

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 120 AUGUST 1992

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MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1992/3

The annual Society subscriptions fell due in May. The Membership Secretary would be grateful if members who have not yet paid their subs. would do so as soon as possible. Please send your cheque to:

Ms Barbara Seymour (Membership Secretary), 16, Park Avenue, BASING.

The full membership is £7.50. Two or more members in the same household an additional £2.50. Members under 16 or over 60, £3.00.

NOTE: To continue to receive the Newsletter, it is necessary to renew your membership !

THE OCTOBER CONFERENCE - Saturday, October 24th.

From the Stone Age to the Siege: Aspects of Basingstoke's Past

Please see the enclosed leaflet and make your application (plus family and friends, too!) to attend our 21st Anniversary Conference as indicated on the leaflet.

We shall be in great need of help from our members on the day in the following areas:-

Food preparation and presentation

Coffee, preparation, serving and washing up the cups

Setting out of chairs

Stewards for car parking and as ushers

Guardians for display stalls

Setting up of the displays

Please Help: Contact Barbara Herrington (0256 22090) to tell her what help you are prepared to give to make this day a success for the Society.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

At the AGM, held on June 11th., attended by about 18 members, an outline of the programme of events for 1992/3 was given by Mary Oliver (programme card enclosed with this newsletter). The Treasurer's report was read in the absence of John Horrocks (on holiday) and some of the questions raised by members at this stage can now be answered:-

- * The figures in the annual accounts have been rounded up or down as appropriate
- * The increase in membership fees for OAP's, mentioned specifically in the report, was made because these fees were not increased together with the main subs. in the last round.
- * Yes, a plastic tunnel to cover trenches from rain at a future dig can be funded if required
- * No, we don't actually need a separate excavations fund but it is a convenient item of account to demonstrate our continuing commitment to excavations
- * The money collected for sale of books other than "Voices of Basingstoke" are lodged in the publications account.

There followed a progress report on the Video Project, the technical side of which may well be completed by the Autumn and then it was agreed that the Committee should be asked to consider a proposal to involve young people in the work of the Society - perhaps as a Young Archaeologists' Group.

The elections for officers and committee produced the following results :-

Chairman	Richard Dexter 4, Rosedene Gardens, FLEET	tel. 0252 622755
Hon. Secretary	Barbara Herrington 16, Scotney Road, BASINGSTOKE	tel. 0256 22090
Hon. Treasurer	John Horrocks 5, Oak Close, OAKLEY	tel. 0256 780537
Committee	Marta Cock Nicola Hawes David Miles Martin Morris Steve Strongman Paulline Williams	
Co-opted	Barbara Applin (Newsletter) Mary Oliver (Programme) Barbara Seymour (Membership Secretary).	

Finally, a vote of thanks was given to Alison, who, with Gill has organised the provision of coffee and refreshments at meetings for upwards of five years. We are indebted to them for their unstinting efforts. Thank you ! Marianne Tilley, a new member, has kindly agreed to take over in place of Alison.

THE NEW PROGRAMME FOR 1992/3

The programme card enclosed with the Newsletter looks like another triumph for Mary Oliver whose dedication to the task has been noted in high places.

The first meeting - *Wessex Place Names* - by John Swannell will take place on September 10th.

If you have a question about place names which you would like to put to John, please let our Hon. Sec. Barbara Herrington have it by the end of August so that she can let John have it in time to prepare an answer at the meeting. Please note that this meeting only will be in the 'coffee room' which adjoins the main Queen Mary's Hall and not in the Conference room.

THE VISIT TO HURLEY PRIORY - Saturday, August 22nd.

Just a reminder (see Newsletter 119, May, pg.4) that we shall be visiting the little Saxon village of Hurley on August 22nd. We shall meet in the pub. car park on the left, just before you get to the Church, at 2.30 pm. Hurley is on the south bank of the Thames at the end of a 3/4 mile cul-de-sac off the A423 Henley/Marlow road four miles east of Henley-on-Thames. It is about three miles off the end of the M423 Maidenhead Spur. If you wish to join the party or have any queries, please contact me on 0252 622755.

Richard Dexter

COMMITTEE REPORT - 25th June

The first meeting of the new Committee after the AGM discussed the forthcoming programme and the arrangements for the October Conference. It was stressed that good publicity was needed, especially word

of mouth from members to friends, to ensure success. Help would be needed on the day (see pg.2) from members to prepare for and run the conference. It was agreed to consider the formation of a Young Archaeologists' Group within the Society when the Video Project has been completed. Comments from the Hon. Treasurer in reply to questions posed at the AGM are to be included in the next Newsletter (see pg.2).

SOCIAL EVENTS AND VISITS - REPORTS

BARBEQUE AT BASING HOUSE GARDENS - June 6th

Thankfully, this event was not marred by rain although the 'conditions were overcast'. But not in the gardens of Basing House where a large and small marquee and two large and fearsome fiery barbeque units provided a frame for the gratifyingly large number of members and friends gathered for the celebration of our Society's 21st Birthday.

We sat at tables complete with guttering candles, on the lawn and sampled the excellent fare of barbequed meats, salads, crusty bread and our own wine, followed by dessert. Full marks to the chief chef (Cordon Charcoal) Bob Applin and his helpers and to Barbara Bush and her friends who organised and presented the whole range of fare on offer. Well done and many thanks !

A splendid and relaxing evening ensued, talking to friends - some of them long-lost like the Merryweathers who journeyed many leagues from near Taunton to attend and whom we were delighted to see again! We were free to roam the Basing House site and the exhibition area and took coffee in the refreshment room. Our grateful thanks to Alan Turton for allowing us to use this superb venue, and to all our members who helped to make this evening a success(Especially the Barbeque sub-committee who masterminded it all). *Here's to the next time!*

Tim Herrington

PREHISTORIC SOCIETY CONFERENCE, 1992

In April I was lucky enough to be able to attend the Prehistoric Society's 1992 conference, thanks to their generosity in awarding student places. It was held at Bristol University and so was a familiar setting for me, especially as several of my fellow students were there as stewards.

I was particularly keen to attend the conference as the subject was "Trade and Exchange in Prehistoric Europe" and I knew that particular sessions would be relevant to my course on Mediterranean archaeology. The conference was a special one, celebrating the 1992 closer trading links with Europe; for this reason it was a joint venture with La Société Préhistorique Française. Unfortunately this meant that many of the lectures were given in French; needless to say, my GCSE French didn't stand up to it too well!

The lectures were very wide-ranging; they spanned from the first hunter gatherers to the eve of the Roman Conquest, with some lectures being theoretical and others on more specific topics - for instance, meat hooks and spits of the late Bronze Age. The lectures on Neolithic exchange and more specifically on

obsidian trade in Italy were particularly interesting to me, as I will be travelling to Sicily and Lipari in September to fulfil a course requirement. Through scientific analysis and statistical work, the changing importance of the four island sources of Italy's obsidian can be demonstrated. From the site of Arene Candide in Liguria, North Italy, recent work has shown that the obsidian present in the Early Neolithic was dominated by Sardinian (57.7%) but by the Late Neolithic Sardinian obsidian only represented 12.5% of the total, but that from Lipari had risen from 0% to a staggering 87.5%. This statistical work reveals the complex nature of Neolithic trading patterns.

I enjoyed meeting the people at the conference; they came from a mixture of countries and backgrounds, both amateur and professional. It was very interesting and revealing to be able to put faces to the names I've come across through my studies. The question times were almost completely dominated by the big names in archaeology, where an undergraduate certainly felt out of depth! Many heated discussions took place that were dominated by the issue of defining centre and periphery and world system. Professor Lord Renfrew, not an advocate of these theories, was asking for these terms to be more closely defined; Professor Kohl (Wellesley College, Massachusetts) and Professor Frank (University of Amsterdam) were arguing frantically but wouldn't commit themselves to a definition. I felt that Professor Renfrew's calm logic was the more impressive. I had the feeling that today's arguments could be tomorrow's textbooks in the making.

Jane Oliver

SUMMER EVENING AT FARNBOROUGH

On a pleasant evening in May, I went on the Society outing to Farnborough Hill and Farnborough Abbey. The first sight of Farnborough Hill as we came through the wooded grounds was most impressive, and the views from the house were wonderful and unexpected.

The few flights of steps we encountered would have been daunting to me in my wheelchair but for the many willing hands that appeared each time to help, and I was able to keep up with the party and enjoy Sister Josephine

Sharron's descriptions of the house and its history. The period when it was Empress Eugenie's home was the most interesting - and poignant, but there was also clear evidence of its current use as a girls' school, and we were privileged to be able to see their lovely simple chapel.

After a fascinating hour, we moved a short distance down the road to the Abbey, founded by the Empress in memory of her husband and son and once visible from the house before the trees grew so tall. Here we were met by Father Michael Fava, who described the lovely building, now used as a parish church by Farnborough's Catholic community as well as by the monks. I decided the last part of the evening, a visit to the crypt to see the imperial sarcophagi, was beyond me, but I had the added bonus of hearing the organist doing his weekly practice - very atmospheric as the darkness fell. And so home, after a most enjoyable evening, with many thanks to all the members who made it possible.

Elizabeth Atkinson

BRAMSHILL HOUSE

The inside of the average police station, assuming you've been inside one, doesn't prepare you for the historic splendour of the Police College at Bramshill, visited by the Society on the 8th July.

There was a house on the site, described as a 'bleak and barren place', as early as 1598 and owned by William, 4th Marquis of Winchester. The house as we see it now was built by Edward, Lord Zouche, when political ambitions, frustrated under Queen Elizabeth I, changed dramatically with the accession of James I in 1603. The King spent prodigally and to the benefit of Edward Zouche who, in 1605, started to build himself an imposing country house in order to affirm his social and political significance at court.

Edward Zouche, 11th Baron of Harringworth, was an interesting man, and although many aspects of his life remain rather obscure, a study of him sheds light on his motives for building, and for building when he did. Following his father's death in 1569, as a ward of the Crown he was brought up in the household of William Cecil the dominant politician during Elizabeth's reign and also a prodigious builder of great houses. In 1586 Zouche was appointed a member of the Commission for the trial of Mary, Queen of Scots, but his political career did not really begin until after a period spent abroad between 1587 and 1593. It was during this time that he met the young Henry Wotton who was later to write one of the very few architectural treatises in English. It was also at this time that he became acquainted with the future King James when he became envoy extraordinary to James IV of Scotland.

Progress on the building was slow because Zouche was always chronically short of money. Bramshill illustrates the axiom that that expenditure was more important than the acquisition of wealth to the Jacobean courtier. Status at Court was adjudged more by lavishness of display than by invisible financial security, or even dignity of birth or office.

After the visit by the King in 1620, Lord Zouche wrote "I am hartely glad that I have bilt a howse which may delight him to take pleasure therein, the only comfort I have is having bilt sutch a howse which will be a testimony of my follyes when I myself have been forgotten".

As the visiting group discovered, there is still a great deal at Bramshill to 'delight' and 'take pleasure therein'. There is the impressive approach up the long, sloping, open drive towards the south-west entrance. Although impressive today it must have been even more so at the time of Zouche's death in 1625. The walls on both sides of the elaborate facade were built in the 18th C when two wings were demolished. There are the landscaped grounds with a herd of white deer and the flocks of Canada geese.

Inside the Hall is an Elizabethan screen featuring the cardinal virtues: Temperence, Prudence and Justice and 92 shields displaying the heraldic motifs of owners of the mansion. Tradition has it that the old and mysterious chest in the corner of the hall is the Mistletoe Bough chest in which a young bride, playing hide and seek on her wedding night, closed the lid, was unable to release the catch and died undiscovered until years later.

The Chapel was consecrated in 1620 by the then Archbishop of Canterbury, George Abbott. One day during the visit he went hunting, which he greatly enjoyed, shot a deer and accidentally killed a keeper.

This tragedy led to a crisis in Abbott's career and, because of his puritanical beliefs, he was condemned for the time he spent on frivolous sport. The affair led to his suspension but his piety and generosity led him to found Abbott's Hospital at Guildford as an act of expiation.

What is now the morning room was originally the 'great dining room belowe'. This, together with the great drawing room, is one of the finest rooms in the mansion. The former has Verdure and the latter has Decius Mus tapestries based on cartoons by Rubens. Seeing these tapestries and being able to examine them at close quarters was a wonderful experience and almost worth a visit on their own.

Among the many other architectural features are the various strap-work ceilings in flowing geometrical patterns and bands. This short report cannot do justice to the great wealth of architectural and historical interest sitting practically on our doorstep. An expanded study by Helen M. Hills may be seen at the Courtauld Institute of Art, 20, Portman Square, London (prior permission required from the librarian). A brief guide, used in the compilation of this report, is in the hands of the Society.

Not the least part of the enjoyment of the visit was the contribution made by our two knowledgeable guides, Maggie and Janet. Their pride in the history of Bramshill is testimony that Edward, Lord Zouche has not been forgotten and that his 'follyes' are serving a useful purpose - even if it's one by which he might have been greatly surprised !

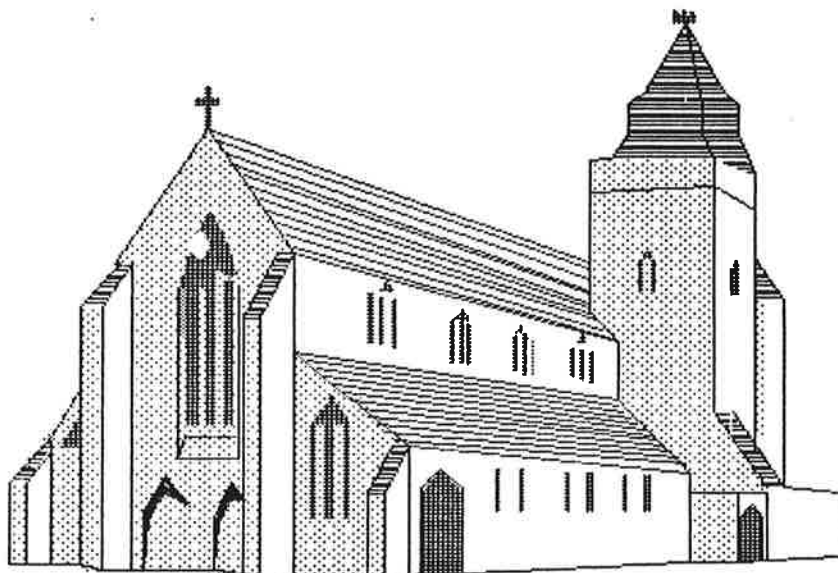
Paulline Williams

ALL SAINTS CHURCH : 75th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

* On Friday, September 18th at 7.30pm, an illustrated talk by Dr Geoff Brandwood on the work of Temple Moore, the architect responsible for All Saints Church, will be followed by a guided tour of the Church and a "cheese and wine gathering".

* The Open Day on Saturday, September 26th., includes a full peal of bells, organ recitals and a concert. There will be an exhibition of paintings in the Church Hall.

(See our Newsletter No. 106, March 1989, page 4 for an article about All Saints and Temple Moore by Andrew Duckworth. Contact the team vicar Peter Gilks for details of the celebrations).



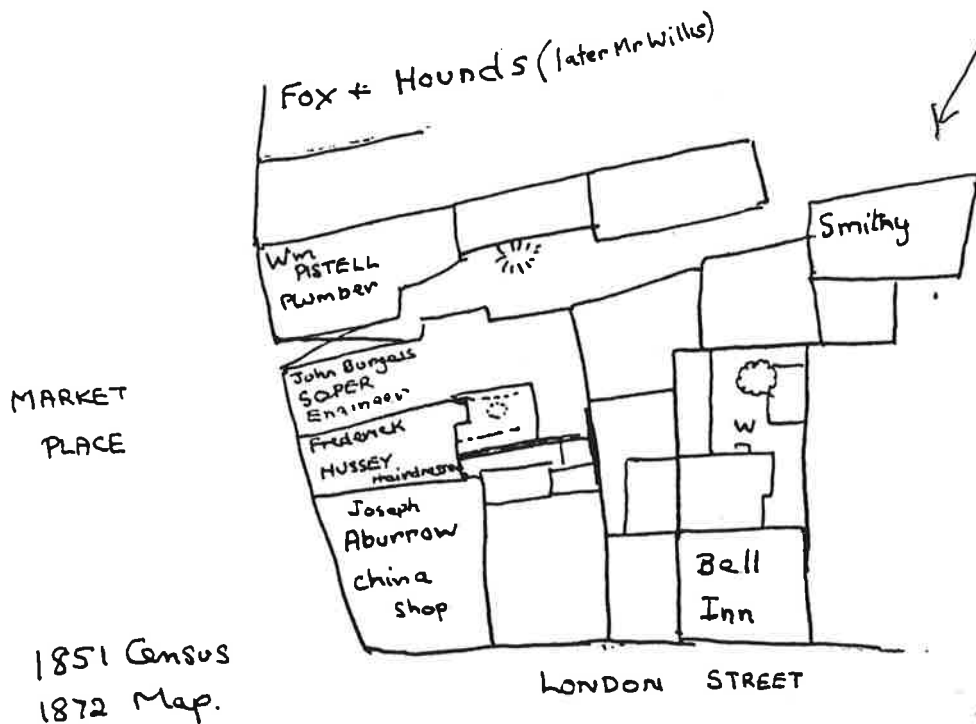
BASINGSTOKE RECORDS - 5

HAS ANYONE SEEN THIS FORGE ?

In 1487, John Belchamber paid as a half-year rent to the Town the sum of two shillings and eight pence for a shop in the Market place *and for the Forge*.

By the 19th century, the house had become two houses, one on either side of the passage leading out of the Market place towards the east. At the present, it goes nowhere save a bit of the Feathers' yard, but on the 1872 map there is quite a large smithy shown on the right-hand side of the passage. One of the tenants of the divided house was Mr Soper and the other a Mr Pistell. In 1851, the occupations of Mr John Burgess Soper (Engineer) and Mr William Pistell (Plumber) could both indicate the need for a smithy, with Mr Soper being the more likely.

Can anyone remember this building, and if it was still a forge in living memory ?



--- Anne Hawker ---

CALENDAR

- Thurs 20 Aug Tour of dig at Leckford Farm Estate, 7 pm. Numbers limited; HFC
Bookings to Sue Bray, Winchester Museums Service,
75 Hyde St, Winchester (Tel 0962 848269, weekdays only)
- Sat 22 Aug VISIT TO HURLEY PRIORY *
- 31 Aug/
12 Sept Love Loyalty Arts Festival
- Thurs 10 Sept WESSEX PLACE NAMES John Swannell *
(NB in the Coffee Room beside Queen
Mary Hall, not in the Conference Room)
- Sat 3 Oct Local History Section AGM HFC
- Thurs 8 Oct ARCHAEOLOGY of the M3 - BAR END to COMPTON *
Dave Farwell
- Thurs 15 Oct AGM & Thoughts About Basingstoke: Bill Fergie FWM
- Sat 24 Oct BASINGSTOKE: FROM THE STONE AGE TO THE SIEGE *
Day Conference

* = Society Event FWM = Friends of Willis Museum
HFC = Hampshire Field Club

SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY COURSES

The University's list of courses is available in the Library, and at our meetings. Here are some interesting titles:

Day courses:

- Historical Field Day: Micheldever District (Winchester, 19 Sept 92)
- The Countryside and Rural Life in Georgian and Victorian Wessex (17 Oct 92)
- Exploring Wessex Towns (14 Nov 92)
- Fishbourne Roman Palace: Recent Research (Fishbourne, 28 Nov 92)
- The Disappearance of Farm Buildings in Hampshire (1/2 5 Dec 92)

Social Life in Wessex 1600-1900 (30 Jan 93)
Peopling the Past: mediaeval lives in Southampton (13 Feb 93)
The Temples of Ancient Egypt (20 Feb 93)
The Castles of Wessex (27 Feb 93)
Animal Bones in Archaeology (20 March 93)
Records of Landscape History (26 June 93)

6 meetings:

Early Humans in North-West Europe
Glimpses of Ancient Egypt

10 meetings:

An Industrial Historian's Tour of Britain
Hampshire Before the Domesday Book (Winchester)
The Sources for Local History (Winchester)

OXFORD UNIVERSITY COURSES

The Secretary has a number of leaflets and handouts describing a range of interesting day courses and other short courses in things historical and archaeological. These can be seen at our meetings, or further details given by 'phoning the Secretary on 0256 22090.

For example:

Day Schools The English Landscape Sept 5th
 The Civil War & the Local Community Nov 14th
 Computers & Local History Nov 7th
 Science & Archaeology: Artifact Studies Nov 28th
 Effigies & Images: Medieval Church Fittings Dec 5th
 Medieval Realms: Britain 1066 to 1500 Jan 9th
 Parish Registers: a practical weekend Jan 30/31
 Church Courts & Their Records Feb 13th 1993
 Schools & Schooling Feb 20th 1993
 Crusader Castles Feb 27th 1993
 Dissolution of the Monasteries Mar 6th 1993
 Stained Glass in Oxford Mar 27th 1993

Short Courses - Ask the Secretary; the list is long!

ARCHAEOLOGY CLASS IN BASINGSTOKE

Mary Oliver's GCSE class in Archaeology will continue this Autumn given sufficient class numbers. The class would run on Monday evenings at Basingstoke College of Technology. Enrolment takes place on 7-8th of September. Please contact Mary on Basingstoke 24263 if you are interested in joining the course.