

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



N E W S L E T T E R 104

October 1988

CONTENTS

Page 2	THE CHALLENGE OF SUBURBIA BEADS OF THE ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD THOSE HOLES AGAIN...
Page 4	CONGRATULATIONS1 WEYHILL FAIR HART LOCAL SOCIETIES FAIR PEOPLE ON THE MOVE
Page 5	WHAT WERE THE ENEMY REALLY LIKE?
Page 7	SOUTHERN IRELAND '88
Page 8	MANSIO OR MANSION
Page 9	PITT RIVERS PUZZLE
Page 10	CALENDAR

Items for the next Newsletter to Barbara Applin,
138 Old Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke RG22 5EN.

THE CHALLENGE OF SUBURBIA

Lecture by Martin Doughty, at 7.30 pm, Thursday 13th October at Chute House, Basingstoke

The expansion of towns and cities in the nineteenth century was an upheaval that may seem familiar to those who have seen Basingstoke's recent growth. And even Basingstoke had its own "suburb" at Newtown, the area of Brook Street and the vanished May Street. How much was nineteenth century expansion a matter of opportunism and how much a matter of planning based on ideals and growing scientific awareness? Martin Doughty has made a special study of this, from the legal and economic background to its effect on the layout of streets and even houses, and what this tells us of the people who built them and lived in them.

BEADS OF THE ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD

Lecture by Mark Reeve at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 10th November at Chute House, Basingstoke

Mark Reeve has investigated the making and design of beads over several periods, and in this lecture he concentrates on beads of the Anglo-Saxon period. What can beads tell us of the unique Anglo-Saxon combination of technique and art?

THOSE HOLES AGAIN...

In Newsletter 101 Martin Morris made a plea for members to join him in watching "holes in the ground". One who responded brings us up to date...

Basingstoke has seen a few changes over the last few years. In this period of change a lot has been achieved, but a lot has gone forever. The empty spaces within the borough are being filled in and evidence of previous occupation is being lost. The Sony factory in Viables has been built close to the site of some unusual Iron Age burials (*Archaeological Journal* Vol 139 for 1982). The ice rink is near the site of a Roman burial. Chineham has a Roman road. These are all sites that might have produced fresh evidence.

With this in mind, the Society has formed a Watch Party to keep an eye out for the development of the smaller sites in Basingstoke. Some watching has already been done by several individual members.

One of the priorities has been to produce a large scale map of Basingstoke to cover the past. Included on it will be the records

from the Sites and Monuments Register at Winchester and the location of crop marks from aerial photographs. These, combined on one composite map, will give us at a glance the spread of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon etc sites in the town and will give us and others an overall view of the town's history and possible sites of interest to watch in the future. With the map we intend to keep a set of file cards covering all known sites, possibly in future recorded on computer (backed up by paper records, of course).

In this we need your help. If you have found any artefacts or seen any earth marks in your area, could you let us have sight of any records you may have, in any shape or form, for inclusion in our system?

Now we come to the main aim of the Watch Party, which is to watch. The Hampshire County Council and Basingstoke & Deane Council have the major sites covered: Brighton Hill South (Iron Age, Roman and Mediaeval), the Park Prewett site recently investigated by the Oxfordshire Research Unit - and, of course, the listed buildings. But they cannot be expected to cover the small sites: the three or four houses on a site, the factory extension, the pipe and cable-laying trenches etc (the anti-gypsy trench at Viables yielded some very good finds). These are the areas which need covering and recording.

At no time will we be attempting the Councils' work; if anything large or important is found, then the District or County Councils will be informed and as a matter of course copies of all records will be passed to Winchester.

But we need your help to identify the sites in your area. Your help to check the planning list. Your help to investigate possible sites. The Pack Lane site (pits containing bone and Iron Age pottery) was only discovered by a member stopping the car and looking at some dark marks in the cleared chalk. How many sites have we missed?

It is important, though, that no-one should go onto a building site without the permission of the appropriate person, so if you know of a site that should be investigated please give us the details so that we can make an official approach.

Wednesday evenings (apart from lecture weeks) are already evenings for processing finds from field walking etc at Kempshott Village Hall (entry by the door at the back). If you would like to help with this or with the Watch Party, turn up on a Wednesday or ring me (Basingstoke 472610) or Martin Morris (Fleet 613278).

See us too about fieldwalking - as soon as crops are off the site off the Newbury Road that we have already partially fieldwalked, we plan to be back.

PETER READ

CONGRATULATIONS!

The last O-level class in Archaeology at the Technical College (run by Mary Oliver and Theresa Hook) ended in glory with 100% pass rate this year. One of the class was our member, Jo Kelly. Congratulations, Jo!

WEYHILL FAIR

Barracuda Books announce the forthcoming publication of WEYHILL FAIR by Anthony C Raper, the story from before 1225 to 1957 of what has been called "the greatest fair in the Kingdom", referred to by Thomas Hardy as "Weydon Priors". A limited edition of numbered copies will be available only by prior subscription, from the publishers, at £12.95 (£14.95 including post & packing). After publication, unnumbered copies will be retailed at £15.95.

Publication is dependent on sufficient reservations being made; to reserve a copy of the numbered edition, write to the publishers (Barracuda Books Ltd, Meadows House, Well St, Buckingham, MK18 1EW) but do not pay at that stage; you will be charged on publication.

HART LOCAL SOCIETIES FAIR

A Fair of a different kind will be held by Hart District on Saturday, October 22nd. Various local Societies will be giving talks, displays and videos, about Crondall, Yateley, Odiham, the Basingstoke Canal, genealogy, tombstones etc. Programmes will be available at our next meeting (20p).

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Margaret Escott, who has recently given two WEA courses on the 19th century Census in Basingstoke, is giving a one-day course at Southampton University (Adult Education Centre, Building 14) on Saturday 15th October from 10 am to 4 pm (fee £9; members £7; concessionary fee £5). Called PEOPLE ON THE MOVE, this is subtitled "An investigation into 19th century migration in England and Wales", and Margaret explains the background below:

No one interested in local and family history will be surprised to learn that population turnover in a seventeenth

century English parish was as high as 50% per decade, or that studies of nineteenth century towns reflect similar rates of change in periods as short as 2 - 3 years. Indeed, it has been argued that the picture of English society revealed in many of our in-depth community studies may well be unrepresentative of the experience of the majority of the population because migration was so common, and because it has been so much easier to reconstruct the lives of those individuals remaining within a given community, rather than those who moved. At this dayschool we will look at the evidence and techniques which form the basis of nineteenth century migration studies and discuss their application in local family history.

Due to the great variation found from community to community in the proportions of "movers" and "stayers", and the propensity of certain families to be highly mobile or otherwise, a substantial part of the day will be devoted to pooling our knowledge of "people on the move" and looking for common factors and experience. Students will be lent copies of nineteenth century documents to "practise" on, but are also welcome to bring their own source material for discussion.

Timetable:

10 am	Migration within Britain in the 19th century - the evidence
11	Coffee
11.15	Age-specific Migration in Mid-Nineteenth Century Communities (a census-based workshop)
12.14	Approaches to Identifying Individuals from Nineteenth Century Records
1 pm	Lunch (ploughman's lunch available if ordered in advance, cost £1.80)
2	Trends in Class-specific Migration (discussion & workshop)
3.30	Tea break
3.45	Evaluating the Impact of Migration on Nineteenth Century Family and Community Life

One-day courses need a minimum pre-enrolment of 10 students before they can run, so please enrol in advance: Adult Education Dept, Southampton University, SO9 5NH (tel 559122 X 3469)

WHAT WERE THE ENEMY REALLY LIKE?

After returning from the evening visit to Danebury, where we were taken round by Barry Cunliffe himself (thank you to whoever arranged it) I decided to find out what Julius Caesar actually did say about the Enemy.

I found to my great surprise that there is a large part of Book VI of *The Gallic Wars* where he sets aside the narrative and makes a point of describing the indigenous population both in Gaul and in Germany.

In Gaul he comments that every tribe, canton and family is divided into factions which fight and bicker the whole time. He explains this as a training for self assertion and aggression: the weak rely on the patronage of the strong. He says that there are two types of hierarchy: the Druids and the "knights".

The Druids, whose training takes over 20 years, are non-combatant and have the monopoly of religion and magic, for we are told they are a very superstitious race. They do manage to have a degree of control over the Gauls as a whole, since the Druids elect a leader who calls all the Gauls every year to a meeting in the centre of Gaul where various disputes are settled and general policies are agreed upon. They teach a doctrine of life after death, and that when a warrior dies on the battlefield, he will be reincarnated, thus making death less unappealing.

The "knights" are the tribal fighting leaders and rely on the Druids to liaise with the Gods. Human sacrifice is prevalent, and a vivid description is given of criminals being trussed up into large wickerwork effigies of giants which are subsequently burned. Even when there are no criminals, victims still have to be found. Tribal customs such as marriage, dowries and funeral rites are described.

The Germans, however, are very different. They are warlike and pugnacious. They do not harvest crops but rely on the produce of their cattle. Their way of protecting themselves is to lay waste the area around them and make it a no-go place for strangers. We are told they do not enjoy the luxuries associated with living near Rome, and they always seem to have the upper hand in their dealings with the Gauls. Caesar says they do not even seem to know how large their northern forests stretch, since they have no appropriate unit of measurement and the inhospitable terrain seldom varies.

The most interesting comments I found appear in Books IV and V of *The Gallic Wars*, when Caesar visits Britain. He finds it a backward land with old fashioned methods of fighting, and he is bemused by the Britons' use of light chariots which drive the warriors up to the line of battle and deposit them whilst the horses are trained to withdraw a short space and await the riders when a hasty retreat is necessary, thus giving them the speed of cavalry but the mobility of infantry. There follows a topographic description of the shape and size of the country, which bears a very close resemblance to maps printed up to the age of Speed (early 17th century).

It is amusing to read how Caesar is unable to cope with the weather (even then) and the tides, and when the two combine with a storm in early Autumn he loses a large part of his fleet. The

trouble, so he discovers, is using deep draught boats which have to be beached in the absence of a suitable harbour.

To read the whole eight books in a modern translation straight off is a revelation. Once you get away from the memories of classroom Latin, you can see them as a vivid contemporary account of a first class campaigner at work.

Pity about the Ides of March 44 BC.

RICHARD DEXTER

SOUTHERN IRELAND '88

Following recent suggestions that some members might like to arrange or join an archaeological holiday, here is Sue Headley's account of her holiday in Ireland.

I have a sneaking suspicion that the Irish sense of humour was alive and well in the Celtic period and earlier. Practically every site that we visited this summer was either clinging to the edge of a cliff or perched on the most exposed, windswept hill for miles around. Ireland is naturally wet and windy; but the clouds scudding across the sky at a rate of knots are quite a sight in themselves. It was certainly our experience that miserable conditions did not last for long. The areas that we visited all had their attractions. I liked, in particular, the south-western corner where fuschia grows wild and wooded slopes drop down to the water, rather like the Helford estuary in Cornwall. The Dingle peninsula is spectacular, with views of the Blasket Islands (next parish America!) from the cliffs.

We visited something like 15 sites in all, including Drombeg, Dunbeg, Newgrange, Lough Gur, Tara, Cashel and Monasterboice. The variety is tremendous: huge stone circles, passage graves, clochans (beehive-type structures - some still in use as covered storage and even as a garage), high crosses and palaces. Our archaeological guide was always happy to explain each site, and plans were provided in advance.

I should add that the tour was a joint archaeological/natural history one. Some allowances have to be made for the occasions when the "other" interest group has its special outings. The Burren (a massive area of limestone pavement to the north of Limerick) has much to offer by way of unusual flora and spectacular views. On this and other sites the botanists happily track down and identify numerous different kinds of small, insignificant-looking plants, grasses and lichens while the "others" are free to wander (anything to get out of the coach and stretch the legs!)

Accommodation for the first few nights was in "cells" in a Retreat and Conference Centre at Cork. Food there was excellent and ample. Hotel accommodation in Limerick and Dublin was good - although our hotel at Limerick was somewhat marred by vast quantities of scaffolding which, according to the receptionist, had appeared unexpectedly that morning, rendering uninhabitable half of the rooms that we had booked! Happily, alternative accommodation had been arranged and by this stage of the trip we were becoming stoical about such minor upsets. The major upset was a 6-hour delay at Pembroke Dock which meant that we arrived at Rosslare in the early hours of the morning and endured an Irish coach driver's dash to Cork, arriving at 4 am. (Our Dominican hosts, with typical Irish hospitality, were up and about, offering home-made soup and tea!) There is not much free time: a morning in Limerick and a morning in Dublin (or a full day if you opt out of the trip to the Wicklow Mountains). A bonus whilst we were in Dublin was an evening talk on recent excavations in the city.

For me, the main drawback of the tour was the fact that, however interesting the site, the coach had to leave at the appointed time so as to ensure that we could complete the day's programme. Against this, it must be said that there is probably no better way of covering vast distances and getting an idea of the country.

The trip that I went on is to be repeated next year - with a different archaeologist but the same natural history guide. I will gladly supply further details to anyone who might be tempted to give it a try. The cost (around £300 all inclusive for nine days) seemed good value for Southern Ireland.

SUE HEADLEY

MANSIO OR MANSION

In her talk on Roman Germany in May, Annabel Lawson showed slides of a reconstructed *mansio*, where present-day travellers can eat, drink or stay the night, just as people did in Roman times. This prompted a question from Richard Dexter: was there any connection between the term *mansio* - commonly defined as an inn or posting house in the Roman Empire - and mansion; he said he had often wondered just what was meant in the New Testament "In my father's house are many mansions".

I had a vague memory of the term referring to tents in the Middle Ages, but that was no help. However, the Shorter Oxford English Dictionary makes things clear. Richard's quotation comes from John XIV,2 in the Tindale translation of 1525. As well as the expected meaning of "a large house" (earlier specifically the

chief residence of a lord), the OED uses the Tindale quotation to illustrate a secondary meaning, "a separate dwelling place or apartment in a large house or enclosure" (1697). This may also help to explain how blocks of flats became grandiosely known as "Mansions".

And yes, the derivation of mansion is ultimately from the Latin *mansio*; meaning "a house, dwelling, and also an inn or posting station".

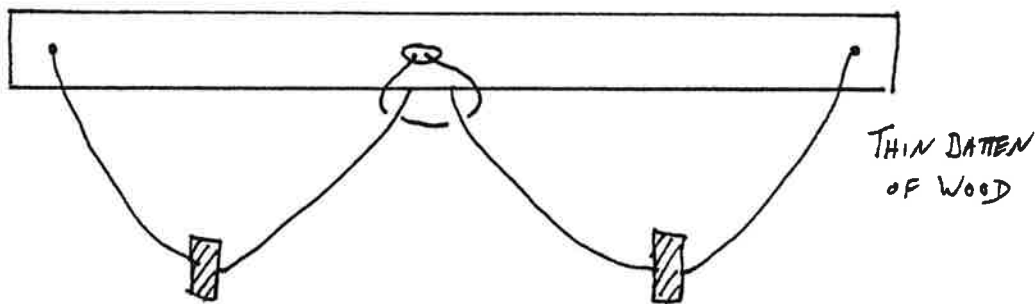
Maybe we don't need to go quite as far as Germany to have a drink on the site of a Roman inn. Just go to the Wheatsheaf Inn at Popham - there was a Roman site there which may well have been a *mansio*. It is on the Roman road, and just about halfway between Venta Belgarum (Winchester) and Calleva Atrebatum (Silchester).

But don't let me take away an excuse for visiting Germany. After all, someone else suggested that the Wheatsheaf site may have been not a *mansio* but a temple, on the boundary between two tribal areas. And no-one can claim that the Wheatsheaf looks at all Roman!

BARBARA APPLIN

PITT RIVERS PUZZLE

Richard Dexter has drawn below a half-size version of one of the puzzles he mentioned seeing at the Pitt Rivers Museum, Oxford.



This is how it works. Two beads are threaded on twine, which is secured at each end of a batten by a knot behind a small hole. The twine passes through a larger hole in the centre of the batten, making a loop and noose. The beads are too big for the hole (the twine may be longer than shown).

The puzzle is to thread one bead onto the same side as the other bead and to put them together without untying the end knots.

How???

RICHARD DEXTER

CALENDAR

October

- Thurs 13th * *THE CHALLENGE OF SUBURBIA* Martin Doughty
(page 2)
- Sat 15th (H) Local History Section AGM and Conference at
Petersfield
- Wed 19th (S) *People on the Move* One-day course (page 4)
(L) Map evening
(T) *Archaeology of the Esso Pipeline* Peter Cox
- Thurs 20th (F) AGM & *Military Uniforms* Peter Russell-Jones
- Fri 21st (H) *Cowdray & Midhurst* Mrs M Hallam, King
Alfred's College, Winchester 7.30 pm
- Sat 22nd Hart Local Societies Fair (page 4)

November

- Tues 1st (W) *Whitchurch events, traders & publicans over
the last 100 years* Derek Tempero
- Wed 16th (L) Research paper by Nigel Bell and file on
History of Rotherwick by K J Holmes
(T) *History of the AA Clive Cousin*
(A) *HMS Warrior* Martin Brice
- Thurs 10th * *BEADS OF THE ANGLO-SAXON PERIOD* Mark Reeve
(page 2)
- Sat 12th (H) Archaeology Section Annual Conference, on *The
Brooks Excavation*, Guildhall, Winchester
- Thurs 17th (F) *16th and 17th Houses in Hampshire* Elizabeth
Lewis
- Fri 21st (H) *Salisbury Cathedral* Roy Spring, King Alfred's
College, 7.30 pm

- * *Society meeting, 7.30 pm, Chute House, Basingstoke*
- (A) Alton History & Archaeology Society
- (F) Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 pm, Willis Museum,
Basingstoke
- (H) Hampshire Field Club
- (L) Lyde & Whitewater Local History Group
- (S) Southampton University
- (T) Tadley & District Society, 8 pm, St Paul's Church Hall,
The Green, Tadley
- (W) Whitchurch Local History Society, 7.30 pm, Parish Hall,
London Street, Whitchurch