

From the *Transactions* of the  
Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society

## **Society Pages**

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# Society Notes

## REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING FOR 1975

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Wheatstone Hall, Gloucester, on Saturday, 22 March 1975 at 2.30 p.m. The President, the Reverend Canon J. E. Gethyn-Jones was in the chair and there were 101 members present. His Worship the Mayor of Gloucester welcomed the members. The annual report presented by the Hon. General Secretary was adopted. The annual balance sheet and statement of accounts were presented by the Hon. Treasurer and adopted. The Chairman, Mr G. T. St J. Sanders moved that Canon J. E. Gethyn-Jones be re-elected as President for the remaining nine months of 1975 but that he should not be expected to give another Presidential Address. In doing so, he spoke of the gracious and able manner in which the President had carried out his duties and said how grateful the Society was to him for accepting the office for the rest of 1975. The reason for this was that in 1976 the Society would celebrate its centenary, when Miss Elizabeth Ralph would be President and it seemed fitting that the Presidential year should begin in January 1976.

Canon J. E. Gethyn-Jones then gave his Presidential address, 'Berkeley Plantation—its background and development'. The Chairman of Council thanked him for his interesting and able address. The Mayor of Gloucester entertained the members to tea and the thanks of the Society were expressed by the President.

## REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE YEAR ENDING 1974

### *Membership*

There has been a slight decline in membership due to the increased subscriptions, but the numbers of resignations are not as many as were anticipated. There are now 631 private members, 68 associate members and 122 institutional members. During the year 17 members have died including Miss P. Cox (1971), the Revd R. Elphick (1938), Mr N. S. B. Gwynn (1914), Canon A. Hampson (1972), Major W. Hicks Beach (1947), Canon D. A. R. Keen (1966), Miss D. Kirby (1956), Lt-Colonel C. H. Lemmon (1946), Miss M. J. Martyn (1969), Miss D. Rodenhurst (1931), Lady Stamer (1943), Mr H. G. T. Stone (1968), Mr J. W. Taylor (1963), Mr W. R. Watkin (1948), Mr C. J. de Lisle Wells (1943). The sudden death of Canon Keen has caused great sadness to all his friends in the Society and to a wide circle of friends throughout the county. Although perhaps not known to many members Mr Gwynn had been a member for 50 years whilst Canon Elphick and Miss Rodenhurst had been members for 40 years.

### *Transactions*

Since the last annual meeting Volumes 92 and 93 together with an index have been issued to members. During the year it was necessary to change the printer and volume 93, just issued, has been printed by the Western Printing Services Ltd. It has not been an easy year for the editor and the Society is very grateful to Mr Brian Smith.

### *Council*

The Council has had another busy and successful year. The Society's library is now under the care of Mr Woodman who has made more space available for the new accessions. £200 has been spent on binding standard works. The members in Bristol will be interested to know that a copy of the catalogue of the books in the library can be seen in the Bristol Record Office. There is still the need to

find alternative accommodation for the reserve stock of publications. It is desirable that this should be in Gloucester so that it is easily accessible for Miss Markwick who looks after the sales of surplus stock and to whom the Council is grateful for what must be an arduous task. During the year the Council has dealt with a number of appeals for financial assistance. To the Cirencester Excavations Committee a grant of £100 was made, towards the cost of a survey of standing historical buildings in Cirencester £75 was given and to the churches of St Mary's, Frampton on Severn and Pauntley donations of £20 each were made. Although the Society has not sponsored any excavation, it has taken a lively interest in what is being done in Bristol and Gloucestershire. In Bristol the City Museum has carried out extensive excavations on a site east of Victoria Street and Temple Street. Evidence of the mid-13th-century settlement in this area was found together with examples of the tenters or cloth drying racks dating back to the 15th century. The site has produced the largest quantity of finds of the 13th to the 15th century, including some rare imported pottery from Europe.

In Gloucester important excavations have been carried out by the City Museum on the East Gate site, revealing the Roman East Gate of the 2nd century, Roman walls of the 2nd and 4th centuries and a medieval gate tower, originally 13th-century but strengthened in the 15th and 17th centuries. Many members will have seen it and it is hoped that some part of it can be preserved. The Cirencester Excavations Committee has had another successful season. Much more archaeological work has been done by the various archaeological groups in the county. The Council has long felt that the Excavations & Buildings committee needed strengthening in order to make it more representative of the interests of archaeology in Gloucestershire. Consideration has been given not only to the time allotted for discussion of archaeological matters but the practicability of holding its meetings during the day. At the beginning of March a meeting of the committee and representatives of other archaeological groups in Gloucestershire was held which resulted in a useful discussion from which it is hoped will emerge positive proposals.

During the year a new body, the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Avon, Gloucestershire and Somerset was set up. It is responsible for distributing money from the Department of the Environment for rescue archaeological work in this part of the south-west region.

The Gloucestershire County Council Countryside Sub-committee has lapsed with the re-organization of local government and in its place has been set up the Gloucestershire Council for the Countryside. Mr Christopher Bishop has been appointed as our representative.

Rather fewer listed buildings have been threatened with demolition, but several public enquiries have been held and the Society with others has successfully negotiated the preservation of several listed buildings.

### *Meetings*

The meetings of the Society have been well supported, the Spring and Autumn meetings each attracting over 100 members. Those who are unable to participate in the one day excursions welcome the evening meetings arranged by Mrs Robins and Mr Knapp. Six lectures were given in Bristol. Details of these meetings appear elsewhere in the *Transactions*.

Arrangements for celebrating the centenary of the Society in 1976 are going ahead.

Finally Council wishes to thank Miss Bailey, Mrs Robins and Mr Knapp for the time and effort they give to planning meetings, to those members of Council who retire this year and to the officers who bear the burden of carrying out the Society's activities.

### FIELD MEETINGS, 1974

The Spring Meeting had as its theme the ancient diocese of Worcester, which for so long covered both Gloucestershire and Bristol; the country 'palace' of the bishops of Worcester at Hartlebury Castle was visited in the morning, and a detailed tour of Worcester Cathedral under the guidance of Mr B. J. Ashwell and the then Dean followed in the afternoon. The Summer Meeting was based

at Lancaster, with visits to the town itself, to Heysham, Holker Hall, Cartmel Priory, Levens Hall and Kendal. The Autumn Meeting was local, to Ashleworth and district. At Ashleworth, our Hon. Editor set the context of the day's meeting by describing the development of Ashleworth Quay and its links with the river trade in iron from the forges of the Forest of Dean. Members visited the parish church of St Andrew & St Bartholomew, its architecture spanning the entire medieval period, and the 15th-century stone tithe barn, together with Ashleworth Court and Ashleworth Manor. Both built c. 1460, the two houses offer a complete contrast: the Court being a massive stone manor house built for the abbots of St Augustine's in Bristol, and the so-called Manor (in fact the former 'Old Vicarage' and renamed without any historical justification in the 19th century) being a beautiful example of half-timbered building of the same period. Dr John Cannon described the Chartist settlement at Snig's End, Corse—a village of a very different period and style; members then drove round the present day roads and unsurfaced back lanes of this example of 19th-century 'planned living', identifying the little cottages set in their smallholdings, some hardly altered since 1847-8 and others heavily disguised under later alterations. The party then visited the church of St Mary, Upleadon which, lying next to Upleadon Court and some distance from the village, is perched on a mound which has caused much debate and is considered by some to be the Christianization of a prehistoric earthwork; part of the mound was levelled earlier this century. The instability of this raised site has led to successive alterations to the original 12th-century church, of which the fine north doorway with carved tympanum survives: notably the construction in the 16th century of the remarkable, weight-saving half-timbered tower which is now its outstanding feature, and which has recently been restored by using the latest wood-preserving techniques. The meeting concluded with a most enjoyable visit to the Newent Falconry Centre. During the year, the Northern Section spent a day touring the Forest of Dean, while the Bristol Section visited Queen Elizabeth's Hospital, Bristol, and the prehistoric sites on the Somerset Levels. The winter lectures at Bristol featured Canon R. J. Mansfield on 'The Temple of Nodens, Lydney', the Rev. John Guy on 'South Wales parishes of the Dean & Chapter of Bristol', and a pair of commemorative lectures by Bryan Little and Mr J. W. Sherborne on 'William Canynge 1474-1974'. A symposium on recent archaeological work at the Bristol City Museum was followed by a talk by Miss Cleo Witt on 'Bristol Hardpaste Porcelain', and one by Miss Elizabeth Danbury of the Royal Commission on Historical Monuments on 'Medieval Illumination: The Charters of Bristol & Gloucester'.

#### FIELD MEETINGS, 1975

The Spring Meeting, to south Somerset, visited Brympton d'Evercy house, then newly opened to the public, and the church of St John the Evangelist at Milborne Port, where Professor George Zarnecki described his theories of the Norman origin of the church. The Summer Meeting was based at Wrexham and visited sites on the Welsh borders, including Clun, Hen Domen, Rhuddlan and Ewloe castles, and the earthworks of Old Oswestry; churches at Wrexham itself and at Llanrhaedr, Ruthin and Guilsfield; Plas Newydd, Powis Castle and Roman *Viroconium*. The Autumn Meeting was centred in the Cotswolds, and visited the fine little Norman church of St John the Evangelist at Elkstone; the church structure has been fully described in previous *TBGAS* and Mr R. W. Paterson concentrated on describing the wealth of decorative detail, both ancient and modern, in the church: from the profusion of Norman animal carvings inside and outside the building, to the fine modern stained glass. At Notgrove long barrow Mrs H. E. O'Neil welcomed members on their first visit to the site for 40 years. The Society last visited the long barrow in 1934, when concern about its condition led to its excavation by our distinguished past-president Mrs E. M. Clifford in 1934-5. Mrs O'Neil, having been present at that excavation, was able to demonstrate from the once again somewhat battered remains, the original size and layout of this massive neolithic passage grave, which overlay a still earlier domed mound covering a cist, containing the bones of one man. This first burial is thought to be that of a chieftain, with the family passage grave subsequently built nearby, and the long barrow mound ultimately covering both sites. The parish

church of St Mary, Temple Guiting was built at much the same time as that at Elkstone, but offered a complete contrast by reason of its transformation in 1740-2 by the Rev. Hon. George Talbot into the latest 18th-century mode: with round-headed windows intriguingly inserted into the 15th-century perpendicular window embrasures of the nave, a Venetian window in the north transept, a superb royal coat of arms in plaster on the west wall, and a reredos banished to lie in pieces under the tower. The meeting finished with a tour of the Cotswold Farm Park, a rare breeds survival centre near Guiting Power. During the year visits were made by the Northern Section to Dudbridge and Rodborough, and to Hawling and Sevenhampton; the Bristol Section visited Keynsham and Malmesbury, and also enjoyed a tour of recent excavations in and around Bristol Castle. The winter lectures at Bristol were all given by members of the Society; Miss B. Noddle spoke on 'Domestication of Animals', Miss C. Heighway on 'Adventures into the history of Gloucester 1974-5', and our President, Canon J. E. Gethyn-Jones, on 'A Pilgrimage to Berkeley'; Reece Winstone inaugurated the centenary year with an illustrated talk on 'Bristol in 1876', and Nicholas Thomas spoke on 'Avebury and the Maxi-Henges'.

#### LIBRARY ACCESSIONS, 1974-5

McGrath, P.	<i>Merchant Venturers of Bristol</i>
Wacher, J.	<i>The Towns of Roman Britain</i>
Robertson, D.	<i>The King's School, Gloucester</i>
	<i>British Archaeological Reports No. 12, Cirencester</i>
Brøgger, A. W.	<i>The Viking Ships</i>
Ordnance Survey	<i>Field Archaeology in Great Britain</i>
Hutton, W.	<i>The Battle of Bosworth Field</i> (reprint)
—	<i>Archaeology in Gloucester</i>
Fowler, P. (ed.)	<i>Archaeology and the Landscape</i>

#### OBITUARY

##### H. P. R. FINBERG

Professor H. P. R. Finberg, who died suddenly on 1 November 1974, was for some time a member of our Society and contributed much to the study of local history in England generally and Gloucestershire in particular.

Finberg had two careers, as a typographer and as a historian. Between the two wars he established the Alcuin Press in a barn at Chipping Campden, and his interest in printing was maintained throughout his life, latterly as typographical adviser to H.M. Stationery Office and the Ministry of Works.

Local history was originally a spare-time hobby, but his friendship and collaboration with W. G. Hoskins led eventually to his appointment in 1952 to succeed Hoskins as Reader in English Local History at Leicester University, a remarkable tribute to an amateur historian. Finberg's work at Leicester, especially as editor of the *Agricultural History Review* and general editor of the *Agrarian History of England*, culminated in the up-grading of his post to be the first Chair of Local History in the country.

During his active retirement, one of his last tasks was to prepare a revised edition of his *Gloucestershire* (1955) in *The Making of the English Landscape Series*; though modest in size, this was perhaps the first serious general survey of our county's history since Rudge and Fosbroke in the early 19th century. *Roman and Saxon Withington* (also 1955), was a stimulating attempt to establish the continuity of a Cotswold agricultural estate through Roman and Saxon times. A considerable part of *Gloucestershire Studies* (1957), which Finberg edited, was written by himself, including an important paper on 'The Genesis of the Gloucestershire Towns'.

Wise, kind, and humorous, he will be greatly missed by his friends.

I.E.G.

## CANON D. A. R. KEEN

Donald Alexander Robert Keen who died on 28 October at Gloucester was a priest with an exceptional talent for helping other people to live and work happily together. A graduate of Oriel College, Oxford, he served as a chaplain in the Royal Navy from 1937 to 1965 when he became Diocesan Residentiary Canon of Gloucester cathedral. In 1973 he relinquished his diocesan appointment to take up whole-time duties as Residentiary Canon and Librarian.

On arrival in Gloucester he joined the Society. He had been elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries in 1949, and in the eight years that he was a member of our Society he took a great interest in its work. He was a member of Council, and served on the Library Committee and 1976 Centenary Celebrations Committee. He had an extensive knowledge of the medieval Church, and of Gloucester Abbey in particular, and his precise and detailed experience of the diocese enabled him to preach in any historic church and lead his hearers to a greater interest and pride in their parish and people through the centuries.

G.T., B.S.S.

## BRISTOL &amp; GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Balance Sheets at 31st December 1974 and 1975

1974			1975		
General Fund	Records Section		General Fund	Records Section	
£	£		£	£	
22,413	—	Investments (at book value)*	22,413	—	
2,268	1,226	Bank & cash balances	3,188	1,395	
160	6	Debtors	134	45	
(322)	(100)	Less Creditors	(371)	(2)	
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24,519	1,132	NET ASSETS**	25,364	1,438	
		representing:			
		GENERAL FUNDS			
25,158	872	Balances brought fwd	24,519	1,132	
—	20	Profit on redemption of investment	—	—	
(639)	240	(Deficit) Surplus on year	845	506	
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24,519	1,132	Balances carried fwd	25,364	1,438	
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1974			SPECIAL FUNDS			1975		
Meetings	Excavations	Robinson Bequest		Meetings	Excavations	Robinson Bequest		
£	£	£		£	£	£		
—	—	758	Investment (at book value)*	—	—	758		
245	220	128	Bank balances	355	230	165		
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245	220	886	NET ASSETS	355	230	923		
<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>	representing:	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>		
			ACCUMULATED FUNDS					
165	207	854	Balances brought fwd	245	220	886		
80	18	32	Income/surplus for year	90	15	37		
—	(5)	—	Grants (Frocester Excavation)	—	(5)	—		
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245	220	886	Balances carried fwd	355	230	923		
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\* Market Value of investments

	1974	1975
General Fund	£16,792	£30,297

Robinson bequest	710	784
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\*\* No Value has been placed on the stocks of the Society's publications or its libraries.

BRISTOL & GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Income & Expenditure Accounts for the years ended 31st December 1974 & 1975

General Fund £	1974 Records Section £		1975 General Fund £	Records Section £
<i>INCOME</i>				
942	—	Subscriptions	1,897	—
285	104	Sales of Publications	294	122
1,914	40	Investment income and interest received	1,906	85
739	—	Income Tax repayments	851	—
—	100	Grants from general funds of Society	—	100
3,880	244		4,948	307
 <i>EXPENDITURE</i>				
3,456		Transactions, Vol. 92 + Index	—	
—		Transactions, Vol. 93	3,481	
(250)		Less grants received	(966)	
3,206			2,515	
218		Library	480	
225		Donations and grants	250	
100		Grant to Records Section	100	
770	4	Administration expenses	778	1
4,519	4		4,103	1
(659)		DEFICIT		
—	240	SURPLUS	845	306
3,880	244		4,948	307

AUDITORS' REPORT

We have examined the accounts of the Society set out in pages 155 and 156, which are in accordance with the books and vouchers produced to us.

THOMSON McLINTOCK & Co.,  
Chartered Accountants,  
Bristol.