

REPORTS ON THE YEAR 1990

THE FIELD CLUB

Secretary's Report

1990 was a year of stability. There was an attractive programme of events, some very well attended, and a good *Proceedings*. A surplus was once again achieved on the year and the Field Club is now financially secure. There is no need for an increase in subscriptions, last raised in 1984. Minor problems over the quality of the *Newsletter* and the vetting of historic buildings were resolved without difficulty. Another way of viewing the situation, however, is to say that the Field Club made no progress. Although such a bargain, subscriptions remained static, some events had to be cancelled, there was an obvious need to relieve some longstanding officers, and some age-old problems cropped up, which will need resolving in 1991.

There were four meetings of Council. Nobody was nominated for one of the vacancies for Ordinary Members and attendance was generally poor. This reflected both the relative lack of interest of members in Council when there are no fireworks or crises and also the greater relevance naturally perceived in the sections that organise events. This attitude is regrettable nevertheless, because Council is the governing body of the whole Society, and it risks leaving the Officers unsupervised. While section representatives report to Council on section news, it seems likely they may not be reporting back to the sections what happens in Council.

Two longstanding servants of the Field Club resigned during the year. Mr Hampson initiated the first *Newsletter* and was Hon Librarian for twenty years, relinquished office on his retirement from Southampton University Library. Council thanked him for his long service and, as he expects to leave Hampshire, awarded him a book token rather than Honorary Life Membership. Dr Christopher

Woolgar has succeeded him as Hon Librarian. Mr Ken Qualmann, who has served on Editorial Board as Chairman and in a variety of other roles, also resigned. He will remain a member of the Society and indeed agreed to edit the final monograph on the M3 excavations.

Several times postings were delayed, causing considerable inconvenience and even the cancellation of an event. At the root of the problem was the failure of Section Newsletter Editors and Programme Secretaries to supply copy earlier enough to Mr Stagg for typing and to Mrs Hughes as Programme Secretary for posting. Mrs Hughes and Mrs Turnbull, Membership Secretary, complained to Council about the increasing burden of office and Mrs Hughes subsequently resigned due to pressure of work. Suggestions included the restriction of copy for the postings, a reduction in postings, a change in posting dates, the distribution of *Proceedings* by the printers, and the imposition of rigorous deadlines. Sections were consulted and agreed to the final proposal. The others need more careful investigation: they could radically change the organisation of the Society and it is doubtful whether the Society's programme should be shaped by the administrative convenience of a few officers. Mrs Hughes had served in this onerous role for five years and her departure was much regretted. Several others have held subsidiary offices just as long and cannot be expected to remain indefinitely. They will all be difficult to replace.

The Annual Conference was to be held on Saturday 29 September on board SS Shieldhall at Ocean Village, Southampton on the theme 'The Future of Hampshire's Past', but regrettably it had to be cancelled. Whilst the immediate cause was the withdrawal of a speaker, bookings were again disappointing and Council will need to consider whether to continue the event. The Annual Conference originated before the reorganisation of the

Society into sections in 1979 and was preserved as a central event thereafter. It has a distinctive role, in that it brings together the specialist interests of the sections and it has been used to promote innovative topics/approaches to the past, but it evidently has less appeal than the sections' own conferences, which cater for particular specialisms and are often held in more attractive venues.

At the end of the year a problem arose concerning the New Forest Section grant from the Field Club. The sections organize the Society's programme and a prime call on the Field Club's funds is the financing of the sections. When the production and financing of the *Newsletter* and *New Forest Annual Report* was transferred to the central Field Club, it became possible for the sections to finance themselves from events and all sections ceased to require grants every year, except the New Forest Section. The issue in 1990 was an application for a grant by the New Forest Section that it did not strictly need. Was an annual grant a right? The issue raised the nature of the relationship of the Field Club to the sections, which has not changed in spite of the considerable evolution of the Society in recent years. This is a problem for Council in 1991.

Annual General Meeting at King Alfred's College, Winchester, Wednesday 30 May 1990

Forty-five members attending a successful evening that began with the business meeting, proceeded with a wine and splendid buffet, and culminated in the President's illustrated Address.

The reports all revealed another successful year. The Editorial Board had produced *Proceedings* volume 45, volume 46 was in the press, and volume 47, the index to volumes 20-40, and a monograph were all in preparation. Events had generally gone well and the Society, the sections, and Editorial Board had all added to their reserves. There was new blood on each section committee. The Treasurer could announce that subscriptions would remain in 1991 at their 1984 level.

A tribute was paid to Mr Kenneth Qualmann, who had served since 1979 as Business, Archaeology and Monographs Editor and as Chairman of the Editorial Board. The meeting re-elected Dr Michael Hicks as Hon Secretary and the Hon Auditors and elected for the first time Mr Mark Wingate as Treasurer and Dr John Hare and Miss Sarah Lewin as Ordinary Members of Council.

The President took as the theme 'Jane Austen's Southampton'. Southampton was her home for several years before she removed to Chawton. Not then the industrial or commercial conurbation that it has since become, Southampton was then a spa town, the home of many military and naval officers, the focus for provincial high society, and the hub of a circle of elegant country seats that have now largely disappeared. After a brief period in a boarding house, Jane and her mother moved with their brother Captain Austen into a large house in Castle Square adjoining the Marquis of Lansdowne's castellated mansion. This house was itself imposing, if scarcely furnished, commanded a splendid view over the city walls, and had a large garden in which Jane took considerable interest. Apart from mingling with the elite and taking tea, the Austens took surprisingly athletic walks and boat-trips to what are now Southampton's outer suburbs.

Jane Austen's day-to-day activities are recorded by the letters and diaries of herself and her circle. They were further illuminated by Mr Rance both from his encyclopaedic knowledge of Southampton and especially by reference to the remarkable range of paintings, prints, and caricatures that he depicted in his slides. Taken together, the Austens' idle chit-chat and catty comments and the illustrations brought to light a singularly obscure phase in Southampton's history and clothed with flesh real people who feature otherwise only as names in Southampton's ratebooks and directories. The audience learnt as much about Southampton as Jane Austen's neglected sojourn there.

Time, not lack of enlivening material, brought the Presidential Address to an end,

and the evening terminated with thanks to the speaker for his address and to Mrs Turnbull and Mrs Moore for the refreshments.

O G S Crawford Memorial Lecture 1990

In 1990 the lecture was held at King John's House, Romsey on Saturday 1 December. The President was in the chair and the speaker was Dr Andrew Russel, who spoke about his 'Excavations at the Lower High Street, Southampton'. The talk was followed by refreshments.

Dr Russel began with Crawford himself, who photographed many medieval remains exposed during the Blitz and produced the only account of its development that stands up to modern research.

It is well known that the Romans settled east of the Itchen at Clausentum, the Saxons at Hamwih west of the Itchen near Old St Mary's church until about 850, and that medieval Southampton occupied the site of Old Southampton west of the walls facing the drained Millbrook Bay. But where was late Saxon Southampton and when was Old Southampton first settled? These were the questions to which Dr Russel addressed himself.

Only a few coins, potsherds, pits and ditches remain for Late Saxon Southampton, much of which has been destroyed by the construction of deep cellars. Long ago Philip Holdsworth used this material to argue that the rectilinear street plan of Old Southampton was laid down by the Late Saxons. Since then, many other excavations have uncovered evidence of the same vestigial nature. Thus excavations in the floor of Quilters Vault found the bottoms of Saxon pits and ditches and similar results emerged from digging in the medieval vaults at Lower High Street, where a forest of stake holes was also found. Thousands of sea-shells, slag from iron working, a patch of Saxon road surface, and more, as yet inexplicable, ditches were uncovered. Evidently there was dense Late Saxon occupation throughout Old Southampton and beyond.

That, indeed, was the most important find to date. Late Saxon occupation was found

actually under the city walls and ditches, beyond the official bounds of the medieval town. Late Saxon occupation was found also beneath Broad Lane, beneath French Street, and at two points beneath High Street – the latest by courtesy of modern workmen mending a burst sewer! Clearly Saxon Hamtun extended far beyond the ditches discovered so far and its circumference was far greater than the 108 yards of the Burghal Hidage. It shared neither the boundaries nor the street plan of the later medieval town. How could this be? How could a new grid of streets be imposed on a densely settled city? Surely it follows, Dr Russel answered, that Crawford was right in his guess that there must have been a break in occupation to allow replanning to take place. He could not yet say when.

Ironically, Dr Russel's conclusion was that the more we have learnt about Late Saxon Southampton, the less certain we are of its development. Every new find, however, adds to the jigsaw and illuminates a history that seems ever more complex and, as his audience considered, ever more fascinating too.

MAH

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

At our first meeting of 1990, in February, Grahame Soffe battled heroically with an uncooperative projector to bring us up to date on the remarkable new discoveries at Shedfield. Shedfield House has extensive grounds in which over many years a picture has emerged of Roman settlement close to the Roman road, and in particular a thriving Romano-British pottery industry. In 1990 the creation of a new golf course prompted the rescue excavation of a group of prehistoric boiling-mounds in the valley, and a number of pottery kilns with associated features on the slope above. The biggest surprise was that the Roman potters had plundered the burnt flints to crush as temper for their pottery.

The lecture programme ended successfully in March with Dick Whinney's account of the Peninsular Barracks excavations, which in

spite of an unavoidable clash with a meeting of the Hampshire Archaeological Committee attracted a substantial audience. This was accompanied by a visit to the excavations, also led by Dick Whinney, in collaboration with the Winchester Archaeological Rescue Group.

The fine weather provided a sunny start to our Summer Programme on 26 May with a visit to the Iron Age hillfort of Whitsbury Rings and the Roman villa at Rockbourne, both led by David Johnston. For many of us this was a first visit to a surprisingly little-known but excellently preserved monument, of which the owners kindly allowed us to explore the privately owned parts. After a sunny picnic on the ramparts we travelled on to the villa, whose new museum display was a surprise to many; some admired the new professionalism, while others regretted the passing of the old, familiar treasure-house. We chose a fine evening five days later for a popular and enjoyable Guided Tour of Romsey expertly led by Steve Cooper. By contrast, our final outing, in August, took place in a thunder-storm on Professor Cunliffe's excavations at Bury Hill. Some sixty drenched members in relays listened attentively as our guide refused to be upstaged by the elements and gave us an eloquent and memorable tour of the site.

We began the Winter programme with one of our rare disasters – the cancellation of the annual Wine and Cheese social gathering in September, for which we had booked the attractive surroundings of Southsea Castle. The last-minute cancellation was due to circumstances entirely beyond our control. We shall have another try, however, on 13 September this year, and invite our members to make a note of it.

Our Annual Conference in November, however, was a runaway success, thanks to the energetic organisation of our hosts, the Test Valley Archaeological Trust, and the talents of a panel of seven speakers. The theme was 'Country, Town and Church: Romsey through the ages' and the wide scope of the papers ranged from the landscape and settlement through successive archaeological periods to

the evidence of medieval documents. We were especially honoured by a paper from Dr Margaret Gelling on place-name evidence. For many of us this was our first view of the Plaza Cinema in its restored form, ably run by a volunteer organisation. We thank them, too, for making us feel so welcome.

As part of the Field Club's *Policy towards Development*, in which the initial evaluation of threats is to be devolved to Sections, we have been in touch with RPS Cloustone, the Environmental Consultants undertaking an Environmental Impact Assessment for Southampton University of the proposed new Campus site in the Lordswood-Totton area north of Southampton. We have offered our support to Mr David Freke, who is responsible for the archaeological evaluation.

Jonathan Drake has resigned from the Section Committee, and we welcome Kevin White who has taken his place. We also lose Steve Cooper, who has been one of our most energetic members for many years. Our links with the North-East Hampshire Archaeological Society, however, are strengthened by the addition of Tess Harfey from that Society. And to bring our numbers up to strength, we welcome Don Bryan, of the Winchester Archaeological Rescue Group. Finally, we congratulate our Hon Secretary Sue Gordon who has started an important new job at the Science Museum in London, while continuing to live in the area. I would like as Chairman to record our sincere gratitude to her for her hard work and efficiency as Hon Secretary of the Section in the last year, and hope that her new commitments will still leave her time to lead us in the coming year.

DEJ

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SECTION

This year the section continued with its series of winter lectures at King Alfred's College, Winchester, but due to low attendances last year we reduced their number to two, and introduced an informal evening of shorter members' contributions, with refreshments.

The formal lectures were given by John Reynolds on 'Windmills and Watermills in Hampshire', and by Dr Martin Doughty on 'Arts and Crafts Mannerism: Garden Cities and Town Planners'. Our work has also been illustrated by regular notices and articles in the *Newsletter*.

Two of our summer excursions were attempts at recreating visits made by the Field Club in 1948. All were oversubscribed and blessed with fine weather.

On 5 May we visited East Meon. The Romanesque parish church of All Saints, 'one of the most thrilling churches in Hampshire', was examined in detail with the vicar. The Tournai font was discussed by Grahame Soffe who later took the group to the ruined medieval chapel at Westbury. Edward Roberts led the tour of the Court House, the great medieval manor house of the Winchester bishopric, and told of his recent researches into the documentary accounts of its original construction. His tour continued to include Glenthorne, a fine late 17th-century house, Tudor House – a timber-framed lobby-entrance house, – and the 14th-century hall houses of Forge Sound and Riverside. Thanks are due to Mr and Mrs Bartlett, Mrs Bailey, and Mr and Mrs Blakstaal, the owners who allowed us into their homes.

A great Hampshire county house, Cranbury Park was visited on 20 May by permission of Mrs P Chamberlayne-Macdonald. A very large group of members and guests toured the exterior of the house and outbuildings with John Brushe of English Heritage, who discussed its complicated architectural development and particularly the remodelling by George Dance the Younger in the late 18th century. The house and park are rarely open to the public, but the group was disappointed that a view of Dance's great state rooms, open in 1948, was not permitted. In the gardens and park the tour included Dance's Diary, Sir Isaac Newton's Sundial, Wordsworth's Grotto, and the Castle – a folly lodge incorporating fragments of the fabric of Netley Abbey. The visit has resulted in a study of Cranbury's development which we hope will be published shortly. The

day also included a study of the nearby Otterbourne parish church (1837–9), a remarkable building to replace the medieval church on a new site. Interesting contributions were made by the vicar, the Revd Philip Barrett, David Lloyd and Rodney Hubbuck.

We ventured into Wiltshire on 8 September for a tour of medieval buildings in Salisbury led by Nigel Fradgley (RCHME) and Edward Roberts, following in the steps of RCHME's thorough survey of the city. The Bishop's Palace (now the Cathedral School) was examined in detail by kind permission of the Headmaster and Bursar and we were grateful for Mr Waddington's company and permission to see the Old Deanery Great Hall with its remarkable timber roof. Also in the Close, another medieval roof was seen at the King's House, now the Salisbury and South Wilts Museum. Lunch was taken at the mainly 14th-century George Inn, High Street (RCHME I 173) where the manager showed the corbelled hammer-beam roof and other roof spaces. We then visited No 9 Queen Street: William Russell's house of 1306 (I 129), now Watson's China Shop and a remarkable piece of timber-framing, and then the hall of John Hall's 15th-century house in New Canal (I 185), now the vestibule of an Odeon cinema. The latter has a fine false hammer-beam roof with four tiers of cusped windbraces, some original window glass and decorated stonework. We hope to repeat this visit in 1991.

Our conference and AGM on 13 October was held at King Alfred's College with the theme 'The Changing Landscape of Hampshire Towns' – a discussion of the evolution of the built townscape through the medium of photography. The meeting, chaired by John Crook, had a distinguished group of speakers. Francis Green spoke on Romsey, Philippa Stevens on Winchester, Freddie Emery-Wallis on Portsmouth, Adrian Rance on Southampton, and David Lee of the Wessex Film and Stroud Archive gave a video presentation of archive films. At the AGM, Dilys Hall and Ann Jones were elected new committee members. Re-elected members were John Crook (chairman), Martin Doughty (editor), Karen

Parker, Grahame Soffe (programme secretary), Peter Davies (treasurer), Francis Green (publicity), Edward Roberts (*Newsletter* editor), Audrey Sutton and Maureen Gale. Jude James resigned earlier in the year.

GS

LANDSCAPE SECTION

The Landscape Section's year began in Alresford. On a beautiful April day, the 28th, Arthur Stowell led a study of the town. The morning was spent on a brief wander round New Alresford, the medieval Novum Forum of Bishop De Lucy, with its Broad Street market site, its burgrave plots, the George Inn formerly the Angel, a 14th-century base-cruck house on Mill Hill, and finally the Great Pond, now much reduced from its original 200 acres. In the afternoon the section followed the ancient unmetalled road, with its hazel hedges, from Old Alresford to Abbotstone. By 1589, when Abbotstone had become part of Itchen Stoke, it had dwindled to a few cottages and its church was 'decayed'. The party wandered around Chapel Close, noted the outline of the walls of the church and the mounds that probably indicated sites of houses. The Candover stream lies not far away in the valley to the west. Why then was on a hilltop rather than by the water? (See *Proceedings* xxvii (1971) for the late Isobel Sanderson's study of this former village).

The next field trip, on Saturday 16 June, was around Warnford. In the morning Stan Waight of Fareham Landscape Archaeology Group led the section around the Bere Farm Estate and discussed the evidence of the records at Corpus Christi College, Oxford. In support of this thesis that Bere Farm was a deer park, he cited the field evidence of banks, lynchets, and field names. Later the section counted the shrub species along a portion of the parish boundary that coincided with the estate boundary: a hedge of considerable antiquity was recorded. After lunch Gavin Bowie led us up Old Winchester Hill, where he gave an alfresco lecture on the consequences for the

area of competing needs of sheep-rearing and arable farming. He stressed the importance of the introduction of agricultural fertilisers and the decline of the water-meadows as the landscape economy changed.

Mike Broderick led the next field trip to Sherborne St John on Saturday 7 July. The aim was to reconstruct the appearance of the village in the 1850s, principally from the 1851 Census and 1840 Tithe Map. The morning was spent visiting places easily identifiable from the Census and Tithe Map, such as the Swan, the old Post Office, the former brickworks, of which there is now no visible sign, the old baker's and tailor's shops, the village pound, and finally the site of the former mill. After lunch the gravestones in the churchyard were studied to locate people in the 1851 Census. The church was opened to permit an examination of the interior. Particularly noteworthy were the brasses of the Brocas family and what appears to be the original font of c 1150.

This year's conference, held at King Alfred's College on 17 November, was entitled 'Science and the Landscape'. The attendance, though reasonable, was less than in previous years, perhaps due to the proximity of the Archaeology Section conference at Romsey, but the quality of the talks was as high as ever. The morning featured talks by Islwyn Thomas from the National Centre for Remote Sensing at Farnborough, the Chairman Mike Broderick, and Bob Gibbons. After the section AGM and lunch, there were further talks by John Sheail, from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in Huntingdon, and Stephen Gray, the section's Newsletter Editor.

The first speaker outlined the variety of ways in which information was collected about the surface of the earth from a distance. Data was used from a range of satellites at different levels of detail, some showing Winchester, and its applications were explored, eg for monitoring pollution and the building of roads in remote areas. Next, starting from the nature of rocks and moving to slides of particular landscapes, Mike Broderick's talk on Geology demonstrated the influence of lithology and structure on the relief of the county. Thirdly,

again in complete contrast, Bob Gibbons outlined the development of Hampshire's vegetation as the climate warmed up after the last Ice Age and Hampshire became a completely wooded region. His slides showed the range of plant communities today, most of which owe their present characteristics to man.

John Sheail's focus was narrower. He described how research in Hampshire early this century first demonstrated the pollution of inland fisheries arising from tarring of roads and then helped to combat it. Alresford was the test site for isolating the harmful pollutants. Government action, or inaction, did not seem any speedier then than now! There followed Stephen Gray's application of computer models to extract patterns from the landscape. He showed how phosphate analysis of soil at different levels could be used to locate different historic gardens, how English surnames were being lost, and at the possible influence of relief in siting the DMV at Lomer.

MB

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

The Local History Section's year began with a conference in April at King Alfred's College, Winchester on the Second World War in Hampshire. The morning session featured talks by Colonel Michael Hickey of the Museum of Army Flying on the contribution of Middle Wallop airfield; by Lt-Col John Darroch on the distinguished service of the Hampshire Regiment; and by Mr Henry Wills on the historic importance of military buildings and the need for them to be preserved. Many structures had deteriorated because their significance was not realized. His unusual expertise, particularly on pill-boxes, was much appreciated. After lunch Mr Campbell McMurray, Director of the Royal Naval Museum at Portsmouth, assessed the contribution of Hampshire's ports to the war effort. This led naturally into David Lee's government propaganda film, 'Port of Destiny', which presented Southampton Docks in a heroic mould in marked contrast to

its attenuated role today. Mrs Sue Woolgar's illustrated talk on the civilian experience in Southampton, where officially high morale contrasted markedly with the reality of great strains and hardships, brought out what had been the latent theme throughout – the relationship of Hampshire communities, urban and rural, to the war effort and the armed forces themselves.

Sadly, the summer outing to Emsworth, Warblington, and Havant was undersubscribed and was cancelled.

The autumn conference, as enjoyable as ever, was held this year at Wickham Community Centre. There were lectures, slides, and a guided tour on Wickham and Bishops Waltham. The meeting opened with Mr Whinney on the archaeology, which is ill-preserved by the sandy terrain, and continued with Dr Hare's analysis of the development in Bishop Waltham's Palace. Miss Lewin's helpful and well-illustrated account of relevant records at Hampshire Record office immediately preceded Miss Lewis' tour in which, regrettably, her local and professional knowledge was submerged in torrential rain! The day ended fittingly with Dr Haydon's entertaining talk on the Waltham Black Act and its background, which related local history to national affairs and showed how legislation against poaching was both the product of long-term trends in English society and of immediate social and political exigencies.

The Annual General Meeting at Wickham witnessed the re-election of all the officers, Mrs McLellan having succeeded as Secretary during the year, and of the whole committee.

AMcL

NEW FOREST SECTION

New Forest Affairs

The Government response to the New Forest Review published last year has been disappointing in that many proposals have been watered down. However it confirmed the establishment of the 'Heritage Area' (subject

to review) of land immediately adjacent to the perambulation, and the setting up of the New Forest Heritage Committee (now the New Forest Committee), comprising the statutory bodies responsible for Forest and district policies, which will liaise and promote the protection of the Forest. The Government agreed with the Review Group that designation as a national park would be 'overbureaucratic' and unnecessary. The Section welcomes this as supporting its own conclusions that the New Forest is better protected under present legislation.

The New Forest Consultative Panel has been reorganised and enlarged to include the adjacent (Wiltshire) county council, together with district and parish councils whose boundaries include the heritage area. Its chairman will now be appointed by the New Forest Committee and its terms of reference will provide a forum for all organisations and bodies within the heritage area to debate in public matters of concern to the heritage area, and to discuss with the New Forest Committee policies and management strategies for the conservation of the area's traditional character.

Some of the measures proposed in the Highway Strategy, also published in 1989, have been implemented in the north of the Forest. They include a 40 mph speed limit and several experimental physical restrictions. A tragic accident has been a setback to the programme but most drivers are observing the speed limit, with the exception mainly of rush hour commuters. Taken against a five year period, deaths among commoners' animals have been reduced by 37% and personal injuries by 48%.

Further damage was caused to woodland in January but this time mainly in coniferous plantations, some areas of which were completely flattened. The Forestry Commission has suspended its annual felling and thinning programme until the damage has been dealt with.

Section affairs and programme

After the above mentioned storm, the Section surveyed (a word which does no justice to the

acrobatic scrambling over and under tree trunks) an area in the north of the Forest. Many of the 'root plates' of fallen trees yielded pottery fragments, a short length of wall possibly of Roman origin was exposed, and several hitherto unknown kiln sites revealed.

A letter was sent to the Forestry Commission suggesting that some areas of fallen conifers where broad-leaved trees had previously stood might be replanted with broadleaves. The Deputy Surveyor replied favourably, where soils were suitable.

The display stand has been completely redesigned and enlarged, thanks to Mr A D Taylor and Mr G Ogilvie and a grant from the Field Club. The new stand was shown for the first time at the New Forest Show, and some of the new photographs were displayed on the original Marler Haley stand at the Archaeology Section's conference in Romsey in November.

For its annual excavation the Section returned to its 1989 site, plans to dig in Broomy Inclosure having had to be postponed owing to storm damage.

At its Annual General Meeting the Section noted with regret the resignation from the committee of Mrs Jean Cobb, and the committee showed its appreciation of all the service she had given since its foundation by presenting her with a copy of 'Buckland Rings' by Dr Close-Brooks.

After the Annual General Meeting Mr R C Coles gave a talk on 'Wartime Sites in the New Forest', with valuable photographs of much that has since disappeared.

A joint meeting on butterflies was held in Brockhill Inclosure in July with the Hampshire branch of the British Butterfly Conservation Society, and in August the Section invited Field Club members to its excavation in Sloden. A most enjoyable exercise in September was the experimental 'boiling trough', which resulted in the water reaching that point in just under three hours. The summer programme concluded with a fungus foray in Denny Wood led by Mr Gordon Dickson of the British Mycological Society.

The winter programme opened in November

with a joint meeting with Lyndhurst Historical Society, at which Mr John Chapman gave a fascinating talk on Christchurch Priory, at which he is an official guide. His slides illustrated the evidence of the development of the building, and showed many interesting features not open to view by the general public.

JI