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ANNUAL REPORT

ANNUAL REPORT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31st DECEMBER 1979

Council presents its one hundred and twenty-first Report and Statement of Accounts for 1978.

OBITUARY

Council records with great regret the deaths of Mr. L. B. Pitt, B.Sc., an Honorary Member since 1949, of Mr. J. B. Bickersteth, M.C., M.A., F.S.A., member since 1937, and of Mr. O. K. Hales of whom a fuller obituary notice appears later in this volume.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General meeting was held at the Grammar School, Maidstone, on Saturday, 19th May, when Council's Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 1978 were accepted. Mr. K. A. Pollock, F.C.A., was re-elected Honorary Auditor with a unanimous vote of thanks for his services to the Society.

The proposal to introduce Postal Voting for the election of Officers and Members of Council was passed *nem. con.* and the consequential amendments made to Rules 18(b), 24(a) and (j), and 27(b). The new Rule 38 reads: '*Elections.* All the Officers of the Society except the Vice-Presidents and six members of Council, or more if occasion requires, shall be elected by a system of Postal Voting approved by the Annual General Meeting'. The system approved for 1980 was that outlined in Calendar 24.

In the afternoon Professor S. S. Frere, F.B.A., F.S.A., gave a most interesting lecture on "Town Planning in the Western Provinces of the Roman Empire" to members and friends.

OFFICERS

The President, Vice-Presidents and Officers of the Society were re-elected unanimously. In recognition of their great services to the Society during fifty years of membership and forty years as members of Council, Miss Anne Roper, M.B.E., J.P., F.S.A., and Mr. C. R. Cuncer, F.S.A., were elected Vice-Presidents.

COUNCIL

The following retiring members of Council were re-elected:- Dr. F. Jenkins, Mrs. M. C. Lebon, Mr. M. D. Nightingale, Mr. P. E. Oldham, Mr. E. W. Parkin, and Mr. B. J. Philp. In addition Mr. F. S. Andrus and Dr. R. H. Cragg were elected for the ensuing year to fill the seats vacated by Miss Roper and Mr. Cuncer.

CALENDAR

Material for the Calendar should reach the Hon. General Secretary by March 1st, September 1st and December 1st for inclusion in each issue.

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MEMBERSHIP

The membership of the Society in January 1980 stood at 1,294 which unfortunately shows a decrease of 32 from the 1979 figure. Once again, the problem is not so much recruiting new members but retaining them. It is hoped that the setting up of the Publicity and Membership Committee, by Council, will in time redress this situation. Members can help in this matter by promoting the Society and its work whenever possible.

FINANCE

Thanks to the generosity of the late Mr. and Mrs. I. D. Margary members now enjoy even better value for their subscriptions – *Archaeologia Cantiana* at less than cost price and the opportunity of buying the Society's other publications at exceptionally favourable rates. New members can therefore be promised an excellent bargain.

Members are urged to pay their subscriptions as soon as possible after January 1st, preferably by Banker's Order. Current rates are:

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

A Seven-Year Covenant, forms for which are obtainable from the Hon. General Secretary, the Hon. Membership Secretary and the Hon. Treasurer, enables members to help the Society at no cost to themselves.

PUBLICATIONS

Volume XCIV was published in 1979. The volume maintains its high standard under the editorship of Mr. A. P. Detsicas, B.A., M.A., F.S.A., F.S.A. SCOT., and its contents cover a wide field of Archaeology and History.

Volume I of the Monograph Series, *The Roman Villa at Lullingstone, Kent, I*, by Lt.-Col. G. W. Meates, F.S.A., was also published in 1979.

Volume XXI of the *Kent Records* series, *A Kentish Miscellany*, edited by Dr. F. Hull, B.A., Ph.D., F.R.Hist.S., was published early in 1980.

Volume I of the new Series, *The Archaeology of Canterbury*, jointly published by the Society and the Canterbury Archaeological Trust, *Excavations at Canterbury Castle*, by Professor S. S. Frere, F.B.A., F.S.A., Mr. P. Bennett, B.A., and Miss S. Stow, B.A., will also be published in 1980.

FIELDWORK COMMITTEE

This newly constituted Committee replaces the former Excavations Committee and has been given extended terms of reference to cover other activities in addition to excavation. Grants have been made in 1978–9 as follows:

Martin's Pit, E.I.A. Site, Longfield (Mr. E. P. Connell)	£120
Bigberry Hillfort (Mr. F. H. Thompson)	£100
Cliffe Church (K.A.S. Excavation)	£10
Canterbury, Poor Priest's Hospital (City Museum and C.A.T.)	£500
Conservation Requirements Survey (C.A.T.)	£30

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Applications for grants by the Society should be made to the Hon. General Secretary by 1st November 1980.

At meetings of the Committee for Rescue Archaeology in Kent the K.A.S. is now represented by Messrs R. J. Ansell, A. C. Harrison and P. E. Oldham, Mr. R. H. Hiscock having resigned.

An excavation on the north side of the chancel of the church of St. Helen's, Cliffe, was undertaken by the Society in May 1979 at the request of the former rector, for the purpose of discovering the character of a small attached building known to have occupied this position. It is referred to in the account of the church by A. R. Martin in *Arch. Cant.*, xli (1929). Our excavation revealed foundations of a structure measuring internally 14 ft. 6 in. by 9 ft., with diagonal buttresses at its north-east and north-west corners. A plan and report will be published in *Arch. Cant.* in due course.

Unfortunately it has not been found possible to hold the usual Fieldwork Archaeology Meeting in 1979.

SUMMER EXCURSIONS 1979

26th May - Canal Boat Trip

The first visit was to the Painted House at Picott's End which was described by the owner, Mr. Lindley. This was followed by a three-hour trip on the Grand Union Canal from Newground Bridge to Cook's Wharf in a converted narrow boat. This proved very interesting but was marred by an almost continuous downpour. The final visit was made to the parish church of Albury where we were met by the Vicar. Fortunately the rain had now cleared and the most agile members were able to climb the tower to get a bird's eye view of this interesting village.

16th June - Saffron Walden

Arriving at Saffron Walden at 1 p.m. and armed with a small guide, members explored the town individually, meeting at the Parish Church which was described by the Rector and the Chairman of the Friends of Saffron Walden Parish Church. Finally after tea at Audley End, members toured the house and explored the park.

14th July - East Kent

The first visit was to the Canterbury Archaeological Trust's excavation beside the Marlowe Theatre. This was admirably described by two members of the excavating team. Unfortunately the first afternoon visit to St. John's Swingfield had to be cancelled at short notice due to a Civil Service industrial dispute. This was compensated by allowing us a longer time to enjoy Horton Priory where the owner, Brigadier A. Gore, had given us free run of the whole house. The Society owes a special debt of gratitude to him for his kindness. The building was explained in detail by Mr. C. Councer.

After tea in Ashford a visit was made to the Parish Church where we were met by Canon Wright and the building was described by our local member Mr. Briscall.

The Society is very grateful to all those people, too numerous to mention individually, who have helped in suggesting, planning and participating in these excursions.

As this will be his last Excursion Report, the Hon. Excursions Secretary wishes to thank all those people who have helped in so many ways and his special thanks to that band of stalwart regular attenders who not only make these excursions possible but also make the task of the Excursions Secretary worthwhile.

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BRANCH REPORTS

Bromley Branch

Continuing inter-group co-operation amongst the various affiliated societies both beyond and within the Borough boundaries has been usefully employed in the service of archaeological research. Mr. B. J. L. Mote, of Woodlands Farm, Shire Lane, Farnborough, N.G.R. TQ 43196385 reported that a deep hole had appeared on his land. Our member Mr. R. F. Le Gear, of Bexley, who has wide experience of dene-holes, willingly agreed to come and direct an investigation into its cause, while Orpington & District Archaeological Society (O.D.A.S.) readily agreed to help the K.A.S. by providing a support team. The hole revealed the remains of a small chalk-well, the main shaft of which was still blocked, access being via the collapse of one of the underground chambers. Cut through Thanet sand to a depth of 3.0 m. before entering the chalk it proved upon examination to be of the three-chambered type, now made dangerous as a result of several underground roof-falls.

The O.D.A.S. monthly lecture meetings this year included a very successful first public meeting addressed by Paul Bennett of the Canterbury Archaeological Trust. O.D.A.S. has maintained its own programme of excavations, a report of which follows, and when called upon has also provided assistance for emergency work outside the Borough. O.D.A.S. has also assisted the K.A.S. by yet again delivering more than sixty volumes of *Arch. Cant.* within the Bromley area.

The K.A.S. Vernacular Architecture Survey of the Borough led by Ian Bouskill continues. This year it has included an examination of minor farm outbuildings such as the granary, cattle-sheds and barn at Old Farm, Milking Lane, Leaves Green, N.G.R. TQ 416616, whilst advantage has been taken of the modernisation of 11-13 Anglesea Road, St. Mary Cray, N.G.R. TQ 472673, to examine and record the building in detail. This unlisted former farmhouse proves to be of mainly seventeenth-century construction.

Medway and Gillingham Branch

Four meetings have been held during the year at which the average attendance was between forty and fifty and the first meeting on 23rd October, 1979, for the 1979-80 session maintained this good attendance.

A splendid and well illustrated lecture was given by Miss Jane Addy, of the National Maritime Museum, on the Graveney Boat. To add to the records of this boat, a tape recording by the original finder of this boat, who lives locally, has been made by one of our members.

The branch has made its annual distribution of *Arch. Cant.* to local members of whom twelve delivered ninety-nine volumes over a wide area. The Society greatly appreciates this piece of voluntary work which helps the economy and administration of the Society as a whole.

CHURCHES COMMITTEE

The restoration of the Lynsted monuments will be continued in April when work will be started on the tomb of John Roper. The Society made an interest-free loan of £500 to the Parochial Church Council of Molash and the re-tiling of the roof is now complete. Council has also set aside £1,000 (£300 as grant and £700 as an interest-free loan), towards the restoration of Holy Trinity Church, Maidstone, this allocation to be conditional on the continued support of the Borough Council for the scheme. The restoration of the tower and roof of Holy Trinity, Tunbridge Wells, is proceeding satisfactorily.

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The Society made successful representations in the cases of the proposed sale of altar silver at Rochester Cathedral and the moving of the Oxenden monument at Wingham. It is very much regretted that unfortunate proposals affecting the Norman tower of Leeds Church seem likely to go forward.

KENT DEFENCE RESEARCH GROUP

In December, 1978, Col. B. E. Arnold, former commander of Langdon Battery at Dover, was elected Chairman of the Group, Mr. V. T. C. Smith remaining as Secretary/Treasurer and D. H. Bennett as Archivist.

To take account of a rising membership and to increase effectiveness, the Group has been reorganised into several local branches: Dover (liaison officer D. C. Collyer), Thames (V. T. C. Smith) and Medway (K. Gulvin of Medway Military Research Group) with representatives at Maidstone (P. Tritton) and at Tunbridge Wells (D. H. Bennett). The most important project of the Group as a whole is the creation of the Central Record of sites mentioned in the last annual report. This is now well under way, with nearly 200 report forms having been completed.

The Dover branch has been very active during the year. Most of its work has been in surveys and research of various defences in its area, especially those threatened under a K.C.C. programme to clear "coastal eyesores". Fortunately, the K.C.C. have now agreed to consult the Group before any further military structures are demolished and will make available their records of defences previously cleared. Survey work has included Nol Battery, Dungeness, Hougham, Lydden Spout and Langdon Batteries, works at Hole, Fan Bay and various isolated works in the hinterland. It is hoped to begin an initiative in the Thanet area during 1980. Col. Arnold conducted a television interview at Langdon Battery which provided the Group with useful publicity. The intention of the branch is to undertake a project of restoration at Langdon Battery which can be developed into a coast defence museum.

The bright future for the Medway Military Research Group at Fort Amherst, Chatham now seems to have darkened: the hoped-for project to develop the site as a historic monument under the Medway Borough Council has failed to materialise and shows no sign of doing so. It is now hoped to switch effort to the unique Fort Clarence tower at Rochester which it is hoped to restore and open to the public. Extensive field surveys have been carried out by Medway Military Research Group, several items of militaria having been rescued from possible destruction, and further booklets on the Medway defences have been published.

The Thames branch have continued with the restoration of New Tavern Fort and a second Bofors gun has been acquired for display there. The installation of electric light in the Victorian magazines is now well under way and it is hoped to open them to the public in late summer 1980. Activities have extended into Essex with a programme of field surveys well under way, negotiations being carried out with a view to gaining a tenancy of Coalhouse Fort for the purposes of restoration and an excavation on the site of Tilbury Blockhouse is planned. A book on the history of the Thames defences is being written.

BUILDING RECORDERS

'Farm Buildings' was the topic of the sixteenth Conference of Building Recorders, held in the lecture room of the Public Library at Maidstone on Saturday, 6th October, 1979.

The first speaker, Mr. J. Oliver, gave a practising farmer's view of the development of farm buildings and explained the significance of a number of their features for housing horses, sheep, cattle and pigs, for the storage of grain and seed and for the various types

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of implements. The ideas behind the development of the Victorian 'model' farmyard and the specialised buildings for bullock rearing were also discussed.

Then, Mr. A. Cronk showed how the oast was used for drying and how, with demands for greater production, it evolved from a small timber-framed building to the familiar roundels and square kilns.

Both talks were well illustrated with slides. They were enjoyed by some forty members, one of whom exhibited some paintings of oasts. The chairman, Mr. K. Gravett, proposed a vote of thanks to the speakers and to Mr. P. Lambert, for providing and operating the projector and this was carried with acclamation.

REPORT OF THE KENT HISTORIC BUILDINGS COMMITTEE, 1979

Membership. The resignation of Dr. J. G. Dixon owing to ill-health was accepted with great regret and the appointment of Mr. G. J. W. Winzar to fill the vacancy was welcomed. Mr. J. A. Newman, previously a co-opted member, was appointed to fill the vacancy caused by the resignation of Mr. K. A. Pollock as a K.A.S. representative, Mr. Philip Philcox, F.R.I.C.S. has been co-opted to the Committee.

Terms of Reference. The following terms of reference were approved:— In co-operation with other voluntary bodies, planning authorities, and the D.o.E., to promote the preservation and, where appropriate, the correct restoration of all buildings and monuments of architectural and/or historic interest in the county.

In pursuance of these aims the Committee will

(1) Consider and make representations to the appropriate authority upon all applications for listed building consent which come to their notice, and encourage planning authorities, voluntary organisations and members of the public to submit cases for consideration;

(2) Whenever possible ensure that a detailed survey is made of any building worthy of consideration which may be at risk;

(3) Secure representation and give evidence either verbal or in writing at any relevant public enquiry concerned with historic buildings.

To administer the 'Historic Building of Kent' plaque scheme in accordance with the guidelines adopted in February 1977.

Buildings. (a) The Hawley Dovecote, Wilmington, which has been the subject of many representations from the Committee, is at last being restored by Dartford Borough Council and the D.o.E.

(b) The North Cray House, Bexley has been transported to the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton with a view to its re-erection there. Although Bexley Borough Council have refused any financial assistance, the K.A.S. has agreed, on the Committee's recommendation, to make a grant of £500 available when the project is taken in hand.

(c) St. Mary's Church, Chatham, is being converted into a Heritage Centre, a proposal strongly supported by the Committee.

(d) The Gate Inn, Dunkirk. Objection was made to the application to demolish based on Mr. Swaine's submission. The application was not granted.

(e) The Town Hall, Folkestone. An application to demolish this building with the exception of the façade was subsequently withdrawn.

(f) Preston Court, Preston, near Canterbury. In spite of the Committee's objection to the partial demolition and alterations proposed, Dover District Council had approved the application.

By order of the Council
A. C. HARRISON
Hon. General Secretary.

1st January, 1980.