

## REPORTS ON THE YEAR 1992

### *Secretary's Report*

The *Annual General Meeting* was held at King Alfred's College, Winchester on 11 May 1992. A small gathering of twenty members heard Mr Adrian Rance give his final report as President, at the end of his three-year term, and Dr Michael Hicks his final report as Secretary, after twelve years of energetic and exemplary service to the Society.

Mr Stephen Locke was elected as President for a three-year term, but there were no nominations for the post of Secretary. The general state of health of the Sections, and the reports on their activities for the year left little doubt that the Field Club would be able to function well until such time as a replacement was found.

Mr Wingate was re-elected as Treasurer, and Mr Sanders and Miss Lee were re-elected as Honorary Auditors. Mr Roger Hedge was elected as a member of Council.

The Council met four times during the year – in June, September, December and March. They heard of a slight fall in membership (33) as a result of the subscription increase. It was hoped that the planned new leaflet and application form would reverse this position.

They also heard that Dr Michael Hicks has been made an Honorary Life Member of the Society for the twelve years of work he had put in on the Field Club's behalf, and at the March meeting they learned that a successor had been found; Mr David Allen of the Hampshire County Council Museums Service would take on the duties with effect from the 1993 AGM.

### *OGS Crawford Memorial Lecture*

In the absence of a General Secretary, there was no OGS Crawford Memorial Lecture in 1992, and the future of this event would be considered closely.

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### HISTORIC BUILDINGS SECTION

The programme commenced with our three winter evening meetings; two formal lectures and a members' evening with refreshments. At the members' evening Elizabeth Thorn spoke on Orkney's historic architecture. Recent work to save part of a medieval timber-framed house hidden behind a Petersfield shop-front was described by Audrey Sutton. Elaborately moulded beams indicated the high status of the original owner. Brenda Poole's contribution was based on her prize-winning thesis on the Victorian ecclesiastical architect John Colson. As his Winchester work is well known, our speaker concentrated on his churches from around the county, including the fine examples at Shedfield and Christ Church, Portsdown. A skilful analysis by Edward Roberts of the development of the medieval cross-wing into the post-medieval house was followed by Grahame Soffe, who spoke on some recently discovered medieval painted sculpture from Dorset, and reminded members of some of the more lighthearted and interesting moments during the 1991 programme.

The above meeting was at Hyde House, but our first formal lecture was back at our old venue of King Alfred's College, Winchester. Here Michael Drury described the recent final completion of the west end of the 'new' 1930s nave of Portsmouth Cathedral, to Sir Charles Nicholson's original design with twin west towers. The work had been interrupted by the War, and in 1966 new plans for a concrete-and-glass west end had been drawn up, but later abandoned. Our speaker encouraged his audience to visit this important medieval church and see the latest extensions.

Few people will have realised that it was in 1792, over 200 years after the Reformation, before a Roman Catholic church was again consecrated in England. This was a building off St Peter Street, Winchester, now known as the Milner Hall after Dr John Milner, the Catholic

parish priest and historian who replaced a tiny secret chapel with a small Gothic-style church designed by John Carter. We were treated to an excellent lecture on the Milner Hall, in the hall itself, by Peter Bogan. The church's history was described up to 1926 when the new St Peter's was built. We then learnt of its more recent renovation and revival of fortunes. After the lecture the speaker exhibited some of Hampshire's Roman Catholic archives.

All our summer meetings were blessed with fine weather. The first, on 21 May, took us to Compton near Guildford, to recreate an Edwardian afternoon in a study of Arts and Crafts architecture associated with the painter and sculptor G F Watts (1817–1904). Members saw first the studio of Watts' house 'Limnerslease', designed by Ernest George (1891) in Surrey vernacular, of Bargate stone and half-timbered, standing on rising ground in woodland. The interior, now a private house, was shown by the owners, Mr and Mrs Barrett. It was enriched by design work of Mary Fraser-Tytler (1850–1938), Watts' second wife. In the valley below we visited the Watts Gallery, designed by Christopher Turnor in 1903–4, to hold Watts' own works and recently decorated in its original colours. The Curator, Richard Jeffries gave two entertaining and informative talks on Watts and showed the newly re-opened sculpture workshop-gallery containing the huge models of the famous statues of Tennyson (in Lincoln) and 'Physical Energy' (in London). Following up his lecture of last year, Grahame Soffe spoke on Turnor's friendship and collaboration with Watts. The Watts Mortuary Chapel, designed by Mary Watts in 1896 and built by the villagers, was shown by Veronica Gould who is researching Mrs Watts and the Compton Potters Art Guild. During the meeting the group enjoyed an Edwardian cream tea, provided in the Pottery cloister.

On 6 June our annual country house visit took us to Melchet Court, Sherfield English, now St Edward's School. The meeting was led by Francis Green and we were entertained to an archive film and tea by the headmaster Mr J Doyle, his deputy Mr P Rogers and their staff. The house was built in Jacobean style in 1863, fire damaged in 1873 and partially rebuilt in 1875–9 by Henry Clutton

for the second Lord Ashburton. It was remodelled in 1912–14 by Darcy Braddell. There are fine Italian Renaissance-style ceilings by Alfred Stevens and L W Collman. The party also saw the chapel and toured the park containing Braddell's water garden and an earlier orangery.

We were the guests of the Petersfield Area Historical Society on 14 June. The meeting was planned by Alan and Mary Ray with Audrey Sutton. Goodyers, the Rays' outstanding late medieval house surrounding a courtyard on The Spain, one of the town's two squares, was the focus for a fascinating day. A varied programme, started and finished with talks given in her garden by Mary Ray on the history of Petersfield and on John Goodyer, 17th-century lawyer and botanist. It took the party on a revealing perambulation of the town including the 12th-century church of St Peter with its magnificent Norman chancel arch. Mary Ray then opened Goodyers itself to the many enthusiastic members, leading to prolonged discussions on the evolution of this house; put on a display of local archives, and, with Petersfield Society members, served refreshments in the garden. Alan Ray's death a few days before the meeting, had come as a shock to us all and the Field Club owes a great debt of gratitude to his wife Mary, who insisted the meeting went ahead as planned.

On 8 August, 45 members ventured to Chichester to study its spectacular medieval architecture in the company of Julian Munby of the Oxford Archaeological Unit, an authority on the city and particularly its medieval carpentry. The tour of the Cathedral included an exploration of the carpentry of the roof spaces. We then visited the interior of the Great Kitchen of the Bishop's Palace with its remarkable medieval hammer-beam roof. Lunch was taken in the recently restored stone-vaulted crypt of the Vicars' Hall, after which we toured the medieval Hospital of St Mary, still a flourishing almshouse, on which Mr Munby has recently published a *History and Guide*. At the 13th-century Greyfriars Church, now part of Chichester Museums, Anne Bone the Curator welcomed the group, Grahame Soffe discussed the architecture and Dr Martin Henig spoke on the Roman sculpture and inscriptions. Finally we made our way out of the

city to Apuldram manor house, a great stone tower-house known as 'Rymans' after its original builder and owner in c 1400. Here we were welcomed in her magnificent garden by the present owner, Anne, Baroness Phillimore, who spoke on the history of the house, and research and conservation work carried out by Lord Phillimore, a professional architect. A tour of the house led by Grahame Soffe and the Hon Miranda Phillimore was followed by a very welcome tea in the garden given by Miranda Phillimore and Judy Medrington. The Section thanked the Bishop of Chichester, Mr David Jago (Communar to the Dean and Chapter), the Warden of St Mary's Hospital and Lady Phillimore for a fascinating day.

Our AGM and Conference on 31 October was held in the medieval jettied upper hall from Crawley now preserved at the Weald and Downland Open Air Museum, Singleton, Sussex. Our theme was 'Harvesting Wind and Water – A Discussion on Mills'. The chairman, Edward Roberts introduced four splendid lectures. First, Tony Calladine of the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England lectured on the architecture of silk manufacturing. We then heard John Reynolds, author of the celebrated *Windmills and Watermills* on the restoration of Bursledon Windmill, with many remarkable historic photographs. Bruce Tappenden, mill owner and local historian, gave an account of the history and

mechanics of the Chesapeake Mill, Wickham. This was illustrated by some of RCHME's recent record photographs and showed that this old mill (unlike most claimants) really does contain 'Ship's timbers'. Miss Robyn Burgess, also of RCHME, then gave an interesting description of the Commission's recent survey of the City Mill, Winchester. Afterwards museum staff demonstrated the working watermill from Lurgashall, Sussex, and in conclusion, provided a fine tea.

At the AGM, the following committee members were re-elected: Francis Green (chairman), Dilys Hall (secretary), Grahame Soffe (programme secretary), Peter Davies (treasurer), Edward Roberts (*Proceedings* and *Newsletter* editor), John Stott (publicity), Audrey Sutton, Ann Jones, Jude James and Elizabeth Birkett. The loss of Martin Doughty, John Crook and Karen Parker during the year, after many years of hard work will be hard to bear. We thank them for all their efforts and know that we will be able to call on their expertise in the future.

During the year Pamela Moore continued to co-ordinate vetting of Listed Buildings applications to local authorities but reported continuing problems with Havant and Gosport. Contributions to the *Newsletter* increased this year and all our events were reported in the *Hampshire Chronicle*.

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