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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

**Society Pages**

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## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1964

The Eighty-ninth Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at the Council House, Bristol on the 14 March 1964 at 2.30 p.m., when the Very Reverend Douglas Harrison, M.A., Dean of Bristol presided and there were 89 members present.

Apologies were received from 25 members.

The report of Council was presented by the Hon. Secretary and adopted on a motion of the President.

The Honorary Treasurer presented the audited accounts which were also adopted.

The Hon. W. R. S. Bathurst moved the adoption of new rules for the Society, a copy of which had been circulated to all members. Some discussion on Rule 15 followed when it was agreed to refer it back to the Council for rewording. Subject to this amendment the adoption of the rules was moved by Mr Bathurst, seconded by Mr W. Leighton and approved.

### *Records Section*

The report and audited accounts of the Records Section were presented and adopted.

The following members of the Section were elected:

Hon W. R. S. Bathurst, Rev. J. E. Gethyn-Jones, Captain H. S. Gracie, Irvine Gray, Wilfrid Leighton, E. S. Lindley, Lt.-Col. A. B. Lloyd-Baker, P. V. McGrath, Elizabeth Ralph and Dr Margaret Sharp.

The Messrs Grace, Darbyshire and Todd were elected Honorary Auditors.

Professor J. M. Cook, M.A., F.S.A., was installed as President for the year 1964-65.

Mr P. V. McGrath, M.A., Professor D. Talbot Rice, O.B.E., M.A., D.LITT., F.S.A., Mr Anthony A. Scott, T.D., and Professor A. H. Smith, O.B.E., PH.D., D.LITT., F.S.A., were elected Vice-Presidents.

Members of Council and officers were elected.

The President gave his address 'Development of English architecture in the early 14th century, with special reference to Bristol Cathedral'.

Members were entertained to tea by the Lord Mayor of Bristol.

## REPORT OF COUNCIL FOR 1963

The membership of the Society continues to increase. Of the 682 members, 591 are individual members and 91 institutional members. During the year, there were 60 new members which include several institutional members. By resignation we have lost 27 members and by death 13 members. We record with regret the deaths of MR R. H. BASSETT, MISS V. BRIDGEMAN, COLONEL BARWICK BROWNE, MRS E. CALVERT, MRS CAMPBELL CRAVEN, MR E. GANDERTON, MR C. J. KING, MR STANLEY MARLING, THE REV. CHARLES OVERY, MR F. PENFOLD, SIR LIONEL GOODENOUGH TAYLOR, MR W. J. P. TAYLOR and C. TREVOR WELLINGTON. I would specially mention four devoted members: Colonel Browne, a Vice-President and for many years a most energetic Meetings secretary; Sir Lionel Goodenough Taylor, a member for over 50 years during which time he took an active interest in the work of the Society, serving as Chairman of Council, and later was President of the Society; Mr Ganderton and Mr Penfold, both of whom were regarded with great affection by those members who took part in the field meetings.

### *Transactions*

During the Autumn the 81st volume of *Transactions* was published. Sales of our publications during 1963 have exceeded those of any previous year and in this connection Miss Chamberlayne is deserving of special recognition.

### *Library*

It has not been possible to complete the re-arrangement of the library and the making of a card catalogue which had been anticipated in the report of last year.

### *Council*

The amendment of the rules has engaged the attention of the Council during most of the year and it is hoped that the draft which is before members will commend itself to everyone. Turning to the work of the Excavations and Buildings committee under the able chairmanship of Major Stratton Davis, I am able to report that several buildings in Bristol and Gloucester have been saved. The Society supported an application for a grant to restore Robert Raikes House in Gloucester.

The Duke of Norfolk's House has been bought by the Gloucester Corporation, who it is hoped will find a useful purpose for it, thereby preserving it. Nos. 2 and 3 Broad Plain, Bristol which was threatened with demolition has been reprieved.

We are now very much more hopeful of the preservation of Westbury Court Gardens. Once the question of ownership is settled the National Trust have said that they are willing to sponsor a national appeal for funds to maintain the gardens. This will give us an opportunity of showing our concern in a practical way.

The Ministry of Works who has now assumed responsibility for Odda's Chapel, Deerhurst, thanked the society for its help and its interest in this matter. The Bagstone Toll board is now safely housed in the Bristol Museum, where it has been carefully restored. There is a possibility that the Greyfriars remains at Gloucester might be acquired and restored as a headquarters for the Franciscan order in England but as yet no definite information is available. Restoration work on Blackfriars continues and the Ministry of Works has promised to contribute a progress report for the next issue of the *Transactions*. Where it is not possible to preserve the buildings, some organized attempt is being made to get a photographic record.

For the past two years the scheme for the re-development of Gloucester has caused the Council some anxiety but now the news is more encouraging for the Corporation are accepting guidance from the Fine Arts Commission and their own consulting architect, Mr Jellico. It seems therefore that the representations made by the Society and others have had the desired effect.

In August 1963, the pavement at Woodchester was again uncovered and attracted great interest for nearly 50,000 people visited the site. Some concern has been expressed by many people for the future of this fine pavement. It is known that the Ministry is keeping under consideration the question of eventually taking over the churchyard and the care of the pavement.

Many excavations have been undertaken in the county during the year and as detailed reports of most of them will find their way into print, it is perhaps sufficient if I only name them.

Mr Wachter excavated six sites at Cirencester including the Forum and Amphitheatre. At Frocester, Captain Gracie had another season exploring the east wing of the villa there. The Ministry of Works has carried out work at Winchcombe on the line of the Saxon ramparts.

Mrs O'Neil is digging a long barrow on the boundary of Withington and Compton Abdale and this site we hope to see on the

Spring meeting. Mr Abbott has done work at Old Farm, Chedworth and Dr Graham Webster has had a seasonal dig at Barnsley Roman villa. In Bristol, further excavations were carried out under Mr Philip Rahtz in the area of St Peter's church and we shall await with interest his report.

### *Excursions*

Three excursions were held in 1963. The Spring meeting was in the Cotswolds under the leadership of Mr Croome. The four-day meeting at Oxford was a most successful and happy occasion. We were fortunate in having as our President the Dean whose knowledge of that city is considerable. Both he and Professor Richmond gave us delightful and informal talks after dinner. It is fitting and pleasing to record our thanks and appreciation to them both.

The Autumn meeting at Avebury was under the able guidance of Dr Isobel Smith.

The success of these meetings is due to the Meetings secretary Mr Paul Page, who carried out all the arrangements in a most efficient manner. To him we offer our thanks as well as to all those who acted as our hosts and guides.

In Bristol two evening meetings were arranged in the summer and a series of winter lectures at the Red Lodge—'Bristol and Chartism', by Dr John Cannon; 'Roman Fishbourne', by Mr Barry Cunliffe; 'Open Fields and Inclosures in the Cotswolds', by Mr C. R. Elrington—were well attended. Mr J. S. Wachter was unable through illness to give his lecture on 'Cirencester Excavations' and we were grateful to Mr C. D. Warmington who at very short notice gave an illustrated talk on 'Roman Sites in North Africa'.

The Council welcomes the nomination of two new Vice Presidents, Mr Patrick McGrath and Professor A. H. Smith. This year there is no change in the officers and we extend our warmest thanks for the continued valued services to the Society by the Hon. W. R. S. Bathurst, as Hon. Treasurer, Captain H. S. Gracie as Hon. Editor, Mr A. J. I. Parrott as Hon. Librarian and Mr E. G. Webb as Secretary for Bristol. To the retiring members, Mrs Vinter, Mr Jeens, Mr King and Mr Neale the Council extends its sincere thanks for past services and to the new and returning members, good wishes for the coming three years.

### *Report of the Record Section*

The Record Section are glad to report the appearance during last year of the *Guide to the Parish Records of the City of Bristol and the County of*

*Gloucester*, edited by Mr Gray and Miss Ralph, to whom it is greatly indebted: warm thanks are also proffered to a number of other helpers, and especially to Mr E. S. Lindley, Mr Brian Frith, Miss Margaret Holmes, Mr A. T. Gaydon, and Miss Betty Masters, and not least to the General Editor; the larger the number of helpers the more complicated becomes his work of supervision. This book has been a major undertaking, and it is likely to be of use to all concerned with parish records, and not only to those with special Gloucestershire interests. Work on the other volumes in hand—Gloucestershire Settlement Examinations, the Churchwardens' Accounts of St Ewen's, Bristol, and Gloucestershire Marriage Allegations, vol. 2—still continues, but soaring costs seem likely to prevent new enterprises at present. The committee has had no occasion to meet during the past year.

### REPORT OF THE BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE, 1962-64

Under the Chairmanship of Mr Frederick C. Jones (who died in office on 24 July 1964) many aspects of local history have figured on its agenda; but the outstanding events were the restoration in 1963 of the grave of John Latimer, Bristol's premier historian, and the celebration of his birthday in a ceremony in Bristol Cathedral on 6 May 1964. For the former a successful appeal produced the sum of £22 9s 6d.

It was the ambition of the late Mr F. C. Jones that Bristol should remember John Latimer by giving a quill pen to his memorial in 'Poets' Corner' in Bristol Cathedral. Mr Jones carried the arrangements through, culminating in a ceremony and choral service which were well attended by many members of archaeological and amenity societies and local schoolchildren.

At the frequent meetings of the Committee 42 topics have been discussed, preservation action initiated, and success obtained in some instances. The interest of the public has been aroused through publicity in the Bristol newspapers.

The Committee wishes to thank the City Engineer and other local authorities, and persons consulted for their kind responses to enquiries.

The vacant Chair resulting from the death of Mr F. C. Jones has been filled by the election of Mr Alan Warhurst.





THE BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

RECORDS SECTION

for the year ended 31st December, 1963.

ACCOUNTS	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.	BALANCE SHEET	£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
<b>INCOME—</b>							<b>ASSETS—</b>						
<b>Sales:</b>							Investments at Market Value:						
Bristol Marriage Licences ...	3	15	7				£2400 3% Savings Bonds,						
Glos. Marriage Allegations ...	6	8	4				1955/65 ... ..				2304	0	0
St Augustines' Registers ...	2	10	11				£400 5% Defence Bonds ...				400	0	0
Dymock Registers ... ..	3	16	0				Sundry Debtors ... ..				25	15	4
Guide to Parish Records ...	68	2	1				Cash at Bank ... ..				1068	14	8
				84	12	11	Expenditure Account:						
Interest on Investments and Deposit				103	2	8	Balance as at 1.1.1963 ...	1499	8	10			
Premium on 4% Defence Bonds							Less Excess of Income over						
encashed ... ..				16	3	3	Expenditure for the year						
Grant from Gloucestershire County							ended 31.12.1963 ... ..	297	18	10			
Council ... ..				100	0	0					1201	10	0
											5000	0	0
				303	18	10	<b>LIABILITY—</b>						
<b>EXPENDITURE—</b>							Legacy—Aldred Bruce Robinson,						
Hon. General Secretary—postages				6	0	0	deceased ... ..				5000	0	0
Excess of Income over Expenditure				£297	18	10					£—	—	—

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and Income and Expenditure Account of the Records Section with the books and vouchers produced to us and they are in accordance therewith.  
 11th February, 1964.

GRACE, DARBYSHIRE AND TODD  
 Chartered Accountants