

THE SOCIETY

OBITUARY

H.W. Grimmit, who died in November 1976 soon after his 80th birthday was a most respected member of the Society. A native of Leeds, he served with the Royal Engineers and the Royal Flying Corps in the Great War and made his career in the electrical industry. From 1955-65 he was head of the electrical inspectorate of the then Ministry of Power and was made C.B.E. on his retirement. He played a full part in the life of Wendover, worked for BBONT and the CPRE and was, for twenty years, the active President of the Society's Natural History Section of which his wife Janet was Secretary.

Other deaths recorded in 1976-77 were: G. Beesley, Major J.L. Coales, R.J. Cox, Miss E. Cross, Mrs. Yvonne de Rothschild, J.M. Easterbrook, Doctor H.G. Edwards, Mrs. N.W. Hewson, Sir William Hart (former Chief Executive of London County Council), Mrs. E. Higgs, H.O. Kitchener, Mrs. L.G. Shadbolt, S.C. Sutton, CBE, FSA, former director of the India Office Library and Records, O.T. Tewson, G.K. Tull, President of Wolverton Archaeological Society, Colonel Oscar Viney, DL, who joined the Society in 1913 and so was the 'senior member', S.F. Wilson, Miss G.M. Wood and L.M. Wulcko.

Sir Eric Ansorge was not a member but in 1974 the Society published his definitive *Macrolepidoptera of Bucks*. Before retiring to Chalfont St. Peter, Sir Eric had had a distinguished career in the Indian Civil Service but was probably better known as a naturalist.

OUTINGS IN 1976

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| 1 May | Chicheley Hall and Church. |
| 15 May | Cambridge Libraries (Trinity, St. John's and Magdelene). |
| 12 June | Archaeological sites at Milton Keynes |
| 11 July | Corsham Court, Bowood House, Lydiard Tregoze, Wiltshire. |
| 31 July | Perambulation of Hillesden parish boundaries. |
| 4 Sept. | Maxstoke Castle, Warwickshire. Boughton House, Northants. |
| 2 Oct. | Bucks Churches. Whitchurch, Dunton, Stewkley, Wing, Edlesborough, Ivinghoe, Pitstone, Drayton Beauchamp. |

OUTINGS IN 1977

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| 30 April | Lacey Green Windmill |
| 28 May | Leonardslee Gardens, Bignor Roman Villa, Petworth, Sussex. |
| 11 June | Ironbridge Open-Air Museum, Mawley Hall, Shropshire. |
| 30 July | Perambulation of Wotton Underwood parish boundaries. |
| 24 Sept. | Burghley House, Tickencote Church, Belvoir Castle. |
| 15 Oct. | Bucks Churches, Broughton, North Crawley, Clifton Reynes, Ravenstone, Thornton, Tattenhoe, Newton Longville, Drayton Parslow. |

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETINGS

1 May 1976 at the Museum. The officers were all re-elected. Professor W.R. Mead, Head of the Department of Geography at University College, London, an authority on the Open Fields and a

Buckinghamshire man was elected a Vice-President. Mrs. M. Farnell, Mrs. J.P.A. Fenley, Mr. J.D. Hawkins, Mr. D.F. Kessler, Mr. A.H. Packe and Mrs. B.A. Stainton were elected to the Council.

30 April 1977 at the Museum. There were no changes amongst the officers. Mr. T.A. Hume, CBE, FSA, Director of the Museum of London and Curator of the Bucks County Museum 1952-60 was elected a Vice-President. Mr. Max Davies, Mrs. A.M. Durbridge and Mrs. Y. Parminter were elected to the Council on which Mrs. E.M. Arkell and Mr. A.H.J. Baines now serve as the nominated representatives of the County Council. Mr. John Chenevix-Trench was Chairman of Council 1976-77, Mr. Max Davies since then.

NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

The death of Mr. H.W. Grimmit CBE in 1976 has meant the loss of a keen and energetic supporter of the Natural History Section. In fact he was a founder member of the section and served on the committee from its inception. He took over the chairmanship when Lady Barlow retired in 1968 and remained until 1975 when he had to retire because of ill health.

During 1976/77 the members of the Natural History Section met once a month. Some of the meetings were lectures in the County Museum and others consisted of field outings. In all cases the lectures were given or the expedition guided by able naturalists and the section is grateful to those capable men and women who gave so freely of their time and knowledge.

We are indebted to Miss Janet Easton for the following record of grasses found on one of our outdoors events in a field which had remained undisturbed for some 30 years:

POA ANNUA	Annual Meadow Grass
DACTYLIS	Cock's Foot
FESTUCA RUBRA	Red Fescue
FESTUCA OVINA	Sheeps Fescue
HOLCUS LANATUS	Yorkshire Fog
ANTHOXANTHUM ODORATUM	Sweet Vernal Grass
AGROSTIS STOLONIFERA	Creeping Bent
AGROPYRON REPENS	Couch Grass
ARRHENATHERUM ELATIUS	False Oat Grass
MILIUM EFFUSUM	Wood Millet
DESCHAMPSIA	Tufted Hair Grass
LUZULA PILOSA	Wood Rush
CAREX REMOTA	Remote Sedge
CAREX SYLVATICA	Wood Sedge.

Membership of the Natural History Section is open to all members of the Society without additional subscription and a programme of events is sent to those who declare an interest. Copies can be obtained from the honorary secretary of the natural History Section, Mr. H. Bradburn, 13 Forest Close, Wendover, (Wendover 623000).

OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

(as at 31st December, 1977)

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(*Natural History Section*)

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