



50 YEARS ON....

Welcome to the 50th year Jubilee of the Bath and Camerton Archaeological Society. This is edition no.37 of the Journal that was first produced in 1949. From the start the Journal has been called "Camertonia".

Our front cover for this Jubilee edition is our traditional logo presented in a new way. I hope you like it. For anyone unfamiliar with the logo it has been taken from the bronze escutcheon found in a grave in a Saxon Cemetery at Camerton.

Much has changed in 50 years; our membership has increased from 42 in 1949, to nearly 150, in 1999. The introduction of computer technology has enabled non-intrusive archaeological investigation to be carried out to co-ordinate and complement our traditional excavation techniques. However the purpose of our Society remains unchanged and is enshrined in our Rules: to promote the study of Archaeology by excavations, lectures and excursions and to keep a vigilant observation on any excavation necessitated by development. An example of this observation comes from this last year at Hinton Charterhouse.

Our First President, Father Horne of Downside Abbey hoped the Society (then known as the Camerton Excavation Club), would have wider interests than "digging in the past". The number of winter lectures and summer excursions evidence our commitment to offer members the enjoyment and fun of archaeology as well as practical hands-on experience.

Sir Mortimer Wheeler, one of the first Vice-Presidents, accepted the post by saying, "I wish it a career of useful, practical research... I know it will acquit itself well, and that it will add to knowledge in inverse ratio to its size..."

I hope that Father Horne and Sir Mortimer Wheeler would approve of our Society today. Let us hope too in our 100th year Jubilee that however writes the introduction to the Journal will feel their remarks reflect us still.

Alan Jenner

Chairman