

ACQUISITIONS, 1937-8

Gold Ring, bearing figure of St. Catherine, date circa 1400.
Found at Gt. Missenden about 1877.

Given in memory of her father, Mr. W. H. Herbert, by
Miss J. Herbert.

MANOR ROLLS AND DEEDS.

Draft Court Rolls and Minutes of the
Manors of Aylesbury, with Bier-
ton and Broughton Staveley, with
many other deeds Col. G. R. Crouch.
about 500 deeds Messrs. Garrard & Allen.

Manor Roll, Court Baron of Coleshill in Amersham	}	Anonymous.
Draft Court Rolls and Minutes of Courts of the Manor of Chalfont St. Peter and many other deeds		

About 300 Bucks Deeds..... Messrs. Newton & Colcott.

„ 150 do. Mr. H. Whistler.

„ 50 do. Mr. F. Marcham.

Plan of the Manor and Parishes of
Hartwell and Stone 1777

5 Chains to 1 inch..... Miss Joan Wake.

Metal stand for holding lace-makers'

“Dick-Pot” Anonymous.

Guilotine for docking tails of horses, from

a smithy in Hambleden..... Sir Alfred Davies.

ANNUAL EXCURSION

1937.

The excursion was held on 7th July, 1937.

The first place of call was Bradenham, where the church was first visited, and the following comments were offered:—

The south doorway was named by Mr. C. E. Keyser as "undoubtedly the most curious and interesting in the diocese"; he placed it in a "Saxon" group, the final date of which he makes 1080. The Historical Monuments Commissioners favour a slightly later date—"late 11th or early 12th century." It matters little to us to-day, one is assured by mental comparison with some of our other "Norman" doorways (Brill, Over Winchendon, Leckhamsted, Dinton, Water Stratford, and so on), that this is very primitive work indeed.

The other extraordinary feature of this church is that the second and tenor bells are by Michael de Wymbis, cast late in the 13th century, or before 1310 at any rate. Mr. Cocks points out that they were not originally made for Bradenham, but were bought in 1552, and probably came from the dissolution of some religious house 1537-9.

From the church the party then passed through the churchyard to Bradenham House, by kind permission of Mrs. Tempest, and a paper was read as follows:—

There is no necessity to go into the early manorial history since it is perfectly well known that the manor house was built by Sir William Windsor; he was made K.B. when Anne Boleyn was crowned, and was sheriff of Bucks in 1537. When his father died in 1543 he became second Lord Windsor, and was prominent in proclaiming Queen Mary in 1553. He built the manor house, as was said, and added the north chapel to the church. Langley tells us that he was "much attached to the place, and resided here during the summer months." He died in 1558 and was buried here. Meanwhile his son Edward in 1557 had accompanied King Philip to the siege of St. Quintin, where he distinguished himself; and in 1566 he entertained Queen Elizabeth here on her return from a visit to Oxford. He died at Spa in 1574 and directed his body to be buried at Liège, but his heart was to lie under his father's tomb at Bradenham. He left elaborate instructions in his will for the erection of almshouses at Bradenham, with endowment for a master and six poor men. For reasons which are not clear this was never carried out, and since the old age pension has to some degree made almshouses out of favour, this is not, perhaps, so lamentable to-day as, no doubt, it appeared to be at the time. Two of his sons—Frederick and Henry—succeeded, and Thomas, son of Henry, followed, dying in 1642; very soon afterwards the manor

was sold to Sir Edmond Pye—a Royalist, who was fined heavily in 1646 for “residing in the enemy’s quarters”; his daughter Elizabeth married the son of Charles, Lord de la Warr, which explains the tomb in the church. His elder daughter Martha married Lord Lovelace, and through her Bradenham passed to Lord Wentworth, whose son, the second viscount, sold it to John Hicks in 1787. His death in 1825 occasioned a dispute in Chancery for the succession, and the lessees of this house included Wm. Laurence Young, governor of Tobago, and Isaac D’Israeli. This tenancy has peculiar importance for us; it was brought about in a curious manner. The Pye family lingered on at Faringdon, and were represented by Henry James Pye, who ruined such fortune as remained by contesting the Parliamentary representation of the county. He was made Poet Laureate, when Warton died in 1790, and was possibly our worst Laureate. Later he was made a stipendiary magistrate. He was a friend of John Penn of Stoke Park, who may have liked bad poetry as well as he liked bad architecture—anyhow, he gave Pye a cottage on the estate, and Isaac D’Israeli, by visiting him there, first became acquainted with Bucks, and in the wonderful introduction which Lord Beaconsfield wrote to a reprint of his father’s “Curiosities of Literature,” he comments on the strange turn of events which led his father to live and die at Bradenham. He went there in 1829, and it was in 1880 that his son published “Endymion,” in which, under the name of Hurstley, Bradenham House—or at all events its settings—was faithfully described.

It is interesting to notice that its description in Chapter XI., whilst not accurate in its description of the house, mentions that the estate was in Chancery. It is not unamusing to notice that Endymion’s father took it because he was penniless—Isaac D’Israeli was not, and one would suppose it a poor qualification for residence in comfort here to-day.

The house may be of late 17th century and follows the plans of Lord Windsor’s house of the middle 16th century. The staircases and panelling which exist are not earlier than the 17th century. The painted ceiling above the well of the main staircase attracted particular notice, with its clever rendering of balustrading on the horizontal surface of the ceiling.

From Bradenham the Society passed to Little Marlow Church, where the curious development from the late 12th century was pointed out by Mr. Clive Rouse. The two arcades are of 1340 and 1430 respectively, but their capitals are nearly identical, which was explained by the suggestion that, being of soft clunch, they had been re-cut early in the 16th century. The roofs of the first half of the 15th century were particularly admired; and much was made of the interest attaching to the fact that the tomb of Nicholas Ledowich (1430) bore an inscription which declared his responsibility for adding to and re-building certain parts of the church.

The adjoining manor house was visited in order that, by kind permission of Mrs. Bradish-Elflames, the fine staircase of c 1630 might be examined; as a piece of carpentry it won great praise, and a recently discovered fireplace of apparently late 16th century date was also seen.

The next move was to Maidenhead for lunch at the "Crown" Hotel, where the chair was taken by the Rev. P. F. L. Cautley, in the absence of the Vicar of Buckingham, chairman of the Council.

The first visit after lunch was to the Jesus Hospital at Bray, a group of 40 almshouses built by Wm. Goddard early in James I's reign—it formed the scene of Fred Walker's famous picture the "Harbour of Refuge." The trust is now administered by the Fishmongers' Company, and the working of this admirable charity was fully explained by the Chaplain and Governor.

From Bray the Society went on to the magnificent church of Shottesbrooke, founded in 1337 by Sir Wm. Trussell. Being all of one date it is doubly impressive, the proportions of transepts to nave and chancel making it a gem of design. The most astonishing thing structurally about the church was the magnificent flint-work of the chancel especially. On the east wall the smallness and regularity of the squared flints was as delicate as mosaic work, and it was surprising to find such extremely delicate craftsmanship in flint so far from East Anglia. Brasses of about 1370-1380 were much admired for the vivid character displayed in their execution. The flamboyant tracery of the windows and the founder's tomb in the north transept, with its exquisite canopy, were particularly admired. In the same transept is a brass to the founder's daughter of 1401.

From Shottesbrooke the Society finally went to the next parish—Waltham St. Lawrence, where a church of totally different character was viewed. From the nave of the 11th century to the aisles of 12th and late 13th century, and to the chancel of c 1400, the development of plan was followed with much interest. The pulpit, with an interesting back, dated 1619, is unusual, and an extraordinary feature is that some of the window tracery contains flints in the original clunch which were left *in situ* by the builders. A magnificent yew-tree in the churchyard was planted in 1635, and has made amazing growth in three hundred years.

This concluded the day's outing, which, it was agreed, had provided many objects of high interest that were new to many of the members.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

EXCAVATION BRANCH

SAUNDERTON ROMAN VILLA.

The excavation of the Saunderton site is now completed for this season, and the Excavation Committee take this opportunity of thanking members and friends for the generous support they have given to this first exploration undertaken by the Bucks Archaeological Society, and feel that it is very encouraging for future activities.

Although there is still a small deficit, as will be seen by the Statement of Accounts, it is hoped that this will soon be made good by members who intend to, but have not yet, sent their subscriptions.

A full list of subscribers to date is appended hereto, and further subscriptions will be gratefully received by:—

FRANCIS W. READER,
Hon. Sec. and Treasurer to the Fund.
“ Glencote,”
Chiltern Road,
Wendover.

SAUNDERTON ROMAN VILLA EXCAVATION FUND.

ACCOUNTS 1938.

RECEIPTS.						EXPENDITURE.					
				£	s. d.					£	s. d.
Donations from Members, etc.	...	...	...	77	1 6	Wages, etc., 3½ weeks	...	...	...	27	3 4
Collection box on ground	...	...	...	3	15 7	Fee to Supervisor	...	...	...	11	18 0
Deficit	...	...	...	11	11 11	Tools and Equipment	...	...	...	5	18 4
						Petty Cash, Stationery, etc.	...	...	...	1	0 0
						Rent of Site	...	...	...	5	0 0
						Portable Hut	...	...	...	5	2 0
						Insurance	...	...	...	1	14 6
						Printing and Postage of Circulars	...	...	...	12	18 10
						Photography	...	...	...	2	16 0
						Postage	...	...	...		15 0
						Filling in and Prospective Trenches	...	...	...	18	3 0
				£92	9 0					£92	9 0

LIST OF SUBSCRIBERS.

	£	s.	d.
Rev. W. H. Davis	2	0	0
V. G. W. Gilbert	2	2	0
J. G. Jenkins	1	1	0
E. Clive Rouse	2	2	0
F. W. Reader	1	1	0
Rev. P. F. L. Cautley	1	1	0
C. O. Skilbeck	2	2	0
Sir James Berry	1	1	0
Col. O. P. Serocold... ..	10	0	0
Lady F. M. Allen	1	1	0
A. G. Chater	10	0	
G. H. Grayson	10	0	
Lord Cottesloe	2	2	0
Rev. R. F. Bale	1	0	0
T. G. Matthews	10	6	
E. P. W. Hildyard	1	5	0
R. P. Medley	1	1	0
Sir Selwyn H. Fremantle	1	1	0
E. Webster	1	1	0
Victor Williams	1	1	0
D. H. Mansell	1	1	0
Miss P. Stewart Brown	10	0	
Miss M. Marriott	5	0	
V. H. Jarvis	10	0	
R. W. P. Cockburn	5	0	
A. F. Drew	1	0	0
Col. G. R. Crouch	1	1	0
R. B. Wilson	1	0	0
R. N. Goodman, M.D.	10	0	
Rev. Canon Sydney Cooper	1	0	0
Mrs. Ellis	5	0	
J. F. Head	1	1	0
Collection box on ground	10	0	
K. P. Oakley	5	0	
Arthur MacDonald	1	1	0
Mrs. Yates Thompson	1	1	0
Ivor Crouch	1	0	0
Dr. H. Rose	10	6	
E. G. Turner	1	1	0
Sir Thos. Barlow	2	2	0
A. Vere Woodman	10	6	

Mrs. Cummins	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0
Major L. W. Kentish	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0 0
Capt. Stewart Liberty	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0 0
George Eland	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0 0
Miss K. Tompson	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0 0
Mrs. T. C. Bridges	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0
Chas. F. Preston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0
Mrs. Mansell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
R. H. Trench	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1 0
G. W. Moore	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0
Lt.-Col. F. R. Sedgwick	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0
Collection Box on ground	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	12 7
J. Tarver	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1 0
Collection box on ground	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0
Mrs. H. Wickham Steed	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0 0
E. G. Theakston	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0
Dr. T. G. Parrott	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	0 0
The Bucks Archaeological Society	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0 0
Messrs. De Fraine & Co., Ltd.	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1 0
K. P. Oakley, 2nd subscription	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
Mrs. Dallas	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
Miss Reader	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
R. W. P. Cockburn, 2nd subscription	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0
H. K. Scott	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0
J. Simmons	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0
Collection box on ground	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	12 0
F. B. Cockburn	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	5	0
H. Watsham	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1 0
F. Coston Taylor	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	1	1 0
Miss Grinnell	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	10	0
								<hr/> £80 17 1 <hr/>	

Further subscriptions will be gratefully received by:—

Mr. FRANCIS W. READER,

“Glencote,”

Chiltern Road, Wendover.