

B A S I N G S T O K E
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N E W S L E T T E R

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* Dr A. E. Werner THE SCIENTIFIC *
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* Sunday, 2nd December Fieldwalk (M3 extension) Meet in *
* drive to Popham Court, 2 pm. *
* Wear boots! *
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* Thursday, 13th December Members' Social Evening, including *
* LINKS WITH THE PAST, at Chute *
* House, 7.30 pm *
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* Thursday, 31st January Lecture at Chute House, 7.30 pm *
* Duncan Russell THE ROMAN TOWN OF *
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* * * * *
* Every Thursday except lecture evenings, practical sessions on *
* the treatment of excavation material in the annexe behind the *
* Willis Museum, New Street, from 7.30 pm. *
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FAKES AND FORGERIES
 Thursday Lecture
29th November 1973

Our next lecturer is the star guest of the year. He is head of the British Museum Research Laboratory where exciting work is carried out on the detection of fakes and forgeries, on scientific analysis - including Carbon 14 dating - and on the conservation of corroded and fragile objects. Dr Werner is a world authority in the museum and scientific fields and this is a lecture not to be missed.

MEMBERS' EVENING
13th December 1973

A note from your Chairman:

Once again Christmas is nearly here and the Committee is organising a Members' Evening on 13th December. We are going to repeat LINKS WITH THE PAST which I think was very successful, so please bring some item or items for the rest of us to try to identify. In addition any interesting slides or photographs will be welcome with a few words of description.

We hope the success of last year's Members' Evening is repeated, but to do so we would like some idea of the number to cater for. Therefore, please fill in the slip that comes with the Newsletter and return it to the Secretary at our next lecture (29th November) or at the latest by 3rd December. The price will be the same as last year at 40p for adults and 20p for children under 14. Friends of members will also be welcome.

Les Fawcett

FIELD WALKING
M3 Extension

We are planning another Field Walk on the M3 extension route on Sunday, 2nd December, meeting at 2 pm in the drive leading to Popham Court (off the A33 immediately after leaving the M3). Turn left into the road which has the 'No Through Road' sign just as the roadworks divert traffic onto the other carriageway - don't be put off by the red and white cones. Weather permitting, of course. This will be confirmed at the next lecture. If you can't come to that, please ring Basingstoke 24263 ~~or~~ Basingstoke 65439 to confirm the time and place. Mary Oliver reports on the recent field walks:

"On Saturday morning, 10th November, a dozen or so members of the Society gathered in the Museum annexe to hear Peter Fasham, the Archaeological Director of the M3 Archaeological Rescue Committee, talk to us about field walking. Since it was to be a new experience for most, he spent some time explaining the value of field walking in assessing the archaeological importance of the area being searched prior to excavation. The distribution of

surface finds collected over a period, after different weather conditions and in all seasons, builds up a picture which becomes more meaningful when studied with other forms of evidence - place names, documents, aerial photographs. It is already known that there is a deserted medieval village at Popham at the beginning of the Motorway extension (most of you will have seen the 'crofts and tofts' earthworks as you drive past). There is an interesting suggestion, derived from the place name, that this village could be an early Saxon foundation, with the possibility (because of the proximity of the Roman road) of continuity of settlement from Roman times onwards. We certainly all felt very keen to find the right sort of pottery!

Another piece of research which it is hoped to carry out is a project on hedgerow dating, quite a new subject. As you can imagine, this involves the identification of the different species, a terrifying prospect especially at this time of year, but help was promised with this! If anyone is interested in this aspect, we shall be asking for volunteers in the spring.

The method of recording which we were to use was then described by Mr Fasham. It is very simple. Thus prepared, we met again after lunch and were joined by another dozen very welcome members, including several children. This made an excellent team. The weather became very damp and drizzly as we entered the first ploughed field - the Malt House field - and our spirits fell, but fortunately it cleared to a fine bright afternoon. Anne Hawker found a piece of pressed bronze as soon as we walked onto the field, which seemed like a good omen! Then, after a hesitant start while we all got used to what to look for, we were soon advancing steadily across the field, eyes down. We covered two big ploughed fields, which was a good start for one afternoon. An interesting variety of things turned up, ranging in date from a piece of ploughshare (not retained) to some worked flint. A sample of brick and tile was taken and there was plenty of pottery which has not yet been washed.

I would like to thank the Society for an excellent turn out - Peter Fasham was most impressed, and congratulated us for being the first group of all the groups involved in MARC 3 to be in the field this autumn.

A second field walk followed this, on Sunday afternoon, 18th November, when we decided it was better to avoid two fields which contained respectively two very lively horses and a bull, but nevertheless we had good results from the other fields. Members have asked for a further fieldwalk, planned for 2nd December.

Mary Oliver

COUNCIL FOR BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGY
Group 12: Annual Open
Meeting, Poole, 1973

The society is affiliated to CBA Group 12 and therefore six members attended this year's open meeting at Poole on November 3rd.

The meeting was in two parts: an exhibition of the work of some of the affiliated organisations in the Group's area, Hampshire,

Wiltshire and Dorset, and a lecture meeting.

The exhibition was in Poole's Guildhall Museum and the 13 exhibits were generally well displayed. They ranged from one entitled "The Theory and Application of the Carbon 14 Technique" by AERE Harwell to Roman Villas at Halstock and Dewlish.

Incidentally, the Guildhall in Poole is well worth visiting. It is a fine two storey Georgian building on an island site (similar to, but a bigger and better version of the Newtown Town Hall on the Isle of Wight). Among its exhibits were some fine medieval jugs and some later glass.

The lecture meeting was in two parts. The first hour was a talk by Peter Reynolds on "The Progress of the Butser Ancient Farm Project"; Reynolds directs the project. He was an excellent speaker on a most interesting subject, although in his hour's lecture he was only able to scratch its surface. The Committee hope that it will be able to arrange for him to lecture to the society and for it to visit the project in the not too distant future.

The remainder of the meeting was a series of eight short (ten minute) reports on current excavations and work, including one by Peter Fasham on his preliminary work for the M3 extension, particularly the examination of the geological test pits. These reports were of varying quality and illustrated the point that unless one has something worthwhile to say it is better not to speak at meetings such as these. Our Excavation Directors, Mary Oliver and Barbara Applin, declined an invitation to speak on our site at Ructstalls Hill because of the large amount of work still to be done on the excavated material, but they hope to be able to give a report on the Society's work at next year's meeting.

To sum up, the day at Poole was an interesting one at which several old acquaintances were renewed and some new contacts made, but no major new work was reported.

Bob Applin