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# PROCEEDINGS



1981

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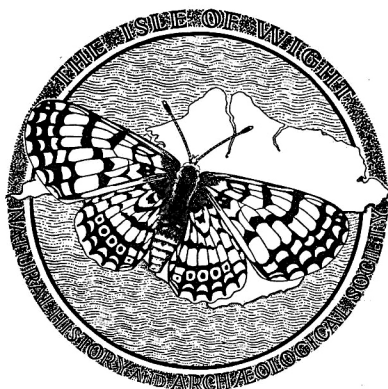


VOLUME VII

PART VI

**PROCEEDINGS**  
OF THE  
**ISLE OF WIGHT**  
NATURAL HISTORY AND  
ARCHÆOLOGICAL SOCIETY

**1981**



Printed by the Isle of Wight County Press, Newport, Isle of Wight

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## OFFICERS

(Elected at the Annual General Meeting on 30th January, 1982)

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### President

Mr. L. E. L. Cox

### Vice-Presidents

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Mr. K. Thompson

Miss A. Wayte

EX-OFFICIO: Official Recorders, a Representative of each of the Sections of the Society,  
the immediate past-President and Chairmen of Committees.

*\*Previously elected*

### General Secretary

Mrs. T. Goodley, Ivy Cottage, New Barn Lane, Shorwell, I.W. PO30 3JQ

### Membership Secretary

Miss H. M. Blount, 50 Queen's Road, Ryde, I.W. PO33 3BQ

### Minuting Secretary

Mrs. L. Snow, Ein Shemer, Upper Hyde Farm Road, Shanklin, I.W. PO37 7PS

### Programme Secretary

Mrs. L. Prangnell, Beggar's Roost, Five Houses, Calbourne, I.W. PO30 4JT

### Treasurer

Mr. D. Hunnybun, 40 Churchill Road, Cowes, I.W. PO31 8HH

### Auditors

Mr. C. Burland, Cowes

Mr. N. Preece, Cowes

### Conservation Officer

Dr. C. R. Pope, 29 George Street, Ryde, I.W. PO33 2EW

**Editor of Proceedings**

Mr. O. H. Frazer, Mottistone Mill, Brighstone, I.W. PO30 4AW

**Chairman, Local Look Committee**

Mrs. K. Wadham, Gullsway, Castle Court, St. Lawrence, I.W. PO38 1UE

**Schools' Liaison Officer**

Mr. P. Ewbank, Greenseleves, Main Road, Wellow, I.W. PO41 0TD

**Society Representatives**

Council for the Protection of Rural England – Conservation Officer  
 Countryside Advisory Panel, I.W.C.C. – Mr. J. Stafford  
 Hampshire & Isle of Wight Naturalists' Trust, Ltd. – Mr. P. Ewbank  
 Isle of Wight Society – Miss K. Page  
 Newtown Local Nature Reserve Management Committee – Conservation Officer  
 World Wildlife Fund – I.W. Supporters' Group – Mr. J. Stafford  
 I.W. Archaeological Committee – Miss M. Middleton  
 Island Conservation Areas Advisory Committee, I.W.C.C. – Conservation Officer

**Bird Recorder**

Mr. J. Stafford, M.A., Westering, Moor Lane, Brighstone, I.W. PO30 4DL

**Botany Recorder**

Mr. B. Shepard, 87 Elm Grove, Newport, I.W. PO30 1RN

**Librarian**

Mrs. D. Frazer, Mottistone Mill, Brighstone, I.W. PO30 4AW

*(Publications sent in exchange, or enquiries re back numbers of Proceedings available, should be addressed to the Librarian, I.W. Natural History and Archaeological Society, c/o Agriculture House, 66 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, I.W. PO30 1BW)*

**SECTION LEADERS****Access to the Countryside**

Miss C. Lipscombe, 2 Laneside, Field Lane, St. Helens, I.W. PO33 1UU

**Archaeology**

Miss M. G. Middleton, Mirables, St. Lawrence, Ventnor, I.W. PO38 1XZ

**Botany**

Miss K. Page, 43 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, I.W. PO30 1BU

**Entomology**

Mrs. C. Pelham, The Firs, Undercliff Drive, St. Lawrence, I.W. PO38 1XX

**Geology and Seashore**

Dr. A. Insole, Museum of I.W. Geology, County Library, Sandown, I.W. PO36 8AF

**Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians**

Mr. O. H. Frazer, Mottistone Mill, Brighstone, I.W. PO30 4AW

**Maritime Archaeology**

Mr. Hilton Matthews, The Keel, Fishbourne, I.W. PO33 4EU

**Microscopy**

Mr. D. Roberts, The Bee Farm, Lushington Hill, Wootton, I.W. PO33 4NR

**Ornithology**

Lieut.-Commander J. M. Cheverton, R.N., 6 Westhill Dirve, Shanklin, I.W. PO37 6PX

**Seashore**

Temporarily combined with Geology Section (see above)

**NEW MEMBERS**

*(Elected to the Society during 1981)*

- MR. AND MRS. B. J. ANDERSON AND FAMILY, Alwyn, Burnt House Lane, Alverstone, Sandown, I.W. PO36 0HB.
- MR. AND MRS. M. E. ARMSTRONG AND FAMILY, 14 York Road, Sandown, I.W. PO36 8ET.
- MR. M. J. ASHDOWN, B.Sc., M.Sc., 29 St. Edmund's Walk, Wootton, I.W. PO33 4JB.
- MRS. S. BAILLIE, 28 Westwood Road, Ryde, I.W. PO33 3BJ.
- MR. P. J. BARDEN (rejoined), 18 Bramsover Road, Newbold-on-Avon, Rugby, Warwickshire.
- MR. AND MRS. D. K. BARTON, 3 Machin Close, Carisbrooke, Newport, I.W. PO30 5SQ.
- MISS R. BERLOW, Flat 2c, 54 Westhill Road, Ryde, I.W. PO33 1LN.
- DR. M. D. BOLL, 34 Newport Road, West Cowes, I.W. PO31 7PW.
- MR. J. G. CHERRY, Auvelins, Church Hill, Totland Bay, I.W. PO39 0EU.
- MR. AND MRS. A. CLARK, Rosecliff Lodge, Luccombe Chine, Shanklin, I.W. PO37 6RH.
- MRS. J. CLAYDON, 33 Wimbledon Park Road, Southsea, Portsmouth, Hants PO5 2PT.
- MISS P. CROWDER, The Coach House, Pump Lane, Bembridge, I.W. PO35 5NG.
- MISS L. EMSON, 45 Player Street, Ryde, I.W. PO33 2JB.
- MRS. T. H. FENWICK, Ningwood Dairy Farm, Newport, I.W. PO30 4NT.
- MR. AND MRS. B. A. GALE AND FAMILY, 6 Roker Way, Fair Oak, Eastleigh, Hants SO5 7LD.
- MR. B. R. GOLAZ, 12 Queen's Road, Ryde, I.W. PO33 3BG.
- MR. T. HAMBLY, Westbrook Cottage, Pondwell Hill, Ryde, I.W. PO33 1PY. [PO35 5SE.
- DR. AND MRS. M. JACKMAN AND FAMILY, Willow Cottage, High Street, Bembridge, I.W.
- MR. AND MRS. A. P. JOHNSON AND FAMILY, Lower Hunnyhill Farmhouse, Brighstone, I.W. PO30 4OU. [PO39 0AD.
- MR. AND MRS. A. J. E. KNIGHT AND FAMILY, Kernswald, Warden Road, Totland, I.W.
- MISS E. M. NEW, 27 Columbus House, Sandown Road, Shanklin, I.W. PO37 6HL.
- MR. AND MRS. W. NEWBERRY-SMITH, Meadow Cottage, Brook, I.W. PO30 4EU.
- MISS L. OLIVER, Dove Cottage, Brook Lane, Chillerton, I.W. PO30 3EW.
- MISS M. PEAT, School Bungalow, Cowes High School, Crossfield Avenue, Cowes, I.W. PO31 8HB.

MRS. G. A. POTTER, 23 Columbus House, Sandown Road, Shanklin, I.W. PO37 6HL.  
 MR. AND MRS. I. PRATT, 46 Forest Way, Winford, Sandown, I.W. PO36 0JW.  
 MR. T. V. PRETTY, Greenacres, 91 Noke Common, Newport, I.W. PO30 5TY.  
 DR. AND MRS. P. M. ROOZE, 19 Buckland Gardens, Ryde, I.W. PO33 3AG.  
 MRS. D. M. SIMMONDS, 28 Westwood Road, Ryde, I.W. PO33 3BJ.  
 MR. AND MRS. P. SINKINSON AND FAMILY, Woodbury, New Road, Brading, I.W. PO36 0AJ.  
 MRS. C. SIRKETT, 1 Prince's Mead, Seaview Lane, Seaview, I.W. PO34 5DG.  
 MR. AND MRS. C. G. SMITH, Cherry Trees, 39 Mayfield Road, Ryde, I.W. PO33 3PR.  
 DR. J. P. STARK, 2 Chestnut Close, Binstead, Ryde, I.W. PO33 3SQ.  
 MISS D. TRELEAVEN, Flat 4, Sandringham, 29 The Strand, Ryde, I.W. PO33 1JF.  
 MR. M. WEBB, 159 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, I.W. PO30 1DG.  
 MRS. B. WHITE, 21 Milne Way, Shide, Newport, I.W. PO30 1YF.  
 MR. AND MRS. J. B. WHITE AND FAMILY, 3 Woodbine Villas, St. John's Road, Newport, I.W.  
 MR. M. S. WILLIAMS, 80 Nodes Road, Northwood, Cowes, I.W. PO31 8AE. [PO30 1LB.  
 MR. T. C. WILLSTEAD, 28 Westwood Road, Ryde, I.W. PO33 3BJ.  
 MR. AND MRS. P. G. WOOD, 14 Sylvan Avenue, East Cowes, I.W. PO32 6PT.

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## TREASURER'S REPORT FOR 1981

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Subscription receipts were similar to 1980. With the increase from 1st January 1982, it is hoped that this figure will improve.

Tax refund on Covenants improved slightly to £88.92. This only represents 66 members. Any other members paying the normal rate of tax, by signing a Covenant form, could help the Society's funds. The Covenant can be cancelled at any time, and there is no extra cost involved to the individual. Please help by contacting the Treasurer or the Membership Secretary.

Local Look gave a profit of £628. Attendance was down by approximately 12% on the previous year.

Earlier in the year a cheque for £100 was sent to the Mary Rose Fund. Receipts from the lecture by Mrs. M. Rule realised £91.56.

The Isle of Wight Flora account increased by over £300 this year with 700 copies still in stock.

Since the acquisition of a long carriage typewriter in May, the duplicating and printing costs have reduced considerably. Of the total expenses on duplicating and printing this year, £250 was spent before May.

Through negotiations with the Medina Council, the Society is now exempt from paying rates for the room at 66 Carisbrooke Road. This is a current saving of £44.

D. HUNNYBUN, *Treasurer*

# STATEMENT OF INCOME AND EXPENDITURE for year ended 31st December, 1981

	1980	INCOME	£	p	£	p	EXPENDITURE	£	p	£	p		
Balances at 1.1.81							Proceedings	1370	60	1498	00		
Current Account		...	42	55	...	...	Duplicating and Printing	365	57	300	03		
Deposit Account		...	4270	70	...	...	Library Rent	289	84	231	32		
Flora Account		...	228	82	...	...	Library Expenses	81	17	286	72		
Cash in hand		...	17	48	...	4559	55	42	50	54	00		
	4410	12					Subscriptions to other Societies	53	60	94	10		
Interest on Deposit Account	429	70	...	298	53	...	Insurances	49	13	48	48		
Interest on War Stock	11	28	...	11	28	...	Hire of Halls	220	00	—	—		
Interest on Flora Account	110	69	...	50	28	...	Newtown Scrap Fund	50	00	—	—		
Members' Subscriptions	1129	38	...	1113	50	...	Seely Hall Fund	87	25	201	25		
Tax Refund on Covenants	85	47	...	88	92	...	Atkies Copse	—	—	100	00		
Sales of Proceedings, etc.	9	70	...	62	02	...	Mary Rose Fund	—	—	335	00		
Local Look—Receipts		...	1933	15	...	...	Typewriter	308	48	512	72		
Less Expenses		...	1304	86	...	...	Petty Cash and Sundries						
	908	07			628	29	<b>Total Expenses</b>				3661	62	
Sale of Badges		...			7	50							
Profit on Teas		...			4	50							
Donations		...			319	44	Balances at 31.12.81						
Sales of Flora		...			91	56	Current Account					86	28
Mary Rose Fund		...			26	95	Deposit Account					2869	23
Sundries		...					Flora Account					598	54
		...					Cash in hand					46	65
<b>Total Receipts</b>		...			2702	77						3600	70
	£7457	69			£7262	32						£7262	32

Investment—  
 £322.76 3¼% War Stock  
 Value at 31.12.81—£100.00  
 Equivalent yield of 11½%

Hutchinson Memorial Donation \$250  
 Present Deposit Balance £184.25  
 (including £18.20 interest for 1981)

Audited and found correct  
 (Signed) K. D. RIDDELL } Hon. Auditors  
 N. W. PREECE }  
 (Signed) D. J. HUNNYBUN, Hon. Treasurer

# ISLE OF WIGHT NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## RULES

*As Revised at the Annual General Meeting, 30th January, 1982*

1.—**Name.** The Society shall be called “The Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society” (hereinafter called “the Society”).

2.—**Objects.** The Objects of the Society shall be, for the benefit of the public:

- (a) To promote the study of Natural History and Archaeology especially in relation to the Isle of Wight.
- (b) To promote in every possible way the conservation of the flora and fauna of the Isle of Wight, and the proper preservation of all objects of special archaeological and geological interest.

3.—**Ancillary Powers.** In furtherance of the foregoing objects, but not further or otherwise, the Society shall have power:

- (a) To place on record such discoveries and observations of scientific value or interests as may be considered worthy of note.
- (b) To act in close co-operation with other Charitable Societies and Institutions whose objects or activities are similar to those of the Society.
- (c) To do all such other things as shall further the attainment of the foregoing objects or any of them.

4.—**Scope of Activities.** In order to attain the objectives listed above, the activities of the Society shall include the making of excursions under leaders or directors; the holding of meetings for exchange of information at which lectures and addresses shall be given, papers read and discussed; the showing of films and slides; the holding of exhibitions; organised field work, and by any other means.

The Society shall, at such intervals as may be arranged by the Council, publish *Proceedings*, in which shall be printed, at the discretion of the Editor, such discoveries and observations as may be considered worth placing on record, and issue and support such periodicals and other publications, as the interests of the Society require.

5.—**Membership.** The Society shall consist of:

- (i) Ordinary Members – any person over statutory school leaving age.
- (ii) Family Members – may include all members of one household.
- (iii) Student Members – students in full-time education.
- (iv) Honorary Members – by recommendation of Council and ratified by the Annual General Meeting.

6.—**Application for Membership.** Candidates for ordinary, family or student membership must forward a written application to the Membership Secretary on a form provided for the purposes, and such application will be accepted subject to approval at the next meeting of the Council.

7.—**Subscriptions.** Subscriptions are payable in advance on 1st January each year. Members joining the Society after 31st October may be admitted on payment of the next year’s subscription only. Such subscriptions for ordinary, family and student members to be determined by the Annual General Meeting of the Society.

8.—**Benefits.** All Members may attend all general and section meetings of the Society and use the library. Each member shall receive a copy of the current issue of *Proceedings*, *Bulletins* and *Notices*. In the case of Family Membership, only one copy of current *Proceedings*, *Bulletins* and *Notices* shall be sent to the Family.

9.—**Resignation of Members.** Any member wishing to resign must inform the Membership Secretary before the end of the calendar year for which the subscription has been paid.

10.—**Expulsion of Members.** In the event of a member acting in a manner detrimental to the attainment of the charitable objects of the Society, the Council shall, after 21 days notice to the member concerned and at a meeting of the Council at which the member shall be entitled to attend and be heard in his or her own defence, be empowered to expel such member from the Society, but the member concerned shall have the right of appeal to the Annual General Meeting.

11.—**Affiliation.** Island Schools and Colleges may be affiliated to the Society. This will entitle interested pupils under supervision to attend meetings of the Society, and to take part in any of the activities of the Society especially organised for their benefit. High Schools will receive two copies of the *Proceedings* and have the right to cast two votes at general meetings. Middle Schools will receive one copy only of the *Proceedings* and have the right to cast one vote at general meetings. Fees for all schools, and conditions of entry for Schools other than High Schools or Middle Schools to be at the discretion of the Council.

12.—**Institutions.** Libraries or similar institutions may apply to receive publications of the Society on payment of a subscription as determined by the Council.

13.—**Officers.** The Officers of the Society shall consist of a President, a General Secretary, one or more Assistant Secretaries as required, a Treasurer, a Conservation Officer, an Editor of *Proceedings*, a Librarian and such other officers as required from time to time, and approved by the Annual General Meeting. The work of the Officers shall be entirely honorary, and any posts may be combined in one Officer if necessary.

14.—**Council.** (a) The affairs of the Society shall be managed by a Council consisting of the Officers for the time being, fifteen elected members, the Official Recorders, a representative of each of the Sections of the Society, the immediate past President, and the Chairman of any committee established under Clause 14(b). The Council shall hold meetings not less than three times a year, and special meetings at such other times as may be found necessary. Seven members shall form a quorum. The Council shall have power to invite advisors and observers to its meetings.

(b) The Council shall have power to appoint from their own body, with or without the addition of other members, Committees, to which may be delegated such powers and duties as may be laid down by Council in Standing Orders for those Committees, provided that all acts and proceedings of such Committees shall be reported to the Council in due course; provided also that members of such Committees who are not members of the Council shall not exceed a number which is one less than the quorum of such Committees. The quorum of each Committee shall not be less than one third of the total number of members of that Committee.

(c) The President, General Secretary and Treasurer shall be *ex-officio* members of all Committees.

15.—**Sections.** Sections of the Society shall be established as determined by the particular interests of members and approved by Council. Each Section will be respon-

sible for electing a Leader, who will organise a programme of meetings, open to all members of the Society.

16.—**Recorders.** The Council may appoint, as required, any members of the Society that they may consider suitable, to act as Official Recorders, and the appointments may be cancelled at the discretion of the Council. The Official Recorders shall be *ex-officio* members of the Council, and all records submitted in confidence shall only be made public with the agreement of those concerned and at the discretion of the Recorder.

17.—**Election of Officers and Council.** The President shall be elected for one year, but shall be eligible for re-election for a total period not exceeding three consecutive years, after which he or she shall not be eligible for election until one year has elapsed. Other Officers may be elected and shall retire annually but shall be eligible for re-election. The members of the Council shall be elected for a period of three years, and shall not be eligible for re-election until one year has elapsed. The Council may co-opt any member for any special purpose which may arise. The Council shall have power to fill any casual vacancy which may occur in its number until the next Annual General Meeting.

18.—**Vice-Presidents.** Vice-Presidents may be elected and shall retire annually, but be eligible for re-election.

19.—**Meetings.** The General Meetings of the Society shall be held from time to time as arranged. A circular shall be sent to each member containing information as to Meetings, Excursions, etc., including Section Meetings, to be held during the ensuing session. A Minute Book shall be kept, and an account of the proceedings at all business meetings of the Society entered therein.

20.—**Annual General Meeting.** An Annual General Meeting shall be held in the month of January, at which the reports of the Secretary and Treasurer will be submitted for approval, and the election of Officers, Vice-Presidents and Members of the Council for the ensuing year will take place. Twenty members shall form a quorum.

21.—**Accounts.** The Accounts of the Society shall be audited by two members who shall be elected at the Annual General Meeting.

22.—**Chairman at Meetings.** The President, or in his or her absence one of the Vice-Presidents, shall preside at all General Meetings of the Society. In the event of the incapacity of the President, a Past President shall act as President until the next Annual General Meeting.

23.—**Guests.** Any member may introduce a guest at any Meeting or Excursion of the Society, but such privilege should not be extended to any one guest on more than two occasions in the course of the same year. Where the numbers for any event are restricted, priority shall be given to members.

24.—**Alteration of Rules.** Alteration of the Rules shall only be made at the Annual General Meeting, and a copy of such proposals shall be sent to each member prior to the meeting. No alteration shall be made which would cause the Society to cease to be a charity at law, and no alterations shall be made to Rule 2, this Rule or Rule 25.

25.—**Dissolution.** Any assets remaining upon dissolution after payment of debts shall not be distributed amongst members, but shall be transferred to some other institution having charitable objects similar to those listed in Rule 2 as the Council may with the approval of the Charity Commissioners or other authority having charitable jurisdiction determine.

## GENERAL MEETINGS, EXHIBITIONS AND EXCURSIONS

---

**General Meeting** on 6th February, 1981.

The remarkable story of the reclamation of the "Mary Rose" was the subject of an illustrated lecture by Mrs. Margaret Rule, given to members of the Society and friends at Ryde Town Hall.

The President introduced the speaker, who is the Archaeological Director of the Mary Rose Trust, now engaged on this important project of underwater archaeology. The "Mary Rose" was the first purpose-built English Ship-of-war commissioned by Henry VIII in 1509. The only known illustration, giving details of structure, complement and armoury, is in the Pepys' Library at Magdalene College, Cambridge. On 19th July, 1545, while engaged in an action off Southsea Castle, defending Portsmouth against the French, she sank with the loss of most hands, stated to be between 400 and 700 men. The scene was later depicted in an 18th century engraving, a few copies of which still exist. The sunken hull, lying on its side, was located in 1965 and excavation started in 1971. Although much of the port side was exposed and had consequently been seriously eroded, the ship had apparently filled up with silt carried through the open gun-ports very rapidly and the contents thus preserved. Following meetings of interested organisations, the Mary Rose Trust was formed under the Presidency of H.R.H. The Prince of Wales, who, as an experienced diver, plays an active part.

Using the very latest techniques, much of the silt has been removed to disclose the most fascinating range of objects, each of which is carefully plotted on maps, packed and brought to the surface to be studied, analysed and preserved under laboratory conditions. Apart from many fine cannons with shot of iron and stone, there were also smaller cast-iron hand guns shot moulds, longbows and arrows, all in a remarkable state of preservation. Other items, such as a 4/3 domino, a small bone dice, an oboe and a gentleman's "watch", consisting of a miniature compass and sundial, were valuable finds in an environmental context, helping to create a picture of life on board a warship in those far-off days.

Probably the most amazing find to date was that of the surgeon's chest, fully equipped with medicaments and instruments, exactly as they were left more than 400 years ago.

Work will shortly be resumed after the winter break and the plan is to continue to remove all the objects from the hull, which it is then hoped to lift intact in 1982 for preservation and display in a purpose-built museum in Portsmouth.

After answering a number of questions, the lecturer was thanked on behalf of those present by Miss Marjorie Middleton, leader of the Society's Archaeological Section, who testified to the wonderful work being done under the inspired leadership of Mrs. Rule, who herself had learnt to dive in order to direct operations more closely. To express their appreciation, members and guests were asked to make a contribution as they left the hall, and, as a consequence, a collection of over £90 was made for the Mary Rose Trust.

**General Meeting on 28th March, 1981.**

Although all outdoor meetings of the Society had to be cancelled due to an outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease, members were able to meet at the Teachers' Centre, Newport, for a talk on the Society's Library by the Hon. Librarian, Mrs. Dorothy Frazer.

After being introduced by the President, the speaker expressed her delight in seeing Mr. Reg Wyatt, a founder member of the Society, in the audience, as the first part of her talk was concerned with those early days when, on 8th November, 1919, the Society was brought into being by Frank Morey, a well-known Newport business man and Fellow of the Linnean Society, whose *Guide to the Natural History of the Isle of Wight* had been published by the I.W. County Press some ten years before.

One of the objects of the new Society was to bring the records contained in Morey's *Guide* up-to-date, and to this end a number of books were purchased and received as gifts, and regular annual *Proceedings* were published. These were housed in the Society's Headquarters in the old Literary Institute in Quay Street, Newport, where indoor meetings, displays of collections and exhibitions were also held.

In 1945 the association with the Literary Institute came to an end and, through the services of the late Leslie Hutchinson, who was then the County Education Officer, arrangements were made to hold meetings in Newport schools, and the library was transferred to Carisbrooke Castle, while back-numbers of *Proceedings* and other Journals received were looked after by the Secretary of the time.

In 1959, Mr. E. H. White, who had twice been President, died and left a large number of books to the Society. To accommodate the now substantial library of books, Mr. Victor Wadham kindly loaned a large mahogany book-case, which was housed in the Seely Library at Newport, by kind permission of the County Librarian, Mr. Fred Green. It was not long, however, before gifts and bequests of more books made this accommodation insufficient and, in 1970, arrangements were made with the National Farmers' Union to hire a room at Agriculture House, 66 Carisbrooke Road, Newport, which was redecorated and fitted with shelves to house the Society's considerable collection of books, and where they can now be seen and borrowed by members. Examples of some of these were shown, including those specifically relating to the Island, standard reference books and others of general interest on natural history and archaeology. Examples of back-numbers of *Proceedings*, together with books and off-prints of many papers published by the Society were also displayed.

The President thanked the speaker for a most interesting talk and, after tea kindly prepared by Mrs. Lilian Prangnell, members examined the displays and later visited the Library.

**General Meeting on 10th April, 1981.**

Dr. Colin Pope gave an illustrated lecture on "Trees in the Island Landscape" at the Teachers' Centre, Newport.

The President welcomed members of the I.W. Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group, who had been invited to the meeting, and introduced the speaker. Dr. Pope started by tracing the history of woodland on the Island following the recession of the last Ice Age, when the Island was still part of the Continent. This enabled the spread of trees northwards to occur, as the climate became warmer, and evidence from pollen analysis

carried out by Robert Scaife and other workers showed that, as on the mainland, the woodland cover of the Island had Oak as the dominant species, with considerable amounts of Wych Elm, Hazel and Small-leaved Lime. Later arrivals included Holly. Clearings carried out by early Man during the Neolithic and Bronze Age Periods, brought about interesting changes in the character of the woodland. Beech and Ash increased, but Wych Elm and, later, Small-leaved Lime decreased considerably, probably due to grazing by animals. As open areas were created, plants probably migrated from natural open areas, such as cliffs and estuaries.

The present pattern of fields, hedges and small pockets of woodland, was well established by about 1200 A.D. The so-called English Elm had, in fact, been introduced and spread by suckering, and many woods were planted with suitable species for regular coppicing. Many of these neglected coppices can still be seen, and the large Ash stools to be seen at Eaglehead Copse show that this must have been actively coppiced for many hundreds of years. By the study of old maps and documents, taken in conjunction with the plants found in the ground flora of a wood, it is possible to trace the history of woodland over a long period. Of particular interest in the Island is a small thicket of Small-leaved Lime, which still survives on an ancient boundary near Wilmingham, and the remnants of old deer parks, such as at Appuldurcombe. These are of particular interest as the older trees may have certain species of lichen growing on their trunks, which are reliable indicators of ancient woodland. Lichens, however, are affected by atmospheric pollution, and some are becoming very rare, but the Island is well situated in this respect, and a number of rare lichens have been recently recorded.

After answering a number of questions, the speaker was thanked for a most interesting talk by Mr. O. H. Frazer, who made an appeal for anyone who came across a patch of woodland with interesting features to get in touch with Dr. Pope.

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#### Excursion on St. George's Down on 17th May, 1981.

Members met at Shide for a comprehensive exploration of St. George's Down under the leadership of Mr. & Mrs. R. A. Snow, assisted by the leaders of other Sections of the Society, so that all interests were catered for.

One party started by exploring Shide Chalk Pit, by kind permission of the I.W. County Council. Mr. Bill Shepard pointed out the considerable botanical interest of the area, and the small stream surprisingly yielded two species of newts, Common and Palmate, and several Water Scorpions, *Nepa cinerea*. Mr. Ron Snow demonstrated the growth and development of the many ant-hills to be seen here. The party then proceeded to the top of St. George's Down, by kind permission of the Vectis Stone Co. Ltd., where they were met by another party under the leadership of Lt.-Commander Jim Cheverton, who had walked along the River Medina and up past Standens to record some 28 species of birds. Insects were also being recorded by Mrs. Connie Pelham.

A number of Longworth Inspection Boxes for small mammals, which had previously been set out by Mr. Oliver Frazer, were inspected and they yielded a male bank vole, *Clethrionomys glareolus*, which was duly admired and photographed, and later a pigmy shrew, *Sorex minutus*. Mrs. Lorna Snow drew attention to the extensive colour-

ful areas colonised by the Purple-fruited Heath Moss, *Ceratodon purpureus*, and the Greater Matted Thread Moss, *Bryum capillare*, and, with Mr. Douglas Roberts, set up a field laboratory, with microscopes for the examination of minute specimens, including an interesting primary colonising alga, which formed the subject of a special study by Dr. Colin Pope.

Pond dipping in the nearby ponds yielded many frog tadpoles and a number of water insects. More newts were observed rising to the surface, and on the gravel a number of common lizards, *Lacerta vivipara*, were seen. After a picnic tea, Mr. Bill Shepard conducted a walk through Standen Wood and then over the down to see features of special interest. A single specimen of fungus was found and identified as being, most appropriately, the St. George's Mushroom, *Tricholoma gambosum*, usually found a bit earlier on or shortly after St. George's Day, 23rd April. Dr. Allan Insole discussed the possible origins of the extensive gravel deposits here.

Lt.-Commander Jim Cheverton, on behalf of the President, who was unavoidably absent at the Newtown Survey Camp, thanked the leaders for a most varied and interesting outing, which all, both young and old, had enjoyed immensely.

#### **Visit to Coombe Farm, Brighstone, on 11th June, 1981.**

On behalf of the President, who was unavoidably absent, Mr. O. H. Frazer welcomed members of the Society and also those of the local branch of the Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group (FWAG), who had been invited to attend, and hoped that this meeting of farmers and naturalists under such circumstances would show how much they had in common, and, where there was contention, it was hoped that this would give an opportunity for profitable discussion. He referred also to the offer made by the Society to interested farmers, who would like to have a comprehensive survey of the wildlife on their farms carried out. He introduced the farmer, Mr. Harold Hack and his chief stockman, Mr. John Cull, who combined the qualities of good husbandry and sound conservation.

Mr. Hack then conducted the party to see the two most attractive ponds which had been created in the disused sand pits, with fish leaping out of the water to take the proffered food. Mr. Cull then led the party to high ground, from which a good view of the farm could be obtained, and discussed some of the problems with which they had to deal. He pointed out areas which had been left uncultivated for the benefit of wildlife, and also the old quarry from which the stone had been obtained for the building of the local school. On returning to the farm, members were impressed to see how the old buildings had been adapted for the accommodation of the many pigs.

Mr. Frazer thanked Mr. Hack and Mr. Cull for a most enjoyable and instructive visit.

#### **Excursion to Luccombe Down on 20th June, 1981.**

Some thirty members met on Luccombe Down for a meeting of general natural history interest under the leadership of Lt.-Commander J. M. Cheverton, R.N., assisted by Section Leaders and members with special local knowledge of the area.

The party divided into two groups, one going in a south-westerly direction and the other to the north-east. The first group found a few plants of interest, including the small-flowered buttercup, early gentians and a mass of horse-shoe vetch colouring the hillside bright yellow. They also saw a number of common butterflies. The other group began their walk on a typical heathland community with heather, gorse and foxgloves predominating. There was a good floor covering of lichens in the bare patches of ground, with several *Cladonia* species and the lichen known as "Reindeer Moss", *C. rangiferina*.

The group were then led through some old woodland with some of the biggest ash trees on the Island and found several mosses and the liverwort, *Pellia epiphylla*. Wood avens, wood speedwell and pink purslane were the main flowering plants in this area, and also a double-flowered creeping buttercup, which has been there at least since 1974. The group then passed on to chalk meadowland with a wealth of chalk-loving species.

Very few birds were seen by either party, but a few meadow pipits and yellow-hammers were about. The main birdlife, however, was a multitude of swifts circling over the car park, feeding on the insects which were flying low due to the overcast sky.

The President thanked the leaders for a most interesting and enjoyable outing.

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#### **Visit to Southsea Castle on 5th July, 1981.**

The main aim of this visit, under the leadership of the President, was to see the newly mounted exhibition on the "Mary Rose", following the very successful lecture by Mrs. Margaret Rule at Ryde in February. Members were most impressed with the lay-out of the exhibition, which portrays in graphic terms the history of the times that led to the sinking of this, the pride of Henry VIII's fleet, while in action against the French within sight of the Castle, from which the King saw the drama and heard the cries of the drowning men. Models show some of the methods used to "find, excavate, raise and preserve for all time such remains of the ship . . . as may be of historical and archaeological interest", which must surely rank as a most ambitious and exciting archaeological undertaking.

The exhibition also includes some of the objects already recovered, including many fine cannons and other weaponry, a wide range of personal effects, clothing, etc., and, most striking of all, the contents of the surgeon-barber's chest in perfect condition. Members were also able to watch a video-tape recording of a film showing work in progress. Some members were fortunate enough to meet some of the divers returning at the end of their day's work, who reported good progress.

The opportunity was also taken to explore the Castle itself and visit the other exhibitions relating to local military and naval history and its effect on urban growth, and the archaeological galleries displaying local artefacts, including Roman material excavated from Portchester Castle by Professor B. Cunliffe. Altogether a most worthwhile visit.

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#### **Private View of Local Look on 31st July, 1981.**

Members, especially those who were later to act as stewards, took this opportunity to have a preview of the Local Look Exhibition at Brook. The President welcomed

members and introduced Mrs. K. Wadham, the Chairman of the Local Look Committee, who gave details of the organisation, and Mr. O. H. Frazer, the over-all organiser, drew attention to special features in the displays, which were well explained in the official guide, copies of which were made available.

Members then examined the displays and questions were answered.

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**Exhibition Local Look at Brook** from 1st August to 1st September, 1981.

A report of this, the 21st "Local Look" Exhibition, appears elsewhere in these *Proceedings*.

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**Excursion to King's Quay** on 16th August, 1981.

Members met at King's Quay, near Wootton, by kind permission of the owner, Mr. E. Class.

In the unavoidable absence of the leader, Mr. Hilton Matthews, who was detained on the mainland, the party was led by Mr. O. H. Frazer through the attractive woodland to the saltings, where they were met by Mr. Class. After exploring the shingle beach, the party returned through the wood and took a circuitous route to reach the old quay. A jellyfish, *Chrysaora hysoscella*, was seen on the mudflats. Other interesting observations included a large flock of curlews, several good plants of Lax-flowered Sea-lavender, *Limonium humile*, six species of grasshoppers and bush-cricket and several species of butterflies.

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**Excursion to Nettlestone Point** on 13th September, 1981.

Members met at Nettlestone Point for a seashore walk following the ebbing tide under the leadership of Dr. Colin Pope, who identified the many objects of interest found.

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**Fungus Foray and Exhibition** on 24th and 25th October, 1981.

Members met at Ashengrove Farm, Swainston, by kind permission of the owner, Mr. Michael Ball, whose fields and woods have long been recognised as excellent collecting areas for fungi.

Once again the Society was honoured by the presence of Dr. Derek Reid, of the Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, and Mrs. Audrey Thomas, of the Haslemere Educational Museum, whose expertise was so essential. After being given a short introductory talk by the Foray Organiser, Mr. O. H. Frazer, members were divided into six groups, each provided with a collecting tray and punnets, and dispersed to different areas. The resulting collection was transported to the Teachers' Centre, Newport, to which other specimens collected by members in different parts of the Island were also brought.

A start was made on the important and considerable task of identifying and naming the specimens with the aid of microscopes set up by Mr. Douglas Roberts and Mr. Frank Neat. This work was continued on the Sunday morning and, as a result, a record number of 200 species of fungi were identified, named and set out in systematic order for viewing by members in the afternoon. Of these no fewer than 39 species were new to the Island list, the names of which are given in *Non-flowering Plants, Notes for 1981*, elsewhere in these *Proceedings* (see page 394).

Dr. Reid gave a talk on the classification of fungi in general and pointed out the special features of those collected on this occasion.

The President expressed the thanks of members to the distinguished guests for all their hard work and expertise. The display remained open for members of the public during the following day.

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**General Meeting on 14th November, 1981.**

Members met at the Lord Louis Library, Newport, to hear an illustrated lecture entitled "Clades, Grades and Punctuation", by Dr. Allan Insole.

This was the first of two lectures aimed at presenting the latest trends in scientific thinking relating to evolution and classification. After being introduced by the President, the speaker explained how during the last few years a series of fierce debates had raged amongst biologists and palaeontologists, which until recently had been largely confined to academic circles, but had now surfaced in the national press, and needed some explanation. In this talk two main topics would be examined. The first, Cladistics, was a new way of discovering the evolutionary relationships between organisms, using a rigorous and objective analysis of all their characters. The second topic concerned the way in which evolution has occurred through time, whether it proceeds gradually or in a series of punctuated steps.

The President thanked the speaker for a most stimulating lecture.

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**General Meeting at Cowes High School on 27th November, 1981.**

The report of the 23rd consecutive Annual Newtown Survey, held earlier in the year, was presented by the organiser, Mr. L. E. L. Cox, for the benefit of members, parents and friends of those who took part. The report, which is published elsewhere in these *Proceedings*, was supported by a comprehensive exhibition and illustrated by coloured slides and 8mm film.

After refreshments provided and served by senior pupils, members were able to examine the displays and discuss the details with those who took part.

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**General Meeting on 12th December, 1981.**

Members met at the Lord Louis Library, Newport, for this the second lecture by Dr. Allan Insole, entitled, "Evolution in Theory or Religion".

After being introduced by the President, the speaker explained how Darwin's Theory of Evolution was being called into question by an increasing number of scientists, largely due to the lack of supporting evidence. The situation had not been helped by the resurgence of Creationism in the U.S.A. The main trouble was due to the paucity of the fossil record, which provided so little evidence to support any view.

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**General Meeting on 15th January, 1982.**

"The Facts about Rabies" was the theme of this meeting, held at the Post Graduate Medical Centre at St. Mary's Hospital, Newport.

In the unavoidable absence of the President, the members and guests were welcomed by Mr. O. H. Frazer, who introduced the speakers – Mr. Peter Hunt, the Animal Welfare Officer, and Dr. J. Morrison, the Area Specialist in Community Health.

Mr. Hunt explained that, since the Animal Health Act, 1981, it was incumbent on the Local Authority to enforce the act and carry out the many tasks of inspection and control, which had previously been undertaken by the Police. Although concerned with all aspects of animal health, as, for example, the fortunate containment of the foot-and-mouth outbreak in the Island in March of last year, it was Rabies which constituted the greatest potential threat at the present time to the health of both animals and humans. He then showed a sequence of slides with taped commentary, which traced the history of this disease from ancient times to the present day, when it is still rampant in some countries, such as India, where it claims several thousand lives each year. Fortunately in this country, since strict controls were enforced in the last century, we have been almost free of the disease apart from spasmodic introductions in 1918 and 1977, which happily were contained. On the continent, however, the disease has spread rapidly since the last war, mainly through the medium of infected foxes, and has now reached some of the French channel ports. The disease is spread through the saliva of infected animals, and the Channel acts as a natural barrier only so long as the strict controls and quarantine regulations for imported animals are scrupulously observed. Just one selfish and misguided act of smuggling in a pet could set in train a course of events which could lead to untold misery and suffering, and, if the disease were to get a hold in the wildlife population, all wildlife would be at risk. He then showed a film, which demonstrated in graphic terms the importance of these controls and regulations. Many questions were asked and ably answered, and members of the audience were able to make their own contributions to the discussion.

Dr. J. Morrison spoke particularly on the human aspect. There was a National, as well as a Local Contingency Plan, which would be put into effect as soon as a case of Rabies was notified. Although new vaccines are safer, they are very expensive and require follow-up injections every two years, so they are not viable for the population as a whole, but would be used to protect those most at risk. Quarantine would be necessary for at least six months, and for those who are bitten the critical time is in the first few minutes, when soap and water can save life. Once the disease reaches the nervous system, there is no cure and after a period of great apprehension, leading to uncontrollable spasms, death will ensue.

Further questions were asked and ably answered, and Mr. Frazer thanked both speakers for a most instructive and useful evening.

**Open Meeting** on 20th January, 1982.

“The World of Bats – a Guide to the Natural History of Bats in the Tropics and in Britain”, was the title of an open lecture by Dr. R. E. Stebbings of the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, Monks Wood Experimental Station, Huntingdon, held at the Quay Street Methodist Church Hall, Newport.

In the unavoidable absence of the President, the speaker was introduced by the immediate past-president, Lt.-Commander J. M. Cheverton, R.N., who stated that Dr. Stebbings had first become interested in bats at the age of 10, and by the age of 15 was dedicated to their conservation. After joining the Nature Conservancy, he worked for a time at Furzebrook Research Station in Dorset and, as Chairman of the Chiroptera Group Species Survival Commission, IUCN, Switzerland, has travelled widely in search of bats of many species. A frequent broadcaster and author of many books and articles on the subject, he had now come to the Island to investigate and advise on some of our most suitable sites for bats.

Dr. Stebbings divided his lecture into two parts, dealing first with the tropical species which first attracted his attention and later dealing with the special requirements of those species we have in Britain and for which the Island should be a specially favoured locality. Bats had an ancient history, but more than most animals had suffered from the impact of man on the environment, and they had encountered more hazards more quickly than predicted during the last 20 years. It was interesting to note that generally in the East bats are regarded as symbols of prosperity and are often depicted in works of art and craft, while in the West they have regrettably come to be regarded as symbols of evil for no good reason. With modern methods of travel it is possible to reach all kinds of places within 24 hours, where bats can be seen in millions.

There are two main groups of bats, the Fruit-eating Bats, or so-called Flying Foxes, of the tropics, and the Insect-eating Bats, to which our own species belong. There were about 150 species of the former, which include the largest of the bats with a wing-span of up to five feet. Some of these are safe within Buddhist Temples, but beyond they have been mercilessly slaughtered, although valuable conservation work has been carried out by Gerald Durrell. The Tropical Rain Forest supports many species of bats, some as yet unidentified, but this is a very threatened habitat. There are huge caves in Borneo, where it is estimated that as many as 100 million bats may be found in one cave. Some bats have specialised feeding habits, such as those which include pollen and small frogs in their diet, and are important pollinators for certain trees and cacti. Another bat catches fish and consequently suffers from oil pollution in common with sea-birds. There are three species of Vampire Bats in South and Central America, which feed wholly on mammalian blood, but, as shown by a specimen on view, they are very small animals in comparison with their reputation. The world's smallest mammal is a tiny bat in Thailand, which he had recently been to see, as it was threatened with extinction by over-interest of sight-seers and the sale of specimens as curios. Happily this has now ceased.

After answering a number of questions relating to foreign species, the speaker then turned his attention to the fifteen species of insect-eating bats found in this country. He showed in detail the features used for the identification of species and explained the results of comprehensive surveys carried out in South Wales and Dorset aimed at finding out the movements of Greater Horseshoe Bats between summer roosts, feeding areas and winter roosts. Much work on these lines still needed to be done, and it was always a possibility that new species would be found. The changing habits of bats

brought special problems for their conservation. Under natural conditions our bats would roost in hollow trees and caves, but, owing to disturbance and destruction of these natural habitats, they have increasingly made use of man-made structures such as churches, farm buildings and the attics of houses. Some modern houses would seem to be particularly favoured by some species. It is because of these special requirements for roosting that bats have been given fuller protection than any other protected wild animals under the new Wildlife and Countryside Act, 1981. It is now an offence to damage, destroy or obstruct access to any place that a bat uses for shelter or protection, or to disturb a bat while it is occupying such a place and this applies even in houses and outbuildings. The only exception is for bats in the living area of a house, from which they should be carefully removed. The Nature Conservancy Council must be notified about any proposed action to get rid of bats or any operation likely to disturb them or their roosts, and must then be allowed time to advise on whether the action or operation should be carried out and, if so, on the method to be used and its timing. To examine bats and photograph them in their roosts requires a special licence from the Nature Conservancy Council.

The keen interest in bats engendered by the lecture was demonstrated by the number of pertinent questions which were ably answered. In expressing the thanks of all those present to Dr. Stebbings for a most stimulating lecture, Mr. O. H. Frazer referred also to the considerable help he had received from the lecturer during the past two years, which had been a great encouragement. He paid tribute to the good response he had received from members of the public in answer to the letters he had inserted in the local press. Members of the audience were then able to study the specimens on display, and from the sale of "Bats Need Friends" car-stickers and voluntary contributions, the sum of over £21 was handed over for the Fauna and Flora Preservation Society for bat conservation.

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#### **Annual General Meeting on 30th January, 1982.**

The President, Mr. L. E. L. Cox, referred with regret to the deaths during the year of six valued members. Mr. Robert D. Whittingham was an expert on old coins and was Chairman of the Friends of Carisbrooke Castle Museum for many years. Mr. Peter R. Crewe was an acknowledged authority on antiquarian books, prints, maps and postcards relating to the Island. Mr. James Aitchison had served on the Council of the Society and acted as Hon. Auditor from 1962 to 1971. Miss Laura A. Johnstone had joined the Society in 1969. Miss Nora Sanders died at the age of 86 and recently Mr. Bill Gaskin, a member of long standing, had died after a long illness. Members stood in silent tribute.

In his address, on completion of his first year in office, the President reviewed the activities of the Society during the past year and referred particularly to the high quality of the lectures and meetings organised by the Society, which had been well attended. This was partly due to the acknowledged authority of some of our own members, such as Dr. Allan Insole and Dr. Colin Pope, but we had also been most fortunate in being able to call on the expertise of such outstanding experts as Mrs. Margaret Rule, Dr. Derek Reid, Mrs. Audrey Thomas and Dr. Bob Stebbings. He asked members to continue with the excellent work of recording the distribution of species for the eventual up-dating of Morey's *Guide*.

Reports from the Hon. Secretary and other Officers of the Society, which had been previously circulated and some of which are reproduced elsewhere in these *Proceedings*, were acknowledged and passed with gratitude. Short reports were given by the Botany and Bird Recorders, who also had interesting displays on view. Reports were also given by the Society's representatives on other closely linked organisations. Members then turned their attention to the Revised Rules, as agreed with the Charity Commissioners, which, after some discussion, were passed unanimously and are reproduced elsewhere in these *Proceedings*.

Votes of thanks were proposed to retiring officers and members of the Council, before proceeding to the election of Officers and Council Members, as shown elsewhere in these *Proceedings*.

After tea, kindly prepared by Mrs. K. Wadham and helpers, there was a showing of colour slides taken by members of outstanding events and activities of the Society during the past year, with commentary by Mr. O. H. Frazer and others concerned.

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## SECTION REPORTS

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### Access to the Countryside

Meetings were arranged as follows:

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| 10th January   | We met at Shide by the River Medina for a walk along the river bank, returning via St. George's Down. Leaders: Robert and Barbara Hodgson.  |
| 15th February  | A walk in Parkhurst Forest. Leader: Mrs. Devereux.  |
| 15th March     | We met in the main car park at Yarmouth for a walk along the estuary. Leaders: W. and T. Mills.   |
| 19th April     | We met at the car park in the centre of Godshill for a walk in the area. Leader: Mr. A. Alldred.  |
| 10th May       | Walk in the Whitwell area cancelled owing to rain.  |
| 5th June       | We met at the Sloop Inn car park, Wootton Bridge for a walk in the area. Leaders: J. and M. Edmonds.  |
| 28th June      | We met at the Horse and Groom, Ningwood, with a packed lunch, to walk to Hamstead and have lunch on the beach before returning by another route. Leaders: Robert and Barbara Hodgson. |
| 26th July      | We met at Rookley Post Office for a walk in the area. Leader: V. Evans.   |
| 15th August    | We met at Calbourne Bottom for a walk in the forest. Leaders: Robert and Barbara Hodgson.   |
| 26th September | We met at Niton for a walk in the area. Leaders: B. and J. Mills.   |
| 17th October   | Walk in the Shanklin area cancelled owing to rain.  |

BARBARA HODGSON

## Archaeology

During the year the transfer of the Isle of Wight Archaeological Collection, previously housed in Carisbrooke Castle, to the Clatterford Centre was completed. Although there is as yet no permanent display, the various artefacts are now at least available for inspection on request to the Field Officer, Vicky Basford, or David Tomalin, now the County Archaeological Officer.

In February, David gave a full report on the Mount Joy excavation of a damaged Bronze Age stake barrow, which brought out many intriguing points in what may have seemed a disappointing job, while it was under way in very discouraging weather. The County Archivist gave us another most informative talk at the Records Office in March, and in May David Tomalin led a walk over St. Catherine's Down, during which previously unrecorded earthworks were spotted and measured.

Mr. R. Winter kindly arranged a tour of Yarmouth for us in June, which included a visit to the Castle and many other points of interest, and in July we joined the General Meeting at Southsea Castle, where we were able to see the wonderful collection of artefacts recovered from the wreck of the Mary Rose. Another of Bill Shepard's walks about Newport was much enjoyed in October, and at Carisbrooke Castle the Curator, Dr. J. Jones, gave a fascinating and very full account of Trading and Piracy in Tudor Times, which aroused great interest.

In November David Tomalin spoke on Underwater Archaeology, with particular reference to the work being done on the wrecks of HMS Assurance and HMS Pomona, both of which were lost on the same part of the Needles rocks, and the year's programme ended with Dr. Allan Insole's excellent talk on an unusual subject, Mining in Archaeology.

MARJORIE MIDDLETON

## Botany

- 21st February An indoor meeting was held at the Teachers' Centre, Newport, to consider "The Island's Lost Plants". Mr. Bill Shepard, the Botany Recorder, discussed the problems of extinction. In some cases the original recording had been in error. He had listed about 30 plants and slides were shown of many of them, including herbarium specimens. Miss Page showed the flower studies by her great aunt, Mary Fraser, dating from the mid-19th century, which included some of the "lost plants".
- 22nd March A walk through Swanpond Copse had to be cancelled owing to foot-and-mouth restrictions.
- 20th April A walk in Bloodstone Copse and Eaglehead Copse was led by Miss K. Page. These ancient woods have not been coppiced for years, and there is a wealth of flowering plants – bluebells, wood anemones, sweet woodruff forming a rich ground cover. Toothwort, *Lathraea squamaria*, is frequent under the old hazels. One plant of Goldilocks Buttercup, *Ranunculus auricomus*, was found, and we saw the leaves of twayblades and spotted orchids. We returned over Ashley Down. There were over 20 members present.
- 16th May Mr. Bill Shepard led a walk at Newtown Ranges. First we looked at Mousetail, *Myosurus minimus*, growing in a field gateway at Lock's Green. We made our way through the woods, in which

wide drives have been cleared and some coppicing done. We saw Buckthorn, *Rhamnus catharticus*, there and a good woodland flora. The ranges were covered with Green-winged Orchids, *Orchis morio*, of all sizes and varying in colour from white to deep purple. The Adder's-tongue fern, *Ophioglossum vulgatum*, grows in damp hollows, and the Heath Dog-violet, *Viola canina*, was locally abundant. At the side of the estuary were many of the salt-marsh plants. It was a showery afternoon, but over 30 members were present.

- 2nd June A weekday evening meeting at Alverstone to look at grasses with special help for beginners. Miss Burnhill led the walk along the old railway track starting by the mill. There was a good varied flora and over 20 different grasses were identified. Willow Warblers were singing all the way. Six members were present.
- 13th June A walk from Bowcombe Farm on to the down by Garstons to look at chalk flowers. We found nearly all the common downland plants and a number of Bee Orchids, *Ophrys apifera*, but only eight plants of the Burnt Orchid, *Orchis ustulata*, which in the past has numbered up to 300 plants. Bullocks in the area were trampling and tearing the turf. About 15 members were present.
- 23rd June An evening walk in Walter's Copse, led by Mr. Pat Ewbank, the Warden of the Newtown Local Nature Reserve. We were well rewarded by finding a Greater Butterfly-orchid, *Platanthera chlorantha*, and also the Fragrant Orchid, *Gymnadenia conopsea*, in an area recently cleared. We looked at the area which had been coppiced the previous winter and identified all the woodland plants we would expect there. We returned by another path through the wood and saw large numbers of Twayblades, *Listera ovata*, in flower. About ten members were present.
- 11th July An all day meeting led by Mr. E. Burn. In the morning we walked round the new pathway in Freshwater Marsh and were impressed with the efforts to open up the area. After a picnic, we returned to the car park, where we were joined by more members and walked up over Afton Down to see the Frog Orchids, *Coeloglossum viride*, which were plentiful, as also were the Pyramidal Orchids, *Anacamptis pyramidalis*, making a vertiable "orchid garden". We saw all the usual chalk plants and a good stand of Viper's-bugloss, *Echium vulgare*. We returned down the main track and were entertained to tea by Mr. Burn. About 30 members were present.
- 8th August A visit to Newtown Nature Reserve to study the colonisation by plants on the banks of the new "scrape" there. Mr. Pat Ewbank met us and we walked all round the scrape and noted many seedlings where the top soil had been replaced on the banks. We were rewarded by a sight of a Kingfisher. We then went by Mr. Ewbank's boat to the west side of the harbour, where we looked at the sea-side flora and visited the site where the National Trust had

been cutting out the woodland, leaving three or four large trees of Buckthorn, *Rhamnus cathartica*. As we walked back we saw all the boats of the Admiral's Cup Race with their supporters – a grey silver fleet moving slowly on the tide.

- 5th September A walk at Bembridge led by Mr. Bill Shepard. We walked down to the Duver via the Common and saw the large patch of an escaped rockery plant, *Duchesnia indica*, which has naturalised there. We saw the Autumn Squill, *Scilla autumnalis*, and the rather depleted Sea-holly, *Eryngium maritimum*. Mr. Kettell showed us the Slender Hare's-ear, *Bupleurum tenuissimum*, and in the marshland by the mill we found Wild Celery, *Apium graveolens*, Marsh and Sea Arrowgrass, *Triglochin palustris* and *T. maritima*, growing together, as also were Common and Lesser Centaury, *Centaureum erythraea* and *C. pulchellum*. In the pond we saw Fennel Pondweed, *Potamogeton pectinatus*, but there was no sign of *Solanum saccharoides*, which had been observed in 1980 pending confirmation. The group returned to the Green at St. Helens and to tea with Miss Chris Lipscombe.
- 19th September Mr. Reg Kettell led a walk to explore the marshland at Alverstone Lynch, which is low-lying, very wet, with drainage ditches and running streams. The weather, too, was very wet, and we explored the ditches and found many waterside plants. Noting many seed-heads of orchids, we resolved to visit the area again earlier in the season. About nine members were present.
- 8th November An indoor meeting was held to discuss the year's work and make plans for 1982. Mr. Shepard reported on new finds and we showed members' slides taken at meetings during the year. 11 members were present.

In addition to the above a small group made a botanical survey of Atkies Copse and visited the copse on two occasions. The early flora is varied with a good number of species, and we recorded the trees as well. Full details were supplied to the Conservation Officer.

KITTY PAGE

### Entomology

Most of the meetings this year were devoted to attempts to become acquainted with the insect life of Atkies Copse and of some of the Forestry Commission woodlands. The findings for Atkies Copse were reported to the Conservation Officer and those for the other woodlands to the Forestry Commission.

The following meetings were held:

- 14th February Mr. F. Neat gave us a fascinating introduction to the many species of beetles found in the Island, with slides shown by Mr. O. Frazer.
- 25th April The first survey of Atkies Copse took place on a cold day following a cold wet spell, so that finds were few. Mr. M. Gilchrist was able to identify a few diptera and a nymph of the Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoaptera*, was seen.

- 2nd May During a visit to Borthwood Copse we observed a variety of insects. Of particular interest were the weevils and larvae found on hazel. Three species of micro-moths were identified.
- 30th May To check on numbers of the Glanville Fritillary Butterfly, *Melitaea cinxia*, two groups walked stretches of the coast, one group led by Lieut.-Commander J. Cheverton starting from Whale Chine, the other, led by Mr. O. Frazer, from Compton, and meeting at Chilton Chine. Following the cold wet May few Glanville Fritillaries were seen and these, seven in all, only near Compton, but eight other species of butterfly were seen, including, to the delight of the Compton group, two Clouded Yellows, *Colias crocea*.
- 13th June A meeting at Atkies Copse yielded a greater variety of insects than the previous visit, including two female dragonflies, *Libellula depressa*, on a nearby hedge.
- 21st June An enjoyable meeting in Whitefield Wood. Good weather conditions resulted in a variety of insects being recorded and the attractive egg-sacs of the spider, *Agroeca brunnea*, were seen.
- 11th July With Barry Angell's guidance we had a rewarding walk through Burntwood, and recorded six species of butterfly, including the White Admiral, *Limenitis camilla*, as well as some diptera and coleoptera. Near the adjacent pond we were delighted to see many tiny frogs, five species of dragonflies and two of damselflies. A female Emperor Dragonfly, *Anax imperator*, was seen laying eggs in the pond.
- 19th July Atkies Copse. A few additions were made to our records.
- 9th August Firestone Copse. At this meeting, led by Lieut.-Commander J. Cheverton, fifteen species of butterflies, three of moths and seven of flies were recorded, as well as a Dark Bush Cricket.
- 22nd August Atkies Copse. Four species of butterflies, two moths and a dragonfly, *Sympetrum striolatum*, were added to the list.
- 30th October An indoor meeting to compile lists of lepidoptera recorded during the year, and to look at members' slides.
- 21st November A meeting to complete the lists of other species recorded and to plan a programme for 1982.

In addition Moth-trap Meetings were held at Culverthorpe, Queensbower, on 9th May, 18th July and 2nd October, and at the Firs, St. Lawrence, on 28th August. With Mr. Norman Holland's help the moths were identified, the numbers ranging from six to 33.

CONNIE PELHAM

### Geology and Seashore

Meetings were arranged as follows:

- 28th February A meeting in the Museum of I.W. Geology, Sandown for the identification of members' specimens and a tour of the Museum to see the new conservation facilities.

21st March	Fort Victoria Country Park for examination of the Tertiary sequence.
18th April	Culver Cliff for the examination of the Cretaceous sequence.
16th May	Headon Hill for the examination of the upper part of the Headon Hill section.
27th June	Whitecliff Bay for seashore and cliffs.
12th July	Compton Bay for pyrite collection for Local Look.
29th August	Chilton Chine for cliffs and shore.
12th September	Culver Cliff for Cretaceous sequence.
10th October	Shanklin and Lake cliffs and shore.
13th November	Illustrated talk on "Oil and Gas Geology" by the Leader.

ALLAN INSOLE

### Mammals, Reptiles and Amphibians

For this Section 1981 might well have been named "The Year of the Bat", as plans to come to terms with this difficult and much neglected group of mammals, which were referred to in my last report, met with considerable success in the course of the year. On 21st April a telephone call from Carisbrooke Castle reporting an injured Greater Horseshoe Bat, *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*, sent me racing over to find that it had unfortunately died, in spite of the care being bestowed upon it. It was an under-weight female, which had no doubt suffered from the lack of insects due to the cold spring. Only two days later another dead bat was found at King's Manor, Freshwater, and, on examination, this seemed to meet the requirements of the rare Grey Long-eared Bat, *Plecotus austriacus*, which indeed it proved to be on confirmation from Dr. Bob Stebbings. On 15th May, another of the same species was found dead at St. Helens Vicarage. Exciting as these records were, I was even more determined to see some real live bats, so, in company with Dick Jones, of the Lynn Museum, King's Lynn, who was visiting the Island, a number of us investigated some of the bat roosts, of which I had been notified. As a consequence we were able to see Serotine Bats, *Eptesicus serotinus*, at Lavender's Farm, Nr. Godshill, Brown Long-eared Bats, *Plecotus auritus*, at Alverstone Manor Hotel, Shanklin, and Great Whitefield Manor, Ashe, and Pipistrelles, *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*, at Creek Farm, Lower Hamstead, Mark's Corner, Fishbourne, Wootton and several other places in July.

In the meantime, however, other activities of the Section were not being neglected. On 25th April the second survey of Atkies Copse was carried out. Thirty Longworth Inspection Boxes for small mammals were pre-baited and set out beforehand and set to catch the previous evening. Most had clearly been visited. They were inspected at two-hourly intervals from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. They were arranged at approximately ten pace intervals on alternate sides of the path previously marked out by the Conservation Officer. There were no fewer than 55 captures, comprising 3 Wood Mice, *Apodemus sylvaticus*, 1 Common Shrew, *Sorex araneus*, and 51 Bank Voles, *Clethrionomys glareolus*, of which 12 were recaptures. All the Wood Mice were males and, of the 39 Bank Voles actually recorded 22 were males and 17 females, indicating a very well balanced population. While the bulk of the Longworth Inspection Boxes were being put to good use at the Newtown Survey in May, I was able to provide half a dozen for the General Meeting on St. George's Down on 17th May, which, however, only

yielded one Bank Vole and 1 Pygmy Shrew. On 3rd July we met at Sandown Waterworks in the hope of seeing otters, but we were unlucky, although there was sighting of Water Voles, *Arvicola terrestris*. On 23rd August a well-attended meeting was held at Mottistone Mill, when once again the 30 Longworth Inspection Boxes had been pre-baited and set out beforehand, but, alas, the best-laid plans of mice and men – or, perhaps it was the plan of the mice to bring me into disrepute and they certainly succeeded, as there were no captures at all, except for one Bank Vole, when I was collecting up the boxes after all had left. To add insult to injury, while members were enjoying tea on the patio, our ginger cat appeared triumphantly with a young Field Vole, *Microtus agrestis*, in his mouth! On 6th September a meeting was held at Brook to examine the life in the ponds on the cliff, which did not yield as much as was hoped for.

Returning to bats, several more reports, mostly of Pipistrelles had been received, but the most exciting record was one of a Bechstein's Bat, *Myotis bechsteini*, found dead at Northwood by Clive Burland. So it was with bats to the forefront of our minds that we held our informal meeting on 20th November and made plans to look for hibernating bats during the winter. On 5th December a very well attended meeting was held at St. Lawrence to explore the disused railway tunnel to Whitwell, but we only found one bat, which was too high up to make identification certain. We were less fortunate and found no bats in the Wroxall tunnel on 9th January, which was probably too draughty. Our year reached its climax just over a week later, when we had a visit from Dr. Bob Stebbings himself, with whom we made a tour of all the sites we had discovered. His superb lecture is reported elsewhere in these *Proceedings*, and the following day we hired a boat to take us to the Needles to explore the network of tunnels in the cliffs under the Old Needles Battery. These yielded two more species – a Daubenton's Bat, *Myotis daubentoni*, and a Natterer's Bat, *Myotis natteri*, and later, in a house at Newtown, we found a Whiskered Bat, *Myotis mystacinus*, which had unfortunately fallen victim to timber treatment.

So through the year we had succeeded in recording nine of the 15 species of bats so far found in this country – not a bad start, and certainly an encouragement for further efforts.

OLIVER FRAZER

### Maritime Archaeology

Work was continued intermittently on rediscovering the Island's maritime history, and plans were made for an exhibition to celebrate Maritime England Year in 1982.

HILTON MATTHEWS

### Microscopy

Meetings were arranged as follows:

- 10th March      At the N.F.U. Boardroom, when a further selection of slides from the fine collection made by the late Dr. K. G. Blair and selected by Mr. Oliver Frazer were looked at.
- 22nd September      At the N.F.U. Boardroom, when there was a practical session on "Taking measurements with a microscope", in preparation for the Fungus Foray in October.

In addition to the above, the Society's microscopes were made available for the General Meeting on St. George's Down on 17th May, and also for the Fungus Foray and Exhibition on 24th and 25th October.

DOUGLAS ROBERTS

### Ornithology

Another late breeding season, with fewer migrants seen than in recent years. Meetings were held as follows:

- 11th January      Newtown Nature Reserve. One Spotted Redshank and large numbers of Brent Geese, Shelduck and Golden Plover were seen. The usual flocks of Teal and Wigeon were absent.
- 8th February     Bembridge Foreland and Whitecliff Bay. A flock of about 40 Purple Sandpipers was the largest ever recorded on the Island. A Fulmar flew south-west along the shore, low over the heads of the watchers.
- 14th March       Gatcombe to Blackwater, via footpaths G1, A40 and A42, returning along Sandy Lane and G153. 29 species were seen, including an early Chiffchaff.
- 26th April        St. Catherine's Point. 34 species seen. A Manx Shearwater, Grasshopper Warbler and Lesser Whitethroat were observed.
- 3rd May            By invitation of Mrs. Gwen Bunce, the Section met at Coleman's Wood, Upton, Nr. Ryde. The weather was appalling, being cold with Force 6 winds and rain before the meeting finished. A Little Owl was seen on its nest.
- 22nd May          Brading Marsh and St. Urian's Copse. 34 species seen. A Cetti's Warbler was heard.
- 6th June           Parkhurst Forest. A meeting was held at dusk with the purpose of introducing and promoting the BTO Nightjar Survey. Intermittent light rain marred the proceedings and no nightjars were seen or heard.
- 30th August       Newtown Nature Reserve. 29 species seen, including Black-tailed Godwit, Grey Plover in summer plumage, Little Tern and a Kingfisher.
- 20th September   Hamstead Estate, from Hamstead Lodge via footpaths S27 and S28 to Lower Hamstead, thence to Hamstead Point and Ledge, returning by S3, S32, S30 and S27. 43 species seen, including Bar-tailed Godwits and Yellow Wagtails.
- 4th October        Headon Warren and West High Down. A disappointing meeting with only 21 species seen. John Stafford demonstrated the requirements of the forthcoming BTO Winter Atlas Survey.
- 6th November     An indoor meeting at Newport to plan future activities. Slides of breeding birds were shown.
- 6th December     St. Helens Mill Pond and Duver, then to the fresh water ponds at Bembridge, returning along the disused railway track. 40 species seen, including Shoveler, Greenshank, Red-breasted Merganser and 240 Coot.

Members again took part in Wild Fowl Counts, B.T.O. Estuary Counts, the B.T.O. Nest Record Scheme, the R.S.P.B. Beached Birds Survey and started recording for the B.T.O. Winter Atlas Survey.

JIM CHEVERTON

# CONSERVATION REPORT FOR 1981

By Dr. Colin Pope

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Since taking over office at the beginning of 1981, several important conservation issues have arisen.

On a national level, the Wildlife and Countryside Bill was passed after a long and stormy passage through both Houses of Parliament. Although, in the end a lot of the power that it would have given to wildlife conservation was removed, the Act is the most important conservation legislation likely to be considered by Government for some years to come. It does, for instance, provide for some additional protection to sites of special scientific interest and the list of protected animal and plant species has been greatly extended. Thanks to last minute efforts by Steven Ross, M.P., the wood calamint has been included amongst these species.

The summer of 1980 saw much concern by both Society members and the general public regarding the over zealous trimming of roadside verges on the Island. As a result of this, a meeting was held with Mr. J. Reed, County Surveyor, who appeared by and large to be sympathetic and a report was prepared which outlined our preferred cutting regime and listed verges of particular value which should not be cut before specified times of the year. The 1981 season has seen a dramatic improvement in the appearance of roadside verges with many stretches bright with flowers until mid-summer. A report is to be sent in to the Highways Department and it is hoped that this pattern of cutting will be repeated in future years.

The prospect of oil being discovered on the Island has immense repercussions for the County. On a more immediate level has been the application for an exploratory borehole at Youngwoods Farm, Porchfield, which came up in June. Concern was expressed particularly at the safeguards to preclude pollution of watercourses and fields in the neighbourhood. Drainage from the site runs into the Rodge Brook which empties into Clamerkin Lake at Newtown. Eventually, the Council granted planning permission subject to 21 conditions aimed in part at minimising any pollution hazards as far as possible.

1981 has been the first full year that the Society has leased Atkies Copse at Ningwood. The copse has been partly refenced and a gate and signs erected. A footpath has been marked out and members are welcome to visit the reserve provided that they keep to the path. This year the copse has been visited by all the sections so as to record the flora and fauna of the reserve. This information will help to form the basis of a management plan to be drawn up for the area.

At present, the Society is investigating the acquisition of a second reserve, namely Priory Pond at Carisbrooke.

Good ponds are few on the Island and even those remaining are under threat. A case in point concerned a privately owned pond at Wyatts Lane, Northwood. Since the owners cleared out the pond some years previous, it had become an excellent breeding site for dragonflies and five species of amphibians. A planning application to develop the site which would necessitate filling in the pond was finally passed after a number of objections, but the owner has created a new pond nearby and removed some of the animals to it. It is hoped that next spring the amphibians will return to the new pond to breed.

The Society has been corresponding with South Wight Borough Council regarding the management of Brading Down. Original proposals included the large scale removal of scrub from the down in an effort to return the area to chalk grassland. Although the intentions were good in practice, this would not have achieved the desired result. Present aims now involve the localised clearance of scrub and burnt gorse and cutting rough grass all of which should be beneficial to wildlife.

A nature trail for Shanklin Chine has been drawn up by Mr. Frazer after a site meeting by section leaders at the request of the owner, Miss Macpherson. She has given the Society several passes so that members may visit the Chine free of charge on production of one of these, and she has also granted access to members to two areas of woodland owned by her at Shanklin.

Medina Borough Council have agreed to defer cutting of grass at Ashey Cemetery until late in the season. The cemetery has some ancient grassland with a rich flora and the later cut should allow these plants to flower and set seed.

Society members assisted the RSPCA and RSPB in collecting oiled birds for treatment following a pollution incident in the Channel in early spring.

Working parties were arranged at a number of sites on the Island. These included clearing the path at the Jubilee Plantation at Borthwood Copse. The wood calamint site was coppiced and the plant appears to have responded well. The *Melampyrum* site was cleared but this species had a poor season with only 18 plants, many of them very poor specimens. This was in part due to the poor season and the plant fared badly at its other two British sites.

The **Newtown Nature Reserve Management Committee** met several times and the Society was represented. The Scrape has been completed and the banks planted with shrubs and the ditch fenced. A gravel path has been laid by the side of the Scrape. An observation hide has been installed at the corner of the Scrape. To date, the Scrape has been visited by a few birds, but is not yet used regularly. It has been agreed by the Committee to make some money available to carry out emergency repairs to the house at Brickfields.

The **Freshwater Marsh Management Committee** met on a number of occasions and the Society was again represented. A nature trail is being created now that it is possible to make a circular walk starting opposite the Garden Centre by the Acorn Spring Works, down to the bay. Some repair work has been carried out to the dams in the Marsh and a pump has been installed in an effort to arrest the drying up of the Marsh.

The **Council for the Protection of Rural England** have continued their scrutiny of planning applications, making the necessary objections where appropriate. Two matters of concern in which the Society has also had a particular interest, have been the application for exploratory oil drilling and the extent of stubble burning.

In addition to all these matters, the Conservation Officer has been involved with the usual correspondence with members, the public, the County Council, the Nature Conservancy Council and the Hants and I.W. Naturalists' Trust.

# LOCAL LOOK REPORT FOR 1981

By Mrs. K. Wadham

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This year, Local Look celebrated its “coming of age” in one of the warmest and sunniest Augusts in memory, with one unfortunate result – a drop in the number of visitors.

Our theme – “For the Record” – did not at first, sound particularly exciting or likely to give rise to beautiful displays, but the resulting exhibition showed the skill and ingenuity of the members who demonstrated some of the ways in which they observe and record the beauty and wonder of our Island.

The window display illustrated the variety of habitats to be found, and we are fortunate to have several very valuable sites which need care and protection if they are to continue to flourish.

We have many very beautiful paths and walks traversing the countryside and those are featured on maps and Trails indicating the particular beauties and points of interest in the area.

Plants attract our immediate attention and from them we find the nature of the soil and climate and the wildlife sheltering and feeding in a particular habitat. The Island features, on a small scale, many of the habitats to be found in Great Britain – downs, moors, woods, marshes, dunes and cliffs, each with its own characteristic plant and animal life.

The bird section pointed out that while we might enjoy just watching birds, much interest and valuable information can be shared with others by recording and reporting – on migration, on dates when and where particular species are seen, and on feeding and breeding. Help others to share our interests.

The entomological group showed the various ways in which insects might be caught for identification, photography, etc., to be released later. As this was the Year of the Butterfly a large and colourful display was featured, pointing out the need to conserve habitats as many once-common butterflies are disappearing.

Try to leave a “Wild Corner” in your garden. Our own Island butterfly – the Glanville Fritillary, which is to be found nowhere else in the country, needs urgent protection.

The weather plays a very important part in our lives and weather forecasts are not only interesting but essential. The amateur observer is recommended to study cloud types. This section also displayed some very beautiful frost and ice photographs.

Only from recording do we learn that the Island is home to 115 non-marine molluscs, distributed according to their own special need of habitat, and whilst Adders, Grass Snakes and the Common Lizard are widespread, the Smooth Snake and the Sand Lizard are not to be found. Frog and Toad surveys since 1964 show that toads are still widely distributed, but frogs have vanished from many large areas. Records of the three species of newts are kept and new records would be welcomed.

Recordings of land mammals too, are badly needed, as these creatures are very shy and as many are nocturnal in their habits, problems arise in making accurate observations. The Society has recently started recording the local Bat population. The danger of Rabies was also a feature of this display, with the warning that it is on our doorstep and must be kept out of the Island.

Going on to the mammals of the sea, we saw the Common Seal and the Atlantic Grey, which occasionally visit our shore, as do dolphins and porpoises. The newly formed Maritime Archaeology section has been studying List's Shipyard at Fishbourne and the "Falcon" built there in 1823, while a vessel excavated on the site showed interesting variations from the traditional styles of building.

In the next display, our attention was drawn to the damage caused by the indiscriminate use of metal detectors, with possible loss to the community of valuable archaeological finds. Sites recorded on aerial photographs and the use of grids in excavations on land and sea, made it possible to produce exact records of every find. The record of Field Names in the Parish of Niton showed how old names have remained throughout the centuries and how and why these names have altered in spelling with the passage of time.

All the sections of the Society asked that interested visitors would contribute to the records already known, in the book provided. These records go on to the County Museum Service which is collecting Natural History, Geological and Archaeological Records and to date, has produced some very interesting books.

The very necessary Sales Table provided a colourful and money-raising addition to the Exhibition while the popular and topical "Mary Rose" display in the centre of the hall was of great interest to all our visitors and helped to raise funds for this very exciting undertaking.

We lost a day when "Setting Up" the Exhibition because we were all "glued to the T.V." (Royal Wedding) and we stayed open for one extra day at the end because of transport problems. We had only just over half our usual number of visitors, but who could have wished away those lovely hot, sunny days, just to swell our crowds and our takings! As it was, our old, loyal friends came, saw and admired – about 4,000 in all. Our takings were slightly down, but we received generous donations to the Society and to the Mary Rose Fund.

I offer my thanks to the small group of stewards who loyally turn up each year and give their time to help promote the Society, to those who planned and worked on the displays, to the School Transport Service for their very much valued help in "Setting Up" and "Taking Down" the Exhibition, and a very special "Thank You" to our good friend, Mr. Victor Wadham, for the continued use of his premises to store our Exhibition material. Without all this help from our friends, we could not stage Local Look.

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## NEWTOWN SURVEY REPORT 1981

By **L. E. L. Cox**

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It is once again time to write the Newtown Survey Report. This twenty-third account outlines our activities from Tuesday May 12th, when the advance party caught the tide at 8 a.m. to Wednesday May 27th when I finally landed at the Boat House at 6.30 p.m. to return home.

The Exhibition presents the details and comparative records obtained from the variety of habitats that are available to us and demonstrates the interests of our pupils stimulated by the experience of living in the reserve in close contact with the surrounding wild life.

My report is also a tribute to the pupils and to my members of staff who endured the wettest conditions that have so far been experienced at Newtown. Despite the continuing rain and increasing depth of mud all remained healthy and willing. Continued soakings and chilling conditions did not deter them from trying to continue with their work and pursuing their interests with vigour. At least we had first-hand evidence of the eroding effects of the rain water as it poured from the fields carrying with it suspended clay and particles, dislodging lumps of cliff and forming miniature fans and deltas on the beach.

The soaking conditions and low temperatures curtailed our activities to some degree. Mammal traps could not be set at times, the moth trap could not be left to fill with water, butterflies were not often in evidence, emergence of dragonflies and damselflies was delayed, nesting sites were few and cameras had to be kept dry. The fungi did well however, and we have some excellent slides, provided by Oliver Frazer, illustrating the specimens found.

This year's party was not as well balanced as in previous years as we had fewer juniors joining us for the first time. There was a good core of students returning for their second year combined with Vth Form students completing their third season with us. In addition we had our growing band of former students who arrange their Whitsun holiday, to coincide with our second week of the survey, in order to take part. This year we were pleased to see Tracey Hart, Lita Langridge, Margaret Scott, David Elford, Nicholas Palaeologus and Ashley Small.

Next year I shall look to an increased junior intake in order to renew the cycle in the student population.

The main activities were as follows:

## **MAMMALS**

### **Small Mammal Trapping**

The expanded programme of trapping was continued for the third year with traps placed along the North Cliff, by the ponds and on the traditional sites within the camp. Records indicate that populations of voles and wood mice remain stable as does their distribution. Unfortunately the records for this year are intermittent as trapping was often postponed because of the wet conditions. A mammal trap sluiced with water can prove lethal to a small mammal as it rapidly loses body heat if trapped in a water-cooled metal box. The regular mammal trapping rounds were often delayed or cancelled in order to avoid this happening. Three teams of students were responsible for the survey work and were as follows:

1. Sheridan Small, Richard Peacey, Steven Day, Ian Wisbey  
This group crowned its activities by losing the records –
2. Karen McNulty, Jon Alabaster, Tim Lewis, Peter Wilmott
3. Stephan Olesinski, Ian Hustler, Paul Burland, Neil Campbell

### **Foxes**

Jon Alabaster and Tim Lewis, inspired by their fox-watching of the previous year, were anxious to continue with their observations, but were disappointed. There was evidence of some fox activity, droppings and footprints were found, but no direct observations were made. Jon Alabaster tried to obtain casts of prints in the mud, but was defeated by rain washing away good prints or spoiling the plaster.

## **Rabbits**

Nicholas Cox continued with his rabbit studies for the third season and now has a good record of habits, distribution and populations as is shown in the display. There was evidence of myxomatosis this year in both young and adult rabbits. This is the first occasion that this disease has been seen at this time of the year, although it has always been noticed in the late summer and autumn.

## **BIRDS**

The main bird-watching team included Paul Burland, Phillip Butchers, Neil Campbell, Stephan Olesinski, Robert Smallman and Miles Downer. The latter two were with us for their final year and conducted the gull count in their usual efficient way.

The film they obtained was more limited this year owing to weather conditions.

The gulls were well established on their nesting sites and seemed set for hatching success up to the point of our departure.

The birds nesting in the meadow were again very limited. We were able to set up a general observation hide for the meadow and the saltings, and only one other observing an incubating pair of linnets.

A natural hide was constructed overlooking one of the main ponds on the hill and this provided good opportunities for students to observe birds seeking fresh water which included shelduck, curlew, lapwing, red shank and Canada geese. More hares were observed from this hide than in previous years and may well prove an interesting line of investigation for future students.

## **INSECTS**

Nicholas Palaeologus was again responsible for moth trapping and recording. His work was very restricted by the amount of rain which prevented him from setting his trap. Vanessa Hornsby had hoped to continue with her studies of butterflies, but had limited success this year.

It was disappointing to have our work so restricted this year as we were fortunate to have with us Mrs. Connie Pelham from the Society, who was available to give her advice and expertise. The success of her visit, despite the weather conditions is demonstrated by her excellent set of slides illustrating those adult moths and butterflies that were found. In particular her tours of the site, with groups of students, yielded excellent results in finding and identifying larvae found on vegetation within the reserve. Her complete set of slides illustrating the metamorphosis of the lackey moth and organe tip butterfly will prove of value to all future student groups.

## **BOTANY**

We were early at Newtown again this year and consequently in time for the early purple orchid which was found to be in similar numbers to last year. In addition an eroded section of the cliff was lined from top to near the bottom with green-veined orchids which had presumably been placed as the top soil slid towards the beach.

Two newcomers to camp this year were Jacey Gordon and Lorraine Jones who spent considerable time learning how to identify the many wild flowers in bloom within the reserve.

Tracey Hart was with us again, on holiday from Sparsholt College where she was studying horticulture, and has produced an excellent survey illustrating the distribution of trees and shrubs within the camp site.

Two more members of the I.W.N.H.A.S. paid us their first visit and contributed significantly to our survey work and studies.

Mrs. Lorna Snow took pupils collecting mosses. Her impressive display of the number of species found and identified is evidence of the care and expertise devoted to the study.

Mr. Ron Snow was able to demonstrate the techniques used in collecting and identifying pollen samples. He was able to use specimens collected from living plants to prepare slides for identification in the field. Later in school, in the laboratory, he started a reference collection of pollen samples, properly prepared and treated, for use in comparison of samples collected from deposits.

The effectiveness of his teaching can be seen in the slides on display.

### CLIFFS

The datum line was again checked by Robert Collier and Angus Belcher. Their drawing illustrating the successive positions of the cliff face, in relation to the datum line, shows clearly the amount of erosion recorded in the last eight years.

Robert and Angus continued with their viewing of sun spot activity which is also shown in the display.

### FOSSIL HUNTING

Lita Langridge was again the senior member of the fossil team which included Tim Lewis, Paul Burland and Karen McNulty and Adrian Kennedy. This year's hunting produced a small crop of finds. Tides were never low enough to enable us to reach the richest sources of fossils. At no time were the *Zostera* beds uncovered and they are a good guide to the tide level.

### WARDENING

Again we had no apparent trespassers. Neither did we have visitors landing from boats. No doubt the weather conditions kept many of them under cover. Our policy of conducting people on tour should they land has proved successful in the past and I hope to continue in the same way in the future.

### CONSERVATION

As in previous years the clearing of scrub and bramble continued. Timbers were cut and provided for the use of the conservation corps in erecting fences on the site boundaries.

My thanks go particularly to Miss Sue Childs our Domestic Science mistress who attended camp for the first time and experienced very difficult conditions. She coped admirably in assisting with the running of the camp and in the field.

Mrs. Connie Pelham stayed for the first time at Brickfields and contributed so much to the Insect studies. Her knowledge and enthusiasm as a photographer are invaluable. The majority of the slides have been presented by her and are a mark of her expertise. Connie acted as my "official" photographer this year, thus ensuring that the mistakes made by our student "rookie" photographers could be allowed for and covered. As it turned out it was lucky we had her with us.

Mr. Oliver Frazer gave us his usual invaluable support in providing mammal trapping equipment books, cameras and above all his sound advice and enthusiastic guidance.

Mr. Pat Ewbank was again always available and helpful in dealing with any problems that arose. The smooth running of the camp and the work in the field always owes a lot to the efforts he makes on our behalf.

My final thanks must be voiced for once to some of our suppliers. Firstly, Paul Shutler who prepares a special bake to produce a wholesome bread that lasts the week before being replenished, to Mike Dow who is always prepared to ensure our supply of fresh vegetables to provide items in an emergency.

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## NON-FLOWERING PLANTS – NOTES FOR 1981

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**PTERIDOPHYTES.** Ferns and fern allies.

*Equisetum telmateia*. Great horsetail.

This is a common and widespread plant in damp places and slipped land but on 5th July, several unusual looking plants of this species were found growing with typical specimens on Luccombe Chine east ledge (40 583794). *E. telmateia* normally produces single, large terminal cones in spring but these specimens were producing a proliferation of side shoots each terminating in a small cone.

Dr. C. Page of the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh was contacted and his comments were as follows: "Almost all species of *Equisetum* are known to occasionally throw shoots in which multiple cones are borne on side shoots, but the phenomenon is by no means common and is especially uncommon in *E. telmateia* (perhaps because of the normal strong dimorphism of this species). This is certainly the most extreme specimen I have seen".

COLIN POPE

**BRYOPHYTES.** Mosses and liverworts.

Recording continued steadily during the year, and my thanks are due to Mr. R. Stern, Forestry Commission, and Dr. F. Rose of Liphook for making their records available. There were three new records:

*Riccia fluitans*, from Burnt Wood (R. C. Stern).

*Lophocolea fragrans*, from Cliff Copse, Shanklin (L. Snow).

*Hertzogiella seligeri*, from Combley Great Wood (F. Rose).

Three species were found again after a long period, all by Mr. Stern:

*Fissidens adianthoides* – Osborne/Barton Woods, last recorded at Westover in 1928.

*Homalia trichomanoides* – Swanpond Copse, last recorded at East Standen in 1923 by Percy Long.

*Rhynchostegiella teesdalei* – Osborne/Barton Woods, the first record since Rev. Livens found it at Gatcombe Mill (Morey, 1909).

The *Philonotis marchica* site on Littlestairs Beach at Shanklin was threatened late in the year by mudslides, and a proportion of the population was lost. Steps to conserve the remainder are being considered for the winter of 1982.

LORNA SNOW

## LICHENS

The most interesting lichens recorded this year have involved those occurring on trees in ancient woodland. Certain lichens are recognised to be good indicators of woodland habitats in which the trees have been largely undisturbed for very long periods of time. These lichens are not tolerant of coppicing and consequently they have always been scarce on the Island. Those recorded by last century botanists have largely disappeared this century as a result of tree felling.

It was extremely pleasing to discover, a few years ago, two ash trees at the southwest edge of Mudless Copse, Swainston (40 4486) with lungwort (*Lobaria pulmonaria*). Subsequent examination of the larger of these trees by Dr. F. Rose showed that it supported other rare lichens including *Agonimia octospora* Coppins & P. James, and a Bryophyte, *Pterogonium gracile*, both new to the Island. It is saddening to report that this year, due to an unfortunate misunderstanding, this important tree was felled. The second ash still remains and although it is less good, it is hoped that this one can be saved.

In December, a second woodland site nearby, Northpark Copse (40 4388) was found to contain *Lobaria pulmonaria* on at least nine ash trees and was extremely luxuriant, although not fertile, on one of them. Examination of the wood by Dr. F. Rose and myself revealed a rich lichen flora. Although species characteristic of very old trees were lacking, six old woodland indicator species were identified: *Arthonia didyma*, *Catillaria purpurea* (new to the Island), *Dimerella lutea*, *Enterographa crassa*, *Lobaria pulmonaria* and *Pyrenula nitida*.

The wood is damp and very basic and appears to be a fragment of the medieval deer park of Swainston. Its size is just big enough to contain interesting lichen communities. Although no really old trees remain, it is likely that the wood is old wood pasture.

As well as lichens, the wood contains interesting Bryophytes including the leafy liverwort, *Frullania tamariscii*, also indicative of old woodland, and the field layer included good wood sedge (*Carex strigosa*) communities.

An additional area of old woodland was discovered during March within Briddlesford Copse, Havenstreet (40 5590). This time, the wood was dryer and consisted largely of oak rather than ash. Larger members of the *Lobarion* community were lacking but the rich lichen flora recorded by Dr. F. Rose and myself included five old woodland indicator species: *Arthonia didyma*, *Enterographa crassa*, *Pachyphiale cornea* (first Island record this century), *Thelopsis rubella* (new to the Island), and *Thelotrema lepadinum* (new to the Island). The old woodland moss, *Zygodon baulmgartnii*, was on several of the trees.

An interesting lichen community was recorded from exposed ash trees at the top of Shanklin Down (40 574799) at a height of 213m. The lichens present included abundant *Hypogymnia physodes*, *H. tubulosa*, *Platismatia glauca*, *Parmelia saxatilis* and *P. sulcata* and suggested the type of community occurring in acidic, moderately polluted areas. This type of lichen community is increasingly being reported from trees on high exposed situations in Southern England and is believed to result from air pollution (acid rain and dry sulphur dioxide deposition) brought down from further north, possibly as far away as the Midlands, and affecting the most exposed hilltops.

COLIN POPE

## FUNGI

The following is a list of the fungi not previously recorded in the Island which were determined by Dr. Derek Reid and Mrs. Audrey Thomas on the occasion of our annual Fungus Foray and Exhibition on 24th/25th October:

From Ashengrove, Swainston, I.W.

## BASIDIOMYCETES

## AGARICALES

<i>Hygrophorus chrysaspis</i>	<i>Cortinarius candelaris</i>	<i>Lacrymaria pyrrotricha</i>
<i>Mycena coccinea</i>	<i>Hebeloma versipelle</i>	<i>Agaricus xanthodermus</i>
<i>Mycena olida</i>	<i>Inocybe maculata</i>	<i>Lepiota echinacea</i>
<i>Mycena speirea</i>	<i>Conocybe appendiculata</i>	<i>Lepiota konradii</i>
<i>Marasmius bulliardii</i>	<i>Conocybe macrocephala</i>	<i>Pluteus phlebophorus</i>
<i>Marasmius lupuletorum</i>	<i>Conocybe pygmaeo-affinis</i>	<i>Limacella guttata</i>
<i>Micromphale impudicum</i>	<i>Psathyrella spadicea-grisea</i>	<i>Haasiella venustissima</i>

## APHYLLOPHORALES

<i>Stereum rameale</i>	<i>Peniophora lycii</i>
<i>Radulomyces (Corticium) confluens</i>	<i>Stecchrinum ochraceum</i>
<i>Hyphoderma setigerum</i>	<i>Phellinus ferreus</i>

## ASCOMYCETES

<i>Xylaria longipes</i>	<i>Ascotremella faginea</i>
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## HYPHOMYCETES

<i>Bactridium flavum</i>	<i>Cladobotryum varium</i>
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From Wootton Bridge, I.W.

## AGARICALES

<i>Hygrophorus cossus</i>	<i>Cortinarius pseudosalor</i>
<i>Tricholoma ustaloides</i>	<i>Cortinarius trivialis</i>

From Lushington Hill, Wootton, I.W.

## AGARICALES

<i>Cortinarius crocolitus</i>	<i>Lactarius britannicus</i>
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*Russula aeruginea*

From Appley Park, Ryde, I.W.

## AGARICALES

*Russula barlae*

In commenting on the specimens which had to be taken away for further study, Dr. Derek Reid writes: "*Marasmius bulliardii* is nice to have; it closely resembles *M. rotula*, but has a buffish coloured cap and the stem is often more or less branched. *Micromphale impudicum* is a rarity recognized by its less striated cap with felty surface and large cystidia. The remainder are probably not uncommon, but get passed over as one of 'those nasty little brown or pink jobs'. However, one species deserves special mention – *Haasiella (Gerronema) venustissima*. This is a very rare species not in the Check List, although we do have recent material from Norbury Park, Surrey. The I.W.

gathering was of very young fruitbodies showing the minutely hispid margin to the tiny orange caps. I have to admit it took me almost an entire day to identify.

The single Disco in my list is also a rarity – i.e. *Ascotremella faginea*, resembling a purple brain-like mass.

All in all a very interesting foray and for me highly successful. I judge it was also a success from the view point of the Society”.

It certainly was.

OLIVER FRAZER

## ALGAE

In mid August, water in the saltpans at Newtown was reported to be reddish in colour and have an offensive smell. Examination of a sample showed that this was due to a bloom of a Cryptomonad, a flagellated planktonic alga, probably *Cryptomonas* sp. This is an organism which does not appear to be responsible for the red tide phenomenon recorded from time to time around some British coasts but is known to cause a discolouration of the water.

Following on from Bill Shepard’s reports of Charophytes in the Society’s *Proceedings*, Vol. VII, part V, p. 356, two *Chara* specimens were sent to Mrs. J. Moore at the British Museum for determination. These proved to be:

*Chara vulgaris* Ditch at Brading Marshes near cement mills.

*Chara vulgaris* (near var. *papillata*) Pond at Watershoot Bay, St. Catherine’s Point.

Channelled wrack, *Pelvetia canaliculata*, was reported by Mrs. D. Frazer from Cassey’s Bridge, Newtown. This is the second Island site, the other being Bembridge Harbour. It appears that this seaweed is an estuarine species with us.

COLIN POPE

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## EDITOR’S NOTE

A comprehensive review of the Marine Algae of the Isle of Wight, by Dr. W. F. Farnham, of Portsmouth Polytechnic, which it was hoped to include in the present issue, has been unavoidably delayed, but should appear in the next *Proceedings*.

## SOME RECENT ISLE OF WIGHT PSEUDOSCORPION RECORDS

By R. E. Jones

Natural History Department, King's Lynn Museum, Norfolk

Pseudoscorpions are members of the Arachnida, a group which includes spiders, harvestmen, mites and true scorpions. Pseudoscorpions bear a superficial resemblance to true scorpions but they lack the sting and are much smaller, the largest British species reaching only 7 mm in length. Pseudoscorpions pass through three free-living nymphal stages before maturity. These look superficially the same as the adult form and are termed the protonymph, deuteronymph and tritonymph. Despite being abundantly distributed throughout the environment, pseudoscorpions are seldom seen, unless actively searched for. They are found in leaf litter, decaying vegetation, rotten wood, under tree bark, in tide line debris, barns, dung heaps and in bird's nests. Some species can be found in houses clinging to the legs of flies.

Pseudoscorpions can be collected by searching in likely habitats and can be extracted from leaf litter, etc. by a variety of techniques. The most effective method is to use a Tullgren funnel, but I find that spreading the litter out in a white dish and searching carefully through it, though laborious, is quite effective. Pseudoscorpions can be stored in tubes of colourless industrial methylated spirit with a trace of glycerine added.

During June, 1981, I visited the Isle of Wight and searched leaf litter from various woodland sites for pseudoscorpions. I also made a search of saltmarsh debris along the River Medina. The following pseudoscorpions were found. All specimens were identified by myself and checked by Dr. G. Legg, Keeper of Biology, Booth Museum of Natural History, Brighton.

### Family CHTHONIIDAE

#### *Chthonius ischnocheles* (Herman)

- 1 Newtown SZ 429907—25 June, in deciduous leaf litter
- 1 Mark's Corner, Parkhurst Forest SZ 471921—27 June, in deciduous leaf litter
- 1 Parkhurst Forest SZ 478904—24 June, deciduous leaf litter, mainly chestnut (*Castanea sativa*)
- 2 River Medina, Whippingham SZ 513927—23 June, in Agropyron litter on saltmarsh
- 1 Dallimores SZ 525931—22 June, in a piece of loose bark
- 2 Dallimores SZ 528928—25 June, in deciduous leaf litter (chestnut/oak/hazel copse)
- 5 Brighstone Forest SZ 420850—30 June, in beech leaf litter
- 5 Queens Bower, Borthwood SZ 570843—24 June, deciduous leaf litter
- 3 Queens Bower, Jubilee Plantation SZ 568843—26 June, deciduous leaf litter

#### *Chthonius tenuis* (L. Koch)

- 4 Parkhurst Forest SZ 478904—24 June, in chestnut leaf litter

### Family NEOBISIIDAE

#### *Neobisium muscorum* (Leach)

- 2 Parkhurst Forest SZ 478904—24 June, in chestnut leaf litter
- 2 Dallimores SZ 528930—25 June, in deciduous leaf litter (hazel/oak/chestnut copse)

“Observations on a Vertebrate Fauna from the Osborne Member, Solent Formation (Upper Eocene), of Cliff End, near Colwell Bay, Isle of Wight”—  
*Proc. Isle Wight nat. Hist. archaeol. Soc.* for 1981, Vol. VII, Pt. VI (1983), pp. 397-404

# OBSERVATIONS ON A VERTEBRATE FAUNA FROM THE OSBORNE MEMBER, SOLENT FORMATION (UPPER EOCENE), OF CLIFF END, NEAR COLWELL BAY, ISLE OF WIGHT

By **HENRY J. GAMBLE**

Department of Geology, City of London Polytechnic, Walburgh House, Bigland Street, London E1 2NG

## Abstract

The section in the Osborne Member (Solent Formation) at Cliff End, near Colwell Bay, Isle of Wight, is discussed with particular reference to the vertebrate fauna. Vertebrates obtained from the foreshore shingle and *in situ* are listed and commented upon; they include teeth of two species of the sand shark *Eugomphodus* and a broken *Labrodon* palate, other neopterygian remains, turtle, alligator, bird and mammalian fragments. These include first recorded selachians and a labroid from this part of the English Upper Eocene. Location and provenance of the vertebrates is considered in relation to the local stratigraphy; some of the material is thought to have come from the Chapelcorner Fish Bed. The environmental significance of the records is outlined and the presence of the selachians and labroids is taken to indicate a marked marine influence in some part of the sequence, probably the Chapelcorner Fish Bed.

## Introduction

During examination of coastal sections in the north-west of the Isle of Wight in September, 1969, the then limited areas of shingle at Round Tower Point, near Cliff End, produced a small but interesting vertebrate assemblage. This material was apparently derived from the Osborne Member of the Solent Formation (utilising the terminology of Cooper 1976, table A; Curry *et al* 1978, 20, table 1; the history of nomenclature being briefly outlined in Gamble 1982), the vertebrate fauna of which is perhaps the least thoroughly documented of those from the Upper Eocene to Oligocene sediments of the Hampshire Basin. Further study of the probable equivalent of the Chapelcorner Fish Bed *in situ* showed that this too yielded some material.

This article is concerned only with vertebrate fossils obtained directly or indirectly from the Osborne Member in the area between the north-east end of the ruined sea wall (SZ 332893) and the small bay (SZ 335895) just north-east of Round Tower Point (text-fig. 1). In the vicinity of the wall's termination the gentle north-north-easterly dip, apparently fairly constant at rather less than 5° from north of the “crumple” at Linstone Chine, has carried the Headon Member below beach level. Virtually all the often overgrown slumped cliffs are in the Osborne Member, with the Bembridge Limestone Member (*sensu* Curry *et al.*, *op. cit.*, 20, table 1) occurring as blocks and rubble level with the cliff-top path.

In recent years the section north-east of the wall has consisted of a fairly well exposed although often limited area of bare cliff, about 15m high (“A” on text-fig. 1), with several mudflows descending to the shore. Further north-east vegetation extends almost to the beach and examination of the 1-2m miniature cliffs reveals that this

material too is mainly old mudflows. The stratigraphy has been quite well described by Bristow, Reid & Strahan (1889, 150), reproduced by White (1921, 111), with a better recent account by Edwards (1967, 26, fig. 29).

In older publications there is usually some reference to vertebrates, particularly fish remains, found in the bluish-grey silty clays, weathering grey-green, that make up the lowest 12-13m of the cliffs around the Cliff End Promontory. In addition they are especially noted in the c.2m thick probable equivalent of the Chapelcorner Fish Bed. Despite this, little attention has been paid to the collecting potential; major studies of various vertebrate groups have generally overlooked this locality (e.g. Bosma 1974).

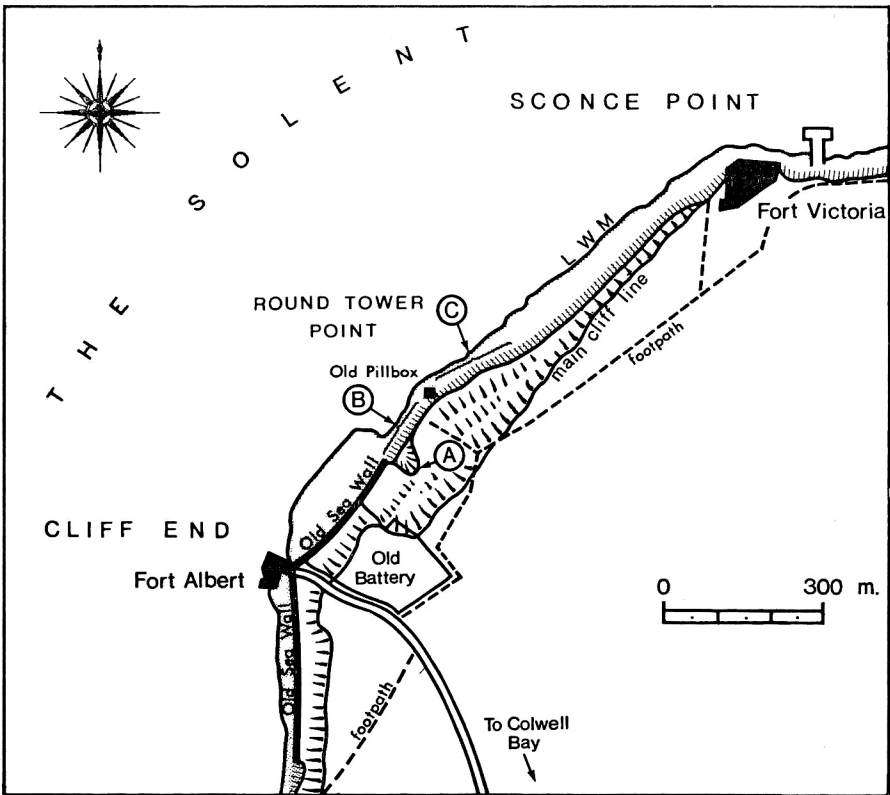


FIG. 1—Sketch map of the area between Cliff End and Sconce Point, near Colwell Bay, Isle of Wight, showing localities mentioned in the text.

Following examination of the cliffs and foreshore during 1969, the section was revisited in September, 1980, and both foreshore material and cliffs systematically searched. In the intervening eleven years the small slopes exposure has deteriorated

and no useful vertebrates were found *in situ*. However, the accumulated shingle has increased in area, such that two originally separate patches by the old wall and north-east of the pill-box at Round Tower Point (text-fig. 1) have merged and there is now a continuous strip to Sconce Point. This suggests that conditions change markedly along this section over limited periods and, on occasions, much of the beach can be transported northwards around Sconce Point. No southward drift appears to occur, the old defences and the obstruction of Fort Albert totally preventing this alternative migration route. It also prevents material being transported from the Headon Member outcrop in Colwell Bay, which is a factor in assessing the origin of the beach material. Not only does Fort Albert prevent normal beach movement but it now interferes with access to the section, as during conversion into holiday flats the foreshore has been blocked by a substantial fence and notices denying right of way. It is no longer possible to approach directly around the shore from Colwell Bay; the alternative is to ascend Linstone Chine and follow the inland footpath (text-fig. 1).

The beach consists of a mixture of flint shingle derived from local gravels, clay-ironstone siderite-limonite nodule debris from the Osborne Member, modern and fossil shell fragments, carbonate pebbles from the Bembridge Limestone Member, and a significant proportion of man-made detritus, mostly ceramic, glass and brick from dumps around the Cliff End Battery. Sorting is often poor and many clasts are relatively angular and poorly rounded, varying according to lithology. The limited sorting usually produces two or three subtle berms of coarser material separated by finer coarse sands. The beach foot is a chaotic accumulation of carbonate boulders up to 2m across and blocks of tabular ironstone up to 30cm long, many embedded in disturbed clays which are mainly derived from the lower part of the Osborne Member (Nettlestone Beds).

Most of the beach contains a very small proportion of vertebrate fragments, sufficient to make systematic picking worthwhile, including turtle, alligator, selachian and neopterygian debris. Many are little rolled and variously pale to chocolate-brown in colour, tending to black when freshly derived. They appear to be derived from the Osborne Member in the immediate vicinity, other sources seeming unlikely. Significantly almost all specimens were found in shingle immediately north-east of the wall and also north-east of the pillbox, marked "B" and "C" on text-fig. 1. This coincides closely with shingle areas existing in 1969 and relates to the tract where mudflows include grey shaly clays and clay-ironstone nodules of the typical local Chapelcorner Fish Bed lithology. Further north-east, nearer to Sconce Point, quite good exposures of the lower silty clays occur with few slips, none of which include characteristic Chapelcorner Fish Bed debris; the vertebrates are largely unrepresented along this stretch. The evidence therefore suggests that much of this material is probably from the Chapelcorner Fish Bed, and in two cases the records have been matched more or less *in situ*.

### **The Vertebrate Fauna**

The modest collection includes 80 specimens from the beach, 51 of which are fairly well preserved and identifiable. Nine examples were obtained from the cliff, mostly from the Chapelcorner Fish Bed outcrop, with two or three from associated mudflows. The 89 specimens are the product of four visits, two each during 1969 and 1980. The relative scarcity of fossils is obvious, as compared to other north-west Isle of Wight foreshore localities where other parts of the Solent and Hamstead Formations are exposed. The

unusual features of the assemblage render this locality potentially interesting for future research.

Particular specimens that are individually cited here have been presented to the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology, whose registration numbers are indicated by the prefix MIWG, where appropriate. Other listed material not individually cited has been provisionally retained in the author's collection.

Table 1: List of vertebrate remains obtained from the Osborne Member at Cliff End.

*Abbreviations:* T=teeth; J=jaws; P=palatal dentition; V=vertebrae; S=scales; C=scutes; A=dermal armour; O=ornamented head bones; B=miscellaneous bones; D=indeterminate debris.

	<i>Foreshore</i>	<i>Cliffs</i>
<b>PISCES</b>		
Chondrichthyes:		
<i>Eugomphodus acutissima</i> (Agassiz 1843)	T	·
<i>E. (?) hopei</i> (Agassiz 1843)	T	·
Neopterygii:		
Ginglymodi:		
<i>Lepisosteus fimbriatus</i> (Wood 1846)	JVSOB	SOB
Halecostomi:		
Halecomorphi:		
<i>Amia anglica</i> Newton 1899	TJVSB	V
Teleostei:		
<i>Labrodon</i> (?) aff. <i>pavimentum</i> Gervais 1857	P	·
Teleost indet	V	·
<b>REPTILIA</b>		
Chelonia:		
<i>Trionyx</i> sp.	CBD	·
(?) <i>Ocadia</i> sp.	CD	·
Chelonians indet	D	·
Crocodylia:		
<i>Diplocynodon hantonensis</i> (Wood 1846)	TA	·
<b>AVES:</b>		
Indet	D	·
<b>MAMMALIA:</b>		
Indet	TB	·

Remarks on the vertebrates:

(a) Selachians: Two species recorded here are represented by single teeth. *Eugomphodus acutissima* (Ag.) is indicated by a virtually unrolled upper anterior tooth (MIWG 5200) with part of the root broken away. Although imperfect, it is typical and closely similar to European Oligo-Miocene examples. The second tooth (MIWG 5201) is nearly complete, lacking only the tip of the crown, but somewhat abraded. The lateral denticles are faintly discernible and the profile can be studied; it is also attributable to a *Eugomphodus* and agrees with small examples from the lower anterior dentition of *E. hopei* (Ag.) with which it is thus tentatively identified.

The presence of these sharks in the Osborne Member at Cliff End is thus established and it is thought that they are derived from the Chapelcorner Fish Bed. These are important as they represent clear evidence of a marine influence and are the first recorded selachian from any horizon between the Venus Bed of the Headon Member (Solent Formation) and the Bembridge Oyster Bed (Bembridge Marls Member, Hamstead Formation). This is primarily based on the detailed recent paper on distribution of English Palaeogene Chondrichthyes by Ward (1980), which draws upon the National Collections and many private collections of importance. It has been further checked by reference to old lists of Isle of Wight Tertiary fishes in Bristow, Reid & Strahan (op. cit., 296) and the first of Jackson's series of catalogues for the collections in the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology (1926, 367-368). Dr. A. N. Insole kindly permitted the author to examine updated records, originally compiled by Jackson with later additions. All sources proved negative and Dr. Insole (verb. comm.), who is a specialist on local Upper Eocene and Oligocene vertebrates, confirmed that he too has never encountered examples or any written report of such material.

*E. acutissima* (Ag.) now has its English range extended above the Venus Bed to the Chapelcorner Fish Bed and in the case of *E. hopei* (Ag.) from the Naish Member of the Barton Formation.

(b) Bony fishes: Two primitive neopterygians (= "holosteans") recorded here are both widespread in the Solent and Hamstead Formations. *Amia anglica* Newton (1899) is well described but the form usually called *Lepisosteus* sp. in modern papers (= *Lepidosteus* of earlier authors) requires discussion. The species was originally only commented on and partially figured by Wood (1846, 6, 122, pl. 2, fig. 9) with the proposed name of *Lepisosteus fimbriatus* indicated only in a footnote (op. cit., 122). The intended continuation of this paper, to include a full description, was apparently never published and the original usage could thus be regarded as a possible *nomen nudum*. However, Stinton (1975, 24-25, pl. 1, fig. 1) recently described the otoliths of this species under the corrected name *Lepisosteus fimbriatus* (Wood), which is presumably now stabilised and also appears in Patterson (1981, 271). In the opinion of the present author there is now no longer any reason why this name should not be used for skeletal elements listed here and found elsewhere in the Hordle Member (Barton Formation) and higher horizons.

The fragment of labroid palatal dentition (MIWG 5202) cannot be identified with either the upper or lower elements, but shows sufficient perfectly circular and closely packed teeth sockets, with one of the basal crowns of a tooth replacement series still in place, to indicate a *Labrodon* dentition. The arrangement suggests that there were small teeth at the preserved portion of margin, progressively increasing in size inwards; the appearance is similar to the Miocene *L. pavementum* Gervais which is present in parts of southern Europe. During the Middle Miocene ("Helvetian" = Langhian-Serravallian) it has been reported as far north as the Faluns de Touraine (Leriche 1957). Only the most tentative identification with *L. pavementum* is proposed, as the specimen is too incomplete for detailed comment. A labroid is certainly in keeping with a marine horizon of late Eocene date.

(c) Reptiles: Alligators are represented by one large rolled tooth, together with three quite large and excellently preserved scutes of the dermal armour, all typical of *Diplocynodon hantonensis* (Wood).

Most of the turtle debris can be attributed to *Trionyx* on the basis of several complete scutes and fragments bearing characteristic pustulose ornament. Further identi-

fication is not feasible on such fragmentary material, but it is worth noting that Moody (1980, 23-24) lists only indeterminate Trionychidae from the Osborne Member. He reports *Trionyx incrassatus* Owen from the Bembridge Marls Member (Hamstead Formation) and *Trionyx* sp. from the Lower Hamstead Member of the same formation. Other species are also listed from similar facies in the Hordle Member (Barton Formation), including the forms *T. henrici* Owen and *T. marginatus* Owen, these latter having also been found in the Bembridge Marls Member of the Hamstead Formation (Edwards 1970). A few fragments of thinner, unornamented smooth scutes are typical of material attributed to "Emys" in old papers but should perhaps be called *Ocadia*, two species of which have been recorded from the Hordle Member (Barton Formation) by Moody (*op. cit.*, 24).

(d) Birds and Mammals: These are of little interest and consist of indeterminate debris.

### Comments on the Environmental Significance of the Vertebrates

The lithofacies of the uppermost Nettlestone Beds portion of the Osborne Member at Cliff End, below the Chapelcorner Fish Bed (basal St. Helen's Beds), can be broadly equated with Edward's "Type 3", referred to as flood-plain lake deposits (1967, 101-102). The presence of *Trionyx* in these sediments accords with his comments on "Sluggish, muddy rivers (deduced from occurrence of *Trionyx* . . .)" (*op. cit.*, 149) and he also alludes to *Trionyx* implying probable fluviatile influence (*op. cit.*, 45). Their association with the alligator *Diplocynodon* also fits this concept of a flood-plain with lakes and slow-moving watercourses, an environment which would also have suited *Amia* and *Lepisosteus*, as in parts of the south-eastern U.S.A. today (Patterson *op. cit.*, 269-272). Some useful points on such associations are also mentioned in Edwards (1970).

The Chapelcorner Fish Bed yielded only *Amia* and *Lepisosteus* with any degree of certainty, but it is likely that the two species of *Eugomphodus* and the *Labrodon* palate originated from this bed. The possibility that some turtle and alligator debris might also have this source should not be discounted. *Eugomphodus* is a marine genus but extant forms are most frequent in coastal waters and commonly enter estuaries; the same is true of most living labroids. At Chapelcorner Copse (near Wootton) the clupeid *Diplomystus vectensis* (Newton 1889) is common in this bed, accompanied by *Gobius* sp. (Ford 1979), the former group being found in both freshwater and marine environments with the latter usually a wholly marine form. *Amia* and *Lepisosteus* can both occur in shallow marine and estuarine environments, but mainly occur in wholly freshwater conditions; an inferred association with the truly marine *Eugomphodus* and *Labrodon* is not surprising. Indeed, the obvious inference that the Chapelcorner Fish Bed is a shortlived transgressive marine horizon seems attractive, and would support the suggestion by Colenutt (1888, 362; 1903, 102) and Woodward (1903, 99) talking about both the fishes and the prawns *Propalaeon osborniensis* Woodward and *P. minor* Woodward. These crustaceans might also be marine forms as they do not seem to occur at other levels in non-marine portions of late Eocene to early Oligocene sediments in the Hampshire Basin, a view that agrees with an opinion expressed by Dr. A. N. Insole (*verb. comm.*, 1980). The alternative view that they are freshwater and may have been killed by the marine incursion is also feasible, as palaemonids occur in some modern freshwater environments (Woodward *op. cit.*, 99) and are occasionally recorded as fossils in ancient lacustrine sediments, for example in the early

Eocene Green River Formation of Wyoming (Feldmann *et al.* 1981, 790-793).

The supposition that some *Trionyx* and *Diplocynodon* remains may have come from the Chapelcorner Fish Bed deserves comment. If this were so, the presence of *Trionyx* would not invalidate a marine concept, as Edwards (*op. cit.*, Appendix 1: 9, 19-20) mentions living examples entering brackish water near river mouths. Some alligators occasionally stray into the tidal portions of river systems and true crocodiles sometimes adopt a marine habit. If this alternative provenance for the reptiles is correct the overall fauna would bear a striking resemblance to that of "Bed K" (Becton Member, Barton Formation) at Beacon Cliff, near Barton, which Edwards (*op. cit.*, 73) mentions as including ". . . freshwater turtles, alligators and mammals, together with teeth of sharks and rays". A model involving a flood plain with sluggishly flowing distributaries, creeks and ponds, that was briefly invaded by the sea, seems to be the best explanation for the association.

A conclusive discussion is not practicable until provenance of the fossils is established beyond doubt and this limited collection much expanded.

### Conclusions

The Osborne Member at Cliff End yields a restricted number of vertebrate fossils, mainly allochthonous in the beach, although a few can be found more or less *in situ*. This is potentially important as vertebrates of this part of the Solent Formation are poorly known and this largely forgotten section produces a reasonably varied assemblage. It is difficult to attribute some of the material to a particular horizon, but the assemblage of sharks' teeth, neopterygian remains, turtle scutes, alligator teeth and dermal armour, bird debris and mammalian fragments, contains some marine forms. These are presumably derived from a marine-influenced source horizon, probably the local development of the Chapelcorner Fish Bed, originally described from the north-east of the island. The fauna includes the first records of selachian teeth and a labroid palate from the Osborne Member of the Solent Formation.

These preliminary observations suggest that additional interesting finds may be made, as this small collection includes several important new records. Collecting is difficult, due to the sparse frequency, but any workers able to undertake systematic searches of foreshore and cliffs are strongly urged to do so, as the locality has real future research potential.

### Acknowledgements

Special thanks are due to Dr. N. Edwards for kind permission to refer to his Ph.D. thesis and quote from relevant passages, also to Dr. A. N. Insole, both for the opportunity to examine records of the Museum of Isle of Wight Geology and for helpful discussion of the Chapelcorner Fish Bed. Mr. A. Sutton undertook the cartographical work on the text-figure, which is acknowledged with thanks.

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## BIRD REPORT FOR 1981

By J. Stafford

The total number of species recorded in a year is a simple measure of the variety of the year's occurrences. This year's high total of 198 species has only been exceeded once – in the exceptional circumstances of 1963.

Two new species were recorded in 1981 – Great Shearwater and Black Kite. Some other species which had seldom been recorded before were Barred Warbler (for the second time), Kentish Plover (third), Melodious Warbler (fourth), Icterine Warbler (fourth and fifth), Red Kite (fifth), Rough-legged Buzzard (seventh), and Sooty Shearwater, Glaucous Gull and Marsh Warbler (each for the eighth time). Details are to be found in the Systematic List.

As usual, the birds' lives were much affected by the weather – most noticeably in December, when cold weather over much of Britain from the 8th led to a large influx of birds to the Island from the 12th onwards. Most reports were of common species – only one of the rarities listed above occurred in December.

The effects of this December influx were varied. Some species occurred in their usual haunts in larger numbers (e.g. Teal at Yarmouth). Others occurred in more moderate numbers but in unusual places (Wigeon at Atherfield and on Ryde Boating Lake). Some less usual visitors occurred only during this period (Whooper Swan, Gadwall, Scaup) – thus helping to swell the high total referred to above. Some species were seen outside their customary season (Great Skua). Perusal of the details in the Systematic List will reveal numerous other examples.

My thanks are again due to all the observers who took the trouble to submit their records. A special debt is owed – as usual – to J. M. Cheverton, especially for his willingness to take part in the systematic surveys which occur so frequently. Mention should also be made of the continuing series of valuable reports from the unofficial St. Catherine's Point Group, which flourishes under the guidance of D. B. Wooldridge; other current members of the Group are R. Attrill, P. J. Barden, D. J. Hunnybun, S. Linington and Mrs. A. Wilkinson.

### Abbreviations, etc.

The sequence and vernacular names follow *The “British Birds” List of Birds of the Western Palearctic* (1978). Names of subspecies, where appropriate, and species reference numbers are taken from the British Trust for Ornithology's *Species List of British and Irish Birds* (1971).

♂: male. ♀: female. S.C.P.: St. Catherine's Point.

Observers' initials are inserted in the Systematic List in support of six categories of record, which are defined in the *Bird Report for 1980*.

### Observers and Contributors

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### SYSTEMATIC LIST

- 4 **Red-throated Diver.** Most unidentified divers are probably this species. Between March 1st and May 16th, 87 flew E past S.C.P., only 8 of which were definitely identified as Red-throated; largest daily totals were 20 on April 24th and 12 on 25th. One on R. Medina on December 17th.

Well in evidence at S.C.P. in late December (but species again not identified):

	19th	20th	27th	30th
To E	10	57	5	2
To W	6	5	20	1
On sea	4		5	

Similar occurrences there continued into 1982.

- 1 **Black-throated Diver.** Movements past S.C.P., all to E: 1 on April 12th, 3 on 17th, 1 on 21st, 2 on May 3rd, 3 on 4th, 2 on 7th, 2 on 10th. One on R. Medina, December 26th and 27th.
- 2 **Great Northern Diver.** One flew E past S.C.P. on April 24th and 26th. One off Quarr, December 19th-30th.
- 9 **Little Grebe.** At least 2 pairs nested at Bembridge. Two birds at Carisbrooke Waterworks throughout the year, but did not appear to breed; 3 there on March 16th. Largest numbers in the usual winter localities were: 13 on W. Yar on February 7th; 19 at Newtown on November 8th; 30 on R. Medina on January 30th; 19 at Bembridge on October 18th. Also 1 in Quarr Marsh on December 30th.
- 5 **Great Crested Grebe.** Numerous records from nine places along the Solent coast, January-March and November-December. Most referred to 1 or 2 birds, but 9 in Osborne Bay on November 22nd. Also 3 at Compton on December 25th (PMcA); seldom seen along south coast, except on passage.
- 6 **Red-necked Grebe.** Osborne Bay: 1 on January 4th (JMC). Quarr: 1 on March 16th (FEH), October 24th (MW, AB) and December 27th-29th (FEH).
- 7 **Slavonian Grebe.** Numerous records from eight places along the Solent coast, January-March and November-December. Most referred to 1 or 2 birds, but 9 at Woodside on December 31st. (Note similar pattern to Great Crested Grebe).
- 8 **Black-necked Grebe.** Recorded only singly. January 1st, Woodside (PJB). Osborne Bay, January 4th (JMC). Brading Harbour, March 22nd (JMC). Bembridge Pond, July 24th and September 2nd (KVT). Thorness Bay, December 28th (LB, DRN). Ryde, December 30th (LB).
- 26 **Fulmar.** Early birds at Foreland on February 8th and at S.C.P. on February 14th. At S.C.P. there was an exceptional passage of 250 to E on April 24th, when gale veered from SE to SW (DBW).

Numerous records of up to 20 at Main Bench in breeding season. Again seen at Freshwater Cliff (E of Freshwater Bay) – maximum 8 on May 1st. Up to 7 frequented Gore Cliff until July 8th, but did not breed (AW). Two occupied a ledge on Culver Cliff for three weeks in May and June (BT).

One flew E over Cowes on June 12th (DRN).

- 19 **Great Shearwater.** One flew E past Seaview on October 17th (MB). Details supplied. The first record for the Island waters.
- 21 **Sooty Shearwater.** One flew E past S.C.P. on April 24th (AW). The eighth record for the Island. See comment on weather under Fulmar (above).
- 16 **Manx Shearwater.** S.C.P.: April 24th, 8 to E; April 26th, 1 to W; May 5th, 2 to W; May 16th, 5 to E; September 11th, 1 to W; September 17th, 2 to W.  
Two heading W, 3 miles off Ventnor, on July 20th (BT).
- 27 **Gannet.** Largest numbers were 20 at Freshwater Bay on July 20th and 30 at S.C.P. on December 28th.  
A dead juvenile on the beach at Atherfield on September 27th.
- 28 **Cormorant.** On June 27th, 208 were counted from a boat between Yarmouth and Main Bench (JMC, DJH) – a decrease from previous years (see *Reports for 1978-80*).  
One at S.C.P. on April 24th caught a garfish (*Belone belone*), which was too large to eat; after repeated attempts the bird released it (DJH).
- 29 **Shag.** 8 at the Main Bench colony on June 27th.  
2 at Bembridge on January 2nd and again on December 27th.
- 30 **Grey Heron.** Three pairs nested (unsuccessfully) at Bembridge.
- 38 **Bittern.** One in Brading Marsh on December 31st (MW).
- 84 **Mute Swan.** 23 at Bembridge on March 15th.
- 86 **Bewick's Swan.** Recorded only at Bembridge: 2 adults and a juvenile from January 18th to February 28th; an adult on November 15th.
- 85 **Whooper Swan.** Two at Yarmouth in the afternoon of December 26th, in flooded meadow just S of former railway station (KVT). They did not stay long, and left to S.
- 76 **White-fronted Goose.** One stayed briefly with the Barnacle Geese at Sudmoor during the morning of February 20th (JS). 22 at Atherfield on December 25th (PMcA). 12 in Brading Marsh, December 29th-31st (PJB, SL, MW, APB).
- 82 **Canada Goose.** A nest at Newtown was washed out by a high tide. 34 there on November 8th.  
4 flew W past S.C.P. on April 17th. 5 flew W over Brighstone on September 25th. 1 at Compton Pond, December 19th-23rd.
- 81 **Barnacle Goose.** Six in the Brighstone area, February 18th-27th (AD, JS, RASW); they ranged over the cliff-top meadows between Sudmoor and Barnes High. One at Newtown, February 8th-22nd, and again on March 26th. One in St. Helens Marsh on February 22nd, feeding with large flock of Coot (JMC). These records appear to refer to distinct birds, as they were present at all three places on February 22nd.
- 80 **Brent Goose.** Largest numbers at Newtown as usual: 835 on January 6th, 650 on December 13th; none between May 13th and October 16th. Birds seen at Thorness – e.g. 200 on January 2nd – are likely to have come from Newtown.  
Numerous occurrences elsewhere. At Quarr, 400 in January, decreasing until the last spring record on April 5th; the pale-breasted *hrota* individual (see *Report for 1980*) stayed until March 1st; over 200 at end of year. Records of smaller numbers along the Solent coast, at Colwell, Yarmouth, Gurnard, R. Medina, Seaview and Bembridge. 60 flew E past S.C.P. on March 19th. The only others on the south coast were 4 at Brook on February 1st.

— [**Egyptian Goose**. One in Quarr Marsh on August 3rd stayed there for some time, then moved to Wootton Creek (FEH), and was at Woodside on December 2nd (LB). Two others on Wootton Creek were said to have been shot (FEH). See *Report for 1976 and 1977* for comment on possible feral status.]

73 **Shelduck**. Largest numbers were 462 at Newtown on February 22nd, 108 in St. Helens Mill Pond on December 27th, and 55 by R. Medina at Folly on December 14th.

Several reports of nesting. At Newtown 4 pairs reared 18 young. At least one pair (probably several) in Brading Marsh. On June 27th a ♀ entered a hole 200 feet up Main Bench (JMC); nesting there has been suspected in previous years. A similar occurrence at Culver, where birds were seen on the cliff face, and then an adult and 9 young on the sea below on June 12th (BT). A pair at Compton Pool in March and April – nesting suspected (JS).

50 **Wigeon**. Continues to increase at Newtown – 690 on January 25th. On Western Yar, 220 on January 25th and 265 on October 21st. More widespread reports in late December: 92 on R. Medina on 24th; 34 at Bembridge on 27th; 19 in field at Atherfield on 28th; 1 on Ryde Boating Lake on 30th.

49 **Gadwall**. A ♂ at Carisbrooke Waterworks from December 19th to end of year (MW). Brading Marsh: 5 ♂♂, 2 ♀♀ on December 30th (PJB); 1 ♂, 1 ♀ on 31st (SL).

46 **Teal**. An exceptionally large flock of over 1000 on Western Yar and adjacent flooded meadows on December 19th (PMcA). Other largest flocks were 560 at Newtown on January 25th, 76 at Bembridge on January 14th, and 12 on R. Medina on December 14th. Also one on Compton Pool on February 27th (JS).

45 **Mallard**. Largest flocks were 250 at Quarr in January and 262 at Bembridge on September 16th.

52 **Pintail**. Numerous records at Newtown in winter, including 114 on January 18th. The only others were 1 at Quarr on February 10th and 7 in Brading Marsh on December 25th.

47 **Garganey**. A ♀ at S.C.P. on April 14th (PMcA).

53 **Shoveler**. 22 at Bembridge on January 18th. One at Newtown on February 2nd was the only record there this year.

An influx of small numbers in December: 1 on Western Yar on 10th; 8 at Quarr on 17th; 2 on R. Medina on 24th; at Thorness, 9 on 26th and 2 on 28th.

57 **Pochard**. A pair nested in Brading Marsh – 4 young seen in June. A ♂ at Carisbrooke Waterworks, February 11th to March 12th (MW).

An influx in late December: R. Medina, 2 on 23rd and 25th, 8 on 27th; Western Yar, 2 on 24th; Carisbrooke Waterworks, 5 ♂♂ from 24th to end of year; Newtown, a ♂ on 27th – the first seen there since 1976.

56 **Tufted Duck**. Three pairs nested in Brading Marsh – two broods seen in July and a further brood in August.

An influx in late December: R. Medina, 2 on 19th, 3 on 23rd, up to 10 later; a ♀ at Carisbrooke Waterworks for a few days from 23rd.

55 **Scaup**. Recorded only during the general influx of waterfowl in December. R. Medina: 1 on 17th; 2, 19th-24th; 3, 25th-27th; 4 on 31st (PJB, LB, APB, JMC, PAG, SL, JS, MW). A ♀ in Brading Marsh on 31st (PJB).

67 **Eider**. 3 in Osborne Bay on January 4th. Up to 12 at Quarr in February and March, and 5 on April 8th. Passage to E at S.C.P.: 14 on April 12th, 1 on 26th,

5 on May 9th. A ♀ close inshore in Gurnard Bay on December 23rd (DRN).  
3 ♀♀ at Foreland on December 27th.

- 64 **Common Scoter.** Numerous movements to E past S.C.P. between March 26th and July 28th. The largest numbers were:

March	May		Total*
26th	7th	9th	
1086	450	139	2030

\*Total includes birds seen on other dates.

There were further movements there in December: 15 to E on 13th, 6 to E on 20th, 1 to W on 27th.

At Seaview, 54 on February 26th and over 50 on November 7th. Several records of much smaller numbers at Alum Bay, Yarmouth, Newtown, Gurnard and Ryde. One in Thorness Bay on December 28th.

- 62 **Velvet Scoter.** Four at Quarr on April 10th (FEH). Movements to E past S.C.P.: 2 on May 3rd, 14 on 7th, 4 on December 20th.

- 60 **Goldeneye.** Small numbers at Newtown in winter, including 11 on February 22nd, and 10, December 27th-29th. 3 ♀♀ on R. Medina on March 4th. On Western Yar, a ♂ on January 18th and a pair on 25th.

Several records in late December, in addition to those noted at Newtown. Western Yar: 1 ♀ on 23rd; 2 ♀♀, 24th-29th. R. Medina: 4 ♀♀ on 26th; 3 ♀♀ on 27th; 6 ♀♀ on 31st.

- 69 **Red-breasted Merganser.** Small passage to E past S.C.P.: 2 on March 26th, 2 on April 24th. 43 at Newtown on February 1st. Over 20 at Seaview and Osborne Bay in November.

- 96 **Black Kite.** One at Gore Cliff, behind S.C.P., on April 26th (PJB, DJH, SL). The first record for the Island. The eight birds seen in Britain in 1981 were the largest annual total ever (see *British Birds* 75: 496).

- 95 **Red Kite.** One was seen by a party of beaters near Combley on November 26th (SMN). The fifth record for the Island.

- 99 **Marsh Harrier.** An immature at Newtown on September 12th (PMcA).

- 100 **Hen Harrier.** Brading Marsh: 1 on March 5th and 15th; a ♀, November 14th-23rd, and again on December 30th. A ♀ by Western Yar, December 23rd-26th.

- 102 **Montagu's Harrier.** An immature over East High Down on September 9th (KVT).

- 93 **Sparrowhawk.** Two arrived at S.C.P. from S on April 22nd, and there were several observations of birds crossing the Solent, in both migration seasons. Still reported visiting gardens, at Brighstone, Quarr and Seaview (cf *Report for 1976 and 1977*). One in the centre of Newport on December 6th disturbed some roosting Pied Wagtails (SL).

- 91 **Buzzard.** Nested again in the Brighstone Forest area. One over Ashey Down on June 14th. Outside the breeding season, single birds were seen at Newtown, Rowborough, Firestone Copse, Quarr, Luccombe and Seaview. One at Quarr in October attacked Moorhens (FEH).

- 92 **Rough-legged Buzzard.** One flew S from St. Helens into Brading Marsh on December 27th (PJB, JMC, DJH, SL). Seen there again on 29th (MW, APB). The seventh record for the Island.

- 110 **Kestrel.** One at Main Bench on June 27th was harassing a Peregrine (JMC, DJH, SL).

- 107 **Merlin.** Only two spring records: 1 at Quarr on March 22nd, and a ♂ flying N over S.C.P. on April 27th. Numerous occurrences of single birds from August 13th to end of year.
- 104 **Hobby.** One near Brighstone on April 26th. At S.C.P., 2 arrived from S on May 7th, as did 1 on 9th. Also on May 9th, 1 over Shanklin. At the beginning of June an adult was found in a weak condition on a farm near Lake; it was cared for, but failed to recover (MW). A ♂ in Brading Marsh on August 18th.
- 105 **Peregrine.** Numerous reports from the former nesting-cliffs in the West Wight, from February to October; usually singly, but two birds on August 15th. Single birds in Brading Marsh on February 7th and December 29th-31st, and at Newtown on May 2nd and November 7th.
- 115 **Red-legged Partridge.** The only one reported this year was caught by a cat in Wroxall High Street (JMC).
- 116 **Grey Partridge.**
- 118 **Pheasant.** Two melanistic juveniles near Whitefield Wood in August (JMC).
- 120 **Water Rail.** On November 15th at Newtown an adult was seen with two juveniles (but they were probably not bred there). Four in Brading Marsh on December 27th.
- 126 **Moorhen.** 40 on Dodnor Pond on February 15th. 70 at Yarmouth on December 2nd.
- 127 **Coot.** Nested for the first time at Carisbrooke Waterworks, where two pairs each reared two broods (MW). Also nested for the first time at Gunville Pond; at least 3 young hatched, but success is doubted as adults and young all disappeared soon (MW, APB). Two pairs bred at Quarr.  
Largest number at Bembridge was 449 on January 18th. Over 80 in Seaview Marsh on December 11th. 6 on Western Yar on December 21st.
- 131 **Oystercatcher.** Largest flocks were: R. Medina, 64 on January 30th, 83 on December 31st; Foreland, 52 on February 8th.  
Three pairs at Newtown in the breeding season.
- 134 **Ringed Plover.** 110 at Newtown on August 23rd.
- 136 **Kentish Plover.** Two in company with Ringed Plover were observed closely at Newtown on August 2nd (PAG). Details supplied. The third record for the Island.
- 140 **Golden Plover.** At Newtown, 566 on January 18th, and numerous records of smaller numbers. 2 on High Down on February 15th. 2 at Bembridge on August 8th. 44 at Atherfield on November 25th, which increased to c400 on December 31st (AW).
- 139 **Grey Plover.** Largest number at Newtown was 102 on September 10th. Thorness: 12 on October 21st, 25 on December 28th. R. Medina: 13 on December 14th. Quarr: up to 15, January-March; 1 on April 8th; up to 20, November-December. St. Helens Mill Pond: 8 on November 15th, 5 on December 6th. 37 flew E past S.C.P. on May 7th.
- 133 **Lapwing.** Largest numbers were c1500 at Newtown on January 18th and 432 at Bembridge on November 15th. A small influx noted in December: some in fields at Quarr; at Thorness, 50 on 28th, 200 on 29th; 100 by R. Medina on 31st.
- 169 **Knot.** At Newtown, 86 on January 11th and 53 on November 29th, with much smaller numbers on other dates. This is a marked decrease from 1980 and from

the even larger numbers in 1979 (see previous *Reports*).

23 flew E past S.C.P. on May 7th.

- 181 **Sanderling.** Bembridge: largest flock was c250 on February 17th, decreasing to 12 on March 22nd, the last spring date: 5 on June 22nd – unusual in summer; first autumn record was 86 on October 26th, increasing to 126 on December 27th. 105 on Ryde Sands on December 9th (LB); birds seen here are possibly from Bembridge.

Seldom seen elsewhere: the only bird at S.C.P. flew to E on May 7th; 1 at Quarr on October 7th.

- 171 **Little Stint.** Seen only at Newtown: one on August 16th and 29th, and on September 12th and 16th.

- 179 **Curlew Sandpiper.** Seen only at Newtown: 2 on August 7th, 7 on September 1st.

- 170 **Purple Sandpiper.** At Bembridge Foreland on February 8th, members attending a meeting of the Ornithological Section saw c40 – exceeding the previous largest flock at a meeting a year earlier (see *Report for 1980*). Numerous reports of smaller numbers there until the last spring bird on March 27th; the first two of the autumn were seen on October 26th. One at Bembridge Point, December 27th-30th (PJB, JMC).

Now frequent at Freshwater Bay (usually around the foot of Stag Rock): 8 on February 8th, 3 on April 13th and 14th, 2 on December 13th, 10 on 28th, 5 on 29th (PMcA, TWH, JSL).

One at S.C.P. on December 27th (AW).

- 178 **Dunlin.** Up to 1000 at Newtown in January and November. 425 by R. Medina on December 17th. 275 by Western Yar in December.

- 146 **Jack Snipe.** Seen only singly. Western Yar, January 5th and December 12th. Newtown, February 19th and November 21st. R. Medina, January 1st. St. Helens, January 18th, November 15th and December 27th. Brading Marsh, January 1st and March 15th.

- 145 **Snipe.** Reported from several places in December: Plaish Marsh, 7 on 3rd and 16 on 19th; R. Medina, 34 on 17th; Bembridge, 18 on 27th; Atherfield, 140 on 23rd-25th, decreasing to 30 by 31st.

- 148 **Woodcock.** Seen in breeding season in Parkhurst Forest and Firestone Copse. The only other report was from Fattingspark Copse, Wootton, on December 27th.

- 154 **Black-tailed Godwit.** Largest flock at Newtown was 184 on January 27th. One by Western Yar on April 15th. 88 by R. Medina on December 31st.

- 155 **Bar-tailed Godwit.** Spring passage to E past S.C.P. was smaller than usual (*cf Report for 1980*):

April			May		
17th	20th	24th	1st	7th	
58	28	11	40	41	

3 at Newtown on September 10th, and 6 at Hamstead on 20th, but otherwise seen only singly in that area. One at Foreland on January 31st. One by R. Medina on December 25th.

78 on Ryde Sands on December 9th; birds from there fly towards Langstone or Chichester Harbour when the tide rises (LB).

- 151 **Whimbrel.** Not many at S.C.P. this year: 15 flew E on April 14th. 10 in Brading Marsh on April 28th. Does not often occur in winter, but 3 at Newtown on December 5th.

- 150 **Curlew.** Over 200 at Quarr, July-August. 274 at Newtown on December 6th. 40 at Thorness on December 26th.
- 162 **Spotted Redshank.** Newtown: 6 on February 8th and October 18th; numerous records of 1 or 2 in winter, and 1 throughout summer.  
Western Yar: 1 on April 15th; 2, May 3rd and 4th, and 1 on 5th; 1 on October 10th; 2 on December 29th.
- 161 **Redshank.** 250 in Wootton Creek on February 25th. 142 at Bembridge on March 22nd. About 70 roosting on causeway to Bembridge Lifeboat Station on October 31st (LB).
- 165 **Greenshank.** 14 at Newtown on August 3rd and September 4th, and other records of smaller numbers there.  
Seen occasionally at Yarmouth, Thorness, St. Helens, Bembridge, Brading Marsh and S.C.P., January-April, August, and October-December; usually 1 or 2, sometimes 3 or 4.
- 156 **Green Sandpiper.** The only spring bird was at Quarr on May 20th; three were also there on August 9th. Other records in autumn referred to single birds: Dodnor, early July: Newtown, August 10th and November 8th; St. Helens, September 2nd; Yarmouth, October 10th-13th.
- 159 **Common Sandpiper.** Most records referred to single birds, but 5 in Watershoot Bay on May 9th, and 5 at Quarr on August 10th and September 29th. Wintering birds by R. Medina and Wootton Creek in January and February, and at both places again in December.  
Almost always occurs on coast or estuary, but one on May 3rd was by a pool in gravel workings on St. George's Down.
- 143 **Turnstone.**
- 187 **Grey Phalarope.** Two at Freshwater on October 10th, after a storm. The first was seen in the Bay in the morning, and stayed there all day (DJH, SL, PMcA, JS). The second was found in the late afternoon, on the Yar north of the Causeway; driving from Causeway to Bay and back again confirmed that there was a bird at each place (JS).
- 195 **Pomarine Skua.** Recorded only at S.C.P., flying E: 2 on April 22nd and 4 on May 6th.
- 193 **Arctic Skua.** At S.C.P., a total of 42 flew E between April 17th and May 17th, including 10 on April 24th and 13 on May 6th. Single birds flew W there on September 10th and 17th.  
One flew E past Fort Victoria on May 8th.
- 194 **Great Skua.** At S.C.P., a total of 8 flew E between April 12th and May 14th. One over High Down on September 26th (SL). The species is scarce here outside the migration seasons, but this year there were both summer and winter occurrences: one seen from a fishing boat in Sandown Bay, June 12th-14th (BT); single birds flew E past S.C.P. on December 20th (AW) and 30th (SL).
- 205 **Mediterranean Gull.** An adult at S.C.P. on January 1st (PJB). At Newbridge, 2 on April 9th (following plough with Black-headed), 3 on April 30th and 4 on June 22nd – all adults (DBW).
- 207 **Little Gull.** Four flew E past S.C.P. on May 7th. An immature flew W past Fort Victoria on September 26th. Single birds at Freshwater Bay on October 10th, December 13th and 28th.

208 **Black-headed Gull.** The Newtown colony suffered as usual from high tides. Over 100 pairs had their nests washed off Gull Island on May 4th, and also the replacement nests on June 4th. But by June 18th there were 111 nests with eggs, most of which hatched and fledged successfully.

An influx in August: 1100 at Bembridge on 16th and 6500 at Newtown on 31st.

A partial albino – white apart from a pale brown hood – on R. Medina on April 24th (PJB).

201 **Common Gull.** Most in E Solent – e.g. 72 at Quarr on March 5th. Very few in W Solent – largest number was 4 at Thorness on October 29th. Sometimes inland – 40 on pasture by Burnt House Lane, E of Newport, on February 28th.

199 **Lesser Black-backed Gull.** One pair nested on Main Bench.

200 **Herring Gull.** Nested at Newtown – two pairs on the sea wall and one on Gull Island. Birds seen at Quarr might have come from there – an adult was feeding three large young on October 1st, and was still feeding two young on December 22nd (FEH).

202 **Glaucous Gull.** One in first winter plumage flew W past S.C.P. on April 24th (PJB). The eighth record for the Island.

198 **Great Black-backed Gull.** Nested on the Newtown sea wall, but no success noted; a long-dead half-grown bird was found near the nest on July 31st. One pair nested on Culver Cliff, and four pairs on the western cliffs, from Needles to Freshwater Bay.

211 **Kittiwake.** Little success at the Main Bench colony; on June 27th only 2 of 20 nests were occupied, and 6 adults were present (JMC).

At S.C.P., 6 adults on January 1st. Main spring movements there were all to E: 162 on March 20th, 100 on May 15th, 74 on 16th. Unusual numbers there in December:

18th	20th	27th	28th	30th
579	268	150	60	191
to E	to E	present	present	to E

An oiled juvenile at Bembridge on December 27th.

223 **Sandwich Tern.** The first flew E past Seaview on March 17th. 292 flew E past S.C.P. between March 26th and May 9th. Last on October 6th, at Quarr.

217 **Common Tern.**

and

218 **Arctic Tern.** The first three, at Foreland on April 4th, were Arctic. The only others identified as that species were at Newtown: 1 on August 6th, 3 on 8th, 1 on 9th, 1 on September 15th.

A pair probably nested at Newtown. At Quarr, 2 adults feeding 4 young on July 20th. Some of them may have moved to Ryde Pierhead, where an adult was feeding a young on July 27th, and an adult and a young were seen on the roof several times, August 4th-11th.

Last on October 10th, at Fort Victoria.

222 **Little Tern.** First on May 6th, at S.C.P. and Newtown. Last on September 13th, at Newtown.

A few at Newtown throughout the summer, but 12 there on July 23rd and 26th were thought not to be the local birds. Two juveniles there on August 2nd were also not thought to have been bred there.

212 **Black Tern.** 7 flew E past S.C.P. on May 7th. One at Newtown on September 3rd and 16th. One flew E past Fort Victoria on September 6th.

- 222 **Guillemot.** 155 at the Main Bench colony on June 27th.  
Not often seen outside the breeding season, but this year there were good numbers at both ends of the year. 230 near Needles on January 12th were thought to be feeding on a sprat shoal; 150 there on 28th (JSL). A slightly-oiled "bridled" bird in Brading Harbour on February 22nd. On December 13th at Freshwater Bay, a tired bird was lifted from heavy surf by an immature Great Black-backed Gull and dropped from about 20 feet; the Guillemot seemed unharmed, and the gull did not pursue it (JSL). At S.C.P. on December 20th, parties of auks totalling 1007 (probably mostly this species) flew past to E (AW); over 50 flew E on 30th.
- 224 **Razorbill.** 3 at the Main Bench colony on April 17th and June 7th.
- 230 **Puffin.** Apparently still survives at the Main Bench colony, where single birds were seen on June 7th and 28th (PJB, DJH, SL).  
One flew E past S.C.P. on April 13th (DBW).
- 232 **Stock Dove.**
- 234 **Woodpigeon.**
- **Collared Dove.**
- 235 **Turtle Dove.** First heard at Newtown on April 14th, but most did not arrive until May. Last on October 1st at Brighstone.
- 237 **Cuckoo.** First on March 26th at Brighstone, but no more until a widespread arrival on April 21st.  
One making repeated attempts to reach a nest at Quarr was attacked by Dunnock and Chaffinch and finally by a Carrion Crow (FEH).
- 241 **Barn Owl.**
- 246 **Little Owl.**
- 247 **Tawny Owl.** Heard in gardens at Quarr on several evenings from August 20th.
- 248 **Long-eared Owl.** Nested in Firestone Copse, where 2 adults and 4 young were seen several times in June and July. One on Shanklin Down on June 20th (JMC).
- 249 **Short-eared Owl.** One at Alverstone, September 20th-22nd (RB). One on Headon Warren on October 17th (PMcA). One at Apse Heath on December 8th, hunting with 3 Barn Owls (JRG). Two in Brading Marsh on December 14th (SMN).
- 252 **Nightjar.** In the survey organised for the British Trust for Ornithology, 26 pairs were located in the breeding season: Parkhurst Forest, 10; Firestone Copse, 2; Brighstone Forest, 8, and an outlying pair at Grammars Common; Shalcombe, 2; Hamstead, 2 (probably more); Cranmore, 1. Negative reports were received from seven other areas of apparently suitable habitat.
- 255 **Swift.** First on May 2nd at Seaview. Only a few until May 7th, when there was a widespread arrival in flocks of up to 100, at Alum Bay, S.C.P., Newtown, Cowes, Shanklin and Sandown. At Shanklin in the evening of August 12th, flocks of 500 and 1000 flew over to SW. Last on October 10th at Quarr.
- 258 **Kingfisher.** Recorded only along the Solent coast and estuaries, and none in the breeding season. On December 17th one flew into the paddle cover of the Ryde Queen on R. Medina (LB).
- 261 **Hoopoe.** One in the Botanical Garden, St. Lawrence, on October 3rd (AB).
- 265 **Wryneck.** Five records of single birds in autumn: Headon Warren, August 12th and 14th; Cranmore, August 30th; Limerstone, E of Brighstone, September 3rd-6th, and found dead at Gaggerhill, W of Brighstone, September 11th; Northwood, September 4th-6th.

- 262 **Green Woodpecker.** Three young reared at Crossfield, Cowes, became so tame that they would search lawns for food while gardeners were working (DJH).
- 263 **Great Spotted Woodpecker.** Young bred at Quarr became very tame, feeding at bird table and on ground (FEH).
- 264 **Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** One at Knighton Waterworks on January 31st (BT).
- 271 **Woodlark.** One at Brighstone on August 30th (KVT).
- 272 **Skylark.** An influx noted in several places in December – e.g. over 200 along Military Road on 23rd.
- 277 **Sand Martin.** First on April 7th at Quarr. There was very little activity at the Sandown colony, and it is unlikely that any fledged. Last on October 18th at Bembridge.
- 274 **Swallow.** Good views were obtained of an early bird at Cowes on March 12th (DRN). Last 2 on November 17th at St. Helens.
- 276 **House Martin.** An early bird around Bembridge Lifeboat Station for three days from March 9th (BT), and 3 at Seaview on 12th (SMN). On October 18th still 500 at St. Helens. Last on November 25th at Seaview.
- 376 **Tree Pipit.** Two on Headon Warren on August 12th. Three at Brighstone, August 26th – September 5th.
- 373 **Meadow Pipit.** At S.C.P., 500 on March 12th, 375 on April 7th, 200 on 15th, and on October 6th 345 flew over from S to NW in 1½ hours.  
Arrivals noted in several places in December – e.g. 100 in cabbage field at Upper Hyde, Shanklin, on 24th.
- 379 **Rock Pipit.** 17 on Bembridge shore on December 13th.
- 379 **Water Pipit.** One at Thorness on December 28th (LB).
- 382 **Yellow Wagtail.** Only four spring records of single birds. More in autumn, between August 24th and September 22nd; maximum 7 on August 25th at Quarr.
- 381 **Grey Wagtail.** Nested successfully at Porchfield, Carisbrooke Waterworks, and by the Lukely Brook near central Newport.
- 380 **Pied Wagtail.** 70 roosting in centre of Newport on December 6th.
- 380 **White Wagtail.** Single birds at S.C.P. on March 12th (DBW) and at Bembridge on May 26th (MAW).
- 299 **Wren.**
- 371 **Duncock.**
- 325 **Robin.**
- 322 **Nightingale.** First on April 15th at Yarmouth. Last near Shanklin and on Mottistone Down, both on September 3rd.
- 321 **Black Redstart.** A ♀ at Shanklin on March 14th. In Alum Bay area, a ♀, April 8th-21st, and a pair on May 7th. 4 near Needles on October 24th. Also on October 24th one at Bembridge, and one or two there until end of year. One at Blackgang, November 24th, and at Watershoot Bay, November 26th/27th. One at Seaview on December 9th.
- 320 **Redstart.** First on April 8th at Headon Warren. 4 at S.C.P. on April 22nd had increased to at least 25 next day. Last 5 at Newtown on November 4th.
- 318 **Whinchat.** First on April 14th at High Down. None in breeding season. The last date – September 27th – also produced the largest numbers – 12 in Brading Marsh and 8 at Newtown.

- 317 **Stonechat.** 8 in ruins at Quarr on March 7th; spring passage is not usually so conspicuous. A pair bred near Alum Bay. 10 on High Down on November 11th. One at Niton and 2 at Thorness on December 28th had apparently arrived recently.
- 311 **Wheatear.** First on March 19th at Quarr, and several elsewhere in next few days; on 25th a ♂ perched on the handrail of Ryde Pier. Largest numbers were 11 on Headon Warren on April 17th and 11 on High Down on August 16th. None in breeding season. Last on October 1st at Quarr.  
Birds identified as the Greenland race *leucorrhoa* at Alum Bay on May 8th and September 9th (KVT), and on Culver Down on May 31st (JMC) – a very tired ♀ which was unable to fly for several minutes.
- 307 **Ring Ouzel.** Recorded only in April: one at S.C.P., 5th-7th; a ♂ at Headon Warren and a ♀ at Fort Victoria, both on 8th; one at Brighstone on 15th; 2 near Needles on 21st.
- 308 **Blackbird.**
- 302 **Fieldfare.** First birds of the autumn passed NW over Newtown on October 21st; 100 flew E there on November 1st. Over 700 eating fallen apples at Quarr on December 25th, and numerous reports of smaller numbers elsewhere about the same time.
- 303 **Song Thrush.**
- 304 **Redwing.** Last spring birds on April 5th at Quarr. First of the autumn were 100 at Dodnor on October 24th (with Song Thrushes and Mistle Thrushes which might have arrived with them). Much smaller numbers than Fieldfare in late December – e.g. 24 at Quarr on 24th.
- 301 **Mistle Thrush.**
- 326 **Cetti's Warbler.** Several records around Brading Marsh: Bembridge in April (LB), Yaverland Marsh in May and June (JMC, DJH, SL), Brading in April (SMN), July (JS), October and November (AW). Also one in Alverstone Marsh in May (SMN) and June (DJH).
- 327 **Grasshopper Warbler.** First on April 11th at Alum Bay. Several other records, but little evidence of nesting.
- 337 **Sedge Warbler.** First on May 16th, at Bembridge and Yarmouth.
- 334 **Marsh Warbler.** One between Yarmouth and Freshwater on April 25th and July 3rd (KVT). The eighth record for the Island.
- 333 **Reed Warbler.** First on April 13th at Dodnor. 26 singing ♂♂ along the Western Yar on May 16th (PMcA) (*cf* an earlier estimate of breeding population in the *Report for 1966*).
- 340 **Icterine Warbler.** Two records of single birds in August – at Headon Warren on 16th (RD) and Gaggerhill, Brighstone, on 26th (KVT). Details supplied. The fourth and fifth records for the Island. Each had been preceded a few days earlier by occurrences in eastern England (see *British Birds* 74 : 501).
- 339 **Melodious Warbler.** A juvenile at S.C.P. on September 29th, in the tamarisks below the lighthouse (AW). The fourth record for the Island.
- 352 **Dartford Warbler.** Seen in May and June in the same locality as last year (JS, KVT). A ♀ killed on the Military Road at Atherfield on November 25th (AW) – well away from any likely breeding site.

- 344 **Barred Warbler.** An immature on West High Down on September 26th (SL, DJH). The second record for the Island.
- 348 **Lesser Whitethroat.** First 2 on April 19th at S.C.P.
- 347 **Whitethroat.** First on April 12th at Dodnor, and last on September 13th in the same area.
- 346 **Garden Warbler.** First on April 22nd near Bonchurch.
- 343 **Blackcap.** Wintering birds at both ends of the year: a pair at Freshwater on February 6th, and elsewhere in Freshwater a ♀, February 10th-21st, and a ♂ on February 22nd – possibly the same pair moving around; a ♀ at a Whitwell bird table on December 22nd.
- 357 **Wood Warbler.** Six records of single birds: S.C.P. on May 9th (DJH, SL), and moving N through Borthwood next day (JMC); Parkhurst Forest, May 31st (LB); Brighstone (KVT) and Quarr (FEH) on August 13th, and at Quarr again on September 20th (FEH).
- 356 **Chiffchaff.** One on January 7th at Freshwater. No more until March 14th, when noted at Rookley, Quarr and Bembridge.
- 354 **Willow Warbler.** First at Brighstone and Quarr, both on April 2nd. At S.C.P., 21 on April 22nd increased to over 100 next day (including some Chiffchaffs). Last on September 24th at Quarr.
- 364 **Goldcrest.** A small influx at Gurnard on October 16th – 2 by marsh and 3 on cliffs.
- 365 **Firecrest.** Alum Bay area: 2 on March 22nd, 3 on 30th, 1 on April 8th, 1 on September 8th. S.C.P.: 1 on March 17th, 1 on 27th, 1 on April 10th, 1 on May 9th, 2 on October 7th.
- 366 **Spotted Flycatcher.** First on May 10th at S.C.P. 10 on High Down on September 6th. Last on September 15th at Quarr.
- 368 **Pied Flycatcher.** Reported only from Alum Bay/High Down/Headon Warren area: 1 on April 11th, 3 on 19th, 4 on 30th, 1 on May 11th, 1 on August 14th and 16th, 6 on September 6th.
- 294 **Long-tailed Tit.** A flock of c50 at Upper Hyde, Shanklin, on July 14th decreased steadily to 25 on October 22nd (LS). 25 at Newtown on July 26th.  
At Gurnard, 3 feeding on peanuts and bird table on January 8th and 17th (DRN); not a frequent visitor to bird tables.
- 292 **Marsh Tit.**
- 293 **Willow Tit.** One at Newtown, March 14th and July 20th (KVT). One at Quarr on September 29th (FEH).
- 290 **Coal Tit.**
- 289 **Blue Tit.** 30 feeding in Newtown saltings on December 13th.
- 288 **Great Tit.**
- 298 **Treecreeper.**
- 286 **Jay.**
- 284 **Magpie.** 18 in the Quarr ruins, February 5th and 6th (FEH).
- 283 **Jackdaw.** One at Carisbrooke Castle on December 28th had mandibles which were excessively long and crossed at the tips (MW, APB).
- 282 **Rook.**
- 280 **Carrion Crow.** 23 on Bembridge shore on March 15th (JMC).

- 279 **Raven.** One in June, at Mirables on 9th (DBW) and Niton on 14th (RL), and one at Main Bench on August 16th (MW, APB).
- 389 **Starling.**
- 424 **House Sparrow.**
- 425 **Tree Sparrow.** One at Newtown on January 1st. S.C.P.: 1 on April 17th, 1 on May 9th, 3 on 15th, and 12 flew past to E on October 14th. C30 near Sandown Airport on September 26th (LS).
- 407 **Chaffinch.** A flock of over 500 with other finches near Shorwell on December 30th.
- 408 **Brambling.** One at Shanklin on January 4th. One at Northwood on January 21st. One on Newbarn Down, Calbourne, on February 3rd. 5 at Newtown on March 4th. 3 at Park Farm, Nettlestone, on March 11th. 2 at Bembridge on November 15th. 4 at Shide on December 26th. Note that the largest numbers occurred in March (see comment in the *Report for 1978* on spring passage) and during the general influx in December.
- 400 **Serin.** Recorded only arriving at S.C.P.: 1 on April 10th (RA) and a ♂ on May 13th (DBW).
- 392 **Greenfinch.**
- 393 **Goldfinch.**
- 394 **Siskin.** Along Western Yar, regularly up to 60 in January and up to 40 in December. On April 15th, 6 arrived at S.C.P. from S. 80 in alders at Newbridge through November and December. 20 in alders at Quarr on November 21st. One at Fairlee on December 24th. 3 by R. Medina on December 27th.
- 395 **Linnet.** On April 15th, 300 arrived at S.C.P. (*cf* Siskin and Redpoll).
- 397 **Redpoll.** 3 at Freshwater on January 18th. At S.C.P., 2 arrived on April 15th, 1 arrived on 23rd, 4 arrived on May 7th, and 12 flew past to W on October 14th. 5 at Newtown on October 18th. 8 at Newchurch on November 15th. 12 at Merstone on December 21st. 3 at Bembridge on December 27th.
- 404 **Crossbill.** 4 flew W past S.C.P. on July 25th (DBW).
- 401 **Bullfinch.** 13 along Western Yar on December 12th.
- 423 **Snow Bunting.** An immature at Fort Victoria on October 6th (LB), and a ♂ there on 10th (DJH, SL). An immature on shore at Quarr, October 24th-27th (FEH, MW, APB). The most recent winter record was in 1963; the few occurrences since then have all been on autumn passage as this year.
- 409 **Yellowhammer.**
- 421 **Reed Bunting.** One arrived at S.C.P. from S on March 27th (DBW); not often recorded there on passage.
- 410 **Corn Bunting.** Seen in the breeding season in the usual localities: Atherfield; Leechmore; Broad Lane, Thorley. Also in a new locality W of Brighstone on May 9th, but apparently did not stay (KVT). Seldom reported at other seasons, but one at Newchurch on January 4th (SMN).

## COLONISATION AND SETTLEMENT: THE EARLY ANGLO-SAXON POTTERY OF THE ISLE OF WIGHT

By **C. J. Arnold**

with a petrological report by J. Timby

### INTRODUCTION

The distinctiveness of the early Anglo-Saxon material from the Isle of Wight, and the Island's association with the historical Jutes has for long aroused the interest of archaeologists and historians alike. The discussion has been carried out without any detailed catalogue or discussion of the evidence from the cemeteries on the Island although this situation has now been rectified (Arnold 1982). Much attention has been directed towards the decorated metalwork from the cemeteries, whereas the ceramic material has received far less attention than that from areas where it is more common.

A minimum of 36 pottery vessels of the early Anglo-Saxon period are recorded from the Isle of Wight, of which fourteen survive and are available for study and two are known only from contemporary drawings. While on the one hand the large quantity of pottery may be surprising, especially when so little of it has been previously examined, on the other it is lamentable that so few vessels have survived. The pottery is divided into two collections, the I.W. County Archaeological Collection and the British Museum. Just as material excavated during the last century continues to come to light, new excavations have been carried out in recent years, as at Bowcombe Down. The recorded pottery is known to have been used to contain cremations in 23 cases and as a grave – good accompanying inhumations in nine cases (Arnold 1982). There is both a degree of consistency in the known forms and a number of unusual examples, unusual both locally and in a broader context.

A geographical context such as an island (Fig. 1) provides a useful milieu in which to examine the form, decoration and fabric of an assemblage of pottery, as imported material may be markedly different when compared to local ceramic products which may have evolved with a degree of isolation. Petrological examination of early Anglo-Saxon ceramics is a relatively new venture (Brisbane 1980) but one which has received impetus from the school of petrologists at the Department of Archaeology in the University of Southampton, who have applied their skills to ceramic assemblages from southern English settlements and cemeteries (e.g.: Timby in prep.). The aim here is to bring together the ceramic evidence from the Isle of Wight and to examine the economic and social implications of the material through the study of both form, decoration and petrology.

### CATALOGUE

#### 1. Chessel Down grave 2 (Fig. 2)

Vessel of “fine brown earth”. From a contemporary sketch the vessel appears to have been sharply shouldered with small round bosses immediately below the shoulder. “8 inches deep”. Lost.

(Dennett 1845, Pl. 3.14; Akerman 1847, PIXIV, 22; Arnold 1982; B.M. Add. Mss. 33650, fol. 39; Carisbrooke Castle Ms. 1).

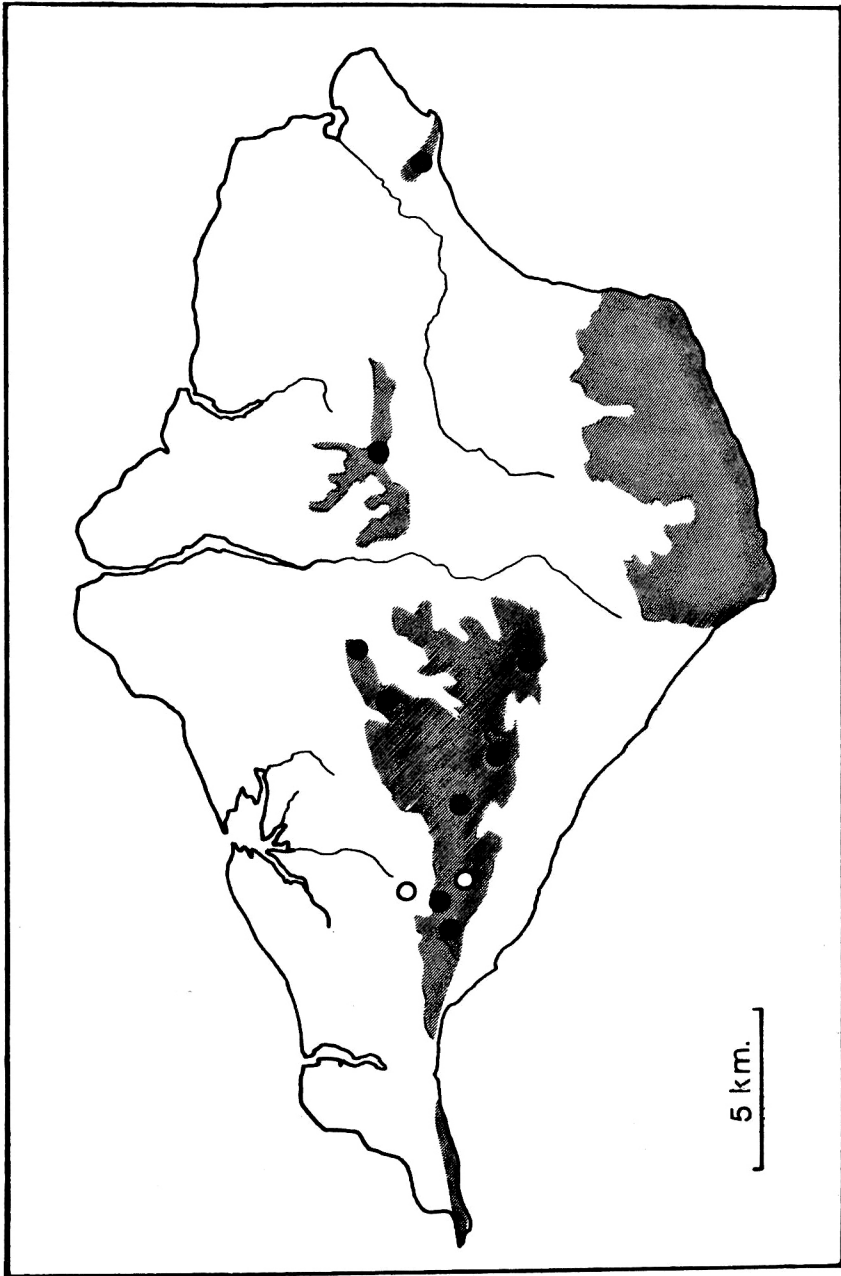


FIG. 1.—Distribution map showing early Anglo-Saxon sites on the Isle of Wight and those with pottery (black dots). Land over 200 feet shaded.

2. **Chessell Down grave 14**  
An “urn of coarse black earth . . . mixed with fragments of small shells”, with a plain rounded form. Lost.  
(B.M. Add. Mss. 33652, fol. 19; Carisbrooke Castle Ms. 1; Dennett 1845, 154-5; Arnold 1982).
3. **Chessell Down grave 19** (Fig. 2)  
“Coarse dark brown vessel”, biconical with short everted rim. Buff fabric with gritty matrix, and smooth burnished surface. I.W. County Archaeological Coll.  
(B.M. Add. Mss. 33722, fol. 9; Arnold 1982).
4. **Chessell Down grave 21** (Fig. 2)  
Wheel-turned bowl, in hard buff-grey fabric with no visible inclusions, and roulette decoration on the upper portion of the body. British Museum 67 7-29 141.  
(Chenet 1941, Pl. 37, 299; Evison 1965, 26, 104, Fig. 9f; Arnold 1982).
5. **Chessell Down grave 27**  
“fragments of urn”. Lost  
(Isle of Wight Record Office M41, fols. 1, 4; Arnold 1982).
6. **Chessell Down grave 42**  
“small urn”. See below, no. 15.  
(Isle of Wight Record Office M41, fols. 1, 5; Arnold 1982).
7. **Chessell Down grave 43**  
Fragments of a vessel “too much crushed to allow of its reconstruction”. Lost.  
(Isle of Wight Record Office M41, fols. 1, 5; Arnold 1982).
8. **Chessell Down grave 79**  
Cremation urn. Lost.  
(Isle of Wight Record Office M41, fols. 1, 7; Arnold 1982).
9. **Chessell Down grave 82**  
A “broken urn”. Lost.  
(Isle of Wight Record Office M41, fols. 1, 7; Arnold 1982).
10. **Chessell Down grave 94** (Fig. 3)  
Pedestal-footed vessel, probably wheel-turned, with shallow grooved decoration consisting of triangular panels bordered by three lines filled with a branch-like arm. The neck is marked by three grooves, while the lower edge of the decoration is bordered by a continuous line of shallow hanging arcs. The fabric is black to pink/brown in colour, with heavy micaceous tempering. Base slightly concave. Myres has suggested that one of the various linear patterns in a triangle may be intended for the  $\Lambda$  rune. British Museum 67 7-29 138.  
(V.C.H. Hants. I 1900, 389, Fig. 20; Myres 1977, 249, Fig. 202; Arnold 1982; Isle of Wight Record Office M41, fols. 1, 7).
11. **Chessell Down grave 95**  
“a small urn”. See below, no. 15  
(Isle of Wight Record Office M41, fols. 1, 7; Arnold 1982).
12. **Chessell Down grave 103** (Fig. 3).  
Handmade, handled jug with plain rounded rim. Black to red/brown surface, probably burnished, but with no visible inclusions. British Museum 67 7-29 139; Arnold 1982).

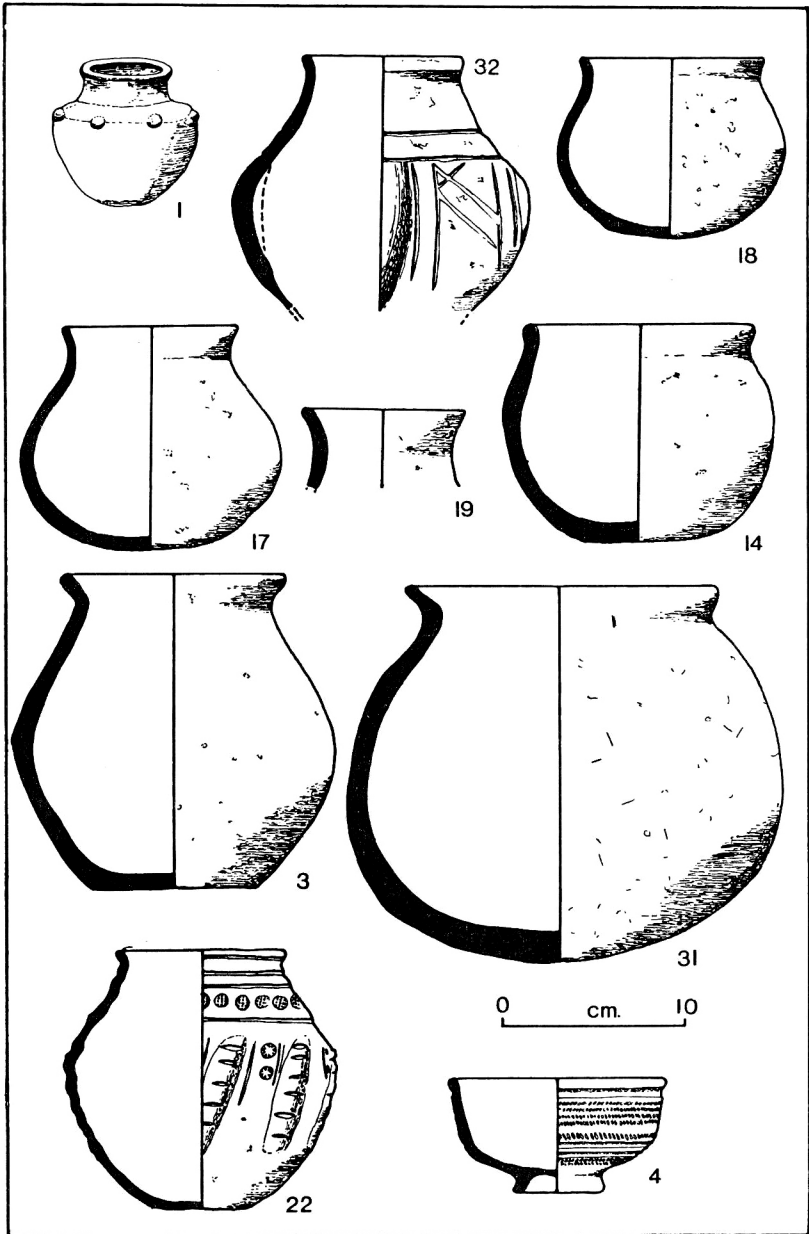


FIG. 2—Early Anglo-Saxon pottery from the Isle of Wight. (No. 1 not to scale).

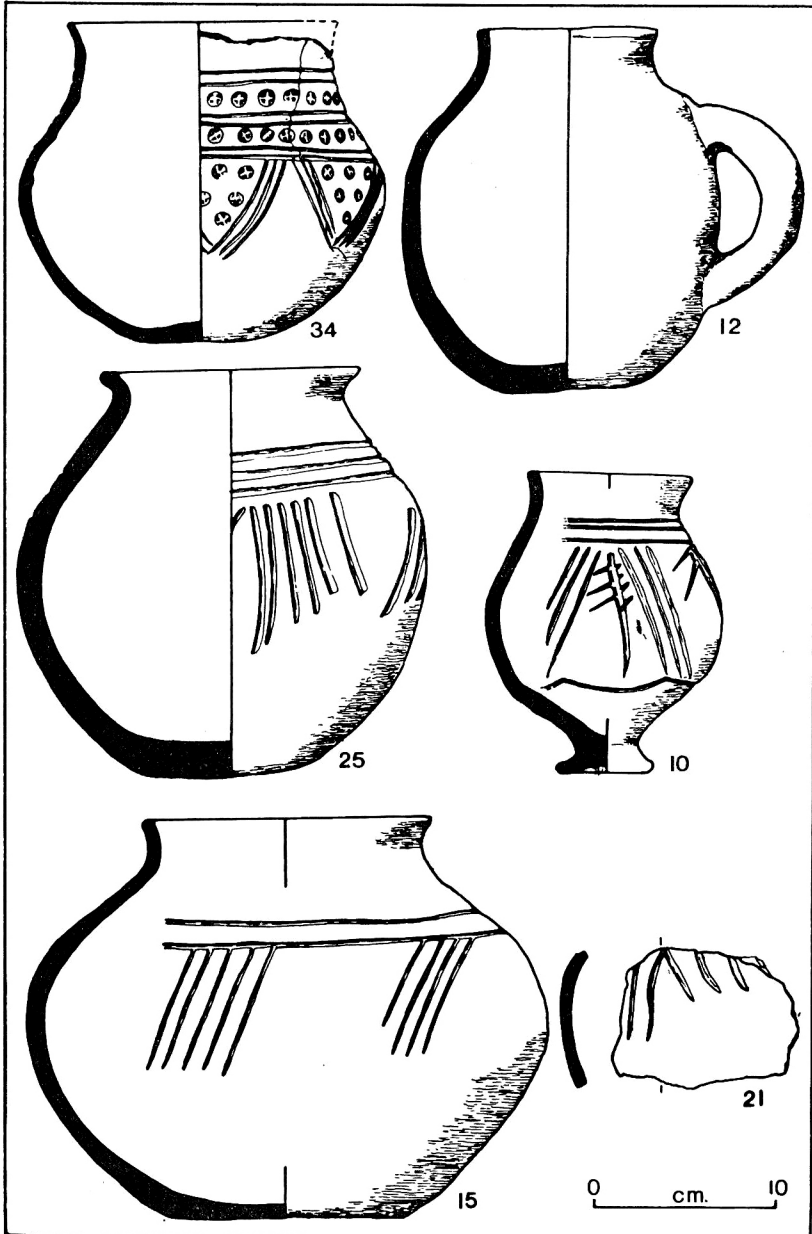


FIG. 3—Early Anglo-Saxon pottery from the Isle of Wight.

13. **Chessell Down grave 107**  
Small vessel. See below, no 15  
(Isle of Wight Record Office M41, fols. 1, 8; Arnold 1982).
14. **Chessell Down** (Fig. 2)  
Handmade, necked, globular vessel with plain rim and wide mouth. Hard, grey/black burnished fabric with visible quartz inclusions. From graves 42, 95 or 107. British Museum 67 7-29 140.  
(Myres 1977, 145, Fig. 41; Arnold 1982).
15. **Chessell Down** (Fig. 3).  
Handmade squat vessel decorated with two shallow horizontal grooves on the shoulder and eight groups of four or five diagonal strokes below. The fabric fine and sandy with grey surface, buff-grey core and margins, grit and mica inclusions. From graves 42, 95 or 107. British Museum 69 10-11 1.  
(Myres 1977, 258, Fig. 214; Arnold 1982).
16. **Arreton Down**  
"several circular" cremation urns, later described as "urns of coarse pottery containing bones". Lost.  
(Kell 1851, 453; Hillier 1856, 25; Arnold 1982).
17. **Chessell/Rancombe 1** (Fig. 2)  
Sub-biconical necked urn with plain rounded rim, in hard gritty fabric, with a buff core, grey/brown inner margin and surface. Base slightly rounded. I.W. County Archaeological Coll.  
(Arnold 1982).
18. **Chessell/Rancombe 2** (Fig. 2)  
Small sub-biconical vessel with plain rim. The fabric hard with no visible inclusions, pink core and margins, grey/buff surfaces, the outer burnished. I.W. County Archaeological Coll.  
(Arnold 1982).
19. **Chessell/Rancombe 3** (Fig. 2)  
Fragments of necked vessel with plain rim, hard fabric with black core, dark brown margins and grey/black surface. I.W. County Archaeological Coll.  
(Arnold 1982).
20. **Arreton Down barrow 2**  
Several "urns". Lost.  
(Kell 1850, 366-7; Arnold 1982).
21. **Chillerton Down grave 1** (Fig. 3)  
Fragment of a cremation vessel with hard, dark brown fabric with sparse gritty inclusions, darker brown, smooth glossy surface, decorated with two groups of shallow grooves at an angle to each other. Lost.  
(Sherwin 1939, fol. 156; Arnold 1982).
22. **Shalcombe Down** (Fig. 2)  
Biconical bossed vessel with everted rim in hard, handmade buff fabric. The slashed, diagonally placed, hollow shoulder bosses are bordered on each side by a line, while the panels in between are decorated with two rosette stamps one above the other. The neck is decorated with a horizontal row of circular grid

stamps demarcated by neck lines, three above and one below. I.W. County Archaeological Coll.

(Dennett 1845, Pl. 3.13; Akerman 1847, Pl. XIV, 29; Pettigrew 1855, Pl. 12.15; Brown 1915, Pl. CXXXV I. 4; Myres 1977, 282, Fig. 249; Arnold 1982).

23. **Bembridge Down**

Vessel measuring 8" high, the rim 5½" diameter, 7-7½" at the waist, with a base 2" in diameter. Kell compared the vessel with pottery illustrated by Douglas and Smith (1793, pl. 11.6; 1856, pl. 20.6). Lost.

(Kell 1863; Arnold 1982).

24. **Brighstone Down**

The *Hampshire Advertiser* for March 1st, 1856, page 7, records the donation to Newport Museum of "pottery illustrative of the . . . Saxon eras, found . . . near Brixton". Dr. Wilkins catalogue of the Newport Museum records the "portion of an Anglo-Saxon incineration from Brixton Down" given in 1858 (Wilkins 1853, 4). Lost.

(Arnold 1982).

25. **Bowcombe Down grave 3** (Fig. 3)

Sub-biconical vessel with smooth grey surface. Grass tempered with buff core and margins, hand-made with a decoration of diagonal lines alternating to leave plain triangular areas. The neck is marked off by three deep grooves. I.W. County Archaeological Coll.

(Hillier 1855, Pl. IV. 3; Myres 1977, 294, Fig. 266; Arnold 1982).

26. **Bowcombe Down grave 4**

"a few fragments of a broken urn". Lost.

(Hillier 1855, 4; Arnold 1982).

27. **Bowcombe Down grave 5**

"Some pieces of a broken sepulchral urn". Lost.

(Hillier 1855, 4; Arnold 1982).

28. **Bowcombe Down grave 9**

"urn". Lost.

(Hillier 1855, 5; Arnold 1982).

29. **Bowcombe Down grave 10**

Globular urn with flattened everted rim, colour and fabric not recorded. Lost.

(Hillier 1855, Pl. IV. 4; Myres 1977, Fig. 54; Arnold 1982).

30. **Bowcombe Down grave 11**

"Urn". Lost.

(Hillier 1855, 5; Arnold 1982).

31. **Bowcombe Down grave 22** (Fig. 2)

Globular urn with steeply everted rim and rounded base. Hand-made, grass tempered fabric with black core, dark brown margins and grey surface. I.W. County Archaeological Coll.

(Wilkins *et al.* 1860, Pl. 20.7; Myres 1977, Fig. 54; Arnold 1982).

32. **Isle of Wight, Chessell Down (?)** (Fig. 2)

Biconical bossed urn with hollow neck and everted rim. Decorated with two grooves at the base of the neck above vertical bosses which are demarcated by a

single vertical groove on each side. The panels are decorated with vertical and diagonal lines. Coarse grey fabric, handmade with limited grass tempering. I.W. County Archaeological Coll. (Arnold 1982).

33. **Carisbrooke Castle**  
Early Anglo-Saxon pottery has been reported from excavations at Carisbrooke Castle. Not seen. (Rigold 1969, 135).
34. **Isle of Wight (Fig. 3)**  
Small sub-biconical vessel with three groups of paired incisions around the neck, and groups of three diagonal incisions around the body alternating in angle to form chevrons. The chevrons and the spaces between the group of necklines decorated with cross design stamps. The vessel is accompanied by a postcard addressed to M. C. Boyd, Esq., Merton Hall, Bournemouth, post-marked Newport Isle of Wight on 21st May 1893 and reads: "It was dug up in making a new sewer in February last. Note it was covered with clay when found and I washed it. Yrs, respectfully Wm. Ledicott. Note that is when it came into my possession". It has not been possible to provenance the vessel precisely. County Museum, Truro, now transferred to I.W. County Archaeological Coll.
35. **Bowcombe Down 1979 cremation 1**  
Fragments of a rounded based urn which was apparently plain. Hand made organic tempered black fabric with superficially oxidised light brown exterior. Rim and shoulder form unknown.
36. **Bowcombe Down 1979 cremation 2**  
Small number of body sherds of an apparently plain vessel of indeterminate shape. Black fabric with abundant organic temper and reddened oxidised exterior.
37. **Bowcombe Down 1979 cremation 3**  
Numerous sherds of a thin walled vessel of indeterminate shape. Black fabric with abundant organic temper and well smoothed lightly oxidised brown external surface.
38. **Bowcombe Down 1979 cremation 4**  
A few small body sherds of an organic tempered vessel of indeterminate form. The remains of the burial were extensively damaged by the plough.

N.B.—The pathology report on 35 to 38 reveals no useful information on the cremations other than to note the presence of fragments of long bones and skull.

## PETROLOGICAL EXAMINATION

by J. Timby, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Southampton

Petrological analysis through the use of thin sections was undertaken on 13 sherds from the Isle of Wight with the objective of establishing whether or not the sherds belonged to a single fabric group implying a single production area/centre. An attempt was made to characterise the fabrics to facilitate comparison with similar material from other sites.

Eight of the samples submitted for examination were in sherd form, the remaining five were already thin sections prepared by the British Museum (B.M. nos. 67 7-29 139; 67 7-29 138; 67 7-29 140; 67 7-29 141; 69 10-11 1). The sherds were first examined microscopically. In all cases there was very little variation in surface colour, being mostly a dark grey (Munsell 10YR 4/1); the fracture was generally rough and the sherds of moderate hardness. Samples from vessels 3, 17, 18, 19, 22, 25 and 32 all contained a quantity of rounded and sub-angular quartz grains within the clay matrix whilst the sample from vessel 31 was predominantly a chaff tempered fabric. Due to the fragmentary and friable nature of the pottery, the sherds were immersed in micro-crystalline wax prior to sectioning which was carried out using conventional techniques (see Tite 1972, 216).

### Microscopic analysis

The results of the microscopic study are summarised in Table 1. With the exception of samples of vessels 4 and 31, the field of view under the microscope was dominated by the presence of quartz grains. The majority of these grains were markedly rounded in shape and fairly large ( $\bar{X} \text{ } \emptyset \text{ } 0.5\text{mm}$ ). Fabrics of vessels 15 and 19 were absolutely identical in all respects and in both of these the quartz grains were coated in a ferruginous layer characteristic of sands derived from the Greensand series. The medium to large size quartz grains in vessels 3 and 17 were characterised by their highly crazed surfaces. This may be caused by either rapid temperature changes during firing or use, or possibly to former geomorphic activity associated with the source rock of the quartz. The two main exceptions to the general trend of sand tempered fabrics are sections of vessels 4 and 31. The former is essentially an iron free, finely calcareous fabric with very fine fragments of oolitic limestone and fossil shell. The fabric is very fine and compact with no additional tempering material and suggests a totally different

Table 1. Microscopic analysis.

Vessel number	Site name	Quartz	Fine 0.25 mm	Medium 0.25-0.5 mm	Coarse - 0.5 mm	Iron	Mica	Chert/ Flint	Other
3	Chessell Down	X	X	X	X	X	—	—	limestone
22	Shalcombe Down	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	plagioclase
32	Isle of Wight	X	X	X	—	X	X	X	—
17	Chessell/Rancombe	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	plagioclase orthoclase
18	Chessell/Rancombe	X	X	X	—	X	X	—	caratone, some chaff
19	Chessell/Rancombe	X	X	X	X	X	X	—	some chaff voids
25	Bowcombe Down	X	X	—	—	X	X	—	—
31	Bowcombe Down	X	X	—	—	X	—	—	abundant chaff voids
10	Chessell Down	X	X	X	—	X	X	—	quartzite
12	Chessell Down	X	X	X	X	X	—	X	quartzite
15	Chessell Down	X	X	X	X	X	—	—	orthoclase
14	Chessell Down	X	X	X	X	X	—	—	sandstone, tourmaline
4	Chessell Down	X	X	X	—	—	X	—	limestone, shell

tradition to the other samples under examination here. In the latter example, vessel 31, the fabric is composed of a predominantly chaff tempered fabric with very little accompanying quartz. Occasional chaff voids were present in some of the other sections, for example vessels 14, 18 and 19, but these are probably more accidental than deliberate.

Most of the sand tempered fabrics contained a high proportion of iron, both mixed in the matrix and as discrete rounded grains. These were particularly marked in vessel 10 together with a high frequency of fine white mica which distinguished this fabric from the others.

Other inclusions of note include a fragment of carstone in vessel 18 and ferruginous sandstone fragments in number 14, both of which probably originate from the Greensand series. Tourmaline was present in one particularly large fragment of sandstone ( $\emptyset$  3mm) in the latter. 15, 17 and 22 contained small quantities of feldspar, plagioclase and orthoclase, which are probably detrital in nature.

Since the minerals present were of relatively common occurrence, a size analysis was carried out on all the sandy fabrics to provide a more objective basis for characterisation. Vessels 4 and 31 were excluded since both these fabrics were fairly distinctive and in addition they contained insufficient grains of measurable quartz. One hundred randomly selected quartz grains were measured across their longest axis in each of the other sections and the size measurements (Mz) grouped into classes based on Krumbein's phi-scale (Krumbein and Pettijohn 1938, 244). (For explanation of method see: Peacock 1971; for a review of its potential and limitations see: Darvill and Timby 1981). The following statistical parameters were calculated using the methods of Folk and Ward (1957):

- Standard deviation ( $\sigma I$ ) — a measure of the spread of grains over the different size classes.
- Skewness ( $SK_1$ ) — a measure of the asymmetry of the distribution, i.e. a measure of the relative spread of the data on one side or other of the mean.
- Kurtosis ( $Kg$ ) — a measure of the "peakedness" of the distribution curve.

Table 2. Results from a textural analysis.

Vessel No.	Size parameters			
	Mz	$\sigma I$	$SK_1$	$Kg$
3	3.45	1.4	-0.6	0.6
22	3.9	1.2	-0.4	1.3
32	3.8	1.0	-0.6	0.7
17	2.9	1.5	+0.3	0.6
18	4.0	1.0	-0.65	0.9
19	3.0	1.8	-0.5	0.5
25	3.7	1.0	-0.25	1.9
10	4.0	0.7	-0.3	1.2
12	2.4	1.35	+0.35	0.85
15	2.8	1.7	-0.2	0.5
14	3.2	1.25	+0.03	0.7

The microscopic examination of the sherds submitted demonstrates a broad similarity of fabric type and treatment with two exceptions, vessels 4 and 31. In detail, however, there are minor differences between each of the sherds and with the exception of samples from vessels 15 and 19, no two sherds can necessarily be attributed to a single source. The general similarity of type and the range of geological variation in any one area, however, allows the postulation of a single production area within the confines of the Isle of Wight.

This similarity within the range of sandy wares is borne out by the textural analysis, which shows a gradual trend from vessel 10 at the finer end of the scale to 19 and 15 at the coarser end, the rest falling in between. The standard deviation suggests that in all cases, with the exception of vessel 10, the grains are poorly sorted whilst those in number 10 are only moderately well sorted (Folk and Ward 1957, 13). Most of the samples show a marked negative skewness ( $-1.0$  to  $-0.3$ ), indicating a tail of coarser grains. Values between  $-0.10$  to  $+0.10$  (i.e. vessel 14) are nearly symmetrical whilst positively skewed values indicate a tail of finer grains (i.e. nos. 12 and 17) (Folk and Ward 1957, 14).

The majority of the samples here can be characterised and accordingly divided into fabric types but because of the ubiquitous nature of the non-plastic inclusions in the clay it is difficult to ascribe each fabric to a particular source or sources. Sedimentary deposits can be found on the Isle of Wight containing suitable potting clay, for example the Reading, London and Gault beds, but these same clays are also found in many parts of southern England and it is therefore impossible to say whether it was the clays from the Island that were being utilised or those on the mainland. Many of the sandy wares suggest some association with material derived from the Greensand series which outcrops in a wide band across the southern half of the Isle of Wight, although this again does not preclude a source from a similar source on the mainland. The use of different tempering materials, for example the chaff used in no. 31 may reflect a functional rather than a regional difference. The calcareous clay used for vessel 4 is very different in nature to the other sherds and very probably represents an "import" to the Island. A source within the Jurassic outcrops is a strong possibility.

The proposal that these vessels, with the exception of No. 4, are the products of a local "industry" with a fairly simple technology and economic organisation (Van der Leeuw 1977), finds parallel with other Saxon ceramic assemblages from settlement sites in southern England, for example Swindon Hill, Wiltshire and Chalton, Hampshire (Timby in prep.).

Finally it should be noted that further work on a larger range of sherds from excavated contexts on the Isle of Wight is required to confirm these results which are based on a relatively small sample together with a detailed survey of available clays.

## DISCUSSION

The early Anglo-Saxon pottery from the Isle of Wight shows a wide diversity in the number of forms, within which there is a degree of consistency in a few types. The only vessel proposed as being of Continental manufacture is the small bowl from Chessell Down, No. 4, which has been described as a developed Argonne Ware form. Similar forms occurred at Haillot, Belgium (Breuer and Roosens 1957, Figs, 4.4, 7.1, 8.3, 12.1, 16.6, 8.12). The rouletting on such examples, however, occupies the lower half of the vessel, whereas on the Chessell Down example it covers all the bowl between the girth groove below the rim and the foot, which the more usual position for the rouletting

on merovingian pottery. The rouletting could be identified with Chenet's type 229, and would therefore be dated to the fourth century A.D. (Chenet 1941, 37; Gricourt 1950; Hübener 1968). It is equally possible that the bowl is a product of the Atlantic group of Gallic stamped pottery which was produced from the fourth to the sixth century. The form and decoration resembles the variety of bowl shapes classified by Rigoir as forms 6, 15 and 16 (Rigoir and Meffre 1973, Pls. XIV, XV, Fig. 11). Further examples are known from Dinas Powys, Glam. (Alcock 1963, 135-7, Fig. 28.8) and South Cadbury, Som. (Alcock 1972, 175, Fig. 27). The petrology suggests a source for the clay in Jurassic outcrops, possibly in the Dordogne area of France. If such an identification were correct it would lend support to the suggestion that the vessel belongs to the Atlantic group which is derived from southern Gaulish traditions.

The form of the coarse vessel from Chessell Down, No. 3, can be paralleled in Germany at Westerwanna (Plettke 1921, Taf. 31.4) and in England at Westbere, Orpington and Hollingbourne in Kent (Jessup 1946, 20, Pl. V; Tester 1968, 134, Fig. 2; Grove 1952, Fig. 1.1). It resembles in form the decorated pottery also commonly found in east Kent and which is well represented on the Isle of Wight. Decorated examples of the form are known from Chessell Down, No. 15, Bowcombe Down, No. 25, Chillerton Down, No. 21, an unprovenanced example from the Island, No. 32, and possibly the vessel from Bembridge Down, No. 23. Parallels for this form of decorated pottery are common and have been discussed at length by Myres (1969, 95-97). This type of round-shouldered bowl with tall hollow necks, flaring or everted rims, rounded bases with simple linear patterns of decoration without bosses, is also common on the Continent in Germany and Holland. In England it is concentrated in the counties of Essex, Kent, Surrey, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. The unprovenanced example, No. 32, has slight bosses and is a form also paralleled in Holland, e.g. Rhenen grave 440 and Pesse, Drenthe, which have horizontal grooves above the long bosses, divided by vertical lines only. While none have come from contexts which can be independently dated, Myres dates them on typological grounds by comparison with the Continental material to the period A.D. 400-450, and views them in the light of Bede's statement about the settlement of the historical Jutes. A similar date could be ascribed to the vessel No. 1, which is only known from a contemporary sketch. It appears to have had a flaring rim, steeply angled shoulders, a rounded base, and small round bosses on the point of maximum girth. Such pottery is common in fifth-century Schleswig-Holstein, Holland and Belgium, but is rare in England. A similar vessel, less angular and with hollow bosses is known from Baston, Lincs (Mayes and Dean 1976, 36, Fig. 7.10).

The pedestalled form from Chessell Down, No. 10, is also rare in England, with similar examples from Westbere (Jessup 1946, 20, pl. V. 108) and at Buttsole, Kent (Baynes 1909, Fig. 4). A pedestal "vase" with vertical grooves in a coarse grey fabric from Kent is in Canterbury Museum (Myres 1937, 436, Pl. XCIVb) and there is another example from Alton, Hants. (Myres 1977, corpus No. 3196). The pottery type is common in Holland and Germany (Plettke 1921, Taf. 34.6-8, 54) where it is dated to the fifth century. Myres points to a connection between pedestal, or footed pottery with fluted decoration and the vessels with vertical or diagonal lines discussed above. Indeed, the fluting may also be related to long bosses in the weak form exhibited in Kent and the Isle of Wight.

Another rare form in England found also at Chessell Down, is the handled "jug", No. 12. These are more common in the Rhineland, but the one example in England, from Howletts, Kent, has a lipped spout (Canterbury Mus. RM. 7487).

The small coarse bowls from Chessell Down, No. 14, and Chessell/Rancombe, Nos. 17, 18, 19, are understandably common in England, although Myres isolates the Kentish examples as they are smaller and more rounded (1969, Fig. 162). However, there seems no insuperable difficulty in grouping them all together. Myres suggests that they do not indicate a date outside the sixth century (1977,6), but there are no definite grounds for ascribing a specific date as that, and it may be dangerous to apply the methods of typology to a form which is one of the most basic pottery forms. The examples from the Isle of Wight themselves show a wide range of variation; there is little to distinguish No. 3 from Chessell Down and No. 17 Chessell/Rancombe which merges into the other examples from the latter site, Nos. 18 and 19.

The stamped vessel from Shalcombe Down, No. 22, is more typical of the upper Thames Valley although exact parallels are difficult to find. The type is viewed as developing out of earlier forms with simple linear decoration by the addition of stamps and bosses (Myres 1969, 93-4, Fig. 38). The English examples are dated to the sixth century. The second stamped vessel, No. 34, with stamp designs on the neck and in chevrons below, is also not easy to parallel in England. While there is a general degree of similarity of layout with an example from Otford, Kent (Myres 1977, Fig. 300) the largest body of similar vessels is to be found in eastern and Midland England; but the comparison is at the most general level. In local terms the vessel provides an important stylistic link between stamped pottery, which is rare on the Island and in Hampshire, with that decorated with linear designs which, as noted above, is common in Kent and the Isle of Wight. The linear decoration on the stamped vessel, No. 34, is similar to that on Nos. 15, 21, 25 and 32, which only differ in that they are without stamps. A similar link of this nature is provided by the vessel No. 32, which shares grooved decoration forming crude chevrons, with long bosses.

The final vessel type is that from Bowcombe Down, No. 31, which is known also in southern Hampshire, at Portchester, in a structure which is dated to the fifth century (Cunliffe 1970, 68-69, 82) and from Iford Bridge (B.M. 1939 5-7 1). Such grass-tempered pottery has, therefore, been found in a potentially early context, but the form continues at Portchester to at least A.D. 800.

There are only two forms of pottery which are found in more than one cemetery on the Isle of Wight. These are the linear decorated pottery from Chessell Down, Chillerton and Bembridge Downs, and the simpler forms from Chessell and Chessell/Rancombe. We might also include the stamped pottery, for although the two examples are very different, they came from different sites. Each of the remaining vessels are unique on the Island. The pottery is consistently dated to the fifth and early sixth centuries and are most commonly associated with primary cremations beneath barrows, with no types being used for both cremation and inhumation. This preponderance of pottery dated early in the period leaves little that is representative of the sixth century. This is also the case with east Kent. There, after the "initial" period consisting of the same pottery types as are found on the Isle of Wight, there is a distinct lack of pottery from cemetery sites (Arnold 1981, 251, Fig. 17.7). All of the Anglo-Saxon pottery on the Isle of Wight which is provenanced and dateable on typological grounds to the sixth century, was associated with inhumation.

A comparison of the results of the petrological examination of the available pottery with the analysis of form and decoration (Table 3) reveals a similar pattern when also compared with the use to which the vessel was put in the mortuary context. The vessels with petrology of a distinct nature are: the wheel-turned and roulette-decorated

bowl, No. 4, which can be seen as an import from the Continent; No. 31, the grass-tempered globular bowl, paralleled in Hampshire; and No. 10, the pedestal form with fluted decoration. Those vessels which show an identical fabric are No. 15 from Chessell Down with linear decoration and No. 19 Chessell/Rancombe whose neck alone survives. Nos. 3 and 17 probably also have the same fabric, and were found at Chessell Down and Chessell/Rancombe respectively. They share similar characteristics of form. Those and the remaining sampled vessels, including the stamped vessel No. 12, are indistinguishable even on the basis of the textural analysis, showing a gradation from coarse to fine. The distinct fabrics which are used for the unusual vessel forms were definitely found with inhumations in three cases, whereas those with an indistinct fabric or texture were associated with cremations in every case except for No. 3, a plain biconical vessel. Stamped and bossed vessels, which are seen as providing a stylistic bridge between the linear decorated forms and the more usual stamped forms of pottery, tend to be used for both cremation and inhumation. Whilst it may be argued that inhumations are inherently likely to produce more grave goods than are cremations, the coincidence with other factors may make such an objection weaker (Table 3).

Table 3. Early Anglo-Saxon pottery of the Isle of Wight

Summary of information concerning pottery, fabric and contexts.

Decoration/ Form	Vessel No.	Cremation	'Indistinguished' local fabrics	Inhumation	'Distinct' fabrics	Grave goods
plain	17	X	X			
	18	X	X			
	19	X	X			
	14	—	X	—		—
	3	X	X			
linear	15	—	X	—		—
	25	X	X			
	23	?	—		—	
linear-bossed	32	—	X	—		—
stamped-bossed	22	—	X	—		—
plain-bossed	1	—	—	X	—	X
"jug"	12		X	X		X
globular	31	—			X	?
roulette	4			X	X	X
pedestal	10			X	X	X

X = present

— = information not available

## CONCLUSIONS

The early Anglo-Saxon pottery from the cemeteries of the Isle of Wight belongs predominantly to the earlier part of the period, the fifth and early sixth centuries. The earliest dated pottery was most frequently used for containing cremations and is most

likely to have been manufactured from local clays. It consistently shows links with equally early ceramic material of the Anglo-Saxon period from Kent. While stamped pottery suggests an alternative tradition, there is a degree of cross-linking between it and other forms in certain elements of decoration. Single examples, only, of other types have been found. They are always found associated with inhumation burials, and are most commonly manufactured from distinctive clays. There is a marked difference between the ceramic assemblage of the Isle of Wight and the nearby mainland which emphasises both the social and/or ethnic distinctiveness of the early Anglo-Saxon occupants of the Island. The similarities with Kent suggest that there is a strong link between the two areas. The temptation to associate the "early" part of the assemblage with the historical Jutes is perhaps unavoidable, but it must be emphasised that the material cannot be accurately dated without reference to Continental evidence. If such an association is to be made it should in the first place be on the basis of pottery decoration. This part of the assemblage's close association with cremation on the Island does suggest that they do represent an initial phase of activity, and that the second phase is represented by inhumation. There are very few artefacts associated with the cremation pottery, the majority being found with the sixth century inhumations (Arnold 1982). Equally, there is very little ceramic material in the later inhumation graves. Apart from traditions of mortuary ritual, which might be interpreted as changing soon after the occupation of the Island, we can also view the patterns of artefact deposition in terms of the economic standing of the colonists. Raw materials may have been at a premium in the initial phase, whereas, once sources of raw materials were available for the manufacture of new tools and ornaments, it would be more feasible, in economic terms, to allow them to be removed from the system for use as grave-goods. Hence the primary phase is represented almost solely by ceramic material produced from local sources, whilst the second phase is represented by small quantities of pottery, especially distinct, unusual forms and fabrics, but most commonly by metalwork. If, however, we place greater emphasis on the change in burial rite, on religious grounds we have to think in terms of the Anglo-Saxon colonists arriving with a mixture of burial rites, or their rapid conversion from cremation to inhumation. Alternatively the cremation burials may be the cremated bones of their ancestors which were brought with the colonists and who were already practising inhumation. The implications for our dating of objects during this phase should therefore be recognised.

### **Acknowledgements**

The author wishes to thank Carisbrooke Castle Museum and the British Museum for permission to take samples from pottery in their collections. Since the preparation of this paper, all the material which was housed at the Carisbrooke Castle Museum has been transferred to the I.W. County Archaeological Collection at the Clatterford Centre, Clatterford Road, Carisbrooke, I.W. D. Tomalin kindly gave assistance in taking samples, and I. Freestone made up thin-sections in the British Museum. Prof. C. Thomas brought the writer's attention to the vessel originally in Truro County Museum, and R. D. Penhallurick kindly provided a drawing and information, before it also was transferred to the I.W. County Archaeological Collection.

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# METEOROLOGICAL REPORT FOR 1981

By **Kenneth J. Hosking, F.R.Met.S.**

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The following account and summary of the weather in 1981 has been compiled from Ryde's records. The comparisons and averages now span 64 years since 1st January 1918.

The account is reproduced by kind permission of the Isle of Wight County Press.

## **RAINFALL**

The 1981 total of 31.66in. compared with a 60-year annual average of 30.45in. and the 1980 total of 29.33in.

During 1981 March (6.34in.), May (3.04in.), September (4.87in.), October (4.58in.) and December (3.86in.) had rainfall totals in excess of the monthly averages whilst January (1.19in.), February (1.51in.), April (1.02in.), June (1.23in.), July (1.70in.), August (.85in.) and November (1.47in.) were all below their 60-year averages.

The wettest March on record was largely responsible for the highest ever spring rainfall of 10.40in. There was no instance at Ryde of a 24-hour period to 9 a.m. GMT giving an inch of rain during 1981.

The two wettest days gave .95in. and .87in. on Saturday, September 19 and Friday, September 25 respectively.

On average, a fall of one inch or more during a 24-hour period from 9 a.m. occurs about five times over a two-year period – one inch of rain being the equivalent of 101 tons of water to the acre.

During 1981, Ryde had 164 “rain days” as compared with an annual average of 156. (A “rain day” is a 24-hour period ended at 9 a.m. during which at least .01 in. of rain is measured).

## **SUNSHINE**

The 1981 sunshine total at Ryde of 1434.7 hours was the second lowest there since records commenced. Only in 1958 (1370.6 hours) was there a duller year.

It proved the fifth successive year with below the average sunshine of 1748.2 hours (totals in 1977, 1978, 1979 and 1980 being respectively 1570.8, 1592.2, 1679.1 and 1700.1 hours).

Only during January, February, August and September did the monthly totals slightly exceed the average while March (73.9 hours) and May (133.6 hours) were both the dullest on record and resulted in the spring total of 338.5 hours being easily the lowest for March, April and May – the previous dullest spring in 1964 having 422.8 hours.

Of the 71 sunless days during 1981, 16 occurred during November and 11 each during January and December. Wednesday June 3, with 14.0 hours of sunshine, was the sunniest day.

## **TEMPERATURES**

The maximum shade temperature reached or exceeded 70°F on 39 days during 1981 as compared with only 22 days during 1980 and an annual average of 39 such instances at Ryde.

Nineteen of these days occurred during August – which proved the warmest calendar month since 1976 and twelve during July. The maximum temperature on the warmest day (August 26 – 79.2°F) was the highest at Ryde since the corresponding date in 1976 at the end of that year's record breaking heat wave.

Even so, it is a remarkable fact that whereas in 1976 there were 15 days with temperatures of over 80°F, no day since then has achieved this reading.

During 1981, the minimum air temperature as recorded on Ryde Esplanade fell to 32°F or below on 20 days as compared with an annual average of 23 air-frosts and the record of 69 frosts during the year of the “big freeze” in 1963.

Eleven of these frosts during 1981 occurred in the coldest December since 1950.

The coldest day of the year was on Thursday, December 17, with a maximum of 34.3°F whilst the lowest minimum of 24.6°F occurred on Saturday, December 19.

The 1981 annual mean maximum and mean minimum temperatures of 56.2°F and 46.5°F compared with Ryde's long term means of 57°F and 46°F respectively.

## MONTHLY SUMMARY OF WEATHER AT RYDE, ISLE OF WIGHT 1981

Month	Hours of Sunshine	Rain mm.	Screen Temperatures			Extremes °C	
			Mean Max. °C	Mean Min. °C	Mean Monthly °C	From °C	To °C
January	68.5	30.2	8.4	3.6	6.0	12.0	-1.3
February	87.9	38.3	6.7	2.0	4.3	12.8	-3.6
March	73.9	161.0	11.2	7.0	9.1	16.2	1.8
April	131.0	25.9	11.7	6.1	8.9	16.5	2.0
May	133.6	77.4	14.6	9.2	11.9	19.6	3.4
June	177.2	31.2	17.2	11.2	14.2	20.5	9.0
July	170.2	43.1	20.4	13.7	17.1	24.6	11.1
August	224.4	21.6	21.6	14.3	17.9	26.2	10.8
September	166.7	123.7	19.2	12.8	16.0	22.5	8.1
October	105.3	116.3	12.8	7.9	10.4	17.0	2.2
November	46.8	37.3	11.4	7.4	9.4	14.8	1.1
December	49.2	98.0	6.4	1.5	4.0	11.0	-4.1
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>1434.7</b>	<b>804.0 mm</b> (31.66")				<b>Highest Max.</b>	<b>Lowest Min.</b>
<b>AVERAGES</b>		(25.4 mm=1")	<b>13.5°C</b> (56.2°F)	<b>8.1°C</b> (46.5°F)	<b>10.8°C</b> (51.4°F)	<b>26.2°C</b> 26 Aug.	<b>-4.1°C</b> 19 Dec.

### SNOWFALL

The first significant snowfall since January 27, 1979, occurred on the afternoon of Wednesday, December 9, and was followed on Sunday, December 13 with blizzard conditions.

### THUNDERSTORMS

Thundery activity was noted on 15 days during the year – including five occasions during May and four during July.

**GALES**

Gale force winds were experienced on thirteen days with the most notable and severe from a south-westerly direction on March 21, September 19 and October 9 and south-easterly during the snow-storm on Sunday, December 13.

**FOG**

Fog was dense and prolonged during the last two days and nights of January.

This summary relates to Ryde's official records and although some variations have naturally occurred at other Island resorts, the general weather pattern depicted is broadly indicative of that experienced throughout the Island and adjacent mainland areas of central southern England.

Any differences were most marked in regard to rainfall intensities which sometimes varied during thundery activity even between stations only a few miles apart.

Summing up, perhaps the most remembered feature of 1981 will be its lack of sunshine, its wettest and dullest spring – partly made good by the six weeks of warm and sunny weather in the most prolonged spell of real summer since 1976, from late July until September 10.

The year concluded with the very wintry spell before Christmas which gave the coldest December since 1950.

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## NATURAL HISTORY AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

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**Foot and Mouth Disease Contained** – Details of the measures taken to contain the outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease at Hamstead in March, 1981, are given by I. A. Brown in *Management in Government*, February 1982, pp. 51-53.

B. C. BLOOMFIELD, London

**Thresher Shark**—A Thresher Shark, *Alopias vulpinus*, 15ft. long and weighing 360 lbs., leapt from the sea into a fishing boat, south of the Nab Tower.

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**Newtown Damage**—The sea wall was badly breached during the highest tides at Newtown since 1954.

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