

REPORTS ON THE YEAR 1988

THE FIELD CLUB

Secretary's Report

1988 was another good year for the Society. If on balance the high point was the Local History Fair, it was only by a narrow margin from the Archaeology Section's second Brooks conference, the publication of two archaeological monographs, the revamping of the *Newsletter* and the New Forest *Annual Report*, the defeat of the Lyndhurst bypass bill and the proposed development of Buckland Rings, and the continued vigour of all five sections. By any standards the Society is meeting its objectives and forging ahead as efficiently and innovatively as it has ever done.

Council met four times in the year, more briefly than its wont, because there were no crises to stir up recriminations or to ensure 100% attendance. Editorial Board met four times too, initiating work on an index to *Proceedings* thanks to a grant from Hampshire County Council, publishing monographs on *A Banjo Enclosure at Micheldever Wood* and *Alton Anglo-Saxon Cemetery*, and producing *Proceedings* as usual. Volume 44 was thinner than of late, reflecting a decline in archaeological and thus grant-aided articles, and it is possible to predict a similar decline in monographs, although several by Mr Fasham are in the press or pending in spite of his move to Wales. Others lack funding and at present cannot be published. Ironically, given the unpretentious efficiency with which the editors operate, it was publishing that produced the one alarm of the year. This was when the publication of monographs pushed the Society's turnover above the VAT threshold and threatened to undermine the whole operation. Elaborate contingency plans were devised, including the establishment of a Hampshire Monographs Trust, before it was established that government grants are not eligible for VAT.

It was the treasurer Mr Caudell, who first identified the threat and then allayed it. Always unobtrusive and deliberately eschewing the limelight, Mr Caudell has made both the success and the survival of the Society possible. It is difficult to recall how only a few years ago the Society was virtually bankrupt and he restored financial order and discipline, first to keep essential services running and latterly to fund each new venture in the most economic and advantageous way. It is his achievement that the Society is so financially secure, subscriptions so low, and the programme of events and publications so attractive.

Credit belongs elsewhere as well. Each section puts on an elaborate and attractive programme, which draws on the combined enthusiasms and expertise of the officers and committee members. At headquarters too the Publicity Officer and Membership, Programme, and Publications Secretaries continue to move mountains with little recognition. Few societies can have been as well-served as this one in recent years. And yet such dedication cannot be expected forever from the same individuals, who age, become tired, and are ever more busy. New blood is constantly required on committees and in offices for the benefit of us all and before manpower crises develop. Therefore the December Council decided as a first preliminary to issue standard agendas for section AGMs in the autumn mailing to encourage members to put themselves forward for election in plenty of time.

This is one reason why Council and the Annual General Meeting have retained direct election of ordinary members to Council, the governing body of the Society. Another reason is the need to ensure proper accountability to members' wishes and for members' subscriptions in a body which, in the last resort, is merely a voluntary association, which cannot afford defections. Fortunately at present

membership is growing, if never enough. Strangely, the AGM remains ill-attended despite recent attempts to brighten a potentially dull occasion. Yet AGMs need not be dull, for it is on these occasions that members can correct the official view and present their own grass-roots opinions. It is also a convivial and entertaining occasion, enlivened by the President's lively addresses – in 1988 on 'The County Houses of Wessex' – and by wine and buffet organised by Mrs Moore and Mrs Turnbull. Altogether an occasion worth attending from afar.

M.A.H.

Annual Conference at Southampton University on Saturday 17 September 1988.

Chaired by the President, Mr Jude James, organised by Mrs Moore, and attended by 60 people, the 1988 conference treated various aspects of 'Hampshire's Maritime Heritage'.

Four maritime industries were explored in the morning session. In 'Dirty but Necessary: The Coal Trade of Portsmouth and the Solent Ports 1700–1830', Dr James Thomas explored the Cinderella of them all, demonstrating its impact on the local economy and the quantities and types of coal carried. Mr Arthur Lloyd followed with 'Salt Industry around Lymington', an account of a major (and now defunct) maritime activity, and by Dr Edwin Course's '150 Years of Southampton Docks', which graphically illustrated the changes since the days of the great passenger liners. Concluding the morning session with 'The Development of Hampshire's Seaside Resorts', Mrs Moore highlighted four very different examples: Lee-on-Solent, Hayling Island, Bournemouth, and Southsea.

The afternoon was even more varied. Mr John Bagley gave an illustrated talk on the Solent Marine Aircraft Industry, including its industrial archaeology. In complete contrast, Mr David Tomalin (Isle of Wight County Archaeologist) talked about the island's Maritime Heritage Project and the discoveries made by this example of underwater archaeological excavation.

The day's final lecture was given by Mr Maldwin Drummond, a Past President, who, as Chairman of the Maritime Trust, was well-qualified to talk about the restoration of historic ships, with special emphasis on HMS Warrior.

P.M.

Hampshire Local History Fair, King Alfred's College, Winchester, Saturday 19th March.

This first fair attracted stalls from 55 local societies and other bodies from throughout Hampshire and even beyond, most notably Southern History Society, the regional history society. There were other well-established county bodies, such as the Hampshire Archives Trust and Hampshire Gardens Trust, Winchester organisations such as the Preservation Trust and Archaeological Rescue Group, and many more from the periphery of the county, some very new. Some were members of the Field Club, such as those from Basingstoke, Wickham, Somborne, Andover, and Broughton, but many others were not, such as Fleet and Crookham and Waltham Chase Local History Groups. The fair thus offered the means to reach many people with whom we normally have no dealings. The record offices and local history publishers also participated. At least 500 stallholders, sporting the new Field Club badges, and visitors attended.

The event was appropriately opened by our Past President Mr Emery-Wallis, Leader of Hampshire County Council, who spoke most interestingly on 'Opportunities for Local History', which he has done much to foster. The conference occupied the newly refurbished Professional Studies Suite, a complex of nine interlocking rooms, which were used for stalls, workshops/lectures, discussion, and continuous display of videos of activities at Hampshire Farm Museum. Stallholders were arriving from 8.30 in the morning, but the event proper lasted from 11 am to 5 pm.

The event was inspired by the Four Counties Festival of the British Association of Local History at Avebury, which several Hampshire societies attended, many meeting for the first

time, and was proposed by Mr Reginald Sanders at the AGM of the Local History Section at Alton in 1986. The Hampshire Fair imitated Avebury in its provision of stalls for Local History societies and in its workshops, but differed in using permanent buildings with basic facilities, whereas those at Avebury all had to be imported for the event, and in the omission of such side-shows as morris dancers. Although focused purely on Hampshire, it attracted considerably more societies than were at Avebury.

The event was organised on behalf of the Society by a committee, chaired by the Secretary. It was fortunate to draw on the experience of two of the organisers at Avebury, Mrs Philippa Stevens (Hampshire Local Studies Librarian) and Dr James Thomas of Portsmouth Polytechnic. Other members represented Hampshire Record Office, Hampshire Archives Trust, the Hampshire Field Club Local History Section, the Lower Test Valley Area Studies Society and the Worthies Local History Group. They met many times, corresponded with 120 local societies in Hampshire, and organised a corps of marshals. Involving societies from far and near, fifty stalls in six different rooms, and a quite uncertain number of the general public, it was a formidably complicated event, which went off generally very well. Inevitably there were teething troubles at this first attempt: over provision to refreshments and access to further rooms – one stallholder closed a door to keep out draughts, thus shutting off half the stalls until his offence was discovered and corrected! These will be avoided next time.

The workshops, organised by Dr Thomas, were free of charge and were well-attended. There were three sessions. First of all, Dr Thomas himself as Course Director and Tony Gutteridge as former pupil discussed the highly successful Portsmouth Polytechnic Diploma in Local History – the only postgraduate course in local history in Hampshire. After lunch Mary Ray, one of the well-established Petersfield Area Historical Society, and Veronica Ward of the very new Stubbington Local History Society discussed

their experiences. Finally a teacher from Henry Beaufort School, Winchester spoke on Local History and Education – a highly relevant subject in the light of the new GCSE examinations!

The main memory of the day, however, must be the local society stalls, which amazed by their number, their variety, and the vigorous activity they portrayed. Every society, however small and obscure, had worthwhile exhibits to display: old documents or photographs, leaflets and posters, and above all publications – booklets, regular newsletters and bulletins, and even substantial tomes. Local History in Hampshire is thriving, it appears, in every town and village. The societies met to display their wares and exchange views: the hall buzzed with informal discussions all day and the prime aim of the event, to bring the local societies together, was triumphantly achieved! And the Field Club has found a new way of coordinating historical study throughout Hampshire!

M.A.H.

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

1988 was a memorable year for the Archaeology Section. Two events in particular attracted a remarkable amount of interest. In August well over 110 people climbed Danebury Hill-fort to hear Barry Cunliffe describe the findings of the twentieth and final year's excavations and, in November, for the second year running, all seats for the section's annual conference were sold out well in advance of the day.

The year's events began with an evening walk around Romsey expertly led by committee member Steve Cooper. Hampshire Field Club members joined those of the Lower Test Valley Archaeological Society in a guided tour of the historical sites of Romsey.

It was the Archaeology Section's Treasurer, Tony King, that hosted the second field trip, showing members around his excavation at Shavard's Farm, Meonstoke in the Meon Valley. They were able to see the superb

collapsed gable end wall of the Roman villa, with its triple round-headed window, uncovered as part of the Hampshire County Council's Meon Valley Landscape Project and King Alfred's College Archaeology Department's training dig.

In July another committee member, John Barton, organised a whole day's exploration of the extensive earthworks surviving around the point where Hampshire meets both Dorset and Wiltshire. The tour began on Martin Down, 8 miles from Fordingbridge, with a visit to Bokerly Ditch and Grim's Ditch. The party of about 30 members then moved on to examine various stretches of Ackling Dyke, the Roman road that linked Salisbury with Badbury Rings, and the Neolithic henge monument and ruined church at Knowlton. The field trip ended with a walk around the impressive Iron Age ramparts of Badbury Rings.

During his evening tour of Danebury Hillfort, Professor Barry Cunliffe drew the attention of his large audience to the results of his final season's excavations on the hilltop. Two weeks' work had already exposed a length of the inside face of the rampart that he was able to use to illustrate the history of the defences. He spent some time describing the latest examples of deposits, probably ritual in nature, that have been a feature of the last twenty years' discoveries. Professor Cunliffe finished by looking ahead at the next five years' work, during which he plans to concentrate on the Iron Age landscape surrounding the hillfort, and by encouraging members to visit the Museum of The Iron Age at Andover.

The Archaeology Section's annual early Autumn cheese-and-wine party was held in the delightful surroundings of the Treasury of Winchester College by kind permission of the Headmaster, Warden and Scholars. Mary Oliver prepared an appetizing range of food, which was served amongst a fascinating exhibition of some of the College's Classical, Chinese and Egyptian treasures. Curator, Leila Partner, introduced the members to many of the objects on display and described how many of them were acquired by the College.

Once again, the most significant event of the Section's calendar was the Annual Conference. For the second year running it was devoted to The Brooks Excavation in Winchester and organised in conjunction with Winchester Museums Service Archaeology Section. Speakers paid particular attention to discoveries made since the last conference in November 1987, until the dig ended in August 1988, and during the watching brief that followed. In the morning, following an introduction by City Archaeologist Ken Qualmann, Mike Morris (director of the excavations) gave a very thorough presentation of the new Romano-British information extracted from the site. He was followed by David Johnston of Southampton University, who talked in detail on the mosaics discovered at the Brooks, including a fascinating description of the floor fragment found during the watching brief after the site was closed to the public.

After lunch, Senior Supervisor Graham Scobie examined the latest information retrieved from the site's medieval remains, focussing on the merchant's house, particularly on the backyards and ancillary buildings excavated during the Spring and Summer of 1988. His comprehensive examination of the archaeological evidence was then complemented by Derek Keene, Director of the London Historical Survey, which looked at the documentary evidence for the site and the surrounding area during the medieval period. The last talk of the day was given by Martin Biddle, Director of the Winchester Research Unit, who placed the results so far into their wider context. He also highlighted central government's current policies towards urban archaeology, which triggered off some lively discussion.

The Section AGM was held during the extended afternoon tea break at the conference. Having led the committee through a successful year's events, Geoff Denford stood down as chairman. Committee-member David Johnston was elected in his place and thanked his predecessor for his valuable contribution to the life of the section. The other officers on the committee are Jo Bailey (Secretary), Tony

King (Treasurer), and David Allen (Newsletter Editor).

The years events were concluded with an illustrated talk by David Rudkin on the recent excavations at Fishbourne Roman Palace. The results of two season's work on the west wing of the palace were both delivered and received with great enthusiasm.

J.B.

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SECTION

Once again the Section organised four varied winter evening lectures at King Alfred's College, Winchester, and an exciting summer programme of events. The *Newsletter* also continued to act as an outlet for our work. The winter lectures were given by J Crook on Marwell Hall, E Roberts on medieval hall houses, G Soffe on Benstede St Clair manor, and T Maile and J Budden on Chalton.

Except for the cancelled visit to the Isle of Wight, all summer excursions were oversubscribed and blessed with fine weather. A tour of medieval Southampton on 14th May was led by P Davies (Historic Architecture Dept) and R Thomson (City Museums). The leaders' illustrated talk in the Tudor Merchants' Hall introduced an itinerary which first took us to the current excavations and renovation on the exterior of the Town Walls and Towers north of West Gate. We next scrambled into the 12th-century Castle Vault and the Undercroft before an exhaustive exploration of the medieval core of Tudor House Museum. Dr A Russell guided us around the excavations of 95-98 High Street; four medieval stone vaults with a long history of merchants' houses above them; and we also examined the vault at 94 and Lankester's Vault. On the eastern Town Walls we saw the recently uncovered Friary Gatehouse and Dovecote followed by St Julien's Chapel, God's House Tower, and the restored medieval house and shop at 58 French Street.

On 19th June we joined the Hants Gardens Trust and NACF for our country house meeting, a conference on Edwardian Opulence and

the Arts and Crafts Movement, with guided tours, at Tylney Hall, Rotherwick. Mrs M Drummond masterminded this event which included illustrated lectures from C Aslet, J Brown and D Cole. The house, now an hotel, was remodelled by Wornum in 1899-1901. Later R Weir Schultz and Gertrude Jekyll were to lay out the luxurious gardens, now being restored.

Through the hospitality of the Odiham Society, especially Mrs S Millard and Mrs H Lee, the historic buildings of Odiham proved a revelation to many on 2nd July. The guides, G Soffe, J Crook and E Roberts were honoured to be partially relieved of their duties by Prof G Meirion-Jones, the leading architectural historian, and expert on the town. The tour started from the Priory, a large medieval stone priest's house with extensive additions, where we saw the fine timber roof over the first-floor hall. Next, at the historic Palace Gate, J Crook revealed how the site was threatened with redevelopment. After the medieval All Saints Church, Church Cottage, Pest House and Almshouses, lunch at the George Inn was accompanied by a view of the newly discovered 17th-century wall paintings in a first-floor bedroom. Prof Meirion-Jones led the perambulation of the Bury and High Street after which we drove to King John's Castle to hear the results of recent excavations and see the renovation work.

The famous Church of St Cross Hospital was the subject of an exhaustive study visit on 9th July led by Dr Y Kusaba and M Carden, the two leading experts on the building. Members were joined by the Master of St Cross, Canon A Dcedes and the Brothers, and after tea some stayed on for a tour of the roof spaces.

Two conferences were held at King Alfred's College. On 27th February J Crook led a valuable seminar on Listed Historic Buildings. Other speakers were N Molyneux (DOE & HFC), A Rutter (WCC), K Stubbs (HCC), F Green (TVAT & HFC) and A Brodie (RCHME). Our AGM on 1st October was accompanied by a review of Documents in the Study of Historic Buildings. G Soffe examined

rural manors and farms, followed by E Roberts on his discovery of the East Meon Court House building accounts in the Winchester Pipe Rolls. J Brushe (English Heritage) and I Leith (RCHME) highlighted the evidence of drawings, paintings and historic photographs, followed by Dr M Doughty on local authority housing in Southampton. At the AGM Dr Doughty was re-elected chairman and editor with Miss K Parker (minuting secretary) and G Soffe (programme secretary). P Davies took over the treasurership from F Green (now publicity). J Crook continued with listed buildings and E Roberts now edits the *Newsletter*. Mrs A Sutton was also re-elected and we were joined by Mrs M Gale. N Molyneux and D Hinton resigned and we thank them for all their work.

On behalf of the Field Club and the CBA, the Section has continued to vet planning applications for Listed Building Consent; over 200 this year, responding in c 150 cases. This figure excludes industrial buildings, which are separately examined by Dr Course and the SUIAG. Local correspondents were coordinated by J Crook. Many of our comments have been in the nature of advice, highly valued by most local authorities, but a firm stand had to be made in the case of the Arcade, Aldershot – an interesting small-scale 19th-century shopping arcade threatened with redevelopment.

G.S.

LANDSCAPE SECTION

The 1988 programme of the Landscape Section continued to build on the good work of its inaugural year and has helped to establish it firmly as a positive and active body within the Field Club. It is hoped to continue this success and to incorporate more outdoor field trips and field activity into the section programme.

The programme for 1988 was relatively light, comprising only two spring/summer outings and a winter conference.

The first outdoor session found a small party of enthusiasts greeted by glorious April weather for an interesting and sometimes sur-

prising walk amongst the Itchen water meadows between Compton and Shawford. Dr Bowie, curator of Eastleigh Museum, led the party on the first part of the tour to the Twyford meadows, where he pointed out some of the lesser known technicalities of water meadow husbandry. The second part of the tour was led by Mr Currie, who imparted other lesser known facts about the Compton landscape as the walkers made their way to see the more traditional, later, meadows of Compton parish that lie in the shadow of Hockley viaduct.

The second trip took the section to the villages of Chalton and Idsworth as the guest of Mr John Budden, farmer of Manor Farm, Chalton. Again brilliant May weather greeted a large party, who were given a thoroughly diversified day beginning with a tour of Manor Farm led by Mr Budden. They then toured Chalton village and church before setting out on a picturesque downland walk via the site of the now-famous Saxon village to the deserted village of Idsworth and its isolated church, now set amidst cornfields. Mr Budden, Mr Oliver, and Mr Currie indicated points of interest to an attentive audience.

The highlight of the year, however, was undoubtedly the autumn conference on 'Art, Literature and the Landscape', at King Alfred's College, Winchester. This conference was considered a particular success, because the subject was one considered to be both experimental and difficult. It was therefore highly gratifying that the day was such a success with all the speakers rising to the complex challenge of the role of the arts in landscape change and development.

The day began with what can only be described as a brilliant talk by Dr Peter Brandon, who showed clearly why he had acquired such a reputation as a landscape interpreter. It would have been thought that such a spellbinding beginning would have been hard to follow, but all the subsequent speakers, in their own different ways, equalled Dr Brandon's eloquence.

Mr Surry followed with a talk that highlighted his deep knowledge of Hampshire

sources for the 18th century. Pam Moore brought the audience back to earth with a talk on the use of artistic sources in interpreting industrial sites. After the slides of Brandon and Surry, it was fitting that Mrs Moore should remind the audience that beauty is not always picturesque and the stark (and sometimes dramatic) quality of her slides was quite breathtaking.

The afternoon session opened with Professor Sambrook, who offered a truly original approach to the 18th-century landscape garden in literature. Finally, another superlative talk by Dr Chatfield treated Selborne in literature. Rarely can an audience have been treated to such consistently high standards of original thought on a subject hitherto somewhat neglected. Hence the barrage of questions provoked after each talk.

The AGM was held after lunch. Committee membership changed little, but responsibilities were redistributed. Mr Currie and Mr Oliver remain as Programme Secretary and Chairman; Mr Gray becomes Newsletter Editor and Mr Broderick, back from America, becomes Treasurer. The rest of the committee are Miss Gosling, Dr Hare, Mr Moir, Mrs Ray, Mrs Smale, Mr King and Mr Ford.

Despite the formal division of roles, the officers work closely together and the section's success stems from the joint contributions of all concerned. There is no shortage of innovative ideas and future plans.

C.K.C.

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

In 1988, the Local History Section organized the three usual events of its annual programme, namely a Spring Symposium, a Summer Outing, and the Section's AGM in the autumn.

The Spring Symposium, which had as its theme 'The Parish: Evidence and Reconstruction', was held on 16th April at King Alfred's College, Winchester. The first speaker was Christopher Elrington, the General Editor of the Victoria County History series, and, in a

lively talk, he described the approaches adopted by the VCH in its study of the parish unit. The lecture produced much interesting discussion. Elizabeth Hughes of the Hampshire Record Office then outlined the material on the parish held at the HRO, examining, in most detail, vestry records. She had also set up a workshop with which to open the afternoon session, making use of photocopies of documents such as churchwardens' accounts and poor law papers. Members derived from this display a full and rounded picture of parochial administration. Two further lectures followed. First, Diana Coldicott gave a detailed and carefully researched paper on her study of a specific parish, namely Long Sutton near Odiham. Secondly, Michael Hicks investigated the subject of the parish and the poor, looking at the different ways in which the local authorities tackled the problem of poverty between Elizabethan times and the 1834 Poor Law. Some thirty people attended the meeting.

The Summer Outing took place on 23rd July. The forty members who attended first visited Tufton, where the Reverend David Warner spoke of the history of the church and showed them around it, and Mr Chris Tozer showed the party his ancient barns and old farming equipment. The group then moved on to Whitchurch, where the recently formed Whitchurch Historical Society acted as their hosts. Before lunch, they looked around the Silk Mill, which the staff had kindly opened for the visit. The guides were Mr Reg Smith, the builder engaged in the mill's restoration, and Mr Ted Moss, who worked lifelong at the mill, and much was learnt about the working practices there and about the building's structure. In the afternoon, Mr Moss showed some of his slides taken from old pictures of Whitchurch in the Parish Hall, where an exhibition of local events and scenes was displayed. The party then broke into smaller groups in order to explore different facets of the town under the guidance of members of the Whitchurch Historical Society and the visit concluded with Mr Moss completing the slide show begun earlier. The day was planned by Mr W H Boorman,

the Chairman of the Whitchurch Historical Society, to whom the Section is most grateful.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 15th October at Petersfield, and the programme for the day was arranged by members of the Petersfield Area Historical Society, and, in particular, by Mrs Mary Ray. It was Mrs Ray who delivered the first lecture, sketching in the general background to Petersfield's history and describing how the borough had changed over the course of time. Next, Dr E M Yates talked, with slides, about Durford Abbey and monastic interests in the Petersfield Area, and admirably succeeded in putting this topic into its wider context. Following the AGM and lunch, the Section was taken to see Petersfield's places of interest by members of the PAHS. The day concluded with a dramatic presentation of a power-struggle between the two powerful gentry families of Petersfield in the 18th century – the Joliffes and the Gibbons – a bizarre conflict which centred on the rights of various parties respecting the fish pond. The Section is much indebted to the PAHS for making the arrangements for this successful day. Some thirty members attended the AGM.

At the AGM, Colin Haydon was elected Chairman, Jan Housby was elected Secretary (in place of Barbara Burbridge), Sarah Lewin was elected Treasurer, and George Watts was elected *Newsletter* Editor. The remainder of the Committee was re-elected *en bloc*. A vote of thanks was passed to Mrs Burbridge, whose work as Secretary was greatly appreciated. It was noted that the financial position of the Section remained healthy, and that the *Newsletter* continued to attract material: and the Treasurer and the *Newsletter* Editor were thanked for their efforts.

C.M.H.

NEW FOREST SECTION

New Forest Affairs

Comments on the New Forest Review have been considered by the Forestry Commission and the final recommendations are now

expected in the spring of 1989. The Highway Strategy is also now under consideration before final recommendations are published. In advance, an experiment in reducing speed had been tried near Sway, consisting of a roughened surface. This is likely to be discontinued as not only do drivers proceed even faster over it to reduce the impact, but the noise is a considerable disturbance to local residents. Monitoring over a period of time has shown a high percentage of speeds in excess of 70mph over the whole length of this road. In another area reflective collars have been fitted to some animals.

On the open Forest measures to control the spread of Scots Pine, rhododendron and bracken continue.

The New Forest Museum in Lyndhurst was opened by the Duke of Edinburgh in June. Tourist information is included in this building.

Planning and Development

The Secretary of State for Energy had deferred until May 1989 a decision on whether to hold a public inquiry into CEEB proposals to build a large coal-fired power station at Fawley, together with a port and jetty for importing coal. The deferment is to allow CEEB to consider the proposals in the light of privatisation.

British Gas has postponed its plans for an exploration well at Boldre. Clyde Petroleum has applied for an exploratory well at Ipley, on private land but well within the perambulation. Hampshire County Council has refused permission.

At Buckland Rings, Lymington, a scheduled ancient monument, proposals were made by owners for large scale development including housing and leisure facilities. The application was opposed by local bodies and permission was refused, on the grounds that not only would it be detrimental to the site itself, but on visual grounds the approach to Lymington would be much disfigured. The application went to appeal, but has been rejected by the Secretary of State, after a public inquiry.

The Private Bill promoted by Hampshire County Council for a bypass for Lyndhurst was rejected by a House of Commons Select Committee. The committee's decision was taken on the principle that the building of a bypass could have been effected under existing legislation without further authority from parliament. Further details are contained in the New Forest Section's report for 1988.

Section Affairs

Following a request from the Historic Buildings Section, all committee members are now concerned to monitor Listed Building Consents in their areas.

Mr Sturgess retired as chairman at the AGM under the section's rules. He was warmly thanked by the President, Mr James. Mr A H Pasmore was elected in his place.

The section's display stand was taken to the Local Studies conference at Romsey in March, the Local History Fair in the same month, to the New Forest Show in July, to the Countryside Education Trust Open Day at Beaulieu in September, and to the Leisure Exhibition in Lymington in October.

It proved impossible to excavate at Church Green this year, but a small site in the vicinity was examined with a view to dating it. It appeared to be Iron Age, but examination of the finds has not yet proved conclusive.

Programme

In January 1988 the section heard an interesting talk on 'The Ecology of the New Forest' by Colin Tubbs, Assistant Regional Officer of the Nature Conservancy Council. In February Bill Bide, Hampshire County Council Rights of Way Officer, spoke on 'Footpaths and Bridleways'. In March there was a joint meeting with the Archaeology Section on 'The Iron Age and Roman Temple at Hayling Island', by Anthony King. All these were held at Lyndhurst Community Centre.

Summer meetings included an evening walk in the New Forest led by June Irvine and a day-long visit to kiln sites of East Dorset kindly arranged for us by the Verwood and District Potteries Trust. The annual fungus foray in October was led by Gordon Dickson of the British Mycological Society.

In December at Lyndhurst Community Centre, Gordon Pearson gave a most interesting talk to a joint meeting with Lyndhurst Historical Society on how he had pieced together the history of his house in Kings Somborne from examination of various clues in the structure itself and from documentary evidence.

J.I.