

**BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



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Candle graffiti at Berwick Barracks (see page 2)

BAHS on Tour 2018

Nicola Turton



At the Maelmin Archaeological Park

Alan had a long-standing speaking engagement, so we were forced to make a late-night dash up to Leicester and cover the remaining distance the next morning. I thought that racing through the night would be a very adventurous thing to do, but was just exhausting. And it meant that we had to miss the trip to Bamburgh Castle. But as we visited at the end of the holiday instead, I can tell you that it's a lovely castle. At the northern end of the castle, work is being carried out to investigate the Anglo-Saxon remains of the castle, but this year's dig had not yet started.

When we did arrive, it was to join the rest of the group at the quay for the boat trip to the Farne Islands. But sadly, we were also met with the news that Ginny – trip organiser - was unwell, and unable to join us. But we knew she would want us to go bravely on, so we did our best to enjoy the boat journey round the islands, where we saw seals, and many sea birds. Then we landed on Inner Farne. My first impression was how clear the water was, followed by the intense noise, which came from gannets, puffins, Eider Duck, Turnstones, but especially from the Arctic terns. Thousands of these delicate, elegant little birds, all screaming like fish wives.

Day 2 saw us in Berwick-upon-Tweed, which is a lot smarter than it was in 2005, our last visit. The barracks now host a good array of museums, from Regimental to local and a small but excellent art gallery. A walk round the walls followed (fuelled by ice-cream), and a visit to the Commonwealth era church.

Saturday was always going to be my favourite day, and I wasn't disappointed. We walked the field at Yeavering, wherein lay the remains of a great post-Roman complex. The site also has prehistoric and Roman remains, but it was really with the eye of faith that we recreated it. That and Ginny's excellent notes and Kay and Mary's evocation of the model (which they'd seen at Jarrow) showing the mass baptisms in the eighth century.

Swiftly whizzing on to the Archaeological park at Maelmin, we were lucky to bump into a local who is very keen to get the site better known and kindly photographed us at the wooden-posted henge monument before we inspected the Anglo-Saxon building, both of which are re-creations based on archaeological remains from the area. If you have internet access, you might like to have a look at www.melmin.org.uk

Some of our group decided to go and watch a wedding on TV (...?), but the rest of us went through the woods to another site. This turned out to be one of



my favourites – I have long wished to see cup-and-ring marks; and to add value, we approached through a series of earthworks, the banks of which were thick with bluebells, fragrant and lavender-coloured in the spring sunshine.

Roughting Linn or Rowtin Lynn, is an otherwise unnamed promontory fort on the OS map.

After a short walk through this patch of heaven, one reaches what is described as one of the best examples of rock art in the country: a large whale-backed lump of stone, liberally pecked into and looking like a tattooist's catalogue. Rainbow-like arches, spirals, rays and shooting stars, all of which sprang into relief when we poured water over them. I could have spent hours there, but was dragged away, and we walked through the increasing heat to Goatscrag. Mark asked us to wait, as he climbed the very steep valley to the overhanging rocks, but I do struggle with waiting for nice things, so I quickly broke, and scrambled up after him. When one does a really sharp climb, I've often found that the photos don't do it justice, but it truly was tremendously steep! By the time we reached the top, Mark had found the eponymous goat carvings. They

are very nice (though Alan suggested they are llamas), but are difficult to date; possibly as early as Roman or as late as medieval.

Our busy day continued with the ruined Etal castle, and concluded with the battle monument at Flodden (1513, Scots v English, James IV killed).

Sunday so soon and Lindisfarne. Unfortunately, there wasn't time for me to cross on foot, but at least travelling by car meant time for coffee before visiting the museum, full of lovely Saxon artefacts, and then the ruins of the Priory. The other thing to be visited on Lindisfarne is of course the castle. Lutyn's work is still shrouded in a magnificent plastic wrapped scaffold. It would have been nice to see the unadorned building, but I did have to admire the austere beauty of the modernist shell. Inside was a modern art display by Anya Gallaccio, which consisted of naturally dyed blankets draped over oak frames. I thought I recognised the work of our friend Debbie Bamford, aka the Mulberry Dyer, but there were no credits. So I sent her a message, and yes, it was hers. I liked the beautiful hues of the material and I admired the wonderfully crafted oak frames, but I wonder if I missed the essence of "dreamed about the flowers that hide from the light 2018". Possibly I was too annoyed on Debbie's part, or perhaps it's just not my thing.

One complaint I have about the Society's archaeological and historical jaunts is that they are way too short; I hate that we have a delightful time doing something we love with people we like, then all at once it's over. Here's to next year.

Fieldwork Report

Mark Peryer

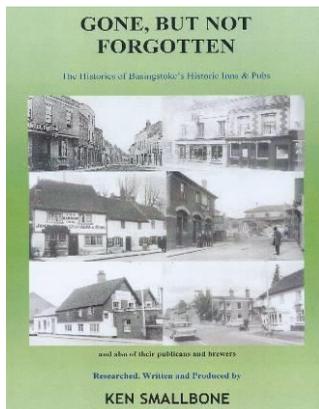
Thank you to those of you who worked on the Worsley Hall excavations in June. I think that we can safely say that we now have a substantially better idea of the outline and sequencing of the house. Thanks are also due to the digger men (Ian, Mick and Bob) for reducing the amount of hard work that we had to do.

There has hardly been any rain since June, and when Ian and Mick took some garden researchers to the Worsley Hall site in late July they discovered parch marks in the surroundings of the house. These have been measured, plotted and photographed, and add to the picture of the layout of the gardens.

We are now gearing up for an excavation at the Stanchester Roman site, from 18 August -1 September. We have carried out a (sadly inconclusive) geophysical survey in the part of the field not previously covered. However, we still have an interesting plan for this year's dig and if you would like to take part please get in touch with myself or Ian Waite (07963 372989). markperyer@gmail (07770 832397)

A Fantastic Book About Basingstoke Pubs

Review by Bob Clarke



Twenty pounds seems a lot to spend on a book, but in this case the book is worth every penny and more. *Gone, but not Forgotten* by Ken Smallbone consists of 262 A4 pages of closely-typed text containing an encyclopaedic history of Basingstoke pubs. It must have taken Ken years to research and to write.

In the 1860s the town had 54 pubs for a population of 4,654, which works out as 86 persons per pub. If the same ratio of persons per pub had applied in 2015 when the town's population was 113,600, we would have needed

1,321 pubs. Instead we have probably no more than about 25.

Between 1965 and 1973 Basingstoke lost 19 town centre pubs. That loss was offset by only two replacement pubs – the *Bass House* and the *Goat and Barge*, both of which are no longer with us. By 1974 there were only 22 pubs left out of the 41 pubs that were in the town ten years earlier. There were a number of new pubs that were built to serve the new estates, but many of those, like the *Buckskin*, the *Pen and Parchment* at Popley and the *Pig and Whistle* at Brighton Hill, have disappeared.

Ken's book provides a general history of the legislation and other factors concerning the evolution of inns, pubs and alehouses and their effects on Basingstoke; an impressively detailed history of the 152 drinking houses that were known to have existed at various times between late-Medieval times and

what Ken described as the ‘Great Destruction’, the demolition to make way for the redevelopment of the town in the 1960s; a history of the breweries that served the town; information about 1,340 publicans, and much more besides, including a wealth of photographs of pubs that no longer exist and the few survivors. Ken privately published a very small number of copies of his book in 2017. Sadly, he died in December that year.

The book has now been reprinted and is on sale at the Willis Museum, or by post (p&p £3.60) from Mrs Lin Penny, 39 Barn Lane, Oakley, RG23 7HT Tel 01256 780947 email linpenny@btinternet.com

THE GRAND WESTERN CANAL – ENCOUNTERS

Colin Williams

The life-cycle of Basingstoke Canal - ambition, realism, construction, heyday, decline, disuse and partial re-birth – is paralleled by the canal straddling the Devon/Somerset border, the Grand Western, albeit that differs in being unconnected to any other waterway.

Ambition. The Grand Western was a child of the late 18th century Canal Mania. The promoters aimed to extend the existing waterway between the Bristol Channel and Taunton on to Topsham on the Exe and so reduce the cost of transporting Welsh coal to south coast markets. *[A full history is to be found in ‘The Grand Western Canal’ by Helen Harris.]*

The canal built: phase 1 The design, by experienced canal builder, John Rennie, would create a canal thirty-six miles long plus branches, be lock-free, and of two barge width. Work began in 1810. Oddly, at first sight, work commenced at a distance from Taunton with only two and a half miles of the main channel being constructed plus the Tiverton branch; this was in the expectation that significant revenue would result from the traffic in limestone from quarries to canalside lime kilns. This first phase was opened to traffic in 1814.

The canal built: phase 2 Optimism returned in 1832 and work commenced on the connection to Taunton; nothing more was heard of the connection to Topsham. To reduce costs the extension would not be as Rennie’s costly lock-

free Tiverton branch but would be by seven lifts and an inclined plane. The calculations on which the inclined plane was based proved disastrously awry and it had to be re-built but in 1838 the link to Taunton did open.

The canal in use The canal could take 40 ton barges on the wide Tiverton stretch and 8 ton tubs on the Taunton link. However, revenues did not meet expectations and then down the track came the Bristol & Exeter Railway which reached Taunton in 1842 and Tiverton in 1848. The canal company was unable to compete and in 1865 sold out to the railway.

The canal in decline In 1867 the link to Taunton was closed and the land sold. The original Tiverton branch however survived: the limestone trade continued, although dwindling over the years, until 1925. There were also other revenue earners: a per capita charge for sheep washing prior to shearing; and water-lily cultivation – the waterlilies were used in wreaths.

The canal derelict and saved With the nationalisation of railways [and railway owned canals] the British Transport Commission became owners. The canal was closed formally to traffic in 1962. In 1964 ownership was transferred to the British Waterways Board. But what to do with the canal? Eventually, ownership was transferred to Devon County Council and Mid-Devon DC. The canal was fully restored and a Canal Trust set up which provides volunteers to help maintain the restored section and investigate structures on the unrestored stretch.

The canal today Today, the towpath along the eleven miles of restored canal provides easy walking with information boards, and original milestones to mark progress.

At Tiverton the Canal Basin is bordered by remains of lime kilns the first of many along the canal. The car park is of a size to suggest a popular venue as do the visitors' centre, the horse-drawn barge, the hire boats, and the floating café; but on a blustery autumn weekday all are closed.

On the town side housing backs onto the towpath and on the far side gardens reach the water's edge. The few people around are dog-walkers; the dogs are friendly.

Unexpectedly, a very modern footbridge is the first bridge to be met, built to link housing with a school on the opposite side met. The bridge is named for William Authurs, a leading figure in the canal conservation campaign.

On the approach to Manley Bridge, an original, is an information board describing a 1961 tragedy: a Canberra bomber crashed into the derelict canal with the two crew members being killed. This tragedy resurfaced, as it were, forty-two years later in 2003 when maintenance of the canal included dredging; the nutrient rich silt was destined for spreading on fields but odd pieces of metal were being found; a mystery until a passer-by mentioned the crash which was quite unknown to officials [the value of folk memory]. The silt had to be isolated and disposed of environmentally safely. The tragedy is commemorated by a memorial slab which was installed at a ceremony attended by the two widows.



Shortly, the canal is carried in an aqueduct over the Bristol & Exeter Railway Tiverton branch line – unrestored [the canal survives the cause of its financial failure]. Another modern bridge is next: the Dudley Weatherley Jubilee bridge is named for the Queen’s Golden Jubilee and for a prominent campaigner and artist. Now met six jolly cyclists who invited me to join them but being on foot . . .

The approach to the first village to be reached, Halberton, is along a high embankment with magnificent views. The village has a pub, The Hickory Inn [formerly The Barge] – not open daytime weekdays; a farm shop tea room; not open in winter; and the 14th century St Andrew’s – always open.

Continuing beyond Halberton the dominating Rock House can be seen. This was the home of the works superintendent of the second stage of the canal. Into the village of Sampford Peverell where the 13th century church, St John the Baptist, is located in Higher Town and the two pubs in Lower Town. At my lunchtime visit The Merrimead was closed but The Globe was open and welcoming. Spying a possible short-cut to the tow-path, enquiry of a local resulted not only in a ‘Yes’ but a very full account of how she and her husband had walked the WHOLE length of the canal.

Beyond the village the A361 dual carriageway from the M5 crosses; below is a slipway where a chatty angler said that his catch occasionally included a ‘flushed’ goldfish.



Shortly, Ayshford Bridge can be crossed to Ayshford Court and Chapel – photos above. [The Ayshfords were a significant local family and will be met later at Burlescombe.] The 15th century chapel is in the care of the Friends of Friendless Churches and can be visited. Now, a contrast to Ayshford Chapel is found on the south side of the towpath: a 16-hectare solar panel ‘farm’; for comparison, Eastrop Park is six hectares.

Continuing I could see a woman standing at the water’s edge gazing at the water. Her story explained: it was her father’s favourite spot and she had come to remember him.

Shortly after, the sharp bends now reached would have been the junction where the Tiverton branch left the main channel; however, only the section northwards was constructed.



Immediately before Fossend Bridge linking the villages of Westleigh and Burlescombe is Black Bridge which once carried a tramway from the quarries at Westleigh to the now closed Burlescombe station. Eightwheelers now carry the stone across Fossend Bridge [one a minute in my ten minute count].

Later driving to Burlescombe through unsignposted, deep and narrow lanes I became semi-lost although realising I was in Westleigh or about a half-mile to go. Help was at hand: a Devon CC mobile library. My enquiry of the lady librarian received the reply ‘No never been there’; but she produced a road atlas and worked out ‘Up there and turn right’. A minute later Burlescombe was clearly visible but presumably not many book readers there.

Burlescombe’s St Andrew’s church was the Ayshford family church, their memorials reflecting their one-time importance but their influence has not lasted long enough to keep The Ayshford Arms open; the postman was ready with a full history.

Ramblers! The only ramblers seen: ten or so very jolly ladies, not from a club but ‘we just like walking’.

Over Waytown Tunnel; Rennie’s design had required a cutting plus tunnel here. And then almost at the Devon/Somerset border, Lowdwells where the canal ends with the lock which connected the earlier Tiverton stage with the second stage to Taunton. That stage is unrestored and indeed unrestorable but that’s next for exploration.

Editor’s note: as it’s the summer “silly season” I have decided to print Bob’s light-hearted fictional piece. I hope you enjoy it, and I for one would be thrilled to find any of these ladies in my family tree!

Thornycroft Women ?

by Bob Clarke

During the First World War, Thornycroft’s Basingstoke works was one of the first factories in England to employ women on motor vehicle construction. At the height of the war Thornycroft was employing 1,550 people in Basingstoke, of whom around 550 were women. The Ministry of Munitions sent

representatives from firms in other parts of the country to the Basingstoke works to see how women were employed.

This is a picture of the Thornycroft women's football team taken during the First World War. If you wanted to write a multi-volume novel about the diverging lives of group of people as they developed through the twentieth century you could (just possibly) do worse than to use this picture as a starting point and write a Basingstoke/feminist equivalent of Anthony Powell's *Dance to the Music of Time* and C.P. Snow's *Strangers and Brothers* series based on the fictional lives of those eleven women.



Here are some ideas. Starting with the one at the front holding the ball and moving along the line, we have:

Edith who studied hard and became a doctor, rebelling against the inequalities and inadequacies of the provision of health services in the 1930s and helping to set up the NHS in 1948.

Bessie whose work at Thornycroft inspired her to buy an ex-War Department lorry and set herself up in business as a one-woman transport company, meeting opposition and occasional support from the demobbed soldiers who had the same idea.

Mabel and **Martha** were sisters. Mabel became a barmaid who married a publican and became a pub landlady. Martha joined the Salvation Army and later married a Primitive Methodist preacher. Family parties were never the same again.

Maud became a renowned beauty and married a minor aristocrat. Together they joined the British Union of Fascists. Maud visited Germany and met Hitler in 1936.

Florence wanted to become a journalist, but she could only get a job writing the problem pages for a women's magazine.

Minnie had a husband who kept getting laid off in various depressions and spent most of the 1920s and 1930s on the dole. They lived in a very overcrowded house. In desperation Minnie wrote to a woman's magazine asking where she could find out the Facts of Life because she had nine children and didn't want any more. Florence answered the letter on a day when the editor was on holiday. Instead of recommending a book where Minnie could read about the Facts of Life, Florence decided to explain in graphic detail what Minnie and her husband were doing to each other that was causing the births of their children. Although that week's edition of the magazine had record sales from teenage boys, the resultant uproar meant that Florence was sacked from her job. This was the impetus Florence needed, and she landed her dream job as a war correspondent, covering the conflict in Abyssinia and the Spanish Civil War.

Olive is the one with the white hat staring into the distance looking for signs of the Second Coming. In 1929 she had a vision that Christ would appear in the form of a talking cat. With the help of money Maud gave her, she set up a Christian commune and cat sanctuary in Kempshott. Each time Florence returned from Spain she would present Olive with two baskets full of kittens she had rescued from the Spanish streets.

Nelly died in 1926 from falling from a moving car in London Street when she was dancing the Charleston on its roof.

Fanny became a Music Hall entertainer writing her own songs. She became known as "The Female George Formby" and her biggest hit in the 1940s was *Yes! I Want Your Banana*. She died in obscurity because the lyrics of her songs were so filthy that no record company would give her a contract.

Agnes became a teacher, specialising in foreign languages. In evenings she taught Olive Spanish, in case Christ should come back as one of the cats Florence brought back from Spain.

A Short Look at the Women's Suffrage Campaign in the Basingstoke Area 1853-1919

Terry Firth

This article is a résumé of work I have been doing for some time on the campaign for women's suffrage in the Basingstoke area. 6 February 2018 was proclaimed the centenary of women being granted the vote but this only applies to the Parliamentary vote; in fact women had been able to vote in parochial and local elections since 1869.

The popular focus has always been on the campaign for the vote in the ten years before the UK entered the First World War. In fact, the women's suffrage campaign nationally had been in place well before that period, but only since the growth of militant organisations after 1903 did the movement enter the public eye and become one of the major causes of the time.

The campaign in Basingstoke seems to have begun on November 5 1873. The article in the Hampshire Advertiser describing the meeting was cursory but not dismissive of the subject. Miss Helena Downing gave a lecture on the subject of Women's Suffrage. The Mayor occupied the chair and it was noted that amongst the audience were a good number of the most respectable inhabitants of the town, and not a few ladies. This is the first mention of a meeting in Basingstoke I have been able to trace though there may have been informal meetings at homes in the area that the press would not have mentioned.

Further meetings in Basingstoke were held on December 6 1876 and 6 May 1884. Both meetings were addressed by Florence Fenwick Miller, a prominent campaigner on various social issues. The second meeting was also addressed by the prominent American campaigner Harriet Stanton Blatch. However, this activity does not seem to have been followed by any sort of local organisation being set up to promote the cause of votes for women. This reflects the national position.

From 1884 there is a long pause until October 1905 when local women sympathetic to the Liberal Party set up the Basingstoke and District Women's Liberal Association. However, unlike the national association it does not seem to have involved itself in the issue of votes for women.

The campaign for votes for women gathered strength in the country at large. In 1897 the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies was formed and this body was to be increasingly influential in co-ordinating the non-militant campaign for the vote. In 1903 Mrs. Emmeline Pankhurst, herself eligible to vote in municipal elections, set up the Women's Social and Political Union in Manchester. Their motto was "Deeds Not Words" and their strategy was to lobby the Government for a measure to give votes for women. Militant activity ensured increased publicity for the cause of votes for women and led to the founding of several new groups, of which the Fleet Women's Suffrage Society seems to have been one. It is first noted as meeting on 15 February 1907. The group may have come into existence some time before as it seems to have taken part in the famous "Mud March" of 12 February 1907 organised by the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. It remained the most active of the local suffrage groups up to 1914.

The founding of a Basingstoke Women's Suffrage Society came in 1908. A meeting was held on 27 November in Victoria Hall and it was agreed to set up a group to be affiliated to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. This group seems to have been rather less active than that of its Fleet counterpart. However, on 25 February 1909 a new group entered the local scene when a meeting of the Women's National Anti-Suffrage League was held in the Town Hall, Basingstoke. Presided over by Lady Calthorpe and with Miss Mary Angela Dickens as the main speaker, it quickly set up a Basingstoke and District branch of the League. The "antis" appears to have been at least as active as the Basingstoke Women's Suffrage Society and somewhat more business-like in its organisation.

What of the local Member of Parliament, Mr. Arthur Clavell Salter? His attitude can be shown by the response given to a deputation from the Fleet Women's Suffrage Society in May 1910,

"He had long held the belief that sex in itself should not be a bar to the Parliamentary franchise, but he was opposed to the principle of two voters for one qualification. In the case of a husband and wife, or brother and sister, one or the other should possess the vote, and arrange between themselves who should exercise it. He stood exactly where he had always stood as regarded women's suffrage."

This comment must be seen in light of the contemporary view that the vote was exercised by households, not one man one vote, then called universal, or

adult, suffrage. But it did mean that Mr. Clavell Salter could have his cake and eat it, be considered a supporter of women's suffrage in principle while at the same time opposing it in practice.

The years from 1909 had seen militant activity increase and by 1914 had reached such a pitch as to cover arson, Lloyd George's villa being bombed. However in the north Hampshire area there are no militant activities noted, and no court record of such activity being tried.

There does appear to have been a backlash of some sort caused by militant activity. A report of a meeting of the Crookham and Crondall Suffrage Society in December 1910 noted the group was "non-party and law-abiding." Further evidence for this comes in the form of this letter, published in the Berkshire and North Hampshire Gazette on 26 July 1913,

Sir-May I through your paper, as a Constitutional Suffragist who is currently being called upon to pronounce my disapproval of militancy, call on respectable law-abiding Anti-Suffragists to express with equal force their disapproval of the hooliganism that is being displayed all over the country just now by the opponents of the suffrage movement. Whether the roughs I personally saw at Farnham pelting the women with butcher's offal on Monday night, or those I saw at Guildford on Tuesday trying to overturn the cart the women were speaking from, and whose efforts were only frustrated by the chivalry of the Guildford working man, had any right to wear the colours of the Anti-Suffrage League, every decent member of their Union should make it their business to find out. Whether women are fit for citizenship may be an open question, but no decent person can wish the roughs of a town encouraged to do personal violence to any one woman or man because they disapproved of their views.

Yours-

Sylvia Clark, The Hurst, Church Crookham, July 23rd."

This refers to violence inflicted on members of the NUWSS who were on the Great Pilgrimage to London on July 1913. Needless to say the anti-suffrage groups denied the charge and this started a lively correspondence in the local paper.

The sole reports of any activity by the Women's Social and Political Union in the area was of meetings held at the Victoria Hall, Hartley Wintney on 1 April 1911 and Basingstoke Town Hall on 9 May 1912. Both meetings were

presided over by Miss Marion Isabel Seymour, of Winchfield. There was no incitement to join the movement and the meetings did not differ in nature from those organised by the non-militant campaign.

The Women's Freedom League also made only a brief foray into the area. Miss Marguerite A Sidley and Miss Henderson, accompanied by a younger sister of Miss Sidley who drove the van, visited Basingstoke, Whitchurch and Andover in June 1909. In Andover Mrs. Charlotte Despard spoke but she received a somewhat unfriendly hearing there. In Basingstoke the reception seems to have been much the same. The reporter was much taken with Miss Henderson who, he noted, took part in the Ladies Gallery demonstration in the House of Commons.

The campaign for the vote was thereafter left to the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies and their "constitutional" methods. Nevertheless the years from 1910 to 1914 saw campaigning increase in tempo as the date of the next general election drew near. As might be expected the Fleet Women's Suffrage Society was most active, though from 1912 the Crookham and Crondall Women's Suffrage Society began to campaign actively. The final reports of the campaign were published in the local newspaper on 1 August 1914,

The National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies is planning to canvas and to hold meetings in every village in North Hampshire in preparation for the next election. A beginning was made in Hook last Saturday afternoon, July 26th. After two day's canvassing a meeting was held on the Green. The speakers were Mrs. Vinali, from London, Miss Cameron, Guardian and Rural District councillor from Eversley, and Miss Sylvia Clark. The audience, though small, was extremely interested. The conditions of women in sweated industries, widows in the Poor Law, and the rights of mothers to have a voice in making the laws for children were some of the points dwelt on.

An open air meeting in support of the movement for extending the parliamentary franchise to women on the same terms at which it is held by men took place in the Market Square, Basingstoke, last Friday evening when Mrs. Rogers, of the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies, was the speaker. There was a fair number present, but a small disorderly element made the speaker's task a difficult one.

The United Kingdom declared war on Germany on August 4 1914 and the suffrage campaign was immediately suspended.

The National League For Opposing Women's Suffrage also ceased activity but sprang into action on 6th. March 1917 with a letter to prominent Conservative Party leaders and the local MP deploring the possible alteration of the Parliamentary franchise to include women. Many of those involved were prominent in the local community for their work in recruiting women to work on the land and in social work.

The Fleet group may have continued to meet informally however as it was reported on 16 March 1918 that,

Last week a handsome Sheffield-plated inkstand was presented to Mrs. Kayser, hon. secretary of the Fleet Branch of the National Union of Women's Suffrage, as a slight recognition of the work she has carried out in the district for the Society for several years. The arrangements and presentation were made by Miss Watson, of Heatherside.

The final mention of the group is on 29 March 1919 when what seems to have been the former Fleet Women's Suffrage Society agreed to form a branch of the National Women's Citizens' Association.

A resolution was passed forming a branch and affiliating with the Central Association in London, Miss D Edwards, of Fircroft, being appointed hon. secretary and Mrs. Nash-Errington hon. treasurer.

In the Basingstoke area the campaign was somewhat different from the popular view. In north Hampshire the suffrage campaign was waged through meetings, both large and small, letters, petitions, deputations and lobbying of the local MP. It was dominated by the constitutional suffragists of the Basingstoke Woman's Suffrage Society and Fleet Women's Suffrage Society. They also had a local enemy to fight in the shape of the Basingstoke and District National Anti-Suffrage League. This should not detract from the courage of those women. They were prepared to take a stand and fight for the vote. In their work they showed organising ability and willingness to stand up in front of the public and make their case, facing threats of both verbal and physical violence, just as the militant campaigners did.

So, let's salute Miss Helena Downing, Mrs. Raynbird, Mrs. Kayser, Mr. and Mrs. GH Edwards and family together their long-forgotten colleagues who campaigned for Votes for Women in north Hampshire.

They fought the good fight. And they won.

Programme Notes 2018- 19

Mary Oliver

13 September. Warriors digging warriors; Richard Osgood, Operation Nightingale: A few years ago, MoD Archaeologist Richard, who is the leader of Operation Nightingale, the organisation for re-skilling wounded servicemen in archaeology, gave us an inspiring presentation on the work at Barrow Clump, a Bronze Age round barrow found to have a Saxon cemetery around it, which is being destroyed by the action of badgers. Because of the scale of destruction, it was decided to fully excavate, which has been very rewarding. This lecture will deal with the most recent work entailing the recovery of more Saxon burials, including warrior equipment and an unusual pot.

11 October. Trafalgar: The Nelson touch; Paul Chamberlain, military historian: Around the anniversary of one of our most famous naval battles, it seemed appropriate to invite this recommended speaker to talk about it. Hero worshipped in his day, it will be interesting to have a more modern assessment of his place in history.

8 November. Messages from the Front; Margaret Braddock, archive researcher: It feels impossible to allow the anniversary of the armistice of 11.11.18 pass without commemorating it with a suitable lecture. As the title implies, Margaret has studied surviving letters sent home from the Front between 1914 and 1918 which will bring home to us that appalling theatre of war in a very personal way.

13 December. On the ocean; Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe, Emeritus Professor, University of Oxford: A welcome return for this speaker who will speak on the subject of his latest book which some of you will no doubt have read. A stimulating archaeological overview, this will be one Christmas meeting you will not want to miss!

10 January. Meonstoke Roman site – temple or villa? The interpretation of hexagonal buildings in Roman architecture; Prof Tony King, University of Winchester: The name of this site which hit the headlines some years ago with the discovery of a collapsed complete Roman wall, now in the British Museum, is in the news again with this unusual building which could be a shrine. Excavations still continue, so we will receive the latest update.

14 February. Wessex Saints in Europe; Mary Harris, local historian: In the early days of Christianity, Britain was Christianised before many parts of Europe. It is a little-known part of our history in which our local holy men (and women) played their part. Apart from the difficulty of pronouncing some of their names(!) these are admirable and interesting people well worth hearing about.

14 March. A history of Alresford; Don Bryan, archaeologist and local historian: Don is a familiar face at Hampshire Field Club Archaeology Section who also leads tours in Winchester and Wessex. He has studied Alresford and will probably tell us so much we don't know about this familiar local town that we shall want to visit again.

11 April. Mortuary rites in Early Bronze Age Wessex; Dr Jackie McKinley, Wessex Archaeology: Jackie is another familiar face to those who watched Time Team – she is a human bone specialist. As Mike Parker Pearson described in his lecture recently, it is becoming possible to get more and more information from skeletons, so Jackie has plenty to do! This presentation about all the various ways the dead were honoured in the Early Bronze Age will be masterly.

9 May. Dating Cave paintings (Title to be confirmed); Prof Alistair Pike, University of Southampton: In theory, this sounds a difficult subject which those of us with minimal physics could struggle with but some of our members have heard this excellent speaker and say he makes it all very clear, and the premise – that cave painting pre-dates Homo Sapiens – is an exciting one. This is at the forefront of research, come and learn!

13 June. Excavations at Datchet; Gareth Chaffey, Wessex Archaeology: Continuing the practice of tempting members to the AGM with a lecture to follow, we have invited Gareth to come and describe his work at the excavation of a Neolithic causewayed enclosure at Datchet discovered during stripping for gravel working. This is one of three similar monuments in a ten mile stretch of the Thames – and they do not (as yet) appear in our area!

2018 DIARY DATES



**BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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MEETINGS *Church Cottage, Basingstoke at 7.30pm*

13 September **WARRIORS DIGGING WARRIORS; Richard Osgood**

11 October **TRAFALGAR: The Nelson touch; Paul Chamberlain**

8 November **MESSAGES FROM THE FRONT; Margaret Braddock**

13 December **ON THE OCEAN; Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe**

FRIENDS OF THE WILLIS MUSEUM

At 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke

20 September **DONNINGTON CASTLE:
Alex Godden**

18 October **SILCHESTER - Excavating inside and outside the Roman
Town: Professor Mike Fulford**

15 November **LIFE AT THE VYNE AFTER THE ROOF PROJECT:
Holly Ryan**