

REPORTS ON THE YEAR 1982

THE FIELD CLUB

Secretary's Report

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Winchester Guildhall on 25 May 1983. It marked the end of the distinguished Presidency of Mr Drummond and the succession of Mr Stagg, the third of the last four Presidents from the New Forest. Mr Drummond retold how the Society had expanded and consolidated since the dark days of 1979, when it was first reorganised into sections. Since then two financial crises had been surmounted. *Proceedings* had adjusted to voluntary subscriptions and was operating at a profit. The Archaeology, Local History and New Forest sections were flourishing and the Historic Buildings Section had been born.

No new amendments to the constitution took place, but the AGM marked the implementation of changes agreed in 1982: the size of Council was restricted and section representatives sat on the Executive Committee, so far without major effects. The Secretary, Treasurer and Publications Officers continued in office, but regrettably the Membership Secretaries Miss Parker and Mr Wingate relinquished office. Fortunately Mrs Phillips took over most of their duties and Mr Qualmann, chairman of the Editorial Board, accepted responsibility for backnumbers of *Proceedings*. As the Secretary was still organising the programme, the Field Club was staffed at the minimal acceptable level and serious strain was experienced at posting time. More people are needed to run the central organisation of the Society.

The outstanding debt of the former Treasurer was repaid during the year and the reserves rose to a level sufficient for all eventualities. Income, however, barely exceeded expenditure, which was inflated by the high cost of newsletters. Both the Archaeology and Local History sections relied on subsidised printing by Hampshire County Council, which proved much more expensive than anticipated, and it was obvious escalating costs threatened the future of the section newsletters.

Council therefore resolved to combine the existing newsletters in a single publication to be produced commercially on A3 paper reduced to A4. Printing and postal costs would be reduced and the contents and quality of the section newsletters would be maintained. Council established a committee of the Officers and section newsletter editors to manage the new newsletter, to be published for the first time in spring 1984. It was also agreed to distribute the New Forest Section Annual Report to all members in future. Both the combined newsletter and wider circulation of the Annual Report have been recognised as desirable aims since 1981.

Reorganising the newsletters will place a ceiling on expenditure, but more income is also necessary. Subscriptions will therefore rise in 1984 for the first time since 1979. It is hoped that the new subscriptions can be maintained for three years. The increase may, however, reduce the number of members, and it was to avert this that Council approved substantial expenditure on reminders to existing members and on an advertising campaign in *Hampshire Magazine*.

Council also looked forward to the Society's centenary in 1985 and began planning for the Annual Conference and O G S Crawford Memorial Lecture, for an exhibition to be organised by Miss Robinson, and for a centenary article in *Proceedings* by Mrs Taylor. The centenary is to be an agenda item for all meetings of Council and Executive Committee. Any suggestions for appropriate celebrations will be welcomed by myself or the section Secretaries.

Annual Conference at Royal Naval Museum, Portsmouth Dockyard on Saturday 21st May 1983

The conference focussed on the industrial archaeology of Portsmouth dockyard. Members were addressed by Admiral Tippet and Mr Marshall, visited the museum, and perambulated the dockyard, observing Her Majesty the Queen *en route* for H M S Britannia in the process.

The conference focussed on the conservation

area within the base, approximately fifty acres of the total three hundred occupied by the navy. Established by Henry VIII and the oldest surviving British naval base, Portsmouth dockyard was largely redeveloped as purpose-built brick buildings and stone docks in 1760–1800. What was demolished or bombed is known from plans or from similar dockyards in England, the Mediterranean or Caribbean. Dockyards like Portsmouth, which before the Industrial Revolution were the largest industrial concerns in the country, then became centres of technological advance: a classic Portsmouth example is General Bentham's blockmill of 1808, where 10 unskilled labourers took over from 110 skilled blockmakers.

New technology did not always involve sweeping away the old. As Portsmouth met the challenges of larger vessels, iron construction, machine propulsion, submersibles and progressive weapon-systems, so the base was extended and facilities were adapted rather than removed. H M S Victory, still a flagship, and the R N Museum in its eighteenth-century storehouses are only the most obvious examples of new uses for old structures. A former basin, now covered over, drains drydocks and redundant academies are now officers' messes. Of course the ideal of conservation played no part in such decisions. The £352,000 cost of the eighteenth-century reconstruction was sufficient deterrent for wholesale redevelopment, even though short-term savings by conversion were outweighed by heavy repair bills. Whatever the motive, however, within the modern base was preserved the industrial infrastructure of Britain's sailing navy.

The ships and workforce at Portsmouth dockyard declined steadily from 1945 to the 1981 White Paper, which envisaged a reduction in civilian manpower from 7,000 to 1,200. Some historic buildings are surplus to requirements and can no longer be maintained from the defence budget. How indeed can the navy justify public access free of charge to H M S Victory, which costs £900,000 in maintenance alone? This attitude threatens the integrity of the historic dockyard.

The City Council foresaw the decline of the

dockyard and encouraged other industries. It regards the dockyard as a major tourist attraction to be supplemented by the Mary Rose and associated Tudor Ship Museum, by H M S Warrior – the first ironclad warship – and perhaps by the frigate Foudroyant. The city's plan includes co-ordination with other tourist attractions such as Portchester Castle, Old Portsmouth, Southsea Castle and the nineteenth-century landward defences. It involves an overall development plan for the dockyard, hotels, transport, nightlife, and above all money and organisation, which the City Council is determined to provide. The scale of the problem daunts even Cllr Marshall, who is anxious to retain the naval presence and avoid assimilating the whole dockyard. From the present crisis he intends Portsmouth to emerge as the outstanding maritime heritage centre in Europe and as a remarkable conservation success story. Instead of degenerating into a sad assemblage of silent and redundant museum pieces, the dockyard buildings should be the means to a further blend of living heritage and ultra-modern naval base.

At the end of an absorbing day, members expressed their grateful thanks to Captain Parsons, their host, and to the organiser Dr Riley.

O G S Crawford Memorial Lecture 1983

Dr Derek Keene spoke on 'London and Winchester: Some Contrasts and Comparisons' on Saturday 29th October at King Alfred's College, Winchester. In his *Survey of Medieval Winchester* Dr Keene used documents and standing buildings to establish patterns of ownership, occupation and building design. Now, as Director of the Social and Economic Study of Medieval London, he is applying his techniques and conclusions to the larger city. London is more complex and more difficult to study, but also better documented, more important and ultimately more rewarding.

It is well-known that Winchester's street-pattern, with side-streets leading off High Street at right angles at regular intervals, was an early medieval development. There is a similar pattern in London, where Cheapside – of very

similar dimensions to Winchester High Street – was also flanked by regularly-spaced side streets. East of Cheapside, near the modern Bank underground station, a bridge spanned the Walbrook, from which roads radiated to the east – the modern Threadneedle and Lombard Streets. Thus medieval London probably developed first west of Walbrook: to the east the waterfront was undeveloped even in the tenth century.

As a pilot survey, Dr Keene has studied five parishes spanning Cheapside. Focussing on the birthplace of St Thomas Becket, Dr Keene traced its evolution from enormous private residences into the hospital of St Thomas Acon and showed how the street-front of the church gave way to Mercer's Hall. The site can be studied over centuries and it is often possible to recover the appearance, height and number of floors of long-demolished buildings. As medieval structures have disappeared and post-conquest archaeological levels have been disturbed, documents take the place of historical architecture and archaeological excavation.

Cheapside contained 400 shops, mostly very small, and great bazaars (selds), where dozens of traders sold wares from chests. Such extreme congestion was relieved by the Black Death of 1348, which greatly reduced the population both of London and Winchester. In both cities, rows of tiny shops gave way to fewer, large establishments. Godbegot House, Winchester, which has contained two shops since c 1460, comprised seven before the Black Death. Such considerations prompted Dr Keene to suggest that London in 1500 was much smaller than in 1300 – an astonishing hypothesis, that would make it the largest city in Europe in 1300 rather than one of the larger towns. It is to test this theory that Dr Keene is now embarking on study of the suburbs around Aldgate.

M.A.H.

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

The section has enjoyed a good year with a regular programme of events and a steady turn-out of members.

In winter 1982/83 we adopted a new

approach to the lecture programme with a reduced number of events, each run in association with the appropriate local society. The result has generally been successful, as reflected in larger and more consistent audiences. These lectures were held at Basingstoke, Aldershot and Gosport: Annie Robinson spoke on 'Excavations at St Mary's Abbey, Winchester'; Tony King on 'Excavations at the Iron Age and Roman temple site at Hayling Island'; and Frank Green reported on 'Recent Archaeological Discoveries in the Test Valley'.

Summer field-trips took us to Southampton, the Wayfarer's Walk, and the Isle of Wight. Despite torrential rainfall, on Sunday 5 June a group visited the excavation site at Six Dials in Saxon Southampton (Hamwic). Mark Brisbane, the Archaeological Officer at Southampton City Museums, showed us the latest discoveries on this important site, where excavations in the last few years have uncovered a regularly planned settlement of a truly urban nature dating from the eighth to the tenth centuries. The latest investigations have shown this to be delineated on the western side by a substantial ditch.

The second trip was led by Michael Hughes and Philip Colbourn of the Hampshire County Council Planning Department. Not only was it a pleasant walk but also instructive, since a variety of interesting archaeological and ecological features were observed.

Our final visit on Sunday 11 September was to the Isle of Wight. At Newport Roman villa David Tomalin talked to us about the bath-house and mosaics. Most of the day was spent at the deserted medieval town of Newtown, where Frank Green, the National Trust warden, led us on a most informative tour. Among other points of interest, we were able to appreciate the original town layout, the old field systems, and the current conservation project involving woodland management, with coppicing as the top priority. A full and exhausting day ended with a visit to the Needles Battery.

Our main event was the annual conference, the third in the series run in collaboration with the department of Adult Education at Southampton University. The theme this year was 'Cemeteries and Society'. A substantial intro-

ductory lecture on 'Death and the Archaeologist' by Dr Bob Chapman of Reading University examined the approaches of archaeologists, historians and anthropologists and suggested how we could usefully develop a theoretical framework for examining the archaeological evidence. Subsequent contributions pursued aspects of the topic within a chronological framework. Peter Fasham discussed the Bronze and Iron Age site at Easton Lane, Winnall, where there appear to be ritual pits, structures and burials as well as settlement. Dr David Tomalin looked at the location of barrows in the Isle of Wight in relation to local settlement and developed a locational hypothesis, that may have parallels elsewhere in Wessex. Tony King investigated the possibility of human sacrifice at Hayling Island and elsewhere, particularly Iron Age France. Ken Qualmann reviewed the not inconsiderable evidence of Roman cemeteries around Winchester, especially the important stratigraphic evidence from Victoria Road, with its valuable ceramic assemblage. Alan Moreton talked about Saxon burials at Hamwic, concentrating on the main cemetery now coded SOU 8, where graves are disposed around an eighth century church, for which there are parallels in urban contexts, in later Saxon and medieval practice, and in anthropological work. Dr Chris Arnold spoke on 'Pagan Society in the Isle of Wight' and demonstrated how social organisation on the Island evolved, particularly in terms of developments in Anglo-Saxon England. Finally, in complete contrast, Pamela Johnston talked about the Victorian cemetery at West Hill, Winchester, where the cemetery committee was most systematic, speedy and businesslike in the face of burgeoning population and new policies for improving amenities and public health.

A.M.R.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SECTION

The Section has now been in existence for just over a year. Mistakes have undoubtedly been made, and lessons learned, but there has been a steady growth of interest in our activities, and we have tried to remain faithful to our original

policy of combining entertainment with education, even if we have not yet successfully coped with the problem of monitoring Hampshire building projects via planning applications, which is one of the Section's avowed aims.

The 1982-3 season, which opened with the inaugural meeting held after the O G S Crawford Memorial Lecture described in last year's *Proceedings*, continued with a meeting of the Winchester Branch of the Historical Association, to which Section members were kindly invited. The speaker was Dr Geddes, who provided fascinating insight into her research during the recent restoration work at Northington Grange. Attendance was promising at this meeting, but less so at the next event which, as luck would have it, was held on the snowiest night of the winter. Nevertheless, an adequate number of enthusiasts braved the elements to hear our Chairman, Peter Blakesley, give a stimulating talk on 'Hampshire Churches and their Furnishings', in which he succeeded admirably in conveying his enthusiasm for the subject. It was a talk which deserved to be heard by a wider audience.

In the Spring the Section was privileged to participate in a well-organised 'One-Day School on the Carpentry of Timber-Framed Buildings', organised by the Petersfield Area Historical Society. The speakers at this event, held at Bedales School, were Richard Harris, Philip Walker and Richard Darrah, all of whom are involved in various practical aspects of medieval carpentry. Over 130 people, from a wide area, attended the meeting.

For the summer season, we organised what we hoped would be a pleasantly varied programme, catering for beginners and more expert building enthusiasts alike. In May we held a day course in the measuring of a timber-framed building, held in the Priory Stabling in Winchester Cathedral Close under the direction of Nicholas Molyneux. This was poorly-attended, but those members who did join in had an enjoyable day, and useful work was done. The following month members had the opportunity of surveying a rather larger building, Botley Old Church, under Mr Richard Bryant. About 20 people were present, and they learned how to

use a theodolite, and how to measure and draw up a plan of standing building. During the afternoon Mr Michael Hare, author of a recent paper in *Proceedings*, gave a talk on the use of documentary sources in historical investigation.

However, the most popular event of the summer was undoubtedly the visit to some Portsmouth Churches, at the end of July, arranged by Graham Soffe and Frank Green. The chief attraction was a visit to St Agatha's Church, on the edge of the Naval Base, with its splendid example of *sggraffito* work by Heywood Sumner; but the party visited several other churches as well. This involved keeping to a fairly tight schedule, but all those who participated in the outing found it thoroughly worthwhile.

These events of the first year have provided a useful indication of the requirements of Section members, and have helped us to devise what we hope will be a well-attended programme for the current season. One exciting additional possibility is that the Section might become actively involved in the investigation of a standing building during the summer of 1984; and it is to be hoped that this in turn will lead to the Section playing an active role in the recording of Hampshire's rich architectural heritage.

Particular mention should be made of the Section's Newsletter. The aim of this twice-yearly publication is to keep members abreast of Section activities, to let them know what research is being done by other members of the group, and to provide the possibility for publication of short, often interim, reports on research in progress. The Editor, Mr Molyneux, would welcome contributions.

Two changes in the composition of the Committee must be recorded: Miss Parker replaces Mrs Turnbull, and Mr Molyneux was elected Chairman in place of Mr Blakesley at the 1983 Section AGM.

P.M.J.C.

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

1982-3 has been a highly successful and profitable year for the Local History Section.

The section now has its full complement of

officers: Miss R C Dunhill, Chairman; Mr C M Haydon, Secretary; and Mr M L Housby, Treasurer. The officers and committee have been very gratified by the response to a questionnaire sent out in the spring, which gave a full endorsement to the various activities organised by the section. The answers praised, in particular, the section's newsletter, which has continued to flourish in the past year. Miss G Rushton has been responsible for editing the material and for producing the finished version. She will continue to edit the local history contributions to the amalgamated Field Club newsletter that will be produced from next year.

The first two meetings of the year took Hampshire religion as their theme. The April symposium at the Department of Adult Education in the University of Southampton investigated the subject of Religious Minorities in Hampshire. There were five speakers: Miss Rosemary Dunhill on the sources for the topic; Mr John Vickers on Methodism; Dr Michael Hicks on the Lollards; Mr Colin Haydon on eighteenth-century Catholics; and Mr William Boorman on the Salvation Army Martyrs at Whitchurch. Some fifty members attended the conference.

On the summer outing, the section pursued this theme on the ground. First it visited the non-conformist chapels and Anglican church at Fordingbridge. Next, the members went to Moyles Court, now a preparatory school, but once the home of Dame Alice Lisle, executed by Judge Jeffreys during the Bloody Assizes for harbouring two of the rebels against James II. The house is of considerable beauty and the members were fortunate to be shown over it by the staff and pupils. After visiting Dame Alice's grave at nearby Ellingham churchyard, the day ended with a brief halt at the fine free church at Fritham.

The year's events concluded with a conference on the history of Alresford held at the Sun Hill Junior School. Following a general talk on Alresford's past by Miss Isabel Sanderson, Mr R Elliott spoke on the town's architecture. After the Annual General Meeting, Mr J Adams spoke about the Watercress Line and the day ended with a most informative walk-about led by Mr E Roberts.

A full and active year, therefore, and one that we hope to emulate in the coming twelve months.

C.M.H.

NEW FOREST SECTION

Planning and Development. The section made representations at three planning inquiries during the year: into proposals for the junctions at Stoney Cross and Picket Post, for which there is as yet no decision announced; into a quarantine cattery in the north-west of the Forest, permission for which was refused and an appeal turned down; and into the Forest and Downlands Local Plan, including the route for a Lyndhurst bypass, for which a recommendation is not expected for some months. At the time of writing information has just been received that the application in 1982 from Shell UK to drill for an exploratory oil borehole in Denny Inclosure was invalid under planning law because it was on Crown land. The full implications of this are not yet certain.

Forest Affairs. Two important documents were considered by the New Forest Consultative Panel. The Nature Conservancy Council published a report on the unenclosed ancient woodlands of the New Forest, including certain recommendations for management, and the Forestry Commission published its Management Plan for the next ten years. The section made comments on both of these through the panel. The restoration of the Queen's House was completed and the Forestry Commission and the Court of Verderers have returned from their temporary exile.

The Deputy Surveyor Mr D Small retired and was replaced by Mr N Bannister. During an

inspection by members of the panel of felling sites and thinning operations for this year, Mr Bannister pointed out the dangers to the public where old beeches were overhanging car parks and in particular the nature trail in Mark Ash. The section had warned of this when the facilities were made and asked that they should not be sited under old trees, as this would be sure to lead to felling in time. A request was made that instead of felling the Mark Ash trees the trail should be moved and this has been agreed.

Programme. Indoor meetings have been held at the Crown Hotel, Lyndhurst, which has proved to be a popular venue. After the AGM Mr Maldwin Drummond spoke on the New Forest Museum, which is to be built in the car park in Lyndhurst. In November Dr Peter Edwards gave a most interesting talk on 'The effects of grazing in the New Forest'. Dr Edwards is a lecturer in Ecology at Southampton University and his talk was so well-attended that a move had to be made to a larger room.

In May Mr H A Collinson led a walk along part of the 'Castleman's Corkscrew', the track of the former railway through the New Forest. This has been the subject of a talk in 1982 by Mr J F James. In July members visited the excavation conducted by Mr D Johnston of the 'Roman road' at Stoney Cross, followed by a tour of the wartime airfield there led by Mr L Curl. A visit was paid in August to Roydon Woods, Brockenhurst, a nature reserve of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists Trust.

Outside the Forest, Mrs Irvine represented the Hampshire Field Club at the opening of an important new National Nature Reserve along and behind the Solent shore, on part of the Cadland estate of Mr Maldwin Drummond.

J.I.