BACAS - in the beginning

1949 Founding letters between W.I. Wedlake & W.E.V. Young

Sonia Haywood

As we approach the 60th anniversary of the founding of the Camerton Excavation Club, the following letter exchange has been found in the Avebury Papers. The fee for joining was five bob!

Avebury Papers 20000593.86

Meadgate, Camerton, Bath
19 January 1949

Dear Will.
You will no doubt have heard from Abbot Horne, our President, of the founding of Camerton Excavation Club. We had some [?] volunteers during the past season, and they were so keen that the founding of the Club was the result.

During the months when we cannot dig we are arranging a series of lectures and outings. We have provisionally fixed up a visit to Avebury for Saturday 5 March. Could you please explain the Monument and Museum for us? It would be an afternoon visit, but I cannot at the moment give you any definite times. This will be arranged later and we would of course let you know.

I hope you are keeping well, I occasionally hear of you through our friend Abbot Horne.

I am enclosing a Circular concerning the Club.
Yours sincerely
W. I. Wedlake.

My Dear Will,
Very many thanks indeed for your letter of Jan. 19th. Abbot Horne told me in his letter a short time ago you had worked up a brand new archaeological society, known as the "Camerton Excavation Club", and I was thrilled at the news. I can see from the appeal you enclosed - to say nothing of the fact that you have Abbot Horne as your first President - that it has become a very live organization already, and I would like to become a member of it. With this end in view I enclose five bob as my annual subscription, together with a small donation to the Club funds.

I was delighted to hear you had fixed up a visit to Avebury in your programme of outings for this season- provisionally for Saturday 5 March - and I shall be only too pleased to take you round & describe the Monument and Museum for you, if you will confirm the date, and also let me know the time of your arrival as soon as you can, so that I can book it up definitely. In the meantime I will keep this date open for you. To do Avebury properly you should spend at least an hour and a half here. I take it you will also look at Silbury and the Sanctuary, (which is not far away,) at the same time. I doubt if you would be able to take in Windmill Hill as well, as this lies about two miles from Avebury in the other direction - up a very bad trackway - but this depends on how much time you have to spare.

I enclose a reprint from the Wiltshire Archaeological Magazine for last December, which I thought you might like to have.

With kind regards and all good wishes,
Yours very sincerely,
W.E.V. Young