

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

Society Pages

from 1985, Vol. 103

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Society Notes

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REPORT OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING FOR 1985

The Annual General Meeting was held in the Wheatstone Hall, Gloucester, on Saturday, 16 March 1985, at 2.30 p.m. The President, C.R. Elrington, M.A., F.S.A., was in the chair. Ninety members were present and many were absent because of the inclement weather. The Honorary Secretary presented the annual report of Council and the Honorary Treasurer presented the annual accounts, both of which were adopted.

The President proposed the election of Nicholas Thomas, M.A., F.S.A. as President for the year 1985–6.

The Officers and members of Council were duly elected. The President proposed that Professor P.W. Warren be appointed a Trustee of the Society in the place of the late David Verey. This was seconded by the Hon. Treasurer and approved.

The President invited Christopher Elrington to give his Presidential address 'Assessments of Gloucestershire: Fiscal records in local history'. He thanked him for his scholarly address and also thanked the officers of the Society. Afterwards tea was served.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL FOR 1984–85

At the beginning of 1985 the total membership of the Society was 966; that is, ordinary members 639, honorary members 2, associate members 110, life members 6, institutional members 108. During the year the following members died: Thomas Bright (1962), G.H. Curzon (1976), Walter Duncan (1929), A. Gunstone (1976), O. Havard (1963), Miss A. Hayman (1951), Lady Sandford (1983), W.G. Thompstone (1969), the Reverend Canon A.J.C. Turner (1953), and Mrs D. Vinter (1950).

Transactions

Volume 102 was issued in time for the Annual Meeting. The Society's thanks are due to the Honorary editors, Dr Steven Blake and Mr Alan Saville, and to Miss Pamela Webster and her helpers, who kindly distributed the *Transactions*.

Newsletter

The two issues have been well received by members and Mr David Smith is to be congratulated on the improved format.

Publications

In conjunction with Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museums, the Society published a special volume of essays entitled *Archaeology in Gloucestershire: from the earliest hunters to the Industrial Age*. The essays, dedicated to Helen O'Neil and Elsie Clifford, are edited by Alan Saville. Another joint publication will be the *Bristol Probate Inventories* by Mr and Mrs Edwin George, published jointly with the Bristol Record Society. The Publications Advisory Committee are considering several volumes for publication.

Library

The Council is grateful to Mr Hiatt and his staff for the service they render to the Society's library.

Council

Considerable time during the year was devoted to listed building applications which increase in number every year. Discussions with the Historic Buildings committee of CBA have taken place to consider the procedure for dealing with listed building applications and how it could be made more effective. The Council appreciates the time and effort given by a small group of members who visit the sites and inspect the plans.

Meetings

The meetings in 1984 were as follows: Spring – Avebury; Summer – York; Autumn – Bishops Cleeve and Winchcombe. In addition both Mr R. Knapp and Miss S. Coppen-Gardner arranged meetings and lectures in Bristol and Gloucester respectively.

Lectures in Bristol

'John Cabot' by Bryan Little

'The Port of Bristol in the 19th century' by David Large

'Anglo Saxon Architecture and Sculpture in Gloucestershire' by Michael Hare

'Did Brunel Blunder? Bristol Railway Systems in the 19th century' by Peter Harris

Symposium by City of Bristol Museum Staff

'English Drinking Glasses' by Sylvia Coppen-Gardner

Lectures in Gloucester

'The Search for Alban: Excavations at St Albans Abbey, 1983–1984' by Martin Biddle

'Gardens in the Middle Ages' by John Harvey

'More from an ancient monuments casebook' by John Ashurst

'Stonehenge' by Aubrey Burl

'Fortress, Temple and Village on Crickley Hill' by Philip Dixon

In conclusion the Council is pleased to present a report of much activity in all areas of the Society and thanks the officers and members of Council for the amount of time which they give voluntarily.

BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the years ended 31 December

	1981 £	1982 £	1983 £	1984 £
<i>Income</i>				
Subscriptions and Donations	2,440	2,323	2,900	3,731
Sales of Publications	935	359	664	933
Income from Investments, and tax reclaimed	3,982	3,738	3,791	3,682
Sale of Library Books	—	835	—	—
Profit on redemption of Investments	—	35	—	13
Donation to Codrington Archives Appeal refunded	—	250	—	—
	<hr/> 7,357	<hr/> 7,540	<hr/> 7,355	<hr/> 8,359
<i>Expenditure</i>				
Publications				
Transactions	5,123	4,636	6,687	5,890
Less Grants received	—	—	(1,034)	(1,297)
	<hr/> 5,123	<hr/> 4,636	<hr/> 5,653	<hr/> 4,593
Archaeology in Gloucestershire	—	—	—	2,356
Donations and Subscriptions	464	228	707	520
Library	327	475	1,020	235
Stationery, Notices to Members, Newsletters	574	409	476	933
Officers' Expenses and Administration	857	790	656	840
Purchase of typewriter	—	—	—	100
	<hr/> 7,345	<hr/> 6,538	<hr/> 8,512	<hr/> 9,577
Profit (Loss)	12	1,002	(1,157)	(1,218)
	<hr/> 7,357	<hr/> 7,540	<hr/> 7,355	<hr/> 8,359

BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

<i>Balance Sheets as at 31 December</i>	1981	1982	1983	1984
	£	£	£	£
GENERAL FUND				
Investments at book value*	26,520	24,055	24,055	21,068
Bank Balances	3,619	6,743	5,332	5,704
Debtors	35	16	128	1,657
Creditors	(504)	(142)	—	(132)
<i>Net Assets</i>	29,670	30,672	29,515	28,297

representing:—

General Fund				
Balance brought forward	29,658	29,670	30,672	29,515
Profit (Loss) for year	12	1,002	(1,157)	(1,218)
Balance forward	29,670	30,672	29,515	28,297
Market Value of Investments*	29,820	31,500	38,807	43,992

RECORDS SECTION

Bank Balance	3,818	4,139	4,388	4,656
Debtors	152	132	132	132
	3,970	4,271	4,520	4,788

representing:—

Records Fund (incl. Robinson Bequest)				
Balance brought forward	3,450	3,970	4,271	4,520
Income for year	520	301	249	268
Balance forward	3,970	4,271	4,520	4,788

Note No value has been placed on the Society's library or stock of publications.

Auditor's Report

We have examined the accounts of the Society which are in accordance with the books and vouchers produced to us.

Thomson McLintock & Co., Chartered Accountants Bristol

COMMITTEE FOR ARCHAEOLOGY IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

ANNUAL REPORT FOR 1984

During 1984 the Committee for Archaeology in Gloucestershire continued to provide a forum for the interchange of information between groups and organisations active within the county, to act as a watchdog on impending redevelopment schemes, and to encourage public interest in archaeology. Five meetings were held in different parts of the county at roughly regular intervals during the year. All were well attended and numerous matters pertinent to the archaeology of Gloucestershire were discussed.

Archaeological activity within the county during 1984 was as widespread as ever. In addition to continuing post-excavation work on the Hazleton and West Hill projects, Western Archaeological Trust maintained its MSC project based in Gloucester city. The Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit continued its programme of excavations in advance of gravel extraction at Claydon Pike near Lechlade. Research excavations continued at Crickley Hill, The Ditches, Vineyards Farm, Frocester Court, The Buckles and Soudley Camp Mill. New work commenced at Littledean Hall in the Forest of Dean.

The archaeological section of the County Planning Department completed a programme of fieldwork in the Cotswold Water Park and produced a report outlining *An archaeological strategy for the Upper Thames gravels in Gloucestershire and Wiltshire*. A project in the Wye Valley AONB was also completed during the year, and the plotting of available aerial photographs continued alongside the computerisation of the sites and monuments record.

In October a new assistant inspector, Dr Michael Parker-Pearson, was appointed by HBMC to be responsible for Gloucestershire.

Both good news and bad news reached the Committee with reference to the future of rescue archaeology in the county. Towards the end of the year it was learnt that Western Archaeological Trust had gone into voluntary liquidation. Lack of guaranteed funding from HBMC for establishment costs and for new projects was blamed for the move to wind-down operations. The valuable work undertaken in Gloucestershire by the Trust will be greatly missed, although in the short-term it is anticipated that work on the Hazleton and West Hill post-excavation projects will continue under the aegis of Cheltenham Museum and the Birmingham University Archaeological Field Unit respectively.

On a brighter note, it was learnt that HBMC intended to continue its support for the County sites and monuments record through the Gloucestershire County Council. Furthermore, if proposals at present before the Gloucester City Council come to fruition, it is likely that a new assistant director for the Gloucester City Excavation Unit will be appointed early in 1985.

Specific topics which engaged the attention of CAG during the year include:

Annual Symposium

The seventh annual symposium took place on Saturday 10 November at Cheltenham Museum. The morning session took the theme of 'Museums and archaeology in Gloucestershire', and the papers presented provoked a lively and wide-ranging debate. In the afternoon short summaries of recent work in the county were presented. Displays included a wide range of publications, and finds from recent excavations. About 50 people attended the symposium, slightly less than in recent years, but a small profit was nonetheless made on ticket sales. Thanks are extended to all those who presented talks and especially to Alan Saville and the staff of Cheltenham Museum for their efforts in making the day a success.

Handbook of Gloucestershire Archaeology

Editorial work on the Handbook was completed late in 1984. It is hoped that the book will be published in time for the 1985 Annual Symposium.

Local plans and local plan amendments

A number of local plans were published during 1984, and the Committee endeavoured to make constructive comments on the archaeological content of all of them. Among those considered were the Cheltenham Borough Plan, the draft local plan for the Upper Thames, and the City of Gloucester Review 1984. In the last mentioned document archaeology and heritage awareness were given especially detailed treatment as it was proposed that Gloucester City's heritage be promoted as a major tourist attraction over the next few years.

CBA Group XIII

Close links with the CBA regional Group XIII continued. Alison Alden acted as county representative and submitted short contributions to the Group XIII Newsletter. CAG participated in the Group XIII Policy Meeting in December, set up to review the future of rescue archaeology in the south-west in the light of the demise of the Western Archaeological Trust.

Travelling exhibition

The Committee had long been aware of the need to encourage farmers and landowners to adopt land management strategies sympathetic to archaeological remains. In an effort to promote this view it is hoped to mount a small mobile exhibition to tour the county. A working party comprising Tim Darvill, Alison Alden, Alan Saville and Stephen Clews is designing the exhibition.

Esso pipeline

It had been hoped that CAG would be able to assist in orchestrating field-survey within the county in advance of the proposed engineering works associated with the construction of an oil pipe-line which is to run roughly south to north through eastern Gloucestershire. However, the terms agreed between the oil company and a collective of archaeological bodies does not allow for advance survey work, only for watching briefs which are to be undertaken during pipe-line construction under the aegis of the Trust for Wessex Archaeology. It is hoped that some contribution from local organisations will still be possible however.

Council for the Gloucestershire Countryside

Towards the end of 1984 CAG joined the Council for the Gloucestershire Countryside as a full member in an effort to become more deeply involved in matters of countryside interest. It is hoped that CAG will be able to make a useful contribution on archaeological matters, and at the same time learn more about the needs of other conservation and countryside groups.

Other matters

The Committee has continued to take an active interest in archaeological work along the proposed route of the Birdlip bypass and at Abbeydale in Gloucester. A submission was made to the Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments (HBMC) over the proposals to develop Jeffries'

Nursery site in the centre of Cirencester. Comments were sent to the Ministry of Transport as part of the consultation procedure connected with the selection of a route for the Brockworth bypass. News of new archaeological publications was regularly presented at Committee meetings, and was found to be of great value to member organisations. Close contact was maintained with the University of Bristol Extra-Mural Department and the Gloucestershire branches of the WEA.

Membership

At the first meeting of 1984 Bernard Rawes was elected as Chairman for the year, and Tim Darvill was elected Secretary. Elizabeth Bishop was co-opted as a representative from eastern Gloucestershire and also as minuting secretary. The Hon. Secretary wishes to record his thanks to Mrs Bishop for her work on behalf of the Committee during the year.

Few changes in membership of the Committee took place during the year. Mr Richard Kemp, representing the Dean Heritage Trust and Museum was replaced by Ms Jude Callister in October, and Mrs Joyce Popplewell joined the Committee as a co-opted member for south Gloucestershire.

Finances

Administrative costs for the year 1984 rose considerably to £64.03. This rise is entirely due to higher postal charges and a curtailment of cheap photocopying facilities. Subscriptions to the Council for the Gloucestershire Countryside and a payment of £10.00 for the typing of the Handbook of Gloucestershire Archaeology represent additional expenses of £15.00. A surplus of £20.17 was made on the Annual Symposium. The Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society continued its support for the work of CAG by meeting the administrative costs. For this the Committee is most grateful. The total cash holding of the Committee at the end of 1984 was £37.32.

Towards 1985

1985 will be an important and testing year for CAG. With the disappearance of Western Archaeological Trust in the spring, the need for a focus for archaeological interests in the county will be stronger than ever. CAG's role in gathering intelligence on impending developments requiring an archaeological initiative will also become more important. The co-ordination of rescue responses has already become part of the Committee's work, and is likely to increase in importance.

It is not only in the field of rescue archaeology that the Committee is becoming more active however. As will be clear from the work summarised above, involvement in countryside and conservation issues represents an important new departure from more traditional roles. It is however a departure which the Committee considers to be very important if the case for the preservation and protection of the archaeological heritage is going to have any effect.

Some of the Committee's long term projects will come to fruition in 1985. With the continued support of all the member organisations and corresponding bodies the Committee will, no doubt, rise to the challenge presented by the changing structure of archaeology in the county.

T.C. DARVILL, B.A., Ph.D., M.I.F.A.
Secretary to the Committee

Obituary

HELEN O'NEIL

With the death of Mrs Helen O'Neil at Northleach on 23 August 1984, the Society lost one of its most valuable and archaeologically-active members. Whilst an appreciation and details of her life and work by Margaret U. Jones appeared in 1984 in *Archaeology in Gloucestershire* edited by Alan Saville, and partly sponsored by this Society, perhaps the following thoughts and memories may not be inappropriate at this time, as the present writer first met Helen Evangeline Donovan (as she then was) in 1932.

It was a fortunate day for Gloucestershire when Helen and her artist sister, Amy, on a cycling tour in the 1920s, chose Camp House at Bourton-on-the-Water as a future home for her family, her father, Lt.-Col. Charles Donovan, having retired from the Indian Medical Service. Perhaps he is best remembered as an entomologist and lepidopterist of distinction. Camp House was on the site of Salmonsbury Camp, which was to become the centre of much archaeological investigation in the 1930s. These excavations, aided and abetted by archaeologists such as the late G.C. Dunning, led to Helen Donovan acquiring the skills and enthusiasm for which she later became so well known. With enviable energy (and the bodily frame to carry it out) she subsequently devoted many years to excavating a wide variety of sites, in all weathers, and in all parts of the country, including the Isles of Scilly, but above all, in Gloucestershire.

Those Salmonsbury days are remembered with much affection by the writer, who had been encouraged in 1932 by Gerald Dunning (then also keeping an eye on excavations in Gloucester) to go over to Bourton and join in the work then in progress. Greeted and treated by Helen Donovan as if he were an experienced archaeologist, the somewhat apprehensive schoolboy soon found the whole atmosphere of the Salmonsbury dig as exciting as it was friendly, and this valued friendship continued for the next 52 years. Other excavations such as the pre-war digging at Prestbury Moat with her and Major J.G.N. Clift, as well as other sites such as Whittington Roman Villa, are all happy memories.

In 1939 she married Mr Bryan H. St J. O'Neil, who, from 1946 until his premature death in 1954, was Chief Inspector of Ancient Monuments, and a valued friend of this county. For some years she lived away from Gloucestershire but they were constant visitors here, and his advice was always readily available. They made an important archaeological team until his death, when Helen O'Neil returned to Bourton, where her knowledge, energies and friendliness continued to win her many devoted followers. Camp House saw a steady stream of visitors who sought her opinions and few went away without some helpful ideas and encouragement. It was always good to call at Camp House, for her enthusiasm was infectious and her knowledge covered a wide span.

Besides her close association with this Society (she became a member in 1933) she was a useful member of various committees, such as the Gloucester Museum Committee, for whom she undertook a number of excavations in that city. She had been, for a short time, the pre-war curator of the newly-opened Corinium Museum, and it was at that brief period that she actually

drove a car. Otherwise a bicycle or public transport were all she needed, and the results of her digs and investigations over a considerable area of the Cotswolds are to be found in many of our *Transactions*. Although she never became the Society's President, she was made an honorary member in the last year of her life, and the award of the M.B.E. in 1968 (even if less than she deserved) was very greatly appreciated, and she delighted in showing the insignia to her friends. She was elected F.S.A. in 1948.

Helen O'Neil's interests were wide and authoritative. She had been a 'cellist, a keen naturalist with a good knowledge of geology, and she made a fine collection of Spode china, mainly depicting Indian subjects. It was this interest in India which led her to undertake (at a considerable age) a daunting tour in that country, photographing the elaborate temples there. Her activities on that tour must have puzzled many of the natives, for she was no ordinary visitor.

Unfortunately her age and failing sight and health forced her to give up her outside activities, but her final months found her being cared for, together with her sister Amy (whom she outlived by almost a month) in comfort in Northleach. On the last but one visit by the writer to her, it was noted that by her side was the then current volume of our *Transactions*, which she had studied, though with some difficulty; her interests in all things archaeological were with her even then.

Helen O'Neil had a remarkable sense of direction, and when apparently 'lost' in some remote and inescapable wood, this sense would always lead her and her followers to the correct way out. Perhaps it was this sense of direction which, fortunately for Gloucestershire, led her and her family to settle so wisely in our county. She most certainly enriched our knowledge of it.

B.F.

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Compiled by Elizabeth Hall

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BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY TRANSACTIONS

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1985

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BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Society was founded in 1876. Its objects are to promote the study of the history and antiquities of Bristol and Gloucestershire of every period; to encourage their conservation and to publish original records, excavation reports and other papers relevant to this field of study.

A volume of *Transactions* is published annually and is issued free to all members. In addition, special volumes are occasionally published by the Record Section of the Society.

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Books for review should be sent to the relevant Reviews Editor, namely Dr Tim Darvill, 209 Seymour Road, Gloucester, GL1 5HR (archaeological publications) or Mrs Jill Voyce, Gloucester City Library, Brunswick Road, Gloucester (historical publications).

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TRANSACTIONS
of the
BRISTOL AND GLOUCESTERSHIRE
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
for
1985

EDITED BY
S.T. BLAKE and A. SAVILLE

VOLUME 103

ISBN 0 900197 22 6
ISSN 0068-1032

Produced for the Society by
Alan Sutton Publishing Limited, Gloucester
Typeset Janson by Alan Sutton Publishing Limited
Printed in Great Britain, 1986

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REVIEWS

Edited by Tim Darvill and Jill Joyce

Alan Saville (ed), *Archaeology in Gloucestershire from the earliest hunters to the industrial age: essays dedicated to Helen O'Neil and the late Elsie Clifford*. 352 pp., 72 figs. Cheltenham, 1984. Cheltenham Art Gallery and Museums and the Bristol and Gloucestershire Archaeological Society. £9.95 (£8.95 to Society members).

What better bush than to state immediately that I read this book straight through from cover to cover, with pleasure, in one sitting? For those daunted by the thought, let me re-assure them by saying that this but reflects two facts which make the book uncharacteristic of much current archaeological publication: it is well-written and it is interesting. My five hours feel well-spent, reinforcing the initial anticipation that I had in my hands the most useful book on Gloucestershire archaeology to be published for 101 years. There was truly a yawning gap in this field, as all who have tried to teach in or about the county will know; the great merit of this volume is not that it fills the gap but that it fills it well. Congratulations, then, to all those involved, the authors, the two sponsoring bodies and, above all, to the editor. Not only has he produced a well-organized book within months of final receipt of material (early 1984), but he has also contributed two major papers, taken many of the photographs, prepared the ten-page index of places, two bibliographies and a paper jointly and, furthermore, edited the whole so rigorously that I spotted only one misspelling. The application, local knowledge and, now, professionalism of the tradition represented by those whose achievements are honoured by the volume are in good hands. How sad that neither Mrs Clifford nor Mrs O'Neil could receive the book in person.

The contents are arranged in six Parts: a brief anecdotal *aperçu* of each lady, with a complete bibliography of their respective works; the physical background; Gloucestershire prehistory; Roman Gloucestershire; the county in Saxon and medieval times and, finally, in the 'industrial age'. Altogether, 19 contributions come from 18 different authors. By and large, they keep to the post-1974 county but the absence of what is now north Avon is obviously felt to be awkward at times. While all agree on the existing county's tripartite division into Forest, Vale and Cotswolds, the attention given to the north-west of the shire and, in particular, its eastern, Upper Thames fringes, varies considerably. All the contributors have recently worked, or are still working, in Gloucestershire; they are handsomely described in the Preface by the recent Chairman of the Society's Council as 'scholars at the forefront of research in all the periods of the historical continuum'. In view of the proud status of the ladies honoured, and the strength of genuinely amateur endeavour in the county, it is in some ways a sad commentary on the times that all bar one are professionals, though equally interesting that two describe themselves as 'free-lance archaeologists.'

Turning to selective detail in the papers, Saville pulls together all the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic material, listed in two appendices. Inevitably, with such scant, unsystematically-collected material, he is forced to inconclusive conclusions. 'Neolithic Gloucestershire' is better

evidenced and Darvill displays both good ideas as well as the range of material in comprehensive fashion. He isolates clearly, for example, the 'rotunda graves' preceding some chambered tombs and slips in the thought that possibly some of the small round barrows (discussed by Drinkwater and Saville later) may be early Neolithic. He sees much of Gloucestershire settled during the middle Neolithic, then opts for the currently fashionable 'c. 2400 bc hiatus' before pointing to the different, distinctively valley-bottom settlement pattern in the late Neolithic. Bronze Age artefacts are also discussed in modern terms by Ellison, following Burgess' (1980) periodization and her own fruitful studies in southern Britain; the Snowhill barrow grave group and the Nottingham Hill hoard, both local assemblages of wider significance, are clearly placed in context. The latter raises questions about the origins of the hillforts which loom large in Saville's treatment of the Iron Age. He accepts 32 such sites in the county, seeing them as being constructed in his early/middle phase (700–400, 400–100 BC) and largely abandoned before the 1st century BC. Strongly influenced by the Crickley evidence, his model is of defended village-type settlements or even small enclosed towns. He has interesting points to make about the dykes, updating the Royal Commission's account, but his main contribution, presenting much original research, is on that traditional material of the prehistoric archaeologist, pottery. In a detailed but succinct discussion (pp. 152–59) and list of provenances (pp. 166–73), Saville provides a useful datum-line from which further work may now proceed. All in all, the prehistoric section of the book, being cohesive as well as comprehensive, is a great success.

The rest of the book is perforce less full in relation to both the available evidence and the known historical problems. McWhirr's *Roman Gloucestershire* (1981) inhibits, as the editor acknowledges (p.10), adequate coverage of the subject, and the three essays here convey the impression of being individual tesserae from one of the mosaics they do not discuss. Reece buzzes tantalizingly over the Cotswolds, hinting at great truths in a paper which reads as if it took no longer to write than this review; it is unillustrated. McWhirr tramps once more the streets of *Glevum* and *Corinium*. The most substantial paper is by Miles on the Gloucestershire Thames Valley, expounding and extrapolating from his current work at Claydon Pike between Lechlade and Fairford. This represents an important development not only in Gloucestershire's archaeology but also in the systematic investigation of river gravel crop-marks and in the correlation of results from them with evidence over a wider, more varied landscape.

The five papers covering Saxon and medieval times differ greatly, offering 'windows' on to the county over a millennium (roughly AD 500–1500) rather than a comprehensive or coherent narrative; but what they have to say individually is useful. That Aston and Viner's paper is relatively lightweight – significantly it has the most illustrations of any contribution – reflects the primitive state of study of the county's medieval rural archaeology, both absolutely and relative to some other counties. This essay is very much a base-marker, with a map showing the 195 deserted settlements so far identified or suspected in Gloucestershire. In contrast, Leech's survey of medieval urban archaeology is able to summarize work already accomplished though he too can point to many issues yet to be tackled, particularly in the smaller towns. What a tragedy, incidentally, that his bibliography cannot contain an entry for Tewkesbury. Anglo-Saxon Gloucestershire is discussed conventionally by Heighway in a paper which usefully brings new archaeological data together with the scantily-documented history already much-discussed; whereas, again in contrast, Vince's study of late Saxon and medieval pottery provides a summary of much recent, original work, often through the microscope. This is another base-line paper from which further research can proceed; the catalogue of pottery types and list of 76 key findspots puts the study and use of medieval pottery in the county on to a firmer foundation.

At a different level entirely is Walrond's discussion of rural medieval houses, based on a sample of c. 150, most of which the author has personally examined. Disappointingly lacking in adequate

illustration, this paper must lead to suspended judgement because it generalizes and exemplifies without the evidence being available (or known) in the way that it often is in conventional archaeology and in other recent publications of vernacular architecture. It is very much to be hoped that this essay is but a foretaste of a forthcoming book which ought to be able to stand beside Hall's *Rural Houses* (1983) of the south of the historic county. Such are the perils of launching into a new field. In complete contrast yet again is the last essay, in which Viner summarizes much work in what is, now, after 20 years' effort, the familiar field of Gloucestershire's so-called industrial archaeology (how I dislike that phrase!). The point is made bibliographically: Walrond quotes five references, none about the modern county; Viner is able to quote 82, most from Gloucestershire.

The latter also makes a remarkable claim (p.317): 'The involvement (of 'industrial archaeologists') with preservation implies a difference of approach from that of most 'conventional' archaeological societies'. Do I not read inside the front cover of every *Transactions* that one of the Society's objectives is 'to encourage (the) conservation' of the county's 'antiquities'? The claim is nonsense, of course; it is most appropriate for the Society to be co-publisher of a book in which the need to conserve the cultural heritage cries out by implication from many pages and is stated specifically by most authors. Perhaps a reason for the destruction of and damage to Gloucestershire's 'antiquities', including its modern ones, is that those who know about them have previously failed to communicate adequately. Now, however, there can be no excuse for the landowners and powers-that-be; they have available, cheaply and attractively, a book which properly displays what should be, *en masse*, a source of major pride and joy to the county, worthy of care from private and public resources. Produced primarily for academic and educational reasons, this book could also well serve a conservation purpose, and enjoyably too for those who read it. The variety and interest of the county's archaeology have for too long remained a closed book; all those connected with *Archaeology in Gloucestershire* have opened it up for a new public.

P.J. FOWLER
University of Newcastle-upon-Tyne

E.J. Boore, *Excavations at Tower Lane, Bristol*. 34 pp. + numerous figs. and plates. City of Bristol Museum and Art Gallery, Bristol, 1984, £0.70p.

This booklet is a summary of the excavations and watching-briefs carried out between 1979 and 1981 at Tower Lane, Bristol together with a short general appraisal of Norman Bristol. The contents follow the pattern characteristic of many excavation reports but the text is a succinct distillation of the recorded evidence. Relevant documentary records are summarised and the finds briefly described.

The principle of publishing short popular summaries of major urban excavations has much to commend it, although it is unfortunate that this summary, so clearly intended as a popular account, should have taken three years to appear. Surely the value of such accounts is to stimulate public interest around the time of the excavation?

As a foretaste of the full excavation report this booklet promises much. Clearly the site is important as a contribution to understanding Bristol's urban development, especially with reference to the little-known Norman period. It can only be hoped that the main excavation report will not be as delayed in appearing as this summary account.

J.R. TIMBY
Gloucester

F.W.D. Hornsby and P.K. Griffin, *Katherine, Lady Berkeley's School, Wotton-under-Edge 1384–1984*. 241 pp + 7 plates. Published under the authority of the school governors, 1984. £6.95.

As the authors of this school history comment in their introduction, 600 years – more than half the span of England's history as a nation – is a dauntingly long time to study, especially with the variety of source material likely to be at one's disposal. Nevertheless, despite such obvious problems, F. Hornsby, a former Headmaster and P. Griffin, the present Head of the History Department have set about their task with zeal and dedication and their personal commitment is as apparent as their scholarly approach.

The foundation in 1384 by Katherine, widow of Lord Thomas de Berkeley, of 'a certain schoolhouse for the support of one Master and two poor scholars of the art of Grammar' can claim to be unique on three counts – it is said to be the earliest example of a grammar school foundation by a lay individual and by a woman and of a school of this kind in which tuition was offered free to all those who entered. From these early beginnings to its emergence as a comprehensive school in the Gloucestershire Education Authority in the 1970s, the history of the school is recounted against the wider contemporary social and political background so that major educational issues are not obscured in the detailed narration of the school's fluctuating fortunes and everyday management.

For nearly 200 years from the 16th century until the early years of the 18th century the development of the school was bound up with its sources of income and the results of its involvement with the Berkeley family and their canny Steward, John Smith 'who took care of himself and the charity also'. Through the complex and protracted law suits the reader glimpses fascinating personalities and intrigues. By 1724 the school had gained greater financial independence than ever before and the emphasis for the rest of the history is on attempts made to use its resources to meet changing social and economic patterns. It is interesting here to note the increasing concern in the mid-19th century of the townspeople of Wotton-under-Edge that the school should 'correspond to the requirements of the age and the necessities of the town'. Government legislation in the 19th century such as the Endowed Schools Commission of 1869 marked the beginning of state intervention in what was still a very small establishment – the number of pupils in 1868 was 18.

The next 90 or so years saw many fundamental changes. In 1885 the school became Katherine, Lady Berkeley's Grammar School. Ten years later science education had been introduced and the admission of girls had brought the school numbers to 57. Motor transport would soon be provided to enable pupils from the Dursley area to attend. By 1921 Gloucestershire County Council had accepted financial responsibility for the school and in 1950 boarding ended and voluntary controlled status was agreed. By now the question of the future of the school was an immediate as well as a long term concern – its basic problem being its lack of population. Discussions on many levels and the opening of new buildings on a new site in July 1963 paved the way for the last change in its history to date – the beginning of its life as a comprehensive school in 1973. The difficulties of this phase are dealt with in some detail but the reader is made aware at the same time of a lively school community served by a loyal and enterprising staff.

Many former pupils and local inhabitants will relish this book for the revival of memories of school days past. It will also be of value to the study of the History of Education especially as its sources are well indexed and listed. The small addition of a list of headmasters and significant events in the life of the school as well as some relevant footnotes would have been helpful to general reader and student.

JEAN WELSFORD
Cirencester

Mary E. Williams, *Civic Treasures of Bristol*. 96 pp + 80 plates. City of Bristol, 1984. £8.50 (hardback); £4.75 (paperback).

This handsomely produced book is rather more than the generously illustrated souvenir catalogue of the Civic Treasures exhibition shown at the Bristol City Museum and Art Gallery for which it was originally published. The various items it describes, judiciously selected and discussed by the City Archivist, afford a fascinating and visually stimulating introduction to the history and heritage of the city from the late middle ages to the present. The individual catalogue entries cover a rich diversity of exhibits which included charters and seals, topographical records of civic buildings, the city's ceremonial insignia and plate, and a selection of pictures and articles connected with some of the prominent figures from Bristol's past and other items associated with its present, the whole providing an evocative and informative review of different aspects of the union of historic tradition and continuing enterprise which characterises Bristol. Inevitably this kind of publication is primarily addressed to a general readership and is intended to have a popular appeal, but Miss Williams has successfully combined these requirements with the scholarly presentation of a great deal of interesting and unfamiliar information. The variety of the civic treasures chosen makes for a lively presentation, and although they are discussed principally in relation to their local historical significance there are among them many fine examples of artistry and craftsmanship which are of interest and importance in a wider context. In particular the civic plate includes several masterpieces of the silversmith's art, notably the ewer and basin made by John Brodie in 1595 and a pair of tankards dating from 1634 by another London maker which must rank with the finest English examples of mannerist decoration. From the 18th century the candelabrum of 1752 by Edward Wakelin matches in quality and design the most inventive and rococo silver created in England, as does the contemporary State Sword by Peter Werritzer with its curvilinear *rocaille* hilt and superlatively crafted scabbard ornaments: both would have added lustre to the great *Rococo* exhibition at the Victoria and Albert Museum which coincided with Bristol's *Civic Treasures* show. There are other masterpieces illustrated in the catalogue which deserve to be better known than they are: Thomas Gainsborough's 1760 portrait of Robert Nugent, Bristol M.P. from 1754 to 1774, is one of the painter's earliest and most satisfactory performances done soon after he had established his practice in Bath, and the 1792 full-length by Bristol born Thomas Lawrence of the Duke of Portland, the city's High Steward, is a magnificent example of the artist's virtuoso technique which brilliantly demonstrates why he became England's premier painter in succession to Sir Joshua Reynolds. The variety brought together in this volume is its most remarkable feature – from medieval charters to a model of the first Inter-City 125 locomotive commemorating the choice of Bristol for the inauguration by British Rail of its new high-speed service. Making the selection from the wealth of material available must have been a difficult task, but from the miscellany there emerges an illuminating series of vignettes which together illustrate many different aspects of the city's corporate past and present. By encompassing so attractively such a diversity of Bristol's civic treasures Miss Williams has provided an entertaining introduction to the heritage of the city which should encourage and stimulate among a general public further interest in and appreciation of the subject.

M.J.H. LIVERSIDGE
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Graham Dowler, *Gloucestershire Clock and Watchmakers*. xxii + 230 pp. + 37 plates + 2 maps + 10 pedigrees. Phillimore & Co. Ltd., Chichester, 1984. £12.95.

Dr Dowler describes his work as essentially a reference book, adding that a reference book need not be of interest to specialist readers only, but can throw light on other aspects of social history. It is sad that social historians are often frightened away from horological books by technical descriptions of wheels, pinions and escapements. They have nothing to fear from *Gloucestershire Clock and Watchmakers*. Indeed they have much to gain. The book contains a fine collection of wills, inventories, advertisements and newscuttings, almost none of which have been published this century. It is possible from the wealth of information provided to build up a clear picture of the 17th, 18th or 19th-century Gloucestershire clockmaker: his clothes, his house, his workshop, his financial and social position, as well as his products. Dr Dowler demonstrates that a wide range of trades and skills hid beneath the umbrella term 'watch and clockmaker', from 'Electrical Machines and Apparatus' in 18th-century Thornbury, to herbalism in 19th-century Gloucester.

Part one is a brief introduction to clock and watchmaking in the county, gives a short survey of local turret clocks and examines in detail two of the larger Gloucestershire clockmaking families, the Honeybones and the Washbournes. Part two contains the Directory of Makers and forms the greater part of the work. To lay out his very considerable research as logically as possible, the author divides the (old) county into eight geographical areas, clearly marked out on the county map which forms the end-papers. Each area is given a short historical introduction, followed by the biographical details of the makers known to have worked there. Individual biographies vary from an address or an approximate date to a page and a half of close detail. Sources are meticulously noted. Ten pedigrees of notable clockmaking families are given in full. The numerous black and white photographs are on the whole sharp and have been chosen to illustrate a wide range of Gloucestershire clocks. A good general index is provided as well as an index of makers.

There are failings, but the author makes it clear that he is aware of them, though prevented by lack of time from providing a remedy. In particular the section on turret clocks is thin and examples are apparently chosen at random. As a result, notable clocks such as that at Tytherington Church are omitted entirely. In the directory section, it could be said that the one or two really important makers are given insufficient prominence, in view of the quality of work they achieved. Richardson Peyton, perhaps the finest maker Gloucestershire ever produced, is an obvious example. Jasper Lugg, whose sole surviving clock (in Gloucester Museum) is of a delicacy, quality and proportion to equal the early work of the Knibb brothers, is another.

It has been the misfortune of most county clockmaking directories that (presumably in anticipation of poor sales) they have been meanly published, despite the scholarship of their authors. Their very appearance militates against them. *Gloucestershire Clock and Watchmakers* is different and refreshing. In terms of its production and its content, it is probably the best book of its kind yet published. As Dr Dowler hoped, it will undoubtedly provide a most useful source of information, not only for the clock collector, but also for social historians and researchers of county history.

SIR GEORGE WHITE
Rudgeway

Hugh Conway-Jones, *Gloucester Docks, An Illustrated History*. 181 pp + 113 plates + 5 figs. Alan Sutton and Gloucester County Library, 1984. £4.95.

Hugh Conway-Jones has written a comprehensive history of the docks in Gloucester, profusely illustrated and with diagrams which show the local geography of the Gloucester-Berkeley Canal and the layout of the docks themselves. The first chapters describe the engineering problems faced by local developers. Financial problems were partially solved by an early 19th-century job creation scheme which tied the Canal Company's hands for a generation. When the docks were opened to traffic in 1827 with suitable celebrations, Gloucester became the most inland port in the country. Quayside warehousing was constructed to planning briefs by the Company, whose control of building programmes has given the docks their present attraction. Successive chapters show how growing trade, especially in timber, corn and corn milling, led to extensions to the original basin up to the 1960s and the influence this had on local industry. War interrupted trade but the greatest threat was the rail links from the docks themselves. These links, together with extended docks at Sharpness, new ports at Avonmouth and Portishead and limitations on the capacity of ships using the Canal, eroded the profitability of the docks at Gloucester. Besides, there was very little export trade to fill ships' bottoms. Final chapters based on the reminiscences of some two dozen retired workers provide, with illustrations, some detailed explanations of the work of unloading cargoes and using the warehouses.

The story never becomes tedious and one has a strong sense of development and decline, with an optimistic postscript of hope for the future around pleasure rather than commercial craft and new uses for the whole complex.

Hugh Conway-Jones might have repeated (p.29) what Gloucester's low port charges for timber were compared with those at Bristol and used the trade figures quoted in the schedule of the G.W.R. submissions for their railway to supplement the Annual Tonnage Statistics in Appendix 3 (p.172). These figures in the Appendix at 5 year intervals do not necessarily substantiate the argument of increased trade in the late 1880s (p.90). Although the figures for trade which link Sharpness with Gloucester are used (p.126) a fuller run of these would have been welcome since trade is the essence of the argument. Besides, Gloucester's pre-eminence in the provincial timber trade is clearly shown in Reports in Parliamentary Papers and these Reports underline descriptions in the text. A map of the many coastal trading connections of Gloucester round the Bristol Channel and South Wales would have further underlined the importance of Gloucester as a port at this time.

This is a notable text based on a variety of sources and distils many hours of painstaking research into the *Gloucester Journal*.

BRYAN JERRARD
Gloucester

Rob Iles, *Avon's Past from the air*. 28 pp + 25 illustrations. Avon County Council Planning Department, Bristol, 1984. £1.00.

For those who find the scrutiny of aerial photographs compulsive this little book is essential reading. It contains a diverse collection of 24 black-and-white aerial photographs, drawn from a variety of sources. Arranged chronologically by subject, the photographs cover many aspects of Avon's past from the prehistoric stone circles at Stanton Drew to the core areas of historic towns such as Bath and Bristol. Each plate is accompanied by a short descriptive account of the visible

features. The importance of aerial photography for discovering sites and for understanding the evolution of the landscape is clearly explained through the text. This book represents remarkable value for money and will hopefully bring the archaeology of the county to a wide public.

T.C. DARVILL
Gloucester

RECENT PUBLICATIONS

This section is designed to draw attention to recent publications which make a contribution to the study of the archaeology and history of the county. It is hoped that those responsible for any such publication, whether periodical, guide, article or full-length study, will contact one or other of the Reviews Editors as soon as their work appears in print to ensure its inclusion here. Books reviewed in this volume of the *Transactions* are not listed, but the inclusion of a publication in this list does not preclude a review at a later date.

- Anderson, J.H.A. 1985. *Stonehouse: a pot-pourri of the past in pictures*, pub. by the author. 76 pp. £3.95.
- Anderson, J.H.A. 1985. *The first ninety years: the story of Stonehouse Parish Council*, pub. by the author. 64 pp. £3.95.
- Ashton, O. 1984. The Mechanics' Institute and radical politics in Cheltenham Spa 1834–1840, *Chelt Loc Hist Soc J* 2, 25–30.
- Arnold, L. 1984. *The Golden Fleece: a celebration in text and photographs of Cotswold sheep and shepherds*, Toadsmoor Press, Duntisbourne Abbots. 26 pp. £1.95.
- Avon County Council. 1984. *Railway Stations and Halts*. 44 pp. [A photographic survey which includes many formerly in S. Glos.]
- Avon County Council. 1985. *A catalogue of historic maps in Avon*. 98 pp. £0.75p. [Maps to c. 1900 in the Record Offices of Bristol, Glos, Somerset and Wilts; includes those parishes formerly in Glos.]
- Avon Past* 10 (Spring 1984) includes Hallam (op. cit.) and Harris (op. cit.). Available from Avon Community Council, 209 Redland Road, Bristol. 40 pp. £1.50p.
- Banks, J. 1984. *Nancy, Nancy: the story of Ann Bolton, the friend and confidante of John Wesley*, Penwork (Leeds) Ltd. 152 pp. £5.95. [Ann married George Conibear of Gloucester.]
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- Barrett, C. 1984. Corse Court, *Local Hist Bull* 50, 3–7.
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- Bishop, L. 1984. The Bibury Saxon charter, *Glevensis* 18, 16–18.
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