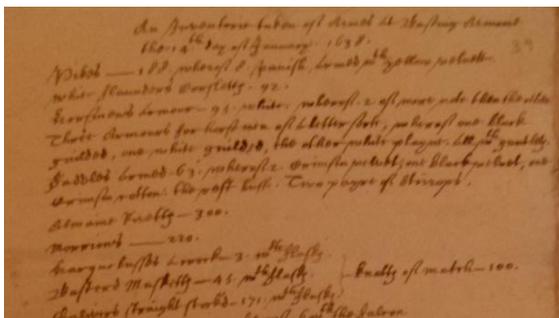


Newsletter Number 230

January 2020

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The Basing House Armoury (see page 11)

## The Brighton Hill Environs

*Peter Stone*

Quite a few years have elapsed since road-works at the Brighton Hill roundabout promoted interest in the location and importantly no-one has challenged the authenticity of the formerly long-lost research paper, referenced in the biography of the distinguished early 20<sup>th</sup> century scholar Professor Hans Fodion, on which a 'Newsletter' report in 2007 was based.

In addition to outlining the content of the paper, which described the historical background, the report explained how we owe the remarkable configuration of the roundabout to an unknown amateur historian who worked as a surveyor for the Basingstoke Development Group half a century ago and who preserved the outline of an incomplete Roman *circus* in the road plan following its discovery by construction workers. The 'Newsletter' report, it is understood, has since proved to be of considerable value to members, by reminding them of the far-sightedness of the surveyor and his contribution to our heritage every time they circumnavigate the roundabout.

The announcement that further works will take place following the grant of full funding for a £20 million road improvement scheme (construction is scheduled to begin in 2020/21) has re-awakened interest in the historical importance of the site with the prospect of Hampshire County Council being accused of an act of vandalism which would result in total loss of its unique configuration.

However, its significance to our heritage now seems likely to have been enhanced following recent amateur antiquarian research on the the Camrose Ground which has implications for development and which Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council will probably have to take into consideration when approving plans.

Wayne Fowler who lives close to the Camrose Ground is a keen amateur archaeologist, local historian and football supporter who moved to

Basingstoke from Liverpool to alleviate acute depression caused by the disappointing record of Manchester United in recent years.

A chance conversation with a neighbour shortly after taking up residence brought the configuration and topography of the Brighton Hill roundabout and its historical importance to his attention and led him to the conclusion that further archaeology dating from the Roman Conquest period could yet be discovered. His interest was further stimulated when the neighbour said that he had found fragments of leather footwear in a waterlogged patch of his garden.

Careful study of present-day local maps led Wayne to observe that the rectangular plan of the Camrose Ground resembled that of a playing card which is typical of many Roman forts. He checked against reliable historical research (see below) and discovered that its area, at a little less than  $\frac{3}{4}$  of one hectare, was similar to that of a small marching camp.

It is known that the commander of *Legio II Augusta* and future emperor *Titus Flavius Vespasianus* was sent westward in 43 AD (*Tacitus -Histories iii 44*) to deal with resistance to the invasion and, as Professor Fodion revealed in the research paper referred to above, a Romanised Celtic construction engineer from Ireland named *Hebescio Maximus* was appointed to supervise work on the A30 to improve communications. This is the same man whose influence at Silchester has proved fascinating for present-day archaeologists as reported in later editions of the 'Newsletter'.

*Hebescio's* enthusiasm for the job and concern for the morale and welfare of the slaves resulted in an unauthorised attempt to build a track or *circus* on which chariot racing could take place on the site of what is now the Brighton Hill roundabout. The completed project would, *Hebescio* thought, have two advantages: the slaves would have something to keep them occupied in their spare time but would also be incentivised with the prospect of improved quality of life for them and their guards when the completed *circus* opened. However, the attempt led to a sharp response from Vespasian who wanted to avoid the possibility of any distraction from work on the A30 and the project had to be abandoned in unfinished asymmetrical form.

A reader who has got this far might well ask (perhaps among other questions) how the roundabout can be linked with the Camrose Ground and the implications of the find of fragments of leather footwear.

Wayne believes he has the answers: Vespasian's order to abandon construction on the *circus* was resented by the slaves who threatened industrial action. Vespasian reacted by sending a detachment from *Legio II Augusta* to deal with possible disorder pending the outcome of negotiations thus leading to the construction of a marching camp. When the dispute with the slaves was resolved (their leaders were transported to Rome and were eventually employed to dig out the foundation trenches of the Colosseum) the marching camp was abandoned. Its shape, preserved in later Anglo-Saxon field boundaries, proved convenient for laying out the Camrose Ground about one thousand nine hundred years later.

So far the apparent threat to Basingstoke's heritage at the Brighton Hill roundabout has not resulted in formal opposition to the pending road works but with his research at the Camrose Ground, and what he believes is a plausible theory as to the significance of its plan, Wayne is now hoping that both the local community and the town as a whole will recognise the importance of the two sites and support him in his aim to get them granted protected status. Disappointingly his initial efforts have so far been held up by a dispute with his neighbour about the significance of the leather fragments which the latter found. Wayne believes that these should be scientifically examined to determine their precise date. However the neighbour insists that they are important relics of Basingstoke Town's past and should be donated to a future club museum: meanwhile he will keep them in safe custody.

At the time of writing it seems that no contact with BAHS has been made by either party.

**Note for the mathematically minded:** The official dimensions of a modern association football field are 110/120 yards for the touch lines by 70/80 yards for the goal lines. A calculation using mean values gives an area of 8620 sq. yards or 1.78 acres which is approximately 0.71 hectares.

A detailed report published on the web page:  
[http://bandaarcgeophysics.co.uk/arch/roman\\_marching\\_camps\\_uk.html](http://bandaarcgeophysics.co.uk/arch/roman_marching_camps_uk.html)  
provides statistical evidence that this area falls within the bounds of a small marching camp.

### **Save the Dates**

Sat 9 May 2020 - Penny is working on a plan for a visit to the Chichester area to take in Fishbourne Roman Palace, with a possible behind the scenes tour and then on to the Novium Museum in Chichester for their Mystery Warrior, North Bersted Man Exhibition (Iron Age).

The Committee have also taken the decision not to have a Road Trip as such this Summer and instead to stay closer to home and visit the Uffington area in Oxfordshire over the weekend of 27/28 June 2020.

Details are still to be worked out, but if you are interested please contact Penny Martin to ensure you are included in the circulation for these events. 01256 974 212 [secretary@bahsoc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bahsoc.org.uk)

### **Church Visits 18 April**

We hope to arrange a visit to churches in the area which have special features or interest. The venues will be Stoke Charity, Headbourne Worthy, Martyr Worthy and Chilcomb – or a selection of those. More details will be available at the next two meetings, when there will be a sheet to sign if you wish to come along. We usually include a pub lunch and car sharing can be arranged.

### **Richard Tanner - RIP**



We are sad to report the death of Richard Tanner. Richard was the head teacher at the Vyne School and on retirement took the opportunity to further his interest in local history, founding the North Waltham Historical Society and writing a number of books on Steventon, Jane Austen and North Waltham. Richard was also a member of the Basingstoke Choral Society.

# Stanchester Excavations 2019 – Interim Report

*Mark Peryer & Ian Waite*

Excavators from the society spent four weeks on site at Stanchester in 2019 in two, fortnight-long digs, one in late May/early June, and the other in late August. Prior to hand-digging, a large area of 48 x 18m, to the south-east of the previous trenches was machined back, with the intent of getting a head start on unravelling as much as possible during the season.

The trench plan shows how the machined area was divided up into 8 trenches and the first area to be trowelled was a 3m slot on the western edge of trenches J1 to J4. When trowelled back to the natural, a complicated pattern of similar-sized post holes of about 15 cm diameter emerged, along with three other features. Two of these features turned out to be non-archaeological, namely part of a badger set and a tree root, but the third was a 30 cm long depression filled with burnt flint.

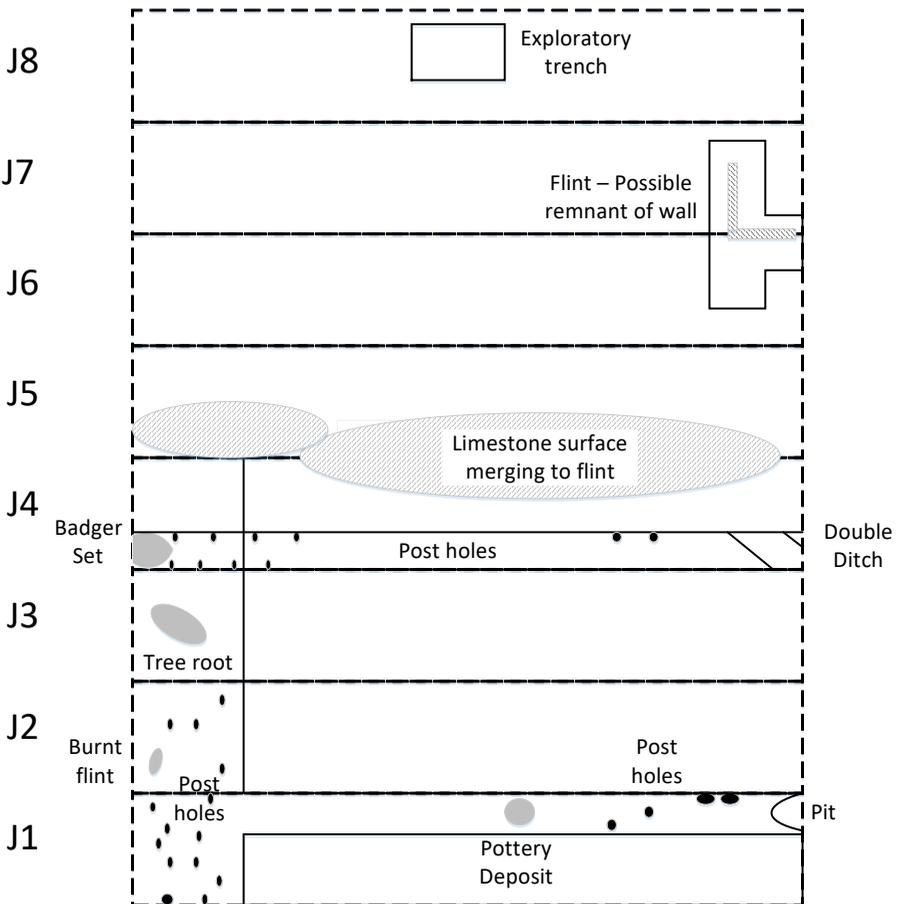
The northern third of trench J1 was trowelled back to the natural and yielded four more post holes, a pottery deposit and at the eastern end about a quarter of a large circular pit with a diameter of 2.2 m and cut about 1.9 m deep into the chalk bed-rock. There were no finds in the pit fill, which seems to have been deposited in one episode since it had no apparent stratigraphy.

The southern half of trench J4 was also trowelled back to the underlying chalk, revealing more post holes in a regular alignment to the western end of the trench and a short section of a double ditch to the eastern end. The double ditch was found under several layers of burnt material, suggesting an area where some kind of processing was taking place. A 40 cm diameter Iron Age pot was found in one of the burnt layers, above the ditches.

In trench J5, the initial trowelling yielded a heavy concentration of Roman roof tile fragments, either limestone or terracotta mixed in with a number of potential flue-tile fragments, heavily scored on one side. This area was adjacent to the place where we found the surface covered in fragments of limestone in 2018. We found that the limestone surface merged into a flint

surface; however so far we are not able to determine whether it is an interior or external area and we hope that further exploration of trenches J5 and J4 may provide an answer to this question in 2020. The presence of the roof tiles in this area, contrasted with the excavated areas of J1 to J3 where hardly any CBM was present, suggesting a structure to the northern part of the trench system.

### Stanchester 2019 – Summary Trench Plan



In trenches J6 and J7 a relatively small area was investigated with the view of understanding whether an “L” shape present on the geophysics represented anything structural. What was found was a series of large flints in an alignment, suggestive of a heavily degraded wall footing. Surrounding the flint was a compacted chalk surface that seems to represent a working surface, similar to that found in the square-shaped building found previously at Stanchester. An exploratory trench in J8 did not reveal the same compacted surface, which possibly means that it is outside any structure.

A small number of Roman coins were found in the western end of J4 and these date from AD270, giving a third-century date to the structure. We know that the site was in use over a long period of time, with Iron Age ditch systems and pottery finds dated as late Iron Age. The fact that we picked up a storage pit and a segment of a double ditch at a level below the Roman era only serves to remind us that there are multiple phases to explore at Stanchester.

We plan to continue in 2020, for two weeks from 30 May to 13 June, and a further two weeks from the 15 - 29 August. The work in 2020 will focus on understanding what is going on in J4 to J8, since it is becoming evident that a further structure awaits us.

Thanks are due to the site crew of Ian Waite, Mick Buckwell and Paul Cater who set up and took down the site, and in particular to Ian who managed the day-to-day contributions from the volunteers from BAHS and other societies. Further thanks and acknowledgements are due to Sue and Charles Marriott, the land owners, and Darren the farm manager who helps us in many ways.

## **For Your Diary - Stanchester 2020**

The dig dates for Stanchester this year:  
**30 May-13 June and 15-29 August**

## **A Starter at Stanchester**

*Andrew Howard*

Well, I'd watched lots of Time Teams, witnessed several summers of archaeologists digging at Basing House and had time on my hands so when BAHS was looking for volunteers to dig at Stanchester I thought "Why not?".

A quick email exchange assured me I'd be welcome, regardless of my inexperience, and that I didn't really need anything. I was also told that if I drove to such and such a village, took the track after the speed limit and followed the signs I'd find the site. I did and I did!

When I got there, there was a marquee size tent, a gazebo, a portalo, a water tank and lots of relatively normal people standing in a huge field round a large area that had been scraped back (mechanically) to the chalk and which then contained several trenches.

Ian the boss then took some details off me, explained the site in normal English and despatched me to an area of the site where there was someone of considerably more experience. She saw me through my first day, my first pottery find and my first post hole.

It is probably better to be timid than bold with the trowel – I was so worried about missing something that I was told at one time that my bit looked more like a scale model of the Grand Canyon than archaeology! But I think I improved. The people turned out to be normal, tea breaks were frequent and entertaining, and every now and then someone found something interesting. Technical terms were not needed, thank goodness.

I think my list of important things to remember if you are thinking about going would be a hat and things to protect from the sun, ditto rain – this is Britain and it is outdoors and exposed. Take your lunch, although there is tea and coffee, and a mug helps. Gardening gloves are a good idea - chalk is hard on the knuckles and a kneeler helps (ditto knees). Otherwise don't worry too much about equipment – the society has some that you can

borrow until you decide whether you are a regular. The bits you do need eventually (trowel, bucket, little shovel) are all conveniently priced to be presents.

And then you could be in line for that great find. I've seen a newbie make one, but rest assured the newbie wasn't me...

## Good News, Your Husband is Dead

*Bob Clarke*

The following item appeared in the humorous columns of the *Sporting Times* on 17 October 1896. It appears to have been copied from some other publication. However, I have been unable to find this notice in the *Hants and Berks Gazette* or in the archives of any of the other newspapers that are currently searchable online. This made me suspect that it could have been a joke dreamt up in the offices of the *Sporting Times*.

**NOTHING** like breaking it gently :—  
**I**F Mrs. E. J. Woodhouse would communicate  
with her friends she would hear of some-  
thing to her advantage; her husband is dead.—  
Basingstoke.

However, I think the notice might have been genuine.

There was a Mrs E.J. Woodhouse who lived at Basingstoke. Emma Jane Eling married Thomas Woodhouse at Basingstoke in 1880. At the time of the 1891 census they were still living together at 100 May Street. Thomas died when he was aged 40. His death was registered in Basingstoke in the quarter July-Sept 1896. On 7 October 1896 Emma Jane married a Thomas Bater at Kingston-on-Thames. So Mr Woodhouse's death was good news. She was waiting for him to die so she could marry her new flame.

## The Basing House Armoury

*Alan Turton*

I am always fascinated when new evidence comes to light on the story of Basing House. In this case, a document has emerged from the National Archives which has not been indexed. This gives details of a large armoury that was once stored at the House which appears to have been accumulated in the 16<sup>th</sup> century and that was later to cause considerable trouble for John Paulet, the Marquiss [sic] of Winchester, in the reign of Charles I.

In 1626, when it became apparent that the recusant John would soon be inheriting the estate from his ailing father, it was revealed that there were arms for 2,000 men stored at Basing House plus two field-guns and ammunition.

The Privy Council considered it too dangerous for a Catholic to have control of this amount of military equipment and ordered its removal for safekeeping to the Bishop's Palace, Wolvesey Castle, at Winchester and the two guns to Netley Castle. There they remained until the summer of 1630, when a royal visit was planned to the city of Winchester, and it was realised that all the reception rooms at the Palace were still full of these arms. The Council hurriedly contacted the Bishop, who in turn ordered the Dean of Winchester to take the arms into the Cathedral for temporary storage. By October the King allowed the arms to be returned to Basing House for the Marquiss, "To make sale of the same to his best profit." The House to which they were returned was by this stage in bad repair, described by diarist Peter Munday who visited Basing in 1634/5, as "...now forsaken and desolate."

On the eve of the Civil War, in the autumn of 1641, a Mr Sewer reported to the Commons that "A great many arms in the Marquiss of Winchester's house at Basingstoke, a recusant, and that the keepers of them told him there were arms for 1,500 men." It is these arms to which the newly discovered inventory relates.

*An inventorie taken of Armes at Basing Armourie  
the 14<sup>th</sup> day of January 1638.*

Pikes - 188, whereof 8 spanish, armed with yellow velvett  
White flauders corseletts, 92  
Horsemens armour, 95 whereof 2 of more note than the others  
Three armours for horsemen of better sorte, whereof one black guilded,  
one white guilded the other white playne all with gantlets  
Saddles armed 63, whereof 2 crimson velvet, one black velvet, one crimson  
cotton, the rest buffe.  
Two payre of stirrups.  
Almaine rivetts – 300  
Morriions – 220  
Harquebusses a crock 3 with flasks  
Bastard musketts – 45 with flasks  
Calivers straight stocked 171 with flasks  
Knotts of match - 100  
White bills armed – 11, whereof 6 with the falcon  
Two pole axes  
Sulletts – 333  
Jacks of plate – 16 and 2 steele brigandines  
Cases of pistolles – 29  
Old horse swordes crosss hilted – 50  
Pistoles inlayd – 2  
Long bowes steele – 30. Ewen bowes – 30  
A greate quantity of arrowes  
Spanishe morriians – 91  
Gorgetts – 100  
Browne bills – 190  
Javelins old – 80  
Divers petronells & pistolles old past service  
Demilances – 70, not serviceable  
Horsemens staves – 184, verie old  
Black corslets – 50. Not useful  
Tents – 7  
Horseshoes – 200

Armed stakes to tye horses at – 30  
Chambers 4 belonging to 2 yron peeces

At Netley Castle  
Brasse falconets – 3  
Musketts - 10

Obviously, the Marquiss had had little success, or indeed the will, to sell the weaponry over the previous eleven years and so on 4 November 1641 the Commons ordered him “...to sell them to such tradesmen as will buy the same.” This time most of the arms were sold and before the outbreak of hostilities, leaving, we are told, only six muskets for the use of the Marquiss to defend his house.

My thanks to Stephen Ede-Borrett of the Pike and Shot Society for passing on to me the details of the inventory which was discovered by his colleague Peter Leadbetter. [www.pikeandshotsociety.org](http://www.pikeandshotsociety.org)

## Fame at Last?

We recently had an email from a friend who was late-night surfing with a view to career change. He (and we) were surprised and amused to see that Alan Turton is the illustration of the Wikipedia definition of “Tour guide”!

Photo from 2004 when Alan was still the curator of Basing House.

### Tour guide

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

*For the gadget, see wireless tour guide system.*

A **tour guide** (U.S.) or a **tourist guide** (European) is a person who provides assistance, information on cultural, historical and contemporary heritage to people on organized **tours** and individual clients at educational establishments, religious and historical sites, museums, and at venues of other significant interest, attractions sites.<sup>[1]</sup>

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A tour guide in the United Kingdom

## Nine year-old Basingstoke Boy Jailed for Scrumpping Apples

*Bob Clarke*

On 4 October 1887 Walter Castle, aged nine, one of the 14 children of William Castle, landlord of the *Soldier's Return*, appeared in court at Basingstoke Town Hall charged with stealing apples, valued at sixpence, from John Burgess Soper's orchard in South View. The hearing took place in front of the Mayor and five borough magistrates, one of whom was John Burgess Soper. Neither of Walter's parents attended the court even though they had notice of the summons. Walter admitted stealing the apples for the purpose of selling them. He was fined 10s and 9s 6d costs, in default of which he would be sent to prison for 14 days.

Police Superintendent Hibberd made several attempts to persuade William to pay the fine on his son's behalf to save the boy from going to prison. As well as being the landlord of the *Soldier's Return*, William had a job in the telegraphic department of the London and South Western Railway earning 30 shillings a week, so he could easily have afforded to pay the fine. However, William told the superintendent he "should not pay a halfpenny for his boy", that Walter was beyond his control; he very frequently played truant from school and had on several occasions stayed out all night. Superintendent Hibberd told William the magistrates were reluctant to send Walter to prison. William replied that they should have ordered Walter to have been flogged and that to fine him was merely to punish his parents. However the magistrates had no powers to order Walter to be flogged.

On the morning of Thursday 20 October Walter rang the bell of the police station and surrendered himself. A policeman escorted him to Winchester Jail to serve his sentence. Someone wrote to Henry Matthews, the Home Secretary, presumably complaining that an impressionable child of such a young age being sent to an adult prison would be subject to all manner of bad examples and would come out more hardened than when he went in. The Home Secretary asked the magistrates' clerk for a report about the case. Having read the report, the Home Secretary decided not to interfere with the magistrates' decision.

Having stumbled upon this story, I wanted to try to find out what happened to Walter after he came out of prison. Did he continue to entertain the readers of the local press with further acts of juvenile delinquency and rebellion? Did he put into practice what he may have learned in from his fellow convicts in prison? I was disappointed to learn that the reverse was true.

In the 1891 census Walter is shown as a 13 year-old errand boy living with his parents at the *Soldier's Return*. In 1893 he joined the navy. While serving in the navy he taught himself to play a number of musical instruments. In 1903 he answered an advertisement for a drummer in the band of the Nottingham City Police. He left the navy and joined the police as a uniformed constable. In the 1911 census he is shown as a detective officer in the Nottingham City Police. He was promoted to sergeant in 1913, detective inspector in 1922 and superintendent in 1927. He retired from the police in 1933 and moved to Theddlethorpe in Lincolnshire where he died in 1948.



During his police career he stayed for a week in a lodging house to obtain information about a gang of thieves, and amused his fellow lodgers by playing a whistle, pipe and mouth-organ and telling funny stories. Dressed as a chauffeur, he lodged for a week in a misconducted restaurant, and on another occasion drove a furniture van full of detectives to make a betting raid. He was also responsible for training new recruits in law and police duties.

He was also well-known in Nottingham as a versatile entertainer, described as “that ever-popular singer of humorous ditties” and was for a time an “uncle” on the Nottingham BBC station.

Sources: *Reading Mercury*, 8 Oct. 1887; *Hants and Berks Gazette* 15 Oct., 22 Oct., 29 Oct. and 5 Nov. 1887; TNA, ADM/188/280 Royal Navy Register of Seamen's Services; *Nottingham Journal*, 13 Feb. 1929, *Nottingham Evening Post*, 4 May 1933 and 6 July 1948.

## Hampshire Cultural Trust Stores

*Penny Ingham*

On Friday 1 November, a group from BAHS met for a tour of the conservation labs and archaeological stores of the Hampshire Cultural Trust, based at Chilcomb House near Winchester. The Trust's collections include not only archaeological finds from fieldwork and excavations across Hampshire, but also natural sciences; contemporary, decorative and fine art; costumes and textiles; firearms; photographs; social history and transport vehicles. They care for a staggering 2.5 million historic objects, from working steam engines to Neolithic hand axes, and items from these collections are on display in their museums across Hampshire.

The initial 'meet and greet' included tea, biscuits and cakes, which were pounced upon with gusto, bringing to mind tea-breaks up at the Stanchester dig! After refreshments, we were led into a lab where conservation work is underway on an assemblage of Iron Age artefacts discovered near Oakley by a metal detectorist back in January 2016. BAHS was called in to investigate, and the conditions were challenging to say the least. With sub-zero temperatures, the ground was frozen but the team, led by Ian Waite, successfully lifted the finds, still encased in the surrounding soil for their protection.

The assemblage comprises:

- A 'tankard' or drinking vessel, made up of three bands of copper alloy, with a small, undecorated handle. A wooden lining has partly survived.
- A larger 'bucket'; again fashioned from copper alloy bands, and with traces of a wooden lining. The 'bucket' has a large handle reminiscent of a penannular brooch.
- A copper alloy perforated disc - possibly part of a wooden lid for the 'tankard'.
- A large ceramic pot with corded decoration near the rim.
- A pair of remarkably well-preserved shears.

The finds were deemed to be treasure under the Treasure Act of 1996, which resulted in conservation being delayed until the Trust was able to

purchase them. Once work began, the finds were X-rayed to better understand their fabric and structure, and to provide an initial, non-invasive 'look inside'. The tankard and the bucket were then painstakingly excavated spit by spit. Work on removing the contents of the pot is ongoing. Here it became apparent that not everything in the lab is high-tech: a pair of ladies tights was tied around the fragile, fragmented pot to help keep it in one piece! So far, there is no evidence any of the 'containers' held human or animal bone. However, animal bones were found close by. If the assemblage *does* represent a burial or cremation, perhaps the bones indicate a joint of meat for the deceased to enjoy in the afterlife, or the remains of a feast eaten by the mourners at the graveside.

We also had the opportunity to examine some Roman coins from Reading University's Silchester dig, which had been meticulously cleaned under a microscope. They included a coin of Allectus, who ruled Britannia as an independent nation from AD293 to 296, and whose defeat by Constantius is said to have taken place in or around Silchester. The conservationist told us Reading University students are very well trained because they resist the temptation to rub a coin clean (which can damage a fragile surface) and send them straight to the lab still covered in soil.

The next lab we visited specialised in social history and textiles. Here we met up with some teddy bears, part of a collection of more than three hundred bears of all shapes and sizes recently donated to the Trust. Every single bear has a name and a backstory and after conservation, the entire collection will be going on display at the Milestones Museum in Basingstoke.

Our final stop was the temperature-controlled archaeological stores. Reminiscent of the final scene from Indiana Jones and the Temple of Doom, albeit on a slightly smaller scale, the building was crammed with row upon row of floor-to-ceiling shelves, neatly stacked with cardboard boxes labelled by date, dig site and contents. Whilst we didn't find the box containing the Arc of the Covenant, we did spot many familiar names including Worting, Old Basing and Silchester; an enjoyable trip down memory lane for many on the tour. One box proved too hard to resist: it was labelled Stanchester, 1965. We huddled around and opened it with a

great sense of expectation. It contained exactly the same types of pottery and tile we've been unearthing for the last few years.

For those who wish to find out more, The Hampshire Cultural Trust has an online database, which can be accessed at [hampshireculture.org.uk](http://hampshireculture.org.uk). The collections can also be visited by appointment, and the Trust actively encourages researchers, welcoming their expertise and insight. Established as an independent charity in 2014, they are also keen to recruit volunteers, not only to work at Chilcomb House, but at the twenty-three venues they manage and support across the county.

## **Humphry Repton at Herriard Park: “Improving the Premises”**

By Sally Miller and Sheila Carey-Thomas, Dee Clift & Eleanor Waterhouse  
*Review by Mary Oliver*

Back in October I went to the Record Office to represent the Society at the launch of this little book brought out by the Hampshire Gardens Trust. The Trust was set up in 1983 to record, protect and conserve the historic parks and gardens of the county, an initiative followed by 34 other counties, and a great deal of good work has been done, of which this book is a prime example.

The Jervoise family have held Herriard since 1601 and are remarkable for the size of their archive, kept in the care of the Record Office. One of the treasures is the correspondence between Humphry Repton, the famous landscape gardener and his client George Purefoy Jervoise, who inherited from his childless uncle in 1792. The house he inherited had been built at the beginning of the 18<sup>th</sup> century to a design by John James (son of the vicar of Basingstoke, who later designed churches in London and was Surveyor of St Paul's Cathedral after Wren) but this house was replaced by a new house in 1966. The gardens were laid out by George London, a well-known garden designer, but the young owner wanted to make his mark on his inheritance and invited Humphry Repton to submit one of his famous 'Red books' to improve his gardens and park. The book itself is now lost, but all

the correspondence and the records of the work which followed his suggestions are extant. It was the first commission for Repton in Hampshire, and came quite early in his career. It was ambitious, and the young George Purefoy, anxious to impress his new wife with his new property, spent more than he could comfortably afford, and the whole scheme was not completed. However, the records show that much was accomplished, including the parterres and glasshouse, and hundreds of trees for the park and avenues.

The joy is in the detail, as those members who have helped with local research for VCH will agree, so the species of plants, the names of the nursery men who provided them, even the suppliers of the bricks for garden walls and the names of the workmen and gardeners are all listed in the appendices. I recommend this book as an enjoyable and informative addition to your library of local history. Available from HRO, price £12.



## **Basingstoke YAC Update**

*Penny Martin, Co-Leader Basingstoke YAC*

Happy New Year everyone!

Our YAC Group has grown in leaps and bounds and we are now well into our third season. This year we have reached our maximum number of members (20 based on the size of group we can accommodate at the Willis Museum) and we are now running a waiting list for new members with 3 confirmed waiting at present and a further 4 to whom we have responded but who have not yet confirmed their place on the waiting list. It seems we are the victim of our own success!

A further update on our recent activities will appear in the next edition of the Newsletter.

## 2020 DIARY DATES

**BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



[www.bahsoc.org.uk](http://www.bahsoc.org.uk)

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**Registered Charity no. 11000263**

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**MEETINGS** *Church Cottage, Basingstoke at 7.30pm*

- 13 February* ISLANDS OF STONE; NEOLITHIC CRANNOGS  
IN THE OUTER HEBRIDES – Duncan Garrow
- 12 March* MINO-TOURISM; THE PALACE AT KNOSSOS IN  
EARLY POSTCARDS – Katy Soar
- 9 April* THE INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH ON  
NORTH HAMPSHIRE TOWNS – Derek Spruce
- 14 May* THE MAPLEDURWELL TREASURE; ITS PLACE  
AMONG COIN HOARDS OF THE ENGLISH  
CIVIL WAR – Barrie Cook

### **FRIENDS OF THE WILLIS MUSEUM**

*At 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke*

- 20 February* Napoleonic French POWs – Paul Chamberlain
- 19 March* Castles in the Air – Nick Brazil
- 16 April* Arson in His Majesty's Dockyards; "John the  
Painter" – Alan Turton