

REPORT OF THE ACCOUNTANTSTO THE MEMBERS OF CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED

We have prepared , without carrying out an audit , the annexed accounts from the books , records and information furnished to us and certify that they are in accordance therewith.

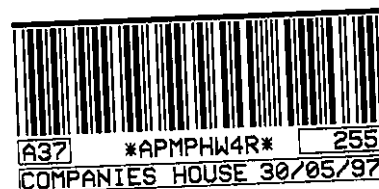
Cardinal House
27 Station Square
Petts Wood
Kent BR5 1LZ

Cornwell Lord

22nd Jan 1997

Cornwell Lord
Chartered Accountants
and Registered Auditors

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CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and Without Share Capital)

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31ST DECEMBER 1996

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
<u>Income</u>			
Subscriptions	(2)	3,840	3,044
Sales	(3)	2,678	4,842
Sundry receipts		113	43
Income tax recovered on covenanted subscriptions		138	97
Bank deposit interest		47	52
		<hr/> 6,816	<hr/> 8,078
 <u>Expenditure</u>			
Library		542	485
Meetings		2,308	2,600
Insurance		581	906
Postage		383	327
Printing, postage and stationery		1,588	2,273
Book-binding		23	—
Subscriptions to other bodies		212	189
Donations		85	485
Publicity		10	201
Exhibition		—	2,077
Proceedings	(4)	683	(390)
Sundry expenses		120	185
Auditors remuneration		223	182
Bank charges and interest		—	6
Diminution of assets		58	(380)
		<hr/> 6,816	<hr/> 9,146
Total overheads			
<u>Excess of income over expenditure</u>		<hr/>	<hr/>
<u>/ (expenditure over income)</u>			
<u>carried forward to General Fund</u>		<hr/> £—	<hr/> £(1,068)

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and Without Share Capital)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1996

	<u>Notes</u>	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
<u>Fixed assets</u>	(6)	5,650	6,442
<u>Current assets</u>			
Stocks	(7)	20,461	22,661
Debtors	(8)	241	1,948
Investments	(9)	37,496	37,554
Cash at bank and in hand	(10)	16,420	10,137
		<u>74,618</u>	<u>72,300</u>
<u>Creditors: Amounts falling</u> <u>due within one year</u>			
Other creditors	(11)	7,522	8,723
<u>Net current assets</u>		<u>67,096</u>	<u>63,577</u>
<u>Total assets less current</u> <u>liabilities</u>		<u>72,746</u>	<u>70,019</u>
<u>Creditors: Amounts falling</u> <u>due after one year</u>			
Deferred government grants		2,435	2,865
<u>Net assets</u>		<u>£ 70,311</u>	<u>£ 67,154</u>
 <u>Financed by:-</u>			
General Fund	(12)	21,600	21,276
Bennett Memorial Fund	(13)	22,745	22,867
C.C. Fagg Memorial Fund	(14)	25,966	23,011
		<u>£ 70,311</u>	<u>£ 67,154</u>

The exemption conferred by section 249A(1) not to have these accounts audited applies to the company and the directors confirm that no notice has been deposited under s249B(2) of the Companies Act 1985.

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and Without Share Capital)

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31ST DECEMBER 1996 (CONTINUED)

The directors acknowledge their responsibilities for ensuring that:

- i) the company keeps accounting records which comply with section 221 of the Companies Act 1985; and
- ii) the accounts give a true and fair view of the state of affairs of the company as at 31st December 1996 and of its income and expenditure account for the year then ended in accordance with the requirements of s226, and which otherwise comply with the requirements of the Companies Act 1985 relating to accounts, so far as applicable to the company.

These financial statements were approved by the Board on ...17/1/97.....

Treasurer.......... Mrs F.N. Rooks

Company Secretary.......... P.W. Sowan

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and Without Share Capital)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

(1) Accounting policies

These accounts have been prepared in accordance with the historical cost convention. The following accounting policies have been applied and are in accordance with applicable accounting standards.

Depreciation

Depreciation is calculated to spread the cost of the following assets over their estimated useful lives at the following rates:

Demountable building 3 1/3rd % per annum on cost.
 Furniture and equipment 15% per annum of written down value.

Stocks and investments

Stocks and investments are stated at the lower of cost and net realisable value.

Government grants

Government grants received in respect of expenditure charged to the income and expenditure account during the year have been included in the income and expenditure account. The remainder are deferred and will be included in the income and expenditure account by instalments over the expected useful lives of the related assets at the following rates:

Computer 15% per annum of written down value.

(2) Subscriptions

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
Current	3,694	3,000
Arrears	146	44
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>£3,840</u>	<u>£3,044</u>

(3) Sales

Net book sales:-		
Book I	39	391
Book II	776	1,526
Book III	56	83
Book IV	134	279
Book V	211	113
Book VI	499	1,692
'At the Going Down of the Sun'	16	7
Miscellaneous items	214	339
Library stock	526	128
Postcards	206	281
Tram posters	1	3
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>£2,678</u>	<u>£4,842</u>

(4) Proceedings

Proceedings expenditure	683	—
Less: sales	—	(390)
provision for proceedings	—	—
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	<u>£683</u>	<u>£(390)</u>

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and Without Share Capital)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

(5) Government grants

Government grants were included in the Bennett Memorial Fund of £505 (1995, £595). Deferred government grants of £2,435 (1995, £2,865) will be included in the Bennett Memorial Fund in future years.

(6) Fixed assets

	<u>Freehold</u> <u>premises at</u> <u>96a Brighton</u> <u>Road</u>	<u>Demountable</u> <u>building erected</u> <u>on leasehold</u> <u>land, Chipstead</u> <u>Valley</u>	<u>Fixtures</u> <u>and</u> <u>equipment</u>	<u>Total</u>
At cost				
on 01/01/1996	1,046	2,625	13,122	16,793
additions	—	—	—	—
on 31/12/1996	<u>1,046</u>	<u>2,625</u>	<u>13,122</u>	<u>16,793</u>
Depreciation				
as at 01/01/1996	—	1,925	8,427	10,352
charge for the year	—	87	704	791
as at 31/12/1996	<u>—</u>	<u>2,012</u>	<u>9,131</u>	<u>11,143</u>
Net book value				
on 01/01/1996	<u>£1,046</u>	<u>£700</u>	<u>£4,695</u>	<u>£6,441</u>
on 31/12/1996	<u>£1,046</u>	<u>£613</u>	<u>£3,991</u>	<u>£5,650</u>

No figure has been brought into the balance sheet in respect of the library, scientific instruments and exhibits. A valuation of the library was made for insurance purposes in June 1983 and amounted to £29,450 and the contents of the society's rooms are insured for a total of £52,261. The society's premises at 96a Brighton Road, South Croydon, are insured for a sum of £55,047.

(7) Stocks

	<u>1996</u>	<u>1995</u>
Resales	773	881
Book I	274	344
Book II	11,801	12,707
Book III	394	574
Book IV	469	567
Book V	2,971	3,136
Book VI	1,366	1,936
'At the Going Down of the Sun'	1,667	1,694
Tram posters	15	18
Croydon flora	42	50
Postcards	689	754
	<u>£20,461</u>	<u>£22,661</u>

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED
(A Company Limited by Guarantee and Without Share Capital)

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

(8) Debtors		1996	1995
Sundry debtors		241	1,948
Prepayments		—	—
		<u>£241</u>	<u>£1,948</u>
(9) Investments	Market value		
4471 M & G Charibond	4,932	4,932	4,990
8242 Charifund units	65,746	17,048	17,048
2878 9 1/2% Treasury stock 1999	3,017	2,500	2,500
3106 10% Treasury stock 2001	3,405	3,000	3,000
917 9 3/4% Treasury stock 2002	1,016	1,000	1,000
4221 8 1/2% Treasury stock 2007	4,506	4,016	4,016
National Savings Bond	5,000	5,000	5,000
		<u>£37,496</u>	<u>£37,554</u>
(10) Cash at bank			
Abbey National deposit account		10,000	4,000
Bank current account		1,518	2,982
Bank deposit account		4,902	3,155
		<u>£16,420</u>	<u>£10,137</u>
(11) Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year			
Subscriptions in advance		523	393
Sundry creditors		1,303	2,326
Provision for proceedings		5,266	5,498
Deferred government grants		430	506
		<u>£7,522</u>	<u>£8,723</u>

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED
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NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS (CONTINUED)

(12) General Fund

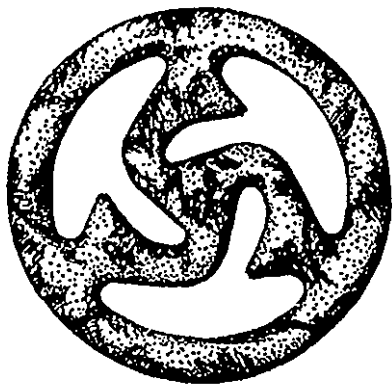
Balance at 1st January 1996	21,276	21,121
Add: excess of income over expenditure		
/(expenditure over income)	—	(1,068)
donations	324	1,098
life members	—	125
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31st December 1996	<u>£21,600</u>	<u>£21,276</u>

(13) Bennett Memorial Fund

Balance at 1st January 1996	22,867	31,286
Add: grants received	505	595
dividends	2,881	3,560
bank deposit interest	50	77
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	26,303	35,518
Less: rates	913	612
electricity	333	267
repairs and renewals	1,164	9,510
depreciation of furniture and equipment	704	828
depreciation of Chipstead building	87	87
computer cataloging	—	—
Bennett collections	357	1,347
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	3,558	12,651
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31st December 1996	<u>£22,745</u>	<u>£22,867</u>

(14) C.C. Fagg Memorial Fund

Balance at 1st January 1996	23,011	20,616
Add: dividend	2,905	2,344
bank deposit interest	50	51
	<hr/>	<hr/>
Balance at 31st December 1996	<u>£25,966</u>	<u>£23,011</u>



CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY & SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY Ltd

BULLETIN

No. 102 March 1997

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Croydon Hero

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Directors' Report, Notice of
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and Accounts

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Behind the Scenes at the British Museum

On Saturday 30th November 1996 eight of the Society's Chipstead Valley Museum volunteers were shown behind the scenes at the British Museum's Quaternary Section in Orsman Road, London, N1.

The aim of the visit, under the guidance of Dr Jill Cook, was to see how the B.M. looked after the vast quantity of material in its care, whilst retaining the ability to produce, within minutes, any individual item, and to assess how its methods and storage systems could be adapted and scaled down slightly (!) for use with our own museum collections.

We began (after coffee and biscuits) with the flint tools, which were housed in floor-to-ceiling sliding rows of shelving that, at the turn of a handle, could be closed tightly together in a compact dust-free unit or have an access avenue opened up at any point, thus making maximum use of the space available whilst ensuring easy access. Each shelf was partitioned, and contained boxes, all individually supported so that none rested upon another. Every box was labelled externally with a list of contents and a coloured sticker to indicate its weight. Most boxes were wooden, with lids, which "breathed" and kept a steady humidity and temperature, but plastic lid-less ones — less effective but cheaper and more readily available — were also used. Inside each of these containers the objects were placed in sheets of polystyrene (cotton wool is definitely "out") which had cut-outs made so that each item fitted snugly into its own space. This had the double advantages of preventing the flints from rattling around and damaging each other when moved and enabling the B.M. staff to see at a glance if something had gone missing. Each box also contained another list of the contents and a note to show if an object had been temporarily removed.

Arranged alphabetically by country of origin then, within that, alphabetically by county and then by site *(continued on page 2)*

Was the Surrey Iron Railway the first public railway?

In a rash moment I called my guide to the history and course of the Surrey Iron Railway (and its continuation, the Croydon, Merstham & Godstone Iron Railway) 'Retracing the first public railway' (1.) This has led several people, including Paul Sowen (2), to ask whether it was really the first. There are good precedents both at the time (3) and more recently (4) for describing it thus. But Charles Lee (5) qualified the claim by calling it 'the first public railway sanctioned by Parliament, independent of a canal.' This has led to the suggestion that there must have been 'an unqualified "first public railway"' (2), and to rival claims on behalf of various canal railways and the Lake Lock Rail Road (6), near Wakefield in Yorkshire. I am tempted to say, with Professor Joad, that it all depends on what you mean by a public railway. There seem to me to be at least three criteria: its ownership and legal status, its commercial basis, and its purpose and traffic.

Ownership and legal status

The first railways were privately owned by individuals, and served their own mines or industrial establishments. By the early 18th century coal mining on Tyneside was so extensive, and the railways so many, that this approach became inadequate, and railways were built by partnerships to serve groups of mines. The partners were generally the mine owners served by the railway, but there were examples of mine owners using lines without having a share in their ownership (7.) The

partners in some railways held 'shares' (8), and in some cases were described as a 'company' (9), but in law they were unincorporated partnerships. The limited company proper, public or private, did not yet exist. Some of the advantages of limited liability were available to the 'company by trust', and the Lake Lock Rail Road gained this status in 1803 (10), but I have not found any other railway examples. The only other companies were those set up by Royal Charter or by Act of Parliament. The latter status was commonly used by canal companies, some of which included railways as a part of their undertaking, but the Surrey Iron Railway Company was the first railway company set up by Act of Parliament, and the vast majority of our public railways followed its example.

Commercial basis

The modern railway earns money mainly by carrying passengers and goods over the tracks that it owns. The railway as a common carrier developed during the 1820s and 1830s; even the Liverpool and Manchester Railway of 1830 was empowered, not obliged, to act as a carrier, and its Act set charges for other people's vehicles passing over it (11.) The Surrey Iron Railway, like a canal or a turnpike road, charged its users for taking their vehicles along it. It is not clear when or where tolls were first charged for the use of a railway, but both canal companies with railways, and railways owned by partners who were not primarily users (such as the Cwm Dee

Behind the Scenes at the British Museum (continued)

within the county, and containing an indication of the collector (we saw, for example, some of the finds donated by Henry Christy from his cave excavations in S.W. France) the collections are also listed in catalogues, with a cross-referencing system of card indexes by donor, by vendor and by place of origin. On top of all that, the contents of each box are photographed, both for security purposes and for study, so that students can select which items they actually need to see without unnecessarily handling anything else.

The site archives, or original documentation that goes with the objects, were also conserved and stored in clear acid-free envelopes with a list of contents visible and all staples, metal paper-clips etc. removed. Photocopies were taken for general use to avoid wear and tear of the originals.

We then moved on from prehistoric tools to Roman inscriptions on stone monuments, kept safe from the dust beneath polythene sheeting and stored on trolleys for easy movement. Mosaics were stored on vertical racks that pulled out for viewing, and every type of Roman pot imaginable stood on shelves in glass-fronted cupboards.

After a much needed pause for lunch we were admitted to the organic materials store, where prehistoric bone, ivory and antler objects, together with such things as woven baskets and sandals, were kept in lidded wooden boxes at a constant temperature and relative humidity. The presence of nine people in the room started the humidity soaring, but the automatic controls came into effect to counteract this immediately.

As well as tools such as fish-hooks, needles and spearheads, there were also artistic carvings of reindeer, horses, fishes and mammoths, dating from around 12,500 B.C.

We came away with much food for thought as to how we might put some of what we had learned into use at Chipstead Valley.

I would like to thank Jill Cook for giving up her Saturday to share her expertise with us, for showing us archaeological treasures that we have only otherwise seen in books, and for the chocolate cake (which I forgot to mention earlier).

John D Matthews

and the Lake Lock), already charged in this way. The Stour and Salwarpe Navigation Act of 1662 gave the proprietors a general power to make 'footrails' or railways, which they used to serve their own coal mines, so the question of charges did not arise (12.) The Trent and Mersey Canal's Act of 1776 is, I believe, the earliest to authorise a specific canal railway, from Froghall in Staffordshire to the Caldon quarries, and I imagine charges were made for its use, but I have not been able to confirm this (13.) The earliest explicit reference I have found to charges for the use of a canal railway is in the Leicester Navigation Act of 1791 (14.) Such canal railways were an integral part of the canal undertaking, and did not have separate management or accounts. The Cwm Dee and Lake Lock lines, which both opened about 1798 - 99, were probably the first to be managed as a self-contained business.

Purpose and traffic

All 18th century railways, so far as I know, served one or more specific mines, quarries, or industrial undertakings. None was designed to carry the general traffic of a town or district. This is a matter of degree, and there is not such a clear dividing line as with legal status. But I think that in setting up a depot and tollhouse at its Croydon terminus, and probably at Hackbridge (though the evidence is less clear), the Surrey Iron Railway was inviting a wider range of traffic, and offering to play a more important role, than previous railways. This is underlined by the requirement in its Act that 'All Persons whomsoever shall have free Liberty ... to pass upon and use the said Railway with Waggon or other Carriages ...' This means less than it appears to, because (despite Jessop's claims (15)) plateways proved to require special waggons and could not easily be used by road vehicles. The Lake Lock Rail Road, built under an Inclosure Act (16), may have had an implied duty to allow passage; it is not clear what duty, if any, canals had to allow passage over their railways. The Surrey Iron Railway was the first to be clearly open to any suitable vehicle in the same way as a turnpike road.

My conclusion is that the development from private to public railways involved several steps and that there is no 'unequivocal "first public railway"', but that the Surrey Iron Railway was the first to bring together so many of the elements that make up the public railway, and thus has a better claim to the title than any earlier line.

Derek Bayliss

References

- (1) Bayliss, D.A., 'Retracing the first public railway', Living History Publications, 1981, 2nd edition 1985.
- (2) Sowan, P.W., 'The first public railway in the world?', Bull. Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society 84 (Sept. 1987), p. 3.
- (3) e.g. Stevenson, W., (1809), quoted in Bayliss op. cit., p. 6: 'The first instance of the application of this mode of forming roads for general use; the other railways in the kingdom being confined to the carriage of goods belonging to individuals ...'
- (4) e.g. Robbins, M., 'The railway age', Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1962, p. 20 of the Penguin edition (1965.)
- (5) Lee, C.E., 'Early railways of Surrey', The Railway Gazette, 1944, p. 3.
- (6) Goodchild, J., 'The Lake Lock Rail Road', Wakefield Metropolitan District Libraries, 197.

- (7) Lewis, M.J.T., 'Early wooden railways', Routledge & Kegan Paul, 1970, Chapter 8.
- (8) Lewis, M.J.T., 'Steam on the Pen-y-darren', Industrial Railway Record 59 (April 1975), 1-36 [see p. 3.]
- (9) Rattenbury, G., 'Cwm Dee Rail Road', Jl. Railway and Canal Historical Soc. 27(5) (July 1982), 98 - 102.
- (10) Goodchild, op. cit., p. 4.
- (11) Priestley, J., 'Historical account of the navigable rivers, canals, and railways, or Great Britain', 1831, reprinted by David & Charles, 1969, pp. 415 - 421.
- (12) Lewis (1970), op. cit., pp. 244 - 247.
- (13) Lead, P., 'The Caldon Canal and tramroads', The Oakwood Press, 1979, pp. 4 - 7 and 41 - 46.
- (14) Priestley, op. cit., p. 401.
- (15) Bayliss, op. cit., p. 21.
- (16) Goodchild, op. cit., pp. 1 - 2.

Book Review

LISTED BUILDINGS, Roger W Suddards and Jane M Hargreaves, 3rd Edition, Sweet & Maxwell, 1996

I find it simpler to give the title as it appears on the spine rather than the full title of this long, detailed and absorbing book, the contents of which can be judged from some of the chapter headings: Listing, Conservation Areas, Ancient Monuments and Archaeology, and Churches.

Although Croydon does not, I think, feature anywhere in this legal textbook, its relevance is immediately apparent. Croydon Council has recently published its Unitary Development Plan and has produced a consultation draft on the Central Croydon Conservation Area. The Croydon Society has published 'Croydon's Built Heritage' about the eleven conservation areas in the Borough, and our own Society has campaigned to have the Anglo-Saxon cemetery near Park Lane excavated. 'Listed Buildings' is a legal but topical textbook. The foreword instances Tessa Gorman, M.P., whose attempts to modernise her Grade II Listed home resulted in her being prosecuted for 66 alleged offences. Similarly Croydon affords instances where this valuable book can offer advice: the repairs to the facade of Grants Department store, the conversion of the Surrey Street waterworks and the National Westminster Bank in High Street, the demolition of St Martin's and the extensions to Old Palace school, let alone relatively minor matters such as advertising banners on Clocktower, trees in Addington churchyard, shopblinds in George Street and alterations to the boundaries of the Mid-Croydon Conservation Area. 'Listed Building' is more accessible if you read the appendix first. Appendix A is the Department of the Environment's publication entitled 'Planning Policy Guidance: Planning and the Historic Environment' which was published as PPG 15 in 1994. This gives general advice to inform public opinion. 'Listed Buildings' gives precise definitions, individual cases and detailed guidance. It is clearly written and even tries to be catchy. It twice quotes a minister's assertion that the government's plans for the conservation of building is 'not a pickling policy'. At £60 you are not likely to buy a copy, but the CNHSS Library has a copy, accessible to members and to the general public, particularly if they belong to conservation area panels, environmental groups and heritage societies. For

myself it unravels the jargon I have heard for so long and understood so little.

Brian Lancaster

Croydon Hero

The little churchyard at St Botolph without Bishopsgate stood at the heart of the GPO buildings in St Martins-le-Grand, until the buildings were demolished. The churchyard had become a central point for postmen's meetings and it became known as Postmen's Park. It is now signposted in the City.

The well-known artist C.F. Watts had a loggia erected here in which there are many plaques "In Commemoration of Heroic Self-Sacrifice". One inscription reads "Robert Wright, Police Constable of Croydon, entered a burning house to save a woman, knowing that there was petroleum stored in the cellar - an explosion occurred and he was killed." April 30th 1893.

The Croydon Advertiser of May 6th, 1893 has a full page report on the fire and a leading article on it. The fire started at Henry Bennett's 'Oil and Italian shop', 99 North End in the early hours of Sunday morning, number 101, Herbert's Tea Warehouse was also badly damaged. They were two of the loftiest buildings in Croydon.

Bennett's shop first caught fire, in the cellar below there were barrels of oil and above were the living quarters of the Bennett family who were away. Police Constables Wright and Barnett arrived on the scene before there was any sign of the fire brigade and, included in their efforts to save life and property, was the rolling out of barrels of oil from the cellar, despite the flames from the shop and adjoining property. When they entered the burning building, they heard a scream and rushed up the stairway but the fumes and flames drove them to a window where they were seen by a colleague in the garden below who called on them to jump out of the window. Barnett jumped onto a shed roof, and on recovery had only slight injuries. The heavy smoke was suffocating Wright and he could not move. By the time rescuers got through he was dead. Both constables acted with great courage.

Robert Wright was 27 years old, he had been married a year and was the father of a month old child. The Mayor opened up an immediate subscription list which was liberally subscribed to, whilst the Croydon Theatre gave an evening performance for the benefit of the widow, who would receive only a small pension.

Despite the plaque, no mention of an explosion is given in the Croydon Advertiser, but there is no doubt that the Postmen's Park plaque to Police Constable Robert Wright does commemorate a "Heroic Self-Sacrifice".

Herbert Shaw

News and Notices

It was not possible to put some items from the Archaeology summer schedule in the main programme, the dates and events are listed here:

May 21, Wednesday, "London's Roman amphitheatre", an illustrated talk by Nick Bateman, Director of the Excavations from the Museum of London Archaeology Service.

June 2, Monday, "Death in the Senate: reconstructing the assassination of Julius Caesar", a talk by Rose Baillie, she is Chair of the City of London Archaeology Society.

September 1, Monday, "The Temple of Mithras, the Fort and Grimes in London", an illustrated talk by John Shepherd.

October 8, Wednesday "The Thames Landscape from the 18th Century", a talk by Stephen Nicholls, Assistant Curator at Orleans House Gallery, Twickenham.

Excavations

All archaeological evaluations carried out in the Borough during the year were as follows:

Date	Location	Period of Finds
January	18 Woodfield Hill, Coulsdon	Post Medieval
February	68 - 74 Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead	No finds
February	9 Wellesley Road	No finds
February	Home Farm, Addington	No finds
February	102 / 103 Tamworth Road	Post Medieval
March	Methodist Church, Limpsfield Road, Sanderstead	Prehistoric / Roman
March	3 - 7 Park Street	Prehistoric / Roman / Medieval / PostMedieval
March	Rutland Works, New Addington	No finds
March	61 / 61a Haling Park Road	Prehistoric / Roman / Medieval / PostMedieval
April	43 Haling Park Road	No finds
April	68 - 74 Park Lane	Prehistoric / Medieval / PostMedieval
July	Mayday Hospital	Post Medieval
July	The Drummond Centre	Prehistoric / PostMedieval
July	3 - 7 Park Street	Prehistoric / Roman / Post Medieval
August	42 - 46 Bramley Hill	Post Medieval
August	Canterbury Road / Mitcham Road junction	Post Medieval
October	190 - 218 Gloucester Road	Post medieval
October	Waddon Station goods yard	Prehistoric

South Norwood Athletic Club

In researching for his recent paper entitled 'Searching for an Athletics Tradition' for the conference of the British Society for Sports History, Trevor James learnt of a South Norwood Athletic Club which certainly existed from 1865 to 1885. At this stage it is not clear at what point it disappeared. Trevor is hoping to establish whether there was any continuity of personnel between the South Norwood Athletic Club and the Croydon Athletic Club which was established in 1910. If there was such continuity it would also mean that there was continuity with the present-day Croydon Harriers, because some of Croydon AC members from before the Great War were at the forefront in 1920 of the formation of Croydon Harriers, for whom Trevor has recently contributed a celebratory volume entitled *75 Years of Croydon Harriers* (1995).

If any CNHSS member can make any connections with the erstwhile South Norwood Athletic Club - for example, there may be medals or cups in local people's possession or they may have seen a newspaper or documentary reference or even a photograph - please do let Trevor James know as it would help to provide a wider picture of this long since disbanded athletic club. Trevor can be contacted at Westminster St Peter's, College Road, Birmingham, B8 3TE or by telephone at home (01543 251313).

Subscriptions

A reminder to members that subscriptions are now due. Cheques should be made payable to the society (CNHSS will suffice) and sent direct to me (for address see programme) and not to the Hon. Treasurer or to 96a Brighton Road. Standing Order and Deed of Covenant forms can be obtained from me. Pam Collins, Membership secretary.

On the Web

The Society has, or if not yet running, should shortly have, a presence on the Internet in the form of a site on the World Wide Web. For a little while there have been two mentions of the Society on other UK Web sites: in connection with

Subterranea Britannica and bats and also in connection with its archaeological activities. Now, courtesy of the Redshaw family, it has its own page which contains details of its activities. The site can be found at:
<http://www.arctura.demon.co.uk/cnhss/index.htm>
and will be updated at intervals.

Garden Wildlife Survey

As part of the local Agenda 21 process the Association of Croydon Conservation Societies is co-ordinating a Garden Wildlife Survey in Croydon. It is intended to be a long term survey monitoring changes over the years as well as differences across the Borough.

The survey will cover mammals, amphibians, reptiles, birds, butterflies and a small selection of insects. We are therefore looking for people with a reasonable general knowledge of wildlife rather than experts in a limited field. If you can tell a Frog from a Toad, a Blue Tit from a Great Tit and a Red Admiral from a Painted Lady then you are more than qualified to help out. Don't worry if you think there is little in your garden worth recording, as it is probably more important to identify those areas of Croydon rather than those gardens with a wealth of wildlife.

If you would like more details contact Malcolm Jennings, 106 Langdale Road, Thornton Heath, Surrey, CR7 7PQ.

Fire and Farce

The West Wickham and Beckenham Branch of the WEA is organising a special one day school on May 31 this year, between 2.00 and 5.00 pm at the Emmanuel Church, The Grove, West Wickham. The speaker is Ron Cox and he will be delivering two lectures: one on Captain Shaw, London's first fire chief, and the other on the Monks Orchard pioneers: the strange story of a very unusual housing estate (1920-1940). There is a charge of £5.00, which includes refreshments, and further information is available from Doris Bailey on 0181 650 7758.

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On 30 November eight volunteers attended a training day at the British Museum, organised by our Hon. Curatorial Adviser, Dr. Jill Cook. Storage methods and materials, and conservation problems were studied.

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the year.

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In 1996 the Society nominated a trustee for the planned Nature Conservation Centre at Heathfield and, as a member of ACCS, we made further comments on the Borough Council's Unitary Development Strategy; contributed to the draft Nature Conservation Strategy (which was to go for public consultation in January 1997); were represented at a site meeting with Tramlink to consider the environmental consequences of possible route changes; provided suggestions for the London Ecology Unit for new Sites of Metropolitan Importance in Croydon; and provided evidence against the denotification of part of the Croham Hurst SSSI, which is now being reconsidered.

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Members of the Panel were also involved in the Croydon Design Award Scheme.

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The Society is represented by Dr Ronald Cox and Mr John Gent on the Surrey Local History Council; by Mr James Davison on the S.W. London Archaeological Liaison Committee, the Surrey Archaeological Society, and on that body's Liaison Committee; and by Mr Edward Frith on the Croydon Local Studies Forum; by Mrs Eleanor Redshaw on the Croydon Nature Conservation Trust; by Mr Arnold Shaw on the Wandle Group; and by Ms Elizabeth Walder on the Council for British Archaeology, and the Standing Conference on London Archaeology.

MEMBERSHIP

At 31 December 1996 there were 521 members, an decrease of two during the year. Recent membership numbers have been as follows:

	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Ordinary	359	347	335	336	337
Associate	106	108	107	113	111
Life	26	34	38	38	37
Honorary	10	10	10	10	10
Group	27	27	27	27	26
Totals	528	526	517	523	521
Decrease	24	2	9	(+6)	2

FINANCE

In contrast to 1995, the Society's financial year was fairly quiet. Income from publications was considerably less than in the previous two years. Expenditure was maintained at a lower than usual level, thus facilitating partial restoration of our monetary reserve.

DIRECTORS and SECRETARY

During the year the Directors have been Mrs P.F. Collins, Dr R.C.W. Cox, Mr K. Edwards (Hon. General Secretary)(until 20 April), Mr E. Frith, Mr J.B. Gent, Dr J.B. Greig, Miss B. Hawkins, Mr B. Lancaster, Dr J. McLauchlin, Mrs M. Penry-Jones (until 20 April), Mrs E.N. Redshaw, Mrs F.N. Rooks, Mrs M. Saaler (from 15 November), Mr A.H. Shaw, Mrs M.E. Shaw, Mr P.W. Sowan (also Company Secretary), Mr B.J. Stocker (from September), Ms E.A. Walder (until 19 July), and Mr K.E. Woodhams.

Paul W SOWAN
Company Secretary

Edward FRITH
President

21 February 1997

CROYDON NATURAL HISTORY and SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY LIMITED

Registered office: 96a Brighton Road, SOUTH CROYDON, CR2 6AD

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 1997

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual General Meeting of the Society for the year 1997 will be held in the large Hall at East Croydon United Reformed Church, Addiscombe Grove, Croydon, on Thursday 17 April 1997, commencing at 19.45. The AGENDA is printed below.

After the formal business meeting, refreshments will be served. There will then follow the Presidential Address of Ted Frith entitled ...

The Valley where the Wild Saffron grows

Paul W. Sowan
Company Secretary

AGENDA

- 1 To receive apologies for absence
- 2 To receive, consider, and (if approved) to adopt the Directors' report, the Balance Sheet, the Statement of Accounts, and the Accountants' Report for the year 1996, all of which documents are included herewith
- 3 To consider, and (if approved) to adopt, the motion 'that nominations for election be considered en bloc'
[Should the number of valid nominations received exceed the number of vacancies to be filled, this motion will be withdrawn: in that case, or if the motion be put but not carried, names will be considered individually]
- 4 To elect the President, the four Vice- Presidents, the several Officers, and no fewer than five nor more than ten Ordinary Members of Council for 1997/98
[Nominations, which may be made only for and by fully paid up Ordinary, Life or Honorary Members, should reach the Company Secretary at the Society's office no fewer than seven days before the meeting; each such nomination should be accompanied by a statement signed by the nominee certifying her or his willingness to stand for election; non-members, Associates, and Group Members may neither nominate nor be nominated, nor may they take any part in the formal business of the Meeting; a list of all validly nominated eligible candidates for election will be circulated at the meeting; should the number of nominations be equal to or fewer than the number of vacancies, those persons validly nominated and eligible to serve will be declared elected unopposed]

5 To appoint Accountants for 1997, and to authorise the Council to fix the Accountants' remuneration.

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MUSEUM

Museum working parties of from ten to twelve members have continued to meet frequently and regularly to attend to day-to-day museum tasks. The Walter Bennett exhibition, displayed in the 'Lifetimes' presentation at Croydon Clocktower, was remounted in our own museum premises and augmented with further artefacts from the Bennett collection. Our exhibition on the Croydon Saxon Cemetery was also redesigned and displayed. Cataloguing of the Regional Survey Area fossils was, unfortunately, not completed; but other work on the computer database continued. Three additional volunteers have become museum helpers, and one has started to enter details of Bennett Collection archaeological items on the computer.

Several GCE Advanced Level students from Croydon and Sutton colleges have been assisted with their projects. The Hon. Curator gave talks on the Society's Museum and on Walter Bennett, to make the collections more widely known. A talk on 'Shopping in the first half of the century' was given for a local primary school. On 14 April the Mayor and Mayoress of Croydon, Councillor Clarence and Mrs. Vilma McKenzie visited the Museum, when a display of crested china from the Borough and of other local memorabilia was mounted. During this most successful visit, we were complimented on our work. Attendance at our annual Open Day, however, was disappointing.

It has been decided to re-catalogue our archaeological material by site rather than by period, and work has started to this end.

Mrs Muriel Shaw resigned as Hon. Curator in September, and was replaced by Mrs. Mary Saaler.

On 30 November eight volunteers attended a training day at the British Museum, organised by our Hon. Curatorial Adviser, Dr. Jill Cook. Storage methods and materials, and conservation problems were studied.

Documents relating to provisional re-registration of our Museum have been submitted to the Museums and Galleries Commission. A Museum Working Group has been preparing draft development proposals relating to the future of the Society's museum, although there was no concrete outcome from these discussions by the end of the year. The Society's current lease of the Chipstead Valley premises expires on 5 September 1997.

SECTIONS' ACTIVITIES

ARCHAEOLOGY

The Section, in compiling its programme, seeks to find speakers who are specialists in a wide range of fields. The loss of excavation opportunities to professional archaeological units has led to our welcoming speakers from beyond pure archaeology, and talks have dipped into bordering subjects such as museums, social history, and conservation. There have also been talks delivered by members of professional excavation teams, including local and nearby sites.

ARCHAEOLOGY (EXCAVATIONS)

An increase in the number of archaeological evaluations on development sites during the year, carried out under the Government's Planning and Policy Guidelines 16, reflects on an economic upturn in Croydon. Once again, almost all of this work was carried out by the Museum of London Archaeological Service (MoLAS), although four other bodies (including this Society's Archaeology Section) have had contracts for site

investigations. We excavated on the site of 61/61a Haling Park Road, where we found prehistoric flintwork, and an extensive area of bedding trenches relating to the gardens of the former Haling Manor house.

BOTANY

The Section held its summer field meetings during the evenings. Oft-neglected Blindley Heath, in April, was rich in *Prunus* species and, later, bluebell-time was enjoyed in Great Church Wood. Sanderstead's churchyard botany was recorded during June. Flowers of the dandelion tribe were identified at Roundshaw's open space, and quadrats were used in recording at Kenley Common. Two successful sessions recording fungi were held in Banstead Woods and Selsdon Woods - contributing useful mycological records for our Regional Survey Area.

GEOLOGY

Regular indoor meetings and several field excursions have been held, with good attendances. It is planned to involve the Section in a regular programme of local fieldwork.

INDUSTRIAL STUDIES

The Section has been without a Secretary during the year, but has nevertheless continued a programme of indoor meetings and field excursions, some of which have been exceptionally well supported.

LOCAL HISTORY

Meetings have attracted good attendances, with a preponderance of local topics for indoor meetings, and local field excursions.

ORNITHOLOGY

The Section's last field meeting of the year, to Dungeness, was memorable as members were thrilled to see a peregrine diving on a hen harrier, these being but two of the good sightings at this location. There were 30 other outdoor meetings, with attendances varying from one (just the leader!) to 14 persons. The subjects addressed at indoor meetings were 'The Spanish Pyrenees', 'A walk through woods and meadows', and an excellent members' evening with illustrated talks on Israel, Trinidad and Tobago, and sightings from field meetings during the year.

CONSERVATION and PLANNING [WILDLIFE]

The Society is represented by Dr Jane McLauchlin on the Association of Croydon Conservation Societies (ACCS), the London Borough of Croydon Nature Conservation Consultative Panel (NCCP), and the Selsdon Wood Management Committee. The NCCP has four representatives from ACCS, has had three meetings during the year, and reports to the LB Croydon Leisure Services Committee.

In 1996 the Society nominated a trustee for the planned Nature Conservation Centre at Heathfield and, as a member of ACCS, we made further comments on the Borough Council's Unitary Development Strategy; contributed to the draft Nature Conservation Strategy (which was to go for public consultation in January 1997); were represented at a site meeting with Tramlink to consider the environmental consequences of possible route changes; provided suggestions for the London Ecology Unit for new Sites of Metropolitan Importance in Croydon; and provided evidence against the denotification of part of the Croham Hurst SSSI, which is now being reconsidered.

CONSERVATION and PLANNING [CIVIC]

Jim Davison and Brian Lancaster represented the Society on the Mid-Croydon Conservation Area Advisory Panel, itself representing four conservation areas: Addington Village, Central Croydon, Parish Church and the Waldrons. Brian Lancaster is also a Panel Officer as Treasurer.

In 1996 the Panel submitted comments on the Borough's consultation drafts for the Central Croydon Conservation Area Proposals Statement and for the Shopfronts and policy guidelines and on the modifications to the Unitary Development Plan. Much of the Panel's work consists in vetting planning applications such as for the proposed alterations to the Surrey Street Pumping Station, the former Grants stores and to Addington House.

Members of the Panel were also involved in the Croydon Design Award Scheme.

REPRESENTATION on OTHER BODIES

The Society is represented by Dr. Ronald Cox and Mr. John Gent on the Surrey Local History Council; by Mr. James Davison on the S.W. London Archaeological Liaison Committee, the Surrey Archaeological Society, and on that body's Liaison Committee; and by Mr. Edward Frith on the Croydon Local Studies Forum; by Mrs Eleanor Redshaw on the Croydon Nature Conservation Trust; by Mr. Arnold Shaw on the Wandle Group; and by Ms Elizabeth Walder on the Council for British Archaeology, and the Standing Conference on London Archaeology.

MEMBERSHIP

At 31 December 1996 there were 523 members, an increase of six during the year. Recent membership numbers have been as follows:

	1988	1989	1990	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995	1996
Ordinary	451	414	398	379	359	347	335	336	337
Associate	110	114	118	112	106	108	107	113	111
Life	24	26	26	25	26	34	38	38	37
Honorary	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10
Group	29	27	25	26	27	27	27	27	26
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Totals	624	591	577	552	528	526	517	523	521
Decrease (increase)	-	33	14	25	24	2	9	(6)	(2)
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FINANCE

In contrast to 1995, the Society's financial year was fairly quiet. Income from publications was considerably less than in the previous two years. Expenditure was maintained at a lower than usual level, thus facilitating partial restoration of our monetary reserve.

DIRECTORS and SECRETARY

During the year the Directors have been Mrs. P.F. Collins, Dr. R.C.W. Cox, Mr. K. Edwards (Hon. General Secretary)(until 20 April), Mr. E. Frith, Mr. J.B. Gent, Dr. J.B. Greig, Miss. B. Hawkins, Mr. B. Lancaster, Dr. J. McLauchlin, Mrs. M. Penry-Jones (until 20 April), Mrs. E.N. Redshaw, Mrs. F.N. Rooks, Mrs M. Saaler (from 15 November), Mr. A.H. Shaw, Mrs. M.E. Shaw, Mr. P.W. Sowan (also Company Secretary), Mr. B.J. Stocker (from September), Ms. E.A. Walder (until 19 July), and Mr. K.E. Woodhams.

Paul W SOWAN
Company Secretary

Edward FRITH
President

21 February 1997