

THE SOCIETY

THE SOCIETY 2005

At the start of 2005 work began on conservation of the Society's collection of prints; they were cleaned and removed from inappropriate mounts and all adhesive paper dealt with. The cost of conservation is being met by the William Delafield Charitable Trust, and Mr. Delafield himself took a keen interest in the work, coming to the Library to see the cleaned prints. The volume published by the Society on 'Historic Views of Bucks', using some of the prints in our collection sold well throughout the year. The Museum held a big exhibition towards the end of the year celebrating the centenary of the Bucks Archaeological Society's great 1905 Exhibition when King Edward VII was among the exhibitors. Various members of BAS Council joined the steering committee to plan this exhibition, which highlighted 100 years of collecting in the County, and how the Society doggedly funded the Museum for 50 years before Bucks County Council took on the role. The fate of the scheduled ancient monument at Quarrendon was discussed at Council meetings and letters were written on behalf of the Society expressing concern on the future management of the site. It was also suggested that the Society might hold an open day and site visit, and involve other local societies and the local press.

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Museum on May 7th when some 60 members attended. Our President Professor Mead entertained the assembly with his recollections of the lost village of Burston near Aston Abbots, and, during the 2nd World War, of Upper Burston Farm which 'had its' windows shattered and roof removed by a string of bombs casually dropped between Whitchurch and Winslow. The memories were evoked by papers read at the Bucks Local History Network Conference in October, which again proved very popular. The AGM ended with a talk on the Cubitt car, which the Society had helped the Museum to buy, and which now had its own glass and oak garage in the Museum garden. Among projects which the Society decided to financially support during the year was the Manorial Documents

Register which was felt to be of particular significance to the Society, since we had been responsible for saving and collecting old documents long before it became part of the County Councils' duty. The Society had also responded to a Museum appeal for funds to buy John Morgan's C19th painting 'The Jury' which includes portraits of a number of prominent Aylesbury citizens. Sales of the residue of Dr Arnold Baines' library – those volumes not needed for BAS Library or the Centre for Bucks Studies – went so well during the year that a cheque for £1,000 was sent to Chess Valley Archaeological Society who had sorted and listed the books before passing them on to the Society. Other monies raised by the sale of the books was added to the fund for the website.

MEMBERSHIP

The Society's membership increased during 2005 to 447. This includes 15 life members, 305 ordinary members and 127 family members. In addition we have 27 institutional members. Springtime seems to be a good time for getting new members; we had 11 join before the March 11th Council meeting, including three families. Between March and June a further nine joined but there were also five resignations. During the rest of the year a further 14 new members joined the Society and only four resigned. We were saddened to hear of the deaths of seven of our members during 2005, including one of our distinguished Vice-Presidents, Sir Dennis Wright.*

COUNCIL

The Council of Bucks Archaeological Society met four times during 2005 on January 15th, March 12th, June 25th and October 15th; all meetings were held in the Museum. The 20 Council members were: Professor W.R.Mead President of the Society; Dr. A.J.C.Balfour Chairman of the Natural History Section; Maureen Brown Hon. Sec.; Professor John Clarke Hon. Editor of Records;

Brian Davis Hon. Treasurer; Mike Davis Vice-Chairman of Council; Mike Farley; Dr. Richard Gem; Sarah Gray Museum Curator; Diana Gulland Hon. Archivist and Librarian; Julian Hunt Hon. Newsletter Editor; Councillor Mrs. Brenda Jennings from Bucks County Council; Sandy Kidd from the County Archaeological Service; George Lamb; Edward Legg Chairman of Council; Gary Marshall from the National Trust; Mike Palmer Hon. Sec. of the Natural History Section; Dr David Thorpe; Dr Ian Toplis and Bob Zeepvat. The Council needed to appoint a new Outings Organiser following the resignation of Alan Dell and appeals were made at the AGM and in the newsletter to no avail. Meanwhile the 2005 programme was managed by Tony Balfour and Alan Dell.

Lecture Series 2005

22 January	Missenden Abbey and its landscape setting. Mike Davis.
19 February	Bucks Historic landscapes. David Green
12 March	Bucks Place Names and Landscape. Dr. Ann Cole
5 November	Tudor Serfs. Matt Tompkins.
10 December	Chenies Manor. Valerie Edwards.

Outings 2005

21 May	Wicken Fen and Ely
11 June	Lullingstone Roman villa and Batemans
16 July	Beaconsfield Walkround. Julian Hunt
13 August	Lumps and Bumps Tour. Diana and Peter Gulland.

The final outing of the summer was on 24th September when Michael Hardy led the Church Crawl. It started with St. Michael and All Angels at Waddesdon, last visited by BAS in 1894; then St. Lawrence's at Caversfield with its two Saxon windows, and St. Eadberg's at Bicester another church with Saxon details. After lunch members went to see St. Mary's Church at both Westcott and Ashendon, neither of which had ever been visited by BAS before. The day ended with visits to St. Mary Magdalene at Over Winchendon and St. Mary's at Fleet Marston. Of the seven churches visited during the day, five had never been visited by BAS before.

Maureen Brown

*As the journal was going to press, we received the sad news that Angela Colmer, former Secretary of the Natural History Section, had died in January 2007.

THE LIBRARY

ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY 2005

- ASHER, J. and others. The state of butterflies in Berkshire, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire. 2005.
- BAYLEY, M. The survival of the lowland British language. 2004.
- BERTRAM, J. Gough's sepulchral monuments being a catalogue of material relating to sepulchral monuments in the Gough manuscripts of the Bodleian (contains Buckinghamshire material). 2004.
- BLACKMAN, D. & CHEVOUS, D. Around Burnham in old photographs. 1993.
- BROAD, J. Transforming English rural society: the Verneys and the Claydons 1600–1820. 2004.
- BROWN, J. & BRYANT, R. A garden and three houses (designed by Peter Aldington in Haddenham). 1999.
- CORNWALL, J. An introduction to reading old title deeds. 2nd ed. 1997.
- COX, M. A collection of memories of school days in Weston Turville 1921–1970. 3rd ed. 2005.
- ENEVER, T. Changing faces, changing places: Bletchley and Woburn Sands district 1945–1970. 2002.
- Cockney lad and countrymen: the Second World War remembered by the children of Woburn Sands and Aspley Guise. 2001.
- FOREMAN, S. and others. Gathering the people, settling the land. The archaeology of the middle Thames landscape: Anglo-Saxon to post-medieval. (Eton Rowing Course excavations.). 2002.
- HALLETT, A. Almshouses (contains Winwood Almshouses, Quainton). 2004.
- HIBBERT, C. Disraeli: a personal history. 2004.
- KING, H. Poems, elegies, paradoxes and sonnets: a facsimile (introduction includes details of the life of Henry King, of Worminghall, 1592–1669). 1973.
- LAMBERT, A. Around Stony Stratford in old photographs. 1994.
- Around Stony Stratford: a second selection. 1996.
- Around Stony Stratford: a third selection. 2000.
- LEGG, E. Fenny Stratford market 1204 to 2004: 800 years of local commerce. 2005.
- Wolverton Grammar School: a brief history. 1903–1960. 2005.
- McLAUGHLIN, E. Reading old handwriting. 3rd ed. 1999.
- Simple Latin for family historians. 6th ed. 1999.
- What does it mean? Words found in inventories, wills, documents and deeds. 2004.
- MALET, Captain. Annals of the road or the notes on mail and stage coaching in Great Britain (includes description of the Birmingham Mail near Aylesbury and coaches to Wycombe). 1876.
- MARCAN, P. compiler. South east England and heritage handbook. 2004.
- MEAD, S. A history of Wolverton. 2004.
- MEAD, W.R. The adoption of Finland. 2005.
- MITCHELL, V. Oxford to Bletchley including Verney Junction to Banbury. 2005.
- Rickmansworth to Aylesbury, including the Chesham Branch. 2005.
- MORRIS, J. A Latin glossary for family and local historians. 2002.
- MORTON, F. The Rothschilds: a family portrait. 1963.
- PIGOT'S national commercial directory Buckinghamshire 1823. Facsimile.
- REES, N. The secret history of the Czech connection. The Czechoslovak Government in exile in London and Buckinghamshire (Aston Abbots) during the Second World War. 2005.
- ROWLANDS, S. We will remember them. (Service men and civilians, from Iver, who died during the Great and Second World Wars). 2005.
- SAVAGE, S. Water from Wendover: the story of the Wendover Arm Canal. 2002.
- SEWELL, E. Long Crendon: a historical miscellany. 2005.
- SCHOLEY, K. Buckinghamshire's lost railways. 2004.
- SHERWOOD, S. Stone: an A-Z patchwork. 2005.
- TAYLOR, J.A. Bletchley Park's secret sisters: psychological warfare in World War II. 2005.
- TAYLOR, R. Calendar of the Court Books of the

borough of New Woodstock 1588–1595. Oxfordshire Record Society, Volume 63, 2002.
TOULSON, S. The drovers (includes Vale of Aylesbury). 2005.

ARNOLD BAINES BEQUEST

ANON. An authentic narrative of some remarkable and interesting particulars in the life of (The Rev. John Newton) communicated in a series of letters to the Rev. Mr. Hawels, Rector of Aldwinckle, Northants. 7th ed. 1790.
CLARENDON, E. Earl of. The history of the Rebellion and Civil Wars in England begun in the year 1641. Volumes I (part 2); II (part I); III (part 2). 1717.
CLARKSON, T. Memoirs of the private and public life of William Penn. 2 volumes. 1813.
ELLIS, W. Chiltern and Vale farming explained according to the latest improvements. 1730s?
EVERSLEY, Lord. Commons, forests and footpaths: the story of the battle during the last forty-five years for public rights over the commons, forests and footpaths of England and Wales (includes Burnham Beeches). Rev. ed. 1910.
HOWARD, J. An account of the principal Lazerettos (hospitals for contagious diseases) in Europe...(includes Buckingham and Aylesbury prisons). 1789.
KELLY'S Directory of Windsor and Eton, Old Windsor and Datchet. 19th ed. 1969.
McFARLANE, K.B. John Wycliffe and the beginnings of English nonconformity. 1952.
PALMER, S. The nonconformists's memorial: being an account of the ministers, who were ejected or silenced after the restoration...1662. Volume 1 (contains a section on Buckinghamshire ministers). 1765.

WILFRED KING BEQUEST

AYERS, R. & CROFT, R. Wolverton and New Bradwell in old picture postcards. 1990.

CLARK, Rev. C.F. transcriber. Buckinghamshire baptisms, marriages and burials. Volume II. Drayton Parslow, 1559–1837. 1913.
CREWE, Marquess of. Lord Rosebery. 2 volumes. 1931.
FRENCH, E.G. The Hanslope Park tragedy. (Edward Hanslope Watts and Hanslope Park). 1968.
GEAKE, C. ed. Appreciation and addresses delivered by Lord Rosebery. 1899.
LIPSCOMB, G. The history and antiquities of the County of Buckingham, Volume 3. Cotteslow Hundred. 1847.
RAYMOND, E.T. The man of promise: Lord Rosebery a critical study. 1923.

In addition to the books listed 95 smaller items were added to stock. These included articles from journals, church guides and newspaper cuttings.

ADDITIONS TO THE ARCHIVES 2005

ELECTIONS BOX H, documents 12a-13e. Posters and leaflets from some of the Parliamentary and European Elections 1983–2005 from the Milton Keynes and Bedfordshire Constituencies. Deposited by Edward Legg.

HEA/12-17. Notes and photographs by Lorna Head of mainly 16th and 17th century monuments in Buckinghamshire churches. Deposited by Lorna Head.

KES/1-9. Notes, correspondence, flyers dealing with both published and unpublished material by David Kessler on the Rothschilds in Bucks; The Falashas; Jews in the Bucks Yeomanry; and the history of Stoke Hammond. Deposited as part of the Kessler Bequest.

Diana Gulland
Hon. Librarian/Archivist

THE NATURAL HISTORY SECTION

SUMMARY OF FIELD VISITS AND LECTURES ORGANISED BY THE SECTION DURING 2005

15th January. 'Moths of Buckinghamshire'. The year got off to a good start with 28 members turning out for a talk by the county moth recorder, Martin Albertini. The talk began with a few facts and figures. Over 2,500 species of moth had been recorded in Britain, the largest being the migrant Death's Head Hawkmoth with a wingspan of over 13cm, and the smallest, *Enteucha acetosae* with a wingspan of only 3mm. Martin then proceeded to take us on a photographic tour of local species. This quickly dispelled any notions of moths being the dull and drab relatives of butterflies. A number of colourful species were shown along with others exhibiting fantastically intricate wing patterns. Of similar interest were the intriguing and descriptive common names such as the Small Ranunculus, Blue Prominent, Orange Footman, Common Fan-foot, Beautiful Marbled and the Gothic. A number of day-flying species were featured including the Cinnabar Moth, Five and Six-spot Burnet Moths, the Humingbird Hawkmoth and the Mother Shipton, so called because of the hag-like side profile depicted on its wings. The talk ended with a look at some of the species likely to be seen out and about now braving the cold January weather or likely to be coming out soon. Here we saw, amongst others the Early Moth, Spring Usher, Pale Brindled Beauty and the Hebrew Character. While butterflies are rightly considered attractive, this excellent talk showed that there is a rich and subtle beauty to be found studying moths.

26th February. An afternoon winter bird watch at the Jubilee River. Seven members met up on this dull day punctuated with sleety showers. Despite the less than ideal weather, members managed to view a good range of species due to skills of expert bird-watcher, Brian Clews. A number of ducks were observed including Shovellers, Pochards, Tufted Duck and Teal along with Little and Great-crested Grebes. Also present were flocks of Linnets and Redwings with 400 Lapwing providing the highlight of the day performing an amazing aerobatic display.

19th March. 'The study of flowering plants in Buckinghamshire 1550 to the present day'. Ten members were present to hear Roy Maycock's comprehensive history of local plant recording. Starting with the earliest published record, that of a Fringed Water-lily in 1570 growing '*near the most delightful flowing Thames*' by Matthias de l'Obel, physician and botanographer to James I, Roy proceeded to run through a chronology of recorders and their records. Several authors of 16th and 17th Century Herbals, namely Gerard, Parkinson and Culpepper made reference to Buckinghamshire plants. Less conventional records can be gleaned from the brush of the Countess of Aylesford (1760 – 1832), many of whose 3,000 paintings depict local plants including Toothwort, Frog Orchid and Columbine. Equally so, poets such as Thomas Gray ('*beneath those rugged elms*') and William Cowper ('*It was the time of year when Ouse displayed his lilies newly blown*') make several references to our county flora. Amongst the numerous botanist mentioned were George Claridge Druce, author of the 1926 '*Flora of Buckinghamshire*', several collectors represented in the County Museum's herbarium, notably Florence Woods, Molly Hyde and Robert Heley along with Dorothy Eyre, whose photographic slide collection is also held by the museum. Space precludes mention of all names included in the talk but one glaring omission on the day was that of the speaker himself, long-time county plant recorder and co-author, along with Aaron Woods, of the recently published '*Checklist of the Plants of Buckinghamshire*' (2006). A fascinating and well researched talk.

9th April. Annual General Meeting. This year's AGM was followed by a short talk on the fossil assemblages of Calvert by George Taylor. During the previous year, George had helped out at a number of open days at Calvert during the course of which he collected a number of fossils. He kindly brought along a selection of these for members to pass around while viewing slides depicting what many of these marine animals would have looked like in life.

21st May. Joint coach trip with main society to Wicken Fen, Ely Cathedral and Streatham Old Engine. Eight Natural History Section regulars joined members from the wider society on this joint coach trip. We arrived at Wicken Fen visitor centre under a dry sky where we had opportunity to study maps of the reserve and lists of recent sightings. During an expeditionary ramble along the nature trails numerous birds were in song with the Reed Warblers being the clearest. Heavy rain, however, cut short the visit and curtailed any plans by natural history members to spend the day exploring the Fen. Instead we sought the shelter of the coach and journeyed on with the main party to experience the delights of Streatham Old Engine and Ely Cathedral. A final treat was the spectacle of a Buzzard soaring over the Chilterns near Little Missenden on the return home.

25th June. Wildflowers in an Old Quarry. A walk around Pitstone. Victor and Christine Scott led eight members from Church End into the former Pitstone Quarry 1. The quarry dates back to the 1930s but has been recolonised by nature since its closure and is now designated as a County Wildlife Site. The rich flora on the day included hundreds of White Helleborines along with Pyramidal Orchids, Common Broomrape, Agrimony, Bee Orchid, Wild Carrot, Bladder Campion, Yellowwort, Milkweed, Common Spotted Orchid and many more. A num-

ber of Skylarks were also seen during the visit. A tremendously pleasing day with lots to see while enjoying the good weather.

9th July. Dragonflies and Butterflies: a walk exploring the insects of College Lake. No members were able to attend this meeting.

September. Visit to Buckingham Sandpit. Unfortunately the date for the Sandpit Open Day was changed and members were unable to attend.

October. Joint meeting with the Bucks Fungus Group. No members were able to attend this meeting.

12th November. Jurassic Seas: an illustrated talk by George Taylor. Due to the speaker relocating to Cornwall this meeting was cancelled

3rd December. Oak Trees at Coombe Hill: an illustrated talk by Jenny Taylor. Unfortunately this meeting was cancelled due to the reason stated above.

*Mike Palmer
(with contributions from
Margaret Kendrick
and Anna Blundell)*