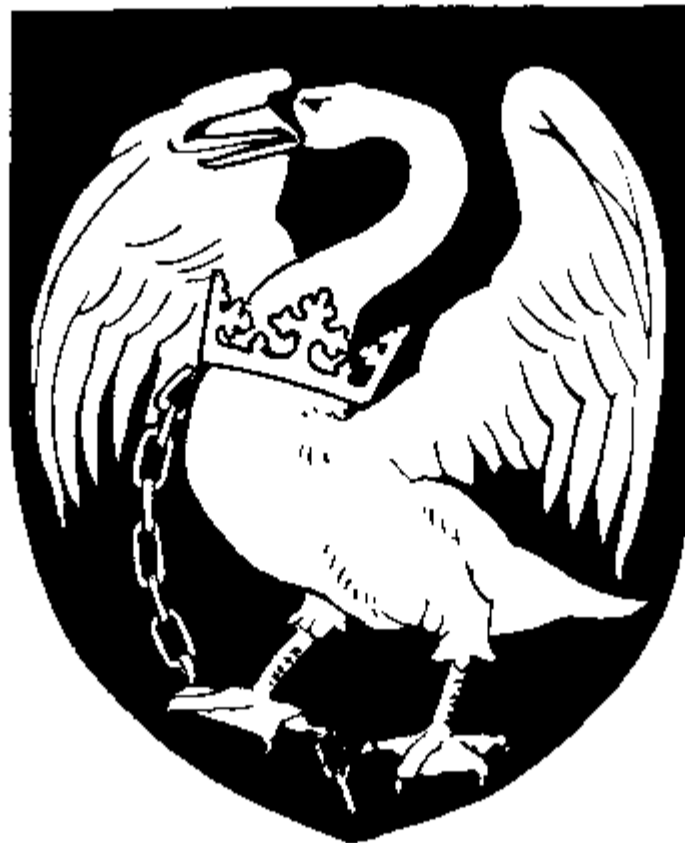


RECORDS OF
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE



VOLUME XVII • PART 4 • 1964

RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

BEING THE JOURNAL
OF THE ARCHITECTURAL AND
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR THE
COUNTY OF BUCKINGHAM

Edited by
E. CLIVE ROUSE, F.S.A.
ELLIOTT VINEY

VOLUME XVII. PART 4
1964

PRINTED AND PUBLISHED FOR THE SOCIETY
BY THE SIDNEY PRESS LTD
BEDFORD

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ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES FROM THE BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM

The list given below includes all archaeological finds brought to the attention of the Buckinghamshire County Museum during 1964 and, unless otherwise stated, they were actually made in that year. Where a number is given in brackets at the end of an entry, the material concerned has been given to the Museum and has this accession number.

Grateful acknowledgments are due to finders and to the secretaries and members of Societies in the County for supplying information.

Aylesbury, Baptist Hall, St. Mary's Square

Early Iron Age and twelfth to thirteenth-century sherds were found when digging foundations for a new hall.

N.G.R. SP 81781393 (36-37.64)

Aylesbury, Bedgrove Farm

The Deserted Medieval Village of Caldecote was surveyed and the excavation of a part of one house platform was started by the County Museum. A large area of cobbling was found and the position of two buildings located. One of these was approximately 18 ft. by 11 ft. and had stone foundations, a single entrance and was partly floored with rammed chalk. Sherds dating from the late twelfth to the early fourteenth century were found.

N.G.R. SP 839127

Aylesbury, 9 Earlswood Close

An Iron Age A sherd was dug up in the garden.

N.G.R. SP 835123 (144.64)

Aylesbury, Silver Street Area

A number of fifteenth to eighteenth-century timber buildings were recorded by the County Museum during the course of demolition work.

N.G.R. SP 819137

Beaconsfield, Deans Farm

Twelfth to fourteenth-century sherds were found when digging the garden over a period of years prior to 1939.

N.G.R. SU 97149095 (11.64)

Bierton, Parsons Lane

Romano-British sherds, roofing tile, flue tile and tesserae, and thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds were found by Miss S. M. Noble and also collected from levelling operations on the site of a new school.

N.G.R. SP 83741517 (128-130.64)

Bishopstone, Longcroft

A twelfth to thirteenth-century sherd was found in his garden by Mr. A. Lackie.
N.G.R. SP 804104 (35.64)

Bledlow, Manor Cottage

A Neolithic polished stone axe was found in the garden by Mrs. A. Young.
N.G.R. SP 778021 (159.64)

Bledlow, The Cop

Flint flakes and a core were collected from the surface.
N.G.R. SP 77330108 (127.64)

Bourne End, Beesden, New Road

Two hand axes were found by Mr. George Drewett in the garden when a septic tank was being dug some years ago.
N.G.R. SU 897877 (115-116.64)

Bow Brickhill

Belgic, Romano-British and thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds were found in a field ditch by Adrian Knight.
N.G.R. SP 89153555

Bradwell, Home Farm

A Belgic sherd was found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Mynard.
N.G.R. SP 831402 (67.64)

Buckingham, Bourton Grounds

Mr. C. W. Green completed the excavation of a Romano-Celtic temple. The structure consists of a cella, 17 ft. square, set within a portico, 53 ft. square, together with forebuildings. The 315 coins found range in date from A.D. 244-408.
N.G.R. SP 729329

Charsley, School Lane

Thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds were collected from the spoil from foundation trenches.
N.G.R. SP 71881066 (38 and 58.64)

Thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds were collected from the surface of a building site.
N.G.R. SP 71871070 (117 and 127.64)

Clifton Reynes

Romano-British sherds were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Mynard.
N.G.R. SP 902517 (65.64)

Ellesborough, The Golf Course

Pieces of red deer antler, one showing human workmanship, an ox scapula, a flint flake and human bones were found by Mr. P. Bailey during excavations for a new clubhouse.
N.G.R. SP 84700719 (190.64)

Emberton

The neck of an early-twelfth-century jug was found in a garden and reported by Mr. D. Mynard.
N.G.R. SP 887500 (5.64)

Fenny Stratford, Saffron Gardens

A Belgic coin and Belgic sherds were found associated with a ditch by Mr. R. W. Griffiths. N.G.R. SP 884333

Thirteenth-century sherds were found associated with a ditch by Mr. R. W. Griffiths. N.G.R. SP 885333

Fenny Stratford, Watling Street

A Belgic sherd was found in the roadside ditch by Mr. R. W. Griffiths. N.G.R. SP 886339-892335 (145.64)

Fenny Stratford, Bathing Station, Watling Street

Excavations by the Bletchley Archaeological and Historical Society located rough rubble foundations, and earth floors with two graves cut through them. Coins of Tetricus, Carausius and Constans, together with a quantity of Romano-British sherds, were found. N.G.R. SP 887338

Fingest, Cudmore End Common

Thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds were found by Mr. S. J. Smith in association with an oven or some other similar structure during road construction. N.G.R. SU 793926 (188.64)

Great Brickhill, Jack of Ironcaps Lane

Thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds were found by Miss C. M. Mahany and also collected on the surface. N.G.R. SP 904309 (46 and 70-71.64)

Great Kimble, Ragpit Hill

Iron Age A sherds were collected from the surface. N.G.R. SP 827060 (123.64)

Great Linford

A fifteenth to sixteenth-century sherd was found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Mynard. N.G.R. SP 856407 (2.65)

Great Marlow, Bluey's Farm

A Neolithic flint scraper and two flakes were found in the garden some years ago and reported by Mr. W. Genaway. N.G.R. SU 81998925 (7.64)

Halton, Boddington Hill

A section was cut through the bank and ditch of the Iron Age hill fort under the direction of Flying Officer J. A. W. Burden and Flight Lieutenant J. Jeffers. An occupation layer containing "A" sherds was found immediately underlying the rampart. The finds have been given to the Museum.

N.G.R. SP 88050780

Hardmead

Belgic, Romano-British and thirteenth to eighteenth-century sherds were picked up from the ploughed surface of the moated enclosure in 1962 by Mr. D. Mynard. N.G.R. SP 932471 (139-140.64 and 15.65)

Twelfth to thirteenth-century sherds were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Mynard. N.G.R. SP 926489 (13.65)

Thirteenth and seventeenth to eighteenth-century sherds were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Mynard. N.G.R. SP 938480 (16.65)

Haversham

Romano-British sherds, a piece of fused glass, building stone and roofing and flue tiles were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. E. G. Cockerill and Mr. C. W. Green. N.G.R. SP 824421

Haversham, Hill Farm

An as of Domitian and a Romano-British ear-scoop, brooch, sherds, tile and building stone were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. R. S. Harris. N.G.R. SP 836436

A Romano-British bronze pin was found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. R. S. Harris. N.G.R. SP 836440

A Romano-British bone pin was found by Mr. R. S. Harris when foundations were being dug for an out-building. N.G.R. SP 836437

An Æ 3 of Constans and an Æ 3 of Valentinian I were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. R. S. Harris. N.G.R. SP 840440

High Wycombe, Booker Hill

Thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds were found by Mr. H. Mumford in a cutting made for a new road. N.G.R. SU 838927 (141, 187.64)

High Wycombe, Castle Street

Twelfth to early thirteenth-century sherds were found in two rubbish pits, and eighteenth-century sherds and vessels, wine bottles, etc., were found in a third rubbish pit when foundations for a new building were being excavated. N.G.R. SU 86599312 (132-137.64)

High Wycombe, The Memorial Hospital

A hippopotamus tooth was found in Coombe rock by Mr. W. Clarke during excavations for a new building. N.G.R. SU 864927

High Wycombe, Dragons, Bledlow Ridge

A flint blade was found on the surface in the garden by Mrs. M. J. Buchanan. N.G.R. SU 802973

Ivinghoe, The Beacon

Excavations were continued on the Iron Age hill-fort, under the direction of Professor S. S. Frere on behalf of the Buckinghamshire Archaeological Society. A section was cut across the defences on the south side and a second outer scarping ditch was found in addition to the main ditch.

A large area in the middle of the hill-fort was cleared and a number of bronze objects, including a razor, were found. An area on the north side adjacent to that examined in 1963 was stripped and a number of post-holes, evidently belonging to a large building, were found. N.G.R. SP 961169

Milton Keynes

Thirteenth-century sherds were found by Mr. E. Hands when a hole was being excavated for a telegraph pole. N.G.R. SP 89123887 (162.64)

Monks Risborough, Place Farm

A sestertius of Commodus was found by Mr. E. West. (153.64)

Newton Longville, Salden Wood

First to second-century A.D. sherds associated with ditches and pits were found by Mr. R. W. Griffiths. N.G.R. SP 832311

Olney, Ashfurlong

A flint blade and a flint flake were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Mynard. N.G.R. SP 897528 (5.65)

Romano-British sherds, building stone and roofing and flue tile were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Mynard.

N.G.R. SP 896527

Two Roman coins, one possibly of Claudius II, the other House of Constantine, and Romano-British sherds were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. R. Bailey. N.G.R. SP 89435275

An Æ 3 of Constantine I was found on the surface of a ploughed field by Master Richard Janko. N.G.R. SP 89535274

Second to fourth-century A.D. sherds were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Mynard. N.G.R. SP 89455245

Olney, Olney Hyde

Thirteenth-century sherds were found by Miss C. M. Mahony and also collected from the surface of fields. N.G.R. SP 88625412, 88585431, 88535450 (45. 54-57.64)

Petsoe Manor

Thirteenth-century sherds were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. D. Mynard. N.G.R. SP 926483 (14.65)

Pitstone

An Iron Age saddle quern was found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. J. Hawkins. N.G.R. SP 49382155

Pitstone, Tunnel Portland Cement Co. Ltd. Quarry

The Ivinghoe and Pitstone Local History Group excavated eight Iron Age pits and located a series of contemporary post-holes. They also excavated a small medieval building and various other features of the same period. The finds have been given to the Museum. N.G.R. SP 949146

Ravenstone

Third to fourth-century A.D. sherds and a scatter of Romano-British roof tiles and building stone were found by Mr. D. Mynard on the surface of a ploughed field adjacent to the place where similar finds were made when a trench for a gas main was dug in 1963. N.G.R. SP 840501

Shabbington

A street and at least four house platforms to the north-east of the church were surveyed before their destruction in the course of a new housing development (Fig. 1). They were medieval in date and once formed part of the village. The street is the footpath said to be part of the Roman road from Dorchester-on-Thames to Fleet

Marston.¹ No evidence of a Roman road could be seen in the commercial excavations on the site. The majority of the medieval sherds found during the commercial excavations were thirteenth century, with a few possibly earlier. Some Romano-British and post-medieval sherds were also found. The site was reported by the Vicar of Shabbington. N.G.R. SP 667068 (68-9, 125, 131.64)

¹ *The Viatores: Roman Roads in the South-East Midlands*, 276.

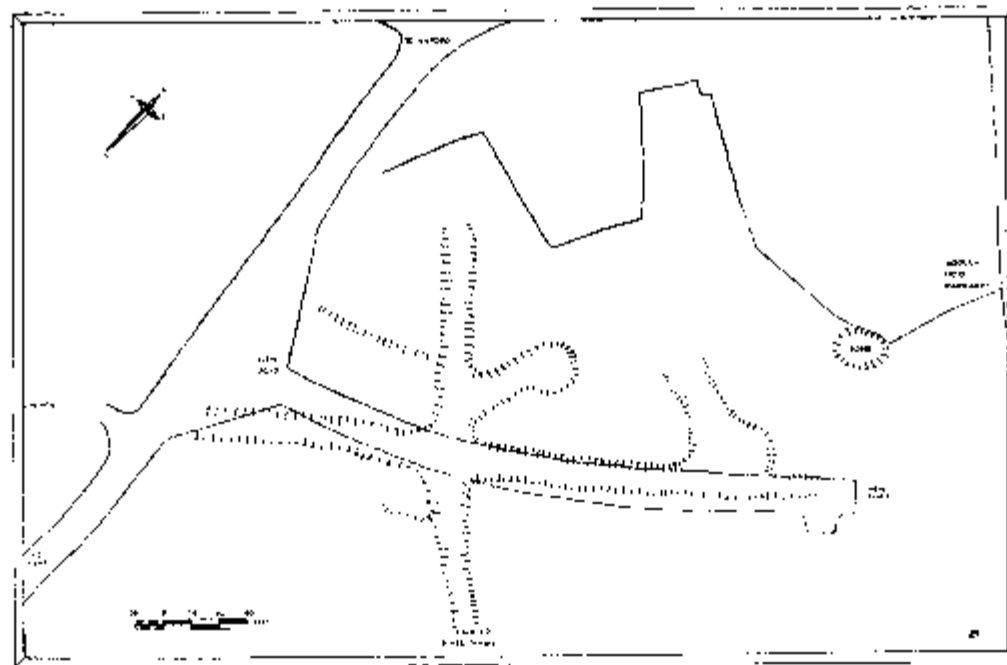


FIG. 1. Plan of medieval street and house platforms at Shabbington

Shenley Brook End

Thirteenth-century sherds were found in a roadside ditch by Mr. D. Mynard.
N.G.R. SP 834359 (4.65)

Sherington

Romano-British sherds were found by Mr. D. Mynard in trenches dug for the foundations of a barn.
N.G.R. SP 88964679

Stoke Goldington, Gorefields

Thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds and roofing tile, and eighteenth-century sherds, were found in ploughsoil in the levelled enclosure of the moat.
N.G.R. SP 816490 (66.64)

Tickford

A Romano-British sherd was found in a gravel pit by Mr. M. W. Pratt.
N.G.R. SP 88704407 (24.64)

Thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherds were found, mostly associated with ditches or pits, in a gravel pit by Mr. M. W. Pratt.

N.G.R. SP 88514400-88594402
(25-30, 32.64)

Tickford, Chicheley Brook

A thirteenth to fourteenth-century sherd was found in the bank of the brook by Mr. M. W. Pratt.

N.G.R. SP 88614420 (31.64)

Turville, Summer Heath

A Neolithic chipped flint axe was found by Mr. W. Genaway whilst ploughing some years ago.

N.G.R. SU 75159065 (6.64)

Wendover, 13 Pound Street

Part of a flint blade was dug up in the garden of Mr. P. Rubens.

N.G.R. SP 867077 (192.64)

Weston Underwood

A seventeenth-century tin-glazed earthenware drug jar was found by Mr. E. Bailey on the present surface of land which had been levelled.

N.G.R. SP 86865070 (L.91)

Weston Underwood, High Street

Romano-British sherds were found on the surface of a garden and reported by Mr. E. Bailey.

N.G.R. SP 86515051

Weston Underwood, Woolwich Barn Field

Romano-British and eighteenth-century sherds were found on the surface of a ploughed field by Mr. E. Bailey.

N.G.R. SP 861495 (44.64)

C.N.G.

NOTES

UPPER WINCHENDON: *A Helmet from the Church*. Mr. Martin Holmes, F.S.A., very kindly contributes the following note:

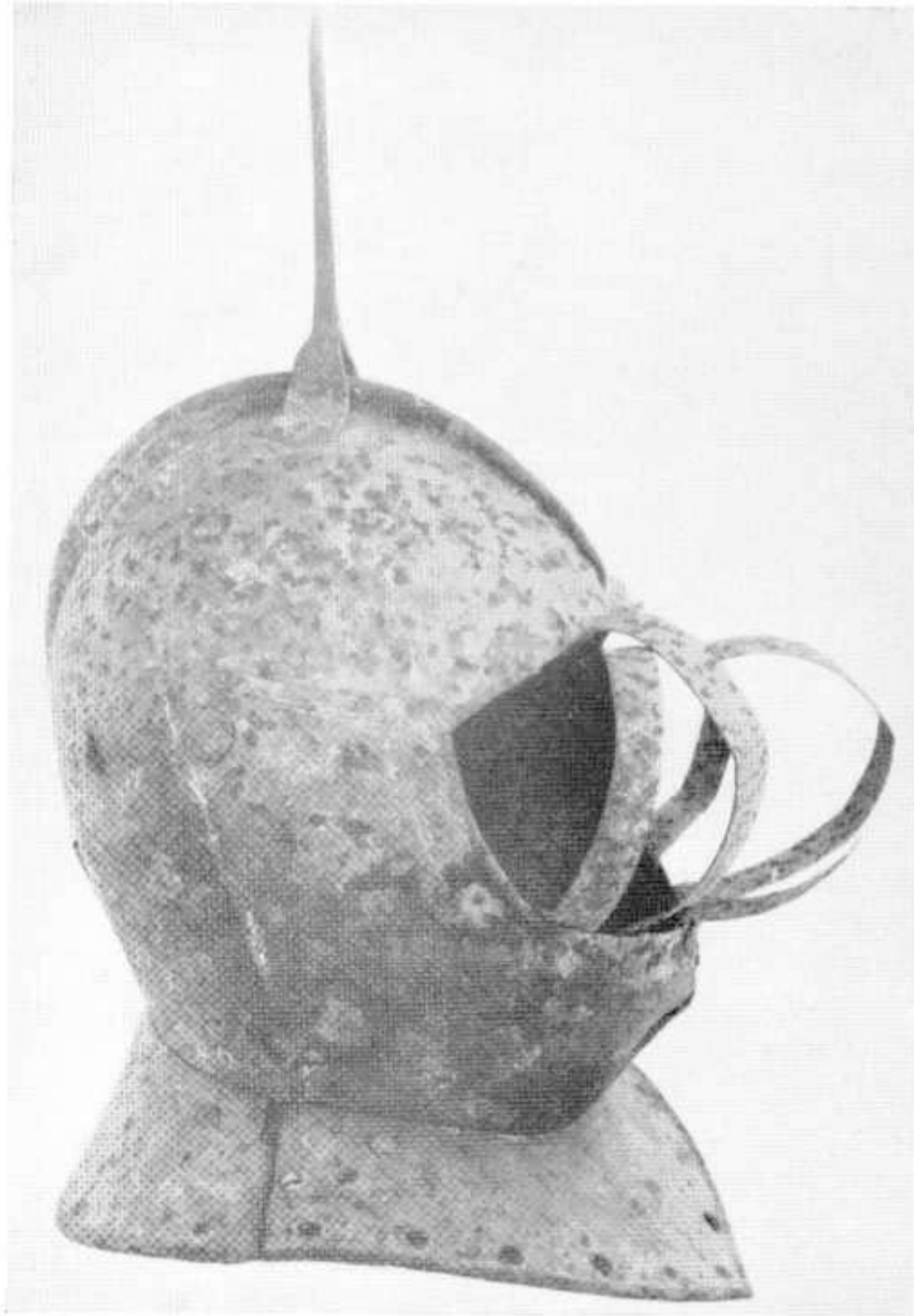
In the recent redecoration of Upper Winchendon church, a helmet was discovered out of sight among the rafters, and was brought to the County Museum at Aylesbury for examination. It was badly corroded but was identified as one which used to hang on a bracket over the chancel arch, and was vaguely associated with the tomb of Sir John Goodwin, who died in 1558. (See Plate 13.) The whole style of the helmet showed that it was too late to have been his, as it must have been made fairly early in the following century and adapted, at a later date still, to figure in someone's formal and elaborate funeral.

Treatment in the conservation laboratory of the London Museum succeeded in checking the active corrosion and removing the remains of the yellow paint which had been applied to it apparently in the nineteenth century, and it was then observable from its style that it was a helmet made about 1610 in the Royal Armoury at Greenwich and altered for funeral purposes by the removal of the visor, and substitution of a set of curved strips to make it look like the helmet heraldically suited to the coat-of-arms of a nobleman, and the addition of a tall spike on the crown to carry the funeral crest. The crest itself was brought in a few days later. It had been fastened to the church wall immediately below the helmet, but for a long time its actual function had remained unrecognised, since it was carved on one side only, the face next to the wall being completely flat. The device is identifiable as a bull's head crested, the crest of the family of Wharton, and the coronet of a marquis worn about its neck shows that it must have been the crest of Thomas, first marquis of Wharton, who was buried at Upper Winchendon on 22nd April, 1715.

This explains the one-sidedness of the crest. Heraldic custom enjoins that the helmet surmounting the arms of a peer should be depicted in profile, and when the "ensigns of honour" were carried at a nobleman's funeral, and hung up over his tomb, care was taken not to display the helmet full-face. Helmet and crest have now been reunited and entrusted to the care of the County Museum, a photograph of the trophy being exhibited in the church itself. (See Plate 14.)

CHALFONT ST. GILES: *Work on the wall paintings and the north aisle roof*. Mrs. Eve Baker and her assistants have continued work on the cleaning and consolidation of the wall paintings (as referred to in p. 207 above) with very gratifying results. The Crucifixion and St. John Baptist subject section is almost complete; and the painting has been extended downwards by the removal of more of Street's cement plaster. This has shown that the subjects were in three tiers; and the disclosure of further details in the subject previously identified as one of the post-resurrection appearances suggests that this is in fact the Incredulity of St. Thomas. A mitred figure has appeared at the west end of the table in the Feast of Herod and Herodias; and a further scene at the base, perhaps St. John in prison preaching to a crowd, has appeared.

The north aisle roof—a poor affair of plastered pine—was found to be badly infested, and has been replaced with a simple and excellently designed oak roof similar in character to the south aisle roof.



Copyright, London Museum

PLATE XIII. The Upper Winchendon helmet as discovered in the church.



Copyright. London Museum

PLATE XIV. The helmet after treatment, and with its crest restored.

CHAUFONT ST. PETER: *Nave roof and vaults under the floor.* The nave roof in the parish church was found to be on the point of collapse and detailed inspection disclosed a remarkable state of affairs. The roof of the rebuilt church in 1714 was a utility measure, large quantities of the medieval roof timbers of the collapsed church being salvaged and reused. Many large moulded beams and rafters were sawn in half and stiffened by deais nailed on to make "new" rafters. There was evidently a plaster ceiling of some form, as such a makeshift timber structure can never have been meant to be seen. The plaster ceiling was removed by Street about 1860, and he substituted a sham hammer-beam roof in varnished matchboarding, which added to the weight and ceiled the already worn-out timbers above. It is to be hoped that a really worth-while substitute can be designed.

The floor and seating were likewise on the point of collapse, the reason being that there were no fewer than nine burial vaults immediately beneath. The tops of these had to be broken, and the whole cemented over before the shoring for the roof could be put in. Mr. E. J. Briden has made a plan of the vaults and details of the interments. Several coffin plates have been removed and mounted for display in the vestry. There were something like twenty interments.

BURNHAM: *Monuments in the Church.* Our member, Mr. A. H. Packe, has completed his splendid work of cleaning, regilding, polishing, and restoring the heraldry on every monument in the church, so that the impressive series can now be seen as monuments should be, like those recently restored in Harefield Church. Mr. Packe had ample opportunity to study each monument in detail, and asks that an amendment be made to the late Mrs. Katherine Esdaile's paper in *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XV (1947), p. 34. She refers to a memorial to Bridget Freeman, 1721. This should in fact be Bridget Friend. The sarcophagus she mentions is in fact reduced to the proportion of a shelf whose shape suggests a sarcophagus—on it rests a small coffin in black marble covered with a shroud, also in black marble. On the coffin is a white marble cushion, and on the cushion a skull—very different from Mrs. Esdaile's description.

HITCHAM: *Cleaning of monuments.* The fine series of monuments in Hitcham Church (incidentally not referred to by Mrs. Esdaile in *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XV, 1947) has now been cleaned, polished, re-lettered and the heraldry restored by Mr. A. H. Packe. Many features and even figures were loose, and these have all been re-fixed.

FLEET MARSTON: An outbreak of dry rot in the floor and pews of the church has resulted in its closure—an ominous and probable preliminary to its being declared redundant. No steps have so far been taken to cope with this, and one fears its eventual disappearance like Quarrendon nearby, or Stantonbury, each likewise the centre of a deserted village.

LITTLE MISSENDEN: *Wall paintings, etc.* Work on the cleaning and consolidation of the wall paintings is suspended for the moment, but it is hoped to resume it during 1965. The Society was represented, together with the Society for the Protection of Ancient Buildings and the Council for the Preservation of Rural England, at a Consistory Court when a faculty for erecting an entirely unsuitable and unsympathetic modern church extension and appurtenances in the churchyard was opposed. The Chancellor, Mr. Peter Boydell, accepted the architectural, aesthetic and archaeological evidence given, and the faculty was refused.

WORMINGHALL: *The King Almshouses.* It is pleasant to be able to recall the complete restoration of this charming and important group (see *R.C.H.M., S. Bucks.*, 325:6), largely through the efforts of the Rev. R. H. Collier. The buildings had become very out of date and in poor condition and were threatened with closure and probable demolition. But by reducing the number of inmates it has been possible to modernise the premises internally and provide space for up-to-date requirements. The effect has been marred by the planning authority allowing a modern bungalow of poor design and materials to be built right in front of the Almshouses, partly masking them and ruining the composition.

ASHLEY GREEN: *Further discoveries at Grove Farm.* Mr. Harman very kindly gave information of the uncovering of an unusual structure within the main enclosure near the existing house; and of foundations of an inner gate-house or turret inside the known gatehouse foundations. Mr. Gowing and the editor inspected these, and it is hoped to place them on a general plan at a later date. One structure, of well-dressed flint with some stone, with an oblong hollow centre some 5 ft. by 3 ft. had something of the appearance of a garderobe pit; but as water filled the base it was not possible to ascertain if there were any outlet channel or drain. In 1965 it is hoped to strip the upper soil from one of the enclosed gardens within the central area, where substantial foundations are known to exist.

NORTH BUCKINGHAMSHIRE CHURCHES. The editor made a tour of some 25 churches in the North of the County in the summer of 1964, disclosing a deplorable state of affairs in many of them. Probably not more than three or four could be stated as in first-class order. In very few was there any literature about the points of architectural and historical interest in the building. Some of the salient points may be summarised.

ADDINGTON. Structurally sound. No reference to the remarkable series of Flemish and German sixteenth-, seventeenth-, and eighteenth-century glass panels which fill almost every window in the church. It is the most extensive collection in the county. And these, together with those at Missenden Abbey, ought to be listed.

ADSLOCK. Much sound restoration work recently done.

BARTON HARTSHORN. There is a danger of this charming remote church becoming redundant, as there is virtually no village, and it is largely maintained by the great house. It is a pleasure to record many extremely good, simple and dignified modern fittings and furnishings in classical style.

CLITON REYNES. Much good recent restoration work to parapets, etc. Condition of stone tomb chests of some of the important Reynes monuments gives cause for anxiety and should be examined and dealt with.

COLD BRAYFIELD. Recently well restored structurally.

GAWCOTT. This interesting classical building of 1828, designed by Sir Gilbert Scott's father, is in a poor state. The usual neglect of roofs, gutters and down-pipes has resulted in damage to stonework and staining of interior plaster. The decorative scheme would disgrace a nineteenth-century Board school. And recently a reredos in poor and shallow Gothic design has been allowed to be inserted in the chancel, completely out of keeping with everything else in the church.

GAYHURST. Recently structurally restored, and the interior cleaned. But the Wright monument could still have some attention.

HAVERSHAM. Recently structurally restored, and limewashed inside.

HILLESDEN. In poor structural condition after years of neglect. Many pinnacles fallen and exterior stonework perished. Roofs and windows have been mended; and there is a scheme for extensive restoration involving the use of much artificial stone. The

most important late-fifteenth-century church in the county deserves only the best treatment.

LATHBURY. Much recent structural repair done. But the important series of wall paintings are in very poor condition and in need of immediate attention.

LAVENDON. Recently whitewashed inside, the wash being carried over everything, obscuring details of stonework, carving, mouldings, etc.

LECKHAMPSTEAD. There has been recent renewal of gutters and down-pipes and the building is now structurally sound. The wall paintings have faded badly, probably due to brushing; and the fourteenth-century freestone effigy is very dirty.

LITTLE LINFORD. This church now stands isolated in the derelict park, since the demolition of the manor house. As half the cottages in the village are also derelict and empty, the prospect is not a bright one. The chancel roof is almost off, large areas of tiling being shattered or having slipped, exposing the boarding of the roof. As a consequence, the chancel leaks like a sieve, and few of the gutters and rain-pipes seemed to be in working order.

NEWPORT PAGNELL. The church appears sound, apart from a few small leaks in the aisle roofs and several settlement cracks. But no attempt at interior re-decoration seems ever to have been made since the galleries were removed nearly forty years ago, and the ugly scars of these still disfigure the whole building and give it a shabby and neglected air.

PADBURY. Much general restoration work, care of guttering and spouting, replastering, cleaning and limewashing has been done under Mr. J. Storry. Work was started in 1964 on the wall paintings and it is hoped to resume this in 1965. Four new subjects have been revealed—the martyrdom of a saint; the miracle of St. Edmund's head and the wolf; St. George; and St. Christopher. It is hoped these will form the subject of a paper when the work is completed.

PRESTON BISSET. Structurally sound; but in a tasteless and depressing decorative state with some very remarkable modern furniture. A finely carved stone corbel seems to have been recently smashed.

RADCLIVE. This charming building, at present in an almost unrestored state, is due for heavy restoration. And one sincerely hopes that its unspoilt atmosphere and texture will not be wrecked.

RAVENSTONE. A good deal of work has been done here in 1964. But how a faculty was ever granted for the destruction of the fine seventeenth-century reredos in the South aisle (formerly the high altar-piece), and its replacement by a flimsy modern affair, it is hard to conceive. The excuse was that the old one had the wood-worm in it. Parts of the original, including the fine central urn, illustrated in plate 68 in Murray's *Buckinghamshire Guide* (Betjeman & Piper), were actually found on a bonfire in the churchyard, and the urn was rescued and given to the County Museum.

SHERINGTON. Much good restoration work has been done on the roofs here lately and some earlier decorated timbers found. The need for this extensive and expensive work could have been greatly reduced by elementary attention to roofs and gutters in the past.

THORNTON. Neglected and depressing. Windows broken, birds nesting inside and fouling the building, roofs leaking, plaster falling.

TWYFORD. The fine series of Wenman monuments are absolutely filthy and neglected. The central painted wooden armorial achievement panel has recently been prized off one (Richard Wenman, 1572). Can this be the work of the same vandal as stole the two Wing brasses? The top of the fine altar tomb to Thomas Giffard, 1550, was covered with miscellaneous church literature, blotting paper, ink-pots, collecting boxes and other miscellanea. Several seats at the back of the North aisle were devoted

to a superannuated bath chair, old decaying hassocks and service books mostly mildewed, and a fine selection of jam jars.

WATER STRATFORD. The whole place had an air of depressing dereliction and neglect. The churchyard gate and fence were broken down: the electric light (a fine factory fitting) on the corner of the building was broken and swinging loose on its wires. And it was necessary to slash a way through the dense undergrowth even to get a sight of the fine twelfth-century North door, hidden in grass, brambles, nettles and elder.

REVIEWS

THE SHERIFFS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE, by Elliott Viney, High Sheriff for the County, 1964. 8½ × 4½ in., 148 pp., with a Frontispiece, 5 plates in colour and 40 in black and white, and decorative end-papers. Aylesbury, Hazell Watson & Viney, 1965.

This admirable book by the Society's Hon. Secretary and Hon. Joint-Editor was published to mark the end of the author's term of office as High Sheriff. It is a splendid production, with a scholarly introduction discussing the history of the office of Sheriff as a whole, and with particular reference to Buckinghamshire: there follows a complete list of the Sheriffs, as far as ascertainable, and biographical and historical notes on individuals, with many pedigrees. There are several Appendices illustrating various legal aspects of the office and its ramifications, and one very depressing section on the homes of the nineteenth-century Sheriffs. This shows that, out of 68 houses considered, only six are still lived in today by descendants of the same family. Only sixteen others are still occupied as private houses: of the remainder, ten or a dozen have been demolished altogether, the balance being flats, offices, laboratories, homes of various kinds, etc. It would be difficult to find a more telling example of the social revolution of our times.

A further interesting point that emerges (on which Mr. Viney does not comment) is the change in emphasis in the areas from which the Sheriffs have been drawn over the centuries. In the thirteenth, fourteenth and fifteenth centuries the preponderance was overwhelmingly in the North (3 or 4 to 1). By the sixteenth century, more Sheriffs were being appointed from the South, but the North of the County still provided most. The balance was almost equal in the seventeenth century, with six more from the South than from the North; and from then on representation of the South steadily increases until in the present century it is almost 4 to 1. This represents in a most interesting way the change in feudal and local conditions, the ownership and use of land, the increase of industry and the influence of London.

The illustrations are sumptuous and very well annotated. They range in scope from brass rubbings to miniatures, monumental sculpture, portraits and photographs.

It is clear that the author has brought an antiquarian distinction as well as an up-to-date efficiency and traditional pomp and hospitality to his office. The furnishings of the javelins and the armorial banners on the trumpets have been revived.

The book is not on public sale, having been privately printed. But Mr. Viney will be pleased to send a copy to those who send him a cheque or postal order for £1 made out in favour of the Bucks. Historic Churches Trust. E.C.R.

A HISTORY OF CHALFONT ST. PETER AND GERRARDS CROSS, by G. C. Edmonds. 8 x 5½ in., 70 pp., 8 half-tone plates and a map. Published by the Blandford Press, London, for the Rev. G. C. Edmonds. 10s. 6d. net. (There is a cheaper edition in paper covers.)

This modest volume, too scholarly and well written in its small way to be classed as a guide book, is a valuable introduction to an area whose antiquity and interest is all but submerged by the flood of suburbia. The author (Congregational Minister in Gerrards Cross) traces the history and development of both parishes from the earliest times—Chalfont an ancient one, containing several manors; Gerrards Cross an upstart carved out of half a dozen others in 1859 and 1895. The connexions of Chalfont with Missenden Abbey and the former greatness of Bulstrode are both dealt with; and notable characters, the Brudenells, Whappelodes, Drurys, Churchills, Portlands, Jellreys, Hibberts, Mayne Reid and others, all find their place. The story is brought up to date with mention of modern institutions.

The illustrations are excellent, the old prints of Bulstrode and Chalfont Park and the photograph of a group of workmen at St. James's Church in 1859 being especially useful. While a view of the High Street at Chalfont St. Peter in 1904 serves to show what we have lost in this once picturesque and charming village, now little better than a desert. E.C.R.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF HIGH WYCOMBE, *an illustrated Guide to the fabric and its history*, by Herbert Green. 56 pp., 19 plates, plans, etc. The Church Publishers, Ramsgate. 2s. 6d.

It is always a pleasure to welcome a good church guide; and Mr. Green has produced an authoritative one, dealing with the structure and its history, with promise of a further part to cover the contents, monuments, fittings, etc. One cannot go all the way with the author in his re-constructions of the building or plans of its development. But he does point out many small features bearing on this that might easily escape a less observant person. Moreover, he produces much documentary evidence not brought together before. Inevitably in a church guide, a good deal of space is given up to recent works: but future historians will no doubt be grateful for this in time to come. Mr. Green has presented a fully annotated copy of his guide to the Society's Museum, which is of great value. E.C.R.

THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. GILES, CHALFONT ST. GILES, by H. Adams Clarke. 7½ x 5 in., 40 pp., 5 plates and plans, paper covers. 1s. This is a useful abridgement of Mr. Clarke's larger history of the church, which was reviewed in *Records of Bucks.*, Vol. XVII, Part 1, p. 89, and is available in the church to help church funds. Really good and authoritative guides are greatly appreciated by visitors and residents; and one could wish that many other churches would follow suit, even if it is only to copy out and paste on a board a summary of the architectural features and fittings readily available in the Royal Commission's volumes, or the Victoria County History.

THE MUSEUM

At the very end of the year the Museum took possession of Church House. It is hoped that by the end of 1965 it will prove possible to open a Natural History Gallery on the ground floor and a small Geological Gallery will be provided later in an adjoining room. In addition, space will be available for a more adequate workshop and also for a laboratory for the conservation of the Museum's specimens.

At Easter the Museum undertook its first excavation, when nearly three weeks were spent excavating on the site of the deserted medieval village of Caldecote, Aylesbury.

A considerable amount of time was spent in the late summer and early autumn on the recording of a group of half-timbered buildings which were demolished in the Silver Street area of Aylesbury. A number of fifteenth to seventeenth-century structures were photographed and drawn with the help of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments. The front of a fifteenth-century building, which was found hidden between two shops, was kindly dismantled by the Aylesbury Borough Council and has been stored in the Museum in the hope that it might be eventually possible to re-erect it.

As usual, a number of visits were paid to archaeological sites in the County and a number of interesting finds were made. Details of these will be found in the Archaeological Notes.

Botanical specimens have been collected to form the basis of a herbarium which is, as far as is known, the first one to be created for this County. Geological and other natural history specimens have also been collected and it is hoped to make the museum collections of this type of material more representative.

A new display relating to the paleolithic and mesolithic periods was prepared and also a case relating to flint working. The resiting of the cases containing these has made available greater space for the display of the other prehistoric collections, and the reorganisation of these is in progress.

The Museum, with the help of Mr. Henry Trivick, organised an exhibition by four artists—James Fitton, Henry Trivick, Carel Weight and Marek Zulawski—which provided a type of exhibition not normally seen in Aylesbury. In addition, the Aylesbury Art Society and the Wendover Art Society held their annual exhibitions in the Museum, and the County Art Organiser arranged one of art from Buckinghamshire Secondary Schools.

The number of visitors was 22,075, compared with 19,929 in 1963.

C.N.G.

THE SOCIETY

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting in 1964 was held on 7th April. Professor W. F. Grimes, C.B.E., F.S.A., was elected a Vice-President. Otherwise, there were no changes amongst the Officers and Council. In May, another Vice-President, the Bishop of Buckingham, was translated to the See of Southwell, but we are glad that he remains a member of the Society.

OBITUARY

Ivy, Lady Pigott-Brown, a Vice-President of the Society, died in February. Lady Pigott-Brown was the daughter of Admiral William Pigott, whose family have been so prominent in Buckinghamshire for many centuries and have resided at Doddershall since the early sixteenth century. She was always a good friend to the Society, and welcomed members there on several occasions, the last being on 25th March, 1961, when the tour of the house was characteristically broken off in order to watch the Grand National, in which her grandson, Sir William Pigott-Brown, was riding.

Other deaths reported in 1964 were Mr. Julius L. Stern, an American who contributed an article to the *Records*, Vol. 17, Part 1; The Rev. C. W. Thompson, Vicar of Marsworth; Mrs. R. C. Hazell; Mrs. Mr. R. MacDonald; C. H. Moore; and W. E. Plater.

IVINGHOE

The second year of the dig at Ivinghoe, sponsored by the Society, was continued for three weeks in good weather in August by Professor S. S. Frere and Dr. M. Cotton.

Professor Frere's summary of the results of the dig is as follows:

Three sites were investigated:

- (i) A section was cut across the defences on the south side of the hill where surface indications suggested the presence of two ditches. There were no remains of the rampart *in situ* except some post-holes marking the line of its front and back. All the rampart material had fallen back into the main ditch, which was of the same deep, narrow profile as found in 1963. The outer ditch turned out to be a shallow U-shaped hollow, representing a scarping of the hill-side rather than a true ditch. It was clear once again that the defences had not had a long life.
- (ii) A large area in the middle of the hill-fort near the summit was stripped and a further area amounting to about a quarter of the hill-fort was surveyed by proton magnetometer. A number of post-holes and a good many scraps of pottery were found and also one shallow pit, but the absence of large storage pits in both areas was striking. One group of four post-holes in the form of a square suggested that the structure they had supported was a granary. The most important discovery was a number of pieces of bronze: two fragments of sword blade, a razor, and some studs.
- (iii) A further small area on the north side, adjacent to the area examined in 1963, was stripped. Here a number of substantial post-holes was discovered. They evidently belonged to a large building, and more work is required here to trace its plan. A bronze pin was found here.

Though so far we have not recovered sufficient building plans, the results of the 1964 season were important. There is now quite a large group of pottery sherds, and these can be approximately dated by the bronze objects recovered. The interest of this lies in the surprisingly early date indicated—seventh to sixth century B.C., rather than fifth to fourth, as previously thought. The site now assumes a national rather than a merely local importance, since such an early date for the opening phase of the Iron Age in Britain has not been properly authenticated before.

It is hoped to start work on a third and final dig this summer, and an appeal for funds to make this possible has recently been issued to Members.

OUTINGS

The generally good weather last summer enabled all four outings to be enjoyed by a large number of members. After the Annual General Meeting a party went to Stanford Hall, Rugby, the home of Lord Braye. On 16th May Mr. Arnold Baines led an original and highly enjoyable outing to study the parish boundaries of Monks Risborough. This parish, like so many on the edge of the Chilterns, is long and narrow and it would need a long day to walk the complete boundary, but with the help of cars, ten points were visited, then explored on foot. The text and a translation of the original Anglo-Saxon Charter had been circulated to those attending, and Mr. Baines gave an introductory talk at the southernmost boundary near Speen. Stops were made at Pink Hill, Kop Hill, the "foul brook" near Askett, Alscot at Princes Risborough, Great Waldridge on the northern tip, and back across the Icknield Way for lunch at the Plough at Cadsden. After lunch the more active members ascended the "Kings Way" through the woods to Wayland's Stock, near Green Hailey. On an exceptionally fine spring day, with the Chilterns looking their best,

this was a most successful outing and one which it is planned to repeat at some other parish in the future.

The last outing was to Greenwich on 19th September. Over seventy members joined a special launch which took them to Greenwich in time for lunch. There is so much of interest in this great complex of buildings that the four hours allowed gave barely enough time to see the Painted Hall and the Chapel of the College, the restored Wren Observatory, and the National Maritime Museum. E.V.

MEETING IN AYLESBURY

An exceptionally pleasant and well-attended outing took place on 27th June. Members first met at the County Hall, Aylesbury, and heard an interesting address by Mr. R. E. Millard, Clerk of the Peace, on the history of the County Hall and its adjacent buildings. Mr. Millard then conducted members over the building, and showed them many interesting features including the Judges' Lodgings. Members then dispersed, and after visiting places of interest in the town, re-assembled at Green End House where they were cordially welcomed by Mrs. Elliott Viney and other members of the family. The weather was kind, and members were therefore able to enjoy on the lawns the excellent hospitality which the High Sheriff and Mrs. Viney so kindly provided. Many members expressed astonishment at finding such extensive and delightfully quiet rural surroundings in virtually the centre of a busy county town, and all agreed that it was an occasion that would long remain a particularly happy memory. J.F.H.

ERRATUM By an unfortunate oversight, the genealogical table accompanying the article "Mediaeval Charters at Claydon House" by G. R. Elvey in the last issue of *Records of Bucks* (Vol. XVII Part 3, 1963, pp. 192-6) was incompletely printed. We regret this error and enclose a revised table, which can be pasted over p. 196.

PARISH REGISTERS

The registers of the following parishes, beginning in the years indicated, have been deposited with the Society for safe custody:

Mursley, 1578

North Crawley, 1666.

A.V.W.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

THE programme has been a varied one and has covered a wide area.

The year started with a weekend course at Missenden Abbey, the theme of which was "Birds in Britain" with Mr. C. M. Swaine as resident lecturer. A very successful botanical weekend was held in September on the theme "Seeds and Berries". Once again we were fortunate in having Sir Edward Salisbury as our principal speaker.

There have been seven ornithological outings during the year covering Grendon Underwood, Foxcote Reservoir, Wotton Underwood, Weston Turville Reservoir, Newmer Common and two visits to Tring Reservoirs. In spite of a wet evening, the visit to Grendon Underwood was made delightful by the song of nightingales and grasshopper warblers.

There were four botanical outings. One a walk along the bank of the disused canal from Wendover to Weston Turville and the Reservoir to look for marsh and water plants. In this area it was very interesting to find the rare plant *Asarabacca*. Another walk was to Cymbeline's Mount; this was interesting not only botanically but for the history and legends of the area. Late in June several Natural History Societies were

represented when a visit was made to Brazier's End and Dancer's End—at Brazier's End the ground was so thickly covered by spotted orchids it was difficult not to tread on them. About fifty people attended this meeting. A few members took advantage of an invitation from the Bucks. Rural Studies Association to visit the New Forest by coach.

An outing to study the conchology of the Bledlow beech woods was held in July. Though no rarities were found, this was a very interesting meeting which we hope to repeat.

The first of the indoor meetings was held at Tring in conjunction with the Herts. Natural History Society. The subject of the lecture was "The Formation of the Coombes in the Chilterns". This is to be followed by a field meeting in the summer. Other lectures during the winter months were "Chemical Hazards in Food" given by Mr. G. H. Abraham, "Wild Life in the National Parks of Kenya" by Miss M. Hyde and an illustrated talk on birds by Mr. Philip Straw.

A Members' Afternoon, which was very well attended, was held at the County Museum. Members were invited to give short talks and to show slides. Altogether there were twenty-two meetings, several of which were shared with other societies.

The following observations have been sent by Mrs. Susan Cowdy. After bitter weather in March, birds settled down to what proved to be one of the best breeding seasons in recent years. Cuckoos and nightingales were up in numbers, and it was a "Quail year"—these were heard calling from barley fields, mostly along the foot of the escarpment. Numbers of grasshopper warblers again increased with the new forestry plantations in the Chilterns and elsewhere. Spotted flycatchers and house martins, on the other hand, were down in numbers. Most resident birds appear to have come up to their pre-1962/3 numbers with the exception of wrens, kingfishers and herons. Birds of prey, except for tawny owls, continue to drop in numbers, a direct result of the use of toxic chemicals in agriculture and horticulture. Corpses of barn owl, tawny owl and little owl, among other species, were sent in for analysis in 1963 by members of the society and proved to contain various p.p.m. of persistent poisons. Kestrels are rarely seen in the south of the county during the breeding season.

After the harvest, surplus barley straw was burned in the fields; this unfortunately caused widespread fire damage to hedgerows, particularly in the north of the county. The effect of this on habitats and common birds remains to be seen.

Rabbits are once again widespread, though in nothing like the numbers prior to myxomatosis. They appear to be of a nomadic type which live above ground rather than in warrens. Glis Glis (edible dormouse) have caused some hundreds of pounds' worth of damage in Wendover Forest by ringing bark of conifers. The Forestry Commission have accounted for some seventy of these animals, which hitherto have not been considered a pest since they were first released from Tring Park some thirty years ago.

Mr. Geoffrey Glover has collated the more interesting plants seen by members during 1964. The results are as follows:

<i>Helleborus viridis</i>	Green Hellebore	Cryer's Hill; Kingston Blount; Monk's Risborough; Denner Hill
<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking Hellebore	Wotton Underwood Lake; Cadsdean
<i>Anemone pulsatilla</i>	Pasque Flower	Near Tring Station in quantity
<i>Iris amara</i>	Candytuft	Dancer's End; Lodge Hill; Watlington Hill; Whiteleaf; Cadsdean

<i>Dentaria bulbifera</i>	Coralwort or Coralroot	Cryer's Hill; Cofeshill; near Beaconsfield; Chalfont St. Peter
<i>Lotus tenuis</i>	Slender Birdsfoot trefoil	Near Bradenham
<i>Astragalus glycyphyllos</i>	Milkvetch	The Hale, Wendover; Cadsdean; Watlington Hill
<i>Tetragonolobus maritimus</i>	Dragons Teeth	Near Fingest, possibly introduced
<i>Alchemilla xanthochlora</i>	Lady's Mantle	Redland End
<i>Sedum telephium</i>	Orpine	Redland End; Rookwood; Gt. Missenden
<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow Saxifrage	Lodge Hill
<i>Chrysosplenium oppositifolium</i>	Golden Saxifrage	Ellesborough Springs; Bledlow
<i>Danae cornubiensis</i>	Cornish Bladder Seed	Burnham Beeches. This rare plant is maintaining itself in a well-defined area, perhaps spreading slightly
<i>Asarum europaeum</i>	Asarabacca	Near Wendover. This very rare plant is holding its own well in this site where it has been known for many years
<i>Cuscuta epithymum</i>	Common Dodder	Near Bradenham
<i>Galeopsis angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Hemp Nettle	Bradenham; Bledlow
<i>Gentianella germanica</i>	Chiltern Gentian	Near Bradenham; Pyrton Hill; West Hill; Cheddington
<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Danewort	Between Dinton and Cuddington; near Aston Rowant
<i>Galinsoga ciliata</i>	Gallant Soldier	Aylesbury
<i>Cicerbita macrophylla</i>	Blue Sow-thistle	Near Pink Hill
<i>Damasium alisma</i>	Starfruit	Gerrards Cross Pond
<i>Luzula forsteri</i>	Forsters Wood Rush	Monkton Wood, near Redland End
<i>Epipactis sessilifolia</i>	Violet Helleborine	Greer, Hailey
<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad Helleborine	Bledlow Woods; Bradenham; Pulpit Hill
<i>Epipactis leptochila</i>	Narrow-lipped Helleborine	Whiteleaf; Cadsdean; Windsor Hill; Crowell Hill; Cryer's Hill
<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White Helleborine	Cadsdean; Bledlow
<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Swordleaved Helleborine	Chinnor Hill
<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Birdsnest Orchid	Bledlow Woods; Cadsdean; 1964 was a good year

<i>Herminium monorchis</i>	Musk Orchid	Near Kimble. A very good year in 1964
<i>Coeloglossum viride</i>	Frog Orchid	Pink Hill; Aston Rowant; Lodge Hill; Chalk Pit near Aston Clinton
<i>Gymnadenia Conopsea</i>	Fragrant Orchid	Pitstone Hill; Steps Hill; Kimble. Very large numbers in 1964
<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater Butterfly Orchid	Pink Hill; Dancer's End
<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee Orchid	Quarry at Pitstone; near Bradenham
<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid	Near Beaconsfield
<i>Orchis mascula</i>	Early Purple Orchid	Lodge Hill; Steps Hill

J.E.

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