

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

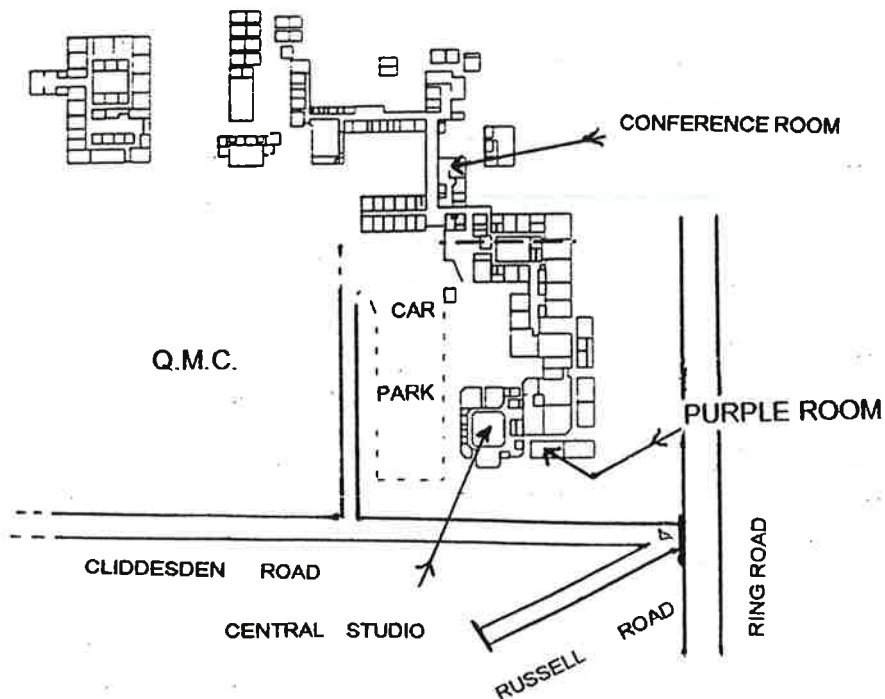


NEWSLETTER 125

NOVEMBER 1993

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VENUE FOR JANUARY/FEBRUARY MEETINGS

(see Page 2)

PURPLE ROOM

BENEATH BASINGSTOKE

Please don't forget that the video "Beneath Basingstoke - from Stone Age to Saxons" would make a very attractive Christmas present for family or friends. You will already know just how interesting, and professionally done, is this culmination of nearly three year's work by the Society and Queen Mary's Centre. Just ask any of our Committee members to produce a copy (or copies) for you at a cost of £12.50 each.

AN EVENING VISIT TO THE HAMPSHIRE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE

Thursday, 2nd December

Some members may have visited the new building of the Hampshire County Record Office in Winchester at their recent Open Day, but there will be a special visit for our Society on 2nd December. The previous Record Office, converted from St Thomas's Church, had a unique atmosphere but was no doubt difficult to run and badly needed more space. It also needed more room for parking! It is exciting now to have this new building, specially designed right from the start for the care and study of archives, and so conveniently near the Railway Station. Rosemary Dunhill, the County Archivist, has given a talk to our Society in the past and has now agreed to give us a special evening visit to the County Record Office's new home.

We shall meet at 7.30 pm at the main entrance of the County Record Office in Sussex Street on Thursday 2nd December.

There is a limit on numbers, so please ring Barbara Herrington quickly if you intend to go: Basingstoke 22090.

THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

The traditional December social gathering of the Society will take place on **Wednesday, December 8th** in the QMC conference room, starting at 7.30 pm. There will be a charge of just £1.00 to members and friends which will cover the cost of the cheese & wine refreshments to be provided and one glass of wine or fruit juice. Further drinks will be available by modest donation to Society funds!

We are reviving the "Links With the Past" feature this year and so we hope you will all bring some item(s) of interest/great age/mystery/etc with you for discussion or identification. In addition there will be diverse entertainment - but the main theme of the evening is to enjoy the company of our Society members and friends.

We would be grateful if you would let us know if you are coming: please contact Barbara Herrington (0256 22090) or Kathy Haworth (0256 780549). They would be pleased to receive offers of cold buffet items for the evening, for which due payment would be made.

We now have 90 members. Please try to come on Dec. 8th ... if you all come and bring a friend we will definitely play sardines!

THE JANUARY & FEBRUARY MEETINGS will be as advertised in the programme card but the venue, although at the Queen Mary's College site, will not be in the Conference Room as usual. There are Parents' Evenings on both dates with consequent parking difficulties. So, please take note of the following to avoid trouble :

The meeting will take place in **Room 35 (The Purple Room)** which is behind the **Central Studio** building, at the north-east corner - that is to say round the back on the right as you face the Central Studio from the main car park, **as shown in the plan on the cover page of the Newsletter**. There is parking in Russell Road if the QMC car parks are full. This is the cul-de-sac road on the right just after the entrance to the College.

THE BASINGSTOKE WILLIS MUSEUM

Have you visited our Town Museum lately? If not, then you have so far missed out on a rare treat in Basingstoke. That is to say a project that has been professionally designed, carefully interpreted and beautifully executed. We are referring to the virtually completely new displays now to be enjoyed at the Willis.

Starting with our old friend Fred the Roman skeleton, now embodied and talking about his life and death, and continuing with the local archaeology, geology and history so graphically presented in the upper galleries, there is much to interest and instruct the visitor.

The Curator Tim Evans (whose efforts to expedite the project have ensured its completion in very good time) and his colleagues must be congratulated on transforming the Willis Museum. Go and be sure to take time to have your morning coffee there, too!

WILLIAM KINGSMILL and the DISSOLUTION AT WINCHESTER

On a wet and miserable evening in late September, several members of BAHIS ventured forth to Winchester to see the Cathedral Players present the play William Kingsmill and the Dissolution at Winchester. The action takes place in the Priory at St Swithins, during the

years 1535 to 1541 and is an attempt to meet the present Dean's wish for a dramatic exploration of how the last Prior of St Swithins came to be the first Dean of the reformed Cathedral in Winchester.

The play dealt largely with discussions, arguments and actions known to have taken place in the Country generally, many of which probably were repeated in Winchester. In this period of unprecedented change, oppression and intimidation, William Kingsmill can be seen as a representative of all the abbots and priors who found a way to survive with their churches and cathedrals and so be able to keep continuity of worship.

The play was performed in the great Norman north transept of the Cathedral which endowed just the right atmosphere, and the simple garb of the Brothers, contrasting with the authentic elaborate costume of the visiting Lords, completed the feeling of realism.

THE NEW ALRESFORD WALKABOUT

In response to the social and economic forces evident in the beginning of the 13th century, a number of new towns were created to provide a base from which (mostly) agricultural products could be marketed. Names like Newmarket, Newton Abbot, New Thame and, not least, New Sarum came on to the map. In Hampshire, the Bishops of Winchester sought to augment the incomes of their manorial estates by this method and, as a result, the towns of Overton, Newtown (Novus Burgus, at Sandleford near Burghclere) and New Alresford (Novum Forum) were planted.

New Alresford was to be sited near to the episcopal manor of Bishops Sutton which had been acquired in 1136 and subsequently made into a palace. Bishop Godfrey de Lucy (1189 - 1204) began by canalising the upper reaches of the Itchen from Winchester and created a reservoir of water to feed this canal and to provide water power for the mills at Alresford - at one time, 9 mills were recorded; some for corn and also a fulling mill. This pool, once of 200 acres, still survives as the 20 acre Alresford Pond. The road from Old Alresford runs across the dam - the Great Weir - into the new town.

In 1200, a market charter was granted and in 1202 a fair. In the first decade New Alresford attracted 40 people to come and build there on the site of the town plan which was simple indeed. The road from the Great Weir broadened to a wide street with a communal baking oven at the lower end and there was a Market/Town Hall at the top where a road formed a T running east/west. Apart from the Church and a boulding house for sifting bran from flour the Bishops provided no other buildings. Indeed, the Bishops had the monopoly of the ovens and of the Town Mill too, so that it was essentially a do-it-yourself community.

There were millers, marketers, fullers, tanners, wool merchants, clothmakers, weavers, dyers, butchers, etc., eventually taking up the 180 odd places available and the town began

NEW ALRESFORD

conservation area



to take advantage of the wealth springing from the arable lands north of the river Alre where the corn was grown, the cattle grazed and sheep abounded. In the 14th C., Alresford was one of the 10 greatest wool markets in the Country and the sale of surplus food, livestock and fish and fowl from the Pond ensured the financial success of the Bishops' estates at least. What, one wonders, did the workers get from all this ?

Some two dozen assorted BAHS members gathered outside the Horse & Groom in Broad Street to perform a walkabout of the town on a sunny but chilly Sunday, October 17th. The walk was based on the original one devised by Isabel Sanderson, who has written no less than ten booklets, illustrated with maps and pen drawings and detailing the architecture and history of most of the buildings of note in New Alresford.

The present guide (Tim H) equipped the walkers with a map of the Town (Isabel Sanderson's) marked with some of the places and points of interest and a handout describing these in more detail.

There was an introductory talk in the Church of St John the Baptist and a quick look at the graves of the prisoners of the Napoleonic War before setting out on a pilgrimage down West Street, the Dean, past the old Fulling Mill, up Ladywell Lane to the Town Mill and across the Mill stream to the Great Weir and the Pond. Thence up Broad Street to East Street where the tour ended. It was evident that the numerous fires which had swept through the town in early times had destroyed most of the evidence of medieval buildings, at least externally, and the overall aspect of the town is now Georgian. The tremendous variety of these buildings, the unsteady rooflines, the quiet back lanes with the surprise of a malthouse or one-time brewery - of which there were plenty to slake the thirst of the tanners - and the detection of the old post offices, fire station, grammar school, blacksmith's shop and so on provided interest enough. A busy little town, even on an October Sunday, ensured that there were tea rooms open to round off the day.

NOTE

*The ten books by Isabel Sanderson, entitled "Dwellings in Alresford" are out of print now but Tim Herrington is willing to lend them out with due promise of return. There is a paper in *Medieval Archaeology* III, 1959, pp 187-> on "The Six New Towns of the Bishops of Winchester 1200-55 by Maurice Beresford (Tim has a copy), and an article in the latest copy of the *Hampshire Field Club Newsletter* (no.20, Autumn 1993, pp 14-16) "The Market Town of New Alresford." by Raymond Elliott. The map in this newsletter is the one drawn by Isabel Sanderson.*

EXHIBITION OF 19th C. BASINGSTOKE LIFE at Sun Life of Canada Building

A splendid exhibition of life in 19th C. Basingstoke, by means of contemporary photographs, set up by the Willis Museum and shown at the October 14th meeting of the Society in Basing View, was rewarded by the great interest shown by members and friends. Congratulations to Tim Evans and colleagues !

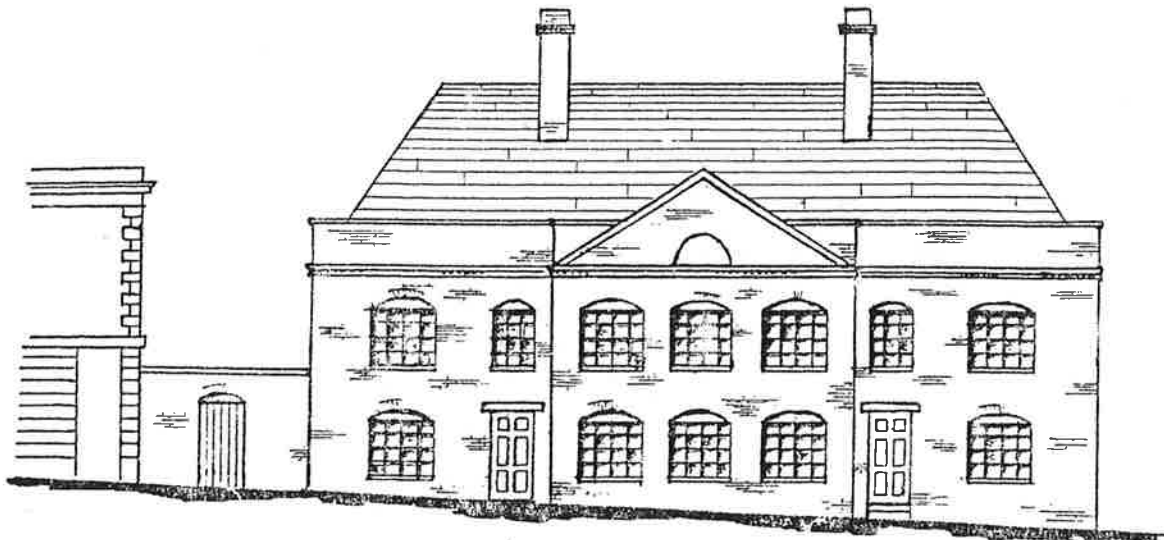
RICHARD ALDWORTH'S OTHER SCHOOL

Following his excellent "double act" with Bill Fergie, at our October meeting at Sun Life of Canada, on Basingstoke's Bluecoat School, Peter Davis has kindly allowed us to reprint an article he wrote for The Aldworthian, the magazine of the Reading Blue Coat School. We have left this unedited, as the opening comments addressed to Reading readers give us a different viewpoint on our own affairs.

As you will all be aware, Richard Aldworth left money to found this school in Reading and, as many of you may also be aware, he left a much larger fortune to Christ's Hospital, London (the original Blue Coat School) but how many are aware that he also left money for a similar school at a small market town not 20 miles away? Unlike most people, Richard Aldworth didn't wish to deny his connections with Basingstoke - even though that town did receive the smallest of his three educational gifts!

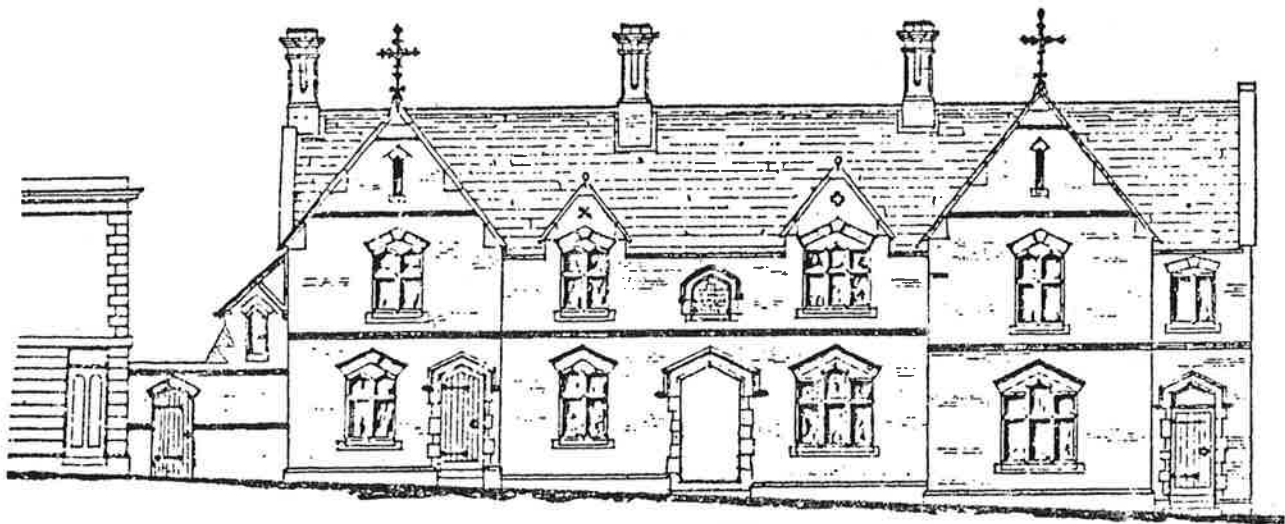
Until recently, much of Richard Aldworth's history has been very sketchy and he has suffered over the years from the dubious pleasure of being confused with various relatives of the same name to the point that the monumental inscription once fixed in Basingstoke's parish church, but long since lost, recorded our benefactor as one Thomas Aldworth. He has also suffered from having his largest gift (to Christ's Hospital) misappropriated by the Crown following the Great Fire of London and used to found the Royal Mathematical School. However, thanks to John Allen's article in a previous Aldworthian we are now able to build up a clearer picture of our founder and this, coupled with various secondary sources, has thrown further light on his background.

Richard Aldworth's connection with Basingstoke came through his mother, Jane South, who married a Richard Aldworth, burgess of Reading, at St Mary's Church (Reading) in January 1571. Jane South came from a prominent Basingstoke family who were involved with the wool trade and her father, Clement South, was a town bailiff and member of the Holy Ghost Guild which ran, inter alia, the local grammar school. Incidentally, the original executor mentioned in the will as "my loving cousin Thomas South" was Jane's nephew, a one time mayor of Basingstoke. However, he pre-deceased his cousin and so Richard added other executors to his Will.



P.D. 1991

The original school building in Cross Street after re-modelling in 1718



Plans for the 1862 rebuilding

It took several years after the death of Richard Aldworth on 15th March 1649 before either the Reading or Basingstoke Corporations received any monies from the Will and it was only after the matter had gone to litigation in June 1656 that both Corporations started to receive their benefactions. Once the funds were received, Basingstoke duly went about setting up its school by initially purchasing an existing private dwelling in Cross Street, situated roughly midway between the parish church and the town hall. The ten boys (as required by the Will) were elected to the school on 4th July 1659, thereby pre-dating the Reading school by several months! Basingstoke had already been endowed with an elementary charity school a generation earlier by Sir James Lancaster, also a member of the Skinner's Company but, unlike this Petty School which only provided a basic education, our founder's school also provided its pupils with food and lodgings, clothing and even paid their apprenticeship premium upon leaving, thus catering for the whole child. This intention of total charity provision for the Blue Coat boys seems to have been reinforced by one of the 18th century school rules which stated that "The boys shall not be allowed to glean or gather wood".

Little is known of the school until a major refurbishment of the Cross Street building was carried out in 1718 which appears to have included a remodelling of the facade. However, this may not have been the wisest use of available funds as, unlike the Reading school, which suffered from similar financial problems, there were no other benefactors adding to the school's income, and consequently it was not always possible to maintain the full quota of ten pupils; at times the numbers fell as low as six.

The school continued as best it could until 1810 when the Corporation decided to pay the Blue Coat Master an additional remuneration for teaching the Petty School children with his existing pupils at the Cross Street premises. At a stroke this move temporarily solved the financial problems of two under-endowed charity schools.

Shortly after this arrangement had been introduced the Petty School came under the auspices of the National Schools Society and by 1820 a new schoolroom was erected at the rear of the Blue Coat School building to accommodate these extra children. However, the Blue Coat Master still had total charge of the Blue Coat boys and continued feeding, clothing and lodging them and arranging for their apprenticeships in accordance with the terms of Richard Aldworth's Will as verified by the Charity Commissioners' visit of 1825. Indeed, there is a letter written by the master in 1817 complaining of the inadequate allowance provided for maintaining "ten healthy boys (he underlined "healthy") which included paying for such things as washing and mending their clothes, cutting their hair and providing them with 1/2 pint of small beer daily. There may have been times when we wish we had been as successful as James Aslett and John Cox, two early nineteenth century Blue Coat pupils who were last recorded in the log book as "ran away from school"!

In 1862 it was decided to completely rebuild the original Blue Coat School building in the neo-Gothic style and perhaps it was this extravagance by the Corporation that dealt the school's finances the blow from which it was unable to recover. The school finally closed

in 1879, having survived against the odds for 220 years but the Aldworth charity, although insufficient to run a school, has remained as a separate charity to this day and is still used to provide various educational bursaries.

The Cross Street premises continued in use as a school for several more years, firstly as a National School, then as a Board School but finally as a private school run by the last headmaster of the original Blue Coat School. This latter venture was known as "Aldworth's School" and finally closed due to bankruptcy in 1896.

Although the premises were no longer used for educational purposes they still continued in the ownership of the Aldworth Foundation and were let to various enterprises, culminating in their use as a printing shop. The Cross Street premises were eventually sold to this last tenant in October 1926 but our founder's name continued to be connected with this building as the business was called the "Aldworth Printing Works". A short article in the local newspaper of 1946 recorded that "Mr James Lunn, now in his 91st year, is, we believe, the last surviving Blue Coat boy". Finally in 1966, during the redevelopment of Basingstoke's town centre, the whole north side of Cross Street was demolished and now only green grass grows where green minds once grew.

In 1963 a new secondary school was nearing completion in Basingstoke and, perhaps in anticipation of the demise of the Cross Street building, it was decided to make a last minute change to the naming of this school. In September of that year the Richard Aldworth School was opened and in due time the stone plaque from the old Blue Coat School building was incorporated in the main entrance, but it is unfortunate that to date there is no direct link between the Aldworth Foundation Trust and the Richard Aldworth School. However, during the past year, a local Basingstoke company, Lilley Industries, has commissioned a head and shoulders portrait of our founder taken from the painting hanging in this school which will be put on permanent display at "Richard Aldworth's other school".

Peter Davis

Our Society has made a small contribution towards funds for putting up a small statue of a "Blue Coat boy" to commemorate this school in Basingstoke; further donations will be welcome.

CUFAUDE FARM

by Anne Hawker

In the summer, Les and Mary and I went to see Cufaude Farm, situated between Sherborne St John and Bramley and not all that far from Beaupaire. It had not been visited before because the previous owner did not want strangers there.

The site of the Tudor house (farm or manor house) is still visible inside the ditch and bank

which are all that is left of the moat that surrounded it. I took some photographs but the height of the mound and the width of the ditch are not clear from the pictures. What can be seen is a roughly square enclosure inside a mixed hedge of willow and thorn, entered by a steep path across a ditch sunk in weeds and small trees, said to shelter badgers. There was a little water in the ditch but it had been quite a dry spell up to then. It may be wetter now.

From an Inventory of 1619 there were gatehouse and yard, and from the order of the rooms it is likely that they were disposed round the yard. The path of the survey began in the chamber over the Great Chamber and continued to the Great Chamber, the Green Chamber, the chamber over the Parlour, the chamber over the kitchen and the Gallery, which can reasonably be assumed to be upstairs.

Then the New Garret, the Smoke Loft (also presumably up) then the Granary, Kitchen, Bakehouse, East House, Milk House, Buttery, Parlour, Gate House Chamber, chamber over the stables, the Backside (yard) Barn and Hay Barn. It does seem to hop up and down rather, and makes me wish that it had been the convention to include stairs in the Inventory, for then it might make more sense.

As the furniture listed in the 1619 Inventory was more luxurious than the average farm house, I suggest that this was a small manor house rather than a farm even though there were farming activities going on. Chairs and stools had black velvet or red leather covers, there was "a little clock with plommetts" (weights). But the chamber over the kitchen and the kitchen itself are the only rooms with fireplaces.

Perhaps by 1619 it was a very old and rather uncomfortable house and only occasionally lived in. Although the Simeon Cufaude who died in 1619 died young, leaving five sons and a widow (who outlived him by many years), there is no trace of children apart from two cradles in the garret and only two bedsteads, one very grand and the other a flockbed.

The present Cufaude Farm is quite close to the site of the early house and contains huge heavy beams which may have come from there.

ARCHAEOLOGY & PLANNING SEMINAR - 25th SEPTEMBER, 1993

Reviewed by Richard Dexter

(This conference was well represented by BAHS and, in fact, we took care of the feeding of the 5000, a duty performed with the panache we have come to admire of our team !).

There has recently been a feeling amongst local archaeological societies that, following the new procedures for planning and development, local societies have been excluded to the point where they felt precluded from digging, and that *professional* teams were working on their patch.

As a result, the County Archaeologist, Michael Hughes (who is a member of our Society), arranged a conference where he and members of the County Planning Office addressed local societies to redress the misunderstanding. David Hopkins (Planning Office) explained that since environmental issues were becoming a greater consideration at planning stages of

development the Department of the Environment had issued a paper - Planning Policy Guidance 16 (PPG 16) - in which it directed that provision must be made in the planning consent for necessary excavation and recording of any archaeological site that is to be destroyed. The responsibility for seeing that there is sufficient information for valid assessment of the situation and that any archaeological work is properly undertaken is that of the County Archaeologist, using the County's Sites & Monuments Record (SMR) as a prime data base. The principle is simply that, if our common heritage is to be destroyed, the developer must pay. To make things fair, his responsibilities should be spelt out and quantified and they must be reasonable. And this is where the difficulties occur for local societies.

Firstly secrecy. A developer is entitled to expect professional secrecy in the early stages of a planning application and so, initially, any comment is confined within the Planning Office. Secondly, if the developer is to pay, he would expect to get the best value for money and would need to put any excavation work out to competitive tender, since it is the policy of Central Government no longer to fund centrally excavation itself. As a consequence, there has to be a professional, experienced, competent and fast moving work force that can tender for a contract and work within the stringent limits of time and budget. And it is the responsibility of the County Archaeologist to oversee the smooth running of the system for all parties concerned.

Sue Davies (Wessex Archaeology) shed some light on the practical difficulties of operating within these constraints, not the least of which was the current legislation for Health & Safety, strict insurance requirements and British Standard BS5750, relating to professional competence. She assured us, however, that it was not a closed shop by any means, although she did wonder how many organisations could work on really big development sites and talk the language of large contractors.

Mike Hughes was anxious to amplify this last point by saying that a number of planning applications are received where he would not insist that developer-funded excavation is written into a contract. For example, where a church hall is to be built and time is not of the essence. Here, local societies would be more suitable to undertake work.

He also pointed out that the prime record for making out an assessment is the SMR itself and it is essential that it is kept up to date by constant vigilance by those with local knowledge. Field walking, surveying sites hidden by woodland and locating chance finds are all raw data needing to be recorded. He also said that it would be of great assistance and to everyone's mutual benefit if local societies were formally to notify him, as the County Archaeologist, of the areas of interest and specialisation societies have, together with a contact name. He promised to ensure, where possible, that contractors would be duly informed. Experience shows that, where contractors do not know the area, they are grateful for such contacts.

Things have changed, roles have altered and new rules are in force, but at the end of the

meeting I felt that both sides were better aware of the problems, particularly those of communication. With goodwill, understanding and patience on all sides, it could lead to a happier future.

— CALENDAR —

- Thurs 18 Nov THE MAGIC LANTERN Ivor Brown (Agricultural FWM
History, Hampshire County Museum Service)
- Fri 19 Nov LESSER KNOWN COUNTRY HOUSES OF DORSET HFC
Jude James, Hyde Historic Resources Centre,
Winchester, 7.30 pm
- Thurs 2nd Dec VISIT TO HAMPSHIRE RECORDS OFFICE (see pg 1) *
- Fri 4 Dec CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER FWM
- Wed 8 Dec CHRISTMAS CHEESE & WINE EVENING *
- Wed 13 Jan LOCAL HISTORY & THE WILLIS MUSEUM Tim FBH
Evans, Basing House 7.30 pm
- Thurs 14 Jan THE RISE AND FALL OF THE MAYA John Williams *
- Fri 3 Feb STAINED GLASS IN HAMPSHIRE, MEDIAEVAL TO HFC
MODERN Rodney Hubbuck, Hyde Historic
Resources Centre, Winchester 7.30 pm

* = Society Activity, 7.30 pm; FWM = Friends of Willis Museum, 7.30 pm in the Basingstoke Willis Museum; FBH = Friends of Basing House; HFC = Hants Field Club.

In the name of god Amen the 15th day of July
of the 15th year of Elizabeth in the County of
Hants. I Robert in my body make this my
comendment & bequeste my soule unto god & my gift
& charge of god I bequeath my body to be
buried in the church of Basingstoke

** Can you distinguish the word BASINGSTOKE above? **