

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 129

NOVEMBER 1994

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NOTICE OF AN EXTRAORDINARY GENERAL MEETING

Following the resignation of Jean Donohoe as Honorary Treasurer of the Society it has become necessary to fill the vacancy created as soon as possible, in order to re-establish the smooth running of Society accounts. We, therefore, give notice of an Extraordinary General Meeting of the Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society to be held in the Conference Room, Queen Mary's Centre, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke on **Wednesday, 7th December at 7.15 pm**.

The sole business of this meeting will be to elect an Honorary Treasurer to the Society. To this end, we invite nominations from within our membership which must have the agreement of the nominee. The nominations may be sent to the Hon. Secretary (Barbara Herrington) at 16, Scotney Road, Basingstoke RG21 2SR. Nominations may also be presented from the floor at the meeting.

Please note: A separate letter from the Society Chairman, regarding this meeting accompanies this newsletter as a separate enclosure. The meeting will immediately precede the Christmas Social and is expected to last for no longer than 15 minutes.

THE CHRISTMAS SOCIAL

Doesn't time fly! We once again invite members and friends to join the Committee for our traditional Christmas Cheese & Wine Social in the Conference Room at QMC on **Wednesday, 7th December, starting at 7.30 pm**. There will be a charge of just £1.50 to cover the cost of refreshments and one glass of wine or fruit juice. Further drinks may be obtained by a modest donation to Society funds!

We expect the evening to follow its usual relaxed and friendly enjoyment of the company of members and friends, interspersed with 'diverse entertainment'. If you would care to provide some of the refreshments, please let Chris Horrocks know (tel 0256 780537) and she will be pleased to re-imburse you for same.

FORTHCOMING VISIT TO TADLEY CHURCHES

Following our successful, well-attended visit to St Michael's Church in Basingstoke on 29th October, Committee member John Feuillade has kindly arranged a visit to three churches all in the parish of Tadley. These range in age from ancient to recent and from Tadley to Pamber Heath. Come and join John at **St Paul's Church, The Green, Tadley at 10 am on Saturday, 3rd December** (the church is to be found off the A340 road at Tadley, by turning right opposite the Circle K Garage into the Green. The church is on the left). Please let John know if you wish to come, in person or by 'phoning 0734 700761. The visits should be completed by lunch time. A nominal charge of £1 will be made on the day as a donation to church funds.

BOOKS ON SALE AT SOCIETY MEETINGS

Barbara Applin has a number of books for sale which she displays at the back of the Conference Room during our evening meetings. We would like to draw your attention to these again as the time for Christmas presents looms near. Among the titles on sale are:

Voices of Basingstoke 1400-1600 by Anne Hawker, a Society publication which draws from local records to give an insight into Basingstoke life of the period (£3.00).

Past Pieces which is a collection of some of the best articles from past copies of our own Newsletter (£2.50 to members; £3.00 to others).

Beneath Basingstoke the famous video, which won the Society a £500 prize. (£12.50)

Video Pack The excellent teachers' fact pack to accompany the video. (£2.00)

Tudor Basingstoke Fact Pack by Barbara Applin, which contains facsimile copies of records relating to Tudor Basingstoke, facts about the Tudor town, notes and questions. (£1.50)

The House in Church Street by Anne Hawker. A delightful illustrated study of the house and shop in Church Street, Basingstoke where lived a previous generation of Felgates, accompanied by drawings and descriptions by Mary Felgate and including colour photographs and working descriptions of the model of the house made by Anne. (£3.00)

The Things They Say About Basingstoke by Eric Stokes. A fascinating collection of quotations from earliest times to the 1960's, with commentary by Eric, about our town as it appeared to a gallery of famous and infamous people. A remarkable collection. (£3.00)

Odiham High Street A walkabout guide to the main street of the town (£2.50). A new edition is to be produced soon which will cost £4.00.

The Parish of Odiham A useful introduction to the town and its environs (£4.00).

Visitors Guide to Basingstoke A well-produced little walkabout guide to the main sites of interest at a very modest price (25p).

Look Back at Andover (£2.00) and a new publication Andover, Civil War & Inter-Regnum (£3.98 +pp) are also on offer.

..... Why not take a walk to the back of the room ???

CONTRIBUTIONS TO OUR NEWSLETTER

If you hadn't noticed, the vast majority of articles which appear in our newsletter, written and researched by Society members, come from a small, devoted band. Another point of interest in this connection is that this band has very few male players!

We would like to redress the balance and, at the same time, cast our net more widely amongst you to produce more articles which, perhaps, reflect some individual interest which others would be pleased to share.

Please help us to make this newsletter one which you contribute to in a really practical way. Don't hesitate to send Barbara Applin (138, Old Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke RG22 5EN) your offering which will be considered for inclusion at the earliest possible date!

BLUE COAT BOY STATUE UNVEILED

by Barbara Herrington

It was a pleasant duty to attend the unveiling of the Blue Coat Boy statue on September 29th in the company of such town worthies as the Mayor and Mayoress. This occasion was the culmination of two years of fundraising by Peter Davis, the Vice-Chairman of Basingstoke Heritage Society, with donations from the public (including your own Society), Basingstoke & Deane Council and sponsorship from various local firms.

The truly delightful 4 ft bronze statue was a cast copy of the original statue found at the Blue Coat School at Reading, and stands on a 4ft 6in stone plinth, with suitably inscribed brass plaque. It is to be found in Cross Street on the spot where stood the School founded by Richard Aldworth in 1659. His foundation sought to clothe, feed and educate poor boys from the streets of Basingstoke and, although the school closed in 1879, the Richard Aldworth Trust has continued to help children in the Borough. The unveiling was, in fact, carried out by two ex-pupils of the present Richard Aldworth School who have themselves benefitted from the Trust.

The ceremony was further complemented by pupils from the original Blue Coat School in Horsham (who provided a fanfare for the unveiling) and a contingent of Reading Blue Coat Boys. Six musicians from Richard Aldworth School played Elizabethan music and it must be said that, all together, it was a charming reminder of bygone Basingstoke.

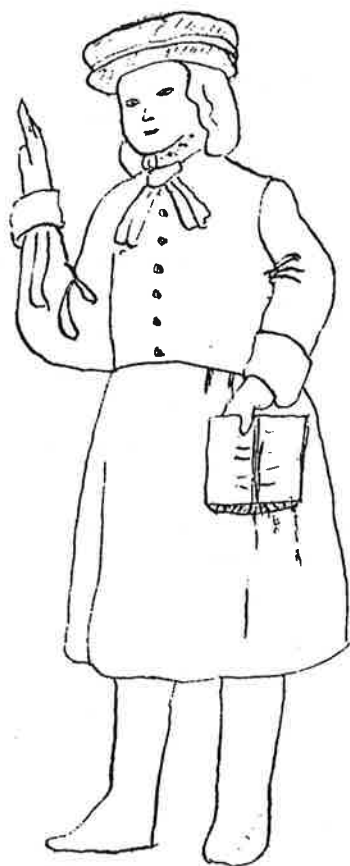
HIS HIGHNESS IN BASINGSTOKE

Travels of Cosmo III, Grand Duke of Tuscany through England during the reign of
Charles II

by MARY OLIVER

Some of you may know that Gareth Thomas, at Queen Mary's Centre, who has already produced the "History of Basingstoke" video of the 60s slide-tape show, and "Beneath Basingstoke" with this Society, is now planning a third video on Basingstoke. This one will be concentrating on the town now and its links with our twin towns in Europe. We have been invited to help by producing some historical background notes on certain important aspects of the town, to assist the official scriptwriter when he is appointed. Our group has met several times and had interesting discussions, with no shortage of ideas on what to include. Everyone has agreed that the comments of one of our most famous visitors in the 17th century - Cosmo III, Grand Duke of Tuscany - should be used. His adverse reaction to Basingstoke is well known:

"His Highness, having arrived early at Basingstoke, walked on foot through the Town, which is wretched, both in regard to the buildings, the greater part of which are of



THE BLUE COAT BOY ↑

↓ COSMO III's BASINGSTOKE IN 1669



Basingstoke

AND HOLY GHOST CHAPEL AS IT APPEARED IN 1669

wood, and the total absence of trade, so that the gratification of his curiosity did not compensate for the fatigue of walking even a few paces. Whilst his Highness was viewing the Church, which is a small and very indifferent building, the Mayor and two other Officers came with the insignia of magistracy, to wait upon him, but his Highness civilly declined this public demonstration of respect."

As we talked about this, I started to wonder what sort of remarks the Grand Duke made about all the other towns and villages he passed through on his travels, and I decided to try to track down a copy. The Hampshire County Record Office could not help me, but when I was in London recently I thought of the Society of Antiquaries Library at Burlington House. Membership of the Royal Archaeological Institute brings with it the privilege of using this library - a privilege I had not previously taken advantage of, but I certainly shall again.

The buildings themselves are a pleasure to be in - glorious architecture - and my request for this book (details provided by Baigent & Millard in their "History of Basingstoke") resulted five minutes later with my being presented with a beautiful leather-bound volume in perfect condition, the crisp pages printed in clear black letters, and all the illustrations (drawn by his accompanying artists) well reproduced. It was a pleasure to look at it, and I wished I had longer to spend, but even a quick study was useful in giving a much clearer idea of the flavour of the whole.

It was clear that, although the Grand Duke was travelling in some style, with a considerable entourage, he maintained the pretence that he was travelling "incognito" and wherever possible avoided civic reception by the mayor etc in the way he did in Basingstoke. His notes include descriptions of the countryside and the chief crops and means of livelihood - all this provides a good source of information for the late 17th century economy. There were also some extraordinary facts - for instance he describes the management of the deer park at Hinton St George where he stayed with Lord John Paulet. About 100 deer were killed in a year, and in winter when the pasture failed the deer were fed hay and the leaves of trees. He also noted that deer do not like areas frequented by moles!

He also comments on our cathedrals - he liked Exeter and thought the music good - and on some of our best known archaeological sites. Maiden Castle he describes as a Roman camp - and his artist shows it as a rectangular structure (which perhaps must cast some doubt on the accuracy of his pictures!) Stonehenge he calls "Salisbury Stones" - "three rows in the form of a crown", "a sepulchre or trophy" and repeats the myth of their being erected either at Ambrose Aurelius' request or Uther Pendragon's to honour his brother's grave.

As to my main purpose - to find out whether Cosmo was as rude about other places as he was about Basingstoke - I have to say that although he often makes derogatory comments, none is quite so encompassing as his condemnation of our town. Dorchester he thought small for a county town. Newmarket (where he watched Charles II race) he considered "inferior to most cities because of the indifference of its buildings, and being a place of small resort". Harwich was of not much consequence except the port, and its buildings were "mean and shabby". Even our university towns did not escape. Cambridge gave him an honorary degree but he thought the "ancient buildings were not much to be admired"

because they were made of wood and brick facings. The "modern" ones were better. Oxford did not escape either - he was not impressed by the Bodleian, and thought even less of the Botanic Gardens. He thought they "scarcely deserved to be seen because of their smallness of size, irregularity and bad cultivation".

I have probably now given the impression of a bad-tempered over-critical haughty traveller. But there were certainly things he liked - Trinity Library - and people he was glad to meet, like General Monck. I wished I had had time to read his biography which preceded the Travels in the 1821 volume. That will have to wait for another visit to London. But it is more important to work out why Basingstoke's economy should have appeared to him to be so wretched in 1667 - was it still the effects of the Civil War?

OUTING TO CRANBORNE CHASE

by Barbara Applin

In September Mark Corney gave us his promised visit to Cranborne Chase, to make up for the missed lecture. It was particularly good to have this "muddy boots" approach (though we didn't get all that muddy) and to see this amazing complex of sites not just as photographs and drawings, but as actual humps and bumps on the ground or great ditches and banks that you could really feel to be an impressive obstacle and marker of territory.

We began at the nature reserve at Martin Down, where Mark showed us the remains of a round barrow, field systems and a Middle Bronze Age settlement. Mark has a real feel for the historic landscape and helped us to see the significance of features we might easily have overlooked, giving us all the background of surveys and excavations in the area.

No-one could have overlooked Bokerly Dyke, which was one of the highlights of our visit, along with the Roman road (the Ackling Way) and part of the Dorset Cursus.

After a pub lunch we went up Gussage Hill, noting multiple ditch systems and the remains of Iron Age banjo enclosures and what may have been a shrine. It was fascinating to hear that we were now in one of the major tribal centres of the Durotriges who seemed to have specialised in horse rearing, and Mark had much to say on the possible relationship between this pair of banjo enclosures and the dual nature of much Iron Age society, with pairs of magistrates or rulers.

Several members were very regretful at missing this visit, so Mark kindly allowed us to chase after him with a tape recorder in the hopes that this recording, and maps showing where we went, can be available for a further group to follow in our footsteps. If anyone is interested in doing this, please let Mary Oliver know (Basingstoke 24263). For background reading, see "Landscape, Monuments & Society" (Cambridge University Press) and "The Archaeology of Bokerly Dyke" (Royal Commission on Historic Monuments

And Mark has offered to take us to the other end of the Dorset Cursus next year!

THE CRONDALL PERAMBULATION
(As cited in King Edgar's will AD 976)

Richard Dexter

King Edgar (the Peacable 944-975) was the son of King Edmund the Elder and great grandson of King Alfred. He was crowned in 973 at Bath. He kept the allegiance of Danelaw by avoiding confrontation with the Danes. His laws were just, they protected trade and maintained the currency and were in the main moderate, with the exception of extreme severity for with-holding Church dues. His critics disliked his "heathen manners" and "foreign vices" but later generations regarded him as divinely rewarded for his support for the monasteries and monastic reform.

In the Laud Anglo-Saxon Chronicle for the year 975, headed 8 July, the following poem and prose entry is to be found.

In this year King Edgar passed away
Ruler of the English,
Friend of the West Saxons,
And protector of the Mercians,
That was known far and wide
Throughout many nations.

Kings honoured the son of Edmund
Far and wide over the gannets' bath
And submitted to the sovereign,
As was his birthright.

No fleet however proud,
No host however strong,
Was able to win booty for itself
In England, while the noble king
Occupied the royal throne.

And in this year Edward, Edgar's son, succeeded to the throne: and soon in the autumn of the same year appeared that star known as "comet". The next year came a great famine and very many disturbances throughout England.

In his will, Edgar left a certain portion of land, forty-five cassates (hides), known as "Crundel" to the monks of Winchester to be "free from the burden of all land service, three kinds excepted, namesly warlike expeditions duly sanctioned, the repair of bridges and fortresses".

This is a list of some of the boundary marks that can be easily identified on an ordinary "one inch" Ordnance survey map of the area. It starts and ends to the south-west of Crondall, going in a clockwise direction. It describes, in fact, the boundary of the old Hundred of Crondall:

Isenhyrst gate

No such place now, but there is a farm two and a half miles SW of Crondall in the parish of Froyle called Isenage Farm.

Gisteardeswylle

Probably the village of Well.

Wottreow

The Witan Tree (The Wise Men tree - where they met), probably Horsedown Hill one and a half miles west of Crondall, on which there is today a trig. point that can be prominently seen from the surrounding area; moreover it lies on the intersection of three parish boundaries.

Icaeles aewilmas

(River) Itchel Source. Itchel Mill is a mile west of Crondall on the north side of the Farnham to Odiham road, just past Bowling Alley. The river becomes the Hart.

Ylfethamme

Elvetham

Fugelmere (Willdfowl lake)

Fleet, although it probably refers to the Peat Moor to the west of Fleet as is shown on the pre-development maps of the area and is reflected also in the current road names.

Bromhyrst

Bromhurst Farm one mile NE of Fleet Service Station

Haedfeld

(Yateley) Heath Wood

Hnaefes scylfe

Hnaef's Shelf, now Hartford Bridge Flats

Eferaes cumb

Eversley

Duddan broc

Blackwater river (note that the Welsh for black is "du" and water "dŵr")

Brydanford

Somewhere near Sandhurst on the river Blackwater. There are a number of fords along this stretch of the river.

Fearnleaford

Bottom of Fern Hill at Hawley

Aescaesslew

Generally thought to be the village of Ash.

There then follows a list of sundry boundary marks whose names cannot readily be identified with current place names, although it is evident that the boundary ran due west, skirting to the north of Farnham Park, very likely following the present Surrey/Hants county boundary for part of the way, and back to Isenhurst Gate. It is just possible that Weargeburn is the river Wey which flows just to the south in the parish of Bentley.

Sources: Crondall Records F J Baigent 1891
History of Crondall & Yateley C D Stooks 1905

THE ANGEL INN

by Anne Hawker

The Angel Inn, which stood in the Market Place, looked down Church Street. In 1601 Richard Deane, brother to Sir James Deane, left to charity £4:19s:0 payable out of the Angel Inn as part of his estate, and in 1607 Sir James left 20s in his Will to be laid out in repairing the causeway between the Angel and the Church gate.

Payments from the Rentals show that Richard Dean was tenant in 1601, and in 1608 Sir James Deane paid 6d for waste ground whereupon the pale is set next to the Angel where the cellar door was. Sir James also paid for land for making windows to his tenement in London Street. This is sometimes taken to refer to the Almshouses, but I think it was actually to the new building of the Angel. The whole street, east to west, was known as London Street at one time.

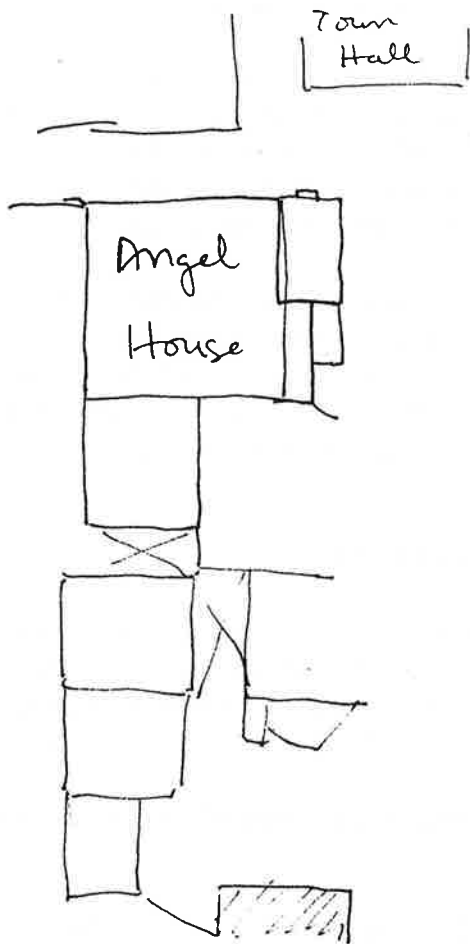
In 1634 the tenant was John Chamberlayne, and in 1644 John Chamberlayne gent and John Ellys gent paid for divers windows to the newly erected tenement in London Street late Sir James Deane. Later, in 1668 Mr Chamberlayne paid 12d for divers windows to the tenement heretofore Sir James Dean (Henry Barfoot pays). In 1699 the tenant was John Limbery Esquire, and he paid for windows to the Inn called the Angel 1s, so I think this tenement is definitely the Angel and not Deanes Almshouses.

Limbery and his executors paid until 1803, then in 1851 it was William Lodder. Finally, a mention is made in Attwoods Diary in 1869, where it is said that a rude verse had been found pinned to the door of the Angel Inn after Mrs Hope the landlady gave up possession to Richard Curtis.

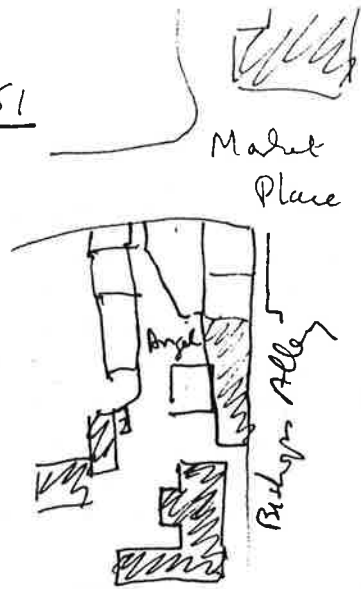
In 1926, Mr Woodman writing in the Hants and Berks Gazette and reminiscing about Basingstoke seventy years before that, says "The Angel Inn, a very ancient hostelry, built as they all were in olden times with an arched entrance for carriages and pack horses, with rooms on either side and above" There is a very old picture of the Angel with the arch still visible. It appears not to have been in the centre of the building, but towards the west end, so that there was one window to the west of the arch and two or three to the east.

There are several large photographs of the Angel Cafe at Chilcombe, showing that the central part of the building, under the middle three windows, was the cafe, and the two

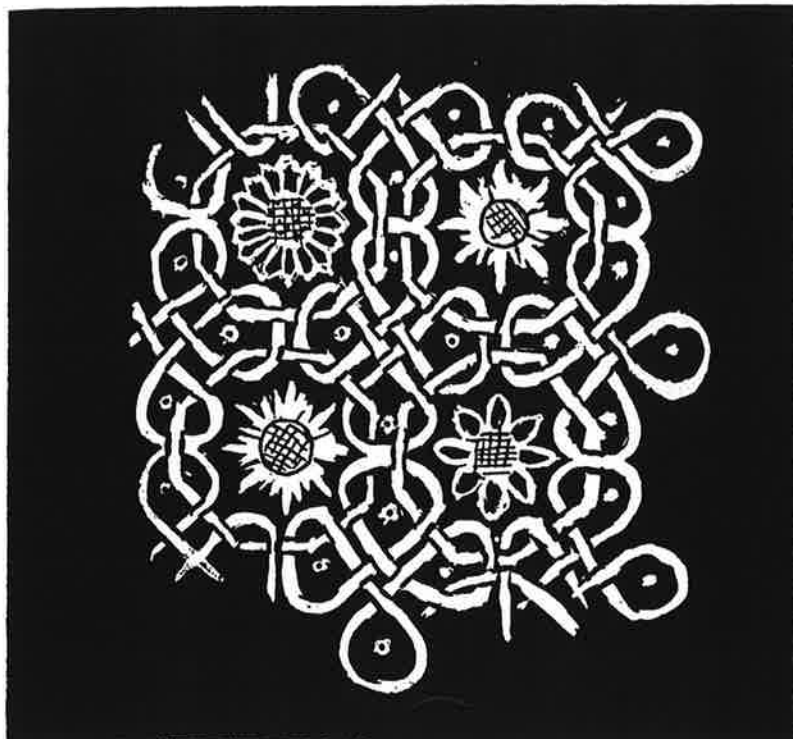
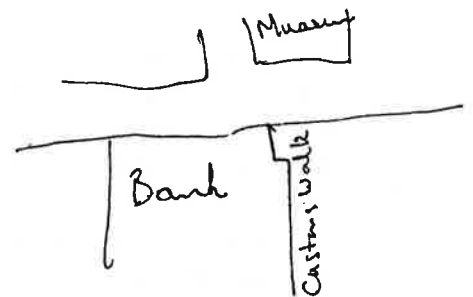
1872



1851



1988



WALL PAINTING

ends occupied by shops, the western end by an antique shop of T.Burberry and that at the east by a drapers, Selby and then Bowman and also Johnson. This large draper was also on the site of the present Barclays Bank.

When the Old Angel Cafe was demolished in the 1930's to make way for Barclays Bank, walls were found within the building that had been painted, perhaps using stencils, with a pattern of interlacing lines of white on a black background. At intervals there were daisy-like flowers with faint traces of red and green paint. It is supposed that this form of decoration was Jacobean and probably dated from the time of the "newly erected house" of the early part of the seventeenth century.

A photograph taken as the building was being demolished shows the east part that was occupied by Bowman still standing, but the rest coming down, revealing a barn-like structure at the rear. This is reputed to have been the place where the Basingstoke Balls were held, and it was taken down comparatively recently. This was sad, seeing that it is supposed to be the place where Miss Jane Austen came to dance in Basingstoke.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT OVERTON CHURCH

We have received a letter from Chris Currie to say that he will be undertaking archaeological work at Overton Church in the second half of November. He invites any of our members who might be interested to help to contact him. If he gets enough support, he is willing to arrange to work at weekends. **Please contact Chris direct** if you would like to help.

Overton Church is a splendid mediaeval building, with Saxon possibilities and its below-ground story could be full of interest.

Contact: Christopher Currie on (0703) 558500. The address is 15, Claudeen Close, Swaythling, Southampton SO2 2HQ

HAMPSHIRE VILLAGE SURVEY

.....Here is a letter which we have received from Bob Edwards. We hope that some of you may be able to help to provide information which may prove useful to this welcome project

" Hampshire County Council have commissioned Bournemouth University to carry out a survey of all villages in the Basingstoke & Deane and Test Valley Districts in order to enhance the information currently held on the Sites and Monuments Record. The information gained can then be used to make more informed decisions about planning applications for development within villages. The work will entail searching through early maps and documents to build up a picture of the history and development of the villages and will be followed up by field visits. The project, which began in early October 1994, will hopefully be completed by the end of 1995.

The purpose of this short piece is twofold. Its first aim is to inform you of work being undertaken in your area and secondly, it is a request for your assistance. Have you

undertaken historical research and/or fieldwork on any of the villages in Basingstoke & Deane district that you would be prepared to share with me? I am afraid that all I can offer in return is my thanks and an acknowledgement in the final report.

If anyone can provide some assistance and would like to contact me by telephone I am available on Bournemouth (0202) 595295. My address is:

Bob Edwards
Dept. of Conservation Sciences
Bournemouth University
Fern Barrow
POOLE
BH12 5BB

Thank you in advance for your co-operation,

Bob Edwards "

LODDON VALLEY FIELDWALK

The Thames Valley Archaeological Services are having difficulties arranging the fieldwalking which it was hoped to start on November 9th. All those who have shown an interest will be contacted as soon as clearance is given. We have been asked to help with the intensive walking - grid walking - of the most promising sites, and work will take place soon, during the week and at the weekends, once we have been given the go-ahead. Please ring Mary Oliver on 0256 24263 if you want to help and are not yet on our list of helpers.

By the Pond at Sherfield



CALENDAR

Wed 16 Nov "Hampshire Dwellings 1300-1600: Some Recent Discoveries" Edward Roberts, Northbrook Hall, Micheldever, 8 pm (jointly with Micheldever Archaeological & Local History Society) HFC

Thurs 17 Nov "Buildings Have Messages" Kate Macintosh FWM

Sat 19 Nov "The Archaeology of Conflict in Hampshire" Archaeology Section Annual Conference & AGM, Boldrewood Conference Centre, Southampton, 9.45 am HFC

Wed 7 Dec CHEESE & WINE SOCIAL EVENING (see page 00) *

Fri 9 Dec Annual Christmas Get Together FWM

Thurs 5 Jan MUSEUMS: PRESENTING THE PAST Tim Evans (Curator, Willis Museum) *

Fri 27 Jan "The Medieval Church: A Reflection of Social Change" Nicholas Doggett, The Heritage Centre, Upper Brook Street, Winchester, 7.30 pm HFC

Thurs 2 Feb ASPECTS OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTH WALES Peter Fasham (Berkshire ARCHAEOLOGY Archaeologist) *

Thur 23 Feb Members' evening & AGM of Historic Buildings Section, including guided tour of King John's House & latest archaeological & architectural findings, 7.30 pm, King John's House, Romsey (in conjunction with LTVAS) HFC

Thur 2 Mar Lecture by John Crook at Westbury Manor Museum, Fareham HFC

Thurs 9 Mar NEW LIGHT ON THE OLD STONE AGE Phil Harding (Wessex Archaeology) *

* Society activity, 7.30 pm, Conference Room, Queen Mary's Centre, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke

FWM Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 pm, Willis Museum, Basingstoke

HFC Hampshire Field Club