

**A GUIDE TO SOURCES OF
INFORMATION
ON
BASINGSTOKE'S HISTORY**

Compiled by

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Issue 4 – April 2016 (Updated to April 2019)

01/01/17 Update Additional references for Eli Lilly and North Hampshire Hospital cited.

30/01/17 Update Reference to revised Pesvner added to Architecture section

01/04/2017 Update A Brief History of The Basingstoke Irish Society (clubs and societies section) and a comprehensive history of Basingstoke Inn and Pubs (buildings section) referenced.

Minor text amendments

20/06/2017 Update 'Gone But Not Forgotten' – The Histories of Basingstoke's Historic Inns and Pubs. Published 04/17

The Great Basingstoke Typhoid Epidemic published 06/17

13/08/2017 Update A Place Apart -The Story of Park Prewett Hospital Published

25/11/17 Update Reference to S. Smith & Sons Ltd - The Golden Years included in the Companies section.

06/02/18 Update John Hares' *Mediaeval Basingstoke*. ISBN added.

07/06/18 Update Reprint of Ken Smallbone's *Gone But Not Forgotten* noted. ISBN added. Reference to the National Library of Scotland on-line map collection.

09/12/18 Update References to archaeological work at Park Prewett added.

22/04/19 Update Reference to Robert Brown's photographic collection and his contact details deleted. He died in March 2019. References to Newspaper availability on-line updated. Two VHS recording of 1990s Basingstoke in the Wessex Film & Sound Archive at HRO noted.

Abbreviations

BAHS Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society

HA&LS Hampshire Archives & Local Studies

HBG Hants & Berks Gazette, later The Basingstoke Gazette and now the Gazette

HCC Hampshire County Council

HCMAS Hampshire County Museums and Archives Service. From 2015 The Hampshire Cultural Trust.

HCT Hampshire Cultural Trust

HER Hampshire Historic Environmental Record

HFC Hampshire Field Club

HRO Hampshire Archives and Local Studies at the Hampshire Record Office

J Journal

L&SWR London & South-Western Railway

TMoB The Making of Basingstoke

VCH Victoria County History

Introduction

This bibliography of publications on Basingstoke's history and guide to other sources of information arose out of the late Barbara Applin and my editing of Eric Stokes's *The Making of Basingstoke (TMoB)*, published by BAHS in 2008. That book traces the history and development of Basingstoke from prehistory to the recent past (2008), and is recommended to anyone interested in Basingstoke's history.

The bibliography is an extensive, but not totally comprehensive, list of books, reports and other material in the public domain on local topics of historical and related relevance. Some minor booklets in the Local Studies collection of Basingstoke Discovery Centre, that do not add additional information to that contained in the references cited, have been omitted. It has been created to extend the usefulness of *TMoB* to anyone interested in Basingstoke's history. Deliberately, no references to the Civil War sieges at Basing House have been included (other than **Godwin**) – we could trace nothing that refers to the effect on Basingstoke. An earlier compendium of references by **Margaret Willoughy**, *Bibliography of Basingstoke*, 1973, contains 162 references, including 25 to Basing House; a copy is in the Local Studies section of the Discovery Centre.

We have deliberately not extended this guide to sources to include The National Archives on-line catalogue, as we feel anyone researching to that degree of detail will already be fully aware of its potential.

A **.pdf** version of this document is available on request. I would be pleased to receive notice of omissions, corrections, suggestions for additions etc for future updates. Please contact me at [**bandbapplin@btinternet.com**](mailto:bandbapplin@btinternet.com)

This document will be updated as further publications are noted or information gathered. The most up-to-date version will be published on the BAHS web-site [**www.bahsoc.org.uk**](http://www.bahsoc.org.uk)

Sources of Information

The Local Studies Section of Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

The Local Studies Section has an extensive collection of local documents, maps, books and booklets, including most of those referenced below. The Local Studies catalogue is available on-line at [**www3.hants.gov.uk/library**](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library) - click on the on-line catalogue link and search using '**Basingstoke**' (over 700 entries will be produced).

The *Hants & Berks Gazette* (fore-runner of the *Gazette*) and the *Gazette* are available on microfilm in the Centre. For many years, until his death in 2002, the local amateur historian Arthur Attwood contributed a weekly article to the *Gazette*. Since then Robert Brown (died 2019) did the same until 2009. The Monday edition of the paper (discontinued 2014) had a regular feature by Richard Garfield, *Memories on Monday* (discontinued 2013). Recently (March 2016) the *Gazette* introduced a 'Heritage Section' which features occasional articles on Basingstoke's past.

The Discovery Centre also holds copies of the *Basingstoke Review* published between 1958 and 1966 and *Expanding Basingstoke* bulletins 1967 – 1974 (also available in the Resources Room at the Willis Museum). A short-lived *Basingstoke Mail* was published between 1973 & 1976. *Hampshire - The County Magazine*, *Hampshire Life* and *The Hampshire Chronicle* have occasional articles on Basingstoke and its surrounding area; the Discovery Centre displays the current issues of these journals. The *Basingstoke Observer* published as a free-sheet and the short-lived (2007/8) *Basingstoke Independent* are noted here for completeness.

Other newspapers

Prior to the establishment of *The Hants & Berks Gazette* in 1878, the main newspapers covering local news were *The Hampshire Chronicle* (Winchester) and *The Reading Mercury* (Reading) ; microfilm copies are available for consultation in the respective town libraries. Other newspapers that covered Basingstoke before 1878 were the *Hampshire Advertiser* (Southampton) and the *Berkshire Chronicle* (Reading). Scanned copies of the *Hants and Berks Gazette* from 1892 to 1910, *Newbury Weekly News* from 1870 and 1873, the *Hampshire Advertiser* for certain dates between 1830 and 1907, the *Berkshire Chronicle* for certain dates between 1825 and 1877, the *Hampshire Chronicle* for certain dates between 1772 and 1870 and 1881 to 1890, and the *Reading Mercury* for certain dates between 1770 and 1939 are available at the British Newspaper Archive. Holders of a Hampshire Libraries card can access this archive through www3.hants.gov.uk/library/libraries-borrow/eresources.htm.

A short-lived *Basingstoke Standard* was published in competition to the *Hants & Berks Gazette* in the 1880s; copies from issue no.30 (January 6, 1882) are held in the British Library's newspaper collection. Another competitor was the *Hampshire Observer & Basingstoke News* (1903-15); copies are held at HRO ref: **26M70**. Microfilm copies are also in Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

The Resources Room at The Willis Museum and the Hampshire Cultural Trust headquarters at Chilcomb House, Winchester

The Resources Room has an extensive collection of Basingstoke documents, including an unpublished manuscript copy of a history of Eastrop parish (which contains errors) and transcripts of diaries, notes and scrap books of Samuel Attwood, George Woodman, George Willis and others, as well as maps and a large collection of photographs; a catalogue is available for consultation. It also has several notes on the derivation of Basingstoke street names. Contact the Willis Museum for the current opening times of the Resources Room (Tel 01256 465902). A more extensive collection of photographs which includes many Basingstoke items and a collection of 19th century Basingstoke traders' billheads are held at the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) headquarters at Chilcomb House, Winchester. HCT also has a fine collection of maps of Hampshire, many of which may be viewed at www.geog.port.ac.uk/webmap/hantsmap/hantsmap/hantsmap.htm the Portsmouth University web-site. HCT can be contacted at www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk and follow the links. Normally an appointment should be made to visit Chilcomb House.

Hampshire Archives and Local Studies (HA&LS) at the Hampshire Record Office (HRO) in Winchester

HRO holds the originals of many of the Borough and Church records from the earlier centuries, as well as documents relevant to Basingstoke from private sources, including estate and other maps.

Many of the documents were transcribed (and in some cases translated from the Latin) by Baigent & Millard in the late 19th century for their *A History of the Ancient Town and Manor of Basingstoke* (copies held in Basingstoke Discovery Centre and the Willis Museum and a facsimile edition is available from Amazon). Serious students are recommended to consult this book, which was one of the major sources of information for *TMoB* used by Eric Stokes, particularly for some of his early chapters. The HRO's catalogue can be accessed on-line at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives>. A search using 'Basingstoke' will produce over 16,300 references, whilst, for example, 'Basingstoke Corporation' will refine this to 346 references. The documents referenced under the Finding codes **8M62**, **10M57**, **23M72**, **46M74** and **148M71**, in particular the last reference, contain a wealth of information. HRO has many of Terry Hunt's photographs which are included in the Hampshire Photographic Project compilation **HRO HPP38**. Terry Hunt was a Basingstoke photographer who was active c1910 – 1940.

Each of these collections (Discovery Centre, Museum and HRO) should be searched thoroughly as they are the major sources of information and are continually updated. For example, the HRO has the collection of documents that Arthur Attwood had gathered over many years which he used as the basis of his weekly *Basingstoke Gazette* articles mentioned above: **HRO 50A07**.

Other searchable sources

The *Newsletters* of BAHS www.bahsoc.org.uk, the Friends of the Willis Museum www.friendsofthewillis.org.uk, and the Basingstoke Heritage Society www.bas-herit-soc.org.uk regularly contain articles on Basingstoke topics. An index to the Friends of the Willis Museum's newsletter is available in the Resources Room at the Willis Museum. The Kempshott History Group website www.kempshotthistorygroup.org.uk has articles on topics relevant to the history of Kempshott and its surrounding area. The South View Conservation Group's website www.holyghostcemetery-basingstoke.org.uk has the results of their work on the graves in the original Basingstoke cemetery.

The Hampshire Field Club journal, *Hampshire Studies* (until 1994 *The Proceedings of The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society: Proc HFC*) and *The HFC Newsletter* carry occasional articles on the archaeology and history of the Basingstoke area. A complete run of *Proc HFC* and *Hampshire Studies* is held by Southampton University's Hartley Library. See **King, Anthony** in the alphabetical listing for cumulative indices of volumes 21 to 70 (1958 - 2015). HCT headquarters at Chilcomb House, Winchester also holds a set with an index to volumes 1-20. The major reports on Basingstoke topics are referenced individually in the bibliography. See page 22 for details of the HFC digitisation programme for on-line access to Hampshire Studies.

All developments with archaeological implications have to have a Heritage Statement to accompany the planning application. The County Archaeologist advises the local planning authorities on where these might be required, their content and what archaeological works might be needed, including evaluation, excavation and watching briefs. Reports of the results are deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER), and more notable results are published in *Hampshire Studies* or other archaeological journals. The HER can be consulted at historic.environment@hants.gov.uk. The HER has been used to produce a series of forty distribution maps of their records of Hampshire archaeological sites from the Mesolithic to the end of the Roman occupation. These may be viewed at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment/historic-buildings-register/historic-atlas.htm>

The Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading has the Wallis & Stevens archive and some information on other Basingstoke companies associated with agriculture.

The Thornycroft Basingstoke factory technical archive is held by HCT at its Chilcomb House headquarters at Winchester; there are no staff records in this archive but Wessex Film & Sound

Archive at HRO has taped interviews with former Thornycroft workers. The Thornycroft Society also holds records of the Basingstoke factory's activities.

The Lansing Bagnall photographic archive to the mid 1960s is held in digital form at HCT Chilcomb. The more recent company archive is at Churchill College, Cambridge.

The Basingstoke entry in *Hampshire Treasures*, noted in the alphabetical list, published in 1979, contains, amongst other data, a comprehensive listing of the then-known archaeological sites and reported finds and a list of 'Buildings, Monuments and Engineering Works' that were considered worthy of recording. Each entry gives an Ordnance Survey Grid Reference, where known, and a brief description of the subject.

The *Victoria County History*, Hampshire, vol IV, 1911, (available in the Discovery Centre) has a major section on Basingstoke in the chapter for the Basingstoke Hundred; it draws heavily on the information in Baigent & Millard's *A History of the Ancient Town and Manor of Basingstoke* and provides an authoritative summary of the history of Basingstoke as understood in the first decade of the 20th century. It is currently being revised. During the revision, the input documents and data will be placed on the VCH web site, www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk as they become available. Currently (April 2019) there are over 120 articles on Basingstoke and some of the nearby villages posted on the website www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore. The first of a series of 'Shorts' on Basingstoke, bringing together the ongoing results of the revision, was published in 2017. (*Basingstoke: A Medieval Town, c.1000-c.1600*). Further 'Shorts' are in preparation. Additionally, to date, 'Shorts' on Mapledurwell, Steventon and Cliddesden, Hatch & Farleigh Wallop have been published

A website at www.hantsphere.org.uk, run by Hants Library and Information Service, gives sources of Hampshire information and photographs. A search using 'Basingstoke' will produce over 200 images and over 900 text entries – many not on Basingstoke itself, but on the surrounding area and many not of relevance to a student of the history of Basingstoke. It is nevertheless a worthwhile source to interrogate.

The website, www.visionofbritain.org.uk, has information on Basingstoke between 1801 and 2001, including maps, historical description and statistical trends from the censuses; however it is a commercial site and some information has to be paid for.

The Basingstoke Talking History project (a joint BAHS and Willis Museum project) is recording recollections of residents, covering the inter-war period to the recent past. A particularly important series of interviews with medical professionals covers the evolution of medical practice before and since the introduction of the NHS up to modern times (2005). This ongoing collection, with synopses and transcriptions of the interviews, is available for consultation in the Willis Museum's Resources Room. The master recordings are deposited with the Wessex Film and Sound Archive at HRO.

An internet search using "Basingstoke history" will produce, apart from various societies' and official sites, sites posted by individuals containing summaries of Basingstoke's history. The information carried by these personal sites is often copied from the **Wikipedia** site, <http://wikipedia.org.uk/wiki/basingstoke#history>. The detail and quality of these extracts is variable and the information should be verified for accuracy before being repeated; for example *A Brief History of Basingstoke* posted by Tim Lambert contains several major errors.

The input data for the 1841 to 1911 National censuses are available on-line from the commercial sources, **Ancestry** and **Findmypast** which allow a restricted amount of free use. Copies of these censuses may be consulted at HRO and may be copied for a per page fee. The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council's web-site www.basingstoke.gov.uk has a detailed analysis of the 2011 census for the Borough, broken down by electoral ward.

Portsmouth University has digitised the majority of the early maps of Hampshire from the late 16th century onwards. Basingstoke is shown, not always accurately, in relation to the surrounding towns. The maps can be viewed at www.geog.port.ac.uk/webmap/hantsmap/hantsmap/hantsmap.htm.

The National Library of Scotland's collection of maps available on line at <https://maps.nls.uk> has, a not totally complete, set of the Ordnance Survey of the UK, including most of the Basingstoke maps up to 1948. The web site has the very useful facility of producing a side by side copy of a map and its modern equivalent Street view.

I am pleased to acknowledge the assistance of Derek and Wendy Spruce; Barry Meehan (ex Hants Library Service), Joy Needham (ex Hants Library Service), Malcolm Parker (ex Willis Museum), John Hollands (Willis Museum Resources Room Volunteer), Bob Clarke (newspapers), David Hopkins (County Archaeologist), Debbie Reavell (B/stoke Heritage Soc.) and Robert Brown in the preparation of this bibliography.

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(Ed) indicates that the entry is an edited collection of work.

I make no claims for the quality or accuracy of the material cited.

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Kennel Farm, Kempshott In 2015 land north of the A30 at Beggarwood Lane traffic lights, called Kennel Farm by the developers, although nowhere near Kennel Farm south of the M3, was investigated by Cotswold Archaeology prior to development. Considerable evidence of Iron Age/Romano-British occupation and farming activity was found. Results to be published.

Buildings & Infrastructure

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This is a revised and expanded edition of Pevsner’s original work by Michael Bullen, John Crook, Rodney Hubbuck and others. It contains an extensive section on Basingstoke. It should be the essential starting point for anyone interested in the Town’s buildings.

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The Wessex Film and Sound Archive at the HRO has compiled a collection of films dealing with Basingstoke topics; this is available on DVD on loan at Basingstoke Discovery Centre. Recently deposited, Ref (AV1594), are two VHS tapes: *The Price of Progress* and *The Town We Lost*, produced in 1992 which discuss Basingstoke before and after development.

The HRO's Hampshire Photographic Project has digitised over 10,000 Hampshire photographs, including many from the Basingstoke area; these are available for viewing on the internet.

On-line catalogues to both of the above are at <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives/catalog.htm>

Acts of Parliament

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- Royal Commission on Municipal Corporations, 1835.
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Other Items

- The Friends of the Willis Museum have published a revised (to 2013) *Visitor's Guide to Old Basingstoke*, available at the Willis Museum (£1, 2017)
- The South View Conservation Group has published a series of five leaflets on the Holy Ghost Cemetery:
- The Chapel Ruins – A short stroll into Tudor Times
 - War Graves – Remembering Our War Dead* A link to a 52 page article expanding on the leaflet is within www.holyghostcemetery-basingstoke.org.uk/?page_id=22
 - Basingstoke Entrepreneurs – Discover some of our famous folk
 - Decoding the landscape – A trail of meaning and memories
 - Interesting Memorials – Exploring symbols of life and death
- These are currently (April 2019) available at the Willis Museum or may be consulted in the Basingstoke Discovery Centre and viewed on the website www.holyghostcemetery-basingstoke.org.uk/?page_id=22

The Basingstoke Heritage Society has published a leaflet –Points of Interest **JANE AUSTEN Basingstoke**, available free at the Willis Museum (April 2019)

For those with access to **Facebook** there are **Basingstoke Through The Years** and **Basingstoke Memories, People and Places** pages which have many old and not so old photos which are regularly added to..

Hampshire Studies On-line (11/2016)

The Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society has announced that back issues of Hampshire Studies (Proceedings) are available online. The webpage with the links to the volumes, for the years 2000-2009, is at:

<http://www.hantsfieldclub.org.uk/publications/hampshirstudies/digital/hs2000s.html>

You are able to download articles and/or read them on screen. Further back volumes will be added when the work of digitisation and preparation for web-publication has been completed.

This initiative is being carried out in conjunction with making available future volumes of Hampshire Studies online - as they are published. For three years volumes will be in a restricted area, for which access to the online version will be free to HFC members who pay the appropriate membership fee; non-members will be able to access either the whole volume or individual articles on payment of a set fee. After three years volumes will be moved to the Field Club website, for totally free access.