

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



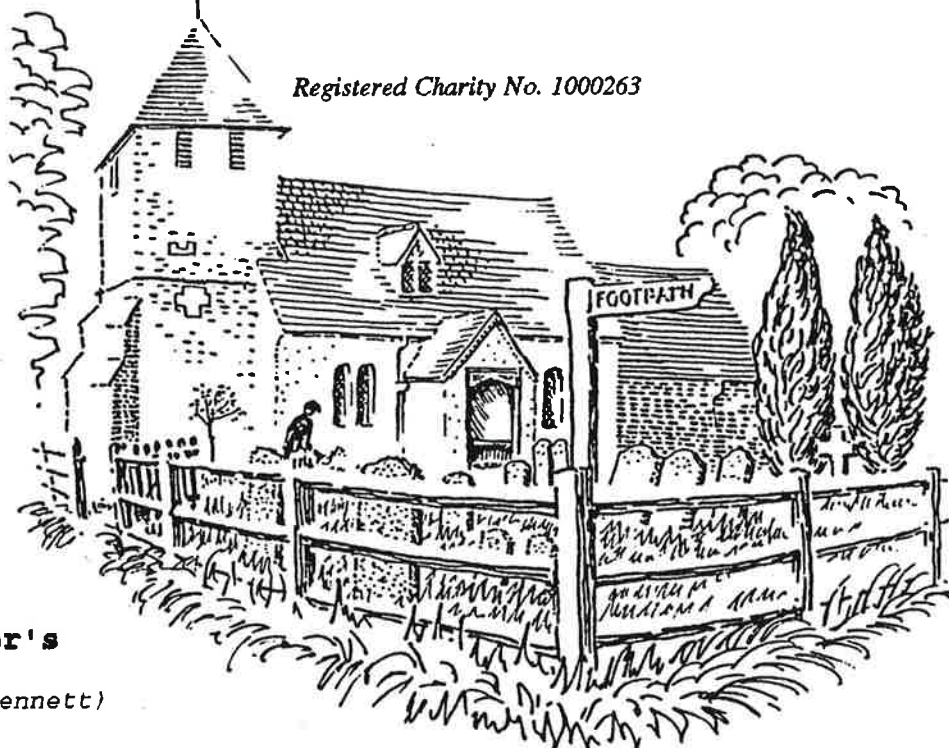
NEWSLETTER 130

FEBRUARY 1995

CONTENTS

Page 1	Extra-ordinary General Meeting Society Dinner at BCOT
Page 2	Explore Farnham Town New Light on the Old Stone Age Practical Work
Page 3	Garden House Family Festival "Last Thursday Lectures" Photographic Competition
Page 4	"From Crawford to Cunliffe" Church Visits in Tadley
Page 6	Mediaeval Wreck on the R. Hamble
Page 8	Cliff Dwellings in W. Colorado
Page 10	Tunisia - Flowers, Phoenicians & Museums
Page 11	Your Present Committee Members
Page 12	Calendar

Registered Charity No. 1000263



**St Peter's
Tadley**
(Ralph Bennett)

**EXTRA-ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING, DECEMBER 7th, 1994:
A NEW HONORARY TREASURER**

An Extra-ordinary General Meeting of the Society was held immediately before the Christmas Social at 7.15 pm on December 7th., 1994 in the Conference Room at QMC. The sole purpose of the meeting was to elect a new Honorary Treasurer. There was one nomination for the post: Mr Barry Ennever. Barry is a member of the Society and of the Friends of the Willis Museum. He has had experience as Hon. Treasurer for other voluntary groups. His election was unopposed and unanimous and we welcome Barry to our Committee.

SOCIETY DINNER AT BASINGSTOKE COLLEGE OF TECHNOLOGY

We can confirm that our Society Dinner will be held on

Thursday 23rd February.

The BCOT Restaurant (Basingstoke College of Technology, Worting Road, Basingstoke) has purpose-built premises and has a well- deserved reputation for its food.

* David Allen (Keeper of Archaeology, County Museum Service, and Curator of the Museum of the Iron Age and Andover Museum) has agreed to be our special guest.

THE COST PER HEAD for the evening will be £12.50

An encouraging number of members have already indicated on the clip-board at the last two meetings that they are interested in attending this function.

We have to finalise true numbers soon and ask ALL THOSE WHO HAVE ALREADY SIGNED to let Barry Ennever have the full amount by February 15th. Please send your cheque (made out to B.A.H.S.) to him at **11, Rembrandt Close, Basingstoke RG21 3QR.**

Those members wishing to add their names to the list please 'phone Barbara Herrington on 01256 22090.

- * The evening will start at 6.15 for 6.30pm.
- * Please let us know any special dietary needs.

YOU NEED TO ACT IMMEDIATELY TO BOOK A PLACE .

ANOTHER CHURCH VISIT - ADVANCE NOTICE

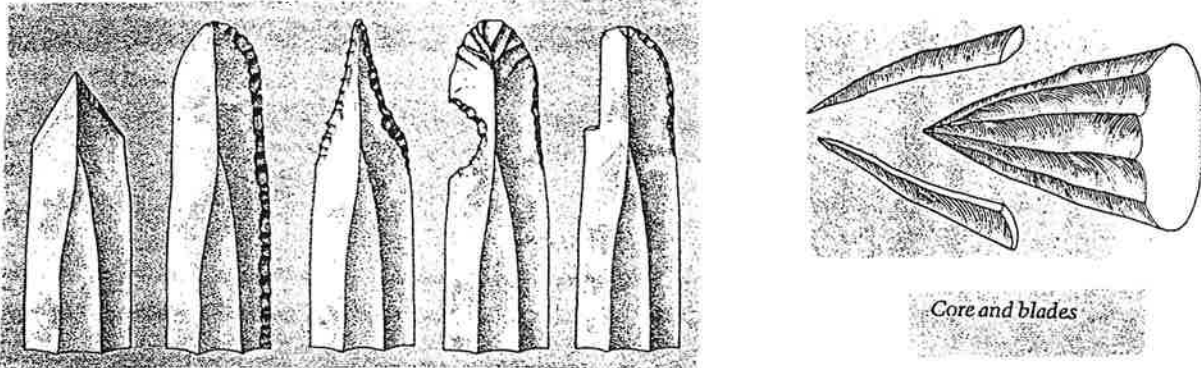
We hope to arrange another in our series of visits to Hampshire churches, this time to the west of Basingstoke, first looking at Oakley St Leonards and then carrying on to Laverstoke for further ecclesiastical delights and surprises. If you are interested to join us on **Saturday, April 1st.,** please let John Horrocks know (tel. 0256 780537 or at the February meeting). The date is no joke - we thought, however, that there might be no weddings on this day to disturb us!

EXPLORE FARNHAM TOWN

The Farnham Visitors Council have kindly agreed to organise a town walk for the Society on **Sunday, March 19th 1995** starting at 3 pm.

We meet the guides in the Waggon Yard car park which is by the Ashgate Gallery. The walk will last for approximately 1.75 hours and there will be a charge of £1.50 per person.

If you wish to join us, please let Tim Herrington know by signing the list at the February meeting or, otherwise, let him know by 'phoning 01256 22090.



NEW LIGHT ON THE OLD STONE AGE

Lecture by Phil Harding, 7.30 pm, Conference Room, Queen Mary Centre, Thursday 9th March

Phil Harding, of Wessex Archaeology, is dear to our hearts as a major contributor to our video BENEATH BASINGSTOKE, as well of course as his nationwide fame as the "dirt archaeologist" of Channel 4's Time Team, now running again. Many people find it difficult to appreciate stone and flint tools, which can look thoroughly boring set out in rows. They are rightly sceptical about enthusiasts who think every flint they see is a tool - and how many do you see in the average ploughed field around here?

In our video Phil showed us how he could make stone age hand-axes, "mesolithic" flakes etc. It is because he has become so proficient at making flint tools himself that Phil can explain so clearly just how this was done, what the tools were used for and how you can distinguish them from naturally-worked flints.

So our lecture "New Light on the Old Stone Age" will present the latest thinking from a thoroughly practical viewpoint.

PRACTICAL WORK

Members of the Society have recently been helping Chris Currie, on a small-scale experimental excavation directed to the lawn at The Vyne - we await further news with interest. It turned out to be enjoyable work in spite of the inclement weather.

These things often have to be arranged at very short notice, so, if your name isn't on the list and you want to help in future - contact Mary Oliver or Peggy Drury.

THE GARDEN HOUSE FAMILY FESTIVAL

The North Hampshire Centre of National Trust Members are to celebrate the Centenary of the National Trust by this festival which **will take place on September 2nd and 3rd**

in Fort Hill School (off the Roman Road), Basingstoke

The Society will be taking part by mounting an exhibition of the work of our members, selling our publications, showing the Video, organising a competition and so on. We would welcome ideas from you as to what other ways we might use to promote our Society.

HAMPSHIRE RECORD OFFICE 'LAST THURSDAY LECTURES'

In January 1995, a new series of free lunchtime lectures and film shows organised by Hampshire Record Office and Wessex Film & Sound Archive will begin. The location is the cinema on the top floor of the Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester from 1.15 to 1.45 pm. These take place on the last Thursday of each month and are free.

We have a poster showing the lecture titles which will be displayed on the meetings notice board. The February meeting is "Where King Alfred Reigned", which is an archive film of old Winchester.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

We are staging, as a new venture, a photographic competition for you, our members.

All the entries will be shown at our December 1995 Social Evening. We know that there is in our midst a host of 'snappers' of all types of experience. We want to share your pleasure!

Of course, there has to be the inevitable set of rules, and these are set out below:-

a] Subject matter should be related both to the objectives of the Society, which are "to advance the education of the public in the history, prehistory and archaeology of the Borough of Basingstoke & Deane" and to other areas of historical interest.

b] Photographs should be taken in the calendar year

c] Prints only (colour or monochrome) are eligible, up to 7" by 5", mounted or unmounted.

d] Entries can have a title or no title.

e] Fee for each entry will be 50p.

f] Final date for entries will be 2 weeks after the November meeting.

- g] A panel of judges will include at least two non members
- h] Modest prizes will be awarded.

We do hope you will support this competition. Start taking your photos now. We will give details of where to send them later on.

**"FROM CRAWFORD TO CUNLIFFE"
70 years of field work in the upper Test Valley**

This is the title of the Crawford Memorial Lecture to be given by David Allen (Keeper of Archaeology, HC Museums Service) at the United Church, Jewry Street, Winchester on **Thursday, March 23rd, 7.30 pm.**

Admission to the lecture is free. To reserve seats, please telephone Kay Ainsworth on 01962 846758.

CHURCH VISITS IN TADLEY

John Horrocks

The Society's second tour of churches in the Basingstoke area took place in December 1994 and concentrated on the Tadley area.

St Peter's, the first and oldest church visited, is situated in open fields well away from the present village of Tadley. First impressions are of a sturdy brick-built structure, a large porch and a substantial bell tower. Standing on a ridge, it is close to a cross roads with the Portway (Silchester to Salisbury) and the Wasing to Wootton Road.

The site is full of springs, which made for difficulties with the foundations, as the uneven level of the pews testifies. Furthermore, this ultimately caused the collapse of the roof, with the new roof requiring buttresses at the entrance to the church.

The known history of the church starts with the Domesday reference to a chapel at Tadley, but this is likely to have been a wooden structure on the present site. Nearby Pamber Priory was constructed in 1110 and it is in the subsequent rash of church building in the area that Tadley had its first stone building on the present site. Built of massive flint with masonry for the corners, the rest of the old walls have been covered for protection either with rough cast or bricks. The substantial tower was completed in the 17th century and now has an elegant weather cock, which seems appropriate as St Peter denied Jesus "before the cock crow".

Inside, the main features are the tiny dark oak pulpit and

canopy in Jacobean style. It is made from panels used to line houses, finished to a standard pattern and cut to fit the space. Despite the relative smallness of the church, a gallery was built during the 17th century reconstruction and was occupied by choristers and musicians leading the worship "from above". An organ was installed in 1970.

The church seems to embody initiative and practical-thinking, not just in the rather rough-and-ready axe-carved pews, but also in the re-use of the side-piece of the stairs to the gallery, which must have originally been used for stairs going the other way, as there are holes for treads on the outside. And most of all one commends the quick-thinking of whoever rescued the old panelling, perhaps from a house affected by the Civil War, and saw how it could make an attractive and unique pulpit, now the only dated pulpit of its period.

The tower contains three bells. They are only tolled, not rung, to avoid damage to the already weakened structure. The treble was cast in 1669; the second, of 1698, has since been recast twice. A tenor bell, the oldest, was cast in the 1550s by John Appowel of Buckingham, a travelling bell founder.

From earliest times Tadley was linked administratively with Overton, as an "easy living", to be given to the Bishop's clerk and chaplain, because he would often be away from the parish. It became usual to appoint a vicar to take care of the parish while the rector was away, and he in turn appointed a curate for Tadley. There has been a strong link with Queens College, Oxford.

We had the benefit of a guided tour by Ralph Bennett, who wrote the "Guide to St Peter's" (a copy is in our Library) and I gratefully acknowledge that source in completing this article. Access is restricted to the church. With easy parking and a peaceful setting, it looks just the spot for a "round walk".

DIRECTIONS: bottom of Tadley Hill, → New Road, → Church Road.

St Luke's, Pamber, was our second stop. In the appropriately named Church Lane, the red brick building is surrounded by houses on a relatively small site. The church building started life in 1876 as one of the first board schools and was rebuilt in 1893. All this was provided by a local landowner and benefactor, a Mr Benyon of Englefield House, Reading, or Pamber Heath. Recent redecoration had transformed the interior. A simple layout without fixed pews gives space for today's needs. On the walls, a number of war memorials from the first world war bear witness to the tragic loss of young lives.

Finally, we moved to St Paul's, which is centrally situated, next to Tadley Green. A modern building (1966), its

shape is in the form of a \wedge . Once inside, its height - as always seems to be the case with churches - is much greater than appears from the outside. It is constructed largely of timber, although this is not evident from the outside, and extensive areas of glass make for a welcoming feeling of lightness. The building also incorporated a Lady Chapel.

In response to the expansion of Tadley, St Paul's replaced a building called St Saviour (1888) which was constructed of pine and corrugated iron. The main internal features of this new church include a fine band of coloured glass, set behind the altar, representing the symbols of earth, heaven and the Christian life. The bell tower is attached to the church and the bell is visible. It was cast by Mears and Stainbank of Whitechapel from the four clock bells of Basingstoke Town Hall and was given by John Stacey of Tadley in 1962.

All our churches are in the Parish of Tadley, but of very different origins and styles of construction. Interestingly, the last two did not have a leaflet explaining their history, which was slightly disappointing. To anyone contemplating writing such a leaflet, a layout plan with dimensions with cross reference to the text would not come amiss.

A very enjoyable Saturday morning, despite the weather, and our thanks to John Feuillade for organising the visits to these very different places of worship.

THE MEDIEVAL WRECK ON THE RIVER HAMBLE

John Williams has sent us the following notes taken from a lecture to the Southampton City Museum Archaeological Society by Professor S McGrail, Visiting Professor of Marine Archaeology, University of Southampton:

There is little doubt that this is the wreck of Henry V's "Grace Dieu", built in 1416 by William Soper of Southampton. In May 1420 there was a mutiny on board in the Solent and when peace came the fleet was run down and the Grace Dieu went into reserve on the Hamble. It was never sold and in 1434 all equipment and ballast was removed and it was towed into dock at Bursledon. It later caught fire and burned to the water line and settled into the river silt. And there it still remained, just north of the M27 motorway bridge.

There's little purpose in trying to see it. It remains water-covered for the greater part of the year, becoming visible for some thirty-five minutes in very early morning and late evening at the Spring and Autumn low tides. It lies with part of its stern in the deep water channel, part in a clay silt and the mid-section sufficiently firm to be walked on at low tide. This means that investigators need a variety of techniques for mapping/ surveying and must take great care not to disturb the silting process which has preserved the

timbers.

It's a technologically important wreck marking important changes in ship design. Since 400 AD, ships were built from the outside in, a technique which was used to great effect in Viking boatbuilding. The shell was built first and the bulkhead frames added later. The Grace Dieu was the last large ship to use this technology which was superseded by building a skeleton framework and fixing the shell to the framework. The Grace Dieu was also unique in having a triple thickness of clinker planking, with iron nails or rivets. After 1450 all ships had two or three masts. The Grace Dieu is the earliest European example of a three-masted ship.

It was a large ship, 180 feet long, 48 feet wide for stability and 56 feet high at the forecastle. It had a crew of 200. The burden has been estimated at 1450 tons. A tree felling date of 1300 to 1500 has been determined by radio carbon dating.

Professor McGrail expressed his concern at the divided approach to financing the investigation and preservation of archaeological sites. He gave as an example the 1300 BC Dover boat which, because it has been found on land, is financed by English Heritage. Some short distance away at a Langdon Bay site is another Bronze Age boat which attracts no finance because it is a marine site. He argued that with increasing underwater discoveries all sites should be financed according to their importance.

To add to the interest of the Bursledon site, 60 yards away from the Grace Dieu there may be another big wreck, possibly a second medieval ship.

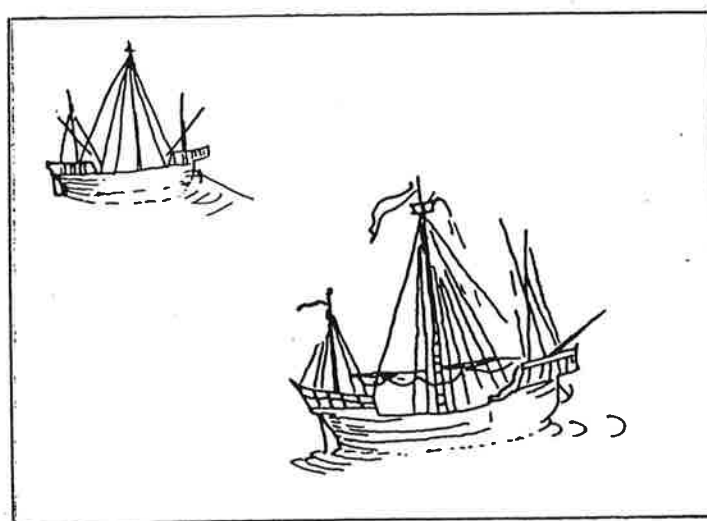


Figure 3. Three-masted ships on a picture-map of the R. Scheldt, 1468 (after Harvey, 1980, fig. 51). (Drawing: NMM, Greenwich.)

**THE ANASAZI CLIFF DWELLINGS IN THE MESA VERDE REGION OF SOUTH
WESTERN COLORADO**

Alan Roach

I have recently returned from an extended tour of the South West states of the USA. On previous visits to North America, I have visited historical sites such as Valley Forge and several Civil War battle sites, but I have always wanted to delve deeper and visit sites that existed pre-1492. One of the sites that fitted my itinerary was the Mesa Verde located in the high plateau country of South-western Colorado and the former home of the Anasazi Indians.

The first Anasazi settled in the Mesa Verde (Spanish for "green table") about AD 550. For over 700 years their descendants lived and flourished there, eventually building elaborate stone cities in the sheltered recesses of the canyon walls. Then in the late 13th century, within a span of one or two generations they abandoned their homes and moved away.

The spectacular remnants of their thousand-year culture are preserved in the Mesa Verde National Park occupying part of the large plateau that rises above the Montezuma and Marcos valleys south of Cortez. Anasazi is a Navajo word meaning "the ancient ones" and, ever since local cowboys discovered these cliff dwellings a century ago, archaeologists have been trying to understand the life of these people. However, despite decades of excavation, analysis, classification and comparison, our knowledge is still sketchy. The whole story will never be known, as no written records were left and much that was important in the lives of the cliff dwellers has perished. Fortunately for posterity, the Anasazi dumped their rubbish close by. Scraps of food, broken pottery, tools and other unwanted items were tossed down the slopes in front of their houses and much of what is known about their daily life has been gleaned from these heaps.

The early Anasazi were skilled basket-makers, mainly living off the land on cultivated plots on the mesa tops. They lived in square pit houses clustered into small villages or occasionally in cliff recesses. The women soon learned how to make pottery and the men acquired the bow and arrow as a more efficient hunting weapon than the spear. By about AD 750 they had begun building houses above ground with upright walls made of poles and mud, and by AD 1000 their skills had advanced to skillful stone masonry. The walls of thick double-coursed stone often rose two or three storeys high and were joined together into units of 50 rooms or more.

About AD 1200 there was another major population shift and the Anasazi began to move back into the cliff alcoves that had sheltered their ancestors centuries before. The reason for this move is unknown - perhaps it was for defence or simply that the caves offered better protection from the elements.

Whatever the reason or combination of reasons, the move gave rise to the cliff dwellings for which the Mesa Verde is now famous.

Most of the dwellings were built in the mid decades of the 13th century and range in size from one-room houses to villages of over 200 rooms. Architecturally there was no standard ground plan and structures were fitted into the available space. Most walls were single thickness, probably because the overhanging roofs not only limited heights but also protected the walls from erosion by the weather. Masonry work varied in quality and rough construction could be found alongside walls with well-shaped rectangular sandstone blocks about the size of a loaf of bread. The mortar between the blocks was a mix of mud and water. Rooms averaged about 6 ft x 8 ft and appeared to provide shelter for two or three persons. Isolated rooms at the rear and upper levels were generally used for crop storage. Many rooms were plastered on the inside and decorated with painted designs.

The Anasazi lived in the Mesa Verde cliff dwellings for less than a hundred years and by AD 1300 the sites were deserted. Evidence has built up to show that the last quarter of the 13th century was a time of drought and subsequent crop failures. Perhaps after centuries of intensive use of the land and its resources, the area was no longer capable of supporting the population.

I am a great admirer of the US National Park Service. A visitor only has to show interest in a site and he will get full attention from the staff and volumes of information. The Mesa Verde is no exception and has about 50 miles of scenic drives, dozens of viewpoints and wayside exhibits interpreting the cliff dwellings and other archaeological remains. A museum, using dioramas, shows examples of the arts and crafts of both the prehistoric and historic Indians of the region and the Park Rangers conduct tours through some of the many cliff dwellings.

I couldn't hope to cover every aspect of the Anasazi ruins in one article. However, I might have aroused interest for some and perhaps recalled pleasant memories for any other society member who might have visited the Mesa Verde.



TUNISIA - FLOWERS, PHOENICIANS AND MUSEUMS

Joy Needham

Tim Evans' talk about museum philosophy (5 January) brought back memories of an archaeological holiday Sue Headley and I had in Tunisia in March 1993. A passing comment to Barbara Applin about this led to this article.

Tunisia is a small country by North African standards, surrounded by fundamentalist neighbours Libya and Algeria. It is not a rigid Islamic society and western dress was very evident, wine is produced and drunk and we were assured there is equality in education and work.

We arrived as Ramadan ended and the great celebrations were taking place. Donning our Kagools, we went out to the park to join the ex-fasters and watch the children in their finery. It was a shame the weather was so wet.

I became fascinated by the country and our Tunisia Guide made sure we learnt about his culture. Unlike Spain on the other side of the Mediterranean, the Tunisians had not learnt to use parasol under the vines, orange trees and olives. In consequence it was a country abundant with wild flowers. The huge Roman remains we visited were in a sea of colour. It very quickly became obvious that visits to Roman sites in England would never be the same again.

The Romans spent over 600 years in the area and have left substantial remains. The climate has been kind to the mosaics with which they decorated their houses. Many of the best are in the Bardo Museum in Tunis. Here you wander from room to room, gazing at huge intricate floor mosaics mounted on walls. My most abiding memory is of the mosaics which showed what life was like on their estates. Farming, fishing and picnics are all depicted.

After this taster we visited numerous Roman sites, small and large. Arguably the most unusual is Bulla Regia, which is in a fairly remote inland area. It was nearly deserted when we visited it and covers a huge area. Here are unique underground houses. It is strange to walk down into a Roman house with mosaics, walls, pillars and a partial roof. They are believed to have been constructed for coolness in the summer. Other sites which conjure memories of impressive Roman ruins are Thurburba Maius and Dougga.

Tunisia has had many invaders besides the Romans and all have left imprints on the land and people. But our holiday was concerned with the classical period and this meant visits to Punic sites. The Phoenicians were people I knew about from school and in books I dipped into before the holiday there were many references to them. They sounded a cruel and unattractive people. However, a visit to Kerkovane, set beside a blue sea on Cap Bon peninsula, altered my view. Here the town is laid out very clearly, the streets are easy to see and the individual houses have "hip baths", front door steps, water channels and human-scale rooms. All very different from the Roman towns and easier to

relate to. I was left with curiosity about these seafaring people who built a town above cliffs. A visit to Carthage also gives an insight into a Punic town; here the water cisterns impressed me. We also visited a burial site of thousands of sacrificed children. It was a glorious sunny day with profusions of wild flowers around the stone tablets and any ghosts I had expected were banished that day.

I started by saying it was museums which jolted my memories of Tunisia. The museum at Carthage impressed me greatly. We had little time to visit it and I think it was unfinished. But the first rooms were stunning. They were simple and clear with minimal artifacts to explain a point. I loved this approach as I find glass cases stuffed full of everything very offputting. But other people were vociferous in their condemnation of an innovative approach. If they paid money they wanted to see the maximum they could.

We visited many small museums on sites and these were as varied as British museum. The Bardo must be one of the great museums of the world, and if I gave the impression it is only mosaics that is wrong. It covers all periods of Tunisian history.

Why not go and visit Tunisia for yourselves? We went on an archaeological tour and were lucky enough to have David Allen (Andover Museum) as our archaeological guide. His excellent guidebook to the Roman period and sites was examined very carefully by the stallholders at Carthage who wanted copies to sell. If you speak any French, the Tunisians are keen to communicate with you. My only warning is that in a week in March we had cold, wind, rain, snow and glorious sun and blue skies. Go prepared.

YOUR PRESENT COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Chairman: John Horrocks, 5 Oak Close, Oakley RG23 7DD [780537]

Secretary: Barbara Herrington, 16 Scotney Road, B'stoke RG21 2SR
[22090]

Treasurer: Barry Ennever, 11 Rembrandt Close, B'stoke RG21 3QR
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Barbara Applin, 138 Old Kempshott Lane, B'stoke RG225EN [465439]

Tim Herrington, 16 Scotney Road, B'stoke RG21 2SR [22090]

— C A L E N D A R —

Thurs 26 Jan	The Norman Settlement in Hampshire Dr Brian Golding, 7.30 Milner Hall, St Peter Street, Winchester	HFC
Fri 27 Jan	The Medieval Church: A Reflection of Social Change Nicholas Doggett, 7.30 The Heritage Centre, Upper Brook St, Winchester	HFC
Thurs 2 Feb	ASPECTS OF ARCHAEOLOGY IN NORTH WALES Peter Fasham	*
Wed 8 Feb	Cheese & Wine Social & AGM, 7.30 Basing House	FBH
Thurs 16 Feb	Any Old Iron John Silman & Tony Yoward 7.30 Willis Museum	FWM
Thurs 23 Feb	SOCIETY DINNER 6.15 FOR 6.30 BCOT	*
Thurs 2 Mar	Lecture by John Crook at Westbury Manor, Fareham	HFC
Thurs 9 Mar	NEW LIGHT ON THE OLD STONE AGE Phil Harding	*
Thurs 16 Mar	Basingstoke - a pictorial history 1935-1965 Bob Brown, 7.30 Willis Museum	FWM
Sat 18 Mar	Landscape Section Conference & AGM	HFC
Sun 19 Mar	FARNHAM TOWN WALK	*
Thur 25 Mar	From Crawford to Cunliffe: OGS Crawford Memorial Lecture, David Allen 7.30 United Church, Jewry St, Winchester	HFC
Thur 6 Ap	I'VE COME ABOUT THE DRAINS Tony Rook	*
Sat 29 Ap	Local History Section Spring Symposium FOOD & DRINK IN HAMPSHIRE Cinema, Hampshire Record Office, Sussex St, Winchester 10 - 5 (f4 members; f5 non-members)	HFC

* SOCIETY ACTIVITY: Unless otherwise stated, 7.30 pm,
 Conference Room, Queen Mary Centre, Cliddesden Rd
 HFC Hampshire Field Club
 FBH Friends of Basing House
 FWM Friends of the Willis Museum