

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BAHS

Newsletter 210

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Whose head is this?

Why was it taken to Norwich in a rucksack?



Society Visits

“ROMAN HOLIDAY” in LONDON

We have the opportunity to visit the Museum of London Archaeological Archive on **Saturday 7th March with a guided tour at 11am at Mortimer Wheeler House, 46 Eagle Wharf Road, London N1 7ED**. The guided tour lasts about an hour and a half and consists of a general look at the archive followed by a themed tour. In March the theme is Roman Holiday. "Villas are often thought to be the country retreats of wealthy Romans, but is this really the case? Discover evidence of work, rest and prayer in London's Roman Boroughs."

Places are limited for each tour. We have secured 10 tickets at a cost of £7.88 each so if you would like to attend please let Penny Martin know as soon as possible (pennypitstop53@hotmail.com). It may be possible to add some additional tickets to this number if required but this will be dependent on availability. Alternatively we could consider a repeat event on another date.

The Archive is situated 15 minutes walk (or bus ride) from Old Street Underground Station, you can find further details on the Museum of London website. The tour would be finished by about 1pm and you would then be free to visit other venues in London as you wish. As a suggestion, the other 2 sites for the MOL are well worth a visit and are situated near the Barbican or West India Quay. Entry to both is free and they are open until 6pm.

MUDLARKING

We are looking into a visit related to the Thames Discovery Programme which could include an opportunity to go mudlarking on the Thames foreshore in the Summer, possibly July. **If you think you would like to take part please register your interest by contacting Penny Martin (as above).**

SPRING VISIT 21st March

Celebrate the first day of Spring by joining our morning trip to two early churches east of Basingstoke –both Norman but quite different. We start at **St Mary's Winchfield** (not normally open) **at 10.00am** and then visit **All Saints' Crondall at 11.30am**. A collection for the two churches will be taken. There is a pleasant pub in the village for those who would like lunch before going home. Please ring **Mary Oliver (324263)** if you are interested and also if you need transport.

Society Outing

**The Ancient Technology Centre
and
Salisbury Museum
Saturday 16th May**



Luke Winter, director of the **Ancient Technology Centre (ATC)**, is our guest speaker on Thursday, 14th May, when he will be talking on **‘Rebuilding the Past’**. We have arranged to follow up his talk with a visit to the ATC in Cranborne, Dorset, which has full-sized reconstructions of ancient buildings and provides demonstrations of ancient technologies. We start with tea and coffee and an introductory session in the Longhouse with Luke. This will be followed by a guided tour of the buildings and an opportunity to look closely at their construction. ATC are also arranging demonstrations of fire-making and blacksmithing.

We finish our tour at 1pm and, allowing time for lunch, at 2.30pm there is an afternoon option to visit the Salisbury & Wilts Museum in Salisbury, to view the widely acclaimed new Wessex Gallery of Archaeology.

Joining instructions: meet at the ATC at 10:30am. The ATC is located in the small manorial village of Cranborne, Dorset. Cranborne is about 15 minutes drive north east of Wimborne and roughly 20 minutes south west of Salisbury. The ATC is found by driving through the village on the Damerham road and turning left at the Middle School. A narrow tarmac track leads up past the school to the car park and the ATC. The postcode for satnavs is BH21 5RP.

The cost is £5.50 per head for the ATC payable to Ginny. For Salisbury & South Wiltshire Museum we will pay individually at the entrance. If you would like to come along please let Ginny know on **01420 550028** or email gabby@powntleycopse.co.uk

Fieldwork Report – Jan 2015

Mark Peryer

On 22nd November there was a **FOAM** day at Odiham Castle supervised by a warden from the Canal Society, where we focused on coppicing in the moat area and trimming back the hedge that we planted around the keep a couple of years ago. The castle will be the venue for a Magna Carta celebration in May this year, when there will be an encampment for several days by re-enactors and also a medieval fair in one of the nearby fields. After the FOAM day, the Canal Society organised another volunteer day where they brought along brush cutters to clear the brambles and other undergrowth so that the area between the keep and the moat is more or less clear.



Photo by permission of the Worting St Thomas Scout Group who give good support to FOAM.

Ginny has written up an interim report for **Dig Basing 2014** (see page 10) . We are thinking of holding a seminar so that the wider membership can hear about what we did, where we have got to in terms of interpretation and also to take a look at some of the finds.

Plans are progressing for Dig Basing 2015, and we have decided to offer two times for test pits this year, one in June and one in September. We hope that by doing this we will be able to build some momentum, and get more residents involved. We are working on various ways of getting the word out, including talks to local groups, articles in various magazines and a poster campaign.

Dig Basing is a wonderful opportunity to engage with the public and we would like to encourage as many members as possible to join in. What we learnt last year was that it takes at 2-3 people to dig a test pit, keep track of the paperwork and to do the preliminary finds processing, then we need a team to keep up with processing and recording of the finds. Therefore, we are looking for members to help with digging, recording and finds processing. In order that we are all ready, we will hold a training session in April where members will dig some test pits, record and process finds whilst being trained on the overall process. The provisional date for this training is the weekend of the **18th/19th April**. The venue will be confirmed nearer the time, but I anticipate that it will be somewhere in Basing.

During February and March, there will be some opportunities to take part in our contribution to the **Hill Fort Atlas** project. This involves visiting the hill forts in our area and recording what we find, so that a record is made of the current state of the fort and also what is to be found on the ground as opposed to what has been previously recorded (the two don't always match). We have waited until now to allow the undergrowth to die back. This will be happening most weekends in February and early March, weather permitting. If you prefer, surveys can also take place during the week, proving there are at least two taking part (Health and Safety). Penny Martin and Barry Hedger are organising this work and will advise on the locations and dates via email.

If you would like to take part in Dig Basing or the Hill Fort surveys, then please feel free to contact me on **01256 780502** or via email (mperyer@f2s.com).

DAVE ALLEN'S BLOG

Barbara Applin

Some of you may have known of this for some time, but it's new to me!

<https://hampshirearchaeology.wordpress.com>

HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY

Musings from a Hampshire Archaeologist

Items that caught my attention were Ravens at Winklebury and Rooksdown, the Viables burial and Selborne Priory but there's lots more.

A FAMOUS VISITOR

There was a special Christmas Display at the National Trust house Greys Court, Rotherfield Greys near Henley-on-Thames: **Famous Visitors to the House**. Alan and Nicola Turton were delighted to discover that one of the Famous Visitors was an old friend and this is how the display describes her.

Atherton Harrison

A dear friend of Lady Brunner's, Atherton Harrison was a theatrical designer who worked firstly with scenery then specialised in costume design. At the outbreak of World War II she joined the Women's Voluntary Service and worked alongside her husband, the director Harvey Harrison, on propaganda films.

After the war, Atherton and her family moved to a Hampshire village where she quickly joined the W.I. She also became a popular speaker on period costume accompanying her talks with lightning sketches based on her subject. A regular guest at Greys Court, her sketches of the house and gardens were popular with Lady Brunner.

Atherton was a member of our Society for many years, and indeed gave one of her lightning-sketch talks to us. We helped to mount a display at the Willis Museum of the vestments, hassocks etc she had designed for local churches, as well as the cope she designed for the Bishop of Basingstoke, and this led to making the video ANGELS WINGS AND SUCH THINGS.

I have a spare copy of Atherton's autobiography, CHANGING SCENES, and I shall be glad to lend it to anyone who is interested.

Barbara Applin 01256 465439



THE HEAD IN THE RUCKSACK

Nicola Turton

*As many of you will know, Alan and Nicola Turton lived at Basing House for many years when Alan was Curator. At our January meeting Alan stepped in to take the place of the expected speaker, who was ill, and gave us a marvellous introduction to the Social History of the Civil War Soldier. As well as showing how many garments were worn, he demonstrated loading and firing a musket. On a recent TV programme on Re-enactment he instructed a new recruit in just that. Now Nicola shows how he was called up for another TV programme, which we hope you have seen on BBC4 on 3rd February - Nicola expected he might be on for no less than 38 seconds! **Ed***

Professor Alice Roberts presents a series called **Digging Britain**. Self-confessedly ignorant of the Civil War period, she thought it would be nice to cover Basing House, and Alan was invited to be briefly interviewed for the programme.

So we travelled to Norwich. Alan's bad back meant that I became native bearer, and I over-stuffed my rucksack with: a folder with several original illustrations, my birthday present (a 5 lb saker shot from Basing House found on e-bay), some musket balls, my BH postcard collection, a book called **Cromwell's Head and Cromwell's head!** No, we haven't been night-hawking in Sydney Sussex College, but it is in fact his life mask, done during the 1650s. I believe ours to be an early copy, and we are very fond of his dear face, despite the grim yellow varnish.



It's a long way to Norwich, but we did it with glad hearts, and at 8 pm on Friday evening we entered Norwich Castle. The filming was to take place in the museum in the Keep, but the "green room" was the café, and there we were met and given tea whilst we showed off our toys. To our great surprise and pleasure, there was Mike Fulford, fresh from his interview about Silchester - it's a small world. After he left, one of the production team joked that he had been whisked away in his darkened limousine. Or was he joking...?

Then up to the museum in the Keep, where it seemed as bright as day. Alan was settled on the sofa with Alice Roberts and Matt Williams (sometime Tme Team member), and Mr Cromwell was placed on the coffee table.

The crew kindly let an excited Nicola take photos, then I settled down behind a display case and watched, both live and on the monitors.

Alan had changed the script, so that Cromwell was described as “controversial” instead of “infamous”, and away they went.



The brief conversation was interspersed with film of the recent dig at Basing House. It was interesting to see that they do actually watch the tape, and are filmed, so that any responses, such as Alice’s “ooh!” of delight at the Great Barn, aare entirely natural and real.

I was amused by two of the cameras which were shooting through metal shelves containing glass bottles. I guess that was for arty shots - simple angles of the presenters and guests being just “**too** dull, darling”. Alan had to wear a blue jumper as his lightly checked shirt might have caused visual interference, so the glimpse of red tie at his neck is in fact the tie of the Cromwell Association.

It was great being in the museum at night - there could be a film in that - and very exciting to be there doing filming. After Alan’s bit, Alice asked him about the Civil War, so he was able to tell her (the truth) about Cromwell, and she was genuinely interested.

When we left, the night had grown very hot and humid, and it was like stepping into a misty sauna, and while waiting for the taxi we were charmed by a pair of bats swirling about like swallows.

It was a slightly surreal experience, and that feeling was compounded the next day when we returned as visitors to the museum. Of course, the set and crew had gone, but it was all so vivid in our minds that it felt rather odd to see the spaces where they had been. But isn't that just like life?

WARG June Lloyd Lecture 2015

March, Women, March!

Lucinda Hawksley

Winchester Guildhall, 7.30 pm, Friday 13th February, £17.50

The story of the women's movement, including Suffragettes

The 2015 Dacre Lecture

Law, Death and Peacemaking in the Tenth Century: Vikings, West Saxons and the "Treaty of Andover"

Dr Ryan Lavelle

Weyhill Fairground, 7.30 pm, Tuesday 24th February

Tickets can be obtained in advance from Andover Museum (01264 366283) £6 (members of Andover History & Archaeology Society £3)

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

The David Johnston Memorial Lecture

Epilogue to Silchester

Professor Mike Fulford

7.30 pm, Tuesday 10th March

Mike has guided us around the Silchester excavations over the years when he set out to discover when the town was built and by whom, and when it was abandoned and why. With the end of the excavations, "now is the time for reflection and analysis".

At the Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College, Bereweek Rd, Winchester SO22 6RX Bookings to Chris Sellen, HFC, 40 Merrieleas Drive, Chandler's Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 2FN. Free to HFC members - BAHS can send two.

Dig Basing!

Pottery from the 2014 Test Pits

Ginny Pringle

In the November newsletter, Mark described our successful **Dig Basing!** community project which took place last September. Nine test pits, each measuring 1 x 1 metre, were dug in various gardens in the village of Old Basing (*Figure 1*). A variety of finds were made, including tile, brick, nails, clay pipe, plastic toys and even a microlith, but the most significant type of find was pottery

Pottery is very diagnostic as it possesses various characteristics according to the period in which it was manufactured. At Basing we were very fortunate to have recovered an amazingly wide variety of pottery from different periods. This pottery has allowed us to tentatively interpret occupation levels at the sites where we dug the test pits.

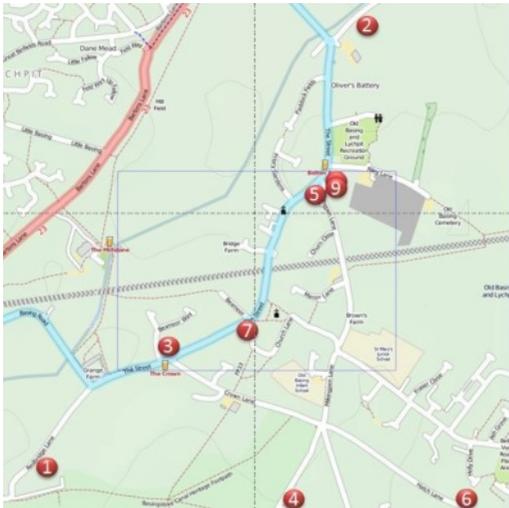


Figure 1
Location of Test Pits

(Test Pit 10 neighbours Test Pit 9 and is partially hidden, and Test Pit 8 is not shown as it was not excavated).

TEST PIT 1 This test pit produced very little pottery (one sherd), which might suggest this site was not used much before the present day; however, consideration needs to be given to the location - close to the route of the Basingstoke canal, and the proximity of Basing House. The sherd, which was of Medieval sandy ware, indicates people were using the site between 1100 and 1400, and may represent manuring practices on fields.

TEST PIT 2 This test pit did not produce much pottery either, but that which occurred (11 sherds) suggests that people were using this site at some point in the 12th-14th centuries, and in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries. A single sherd of Roman pottery, greyware with a burnished interior surface, shows that limited activity was taking place at that time. Pottery from the

earlier periods was found in the first two contexts, whilst 'Victorian' industrial whitewares were found in the second and third contexts, showing that the soils here had been disturbed.

TEST PIT 3 This site close to the Crown pub produced a wide range of pottery (69 sherds in total) and shows that people have regularly used this site - perhaps from just after the Norman Conquest as the Medieval pottery (20 sherds) also included a single sherd of Kennet Valley 'A' ware. The existence of red Border Ware, English stoneware and creamware shows occupation through the Post Medieval period, and plenty of industrial whitewares demonstrate occupation during the 19th century. The presence of Tudor Green, a fine fabric transitioning Medieval and Post Medieval periods, suggests the people at that time possessed the means to obtain such fine ware. The only import was found in this test pit, a tiny sherd of salt glaze stoneware from Germany, associated with drinking, and dated to the 17th century.

TEST PIT 4 No pottery was found in Test Pit 4.

TEST PIT 5 Although this test pit produced 27 sherds, the majority was industrial whiteware (19 sherds). A single Medieval sandy ware sherd dating from 1300-1500 indicates people were using the site in the late Medieval period. This, together with the presence of small quantities of white and red Border Ware which has a date range from 1550 to 1700 and 1900 respectively, suggests fairly continuous, albeit low-level, occupation at this site through the Post Medieval and into the Victorian era.

TEST PIT 6 This test pit produced very little pottery, just two sherds of Post Medieval red Border Ware, which suggests this site was not used much before the present day. The pottery here might be associated with manuring practices and indicates people were using the site at that time, perhaps as fields or gardens.

TEST PIT 7 This test pit close to the church produced a surprisingly small quantity of pottery (just 15 sherds), but that which occurred suggests that people were using the site at some point in the 12th-15th centuries (five sherds of Medieval sandy ware), and in the 17th, 18th and 19th centuries (mostly redwares). The test pit produced a single sherd of pottery from the Victorian era which, as it was in the fourth context, shows the soil has been disturbed.

TEST PIT 8 This test pit was not excavated and is therefore not shown on the maps.

TEST PIT 9 This test pit produced a very wide range of pottery (178 sherds) and the presence of Kennet Valley 'B' ware (17 sherds) suggests that people might have used this site from perhaps the middle of the 12th century. A total of 49 sherds of Medieval pottery (Kennet Valley 'B' ware, sandy ware and coarse Border Ware) suggests continued occupation

during the Medieval period. Significant quantities of white and red Border Ware (26 sherds) also suggest occupation continued through the Post Medieval period. Copious amounts of industrial whiteware indicate intensive use of the site in the 19th century.

TEST PIT 10 This site also produced a very wide range of pottery (136 sherds) and the presence of Kennet Valley 'A' ware (20 sherds) suggests that people might have been using this site since the end of the 11th century, perhaps as early as immediately after the Norman Conquest, Medieval sandy ware (19 sherds) suggests continued occupation during the Medieval period. White and in particular red Border Ware, of which there were 22 sherds, indicates occupation in the Post Medieval period. Similar to neighbouring Test Pit 9, large quantities of industrial whiteware indicate intensive use of the site in the 19th century. Two sherds of indistinct sandy fabric might be Roman, but equally well might be of Medieval origin. This pit also produced several sherds including a complete profile from the same vessel, a Kennet Valley 'A' ware bowl.

Overall, the majority of the sherds from the test pits were very small and often well-mixed, which suggests that the soil they were found in had been worked fairly intensively over the centuries, either as gardens or as fields. With a few exceptions, the size of the sherds made it generally difficult to determine forms.

One striking distribution plot is that of Medieval pottery, where neighbouring Test Pits 9 and 10 produced significant quantities of Medieval pottery from the 12th century, (*Figure 2*).

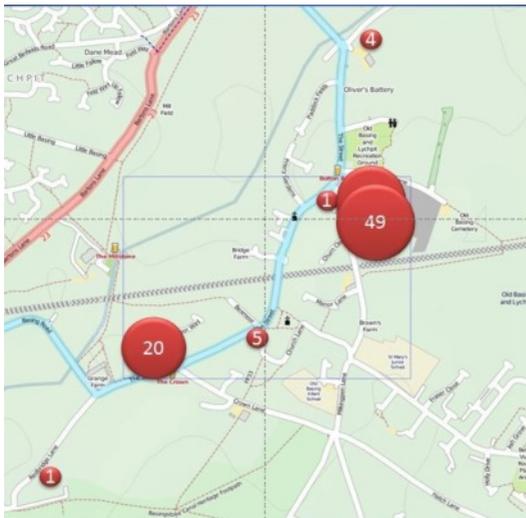


Figure 2: Quantities of Medieval sherds per test pit

Interestingly, both these test pits are near to Oliver's Battery, the site of a Norman motte and bailey castle overlooking the river Loddon. Test Pit 7, although in the centre of the village and close to the church, was somewhat disappointing, but it must be emphasised that the total number of pits was a very small statistical sample. It must also be emphasised that consideration has yet to be fully given to relationships with previously recorded archaeology in the area

Hopefully 2015 will produce a more representative sample.

The following is a summary of pottery types found during the 2014 season:

Roman: Burnished greyware, 1st-4th century.

Kennet Valley 'A' ware: A sandy/flint-tempered fabric. Vessels (dishes, jars, bowls, etc.) often with thickened rims, often finger-impressed, on flared necks. Flared or slightly convex walls with a sagging base. Distribution along the Kennet Valley from Reading to Devizes, into south Oxfordshire and north Hampshire. From the 11th to mid-12th century.

Kennet Valley 'B' ware: A sandy/calcareous fabric with similar forms to Kennet Valley 'A' ware. Slightly later, from the 12th to 14th century, but most commonly found in the 12th-13th century.

Medieval sandy ware: A general sandy ware of non-specific origin dating from 1100-1500. Earlier fabrics rough surfaces with visible sand inclusions, later fabrics smoother texture.

Coarse Border Ware: A Surrey whiteware made along the Hampshire/Surrey border near Farnborough. White or buff coloured pottery, often with a glaze, or part-glaze, visible sand inclusions. 1340-1500.

Tudor Green ware: A Surrey whiteware made along the Hampshire/Surrey border and a number of other sites in Surrey. White or buff coloured pottery, very fine, delicate forms with a green glaze. Drinking vessels, such as bowls, cups and small jugs. 1470-1550.

Post Medieval sandy ware: Non-specific undecorated sandy ware. 1500-1700.

White Border Ware: A coarse whiteware made at several centres along the Hampshire/Surrey border. Green, yellow, and occasionally mottled brown glazes. Utilitarian forms: bowls, dishes, platters, tripod Pipkins, porringers, jugs, mugs, etc. Early 16th century to the late 17th century.

Red Border Ware: A coarse redware made at several centres along the Hampshire/Surrey border. With or without a clear glaze. Similar forms to white Border Ware, slightly later from 1580-1800. Easily confused with other redwares.

German stoneware: Hard grey clay fabric, often with a mottled brown glaze on the outer surface. Jugs and mugs, associated with drinking. Common import 1600-1700.

Redware: A common coarse redware of non-specific origin, with or without clear glaze. Utilitarian uses. 1600-1800.

Staffordshire slip ware: Pottery with a 'slip' applied, giving a coloured pattern, 1640-1750.

Staffordshire manganese ware: A mottled brown glazed pottery manufactured in Staffs. 1675-1750

Post Medieval buff ware: Buff coloured fabric, with a buff or clear glaze, of non-specific origin. Probably 1700-1900. Often food preparation and storage vessels.

Pearlware: A slightly luminescent early whiteware fabric, hence the name. 1779-1840.

Creamware: A precursor to industrial whiteware, first made by Wedgwood. Vessels include bowls and tableware. Pale cream colour with a clear glaze, 1740-1880.

Post Medieval early industrial whiteware: Late 18th century.

English stoneware: Hard grey clay fabric, often with brown or white surfaces. Often salt-glazed. One variant, Staffordshire white salt glazed stoneware, is a hard, white pottery with a white glaze manufactured 1720 to 1780. Otherwise produced up until around 1900.

Black basalt ware: Also called Egyptian Black Basalt. Hard black stoneware originally created by Wedgwood around the end of the 18th century. Often with low relief designs based upon classical decoration. Tableware, teapots, etc.

'Victorian': A wide range of industrial manufactured types of pottery: cups, saucers, plates, etc. in a whiteware, commonly known as 'china'. Transfer patterns or other decoration often applied, known as 'refined' industrial white ware. From around 1800 until at least 1900.



*Figure 3
Sherds of Kennet Valley 'A'
ware, (circa 1180-1250),
found in Test Pit 10*

I would like to acknowledge Lorraine Mephram of Wessex Archaeology and Tony Wright of NEHHAS for their assistance with identification and Mark Peryer for providing the maps.

Books with BAHS

Ginny Pringle



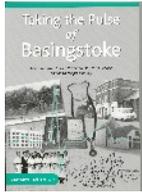
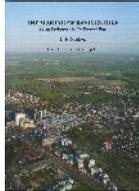
Over the years we have published quite a few books, **Happy Christmas, Taking the Pulse, The Making of Basingstoke**, to name just a few. With a string of successful publications it is quite easy to assume that a new publication will just appear from time to time - and much pleasure is had in purchasing and then reading through it when it does!



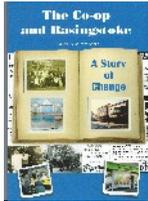
What is not quite so apparent is the process leading up to publication. We have a small team of members who come together when needed, as a 'Publications Committee'. Our team keep an eye open for new projects and liaise with budding authors when something good pops up. Of course, there is a procedure: a proposed outline and a sample chapter are needed, so that a decision can be made on whether to accept the proposal, as well as checking the costings. This is just the beginning, though, as our Publications Committee then closely follow progress and assist with guidance over layout, proof reading and anything else that might be needed. Ultimately the team liaise with the printers and arrange the launch.



From this you can see there is a fair amount of preparation and work involved in addition to that undertaken by the author! Such a process should not be seen to be daunting, though, but more a journey of creativity and ultimately satisfaction. Our publications team: Barbara Applin; Mark Peryer; Alan and Nicola Turton; Peter Stone and Ginny Pringle are always willing to listen to suggestions, so if you have a burning desire to put pen to paper or tap away at the keyboard, always feel free to approach us.



If any new members or visitors haven't come across our books, feel free to browse at our meetings. And if you haven't come across our DVD **BENEATH BASINGSTOKE**, look out for the new duplication which will be out soon, with a bright new cover.



FIRST THE GALLOP, THEN THE GALOP

Colin Williams

Is there anything to be added to the history of racing in Basingstoke following Jean Dale's recently published comprehensive account, **Basingstoke Races**? (See the review by Michael Whitty in the November Newsletter.) Nothing of substance, I would suggest, and it is with some diffidence that I proffer these jottings on the margins, as it were, which, however, do give an account of the social events engendered by the race meetings.

The display by The Vyne of a photo of Edward Chute's monteith - a wine-glass cooler - won at the 1688 Basingstoke Races prompted my interest in racing on what in the 18th century was titled Basingstoke Down. The Vyne's information notes accompanying the photo described the monteith as being "chased/etched with a racing scene in chinoiserie style, probably after an etching by Francis Barlow of a race meeting in Windsor in 1684. It shows an oriental figure presenting a monteith, but with the jockey spurring on his horse towards the finishing line in contemporary western dress." A small display by the Heritage Society resulted which can be seen at the Willis Museum.

The Victoria County History, Vol. V, "Racing", records from "The Racing Calendar" meetings for Basingstoke 1753-88 but also for Hackwood Park in 1787. The runners, owners, etc. for the 12 July 1753 meeting are listed.

The effect of the 1786 Enclosure Act on The Down is illustrated in Chapman & Seelinger's **A Guide to Enclosures in Hampshire 1700-1900**. Baigent & Millard (**A History of the Manor & Town of Basingstoke**) noted the exclusion from enclosure of a "stinted common" of 107 acres on the east side of the town - the site for the 19th century races?

The Steward for the final year of Down racing, Lord Stawell, listed by Jean, is the 2nd Baron Stawell who included Hinton Ampner amongst his properties and was to go on to own the winner of the 1814 Derby, Blucher.

Penelope Stokes; **Free Rein - Racing in Berkshire and Beyond** refers to "Hackwood Park, the venue for Basingstoke Races"; no date or source is given but this may be a reference to the 1787 meeting mentioned in the VCH.

The diaries of Eliza Chute, wife of William Lobb Chute, owner of The Vyne (1790-1824) and Steward for the 1786 meeting, have been the subject of study by Gwyneth Dunstan, who was a volunteer at The Vyne and give a talk at the Willis Museum in 2009. Eliza was found to be a race-goer, although the question arises as to whether Eliza's interest was in the racing or the socialising - see later. In addition to visits to races at Winchester and Epsom, she records:

*C*1813 *October 7th* *Went to Basingstoke Races. Caroline [foster daughter] and Hester went. Mr C. dined at the ordinary. [an inn providing a complete meal at a fixed price]*

8th *Ball in the evening.*

1815 September 7th *Mr. Lee came to us from Winchester for the races. Basingstoke Races - much company, little spent. Lord Portsmouth and Mr. Bramston [of Oakley Hall and Mr Chute's brother-in-law] stewards at the races, I believe. [Stewards differ from those listed in **Basingstoke Races.**] We got home at ½ past 4.*

1816 September 12th *Went upon the racecourse [Venue not recorded but 1813, 1815 and 1817 indicate September was the month for Basingstoke races] pretty sport - well attended - full. The gentlemen dined at the ordinary and came to us afterwards.*

13th *Went on the course - sport middling - thinly attended. Went to the ball - well attended - full - returned ½ past 4.*

1817 September 25th *Basingstoke Races - some pretty running, Heathcote, Sir H. Wilcox, Mr. And Mrs. Musgrove, 2 Misses Musgrove and Christopher M. And Mrs Mount came to us. The Gentlemen dined at the ordinary, Musgroves and Mounts dined with us ladies. Went to the ball. Good and pleasant. Much dancing - staid till 4.*

1819 September 16th *Went to them - the whole party. [There had been 16 guests at dinner the previous night - all of whom stayed the night as it was dark and rainy.]*

17th *Races again - good morning. 2 disputes about winning horses. Ball at night well attended - dancing well kept up - 2 Quadrilles and reels.*

Hampshire Record Office 23M93/70

BUT nowhere is the venue for the racing mentioned!

R W Chapman's **Jane Austen's Letters** includes a letter to her sister Cassandra dated Mon 11 Oct 1813:

Poor Basingstoke Races! - There seems to have been two particularly wretched days, on purpose for them.

Again, no mention of whereabouts.

Finally, a useful overview of racing in Hampshire can be found in a series of articles by F M Prior in *Hampshire: The County Magazine* 1916, March, April and May editions.

This postcard was bought from the Willis Museum. Ed



HACKWOOD RACES
Thursday the 9th of JANUARY, 1783.

A Sweepstakes for FIFTY POUNDS, half forfeit.

Mr Wilmot's Parchment 9ft. _____
Mr. Morant's Tulip 8ft. 7lb. _____
Mr. Jennings's Shuffler 9ft. _____

The Duke of Bolton's Deceiver against Mr. Wilmot's Parchment, for FIFTY POUNDS, half forfeit, from the Limes to the Clump, no crossing. 10ft. each.

The Duke of Bolton's Flora, 8ft. against Mr. Morant's Petruchio 8ft. 8lb. for FIFTY POUNDS, half forfeit, from the Limes to the Clump, no crossing.

The Duke of Bolton's Parchment, 9ft. 7lb. against Mr. Wilmot's Petruchio, 10ft. FIFTY POUNDS, half forfeit, from the Limes to the Clump, no crossing.

The Duke of Bolton's Johnny 9ft. against Mr. Wilmot's Harlequin, 8ft. 8lb. for FIFTY POUNDS, half forfeit, from the Limes to the Clump. no crossing.

A Sweepstakes

The Duke of Bolton's Taffel _____
Mr. Morant's Sir Charles _____
Mr. Wilmot's Bodkin, 9ft. each _____

FIFTY POUNDS, half forfeit, from the Limes to the Clump. no crossing.

The Duke of Bolton's Arabicus against Mr. Morant's Gimcrack, 7ft. each FIFTY POUNDS, half forfeit from the Ditch to the Clump, no crossing

Lord Stowell's Brown Horse Whip-Sitch, 9ft. against Mr. Morant's grey Horse, Gimcrack, 7ft. from the Ditch to the Clump, for FIFTY POUNDS, half forfeit, no crossing.

Lord Stowell's Brown Mare — 8ft. against Mr. Morant's Chefnut Mare, Tulip, 7ft, 4lb. from the Limes to the Clump, FIFTY POUNDS, half forfeit, no crossing.

N. B. A Peacoat and Shift, to be run for by Ladies, within the Parishes of Basingstoke, Basing, Windlade, Cliddelden, and Tunworth, free for all ages.



THE PORTER'S DAUGHTER

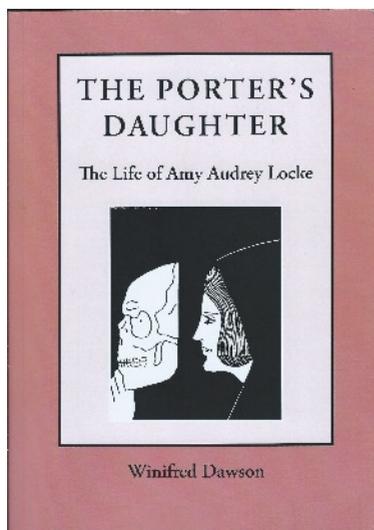
The Life of Amy Audrey Locke

Winifred Dawson

The Sarsen Press , 22 Hyde St, Winchester SO23 7DR

£9.99

Nicola Turton



Throughout her professional life, Winifred Dawson repeatedly bumped into the traces of Amy Audrey Locke, and in retirement she decided to fully research Locke's life, and this pretty book (all dusty pink and Arts and Crafts) is the result.

This is the biography of A.A. Locke, a woman who worked, amongst other things, on the Victoria County History (VCH) and was, indeed, the Porter's Daughter. Locke paterfamilias turned out to be delightfully elusive and shifty. The son of a chimney sweep, his early years were devoted to bettering himself. It also seems that he had a fondness for wedding cake, and each marriage record shows a wildly fluctuating age for Mr Locke. At the summit of his career, Locke and his final, surviving wife and their daughter Amy (later known as Audrey) moved into the Porter's Lodge of Winchester College.

Winning the Charlotte Younge prize, Amy Locke was able to study at Somerville before becoming a professional historical researcher in London, where she had two lovers and her circle included Yeats and Rider Haggard, and even touched upon the curious and singular Aleister Crowley.

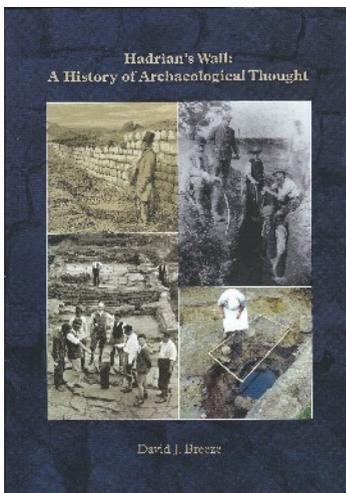
I was intrigued to read that the Hampshire Field Club archive holds the drawings which she made for the VCH, but which were not used. Maybe they should be considered for the current revision . . .

Locke's work on the VCH commenced with articles about Evesham, Surrey, Nottinghamshire and Cornwall. Sadly, however, much of her excellent work about Cornwall was not used. In 1905 Locke got on her bicycle and studied the areas of Otterbourne, Selborne, Fawley, Buddlesgate and Owlesbury where the connections with the Seymours may have led to her later work on the family.

The book is not always clearly written, and on several occasions I found myself lost in Dawson's prose, and wondering quite who I was reading about and why they were relevant. And I smiled to read, "Charlotte Mary Yonge was a highly renowned and prolific author almost coeval with Queen Victoria who lived in Otterbourne . . ." I don't know about you, but I always associate Victoria with Windsor and Balmoral, but it seems she also had a local connection.

However, on looking up the book on line, I discovered that Winifred Dawson died in August 2014, and had in effect been writing against the clock. She no longer had the luxury of time and endless revision, so I feel that much can be forgiven.

Having finished the book, I considered how faint a mark one leaves, and how splendid it is that sometimes, someone takes the trouble to trace a life. Do you remember that sad feeling when buying a second hand book with uncut pages? Well, during her research, Dawson found uncut pages in the copy of **The Seymour Family: History and Romance** which Locke had presented to St Swithun's Library. I feel that Winifred Dawson has cut the pages of Amy Audrey Locke's life and allowed us to have a peek at her remarkable and all too brief life.



HADRIAN'S WALL
A History of Archaeological Thought
David Breeze
**Cumberland and Westmorland Antiquarian
and Archaeological Society**

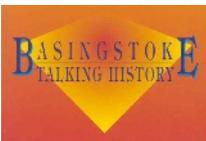
Barbara Applin

I can't give you a price for this because it's not on the book, which was a welcome Christmas present! I was particularly delighted to get it as a reminder of my very first dig many years ago

when I was doing an English degree at Newcastle but spent part of two summers on the training excavations at Corbridge. One special treat was a trip west to the Turf Wall, where Sir Ian Richmond pointed to strangely-shaped lumps in the ground and expounded at length!

Those of our Society who have visited the Wall - and dug at Vindolanda - should grab this book if they haven't found it already. It covers a very dense and dizzying array of archaeological thought, as the sub-title promises, but David Breeze has a clear-headed approach to all that and a straightforward writing style so it is not as difficult a read as it might at first appear. I liked the way he brought out the characters of the various archaeologists who put forward and revised so many different ideas about the Wall, and the thematic structure of his chapters was much more interesting than a purely chronological account would have been:

Chapter 1	A short history of the study of Hadrian's Wall
Chapter 2	How it came to be realized that Hadrian's Wall was built by Hadrian
Chapter 3	Understanding the relationships between the various elements of the Wall
Chapter 4	The importance of understanding the sequence of the building of Hadrian's Wall
Chapter 5	What the foundations of Hadrian's Wall can tell us
Chapter 6	Did Hadrian design Hadrian's Wall?
Chapter 7	When was the Turf Wall rebuilt in stone?
Chapter 8	Elucidating the history of the Wall
Chapter 9	Who manned Hadrian's Wall?
Chapter 10	Determining the function of the Wall
Chapter 11	When did Hadrian's Wall end?
Chapter 12	Conclusions



MORRIS SINGER

From April to June excerpts from our interviews with employees of the art foundry Morris Singer can be heard at a Listening Post in the foyer of the Hampshire Record Office in Sussex Street, Winchester. They will accompany part of the exhibition on Morris Singer put together by the Friends of the Willis Museum and displayed at the Willis last year.

WHO WAS CASSANDRA TERRY?

Bob Clarke

I am grateful to Barry Hedger of BAHS and the Kempshott History Group as the story of Cassandra is mainly based on the fruits of his researches. I am also grateful to Simon Tosswill, a descendant of the Hankey family, for the provision of Hankey family letters and information on Cassandra Sympson's life before she met Augustus Hankey. All the speculation in this article is mine. BC

One of the features at St Mary's Church in Eastrop that has been considered worthy of notice is the grave of Cassandra Terry of Down Grange, who died in September 1853. The grave can be found in the north-west corner of the churchyard behind the Church.

It has been said that Cassandra Terry and the young Jane Austen used to go to balls together at the Assembly Rooms in Basingstoke when Jane lived in Steventon Rectory. It has also been suggested that Jane and Cassandra were cousins.⁽¹⁾ However, there is no mention of Cassandra in any of Jane's letters, and she does not appear in Jane's family tree. So, who was Cassandra Terry, and why was she buried in Eastrop and not in her own parish?

Nobody knows when Cassandra was born. In the 1841 census she said she was aged 60, and in 1851 she said she was 70, which would indicate that she was born in 1780 or 1781. But when she died in September 1853 her death certificate said she was aged 76, indicating that she was born in 1777, or possibly 1776. As shall be seen, the older age is more likely.

Cassandra was married to Richard Terry, the youngest son of Thomas Terry of Dummer House. Richard was born in about 1790, so he was at least ten years younger than Cassandra. They were married on 3 March 1832.

However, in all the censuses from 1841 up to his death in 1872 aged 82, Richard Terry is shown as living at the *Wheatsheaf*, Popham Lane (North Waltham), whereas Cassandra lived at Down Grange. In fact Cassandra was living at Down Grange before she and Richard were married. The marriage announcement in the *Reading Mercury* referred to her as "Mrs Hankey of the Down Grange, Basingstoke." **(2)**

¹ D H Bournon, unpublished manuscript, *Basingstoke Gazette*, March 30, 2010.

² *Reading Mercury*, March 12, 1832.

Cassandra used to let the grounds of Down Grange to shooting parties. In September 1830, Carey Corfe, the landlord of the *Ship* in Basingstoke, had a bizarre accident:

. . . after a hard day's shooting over the demesnes of Mrs Hankey of the Down Grange, repaired to the Stag and Hounds, a public house on the verge of the estate, to take refreshment and a pipe; he had been imprudent enough to place a quarter of a pound of gunpowder loose in his pocket, and, while in the act of smoking, some of the hot ashes fell from his pipe and came into contact with the pocket, which immediately ignited the gunpowder, and a most dreadful explosion followed, which blew him across the room, but, fortunately, he was more frightened than injured.(3)

During the Swing Riots in November 1830, a group of rioters threatened Down Grange. Two labourers from Cliddesden were charged with, “riot and felony at the home of Mrs Cassandra Hankey, a widow.” The file contains a witness statement by Mrs Cassandra Hankey.(4) So who was Mr Hankey?

Augustus Robert Hankey was the wealthy proprietor of the family bank, Hankey & Co of 7 Fenchurch Street.(5) He was also a slave proprietor through his part-ownership of the Arcadia Estate, Jamaica, which included about 300 slaves.(6) He bought Down Grange in 1818, presumably as his country residence.(7) He also lived above the bank in Fenchurch Street, which is where he died in January 1830.(8)

Although Cassandra was referred to, and referred to herself, as Mrs Hankey, that was not her real name. Her real name can be found in Augustus Hankey's will, where he described her as, “Mrs Cassandra Sympton widow now residing with me at my house in Basingstoke.”(9) Augustus and Cassandra had never married. He had to call her by her real name in the will to ensure that she would inherit without legal challenge. It is evident from a family letter that Cassandra had been living as his wife since around 1802.

3 *Berkshire Chronicle*, September 4, 1830.

4 TNA, HO52/7/97 fol.217-220.

5 A Correct List of all the Bankers in *Kent's directory for the year 1794*.

6 Royal Bank of Scotland, *Predecessor Institutions Research Regarding slavery and the Slave Trade*, 2009, p.7.

7 HRO Q22/1/1/135.

8 *Morning Post*, January 27, 1830.

9 TNA, PROB 11/1768/253.

The notice of her marriage to Richard Terry, which they placed in the *Hampshire Advertiser*, said they were married at St George's Church, Hanover-square.(10) However, despite that announcement, they were not married in the prestigious St George's Hanover Square, as befitting their class. Instead, their marriage was a hole in the corner affair in the near derelict Old Church, Saint Pancras, which had lost its status as the parish church in 1822 when Saint Pancras New Church was built on the Euston Road.

Those elaborate precautions were necessary to ensure that nobody knew that she never was Mrs Hankey, and that she and Augustus had been living in sin. Firstly, by not marrying in Basingstoke or Dummer where everyone would discover her real name was Sympson as soon as the banns were read; and secondly, by placing a notice giving a different church.

One can imagine that, after Augustus died, Cassandra might have thought that she was living on borrowed time, and that some day somebody would discover her secret that she wasn't Mrs Hankey. Calling herself Mrs Hankey in court when giving evidence against the Swing Rioters was probably of dubious legality.

It may therefore be that Cassandra's marriage to Richard Terry was simply a marriage of convenience. Richard had given Cassandra a legitimate surname after years of her pretending to be Mrs Hankey; and Cassandra had plenty of money so she might have given Richard an allowance so he could while away the rest of his years in the *Wheatsheaf*.

Augustus Hankey left Cassandra £300 and "all the monies that shall be deposited by the hands of Messrs Raggett & Co of Basingstoke at the time of my decease," (11) an annuity of £600 payable for life, the contents of Down Grange and the farm stock and other income from the Down Grange Farm and other lands, the house and the land to revert to Augustus's family on her death.(12) By contrast, as the youngest of five sons, Richard's inheritance after his father died in 1829 was the annual interest on £2,000 invested on his behalf, probably just about £100 a year.(13)

Where did Cassandra come from before 1802 when she and Augustus got together and who was Mr Sympson?

10 *Hampshire Advertiser*, March 10, 1832.

11 Raggett & Co: the Basingstoke and Odiham Bank.

12 TNA, PROB 11/1768/253.

13 HRO 24M49/31.

Cassandra was the widow of Alexander Sympson, “heretofore of the Island of Jamaica now of the parish of St Bride Fleet Street,” the son of “Archibald Sympson ... of the Island of Jamaica aforesaid deceased.”(14) Cassandra married Alexander by special licence at Marylebone on 31 May 1793. If her age at the date of death is correct, she was probably only 16 when she married, and Alexander was 28. He was baptised at Clarendon, Jamaica on 30 November 1764.(15)

Before he left for England, Alexander had a son by one Mary Carter. It is not clear whether he and Mary were married. Their son, Alexander Dawson Sympson, was baptised on 12 February 1784.(16) In his will, Alexander indicated that he thought he was due a legacy under Archibald’s will, which he never received. It could be that any benefit Alexander might have received went instead to his elder brother, Henry, possibly as a reward for looking after Mary and the infant when Alexander left Jamaica. There is evidence that the child enjoyed some inheritance, even though he was abandoned by Alexander. In 1832 he owned an estate with 58 slaves.(17)

Alexander’s will, in which he left everything to Cassandra, was dated 3 April 1798. He died two days later. From the City of London Coroner’s Report dated 7 April 1798 we learn that Alexander died in the Fleet Prison. At the inquest, James Meryweather, who was one of the witnesses to the will, gave evidence:

... A prisoner for debt in His Majesty’s prison of the Fleet maketh oath that he hath known the deceased about two years during which time he has been a prisoner in the said prison. That the deceased had been in a sickly state the whole of that time which deponent believes to have been occasioned by a decay of the liver. That the deceased has been so ill these three weeks or month past as to be confined to his bed. That the deceased has continued to get worse and decline daily until Thursday afternoon last when he departed this Life. That the deceased was attended by a Physician and Apothecary during the latter part of his illness.(18)

It is likely that Alexander was confined in the Fleet Prison for debt. It is not known what, if anything, Cassandra inherited after Alexander’s death, nor

14 TNA, PROB 11/130/1307/81

15 *Clarendon Parish Register*, p. 140.

16 *Clarendon Parish Register*, p. 188.

17 *Jamaica Almanac*, 1833.

18 www.londonlives.org.

how she made her living between Alexander's imprisonment and her co-habitation with Augustus Hankey.

The record of Cassandra's marriage to Alexander gives her maiden name as Palermo. I cannot find a record of her birth, but there was an Evangelist, also known as Evangelista, Palermo living in London at the time of her birth. There is a record of his marriage to Mary Hopkins at the church of St George the Martyr, Queen's Square on 4 June 1754, just over a month after their daughter, Elizabeth, was christened (on 31 March 1754). It is likely that Mary died and he remarried. William Charles, the son of Evangelista and Sarah Palermo was born on 7 October 1771 and christened at St James's Piccadilly on 3 November 1771. A new born baby, John Palermo, was buried at St Anne's Soho in 1773. I don't think there were many other people in England named Palermo at the time Cassandra was born. It may not be farfetched to imagine that Evangelista and Sarah were Cassandra's parents.

Evangelist/Evangelista Palermo seems to have made an uncertain living as a language teacher and author. He was the editor of the second edition of Altieri's *Italian and English Dictionary* (1749), and the author of *A Grammar of the Italian Language* (1755) and *The Amusing Practice of the Italian Language* (1779). Using both variants of his Christian name as the mood took him, he placed numerous advertisements in the newspapers, offering to instruct gentlemen and ladies in the Italian language, presumably hoping to attract fashionable folk intending to take the Grand Tour.

From those advertisements, it appears that he was educated in Italy, and probably arrived in England in the 1740s. He said he taught for two years at the University of Cambridge.⁽¹⁹⁾ Judging from the contact details in his advertisements, it seems that frequently changed addresses in London. He spent five years in Dublin from 1758 to 1762.⁽²⁰⁾ He also tried his luck in Oxford from 1765 to 1767, where he described himself as the Rev E Palermo and offered to give 24 lectures in the Italian language.⁽²¹⁾ His advertisements in the London press resumed in 1768.⁽²²⁾ The last one appeared in January 1779.⁽²³⁾ On Christmas Day 1782 Sarah Palermo, widow, married a Joseph Bureau.

¹⁹ *General Advertiser*, January 16, 1752.

²⁰ *Public Advertiser*, December 11, 1762.

²¹ *Jackson's Oxord Journal*, June 22, 1765, November 22, 1766 and February 28, 1767.

²² *Public Advertiser*, January 16, 1768.

²³ *Gazetteer*, January 18 1779.

Cassandra had an intriguing life, and spent the last decades of her life as the mistress of Down Grange. None of this explains why Cassandra is buried at Eastrop. It might be that she moved in the same social circles as the Portsmouth family. At the time of the 1861 census, John Portsmouth was renting Down Grange Farm. His father, Edmund, was the churchwarden at St Mary's when Cassandra died. Edmund Portsmouth might have arranged for her to be buried at Eastrop, rather than at Basingstoke. But, why?

As for the story that Cassandra and Jane Austen used to attend balls together in Basingstoke, this probably refers to Jane's sister Cassandra. It is unlikely that our Cassandra ever set foot in Basingstoke until Augustus brought her here when he purchased Down Grange in 1818. Jane left Steventon in 1801, and died in 1817.

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

Local History Section

Annual Lecture

The Victoria County History, Past & Present with particular reference to Hampshire

Jean Morrin

8 pm, Friday 20th February

Spring Symposium

Wish you were here! From Holy Days to Holidays

Saturday 28th March

The Progresses of Elizabeth I to Hampshire Dustin Neighbours

The Water's Lovely: Southampton as a Spa Town Mary South

I do like to be beside the Seaside! Sources for the History of Tourism on the Isle of Wight 1700-1950 Richard Smout

A Delightful Watering-Place: Bournemouth's Development as a Resort in the Nineteenth Century Jan Marsh

Booking to Sarah Lewin, HFC Local History Section, c/o Hampshire Record Office, Winchester SO23 8TH (tel 01962 846154) no later than 20 March 2015. £12 HFC members, £15 non-members.

Both events in the Cinema, 4th floor, Hampshire Record Office, Sussex St, Winchester.

2015 DIARY DATES

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

secretary@bahsoc.org.uk

Penny Martin Tel: 01256 321423

www.bahsoc.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 11000263

MEETINGS on Thursdays at 7.30 pm Church Cottage, Basingstoke

- 7 March Visit to Museum of London Archaeological Archive *page 2*
12 March **THIRST FOR POWER: WATER MANAGEMENT
IN THE ANCIENT WORLD** Prof. Steven Mithen,
Reading University
21 March Visit to St Mary's Winchfield & All Saints Crondall *page 2*
9 April **1215 AND ALL THAT: THE REAL STORY OF
MAGNA CARTA** Dr Nick Barratt
18/19 April (Provisional) Training weekend for DIG BASING *page 5*
14 May **REBUILDING THE PAST** Luke Winter, ATC
16 May **Outing to The Ancient Technology Centre and
Salisbury Museum** *page 3*
11 June AGM and guest speaker

FRIENDS OF WILLIS MUSEUM *Thursdays at 7.30 pm at Museum*

- 19 Feb Archaeology & Folklore: Dragons, fairies, giants & ghosts
Alex Godden
19 March The Heraldry of Hampshire Edward Hepper

FRIENDS OF BASING HOUSE *7.30 at Visitors' Centre by the Grange*

- 10 March Wellington: Iron Duke or Old Nosey? Paul Vickers

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB *www.fieldclub.hants.org*

- 20 Feb The Victoria County History Past & Present Jean
Morrin *page 27*
10 March David Johnston Memorial Lecture *page 9*
28 March Local History Spring Symposium *page 27*

June Lloyd Lecture and Max Dacre Lecture *page 9*

Items for Newsletter to barbara.applin@btinternet.com

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