

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 119

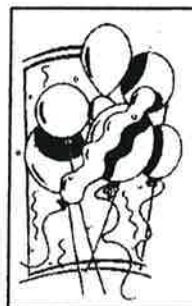
MAY 1992

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Society BBQ
on June 6th



Society's
21st Birthday 1992

OUR 21st BIRTHDAY PARTY

Enclosed with this Newsletter is a slip for you to apply for tickets for the Barbeque on Saturday June 6th at Basing House, starting at 7.30 pm

PLEASE SEND IN YOUR REQUEST FOR TICKETS NOW !

THE OCTOBER CONFERENCE - Basingstoke, Stone Age to Siege

Another celebration of the Society's 21st year will be a one-day conference, to be held in association with the Hampshire Field Club, at Queen Mary's College on Saturday, October 24th. This will be a good opportunity to hear some excellent speakers on archaeological work in Basingstoke - from studies of George Willis' flint collection to recent, and as yet unpublished, excavations at Basing House. There will also be an exhibition and bookstall.

The cost to members will be £5; £6 to visitors (includes tea and coffee). Lunch will also be available; details to be finalised.

An occasion not to be missed; put the date in your diary NOW !

AGM and MEMBERS' EVENING

The AGM and Members' Evening will be held on Thursday, 11th June starting at 7.30 pm. Any nominations for Officers or Committee should be sent to the Hon.Sec. (16, Scotney Road, Basingstoke) by 28th May. You must have the nominee's permission !

After the (hopefully) short AGM, members are invited to bring a few slides or objects of interest to show and talk about - to last for up to 10 minutes.

Please let Richard Dexter (0252)622755 know if you would like to take part, so that we have some idea of the time to allow for the items. REMEMBER, IF YOU THINK YOUR CONTRIBUTION IS INTERESTING YOU CAN BE SURE THAT WE SHALL TOO !

CHAIRMAN'S ANNUAL REPORT

When asking the question "Has the year been a success" I feel one must look to see whether the programme has been well supported and whether members enjoy each others' company.

On both counts the answer is surely "Yes". Thanks to Mary Oliver, our programme Secretary, we had eight splendid lectures, including the highly successful Mike Fulford lecture on Silchester which we held in the Central Studio and which drew over a hundred people and was much commented on.

In December, we took the bold step of not arranging anything specific for our Christmas Party - but just to enjoy being together with food and wine. The success of the evening was largely due to Barbara Herrington and her team who, between them, organised a wonderful spread; and also to Chris Horrocks who laid on a fascinating display of bygone farm tools, the use of which we had to guess. This and other games were organised by her husband John to whom many thanks.

Working quietly behind the scenes have been Barbara Applin, Peter Heath, Mary Oliver,

Marta Cock and John Horrocks who have been guiding the Video Project through its gestation period; we hope that next year will yield the reward for their labours.

During the year we have been able to arrange access to Frank Mayo's library to which David Miles has kindly agreed to act as librarian. I do hope it will be well used.

The Society is giving active support to Anne Hawker to her on-going project of exploring the history of Basingstoke from the documentary archives, particularly from wills and probate. Her reports of visits to buildings of particular interest in the Town are regular features of this Newsletter. From time to time she has asked for help and I hope that we will not let her down.

At Easter, Peter Heath organised a Society Training Dig at Worting where we located and excavated two ditches which had shown up on aerial photographs. We look forward to a full report in due time.

The celebrations for the Society's 21st anniversary will, in the main, be in next year's review but in June this year (after this report has been written) a barbeque is being held at Basing House. Many of the Society will have put much work into it, not least Barbara Bush whose help is much appreciated.

Finally, I want to say how much we are indebted to our Secretary, Barbara Herrington, for being so efficient and who, with her husband Tim, regularly helps to produce Barbara Applin's excellent Newsletter.

Richard Dexter

COMMITTEE REPORT

We would like this short report to be a regular item in the Newsletter, to help keep members up to date with Committee matters of general interest.

Cttee Meeting, April 2nd: Barbara Seymour agreed to become the first Membership Secretary in order to improve the administration of the Society. We are negotiating with a local firm to help the Video Project with its graphics requirements in return for help from us in preparing an exhibition of Basingstoke history for their building foyer. Peter Heath has agreed to take a party from the National Housewives' Register on a tour of the Silchester site.

The Committee are concerned that so few young people are joining the Society and are looking for ways to improve this situation. Do any of you members have bright ideas ??

THE VISIT TO BRAMSHILL on JULY 8th

The evening visit to Bramshill is now over-subscribed, but if you wish to be placed on the waiting list in case of cancellations, please telephone Nicola Hawes on Basingstoke 461844.

DAY TRIP TO SALISBURY on JULY 18th

John Horrocks is busy making plans for a coach visit to Salisbury on Saturday, July 18th. We shall have further details to report soon. Meanwhile, note the date in your diary !

VISIT TO HURLEY PRIORY

On the afternoon of Saturday 22nd August, our Society has been invited to visit the little Saxon village of Hurley, which lies on the south bank of the River Thames between Henley and Marlow. The village itself consists of the extensive remains of a Norman priory founded by one Geoffrey de Mandeville, the High Sheriff of Middlesex, who was given his office by William the Conqueror.

Shortly after arriving, though, his wife Athelais died and was buried in the newly built Westminster Abbey. When Geoffrey de Mandeville remarried, his second wife persuaded him to found a monastery in her memory and to endow it, making it a Benedictine cell of Westminster Abbey, which today still retains all the original records of Hurley.

Although Hurley Priory was suppressed at the Dissolution, the buildings continued to be used for private dwellings. Indeed, so keen were the villagers to retain their part of the ancient church that only the east end of the nave was destroyed, that being the part owned by the Priory.

Later buildings were added, of course, but the original fabric still remains, together with the ground plan, gardens and fish ponds. It was from here that secret plans were made in 1688 to secure all the locks on the Thames to allow William of Orange to travel safely from Oxford to London to assume the Crown.

Our hostess is Mrs Mary Howarth, whose book on the Civil War I reviewed in our Newsletter last year. She has very kindly offered to let us have access to many of the privately owned houses which are not normally open to the public. She has also invited us to have tea, which she will be able to arrange. The visit will last about an hour and a half, followed by tea, for which I said we would make a contribution to defray costs.

Hurley lies half a mile north of the Henley-Marlow road and is best approached by taking the Maidenhead spur (M423) off the M4, and follow the A423 towards Henley until you see the signpost to Hurley on the right (north) about 4 miles before Henley. There is a pub on the corner on the right.

I suggest we meet at the end of that little minor road, which is a cul-de-sac, at the village green at 2.30 pm; there is a large car park attached to a pub on the left. I should be glad to know who is coming so that I can warn Mrs Howarth of the numbers to expect.

RICHARD DEXTER

A VISIT TO BUTSER IRON AGE FARM at BASCOMB COPSE, NEAR CHALTON, HANTS

In October 1990, barely two years ago, the second phase of Butser was inaugurated. The first earthwork was dug in April/May 1991 at the new site of the Butser Ancient Farm, now transferred to Bascomb Copse from its previous South Downs site on the opposite side of the A3 south of Petersfield.

By the various names it has been known by - an Iron Age Farm, the Butser Experiment, an Archaeological Farm and Butser Ancient Farm - we get a flavour of the diverse activities and research plans which have been instigated and carried out under the aegis of the charismatic Dr Peter Reynolds and his enthusiastic (and largely unpaid) team of helpers. The original site was developed in 1972 as a "hands on" archaeological farming research project to explore the theories and ideas suggested by the findings of archaeologists studying the Iron Age period. By reconstructing a farm dating from about 300 BC, it explores all the aspects of the structures, processes, plant cultivation and animal husbandry.

At the end of March, on a seasonally cold and wet day, some members of the Society joined the BCOT Archaeology class on a visit to Butser to see the new site, with Peter Reynolds as our infectious enthusiastic guide. We were to be shown round- houses, barns, crops and animals as well as experimental earthworks.

As we left the newly constructed car park (Peter Reynolds and his team again) we could see some old-breed sheep, Soays and Mouflon etc, grazing contentedly on the slopes above us, and goats in the pens lower down. You are encouraged, by the way, to buy animal food from the shop; kids of every variety love it!

First, grazing at the top of the hill were the Dexter cattle (similar to the modern Celtic shorthorn) which were used as draught animals as well as for milk. The pens in the field area contain Shetland sheep which were indigenous in the Iron Age and early Roman times. The animals breed well and are a favourite with children and adults alike. The late Bronze/early Iron Age sheep are the Soays, and earlier still (c 9000 BC) the Mouflon. All varieties are horned and so are not bred commercially; thus Butser is helping to maintain breeds which could become extinct. The hillside flocks are separated in the autumn to prevent inter- breeding and aggressiveness during the mating season.

The goat paddock contained the old-English variety from the Iron Age and it is hoped to breed from the female kid in due course. Peter Reynolds reminded us of the reference in the St Matthew Gospel to the shepherd dividing the sheep from the goats and pointed out the strong resemblance between the Soay breed and the old-fashioned goat. The goats were used to "browse out" weeds which could damage the hay crop.

The focal point of Butser is the Compound surrounded by an octagonal earthwork. Peter explained that this shape enabled compass-point monitoring of soil erosion and re-colonization by naturally occurring plant invasions. The eight V-shaped ditches are each 20m in length and average 1.5m across the top and 1.5m deep. He emphasized that there was no animal or human interference after the ditch had been dug out. The excavated earth forms a dump bank at the back of the ditch. Over the next 10-15 years this ditch and bank will be monitored for erosion and surveyed botanically. The results will be published in annual volumes of Earthwork Publications.

Inside the Compound are the farm buildings, including the reconstruction of the Moel-y-Gaer House from North Wales, dating from the late Iron Age, and typical of the period and location. A huge roundhouse is being built (based on one at Longbridge Deverill in Wiltshire). When completed, the structure will be the largest of the kind ever built (15.4m in diameter) and using between 2-300 trees and 12-15 tons of thatching material. The floor area will be 1900 sq. ft. The third house is based on one at Glastonbury of about the same period and is only 5m in diameter. It has a layer of mud daub on the outside and contains a number of agricultural artifacts. Outside are displayed some ancient ploughs or "ards".

Peter Reynolds directed our attention to holes or cylinders in the ground, ranging in depth from 1 - 4m, some with pipes protruding through earth mounds. These are grain storage pits from which (as well as grain for the winter) much valuable data is gathered each year.

From archaeological evidence, single-post holes have been found on other sites, which have depressions 2 -m in diameter around them. Pollen content samples have been preserved in the acid soil, which indicates that they are definitely haystacks, which are reproduced at Butser. A Romano-British up-draught kiln has been reconstructed on site for firing pottery. There is also a charcoal pit reconstructed from evidence discovered in Denmark, which it is thought was used for iron ore metal working. It is hoped to get this pit working in the summer months.

From this "industrial" area we were shown the climatological station where accurate daily weather records are kept and sent off to the Meteorological Centre at Bracknell.

Crop husbandry is represented by a reconstructed prehistoric four-field system surrounded by hazel-woven fence. The typical wheats of the Iron Age were Emmer, Spelt, Breadwheat, Club Wheat and Einkorn. Barley is also grown with examples of these wheats in a pattern of spring and autumn sowings.

Emmer wheat has been identified from carbonized organic material found at excavations. Common leguminous crops were Celtic Bean and Prehistoric Pea. It crossed my mind that perhaps, like National Trust properties, Peter Reynolds could do a nice line in Iron Age capps serving authentic prehistoric food.

We were shown flax and woad successfully growing just outside the field systems.

Completing our Butser Tour, we were shown a Celtic Maze in the process of being completed. This is based on the Hollywood Stone in the National Museum of Ireland. Not technically a maze, we were told, because there are no "dead ends", it is 243m from start to finish and the borders in between are being filled with herbs. There is a seat nearby which looked most inviting. A visit to this intriguing, enterprising and thought-provoking farm is highly recommended. And, as the nearby Country Park is at hand, a wonderful day out is guaranteed for children and adults alike.

Do go!

PAULLINE WILLIAMS

EASTER TRAINING DIG

The dig took place at a site in Church Lane, Worthing, opposite Worthing House.

On Sunday, the dig started by measuring out the area to be dug. The original plan had been to intersect one of the ditches and a corner of what seemed to be a dwelling, as indicated on a 1962 aerial photograph, but unfortunately the tenant farmer appeared and asked that the excavation be moved back towards the lane because potato planting was imminent.

I joined the dig after Morning Service at Worthing Church, and began by trowelling out part of the south end of the exploratory trench. Upon my return from lunch, the decision had been taken to extend the dig in the opposite direction, where pieces of bone, pottery and a series of flints indicated two ditches, although I did hear someone wonder if the flints covered a grave. A shard of pottery had been left in position, and I lost no time in trampling over it; not breaking it, and learning to be careful where I put my feet.

Much to my annoyance, I had to go to work on Monday and Tuesday, where I bored everybody with fascinating stories of flint and pottery, traces of charcoal and lumps of pot-boiler. Strangely, the majority of people only wanted to know whether we had found gold, or human bones. They haven't experienced the joys of digging out a post hole.

On Wednesday, the weather was so awful that when I cycled down to the site Peter met me, to say that he was suspending work for the day.

By Thursday, the two ditches were appearing in the solid bedrock chalk, and I worked on both of them, finding in the second a piece of bone. I was tremendously pleased, and not a bit quashed when told, "Well, it's only a rubbish tip". Objects seen in a museum can sometimes be less than engrossing, but it is so exciting to find something oneself.

Chris Burrowes spent a considerable time excavating a post hole to the north of the second ditch, and after a while I helped by clearing away the earth as he loosened it. The soil was very dry, which does not augur well for the summer. To relieve Chris, I

took over digging, until I could barely reach to the bottom. Help was offered, in the form of "I'll hold your ankles while you hang down into the hole," and a photograph was taken, "a posterior for posterity" (thank you). To salvage my dignity, David took a turn, and seemed to be bottoming the hole when the angle changed and we decided that it was a post hole later developed by a rabbit. Peter used a grid and plumb to plot the hole, and for safety we back-filled it with flints and fine earth. I had hoped to see stains left by a rotted wooden post, but only the ubiquitous snail shells were in evidence.

In the first, Iron Age ditch, Peggy and Richard found part of a jaw bone with two intact teeth, and a section taken down to the extent of the second showed a V-shape perhaps indicative of the Bronze Age.

On Good Friday I spent the time before lunch assisting in the clearing of the first ditch. Sometimes I found it difficult to decide whether the chalk was solid or simply infill. It would have been safer to keep me doing donkey work - but that is not the aim of a training dig.

In the afternoon David and I were tasked with drawing the section walls of the Iron Age ditch; a process new to me. On graph paper I plotted the lines of string, topsoil and the profile of the depression, and then for the other end took the job of measuring. David told me that his middle name was Patience.

On Saturday, the final day, David, Susan and I drew one end of the large feature. We broke for lunch after back-filling the small ditch, and still the top of Peter's bobble hat could be seen rushing around in the trench as he recorded such details as density of matrix. After the final stint of back-filling, it was as if we had never been (almost).

How did you spend your Easter holiday? Sitting in a muddy hole being educated and thoroughly enjoying it.

NICOLA HAWES

B A S I N G S T O K E R E C O R D S - 4

EASTLANDS

Barbara Eastabrook and I continued our investigation of Basingstoke houses with a visit to Eastlands, which until recently housed the offices of the Rural District Council.

As it is now ...

This is a Georgian house, with a pillared entrance set sideways to London Road. There is a pretty fanlight over the wide doorway, and the door opens in two vertical halves.

The ceiling rose in the front hall is gilded ears of wheat and acanthus leaves. To the right of the door is a large room, once a committee room leading to the Council Chamber, but now an office. This has the only fireplace properly visible - all the others are blocked off with reeded painted hardboard. The surround is white marble and the metalwork a simple and beautiful arch. The surrounds of the other fireplaces in Eastlands are, we think, wood, in the same style as the marble, painted white. The fireplace in the former Council Chamber has a really hideous panelling of - I think - hardboard covered with wood-type Fablon, but I may be wrong.

All the windows are sash. The panes are rather wider than those of later Victorian windows, which tend to look cramped and mean. The front office still has the shutters present, though not working, being more or less stuck in with paint. They would have been rather like Chute House shutters, which swing out and fasten with a long iron bar.

We understand that the upper bay window will be restored when the rebuilding takes place. At present there is a bay only on the ground floor, but it was once the whole height of the house.

There is a kitchen, but with no trace of the former kitchen furnishings except a barred outside window. At this end of the house there is a door into the garden, with coloured glass panes. A room said to have been a chapel is rather more likely to have been the Servants' Hall. It is certainly very gloomy in a Gothic sort of way and has only one window very high up in the wall, which would be just as fitting for a Servants' Hall, so that the gentry should not be overlooked.

On the plan, which Mrs Pat Williams very kindly gave us, there appear two staircases. I think we saw only one of them. The stairs are wide but not as shallow as I had expected Georgian stairs to be, and the handrail is rather narrow. Unlike Goldings, which is just across London Road, Eastlands has no attics.

The cellars are extensive; they are brick-paved, with traces of wine racks, and have one beam with very sharp hooks (for game? bacon?)

The house has been used as a hotel, so a good deal of rebuilding and plumbing must have gone on before its use as offices. Some doors are still numbered.

There are some outbuildings, but some fell down in the latest storms.

Before Eastlands ...

Eastlands is on the site of the farm known as Pottengers or Pottynshold Farm. The rentals contain the following payments:

1487	Robt Potyn	6s 8d
1546	terris qda Robti potyn Wodoson [ground once Robert Potyn's]	6s 8d
1574	John Paulet p [for] man Thom Edwards	6s 8d
1601	Wm lord Marquis by W. Warner	6s 8d
1644	Wm lord Marquis by Edward Cleeve	6s 8d
1655	Wm lord Marquis by John Dennet	6s 8d
1668	Wm lord Marquis by Ambrose [?]	
1679	pd by Mo. Farley held by [?] Blunden	
1717	Mr Wm Blunden & pd by him or John Dennier	
1757	Pottyngers over against Mr Woodman in London Street [i.e. Goldings] late Mr Blunden since Duke of Ancaster & now Henry Crafts & paid by him or Edmund Denyer Tenant	
1798	13s 4d p/a John Barjeant over against the late Mr F. Russells House late Woodmans (leasehold under Lord Bolton) formerly Mr Wm Blundens since the Duke of Ancaster since Henry Crafts late Thos Hall	
1800	John Barjeant late Halls	13s 4d
1801	Mrs Dinah Barjeant	13s 4d
	Then Barjeant until:	
1828	Bolton Lord, late Barjeant	13s 4d

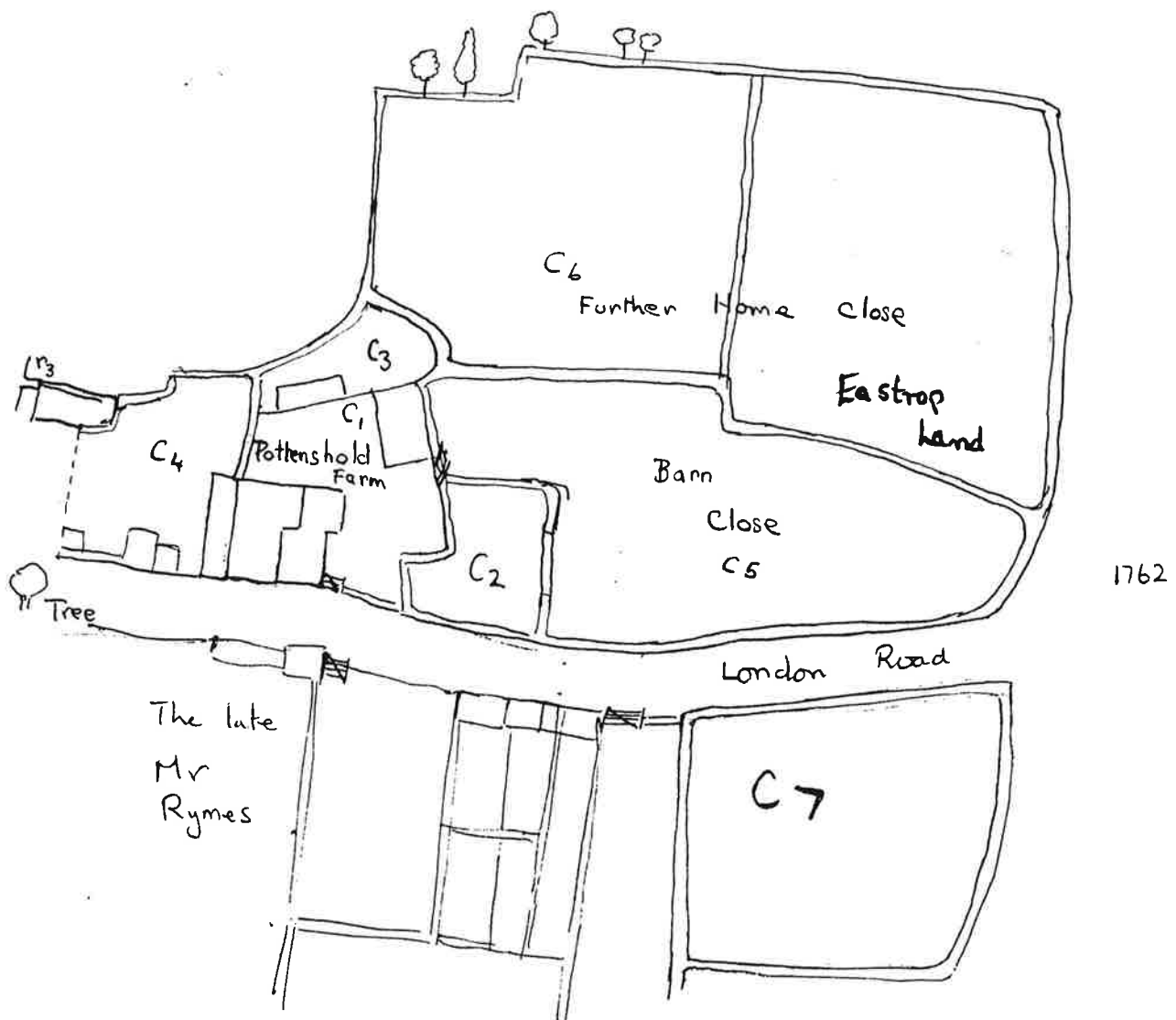
ANNE HAWKER

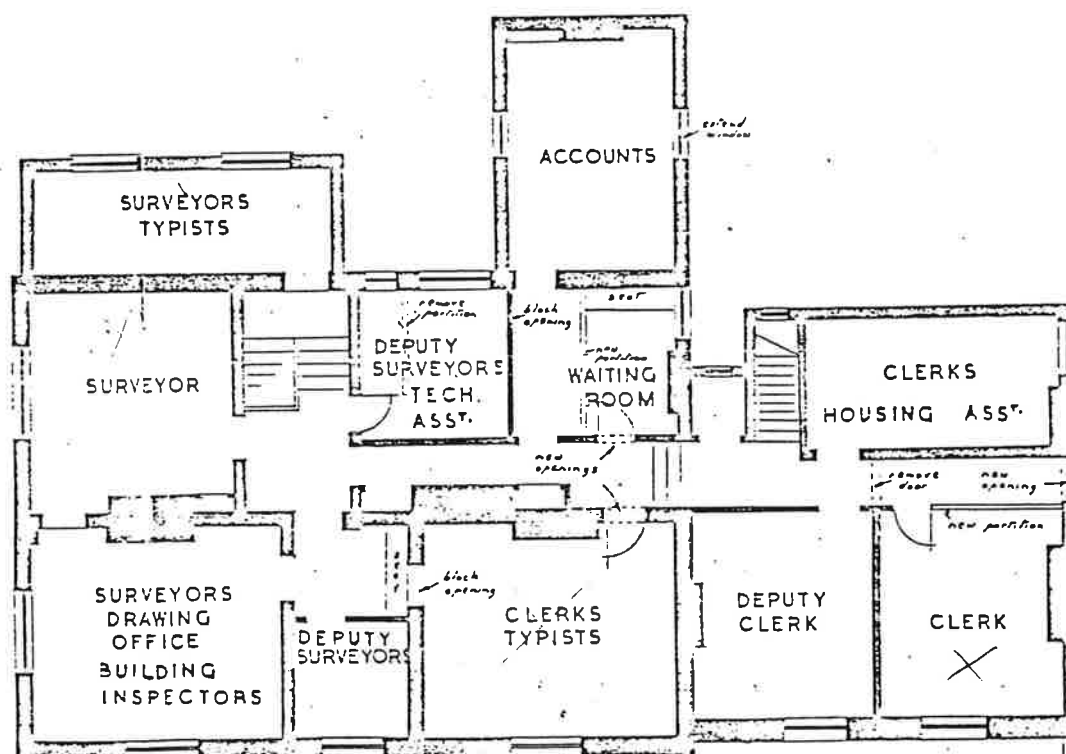
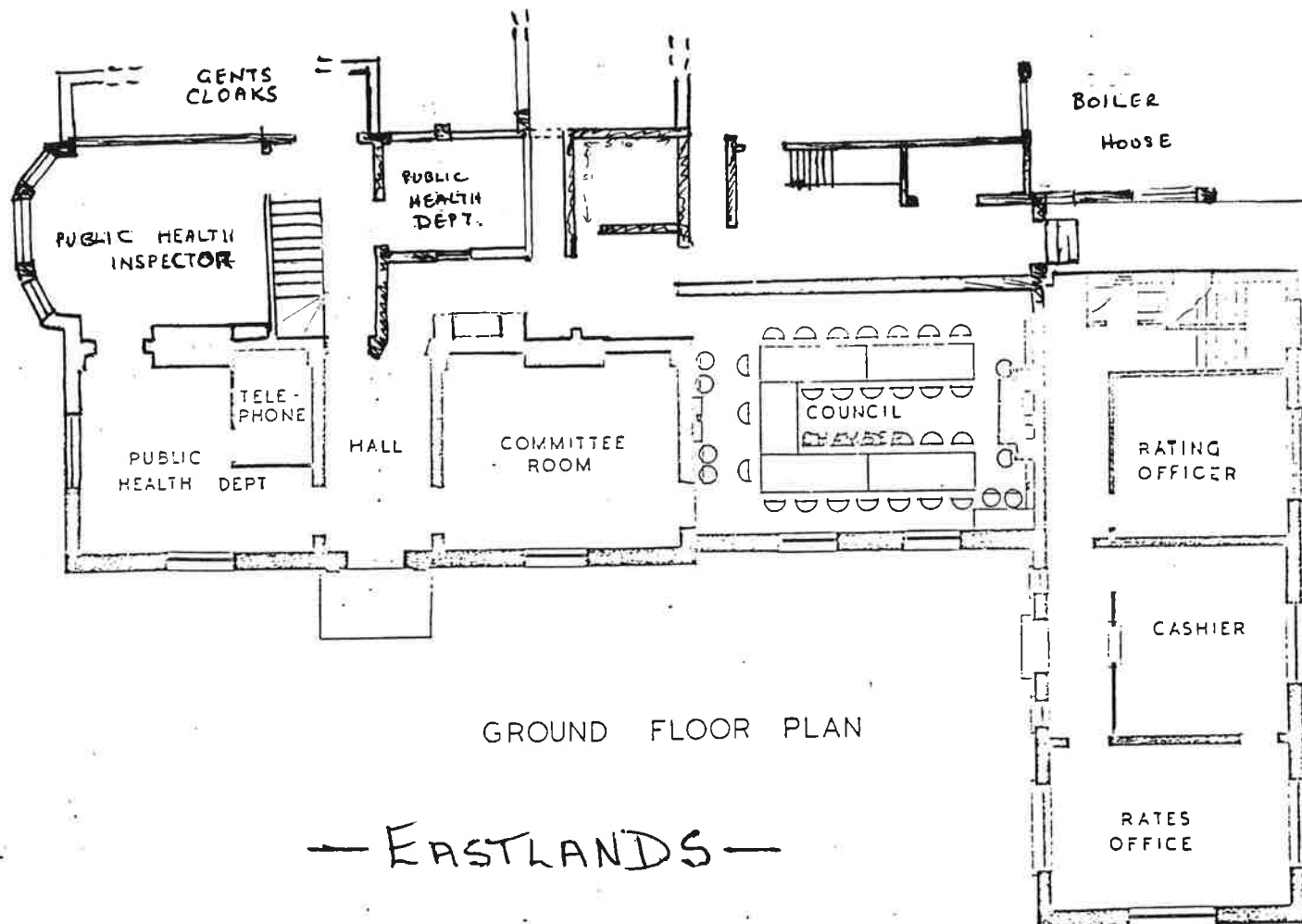
From 1851 Eastlands (now known by that name) was the home of Richard Wallis, who was Mayor for 1863-4. Barbara Applin is looking into that period to continue the story for the next Newsletter.

PART OF THE 1762 MAP OF BASINGSTOKE

The site of Eastlands is here shown
as "Pottenshold Farm"

1762 map.





CARETAKERS -
FLAT
See Plan A6 232

BASING HOUSE AND ITS GARDENS

David Allen

The following article is reproduced from the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society Section Newsletter No.17, Spring 1992 with the kind permission of the author and the Society.

On May 10th, 1991, H.R.H. the Duke of Kent was Guest of Honour at the official opening of the Period Garden at Basing House. The brief ceremony, which took place beneath a cloudless sky, was the culmination of four years hard work by many organisations and individuals, and the realisation of a scheme first mooted some 15 years before.

The garden graced by this ducal visit is not a restoration of a known layout, although it does include some features found by archaeological method. It is basically a freelance design, incorporating images and devices borrowed from the Paulets, the family who held Basing during the Tudor and Stuart periods. I will return to this garden — its form and its future — a little later, but first it is worth examining the evidence for historical gardens at this site.

BASING HOUSE GARDENS — BEFORE THE CIVIL WAR

The evidence for gardens at Basing, prior to the English Civil War, is slight. Not only was the house destroyed during that great conflict, but all of the Paulet papers appear to have perished too. From our knowledge of William Paulet, however, and the influences to which he was open, it is clear that the creation of substantial gardens must have accompanied the two major building phases at Basing, in the 1530s and the 1550s.

What evidence there is, has been closely examined by Mavis Batey (1987). She is able to suggest that Renaissance

ideas, evident in the fabric of Hampton Court, and the garden belonging to Sir Thomas More at Chelsea (later owned by the Paulets), would have found their expression at Basing. Indeed, a terracotta roundel of a Roman emperor found at the site, is almost certainly the work of Giovanni de Maiano, whose craft decorated the gate towers at Hampton Court.

In the second phase of construction, Paulet added a massive New House to the existing Old House or Citadel, to create 'the greatest of any subject's house in England, yea larger than most of the King's palaces'. This was only fitting, in that he entertained Edward, Mary and Elizabeth Tudor at Basing, during their successive reigns. No detailed account of these royal visitations survives, but by comparison with other sites, much of the entertainment would have taken place in the gardens.

Queen Elizabeth first visited Basing in 1560, and finally, in 1601. On the latter occasion her royal retinue, staying for thirteen days, almost ate the Paulets out of house and home. Garden features at this time would have consisted of knot patterns, terraces, arbours and tunnelled walks, and there was almost certainly a banqueting house adjacent to the orchard, west of the Old House.

BASING HOUSE GARDENS — AFTER THE RESTORATION

At the end of a three year siege, in October 1645, Basing fell to Cromwell's forces. Sir John Paulet was found hiding in a bread oven, and carted off to the Tower. Basing first of all went up in flames, and then the brick and stone shell was steadily broken down, by quarrying and robbing. At the Restoration, however, the site was returned to the Paulet family. They built a new house north of the original site, near to the Great Barn.

Whilst there was no attempt to rebuild the Old House, its ruined circuit did provide a suitable setting for an enclosed garden. Celia Fiennes, visiting in 1690, described new walls, fine fruit and vineyards (Batey 1987, 102), the latter located in the Citadel.

This episode makes some impact in the archaeological record. The interior wall of the Citadel *enciente*, in places up to four metres high, contains a number of false arches and doorways, presumably resulting from the romanticisation of the ruins. In addition, an inner pathway around this circuit appears to have been marked out by a ragged boundary wall.

The most convincing evidence, however, is to be found at the Citadel gateway. Here, excavations by Tim Schadla-Hall and Ken Barton between 1978-83, revealed a sequence of at least four gate structures with defensive properties, and succeeding them, an ornamental approach to the site of the Old House (Fig.1). This consisted of curving brick steps, a cobbled apron, and a number of low, poorly constructed walls.

This phase, dating to the end of the seventeenth century, may also be the period of the Basing pots. A suspiciously large number of these ornamental *jardineres* (Fig.2) survive intact at the site, and so they are likely to post-date the siege (Moorhouse 1991, 106). They presumably stood at intervals on the low walls and on pedestals.

After a brief flourish of perhaps fifty years, the Citadel vineyards and gardens were abandoned. But the 'Walled Garden' near to the dovecotes was apparently maintained, and described as a 'Kitchen Garden, &c' on a detailed plan of 1798 (Batey *ibid.* 103). It is this area to which our attention can now turn, as it was the site chosen for the replica Period Garden.

BASING HOUSE GARDENS — THE PERIOD GARDEN PROJECT

The most stirring episode in Basing history is undoubtedly the Civil War siege, but it is unfortunate that the ruination of the site has robbed us of so much Tudor and Stuart grandeur. In order to recapture some of the essence of this period a scheme was proposed to create an ornamental garden in the area of the Walled Garden. Before this could take place, archaeological excavation was necessary; firstly to see if there were any detectable traces of original gardens, and secondly to see if any other features were at risk.

Trial work took place in 1987, and major clearance in the following year. There was good evidence for the Kitchen Gardens known to be in existence here in the eighteenth century, but none for anything earlier and ornamental. The area of the terrace, however, was delineated by low brick walls, which were of Tudor date. Such a rectilinear space, enclosed by the high perimeter walls and possible viewing towers (later dovecotes), may have had a number of uses; as a tilt-yard, or bowling green, or archery butts, for example.

Whatever activity the low brick walls were witness to, it was decided that they — or to be more exact, replicas built above them — would make an excellent surround for the proposed Period Garden. This was the 'canvas' upon which the freelance design could be painted, and Elizabeth Banks Associates were chosen to do this work. They drew their inspiration from the Paulet family motto 'Aimez Loyaulte' (Love Loyalty), the family crest of three daggers, and motifs from some of the decorated tiles found at the site (Fig.3).

The general appearance of the garden, and the choice of plants — Box, Cotton Lavender, Hyssop, Golden Sage, Purple Sage, Rue, and Wall Germander — is based upon good sixteenth and seventeenth century practice. John Oldham, the full time gardener, finds himself using similar time-honoured methods, particularly whilst the garden is in its infancy.

As for the future, the current garden is seen as the first stage of a three-phase design, which may ultimately occupy all of the Walled Garden. Whether or not this scheme ever blossoms, the Period Garden as it is today, offers a fine insight into a sixteenth century garden layout, and the splendour that existed on the site before the razing of Basing.

REFERENCES

- Batey, M., 1987, 'Basing House Tudor Garden', *Garden History*, 15 no.2 pp.94-109
Moorhouse, S., 1991, 'Ceramics in Medieval Gardens' in Brown, A.E. (ed.) *Garden Archaeology*, CBA Research Report 78, pp.100-19

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My thanks go to Sue Anderson for preparing the plan of the Citadel gateway and Hampshire Recreation for the plan of the Period Garden.

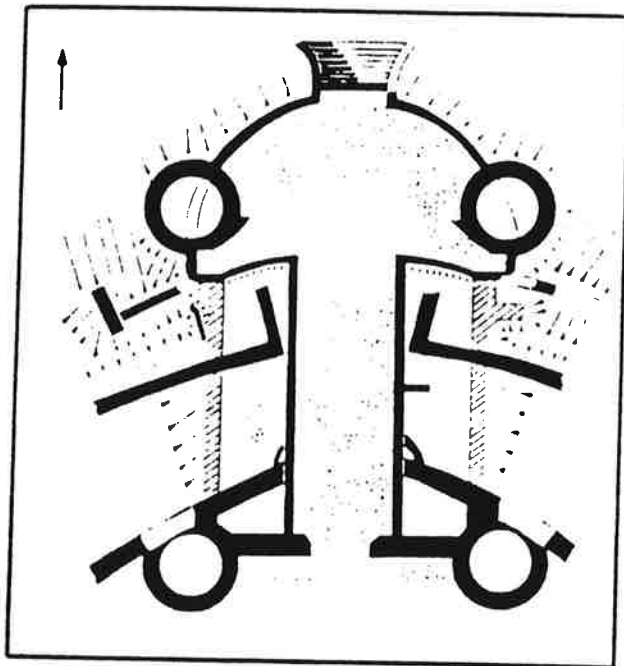


Fig. 1. Interpretative plan of the later seventeenth century 'garden phase'. Basing House Citadel gateway. The gate passage is 4.4m. in width

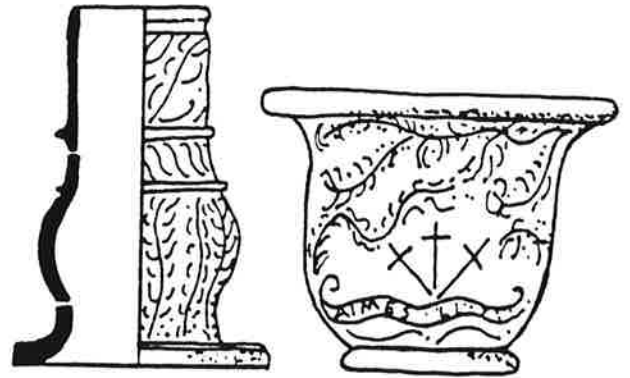


Fig. 2. The two types of ornamental *jardiniere* found at Basing. Scale 1/8.

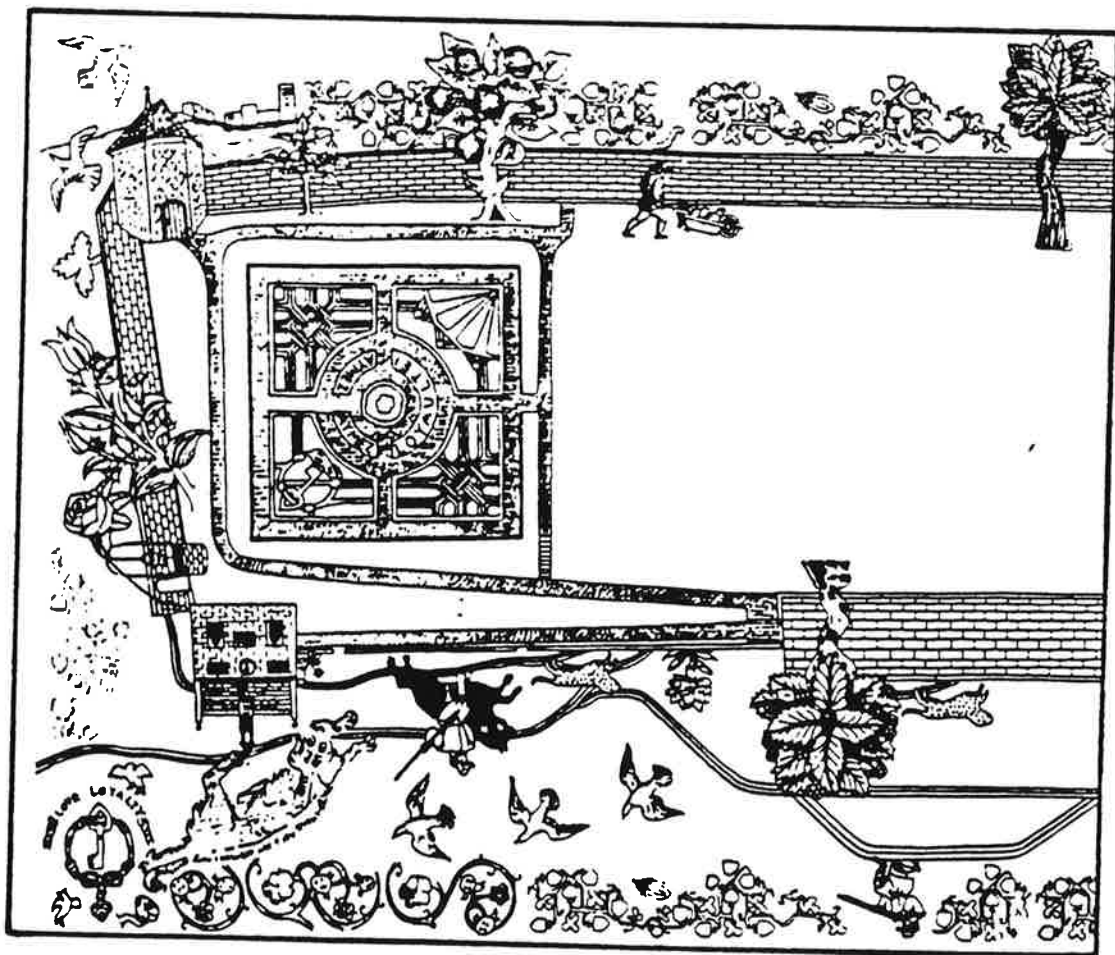


Fig. 3. The 'period garden' plan. Stage 1, the square arrangement of beds and parterres is now in existence. The garden is approximately 30m. by 30m.

LOCAL ARCHIVES

Following the concern expressed both in the national press and by Rosemary Dunhill, our own County Archivist, as to the fate of local archives when local government is re-organised, a letter was sent by our Society to Michael Mates, a local M.P.

I am glad to say that we were not the only society who were writing to him on the subject, because in his reply he enclosed a copy of the letter which he had himself received from the Department of the Environment, signed by Robert Key, in response to earlier representations on the subject.

In it we are informed that the DoE does not intend necessarily to abolish both County and District Authorities but only when it sees fit after recommendation and that if, after due consultation, a case can be made for retaining all or part of the functions for each, they will do so. Moreover, if it proves that the new local authorities intend acting irresponsibly in various matters, the Minister of State will retain the right to intervene and impose a "joint venture" scheme, although he would be reluctant to do so.

More to the point, though, is that when the Commission is set up the DoE will be issuing guidance about the policy considerations which should underline the Commission's review and satisfactory arrangements for archives will be duly included.

All this may sound like Rosemary Dunhill's worst fears being realised, but if you read between the lines you become aware that the democratic process is at work and that the DoE has been made aware of peoples' feelings and have taken note. It is not always easy for a Government Department to do an about-turn and face must be saved, but the point has been made and a seed has been sown.

We must wait and see; watch this space !

RICHARD DEXTER

[STOP PRESS :

The Spring 1992 Newsletter of the Hampshire Archives Trust reports that a parliamentary question has now been asked on the subject, and it is expected that an amendment to the Local Government Bill will be tabled at report stage to ensure that provision is made for the continuance of the service. The Trust ask us to continue to express and share our concern with others.

A GOODBYE AND A WELCOME

Oonagh Palmer has now completed her stint as Acting Curator at the Willis Museum, and we welcome the new Curator, Tim Evans, whose particular interest is social history.

A PICNIC WITH CHARLES I

The Friends of Basing House are organising this event as part of their celebrations of the 350th anniversary of the start of the English Civil War and the part played by Basing House in the struggle. From 3 - 5 pm; bring your own picnic, but drinks and light refreshments will be sold by Friends of Basing House. Entertainment will include musicians, dancing, games, fencing; prizes for the best 17th century costume.

For further details contact Alan Turton (0256) 467294.

CALENDAR

Thurs 14 May	AERIAL SURVEY OF NORTH EAST HAMPSHIRE David Graham	*
Sat 19 May	VISIT TO FARNBOROUGH HILL SCHOOL AND FARNBOROUGH ABBEY	*
Thurs 21 May	Bygones in Haberdashery Dorothy Locke	FWM
Sat 6 June	21ST BIRTHDAY PARTY	*
Sun 7 June	Picnic with Charles 1st 3-5 pm	FBH
Thurs 11 June	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING & MEMBERS' EVENING	*
Fri 26 June	An evening walk with Bill Fergie (Old Basing 6.45 pm)	FWM
Wed 8 July	VISIT TO BRAMSHILL HOUSE	*
Sat 18 July	DAY TRIP TO SALISBURY	*/FWM
Sat 22 Aug	VISIT TO HURLEY PRIORY	*
31 Aug/12 Sept	Love Loyalty Arts Festival	FBH
10 Sept	WESSEX PLACE NAMES John Swannell (NB this will be in the Coffee Room beside Queen Mary Hall, not in the Conference Room)	*
8 Oct	M3 ARCHAEOLOGY Dave Farwell	*
24 Oct	DAY CONFERENCE " Basingstoke, Stone Age to Siege"	*

* = Society event (printed in caps)
FWM = Friends of the Willis Museum
FBH = Friends of Basing House