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Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

## **Society Pages**

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# Obituary

LADY APSLEY, O.B.E.

Lady Apsley's death at the age of 70, on 19 January 1966 at her home, Hullasey House, Tarlton, Nr. Cirencester is a great loss. This is not the place to record her high courage, despite a very serious hunting accident in 1930, in giving great service to her country in so many spheres. Here we only think of her interest and contribution to archaeology in Gloucestershire, except to record that after Lord Apsley was killed on active service in 1942 she carried on his work and for two and a half years was one of the Members of Parliament for Bristol.

On the death of the seventh Earl Bathurst, Lady Apsley and her two sons, the present Earl and the Hon. George Bathurst, moved to Cirencester Park, Lady Apsley moving later to her house at Tarlton on the marriage of the Earl.

When Sir Hannibal Scicluna of Malta visited the Park, he took back a little soil and several small plants from the garden to plant on Lord Apsley's grave, who is buried there.

In his memory, Lady Apsley gave to Gloucester Cathedral a ceremonial staff to be carried in front of the choir; the head of the staff depicts St Michael slaying the dragon, the shaft being made from a yew tree grown in Cirencester Park.

We think of her Presidency of the Society in 1950-51. She read her Presidential address at Cirencester Park at the summer meeting and the Council recorded the thanks of the Society to her and Earl Bathurst for the kind hospitality given to them on that occasion and 'for the opportunity of being shown the interesting features of the Park by Lord Bathurst'. Not only that, but we remember the meeting of the Northern section of the Society when we were allowed the privilege of a guided drive through the Park and then welcomed to Alfred's Hall where the Hon. George Bathurst gave a talk on the history of the estate. The really enormous log fire there will remain in our memories for a long time.

Lady Apsley never refused to receive and entertain visitors from far and wide in any number, if they wished to see or study the treasures of the house or estate, even to the extent of entertaining Section H (archaeology) of the British Association when they met in Oxford in 1954 under the Presidency of Sir Mortimer Wheeler.

Her generosity to archaeology is known only to a few, but all must admire her great courage, that despite her disability she contrived to lead a full life and contribute in innumerable ways to the life of the community. The respect and affection in which she was held was shown to a remarkable degree when representatives from every walk of life, including our own Society, crowded into Cirencester parish church for her funeral service on the 24th January.

A memorial service was held in St Stephen's church, Bristol which was attended by the family and many citizens.

E. M. C.

SIR IAN RICHMOND, C.B.E., M.A., LITT.D., D.LIT., LL.D., F.B.A., P.S.A.

Ian Archibald Richmond was one of the greatest Roman scholars that this country has produced. His scholarship was internationally recognized and his visits were welcomed in every country from Scotland to Transjordan. Nevertheless he seemed to take a special interest in Gloucestershire and this Society.

In 1958 he accepted our invitation to become President and travelled to Southampton in order to describe the Roman fort at Porchester. Subsequently we were privileged to hear him lecture during the summer meetings at Reading and Oxford and on a number of other occasions.

When the Cirencester Excavation Committee was formed in 1958 he became its first Chairman and its continuing success was largely due to his energy and initiative. From the beginning he had a clear grasp of what was needed for the elucidation of the history of the town in the Roman period and, under his guidance, many of the problems were solved. On the death of the Curator of the Corinium Museum he cheerfully undertook the task himself though at considerable personal inconvenience. It is hoped that his plans for the reorganization of the Museum and its transfer to another building, already far advanced, may be brought to a successful conclusion.

At Gloucester he gave full support to the Roman Research Committee and it was his tactful approach that resulted in the investigation of the northern line of defences. His encyclopaedic knowledge of legionary fortresses enabled him to demonstrate that the fortress was in the middle of the present city instead of at Kingsholm as had been previously conjectured.

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At Chedworth he was in charge of the villa on behalf of the National Trust. The Society will remember with gratitude his lucid and entertaining descriptions of the buildings. He undertook personally a number of excavations on the site and publication of the results of his latest work on the nymphæum and the northern range of buildings is eagerly awaited. It throws much light on the complicated story of the site's development.

All students of the Roman period appreciated his scholarship, his wit and his capacity for lucid exposition. But those who had personal contact with him will remember him best for his friendliness, particularly towards beginners in his subject. No excavation was too insignificant for him to visit and study with the greatest care. Though the Director might be in the depths of despair, such a visit would leave him full of confidence and enthusiasm with all his problems solved or on the way to solution. Scholarship, leadership, friendliness, wit, command of language; seldom can all these qualities have been combined in one man in such full measure.

H. S. G.

### DR OLIVE GRIFFITHS (1905-1965)

By the death on 21 November 1965 of Olive Merival Griffiths, of Bristol, the Society has lost a keen member. She had been a member for nearly twenty years and during that time served on the Council of the Society from 1948-64.

For over twenty years she was Secretary of the Local History Committee set up by the Glos. Community Council and did most valuable work as editor of its Bulletin. It was chiefly owing to her enthusiasm that the competitions amongst school-children, Youth Groups, Old Age Pensioners, Women's Institutes and similar bodies were so successful. As a result much valuable information was collected and recorded which would otherwise have been lost.

All she did fostered a love of the past. From 1936 until 1940 she was a tutor in local history for the Department of Extra-Mural Studies in the University of Bristol and gave courses of lectures at Alveston, Hawkesbury, Almondsbury, Falfield, Rangeworthy, Ampney Crucis and Brookthorpe.

As well as lecturing, for many years she wrote lively and imaginative notes for the *Gloucestershire Countryside* and also prepared a gazetteer of the Cotswolds for the Youth Hostels Association. Another

comprehensive piece of work was a survey of unusual Gloucestershire tombstones, begun in 1952 and still in progress. At the time of her death, she was preparing a film-strip on the mediaeval wool trade in the Cotswolds which might be used in schools.

She loved our county very deeply and it was this affection which inspired her long years of service. She will be much missed, not only by her close friends but by many others, possibly unknown to her, who have been influenced by her enthusiasm and fine scholarship.

DOROTHY VINTER

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## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1966

The Ninety-first Annual Meeting of the Society was held at the Council House, Bristol, on Saturday, 12 March 1966 at 2.30 p.m., when Professor A. H. Smith presided. Over sixty members were present.

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

On the proposal of the chairman the following members of the Records Section were elected:

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

Mr L. E. W. O. Fullbrook-Leggatt, M.C., was installed as President of the year 1966-67.

Mr T. H. B. Burrough, T.D., R.W.A., F.R.I.B.A., and Mrs H. E. O'NEIL, F.S.A., were elected Vice-Presidents.

The President gave his address on 'Place-names in Antiquarian Studies'.

In conclusion the Lord Mayor of Bristol entertained the members to tea.

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1965

The membership of the Society is as follows: 594 private members and 100 institutional members, making a total of 694. Thirty-four new members joined the Society, whilst 30 names were removed from the list, most of them being resignations after a failure to send subscriptions. Fourteen members died, including LADY APSLEY who was President of the Society in 1950-51; DR OLIVE GRIFFITHS who served on the Council and contributed much to the study of local history in our county; MR C. E. WRIGHT who also served on the Council and was a keen supporter of the field meetings. To this list must be added the names of MISS A. M. BALL, THE COUNTESS BATHURST, MRS M. BEST, LADY BIRCHALL, MAJOR W. H. DAUBNEY, THE REVD. N. D. FOURDRINIER, MISS M. L. HUMPIDGE, MR RUDING-BRYAN, MR G. R. STANTON, MR R. BRICE SMITH, LT.-COL. P. L. E. WALKER.

Although Sir Ian Richmond was not a member of our Society his links with us and the county were so strong that mention must be made of his death. He was one of our most distinguished Presidents and a great friend to the Society. Mrs Clifford writing of him said, 'we recall with gratitude his great kindness to the Society when it was visiting other counties, especially on the occasions of the visits to Oxford and Reading. His kindness in lecturing to the Society more than once and in particular his fascinating account of the Roman Army with its hospital service will always be in our minds'.

### *Transactions*

During the past year volumes 83 and 84 were published which now means that the volume for the year under review is issued before the annual meeting. We congratulate our editor on this achievement. The sudden death of Mr S. A. Jeavons who was engaged in the cataloguing of the church plate of Bristol is a great loss both to us and to others for whom he was working. Mr J. Cooper, a curator at the Bristol Art Gallery, has agreed to continue the work under the direction of Mr Charles Oman.

### *Library*

Work on the cataloguing of the library is continuing. Some new books have been added whilst others have been repaired, all of which is being done under the supervision of our Honorary Librarian, Mr Parrott. Although 114 volumes have been borrowed, borrowings do

not reflect the whole use of the library, for members use books in the library, and the public library staff use it to supplement their own collections.

### *Excavations*

The resignation of Major H. Stratton Davis as chairman of the Excavations and Buildings committee was received with regret. The Council wishes to record its thanks for his long and enthusiastic services and to welcome Mr David Verey as the new chairman. Only a brief report can be given of the many excavations which have taken place in the county. In Bristol excavations at Sea Mills have revealed a complete foundation plan of a Roman bakehouse in use in the 3rd and 4th centuries A.D. Other excavations were carried out on land adjoining Portwall Lane in the hope that the mediaeval town wall would be discovered. The moat in front of the wall was located but not the wall itself which is thought to lie under Portwall Lane. In Gloucester excavations on the Shire Hall site revealed nothing earlier than mediaeval occupation. At Cirencester the foundations of the Abbey church and an earlier Saxon church were investigated under the direction of Messrs Brown and McWhirr. They also cut a section through the northern defences confirming the line of the Roman wall. The Society contributed £150 towards the cost. At Easter excavations will begin again. At Frocester, Captain Gracie has done further work discovering a beaker of Rhineland origin, the most complete specimen found in this country.

It is good news to know that the Grey Friars site at Gloucester has been taken over by the Ministry of Works, so that, like the Black Friars, the future is secure. We hope that the future of Westbury Court Gardens is also assured. The Council of British Archaeology, concerned at the piecemeal planning from which so many of our historic towns have suffered, has made a list of places in each county whose future is so important that it feels the three Royal Commissions should prepare surveys. This list of Gloucestershire towns has been examined and several others towns have been suggested for inclusion. Through the persistent efforts of one of our members, Mr H. G. M. Leighton, the two oldest monumental brasses in Bristol, belonging to Temple Church, have been recovered. They have been repaired and will be put in St Mary Redcliffe Church.

A not inconsiderable amount of time has been spent in making enquiries into proposals to develop sites on which are listed buildings. Some of these are such as do not warrant any action, but some are of

## REPORT OF COUNCIL, 1965

the utmost importance. The Council made representations to the Town Clerk of Cheltenham and the County Planning Authority concerning the destruction of Nos. 3-6 Montpelier Avenue, Cheltenham; and to the Planning Authority concerning the proposed demolition of houses in the High Street at Thornbury. A preservation order was made in respect of the Company's Arms Inn at Chalford and an appeal against an order to restore the original appearance of No. 7 Silver Street, Tetbury, was withdrawn.

Strong representations are being made at the present time against the demolition of Cedar Hall, Frenchay and the development of the site which would destroy the rural character of the village. This is only to mention the more spectacular cases, there are many more, and all require correspondence and enquiry.

In July 1965 the Royal Archaeological Institute held their summer meeting in Cheltenham when the Society had the pleasure of receiving them at a happy party in Gloucester.

During the year the usual field meetings were held. A full account of them has been written by Mrs Neale and will be printed in the transactions. The Council is indebted to Mr Paul Page, the Meetings secretary, and Miss D. Bailey who helps him, Mrs Robins, secretary for Gloucester, and Mr F. G. Webb, secretary for Bristol. The winter lectures held in Bristol have been resumed and four successful meetings were held in the City Museum when lectures were given on

'Recent Excavations in Roman Somerset' by Barry Cunliffe.

'Gloucestershire Churches' by Robert Paterson.

'Sea Mills and Portwall Lane Excavations' by Max Hebditch.

'The Temple Church Brasses' by H. G. M. Leighton.

'The Bi-centenary of the Theatre Royal' by Bryan Little.

'Industrial Archaeology of the Bristol Region' by Dr R. A. Buchanan.

'Some Aspects of the Bristol Glass Industry' by Betty and F. Harding.

In conclusion the Council extends its thanks to the Hon. W. R. S. Bathurst who retires as Chairman after three years' service, but who will continue to look after the finances of the Society, and to Captain Gracie as Hon. Editor, to the chairmen of the three Standing committees, to Miss Chamberlayne and to those members of Council who retire this year. Once again the Council gratefully records its appreciation of the hospitality of Mr Alan Warhurst in granting the use of his room for the Bristol lectures.

## FIELD MEETINGS, 1965

SPRING MEETING: Saturday 8 May. COMPTON WYNYATES.

Hidcote Manor Gardens, Glos.  
Compton Wynyates, Warwick

Swalcliffe, Oxon. : Parish Church

This first full meeting of the year took the Society out of Gloucestershire, and as its principal destination is open to the general public needs no undue detail in this report. The meeting was marred somewhat by the weather and by the non-appearance of the Gloucester party's coach; but thanks to a 'rescue operation' successfully mounted by Miss Pillars, for which we were all most grateful, the two halves of our meeting did eventually join up, albeit well behind schedule for most of the day.

The long journey to Warwickshire was broken by a stop at Hidcote Manor Gardens, near Chipping Campden. This provided a welcome opportunity to see these very beautiful gardens, developed not in relation to a house of great note but as gardens for their own sake, and unlike any other grounds in our area. The party arrived at Compton Wynyates about mid-afternoon, and were shown over this classic among English 15th-16th-century 'stately homes'. After this we drove to the church of SS Peter and Paul, Swalcliffe: four miles from Compton Wynyates and about six miles from Banbury, our destination for tea. In the unfortunate absence of our expected speaker, Mr R. W. Paterson gave us an excellent extempore description of this delightful little church, which members greatly appreciated. The day as a whole provided an opportunity to see places which, though normally open to the public, might well be too far distant for many members to reach on their own.

### *Further References:*

Guidebooks are available both at Hidcote and at Compton Wynyates.

SUMMER MEETING: Wednesday 21—Saturday 24 July. READING AND AREA.

Littlecote  
Avington: Church of St Mark and  
St Luke  
Penn: Holy Trinity Church  
Little Missenden: St John the  
Baptist Church  
Verulamium  
St Alban's Abbey

Stewkley: St Michael's Church  
Wing: All Saints' Church  
Waddesdon Manor  
Shottesbrooke Park and Church  
Bray: St Michael's Church  
and Jesus Hospital  
Reading Abbey  
Charney Bassett: St Peter's  
Church

The Society's three-day meeting was based on Reading, and complemented that of 1961 in that all our excursions this year were to the north and east of Reading. The attendance was somewhat disappointing, only thirty-one members, who stayed at St George's Hall, the hall of residence attached to Reading University and our centre in 1961. On the way to Reading we visited Littlecote, Wilts., by kind permission of Major G. S. Wills. A most able guide conducted us through this very lovely Tudor manor house, home of the Popham family from the 16th to the present century. After lunching at Hungerford, we saw the Church of St Mark and St Luke at Avington. Attached to a house and barn and set remotely amidst fields, it is an almost untouched Norman country church: a tiny gem of its period.

We were privileged to have as our guide for Thursday morning Mr E. Clive Rouse. Already well known to most of the Society for his work and writings on the wall-paintings in Gloucestershire churches, he has been responsible for the restoration of the famous paintings at Penn and Little Missenden. We were thus able to enjoy a first hand description of these important churches. At Holy Trinity, Penn, our chief interest, with Mr Rouse as our guide, was centred on the 14th-century 'Doom' or painting of the Last Judgement: said to be one of the finest of its kind in England. Of interest also to Bristol members is the association with the Penn family. Admiral Penn, born in Bristol in 1621 and buried at St Mary Redcliffe, was descended from the Penns of this village; while his son, William Penn the famous Quaker, stayed at Penn in 1670, and his first wife Gulielma Springett lived here before her marriage. The rest of the morning was spent a few miles away at St John the Baptist, Little Missenden. Here above all we were delighted to have Mr Rouse's expert guidance to the notable wallpaintings. The layout is basically that of the original Saxon-Norman church, and because the church has never had additional aisles, the original walls survive, covered with 12th-15th-century paintings. Those of us familiar with the wallpaintings at Stoke Orchard which Mr Rouse restored, were particularly interested to see the basically similar arrangement of Little Missenden. While some is lost and fragmentary, in places several layers of paintings are visible.

Most of the afternoon was spent at Verulamium, where members were delighted to meet again Dr Ilid E. Anthony (formerly curator of the Holborne Menstrie Museum, Bath) who is now Director of the Verulamium Museum. The size and complexity of this important Roman city is a problem on a brief visit: one which Dr Anthony solved ideally with a most able and interesting talk in the Museum Lecture Room, on the history and discovery of the site, illustrated with important exhibits in the Museum. Then we saw some of the layout of Verulamium on the ground, including the mosaic floor of the 'Hypocaust Room', and the Theatre. Some members of the party stayed to explore further the site and Museum, while others made a brief visit to St Alban's Abbey. After dinner in hall, our President Prof. A. H. Smith, joined us for the evening and gave a most interesting informal talk on the history and development of place-names, both in Gloucestershire and in the area we are visiting.

On Friday, Dr G. G. Willis, Vicar of Wing, acted as our guide for the morning. He took us first to St Michael's Church, Stewkley, one of the most perfect examples in England of Norman architecture at its most decorative. Four miles away, we next visited his own church at All Saints, at Wing: which is in turn a classic example of the Saxon style. It is said to retain more completely than any other church in England, the unaltered ground plan of an early Christian basilica. Apart from the apse, the outside of the church appears an orthodox 15th-century building. Inside, however, its great antiquity is at once apparent, in arches, apse and windows. Dr Willis was able to give us details of new discoveries: the Saxon gallery-doorways high in the west end of the nave, which were uncovered in 1954, and recent excavations in the Saxon crypt-shrine under the apse.

The Society's last afternoon was spent at Waddesdon Manor, the fantastic 'French Chateau' built in the late 19th century for Baron Ferdinand de Rothschild, and now devoted to the display of the works of art collected by the Baron and his descendants. We were particularly fortunate in that our visit was on a 'Connoisseurs' Day', when there were few other people, and members were left free to wander through room after room, to see these beautiful collections easily and at their leisure,

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for a full two hours. The contents and the house are 'all of a piece'; 18th-century French panelling, gleaming brocades and perfect period decor provide the background for one work of art after another: of which nothing is ever less than perfect of its kind. Yet this connoisseurs' feast is so well displayed that no-one felt glutted by so much perfection: only delighted that the resounding thunderstorm which burst as we arrived, and which prevented anyone from seeing the gardens, had not spoiled our morning but left us all the more time to enjoy this indoor afternoon.

Saturday morning was taken up with two visits in the Reading vicinity: to Shottesbrooke Park, 17th-century home of the Van Sittart family, and the church in its grounds, and to Bray. At Bray we were welcomed to the church of St Michael by the Vicar, Rev. S. W. Doran, and then went on to the 17th-century almshouse of Jesus Hospital, by kind permission of Rev. Canon H. Hewitson Nash the chaplain, who showed us round. The almshouse has recently been very pleasantly restored. It was founded in 1627 by William Goddard, for forty poor persons. The Fishmongers Company of London act as Governors, and six members of the company may be housed there.

After lunch we finally left St George's Hall; but before departing from Reading itself we spent an hour at the remains of the Norman Abbey of Reading, where Dr C. F. Slade told us of recent work on the site. On our return journey, we saw a last early Norman church, St Peter at Charney Bassett. In conclusion, the Society would like to thank all the incumbents and owners who made us welcome in their churches and houses, and our guides whose local knowledge contributed so much to our visits.

### *Further References:*

Littlecote, Verulamium and Waddesdon Manor are open to the public, and good guidebooks are available. Short guides are also available at the churches of Holy Trinity, Penn; St. Michael's, Stewkley; All Saints, Wing; and St Michael's, Bray.

### AUTUMN MEETING: Saturday 18 September. INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE STROUD AREA.

Nailsworth and area: Egypt Mill;  
Dunkirk Mill; Longford's  
Mill; Ball's Green Upper  
Stone Mine.  
Minchinhampton: Holy Trinity  
Church

Brimcombe and Chalford:  
Thames and Severn Canal;  
Port Buildings; Bliss and  
Belvedere Mills; Chalford  
Round House; Clark's Boat-  
yard; Hope and Thrupp  
Mills  
Stroud: Ebley and Stanley Mills

Perhaps the most important meeting of this year, and a new venture in the Society's outings, was this excursion to the Stroud valleys. The day was devoted to many different facets of the one subject, industrial archaeology, under the most able and enthusiastic guidance of Mr Lionel F. J. Walrond, curator of the Stroud Museum and one of the leading authorities on the cloth mills and industries of the Stroud area. This concentration on one subject for the day, a subject on which little has hitherto been recorded apart from the work of Mr Walrond himself, left the party feeling that

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it had really been initiated into the exploration of a new and fascinating type of local history, lying unsuspected by many in the heart of our Gloucestershire area. Local members who joined the party were often able to add interest with their own knowledge and memories. The attraction of this different type of outing was borne out by the 110 members and guests who joined it: the largest autumn attendance for many years.

A comprehensive article on the sites visited and others in the Stroud area is being prepared by Mr Walrond for publication in the next volume of the *Transactions*.

### *Further Reference:*

K. Hudson: *Industrial Archaeology*, ch. 7, includes a contribution on the industries of the Stroud area by Mr Walrond.

### DISTRICT MEETINGS

Members from Bristol visited South Wraxall, Wiltshire, in May, where they saw South Wraxall Manor and St Katherine's church, Holt. In August they were shown Hardwicke Court by Colonel Lloyd-Baker and visited the church and Packer's Cottage, Quedgeley.

Those from Gloucester went to Wotton-under-Edge in May, where they saw the town and church and were entertained by Dr Joan Evans. In June they visited Boddington Manor and church and were entertained by Mrs Fielding at The Old Forge, Staverton. An extra meeting in August took them to see the excavations at Glastonbury Tor.





