

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 132

AUGUST 1995

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A BIRTHDAY MESSAGE

Our Society will be celebrating its 25th birthday year in the new season. We can reflect on the statement that "Looking at the Past is a much pleasanter experience than contemplating the future". So is our study of history a form of escapism? - In part only, I would suggest. The range of historical studies available at university level is vast, so allowing most interests to be satisfied. At the same time our schools seem to be gripped by the national curriculum which tends to limit choice. Our guide on our recent visit to Flag Fen pleaded for a widening of horizons. In the national curriculum the Roman Conquest was seen to be the start of British History and, as a direct consequence, school parties to Flag Fen had declined. So the "raison d'être" of our Society - to widen our horizons - may in the next 25 years be even more relevant.

So how shall we be celebrating? In a word, by enjoying ourselves. With our new logo on an exciting line in sweat shirts, plans for a dinner in the New Year and later a barbecue, all underpinned by a lively monthly programme with a strong archaeological, as well as historical, content. And I hope we can come up with other surprises.

For those of us who are recent members, we should be grateful to those who started the Society, carried it forward and remain committed. Our present membership still has a number of founder members - thank you.

We need, of course, to widen and strengthen our membership, particularly in an expanding town such as Basingstoke. So please let others know of our activities. A personal recommendation always has the greatest impact.

Looking forward to seeing you all in September.

John Horrocks
Chairman

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A TASTE OF FORTHCOMING LECTURES

Mary Oliver

14th September

Our 25th Anniversary year programme starts with a lecture on what was probably last year's biggest archaeological story - the discovery of the earliest yet human bone at **Boxgrove** in Sussex. The excavations are continuing this year, and we are lucky to have **Mark Roberts** from the Institute of Archaeology to tell us about last year's discovery and the ongoing research both on the famous leg bone and on the site, which is one of the most important Palaeolithic sites in the country. This will be a joint meeting with the Hampshire Field Club and will be held in the Central Studio. We expect this lecture will be of interest to the general public, because of the media coverage last year, so - as they say - come early to avoid disappointment!

12th October

Our October lecture sees the return of an old friend, **David Johnston**, who this time will be talking about **the reconstructions of Roman buildings in Europe** which he has been visiting over the last few years prior to embarking on his own Roman building. He is planning to build a version of the Sparsholt villa which he excavated in the 1960s, and this will be at Butser, where it will continue the story on from the magnificent Iron Age reconstruction already there. Readers of "Current Archaeology" will already have had a foretaste of this talk and its illustrations and know that we are in for a treat!

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

Basing House Commemorative Conference

Saturday 7th October 1995

Alan Turton has sent us further details of this conference which we announced in the last Newsletter. It is being held as part of the 350th anniversary of the fall of Basing House and is being organised by the Friends of Basing House, with some help from our Society.

As well as talking about Basing House, speakers will cover sites in Gloucester and the Worcester and Hereford area, as well as giving details of some surviving Civil War flags that have come to light.

The talks will be given at **St Mary's Junior School, Old Basing**, starting at 10 am and will probably finish about 3.30 or 4 pm, when the conference will adjourn to Basing House itself.

Tickets cost £12 and cover a ploughman's lunch, tea and coffee. Alan will bring the final programme to our September meeting, when you can buy tickets if you haven't done so already (if you want to get in first, Alan's phone number at Basing House is 01256 467294).

A CALL FOR HELP!

We hope that lots of members will want to attend this conference, and that some will volunteer to help with things like putting chairs out (and back), preparing lunches etc. Please ring Mary Oliver (01256 24263) to offer help.

THE GARDEN HOUSE FAMILY FESTIVAL

Saturday 2nd September and Sunday 3rd September

Margaret Porter

The National Trust have arranged this two-day event to be held at Fort Hill Community School, off Roman Road, Winklebury. Nine nurseries will be selling plants and offering advice on gardening problems, and there will be a variety of sideshows, stalls and exhibitions. A leaflet is enclosed, giving full details.

Many local societies, including our own, will be participating (as you see, not all concerned with gardens).

Over the two days our Society will be showing the video "BENEATH BASING-STOKE", selling publications and staging a colouring competition for children; and Peter

Heath will be giving brief talks at 11.30, 12.30, 1.30 and 2.30 each day on the Iron Age Hill Fort at Fort Hill. We hope to attract many visitors to our stand, and Society members will be on hand to discuss the Society's activities and to offer further information.

The Festival is open from 10.30 am to 4.30 pm on each day. Admission £1.50 (children 50p).

A CALL FOR HELP

Clearly, it will take a great deal of manpower to cover the two days so if you can help out - even for an hour - please ring John Horrocks as soon as possible on 01256 780537.

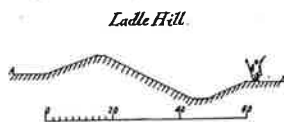
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1995/6

Those members who have not yet renewed their Society membership subscription for the year 1995/6 are reminded that it fell due on May 1st (membership runs to April 30th 1996). The rates for the coming year remain the same as last year:

Ordinary membership	£ 8.50
Family membership	£11.00
Over 60/student	£ 4.50

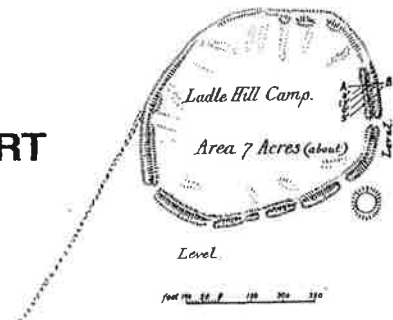
If you have not renewed, you will find a form attached to this Newsletter. Please fill this in now and return it, together with the appropriate fee, to the Membership Secretary, Tim Herrington, 16 Scotney Road, Basingstoke RG21 5SR. Please give this your urgent attention, or this may be the last Newsletter to fall through your letterbox!!

VISIT



LADLE HILL IRON AGE FORT

Thursday, August 24th 1995
Time: 6.45 pm (sharp!)



This has already attracted some 16 members so we will meet first of all in the car park at the brow of White Hill, about 1 mile south of Kingsclere on the B3051 (towards Overton). Look for the entrance on the left just opposite the lay-by on the right (SU 515565).

After a short introductory overview of the Vale of Kingsclere from this vantage point, we will take our cars to a point nearer to Ladle Hill and walk about 1 mile along the crest of the Downs to the site. We will examine the never completed fort, a brace of dewponds and a number of Bronze Age barrows and we will view the evidence of field systems on the adjoining slopes. A little gentle geology will enable us to appreciate how the magnificent scenery of the Vale came to be.

Please note the time for the start of the evening visit, so that we can complete it in some degree of daylight.

VISIT

SILCHESTER ROMAN TOWN & ST MARY'S CHURCH

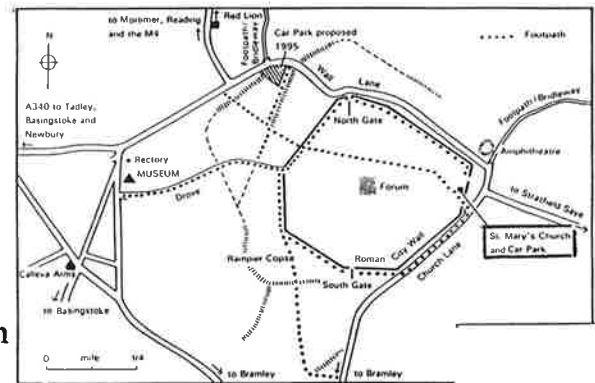
Saturday, September 16th

Start time: 9.50 am

A visit to Silchester Roman Town and the adjoining St Mary's Church has been arranged. The meeting place will be the car park next to St Mary's Church (at SU 642624), situated by the east side of the Roman town wall.

The guided visit will follow the following itinerary:

- 09.50 Meet at St Mary's Church car park
- 10.00 Tour of the Church
- 10.45 Tour of the Roman Town ruins
- 11.30 Light refreshment served in the Church Room
- 11.45 Visit to Calleva Museum
- 12.15 Return to Church via North Wall and Roman Amphitheatre
- 13.00 End of visit



Please let John Feuillade know if you wish to come to this event (01734 700761). There will be a charge of £1 on the day to provide a donation.

Ralph Atton sent several copies of the revised Guide to Calleva Atrebatum to our meeting recently and we sold the lot! We will have more available (price £2.50).

COURSES IN AUTUMN 1995

GCSE Archaeology

This course is again on offer at BCOT on Monday evenings, 6.30 - 9.00. For those who have tried to enrol in the last two years: please try again. The lecturers are determined to make this run somehow or other this year.

Mediterranean sites

Mary Oliver is also dusting off this "fun" course of lectures to be given at Oakley St Leonard's Centre on Friday mornings from 29th September (10.30 - 12.00) and at Yatley on Tuesday evenings (7.30 - 9.00). This year it will include something on Etruscan sites which Mary is hoping to visit in August. Further details from Mary: 01256 24263.

VISIT

**LAMBETH PALACE
&
THE MUSEUM OF GARDEN HISTORY**
Wednesday, November 1st 1995



When the church of St Mary-at-Lambeth became redundant in the 1970s, it was taken over by the Tradescant Trust as an appropriate setting for a museum of Garden History. The two John Tradescants, father and son, gardeners to Lord Salisbury and Charles 1, and founders of the Ashmolean Museum, had their garden at Lambeth and are buried in the churchyard (next to Captain Bligh). We shall spend the morning in the Museum, where refreshments can be purchased - although you could choose to picnic by the Embankment.

The Church is right by the gateway to Lambeth Palace, the historic home of the Archbishops of Canterbury. This is being specially opened for us for a guided tour in the afternoon. After our visit, the coach will collect us for the return journey.

The inclusive cost of coach and visits will be £10.

Please let Tim Herrington know (01256 22090), by or at the September meeting, if you would like to come on this visit. **The numbers are limited to 25 for the Lambeth Palace tour.** If there are more than 25 applicants, we will hold a ballot for places.

FIRST CALL!

A WEEKEND RESIDENTIAL EXCURSION TO LEICESTERSHIRE

This is planned for **April 12 - 14th, 1996**, staying in single room accommodation in a University of Leicester Hall of Residence (full board and packed lunch). The itinerary for the weekend will be something like this:

Friday evening

Assemble for dinner and after-dinner discussion setting the scene for the next two days.

Saturday

(a.m.) A stroll through Leicester's past - a heritage trail in the Castle Park area which includes the castle ruins, the 14th century Magazine Gateway, the Tudor Newarke Houses Museum, Trinity Hospital, the Museum of Archaeology and the Jewry Wall Roman Bath site, the Saxon St Nicholas's Church, the 14th century Guildhall and the Cathedral - to name but a few!

(p.m.) Out to the Charnwood Forest for picnic lunch (+ pub if desired) and then into the Bradgate Park to visit the ruins of Lady Jane Grey's House, in a setting of outcrops of both ancient rocks and ancient oaks. Deer abound in a park whose history we can trace during our gentle stroll.

If time and energy reserves permit, we could pay a visit to the charming medieval manor house at Donington-le-Heath, near Colville.

After dinner, we hope to provide a distinguished speaker to talk about current work in our study area.

Sunday

(a.m.) Eastwards towards the Leicestershire limestone country along the A 47. The first port of call will be the site of the deserted medieval village at Ingarsby, one of the best preserved in a county full of such sites. On then to the Iron Age Hillfort and vantage point at Burrough-on-the Hill. Lunch can be taken here after the visit (washed down at a nearby pub if desired).

(p.m.) South to cross the A 6 road near Market Harborough to visit the restored flight of locks at Foxton on the Grand Union Canal. Here is a museum of canal history and good facilities for refreshments.

This is our last visit of the weekend and the party will disperse from here. The road back to Basingstoke is conveniently by the A 6 to Northampton and thence to Oxford, etc.

Transport throughout will be by own cars. The cost of accommodation will be £70 each for the two nights (full board and packed lunches). There should be no other costs to be incurred except minor car parking charges.

The numbers are limited to 12 and will be allocated by ballot if applications exceed this number. Please let Tim Herrington know (01256 22090) if you are interested in having your name(s) placed on the provisional list. There will be a board put forward at our next few meetings for you to sign up for this weekend.

HE CAME ABOUT THE DRAINS!

Barry Ennever

No, nothing to do with Tony Rook and his Roman Baths (for those of you who attended our lecture in April or visited Welwyn en route for Flag Fen).

But a Dr Ballard did come to Basingstoke in 1871 as a result of *"a Memorial from forty-two inhabitants ... representing that the sanitary condition of the town was very unsatisfactory ..., the existence of open cesspools ... and that a fever of a virulent type was prevalent."*

In his report he states that *"I could find little satisfactory information as to the provision for the main drainage of the town."* The control of drainage was, at the time, vested in the Paving and Lighting Commissioners, who had very limited funds available, having exhausted their borrowing powers and after paying interest and providing lighting for the town.

Among his unsavoury findings were:

- * a main sewer ran along the London Road, down New Street and into Flaxpool (now Flaxfield) where it emptied itself into the Loddon
- * in most streets ... sewage could be seen running from the back of the premises, stable-yards, slaughter-houses etc. ... to one of the branches of the Loddon.

He concluded from this and other evidence that they would *"produce their customary*

effect on the public health and death-rate." There had been 1,061 deaths in the Borough of Basingstoke during the previous 10 years while the mean population had been just over 5,000 people. A death rate of over 20% per annum!

Dr Ballard made ten recommendations, including one that said that "*The Local Authority should appoint some competent person to fill the office of Inspector of Nuisances, and he should devote his whole time to the public service in that capacity...*"

What a difference just a hundred and twenty years can make!

WHERE WILL YOUR FIESTA BE IN THE YEAR 2090?

Les Fitzgerald

On the 5th of July, 1895 the Hon. Evelyn Ellis drove his Daimler petrol-engined Panhard-Levassor motor car from Micheldever Station to his home at Datchet, a distance of 56 miles. This has been acknowledged by the Veteran Car Club of Great Britain as the first recorded road run in Britain by the precursor of the modern motor car.

Ellis had brought the car from France, through Le Havre, shipping it by rail from Southampton to Micheldever Station, having chosen this station for its convenient seclusion. Seclusion was desirable because his planned drive contravened the law of the day (speed?).

Although the reader may have some doubts on the question of whether or not the introduction of the motor car is a matter for celebration, Ellis's run was indeed celebrated on Sunday, 9th July, 1995 when the Veteran Car Club staged a re-enactment of the first 30 miles of his drive with Victorian (i.e. pre-1901) motor vehicles. The participation of 39 vehicles was the largest number of Victorian vehicles ever to gather for such an event, and the enthusiasm was perhaps best demonstrated by the attendance of several cars and owners from other continental countries.

In the hope of seeing something a little out of the ordinary, I found myself on the Station forecourt at 7.30 a.m., but even so only just in time to see the first arrival. There was a pleasant air of informality amongst this crowd of veteran car enthusiasts composed of all walks of life, including a well-known Lord of car museum fame. There were many vehicles that caught my imagination and gave rise to envy, but perhaps the one that really made its presence known was the 1884 steam-powered vehicle that enveloped the assembly point with black smoke during the hour or so it took to raise steam. It was during this period that I overheard many of the details that follow.

The organisers had had a very welcome surprise when they were contacted a day or so before the event by Ellis's grand-daughter, a delightful lady in her seventies who insisted on joining the rally during the preparations for the start, despite this being around 8 a.m. She clearly enjoyed being driven in a car similar to that of her grandfather's. Ellis's car apparently still exists, but the Science Museum could not be persuaded to release it for the day.

After the 9.26 a.m. start, which co-incided with Ellis's, the first voluntary stop was for coffee in Basingstoke's Old Market Place, and the square rose to the occasion, dressing itself in sunshine and a continental atmosphere. From there the rally made its way along the A 30 to end at Blackbushe, entertaining many en route, but also producing a less sympathetic response from some teeth-grinding drivers of today's descendants of these admirable 95-year-old ancestors.

I began by referring to "the first recorded road run..." - it was recorded in the following letter from Ellis's friend and passenger.

A TRIP IN A ROAD LOCOMOTIVE

To the Editor of the SATURDAY REVIEW
LONDON, 11 July 1895

SIR,— It was with much interest that I read the article concerning horseless carriages in your issue of 6th July. I have since travelled for the first time in this country in one of our Daimler motor carriages, and I think it may be of interest to your readers to hear something about my experiences on the trip.

I started on Friday last week with my friend, Mr. Evelyn Ellis, from Micheldever, which is one station from Winchester on the London and South-Western line. Datchet was our destination. During the previous night a long and much-wanted steady rainfall had laid the dust on the roads, and thus we had every prospect of an enjoyable journey. We set forth at exactly 9.26 a.m., and made good progress on the well-made old London coaching road. The sky appeared somewhat overclouded, but the easterly winds keeping off the rain, and the roads being in good condition, it was delightful travelling on that fine summer morning. We were not quite without anxiety as to how the horses we might meet would behave towards their new rivals, but they took it very well, and out of 133 horses we passed on the road only two little ponies did not seem to appreciate the innovation. We passed at 11 a.m. through Basingstoke and arrived at Mapledewell-hatch at 11.20 a.m., where we stopped to refresh ourselves and the engine, the refreshment of the latter consisting in cooling water. We left Mapledewell-hatch and its astonished inhabitants at 11.50, arriving at Blackwater at 1.32. On our way we passed a great many vehicles of all kinds, as well as cyclists. We left Blackwater at 1.55, riding up some very steep hills on our way to Bagshot. This pretty country place we passed at exactly 2.47, and met on our way to charming little Sunningdale several officers on horseback, apparently engaged in surveying duty. Meanwhile the sun brightened up the scenery all around us, and it was a very pleasing sensation to go along the delightful roads towards Virginia Water at speeds varying from three to twenty miles per hour. Our iron horse behaved splendidly. Virginia Water was reached at 3.28. There we took our luncheon, and also fed our engine with a little oil. We left again at 4.30, arriving at Engerfield Green at 4.47, and we remained there till 5.25. Going down the steep hill leading to Windsor, we passed through Datchet, and arrived right in front of the entrance hall of Mr. Ellis's house at Datchet at 5.40, thus completing our most enjoyable journey of fifty-six miles, the first ever made by a petroleum motor carriage in this country in 5 hours 32 minutes, exclusive of stoppages. The average speed we attained was 9.84 miles per hour, the usual travelling speed being from 8 to 12 miles per hour.

In every place we passed through, we were not unnaturally the objects of a great deal of curiosity. Whole villages turned out to behold, open-mouthed, the new marvel of locomotion. The departure of coaches was delayed to enable their passengers to have a look at our horseless vehicle, while cyclists would stop to gaze enviously at us as we surmounted with ease some long and (to them) tiring hill.

Mr. Ellis's Daimler motor carriage, one of which, as will be remembered, gained the first prize in the recent carriage race, is a neat and compact four-wheeled dog-cart with accommodation for four persons and two portmanteaus. The consumption of petroleum is little over a halfpenny per mile, and there is no smoke, heat, or smell, the carriage running smoothly and without any vibration. The simple and ingenious gear puts the carriage under complete control. The steering is likewise extremely simple, and either of the two powerful independent brakes can bring the carriage to complete standstill within little over a yard. — I am, yours faithfully,

FREDERICK R. SIMMS.



ROMAN BATHS AND A BRONZE AGE POST-ALIGNMENT

Alex Martin

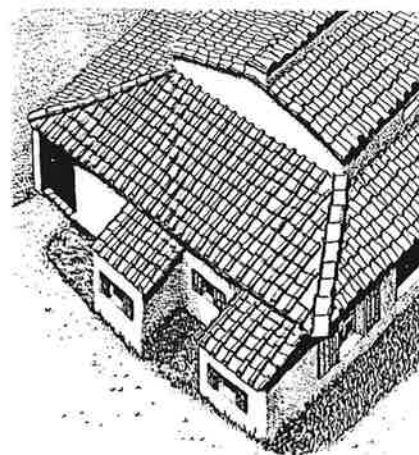
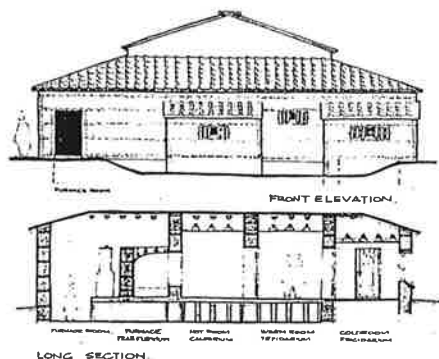
On 10th June a combined party of BAHS and Hampshire Field Club paid a visit to Flag Fen near Peterborough, stopping on the way at the Roman Baths at Welwyn. The planning and organisation had been ably carried out by Mary Oliver.

It was a long, full day trip. Hampshire Field Club members started from Winchester, the coach picking up BAHS members with family and friends at Basingstoke and Fleet about 8 am, and getting back around 8 pm. Driving along M3, M25 and A1 (M), the first stop was made at Welwyn around 10 o'clock.

The party were all invited for coffee and biscuits to the home of Tony Rook and his wife. Tony had recently given an intriguing lecture to BAHS entitled "I've Come About the Drains!" This, of course, dealt largely with Baths. His own special Roman Baths lay below the wheels of our coach driving up the A. (M). so at his invitation we broke our journey to Fengate to see it.

Tony's house was of considerable interest, the main structure dating from 1450 AD. Now named "The Old Vicarage", it had been occupied by past Vicars and previously by the Lords of the Manor. Tony told us somewhat sadly that the Manorial Rights and Privileges were no longer in force!

After coffee we all walked over to the Baths. One entered through a wooden door into a tunnel in a high bank on top of which ran the A1 (M). The tunnel expanded into a large room, in the centre of which were the excavated remains of a small Roman Baths. Around it ran a wooden gallery from which all the components of the Baths could be seen - the hot and cold rooms, the furnace etc.



Illustrations by Tony Rook

Tony explained the lay-out and told us how the Baths had been found, excavated and protected beneath the road later built over the top. It had originally been built onto the side of a small villa in a system of farms probably dominated by the well-known villa at Lockleys.

At about noon we were on the road again, northward-bound for Flag Fen at Fengate near Peterborough, which was reached about one o'clock. Flag Fen is a Bronze Age site on the edge of the marshes of the fens which sweep down to the Wash. The area shows signs of habitation from the Neolithic period onwards, probably because the soil was very good for agriculture. In winter, soil was covered by water which retreated in summer, leaving rich ground for grazing.



The special interest of Flag Fen, however, is a massive alignment of timber piles about 1 km long and 10 metres wide, stretching out into the marshy ground from the land permanently above the water level. These piles have been largely excavated and dated by tree-ring studies to the period 1350 to 950 BC. The line of posts stretched as far as a large island, Northey, crossing a solid platform of horizontal timbers of similar date.

Excavation of the timber structure has been carried on for several years and is still continuing. The function of these structures is still not fully understood, but it has been suggested that the line of posts was to serve as a barrier to prevent people from reaching by water the rich fields of one of the local tribes.

Be that as it may, the structure would appear to have a strong religious significance since hundreds of bronze weapons or tools were found on the West side of the alignment. Most of these appear to have been deliberately broken, and have been thought to represent votive offerings.

The Flag Fen site has been developed as an archaeological study centre, even though excavation is still continuing on the timbers. A Visitors' Centre has been constructed, into which our party went on arrival. We were given a briefing there and shown a video telling of the development and history of the site. A small museum included a considerable number of the weapons and tools found nearby.

We were fortunate enough to be taken round the Park by Dr Francis Pryor, the Director of the Fenland Archaeological Trust. We visited the area under excavation and then saw reconstructions of Bronze Age and Iron Age round houses. By the wood conservation tanks we were able to handle some pieces of Bronze Age wood - mainly oak. This was really fossilised wood, since the original wood molecules had with the passage of time been replaced by various minerals from solution. It had a slimy feel and had to be handled very carefully.

One further point of interest was the remains of a Roman Road that crossed the site. A section through the surface of this could be seen where it crossed a later ditch.

At about 3.30 pm the party set off for Peterborough, where a two-hour visit to the centre of the city was planned. Apart from shops and cafés, two items of major interest could be seen - the Museum and the Cathedral. The archaeological rooms of the museum had to be specially opened for us, as they had very recently been broken into. It was a well-presented and interesting display and certainly worth a visit.

The Cathedral was a magnificent specimen of its type, dating from the second half of the twelfth century. Katherine of Aragon had been buried there, and also Mary Queen of Scots after being executed at Fotheringhay. She, however, was removed to Westminster Abbey by her son when he became James I of England. An additional treat came from an orchestra rehearsing in the nave!

The party finally left Peterborough at 6 pm, getting back home some two hours later. It had been a most enjoyable day, for which we have to thank those who organised it - in particular, Mary Oliver.

PS Alan Turton tell us that when Katharine of Aragon was buried in Peterborough Cathedral, William Paulet (of Basing House) was the only nobleman to attend.

A CHALLENGE from Richard Dexter!

Towards the end of our visit to Flag Fen somebody asked the question "How were the stakes for the alignment driven into the ground?" the reply was quite unexpected in that it had been observed from the condition of the bottom ends of the stakes that they would seem to have been driven in by a force comparable to a striking force of over 4 cwt hitting them from above. But how it was done was simply not known.

That set me thinking. How could a Bronze Age engineer drive piles into the ground with a quarter of a ton hammer? Any ideas?

If anybody can think of a way, how about letting the Editor know and asking her to publish the suggestions she receives in the next issue of the Newsletter?

Sketches and diagrams of the proposed Flintstone's piledriver only, please; working models maybe later.

CANADIAN CONNECTIONS

Bob and Barbara Applin

Two visitors from Canada, John and Ann Griffith, joined us on the Society's Micheldever walk. John had lived in Basingstoke for many years and mentioned that his grandfather, John Richard Ellaway, had a citation from the Basingstoke Borough Council, so he sent us a copy.

To us Mr Ellaway is better known as one of the "flinting triumvirate", Willis, Ellaway and Raynbird - the Willis, of course, being George Willis who founded the Museum. At John's request we are passing copies of the citation to Basingstoke Library and the Willis Museum.



TO

JOHN RICHARD ELLAWAY ESQ

WE, THE MAYOR, ALDERMEN AND BURGESSES
OF THE

BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE

wish to place on record our APPRECIATION of the valuable services
you have rendered to this Community as HONORARY DIRECTOR of
the PUBLIC LIBRARY.

The library was first opened in 1928 from which time, until indifferent health
compelled your retirement in 1947, you freely & unreservedly placed your
special knowledge and experience at the service of your town.

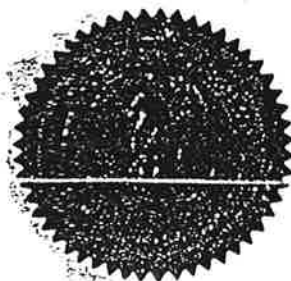
We therefore wish to express to you our SINCERE THANKS and also
our hope that you will enjoy many years of well-earned retirement.

IN TOKEN whereof we have ordered our Common Seal to be hereunto
affixed & the same was so affixed this 12th day of February 1948 in
the presence of: _____

H. H. Hurrell

MAYOR

Robert Jones
TOWN CLERK



BOOK SHELF



We would like to make this a regular feature of the Newsletter, either announcements of new books or descriptions of favourite books on archaeology or history - contributions welcome. Barbara Applin

Life in Ecchinswell and Sydmonton in the Sixteenth Century

Rosemary Leamon (*privately published 1995: £4.40*)

I brought a copy of this book to the last meeting, and several members placed orders - their copies will be available at the September meeting, and I can easily get more. Rosemary has researched many wills and inventories to discover fascinating information about 16th life in the two villages and their farming background. This all makes a useful comparison with the town life portrayed in Anne Hawker's "Voices of Basingstoke 1400-1600".

Excavation of a Bronze Age Round Barrow at Buckskin, Basingstoke

(to be published early next year in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society)

Watchers of "BENEATH BASINGSTOKE" will know that this site was excavated over 20 years ago by the fore-runner of our Society and some excellent post-excavation work by Mike Allen, Mike Morris and Royston Clark is about to be published. Offprints will be available (price not yet certain, probably about £1), and at the last meeting various members expressed interest. I would be glad to hear from others, to give me some idea how many to order (they obviously have to be ordered before printing is done).

Excavations at Brighton Hill South, Basingstoke

The full report of Wessex Archaeology's excavations will be out shortly, price £20 post free from Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, South Portway Estate, Old Sarum, Salisbury, Wilts SP4 6EB. A complimentary copy is being presented to our Society's library.

MICHELDEVER WOOD (THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL TRAIL)

Linda and Dave Chapman

Sixteen intrepid souls met in the car park of Micheldever Wood on Saturday 20th May (!?!CUP FINAL DAY!?!). The weather was overcast but warm. After the handing out of an explanatory leaflet (kindly donated by Hampshire County Council) we set off through the woods at a leisurely pace. The path wound through tall trees just breaking into leaf. A few jokes were cracked on the party being lost and never seen again. But the trail was clearly marked, with notices posted every so often pointing out areas of interest and describing with great clarity what at first glance were rather obscure lumps, bumps and ditches. They painted a picture of the area as it was during the Bronze, Iron and Medieval ages. We passed through the site of an Iron Age farmstead, stood on top of Bronze Age barrows and puzzled at the banks and boundary ditches. At the end of the inward arc of the trail, ancient and modern came together with the site of a Bronze Age barrow and the roar of the M3 motorway. On the return arc of the trail, Nature took over and the notices now gave descriptions of butterflies, plants and animals. We strolled now along open grassy paths edged with bluebells. All too soon the gentle walk came to an end, and two and a quarter miles seemed to have taken no time at all.

C A L E N D A R

Sat 12 Aug Sun 13 Aug	Re-enactment of the taking of Basing House	FBH
Sat 19 Aug	Guided Visit to Wherwell Village & Priory 2 pm (£5 members, £6 non-members)	HFC
Thurs 24 Aug	VISIT TO LADLE HILL (see page 4)	*
Sat 3 Sept	Garden House Family Festival (see page 3)	NT
Sat 9 Sept	Conference, 1500th Anniversary of the landing of Cerdic, Fact or Fiction? at Manor of Cadland, Fawley	HFC
Thurs 14 Sept	BOXGROVE MAN by Mark Roberts (Central Studio) (see page 2)	*/HFC
Sat 16 Sept	VISIT TO SILCHESTER (see page 5) Visit to Bursledon Brickworks 1.30 pm	* HFC
Thurs 21 Sept	From Attic to Basement Caroline Humphreys (Hampshire Archives Trust)	FWM
Fri 22 Sept	Cheese & Wine evening at Twyford Pumping Station (£3.50 includes admission, tour & refreshments) 6.30 pm	HFC
Sat 7 Oct	Day conference on THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE CIVIL WAR (see page 3)	*/FBH
Thurs 12 Oct	ROMAN BUILDINGS RECONSTRUCTED David Johnston (see page 3)	*
Thurs 19 Oct	AGM & A Geologist At Work Dave Kemp	FWM
Wed 1 Nov	VISIT TO LAMBETH PALACE & MUSEUM OF GARDEN HISTORY (see page 6)	*
Thurs 9 Nov	IN SEARCH OF THE EARLY MEDIEVAL CHURCH * Kay Ainsworth	
Thurs 16 Nov	The County Council & Archaeology Mike Hughes	FWM
Wed 4 Dec	WINE AND CHEESE PARTY *	

*	Society event (unless otherwise stated, 7.30 pm, Conference Room, Queen Mary's Centre)
FBH	Friends of Basing House
FWM	Friends of the Willis Museum
HFC	Hampshire Field Club

DON'T FORGET THE PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION!

If you have completed your entry, please send it to the Secretary, Barbara Herrington, 16 Scotney Road, Basingstoke RG21 5SR.