

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



Newsletter 225 November 2018

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A selection of books published by BAHS – what wonderful Christmas presents!

Snapshots in Time: A bird's eye view of later prehistoric Hampshire

Ginny Pringle

Blessed with a long, hot and very dry summer, 2018 has produced a bumper cache of crop marks visible from the air. Below are two shots of local sites selected from several images captured whilst flying in the local area.



The first, looking south west, shows a site located on the outskirts of Overton that contains a multitude of features including an elliptical perhaps Iron Age enclosure (Hants HER Id.65669), linear features which are difficult to date (Hants HER Ids.36970, 37980), field systems (Hants HER Ids.65672, 65673), a Post Medieval trackway (Hants HER Id.65675) and various pits.

The circular feature at the edge of the field towards the top of the image is so regular it could be modern but is in fact recorded as a ring ditch (Hants HER Id.65664), most likely the remains of a Bronze Age round barrow.

The second image (looking west) shows a banjo enclosure (Hants HER Id.36887) located near Oakley Park. Field walk survey by BAHS in 2005 recovered burnt flint and Iron Age pottery sherds. This site displays very

rarely and the image is testament to the extraordinary weather conditions experienced during the summer of 2018.



Cropmark clarity depends very much (amongst other factors) on soil moisture deficit level and surface vegetation. More information on the above and other sites can be found at:

<https://www.hants.gov.uk/landplanningandenvironment/environment/historicenvironment>

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

Dear Members

The law this year has been changed, with regard to keeping records of your contact/communication details. It has therefore prompted the Society to devise a new membership form which we need **ALL** members to complete and return.

I would be most grateful if the members that have not completed one yet, would complete the enclosed membership form as soon as possible and either email it or send it, to the details at the bottom of the form or if you are attending a lecture hand it in to me then.

Thank you for your co-operation and I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Steve Kirby
BAHS Membership Secretary

Fieldwork Report

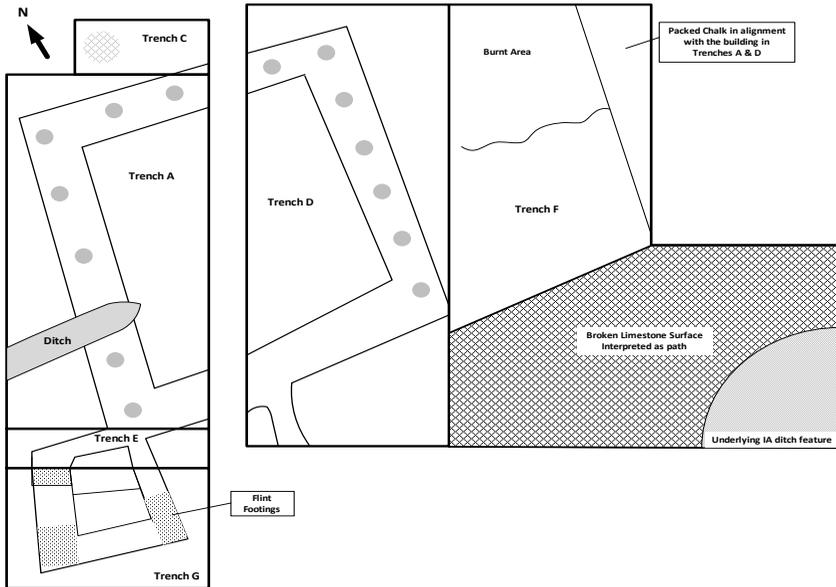
Mark Peryer

In August we ran a two-week excavation at Stanchester, led by Ian Waite, assisted by Mick Buckwell, and well supported by BAHS members. In the weeks leading up to the dig, we carried out a magnetometry survey in the area to the south of our trenches to fill in the gap in our geophysics coverage. The outcome from this survey was that there did not appear to be any archaeology to the south of where we have been digging.

The trenches to the south of the original trench A were further extended, this time as trench G, with the aim of exploring the footings that had emerged in trench E. This area was gradually teased back to reveal that the footings returned and formed the outline of a smaller structure. This build had flint footings that emerged under the chalk footings that we explored last year. There was a packed chalk surface on the interior of the footings but this did not extend across the whole enclosed area. We have provisionally interpreted this building as belonging to an earlier phase of the site. We also added trench F to the East of trench D. On its eastern edge, this trench yielded another packed chalk area in alignment with the building in trenches A and D, which may be the start of another building. The trench was extended to the south east to try to pick up part of the Iron Age ditch that was visible in the geophysics.

At this point we picked up a surface consisting of flat limestone fragments which we have interpreted as a paved path way that appears to be leading up the slope of the hill. We were able to trace this in the sections and realised that the same surface appears to lead to the southern edge of the building in trenches and D. We removed the southern part of the baulk between trenches A and D to confirm that there were no post holes present. We conclude that the south west side of the building was either open or the side where there were doors. In discussion with local farmers we learnt that having the south side of a barn has advantages for drying grain or other crops.

Next year, we plan to run two excavations at Stanchester, from 25 May – 8 June, and from 17 – 31 August. This would give us four weeks on site overall allowing plenty of scope for further discoveries. If you would like to take part, please make a note of these dates in your diaries and let Ian Waite know (email: waite52@live.co.uk, Tel: 07963 372989).



Sketch of the overall Stanchester site plan

LONDON VISIT – Saturday 19th January 2019

Penny Martin is organising a Society visit to London in mid-January, with the outline plan as follows:-

Morning visit of about an hour to the London Mithraeum in Walbrook Street.

Entry is free; however we need to book in advance for a group tour (a group is between 11-30 people).

Afternoon visit to the British Library for the Anglo Saxon Kingdoms, Art, Word and War Exhibition. The full Ticket price is £16 however there are concession prices; Seniors £14 and students £8. Members of the British Library go free. Tickets need to be booked and paid for in advance.

If you would like to attend either or both of these events, please let me know by Friday 16 November by e-mail at pennypitstop53@hotmail.com or call me between Saturday 10 November and Friday 16 November on 01256 321423.

A House called Loyalty – The Archaeology of a Civil War Siege

A Review by A J Lyndon

Alan Turton's comprehensive review of the Basing House siege, or rather sieges, from early 1643 to the fall of the House on 14 October 1645, and the forlorn aftermath, will add to the understanding of those to whom the story is already familiar. For readers who are less familiar with Basing's story, the chronological account of events, and the construction of the siege works, is sufficiently straight forward that they will gain a thorough knowledge. He explains briefly the pre-civil war history of the house, the presumed state it was in immediately before the war (disused and fallen into disrepair) and what was done at the various stages to make it defensible. Photos of modifications such as musket loops cut into walls provide useful illustration of that process.

Understanding of the different aspects and stages of the siege is aided by the judicious use of clear line drawings by the author, combining period drawings (e.g. a 1760 map by Godson, showing now vanished earth works) with illustrations and photographs of the extensive site and surrounding area as it is today. A particularly interesting illustration is a partial redrawing of a well-known 1644-5 engraving to show in detail the configuration of the earthworks.

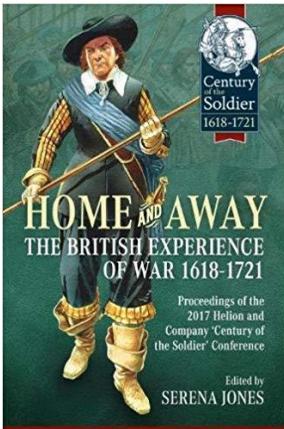
He explains why the site is more than unusually challenging from an archaeological perspective, due to the sheer size, but also due to such developments as the building of the Basingstoke canal in the 18th century – driven straight through part of the New House.

Turton links details from contemporary records e.g. about the burning of their own farm buildings by the Royalist defenders in November 1643, with the confirmation of these events when excavations in recent years revealed "the foundations of a number of burnt -out store and cattle sheds."

Other useful details for the researcher are the clarification of the often- vague details in the contemporary Siege Diary by, for example, explaining that the "Regiment of Blew" is Colonel Herbert Morley's Blue regiment from Sussex. The role of St Mary's Church in the village during the siege, with resulting damage, is also explained.

Interspersed among the description of events and excerpts from contemporary documents, Turton explores one or two theories of his own, citing the archaeological evidence which supports them. The most intriguing of them perhaps is his argument that the bridge which was fired by the defenders during their last stand was the wooden bridge which once ran from the New House to a small postern gate to the east of the Great Gatehouse. He backs this up with an explanation of how the attackers would have been protected if it was that bridge which they were attacking, and the fascinating if harrowing discovery of a skull of a young man who had received sword wounds to the head and been decapitated, lying beneath the postern gate, evidence of fierce fighting there.

I thoroughly recommend Alan Turton's paper equally to students of archaeology, and to those already steeped in the history of Basing House and the wider English Civil War.



“A House called Loyalty” appears in a collection of conference papers “Home and Away - The British Experience of War 1618-1721”. The book includes other interesting chapters including “For God’s sake come home” (letters from soldiers’ wives), and deserter notices from the London Gazette.

A.J. Lyndon is a Melbourne-based historical novelist, currently writing a trilogy about the English Civil War. The first book in the series, “The Welsh Linnet” appeared in 2017 and is based in part at Basing House.

Hold the date!

The next *Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society* annual trip is planned to take place over the long weekend 12-15 July.

Destination to be confirmed and dates may change slightly – watch this space!



Young Archaeologists Cut Their Teeth in Style!

Nikki Read, Co-Leader, Basingstoke YAC

I'm not sure if you have noticed, but there has been a lot of soil disturbance in Chilton Candover recently...and for once, the moles are not to blame!

The recent archaeological dig at Chilton Manor farm had a visit from a very lucky group of young people. Basingstoke's Young Archaeologists' Club (YAC), were extremely privileged to be given permission by Sue and Charles Marriott to take part in a dig to discover the old manor house. Referred to as Worsley House, they worked alongside archaeologists from Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society at their annual excavation.



For the enthusiastic band of 8-14yr olds it was their first time on a proper 'live' dig. After the relevant Health and Safety chat, the YACsters also had a briefing and tour of the site from site directors Ian and Mark, who gave them some important historical background information and explained what had been found so far.



From there, they were split into groups and assigned BAHS mentors, who instructed them in various skills such as: the correct way to trowel and excavate, finds cleaning and processing, and how to do an archaeological survey of the landscape using a theodolite.

Each group had the opportunity to move around and try the different disciplines, and I am very happy to report that they were all very adaptable and brilliant at everything they tried. It was very rewarding for them when they came across a particularly interesting find and then managed to excavate it without breaking it – a skill which even seasoned archaeologists find hard to master!



To be able then to follow on such finds by cleaning and cataloguing, then helped to give the youngsters a much better understanding of what processes go on ‘behind the scenes’ of a dig. The groups soon realised how much can be learnt from the finds and how they can be pieced together like a puzzle to form a picture.



As well as doing magnificently well with their digging and surveying, the YAC also visited the crypt of St Nicholas Church and the surrounding graveyard. With no chapel evident, the children were amazed by the fact that the crypt had lain hidden until discovered in 1927. They loved exploring the headstones

for clues to their owners and then enjoyed even more traipsing down into the darkness to see inside the crypt. Some of them were even brave enough to try to work out how tall the occupants of the tombs had been.

A dig wouldn't be a dig without the YAC taking part in the ancient art of the Tea Break – a tradition that we are pleased to say has now been successfully passed down to yet another generation of archaeologists. Even if their taste in biscuits isn't quite up to par!

Sadly, the day passed all too quickly for our young workers and it was with genuine moans that we had to say goodbye. The children were impeccably behaved and we were very proud of the professional way in which they took up the challenge. One parent described a child as ‘absolutely buzzing’ with excitement from the experience.



Our thanks go out to the parents for supporting their YACsters in their interests, to BAHS for their time and patience with our youngsters and for letting us be with you on the day. But ultimately, we have to thank Sue and Charles Marriott for not only allowing the dig in the first place, but also for giving this great opportunity to the children. It was a truly wonderful day.

Basingstoke Young Archaeologists' Club is part of a network of Young Archaeologists' Clubs in the UK, supported by the Council for British Archaeology.

Basingstoke YAC is for children aged 8-16 years. The club meets on the third Saturday in the month and is run by a team of volunteer adult staff. For further information please email your enquiry to basingstokeyac@hotmail.com

Wessex Centre for History & Archaeology

15 November, 6pm: **Scott Chaussée** (UCL), on Anglo-Saxon Sussex. Medecroft Rm 15, University of Winchester.

6 December, 6pm: **Heidi Dawson-Hobbis** (Winchester Univ.), on the burial evidence of 19th-Century Bristol populations (TITLE TBA). Medecroft Rm 15, University of Winchester.

Medieval seminars are held in conjunction with the Centre for Medieval & Renaissance Research, University of Winchester.

Unless otherwise noted, admission to all seminars is free. For further details of the Wessex centre, see our website www.winchester.ac.uk/wcha

To receive notifications of our programme with email newsletter contact Ryan.Lavelle@winchester.ac.uk with subject header WESSEX MAILING LIST

Jane Austen, Netley Abbey & Gothic Romanticism

Hampshire Papers (Series 2)

Simon Sandall, John Hare & Cheryl Butler

Review by Nicola Turton

To start this review, I cheat somewhat by quoting the authors' own preface:

This paper explores the world of Southampton and Netley Abbey as Jane Austen would have known them...It examines the origins of the abbey, the fate of its buildings...and the way that this abbey became a major tourist attraction...

Written by three authors, the Paper is in effect three essays, but none the worse for that, as all takes their own areas of expertise in order to give a comprehensive history of Netley Abbey, following its beginnings as a Cistercian monastery. At the Reformation, the buildings were acquired by our own William Paulet, builder of the great house at Basing, but part of his deal with the king was that he construct a new fort to defend against foreign invasion. Paulet was one of the two greatest beneficiaries of the dissolution in Hampshire, and transformed Netley, blending new brick and existing stonework to create a wonderful country house. In 1665 the Hearth Tax shows William's rebuild to have 50 hearths – making it one of the largest houses in Hampshire – but by 1700 it was being gradually sold off for building materials. And thus Netley began its life as a romantic ruin.

In 1775 Horace Walpole was greatly excited by the ruin, and in 1807 Jane Austen took a boat trip to the house. Netley was even compared favourably with Tintern, which was deemed far too tidy: that is, by no means mysterious and romantic enough! Following a recent visit to Basing House, one wonders if the Cultural Trust is trying to attract artistic visitors by allowing it to become overgrown and gothic...

The paper goes on to document Netley in later years, and tells how Southampton develops as a spa town, before finishing with a reprint of George Keate's *Netley Abbey, an Elegy*. I would have liked this paper to use Walpole's lines for its title; ...*not the ruins of Netley, but of paradise*, but despite my romanticism, I have no hesitation in commending this paper as a useful publication for both Austen scholars and general historians.

“To Boil the Pot Every Day” – 18th Century Army Kitchens

Alan Turton

A few years ago, Nicola and I attended an archaeological conference at Newbury, about recent work in the Wessex area. One of the topics was on investigations at the redundant Greenham Common US Base. I knew from an old printed map that in 1740 Field Marshall Wade had set up a field camp there for a brigade exercise, and I asked the English Heritage speaker whether they had found any evidence of it.

He said, “No, as there would no traces left of a tented site.” To which I replied by suggesting that the latrine trenches (“Houses of Office”), and field kitchens would leave their mark. He brushed this aside and went on to talk about the ritual significance of the knots used on surviving washing lines left behind from the “Women’s Peace Camp” of the 1980s.

Fortunately, not all archaeologists are like that, as recent work has shown. A large-scale housing development is planned for Barton Farm, which lies just to the north of the city of Winchester on the Andover Road and in advance of this, extensive archaeological work has been carried out by Paul McCulloch of Pre-Construct Archaeology. In addition to Roman and Saxon material, this has revealed the site of the camp of eight battalions of Hessian Infantry which were brought over to defend Great Britain against the threatened French invasion whilst the British Army was recruiting to War Establishment. The chief remains are a neat line of square trenches cut into the chalk at regular intervals, which were the basis of the Hessian field kitchen. This line is intersected at an oblique angle by a row of circular ditches, which are in turn the remains of the kitchens from the camp site of the South Hampshire Militia which was set up in 1758 – the year after the Hessians were withdrawn.

Both camps would have been laid out in advance of the arrival of the main force by what were called the “Camp Colour Men”, and the trenches would have been dug by Pioneers. These Pioneers were made up by the selection of three or four men from each company in a regiment, who were issued with saws, axes and spades, and a cap bearing the symbol in white of a crossed saw and mattock.



*Pioneer detail from William Hogarth's engraving
March to Finchley*



*Detail from the Camp of the Wiltshire Militia
at Winchester c1760*

A good contemporary description of how the kitchens were constructed and used may be found in by Colonel Humphrey Bland's 1740 *A Treatise of Military Discipline*:

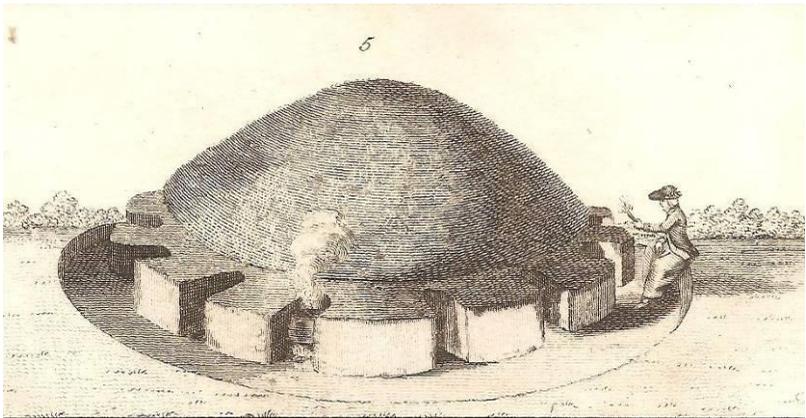
First draw a circle or a square on the ground of what dimension you please, after that you dig a trench or ditch around it of about 3 or 4 foot broad and 2 deep, by which it will resemble the bottom of a cock-pit. When this is done, you are then to cut holes or niches in the side of the circle or square of earth which is left standing within the ditch. These holes may be about a foot square, the upper part of which should be within 3 or 4 inches of the surface, from whence they are to cut small holes of 4 inches diameter, down to the great ones, in which the fire is to be made, and the heat conveyed through the small holes to bottom of the kettles which are placed on the top of them. These fire-places may be made within 3 or 4 foot of one another, quite round the said circle or square; and if you erect one of these kitchens (by which I mean an entire circle or square) for each troop or company, they need not be larger than what will contain as many fireplaces as you have tents pitched for your troop or company; for as all the men who lie in a tent are of one mess, every mess must therefore have a fireplace, that they may have no excuse for not boiling the pot every day.

There are several advantages by making of the kitchens as here directed.

First, A very little fuel will serve to dress their victuals; for as the fireplaces are open at the side, like the mouth of an oven, the air which enters there forces all the heat up the small hole to the bottom of the kettle, and consequently boils it very soon; and as the kettle covers the said hole, the rain can't come to extinguish it, or create the men any trouble of keeping it in.

Secondly, They are not in great danger of accidents by the fires being blown amongst the tents or forage; For if the men only lay a sod or turf on the top of the hole when they take off the kettle, it can't be dispers'd by the wind, which, without this consideration, they ought to do, in order to keep the fire-place dry.

Thirdly, The cutting of a ditch round the kitchens, does not only enable them to make the fire-places, but likewise prevents the fire from catching hold of the stubble or grass, which in very dry or hot weather, it is apt to do, and endanger the burning of your camp, which I have often seen for the want of this precaution. Besides, the opposite bank of the ditch serves as a seat for the men who are employed in dressing the victuals.



Engraving of an 18th Century Field Kitchen by Francis Grose

The remains of the Barton Farm kitchen differ from this description in that the fireplaces appear to be open cuts rather than the enclosed ovens described above, and are very similar to this illustration of the c1780s.

It is good to see the archaeology of later sites being as highly regarded and investigated as earlier periods, and I look forward to seeing the detailed report on the Barton Farm site.

The Queen and I

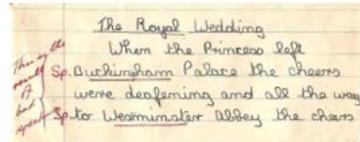
Ann Broad (née Harley)

When I was very young, I remember my mother taking my sister and me to see King George VI and Queen Elizabeth as they drove through London and the periscopes the people at the back of the crowd used to see the Royal couple.

In 1948, as a member of the Kingston Ladies Swimming Club, I lined the route with other young people as King George VI and Queen Elizabeth drove down an avenue to the Kingston Power Station (now demolished) which the King duly opened officially.

So, it is perhaps not surprising that when asked to write a composition at the age of 12 as a pupil in Class 3B at Tolworth Secondary School for Girls, I chose to write about the wedding of Princess Elizabeth and Prince Philip Mountbatten. Unusual for those times, I decided to include newspaper photos of the event and was delighted when my composition was marked a *A very good effort. A 9/10* and I was awarded 2 house points!

As teenage students at Hinchley Wood Commercial School in 1952, we all filed solemnly into the Assembly Hall to be told of the death of George VI.



A selection of pages from Miss Harley's exercise book

By January 1953 I was a 17-year-old working girl, a shorthand typist/telephonist in a family firm of Quantity Surveyors, G. D. Walford & Partners, in St James's Street, London. Mr Walford was a very considerate employer in many ways, he allowed us time to go and see the Trooping of the Colour Procession in the Mall (at that time it was held on a weekday) and time to watch the fly-past afterwards from the roof of our building. He was lenient when a couple of us brought our ice-skating boots to work to enable us to skate on the frozen lake in St James's Park during our lunch hour and he treated all his employees to a Grand Dinner at Kettner's Restaurant each year.

But his greatest gift to all the employees in 1953 as far as I was concerned was the celebration he organised for us on Coronation Day, 2nd June 1953. I then lived in Chessington and had to catch a very early train to Waterloo, travel on the Underground to Trafalgar Square (a station no longer used) and walk along Pall Mall to St James's Street by 6am. I believe this was because stations were being closed. Our offices were on the second floor, but there was also a Mezzanine Floor. As far as I remember there were three offices which looked out into St James's Street; Mr Walford's office, the office for the Partners and the office where the Quantity Surveyors worked. In each of these offices, scaffolding seats were erected to enable everyone to have a seat to watch the coronation procession after the ceremony in Westminster Abbey.

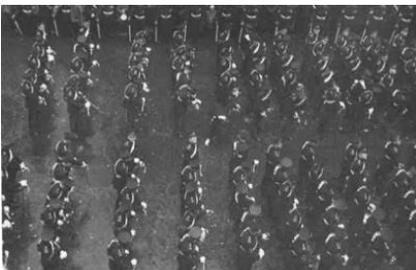
In the room behind these offices we three typists typed Bills of Quantities on stencils which were later printed off on a Gestetner machine in some basement offices. Lower down the street was a bar with a buffet and a large screen onto which was projected the Coronation Ceremony in black and white. I don't remember much about the bar but the buffet was superb and included a whole salmon, something I had never seen before.

When the time came for the procession we typists joined the Quantity Surveyors in their room to watch this, possibly once in my lifetime occasion. The weather was not pleasant, mostly rather drizzly rain; we were the lucky ones, at least one of my friends spent the day lining the route. The procession was long and fascinating, soldiers from many nations, military bands and the Canadian Mounties on their horses, all polished from top to toe within an inch of their lives. At one point the whole procession halted, and the soldiers below our windows were stood at ease and sweets and apples were thrown to them by the crowd! One or two soldiers used their swords to spear their trophies – this may sound far-fetched but there is a photo to prove it.

Towards the end of the procession came the horse-drawn carriages carrying foreign royalty and members of the British Royal Family. Some of these were closed, some were landaus with their hoods raised due to the rain, but of the latter the well-known exception was the landau carrying the large, smiling and waving Queen of Tonga. She was accompanied by a turbaned gentleman who did not look particularly pleased to be in this situation!

In most of the roads the procession travelled the bollards in the centre were removed, but for some reason this did not happen in St James's Street, so from our second-floor eyrie we had a fairly good view into the carriages as they processed on the opposite side of the road. BUT the glorious gold coach in which the newly crowned Queen Elizabeth II travelled was driven along our side of the road, and my view of the Queen was from the neck down only! But what a wonderful day. Some years later I learnt that my future husband, Michael, had been at the end of the procession as a member of the 16th Airborne Division Signal Regiment Territorial Army, standing in a jeep complete with spurs and metal epaulettes gradually going rusty in the rain.

Shortly after this, the Queen's coronation gown, with other items, was on show in St James's Palace and viewing this magnificently embroidered gown which was displayed on a body form at ground-level, I realised how short the Queen was and what a tiny waist she had. Some days later, I walked across St James's Park to meet a friend for lunch and had a superb view of the Queen and Prince Philip as they drove along Birdcage Walk on one of their journeys to the four corners of London.





Photographs of the procession

Editor's note: I would like to thank Ann for trusting me with her precious photographs and exercise book, and I hope the Members enjoy reading her work as much as I did.

General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR)

In order to meet the new GDP Regulations, please complete the enclosed membership form as soon as possible (if you haven't already done so!), and return it to Steve Kirby, our Membership Secretary.

2018 DIARY DATES



**BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

www.bahsoc.org.uk

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secretary@bahsoc.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 11000263

MEETINGS *Church Cottage, Basingstoke at 7.30pm*

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

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

10 January **MEONSTOKE ROMAN SITE – Temple or Villa?;
Professor Tony King**

14 February **WESSEX SAINTS IN EUROPE – Mary Harris**

14 March **A HISTORY OF ALRESFORD – Don Bryan**

FRIENDS OF THE WILLIS MUSEUM

At 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke

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