

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF THE HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

By BETH TAYLOR

On the 20th March 1885, Thomas Shore called a meeting in his room at the Hartley Institute, Southampton, to discuss the formation of a society to study the natural history and antiquities of Hampshire. Present at this meeting were William Whittaker of the Geological Survey, the Rev T Woodhouse of Ropley, the Rev W L W Eyre of Swarraton and Ernest Westlake of Fordingbridge. Shore had already spent a year sounding out likely members in various parts of the County, as had Whittaker, Woodhouse and the Rev Godwin (Chaplain to the Forces and Civil War historian); obviously with some success for the meeting decided that Shore and Westlake should act as secretaries of the newly proposed Club with the initial duties of inviting interested people to become members and of arranging four meetings during the summer months. A later general meeting, presided over by Francois de Chaumont, Professor of Military Hygiene in the Army Medical School, Netley, directed a committee to prepare a set of rules delineating the organisation and aims of this new local society.

These rules, devised at a meeting on June 12th and accepted by the members during their excursion to Selborne on June 25th, make it clear that, in common with other such groups set up in the mid and later Victorian era, the Hampshire Field Club was to have serious, scientific aims (Pettigrew 1860). Its object was to be the study of the natural history and antiquities of the County, rule 12 requiring that every new member should have an interest in or be engaged in the study of some branch of natural history or antiquities or have some other special line of study. Members were charged with the protection of rare plants and birds and the preservation of objects of antiquity (rules 20 and 21). Four field meetings and a general meeting were to be held every year, the business of the Club

being conducted by a committee consisting of the President, secretaries and six other members. While the headquarters of the Club was to be Southampton, local secretaries were to be appointed for other parts of the County. Women were to be eligible for membership: the lady who was in the van at the Club's first excursion on May 28, 1885 was not to be alone for long.



Fig 1. T W Shore, founder of the Field Club in 1885.

That both need and desire for a means of inter-communication between those resident in the County who were interested in scientific matters existed is proven by the membership figures. The first publicity circular issued by the Club listed 28 members, but by the time of the first excursion membership had grown to 53 and was to rise rapidly thereafter from 110 at the end of 1885 to over 250 within its first five years of existence.

These first years also saw the establishment of the Hampshire Field Club's abiding concerns, traditions and strengths. From the beginning, the acquisition of first hand knowledge and the careful observation of the antiquities and natural history of the County was regarded as paramount. Excursions, of which there were an average of eight in each year of Shore's secretaryship, generally lasted all day and usually involved an early start by rail to the appointed locality, and some miles of walking (before the advent of horse drawn charabancs and motorised transport, that is). Shore acted as organising secretary often leading the meetings himself and providing comments on the prehistory of the chosen area with Whittaker giving geological information and a local expert speaking on the historical or architectural features of the location.

Separate botanical, entomological and geological meetings were arranged so that members specialising in these fields could examine areas of particular interest to them. Typically, however, a meeting could encompass all these disciplines and more. When the Club met in the Portchester area on September 16, 1886, they first visited the torpedo range near Hornsea Island, the resident engineer explaining its design and function and Whittaker pointing out the geological formations exposed by the excavations for the range and the evidence they had disclosed of prehistoric occupation in the area. The botanists gathered specimens on Hornsea Island and the antiquarians were instructed by C R Pink, Winchester Cathedral architect and local secretary for that city, on the architectural antiquities of Portchester Castle and church.

Such 'local secretaries' provided valuable assistance in both the organisation and leadership of field meetings. They were usually experts in a particular discipline as well as being knowledgeable about their designated localities. Of the earliest appointed, a notable example was the Reverend W L W Eyre, local secretary for the Alresford area from 1885 to 1914. Eyre was a mycologist of national repute, with wider interests in botany, meteorology, archaeology and zoology. He contributed papers on both botanical and historical subjects to the *Proceedings*, drew up the list of Hampshire fungi published in Volume I of the *Victoria County History of Hampshire* (1900) and was President of the British Mycological Society in 1903 (Swanton 1937).

Another founder local secretary was G W Colenutt who was to lead all the Club's annual visits to the Isle of Wight up to 1939. Colenutt joined the Club in 1885 when serving his articles with a firm of solicitors in Southampton. When he returned to the Island in 1886, Shore appointed him local secretary for that area. While practising as a solicitor in Ryde and Cowes, Colenutt continued his study of geology, an interest which had been fostered by Shore. He contributed several papers on the subject to the *Proceedings* and enjoyed a wide reputation, discovering a new species of fossil and becoming an expert on the eastward drift affecting the physical features of the Island and its coast (Colenutt 1947, *Obit Proc* 16 113-114).

From the earliest days, too, Field Club members took their duties as conservationists seriously. The report of their first excursion includes adverse comment on 'improvements' at Compton church which marred its Norman doorway; at their second meeting, the ruinous state of West Worldham church was deplored and by the time of the second AGM in April, 1886, an occasion for which Shore had arranged a visit to the ancient vaults of Southampton, they were urged to make precise recommendations to the Corporation on the accessibility and maintenance of these monuments. In the same year, in common with other bodies, the Club called for the better

preservation of the ruins at Silchester and for measures to be taken to prevent damage by rabbit burrowing at Stonehenge. Such informed concern was rapidly acknowledged and in June 1886 General Pitt-Rivers, first Inspector of Ancient Monuments under the 1882 Act and an honorary member of the Club, officially asked the Club to list any ancient monuments in the County worthy of protection, together with the names and addresses of their owners and members cooperation was sought in applying the Ancient Monuments Act to sites in Hampshire (ASI ORG 01001001000, May to June, 1886).

Shore found a faithful ally in these matters in William Dale, who became honorary general secretary of the Club in May 1887, a post which was 'a labour of love' to Dale for 37 years. During this period, Dale contributed no less than 29 papers to the *Proceedings*, displaying a wide knowledge of Hampshire history and archaeology. Like Shore, a man of

considerable energy, he was also a Fellow of the Geological Society and of the Society of Antiquaries, a member of the Council of the British Numismatic Society and an official lecturer at the British Museum at the same time as pursuing professional interest in music and being a non conformist deacon (HO 18 April 1925; *Obit Proc* 10 92). Dale and Shore together protested about the destruction of field monuments in the New Forest (Rpt for 1887) and Dale especially was active in the outcry against Southampton corporation's plan to demolish the Bargate. By the beginning of the new century, the editor of the *Proceedings* could state in his Preface to Volume 4:

'Our efforts have . . . been largely instrumental in protecting, and in several cases averting, the threatened destruction of buildings of historic and local interest. Among these we record with satisfaction the preservation of the old chamber or guard-room adjoining the West Gate, Southampton, and the fourteenth century undercroft in Simnel Street, condemned by some members of our municipal body from motives of economy or the supposed necessities of modern improvements. In the agitation concerning the Bargate the efforts of our Society, supported by outside influence which it had aroused, silenced the advocates of destruction. . . .'

The Club also exercised a 'watching brief' when sites of archaeological interest were being developed. In 1901, when building work was going on at Clausentum, Dale was in frequent communication with the workmen and in February 1902 presented the report of his observations before the Society of Antiquaries, displaying various finds from the site (Dale 1902-3; Ann Rpt for 1901). Excavation was encouraged and supported in the 1890s; grants were made towards work on Roman sites at Twyford and Silchester, and HFC members carried out trial excavations at the Roman villa site in West Wood, Sparsholt, and the mound of Carisbrooke Castle, as well as

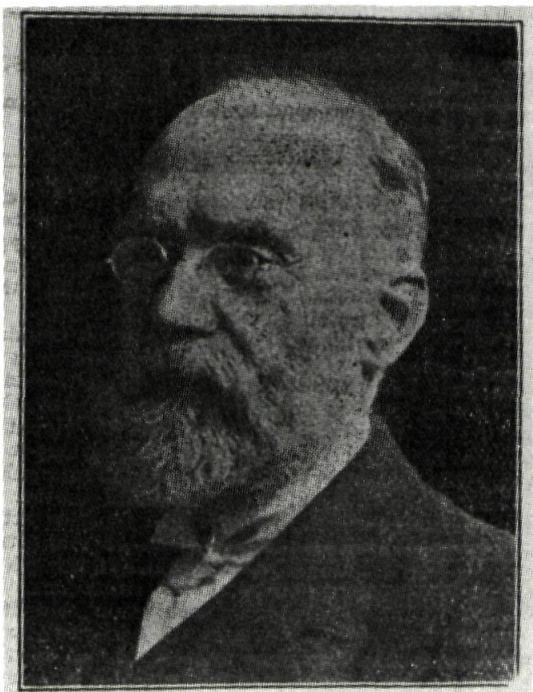


Fig 2. William Dale, Honorary Secretary of the Field Club, 1887 - 1923.

promoting Nisbett's excavations to reveal the plan of Wolvesey Castle and jointly funding (with the Society of Antiquaries) the Rev G W W Minns' excavations at Titchfield Abbey (Accts for 1891, 1892, 1896; Minns 1898; Markland 1894).

All these activities were reported in the *Proceedings* of the Club, a publication instituted at a committee meeting in July 1885. These were intended to include papers, reports and records of observations in the fields of antiquities, botany, entomology, genealogy, geology, numismatics, ornithology and other branches of archaeology and natural science. The Rev G W W Minns, Vicar of Weston, in his youth a student of architecture and a member of the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society (*Proc* 8 327-30), was appointed editor, and with ample material from members (who often bore the entire expense of illustrating their own papers) was responsible for the annual publication of the *Proceedings* from 1887 to 1903. From that year until 1906 he shared the post with F J C Hearnshaw, Professor of History at Southampton University College, the latter undertaking sole editorship from 1907 to 1910 and Minns acting as temporary editor from Hearnshaw's retirement until the appointment of John Hautenville Cope in 1913.

Initially, papers on natural history topics predominated, but by Volume 2 an increasing bias towards antiquarian subjects was becoming evident for they outnumbered the natural science papers by a ratio of two to one. This trend was to become a permanent feature of the *Proceedings* and was reflected in the Club's change of name to 'The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society' in 1898.

The end of the Club's first two decades coincided with the death of Shore in 1905. The founder was honoured by the publication of a memorial volume edited by the Rev Minns. Entitled 'Hampshire Papers' and published in three parts between 1908 and 1911, this gathered together some of the papers Shore had read at field meetings, previously published in various local newspapers, and reflected his

wide-ranging knowledge of the County's topography, geology, history and antiquities. Their publication, however, generated a minor crisis within the Club. At the AGM held on May 1st 1908, members were told by the treasurer that the Club's finances were in a parlous state. Publication of the first part of the Shore volume and of the *Proceedings* for 1907 had proved more expensive than anticipated and the Club had a deficit of £70 14s 6d at the end of 1907. There were two choices before them: either the Club's income had to be raised or no *Proceedings* should be issued for the years 1908, 1909 and 1910. The latter idea was obviously unacceptable to members who voted to raise subscriptions to 10s 6d, rule 5 being amended accordingly (ASI ORG 0100100400, 1 May 1908).

Further evidence that members desired to continue the traditions set by their founder was shown in their reaction a year later when William Dale (who had taken over sole secretarial duties on Shore's death) voiced a lessening of enthusiasm for field meetings at the AGM in May 1909. Members attended nine meetings in 1910 and there were never less than five meetings in any of the immediate pre-War years. During the War itself, perhaps because such pursuits seemed a welcome relief from the horrors of war but more probably because it was recognized that membership would decrease if no meetings were held, field meetings continued (Ann Rpt 1915).

The essential vitality of the Club still depended on its more enthusiastic members, of course. A notable addition to the membership in the years before the First World War was Dr Williams Freeman in 1906. Williams Freeman had settled at Weyhill in 1889 and began to use his travels as a country doctor to study the County's field monuments. A survey of the defensive earthworks of Hampshire, which he undertook on behalf of the Field Club in 1908 for the Earthworks Committee of the Congress of Archaeological Societies, became the basis of his important work *Field Archaeology as illustrated by Hampshire* published in 1915 (Earthworks Committee Rpts 1911, 1912; Crawford 1953).

The Club continued to enjoy a high reputation in official County circles. In 1911 it was asked to assist the County Council in compiling a list of the Ancient Monuments in the County to which the Ancient Monuments Protection Act applied. Williams Freeman, then a Vice President of the Club, together with Minns, N C H Nisbett and Dale, were appointed as a committee to carry out this task (Ann Rpt 1911). The work of this committee was further developed when it was instructed at the AGM in May 1912 to arrange a series of Subject Secretaries with whom members having special interests might co-operate. These were to report on the geology of the Isle of Wight (Colenutt), the entomology of the Isle of Wight (Frank Morey), New Forest fungi (J F Rayner), New Forest botany (the Rev J E Kelsall), earthworks (Williams Freeman), Winchester district botany (Canon J Vaughan), historic records (J Andrews), ecclesiastical architecture and photographic records (N C H Nisbett). Despite the problems caused by the War, the work of the Subject Secretaries became an important part of the Club's activities and was to prove a most valuable means by which experts in many fields could share their enthusiasms and observations with the wider membership.

There must, however, have been some impatience among the younger members of the Club with the methods of the old guard: an impatience which surfaced at the beginning of the twenties. Cope, editor of the *Proceedings* from 1913, had begun his period of office claiming that 'although he lived just over the County border in Berkshire, he was a Hampshire landowner, was born in Hampshire, and all his sympathies lay in the fair shire of Southampton. Anything he could do to popularize the history and antiquities of the County would be a pleasure to him'. By 1921, however, he and his wife were plainly dissatisfied with the way in which the Club was conducted. Early in that year they put to the Committee proposals for changing the organisation and name of the Club. The Copes felt that the Club was not active enough in the north of the County and suggested that it

should be run by two or three secretaries who could divide the County between them: one for the north, one for the south, and one for the Isle of Wight; further, that the Club's name should be changed to the 'Hampshire Archaeological and Natural History Society' in line with similar groups in other counties and that it should have a representative Central Committee.

Although the Committee and later the AGM rejected the Copes' proposals as undesirable, their wish for some major reorganisation clearly reflected a more widespread wish for change among concerned Club members. Attendance at the committee meetings to discuss these proposals had been high and a new set of rules, drafted by Williams Freeman, was circulated with the notice of the AGM. At that annual meeting, held on April 23rd 1921, the recast rules were accepted. The Club was now to be run by a Council rather than a committee, and the duties of the editor, the local secretaries, the subject secretaries and the officers of the Club were clearly set out, as were the arrangements for meetings and excursions. The headquarters of the Club was now to be Winchester and membership might rise to 300 if required.

This AGM had been a bitter one. A dispute which had surfaced at a committee meeting concerning the fact that Cope, as editor, retained copies of exchanged publications for his own personal use, was resolved by the decision that such publications should be considered the property of the Club and be available for the use of members. Cope, who during the AGM had resigned his post as local secretary for Winchfield, was again proposed as editor, but Hooley, acting on behalf of Williams Freeman and, it was later alleged, taking the opportunity presented by dwindling attendance towards the end of the meeting, proposed the name of O G S Crawford. The motion was carried by 31 votes to 15 and both Mr and Mrs Cope resigned from the Club. Their proposed North Hampshire Archaeological Society failed to gain the necessary support (ASI ORG 010 11000 000).

Crawford, appointed in 1920 to the newly

created post of Archaeology Officer to the Ordnance Survey, Southampton, had a background which peculiarly fitted him for involvement in the developing study of field archaeology and the interests of the Field Club. An early experience of excavation as a schoolboy was strengthened by work in geography at Oxford and mapping and flying experience during the War (Myres 1951; Crawford 1954, 1955; Wheeler 1966). Under his editorship the *Proceedings* became much more obviously a record of work being carried out in the County by the Club's 'new men' – Crawford himself, Williams Freeman, Ellaway and Willis of Basingstoke and Heywood Sumner in archaeology; Reginald Hooley, J F Rayner and F H Haines in the natural sciences. This quality of publication was maintained after Crawford's resignation from the post in 1925, when he was succeeded by the Rev F N Davis, editor from 1925 to 1938.

The involvement of a professional field archaeologist in the activities of the Club mirrored a growth during the interwar years of professional opportunities in archaeology and an increasing sophistication of technique and theory. The Field Club met these changes with enthusiasm, becoming ever more supportive of archaeological work in the County. In 1925, the Club agreed to assist the excavation of the medieval chapel and Iron Age hillfort on St Catherine's Hill, Winchester, undertaken by C F C Hawkes, N Myres and C E Stevens. During four seasons of work on the site, the Club donated considerable monies to the excavation fund and a sub-committee consisting of Crawford, Williams Freeman and W J Andrew advised on the scope and techniques of the excavation (ASI ORG 0100300300; WF/St Catherine's Hill). The results were published as Volume II of the *Proceedings*.

At a meeting of Council on March 10th 1926, a Research sub-committee was proposed to consist of Williams Freeman, W J Andrew, C F Fox, Heywood Sumner and Sir Charles Close. This group decided to recommend a list of sites suitable for excavation and to raise a special fund for such work. This suggestion was approved at the AGM on April 28, 1926.

Initially supporting the St Catherine's Hill excavations and those of Miss D M Liddell at Chilworth Ring in 1928, the Research Committee selected three sites for excavation in 1930: City Mill, Winchester (where a trial trench by S Ward-Evans produced no archaeological evidence), Oliver's Battery and Meon Hill (ASI ORG 01001 004000; Ann Rpt 1926). In two seasons of work in 1932 and 1933 at Oliver's Battery, W J Andrew investigated the dating of the earthwork and of a barrow to the north (Andrew 1934, WF/Compton). At Meon Hill, a site discovered from air photographs by Crawford and Keiller in 1924, Miss D M Liddell excavated a circular earthwork in 1932 and 1933, dating its use to the Iron Age and Romano-British period (Liddell 1934, 1937). Miss Liddell again excavated for the Club in 1937, at Choseley Farm, Odiham, another Iron Age/Romano-British site (Hawkes and De Putron 1940).

C F C Hawkes carried out an important series of excavations for the Field Club at the Hampshire hillforts of Buckland Rings, Quarley Hill and Bury Hill. Field Club members had long had an interest in such sites: Shore had contributed a list of them to the first volume of the *Proceedings* and they were, of course, described in Williams Freeman's 'Field Archaeology'. Hawkes excavated at Buckland Rings in 1935, Quarley Hill in 1938, and Bury Hill in 1939, his wife carrying out a trial excavation at the nearby Bawksbury in the same year. Hawkes concentrated his efforts on sections cut through the ramparts and at the entrances, rapidly publishing his results in the *Proceedings* (Hawkes, C 1937, 1940; Hawkes, J 1940).

The Club did not reserve its interest and support only for its own excavations. For example, Williams Freeman and Sir Charles Close visited and reported on G C Dunning's excavation of the mound on St. Catherine's Down, Isle of Wight, in 1925 advising on its interpretation (ASI ORG 01012). Williams Freeman's notes as Subject Secretary for field archaeology generally included notes of excavations being carried out in the County and members often visited excavations on field



Fig 3. Christopher Hawkes addressing members of the Field Club during a visit to Bury Hill, Andover, in 1939.

meetings. Indeed, one of the most successful field meetings of this period was held on October 5th 1937, when 200 members visited the Sanctuary at Avebury, where Mrs Cunnington described her excavations of 1930; the West Kennet Avenue where Keiller gave an account of his 1934 and 1935 excavations; and the main circle at Avebury where Keiller and Piggott described their current season of work (Field Meetings 1937).

Much important archaeological field work was also carried out by Field Club members during these inter-war years. Williams Freeman continued to make original contributions to the *Proceedings* and, as Subject Secretary for field archaeology, recorded the work of his fellow practitioners in the County. G W Willis, founder of the Basingstoke Museum and local secretary for Basingstoke from 1920 onwards, made an important collection of flints from that area with his colleague J R Ellaway,

reporting his finds and interpretations in a series of notes and articles in the *Proceedings*. H F Poole was carrying out similar work on the Isle of Wight. S E Winbolt concentrated his researches on the Roman period in the Silchester area. Heywood Sumner was exploring Roman sites in the New Forest in the twenties and acted as local secretary for Fordingbridge from 1926 until his death in 1940. Crawford was a contributor during this period on field monuments in the Southampton area, while L V Grinsell carried out his important survey of barrows in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight from 1938 to 1940.

Conservation work was also encouraged, members being urged to assist in the recording and preservation of historic documents, buildings and field monuments such as barrows, tracks and pathways. In Southampton, a Club member, Walter Troke,

was active in steps to safeguard the old church at Millbrook, the medieval hall in French Street, a medieval house and cellar in St Michael's Square, and with Dudley Waterman, maintained a watching brief on building operations near the Bargate in 1938, making drawings of what was revealed (Ann Rpts 1930s). In addition, Sir Thomas Troubridge (Vice President 1935-1938) agreed with the County Surveyor that the Club would be notified of work carried out by the latter's department which might yield finds of archaeological interest (Ann Rpt 1934). The Club also welcomed the proposal to provide a Hampshire County Museum, offering finds which had been sent in by its members (and stored at the Castle, Winchester) as the nucleus of its collections (Ann Rpt 1934). A further important development in this field was the revival of the photographic section of the Club in 1935. This aimed to make a permanent photographic record of the antiquities of the County (ASI ORG 01001 005000, Nov 6, 1935). Its chairman, C F Cave, took an important series of photographs of the sculptured roof bosses in Hampshire's churches and cathedrals during this period (Cave 1940). In 1937, a Records sub-committee was formed to assist in the cataloguing and care of documents then stored either at the Castle, Winchester or the library of University College, Southampton (*Proc* 14 115).

Field meetings were numerous and exhaustive during the twenties and thirties, nine or ten meetings being held every year from 1920 until the outbreak of the Second World War. As well as archaeological excursions (often led by Williams Freeman) the Club visited many Hampshire churches under the able directorship of Dr A R Green. Although the natural sciences must have seemed swamped by all this archaeological activity, they were not neglected. Special meetings for geological and botanical study were held every year and the Club numbered many keen naturalists among its members.

In F H Haines the Club found a faithful recorder of Hampshire entomology, ornithol-

ogy and zoology from 1922 onwards. J F Rayner published a supplement to Townsend's *Flora of Hampshire* in 1932. In 1935 the Natural Science section of the Subject Secretaries was re-organised as a Biological Division, the Rev H Purefoy Fitzgerald becoming general secretary, with sectional secretaries for botany, entomology, ornithology and general zoology. Local secretaries were appointed in various districts of the County to whom observers were to forward notes of interest throughout the year. In 1939, after the death of the Rev Jourdain, author of the yearly ornithological reports, the Council decided to form a County Ornithological Committee, representative of all districts in the County.

The outbreak of the Second World War slowed this momentum. No field meetings could be held in September and October 1939 nor for the whole of 1940 and petrol rationing and other restrictions on travel limited the number, scope and venue of such outings from 1941 to the autumn of 1944 (Ann Rpt 1944). Excavation at Bitterne was brought to a hasty conclusion when Dudley Waterman and some of his helpers were called up (Waterman 1943). The work of the Research Committee fell into abeyance: Williams Freeman, whose planned quiet retirement at Thruxton was marred by proximity to what became 'the noisiest aerodrome in England', resigned as Chief Subject Secretary and Subject Secretary for Field Archaeology in 1941. He died in December 1943, lamented by Crawford as 'the Father of the Hampshire Field Club' who had far surpassed his predecessors Shore and Dale as an archaeologist (Crawford 1947; Gibson 1947).

Despite this loss, its contracted activities and declining membership (from 487 in 1939 to 327 in 1945), the Field Club survived this difficult period. This was due in no small part to the untiring work and experience of Frank Warren, the Club's Honorary Secretary until 1924, who, with other leading Club members like Crawford and Dr A R Green, encouraged the Club's interest in the accurate recording of monuments threatened by army activities and



Fig 4. Frank Warren, joint Honorary Secretary of the Field Club, 1924–1953.

enemy bombing. The Photographic section carried out especially important work at this time, amassing over 8,500 photographs of Hampshire buildings by the end of the War, working in collaboration with the National Buildings Record (founded in 1940).

A few months before the outbreak of the War, the Club had assisted the North West Hampshire Area Town Planning Committee with the inclusion of sites of possible archaeological interest on the Committee's Town Planning map of the area. It was also represented on the Winchester and District Town Planning Architectural Sub-Committee. Such official links were maintained: the Inspectorate was in touch with the Club during the War years whenever earthworks or buildings were likely to be disturbed by the military authorities (Ann Rpt 1941). In 1944, for example, Warren met with the Assistant Inspector of the Office of Works and representatives of the County War Agricultural Committee to discuss steps to safeguard the

Iron Age earthwork at Ladle Hill which was threatened by ploughing (Rpt of Council 1943). In the same year, Warren and Crawford were involved with the Inspectorate in the efforts to protect the Anglo Saxon cemetery site at Worthy Park from further disturbance by army building work (ASI ORG 01023 000 000; *Hants Obs* 29.1.44, 19.2.44, 4.3.44 and 11.3.44).

Essentially, the Club was performing salvage work during these years. As the War drew to a close, members looked forward with enthusiasm to the renewal of its earlier activities. Nine field meetings, including a fungus foray were held between May and October 1945, and during that same summer Dr Green and Sir Richard Luce, then President, excavated the alien priory at Hamble on behalf of the Club (ASI ORG 01069). By February 1946 the Research Committee had formulated a list of six sites it wished to see excavated: Worthy Park; Soldier's Ring, Rockbourne; Farley Mount; King John's Hill, East Worldham; Powderham Castle; and Bury Lodge, Hambledon (ASI ORG 01001006000). Later in the same year, the Club was protesting strongly to the Ministry of Town and Country Planning and to Southampton Corporation about the latter's proposal to demolish part of the walls and part of the old town of Southampton in these terms.

This Society . . . has throughout the period of its existence taken a keen interest in old Southampton. It therefore views with the greatest possible concern the proposals of the Corporation, which, if carried out, would destroy or damage irreparably many of these buildings. . . . In the Society's view there is no justification for the wholesale destruction threatened by the Council's proposals in Southampton . . . the Plan for this part of the town should be further considered, in order that most of these buildings may be preserved intact in their interesting environment and that the future of this historic area should not be determined and dominated by roads and the consideration of traffic (September 1946).

It was to be such efforts in matters of

conservation rather than excavation which were to prove the dominant factor in the years after the Second World War, and the speeches of the Club's Presidents in these years both encouraged and reflected this concern. Crawford, speaking at the 1946 AGM, stressed the great urgency for conserving the remains of the past and the need for fulltime professional staff to care for the County's museums and archive collections. Club members no longer enjoyed the leisure necessary to devote to such tasks and the Club's aim should be to serve as a link between such specialists and the general public. At the 1954 AGM, the Duke of Wellington, as President, spoke of the need to preserve buildings of historical, archaeological and architectural interest. Buildings of importance were being destroyed, often without the knowledge of local planning committees and members were asked to be vigilant. With the appointment of Barbara Carpenter Turner (Honorary Winchester City Archivist) as editor of *Proceedings* in 1951, after a period of rapid editorial change following the death of the Rev Ferrar in 1945 and the move of his successor Norman Cook from Tudor House Museum to the Guildhall Museum in London, and with the appointment of R L P Jowitt as Honorary Secretary in 1953 on Frank Warren's retirement, the Club's involvement in matters of buildings and documents conservation became more pronounced.

Council minutes for this period (ASI ORG 01001006000) record much effort devoted to saving sites and monuments from destruction: the Club was involved in the campaign which saved St Peter Chesil Church, Winchester from demolition, it opposed town planning schemes which threatened Bawksbury Camp near Andover and the Seven Barrows at Litchfield, protested at a plan to use Stanpit Marshes near Bournemouth as a rubbish tip and was concerned to prevent any archaeological damage when a sewage disposal plant was erected at Inham's Copse, Silchester, and housing development took place next to Netley Abbey. The Inspectorate was informed of threats to the boundaries at

Avington Park and Southampton Common and to the medieval fortifications at Portsmouth. Mrs Carpenter Turner was especially active in attempts to save Winchester buildings from damage. She represented the Club at the public inquiry held to investigate the proposed demolition of listed housing in Upper Brook Street and was concerned to salvage the contents of those buildings whose demolition could not be averted, like St Maurice's Church, Winchester. Mr Jowitt regularly reported on threatened buildings in other parts of the County, particularly its churches. In 1958, for example, he reported cracks in the west wall of Freefolk Old Church and prevailed upon the site's owners to carry out repairs. He and John Simpson directed the Club's visits to historic houses, parks and churches, together with W Carpenter Turner, Winchester Cathedral architect at this time. Mr Jowitt also made contributions to the Club's photographic collection, although this section no longer played a significant part in the Club's activities following the deaths of Mr Cave and Dr Green (Obit *Proc* 19 303).

Archaeological matters were not forgotten: the Club gave financial support and organisational help to the excavations carried out by Maitland Muller and John Wachter on Anglo-Saxon and medieval sites in Southampton, to Frank Cottrill's excavations in Winchester, to George Boon's excavations at Silchester and to the Rev G C Knapp's excavations at Selborne Priory, but it no longer displayed that fortunate coincidence of enthusiasm and expertise which had enabled it to implement a research policy for the County as it had done in the thirties. Such was the decline of the Club's leading position in the County's archaeological activities that the Research Committee fell into abeyance and, of the six sites it had listed in 1946, only one – King John's Hill, East Worldham – had been excavated by 1960. The *Proceedings* continued to report news of excavations and field work throughout the County in a series of archaeological notes, and members visited excavations on their field trips every summer, but the Club's declared wish to concentrate

investigation on Saxon sites in the County did not succeed other than in Southampton (Maitland Muller 1955). The maximum funding available to the Club for excavations was never more than £150 in this period: such sums had proved sufficient for the type of exploratory, one season long excavations carried out on Iron Age sites in the 1930s (Hawke's excavation at Barksbury cost £115 4s 5d, for example), but the Club could do no more than make token grants to the longer term excavations carried out on the urban sites made available to archaeologists by blitz damage and the increasing pace of urban redevelopment. Archaeological work was being funded more and more by the County and City councils and the new professionals they appointed, like Frank Cottrill, curator of Winchester Museum from 1946 and Eleanor Cottrill, County Archivist from 1947, were much involved in the activities of the Club. Amateur involvement in archaeology became increasingly localised and, although it was supported and publicised by the Field Club, it was not possible to divert these efforts to sites elsewhere (such as the bombed areas of Portsmouth which the Research Committee had hoped at their last recorded meeting in October 1951 to see investigated).

Of the Club's other concerns, interest in geology was fostered by A G Steavenson and F Stroh who directed the members on geological tours of the Isle of Wight and the Itchen Valley in the 1950s. Geology papers appeared in the *Proceedings* after a gap of two decades, and members attended lectures on oil prospecting (1946) and glaciology (1955). Other natural history interests continued: botanical rambles and fungus forays were held every year, although fewer members were prepared to record their field observations systematically (Dowdeswell 1954). The ornithologists were a notable exception to this: Edwin Cohen was able to submit yearly 'Bird Reports' based on the observations of up to 150 observers, and the separate Ornithology section which was set up in 1954 was able to hold seven successful meetings in that year. The winter lectures which were instituted in the 1940s

always included natural history topics and RSPB films were shown to appreciative audiences.

Membership of the Club had risen after the war, reaching 552 by 1953. Throughout the rest of that decade it declined steadily, indicating some dissatisfaction with the Club and its activities, and causing financial problems at a time when printing costs were increasing. By 1955 the accounts were in deficit by £92 and various proposals for reform were being discussed. Rule 5 was altered to allow persons aged 14–21 to become associate members, a Programmes sub-committee was formed and in 1956 it was decided to change the format of the *Proceedings*. In 1958 an *ad hoc* committee was set up to formulate an amended set of rules which were approved at the 1959 AGM. The Club's objects were given prominence in Rule 1, being declared to be 'to promote interest in the Natural History, Archaeology and Antiquities of the County, to encourage research, and to publish matter of Hampshire interest.' Council members, who were to serve for three years, were to be elected at the AGM, and Council was empowered to form a Research Committee and subject groups in archaeology, architecture, botany, entomology, geology, local history, zoology and ornithology (*Proc* 21 175–177).

By September 1959 the already established ornithological group was joined by a New Forest section. This was inaugurated primarily to serve members living in that district who found it difficult to attend meetings in Winchester where most of the Club's activities took place. The Field Club had always had a strong interest in the exploration and preservation of the Forest and Commander Wrey, President in 1959, had reported on archaeological sites in the area in the *Proceedings* and pressed for the adoption of the new rules (Wrey 1958–60). He was elected Chairman of the new section.

With a lively programme of winter lectures, summer field meetings and field-work in the New Forest, and an active core of members, the section prospered. By 1961 it had 165 members and was able to mobilize observers

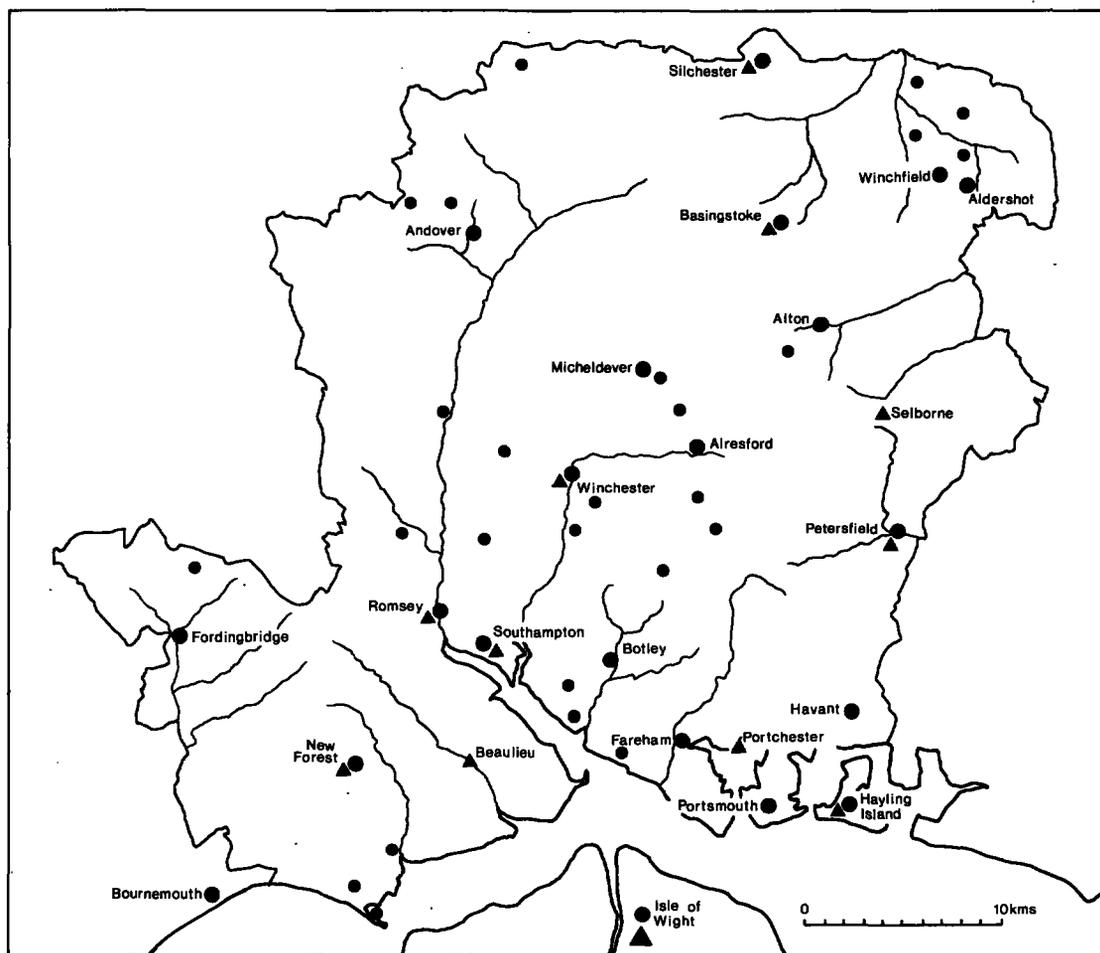


Fig 5. Field meetings and local secretaries 1885–1985: large dots = local secretaries; triangles = most frequently visited areas; small dots = other visits.

along the line of the Esso pipeline from Fawley. By 1964 New Forest section members formed one third of the total Field Club membership and could report considerable progress in surveying and recording sites in the Forest (notably by Antony Pasmore), and in excavation work – a training excavation under Alan Aberg of Southampton Museums at Alder Hill inclosure near Fritham in 1961 was followed by a larger scale excavation at the Crockford complex under John Pallister. Section members, especially Jean Cobb, were active when development threatened the

Forest, objecting to the building of a yachting clubhouse at Grim's Reach on the Beaulieu River, and with other members of the Fawley sub-committee, was instrumental in persuading the Electricity Board to take steps to prevent pollution in the area of the generating station at Calshot. The section's expertise in Forest matters was recognised, applications for building often being sent to them for their advice and comment (*New Forest Section Reports 1–4*).

By the 1964 AGM, the very success of the New Forest section highlighted continuing

problems within the Club. These were apparently financial, centred round the cost of the *Proceedings*, and procedural, centred round the government of the Club. Although Club membership had grown to 691 in 1964, the Club's income was still insufficient throughout the early 1960s. Grants to excavations during this period were minimal (£15 to Professor Cunliffe's excavations at Portchester in 1961, for example) and in 1963 it had not been possible to put any monies into the excavation fund. A high proportion of the Club's income was devoted to the publication of the *Proceedings*; in 1963 its income from subscriptions was £703 19s 0d while *Proceedings* cost £523. A substantial part of this cost was devoted to the publication of the ornithological section's annual bird report, a source of grievance for the New Forest Section, whose reports were not printed in the *Proceedings* but in a separate *New Forest Report* funded out of their own resources and from the annual grant they received from the Club which varied between £25 and £50. The section also felt that it was inadequately represented on the Field Club Council and protested strongly when the 1964 AGM was convened at short notice on a Thursday morning when few of them could attend.

Although no changes were made at this AGM (*Hants Chron* April and May 1964), the criticisms about the running of the Club and the standard of the *Proceedings* which were voiced had to be confronted, for they masked basic questions about the purposes of the Field Club: an upheaval to match that of 1921 was to follow. At a Council meeting on October 5th 1964, both the President and the Secretary announced that they would resign at the next AGM, and a special general meeting was called for the autumn to ratify new rules for the running of the Club, including means of voting by proxy for absent members. A *Hampshire Archaeology and Local History Newsletter* was established, under the editorship of Geoffrey Hampson of Southampton University Library. This was intended to be a unifying influence on the activities of the Field Club, 'expressing the varied regional and subject interests of its members, and whilst providing

an outlet for amateur enthusiasms, attracting the essays of the professional' (Vol 1. 1, May 1965).

At the same time, Council was debating whether or not the Club should abdicate all influence in archaeological matters in the County to a new association proposed by John Collis, whose excavation at Owslebury was attracting Ministry of Public Buildings and Works grant aid at a level the Club could not hope to match. In the event, this problem was resolved and the Club's traditional interests in archaeology were acknowledged: Martin Biddle, then directing a major excavation programme in Winchester, accepted an invitation to become archaeological secretary to the Club and a Preservation Committee was set up which administered grants to excavations as well as considering threats to Hampshire sites and monuments. In 1967, Barry Cunliffe, Professor of Archaeology at Southampton University, succeeded Edwin Welch as Secretary and in the same year Mrs Carpenter Turner resigned the editorship. For some time, it had been felt that increasing specialisation meant that *Proceedings* should not be the responsibility of a single editor and an editorial committee was appointed, consisting of Professor Cunliffe, Mrs Eleanor Cottrill, Colin Tubbs (Nature Conservancy Council) and Dr Edwin Course. *Proceedings* were to appear as a single annual volume and while publication costs continued to increase, a higher subscription rate and government grant aid allowed for more confident budgeting by the Publications Committee. A Programme Committee and a Membership Committee had also been set up and membership reflected this new surge of activity and enthusiasm, rising to 910 by 1970.

Despite this fortunate beginning, the next decade proved a difficult one for the Club. A rapid turnover of Secretary (Professor Cunliffe was succeeded by Austin Whitaker in 1972 and by Elizabeth Lewis in 1974) coincided with the growth of an increasingly complex infrastructure which had developed to meet the threats to the County's past, especially those posed by the M27 and the M3, and

further urban growth. By 1974 there were over 30 local societies competing for membership with the HFC, the Hampshire Archaeological Committee had been set up by the DOE to coordinate funding for archaeological research and publication in the County and *Proceedings* were threatened by competition from other publications like *Rescue Archaeology in Hants*.

The Club was still perceived as having an important role to play in conservation matters. For example, the research projects undertaken by the Ornithological Section at this time included an evaluation of areas of ornithological importance for the South Hampshire Plan and, in the New Forest, the local section was much concerned about gravel extraction in the Avon Valley and Forestry Commission felling programmes and welcomed the appointment of their secretary, Mrs June Irvine, to the New Forest Consultative Panel. By 1972 F Emery Wallis, then President, was urging consideration of new rules to adapt the Club's role in safeguarding the environment of the County in a period of rapid change and was active with Mr Jowitt in attempts to save buildings like the Grange at Northington. Aware that many buildings worthy of preservation were being lost to the County without concerted attempts to either preserve or record them (Dacre 1973), David Hinton, as convenor of the HFC Buildings Advisory Panel, was active in establishing closer links with local planning authorities, arranging a conference on vernacular architecture and assisting in establishing a list of local contacts in areas threatened by development.

By 1974, in an attempt to bolster falling membership (then down to 846) the Club had restructured its administration and had an Executive, an Editorial Board, a Programme and Lecture subcommittee, a Buildings Advisory Panel, an Environmental Committee, a Publicity Committee and a Publications Finance Committee, as well as the successful New Forest and Ornithological sections. 1975 saw yet another recasting of the rules: the Club's objects were declared to be 'To promote the study of and research into

Archaeology, History, Geology and Natural History within the County of Hampshire, and to publish results and other appropriate items in annual volumes of the *Proceedings* and in periodical Newsletters'. Rising costs meant that the latter commitment continued to be problematical: to solve this an increased and more active membership, better served by the Club, was sought. The AGM now became a one-day conference combining Club business with speakers and exhibitions on topics of interest to members. The newsletter was redesigned, closer ties with other local societies fostered and the Programme Secretary, Frank Cottrill, sought members' views on the timing and content of field meetings. Members' assistance was sought in surveys of Hampshire undertaken by HAC, and in the Hampshire Treasures survey directed by the County Council.

Sustained growth, and with it financial stability, still eluded the Club, however. A Working Party set up in 1977 recommended (in a report by Arthur ApSimon) the dissolution of the Field Club and the formation of a new society. The Ornithological Section had already established itself as a separate society in 1978 but, after several special Council meetings and an extraordinary general meeting in September 1979, the Club avoided this step, voting for new rules which allowed it to become a federation of sections. The New Forest section was joined initially by an Archaeology section, a Local History section and a Geology section, and later by an Historic Buildings section in 1982, each section arranging its own meetings programme, annual conference and newsletter. Council and executive committee were reorganised under the direction of the new secretary, Dr Michael Hicks, the sections being given a majority on the Executive Committee. *Proceedings* now reflected sectional interests and regional studies were undertaken to broaden the perceived geographical focus of the Club. Membership grew from 475 in 1980 to 597 in 1982, generous grant aid and the work of the Editorial Board meant that *Proceedings* became self-financing, although

strenuous efforts by Council and Executive were needed to counteract the financial problems resulting from overspending on Monograph 1 *The Archaeology of Hampshire* (1981) and the peculation of funds by a former Honorary Treasurer. High costs forced another change in Spring 1984 when a new series of newsletters was instituted combining reports from the various sections.

An awareness had grown, too, that the unity of a federation of sections needed to be fostered by an exchange of information between them. Thus Volume 39 of *Proceedings* contained a full report of all the Club's activities in the preceding year, a return to earlier practice. 1984 saw a return to an earlier type of field meeting also, when a joint archaeological and ecological meeting was held in the Warnford area. In its centenary

year, the Club's aims of uniting professional and amateur in the task of investigating and protecting the heritage of Hampshire continues to be central to its activities. Members of the Club can look back with pride on its first century of achievement – and can look forward to its second centenary with enthusiasm, aware that a County as rich in interest as Hampshire will provide them with much to explore and much that is worthy of conservation.

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Hants Obs *Hampshire Observer*.

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