The Spring Meeting of the Society was held on Monday, 26th May, under pleasant conditions as regards the weather, and a programme of much interest was carried through successfully under the direction of Mr. J. J. Simpson, the Honorary Meeting Secretary.

Members to the number of over one hundred met at Temple Meads Station, Bristol, and from there drove to Keynsham to see, by permission of the Keynsham Parish Council, the Roman remains found in the unused part of the Cemetery. The Rev. Dom Ethelbert Horne, F.S.A., Mr. George E. Chappell, and other members of the Keynsham Research Committee were present. In a few introductory remarks Mr. John E. Pritchard, F.S.A., explained the circumstances under which the Committee (of which he is Chairman), had been formed and then asked Father Horne, in the absence of Dr. Arthur Bulleid, F.S.A., to describe the plan and remains of the Roman House which had been uncovered.

It had been known for many years that Roman buildings existed on the site, for in the course of erecting a chapel for the cemetery after the purchase of the ground in 1875, the workmen broke through a fine pavement, and from time to time, when graves were dug, there was other
FLOOR OF HEXAGON ROOM, KEYNSHAM

Block lent by the Keynsham Excavation Committee
evidence of Roman occupation. In June, 1921, Dom Horne obtained the permission of the Parish Council to excavate the unused part of the cemetery, and with the co-operation of Dr. Arthur Bulleid, work was carried on in the summers of 1922 and 1923 with the result that the area over which it was possible to excavate revealed one of the largest Roman houses yet found in Somerset.

A corridor running from east to west, 212 feet in length and some 10 feet in width, was uncovered, the western portion being the most perfect. About 55 feet from the west end are two flights of steps. The corridor is continued in more or less perfect condition down to the chapel, the remainder having been destroyed by digging graves, though there is sufficient evidence to mark the line. At right angles to this corridor, from north to south, is another, which has been excavated for a length of 80 feet towards the high road, under which it passes. To the north and west of the corridors thirteen or more rooms and parts of rooms have been uncovered, some with tesselated floors. One of these, at the western end, is a particularly fine example laid in a room hexagonal in plan, and 24 feet 6 inches in diameter (Plate I). The centre of the pavement is almost perfect, with a geometrical design in blue, buff and red.

Among the objects found are bronze bangles and rings, bone pins, brooches, coins (third century), and a quantity of pottery. Also a bronze fish-hook, barbed and nearly perfect, \( \frac{7}{8} \) inch in length. The pottery includes one piece stamped BELATULLUS, and a piece of a circular dish of coarse black ware is scratched with the word UNICA. The excavations have been continued during the summer of 1924 and further pavement of fine design uncovered.

Reports on the excavations have been published in *The Antiquaries Journal*, April, 1924, pp. 155-7, with plan, and in the *Journal of Roman Studies* (1921), xi, 210-11, and xii (1922), 263-5.
ROMAN VILLA, "SOMERDALE."

About a mile from Keynsham cemetery remains of a second Roman villa have been found on the site of new works built at "Somerdale," by Messrs. J. S. Fry & Sons, who very kindly gave permission for them to be seen.

Portions of a hypocaust, a small bath, and tesselated pavements, have been uncovered. Coins, pottery and other objects have also been found. Of particular interest were two large stone coffins, found about two feet from the surface, both containing skeletons. One of the coffins was lined with lead, an unusual feature. A detailed report, with illustrations, has been published by Mr. H. St. George Gray, in Proceedings of the Somerset Arch. and N. H. Society (1922), lxviii, 87-92.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON.

The Society visited Bradford-on-Avon in 1900, the proceedings being reported in Transactions, xxiii, 51-6. Mr. Harold Brakspear, F.S.A., added much to the interest of this occasion on account of his intimate knowledge of the churches and other buildings in the town. After luncheon at the Swan Hotel, members proceeded to the

SAXON CHURCH OF SAINT LAURENCE.

The date of this Church has been the subject of much discussion. It was first debated at the meeting of the Wiltshire N.H. and Archaeological Society in 1856, when the Rev. W. B. Jones, Vicar of Bradford, read a paper on the Church. At this meeting Professor E. A. Freeman, Sir Gilbert Scott, and Mr. J. L. Petit, were present and the general opinion was that the building, while of great antiquity, must be assigned to a later date than early eighth century. Some years later (1872) the matter was the subject of a paper in the Saturday Review, by Professor Freeman, and the earlier date supported by him. The paper was reprinted in his English Towns and Districts
(1883) where Freeman adhered to this view, and it is probable that his strong advocacy secured a fairly wide acceptance for the Church being the one founded by Saint Aldhelm. Later investigation and comparative examination of architectural features of Saxon buildings has led to a more conservative conclusion. Professor Baldwin Brown¹ does not include Bradford among the churches² which evidence clearly places as seventh and eighth century work. He says that the Church "appears in general character a singularly early church, but when we observe its double-splayed windows, reckon up its pilaster strips, and note the curious resemblance of its external arcading to that in the interior of the very late Saxon church at Dunham Magna in Norfolk, we begin to distrust the impression of great antiquity."³ In his chronology of Saxon buildings Professor Brown classifies them by three periods, covering the years 600-800, 800-950 and 950-1066.⁴ The third of these he divides into sub-periods, the first of which he assigns to the epoch of revival in the latter part of the tenth century and in this he places the church at Bradford-on-Avon.⁵ His description of it should receive close attention.

Before entering the Church Mr. Brakspear made a few general remarks concerning the date of its building and stated at once that he could not agree with those who still held that it was the original foundation of St. Aldhelm of the early eighth century. There was documentary evidence that Aldhelm did build a church at Bradford, but there was none to show it was the church they were then visiting. More probably this earlier church was on

¹ *The Arts in Early England* (1903), ii.
² Ibid. p. 273.
³ Ibid. pp. 73-74.
⁴ Ibid. p. 35.
⁵ See Ibid, pp. 290 and 336. The date of the Church is also discussed by the late Dr. John Beddoe in *Wiltshire Arch. and N.H. Magazine* (1910), xxxvi. 359-63.
SAXON CHURCH AT BRADFORD-ON-AVON, FROM THE NORTH-EAST.

Reproduced by permission of Professor Baldwin Brown and Mr. John Murray.
the other side of the river. The present church was of particular interest, and with the exception of new stone inserted at the time of the renovation it was much as the Saxon builders had left it.

In his *Gestis Pontificum Anglorum*¹ William of Malmesbury tells us of a monastery at Bradford-on-Avon built by Aldhelm, and says that in his time (late eleventh century) this church existed. His words are to the effect that “to this day at that place there exists a little church (*ecclesiola*) which he (*Aldhelm*) is said to have made to the name of the most blessed St. Laurence.” In 1001 the monastery was bestowed on the Abbey of Shaftesbury and from then until the Dissolution it remained a possession of that house.

In the opinion of that distinguished writer, Signor Rivoira, the account of William of Malmesbury was only legend. He would place the date of the church as in the time of Edward the Confessor, or even in the first years after the Conquest. Rivoira lays particular stress on the character of the blank arcading of the walls and says that he had never seen any church in East or West, of Aldhelm’s age or earlier, with this decorative treatment, continued, moreover, round the front and the chancel.²

For very many years the church was in disuse and it became utterly neglected. In 1715 part of it was used as a school, the chancel was diverted to a dwelling place, and gradually other buildings arose round it so as to obliterate altogether the character of the edifice, and its original use was entirely forgotten. It is due to the zeal of a former Vicar, the Rev. W. B. Jones, that the church was ultimately recognised, eventually restored and the surrounding buildings cleared away. Much of the stone was renewed and it is not easy to distinguish this from the original masonry.

¹ *Rolls Series* (1870), no. 59, p. 346.
Plan and Section of the Saxon Church at Bradford-on-Avon.
Reproduced by permission of Professor Baldwin Brown and Mr. John Murray.
The Church consists of nave, chancel and north porch, the striking feature of the dimensions being the great height in proportion to length and width. Thus while the nave is 25 feet two inches long and some 13 feet wide, the height is just over 25 feet. Other parts of the building show still greater proportions. The special interest of the exterior is the arcading, incised in the surface of the stone, and the series of shallow pilasters, some reeded and others left unfinished.

The Church is entered by a porch on the north side, the doorway being very narrow, varying from two feet one inch to two feet four inches. Another doorway, rather wider, leads from the porch to the nave, and from this a narrow arch, only three feet five inches in width and about ten feet high, gives access to the chancel. The chancel arch is the narrowest of any church of Saxon date. Above it are two exceptionally well preserved examples of late Saxon carved figures of angels, in low relief, which were found embedded in the wall above the arch, one on each side. They were placed in their present position when the church was restored.

Thanks are due to Professor Baldwin Brown and to Mr. John Murray for kindly permitting the reproduction of illustrations from the former's *Arts in Early England*, volume 2.

**The Parish Church (Holy Trinity).**

A detailed description of the parish church, written by Rev. W. B. Jones, is printed in the *Wiltshire Arch. and N. H. Magazine*, vol. v (1859), and there are also some notes by Mr. A. W. N. Burder, F.S.A., in a later volume (xxxvi, 318-23). In Mr. Brakspear's opinion the date of the original structure may be put about the year 1100. Though altered and enlarged in succeeding centuries Norman work may be traced in the chancel and the nave, which appear to have constituted the plan of the early
THE BARTON BARN, BRADFORD-ON-AVON, NORTH SIDE

Block lent by Wilts Arch. and N. H. Society
building, to which the north aisle, the chantry chapel known as the Kingston aisle, south porch, and tower at the western end were added, most of this work being of the fifteenth century.

In the chancel are two recessed tombs with effigies, neither of which has been identified. At the east end of the north aisle is a beautifully sculptured head of a woman in costume of late thirteenth century, with wimpled head-dress. A brass to Thomas (d. 1530) and Mary Horton, has been placed on the wall of this aisle. The nave retains its original south Norman wall, and there are traces of the long semi-circular headed windows. The chantry chapel is attributed to an ancestor of the Dukes of Kingston, who owned the famous Kingston House, or "Hall." In the churchyard the "Dole-stone," which resembles an altar-tomb, used for the distribution of alms, was noticed.

THE TITHE BARN.

In the great Tithe Barn on Barton Farm Mr. Brakspear referred to the conditions under which tithe barns were built and pointed out the principles on which the roof timbers of the Bradford example were constructed. Its date is assigned to the early years of the fourteenth century. The measurements are given by one writer (Antiquary, July, 1903) as length 175 feet, width 34 feet 10 inches, and the height to the apex of roof 39 feet. The roof timbers are framed from the ground so as to be independent of the walls, and thus lessen the thrust of their great weight upon the building. Masons' marks can be seen on the surface of the stones.

The Barn is now the property of the Wiltshire Archæological Society, it having been formally conveyed to them by Sir Charles P. Hobhouse. A large sum has been spent in carefully repairing the barn, the work being carried out under the supervision of Mr. Brakspear.

Thanks are due to the Wiltshire Archæological and
The Barton Barn, Bradford-on-Avon, Plan and details.
Natural History Society for permission to reproduce the illustrations of the Tithe Barn and the Bridge at Bradford-on-Avon.

**The Town Bridge.**

The Bridge is an interesting example of a former widening and as pointed out recently (1924) by Mr. C. R. Peers, F.S.A., it is desirable when protests are made against the widening of our ancient bridges to remember that in many cases this has already been done in earlier days in order to meet the requirements of increased traffic. Observation from the water shows clearly that the bridge at Bradford was once much narrower and shorter and that it was widened by building on at the side. At one time the bridge only permitted use by pack-horses and foot passengers, the heavier traffic crossing by the ford.

On the eastern side is the Chapel, built on the centre pier and resting on the corbelling overhanging the "cutwater." It has been suggested that the chapel once contained an image of St. Margaret, the patron saint of the hospital which was close by, and was a place for the devotions and alms of those using the bridge. In later times it has served as a temporary "lock-up." Aubrey refers to it as "a little chapel, as at Bath, for masse." The only other bridges with a chantry chapel are those at Wakefield and Rotherham.

**The Church House.**

The Vicar of Bradford, Rev. W. H. M. Clarke, kindly met some of the members at the "Church House," in Church Street, a fifteenth century building formerly used for parochial affairs such as the assessment of the inhabitants for the relief of the poor, church rates, and other methods of raising money. It contains some fine timber work, including a carved gallery. It is referred to by Leland, who visited Bradford in 1543.
BRIDGE AND CHAPEL, BRADFORD-ON-AVON, 1858.

By permission of the Wilts. Arch. and N.H. Society.
THE HALL.

The Hall was once known as "Kingston House," from its ownership by the Dukes of Kingston, through the marriage of the granddaughter of John Hall (d. 1711) with the only son of the first Duke. It is a noted example of Jacobean architecture, and in character is comparable with Longleat House, and Kirby House (Northants.). An earlier building on the site is mentioned by Leland. The south front is divided into two stories, with attics above, and is filled with mullioned windows. Steps lead to a large sculptured doorway opening into the porch. The Hall was built by John Hall, (grandfather of John Hall above) whose ancestors were cloth makers at Bradford when the trade there was once very active. It was at one time divided into tenements for handloom weavers, but about 1850 restored to its former use as a residence. The rooms contain fine chimney pieces with carved coats of arms and good ceiling work. The Hall was selected for reproduction at the Paris Exhibition of 1900 as representative of the architecture of its period. The details of the exterior are well shown in Country Life, 11th March, 1899.

After tea at the Swan Hotel the Members left Bradford for Westwood Manor, where they were received by Mr. E. G. Lister, and allowed every facility for seeing his interesting Tudor house, about which he read some account and has kindly permitted it to be used for this report. A short notice, with illustrations, will be found in Garner and Stratton's Domestic Architecture of the Tudor Period, pp. 137-8, plate 84 and figs. 169-71.

WESTWOOD MANOR.

By Edgar G. Lister.

Westwood Manor was built by Thomas Horton of Iford, a wealthy clothier of Bradford-on-Avon. He was a son of John Horton of Lullington in Somerset, who was descended from the Hortons of Caton in Derbyshire.
Thomas Horton died on August 14, 1530, without issue, and was buried in the parish church of Bradford-on-Avon. He is believed to have built the existing manor house towards the end of the fifteenth century and the church tower about the same time. His initials "T.H." may be seen on the spandrels of the church door.

Thomas Horton dying without issue was succeeded by a nephew of the same name. His son Edward also died without issue and was succeeded by his nephew William, who was succeeded by his son Toby. Toby Horton having married Barbara Farewell, daughter of John Farewell of Holbrooke in Somerset, sold the Manor in 1609 to John Farewell, his wife's brother.

From 1609 to 1610 John Farewell, who was unmarried, carried out extensive alterations to the building. He remodelled the wing facing South and containing the front door, by inserting a floor half way up the great hall and building a great parlour in the upper part; substituting windows of the period for those of the fifteenth century which must previously have lighted the hall; and inserting the present screen where he no doubt found an earlier one surmounted by a minstrels' gallery. He seems also to have built the present porch, perhaps using the original apex stone. The turret in the angle between the two wings was added some years after these alterations. It will be seen that the South window of the great parlour was originally composed of eight lights with a principal mullion in the middle. In consequence of the turret having been added two lights of this window have disappeared behind it, so that the principal mullion now has two lights on one side and four on the other.

To the right of the front door is a small room (ante room), formerly a passage leading to a wing which was pulled down about 1860. In the stone floor of this room are some ancient encaustic tiles (c. 1300) which were discovered in fragments when excavations were being made on the east and west sides of the house.
The Kings' Room, a little room so called from the series (unfortunately incomplete) of the Kings of England from William the Conqueror to Charles I, which are set in the top tier of the panelling with which the walls are covered. Edward V is in the ante-room. The crown is seen floating over his head. The plaster work dates from 1610, and was put in by John Farewell when making his other alterations. Over the fireplace, on the left are two geese hanging a fox—perhaps the sequel to the pre-reformation fox preaching to the geese—in the centre is a mermaid, and, on the right is a wheatsheaf (which may be associated with the arms of the Hungerfords) and perhaps wolves passant, those animals figuring conspicuously in the arms of the Hortons. Three of the chairs are made of yewtree and on the chimney piece is a seventeenth century turned cup for the game of cup and ball, also of yewtree.

The screen in the Hall was added by John Farewell in 1610. On the walls are three panels of Flemish tapestry and a piece of so-called "Hungarian stitch" needlework in the manner of the Italian "Bargello" loom-work or "flames" (fiamme) as the design is sometimes called. The needlework curtains and valance are English of the seventeenth century and have been recently restored from an unrecognisable heap of rags. On the table at the west end is a virginal dated 1537, by Stephanus of Modena. The keys are of boxwood and ebony and the inner case of cypress wood.

Over the fireplace are two large clasp-knives which are believed to have been used by the weavers of Bradford-on-Avon.

The Dining Room is of late fifteenth century, the west window and the plaster ornaments in the ceiling having been added in 1610. The stained glass was found in the house. The panelling was recently removed from an old house in Bristol. The table and joint-stools in the oriel window are of yewtree, and also the Jacobean side-table on the same side of the room.
The Great Parlour occupies what was formerly the upper part of the Great Hall and was John Farewell's most important addition to the house in 1610. In the plaster-work on the west end are his arms quartered with those of Rillestone, his father having been ninth in lineal descent from Richard Farewell who married Emma, daughter and heiress of John Rillestone of Yorkshire. On a shield at the other end of the room are John Farewell's arms quartered with those of Bampfylde. He did, in fact, marry Meliora, daughter of John Bampfylde of Poltimore, but it is not clear why he should have quartered, and not impaled, his wife's arms with his own. He died in 1642 leaving a daughter, Elizabeth Farewell, who married John Wallis. She died in 1676 and was again succeeded at Westwood by a daughter, Elizabeth Wallis, who married the Rev. Henry Farewell, her first cousin, and died in 1722 (or 1724). The Rev. Henry Farewell was Rector of Tellisford and they were both buried there. From 1697 till 1704 the Manor seems to have been occupied by Sir John and Lady Hanam, after which little is known of the owners or occupants of the house until it became a farm-house in the early part of the nineteenth century and was still being put to that use when purchased and restored by the present owner in 1912.

The Parlour had been divided into two by a wooden partition running from north to south. The panelling was papered over; the eastern porch had been removed but most of it was subsequently recovered. The gate-leg table, the grandfather clock, and the three small tables are all of yewtree. The spinet in the window is of the time of Charles II, by Stephanus Keene; the harpsichord by Kirckman is dated 1774.

Special attention is called to the glazing of this house. When it was restored in 1912 about half the original glazing had been removed and replaced by plate glass. Fortunately there were enough windows with the original
glazing left to copy so an absolutely faithful restoration was made. Only old glass was used and the original glazing was copied in every particular. The casements, fastenings, quadrants and the methods of glazing were copied from the nearest window of the same character. The width of the leadwork from one light to the next was varied and any other little peculiarities of this kind found in the original glazing were introduced. By these means and by carefully avoiding the use of the measure and the "T" square, and having the glass for each light and casement leaded up on the spot, it will be seen that the mechanical appearance inseparable from the use of any kind of standard glazing and the modern "L" section casements has been avoided. It cannot be too strongly emphasized that the medieval glazing and casements—or reproductions of them where necessary—have been found to be in every way as satisfactory as modern glazing, and in some ways superior, so that there is really no reason whatever why the appearance of an old house should be absolutely ruined, as it almost invariably is, by the use of modern standard glazing.

Westwood Church.

This Church, mainly late fifteenth century, was formerly a chapel of ease for Bradford-on-Avon. There is some old glass in the windows of the chancel. The woodwork of the rood-screen has been used for the choir stalls.