

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 127

MAY 1994

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SEE YOU AT THE A.G.M. ON JUNE 9th !

Mrs ELIZABETH ATKINSON

We are very sorry to tell you of the death of Mrs Elizabeth Atkinson, Mary Oliver's mother. Mrs Atkinson has been a great friend of our Society from the beginning, taking an interest in all sorts of activities, from outings to the making of the video.

When Mary was Assistant Curator at the Willis Museum, Mrs Atkinson used to come from Rotherham to visit her. Mary's transport in those days was not a car but a moped, but, even in her sixties, her mother was quite prepared to cling on behind.

Once Mrs Atkinson came to live in Basingstoke she came to many Society events, and I particularly remember her at a Christmas party wearing a mob cap and apron and carrying a plate of pork pies. Some of us had dressed as historical characters, and Mrs Atkinson was Mrs Bellamy (the dying words of William Pitt are said to have been either something like, "Roll up the map of Europe. It will not be needed this year or score" or "Eeh, I could just do with one of Mrs Bellamy's pork pies"). Another memory is of her delight when stalwart Society members carried her wheelchair up the steps of Farnborough Hill - and her account of this visit in Newsletter 120.

A sad goodbye to a good friend, and a brave lady.

[Footnote] Since the above appreciation was written we have received the following message from Mary Oliver:

I would like to thank all the friends in the Society for their kind messages of sympathy following the death of my mother. I greatly value your support.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1994/5

Members are reminded that the annual subscription to the Society for the year 1994/5 falls due on May 1st. As indicated in the extra sheet enclosed with the last Newsletter, there has to be a modest increase in the subscriptions this year to make certain that we balance our books in the coming financial year. The new rates agreed by your Committee are:

Ordinary membership	£8.50	(last year £7.50)
Family membership	£11.00	(last year £10.00)
Over 60/student	£4.50	(last year £4.00)

There is a membership renewal form attached to your Newsletter. **Please** fill this in **now** and return, together with the appropriate fee, to the Membership Secretary, who is Tim Herrington, 16, Scotney Road, Basingstoke RG21 2SR. Otherwise, give the subscription to him or to the Hon.Secretary at the May or June meeting at the latest.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We give formal notice that the Annual General Meeting of the Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society will take place on Thursday, June 9th in the Conference Room at Queen Mary's Centre, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke at 7.30 pm.

We hope to have as large an attendance to this AGM as we did in 1993. The business part of the evening will be dealt with as smartly as possible so that we can then enjoy the talk to follow. This is to be given by Steve Ford of the Thames Valley Archaeological Service and is entitled "The Loddon Valley Project".

The agenda for the meeting and copies of the annual report of Society finances will be available at the meeting, or subsequently by post if requested by anyone not able to attend the AGM. In this case, please enclose a stamped, addressed envelope when you apply to the Hon. Secretary.

The present Officers and Committee members are:

Chairman: John Horrocks
Secretary: Barbara Herrington
Treasurer: Jean Donohoe

Marta Cock; Les Fitzgerald; Nicola Hawes; Kathy Haworth (resigned in January); David Miles; Mary Oliver.

(Barbara Applin and Tim Herrington are co-opted members of the Committee).

Of the above, all are willing to continue to serve on the Committee except for Nicola Hawes and Kathy Haworth. There are, therefore, nominations required for the two vacant places. If you wish to nominate a Society member for the vacancies, please obtain permission from the member concerned and then inform the Secretary in writing, preferably no later than a week before the AGM. Nominations may, of course, be offered from members attending the AGM.

We wish to set up a sub-committee, headed by one of our main committee members, to promote publicity for the Society. We would welcome any member who is interested to give a positive commitment to this vital aspect of our Society work and who may have some new ideas to offer! Please let us know if you are willing to help by contacting any committee member.

THE SOCIETY PROGRAMME OF LECTURES FOR NEXT SEASON

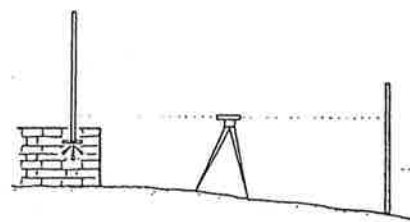
Mary Oliver has now finalised the lecture programme for the coming Autumn, through to next May and the Society is once again indebted to her for the enormous effort required to produce such a wide spectrum of topics. You will note that some of the dates differ from our usual second Thursdays. This is to overcome the difficulties we experienced this year when the evenings clashed with College events. We hope for a calm, untroubled series of meetings ahead!

SEPTEMBER 8th (In the Central Studio)	The Archaeology of the Channel Tunnel Terminal by Paul Bennett
OCTOBER 13th	Troy - New Reflections on an Old Site by Dr D S Easton

NOVEMBER 10th	Mediaeval Moated Sites by Alan Aberg
DECEMBER 7th	Wine & Cheese Evening (NB Wednesday)
JANUARY 5th (NB 1st Thurs)	Museums - Presenting the Past by Tim Evans
FEBRUARY 2nd (NB 1st Thurs)	Aspects of Archaeology in North Wales by Peter Fasham
MARCH 9th	New Light on the Old Stone Age by Phil Harding
APRIL 13th	I've Come About the Drains Tony Rook
MAY 11th	A Duet of Basingstoke History by Eric Stokes & Tim Herrington
JUNE 8th	Annual General Meeting followed by: The Barns Survey, a talk by Edwin Course

UPDATE ON FIELDWALKING AND SURVEYING PROJECTS

David Miles



We now have a list of some 24 members who are willing to help in the Society's current surveying and later fieldwalking projects. We would welcome further names on the list so please let David Miles know if you are interested to join us (no experience needed!) by 'phoning him on 0734 691905 (evenings).

We still have three projects on hand at this time:-

1 BRAMLEY FRITH

Unfortunately, this has had to be adjourned for the time being since the Bluebells are now out and we are not allowed to trample all over them! Work will be resumed as soon as we can get on to the site and it is clear of vegetation - possibly not until the Autumn.

2 THE VYNE

We had a good turn-out on Sunday the 24th and will be working again on Sundays the 8th, 15th and 22nd of May. The fish pond plan is now complete. The field opposite the Vyne front entrance was surveyed on the 24th April and the 'moat' that appears on the Ordnance Survey maps has been drawn (The feeling is that the pond was not a moat but a clay pit dug when the house was built to make the bricks).

3 THE LODDON VALLEY SURVEY

No action on this as yet. We were on standby for the two weekends after Easter but, unfortunately, permission was not granted to walk the chosen fields.

REPORTS OF SOCIETY VISITS

CHILCOMB HOUSE: Headquarters of the Hampshire County Museum Service

Barbara & Tim Herrington

Marta Cock arranged this visit for Saturday, March 5th and was pleased to have some 20 people turn up at the appointed time. We were met at the site, which uses the (restored) old farmhouse as the nucleus, and some of original out-buildings and barns additionally to house the collections and workshops

Alistair Penfold (Fareham Museum) gave the whole group an introductory talk in which he outlined the scope of the Museum Service and its responsibilities. Each of the Curators within the Service is given an additional specific responsibility - for example, Alison Carter is in charge of the Costume collection and conservation. The County Museum Service is aware of its broader remit in that it is in association with other County and National Services and it is apparent that it is held in high regard in the national scheme of things.

The party then divided into two groups which went their separate ways (after coffee & biscuits!). One group, led by Alistair, was taken on a sightseeing tour of the Tasker and Thornycroft collection of heavy road vehicles - fabulous- and the workshops which are presently restoring some wooden-framed vehicles with an expertise which had to be seen to be believed. Another building contained rack upon rack of an Aladdin's Cave collection, which included items of farm machinery, ancient bicycles, prams, gas stoves and what looked like the first ever washing machine. The good news is that there is a reasonable chance that a site near Basingstoke may become available to house and display the above collection of vehicles - even, perhaps, to run some of them in anger.

The other group was treated to an illustrated talk by Alison Carter about the costume collections held on site. There is a vast number of items in store since no relevant donations are refused. In particular, great interest was shown in the range of agricultural workers' smocks from the Victorian era, each group with its own individualistic worked design. The highlight for me was seeing the exquisite Basing House Stump Work embroidery which was acquired at auction and is destined for display in the Willis Museum when proper cabinets can be funded. A further local interest was the acquisition of the Basingstoke Pearly King outfit from the last owner. A permanent display of costume is likely to be mounted in the not too distant future at the Willis Museum.

This was a visit which we hope may be repeated at a future date for the benefit of members who were not able to come this time.

THE NEWBURY TOWN WALK

Tim Herrington

This visit, organised by our Chairman took place on a fine but chilly Sunday, April 17th and was led by members of the Newbury Society. This Society, formed in 1973, has the welfare of Newbury firmly in mind and has been concerned in monitoring projected new development and making their views known to good effect. They publish a booklet "Two Town Walks in Newbury" and our afternoon was spent in following the walk suggested to take in sites north of the River Kennet.

After an introductory talk outside the Wharf Building, which now houses the excellent Town Museum (open on Sundays), we carried out a circuit of the upper town which took in Market Place, Cheap Street, across Bartholomew Street, past St Nicolas Church to the area of West Mills and an overview of the Canal and river as they ran side-by-side. The walk continued back on the north side of the canal to the Town Bridge and thence up and down Northbrook Street. At each stage of the journey the guide pointed out the salient points of interest, showing a comprehensive local knowledge. The circuit took us back to the Wharf area where we dispersed to visit the museum. If you want to learn a part of what we did by coming on this outing, why not contact the Newbury Society Hon.Sec. to get a copy of the booklet (one will be in our Society library to see). She is Mrs Elke Holden-Bell, 14, Speen Lodge Court, Newbury, Berks RG13 1QL. (0635 30868).

HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE LOCAL SOCIETIES' CONFERENCE 1994

at Greyfriars Community Centre, Ringwood on Saturday 26th March

Report by Chris Horrocks

This meeting was attended by Barbara Applin, Les Fitzgerald, John and Christine Horrocks. We arrived in good time to set up our display of BAH Society activities, publications and the video. Other groups who mounted displays were Bournemouth University Conservation Sciences Department, North-East Hampshire Historical & Archaeological Society, the Hampshire Field Club, the Avon Valley Archaeological Society, the East Dorset Antiquarian Society, the South Wessex Archaeological Association, and Gordon Le Pard with a display of Heywood Sumners's manuscripts, books and drawings.

David Allan, as Chairman of the Hampshire Archaeological Committee, opened the conference by welcoming everybody to it and thanking the Avon Valley Society for hosting the event, which was an opportunity for professional and amateur to come together and share the work which they have been doing with a wider audience.

The first speaker, Gordon Le Pard, has spent many years looking at the work done by Heywood Sumner in the New Forest. His enthusiasm for his subject was very infectious and the book he is writing about Heywood Sumner promises to be of great interest when it is published. Heywood Sumner, whose grandfather was a Bishop of Winchester, father a rector of Alresford and mother founder of the Mother's Union, studied to become a lawyer but abandoned this career to become an artist. He designed posters, fabrics, stained glass windows and furniture and also illustrated books. In 1894 his wife became ill, so the family moved from London to Bournemouth. From there Heywood Sumner explored the New

Forest by train and bicycle, drawing many of the landscapes he saw and frequently including archaeological sites in them. In 1902 he designed a house which was built at Cuckoo Hill and is still standing. It wasn't until 1910, when an archaeological friend (Williams Freeman) pointed out the earthworks and aroused his interest in them, that Heywood Sumner was able to interpret and understand them.

He excavated several of the main sites in the area, his skill as an artist and illustrator together with his accurate recording and previous publishing experience transformed the way in which archaeological reporting was done. We have a lot to thank him for.



Sumner's illustration of Cuckoo Hill from *The Book of Gorley*, 1910.

Brian Sparks, from the Hampshire & Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology, spoke next about current projects being undertaken. The Trust has been formed to carry out work on sites which are under water all or part of the time - lakes, rivers, sea and shoreline. Trade routes, navigation channels, ports and harbours are places of particular interest. Projects like the Mary Rose have a high profile, but are a small part of maritime archaeology. Research, education and co-ordinating the efforts of amateur and professional are the three strands of the Trust's activity. Current projects include:

- 1 Investigating the drowned river valley of the Solent.
- 2 The historic wreck in the Hamble river, of Henry VII's flagship the *Grace Dieu*.
- 3 A survey of the sea bed around the Needles, investigating the wreck of the *Pamona* to see how it has broken up on the sea bed.
- 4 Langstone Harbour, where there are Mesolithic and Roman finds in the mud flats, sand banks and salt marshes.
- 5 Buckers Hard on the Beaulieu river, where students from Southampton University are surveying old slipways.

- 6 The site visited by our outing to the Isle of Wight, Wootton Creek, where we saw posts dated 3,000 BC and found Roman pottery, and where David Tomalin explained the importance of the site. We could see how erosion caused by the ferries made its exploration urgent.

Antony Pasmore spoke next about recent fieldwork undertaken by the Hampshire Field Club, of which he has been a member for 30 years. He was critical of the fact that Heywood Sumner had excavated the larger earthworks, but paid little attention to the smaller sites e.g. boiling mounds, of which many have now been recognised, one close to Cuckoo Hill, Heywood Sumner's house. Iron Age, Roman, Mediaeval and Elizabethan sites have been investigated. In 1990 when the storm brought down a lot of large fir trees, the root plates were examined. Twelve new kiln sites were found and some 14th century royal hunting lodges identified. We saw slides of Elizabethan coppice enclosures, and maps showing encroachment of the forest edge, recorded in 1789.

Charcoal burning was started in the 13th century and carried out until 1920. The only industrial sites found are an Elizabethan saltpetre factory and a few brick kilns.

8,000 acres of the forest have been used by the military. 1940s laboratory buildings have now been bulldozed but are recorded on the OS map as "barrows". Such areas will soon revert to natural forest, so should be surveyed now.

This talk concluded the morning programme, and we had a break for lunch. The weather was warm and sunny so it was a treat to walk into Ringwood and find a friendly café to have some lunch, then return in time to look again at the interesting displays - and sell some videos and publications from BAHS!!

Pam Moore gave an update on Hampshire Industrial Archaeology projects. The final report of the Farm Buildings Survey, which has taken 12 years to complete (and in which some of our members have participated) will be published soon.

Slides were shown of defence establishments and dockyard buildings which are being adapted for re-use, and sewage pumping stations at Eastleigh and Winchester now used as a museum and craft centre respectively. Ironmongers, smithy, mill, water turbine, wind engines, silk mill, steam ship and trains have all been restored and preserved for future generations to appreciate. A museum of the construction industry is being formed at Bursledon Brick Works, and it is hoped this will be completed for the centenary in 1997. Much is being done at the Twyford Water Pumping Station, which will have an open day on May 8th.

Geoff Hoare, a familiar face to many of our members, talked about recent excavation undertaken by NE Hants Historical & Archaeological Society at Chaddisbrook House near Yatley. Three trenches were dug and the finds include mediaeval pottery, land drains which still work, a late 19th century gravel path, burnt flint & wood, a whetstone and a piece of floor tile similar to the ones in the church nearby. No conclusion has been reached on the use of the site, but as other areas become available for excavation, more pieces of the jigsaw can be put in place.

The NE Hants Society's display showed their ingenuity in using technological aids on this site. They have made their own resistivity meter, adapting it for easier use, and used a metal detector set to detect bricks rather than metal.

Tony Light gave us a detailed account of the recent excavations at Godshill, Fordingbridge. The site was due to be used for gravel extraction. His society became involved in 1989. Post holes, storage pits, hut circles, tree pits are among the early Iron Age and Romano-British features, where small quantities of Neolithic flint and Iron Age pottery were found in the fill.

A Roman street has been identified, dating from the second century AD. Post holes from timber buildings were found along the street and a few small items from this period.

A mediaeval hollow way has been identified along the north boundary of the site. Huts and ditches go under it, and a mediaeval ditch along one side cuts through Roman and Iron Age features. Excavation continues and the finds are being processed. A report will be published in due course.

With 6 consecutive lectures, this was like attending a whole season of meetings all in one day. I have never known a Saturday to pass so quickly.

THE OGS CRAWFORD MEMORIAL LECTURE

Report by Barbara Applin

Mike Hughes gave the OGS Crawford Memorial Lecture to members of the Hampshire Field Club this year at Winchester. There were interesting links between Brian Sparks' talk at the HAC Local Societies Conference reported above, and this perhaps more philosophical approach to local aspects of maritime archaeology. I was interested to see how research on harbours, ports and their hinterland introduces a more international aspect, showing links across the water. What caught my imagination in both papers was the reference to the "drowned Solent" which I had never realised was so extensive.

A DAY AT LONGSTOCK

Hampshire Field Club Landscape Section Conference, 19th March

Report by Barbara Applin

This Conference and AGM was held in the Longstock Village Hall, noted for containing one of the village Domesday "tapestries" (or rather collages).

Peter Reynolds (of the Butser Ancient Farm) spoke first on Farming in the Iron Age, as he said, "up to the arrival of the rotten Romans". He rejects the kind of archaeological interpretation based on the assumption that "it must have been like this" or "They can only have done this", and prefers to go for a hypothesis based on data, to be tested and either disproved or validated, with the proviso that the validation itself depends on the amount of

information available and can always be upset by new information. I liked his explanation that this approach is best because "it allows you to be wrong", very refreshing.

He claimed that perception of ancient agriculture needs perception of the landscape, since agriculture is driven by soil and climate, and that similar agricultural processes can be recognised across much of North West Europe, seen for instance in rock carvings in Sweden and Denmark about 1000 BC. An actual ard from a Danish peat bog was probably a ritual deposit, as it was irrecoverably broken (and worn down asymmetrically, showing that the farmer must have ploughed in blocks as a modern farmer would, with the same side always meeting undisturbed soil). Another rock carving of about 1000 BC showed a ploughman using a plough with a coulter, and a secondary pair of cattle led by another man - suggesting the need for extra power to open up new ground.

Being an experimental archaeologist, Peter Reynolds has made an ard similar to another found in a peat bog and found that it would only work if put into tilth, when it draws a narrow furrow ideal for seeding, something depicted in another rock carving. He pointed out that this "non-Biblical tradition" was better practice than broadcast sowing, and that the Romans came here precisely because farming was better here.

Other rock carvings show a plough with a great spike, and one with 2 handles, and this type can be used with a pair of oxen (and simultaneous goading) to drive forward very fast to break up new ground or old fallow. This is what produces "ard marks", which are never more than 2 or 3 metres long and couldn't represent regular ploughing or they would be found all over the place. All this suggests that prehistoric farmers possessed a sod buster, a tilth maker and a seed drill.

It isn't possible to reproduce the whole lecture, just to note a few more of the points made. The presence of certain weeds can show evidence of both autumn and spring sowing. Experiments at Butser, which is not where most farmers would choose to farm, show a surprisingly high yield when growing emmer. Prehistoric agriculture was based on man-sized fields, and settlement sites in Hampshire are roughly a quarter of a mile apart. The co-axial plan of field systems in Wessex suggests that they were deliberately laid out. Ten or eleven cereals were used, with legumes as nitrogen fixers, probably with crop rotation. The use of manure can alter the pH of ground, explaining finds of carbonised seeds of the corn marigold on chalk, though it is a chalk hater.

All this was summed up in the claim that prehistoric farming was not simply subsistence; Iron Age society was very stable and organised, with a surplus of agricultural products.

A excellent follow-up on Farming over the past 200 years was given by Mr R Charrington, sheep farmer, journalist and business man. Notes don't do justice to what was at the same time a wide and thorough overview of farming, with strong local knowledge. He was fascinated by many of the comments made by Peter Reynolds and their application to modern methods, pointing out that changes in agricultural practice had been very slow till the 1950s (apart from the enclosure acts). One effect of autocratic wartime agricultural committees was the replacement of bad farmers by better ones. By the end of the war entrepreneurial farmers were emerging; a lot of new techniques had started before the

second World War but farmers couldn't afford them. He explained the effects of the 1947 Agriculture Act, the start of a true agricultural revolution; of higher grants available from the EC; of the lower number of men needed; and he ventured a look into the future when new kinds of seeds will probably be available, now that plant breeders have obtained royalty rights.

For lack of space I shall do no more than mention the talks on Old Winchester Hill and its Management by M Finnemore, Warden of the Old Winchester Hill Nature Reserve, and on Market Towns of Hampshire Downland by J Brown of the Rural History Centre, University of Reading.

The final talk was by Mark Corney on The Landscape Archaeology of the Bokerley Dyke area. I didn't take full notes, as he was to have been our April speaker. That is rather unfortunate, as circumstances kept him firmly stuck in Yorkshire, but it is to be hoped that he will be able to give us this lecture some time in the future, as this is an area of great archaeological importance.

FORTHCOMING SOCIETY VISITS

WINCHESTER CATHEDRAL: June 11th, 1994

We hope to arrange a guided tour of Winchester Cathedral, starting at 2 pm, to be followed by a visit to the Triforium Gallery and Library on the above date. It is vital to get a quick response from members who wish to join this visit as we have to give prior warning of numbers and to make payment a week in advance. Please let Barbara Herrington know if you wish to come, as soon as possible. (Tel (0256) 22090).

FLAG FEN: July 2nd, 1994

We have had a disappointing response so far to this projected visit. We must know very soon if you wish to come to visit Peterborough and the fabulous Bronze Age Excavations at Flag Fen nearby. We have to deposit the full coach fare in advance by the end of May, so please don't delay - let Tim Herrington know now on 0256 22090.

CRANBORNE CHASE

Mark Corney was unable to give his talk to the Society at our last meeting (his car broke down in Yorkshire!) but he has written to invite us to a guided tour of archaeological sites on the Chase this summer. We will keep you informed of the details - hopefully at the AGM.

BARRY CUNLIFFE EXCAVATIONS

A provisional booking has been made to visit the excavations of a Roman Villa site near Stockbridge on Tuesday evening, August 23rd. The details of this visit will be finalised by the AGM. If you are interested in this visit, please reserve your place by 'phoning Barbara Herrington on 0256 22090.

FOR SALE

An Aspherical Magnifier (desk size) is on sale for £25. If anyone is interested, Barbara Applin can give you details. Please telephone (0256) 465439.

TRAINING EXCAVATION IN GARDEN ARCHAEOLOGY: Dartington Hall, Devon (17th to 23rd July)

Christopher Currie (our May speaker) is running a six day training excavation in the spectacular terraced gardens of Dartington Hall. The course caters for both beginners and experienced professionals of all ages wishing to learn about the exciting new discipline of garden archaeology. For details and booking form, apply to Chris Currie, 15, Claudeen Close, Swaythling, Southampton SO2 2HQ (0703) 558500.

HAMPSHIRE ARCHIVES TRUST VISIT TO NORMANDY

The Hampshire Archives Trust is planning a visit to archives in Normandy from Tuesday, 27 Sept. to Sunday, 2nd Oct with overnight ferry crossings via Portsmouth. The cost will probably be about £180 per member or £195 per guest, with additional options of half-board at about £8 per day. As members of the Trust, two of our members can go.

Ask our Secretary Barbara Herrington for details and booking form if you are interested.

CALENDAR

9 June	Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk by Steve Ford "The Loddon Valley Project"	*
11 June	Visit to Winchester Cathedral	*
11-12 June	Roman Living History display by 2nd Legion Augusta, Basing House	FBH
18 June	All-day visit to monuments and follies in Highclere Park	HFC
and	Field Trip: The National Trust Archaeological Survey of the Vyne estate, Chris Currie	HFC
25 June	Children's Day Activities, Basing House	FBH
7 - 10 July	English Civil War Society Living History Display	FBH
16 July	Summer outing to Isle of Wight	HFC
and	Visit to the Historic Buildings of Downton	HFC
6 Aug	Country House visit to Carns Hall, Fareham	HFC
7 Aug	17th C Living History Display, Basing House	FBH
23 Aug	Visit to Roman Villa excavation site near Stockbridge	*

Society event = * HFC = Hants Field Club FBH = Friends of Basing House



The North Front, showing the portico added in 1654

THE VYNE



Part of Old Basing