



<http://kentarchaeology.org.uk/research/archaeologia-cantiana/>

Kent Archaeological Society is a registered charity number 223382

© 2017 Kent Archaeological Society

ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER, 1976

Council presents its One Hundred and Eighteenth Report and Statement of Accounts for 1975.

OBITUARY

Council records with great regret the deaths of Mr. H. J. Balls, for many years Local Secretary for Dartford, of Mr. D. T. A. Ponton, for many years Hon. Excursions Secretary and latterly Local Secretary for Sheppey, and of Mr. G. W. Tookey, Q.C., Local Secretary for Beckenham and a most valued member of the Society's Finance Committee for twenty-one years.

Council also records with great regret the death of Mrs. A. C. Harrison and expresses its sympathy to our Hon. General Secretary on his bereavement. (Ed.)

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Public Library, St. Faith's Street, Maidstone, on Saturday, 15th May, when Council's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 1975 were received and adopted. Mr. K. A. Pollock, F.C.A., was re-elected Honorary Auditor of the Society.

The proposal to increase the subscription was passed and the Rules amended accordingly.

In the afternoon, Mr. J. Earl, of the Greater London Council, gave a most interesting lecture on 'The Conservation and Preservation of Buildings' to a large and appreciative audience of members and friends.

PRESIDENT

The Annual General Meeting endorsed Council's election of Mr. Frank W. Jessup, C.B.E., M.A., LL.B., Hon. D.C.L., F.S.A., Hon. F.L.A., with acclamation.

VICE-PRESIDENT

In recognition of his great services to the Society as its Honorary Curator for twenty-seven years, the Annual General Meeting elected Mr. L. R. A. Grove, B.A., F.S.A., F.M.A., F.R.E.S., a Vice-President.

COUNCIL

The following were elected to Council: Mr. C. R. Councer, F.S.A.; Mr. K. W. E. Gravett, M.Sc.(Eng.), F.S.A.; Mr. R. H. Hiscock, LL.B., F.S.A.; Miss E. Melling, B.A.; Mr. M. A. Ocock; and Miss Anne Roper, M.B.E., J.P., F.S.A.

In addition, Mr. V. T. C. Smith was elected for a two-year period to fill a casual vacancy.

LOCAL ORGANIZATION

This is now based upon the Local Government Districts, with three exceptions, viz. Gillingham and Medway are united, Tonbridge and Malling are separated and the previous Cranbrook-Tenterden area, comprising parts of the Ashford and Tunbridge Wells Districts, continues as before under Mrs. M. C. Lebon, M.A.

The Hon. General Secretary would like to thank Mrs. M. Bowen, B.A., and Mr. M. J. Fuller, who have resigned, for their services to the Society.

REPORT, 1976

MEMBERSHIP

Despite the high level of inflation in 1976, the Society's membership shows a small but steady increase.

The new subscription rates, which take effect from 1st January, 1977, will only partly offset the ever-rising expenditure of the Society; with this in mind, the need for a substantial rise in membership is now more essential than ever.

FINANCE

New Annual Subscription rates, approved by the Annual General Meeting in May 1976, come into effect on 1st January, 1977. They are:

Institutional Members	£6.00
Individual Members and Affiliated Societies	£4.50
Joint Members	£5.50
Junior Members	£2.00

Members will appreciate that the financial stability of the Society can only be assured if our numbers do not drop and new members are constantly recruited.

Bankers Orders should have been revised upwards. Prompt payment of the correct subscription will assist the Hon. Membership Secretary. Members who wish to help the Society at no cost to themselves are urged to enter into a Seven-Year Covenant, forms for which are obtainable from the Hon. General Secretary, the Honorary Membership Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer.

PUBLICATION

In view of the great rise in printing costs, Council and the Publications Committee considered at length the whole question of publication and, after inviting tenders from a number of printers, decided to abandon composition by traditional methods and letterpress printing in favour of photo-composition and printing by the offset-litho process; this would effect considerable savings in the production of the volume without detracting from its appearance.

As a result of this decision, Council has decided, with great reluctance, to sever our connection with Messrs. Headley Brothers Limited, purely on the grounds of financial considerations.

Volume XCI was published in 1976. The volume maintains its high standard under the editorship of Mr. A. P. Detsicas, M.A., F.S.A., and its contents cover a wide field of Archaeology and History.

EXCAVATIONS COMMITTEE

Grants have been made in 1975-6 to assist the following excavations in the County:

Milton Blockhouse, Gravesend (Mr. V. T. C. Smith)	£30
Leeds Priory (K.A.S. Excavation)	£100

In view of the present financial situation, the Society's ability to make grants to excavations will necessarily be restricted, but any applications for such assistance will be given consideration if presented by 1st November, 1977.

Several meetings have been held of the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Kent, under the Chairmanship of our President, Mr. F. W. Jessup, the K.A.S. being represented on this body by Messrs. A. C. Harrison, R. H. Hiscock and P. J. Tester. The Department of the Environment has made grants to assist the work of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust and the Kent Archaeological Rescue Unit.

REPORT, 1976

The Society's annual Field Archaeology Meeting was held at Maidstone on 27th November and was well attended. Mr. P. J. Tester gave a talk on 'The Identification of Flint Implements'; Mr. P. E. Leach described 'A Survey of a Threatened Dam at Otford'; and Messrs L. R. A. Grove and R. J. Spain explained the methods by which they had together reconstructed a Map of Maidstone in 1650. As usual, there was an exhibition of material arranged by the speakers and others which attracted considerable interest. The President, Mr. F. W. Jessup, introduced the proceedings and expressed the Society's thanks to those responsible for the arrangements. These were again in the capable charge of Mr. and Mrs. E. P. Connell, while Mrs. N. V. Caiger assisted with the display of literature and the refreshments.

EXCURSIONS 1976 REPORT

Rochester, 8th May. Visits were made to Temple Manor; Strood, Manor Farm barn; Frindsbury, Cooling Castle, Cliffe Church, and Gad's Hill Place. The Society's thanks are due to Mr. and the late Mrs. A. C. Harrison, Mrs. Day, Mr. R. H. Hiscock, Mr. K. W. E. Gravett, Mr. J. Castle of Manor Farm and Mr. Knight of Cooling for their assistance in organizing and running this excursion.

Lamberhurst, 12th June. Visits were made to Lamberhurst Church, Bayham Abbey, Scotney Castle, and Horsmonden Church. The Society are grateful to Mr. W. Moorland, the Rector of Lamberhurst, and Mr. A. Cronk, for their help and support.

Sandwich, 17th July. Visits were made to St. Nicholas' Hospital, Harbledown; the White Mill, Sandwich; St. Leonard's Church, Deal; St. Bartholomew's Hospital, Sandwich, and Wingham Barton Manor.

Our thanks are due to the Custodian of St. Nicholas' Hospital, Mr. V. Pargeter at the White Mill, Rev. J. H. Gore of Deal, Mr. Drayson, the Master of St. Bartholomew's, and Mr. D. Crouch, M.P., of Barton Manor.

Shoreham-by-Sea, 11th September. Visits were made to the churches of St. Mary de Heura and St. Nicholas, the Marlipins Museum, and St. Mary's, Bramber. The Society records its thanks to Mrs. M. Davies, of Tunbridge Wells, for the original suggestion, and to Mr. F. Witton, of Shoreham, who conducted the party around Old and New Shoreham.

The Hon. Excursions Secretary would like to add his personal thanks to the ladies and gentlemen mentioned above for their help and to all those members who continue to support the excursions.

LIBRARY

The following books and booklets have been added to the library:

The Bawl Valley Ironworks, by David Crossley, given by the author. *The Tombs of the Archbishops in Canterbury Cathedral*, by John Morris, given by D. A. Lubbock; *St. Thomas' Church, Canterbury, 1875-1975*, by D. S. Cousins and D. G. Steddy, given by the authors; *Caves and Tunnels in Kent*, by Harry Pearman, purchased; *The Indents of Lost Monumental Brasses in Kent*, Parts i and ii, by A. G. Sadler, given by the author; *From an Acorn to an Oak Tree: a Study in Continuity*, by Lt.-Col. C. S. Durnell, O.B.E., given by the author; *History of the Kent County Council, 1889-1974*, by E. Melling, given by the Kent County Council; *The Teston Story*, by Joan Severn, given by the author; *Parish Magazine of All Saints, Woodchurch, March-October 1976*, given by Miss M. H. Mansell; *The Record Interpreter*, compiled by C. T. Martin, given by Dr. F. Hull; *Blackheath Village and its Environs*, by Neil Rhind, given by Dr. P. Draper; *The Indents of Lost Monumental Brasses in Southern England*, by A. G. Sadler, given by the

REPORT, 1976

author; *Excavation Report on the Tudor Blockhouse, Gravesend*, by D. Thompson and Mrs. V. Smith, given by the Thameside Archaeological Group.

Mr. A. G. Sadler has also deposited in the Library thirty-five rubbings of Indents of lost Kentish brasses.

A start on a card-index of the library has been made by Mrs. M. C. Lebon.

BRANCH REPORT

Maidstone Branch. Report by Mr. P. E. Oldham, M.A.

The 1976 programme consisted of two lectures and one excursion organized jointly with the Maidstone Area Archaeological Group. The lectures were 'Kentish Manuscript Estate Maps', by Miss E. Melling, B.A., and 'The Defences of Kent', by Mr. V. T. C. Smith. Mr. J. A. Newman, M.A., F.S.A., guided parties around Bradbourne House, East Malling, and the excursion was accompanied by an exhibition of current field projects.

REPORT ON THE THIRTEENTH CONFERENCE OF BUILDING RECORDERS, HELD IN THE MUSEUM, MAIDSTONE, ON SATURDAY, 2nd OCTOBER, 1976

This year's conference, held at Maidstone on 2nd October, attracted an audience of some thirty members. The first speaker, Mr. P. Ryan, described Burleigh Farm at Charing, a three-bay hall-house, to which a bay was added in the seventeenth century, converting it to a 'Wealden' house. The original bay at the other end had long been lost. The house had recently been demolished, after many attempts at preservation.

Second, Mrs. M. Sparks described the building now known as Radegund's Restaurant in North Lane, Canterbury, and showed that it was in three parts; a single-ended hall of the end of the fourteenth century, a fine 'Wealden' hall of the late-fifteenth century and a front block of the first half of the sixteenth century.

Next, Mr. J. Parsons described an unlisted, timber-framed house, with a chimney at one end, that he had found at Footscray, well hidden behind a layer of pebbledash.

Finally, Mr. R. H. Hiscock spoke about the house beside the canal at Gravesend, which had been made from an upturned boat sometime in the early years of the nineteenth century. Fortunately, this was well recorded at its demolition during the Second World War by the then Borough Engineer and Librarian.

At the conclusion of the meeting, the Chairman, Mr. K. W. E. Gravett, thanked the speakers for their contributions, Mr. Lambert for operating the projector and the Bently Trustees for the use of the room. The next Conference of Building Recorders will be held on 1st October, 1977.

REPORT OF THE KENT HISTORIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE, 1975-76

1. *Eastwell - Lake House.* The future of this very interesting old building, which was described by E. W. Parkin in *Arch. Cant.* lxxxiii (1968), is again a source of some anxiety, in view of the advertising for sale of the whole of the Eastwell Park estate. Ashford Borough Council has been considering a scheme with a view to turning the adjacent ruins of St. Mary's Church into a picnic area, after acquiring the site from the Diocesan Board of Finance, but it may well be that this scheme will be held up pending the sale of the Eastwell Park estate, which includes Lake House.

2. *Gravesend - Railway Station.* An application to demolish these buildings was referred to the Committee, which replied that there was no justification for demolishing them. This station is one of Sam Beazley's North Kent Railway Stations of 1849, and there are not many of this typical classical type left. The Committee furthermore recommended that the buildings be restored to their original state. Listed Building Consent to demolish has been refused.

3. *Cowden - Hole Cottage.* This is another building very much smaller in size, which

REPORT, 1976

interested the Committee in 1976, when a detailed report was obtained on it. It is a highly interesting fragment of a late medieval/early Tudor house of good quality and was in danger of being allowed to decay. This cottage has also been acquired by the Landmark Trust.

4. *Ripple, near Deal – Ripple House.* A year ago the fate of this fine early eighteenth-century house hung in the balance. In 1972 the house was sold and resold to various developers. Applications for consent for demolition were made, opposed by amenity bodies including this Committee, and refused. The future of the house was debated inconclusively for three years by the local authority. There were fears that it would soon be beyond repair. Now the new owner is setting about the restoration of the house. According to Mr. E. W. Parkin, who visited the house, the owner is restoring the house in a satisfactory manner.

5. *Office of Hon. Secretary.* This joint committee of the two societies was formed in 1961, as a result of K.A.S. setting up a sub-committee to deal with ancient buildings similar to a sub-committee of C.P.R.K. which was already in existence. At a meeting of the C.P.R.K. sub-committee it was decided to form the joint committee with K.A.S., and Mr. C. R. Cuncer was elected chairman. Lt.-Col. R. F. H. Drake-Brockman attended the joint committee meeting in February 1962 and was introduced as Hon. Secretary. At the end of 1975, Lt.-Col. Drake-Brockman resigned, and Mr. J. G. Dixon took over as Hon. Secretary.

By Order of the Council,

A. C. Harrison.

Hon. General Secretary

1st January, 1977