

REPORTS ON THE YEAR 1991

Secretary's Report

1991 was the final year of the Presidency of Adrian Rance and of the Secretaryship of Michael Hicks. Following the retirements of Paul Caudell, Tom James and Ken Qualmann in 1989-90, it thus marks a clean break with the managerial and editorial team that oversaw the recovery of Society and *Proceedings* in the 1980s and ushers in a new team led by Stephen Locke as President, who will face the very different challenges and exploit the opportunities of the 1990s. The first challenge, of course, will arise from the increase in subscriptions in 1992.

The new officers will benefit, however, from two inestimable advantages. First of all, they can rely for the continuation of smooth routine on the Membership Secretary (Mrs Turnbull), Programme Secretary (Miss Fletcher), Back-numbers Secretary (Miss Rushton), Publicity Officer (Mrs Moore) and Newsletter Editor (Mr Stagg). Secondly, they can count on the most varied and exciting programmes into the indefinite future from the experienced, thoroughly professional, and apparently tireless section committees, to whom the successes of the 1980s are really due.

1991 was another memorable year. Among so many rewarding activities reported below, particular triumphs were those in the north and south-east of the county, where so many Field Club initiatives have failed: the Archaeology Conference at Odiham, attended by 90 people, and the third Local History Fair at Portsmouth Central Library. Those behind the reforms of 1979, notably Miss Cash, Mr Collinson, and Dr Course, not only salvaged what remained of the old Society, but provided a framework and impetus for the revitalisation from which all current members are benefiting.

Over the past decade, relations between the central Society and the constituent sections has inevitably evolved and a new equilibrium

has emerged. Now most sections finance their own events from takings, whilst the parent society organises and finances the publications, postings, insurance and so on. But not in the New Forest, where the New Forest Section resembles a smaller version of the old Field Club and depends wholly on the parent Society for its unique mixture of fieldwork and lectures. Such differences produced friction late in 1990 and resulted in the Secretary's paper, *The Society and the Sections*, printed in the March 1992 *Newsletter*. This paper has now been accepted by Council and all the Sections. It will provide, it is hoped, the shared understanding needed for the future and will encourage the New Forest Section to develop its own programme along the paths that the newer sections have blazed.

Reference has already been made to the Local History Fair and the AGM and Crawford Lecture are reported below. However, for the first time for many years, there was no Annual Conference in 1991, Council taking the view that the quality and variety of section conferences made such an event redundant.

The Annual General Meeting on 29 May 1991 was again held at King Alfred's College, Winchester, a move to the Winchester Guildhall having proved abortive, and was attended by thirty members – a slightly disappointing total in the light of the improved numbers of recent years. Once again the business meeting preceded a splendid buffet, the work of Mrs Moore and Mrs Turnbull, and was followed by the Presidential Address. The programme proved as crowded and as worthwhile as ever.

The President spoke at length about the health of the Society and was supported in detail by the other officers and representatives of the sections. The President paid tribute to Council and especially the Secretary and Treasurer, the Secretary paid tribute to Mrs Turnbull (Membership Secretary), Miss White (Publications Secretary), Mrs Moore (Publicity Officer), and Mrs Hughes (Programme

Secretary), who had retired in favour of Miss Fletcher, and everybody expressed thanks to the Honorary Auditors. Appreciation was expressed for the invaluable support in so many ways of Hampshire County Council.

The Treasurer, Mr Wingate, showed that the apparent surplus in 1990 had been achieved only by drawing on bank interest. It was therefore necessary to raise subscriptions in 1992 to £6 for *Proceedings* from £4, £10 for Ordinary Membership (£7.50), £12 for Joint Membership (£10), and £16 for Institutions (£12). Since the subscription for *Proceedings* was unchanged since 1979 and for membership since 1984, these represented much less than inflation. It was expected that the increase would more than offset any resignations and it was hoped that further increases could be avoided for some years. Not only were the increases approved by the membership, but it was questioned whether they were sufficient and in particular whether Joint Members should not pay more.

Michael Hicks and Mark Wingate were re-elected as Secretary and Treasurer, Sandy Mackenzie, Paul Marchant and Elizabeth Rothery were returned to Council, and Mr Sanders and Miss Lee were re-elected as Honorary Auditors and a further year.

The President selected for his second Address the theme of 'Hubert Scott Paine and Hampshire Aviation', the subject of his most recent book. A wide-ranging account of Hythe's role in the heroic age of sea-plane and motor-boat building, it was illustrated by splendidly evocative slides. Paine, it emerged, was a many-sided pioneer with many firsts and vast achievements to his credit. The foundation of the Supermarine Company, the winning of the Schneider Trophy, Sir Henry Segrave's world water-speed record Scott Paine's Miss England, the first passenger-carrying sea-plane service, the mass production of pleasure motor-boats, the origins of Air-Sea Rescue, and the design of the American PT boats on which John F. Kennedy served were mere episodes in a remarkably varied career. All did not run smoothly, for Scott Paine was an abrasive businessman and

no gentleman, whose innovations were more readily accepted abroad and were particularly anathema to the Admiralty, yet he generally overbore his opponents and made a fortune from almost nothing.

Paine's triumphs spanned both World Wars and he died less than thirty years ago, yet almost nobody, even in Southampton, has heard of him and his monuments have generally passed away. His daughter now lives in America, his factories have been built over and converted to other uses, and his prototype aircraft have been deliberately destroyed – even by the Science Museum! – as unworthy of preservation. For the informed observer, however, as Mr Rance showed, there is much still to be seen and discovered for oneself. How many humble houseboats began their lives as Scott Paine motor torpedo-boats or sea-plane tenders?

*O G S Crawford Memorial Lecture,
7 December 1991*

For the second year this was held at King John's House, Romsey and combined the lecture itself and refreshments. Chaired by the President and attended by forty members, it was devoted to the 'Archaeology of Twyford Down' and was shared by two speakers, Graham Soffe of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments for England, on the archaeological potential of the M3 route and David Farwell on his most recent excavations. The talks were followed by refreshments and the opportunity to question the speakers.

Mr Soffe's contribution fell into two main parts. First of all, he showed many slides of the 1920s taken by Crawford himself, the pioneer of aerial photography, and Professor Christopher Hawkes, who excavated the hillfort of St Catharine's Hill whilst at Winchester College and Oxford. Hawkes' classic report in the Field Club *Proceedings* in 1928, introduced him to other Hampshire hillforts, and was the basis of his division of the Iron Age into periods that made his reputation. Professor Hawkes died early in 1992 at the age of 87.

Among these slides were a series of splendidly moustachioed portraits: Crawford him-

self, in several cases in unfamiliar guises, the young Hawkes, and the future Professors Norman Myres and Stuart Piggott. Scenes of the excavators showed them at formal lunch with wine on site. There were early etchings of 'the treeless hill', photos of it without bushes from watery and be-cowed water-meadows, aerial photographs recovered from a Hampshire County Council drawer, and details of the excavations themselves and the finds, now at Hyde Historical Resources Centre.

Perhaps most interesting were pictures of the De Havilland byplanes from which Crawford hung with a huge camera, his feet securely tied to keep him in the plane, and a more modern colour photo of similarly primitive activity from a 1990s Cessna. One striking photograph showed Hawkes' glass slides at his home, still wrapped in pages of the Times Literary Supplement for 1929! Some, it was reported, were last shown to the Hampshire Field Club in 1928!

Secondly, Mr Soffe surveyed the amazing range of archaeological features – lynchets, pits, ditches, hollow ways, settlements etc – visible in aerial photographs and on the ground. Three areas are now scheduled historic monuments: St Catherine's Hill, which would repay further excavation; an Iron Age village partly and poorly excavated in the 1920s; and the Dongers – an extraordinary collection of hollow ways along the line of the Winchester to Morestead Road. The M3 route threads in between over open downland.

Mr Farwell then outlined his excavations last summer. Much had been lost through the effects of ploughing and the subsoil was found to be very shallow. Near the Iron Age village all that was found were shallow ditches, apparently animal enclosures, bones, and pots. Further east many of the features stemmed from soil-drift near the lynchet, but a severely damaged ring-ditch revealed the remains of no less than 37 buried or cremated individuals. Probably these were the burials of a farming community.

Himself an archaeologist, the President (Adrian Rance) drew attention to the importance of the area in developing international

archaeology, the quality of those involved over 70 years, and the remarkable range of techniques employed. Clearly much remained to be investigated, some for a second time. Further excavation may be required if the M3 passes through any sites of special scientific interest.

MAH

ARCHAEOLOGY SECTION

At our first meeting of the year, Dr Anthony King explained that a large piece of Roman Hampshire would shortly be on display at the British Museum. Thanks to modern technology and the skills of the British Museum's Conservation Department an entire section of one wall of the recently excavated Meonstoke Roman villa was successfully lifted in one piece from the site where it had been lying for over sixteen hundred years. Encased in a ten-ton steel box and protected by polystyrene foam it travelled by lorry to London where specialists will prepare it for exhibition. Dr King's illustrated lecture showed, stage by stage, how meticulous excavation by King Alfred's College students revealed the fallen wall with its brick arches, columns and patterned stonework virtually intact. For the first time in Britain we could prove that Roman villas were not always simple, half-timbered farmhouses; here was an imposing building with decorative features in brick and stone, an architecture that foreshadowed the more familiar features of early Romanesque churches in Britain and Europe. 'New light on Roman Architecture' was an apt title for a description of a find that will be eagerly studied by architectural historians. One further season of excavation is planned for next year, to elucidate other aspects of this interesting building. Much will never be known, since most of the villa is still beneath a main road that passes the site; but we look forward to learning what further secrets the site holds, and to the eventual publication that will establish Meonstoke as one of the most important excavations we have seen in Hampshire for many years.

Droplets of quicksilver in a medieval cess-pit in Southampton might be the earliest recorded use of mercury as a laxative, said Dr A. Russel in our second lecture, on 14 February. He was quoting the most recent results of the long-running excavation in Southampton's Lower High Street site. The biggest surprise was the discovery, in the lowest levels, not only of the lost defences of the Late Saxon town, but evidence that it must have had a stone wall. High civic status indeed. Norman development on the site was succeeded by one of the most prestigious houses of the medieval city, that of Walter le Fleming, wealthy merchant and mayor in the fourteenth century. His stone wine-vault remained in use until about 1800, the house itself surviving until the 1930s. Pains-taking collection of oral history has added to the existing documents to give a full history of this part of the city before it was flattened in the Blitz. Partly excavated by volunteer enthusiasts in the 1960s, this area has now been fully exposed and restored by Southampton City archaeologists and architects. In the last fourteen months, said Dr Russel, some 50,000 visitors had passed through the gaily-painted hoardings to see the archaeologists at work. As part of the redevelopment of this heavily bombed area it is hoped to display these spectacular vaulted structures to the public. The finds of Venetian glass, walrus ivory, pewter and rare pottery will be conserved and displayed in the nearby God's House Museum, giving us a memorable vision of luxurious life in the merchant houses of our medieval ancestors.

On 28 March we combined with the Lower Test Valley Archaeological Society in Romsey: over forty people heard Dr Richard Newman describe some ten years' excavation by various bodies on Iron Age sites around Basingstoke. These represented a decentralised, rambling pattern of peasant settlements, by contrast with the fortified 'central places' such as Danebury. Analysis of seeds, grain and animal bones has proved that arable cultivation, principally of corn, was practised side-by-side with animal husbandry. Interestingly, some 60% of the animals were sheep, and it is usually

assumed that the wool was first processed in the settlements and then sent to the central places for spinning and weaving; excavations, however, have produced spindle-whorls and loom-weights in quantities that suggest that textiles were actually produced at source. The Basingstoke sites are typical of many in the region; they enabled the specialists to employ the full range of modern techniques of investigation, ranging from false colour air photography to phosphate analysis.

The summer series started on 16 June in sunshine with a visit to Beacon Hill and Ladle Hill, led by David Johnston. For some, this was a first opportunity to compare two of Hampshire's finest monuments – the multivallate defences of Beacon Hill and the single bank and ditch of Ladle Hill – unfinished, and therefore displaying the 'dump' construction in progress, incorporating an earlier Bronze Age linear ditch. The views, of course, were magnificent, enhanced by the sight of distant thunderstorms that seemed to be sweeping across the rest of the county.

Rain, however, dampened our next meeting on 11 July to the new Butser Archaeological Farm. As Peter Reynolds explained, it was time to start again; to continue the experimental programme under new conditions of climate, soil and vegetation, but close enough to the old site for comparison to be useful. Researchers will continue to record and monitor everything as it grows, matures and decays – crops, animals, buildings. Even the simple earthwork – a mere bank and ditch so far – has subtle variations in its construction that wind and weather will convert into complex data. New research projects seem to be sprouting from the ground at every point. Since work started last October two authentic prehistoric buildings, mud-walled and thatched, are already in use for demonstrations, with a small visitors' centre. Fields of prehistoric crops, not yet ready for their first harvest, contrast with the rolling, modern fields of golden corn around them. Neat pens house a sequence of five breeds of sheep, displaying an evolution from the New Stone Age to modern times; herds and flocks graze at will on the surround-

ing downland as they did in prehistoric times. Future plans include displays of farming practice from Roman and Saxon times. The framework is already rising of what will be an enormous round-house exactly replicating an excavated example. A labyrinth of ancient design is being planted as an experimental herb garden. The work involved is staggering, and much has been achieved by a few dedicated workers in a remarkably short time.

The highlight of the summer, however, was a privileged visit by coach on 10 August to sites on Salisbury Plain, normally out of bounds to all but military personnel. An energetic day's walking led by Mark Corney took us first to Yarnbury Castle with its complex earthworks and internal features that include the rectangular pattern of an eighteenth-century sheep-fair. Then on to the Restricted Area, at Knook, with a small ring-fort beside two Romano-British villages, a linear ditch system and beautifully preserved lynchets and field systems. Despite the long grass that masked the finer detail, the chance to explore the two villages was a truly memorable experience; the climax was a saunter down the main street of one to the village pond which must have held water continuously since Roman times.

September 13 saw the start of our new season when we gathered in Southsea Castle for our annual social event, the Cheese and Wine Reception. This included a private view of the current exhibition 'A Tale of Three Cities' – Portsmouth, Southampton and Winchester.

On 3 October Dr Michael Ryder delighted us at the first of our winter series with 'Sheep and wool in the archaeological record'. This was, as he put it, a 'Wool History' in which he surveyed the evolution of sheep over some eight thousand years up to the medieval period. The evidence can come from unexpected sources, such as manuscripts like the Dead Sea Scrolls; even, he suggested, the pages or binding of the Winchester Bible should be examined for possible information about the animals whose skins were used for it! Sheep, living and dead, have long provided man with

many valuable products – meat, fat, bone, sheepskins, horns – even dung. From the long-legged, hairy sheep of prehistory, domestication has developed the varieties we know today. Many of the audience had already visited the new Butser Archaeological Farm where living examples of the various stages can actually be seen. Interestingly, the bone structure of sheep is almost identical to that of goats, and the identification of excavated specimens is a job for the real expert. But it is the fleece that matters, and even those varieties with coarse hair have a soft underwool which can be recovered by careful combing. In the right archaeological conditions, samples of the resulting textiles have been preserved intact. Sheep come in various colours – black, brown and white – and these natural contrasts were exploited in tartan-like fabrics worn by our prehistoric ancestors.

On 9 November we drew attention to 'The Other Half: the archaeology and local history of North-East Hampshire' at our annual Conference. Held at Robert May's School, Odiham, and hosted by the NE Hampshire Historical and Archaeological Society, the event attracted over ninety members and guests. Mr Edward Roberts opened with an illustrated account of the medieval timber-framed houses in Odiham. These display a great variety of styles and techniques, often disguised by later brick facades, forming the best series in any Hampshire town. This lecture was an excellent introduction to the guided walk around Odiham itself later in the day, led by Mr Roberts. The well known Hampshire archaeologist, Miss Dorothy Liddell, was celebrated by Mr Steve Cosh who is reinterpreting his excavation, in the 1930s, of the North Warnborough Roman Villa. Unusual in many details, this villa can be usefully compared with other Hampshire examples that have since been studied. Military Aldershot was next the theme of that town's well-known local historian, Mr Tim Childerhouse. With none of today's sensitivity over 'new Towns' the Government of the day easily acquired the heathlands of Aldershot and swept away the archaeology. The resulting

civilian and military complex, in which townspeople strolled among the barracks with no apparent breach of security, attracted Queen Victoria both to paint and to review her troops. Before long, a new Museum and Trust will enable us too to marvel once more at the pageantry of a great imperial army. Recent excavations at Odiham Castle were described by Mr David Allen, of the County Museum Service. To the long history of the stronghold from which King John set out to sign the Magna Carta in 1215, with its octagonal keep and surrounding earthworks insensitively severed by the Basingstoke Canal, can now be added the structural detail of successive refurbishments. The day concluded with two illustrated reviews of recent archaeological activity. Mr Geoff Hoare summarised the fieldwork and excavation of sites in the north-east of the County; and Mr Mark Corney presented an eye-opening review of field survey and aerial reconnaissance in Hampshire by the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. A wealth of archaeological sites and historic landscapes has been discovered and recorded in recent years. Many are unique and all have contributed valuably to our understanding of this County's historic past.

At the AGM we sadly accepted the resignation of our Hon. Secretary Sue Gordon, who has worked so hard and effectively for the Section in recent years; since the meeting we have welcomed her successor, Sue Bray (Winchester City Museums) to take her place and maintain our high standards. We also bade farewell to our Hon. Treasurer, Tony King, after many years of service, and unanimously elected John Barton in his place. Our new Committee now looks forward to a further successful year.

DEJ

HISTORIC BUILDINGS SECTION

The principle of holding two formal and an informal winter meeting proved very successful last year and so the arrangement was repeated. A lecture was given at the Hyde

Historic Resources Centre, Winchester, by Elizabeth Lewis, on nineteenth-century Winchester shops. Michael Hare spoke at King Alfred's College, Winchester, on the Anglo-Saxon minster of St Peter, Titchfield. Both meetings were well attended and illustrated important pieces of research being published in *Proceedings*. The informal evening, also at Hyde House, included short illustrated talks by members, followed by refreshments. Our work was well covered by regular articles, notices and reviews in the *Newsletter*, but there remains a need for more contributions from the membership and from other organisations concerned with the county's historic buildings.

Our first summer meeting held on May 11th was entitled *Getting our Bearings*, a discussion of the current revision of the 'Hampshire Pevsner'. The Hampshire edition of the *Buildings of England* series, by Sir Nikolaus Pevsner and David Lloyd, was published in 1967. It is now being revised and enlarged by David Lloyd and Rodney Hubbuck, who were our guest speakers in the morning session at King Alfred's College. The afternoon was spent in the company of the speakers exploring an area north-east of Winchester where a number of important buildings owe much to the influence of the Baring family at the beginning of the nineteenth century. The architecture of George Dance the Younger (1741–1825) was also much in evidence, particularly at Stratton Park (1804–6) where only the monumental portico survives from the 1960 demolition, now fronting a modern house which defies description. Dance's principal entrance and lodges to the park, semi-derelict and overlooking the M3 motorway, should now be saved and restored but they have an uncertain future. The group was astonished by Dance's remodelling of the nave and chancel of St Mary's church, Micheldever (1806) with its arched and vaulted octagon. After seeing the Dance estate cottages and the parish church at East Stratton, we visited the Grange – another great house with its neighbouring church at Northington, before retiring to New Alresford for a cream tea.

On 6th July, in hot sunny weather, we

visited two little known country houses and their gardens, South Stoneham House and Townhill Park. They now survive as student halls within the Southampton suburb of Swaythling. The meeting was led by Rachel Fuller, John Brushe and Grahame Soffe, and we were guests of the South Stoneham Trust. At the medieval church, formerly the centre of a vast parish, we examined the monuments of the Dummer family, who were seated both here and at Cranbury Park. In both houses we unravelled enigmatic eighteenth-century and later architectural developments with John Brushe and heard interesting observations from David Lloyd. At Townhill Park the eccentric influences of Lord Swaythling, and in the garden, the work of Gertrude Jekyll, were noted, and at South Stoneham a small Capability Brown landscape and the Salmon Pool were viewed from the top of the modern tower block.

The visit to the medieval buildings of Salisbury on 21st September led by Edward Roberts and Grahame Soffe, was a repeat of last year's study tour which was well oversubscribed and very successful. It included all buildings visited before except the King's House. The cathedral however was included as a bonus to take advantage of the current repair and restoration work on the tower and spire. The group therefore gained much from an extensive exploration of the medieval carpentry in the roof spaces and the remarkable medieval iron reinforcement and timber scaffolding in the tower and spire.

Our conference and AGM on 19th October was held at King Alfred's College with the theme 'Architecture and Design of the Arts and Crafts Movement in Hampshire and Beyond'. It proved a very successful and enjoyable occasion and an opportunity to discuss recent work. The speakers, chaired by John Crook concentrated on the work of individual artists and architects. Francis Green gave an account of Romsey architect, Comley-Rolls, followed by a description of the wealthy and well-connected Christopher Turnor, by Grahame Soffe. Jane Barbour examined some lesser known aspects of Heywood Sumner,

followed by John Maunder's report on the St Agatha's Trust's recent progress in the restoration of Sumner's masterpiece in Portsmouth. Jane Brown concluded proceedings with an account of the 'Resurrection of Sir Edwin Lutyens and Miss Jekyll'. At the AGM Jude James, John Stott and Elizabeth Birkett were elected new committee members. Re-elected members were Francis Green (chairman), Dilys Hall (secretary), Peter Davies (treasurer), Martin Doughty (editor), Edward Roberts (*Newsletter* editor), Grahame Soffe (programme secretary), John Crook, Karen Parker, Audrey Sutton and Ann Jones. Maureen Gale resigned earlier in the year and we thank her for her continued valued service to the Section.

GS

LOCAL HISTORY SECTION

1991 was a successful and interesting year for the Local History Section.

The year's programme commenced with a symposium on 'Winchester: The County Town – Public Buildings and Public Service', held at King Alfred's College, Winchester, on 27 April. Dr Michael Hicks provided a broad introduction to the subject, and this was followed by two talks on specific buildings in the city – Pat Thomson speaking on the Georgian and Victorian prisons and Robin Freeman examining the Corn Exchange. After lunch, Gill Rushton described the sources in the Hampshire Record Office relating to Winchester's public buildings, and Philippa Stevens spoke about the development of the public library. The symposium concluded with a talk by Rosemary Dunhill and Geoffrey Burnaby on the new Record Office to be built near the station and how the architects have attempted to meet the needs of researchers and the requirements for document preservation there.

The summer outing, held on 13 July, a day of inclement weather, was to Netley. The party initially assembled at the station to hear a talk by Edwin Course on the significance of the coming of the railway to Netley. The country

park and imposing site of the Royal Victoria Hospital were then explored. After lunch, Mr David Lloyd showed the party round the village and Netley Abbey, and finally Chris Currie talked to the group about the aquaduct and the castle.

The Section's Annual General Meeting was held on 5 October at Hursley. Members initially met in the parish hall and heard a talk by Mr Len Peach about the historical development of Hursley and the impact on the village of IBM's arrival at Hursley Park. After a lecture by Rev Philip Barrett on John Keble – not as one of the Oxford's Movement's leaders but as the incumbent of Hursley, the group was taken on a tour of the village and the church, and, then, the AGM was held. In the afternoon, the Section re-assembled at Hursley Park, and was shown over part of the buildings. The group also heard two talks on the estate – the first, by Liz Hughes, on the Heathcote family, and the second, by Edward Roberts, on the park. Then, Mr Peach showed some fascinating slides of the early machinery of IBM. Some members, despite the foul weather, ended the day by exploring Merdon Castle.

At the AGM, the officers in post were all re-elected (Colin Haydon, Chairman; Ann McLellan, Secretary; Sarah Lewin, Treasurer; and George Watts, *Newsletter* editor). The Section's committee was also re-elected.

CMH

NEW FOREST SECTION

Heritage Area. The New Forest Committee commissioned Land Use Consultants to consider the proposed boundaries of the Heritage Area outside the Forest perambulation proper, and as a result of their report the boundaries have been revised in certain places, with some areas being deleted and others included. These final recommendations await Government approval.

Highway Strategy. The experimental restrictions in the north-west of the Forest are to be

continued, and the remainder of the Forest will be brought into the scheme in 1992.

Lymington Ferries. Wightlink's proposals for introducing larger ferries on the Lymington to Yarmouth crossing are causing concern for the effect on the river and marsh environment and on traffic through the Forest. The Hon. Secretary represents the Hampshire Field Club and the New Forest Association on the Roads sub-committee of CALF – the Campaign Against Larger Ferries.

Oil Drilling. Brabant has gained permission to drill an exploratory well on the outskirts of Lymington, and has begun operations. Should oil be found, there will be concern over the effects of any permission for exploitation, particularly on traffic.

National Park. Government's response to the Edwards report, which recommended National Park status for the New Forest with a 'Tailor-made' constitution, is awaited. This recommendation is in direct contrast to the New Forest Review's conclusion reported in our 1990 Report, that a new statutory body would be unnecessary and overbureaucratic. The Section continues to be of the opinion that the Forest is better protected under present legislation.

Section Affairs. The Section has had a successful programme in 1991. In March a well-attended meeting held jointly with the Hampshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation heard New Forest Keeper John Gulliver give a fascinating and instructive talk on the Natural History of the Hornet. April saw our Annual General Meeting, after which slides were shown by Mr Pasmore on the 1990 boiling mound demonstration, and by Mr Trend on a similar experiment in Ireland. Summer field meetings included a study of breeding birds in Appleslade Inclosure, jointly with the Hampshire Ornithological Society, and of butterflies and dragonflies at Pigbush, led by Alison Bolton, jointly with Butterfly Conservation. August saw us working again in Sloden Inclo-

sure, and a fungus foray at Whitley Wood led by Mr and Mrs Goodall yielded a total of 51 species (see Appendix). The year was rounded off by a joint meeting with Lyndhurst Historical Society at which 4 'snapshots' were presented by members - 'Explosives in the New Forest' by Mr Pasmore, 'Industries of a New Forest Village' by Mrs Pasmore, 'Flora and Fauna' by Mr Hanna, and 'History in Sound and Vision' by Mrs Irvine.

In a response to a request from the County Archaeologist to the Deputy Surveyor for information on archaeological sites in the New Forest, the Section committee agreed the following:

The committee confirms its long-standing policy with regard to the supply of information on New Forest archaeological sites. This policy is as follows:

1. Information will be supplied to any person or organisation having reasonable grounds for requesting it in respect of sites

on private enclosed land to which the public has no access.

2. Information will be supplied to the Forestry Commission for the exclusive use of its officers in respect of any site on Crown land. Such information has always been given on condition that it will not, without the consent of the New Forest Section, be made available to third parties.

3. Information relating to any sites not covered by 1 above will be supplied to an organisation or individual for purposes approved by the committee of the Section, provided that a written undertaking is given not to publish that information or make it available for publication or make it available to third parties without the express written consent of the Section.

In order to protect New Forest sites from treasure hunters and vandals information will not be supplied except as noted above.

JJ