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**BRISTOL
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH
GROUP**

c/o City Museum, Queens Road, Bristol, 8.

BULLETIN

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This bulletin is issued in Spring, Autumn and December

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

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MEMBERSHIP

The Annual Subscription for the current year is:

£1.00 for members aged 18 or over
£1.50 for husband and wife
£0.25 for Associate Members (aged under 18)

The subscription is payable on 1st January except for members paying by Bankers Standing Order, who pay on 1st March. Cheques and postal orders should be made payable to Bristol Archaeological Research Group, c/o The City Museum, Bristol BS8 1RL.

EDITORIAL

It is sad to have to open this editorial by recording that Leslie Grinsell has found it necessary to tender his resignation as Hon. Editor of our Special Publications on a point of principle, but both he and the office are too important to B. A. R. G. to admit of less than first place. The Committee accepted his resignation from this post, which he has held since the establishment of B. A. R. G., with the deepest regret. His superb professional expertise and sheer concentrated hard work have made the quality of B. A. R. G. Special Publications something that really is "special". He works ceaselessly within and without B. A. R. G. for its constant improvement and publicity. He was one of the prime-movers for its formation in 1962, and continues to be an ex officio member of the Committee. Fortunately for us, as this Hon. Editor has already had cause to discover, Leslie Grinsell's concern for the wellbeing of local archaeology and archaeologists is such that these last two aspects of his relationship with B. A. R. G. are unshadowed by the withdrawal of the first. Certainly it will not change one whit B. A. R. G. members' high regard for him - or their trespasses on his time and patience for advice and opinions.

The work of the Editor of Special Publications is important and onerous, for it is by the quality of these publications that B. A. R. G. is judged by other people. Nicholas Thomas, despite the heavy demands of the Museum itself, has agreed to become our next Editor. We are thus fortunate to have another highly professional archaeologist and another extremely well-known name to present B. A. R. G. to the world in booklet form. But perhaps we should also take a warning from this situation: that the privilege of having among our officers national figures, people whose time is already at the highest premium - and B. A. R. G. has a quite remarkable number of such people on its committee and membership lists - must be earned by the rest of us being willing to contribute more: in time, in offering services, in doing the 'donkey work' that in turn enables us to see and learn from the experienced expert at work. The wider the circles by which non-professional members can be drawn into involvement in the workings of the Group, the healthier B. A. R. G. will be.

Captain Gracie, recent past President of Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, has over forty years' experience of collecting flints in Gloucestershire. He has written us an article - the first we have had for some long time on prehistory in Gloucestershire - which poses a most interesting archaeological problem: the pinpointing of the boundary between two cultures, right in B. A. R. G. 's region. Surely this is the kind of challenge which B. A. R. G. could take up, whether within the P. S. U. scheme or with specially interested teams? Anyone with ideas on this should obviously contact our Secretary and Captain Gracie.

For indoor work this winter, Mike Ponsford and David Dawson remind members that their Finds Processing Group (p. 48) welcome all B. A. R. G. members, and not just Associates.

MESOLITHIC FINDS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

by H. S. Gracie

Up till the 1920s, this period was regarded as nothing more than a transition from the Palaeolithic to the Neolithic. It was referred to variously as Epi-Palaeolithic or Proto-Neolithic, but cultures were turning up all over Europe that could not reasonably be placed in either period. We now know that some four millennia occurred between the great climatic change at the end of the Pleistocene and the introduction of agriculture into this country. The changing climate caused forests to extend over the whole continent and forced man to adapt himself to an entirely new economy.

As the climate ameliorated, a number of differing industries developed in Europe to cope with the advancing forests. The most important of these for southern Britain were the Sauveterrean and the Maglemosean. There were others, but they are unlikely to have reached our county.

The Sauveterreans have been studied in France. They preferred to live in well-drained and well-watered areas where the forest was more open and small game more easily hunted. Their flint industry comprised, in addition to the essential scrapers, various forms of microliths - obliquely blunted points, sub-triangles or trapezoids and crescents - for use in composite tools. The making of the small obliquely blunted points was facilitated by a new technique peculiar to the mesolithic period. A semicircular notch was chipped in the side of a blade and one end snapped off, leaving the point almost ready for use. The discarded end was left with part of the notch and the snap facet at an angle to it, thus having all the features of a minute engraving tool. It is called a micro-burin or micro-graver, but was far too small to be used as such. Its importance to the field-worker is that it shows that microliths were made nearby.

The Maglemoseans are sometimes called the Forest Folk. They came from the Baltic area where they lived on river banks and by the lake-shores.

Some clearing of undergrowth and cutting down of saplings was necessary, so they developed a primitive flint axe. This was not ground and polished like the later neolithic examples, but was sharpened by striking off a large flake across the tool at an acute angle. This removed the old worn-out cutting edge and left a fresh one. The axe was shortened by each sharpening, but could be used until it was less than three inches long. It is known as the Tranchet Axe. The Forest Folk also had an extensive series of bone and antler implements such as harpoons and arrowheads. The barbs could be carved in the bone itself or made by letting microlithic points into grooves.

For working in bone an engraving tool or burin was required. These are plentiful but much larger and more robust than the microburin. The geometric shapes, triangular, trapezoidal and crescentic, are scarce if not altogether absent.

While this island was part of the continental mainland, the peoples using these two industries were able to walk across what are now the North Sea and English Channel - the Forest Folk to our eastern shores and up the rivers, and the Sauveterreans to what is now the south coast, whence they spread to the sparsely forested uplands. However, soon after they had become established, the water overflowed the North Sea and broke through the Channel, cutting us off from the continent. There is little evidence of the later continental developments coming over. The land routes being now closed, the immigrants, left to themselves, seem to have lived side by side in harmony, eventually sharing their culture and developing new tools - the Thames pick, which is a very long and narrow tranchet axe, and the Horsham point, which is an obliquely blunted point with blunting at the base. The combined industry is named after Horsham, the district where it was first studied.

In 1932 J. G. D. Clark brought together in one book all that was known about the period in Britain. Since then many archaeologists have been fascinated by it and have made considerable advances in our knowledge. In 1969 the C. B. A. began to compile an inventory of all known mesolithic sites in the country. Gloucestershire yielded only 41 sites, all surface finds, and many of them consisting of single microliths. The major collections are from Tog Hill, near Marshfield (Sykes) and Mid-Gloucestershire (Gracie and Witchell). The lack of sites is not due to any scarcity of material but largely because the old collectors did not know of microliths and so did not pick up such tiny flints for closer examination. Flinting also seems to be less popular now, though it can be very rewarding exercise.

The more prolific sites in Mid-Gloucestershire yield quantities of obliquely blunted points, blades with battered backs, crescents and sub-triangles, with a few burins, micro-burins and Horsham points. The geometric forms comprise some 30-35 per cent of the microliths. This suggests that the occupation was in the main Sauveterrean. However, the presence of a few burins, micro-burins and Horsham points shows that there was some influence from Horsham. Since all the finds are from the surface we cannot separate them stratigraphically into periods of time. It seems that both the Sauveterrean and Horsham cultures are represented, with some King Arthur's Cave material, all lost on the same fields but at different times. Mixed up with them are large quantities of neolithic and Bronze Age material.

In South Gloucestershire the proportions are quite different. Only 3 per cent of the microliths are geometric, and burins are common. This suggests that the Tog Hill site was in the Maglemose tradition. It ties in better with the Somerset and Wiltshire finds than with those from further north.

With the small amount of material available it is at present impossible to reach any firm conclusions about what happened in Gloucestershire. It has been suggested that we have on the hills a Sauveterrean industry from the south across the then non-existent Channel. At the same time the Maglemosean came up the Thames and down the Avon to populate south Gloucestershire. Then the Horsham culture infiltrated from the south-east. Confirmation, or otherwise, must wait until some chipping floors have been found and excavated. In the meantime much can be learned from surface finds. In particular, the area between Tog Hill and Tetbury, easily accessible to B. A. R. G. members, should provide a wealth of information. Also, the maps of the Severn valley and Forest of Dean are almost bare.

'Flinting' gives an admirable introduction to the study of prehistory, and it is surprising how many of our leading prehistorians started in this way. One can pick up a bagful of flints in an afternoon and spend a happy evening washing and studying them. They show up best in fields that have been ploughed and then frosted or well rained on. I have yet to find a field on the Cotswolds that does not yield plenty of flint, all imported by man. Sixty pieces an hour is a good average when one has worked out one's own search technique. It is essential, of course, to obtain the farmer's permission first.

Short Bibliography:

- J. G. D. Clark, The Mesolithic Age in Britain (1932)
- 'A Microlithic Industry from the Cambridgeshire Fenland and other Industries of Sauveterrean Affinities in Britain', Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society XXI (1955)
- C. M. Sykes, 'A Flint Chipping Site on Tog Hill, near Marshfield', Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society, 84 (1965)
- H. S. Gracie, 'Mesolithic Gloucestershire', Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society 89 (1970)
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THE MESOLITHIC SURVEY

The Mesolithic Survey, of which Captain Gracie's recent work in Gloucestershire forms a part, has been instituted and carried out by the C. B. A. as the direct successor to the Palaeolithic Gazetteer. The response to this national survey has been even better than was hoped; and details of publication, probably in 1972-3, are under discussion. The work of covering this region has been shared between Captain Gracie in Gloucestershire, and C. M. Sykes in Somerset. Anyone who knows of mesolithic material or findspots which they think may have been overlooked, should contact the appropriate surveyor, or the Hon. Secretary of the C. B. A., Peter Fowler (Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 30/32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1HR) as quickly as possible.

Some to a ...
Head of ...
by Elizabeth Adams

In the Spring issue of the Bulletin we recorded the setting up of the Parish Survey Unit groups. Work on sifting and recording documentary evidence has continued quietly among the groups throughout the summer, though the prior claims of 'A' Levels, other examinations and holidays have inevitably had their effect. Mrs. S. Beare, in particular, has been pressing ahead with her important contribution of covering national journals and other combined sources, for all the forty parishes now being surveyed. Now that the holiday season is over, we can again bring groups together to review progress, with a view to getting out in the field with the autumn.

P. S. U. members will have been notified of arrangements for an important meeting to discuss the project and methods (see page 44). Any other B. A. R. G. member, not at present in a group, who now wishes to take an active part in the project, including those who have already given their names as volunteers for fieldwork-only, will be welcome but are asked to notify me in advance, (95A, Whiteladies Road, Bristol BS8 2NF, tel. 30010, evenings). It is also hoped shortly to arrange a practical fieldwork day, but participation must necessarily be limited to those willing to undertake extended fieldwork in one of the parishes now under investigation.

Parishes now in hand are shown below, together with the names of Group liaison members.

- 1) Hanham Abbots, Kingswood, Mangotsfield, Oldland, and Siston
(Mrs. J. Popplewell)

- 2) Backwell, Brockley, Flax Bourton, and Nailsea; Easton and Weston-in-Gordano; North Weston, Portishead, Portbury and Tickenham (Mr. J. Pullan and Commander G. D. Powell)
- 3) Compton Dando and Keynsham (Mrs. P. Belsey and Mr. P. J. Taylor)
- 4) Banwell, Christon, Hutton and Locking (Mrs. R. L. Clarke)
- 5) Alveston, Olveston and Thornbury (Mr. L. Linton representing the Thornbury Group)
- 6) Hallen, Redwick and Northwick (Mrs. A. Tyrrell)
- 7) Almondsbury, Patchway and Stoke Gifford (Mr. H. Alpass)
- 8) Cold Ashton, Dyrham and Hinton, Doynton, Wick and Abson, Kelston, and North Stoke (Mr. M. Forrest, representing St. Mathias' Group)
9. Marshfield (Mr. and Mrs. R. W. Knight)
10. Clevedon (Mrs. P. Legg)

Although it was convenient to deal with all these parishes at once for documentary purposes, it may well be that we shall have to tackle one or two at a time when it comes to fieldwork. Much depends upon the numbers, enthusiasm and experience of fieldworkers. More volunteers will soon be needed, so please send in your names, stating which of the above parishes you can help with.

We are anxious to obtain the co-operation, and indeed the partnership, of other Societies and individuals who are carrying out their own work in the area, in order to exchange information. The Thornbury and St. Matthias College groups are joining with us in this way; and one notable example of willing assistance has been the receipt of a list of almost eighty sites from Mr. Gray Usher and the North Somerset Research Group, to whom we are most grateful.

P. S. U. : 9th OCTOBER

Parish Survey Unit group members will have been notified of the important opportunity open to them, to participate in the Somerset Archaeological Society's Affiliated Societies Meeting, and hear Professor Charles Thomas's address on Parish Check-lists. This will be preceded, for P. S. U. members, by a special discussion session with Professor Thomas and Peter Sheppard, originators of the scheme in Cornwall, at 2.15 p. m. in the Schools Room.

The Thornbury Group has been enterprising in obtaining the services of Mike Ponsford, to give a course specifically including particular reference to the compilation of parish checklists (see Calendar, 4th November). Other P. S. U. members may like to note this.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

During the Summer season many Associates have been working hard in pursuing their archaeological interests. Several have been excavating on the Temple site, and others have attended residential excavations. With the Scouts, local schools, or otherwise, Associates have visited archaeological monuments in Cornwall, on the Mendips, the Brecon Beacons and Black Mountains. The variety of activities is mirrored by the three contributions below:

Training Excavation at Barnsley Park, near Corinium (Cirencester), 18th - 24th July, 1971

When I was asked by my colleague Christopher Brain to go on an archaeological dig, I was, to say the least, pessimistic. This was due to the fact that, while I had of course heard of the Romans and Ancient Britons, I have never had the slightest interest in archaeology or in digging. But I was persuaded, and arrived on the site at Barnsley Park after being very well received by the organisers and by my future colleagues. It is indeed wonderful and interesting work, and I seemed to get the archaeological "bug" the very first day. My discoveries were quite good, for over the week I discovered two walls and many small pots and bone fragments. I learnt many different things about excavations, and I must confess I enjoyed myself. It should also be realised that I was required, for my Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award log-book, to do a week's residential course - so what better way. I learnt a lot, made new friends, and I am now writing to B. A. R. G. I hope to return next year. For a complete beginner to archaeology, and a stranger to the world of the archaeologist, I feel I am not doing too badly. I must offer my sincere thanks to all the people who arranged this dig, for opening a new door in my life. I am now interested in the building side of archaeology, perhaps because I am a builder's son. I can recommend digs and archaeology to any young person like myself because I know for certain of two other people now interested like me in archaeology. I am a mere amateur.

Stephen Green.

B. A. R. G. Associates! Walk on the Mendips

On Sunday 1st August seven B. A. R. G. Associate members took part in an "archaeological stroll" across High Mendip. First point of interest was Dolebury Warren, an impressive Iron Age hill-fort near Churchill, displaying a formidable set of ramparts. Proceeding eastwards the group arrived at Read's Cavern, a cave dwelling of prehistoric man surmounted by a steep cliff and fed by a small stream.

Next followed a trek through the ferns below Black Down, during which the pot-holing enthusiasts among the group were able to visit Drunkard's Hole, Bos Swallet and Rod's Pot. Arriving at Beacon Batch Tumuli at midday, the group rested for lunch, and after inspecting the Bronze Age cemetery, proceeded south to the Roman amphitheatre and lead-mining settlement above Charterhouse.

Strictly non-archaeological was the short visit to a geologically interesting area around Velvet Bottom containing many interesting features typical of the Carboniferous Limestone rock of which much of Mendip is composed. Several shallow pot-holes were investigated by the group, who had unfortunately forgotten an essential commodity: torches. As time was pressing, the group made its way via Velvet Bottom towards Cheddar where the Cheddar-Bristol bus was awaiting them.

Michael Tuttiett.

The Penwith Area of Cornwall

Between Land's End and Penzance lie some of the best Cornish antiquities. One can begin at Chysauster Village, Madron and travel anticlockwise in an imaginary circle, finishing at Boleigh fogou, to take in most of the important ones. Chysauster is an Iron Age and Romano-British village including a fogou. Further around the circle lies Mulfra Quoit, one of the many Cornish quoits or burial chambers. Next is the Men-an-Tol, which is an alignment of three stones with a large hole in the centre one. Nearby is Men Scryfa, which is a stone bearing a Latin inscription. Also nearby is Lanyon Quoit, the best known of the Cornish quoits. Westwards are Chun Castle and Chun Quoit, the former being a fine Iron Age hill-fort. Travelling south to Sancreed is Carn Euny Village and fogou, the fogou being especially good. Nearby is Brane or Chapel Euny round barrow. Just southwest of these is Boscawen-un Stone Circle, one of the best Cornish stone circles. A couple of miles south lies the Merry Maidens, another stone circle in excellent condition, with nineteen standing stones. Close by is Boleigh fogou, on private land, but permission can be obtained at the house, despite what it says on the gate. This brief list does not include all the antiquities, but I hope the route is not too difficult to follow.

Richard Burrige.

Personally, having taken part in all the above activities, I can confirm the contributors' enthusiasm for their subjects.

Christopher Brain.

DEPARTMENT OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES, UNIVERSITY
OF BRISTOL

The new address of the Department is 30/32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol. Post code BS8 1HR and telephone Bristol 24161 are unchanged.

ON JOINING THINGS
(with apologies to Evo-Stik)

Recent questionings of the purpose and organisation of archaeology, national and local, have been heard against a rumbling background of discontent about the role of the county archaeological societies, ranging in expression from a polite "failure to adapt" (Bulletin 3. 9, 233) to more explosive comments about "moribund... upper middle class Victorian slumbers" (same author, Current Archaeology 23, 345). The strength and justification of this discontent varies in different parts of the country as widely as do the county societies themselves.

But county archaeological societies are no more, and no less, than the people who belong to them. This basic fact seems to get overlooked in a trendy desire to sweep all away and start again from scratch. If an attitude of "Them" and "Us", of Antiquarianism versus Proper Archaeology, of county versus regional research group, even (dreadful thought) of publishing versus excavation societies as if the two were not essential complements, exists - could it be due, not to some mysterious inherent character of county societies, but to the fact that not enough of "Us", actively representing our ideas of purposeful archaeology, are members of the county societies? Bluntly, if we don't belong, what right have we to complain?

A good county society can offer three assets of great value to present-day archaeology. It can have facilities to finance proper publication of archaeological work. It can command a degree of respect for its views and pronouncements by local authorities and other institutions which is the advantage of its seniority: an asset it can exercise perhaps too discreetly, but one not to be ignored these days when archaeology is going to have to present a fighting case to the public. One of our local county societies, for example, is particularly noted for its thorough and well-organised coverage of threats to listed buildings throughout its area, notified to it by the C. B. A. Thirdly, and perhaps most important, the sheer breadth of membership for which it has been criticised, could make the county society a stepping-stone of great potential value in the effective combination of archaeology with other interests to save our raw material, heritage, or environment - according to your viewpoint - for the future. "Perhaps...

the Loamshire Natural History and Archaeological Society was farsighted ... in choosing its all-embracing title" (same author as the opening shots above, Antiquity, 1970). Surely to ignore these three factors is to risk throwing out the baby with the bathwater. A Society cannot adapt itself, of itself; but it can be what its members make it. A well-run county society is indispensable, a privilege to belong to and to serve. A greater community of membership would be a practical antidote to fragmentation among local societies.

So, while we know all too well the problem of subscriptions, if joining your county society is something you have always meant to get around to, why not give it some serious thought now? Most B. A. R. G. officers are not only members but often serving officers of one or other of the county societies in our area, and would sponsor applications for membership.

F. Neale

SOMERSET ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: AFFILIATED SOCIETIES
MEETING

On 9th October, Leslie Grinsell, President of the Somerset Archaeological & Natural History Society, is host to the Affiliated Societies' Meeting at Bristol: a special occasion for both the City Museum and for B. A. R. G. An extensive programme has been planned, with a tour of medieval Bristol in the morning followed by a varied and interesting series of short papers in the afternoon, and concluding with an address by Professor Charles Thomas on the work of compiling Parish Check-lists, of importance to B. A. R. G. members in general as well as P. S. U. groups in particular. Numbers must be limited, though much less so than usual; so contact John Drinkwater (for B. A. R. G.'s allotment of places) or Mr. Haldane (Secretary of S. A. N. H. S. at the Castle, Taunton), or Elizabeth Adams (for P. S. U. groups).

FINDS PROCESSING GROUP

This body of interested archaeologists continues to meet every Thursday between 7.00 and 9.00 p. m. at the City Museum, Bristol. It can be recommended as a useful way to learn about medieval and post-medieval finds. All B. A. R. G. members are welcome. Meetings on drawing and identifying pottery and small finds will be held amidst the general tasks of preparing for storage the large masses of finds from the Temple excavations. There will be opportunities for further research into particular aspects of Bristol history.

David Dawson, Michael Ponsford.

ANIMAL, VEGETABLE AND MINERAL

Something new in B. A. R. G. meetings! A general meeting with a panel of local experts, which should be interesting and entertaining for everybody. Members are invited to bring objects for the panel to examine and discuss - but: please obtain details from John Drinkwater first. 7. 30 p. m. at the City Museum, Bristol. Wednesday 15th December, 1971.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL MATERIAL IN LOCAL MUSEUMS: INDEX

The provision of proper indices to the eleven parts of the Check-List series, Bulletins 2.9 (Dec. 1967) - 4.1 (Spring, 1971), is an essential part of the undertaking, to make the full potential of the lists readily available. These indices are, however, very lengthy; and it would be inconvenient to users to subdivide them between several issues of the Bulletin. It has therefore been decided to issue them as a separate Index Supplement, produced jointly by B. A. R. G. and the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, which will be complete in itself and which, it is hoped, may be ready to send out to B. A. R. G. members with their December Bulletin. The Hon. Editor (Bulletin) is most grateful to Mr. Fowler and the Department of Extra-Mural Studies for this generous solution to a problem that would have overburdened both the Bulletin and the Group's resources.

RESCUE

Banwell Society of Archaeology has had the excellent idea of holding an exhibition entitled "Old Banwell", with slides, in aid of Rescue. It will be at the Village Hall, Banwell, nr, Weston-Super-Mare, Somerset, at 7.00 p. m. on October 23rd. A venture that should be well worth supporting - and following!

EXCAVATION SUPPLIES

The idea has been put forward of forming an archaeological "combine" in this region, to order archaeological excavation supplies such as plastic graph-paper, plastic small-finds boxes, and other such recording and packaging items. Costs to individual excavations can be reduced considerably by placing bulk orders. The scheme depends, of course, on sufficient local demand. Would any group interested in participating please contact Peter Fowler, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 30/32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1HR, before Christmas.

B. A. R. G. SYMPOSIUM

City Museum, Bristol on 13th November at 2. 30. p. m.

Once again, the occasion on which B. A. R. G. should prove, to itself and everyone else, that it is living up to its aim of being an active research group. What archaeological activity have YOU been engaged in, this season that would make a five or ten minute item for other members to hear? Please contact John Drinkwater. Perhaps it is also something you could, at the same time, jot down briefly in writing and send to Peter Fowler, (address, see inside cover) for Archaeological Review No. 6.

REVIEWS

H. M. Porter, The Celtic Church in Somerset (Morgan Books, Bath 1971), pp. 146, £1. 50

This is a book about hagiology rather than archaeology, although here and there it attempts to deal with relevant material from archaeological excavations, notably at Cheddar and Glastonbury. On several occasions the author quotes from secondary sources such as Arthur Mee's Somerset (ch. 5, ref. 4) and G. W. and J. H. Wade's Rambles in Somerset (ch. 5, ref 2; ch. 10 ref. 3; ch. 14, ref. 1); he cites Nikolaus Pevsner's North Devon on a place-name matter where the proper authority should have been the Devon volumes of the English Place-Name Society (ch. 15, ref. 1). Indeed, his preparation seems to have been rather incomplete; and it is unfortunate that he relied on E. G. Bowen's The Settlements of the Celtic Saints in Wales (1954) rather than the same author's more recent Saints, Seaways and Settlements in the Bristol Channel (1969), while he might well have obtained useful ideas from N. K. Chadwick's Early Brittany (1969) which deals comprehensively with the migrations from southwestern England to Armorica in Sub-Roman times until Armorica had to be re-named Brittany (Little Britain).

The book is nonetheless useful for its survey of the intricate and probably mostly insoluble problems involved in the interpretation of the lives of the saints, and the difficulties involved in comparing the documentary with the archaeological evidence, for instance at Cadbury, Congresbury.

A revised edition, if called for, might include mention of the Celtic wheeled cross slab on Culbone Hill (L. V. Grinsell, Archaeology of Exmoor, plate opp. p. 126); and the pre-Conquest carved slab in the church of St. Arvans, north of Chepstow, would be a useful addition to the map in the end pages.

L. V. Grinsell.

A. Roberts, ed., The Offa's Dyke Path (Ramblers' Association, 1971), 7½p.

This neatly produced little booklet is surely an excellent example of what local societies - perhaps several pooling their different and specialised interests in a common effort - could and should be doing in their own areas. In 16 pages, including many photographs and a double-page general map, Mr. Roberts provides what the guidebooks might (much less effectively) call a "companion" for walking Offa's Dyke, at an exceptionally reasonable price. The layout is clear and neat. A general introduction and survey sets the Dyke in its geographical context, although the archaeological background receives rather short and superficial treatment. The route is then divided into convenient sections, each with a reference to the appropriate 1" O. S. sheet. Really detailed instructions for finding half-hidden gates and turnings guide the walker over an often complex network of paths, some not on the 1" map at all. Alternative routes for wet weather and when undergrowth is high, are given in italics. Points of interest - historical, archaeological and scenic - are noted on or near the route. Even lists of relevant Youth Hostels, maps, and Welsh pronunciations are fitted in. The only complaint might be that, to produce such a bargain, the quality of the paper is not perhaps stout enough to stand up to much use out-of-doors in the Welsh Marches drizzle; but then, the cost of replacements (from the Ramblers' Association, 1/4 Crawford Mews, London W1H 1PT, at 10p including postage) is hardly prohibitive.

F. Neale

NOTICES OF RECENT AND FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Two recent publications by local groups are A Second North Somerset Miscellany (Bath & Camerton Archaeological Society, 1971) at 45p: a collection of papers by members of the society; and Man and the Mendips (Mendip Society 1971) at £2. 25: a volume of essays by specialists in different fields issued as the "Book of the Exhibition". It is hoped to review both books in more detail in the next issue.

A recent issue of Nature (3rd September) contains a very important article by G. A. Kellaway on "Glaciation and the Stones of Stonehenge", in which he contends with all the erudition of which a senior member of the Geological Survey is capable, that the "blue stones" were brought to the area as glacial erratics. This should cause some hard thinking among Wessex prehistorians.

L. Grinsell and J. Dyer, Discovering Regional Archaeology: Wessex (Shire Publications, 1971), 30p, has been added to the other booklets in this series reviewed by Christopher Brain in the last issue, and covers an important area easily accessible from our region.

R. E. Chaplin, who with Miss B. Noddle is running yet more of the highly successful courses on bones and archaeology in our region this winter (see Calendar 6 and 27-8 November) has now produced a book specifically on this subject. The Study of Animal Bones from Archaeological Sites (Seminar Press, 1971), £2, is the first in a new series edited by G. W. Dimbleby, of studies in archaeological sciences. Forthcoming titles include carbon-14 dating, soil science and surveying methods.

Looking ahead to next spring, publisher's advance publicity has of necessity let out a hitherto well-kept secret: the forthcoming publication by John Baker, of Archaeology & the Landscape, edited by Peter Fowler: a collection of essays to be presented to Leslie Grinsell on the occasion of his retirement. Several B. A. R. G. members have taken part in this tribute to one of our most distinguished founder-members.

Transactions of the Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society vol. 89 (1970) appeared some months ago and includes Captain H. S. Gracie's Presidential Address on "Mesolithic Gloucestershire" (p. 5-10) and his first full report on the extensive excavations of the main building at Frocester Court Roman Villa (p. 15-89), with related reports.

Somerset Archaeology and Natural History vol. 114 (1970), also issued in the late spring, includes a report on "A Roman Villa at Whatley Combe, Nunney" by I. M. Stead (p. 37-47), and "A Preliminary Catalogue of Cruck-roofed Buildings in Somerset" by Sir R. de 2 Hall (p. 48-61) as well as other contributions on cruck roofing, and short reports on excavations and finds at Cadbury, Congresbury, Catsgore, Lansdown and elsewhere.

The Ulster Journal of Archaeology vol. 33 (1970) contains an important article on "Somersetshire and other foreign building stone in medieval Ireland" by D. M. Waterman. Mr. Waterman surveys the use of foreign stone in buildings and monumental sculpture, c. 1175-1400, in south-east coastal Ireland (this limitation is not made clear in the title). He identifies oolitic limestone from Dundry and other sources in the southwest, and from Caen in Normandy. Its distribution is naturally centred on ports or sites convenient for coastal or river-borne transport. He plots and lists the sites concerned, describing the features in which the stone is used, and establishing links between various church buildings not only in style but in materials. The earliest use of Dundry stone in Ireland appears to be at Christ Church, Dublin c. 1175, and it was thereafter widely used for about a century. The Irish sites are partnered by a useful summary of the occurrence of Dundry stone in medieval Somerset buildings.

CALENDAR OF
FORTHCOMING COURSES, MEETINGS AND LECTURES

September - December 1971

Abbreviations:

A. S. Archaeological Society
B. G. A. S. Bristol & Gloucestershire Archaeological Society
University University of Bristol Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 30/32
Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1HR

Courses are weekly unless stated otherwise; (P) numbers limited; prior application necessary.

September

- 23 PREHISTORY OF THE MENDIPS by C. Browne. Course of 20 meetings at Village Hall, PILTON. 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 24 INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY: Course of 12 meetings, fortnightly with panel of lecturers at Queens Bldg, University of Bristol 7. 00 p. m. University.
- 28 LOCAL HISTORY OF NORTH SOMERSET by J. Barker. Course of 20 meetings at Further Education Centre, NAILSEA. 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 29 LOCAL HISTORY: WESTBURY-ON-TRYM by D. Jones. Course of 10 meetings at Twyford House, SHIREHAMPTON 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 29 FRAMPTON COTTERELL & DISTRICT LOCAL HISTORY RESEARCH GROUP, led by B. J. S. Moore. Course of 24 meetings at Highcroft School, FRAMPTON COTTERELL. 7. 30 p. m. University (P)
- 30 CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY IN & AROUND BRISTOL by M. W. Ponsford. Lunch-time lecture. City Museum BRISTOL 1. 15 p. m.

October

- 1 HISTORY OF BATH by J. Haddon. Course of 10 meetings at Junior School TIMSBURY. 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 4 ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE SECOND MILLENNIUM A. D. by D. P. Dawson. Course of 20 meetings at the Refectory, CONGRESBURY. 7. 30. p. m. University.

October

- 4 ARCHAEOLOGICAL ILLUSTRATION by Mrs. J. Gill. Course of 10 meetings, fortnightly, at Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University of BRISTOL 7. 15 p. m. University (P)
- 5 CELTIC WEST & SAXON EAST by Mrs. E. Fowler and Mrs. M. Gray. Course of 20 meetings at Drove Evening Centre, SWINDON. 7. 15 p. m. University
- 5 ROMAN & SAXON COUNTRYSIDE by R. H. Leech. Course of 20 meetings at Longlevens Centre, GLOUCESTER 7. 30 p. m. University
- 5 PLANNING & CONSERVATION. Course of 10 meetings with panel of lecturers at Community Centre, Sunhill Park, CLEVEDON. 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 5 BRITONS & ROMANS by C. Browne. Course of 24 meetings with field meetings at North Bristol Institute, Monks Park School, BRISTOL. 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 5 ARCHAEOLOGY OF SOUTH-WESTERN BRITAIN by L. V. Grinsell and D. P. Dawson. Course of 20 meetings at Twyford House, SHIREHAMPTON. 7. 15 p. m. University.
- 6 THE ENGLISH COUNTRY HOUSE by H. Collinson Course of 20 meetings at John Locke Hall, WRINGTON, 7. 45 p. m. University.
- 6 DOMESTIC ARCHITECTURE by A. Rome. Course of 10 meetings at Primary School, WINSCOMBE. 7. 30 p. m. University/W. E. A.
- 6 BUILDINGS AROUND US by B. Loxton. Course of 10 meetings at Church Room, AXBRIDGE. 8. 00 p. m. University.
- 6 SOURCES FOR LOCAL HISTORY OF CHEW VALLEY by J. H. Bettey, J. Barker and Mrs. J. Day. Course of 6 meetings at Vicarage, CHEW MAGNA, 7, 30 p. m. University (P)
- 7 FROME LOCAL HISTORY by R. Ashley. Course of 6 meetings, fortnightly, at FROME Museum. 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 7 ARCHAEOLOGY OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE by J. H. Drinkwater. Course of 10 meetings at Teachers' Centre, STROUD. 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 7 SOURCES FOR HISTORY OF THORNBURY by B. J. S. Moore. Course of 20 meetings at Parish Church, THORNBURY. 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 8 FACT OR FICTION: AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL INQUIRY INTO SOME LEGENDS OF THE PAST by E. J. Mason. Course of 20 meetings at Folk House BRISTOL 7. 40 p. m. W. E. A.

October

- 8 RESCUE ARCHAEOLOGY (M. 5 and other developments).
Six meetings with panel of lecturers at Weir Lodge,
Staplegrove Road, TAUNTON. 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 8 RECORDS OF MEDIEVAL CHURCH BUILDING by
J. H. Bettey. Banwell Society of Archaeology, Village
Hall, BANWELL. 7. 30 p. m.
- 9 SOMERSET A. S. AFFILIATED SOCIETIES MEETING
at BRISTOL with Address by Professor Charles Thomas
on PARISH SURVEYS, other short papers, and
conducted walk. See page 48
- 12 INVESTIGATING LOCAL HISTORY by Miss V. Airey.
Course of 10 meetings at Lyncombe Barn Community
Centre, DOWNEND. 7. 30 p. m. University.
- 13 NORTH ELMHAM by P. Wade-Martins. B. A. R. G. lecture.
City Museum, BRISTOL 7. 30 p. m.
- 14 PREHISTORY OF THE BRISTOL AREA by Dr. E. K.
Tratman. Course of 10 meetings at Geography Dept. ,
University of BRISTOL 5. 30 p. m. University.
- 14 SAXON & MEDIEVAL COIN FORGERIES by C. E. Blunt.
Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society, Room 144, BATH
Technical College. 7. 30 p. m.
- 14 LEGACY OF TWO VANISHING CULTURES by D. P.
Dawson. Lunchtime lecture, City Museum, BRISTOL 1. 15 p. m.
- 20 THE BEGINNINGS OF FARMING IN EUROPE by C. Renfrew.
Museum Winter Lecture, Museum Lecture Theatre,
BRISTOL 7. 30 p. m. Admission free.
- 21 MARINE ARCHAEOLOGY by D. Blackman. Clevedon &
District A. S. at the Junior School, YATTON, 7. 30 p. m.
- 22 WANSDYKE FROM THE AIR by J. E. Hancock. Keynsham
& Saltford Local History Society. Ellsbridge House,
KEYNSHAM. 7. 30 p. m.
- 23 OLD BANWELL: Slides and Exhibition in aid of "Rescue".
Banwell Society of Archaeology. Village Hall, BANWELL,
7. 00 p. m.
- 25 A MUSEUM MAN IN THE NEW WORLD by N. Thomas.
B. G. A. S. Bristol Section. City Museum, BRISTOL 5. 45 p. m.
- 28 COINS & HISTORY IN THE LATER ROMAN EMPIRE by
R. Reece. Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society.
City Museum, BRISTOL. 7. 30 p. m.

October

29-31 PROJECTS IN LOCAL HISTORY: weekend course with panel of lecturers at Urchfont Manor, DEVIZES. Applications to the Warden. University (P)

November

4 PRACTICAL ARCHAEOLOGY by M. W. Ponsford. Course of 20 meetings with field meeting at The Chantry (Community Association), THORNBURY. 7.30 p. m. University

6 SYMPOSIUM ON EXCAVATION & ANIMAL REMAINS with Miss B. Noddle, R. Chaplin, R. Harcourt and J. Henderson at the Veterinary School, University of BRISTOL, 11.00 a. m. Public welcome.

11 LOCAL CAVES & CAVING by V. Davies. Lunchtime lecture, City Museum, BRISTOL 1.15 p. m.

12 FURTHER STUDIES IN VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE by P. Cord. Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society, Ellsbridge House, KEYNSHAM, 7.30 p. m.

12 INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY: course of 14 meetings with panel of lecturers at College of Art, Lansdown, STROUD. 7.30 p. m. University

12 CAMPAIGNS & COINAGE OF THE CIVIL WAR by P. Selby. Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society. Room 144 BATH Technical College 7.30 p. m.

13 B. A. R. G. SYMPOSIUM: RECENT WORK BY MEMBERS
City Museum, BRISTOL. 2.30 p. m.

13-14 POLLEN ANALYSIS: by Dr. K. Crabtree. Weekend course at Geography Department, University of BRISTOL, with sequel to follow 5-6. 2.72. University (P)

17 INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY, THE EUROPEAN PICTURE by K. Hudson. Museum Winter Lecture, Museum Lecture Theatre, BRISTOL 7.30 p. m. Admission free.

18 PREHISTORIC MAN by Dr. V. Reynolds. Clevedon & District A. S. Community Centre, Sunhill Park, CLEVEDON, 7.30 p. m.

19 BRUNEL IN BRISTOL: weekend course with panel of lecturers, at Queens Building, University of BRISTOL, and Brunel College Ashley Down. University.

20 M. 5 SYMPOSIUM with P. J. Fowler and others at Wyndham Hall TAUNTON Castle. 2.15 p. m. University.

November

- 25 A BANKNOTE EVENING with Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society, City Museum, BRISTOL. 7.30 p. m.
- 27-28 BONES & ARCHAEOLOGY by Miss B. Noddle and R. Chaplin. Weekend follow-up to 1970-71 courses, at College of Education, GLOUCESTER. University (P)

December

- 1-20 ARCHAEOLOGY OF CORNWALL. Exhibition of photographs by Charles Woolf. City Museum, BRISTOL
- 8 MEXICO BEFORE THE SPANIARDS by W. Bray. Museum. Winter Lecture, Museum Lecture Theatre BRISTOL 7.30 p. m. Admission free.
- 15 ANIMAL, VEGETABLE & MINERAL - a new kind of B. A. R. G. Meeting. See p. 49 City Museum, BRISTOL 7.30 p. m.
- 9 ARCHAEOLOGY OF CORNWALL by L. V. Grinsell. Lunchtime Lecture, City Museum, BRISTOL 1.15 p. m.
- 10 MEMBERS' LOCAL HISTORY EVENING, Keynsham & Saltford Local History Society. Ellsbridge House, KEYNSHAM. 7.30 p. m.

Full details of University Courses appear in the booklet "Archaeology & Local History", available from the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 30/32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1HR.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The Hon Treasurer reminds members that some subscriptions, which were due last January, are still outstanding. please pay promptly. subscription rates: inside front cover.

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