

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



N E W S L E T T E R

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CALENDAR

Thurs 12 May	*	<u>Roman Germany</u> by Annabel Lawson 7.30
Wed 18 May		Visit to Pamber Priory (Tadley & District Soc St Paul's Church Hall, Tadley 8 pm)
Thurs 19 May		<u>Costume Jewellery in Regency and Victorian England</u> Alison Carter (Friends, Willis Museum, 7.30)
Sat 21 May	*	EXCURSION TO DORSET (see page 2)
Wed 15 June		<u>Reading Gaol</u> Mrs D S Pickersgill (Tadley)
Sun 19 June		Hampshire County Museum Service Open Day at Chilcomb
Thurs 23 June	*	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 7.30
Fri 24 June		An Evening Walk around Kingsclere (Friends of Willis Museum)

* Society activity

SUBSCRIPTIONS

The subscriptions for 1988-9 fall due on 1st May. They remain:

£6 single £8 family £3 OAP/student

Our Treasurer, Mrs Sarah Duckworth, will be pleased to receive subscriptions at a lecture or by post (177 Pack Lane, Basingstoke).

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting will be held at Chute House at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 23rd June. Papers will be circulated shortly.

The evening will hold other attractions as well as the business meeting! We will show the Society display that was taken to the Local History Fair recently at Winchester, and Richard Dexter has been asked to talk about his visit to sites in Turkey.

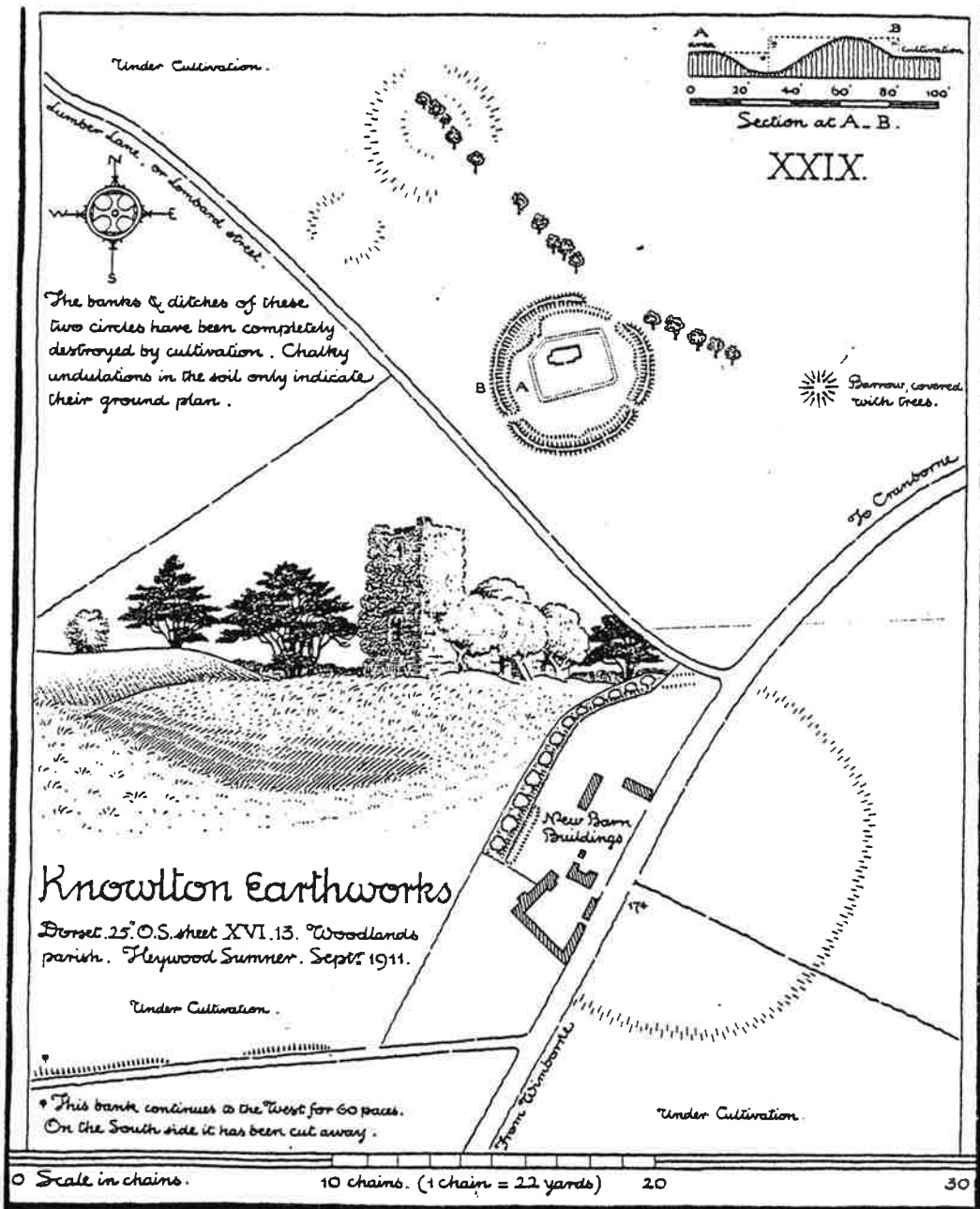
ROMAN GERMANY

A reminder that our next speaker, Annabel Lawson, has changed the title of her talk on Thursday, 12th May at Chute House; she has recently led a study tour to Roman sites in Germany, and this gives her the opportunity for a particularly up-to-date talk on Roman Germany.

SOCIETY EXCURSION TO DORSET



A booking form is enclosed for the Society's excursion on Saturday 21st May. Please return it with your deposit as soon as you can, so that we can confirm the booking of the appropriate-sized coach.



A trial run shows this to be an enticing mixture of earthworks, town and church (Bokerley Dyke, Ackling Dyke, Dorset Cursus, Knowlton Rings, Wimborne with the Priest's House Museum and the Minster). Details are given on the form.



Particular attractions are the chained library in the Minster and the Quarter Jack outside.

PORTCHESTER CASTLE, FORT BROCKHURST & FORT NELSON

A booking form is also enclosed for the excursion arranged by the Alton History and Archaeology Society, who have invited us and the Petersfield Historical Society to join them, on Saturday 30th July. The coach will pick up and put down in Basingstoke, and full details are given on the form.

ODIHAM HIGH STREET



On 20th May the Odiham Society will publish ODIHAM HIGH STREET - an Itinerary. This is a most attractive architectural and historical guide to the High Street, and we hope to have some copies on sale at our meetings after the summer break. Otherwise it will be available at Fountain's Book Shop, Medina Maps & Prints, Monaltrie Antiques etc in Odiham or by post from Gainsborough House, 69 High Street, Odiham, Basingstoke, Hants RG25 1LB. Price £2.50 (or £3 including p.& p.)



ROMAN DAY IN WINCHESTER

A Roman Day will be held in Winchester on Sunday 1st May, in connection with the Brooks Excavations. Among other attractions, a Roman legion will be parading.

POT WASHING ETC

Mary Oliver sends a reminder that pot washing/sorting/marking etc continues on Wednesday evenings (except lecture weeks) from 7.30 pm at the Kempshott Village Hall. More helpers welcome - no previous experience needed! The room we use has an entrance at the back.

DANEbury

This is the last year of the Danebury excavations so we are planning to visit them in August. More details later.

1988-9 PROGRAMME

As a "taster" here are a few items from next year's programme:

The Challenge of Suburbia
Anglo-Saxon Beads
The Test Valley Medieval Project
Archaeological Work in Kingston (Surrey)
Boxgrove

AN OUTING WITH A DIFFERENCE?

Last March, it will be remembered, Andrew Lawson gave us a talk on Palaeolithic Cave Art, with particular reference to Lascaux. He made the offer afterwards that, if anyone in our Society were interested, he and his wife Annabel (who will be speaking to us in May) could organise a party to go there - or anywhere else in Europe, for that matter.

Without being too specific, would anybody, I wonder, like to take him up on his offer, say for a Study Tour in Spring or Autumn in 1989? Suggestions would be welcome, but for starters how about a trip to Roman Provence (Nimes, Arles, Pont du Gard & Orange) or, indeed, Lascaux?

It would need to be for 5 or 6 days; the cost would depend on our using one or three star hotels and whether we went by air to get there - that would save two days or more - or took a coach from Basingstoke. £250 - £300?

If there is any interest, could you let me or any of the Committee know?
(Phone Fleet 622755)

RICHARD DEXTER

HAC Local Societies Conference

Several members of the Society attended this Conference organised by the Hampshire Archaeological Committee on 5th March and enjoyed talks on a wide range of topics presented by representatives of local Societies like ours. They illustrated very well how such Societies can increase our knowledge of the past in a variety of ways - by fieldwork, by documentary research and by

excavation. All were enthusiastically presented and some were backed up with an exhibition of maps and photographs and the sale of reports.

The programme comprised:

- North East Hants Archaeological Society on the excavation of a large deposit of complete late nineteenth century earthenware pots from Fleet, supported by documentary research to explain this strange find;
- Landscape Section, Hampshire Field Club on their project on mediaeval fishponds, in particular their work at Southwick Priory which has yielded some rare information on the construction of dams;
- Somborne Society, with a study of Yew Tree Cottage, which demonstrated how much can be learnt from a detailed survey of surviving timber work - behind the Victorian facade lay part of a late mediaeval hall house with an adjoining timber-framed cottage;
- Fareham Landscape Archaeology Group, who have been studying wood and hedge banks and showed how complex the dating of these features can be (fortunately the familiar rule of thumb of one species per century still seems to be a general guide);
- Southampton University Industrial Archaeology Group, who gave a round up of their many activities, including work on the Basingstoke Canal, the SS Shielhall, the mill survey and the farm building survey;
- Malcolm Lyne, who described his recent work in the Alice Holt Forest. In addition to his work on the Roman pottery industry, this included fieldwalking and study of aerial photographs (which indicated the presence of Mesolithic man on the sands but not the gault), a possible henge on Binsted plateau and a pit kiln producing Iron Age saucepan pot.
- The day closed with a talk on presenting minor archaeological sites to the public - two round barrows near a popular walk in the New Forest.

Anyone wanting more information on any of the above topics is welcome to look at my notes.

The venue for the Conference, King John's House, Romsey, was a most interesting one. It is a fine timber-framed building with mediaeval graffiti in the plasterwork. There were too many people present to allow a proper look - it might be worth arranging an evening visit for the Society? HAC (The Hampshire Archaeological Committee) is to be congratulated on organising such a stimulating day.

MARY OLIVER

HAMPSHIRE LOCAL HISTORY FAIR

Our Society had a stand at this event, held at King Alfred's College, Winchester on 19th March. It was the first Local History Fair to be organised, and was a lively "buzzing" occasion, with displays by over 25 local history/archaeology societies, as well as by the Hampshire, Southampton & Portsmouth Record Offices, the Hampshire Archives Trust, the Hampshire Field Club, the Southern History Society, the Hatcher Review Trust and also by some of the publishers/booksellers who specialise in local history. We came away with various booklets, leaflets and notices - some of which found their way to the table at our last lecture.

The Fair was opened by Councillor Emery Wallis, talking about *Opportunities in Local History*, and there were other talks during the day. I was particularly intrigued by the account given by James Thomas and Tony Gutheridge of the Local History Diploma offered by Portsmouth Polytechnic - and very tempted to enrol there and then!

Veronica Ward, of the newly established Stubbington and Hillhead Local History Society and Mary Ray of the long-established Petersfield Society talked about their experiences in setting up and running such societies - and this provoked useful ideas too from the audience.

It was an excellent meeting point, not just for members of nearer societies such as Tadley, Whitchurch and Odiham, but also covering a wider area. Let's try to get more of our members there next year!

BARBARA APPLIN

GENERAL EXPERIMENTAL ARCHAEOLOGY

This was the title of a six-day course, held at Butser Ancient Farm near Petersfield. The course combines lectures and seminars with practical participation in the research programmes of the Ancient Farm.

After an introductory lecture on the work of the Farm Project, practical work commenced with the recovery of over three tons of grain from clay-capped storage pits dug into the chalk of Little Butser. Samples which were taken from various parts of the pits were used in germination trials, continuing through the week, in order to test the effectiveness of the storage conditions.

The second day's work was experimenting with the smelting and melting of metals. One experiment was aimed at testing the theory that metal smelting may have been discovered by the accidental

dropping of ore onto camp fires. In another experiment, much strenuous pumping on a set of bellows allowed copper to be extracted by solution in lead, using a bowl furnace. This requires a temperature of about 1000 C to be maintained and had not previously been achieved at Butser.

On the third day of the course we moved to the Farm's outstation at Fishbourne Roman Palace. In addition to studying the experimental earthworks, we assisted in the sowing of a number of crops including Emmer and Spelt wheats and Celtic peas.

Friday was given over to a field trip to visit the Mary Rose and Warrior at Portsmouth Dockyard, and Portchester Castle. The following day the structures of various wheats were studied and large numbers of flax seeds were measured in preparation for Sunday's experiments. These involved burning grain in fires constructed in the Farm's demonstration area. The carbonised seeds were recovered and counted to determine the survival rate. Flax seeds were measured to determine whether the burning brought about changes in the seed dimensions.

In addition to the practical work described, discussions ranged widely, from the responsibilities of those involved in the growing "Heritage Industry" to the merits and use of cow dung in the building of daub walls.

The group covered a wide age range and included interested amateurs to professional archaeologists from home and abroad, giving a spread of differing views. Dr Peter Reynolds, the Farm's Director, ably led the course, his obvious enthusiasm for the work making this a very worthwhile course for anyone wishing to spend a week involved in experimental archaeology.

ROBERT GUNN

Future courses at Butser Ancient Farm include:

Earthworks Work Study Group 25-31 July	£80
Pollens 1-7 August	£89.50
Weeds, Seeds and Crops 15-21 August	£89.50
Bones in Archaeology 26-29 August	£42.35
Fire, Clay and Metal 24-31 October	£89.50

Further details from Dr P J Reynolds, Director, Butser Ancient Farm Project Trust, Nexus House, Gravel Hill, Horndean, Hants.

NONSUCH PALACE

Following Martin Morris's talk on the Nonsuch excavations at our Cheese and Wine party last Christmas, Mary Oliver took some friends as her guests to a meeting of the British Archaeological Association, held in the imposing surroundings of the Society of Antiquaries. Here Martin Biddle gave a detailed account of the architectural and decorative features that were recovered or inferred. He paid particular attention to the elaborate decorative scheme on the inward-facing walls of the inner court: at the top level 16 Caesars (a rare series); at the second level 16 gods on the King's side, and 16 goddesses on the Queen's side; on the first level the Labours of Hercules on the King's side, and Liberal Arts and Virtues on the Queen's side. Martin Biddle felt that their sources were to be found in literature rather than art (possibly Erasmus's version of Cato) and that the Latin mottoes suggested a link with the fashion for pageants.

It was significant that work on Nonsuch was started on the anniversary of Henry VIII's accession, and that Prince Edward had been born just a few months before. Martin Biddle felt that the whole scheme was didactic, a celebration of the birth of Henry's son, a vaunting of the Tudors, a talisman of the dynasty, and perhaps eventually to provide a basis for tuition for the prince. While an expert stucco artist carried out the designs, and no doubt the savants of the Court provided guidance, Martin Biddle felt that the principal deviser of this scheme was the King himself.

BARBARA APPLIN

Newsletter 101 gave some details of the forthcoming Nonsuch Celebrations, with the Symposium on 11th June.

A Festival Exhibition will also be held in Bourne Hall, Ewell (May 31 to June 18), at the Europa Gallery, Sutton Library (June 21 to July 2) and at Whitehall, Cheam (July 6 to 23).

- If you have been to any interesting sites, historic houses, meetings, events
- If you have come across any archaeological or historical news, theories, facts, arguments that you think will interest members ...
- If you have any suggestions on future activities ...

Do send me an article for the Newsletter. Items can be short or long (if they're very long they tend to get edited or split over two issues) and illustrations will be welcome. Ring me first if you want advice: Basingstoke 465439.

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