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REPORTS ON THE YEAR 1989

THE FIELD CLUB

Secretary's Report

The year 1989 was coloured by changes in the President and Treasurer.

First of all, Jude James completed his three years as President: a term distinguished particularly by improvements in the Society's publicity and by the fortunate innovation of the Presidential Address, which in its third year achieved the objective of making the Annual General Meeting into a more attractive and hence better attended occasion. Fortunately the Historic Buildings Section has secured his continued services. His successor Adrian Rance, Head of Cultural Services (i.e. Museums and Art Galleries) for Southampton, is a longstanding servant of the Society and organiser in particular of a highly successful sequence of annual conferences. We have high hopes of his Presidency.

Secondly, Paul Caudell relinquished the office of Treasurer at the end of September. If any particular individual is responsible for the existence of the Field Club today, it is Paul. He it was who took office when the Society was strictly insolvent, due to its inability to pay for *The Archaeology of Hampshire*, restored strict financial management, prioritised spending, and brought us to the relative financial security of today. At the end of 1989 there was £18,000 in the bank. The enormous gap left by Mr Caudell appeared at first impossible to fill, as candidate after candidate declined his onerous office. Eventually, however, a successor was found in Mark Wingate, by training an archaeologist and formerly Joint-Membership Secretary, who has since qualified as a chartered accountant, no less. We are very fortunate.

Council met on four occasions and encountered no crises to overcome. There was felt to be a need for a Policy towards Development and such a policy was prepared in the autumn and referred to the membership for further discussion. The second Local History Fair was a considerable success and so too, though poorly attended, were the Annual Conference and O G S Crawford Memorial Lecture reported below. The time has passed when such hiccoughs constitute a crisis. The next crisis, if there is to be one, will come when subscriptions are raised, as they will have to be, in 1992. Now, however, the Society can face such problems with qualms rather than alarms, confident that it is far stronger financially and is providing a much better service for its members than ten years ago.

For the 1980s must be remembered as a decade of regeneration and expansion for the Hampshire Field Club. Always there, in the background, was Mr Caudell, but we must not forget successive Presidents, all admirable in their different ways, or the indispensable Membership, Programme, Publications and Publicity Scretaries and Officers, without whom nothing could happen; Mr Qualmann and the untiring members of his Editorial Board; Mr Stagg and the Section Newsletter Editors; and, perhaps above all, the committees of the sections, who found those outstanding Programme Secretaries, who produced the packed and high-quality calendars of events that we take for granted today. And credit must go further back too, to those far-sighted officers, such as H A Collinson and E A Course, who proposed and transformed the Society into a federation of Sections in 1979. The Field Club is now secure and will be so for many years to come. Ten years ago its survival until its centenary in 1985 seem doubtful. The challenge of the 1990s is to increase the membership to a level truly worthy of *the* county Society. Only thus can be extend our activities to the extent that we all wish to see.

Annual General Meeting at King Alfred's College, Winchester on Wednesday 31 May 1989

Fifty members attended the most successful AGM of recent times.

There was an atmosphere of mutual congratulation, as President and Secretary alike spoke of the healthy finances, the well-organised events, and the excellent publications. Both paid tribute to one another and the other officers, especially those unsung heroes in unglamorous but arduous posts: Programme Secretaries, Newsletter Editors, Business Editors, Publications and Membership Secretaries. No less than seventy of the Field Club's members are office-holders or committee-members.

Editorial Board reported on *Proceedings* vol. 44, three published monographs, and the preparation of the index. The Archaeology, Historic Buildings, Local History and Landscape sections all reported successful programmes. The New Forest Section reported two major victories over developers and the resumption of the excavation.

Mr Adrian Rance was elected President for 1989–92. Dr Michael Hicks and Mr Paul Caudell, Secretary and Treasurer continuously since 1982, were re-elected, though the latter had declared on the day his intention of relinquishing office as soon as possible. Mrs Ann McLellan replaced Dr James Thomas on Council. Mr Sanders and Miss Lee were gratefully re-elected Honorary Auditors.

Following a break for refreshments, Mr James delivered his third Presidential Address – an innovation introduced by himself in 1987. His chosen topic this year, 'Wessex Monuments and Memorials', enabled him to draw both on his remarkable knowledge of the region and on his splendid collection of slides, which he explained so wittily and eruditely that nobody could have failed to have been enlightened and entertained.

Broadly chronological in outline, his talk covered the obvious ground offered by funerary monuments, though few can have pondered the quaint epitaphs so rewardingly, but contained a great many surprises as well. Some members knew the stone on the Winchester–Salisbury road commemorating the come-uppance of four highwaymen, but who knew of the memorial to the birth of Sir Christopher Wren at West Knoyle in Wiltshire or the stone against fornication in Breamore church? There was a time when the drowning of sabbath-breakers and the apoplexy of a liar were considered such striking examples of God's punishment for sin that local authorities commemorated them at public expense as a warning to other potential offenders! As Mr James observed, such neglected memorials can tell us much about the very different mentality of our Hampshire predecessors.

Not surprisingly, Mr James' talk stimulated eager questions, which his successor had to cut short, thanking him simultaneously both for his address and for three fruitful years as President.

Annual Conference at St Swithun's School, Winchester on Saturday 30 September 1989

The theme of this year's conference was 'Hampshire Women'. There were four morning talks on 'The Evidence of Women': David Johnston on 'Women in Archaeology'; Barbara Yorke on 'Women in History'; Michael Hicks 'The Portrayal of Women; and Dr Carol Miles on 'Women in Literature'. The separate study of women in the past is a relatively new byproduct of the growth of History from Below and Women's Studies. Women are poorly represented in surviving evidence and hence in our knowledge and understanding. Inevitably speakers ranged beyond Hampshire or made unlikely individuals into Hampshire examples: for example, Mrs Gaskell, who died pouring tea in Alton, and even Elizabeth I, 'Queen of Hampshire'!

All previous generations have assumed the inferiority of women. Most noteworthy activities, from hunting mammoths to 19th-century industrialism, were undertaken by men. Women were confined to the home, whether prehistoric hovel or Victorian drawing room, to bearing and rearing children, and to cooking. Yet such stereotypes appear unten-

able in every age. Women's work may always have been undervalued and unrecorded and thus women were too, but much more of importance went on in the home than this. From guarding the hearth and stock-keeping in prehistory to brewing and weaving, household and estate management in the middle ages, enough women have left evidence of considerable capacity in the affairs of the world from which men sought to exclude them. Too often it is only when their menfolk have died that women have left evidence of abilities that must always have been there and been put to good use.

Exceptional women can cast light on the rest. Queen Elfryth was so powerful and effective in the male role of politics that she was slandered by men as a wicked stepmother and worse. The *vita* of that nondescript saint and nun, Princess Eadburga, incidentally reveals shadowy senior nuns manipulating her image and connections to the financial benefit of their nunnery. 19th-century women had to jump reluctantly through the hoop labelled 'marriage' and to act as 'angels in the house' for fear of the worse alternatives. Female writers had to steer between charges of immodesty if original and triviality if not. Some women, like Florence Nightingale, had to censor out what they really felt.

The afternoon session on 'The Emancipation of Women' comprised two papers by historians from St Swithun's: Mrs Rosemary Duke on 'Education' and Mrs Pamela Johnston on 'Enfranchisement'. Then, as now, education was a key to the maximisation of women's potential. Hitherto provided merely with accomplishments to capture men, Victorian women started governess-training schools in the 1840s, girls' schools, and ultimately university colleges to equip themselves both as intellectual equals and companions to men and for all careers. Progress was slower than for men, though the 1902 Education Act made female elementary education universal and women gradually acquired equal rights in the universities, at Cambridge not until 1948. Meantime some middle-class secondary schools were established, such as Portsmouth High School (1882), a member of the Girls Public Day School Trust, the Atherley School, Southampton (1926), founded by the Church Schools Company, and St Swithun's School itself. They rapidly proved women to be as intellectually able as men.

Female educationalists were often also suffragettes. Thus Dean Bramston's daughter Anna and her friend Miss Amy Leroy, who helped found St Swithun's school. Even when educated, many capable women were denied other outlets for their energies, and were thus able to provide an efficient organisation for the movement for women's suffrage. In Hampshire it was primarily through the moderate suffragists NUWSS rather than Mrs Pankhurst's militant WSPU. The vote led on to the termination of the economic exploitation of women. Besides the literary outcry of women stifled by the proprieties of the Victorian drawing room, such as Florence Nightingale, we need to set Southampton's female crane-drivers, for whom World War I offered liberation from a dreary life as dependent daughters, mothers, and seamstresses!

Museums, too, are organised by men and glorify a past largely made by men, confining women to the kitchen. There is no place for women in military, farm, or industrial museums. But this need not be so, as the final speaker showed. In 'Lost and Found: Women in Museums', Sian Jones demonstrated how many objects in museums were made or used by women. Prehistoric pots have been analysed by type, by manufacture, and by trade, but not by use: predominantly for cooking by women. Changes in pots and later in kitchen gadgets reflect women's needs, their power of consumer choice, and mechanical and manipulative capacities that are often denied. So, too, the Victorian drawing room can be presented as the woman's environment and the product of her labours that it truly was. The evidence is not as scarce as the morning speakers supposed; it is a question of adopting a feminist outlook. First, however, observers need to be educated out of their preconceptions about female inferiority and insignificance in the past.

Hence the justification for the conference and the enthusiasm about a splendid day from the regrettably few who attended. The President, Mr Rance, ended proceedings with thanks to all contributors and to St Swithun's School, whose magnificent catering facilities were particularly applauded.

O G S Crawford Memorial Lecture at Tudor Merchants Hall, Southampton on Saturday 9 December 1989.

Dr David Tomalin, as befits the Isle of Wight County Archaeologist, took 'Offshore Wessex' as his subject, and talked mainly about what lies below high tide level.

O G S Crawford, he pointed out, belonged to that heroic age of archaeology when it was still possible to find unknown standing monuments. That era has now passed. As a pioneer of aerial photography in archaeology, he was also one of the first to employ scientific methods to study what lies below the ground and would certainly have approved of our modern employment of resistivity surveys, radar, and computer simulations. The most powerful of such tools, however, such as sonar, can only be used under water, where, the audience learnt to their surprise, there are many standing monuments still to be found!

Our chalk downlands are a constant reminder that once, long before the arrival of man, much of Hampshire was beneath the sea. What we are much less conscious of is that, within human history, much of the sea was land. The chalk ridge of the Needles on the Isle of Wight was joined to the Isle of Purbeck in Dorset; there was land stretching perhaps thirty miles south of the island; and a great Solent River flowed in two channels that can still be traced by divers far out into the Channel south of Spithead and under the later gravel embankment of Hurst Castle spit. Following the last ice age, 300,000 years ago, the level of water rose and inundated much of the land. It has been rising ever since and the whole coastline of Hampshire is again threatened today.

Wrecks were part of Dr Tomalin's subject, but the most recent and least interesting part. The Solent River accumulated silt and gravel, including artefacts such as acheulian axes, that are sometimes brought up by fishermen. The lowlying land inundated in Mesolithic times covered peat deposits, from which arrow heads have been recovered, and settlements. These lie now at eleven metres depth; others nearer the surface record later habitation. At Wotton Creek near Yarmouth Roman remains have been found, including an artificial harbour, a saltworks, and much pottery that is almost intact. The wet conditions have commonly preserved such organic materials as worked timber, basketwork, and hurdles, which seldom survive on land. Underwater archaeology can thus tell us much about our past landscape that has often been destroyed above tide level.

Of course, there are many problems in working below water level. Nature herself brings changes, covering some surfaces with shingle and scouring away other levels with its currents and tides. The actions of man, which are such an obvious danger on land, also threaten the landscape under the sea. Dredging, gravel collection, boring for oil, the scouring of propellers, and interference with the natural course of currents all pose a threat. And new perils are being discovered all the time.

Whilst long-term projects have their place, Dr Tomalin's first task is rescue archaeology not dissimilar from that on land. A second duty, scarcely less important than the first, is to monitor and understand such changes, to see how accurately the scatter of finds reflects their original distribution, and how rapidly they are changng. Hence his reconstruction of the wreck of the Napoleonic frigate 'Pandora' on the Needles illustrated the first and hence too his concern to track the movements of the banks of shingle that cover archaeological deposits at Wotton Creek. Thirdly – and obviously vital – is the protection of archaeology from such threats, which the Isle of Wight County Council has begun, but which its neighbours, perhaps understandably, have not yet contemplated. Thus brilliant talk ended, conventionally enough, with a plea for conservation.

Nobody minded that Dr Tomalin's splendid address far exceeded the time allowed and he was besieged with questions during the wine and savouries that followed the formal proceedings.

M A H

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

The 1989 programme began well on 3 June in Southampton when some 30 members assembled at God's House Tower for a tour of the current excavations, led by Jonathan Drake. Picking our way amid excavation trenches and the rubble of twentieth century redevelopment we were able to see the city wall stripped down to its foundations, admire the genuine and shake our heads at the bogus medieval masonry, and marvel at the complex history of its towers (one, surprisingly, incorporating a dovecot). Skilful conservation is well advanced, and for many it was a first view of the great advances that Southampton is making in the excavation and preservation of its early past.

Our next outing, on 1 July, took advantage of an Open Day at the Roman villa excavations at Shavards Farm Meonstoke, where Tony King explained the remarkably well preserved remains of the Aisled Building, lying where they collapsed at the end of the Roman period. A short distance away, John Barton took the story into the Saxon period with tours of the fine parish church of Corhampton.

On 19 August our members and guests converged, by car and minibus, on Bucklers Hard to meet Graham Carter, who gave a most enjoyable introduction to the history of the Beaulieu Estate and described future plans for archaeological investigation due to be started along the waterfront during 1990. Following a tour of the village and a picnic lunch, the thirty members moved on to the site of Beaulieu Abbey, where Director Ken Barton provided a thoroughly entertaining tour of his excavations on and around the 'wine press'.

The only disappointment of the year was caused by the weather on 15 September, when a brave but bedraggled handful assembled once more in Southampton for an evening walk, led by Jonathan Drake, along the newly opened stretch of the walls to the west of the Bargate; this now includes an elegant, if uncompromisingly controversial, modern footbridge. A few more members were waiting for us in the dry, warm surroundings of the Museum for our annual social event, the Wine and Cheese Reception. Glasses in hand, we were privileged to wander freely through the new displays which now reach back to the little known treasures of *Clausentum*, Roman Southampton.

Treasures, this time of Hampshire Museums, were the theme of our Annual Conference in Andover on 11 November. Appropriately for Museums Year, our hosts were the Curator and staff of the Andover Museum; speakers chose individual artifacts and used them to illuminate their wider contexts. Thus a glass bowl from the Sparsholt villa (Denise Allen) introduced us to the art and technology of Roman glass-making and an inscribed Roman milestone from South Wonston (David Johnston) to the Roman road network of Hampshire and Wessex and to the curious fate of its many milestones. John Johnston (Portsmouth Museums) demonstrated his mastery of multi-period archaeology by starting the conference with a prehistoric flint axe-head from Portsea Island and closing it with a medieval spur from Portchester, neither of which turned out to be quite what we expected. Another unexpected analysis was provided by Dr Susan Walker (British Museum) with the life story of a little known but colourful Roman millionaire, Herodes Atticus, whose superb portrait bust has languished unrecognised in Winchester City Museum until very recently. Gold basket earrings proved the most arresting feature of Andy Russel's account of his excavation, in trying conditions, of the richly accompanied Beaker burial in the Chilbolton Barrow; and a fascinating excursion into the intricacies of Celtic decorative art was prompted by Professor Martyn Jope's study of the Iron Age roundel from Danebury. We were particularly

pleased to welcome Professor Jope back to Hampshire after a distinguished career that began in the golden years of the county's archaeology. After tea, David Hinton related the late Saxon reliquary from Winchester to similar jewel-encrusted treasures of medieval Europe. He paid tribute to Suzanne Keene's painstaking conservation that has enabled the fragile and pitifully crushed fragments to take their place as one of the many treasures in our county's museums.

The Section's Annual General Meeting took place at the Conference, when a new Committee was elected. We regretfully accepted the resignations of Mary Oliver and Laurie Fennelly and the Chairman warmly thanked Jo Bailey, who relinquishes the post of Honorary Secretary but fortunately remains on the Committee. We are all grateful to her for her efficient organisation of the Section and its programme. Two new members were welcomed – Sue Anderson and Sue Gordon, who has subsequently agreed to serve as Hon. Secretary. David Johnston was re-elected as Chairman of the Section, Tony King as Treasurer, and David Allen as Newsletter Editor. John Barton, Steve Cooper, Geoffrey Denford and Jonathan Drake now comprise the rest of an enthusiastic team that is actively planning an equally successful programme for the coming year.

DEJ/JB

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SECTION

The Section has again organised a varied series of winter evening lectures at King Alfred's College, Winchester, and an exciting summer programme of events. Our work has also been illustrated by regular contributions to the *Newsletter*. The winter lectures were given by Marjorie Hallam on Cowdray and Midhurst, Roy Spring on Salisbury Cathedral, Rodney Hubbuck on 19th-century church building and restoration in Hampshire, and Grahame Soffe on the Arts and Crafts architecture of Christopher Turnor [sic].

Most summer excursions were well subscribed and blessed with fine weather. We ventured into West Sussex for a tour of Cowdray, Midhurst and Petworth House on 20th May. Marjorie Hallam led a walk around Midhurst's streets and castle and was joined by Peter Smith for the tour of Cowdray. The extensive remains of this Tudor house are a landmark in country house architecture and English Heritage's recent conservation of the elaborate plasterwork was appreciated. John Brushe led the study of Petworth and after tea took us to see newly uncovered medieval wall paintings in Trotton church. We thank Lord Cowdray, Lord Egremont and the National Trust for their help.

Our summer conference 'Cloistered Communities, the Buildings and Life of Monastic Houses', was held in the Prior's Hall of Winchester Cathedral Deanery on 24th June where we were guests of the Dean. It was led by John Crook, whose recent survey of these great medieval buildings is published in *Proceedings* vol. 43. His discussion was followed by a tour of the buildings and tea in the Deanery Garden. Dr Michael Hicks spoke on Religious Orders in Hampshire, Diana Coldicott on Hampshire Nunneries and Francis Green on Romsey Abbey. Our guest speaker, Tim Tatton-Brown, surveyed the recent work on the three principal monasteries of Canterbury.

Hayling Island was the focus of our tour on 23rd July led by Graham Soffe, assisted by Noel Pycroft and John Brushe. Before leaving the mainland the old windmill and tidemill of Langstone were visited, including Ernst Freud's 1930s house conversion. Medieval buildings on the island included the two parish churches; the alien priory church and its picturesque chapel-of-ease, St Peter's, the manor-house dovecote and Uncle Dick's cottage – a small hall house. 17th-century houses included the Old House and Middle Stoke Farm where Mrs B Targett provided a fine tea. The broad sweep of Norfolk Crescent on the Beach, and the Roman temple, were discussed on site. The highlight of the day was the live demonstration of traditional brickmaking by Noel Pycroft and family at their brickworks. We thank the Revd G Royle

and all the owners for access to buildings in their cars.

Continuing the joint meeting tradition established at Odiham last year, we visited Kings Somborne as guests of the Somborne and District Society on 9th September. After coffee and discussion at the medieval parish church, the perambulation of the village included fine timber-framed and chalk cob buildings such as Cruck Cottage, the Methodist Chapel, Old Palace Farm and Yew Tree Cottage. After lunch we examined the bridge, watermill and converted railway station at Horsebridge and the late 12th-century church at Upper Eldon Farm. Members also learnt much at the remarkable medieval stone house and staddle-barn at Michelmersh Manor Farm as guests of Mr and Mrs Jack Harvey. We are particularly grateful to Gordon Pearson and Paul Marchant for their help.

Our conference tour and AGM on 14th October was held in the novel surroundings of Fort Nelson, Portsdown, near Portsmouth, on the theme 'Defending Hampshire's Coast: Aspects of Maritime Defensive Architecture', where we were guests of the County Museum Service, The Royal Armouries HM Tower of London, the Palmerston Forts Society, Portsdown Artillery Volunteers and the Fortress Study Group. Chaired by Grahame Soffe, Jude James spoke on Tudor coastal fortifications, and the curator, Nicholas Hall on 'Artillery versus Architecture'. After lunch Anthony Cantwell spoke on the Isle of Wight Defences and the Palmerston Forts Society gave a memorable tour of Fort Nelson including underground passages followed by a stunning live demonstration by the Artillery Volunteers in full uniform. Thanks are particularly due to Geoffrey Salter, Ian Maine and Peter Davies. At the AGM Jude James was elected a new committee member. Re-elected members were Martin Doughty (chairman and editor), Karen Parker (secretary), Graham Soffe (programme secretary), Peter Davies (treasurer), Francis Green (publicity), Edward Roberts *Newsletter* editor), John Crook, Audrey Sutton and Maureen Gale.

On behalf of the Field Club and the CBA the Section continues to vet planning applications for Listed Building Consent. For several years John Crook has co-ordinated local correspondents – a considerable burden, and we thank him for his conscientious work. This task was taken over by Pamela Moore in October.

G S

LANDSCAPE SECTION

The maturing of the Landscape Section has continued apace in 1989. The section has managed to successfully recognise the distinction between its own field of study and those of other sections and this has been demonstrated most positively in its annual programme.

This year, the section undertook two conferences, in the spring and late autumn, and three field trips. The conferences were on "Woodlands in the Landscape" and "Water, Water Management and The Landscape". The field trips went to Botley Woods in March, North Stoneham Park in May and Colmore and Prior's Dean in July.

The Woodlands conference was held at Botley Manor Farm and the attendance of around 40 was enough to comfortably fill the small lecture theatre on the site. Botley Farm was chosen because of its long tradition of woodland management, with its accounts, some of the best of 18th century practice in the county, being held at the County Record Office in Winchester.

Members were treated to an excellent day's lectures that was not without its entertaining controversies as the first two speakers, Dr Julian Evans of the Forestry Commission and Anthony Passmore of the New Forest Section, presented views that were often at variance. This led to a lively and good-humoured discussion of modern woodland practice. On the subject of a modern practice, Helen Paterson of English Heritage presented an interesting account of the management of monuments in woodland, arguably the greatest challenge to the protectors of our heritage.

From present problems, the conference also

looked back into the past. Edward Roberts talked on the management of medieval deer parks, Malcolm Lyne on his fascinating work on the historic landscape of Alice Holt and Woolmer Forests in the north-east of the county, and finally Christopher Currie talked on the past management of the Botley Manor Farm woodlands, now the Upper Hamble Country Park.

The conference was followed up by a field trip to the woodlands on the following day. About fifteen members braved a windy March day to look at the site of the old Dock House, from which timber was transported from the woods down the River Hamble and on to the Naval Dockyards at Portsmouth and other customers.

The next event on the section calendar was a Field Trip to North Stoneham Park. This was graced by excellent May weather and a very large turn-out of over 40 members.

The section was led from the isolated church around the extensive parkland of the former North Stoneham House. Many members were surprised to find such a rich site so close to urban Southampton. The tour made their way, often through overgrown woodland, to see features dating from the medieval deer park, through to the site of the 17th and 18th century house of the Flemings, and finally the early 19th century house and its magnificent planned landscapes with lakes, walled gardens, and ornamental plantings.

A hot summer's day led to another large turn-out for the trip to Colmore and Prior's Dean. Again many members were surprised to find such a scenic area of Eastern Hampshire should be so little known. Two of the finest small churches in the county were the focal point for an entertaining day. The highlights of the day were a discussion on the age of some large Hampshire yew trees, the tour leader urging a not-always-convinced audience that their age is often exaggerated, and the sight of Prior's Dean Manor House. The latter is surely one of Hampshire's most enigmatic buildings, strangely given but a cursory note in Pevsner.

The final item on the programme was the Water Management conference. Attended by 50 members, the day was a wonderful success; the facilities laid on by Southern Water were amongst the finest the section have yet encountered and the catering was so good that it was beyond praise.

Those attending were treated to talks on the landscaping of Water Authority projects, water management for sheep husbandry, fishponds and river fisheries, urban water management, and sea level changes on the east Hants coast around Portsmouth. It was George Watts, talking on water management in the Meon Valley, who reminded us just how broad the subject was. After dealing with the effects of obvious water management for fisheries, mills, canals and water meadows, he went on to discuss some not-so-obvious activities that use water, such as tanning, brewing, and holy wells and springs.

All in all the year was a major success. A number of changes have occurred in the committee. Dr Hare handed over the newsletter to Stephen Gray, Christopher Currie became the new Treasurer, relinquishing the programme secretary's position to Mike Broderick, who gave up the Treasurership. Jim Oliver handed over the Chairman's seat, also to Mike Broderick, and Margaret Smale continued as Minutes Secretary. Andrew King and Mary Ray resigned over the course of the year, but Gordon Ford, Dr Gavin Bowie, and Elizabeth Hughes joined the committee to sit alongside long-standing members Cai Moir, Dr John Hare, Jim Oliver and Arthur Stowell.

At the AGM a well-deserved vote-of-thanks was offered to Jim Oliver for his excellent work in steering the section from foundation to its present maturity.

C K C

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

The Local History Section has enjoyed a successful and profitable year.

It began with the Spring Symposium at King Alfred's College, Winchester. This year's theme was County Government in Hampshire, which fitted in well with celebrations of Hamp-

shire County Council's centenary. About 50 people attended the day, which opened with a lively and well-conceived talk by Dr Colin Haydon, chairman of the Section, on 'The Government of Hampshire in the 17th Century'. Then followed Miss Sheila Thomson, the Southampton city archivist, whose illustrated talk treated the development and organisation of the royal borough and county of Southampton in some detail. The morning ended with another highly successful practical workshop, once again organised by the Hampshire Record office, this time on quarter sessions, poor law and highway records. The afternoon featured papers by Dr Richard Williams on the work of the J Ps in 18th-century Hampshire and Dr Russ Foster on the government of the county during the lord lieutenantcy of the Duke of Wellington. The day ended with an entertaining talk and fascinating slides on the county council since 1889 delivered by the then Councillor Mrs Sue Bartlet, Chairman of Hampshire County Council.

This year's summer outing visited both the New Forest Museum and Visitor's Centre at Lyndhurst and Hurst Castle. The museum contained a fascinating array of exhibits on such subjects as verderers and agisters, forest crafts and industries, the history of the Forest, conservation, flora and fauna, local characters, tapestry, commoners' holdings and common rights. After a pleasant lunch at the Gun, Keyhaven, about 20 members proceeded by boat to Hurst Castle, one of Henry VIII's forts defending the Solent, where a full and entertaining tour was conducted by Jude James, who was particularly informative about the architecture. The only problem encountered was the large amount of traffic on the roads.

The third and final event of the year was the annual conference at Lymington community centre in conjunction with both the New Forest Section and the Lymington and District Historical Society. As usual, the conference treated in general the history of the venue and its environs. The theme was introduced by the local expert Dr Robert Coles, who used a wealth of illustrative material, much of it prepared for his publications, to trace the development of Lymington. Next followed Dr Joanna Close-Brooks' skilful analysis of what little is known about the promontory fort at Buckland Rings and the Ampress site, both probably of the Iron Age. Not surprisingly, she stressed the need for further excavation. The morning ended with the A G M at which the committee was re-elected, although the Secretary, Mrs Housby, declared her intention of standing down.

After lunch Miss Gillian Rushton exploited her work on probate records to illuminate such topics as the occupations, personal possessions, and house contents of Tudor and Early Stuart Lymington. There followed a most entertaining and animated talk on Old Lymington and borough of Lymington itself, in which Mr Arthur Lloyd – another renowned local historian – offered many new interpretations of Lymington's past and challenged longstanding orthodoxies. Dr Close-Brooks then interpolated a brief account of the late medieval building recently discovered at 27 High Street, Lymington, and Gavin Ogilvie concluded the lecture programme with a lavishly illustrated talk on 'Photography and Local History'. The final part of the programme, the tour of Lymington conducted by Mr Klitz and Helen Theobald of the Lymington Guided Walks Association, miraculously escaped the severe gales that otherwise marred a thoroughly enjoyable day.

J H/M H

NEW FOREST SECTION

New Forest Affairs

1989 saw the final publication of two important documents. The principal recommendations of the New Forest Review were to redefine the Forest area to include land outside the perambulation which had links with the Forest, coinciding with the New Forest District Council's Heritage Area, and to form a committee to advise authorities with responsibilities within the enlarged area. Members

would be appointed by the authorities concerned. A steering committee has been formed to promote these two proposals.

The Highway Strategy has been approved by Hampshire County Council, and the first speed limits are to be imposed in the north of the Forest in January 1990. The use of main roads is to be encouraged for through traffic, and two other categories of road will have restrictions designed to keep them for local traffic.

The Open Forest Advisory Committee now includes a sub-committee to consider the conservation of the unenclosed ancient woodland.

The Ramblers Association has suggested that the New Forest should be designated a National Park, with distinctive status on the lines of the Norfolk Broads. Though there may be some advantage in funding being available from Government and the EEC, the Section Committee considers that this would be more than offset by the loss of the Verderers' powers to greater planning control.

The largest fire in the Forest for some time occurred at Bratley in September. It was a particularly dangerous and fierce fire, going deep into the peat, so that regeneration will take many years. The total area destroyed was just under 200 acres.

The other serious incident of 1989 was the epidemic of equine influenza, which spread over the whole Forest in late summer, and killed 53 ponies.

Planning and Development

Clyde Petroleum has not appealed against the refusal of permission to drill for oil at Ipley. Hampshire County Council has purchased the site of Buckland Rings at Lymington, following the rejection of permission for large scale development there. The Central Electricity Generating Board has withdrawn for the time being proposals for a power station and coal port at Fawley. As a follow-up to the Lyndhurst bypass the Verderers have reaffirmed that Route 5A remains unacceptable. A public inquiry opened in November into the compulsory purchase of land at Stoney Cross for an all-movements junction. The Section made a presentment to the Verderers Court, asking it to oppose the proposal and to allow the present closure of the crossing to remain. It is felt that recreational pressure would increase, traffic volume would be higher on the minor unfenced roads, and the consequent animal accidents would lead to the virtual destruction of commoning in the Fritham area.

Section Affairs and Programme

At the AGM Mr A H Pasmore was re-elected Chairman. The Fieldwork Group excavated a site in the northwest of the Forest which had been damaged by nineteenth century digging, and which, it was believed, had been misinterpreted in date, both by John Wise in 1863, and by Heywood Sumner 50 years later.

The Section succeeded in proving the existence of a previously unknown inclosure, probably of Romano-British origin, and in showing that it is of earlier date than a massive earthwork, which surrounds 350 acres south of Latchmore Brook. The excavation was well attended and blessed with excellent weather. Other members were taken on a tour of the site towards the end of the excavation. Mr K Barton spoke in January on excavations at Beaulieu in 1988. Mr A T Lloyd led a tour of the Lymington Salterns in May.

In view of the recent dismissal of proposals for Buckland Rings, and its subsequent purchase by Hampshire County Council, it was particularly interesting to hear Dr Joanna Close-Brooks speak in Lyndhurst about this site, in a joint meeting in December with Lyndhurst Historical Society.

The Section's display was again taken to the New Forest Show at Brockenhurst.

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