

# THE SOCIETY

## *Membership*

At the end of the year adult membership was down by 14 at 631, counting family members as two. There were 15 member societies and 10 junior members.

## *Council*

Four meetings were held under the Chairmanship of Councillor A.H.J. Baines. G.B. Ravens, Hon. Treasurer since 1974, retired in September and Council nominated E.J. Deung in his place. Our immediate Past President, E. Clive Rouse, MBE, FSA, resigned as the Society's representative on the Board of Trustees of the Kederminster Library after more than 40 years in the post, the last 10 of them as Chairman. Council paid tribute to the remarkable record of Mr. Rouse in office. Largely due to his unremitting pressure the record includes thorough overhaul of the Library's whole collection, the building put into excellent order and the interior furnishings and fixtures cleaned and conserved. Mr. A.H. Packe was nominated by Council to succeed as the Society's representative.

## *Bequests*

Council considered the appropriate disposition of bequests by two deceased members, both distinguished antiquarians. A bequest by the late Miss Cicely Baker, FSA, was partially expended in assisting the County Record Office to purchase at auction an important set of some 3000 documents relating to the Drake family of Amersham. The remainder was devoted to a Cicely Baker Prize for Historical Research, the conditions of which were framed to encourage newcomers to archival research. Council's expressed intention was to repeat the offer of the prize on an annual general meeting in 1983. Dr. Gordon Wyatt, FSA, left the Society his collection of documents and papers which included a number of water colour paintings. Those of them of Buckinghamshire subjects were placed in the Society's collection at the

County Museum, others were sold and the proceeds placed in a "Wyatt Fund", the income to be "applied to further the general interests of the Society in such manner as the Council may decide from time to time".

## *Outings*

Six outings were arranged and all were very well supported.

18 May: Staffordshire: Chillington Hall, Tong Church, Shugborough Park.

6 June: Wiltshire: Malmesbury Abbey, Avebury Manor, Avebury stone circle and Silbury Hill.

4 July: Worcester: Cathedral, Royal Worcester Porcelain Museum, Malvern Priory.

8 August: Perambulation of the boundaries of medieval Bernwood Forest, led by Michael Reed.

5 September: Northamptonshire: Holdenby House, Kelmarsh Hall, Brixworth Church.

3 October: Bucks. Churches: Newport Pagnell, Lathbury, Lavendon, Weston Underwood, Gayhurst, Hanslope, Castlethorpe, Willen.

## *Public Lecture*

In association with the Thames Valley Archaeological Society a public lecture was presented in Burnham in November. Brian Hobley, F.S.A., Head of Urban Archaeology at the Museum of London spoke on his work. By a happy coincidence he was able to reveal to the audience that that very afternoon the long search for the exact location of the Roman bridge over the Thames at Londinium had ended with the confirmation of the location revealed in an excavation by the Museum of London — a world scoop for Burnham.

## *Listed Buildings*

Council continued to concern itself with threats to listed buildings of county importance. The Society strongly opposed a proposal to insert new windows into the Dower House at

West Wycombe, a notable flint building of some Palladian pretension. Continued concern was expressed to the Department of the Environment over the deterioration of Harleyford Manor near Marlow, a grade I building in a setting described by Pevsner as "superb". A

barn at Hazlemere, near High Wycombe, one of the few listed buildings in the area, was threatened by an application to demolish by the Parish Council. The Society supported local resistance and permission was refused both by the Wycombe District Council and on appeal.

## NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

Field Visits and Lectures in 1981 have been well supported and we are fortunate to be able to hold the latter in the Education Room at the County Museum.

This year's programme is outlined briefly as follows:

### January 3

Mrs. Susan Cowdy M.B.E. welcomed us to the BBONT Film Show afternoon at Aylesbury Grammar School.

### February 15

Tring Reservoirs was the venue for a Winter Bird Watch and Gull Roost kindly led by Mrs. Susan Cowdy M.B.E.

Sightings: Coot. Moorhen. Mallard. Shoveller. Tufted Duck. Ruddy Shelduck. Pochard. Great Crested Grebe. Mute Swan. Canada Goose. Pied Wagtail. Long-tailed Tit. Robin. Wren. Goldfinch. Blue Tit. Common Gull. Lesser Black-backed Gull. Water Rail. Heron. Sparrowhawk.

### March 14

An interesting lecture by Dr. S.R.J. Woodell on the 'Flora of Walls' with slides of plants seen growing on walls in Oxford etc.

### April 25

After the A.G.M., Mr. Victor Scott entertained us with another of his splendid lectures, with superb slides, this time on the 'Flora of Cyprus'.

### May 23

A most enjoyable visit to the BBONT Reserve at Dancers End with Mr. Arthur Mount. Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*) & Lily-of-the-Valley (*Convallaria majalis*) were the outstanding finds.

### June 20

Mr. Nigel Phillips led a party round the lovely Reserve at Warburg showing some 9 Orchid species. The flock of St. Kilda sheep was of particular interest.

### July 18

Bernwood Forest (Shabbington Wood & Waterperry Forest) with Mr. Aubrey Woodward, particularly for the Butterflies: Meadow Brown, White Admiral, Ringlet, Small Skipper, Marbled White, Purple Emperor, Purple Hairstreak, Gatekeeper, and Five-spot Burnet Moth.

### September 19

A most interesting afternoon with Mr. Chris Reid looking for Insects on the Kimble Reserves with demonstrations of trapping methods.

### October 10

Our annual Fungus Foray with Mr. Victor Scott this year was held in Stockgrove Country Park.

Species collected:

*Marasmius?*

*Psilocybe?*

*Boletus elegans*

*Lepiota procera* (Giant Parasol)

*Collybia maculata*

*Hygrophoropsis aurantiaca* (False Chanterelle)

*Mycena?*

*Clavaria* (? Stag's Horn)

*Calocera viscosa*

*Rhytisma acerimum* (Tar Spot)

*Hypholoma fasciculare* (Sulphur Tuft)

*Corticium?*

*Scleroderma aurantium* (Common Earthball)

*Russula ochroleuca*

*Lactarius rufus*  
*Trametes versicolor*  
*Phallus impudicus* (Stinkhorn)  
*Xylaria hypoxylon* (Candlesnuff)  
*Calocera?* (Witch's Butter)  
*Lactarius turpis*  
*Stereum purpureum*  
*Hygrophorus coccineus*  
*Amanita muscaria* (Fly Agaric)  
*Russula nigricans*  
*Amanita phalloides* (Death Cap)  
*Laccaria amethystina*  
*Polyporus betulinus* (Bracket Fungus)  
*Boletus chrysenteron*  
*Tricholoma rutilans*  
*Amanita citrina* (False Death Cap)  
*Russula atropurpurea*  
*Boletus edulis*  
*Laccaria laccata*  
*Russula emetica*  
 ? *Daerymyces del.* ? found on rotting Silver Birch.

#### November 14

An informative lecture with superb slides on the 'Buttercup and Daisy Families' by Mr. Roy Maycock.

#### December 5

A most unusual and privileged visit behind the

scenes of the Tring Museum Bird Department under the guidance of Dr. David Snow. We were shown some of the vast collection of bird skins, particularly of the Trogonidae, the specie types, and some of the extinct birds. The Emperor Penguin Eggs brought back by Wilson from Antarctica were of great interest, as well as Finches collected by Charles Darwin on his voyage in the *Beagle*. Members also enjoyed seeing the fine Rothschild Library.

Mr. Aubrey Woodward (Hon. Recording Secretary) reports:

Although the weather during the summer was not very good for butterfly hunting, a remarkable increase in numbers of Marsh Fritillary was noted at a site in North Bucks. and Green Hairstreaks were unusually numerous at a site in the same locality. Emperor Moth larvae were found on Blackthorn bushes near Bishopstone; none has been reported from that area to my knowledge before. Greater Butterfly Orchids were magnificent at a site in North Bucks., and also Green-winged & Spotted were much in evidence.

# OFFICERS OF THE SOCIETY

(as at 31st December, 1981)

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MAX DAVIES

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## *Headquarters*

THE COUNTY MUSEUM, CHURCH STREET, AYLESBURY HP20 2QP

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