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1956 paid in advance	...	...	...	...	22	9	0
SUNDRY CREDITORS	...	...	...	...	16	0	0
			£573	7	9		

	£	s	d	£	s	d
CASH :—						
Current Account, Lloyds Bank Ltd.	120	19	2			
Current Account, Westminster Bank Ltd.	...	...	...	44	6	5
Deposit Account, Lloyds Bank Ltd.	...	...	...	26	0	3
Deposit Account, Post Office Savings Bank	...	...	...	374	15	5
			566	1	3	
"FRANK WARREN ESSAYS" :—						
Preliminary Payments to date	...	...	...	7	6	6

J. B. MEAKINS, A.C.W.A.,
Hon. Treasurer.

I certify that I have examined the above Accounts with the books and vouchers of the Society and that they are in accordance therewith.

ALFRED E. PALMER,
Hon. Auditor.
Twyford, Hants.
January, 1956.

£573 7 9

OBITUARIES.

The Club has recently lost, by death, four of its most faithful servants. Dr. P. J. Heather was for many years our Secretary for Folk-Lore, and members will recall his contributions to the *Proceedings* and his Reports at Annual General Meetings. His courtesy and kindness was renowned and his simplicity of manner hid a deep learning. He was an antiquarian of the old school, and it will be difficult indeed to replace him.

Dr. and Mrs. A. R. Green for many years took a leading part in the affairs of our Society. Their knowledge of Hampshire was widespread and deep, and their joint and special interests came to a learned fruition in the publication of their book on Anglo-Saxon Architecture in Hampshire. The Club will always remember the pioneer work done by the Greens in building up the photographic section and in cataloguing the really vast collections of photographs belonging to the Club and now at Tudor House, Southampton. Both were vigorous directors of Field Meetings and took a keen and critical interest in every aspect of local history and archaeology.

The death of Frank Warren has deprived the Club of one of its outstanding personalities. The ceaseless watch which he maintained for many years over local antiquarian interests, his untiring capacity for work shewn in his organization of Field Meetings, and his learning in his own particular subject, Numismatics, made him an invaluable Club Secretary. His fame spread far outside of the County and won him the respect of many scholars, and of the ordinary man in the street ; his reserve and modesty, and his sense of humour, endeared him to everyone. He will be remembered also as the Editor of the *Hampshire Observer*, and as the Chairman of the Winchester City Bench. It is not too much to say, however, that he was perhaps best known as the Field Club's Secretary, and without him the Club could hardly have survived the war of 1939 - 1945.

REVIEWS.

The Shell guide to *Flowers of the Countryside*. Painted by Edith and Rowland Hilder. Chosen and described by Geoffrey Grigson.

This little book containing twelve water-colours by Edith and Rowland Hilder picturing the flowers and leaves to be found in the countryside each month, against a seasonal background, is well calculated to change the holiday habits of many a town dweller. Instead of crowding to the seashore they will explore the lanes and woods to find the beauties here depicted. Perhaps the greatest impression the pictures make is of the enchanting serenity of the English landscape. Rowland Hilder's subtle drawings of elms in February and in November are magical. The flower studies are all drawn with sensitive care, but the colour reproduction probably does less than justice to the originals : though the artists have been successful in their juxtaposition of colours to strengthen the effect.

Opposite each picture there is an outline diagram, from which the reader can discover the name of any flower he is uncertain about. Geoffrey Grigson gives a short account of what is to be found each month : and his knowledge of the habitat and the human associations of the trees and plants of our hedgerows and fields and woods, expressed with a poet's delight, adds greatly to the fascination of the book.

The one criticism that can be made of the faithful and lovely paintings of flowers is that the relative sizes of the different plants are sometimes misleading. But as the flowers had necessarily to be so arranged that a diagram could be made, so that they could be numbered and named and identified, this difficulty was probably unsurmountable . . . And how grateful we are for these identifications !

HILDA McDOWELL.

On the Track of the Past. By F. W. Robins, F.S.A., F.R.G.S. (Phoenix House Ltd., 1956. 12/6.)

This book is excellent in every way—the complete guide to archaeology for children of school age, and put forward in a very attractive form. It describes a country holiday taken by a mother with her two children, during which they are conducted over the district by the benevolent antiquary, Mr. Hamilton. He makes it live for them and they see it in a way in which they have never seen it before. Mounds of earth that they would never have noticed in the past become the burial places of the prehistoric dead ; a grass-grown cart-track comes to life as the line of a Roman road : here Mr. Hamilton gives a delightful description of all the various types of people who have used it through the centuries. Similarly he reveals to them the glories of medieval Church architecture, the ways of the monks and the life which they led, as illustrated by a visit to the ruins of an abbey. He teaches the children to use “the third eye”, that of imagination, which enables them to reconstruct the past and to know the everyday details of how people lived.

From the Stone Age to the 19th century Mr. Robins, through his Mr. Hamilton, Ann and Brian, brings the past really vividly to life.

R. L. P. JOWITT.

EDITORIAL.

CONTRIBUTORS are reminded that material intended for publication in the *Proceedings* should be addressed to the Honorary Editor, The Hampshire Field Club, 10 The Close, Winchester. Material cannot normally be printed in any one year unless it arrives before 31 December of the previous year. The *Proceedings* go to press in January, and in any case there is a long waiting list.

The Natural History Reports for 1956 are not included and will be sent to all members later ; in future they will always be sent out separately.

Members of the Club may like to know that a limited number of copies of *Essays in Honour of Frank Warren* can be obtained from the publishers at 10/6 a copy. The price to non-members is 12/6.

The Editor is not responsible for views expressed by contributors, and letters arising therefrom should be addressed to the authors, not to the Honorary Editor.

The Club is grateful to Mr. R. Helliwell, Winchester's City Librarian, for his continued kindness in preparing the Index to this Volume. With Volume XX (*Essays in Honour of Frank Warren*) and with the completion of Volume XIX by the publication of this current part in 1957, the old series of *Papers and Proceedings* comes to an end. In 1958 it is hoped to produce Volume I (Part One, New Series) in a different form.