

THE SOCIETY IN 2018

The Hon. Secretary's Report

BAS Council Meetings were held on 6 January, 16 June, and 4 October 2018. The meeting planned for 3 March was cancelled due to the weather (snow). Important items from the March agenda were progressed through email between council members.

The Annual General Meeting was held on 12 May 2018.

Officers of the Society: The society's officers were re-elected: Richard Gem as Hon. President, Peter Marsden as Hon. Chairman, Doug Stuckey as Hon. Secretary, Harry Ball as Hon. Treasurer, Julian Hunt as Hon. Librarian, Roger Bettridge as Hon. Archivist, Bronwen Lee as Hon. Membership Secretary and John Broad as Hon. Editor of *Records*.

Councillors: Eight members of Council were eligible for re-election and were duly re-elected: Sarah Gray, John Dodd, Pauline Hay, David Hillier, Sandy Kidd, Yvonne Edwards, Michael Ghirelli and Charles Le Quesne. At the Council meeting on 16 June the following co-opted positions were confirmed: County Council Archaeology Service (Eliza Alqassar), County Museum (Sue Shave), Milton Keynes Archaeology Service (Nick Crank), Liberty Trust (Susan Gill) and County planning matters (Nigel Wilson).

Finance and Membership: Harry Ball, the Honorary Treasurer, reported the Society finances at the time of the AGM were positive, with planned spending on the Missenden Abbey report (*Records* 58, vol. 2) and possible website development during 2018. The 2017 accounts were inspected by Mrs Dharamshi and published in the spring edition of the BAS Newsletter. Bronwen Lee, the Hon Membership Secretary, reported at the AGM that membership had held steady into 2018: in fact, membership increased modestly later in the year

through the recruitment efforts at BAS 170 events and the annual BHLN conference.

BAS 170th anniversary events: A series of presentations were provided across the county with the intention of taking the Society out to a wider public. The talks at High Wycombe, Missenden Abbey (this ticketed event saw the publication of the Abbey excavation report, as *Records* 58, vol. 2) and Buckingham were all well attended and provided opportunities for Society displays and book sales, as did society stalls in Aylesbury, Chesham and Buckingham marketplaces during the summer. The Bucks Local History Network (BHLN) conference in Aylesbury was sold out, with a capacity audience (200) to hear speakers present the archaeological opportunities and discoveries to date from the first stage of the High Speed 2 rail project across Buckinghamshire.

The Library and Archives: The Library and Archives Team of Roger Bettridge, Sarah Gray and Julian Hunt have ensured that the BAS Library has been open every Wednesday throughout the year. Garry Marshall and Peter Longden have continued their research and cataloguing activities in the Library. Whilst the number of readers using the library and archives remains modest, it is thought worthwhile keeping the service going.

During 2018 the Society received further funds from the legacy of its former President, Professor William (Bill) Mead. These funds will be used to complete the digitisation of the estate maps held by the Society, which Roger Bettridge has organised in co-operation with the Centre for Buckinghamshire Studies (CBS). Digitised versions of the maps are available for researchers in the CBS. A photographic reproduction of a map of the Doddershall estate has been offered for inclusion in the society's collection.

Lectures: Following the 2017 AGM, Doug Stuckey regaled the meeting with a presentation entitled *Keeping the Grand Union Afloat*, outlining the work of the society's Active Archaeology Group at two canal sites during 2017. Julian Hunt organised a series of talks given at the County Museum that were well attended and appreciated by society members and the public.

Excursions: A full programme of excursions was organised by Sarah Gray through 2018. These popular events included visits to Colchester Castle Museum and Layer Marney Tower, Dorton Spa, Ham House and Strawberry Hill House. Michael Hardy's 'Church Crawl' continued to explore the Misbourne valley. Early booking is necessary for anyone keen to get a place on any of these excursions.

Planning Matters: Buckinghamshire is the target of extensive government-driven development across the whole county for housing and infrastructure. These projects are tracked by BAS Council to meet our stated objective of preserving and recording the architectural heritage, historic landscape and archaeological remains of Buckinghamshire. Eliza Alqassar of the County Archaeology Service gave regular and valuable updates to the BAS Council, summarising investigations and excavations at development sites around the county. Meanwhile Nigel Wilson, as the Council member for planning, has been diligent in maintaining a watching brief on planning matters.

The construction of the HS2 rail line and the Oxford-Cambridge Expressway across the county in the coming years will provide an unprecedented

set of trial trenches and excavations that promise to yield a wealth of knowledge. Council continues, and will continue, to encourage the mitigation of the impacts of these projects and the full recording and preservation of all materials of interest that are excavated.

Active Archaeology Group: The group has been engaged around the county and sometimes neighbouring counties, especially at Soulbury, Little Tring and *Verulamium* (St Albans). Visits to St Mary's Church at Stoke Mandeville, which will be impacted by HS2, included working with LP-Archaeology in a temporary field museum while the church stonework was being salvaged. The group has also assisted Chess Valley Archaeology and Historical Society (CVAHS) with an excavation at a scheduled site on Frith Hill, Great Missenden. In addition, there was a programme of talks and practical sessions held in the County Museum.

Publications: Bob Zeepvat oversaw the editing and printing of a two-part volume of *Records of Bucks*, the first of which was posted out to members in the spring of 2018. The second part, describing investigations at Missenden Abbey, was issued in June. Bob also co-authored *Wulfhere's People*, a report on the 2008 excavation at Wolverton of the largest Anglo-Saxon cemetery found to date in the county. The report was edited by Mike Farley and was published in November, as the latest in the Society's Milton Keynes Monograph series. The BAS Newsletter appeared in spring and autumn, edited by Mike Ghirelli and printed by Waddesdon Church of England School.

Doug Stuckey (Hon Secretary 2018–2019)

The Library

ADDITIONS TO THE SOCIETY'S LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE 2017

- ALLEN, TIM, HAYDON, CHRIS, & LAMDIN-WHYMARK, HUGO. Bronze Age Enclosure to Anglo-Saxon Settlement: archaeological excavations at Taplow hillfort. 2009.
- BERNARD QUARITCH LTD. A Catalogue of Books and Manuscripts issued to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the firm of Bernard Quaritch, 1847–1947. 1947.
- BUCKINGHAMSHIRE BIRD CLUB. Buckinghamshire Bird Report, 2015. 2016.
- CAPE PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION. Protected Wild Flowers of the Cape Province. 1958.
- DE CARLE, CLAIRE. Maud Grieve: 'Now first let me tell you about that wonderful plant'. 2017.
- DICKINSON, TANIA. Early Anglo-Saxon Shields. 1992.
- FARLEY, MICHAEL. Quarrendon: Aylesbury's lost medieval village. BAS, 2017.
- FARLEY, MICHAEL, & JONES, GILLIAN. Iron Age Ritual: a hillfort and evidence for a minster at Aylesbury. 2012.
- FELUS, KATE. The Secret Life of the Georgian Garden [includes references to Stowe and Wotton]. 2016.
- GULLAND, PETER. The Toll Roads of Buckinghamshire, 1706–1881, with their connections into neighbouring counties: the making of the modern road network. BAS, 2017.
- HADDENHAM MUSEUM TRUST. Haddenham Chronicles, Nos. 10 and 15. 2012, 2017.
- HENRY HUNTINGTON LIBRARY, SAN MARINO, CALIFORNIA. Guide to British Historical Manuscripts in the Henry Huntington Library [includes Ellesmere, Hastings, Stowe and Temple collections]. 1982.
- HOWE, EMILY, *et al.* Wall Paintings of Eton. 2012.
- KING, STUART, & PEERS, CHRISTOPHER. Holmer Green Heroes of World War I. 2017.
- MOIR, VALERIE. Men of Wendover: an index of the Wendover men who fought in World War One, 1914–1918. 2017.
- PAVILION BOOKS LTD. Living National Treasures: a celebration of British craftsmanship through the eyes of Country Life [includes photograph, with text, of BAS member Eric Throssell as architectural draughtsman]. 1997.
- VAUGHAN, KARL. Aylesbury Remembered (Britain in Old Photographs series). 2005.
- VINCENT, J.E., & PIKE, W. Hertfordshire in the 20th Century (Contemporary Biographies series). 1908.
- WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM HERITAGE ASSOCIATION. Rowsham in the 19th Century: an illustrated record of Victorian life in a Buckinghamshire village. 2016.
- WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM HERITAGE ASSOCIATION. The Enclosure of Wingrave and Rowsham 1798. 2017.
- WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM HERITAGE ASSOCIATION. Cat Street, Wingrave: a century of change in a village community. 2017.
- WINGRAVE WITH ROWSHAM HERITAGE ASSOCIATION. An Illustrated Story of 19th-Century Life in Nup End. 2017.
- ZENNER, PETER. The Shakespeare Invention [includes reproduction of print of Salden House in the BAS Collection]. 1999.

Printed Primary Sources

- MEAD, W.R. (ed.). The Chilterns in 1748: an account by Pehr Kalm, visitor from Finland. 2nd edition, BAS, 2017.
- RILEY, H.T. (ed.). *Historia Anglicana* by Thomas Walsingham, Volume I: 1272–1381. 1863.
- SPURRELL, MARK (ed.). [Rev. William] Wood's Radley College Diary, 1855–1861. Oxfordshire Record Society, Volume 70, 2016.
- TYRWHITT-DRAKE, BARNEY. Repton's 1794 Red Book for Shardeloes [contains facsimiles of the images, with transcriptions and notes]. 2017.

Reports, Pamphlets & Articles

- BUCKINGHAMSHIRE GARDENS TRUST. Report on Lilies, Weedon. 2015.
- GREENER, CLARE. Using County Directories as a Resource for Garden History. [c.2010?].

OLD AYLESBURIANS ASSOCIATION. Old Aylesburian News, No. 21 [includes brief articles, with photographs, on the opening of the Professor William Mead Library and on Ralph Gladman and his books, now held in BAS Munitment Room]. 2017.

SLOCOMBE, MATTHEW. The SPAB Approach to the Conservation and Care of Old Buildings. 2017.

SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF ANCIENT BUILDINGS [SPAB]. Briefing: Disaster Recovery. 2017.

WHISCOMBE, ALEX. Some Observation on the Font at St John the Baptist Church, Stone [offprint from Stone parish magazine]. 2011.

Archives

THROSSELL, ERIC, MBE, FRIBA (d. 2016). Archives relating to his professional work as

an architect, including: architectural drawings (mainly framed) and boxes of photographs of various buildings in Bucks, including Hartwell House; files on the maintenance and management of St Mary's Church and churchyard, Aylesbury, 1978–1997, and on the history of the church, 1920–1997; prints of paintings by Jean Webster (d. 2013).

Additional Items

We have also added 20 other accessions, including guides to churches and other buildings, leaflets, obituaries and funeral service orders, and heritage information. In addition, the usual journals, magazines and local society newsletters were received.

*Roger Bettridge, Hon. Archivist
Julian Hunt, Hon. Librarian*

Publishing On-line and in Print

2018 was the Society's 'year of archaeological reports'.

In print, the society published one detailed excavation report on Missenden Abbey, founded in the 12th century, and a second titled 'Wulfhere's People' on the excavation of a significant Anglo-Saxon cemetery at Wolverton.

On-line, the Society's website re-published two excavation reports significant for the county's history: from the medieval settlement of Walton, immediately south of Aylesbury (first published in *Records of Bucks* in 1989), and from *Magiovinium*, on Roman Watling Street south of Fenny Stratford (1987).

The Missenden Abbey report was published as Part Two of *Records* vol. 58 and sent free to all members, making 2018 a 'two for the price of one' bargain for members. The excavations revealed for the first time the outline of the monastic church and buildings beneath the present 18th-century country house and grounds. The abbey had been a powerful landowner in medieval Buckinghamshire, right up to its dissolution in 1538. Although the Missenden Abbey site was excavated between 1983 and 1988, no full report of findings had been published. Thirty years later this was put together for *Records* by Yvonne Edwards, Jill Hender, Marion Wells and other members of Chess Valley Archaeological and Historical Society.

The year's second major publication, *Wulfhere's People*, came from the 2008 excavation near Radcliffe School, Wolverton, of the largest Anglo-Saxon cemetery yet discovered in Buckinghamshire. The cemetery contained eighty inhumations and two cremations: grave goods and radio-carbon analysis dated the burials to the late 6th and early 7th centuries, when England was being converted to Christianity – so it is significant that no evidence

was found for any Christian burials. The report was written by Alastair Hancock and Bob Zeepvat and published with support from Milton Keynes Council as the eleventh in the Society's Milton Keynes Monographs series. A review of this publication appears elsewhere in this volume.

The year also saw the re-publication in book form of *My Dearest Ben*, Thea Van Dam's account of the personal life of Benjamin Disraeli, based on her research of his personal letters in the Bodleian Library. Disraeli lived in Buckinghamshire from 1829, first with his family then as prime minister, until his death in 1881. The book is a revealing account of the personal relationships that lay behind Disraeli's political life, and has a regular sales among visitors to Hughenden House, his former home near High Wycombe.

On-line, five more back volumes of *Records* were added to the Society's website during 2018, covering more than a hundred years of work by society members on the history and archaeology of Buckinghamshire by including both volume 2 from 1859-62 and volume 31 from 1989.

Of the 117 articles this has made publicly available once again, most significant are the many archaeological excavation reports from across Buckinghamshire. That from Walton (on-line volume 31) provides evidence of settlement from the 9th century onwards which is significant for the development of medieval Aylesbury, while that from *Magiovinium* (on-line volume 29) provides evidence of life and activities alongside the major Roman road of Watling Street.

These, and many other on-line articles from *Records of Bucks*, can be found on the Society's website at www.bucksas.org.uk/articles.html.

Peter Marsden