

REPORTS ON THE YEAR 1984

THE FIELD CLUB

Secretary's Report

1984 was a relatively quiet year for me, as the main burdens fell on others. As usual, there were four Council meetings, but meetings of the Executive were discontinued after a single meeting. Attendances always fall when affairs are going smoothly. The Annual General Meeting was unusually early this year, on 18 April, and was poorly attended as usual in spite of the provision of refreshments. No major issues were raised and there were no amendments to the *Rules*. The Secretary and Treasurer were re-elected and Mrs Cleford, Mr Rothery and Mr Surry were elected to Council. The Annual Conference was again held separately, this time in September and organised by the New Forest Section: it was an outstanding success.

The year began with the introduction of new subscriptions. Advance warning and the advance circulation of those paying by bankers order had little effect, so most subscriptions were incorrect and required compensatory action by the Officers. In my absence at York, there was too much work for the Treasurer and the new Membership Secretary: even the appointment of Mr Hanna as Assistant Treasurer was not enough. Everybody, whether they had paid or not, received the March posting; reminders were sent out late; and some new members received nothing. Only in July were the difficulties ironed out. Not surprisingly the Society lost members, some of whom rejoined for 1985. Many Joint Members chose to subscribe as Ordinary Members rather than pay the new subscription and most of those who resigned altogether were Programme Members, who do not pay the full subscription. Income therefore fell less than membership and it is still hoped to avoid raising subscriptions again for four years: the upheaval caused is compelling here. Ironically, one effect of this chaos is that, for the first time since 1980, a majority of members subscribe to

Proceedings. The whole affair illustrated, once again, that the running of the central administration rests in too few hands.

A new combined newsletter was launched this year and was favourably received. Mr Stagg, the Editor as well as our President, deserves great credit for it. Local History was over-represented because not enough material was submitted by the other sections. Also, for the first time, the New Forest *Annual Report* was distributed to all members. The reduced format has kept expenses within bounds and has relieved sections of the main call on their resources. It is no longer necessary to make every event profitable, it was pointed out at the September meeting of Council: sections should spend their grants and subsidise events, as far as possible, to maximise the benefit members receive for their subscriptions. Members should also be charged less than non-members.

1984 is also the year before the Centenary Year and preparations proceeded methodically. At the time of writing, the Annual Conference, AGM and OGS Crawford Memorial Lecture are planned; Miss Robinson is organising the Centenary Exhibition; *Proceedings* will contain a centenary article by Mrs Taylor and other related articles; the sections are preparing their own programmes; and a school essay competition is being planned. With limited resources, the Field Club cannot afford lavish junketings, but substantial sums have been assigned to make 1985 a special year.

Finally, the Society lost three long-serving former Officers, to whom we all owe a considerable debt: Mr R L P Jowitt, a former Secretary and President, Miss Frances Collins, a past Deputy-President, and Mr F Cottrill, for many years Programme Secretary.

Annual Conference at Cadland House, Fawley
On Saturday 29 September eighty members of

the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society attended their annual conference at Cadland House, seat of former President Mr Maldwin Drummond, whose family have owned the estate since 1772. The comfortable modern house, adorned with historic records and pictures, standing in a timbered park, and overlooking the historic Solent, admirably illustrated the theme 'Where the Forest Meets the Sea'.

Mr Adrian Rance reviewed the maritime importance of the Solent estuary, which is so obvious in the twentieth century in Fawley Refinery, the site of the old Cadland House, in the seaplane base at Calshot, and in the development of the hovercraft. All this originated in the Roman need for a port of embarkation for the Seine and in the maritime invasion of Cerdic and his West Saxons, but for many centuries only small ketches and other sailing craft frequented the small ports and muddy creeks of the New Forest, admirably drawn for the charts of Adelard Cole by a member of the audience. Always strategically important, the waterway became more easily protected with the development of cannon and was fortified against continental invasion by Henry VIII with a network of castles, of which Calshot – skilfully described by Mr Jude James – was one. Whether local residents welcomed such protection is doubtful, as the guns were only once fired in anger – against English murderers fleeing to France – and officers of HM Customs were liable to attack from local smugglers. Nelsons Place was formerly called Lazytown, because nobody worked during the day: at night, however, they were active smugglers and poachers, varying their maritime activities with forays against Squire Drummond's coverts. Only recently has Calshot Castle been dwarfed by hangars and become successively ancillary to the seaplane base, modern coastal defences, and the activities centre. It illustrates admirably the adaptation to circumstances that emerged as a secondary theme of the conference.

Even the sea, it emerged, was not a constant factor. Focussing on the inter-tidal zone and, in particular the vast mudbanks, Mr Colin

Tubbs recounted how invasion of *spartina anglica* in the 1930s, and its rapid recent regression, the revival of *zostera*, and the advance of green algae had changed the character of the mudflats, encouraging the proliferation of Brent geese and the decline of waders. Intangible biological influences were supplemented here by the action of man, whose discharge of effluent encouraged algae and whose reclamation of 11% of the Solent basin had caused a rise in the sea level, halving the inter-tidal area by erosion of mudbanks, and had thus rendered existing sea-walls inadequate.

Whereas Mr Tubbs was anxious to protect nature against further artificial threats, Mr Coughlan, a marine biologist employed by the CEEB, was concerned with the protection of man against the sea: *zostera* clogged up power stations, sea creatures could now bore even into fibreglass, and large Korean sea-squirts were colonising piles and sea-walls. These sea-squirts, American clams and *spartina* were all immensely successful imports that were changing the biological and geological character of the Solent basin. The reasons for change were often unclear, but biological research was an essential preliminary to further development.

Like the sea-squirts and indeed Cerdic, the Drummonds were foreign invaders, who had adapted to circumstances and had come to stay. Supposedly originating with Attila the Hun, the Drummonds emerged in Scotland in the thirteenth century as inventors of the caltrop, so effectively used against the English at Bannockburn and now a decorative motif on the carpets at Cadland House. Continuing their discomfiture of the English by supporting the Old Pretender and the Young Pretender, two sons of the Jacobite Lord Strathallan joined Drummonds Bank at Charing Cross actually during the '45. These two prospered, bought Hampshire estates and built Northington Grange and Cadland House.

The Cadland estate, acquired in 1772, was landscaped by Capability Brown, and the existing house contains portraits by Zoffany and china by Wedgwood, all of whom banked

with Drummonds! The original, modest mansion cost the enormous sum of £19,309 but subsequent generations, dazzled by their noble connections, expanded it to truly unmanageable size, even though there was no bathroom until 1926. They moved to the existing house in 1935 and the old one was demolished to make way for Fawley refinery in the 1940s. That the historic family will continue was forcibly demonstrated, when the youngest member impeded his father's account of the family history!

The first Drummond of Cadland also built a cottage orné for recreation. The surrounding 15 acres were landscaped by Capability Brown with the same range of views to be found at his infinitely larger Blenheim Park. This was not appreciated by subsequent Drummonds, who preferred their steam yachts, but fortunately did not destroy the original, increasingly overgrown, plan. Guided by Brown's original plan, the Drummonds have now cleared the accretions of centuries and restored the garden as Capability Brown conceived it. Mrs Gilly Drummond, who told the story and guided the party over the gardens, is now turning her attention to other historic gardens through the Hampshire Gardens Trust.

Formal proceedings ended with a presentation of plants to the hosts, the Drummonds, and there was much appreciation for Mr H A Collinson, who organised the highly successful day with other members of the New Forest Section.

O G S Crawford Memorial Lecture

On 14 July 1984 Dr John Collis spoke at King Alfred's College, Winchester on 'Owlesbury: Iron Age and Roman Farm', the first verbal report to the Society on his excavations, which the Field Club supported financially. What the dig exposed were ditches, post-holes, pits, pottery and burials, the surviving traces of a small agricultural settlement, which together are difficult to date precisely or to interpret. Nevertheless Dr Collis argued for the *archaeological* significance of the site and speculated about its relationship to hill-forts and subsequently Roman villas. Native farms were

more common than villas and probably agriculturally more significant: we need to excavate more sites like Owlesbury before we tackle any more villas or hillforts.

The site was occupied continuously from the fourth century BC to the fourth century AD. It originated as a 'banjo' enclosure, like those at Bramdean and Micheldever Wood, and was associated with coarse hand-made pottery, post-holes and storage pits. In a second phase, perhaps about 100 BC, ditched trackways were laid out and about 50 BC there is evidence of extensive trading contacts. Dating from these phases there are a few prestige finds, indicating the presence of some wealthy individuals. Little was changed at first by the Roman conquest, but the abandonment of the ditches and, c 130/140 AD, changed burial customs, suggest changed agricultural practice and increased reliance on a servile male labour force. Prestige articles ceased to occur, perhaps because the richer inhabitants moved to Winchester, and there were some very deep pits. The latest coin dates from the 380s AD and the settlement was abandoned soon after.

The poor attendance probably resulted from the unusual timing of the lecture, which will not be repeated. In view of the Society's long-standing connection with the site, it was particularly regrettable that so excellent and entertaining a lecture should have been heard by so few.

M.A.H.

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

This year the Section has undergone a change of Secretary, with Annic Robinson standing down after several busy and successful years in the post. Activities have not been numerous, but those which have taken place were greatly enjoyed.

Continuing the successful policy of recent years, lectures were run in conjunction with local societies: on December 1st 1983, Dick Whinney, the Section President, spoke to a well-attended meeting held jointly with the Basingstoke Local History and Archaeological

Society. The subject was the recent excavations carried out at the Easton Lane interchange to the east of Winchester. The audience learned of the wealth of evidence from the Neolithic to the Romano-British periods found on the site. Another joint lecture was held on February 10th 1984, this time in association with the Aldershot Historical and Archaeological Society, at Aldershot Library Hall. It was delivered by Dr Edwin Course, who spoke about industrial archaeology in north Hampshire.

Two field-trips took place this summer: on April 29th, Michael Hughes and Philip Colebourne continued their study of the Wayfarers Walk Long Distance Footpath, this year walking from Kilmeston to Warnford. Several features of the historic landscape were observed, including Bronze Age barrows, parish boundaries and field systems. The party was also shown how old woodland could be identified from plant indicators, and how hedges could be roughly dated by investigating plant colonisation. The highlight of the day was a visit to the surviving earthworks of the deserted medieval village at Lomer.

A 'Pitt-Rivers Day' was held on 15th July; Clare Conybeare led a party around some of the most famous sites excavated by the founding father of modern archaeology. The first visit was to South Lodge Camp in Cranbourne Chase. Here the Late Bronze Age rectangular earthwork reconstructed by General Pitt-Rivers was examined. The party next visited Woodcutts, a Roman hamlet situated high on the North Dorset downs. The hut circles, trackway and enclosure banks were all visible and the famous wells (one originally over fifty metres deep) were also observed. Wor barrow, a Neolithic burial monument, was next on the itinerary. Although largely reconstructed by the General after total excavation, the site was indeed impressive. The day ended with a visit to the marvellous new Pitt-Rivers Gallery at Salisbury Museum, where the party not only saw many of the original finds from the sites but also learned more of the career and outlook of this eccentric but brilliant man.

About sixty people attended the Annual Conference, held on 17th November. This year it was titled 'The Archaeology of Industry in Hampshire' and, as usual, it was held at the Department of Adult Education in the University of Southampton. The Committee wished to adopt a broad thematic approach to the subject involving all periods, avoiding complete concentration on the technological developments of post-medieval times. In the event, a successful blend of these two approaches was achieved. Three thematic sessions were held, entitled: 'The Raw Materials', 'Men at Work' and 'Delivering the Goods'. David Johnston and Kevin Stubbs opened the first session with a talk on pottery and brickmaking from pre-historic times to the present day. Dr Peter Ovenden outlined the development of iron-working in Hampshire over a similar period. The final paper of the morning was presented by Adrian Rance who gave a detailed account of the rise of the shipbuilding industry in Southampton during the past two hundred years. The second session 'Men at Work' encompassed three subjects: John Silman presented an informative account of the milling industry, discussing both wind and water power. Elizabeth Lewis gave a short talk on the little known sixteenth century glassmaking industry in Hampshire. Finally, Dr Martin Doughty provided a glimpse into the brewing industry with particular reference to the Winchester evidence. Session three, 'Delivering the Goods', concentrated on the roads, canals and railways of the County. David Johnston summarised the pre-historic and Roman evidence, and Dr Edwin Course outlined the more recent methods of transport and communication, with particular reference to the decline and disappearance of the canals and railways.

M.M.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SECTION

The Section is now in its third year, and the past twelve months have witnessed a steady growth in its membership and the fulfilling of

most of the hopes of those who worked to create the new Section in the autumn of 1982.

During the 1982-3 winter season members attended lectures by Miss Elizabeth Lewis on 'Historic Wall Paintings in Hampshire' (followed by a visit to some wall paintings *in situ* in a neighbouring Romsey public house); by Mr Gordon Pearson on 'The Chalk Cob Walls of Wessex'; by Mr Peter Reid, advisor to the National Monuments Record, on 'The Country Houses of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight'; and by Mr John Reynolds on 'Hampshire Mills'. The Section's AGM was combined with a conference, held at King Alfred's College, entitled 'The Conservation and Preservation of Ancient Buildings', at which the speakers were Mr Peter Blakesley, retiring Chairman of the Section, Mrs Corinne Bennett, the Architect to the Dean and Chapter of Winchester, Mr Mike Pearce of the Hampshire Historic Buildings Bureau, and Mr Charles Brentnall, an expert in the dismantling and re-erection of timber-frame buildings.

During the winter season some lessons were learned about the need for actively promoting and advertising our activities, especially by circulating other societies and groups; and above all it was made clear that a reasonable audience could only be assured by holding winter meetings in Winchester itself. This evidently conflicts with the Section's policy of spreading our activities to more distant parts of Hampshire; and the intention is to encourage 'joint meetings' with local amenity societies, with the dual benefit of assuring an adequate audience and widening the Section's contacts throughout Hampshire.

Possibly the most successful of our winter events was the exhibition of the Section's activities displayed at the Winchester City Museum by kind invitation of Miss Elizabeth Lewis. The exhibition was entitled 'Hampshire Buildings', and it was intended to demonstrate the wide range of activities promoted by the Section. It ran for over five weeks, during which time over 1,750 people visited the museum, most of whom examined our prominent display, which occupied most of the ground floor area.

The summer season of 1984 opened with a Field Trip: a visit to chalk cob structures in and around King's Somborne, organised by Mr Gordon Pearson as a follow-up to his winter lecture. The following month members were taken on a successful tour of Southampton churches, and there were opportunities of visiting St Julian's and St Peter's Churches, which are not normally open to the public. Later in the summer a small group participated in measuring a timber-framed building in Romsey. But the main event of the summer season was a Day Conference held at Marsh Court by kind permission of the Headmaster, Mr E G Broadbent. The speakers were Mr Peter Reid, Mrs Jane Brown, author of *Gardens of a Golden Afternoon*, Mr Kevin Stubbs and Miss Krysia Bilikowski; and there were opportunities of touring the house; as well as of picnicking in the delightful gardens. Eighty people attended this conference, including several members of the Lutyens family. The formula – a conference with distinguished speakers talking about a house and its gardens – was clearly successful, and we hope to repeat it at a different venue in 1985.

When the Section was created, one of its main objectives was to monitor applications for consent to demolish or alter listed buildings in the County, and to keep an eye on 'developments' generally. This demanding task had hitherto been undertaken by Mr Peter Blakesley, the Field Club's Historic Buildings' Secretary. During the first two years of the Section's existence it proved difficult to recruit local representatives to undertake this work; but the growth of the Section has brought a number of well-qualified candidates who are now acting as 'listed buildings correspondents' for their parts of Hampshire. Mr Blakesley having retired after several years' important work for the Society, the role of coordinator has been taken over by the Section Secretary. The Section, acting on behalf of the Field Club, represents the Council for British Archaeology in the matter of vetting listed building consents; and he forwards the statutory notifications to the local correspondents who examine the cases and comment as

they think fit. Some areas of Hampshire are still poorly represented; and we should welcome applications from prospective 'correspondents'. What is required is an ability to read architects' drawings and to evaluate the implications of the proposals described in the applications.

A number of changes have taken place on the Committee of this Section. A year ago Mr Peter Blakesley resigned from the office of Chairman and Mr Nicholas Molyneux was elected in his stead. Owing to Mr Molyneux' departure from Winchester for a post in the West Midlands he, too, has had to resign as Chairman; and Dr Doughty was elected Chairman in his place at the 1984 AGM. Mr Molyneux continues to serve on the Committee, and is on the Field Club's Editorial Board for Historic Buildings. Miss Karen Parker has taken over his rôle as Newsletter Editor, and material for publication in the Newsletter should be addressed to her at the City Museum. Mr Tom Maile was also elected to the Committee at the 1984 AGM.

P.M.J.C.

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

The Local History Section enjoyed a successful and interesting season in 1983-4.

The Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer of the Section remained the same as in the previous year, and the Committee met on three occasions for the purpose of devising programmes. Miss G Rushton, however, resigned the editorship of the *Newsletter* – a post which she had filled with great efficiency and dedication. Her place was taken by Mr T Mayberry of the Hampshire Record Office.

Three meetings were held in 1984.

First, on Saturday 7th April, the Section's Spring Symposium was held at Southampton University's Adult Education Department, its subject being 'Nineteenth-Century Towns in Hampshire'. Dr John Davis began the day with a general talk on 'The Development of English Towns in the Nineteenth Century', designed to give a context for the later discussion of

Hampshire's urban change during that period. Dr Martin Doughty next spoke about Southampton, giving a detailed and vivid account of the various problems the city experienced in Victorian times, the manner in which they were tackled, and the sources for the study. After lunch, Mrs P Berrow spoke about Romsey in the last century and Mr D Spruce described the changes that took place in Basingstoke. The day ended with a lecture by Dr John Soane on 'The Development of Bournemouth as a Watering Place', in which the town's rise as a resort was compared and contrasted with developments of this type elsewhere. The Hampshire Record Office mounted an exhibition showing the source material for the meeting's general theme. Some fifty members attended.

Secondly, on 16th June, the annual Summer Outing took place. The Section visited Farnborough and Aldershot, and the North-East Hampshire Archaeological Society and the Aldershot Historical and Archaeological Society kindly acted as hosts and guides on this outing. The first visit was to Farnborough Hill School, a splendid and extraordinary building, and formerly the home of the Empress Eugénie, the widow of Napoleon III of France. There followed a tour of the vernacular architecture of Farnborough, conducted by Mr Gordon Peake. Then, in the afternoon, the party moved on to Aldershot, and was shown by Mr T Childerhouse the Wellington Monument, the archaeological site of the Bats-Hog-Sty, and the recently-restored 1854 Guardroom and Cells. The day ended with a visit to Farnborough Abbey, where Napoleon III, his wife and son are buried.

Thirdly, on Saturday 6th October, the Section held its Annual General Meeting at Christchurch, using the Georgian Priory House as its venue. The day opened with an introductory lecture by Dr Brian Golding of the University of Southampton on the subject of 'The Archaeology of Christchurch and its District'. Next, the meeting heard two further talks on the medieval history of the town: Mr David Stagg on 'The Cartulary of Christchurch Priory' and Dr Michael Hicks on 'The

Chantries of Christchurch'. After lunch, the group visited the beautiful Priory Church, and were given a guided tour of the main body of the building, and also of the Anglo-Saxon crypt. They then visited the Red House Museum, with its notable natural history collection, and finally, Mr Arthur Lloyd gave a fascinating lecture on 'Christchurch and the Smugglers'.

1984 also saw the introduction of a new format of *Newsletter* whereby the Section's contributions were placed in a volume containing notes and articles from the Field Club as a whole. Generally, the change met with a favourable response.

Financially, the Section was in a position of strength in 1983-4. This allowed the continuation of the purchase of microfilms of documents relating to Hampshire's history kept in national archives. It also made possible a reduction in the charge for the Christchurch meeting as compared with the previous year. C.M.H.

NEW FOREST SECTION

The Section held the following meetings and lectures during the year:

At the AGM in March a talk on the excavations at Buck Knowle Farm, Dorset, was presented by Geoffrey Collins. In October, Mark Brisbane gave a most detailed and interesting talk on 'Saxon Southampton'.

Field meetings were held on 'Plants of West Hampshire Chalk', by John Ounsted; an archaeological walk round Sloden, for coppice banks, pounds and other earthworks, led by Anthony Pasmore; a demonstration of methods of trapping small mammals by Stephen Hill, held in Roydon Woods Nature Reserve; and a joint meeting with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Naturalists Trust on 'Dragonflies' on Beaulieu Heath, led by David Winsland.

The Section hosted the Hampshire Field Club One Day Conference in September, and this was organised by H A Collinson, and held in the delightful surroundings of Cadland House, by kind permission of Mr and Mrs

Maldwin Drummond. The theme was 'Where the Forest meets the Sea', and the major papers read were on the 'Drummonds of Cadland', by Maldwin Drummond, 'Ships that have Passed', by Adrian Rance (read by H A Collinson in the author's unavoidable absence) and 'Capability Brown and Cadland's Cottage Orn ', by Gilly Drummond. There were also three short 'Cameos of the Solent Shore', on 'The Changing Environment of the Solent' by Colin Tubbs, 'Marine Life of the Solent Shore' by Jack Coughlan, and 'Calshot Castle, a Solent Fort' by Jude James. Members were later taken round the remaining works of Capability Brown and shown how these are being restored. The day was much enjoyed by those attending.

At its meetings the Section Committee continued to monitor plans and development in the New Forest, including re-affirming its opposition to any route for a bypass for Lyndhurst that takes it through Forest land. Some concern was felt at the change of name from 'New Forest Museum' to 'New Forest Centre', as it was felt that this led to too much emphasis on the tourist information side of the project. However, it has been announced that the title has now reverted to 'Museum'.

Matters considered and commented on within the Forest itself included a new car park near Boldreford Bridge, which, though welcome in that it will keep cars away from the bridge area and ease the increasing erosion there, still leaves a considerable depth of penetration into the open Forest. Guided walks for visitors, the impact of orienteering and damage done by excessive pressure from riding establishments, and the serious concern at accidents to commoners' animals were other topics during the year, as were the plans put forward by Hampshire County Council for the dangerous crossroads at Marpit Oak, between Sway and Brockenhurst. The plans for improving the safety at the Picket Post junction, subject of a public inquiry last year, have been held back pending investigation into a new route suggested by Shell, owners of the petrol station there.

Three notable reports on New Forest commons have been published by the RSPCA, Nature Conservancy Council and Countryside Commission, and are now being studied by New Forest organisations.

Excavation was continued at the site at Church Green, and a full report will be published in the Section's Annual Report for 1984. J.I.