

REPORTS ON THE YEAR 1987

THE FIELD CLUB

Secretary's Report

1987 was a good year for the Society. Membership increased marginally, a threatened financial crisis failed to materialise, and new publicity leaflets and posters promised more effective communication with non-members than ever before. A splendid array of events was offered, the summer programme being particularly successful, and the Archaeology Section conference on the Brooks attracted more people than any event for many years. The new Landscape Section organised two successful conferences and can now be regarded as having established itself. Plans were made for a Local History Fair in March 1988, perhaps the first of a regular sequence, which it is hoped will re-establish the leadership of Hampshire's local historians that the Society enjoyed in the early days of the Local History Section. *Proceedings* volume 43, largest and most varied of recent issues, was particularly well-received and the year ended with one archaeological monograph ready for publication, another in the press, and a third ready for estimate. Even the need for a new publisher for the *Newsletter* looked likely to result in significant economies.

Two amendments to the Society's constitution were made at the Annual General Meeting on 20 May 1987. Henceforth institutional members that are educational institutions will be allowed to send up to 15 full-time pupils/students to all meetings, a measure designed to encourage the Landscape Section's appeal to schools and to bring in younger people who are not attracted by relatively expensive student membership. Some fruits of this were seen in attendance of students at discretionary rates at the November conferences. These, we hope, are the members of the future. Secondly, membership of Council was altered to take account of realities: henceforth Membership,

Publications, and Programme Secretaries and the Publicity Officer would be ex officio members, leaving the six elected places available for ordinary members. One other change in administrative practice made by Council rather than the AGM was provision for regular review of the membership of the Editorial Board. As a result, Dr Barton (Geology), Dr Edwards (Natural History), Dr James (Local History) and Mr Molyneux (Historic Buildings) were confirmed in office for a further three years; Mrs Moore, who stood down, was succeeded by Dr Riley as Industrial Archaeology Editor. The Society is fortunate to be so well-served in all these positions.

The Annual General Meeting took a slightly different form this year. Besides the business meeting and refreshments there was a Presidential Address on 'Maud Heath's Causeway and Medieval Roads', which was a great success and was widely praised. Attendance did not improve, however, and the arrangements for the evening were not ideal. Council disagreed whether refreshments should be dropped or whether the social side of the event should be further developed? 1988 will therefore witness a further experiment. The business meeting itself passed without incident. The amendments to the constitution proposed by Council were approved, the existing Secretary (Dr Hicks) and Treasurer (Mr Caudell) were re-elected, and Mr Edwards, Mr Yates and Mrs Yoward were elected to Council. Council itself held three meetings during the year.

Apart from the Annual Conference, regrettably poorly attended, and the Crawford Lecture, both separately reported below, the Society shared in a conference on 'The Early Modern Town' at Tudor Merchants Hall, Southampton organised by Southern History Society on 7 February, and in a Special Evening Viewing to the splendid exhibition on Pleasure Grounds organised by Hampshire Gardens Trust at Southampton City Art Gal-

lery. Particularly striking at these and other events was increased attendance by members of affiliated societies. It is these that the Local History Fair is particularly designed to serve as the Field Club asserts its role as premier county society and seeks to be coordinator of county activities.

Annual Conference, Brighton Hill Community Centre, Basingstoke, Saturday 19th September 1987

This year's theme was the 'Rise of Suburbia' and appropriately the conference was held in a modern suburb in accordance with our policy of holding events around the county. Regrettably only about thirty members attended to hear the seven speakers but they had a most illuminating day.

The first speaker was Dr Tom James, Local History Editor, on 'Medieval and Early Modern Suburbs'. After coffee Mr Derek Spruce, Open University, and Dr Martin Doughty, Historic Buildings Section, spoke in turn on the 'Rise of Suburbia' and 'Challenge of Suburbia' in the period 1800–1939. These themes were expanded after lunch by Dr Michael Hicks (Sewage and Sewerage), Mr Alec Samuels (Parks and Open Spaces), and Mr Robert Jowitt, son of the former President, on Trams and Buses. Finally after tea Dr Martin Bateman, Dean of Environmental Studies at Portsmouth Polytechnic, spoke on 'The Rise of Suburbia Today'.

The speakers ranged widely, drawing on examples from Stockholm, Paris and the United States, and employing a range of visual aids. By the end three themes emerged particularly clearly.

First of all, suburbs have existed since at least Roman times, but have constantly changed in function. Early Medieval suburbs mixed residential and industrial premises indiscriminately. Most craftsmen, after all, worked from home. Some, however, plied repulsive trades, such as tanning, and were increasingly restricted to the suburbs, together with the poor who could not afford prime sites in the city centre. By 1500, the norm was that the rich lived in the centre, the poor on the

periphery, a situation reversed in the Victorian era, when improvements in transport made it possible for the wealthy to live in more spacious and healthier suburbs and to commute in. Finally, in our present era, employment has tended to move to the suburbs and suburban dwellers to move into the county, leaving derelict inner cities not worth commuting to any more. Some such developments can be seen already in Hampshire, at Basingstoke for example, but many more abroad. Our English suburbs, it emerged, are not at all an inevitable solution to housing problems. Many Europeans and Scots live in flats or tenements rather than suburban houses, and suburbs like Brighton Hill and Badgers Farm in Winchester, equipped with their own hypermarkets and inhabited by car-owners, contrast sharply with the tower blocks on tube lines of postwar Stockholm.

Secondly, the great age of suburbanisation was undoubtedly the Victorian and Edwardian era, when Hampshire towns grew, developed suburbs, and became themselves dormitories for London. Mr Spruce traced neatly the way in which the development of Basingstoke conformed to the national pattern. Suburbia offered more space and health, but it offered a great range of problems: sewerage, water-supply, overcrowding and jerry-building, lighting, policing, recreation, etc. Many of these services already existed, but expansion made old provision inadequate and demanded new solutions. Sewage disposal was particularly acute, requiring drastic solutions that strained contemporary technology and put up the rates. The comprehensive drainage system that appeared in almost all towns was accepted only slowly and reluctantly, Gosport being particularly remiss, and brought with it our modern council system. It is not too much to say that Victorian drainage revolutionised local government. Sewerage has long since passed to the waterboards, now in imminent danger of privatisation, but local councils are with us still.

Drainage completed, other facilities were provided: buses and trams to get to work; parks and open spaces as lungs where subur-

ban dwellers could breathe; water, gas, public libraries, baths, electricity, council housing and so on. How successfully the problems were solved is shown by the fact that in 1895 the Thames Conservancy was ensuring on effluent from sewage farms pure enough to drink, whereas in 1876 people of Romsey drained sewers into the Fishlake and took their drinking water from it. As late as 1866 the *Portsmouth Times* favoured earth closets over water closets and denounced our modern water-borne drainage system as untried and theoretical!

Thirdly, Dr Doughty, Mr Samuels and Mr Jowitt brought home how far Hampshire's experience was part of the national picture. Problems and solutions came at different times everywhere, but national legislation and buildings regulations, national developments in drainage and transport technology, and national demands for commons and parks shaped what happened in Hampshire. Hampshire's commons (e.g. Southampton) and village greens were among those saved from development and Hampshire's sewage farms drew on many models elsewhere (e.g. Aldershot). Hampshire's council estates (e.g. Leigh Park, Stanmore), garden suburbs (e.g. Wymmering), and modern estates conform not only to the national pattern in conception but also, as Dr Bateman showed, in their present residents. Thus Leigh Park has few infants and many pensioners, modern estates the reverse, and Hampshire's prosperous but almost busless countryside is densely populated with two-car families. Whatever the future holds, Hampshire's suburbia rises still.

O G S Crawford Memorial Lecture 1987

The thirtieth memorial lecture was delivered by Mr Anthony Pasmore on Saturday 5th December at Tudor Merchants Hall, Southampton. Forty members were present. Proceedings were chaired by the President Mr Jude James, himself a resident of the New Forest, and were followed by refreshments.

This was Mr Pasmore's second Crawford Lecture on 'The Archaeology of the New

Forest', which testifies both to his personal contribution as outstanding archaeologist of the Forest since Heywood Sumner and his share in the outstanding achievements of the New Forest Section fieldwork group. Whereas relatively well-financed professional units have transformed our knowledge of the Hampshire chalklands, Winchester and Southampton, much of the county has been ignored. In the New Forest the mantle fell on Mr Pasmore and his helpers. They could not afford excavation except as a last resort, but much work went into their fieldwork, which is particularly valuable for heaths and woodlands, where vegetation conceals so much from aerial photography.

To illustrate his work, Mr Pasmore focused on four different problems that he had tackled. Earliest in date, perhaps Bronze Age, were the boiling mounds, of which hundreds survive in the New Forest and which observation, excavation and experiment have proved to have been used for boiling large quantities of water. Second are the mysterious banked enclosures, sometimes covered with slate fragments, at Church Place, Denney and Ashurst, Studley Castle and elsewhere. These have proved to be medieval forest lodges. Many other small banked enclosures at Holmsley Ridge and elsewhere may have been connected with keeping bees and yet others were the work of charcoal-burners, who did not cease working in the New Forest until the 1920s. Such unspectacular finds illuminate not only our prehistory but the social history and occupations of the relatively recent past. Much that is mysterious about the New Forest is in fact modern and few of these discoveries have called for excavation.

Occasionally, however, digging is appropriate. For eleven seasons (1976-86) the Section has excavated the strikingly beautiful site of Church Green, finding pottery kilns, barrows and ditches among the trees: a uniquely New Forest setting. Regrettably their very success has produced quantities of artefacts too great for amateurs to handle – notably the pottery – and so the excavation has finished. Fieldwork continues to produce new

discoveries every year and the results are duly published each year in the New Forest Section's *Annual Report*, but archaeology often depends on excavation to test its hypotheses and these the New Forest seems to be denied. Although apparently unpromising at first, the New Forest has much to offer the archaeologist and the successes of Mr Pasmore deserve applause and remind us how much scope there still is for the non-professional.

M.A.H.

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

The 1987 programme began quietly with the cancellation of a field-trip to Bath, which was undersubscribed. The second visit on 25 July was more successful. Some 25 members were conducted on a tour of the town and defences of Chichester by John Magilton, Director of the Chichester District Archaeological Unit. The tour included the famous Neptune and Minerva inscription and also the surviving portion of the Franciscan Friary, in which the Guildhall Museum is now housed. After lunch in Chichester the group toured the Trundle hillfort with John Magilton again as guide before proceeding to the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton. The remainder of the afternoon was spent viewing the collection of vernacular buildings from South-East England.

The year's social evening was combined with a talk on 'Mosaics' at Winchester City Museum on Friday 18 September. Pamela Johnston organised refreshments, whilst members studied the display prepared by the speaker. A visit was then paid to the mosaic on view in the Deanery porch, after which David Johnston delivered an illustrated lecture to a capacity audience, concentrating on examples from the Winchester area, including Sparsholt Roman Villa.

The highpoint of the year was undoubtedly the Annual Conference (organised jointly with Winchester Archaeology Office) on 14 November at Winchester Guildhall, which was attended by 180 people. The theme was the Brooks excavations taking place in Winchester

from March 1987 to July 1988. David Johnston chaired the opening papers by Dick Whinney, John Collis and Jo Bailey. As a general background to the excavation, Dick Whinney explained how the site had become available to the archaeological service; what was to be built there; and how long they had for digging. Ladbroke's had given until July 1988 before beginning on a complex to include two subterranean levels of car-parking, which would thus totally destroy all surviving archaeology.

We were next taken back some years in a very interesting and entertaining lecture by John Collis on the previous excavations in the vicinity. Here had been found a well-preserved Roman town house, which included a mosaic panel close to the road for visitors to see, together with a courtyard, domestic buildings and an underfloor heating system. The medieval finds were unfortunately less impressive. There was a stone building that could have been a church and other miscellaneous items such as pieces of leather and a late Saxon child's shoe.

Jo Bailey spoke enlighteningly on the publicity side of the Brooks excavation – an aspect few people consider. Obviously an important site, the Brooks needed suitable publicity, logos and exhibition materials. The exhibition and the site itself were visited by those able to stand the cold weather after lunch. The first afternoon session, chaired by Tony King, was the time for explaining discoveries from the Brooks site itself and featured talks by Mike Morris and Graham Scobie.

Mike Morris began by outlining the Roman details of the site in a colourful and interesting talk. The main Roman feature so far discovered is the courtyard house with its underfloor heating system and several mosaics, unfortunately poorly located for visitors to see. A lot of the area is badly cut by later pits, but a number of finds have been discovered including one pit containing numerous coins and a bead necklace. The pottery from the building indicated that it was not demolished before AD 350.

Graham Scobie then told us about the medieval finds. So far two town houses have been found, one belonging to John de Tyting and

the other perhaps to Roger the Vintner. Although both could have been fairly wealthy, the former was not only a wool merchant but an alderman, mayor and MP. His elevated status emerges from the size and layout of his house. It was possible to show the approximate development of the house from two distinct residences to a single very large one containing servants' quarters, kitchen, shops fronting the street, large hall, living accommodation for family, and garderobe. The other house was more conventional in design, but just as interesting. In its backyard there was a tank stained by fullers earth.

After breaking for tea, Ken Qualmann took the chair to introduce Martin Biddle on the context of these new discoveries. Professor Biddle demonstrated how Winchester could have developed from a first century fort into a Roman town and then into the Anglo-Saxon capital of Wessex. After 1066 Winchester became instead a centre of local activity. Among the interesting questions posed was whether the different levels of the archaeological evidence indicated that Winchester was originally sited on undulating ground and what happened in the late- and post-Roman period for which there is so little surviving evidence? All these questions derived from details found either in the Brooks site itself or elsewhere in the town. Given sufficient time and funds, the Archaeology Office can expect to provide answers as digging proceeds.

Although several officers wished to withdraw from office, all kindly agreed to stay for another year and were re-elected at the AGM on 14 November: Geoff Denford, Chairman; Mike Morris, Secretary; Tony King, Treasurer and Newsletter Editor. Subsequently, however, Jo Bailey took on the Secretaryship from Mike Morris, who has shouldered the burden for five years and deserves everyone's gratitude.

G.D./M.M./H.S.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SECTION

The section has again organised a varied and popular series of winter evening lectures in

Winchester and an eventful summer programme. The *Newsletter* also continues to provide an outlet for the work of the section. On behalf of the Field Club and the Council for British Archaeology the section's vetting of listed building planning applications has shown that the Society can provide an important resource in manpower and expertise towards the conservation and management of the county's built heritage.

We were shocked this year by the sudden death of our committee member Col. Kenneth Roberts, one of the Field Club's most respected and longstanding members. The Hambledon meeting he had organised went ahead as a memorial to him under the leadership of Mrs Roberts assisted by Elizabeth Lewis and committee members. It proved one of our most successful gatherings. Apart from houses in the village generously opened to us, including the Roberts' own, tours of the multi-period parish church and the medieval seigneurial house at Rookwood Farm were enjoyed. The meeting opened with an illustrated talk and exhibition by Mrs Roberts and closed with a cream tea, both in the new village hall. Another success was the joint meeting with the Landscape Section designed to take in the results of recent discoveries at Southwick, and directed by G Soffe and C Currie. Although the priory refectory and fish ponds were to focus our attention, the parish church, brewery and vernacular houses in the village were also examined in some detail, followed by a foray to Pinsley motte-and-bailey castle and the earlier priory church at Portchester Castle.

Dr John Hare followed his evening lecture on his research into the medieval building accounts of Bishops Waltham Palace with a guided tour of the surviving buildings and the new museum. Francis Green led the Romsey day held in conjunction with NADFAS. Few will forget the abbey visit with its tour of the triforia, belfry and tower roof, and Dr Yoshio Kusaba's discussion of the architectural development and Romanesque sculpture. This meeting was based at King John's House and the adjacent Tudor Cottage provided the object of our traditional recording session, led

by G Soffe. Another tradition, a study visit to an 'unknown' country house, led us this year to Stanbridge Earls in the Test Valley, again guided by Mr Green. The autumn conference on 'Dating Techniques' at King Alfred's College, Winchester, featured expert speakers of national repute, but attendance figures were disappointing. At the Annual General Meeting the committee was re-elected *en bloc* and now stands as follows: Dr M Doughty (chairman), G Soffe (programme secretary), F Green (treasurer), J Crook (listed buildings), N Molyneux (editorial), Ms K Parker (Newsletter), D Hinton, Mrs A Sutton, E Roberts, T Maile, and P Davis.

The section has examined about 200 planning applications for listed building consent and objections were made in about 40 cases. For example we have objected to the proposed development of Palace Gate, Odiham, an important group of domestic and agricultural buildings all listed grade II*, standing on the site of a royal manor of probable pre-Conquest origin. Another noteworthy case is that of 33 High Street, Winchester. Here we have objected to alterations to a fine 15th-century timber-framed house, one of a pair and a rare survival in the city. Most areas of the county are now well covered by active correspondents and co-operative planning authorities; Winchester, Portsmouth, Southampton, the New Forest and the Test Valley in particular. Nevertheless, the south-east and parts of the north need closer attention from all sides to prevent cases slipping through the net.

G.S.

LANDSCAPE SECTION

As the inaugural year of the Landscape Section, 1987 was particularly active because of the need to establish the section's presence with the Society's members. Its ventures became increasingly successful as the year wore on in spite of the committee suffering unforeseen depletions.

The year commenced with a well-attended

conference on 7 March on 'Approaches to the Hampshire Landscape'. The audience was treated to wide-ranging papers by Mike Broderick on 'Geographical Approaches', Ray Riley on 'Industrial Landscape', and John Hare on 'An Historian's Reflections on the Hampshire Landscape' and a more focused paper by Stephen Gray on 'Settlement Models in the Meon Valley'. Summaries appear in the Autumn 1987 Newsletter.

This was followed in May by a field trip to the Meon Valley led by Mr Gray and other members of the Fareham Landscape Archaeology Group (FLAG). The itinerary included the deserted village at Lomer and excavations at Meonstoke. Good attendance was rewarded by cream teas generously provided by one of the local farmers who had welcomed the section on to his land.

The field-trips that followed this outing were attended by the most appalling weather. Nevertheless, on an odd day of very high winds more reminiscent of March than June, the section co-organised with the Historic Buildings Section a day at Southwick to visit the village, the priory site scheduled for excavation, and Southwick Park, the former estate of the Nortons and Thistlewaites. Over 60 people attended, most of them still in attendance at 7 pm when this marathon session ended.

Further field trips were organised to Selborne, Royden Wood and Rhinefield, the latter two jointly with the New Forest Section by courtesy of Mrs Jean Cobb, member of both committees. The Selborne trip was greeted by the worst weather to date, which prevented many of those booked from attending. The Royden trip was similarly marred but revelation of a 'new discovery' amply compensated. As well as being charmed by Boldre church on its 900th anniversary, members viewed a very fine example of a medieval fishpond dam previously unrecorded. There are now over eighty medieval fishponds in Hampshire, most discovered in the last decade. The last field-trip overcame the weather by being held indoors. This was the October meeting to the Exhibition Centre of the Ordnance Survey at

Maybush, Southampton. Most were unprepared for the scale of the tour laid on for the section and all left impressed by what they had seen.

This meeting served as a prelude to the section's second conference of the year on 'Maps and the Landscape' in November. This meeting served as a splendid culmination to a highly successful inaugural year. Seventy-five members attended to hear such distinguished speakers as Professors Harvey and Beresford on estate maps and townscapes. Both showed how they attained their eminence with well-researched and original discourses. They did not, however, overshadow other contributors. Roy Canham on aerial photography, Bill Boismier on computerised mapping of prehistoric landscapes, and Elizabeth Hughes on maps at the Hampshire Record Office gave talks of high quality. At the end of the day the total attendance did not do the conference justice. How unlucky were those members who did not come!

Other efforts to promote landscape studies were courses of lectures given at Chandlers Ford and Fareham. Both were oversubscribed. The Fareham course will be repeated to cope with further applications and both have been extended into the following term with classes enlarged to cope with continuing applications.

Following a series of unforeseen withdrawals, Mrs Smale became Secretary, Mr Currie Programme Secretary, Miss Gosling Treasurer, and Dr Hare Newsletter Editor at the AGM. Mrs Cobb, Miss Bilikowski and Dr Gardner left the committee and Mrs Ray and Mrs Kingston joined it.

C.K.C.

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

During 1987 the Local History Section followed its now established programme pattern of Spring Symposium, Summer Outing and Autumn AGM. Nevertheless, the year did see some changes or pointers to change.

The Spring Symposium was the last to be

mounted in co-operation with, and at, Southampton University, Bob Douch's retirement marking the end of a successful and valued liaison. The theme for this very full day was 'Hampshire Elementary Schools in the Nineteenth Century'. Bob Douch set the scene by outlining the national background to Victorian education. Sarah Lewin of the Hampshire Record Office then indicated some of the source material available in the Record Office and followed her talk with a most enjoyable practical workshop session, during which photocopies of original documents, such as log books and admissions registers, could be studied and discussed. After lunch Geoffrey Burnaby of the County Architect's Department spoke on 'The Evidence of School Buildings' and showed slides of relevant photographs and plans. These slides, shown in pairs on two screens, offered interesting contrasts between the nineteenth and twentieth century views of the same buildings. David Jordan followed with a paper on 'The Portsea Beneficial Society School' where the naval-style punishments and discipline contrasted with the enlightened attitudes and curriculum to be found at 'King Somborne School under the headship of the Reverend Richard Dawes', as next described by Cyril Piggot. Alan Leonard gave the final talk of the day. His subject was 'Southampton Schools, 1850-1880', which revealed the efforts of the Southampton School Board in increasing the number and quality of the schools in its area and in maintaining harmonious relationships between its members. Certain questioning themes recurred throughout all the talks. Why did the Victorians exaggerate their false morality by separating the sexes in such an unnatural way? Were their educational philosophies dictated by true philanthropy or by a desire to promote specific religious beliefs and, in many cases, to control the education of the masses? The day was generally enjoyable and thought-provoking.

The 1987 Summer Outing took a determined group of stalwart walkers to a very wet and gloomy Titchfield, where, however, they were able to enjoy an excellent day's

programme organised by George Watts. The morning was devoted to the Abbey and the Tithe Barn and Fishponds, George Watts and Christopher Currie leading alternating groups. A brief visit was paid to the Corn Mill on the way back to the village centre. After lunch Michael Hare spoke to the whole group inside St Peter's Church, which still retains elements of its Saxon origins, as well as memorials to the Wriothlesley family who rebuilt the Abbey as Place House after the Dissolution. The group then split into two again. George Watts led a tour of the outer village where evidence of the economic history of Titchfield could be seen in the form of the now picturesque canal and the sites of the tannery and gasworks. An exchange of groups then enabled everyone to take advantage of David Lloyd's detailed architectural tour of the inner village buildings, some of which have a most complicated and surprising history. The fact that members' spirits were not as damp as the day was a tribute to the good nature and expertise of the guides and to the hospitality of the Titchfield History Society.

The final event of 1987 was the AGM at Andover which was hosted and meticulously organised by the Andover History Society. The venue was the extremely comfortable Upper Chamber of the Andover Guildhall and the theme of the day, as is now traditional, was the local neighbourhood. David Allen of the Andover Museum explained the background of Andover's history with a talk entitled 'Andover ... an ancient and populous Thoroughfare'. Michael Hicks then gave a fascinatingly human account of ancient ecclesiastical leases of 'three lives' duration in his talk on 'Nether Wallop Rectory, 1660-1860'. He was followed by Bethanie Afton who spoke most interestingly on the 1830 Riots in Hampshire, which had involved Andover. A guided tour of Andover started the afternoon programme and many were surprised to discover how much of old Andover was still visible under the modern veneer. The final speaker in a stimulating day was Tony Raper, Chairman of the Andover Local History Society, who gave a talk on the possibly pre-

Saxon Weyhill Fair, 'The Greatest Fair in the Kingdom'. It was, in fact, the anniversary of the Fair, which had been held on October 10 since 1792 until its demise in the 1950s.

The business of the AGM brought changes. Rosemary Dunhill stepped down as Chairman owing to pressure of other commitments and was succeeded by Colin Haydon, who expressed appreciation for her years as Chairman. Sarah Lewin became Treasurer in place of Alison Savage, whose work had taken her out of the district. Other Officers and Committee members remain unchanged.

B.A.B.

NEW FOREST SECTION

New Forest Affairs

Two important documents have been published and circulated for consultation. *The New Forest Review*, from the Forestry Commission, is a wide-ranging survey of all matters pertaining to the future of the Forest, and *Highway Strategy*, from Hampshire County Council, is a report on traffic and accidents in the Forest, and makes recommendations for these. The section committee will be considering both and making recommendations and comments.

Felling and thinning proposals have been inspected by members of the Committee, who also met with representatives of the Forestry Commission and Nature Conservancy Council to discuss specific proposals in the nineteenth-century oak plantation of Broomy Inclosure. The Deputy Surveyor has accepted that such areas may be regarded as potential Ancient and Ornamental woodlands.

Planning and Development

Objections were sent to the planning authority over proposed development at the Iron Age Fort at Buckland Rings, Lymington. A public inquiry is to be held in April 1988. Objections were also sent to British Gas about plans to drill an exploratory well at Boldre, just outside

the boundary of the open Forest, but very much within the Heritage Area. Planning permission has however been granted.

Lyndhurst Bypass

Authorised by Council to act, the section joined the consortium of voluntary bodies to support the Verderers in their petition against Hampshire County Council's Private Bill. HFC members were circulated with details of objections to this and were asked for donations to the Fighting Fund set up to finance the petition. A donation of £25 was sent from section funds. The House of Lords Select Committee heard the petitions during April. Mrs J Irvine and Mr A H Pasmore were among those giving evidence. Unfortunately the Select Committee did not appear to have any concern for the New Forest, and recommended the bill for its third reading. An objection was lodged when the bill reached the House of Commons, and therefore there will be a debate, the date of which is as yet unknown. We are encouraged in our objections by the support of our local MP, Mr Patrick McNair Wilson, who is totally against the bill.

Section Affairs

A donation was received from Hampshire Archaeological Committee representing interest on remaining funds of the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group. Our display has been updated and re-designed with photographs returned from the Hampshire Field Club Centenary Exhibition and was shown at Lymington in April, at the New Forest Show in July, and at Lyndhurst in

September. Mrs R Cook has been appointed representative on the Lymington Coastal Advisory Panel.

Programme

A well-attended and lively meeting held jointly with the Friends of Brockenhurst in the Village Hall, Brockenhurst, heard Mr Archie Cleveland, a life-long Brockenhurst resident and New Forest Verderer, speak on 'Boyhood Days in Brockenhurst'. On 28 June the Section joined the Landscape Section in a visit to Rhinefield House, Brockenhurst to hear about and visit the restored gardens. A similar joint visit to Boldre Church, Roydon Woods, and Setley on 17 September was marred by rain. A Fungus Foray at Brock Hill in October was led by Dr J Manners and was well attended. The winter season opened on 20 November at Lyndhurst Community Centre with a well-attended talk given by Dr T B James on the 'Medieval Royal Palace of Clarendon'. This was held jointly with the Lyndhurst Historical Society.

Field Work Group

It was much regretted that the Church Green excavation had to be cancelled as Mrs K Fortescue was unable to take charge of the pottery finds. We are most grateful to her for all her past work. At a meeting of the Group in the autumn it was decided that next summer work should be done on a small site near Church Green, which may be related to it, but which is not likely to yield anything like so many finds.

J.I.