

# OFFICER'S REPORTS

## THE SOCIETY

2011

2011 was dominated by the Society's concerns for the future of archaeology and heritage in Buckinghamshire, in the form of HS2 and the County Council spending review. On both these issues Council was active in lending support to our colleagues in the museum and archaeology departments, and in lobbying various individuals and bodies. The Historic Buildings' Group took an equally active role by carrying out a historical impact assessment in the villages of Twyford and Chetwode, highlighting the potential threat which HS2 will be to our local heritage. This work will continue in 2012 with the unsurprising announcement of the scheme's go-ahead. Council was pleased that the immediate future of the County Museum has been secured and that work is progressing to create a Trust which will be instrumental in taking the museum forward on a sound financial footing.

Work started on the redrafting of the Society's Constitution, led by Mike Farley. The need for change was identified in 2010 for two primary reasons: as a response to changes in local government responsibilities, now dispersed to seven separate bodies, and in order to clarify the structure of governance within the Society, particularly as regards the status of trustees. This process proved to require a great deal of attention to detail and to the legal implications of any changes, but it is hoped that the new Constitution will be accepted by the membership at the 2012 Annual General Meeting.

The Historic Buildings' Group continued its work on a number of projects including an extensive village survey in Great Horwood, which was preceded by a very well attended study day, involving a number of local residents. The entire conservation area of the village was surveyed house by house, and more detailed surveys of individual houses of historical interest are planned for 2012.

Peter Marsden continued to work hard on the digitisation of *Records of Buckinghamshire* for the Society's website. Alongside Kevin Quick, Peter has kept the website up to date and given it renewed relevance, accessibility and appeal.

This year's Buckinghamshire Local History Network Conference in October took for its theme "Military Buckinghamshire", with presentations on moats, mottes and castles, the Civil and First World Wars, Bletchley Park and portraits of Buckinghamshire military men, amongst others. As in previous years, this event was well organised and attracted a large number of participants.

Four council meetings were held during the year: January 8<sup>th</sup>, March 19<sup>th</sup>, June 4<sup>th</sup> and October 15<sup>th</sup>, with the AGM being held on 7<sup>th</sup> May 2011.

At the March Council meeting, Professor John Clarke's resignation from his position as Honorary Editor of *Records of Bucks* was announced. John took over as Editor in 2001 and was responsible for volumes 42 to 51, during which period *Records* went strength to strength. John's increasingly pressing university commitments in Buckingham forced his resignation. The Society is extremely grateful for the time and effort John put into his role as Editor for so many years. John Broad was nominated to the post of Honorary Editor at the AGM. John is the Chair of the Bucks Records Society and was a lecturer at the London Metropolitan University before his retirement.

At the June Council meeting, Peter Marsden was unanimously elected as Chair of Council, following Mike Farley's retirement from the post. Peter subsequently proved himself to have a flair for the role and has conducted the meetings with efficiency and diplomacy, following Mike's excellent example.

Marian Miller's term of office on Council was completed this year. Her replacement, Karen Pepler, has been an active member of the Historic

Buildings' Group and will act as representative for that group on Council. Although Marian is no longer serving on Council, the Society is delighted that her sterling work on HS2 will continue.

Our Honorary Treasurer Nicola Savage also resigned from post this year. Nicola has worked extremely hard during her term of office, in a most efficient and approachable manner. Finding a replacement for Nicola proved difficult, but Graham Parker stepped into the breach at the end of the year and Council looks forward to working with Graham in 2012 and beyond.

2011 saw a great number of changes for the Society and undoubtedly 2012 will prove likewise. Public purse strings remain firmly tightened, reorganisations continue apace and the impending shadow of HS2 hangs over our beautiful county. As a Society charged with an interest in the protection and promotion of our heritage in all its forms, it is vital that we each take an active role in its future enterprises. We can all make a contribution, whether by giving our time, expertise, encouragement or support. In this way we will keep the Society vibrant for many years to come.

#### *Lecture Series 2011*

8 January	Beaconsfield, a town on the road: Julian Hunt
12 February	Buckinghamshire beyond the Ouse? The evolution of the county border: Kim Taylor-Moore
12 March	The Saxon cemetery excavation at Radcliffe School: Alastair Hancock
5 November	Hillforts to Hospital: the evolution of the Ashridge Landscape: Gary Marshall
10 December	Historic wallpapers, National Trust and the New Inn Stowe: Andrew Bush

#### *Outings 2011*

11 June	Padbury led by Julian Hunt
2 July	Sudbury and Lavenham led by George Lamb
13 August	Tring and Tring Park led by Peter and Diana Gulland
17 September	Church crawl to churches west of Buckingham, along the River Ouse, led by Michael Hardy

*Sue Fox, Honorary Secretary*

# THE LIBRARY

## ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE 2011

### 1. Books

- ANDREW, M. Francis Frith's Buckinghamshire. Photographic memories. Revised edition, 1998.
- BARTLETT, E. and others. The people of Dinton. 2011.
- BARTLETT, E. and others. The people of High Wycombe. Volume 2. 2011.
- CLOSE, C. Aylesbury through time. 2011.
- COULT, D. A prospect of Ashridge. 1980.
- CUTLER, J. compiler. Voices from an English village: Cheddington. Memories of the Second World War. Reprint, 2011.
- DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORT. High Speed Rail: investing in Britain's future. Consultation February 2011.
- DOWNING, M. Military effigies of England & Wales Volume. 1 Bedfordshire-Derbyshire. [Includes Ashendon, Aylesbury, Bletchley, Chenies, Clifton Reynes, Hughenden, Leckhampstead, Newton Longville, Thornton, Twyford, Waddesdon]. 2010.
- GOLDINGHAM, C.S. History of Horsenden Manor. 2010.
- HYMAN, C. Portrait of a valley: the Hambleton Valley in photographs. 2001.
- KAY, J. & WOODMAN, C. editors. Wycombe pioneers of progress: a celebration. 2011.
- LEIGHTON, C. Four hedges: a gardener's chronicle. 2010.
- MARSHALL, G. Excavations at Boarstall Tower Buckinghamshire, July 2008. 2010.
- MORIGI, A. and others. The Thames through time. The archaeology of the gravel terraces of the Upper and Middle Thames. 2011.
- NOY, D. editor. Winslow Manor Court Books, Part 1 1327-1377, Part 2 1423-1460. 2011.
- PARKER, G. A portrait of Brill. 2003.
- RIGBY, L. Every one a hero: Stoke Poges in the Great War. 2006.
- ROTHSCHILD ARCHIVE REVIEW OF THE YEAR, April 2009-March 2010. [Includes 'The English Rothschilds and the Vale of Aylesbury', by Nicola Pickering]. 2010.
- RUTHERFORD, S. editor. Talking heads: garden statuary in the eighteenth century. Papers from a seminar held at Hartwell House, August 2007.
- SALTER, M. The old parish churches of Buckinghamshire. 2010.
- SANDERSON, R. editor. Special trees and woods of the Chilterns. 2010.
- SCHOFIELD, J. editor. Great expectations: shaping the archaeological profession. 2011.
- SEABRIGHT, C.J. Amersham. [Images of England]. 2004.
- SENIOR, M. Fromelles 1916. No finer courage: the loss of an English village. [The Lee]. 2<sup>nd</sup> edition. 2011.
- SHARP, S. editor. Haddenham chronicles No.9, 2011.
- SHORT, D. editor. An historical atlas of Hertfordshire. 2011.
- THROSSELL, E. Hartwell Buckinghamshire. Part II Volume one. Joseph Bonomi at Hartwell. John Lee 1827-1866. 2011.
- TILLER, K. editor. An historical atlas of Oxfordshire. 2010.
- VAUGHAN, K. A century of Aylesbury. [Britain in old photographs]. New edition, 2011.
- WAINWRIGHT, A.P. Archaeological survey of the Ashridge Estate Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire. Volume 1 Land Use history. 2010.
- WATTS, D. Flora Thompson's country: the real villages and towns of Lark Rise to Candelford. [Includes Boarstall, Ludgershall, Chetwode, Twyford, Marsh Gibbon, Buckingham]. Reprint, 2011.
- WEBB, M.C. Ideas and images in twelfth century sculpture. The transmission of ideas and their visual images from the first to the twelfth centuries. [Includes Dinton and Stone]. 2010.
- WHEELER, R. editor. Flowers in the landscape: eighteenth-century flower gardens and floriferous shrubberies. Papers from a seminar held at Hartwell House in June 2006.
- WHEELER, R. editor. Gibbs and gardening. The work of the eighteenth century architect James Gibbs. Papers from a seminar held at Hartwell

- House in August 2008.
- WILLIAMS, P. editor. *The Times of Thame*, Winter 2010. Memories, stories and research from round and about Thame. 2011.
- 2. John Anthony Colmer Bequest**
- BRANDS HOUSE ESTATE, HIGH WYCOMBE. Illustrated particulars of sale. 1978.
- BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS, Duke of. *Memoirs of the Court and Cabinets of George the Third*. From original documents. 3 volumes. 1855.
- BUCKINGHAM & CHANDOS, Duke of. *Memoirs of the Court of England during the Regency 1811–1820* from original family documents. 2 volumes. 1856.
- CAMDEN'S *Britannia*, newly translated into English. 1695.
- DROPMORE HOUSE. Catalogue of sale of contents. 1969.
- HALL BARN, Beaconsfield. Catalogue of sale of major contents. 1969.
- HARTWELL HOUSE. Board of Governors. Catalogue of the unreserved sale of the contents of the residential secretarial school at Hartwell House. 1983.
- HASSELL, J. *Tour of the Grand Junction*, illustrated in a series of engravings; with an historical and topographical description of those parts of the counties of Middlesex, Hertfordshire, and Buckinghamshire, Bedfordshire, and Northamptonshire, through which the canal passes. 1819.
- HIGHBURGH HOUSE, Gerrards Cross. Catalogue of sale of contents. 1976.
- LYSONS, Rev. D. *Magna Britannia*; being a concise topographical account of the several counties of Britain. Volume the first, Bedfordshire, Berkshire, and Buckinghamshire. 1806.
- LYSONS, Rev. D. *Magna Britannia*. Volume the first, Part III containing Buckinghamshire. 2 volumes. 1806.
- NEW COURT, MARLOW. Catalogue of sale of contents. 1992.
- WEST WYCOMBE HOUSE. Catalogue of sale of antique and modern furnishings. 1963.
- WEST WYCOMBE PARK. Sale of contents. 1998.
- 3. Additional Items**
- 83 smaller items were also to stock. These included pamphlets, articles from journals, newspaper cuttings and church guides.

*Diana Gulland*  
*Hon. Librarian/Archivist*

# ON-LINE ACTIVITIES

## THE SOCIETY'S WEBSITE

The Society's website – [www.bucksas.org.uk](http://www.bucksas.org.uk) – has become an important part of its public profile, displaying both advance information about society activities and reports on the results of members' endeavours. The website is available to members and non-members.

During 2011 and 2012 the most important additions to the website have been linked to the government's plans to build a new high-speed rail line, 'HS2', across Buckinghamshire from Denham in the south to Chetwode in the north. These include impact assessment surveys along the route, covering historic buildings, landscapes and earthworks. Survey reports were added to the website in 2011 on the village, earthworks and former manor house at Twyford, on Potter Row in the Chilterns and Chetwode in North Bucks. In 2012 these were joined by the deserted village site at Stoke Mandeville, Road Barn Farm near Wendover, and earthworks on the Doddershall estate near Quainton.

Other recent additions include an external survey of all buildings in the Conservation Area at Great Horwood (118 buildings of all historical periods) and the Bucks Historic Pubs Survey, which by the end of 2012 had recorded 115 pubs and former pubs across the county.

The website also includes a full listing of all the articles that have been published in *Records* since the first volume was published in 1858, enabling members and non-members to obtain both *Records* back numbers and offprints of individual articles. The website also provides access to out-of-print back numbers of *Records*, which are gradually being made available on-line.

## RECORDS OF BUCKINGHAMSHIRE ON-LINE

Two back numbers of *Records* are available on-line through the society's website: volume 11 from the early 1920s and volume 17 from the 1960s. This is part of an active project which will see the long out-of-print volume 1 made available on-line during 2013.

The two on-line volumes have made re-available over fifty articles on a wide range of topics, including the Buckinghamshire Oath Rolls, Aylesbury's Charter, Tickford Priory, the building of Winslow Hall, the Penn Doom, Railways and the growth of Wolverton.

The publication of articles in *Records* requires authors to assign copyright to the society, though the society will permit authors to reproduce their work elsewhere. The society is a charity: its publications, printed and on-line, are for public benefit, not financial gain. In the past, copyright did not cover on-line publication, as the world-wide web had not yet been invented. For this project, the society has therefore made reasonable attempts to notify all past authors (or their executors), to elicit agreement or objection to placing their work on-line. So that the project may proceed, in the absence of an objection the society will assume that permission has been given.

To see how the project is progressing, go to the *Records* pages of the website at [www.bucksas.org.uk/online/records](http://www.bucksas.org.uk/online/records)

*Peter Marsden*