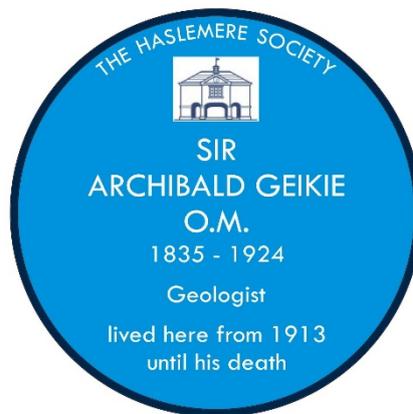




Sir Archibald Geikie O.M.

Blue plaque at Shepherd's Down, Hill Road



Sir Archibald Geikie OM KCB, FRS

1835-1924

A portrait by Reginald Eves 1914

With thanks to The Royal Society

Sir Archibald Geikie OM KCB, FRS

1835-1924

Sir Archibald was born in Edinburgh, and was educated at the Edinburgh Royal High School. At the age of 15 he entered a lawyer's office in Edinburgh but in 1852 he met Hugh Millar, (a well known Scottish geologist) and abandoned his legal career to enter Edinburgh University. Although studying Classics and Literature he continued his interest in the Highlands and met with Professor Ramsay, Director of the local Geological Survey

A family financial crisis forced Geikie to abandon university and following an introduction to Sir Roderick Murchison he, in 1855, eagerly joined the Survey

His industry in the following years was prodigious and his professional standing grew enormously and he was elected a Fellow of the Royal Society in 1865 at the age of just 29.

His geological achievements are documented below but Geikie was also a most prolific author of many books and papers on a variety of subjects - not the least being "The Birds of Shakespeare."

1867 Director of the Geological Survey of Scotland

1871 Murchison Chair of Geology, Edinburgh University

1879 Visits and lectures in the USA

1882 Director General of the Geological Survey

1890 President of the Geological Society

1908 President of the Royal Society

In 1913 Geikie, newly appointed to the Order of Merit, retired from London to live in Haslemere in a house, "Shepherd's Down", designed by his wife and daughters. In that year Sir Jonathan Hutchinson, a former president of the Royal College of Surgeons and founder and owner of Haslemere Educational Museum, died. He left no Museum endowment and it faced closure.

Geikie came to the fore and agreed to head up the management committee and to start fund raising. Although the endowment fund attracted only £2,000 it was enough to keep the Museum going during the hardship of the war years. Under Sir Archibald's leadership the Museum in 1919 decided to seek better and more central premises and this they successfully achieved, and remain on the same site today. The Museum today flourishes and is forever grateful for Sir Archibald's considerable leadership in those difficult times.

In 1924 Sir Archibald Geikie died, aged 88 and is buried in St Bartholomew's churchyard, Haslemere. On his tombstone are the words,

“Wisdom is a treasure that never faileth : which they that use become the friends of God.”