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BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH GROUP

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

BULLETIN

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Spring, 1972

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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

This Bulletin may just reach readers before the B. A. R. G. Buffet Party on 25th March. This marks not only our tenth birthday, but also it is hoped the end, in a more cheerful and positive manner than the February A. G. M. could offer, of what has undeniably been a difficult year administratively. We look forward to fresh developments under our new Chairman and Secretary, Charles Browne (fittingly, one of our founder members) and Mike Batt. In giving them our thanks and good wishes and support in their jobs for the group, we are wishing B. A. R. G. well as it starts its second decade. This should be coupled with a tribute to our outgoing Chairman, Keith Branigan, who, especially during the last part of his term of office, took on liaison work far beyond the usual call of Chairman's duty, with one suspects a drastic effect on his telephone bills.

Leslie Grinsell's retirement has been postponed for administrative reasons from February to April : a happy chance that means this Bulletin can just anticipate the event - anticipate because, while it will be the Museum's loss, we very much hope Leslie's retirement will be local archaeology's gain. Archaeologists don't retire, and certainly don't fade away; we look forward to participating with our President of S. A. N. H. S. and Vice-President of B. G. A. S. as he continues to go from strength to strength and barrow to barrow around our region.

This issue contains the second appearance of 'Personal Viewpoint' - short items from members which it is hoped to make a regular feature. Even more pleasing, because un hoped for at this early stage, is that one of the two 'Viewpoints' arrived unsolicited. If you like the idea of this feature, please do support it. The aim is something a little more formal and controlled than a spasmodic 'Letters Column'; open to short items, ideally c. 400 words, on any archaeological subject on your mind, especially from members who might feel daunted by the idea of writing a full article. Nothing libellous, please; and constructive ideas will be preferred. 'Personal Viewpoint' is one way of keeping us all in touch with one another. The blank backs of Keith Branigan's December questionnaire provided splendid opportunities for another, which will be discussed and we hope reported and acted upon in due course. Thirdly, do remember that the Secretary or, indeed, any Committee member will always gladly transmit comments and ideas to the Committee for action. Your ideas are the best birthday present you could give to B. A. R. G.

THE CONSERVATION OF THE HORSEY WINDMILL

by Janet Escritt

B. A. R. G. members will remember the stir caused by the discovery that one of the few really obvious "humps" directly in the line of the M. 5 Motorway, at Horsey, Chedzoy (Somerset), was the base of a post-mill, in a quite remarkably perfect state of preservation. Indeed, it was the prompt individual support of B. A. R. G. members among others which, in a financial crisis, kept the archaeological bulldozer working and saved these remains from the earthmovers. Provisionally dated by pottery to the early 15th century, the mill-base was said at the time to be a unique discovery in England, if not in western Europe; and everyone awaits considered and specialist reports with interest. These, inevitably, must take time. First, the slow and mammoth tasks of conservation has had to be faced.

When the Bristol City Museum laboratory staff were contacted with a view to conserving a medieval windmill, their first reaction was one of horror. It was felt that the effort and cost involved in handling such large timbers (two of them over 14 feet in length) might not really be worthwhile for plain pieces of wood. However, the timbers in situ proved so impressive that it was decided to tackle the job of preserving them.

The wood was quite sound; in fact, the largest pieces were sawn in two to facilitate handling, and actually produced fresh sawdust from the centre. Only the outside of the wood was truly waterlogged, and the overall appearance was clean and strong. The timbers were completely excavated, lifted, and polythene tubing slid over them. A fungicide solution was added to the packages before they were sealed and packed in thick foam rubber for transport on a low-loader. Once back at the Museum (at Blaise), the wood had to be hosed down thoroughly to remove loose splinters and mud. This was essentially a bare-muddy-feet and rolled-up-jeans job. The wood was treated again with fungicide and covered with clean polythene to stop evaporation, while some hard thinking was done.

Some explanation of the term "waterlogged" wood is needed. Water-logging of timber over a long period results in the breaking-down of the cellulose part of the structure, leaving only a cellwork skeleton of lignin. The remaining lignin structure is in itself quite strong; but if the evaporation of the water from the cells occurs quickly, it causes shrinkage, warping and cracking. The cell walls do not actually collapse, but are pulled together by the receding meniscus of the evaporating water. It is this pulling-together

of the cell walls that treatments set out to avoid. There are three types of treatment undertaken for the safe removal of the water:

- (1) Replacement of the water by a liquid of lower surface tension, which will evaporate without pulling the cell walls together
- (2) Replacement of the water by an aqueous solution of a solid that can safely be left in the object (usually polyethylene glycol)
- (3) Removal of the water very slowly by allowing controlled evaporation whilst keeping the wood rigid

Application of the first treatment to an artefact of this size would involve the use of vast quantities of liquids which are highly inflammable and/or toxic. The second treatment would involve the use of expensive, specialised pumps, immersion heaters and thermostats. Both treatments would involve the use of very costly materials, and the manufacture of custom-built tanks for treatment. It was therefore decided to attempt the third, slow-drying method: "attempt", because few timbers have been treated in this way and not all of those successfully. A slow rate of evaporation has been achieved by burying the timbers under sand to a depth of three feet. Twenty-four tons of sand were purchased and shovelled (such is the range of museum work!) from the courtyard at Blaise into the stable where the wood is now slowly drying. The thick layer of sand provides enough weight to keep the wood rigid at all times. In addition it protects the wood from frost during the winter, and slows down the rate of drying during the summer.

It is now nearly a year since the wood was buried. Soon we will be taking our shovels out to Blaise to uncover a little corner and check progress. If all goes well, it is expected that the wood will dry out completely after three or four years. Quicker drying is not desirable, as there would be a greater risk of warping and cracking - and it would bring closer the problem of final consolidation! The previously water-logged layers of the timber will be relatively light and flimsy, and will need consolidation to make them strong enough for handling, reassembly and display. No decisions have yet been made on this stage of the treatment, as we still have two or three years in which to work out the next steps.

PUBLIC HOUSE CHECKS

John Durnell, member of B. A. R. G. and of the Bath & Bristol Numismatic Society, is requesting information on the whereabouts of any Public House checks issued in and around Bristol, to complete a major local survey of these tokens. To date he has recorded approximately 600 checks, from 200 local pubs, but is still aware of some gaps: such as the Ship in Cathay, and the Bunch of Grapes, in Old Market Street, Bristol. He needs only to make a rubbing of the token; and would welcome any information that B. A. R. G. members may be able to supply. The checks are brass or copper discs: mainly brass. The name of the Inn, Tavern or Hotel, and sometimes that of the landlord as well, appears on one side; and the value of the check, surrounded by the name of the maker in the form of two 'branches' tied with a bow at the bottom, on the other. They were issued mostly during the second half of the 19th century; copper checks are earlier (1850's), simpler and smaller (c. 22 mm. diameter) than the brass ones, which appear from 1855 onwards and are about 24-26.5 mm. diameter.

Mr. Durnell's address is 3 Glen Park, St. George, Bristol BS5 7ND.

EVENING LECTURES AND THE WINTER PROGRAMME

by Keith Branigan

Since I wrote about attendances at evening lectures and circulated a questionnaire in the last issue of the Bulletin, we have seen an encouraging response in both directions. The AVM evening saw an attendance of 18; Brian Hopley's lecture - held on a very wet evening and clashing with other archaeological meetings in the region - produced an audience of 32. To date, 53 circulars have been returned; the most commendable being that returned by Mr. R. A. Farrar, who lives in London and obviously can attend none of our meetings! There is little point in trying to do a statistical analysis of the answers to the questionnaire, since some people ticked many choices under each heading, and others only one. Others ignored some questions altogether. The results are given here mainly in terms of votes in favour of each proposal, although in some cases votes for and against have been recorded.

As with most statistics, one could use these to prove virtually anything; but certain points emerge quite clearly. Support is almost evenly split for any weekday evening, or for a Saturday afternoon for winter meetings. By far the most popular time for an evening meeting to

start is 7.30 p.m. Lectures on virtually anything archaeological find a fair measure of support, but one-day conferences and symposia and local topics are most preferred. Very few B. A. R. G. members feel that there are too many archaeological meetings in Bristol during the winter. Finally, a clear majority would like to see a little more variety in the winter programme.

Preferred day for meetings:	Monday evening	12
	Tuesday evening	14
	Wednesday evening	16
	Thursday evening	16
	Friday evening	13
	Saturday afternoon	18
	Saturday evening	6

Preferred time for evening meetings:

6.00 p.m.	8
6.30 p.m.	4
7.00 p.m.	18
7.30 p.m.	33

Preferred topics for lectures:	Specialised topics	24
	Local topics	33
	Gen. British archaeol.	30
	Overseas archaeol.	17
	Members' symposia	25
	All-day conf. /symp.	33

Preferred alternatives to lectures:	Films	16
	Quiz	7
	Discussion	17

Would you prefer to start no later than 7.00 p.m. and have time for coffee at an evening lecture? Yes 18 No 25

Do you think there are too many archaeological lectures on, in the Bristol area during the winter? Yes 6 No 38

Would you like to see a more varied B. A. R. G. winter programme?
Yes 31 No 16

In addition to answering the questions, many members added comments on the back of their questionnaire. These are all informative and useful, and will be put before the committee for consideration as to what action can or should be taken in the light of them. May I conclude by thanking our fifty-two members who returned the questionnaire, and challenging those who didn't to come to our next meeting - Don Benson on the Ascott-under-Wychwood long barrow in April.

PERSONAL VIEWPOINT (1)

ANDY CAPP

Andy Capp was held up by Mr. Graham Arnold, in speaking to the annual meeting of Rescue, as a type-specimen of the public to which rescue archaeology is looking for its funds.

What does Andy Capp know about archaeology? What does he read about it, if he gets as far as borrowing from the public library where I work? Let us take two books from the shelf, and see how many times they have been borrowed. Barry Cunliffe's Roman Bath Discovered would appear to have everything: local interest, a spectacular subject, plenty of pictures. I have drawn attention to it by reviewing it in a local church magazine. It has been out nine times. Erich von Daniken's Chariots of the Gods? is a sensational jumble of 'astronomy', 'archaeology' and speculation. It has so far been borrowed 24 times, and it has never been on the shelf at all because I have yet to reach the end of the list of readers who have put in reservations for it.

If we suppose, more realistically, that Andy Capp does not use the library, what will he learn of archaeology elsewhere? Well, if there is one archaeological event which is going to dominate the mass media during 1972, it is the discovery of the tomb of Tutankhamen; which is all very well, except that it took place fifty years ago.

But is fifty years so far from the mark for the time which it takes for a new discovery to percolate to Andy Capp and his mates? I suggest not, whether it is the theory of evolution, or the discovery that ancient Britons did not live in pit huts. The disturbing thing is that, if it takes fifty years for Andy Capp to become aware of the present crisis in British archaeology, there won't be much left for him to do about it.

David Bromwich

PERSONAL VIEWPOINT (2)

BRISTOL ARCHAEOLOGICAL "RESEARCH" GROUP?

What does B. A. R. G. do? It provides a programme of some four or five lectures a year, which is in addition to those provided by the B. G. A. S. and the Bristol City Museum. It has published a series of four popular field guides, a Survey & Policy and a collection of four essays on local topics. The Bulletin aims to make available a very useful but, of necessity, ephemeral compilation of current information and opinion. Does this fulfil the existence of B. A. R. G. (a) in terms of something additional to the

activities of existing county societies, the University Department of Extra-Mural Studies, and the Department of Archaeology and History at the Bristol City Museum; or (b) in terms of carrying out the implications of the title the group has adopted? In my opinion, no.

To point (a), the Bulletin, as already suggested, provides information of immediate use. Unfortunately, the information is rarely utilised by our membership; our lecture programme is very badly supported, perhaps indicating that it only caters for a small minority. The field meetings have been non-existent this past year, despite the number of excavations in the area, the field guides, and the current national campaign concerned with the problem of the rate of destruction of sites, their recording, and excavation.

As for point (b), one might reasonably ask what research has been achieved by the Group over the past ten years? The Parish Survey Unit was set up in the ninth year of our existence; but - at the moment - only has the active support of the minority of our membership. And how many members of B. A. R. G. have presented papers for publication to the Editors of proceedings or transactions of any of the local archaeological journals?

"So," one might ask, "what could B. A. R. G. do?" As an archaeological group, concerned primarily with the City and County of Bristol, it could play an essential role through its wide range of membership in

(i) The compilation and publication of archaeological evidence already recovered, but to all intents and purposes lying dormant in the many museums of the area.

(ii) The identification and publication of new field monuments of all periods, both in terms of standing structures and purely surface sites, in the urban as well as the rural areas.

(iii) More intense observational fieldwork prior to and in conjunction with destructional work of all kinds, from a new sewer trench to a new town: in fact, all development, even within the confines of the present built-up areas.

(iv) The undertaking, under the leadership of those members of the Group with sufficient experience, of the long-needed programme of research excavation, particularly of those sites due for imminent destruction. The major concern of the Group, i. e. Bristol, has been practically entirely redeveloped within the central zone during the past ten years, without sufficient fieldwork beyond that of the Museum's excavations, and those mainly limited to the past four years; and radical development is still due, as in the form of the inner circuit road, which will destroy much of the outlying suburbs and pre-existing villages of the medieval and later city.

In conclusion, there is a great challenge now for B. A. R. G. to meet its responsibilities. We now have over 300 members to contribute towards the vital work of recovering the evidence which, otherwise, is shortly to be lost to us forever.

Julian Bennett

TRAINING & RESEARCH EXCAVATIONS

The seventh season of the training excavation at the Iron Age/Romano British settlement, at Row of Ashes Farm, Butcombe, Somerset will take place 27th May - 9th June, 1972. Prior applications in good time, please, to P. J. Fowler, Department of Extra-Mural Studies, 30/32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1HR.

The three-week residential training excavation on the Roman villa and field system at Barnsley Park, nr. Cirencester, Glos., will run from 8th July onwards. For details, see Associate Members Page, p. 93.

Opportunity for excavation and training in Bristol itself will occur with development on the Sea Mills site during the early summer: see Mike Ponsford's note below.

The Cadcong research excavation (experienced archaeologists, who come for all or most of the time, preferred) will take place from 26th July - 23rd August this year. Details from P. J. Fowler, as above.

SEA MILLS

During 1972 there is to be a development on the Nazareth House site, Sea Mills, which will involve turning much of the land into a built-up area. Nazareth House is to be demolished, along with several other standing buildings. The work is likely to reveal traces of the northern side of the Sea Mills Roman settlement, including the site where the SPES CRESCENTI tombstone, now in the City Museum, was found in 1873. It will be an opportunity to locate any defensive works there may be at Sea Mills, with the extramural buildings and cemeteries attached and running alongside the Roman road from Sea Mills to Bath.

The developer wishes to begin work at least by July. A short excavation season is therefore envisaged, with a watching brief during building (see also Associate Members' Page, p. 93). Details can be obtained from M. W. Ponsford, Hon. Fieldwork Adviser, Bristol City Museum.

ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

BARG FILM EVENING, Tuesday 18th April (Schools Room, City Museum, 7.30 p.m.). Another evening of archaeological films has been arranged, and all members of B. A. R. G. are invited to attend. We hope to include in the programme some of the films which we were unable to acquire in January.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES. A number of B. A. R. G. Associate Excursions on the lines of the recent Avebury trip, are at the moment being organised. At the time of writing, it is suggested that one should visit an archaeologically interesting area of Dorset: perhaps the area of Cerne Abbas or Dorchester and Maiden Castle. Another trip could include Wayland Smithy Long Barrow, Uffington Castle and White Horse, and the group of barrows at Lambourne, Berks, in its itinerary. It seems probable (or possible) that a mini-bus or small coach will be available for our use. The third suggestion: a youth-hostelling weekend either in the Quantocks (Somerset), on Exmoor, in the Bridport area (Dorset) or Blandford Forum area (Dorset-Wilts. -Hants. borders), to take place in September. Mr. L. V. Grinsell has kindly offered to organise and lead this special excursion.

FINDS-CLEANING AND MARKING SESSIONS ('Pot-washing Evenings'): Thursdays at the City Museum, 7.30 p.m. I would like to thank the several Associate Members who regularly assist at these sessions. The work they do is invaluable to the Museum and well worthwhile. If anyone is interested in coming along I am sure Mike Ponsford and Janet Escritt will be glad of their help - especially as this year the Museum is spending the summer in consolidating and assessing previous season's work. No excavations as such have been planned so that the accumulation of unexamined excavation material can be sorted out and catalogued.

SEA MILLS. Development is planned on the Nazareth House site this summer: for details, see p. 92. Mike Ponsford suggests that as much of the advance archaeological work will have to take place outside school holidays, the period when Associate Members can really be of valuable help will be from July onwards, by assisting with a watching brief while development work actually takes place. Details will be finalised during March, and should be obtained from Mike Ponsford at the City Museum.

BARNSLEY PARK ROMAN VILLA TRAINING EXCAVATION. From July 8th to August 5th, this residential training excavation will be taking place near Cirencester. I can really recommend it to any Associates attracted by unearthing the past - especially those of sixteen and over, who will benefit most from the virtually University-standard tuition. The

course is under the direction of Dr. Graham Webster, and includes a series of evening lectures. Perhaps the really stimulating part of the excavation is getting to know other young people interested in archaeology. Last year there were several Americans, two Swiss and a Dutchman present, as well as the Liverpoolians, Londoners, Mancunians and the Bristolians. The course runs for four weeks, but two weeks is recognised as a good training period. Further details in Courses in Archaeology, Summer 1972 from the Department of Extra-Mural Studies, P. O. Box 363, University of Birmingham, Birmingham BS15 2TT.

Christopher Brain

B. A. R. G. SYMPOSIUM SUPPLEMENT:

No. 7: 13th November, 1971

The seventh Symposium drew a 'full house' of about sixty members, making a marked contrast to the problem of lecture attendance which is currently under discussion, and serving to emphasise the importance of this annual review of members' activities.

1. J. Drinkwater Gloucestershire Barrows: a swansong for the '70s?

The present state of Neolithic and Bronze Age barrows in Gloucestershire can be divided into those very few fully excavated by modern methods; those dug into in the past; those marked only by a few standing stones; unexcavated, unploughed sites many of which (Leighterton I, Nan Tow's Tump) are under thick tree cover which is effectively destroying their interiors; and unexcavated ploughed sites (as represented locally by the barrows at Horton I, Tormarton I-1a, 1b, 2). Ploughing fields around and between barrows can demonstrably eat into the barrow mound even though it remains officially 'safe' (Cow Common, Swell); while annual ploughing can savagely and progressively gut a barrow in very few years (Farmcote, Temple Guiting 19). Fieldwork shows the importance of concentrations of flint that form often the only remaining traces of barrows that have been completely ploughed out (Cow Common). These will often be the only and fast disappearing clues to the important study of barrow-groups. Even ostensibly safe barrows, unploughed and free from trees, can be badly damaged by cattle. The appalling record for ploughed-out barrows, and the urgent need for fieldwork, is particularly marked in precisely the area of South Gloucestershire which falls within B. A. R. G.'s range. Surface damage to so many of those still standing above ground underlines the equally urgent need for proper excavation.

Publication: Archaeology & the Landscape, ed. P. J. Fowler (1972)

2. J. Harbord

Prehistory of the Cold Ashton Area

The Cold Ashton/Lansdown hill-spur, flanked by its two streams, formed a usefully definable unit for a complete survey of prehistoric remains. Much of the value of the work, which can be divided into field-survey, rescue work and excavation, lay not just in new discoveries, but in re-locating and re-recording the copious but unrecorded archaeological activity that has gone on in the area since the barrow-diggers of the 19th and early 20th century. Fieldwalking since 1914 has produced thousands of surface flints, mainly Neolithic and Bronze Age but possibly including some Mesolithic examples, scattered among various museums and private collections. Rescue work included an Iron Age settlement site; and valuable but unreported work by Kingswood Archaeological Society at Little Down Camp needed to be coordinated with the prehistoric archaeology of the area as a whole.

3. V. Hallett

Local Field Archaeology: The First Year of the Thornbury Group

This paper appeared in full in Bulletin 4. 3 (December 1971), 61-63.

4. R. Jackson

Bristol Clay Tobacco Pipe Makers

From the second half of the 17th century Bristol has been one of the leading centres of tobacco importation and processing, with a correspondingly large number of tobacco pipe makers, who can be traced from the apprentice and freedom registers, local directories and other records. By correlating the pipe form and the initials stamped on the heel of the pipe with these records it is proving possible to identify many of the pipemakers from the 1620s onwards, and to put them - and so the archaeological deposits in which the pipe fragments occur - into a closely datable sequence. Certain pipemaking families, such as the Tippetts, their partner Isaac Evans, and others, are being traced for several generations. The Tippetts kilns were excavated in Whitson Street in 1954-6, and many pipes were found in pits in St. James's Barton in 1968. A waste heap of clay pipes found 1971 at the angle of Broad Weir and Lower Castle Street can be dated to c. 1782-1792 and associated with Israel Carey, working at Castle Green. Plain and decorative pipes, domestic and export 'lines', are now being identified and dated.

Publication: possibly Trans. B. G. A. S.

5. Elizabeth Adams The Parish Survey Unit: A Review of the First Year

The work of the Parish Survey Unit has been reported regularly in the Bulletin in some detail. Sixty members joined the project, of whom rather more than thirty are currently working on thirty-six parishes (leaving seventy to go, within the B. A. R. G. region). Coverage of documentary sources is progressing. Professor C. Thomas's welcome encouragement and advice was reported in Bulletin 4.3 (Dec. 1971), 68-70, and a fieldmeeting at Christon and Banwell provided valuable practical guidance. The winter offers the opportunity to get started on work in the field, involving the other thirty or so members. Farmers have on several occasions proved most cooperative, and partnership with other groups, such as St. Matthias College, North Somerset Archaeological Research Group and Thornbury Archaeological Group, is obviously and rightly becoming a feature of the whole exercise.

6. J. Hancock Rescue Archaeology from the Air

Aerial colour slides, as magnificent as ever, ranged over a very wide area of Wessex and the southwest: contrasting sites under pasture and plough, on army and farming land. The massive M. 5 motorway cutting through north Somerset was set alongside the erosion of barrows by cattle. Ploughing, roads and quarrying do not affect only barrows and hillforts, but ploughing can create an (industrial?) archaeological cropmark out of a disused airfield, as at Beverstone, Glos.

7. M. W. Ponsford The Excavation of Westbury College

After tea, our Hon. Fieldwork Adviser gave a full account, detailed in the analysis of the evidence and superbly illustrated, of the highly complex excavations which have been in progress since 1967 at Westbury College. Work was reported in the Bulletin (3.2, pp. 42-3) back in 1968, but this brought developments and interpretations right up to date. Very little was known of this important 1200-year old religious foundation beforehand, so that interpretation of the archaeological and the documentary evidence has proceeded hand in hand, right down to the 17th-18th-19th centuries. Standing remains have been correlated with the excavated structures; difficulties of site development have been contended with; and the highly involved sequence of construction and replacement has been unravelled, to produce evidence of a site set behind a series of impressive 11th-15th century flood-protection walls: an 11th century cemetery with

associated timber buildings of the 1093 church and monastery; the remains of the first college, built in 1194; a magnificent series of 12-13th century monastic buildings, including kitchen with hearths, ovens, drains and cistern; then the 15th century rebuilding of the College, with its galleried courtyard, and even traces of the deliberate 'scorched-earth policy' burning by Prince Rupert in the 17th century Civil War campaign.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The tenth Annual General Meeting of B. A. R. G. was held on Saturday 19th February 1972 at 2.30 p.m. in the City Art Gallery. About 36 members attended, who considered the minutes of the last Annual General Meeting and the Annual Report for 1971, and approved the creation of a new officer, the Hon. Membership Secretary. Charles Browne was elected as Chairman for the coming two years, and Mike Batt succeeded John Drinkwater as Hon. Secretary. A welcome development was the receipt of enough nominations to require an election for the three vacant positions of ordinary members of the Committee, and this was duly held. The full list of officers and committee elected for the coming year appears on p. 84. Under Any Other Business, it was emphasised that the valuable comments on the back of the questionnaires returned to Dr. Branigan (see this issue, p. 88-9) would receive thorough consideration by the Committee.

After tea, our outgoing Chairman Keith Branigan delivered a most stimulating address on "The Gallic Invasion of Gloucestershire". He brought together a tightly argued array of continental features and parallels, and a particularly impressive analytical series of local villa plans, in support of the theory that the phenomenon of the great 4th century villas of the Gloucestershire region was the result of an influx of Gallic landowners, probably from around Trier, and perhaps developing a former Imperial estate. The debate provoked by his address was one of the longest and most lively of any B. A. R. G. meeting, and showed how wrong is the assumption, sometimes heard, that the Roman villa in Britain has been worked to death. Dr. Branigan's paper is to appear in Trans. B.G.A.S. 91 (1973).

THE PARISH SURVEY UNIT

by Elizabeth Adams

The Problem of 'Humps and Bumps'

Signs of distress have been detected among some P. S. U. members about the difficulty of distinguishing the genuine archaeological features from other humps and bumps. This is a question that really gets to the root of what the Survey Unit is trying to do: but it need not be a problem. The solution is to record what you see, with a Grid Reference, even if you only note it on the slip as a 'hump' or 'bump', with no interpretation or period. Some kind of sketch map and profile on the back of the slip, including its relationship to field or other boundaries, is invaluable. Simply by locating the hump in this way, the breakthrough of recording has been made. When you compare slips and grid references, you may find a documentary reference provides a clue as to the nature of the hump. If, as suggested, you have already covered your main documentary sources and plotted them onto the field-walkers' maps before setting out, the clue may be there, ready and waiting. Even where the 'hump' remains anonymous, you have located and recorded it, which makes it a comparatively straightforward task to persuade some appropriately qualified person at a later stage, to come and help by working methodically round your plotted humps adding details where possible, or deciding that the hump is after all a natural feature.

Combined Efforts

From the beginning, it has been hoped that the work of compiling Parish Checklists in this region will involve other local groups besides B. A. R. G. ; we simply happened to start the operation. Several P. S. U. / B. A. R. G. members have already described the aims and work of the Survey Unit to other local societies; and our debt of gratitude to North Somerset Archaeological Research Group for their cooperation at a very early stage, was recorded in Bulletin 4.2, p. 44. As coverage expands into areas which are known and 'worked' by other societies, we hope the Survey can grow into a truly cooperative undertaking, combining the advantages of local knowledge on the one hand, and centralised compilation and publication on the other. In two groups, St. Matthias College and Thornbury Archaeological Group, parish surveys in coordination with B. A. R. G. are already under way.

In the December Bulletin, Vic Hallett described the first year of the Thornbury Group. An invitation from this Group, a number of whom are B. A. R. G. members, to tell something of the progress of others involved in the P. S. U. , led to my spending a most interesting evening at their headquarters at the Chantry, Thornbury. This was once a private

house, though one wonders what connection it may have with the Chantry which Lindsey Linton tells me is recorded as having existed in Thornbury. It is now used as the Community Centre, where the Thornbury Group have the use of a room for their meetings. Coffee is provided too! On the evening of my visit, a varied programme ranged from the descriptions of the excavations at Gatcombe (Bill Solley) and of the site and environs of Butcombe (Lindsey Linton), to Mr. F. Robinson's extremely well-informed and detailed commentary on his slides of the Acropolis. My run-down of progress on P. S. U. followed, demonstrating that despite some inevitable setbacks, we are well on the way to possessing the basic details necessary for the publication of our first checklists.

Thornbury are fortunate in having a regular and pleasant meeting-place. Joint discussion of problems and exchange of information is the best possible morale booster, and the less experienced (whose continuing interest is vital to the success of our project) need the opportunity to obtain advice and encouragement from the older hands. Thanks are due to members of other groups who are holding meetings in their homes.

Portishead and Portbury area

The northern half of Group 2 has been reformed under the leadership of Arthur Selway (15 St. Martin's Road, Knowle, Bristol BS4 2NQ), assisted by Cyril Routley. The survey of this area is especially important in view of possible West Dock developments. It is hoped that some members of Clevedon & District Archaeological Society, as well as any other B. A. R. G. members in the area, may be interested to contact Arthur for more details, and to help him with this undertaking.

WELLS MUSEUM

We are delighted to welcome Norman Cook, B. A. , F. S. A. , F. M. A. , to the B. A. R. G. region. Having retired as Director of the Guildhall Museum, London (where he was succeeded by "our" Max Hebditch, forming a neat balance of exchange), Mr. Cook takes up the position of Hon. Curator at the Museum, Wells, at the beginning of March. It is equally pleasurable to record that this does not mean we are losing Dr. Wallis, longstanding and ever-interested supporter of B. A. R. G. , who now becomes a most deserved Hon. Curator Emeritus.

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REVIEW

Guide to the Bristol Archives Office, by Elizabeth Ralph (Bristol Corporation, 1971) £2.00; by post £2.20 from the City Archivist, Council House, Bristol.

Although this reviewer was, in its early days, involved in the preparation of this Guide, it is hoped that the lapse of time will make a review permissible. This book has been one of the most needed, and now it is available will prove one of the most indispensable tools for the study of Bristol, whether by historians or by archaeologists in search of complementary background evidence about their sites. It is exactly what it says: a Guide which shows the kinds of records in Bristol Archives Office, how they came together, what they are and what dates they cover. In the process it often gives a brief indication of their contents, but this is not its primary aim. It is not a catalogue; and as there sometimes seems to be some confusion between the two, and over the roles of guide, catalogue and archivist in helping the enquirer, their difference is perhaps worth exploring in more detail.

The guide is a preliminary finding-aid: something the enquirer can study before coming to the office to give a starting point and an idea of what may be relevant to their interest: there are groups of 14th century deeds; there are records of the Company of Feltmakers, of 17-19th century iron foundries; of a corn market in Wine Street, or of the villages of Dundry and Winterbourne. It is not a catalogue which will instantly show you what title deeds or plans survive for the sites of three or four specific properties on the north side, east end of Wine Street; or what documents mention the city walls prior to 1400. The catalogue, giving such precise details, including the nature and content of individual records from 12th to 20th century, exists: but it occupies shelves and card indexes of such extent that they can never be published; nor would it serve any useful purpose so to separate them from the records to which they refer. And, contrary to the suggestion sometimes made, it would be dangerously facile to produce a 'selected' catalogue for archaeologists because it is precisely in the elusive, unexpected sources that the new discoveries are made.

This is where a second misunderstanding seems sometimes to arise. Some hopeful enquirers expect the archivist to wave a wand and instantly produce in a neat row, ready translated and transcribed, every (but every) document mentioning medieval street paving or cellars in a certain area; or every reference to sugar refining or (inevitably) slavery in Bristol; or all useful references to medieval house furnishings. A few queries, about a specific family, episode or some places, can be traced immediately from the catalogue. But others require research: and this is the job of the

enquirer, not the archivist. The guide, the catalogue and the archivist, in ascending order of sophistication, are the 'finding aids'.

Perhaps it is worth comparing the archivist with librarian or archaeologist. You expect a good librarian to show you what and where are the books on a particular subject; to suggest particularly useful books on a certain aspect; and perhaps, from their own knowledge, they may also suggest specific references. You would not expect them to know the entire book off by heart; or to read it for you; or to translate it for you to read, if it was in a foreign language. The archivist is frequently expected to do all these things - and usually obliges, within reason. More seriously, you would not expect an archaeologist to pronounce on the details of a building while it is still deeply buried below an unexcavated, indistinct hump in the ground. His experience may enable him to make a shrewd estimate of the type, date and potential value of the building as evidence; but only careful work by the diggers, under expert direction, can turn that estimate into reality. Similarly, the guide, the catalogue and the archivist are there to help and direct the historical student; with a few exceptions, they are not designed to do an 'instant job' or provide 'instant answers'.

Documentary research is essentially an individual achievement. The aim of the finding-aids, from the archivist downwards, is to assist and promote that achievement by others; and the main way in which this is done is by making the documents available. The key to this is not just a mammoth index, but the arrangement of the records in the order and form in which they were originated, so that the purpose and growth of the records and the organisation which produced them is made clear and logical. This is the basic key to knowing what group of records are most likely to be of help in any specific enquiry, and it is this key which the Guide now provides for public use.

It compresses an enormous amount of information into a remarkably small space - a considerable achievement, because it is also very easy on the eye. The first part covers the official archives of the city, starting with the first Charter of 1188 and tracing the development of city and records through Lord Mayors, Council, Committees, Treasurer and Judiciary to Turnpike Trusts, U. D. C. s and R. D. C. s. One of the most valuable features for many users will be the short paragraphs beginning each section, giving brief history, dates and development of the department or organisation concerned. These bring together in one place much basic but hitherto elusive information. The second part covers unofficial records deposited in the office, including Ecclesiastical Records (which have their own separately published guides already), Estate and Family, Business and

Trade, and so on. Families are listed in alphabetical order; so are businesses, by their kinds (Chimney Sweep ... Copper ... Lead ... Ropemaking, etc.: surely a most useful device for students). There is a remarkably large section on records of various Bristol Societies (Anchor Society and Artillery Company, to Western Provident Association and Worcester Theatre). The index runs to twenty pages, which come as close as is ever likely to a portable mini-catalogue, enabling one to look up not just Ale, assize of; or Anti-Slavery or Asylums; but which also includes Bristol streets and out-of-town places in Somerset and Gloucestershire. The last Bulletin anticipated the Guide as a fitting culmination to Miss Ralph's 36 years as City Archivist; its appearance has more than justified that anticipation.

Frances Neale

NOTICES OF RECENT & FORTHCOMING PUBLICATIONS

Publication hold-ups, for various reasons ranging from power-cuts to the death of John Baker, head of the archaeological publishing firm, have meant that only one of our hoped-for review books and none of our regular local journals have been available in time to make this issue. This should, however, make a good store of reading for next September's number. Meanwhile, there are a number of other publications well deserving a shorter notice.

Bristol City Museum has produced a Guide to the Roman Section of the Archaeology Galleries among its latest Information Sheets (3 p).

Hedges & Local History (Standing Conference for Local History, 26 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3 HU, 1971, 54 p inc. postage) is a well-produced booklet containing the papers of the important conference at which methods of dating hedgerows (and thus field systems) from botanical and documentary evidence were discussed by Dr. M. P. Hooper, Dr. W. G. Hoskins, Dr. A. D. Bradshaw and D. E. Allen. It provides the informed detail needed by local fieldworkers, if this theory is to be applied locally in a scholarly manner.

A History of Bristol & Gloucestershire by B. S. Smith and Elizabeth Ralph (archivists of Gloucestershire and Bristol respectively) is due to be published in April (Darwen Finlayson, £3.20). A straightforward, well-illustrated book, it has the all-too-rare aim of describing in one volume the inter-relationship of these two counties, the city and the countryside which it has served and been served by for centuries.

The publication of what promises to be the most important archaeological book in our area for a long time, Archaeology & the Landscape, ed. P. J. Fowler: a tribute to L. V. Grinsell (John Baker £4. 50) is imminent at the time of writing.

A revised edition of The Preparation of Archaeological Reports, ed. L. V. Grinsell and others, has been proposed but temporarily and unavoidably delayed because of publisher's takeovers.

Next, two books that both offer superb value for money, at opposite ends of the financial scale.

A 'national' book, and a reference book well beyond the private pockets of most of us, Deserted Medieval Villages by M. Beresford and J. G. Hurst (Lutterworth Press, 1971, £8. 00; xviii, pp. 340, 16 tables, 31 plates, 42 figs.) is nonetheless of such importance to the local medieval archaeologist that a copy should be reserved from the public library as soon as possible. It is such a 'meaty' book that, for once, one feels the price is almost justified. It ranges from general to particular surveys of DMVs; from overall national research, to local gazeteers and bibliographies. House types, construction details (structure, roofing, flooring etc.), and variations in plan are analysed. Historical research on the causes of desertion complement the practical archaeology. Old maps are compared with the present ground surface. A magnificent series of air photographs supplements the description of 'types' and shows the varied visible quality of sites. Figure 13, showing the distribution of DMVs known at the end of 1968, makes the B. A. R. G. area of south Gloucestershire and north Somerset look remarkably pallid. This is all too clearly explained by comparison with Plan 5, showing the local frequency of DMVs by counties, and 'work in progress': Gloucester is only 2 points up the scale of frequency - or should it be of local energy and interest? While in Somerset (p. 35) virtually nothing has been done. The work and results in adjoining areas, as shown in these two illustrations, strongly imply that it is 20th century fieldworkers, rather than deserted medieval villages, which are lacking in our area.

The Archaeology of Lundy by K. S. Gardner (Landmark Trust, 25p), is small but equally value-for-money. It forms a model example of just what intensive fieldwork can produce. The strict limitation of an island encourages the concept of total fieldwork but there is no reason why Mr. Gardner's methods should not be applied to any reasonably well-defined mainland area. Sites are covered in two ways: in chronological order and in a topographical sequence, cross-referenced to each other, but with their main descriptions coming in the topographical section. The booklet can thus be used either as a history or as a fieldguide. Descriptions are short but clear and precise, from Mesolithic flints to early 20th century golf-course, with a wealth of photographs and plans.

LUNDY ISLAND

Following the great success of the 1971 excursion, Lundy Field Society is organising another day trip to Lundy Island, with guided exploration, specially for archaeologists, geologists, botanists and ornithologists. The boat will leave Ilfracombe 11.30 p. m., arriving back c. 7.30 p. m. Boat fare £2. Details through your local archaeological group (many of whom are making supplementary transport arrangements to Ilfracombe), or direct from A. F. Langham, 1 Furzefield Road, Reigate, Surrey. Apply early to avoid disappointment.

SOMERSET TOWNS & TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDINGS

The value and stimulus of symposia is becoming increasingly realised in our region. After the most successful pioneer symposium on Roman Somerset: Recent Work held at Wells last December, S. A. N. H. S. is holding another one, again in the north of the county, this time on The Archaeology of Somerset Towns, at the Town Hall, Glastonbury on 8th April. Details from Nancy Langmaid, The Castle, Taunton. This is followed on the next Saturday, 15th April, by one on Timber-framed Buildings arranged by C. B. A. Group XIII, at Wheatstone Hall, Gloucester, at 2.15 p. m. This discussion meeting will cover Roman archaeology, vernacular architecture, and practical conservation. Tickets 40p (including tea) from J. F. Rhodes, City Museum, Gloucester GL1 1HP.

CALENDAR OF FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS COURSES & MEETINGS

March - September, 1972

Abbreviations:

B. & B. Num. Soc. , :	Bath and Bristol Numismatic Society
B. G. A. S. :	Bristol & Gloucester Archaeological Society
University:	University of Bristol Extra-Mural Dept., 30/32 Tyndall's Park Road, Bristol BS8 1HR
S. A. N. H. S. :	Somerset Archaeological & Natural History History Society
G. D. A. R. G. :	Gloucester & District Archaeological Research Group

March

- 25 B. A. R. G. TENTH BIRTHDAY BUFFET PARTY, University Union,
Queens' Road, BRISTOL, 7.30 p. m.
- 25 B. G. A. S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING at Friends' House,
Frenchay, BRISTOL, 4.00 p. m.

March

- 26 AVEBURY TRIP: B. A. R. G. Associate Members. Details:
Christopher Brain (see p. 84).

April

- 5 MEMBERS' EVENING, Olveston Parish Historical Society,
Methodist Hall, OLVESTON, 7.30 p. m.
- 8 ARCHAEOLOGY OF SOMERSET TOWNS: S. A. N. H. S.
Symposium, Town Hall, GLASTONBURY. Details from Mrs.
N. Langmaid, The Castle, Taunton.
- 12 ASCOTT UNDER WYCHWOOD, by Don Benson. B. A. R. G.
Lecture, City Museum, BRISTOL 7.30 p. m.
- 13 THE BATH MINT, by L. V. Grinsell. B. & B. Num. Soc.
Room 144, Technical College (New Building), BATH, 7.15 p. m.
- 10 BRISTOL CLAY TOBACCO PIPES by R. Jackson. B. G. A. S.,
City Museum, BRISTOL. 5.45 p. m.
- 15 TIMBER-FRAMED BUILDINGS: Discussion Meeting, covering
Roman archaeology, vernacular architecture, and practical
conservations CBA Group XIII, Wheatstone Hall, GLOUCESTER,
2.15 p. m. Tickets 40p (inc. tea) from J. F. Rhodes, City Museum,
Gloucester GL1 1HP
- 14 THE MONMOUTH REBELLION by W. Macdonald Wigfield.
Banwell Soc. of Arch., Village Hall, BANWELL, 7.30 p. m.
- 17 ROMAN CIRENCESTER by D. Viner, G. D. A. R. G., Queen
Street Hall, GLOUCESTER, 7.30 p. m. Non-members 12½p
- 18 FILM EVENING: B. A. R. G. Associate Members. City Museum,
BRISTOL, 7.30 p. m.
- 18 THE FORMER ROYAL BOROUGH OF AXBRIDGE, by F. Jarman.
S. A. N. H. S. Weston-Super-Mare Branch, Public Library, The
Boulevard, WESTON-SUPER-MARE, 7.00 p. m. Visitors 10 p
- 28-30 THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF EXMOOR by L. V. Grinsell and others.
W/e school, SOUTH MOLTON. Details from Mrs. H. Miles,
Dept. of Extra-Mural Studies, University of Exeter, Gandy Street,
Exeter EX4 3QN

May

- 6 ABBEY DORE & SKENFRITH: B. G. A. S. Fieldmeeting. Details
from Meetings Sec., Miss D. Bailey, Garth, West Hill, Wraxall,
Nr. Bristol.
- 6 S. A. N. H. S. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Wymondham Hall,
TAUNTON Castle, 2.15 p. m.

May

- 6-20 S. A. N. H. S. Exhibition of Members' Work, at the County Museum, TAUNTON Castle.
- 11 B. & B. NUM. SOC. ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Room 144, Technical College, (New Building), BATH, 7.15 p. m.
- 16 HISTORY OF BANWELL, by D. F. Crocker. S. A. N. H. S. Weston-super-Mare Branch, Public Library, The Boulevard, Weston-super-Mare, 7.00. Visitors 10p
- 27- ROW OF ASHES FARM, BUTCOMBE: IA/RB SETTLEMENT.
- 9 June Seventh season of training course in Fieldwork and Excavation, directed by P. J. Fowler. Prior application. University.
- June - SEA MILLS (ABONAE). Excavation in advance of development
July by Bristol City Museum. Details from M. W. Ponsford (see p. 92)
- 4 LUNDY ISLAND TRIP, Lundy Field Society excursion. Details, see p. 115.
- 9 THE LOCAL HISTORIAN AT WORK by Robin Atthill. Banwell Soc. of Arch., Village Hall, BANWELL, 7.30 p. m.

July

- 8 - BARNSELY PARK, nr. CIRENCESTER: ROMAN VILLA & FIELD
5 Aug. SYSTEM. Training course in Fieldwork and Excavation, directed by Dr. G. Webster and P. J. Fowler. Prior application. University
- 9 DOLEBURY & PRIDDY: S. A. N. H. S. Field meeting led by L. V. Grinsell. Meet at Churchill. Details from Mrs. N. Langmaid, The Castle, Taunton.
- 14 WOOD CARVINGS IN SOMERSET CHURCHES by J. C. D. Smith. Banwell Soc. of Arch., County Primary School, BANWELL, 7.30 p. m.
- 26 - CADBURY, CONGRESBURY: IA/POST-ROMAN HILLFORT.
23 Aug Research excavation, directed by P. J. Fowler, P. A. Rahtz, K. S. Gardner, Prior application. University.

August

- 6-12 MEDIEVAL CHURCH ARCHITECTURE IN SOMERSET, by H. Ross and J. H. Bettey. Residential course based at Langford House. Prior application. University.

September

- 16 B. G. A. S. Fieldmeeting: destinations to be announced. Details: Meetings Sec., Miss D. Bailey, Garth, West Hill, Wraxall, Nr. Bristol.
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MEMBERS LIST

This Bulletin is heavily weighed down with the annual Members List. If any errors have crept in, or if outlying members subsequently acquire a postcode, could they let the Membership Secretary know, as this is not an exercise we particularly want to repeat! Similarly, it would be of enormous help if members could notify changes of address promptly.
