

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 134

MARCH 1996

CONTENTS

Page 2	MEETING PLACE Prehistoric & Roman Boats Rescue Excavations at Pompeii
	BUCKSKIN ON THE MAP
	FIELDWORK AHEAD! Field walking Bramley Frith Training Dig
Page 3	VISIT TO BRAMLEY CHURCH
	TIMELINE HERITAGE TOURS - BELGIUM
Page 4	WINDSOR CASTLE AND THE FIRE
Page 5	PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION
Page 6	BOOKSHELF: Jane Austen in Basingstoke Library
Page 7	THE POETRY OF FIELD WALKING
Page 8	OF ROUND AND LONG BARROWS
Page 9	SOCIETY QUESTIONNAIRE - YOUR VIEWS
Page 10	PANELLING
Page 12	LEYS, LIES OR WISHFUL THINKING?
Page 13	VISIT TO READING MUSEUM
Page 14	A GARDEN AND A PALACE
Page 15	STOP PRESS ! ! ! Barbecue at Basing House
Page 16	CALENDAR

Articles for Newsletter to:

Barbara Applin, 138 Old Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke RG22 5EN
or Tim Herrington, 16 Scotney Road, Basingstoke RG21 5SR

MEETING PLACE

***** PLEASE NOTE meeting places for forthcoming lectures below *****

PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN BOATS

Professor Sean McGrail, Thursday 11th April, CENTRAL STUDIO

Our Society has a lively interest in boats, as is evidenced by the two lectures we have had on conflicting interpretations of Greek triremes, the many questions asked about the Dover boat in the Dover lecture,, and John Williams' article in Newsletter 130. Professor Sean McGrail, whose lecture John Williams reported, has had first hand experience excavating prehistoric and Roman boats. Visiting Professor at Southampton and Haifa, he has recently been carrying out fieldwork in Orissa, India, recording unusual sea-going boats which may be "living fossils" of earlier days. He is a Master Mariner in addition to all his academic qualifications and has written many books on ancient boats - including triremes.

RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT POMPEII

Professor Michael Fulford, Thursday 9th May, QUEEN MARY HALL

Professor Michael Fulford - who has visited our Society several times before, hosted visits to his excavations at Silchester and appeared on the BENEATH BASINGSTOKE video - has now become Dean of the Arts Faculty at Reading University. Fortunately this has not prevented him from turning his attentions to the classic site (in more ways than one!) of Pompeii. We look forward to his up-to-date news of discoveries there based on modern excavation methods.

BUCKSKIN ON THE MAP!

Buckskin, Basingstoke now appears on the map on the back of the current issue of CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY, which has an article on the Buckskin barrow by Mike Allen and Barbara Applin. We have extra copies of that issue available, price £1 (for the Society funds!)

FIELDWORK AHEAD!

Field walking Those who took part in the intensive fieldwalking in the Loddon Valley for TVAS will be pleased to know that all the finds are now washed and sorted (grateful thanks to all who helped!) A faithful team meet each week to put this information on to a computer programme supplied by TVAS, which is taking longer than expected. No new field walking is planned at the moment, as the field off Kingsclere Road which is part-walked is again not ploughed yet. We hope to complete this project when possible, so watch this space!

Bramley Frith This project too is taking longer than expected and we badly need more help. There are just a few weeks left in which we have access to the woods before the bluebells take over. The small team working with our new level would very much welcome help from anyone with a few hours to spare during the week. Please contact Peggy Drury on 01256 850028 if you can help.

Training Dig It is some years since the Society organised a training dig, and we are hoping to do so again this Easter. We have obtained permission to put a trench across a ditch visible on the aerial photograph of the field near the church at Worting - where our last major training dig was held - which should guarantee some results as well as giving experience in techniques.

Anyone who would like to take part in this excavation, to gain an introduction into the delights of digging (or to help pass on their enthusiasm) should contact Mary Oliver on 01256 24263, saying which days (5th, 6th, 7th, 8th April) they are available.

VISIT TO BRAMLEY CHURCH 20th April 1996

A note from John Feuillade

We shall be visiting Bramley church on Saturday 20th April. There is parking at the church, where we shall meet at 10 am. The easy way from Basingstoke is to take the A 340 Tadley Road. At the Queen's College Arms, turn right and after about two miles there is a road on the right. The church is on the left just past this junction. The Rector has recently written a history of the church, so there should be plenty of interest for us.

It would help me if you could let me know that you are interested in this visit (01734 700761)

TIMELINE HERITAGE TOURS - BELGIUM

Graham Hall, a past Chairman of our Society, is now Tour Manager and leader of this company and has sent us details of a long weekend they have arranged in Belgium from Friday 3 May to Monday 6 May 1996 (Bank Holiday weekend). This was organised for the Oxford-based Tyndale Society, who have authorised him to offer the tour to other groups, including ourselves. In fact, Graham is offering a £5 donation to our Society funds for every member who books!



It sounds a fascinating trip, and full details can be obtained from Barbara Herrington (01256 22090) - or direct from Graham Hall, Timeline Heritage Tours, 1 Schofield Gardens, Witney, Oxon, OX8 5JY (0993 779861). Travel will be by coach from the Oxford area and by sea crossing, with accommodation in four-star hotels in Bruges and Antwerp. Time in Bruges allows for sightseeing/shopping and a Celebrations Entertainment, re-enacting the marriage feast of 1468 of Charles the Bold, Duke of Burgundy and Margaret of York, sister of our King Edward IV; Professor Guido Latré of Leuven will provide a short paper giving historical background. Other highlights include visits to the Tyndale Church and Museum on the outskirts of Brussels, a walking tour of the old quarter of Leuven, and a visit to the Plantin-Moretus Museum in Antwerp, where it is hoped to see a demonstration of printing equipment very similar to that which would have been used in Tyndale's time (the quincentenary of his birth was celebrated in 1994).

The cost for the weekend is about £310.00 per person, with half-board accommodation; a single person supplement of £55.00 for those unwilling to share with another tour guest. The quoted price is based on a group rate of 25+ persons travelling and may be slightly more if the numbers are less. Until a firm price has been declared, any booking deposits (£50.00 per person) will be returnable without deduction in the event of the tour having to be called off more than six weeks before departure.

WINDSOR CASTLE AND THE FIRE

We have recently begun to receive details of the lectures organised by the Reading branch of The Historical Association, and members may be interested in attending the next one:

15th March Brian Kerr WINDSOR CASTLE AND THE FIRE

Windsor Castle has recently been the subject of intensive archaeological investigation. Between 1989 and 1992 the fabric of the buildings within the Round Tower was surveyed and excavations were carried out in conjunction with major engineering works. Since the catastrophic fire of November 1992 archaeologists have been closely involved with the clearance and reconstruction work. This has largely comprised detailed recording of the fabric of the damaged area, but has also included some excavation. One very interesting aspect of this has been the comparison and contrast of the archaeological evidence, some of which can be dated with a high degree of accuracy, with the previous model of the castle's development derived largely from documentary sources. This talk hopes to show some of the potential as well as the limitations of the different strands of evidence and is accompanied by slides which will illustrate the recent discoveries.

The lecture takes place at 7.30 pm in Room T1 next to Peckover Hall at Leighton Park School, Shinfield Road, Reading.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

*An announcement
by Peter Good*



The photographic competition that we held last year was very successful and attracted entries from fifteen members who entered over forty prints. A selection of the prints was exhibited at the Christmas party, and the competition was won by Chris Horrocks, with the Curium Roman temple near Limassol in Cyprus. Paulline Williams was second with recent excavations at Micheldever. Sue Good and Tim Herrington were joint third with the Walls of Troy and the gateway to Boudicca's Iceni village in Norfolk. The photographs were judged on the basis of the archaeological or historical interest of their subject matter, the quality of the composition, and their general presentation. The judges remarked on the high level of many of the entries and took over an hour to select the winners from the short list.

In view of the success of last year's competition, it has been decided to hold another one this year. The details are given below:

- a) The subject can be anything of historical or archaeological interest, or of interest to the members of the Society.
- b) Photographs should be taken by a Society member in the calendar year 1996.
- c) Prints only (colour or monochrome) are eligible, and can be up to 10" x 8", mounted or non-mounted.
- d) Each entry should have a title. This can be written on the back of the photograph or on the mount.
- e) The fee for each entry will be 50p. The name of the person entering the photograph must be written on the back of each entry.
- f) The final date for entries will be 2 weeks after the November 1996 meeting.
- g) The panel of judges will include at least one non-member.
- h) Modest prizes will be awarded.

Details of where entries should be sent will be published later in the year.

BOOKSHELF

JANE AUSTEN IN BASINGSTOKE LIBRARY



*Following Atherton
Harrison's talk, we
asked Joy Needham to
contribute this note.*

The collection was started in the 1970s and contains approximately 170 volumes. These range from the original works and letters to anything relating to her life and work. Many of the books concern Jane's life or the lives of her family and are similar in content (but not in style). A large proportion concern criticisms of her novels and here the books are more diverse. In a desperate attempt to write something new, any aspect is ripe for exploitation: the body, incest, irony, the clergy etc.

To give you a flavour of the books available, a few are listed below. Anyone who is interested in Jane Austen will find a visit to Basingstoke Reference Library well worth while. Although this collection is for reference only, many of the titles can be obtained for loan.

Cecil, David *A Portrait of Jane Austen* Constable 1978
An attractive book with many photos, it is a well-written book on Jane's life. It is a study of her world - its social and family life, its beliefs and standards.

Gard, Roger *Jane Austen's Novels the Art of Clarity* Yale 1992
This is said to be a book for all readers and one which does not treat the novels as mere material.

Jane Austen: My dear Cassandra. *The illustrated letters* Selected & introduced by Penelope Hughes-Hallett. Collins and Brown 1990
A very attractive book which includes a selection of letters placed in context of the period.

MacDonagh, Oliver *Jane Austen Real and Imagined Worlds* Yale 1991
The author hopes to reveal how the novels illuminate English History between 1792 and 1827.

Stokes, Myra *The Language of Jane Austen* Macmillan Education 1991
Part of a series on the language of literature, it explains how words have subtle or radical differences now.

Tucker, George Holbert *A Goodly Heritage* Carcanet New Press 1983
A history of Jane Austen's family written by an American journalist. It is a study of Jane's ancestors and her immediate family.

Honan, Park *Jane Austen Her Life* Weidenfeld & Nicolson 1987
This is good on Jane Austen's family and background.

THE POETRY OF FIELDWALKING

The National Trust have kindly allowed us to reproduce a poem which recently won the 9-13-year-old age group in the National Trust's "Saving Places" poetry competition. It appeared as one of the Daily Poems in The Independent and it is so evocative that we are delighted to print it here.

FIELDWALKING

(the recently discovered site of a Roman villa in Tockenham village)

by Katie-Ellen McCrory

My eyes dance from edge to edge
Scanning,

The ploughed field, heaps of earth
Mounds like hills, hide small clues,

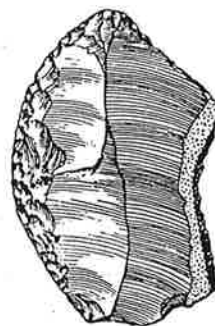
My eyes glance from edge to edge
Sweeping

I walk past the ghost of the Roman villa
Where shadows mark the vanished walls
My hands sweaty and stained with dirt
I pick at grey, blue and terracotta
Stuff my pockets with history's broken pieces.

Sifting through,
I catch a signal
As the sun flashes like an S.O.S.
From a hand held mirror,
MAYDAY!
A fallen plane, a sinking ship
The last survivor clinging to the wreck,
A bright thing digs its way out
From beneath the collapse of centuries.

I turn it to the light
A stone cat's claw sits in my palm,
A flint scraper
Sharp edged
To scour fat from skins
Which hung in caves, long before the Romans arrived
To build their roads.

This flint confronts me,
Prehistory sits in my palm
This, the oldest tool working before the Romans
And is still sharp,
It cuts this paper, these words.



The poem (copyright National Trust) will be published in the anthology "Saving Places", available from March 28th for £1.99 from The National Trust, 36 Queen Anne's Gate, London SW1H 9AS. Congratulations, Katie-Ellen!

OF ROUND AND LONG BARROWS

Andrew and Sarah Duckworth moved to a very archaeological address in Longbarrow Close, South Wonston, and recently sent this letter: (Books = SEN BOOKS, Antiquarian & Second Hand Booksellers)*

Dear Barbara,

Thank you very much for sending us the copy of CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY containing the report on the Buckskin Barrow. Knowing how early in the history of your archaeological work in Basingstoke the excavation took place, the praise in the article for the "expertise, diligence and detailed recording" of your excavation is praise indeed.

These "marker" barrows of the late Neolithic and early Bronze Ages have always interested me, and it is therefore quite a coincidence that we now live within 400 yards of a late Neolithic long barrow which seems to be in that bracket, as no inhumations have been recorded from the early excavations which have been carried out. Although I must say that when I read that these were carried out by "teams of soldiers instructed by an officer" I did feel that they might have missed something! It sits on the top of the downland ridge, and when it was built the freshly dug white chalk could have been seen from as far away as Beacon Hill.

We read the Newsletters of the society with great interest, and are pleased to see that you are still active in so many areas. We haven't attended a single meeting since we moved, I am a little ashamed to say. In the winter, the 18 miles to Queen Mary's College seems to be a vast distance on a cold and foggy evening! But we stay loyal to the Society and will continue our subscription.

We have joined the Friends of Andover Museum, and we have also joined the Local History Group in the village, which is new and engaged only in the collection of material at the moment. Although the village only dates back to the beginning of the century, the downland crest on which it stands is rich in archaeological remains from the Palaeolithic period up to the Civil War, and the history of the establishment of the village in relation to the drove roads which delineate its Northern and Southern boundaries is very interesting.

In addition we are still busy with our books*, so we have no time to be bored, and if we were, our new grandson, now almost three years old, would make sure it wouldn't last for long.

We hope you and Bob are well, a hope which we extend to all our friends in the Society. If you ever find yourself in Winchester and have an hour to spare on your way home, please give us a ring. We make sure there is always a bottle of wine in the cupboard or fridge to cover such a welcome visit. Sarah joins me in all these sentiments. Although she was happy to leave 177 Pack Lane, she misses the friends she made in our 23 years in Basingstoke.

Sincerely, Andrew

SOCIETY QUESTIONNAIRE - YOUR VIEWS

As responses to questionnaires go there was an excellent response to ours. Twenty four were returned. When your committee is added this means that the views of about one third of members are now known. Your Committee likes to think that if you did not reply that you are reasonable happy with what BAHS offers.

Your replies to all the questions indicated very little dissatisfaction. Your praise of the Newsletter was unstinted. Over 90% liked it and its frequency as it is and added comments sang its praises. However the detail shows some trends which we needed to be aware of.

A significant minority of respondents wanted more historical subjects and there was some unease about the present venue because of increasing parking difficulties and the size of the room compared to numbers attending. As to the format of meetings there was no consensus as to whether the introductions and society business should come first and refreshments last. Comments implied that you value time to chat and make friends and also that new members should have personal attention till they get to know more people.

There was a wide variation about how far to travel for outings with some members thinking that visits within a radius of 50 miles were local and others considering 50 miles a long journey. In general it looks as though you will travel further if you are keen to see what is at the other end. You gave us lots of ideas about where you might like to go e.g Lewes, Petersfield, Glastonbury, Farely Mount Roman villa site, Figsbury Ring etc.

Replies to our questions on resources were fascinating. Clearly members have embraced technology. Half of respondents had access to a range of computer hardware and software, one member might be able to arrange a flight for aerial photography and another thinks he could help with electronic surveying equipment. Six non-committee members said they could put together a lecture at short notice and five were interested in either organising an outing or helping to do so. Very few owned up to being able to translate from another language or having drawing or painting skills but more than half offered to help at meetings or exhibitions. More people would like to participate in fieldwork than have time to and of those that can a number have some experience.

Your Committee has already spent some time on the implications of your answers. To some extent we had begun to respond in advance! You may have noticed that we tend now to have notices after the lecture to see how this works. The dinner at Basingstoke College of Technology Restaurant will be repeated and there will be a special social event for our 25th Anniversary. There are more very local visits to e.g. historic churches and the fieldwork sub-committee bravely tries to get members to do the less as well as the more glamorous activities.

If you indicated that you can offer the society help of any kind rest assured that "big brother" or "big sister" will be after you. However unlike the Orwellian variety we will respect your privacy. We know that even willing hands cannot always find the time to get involved as much as they would like.

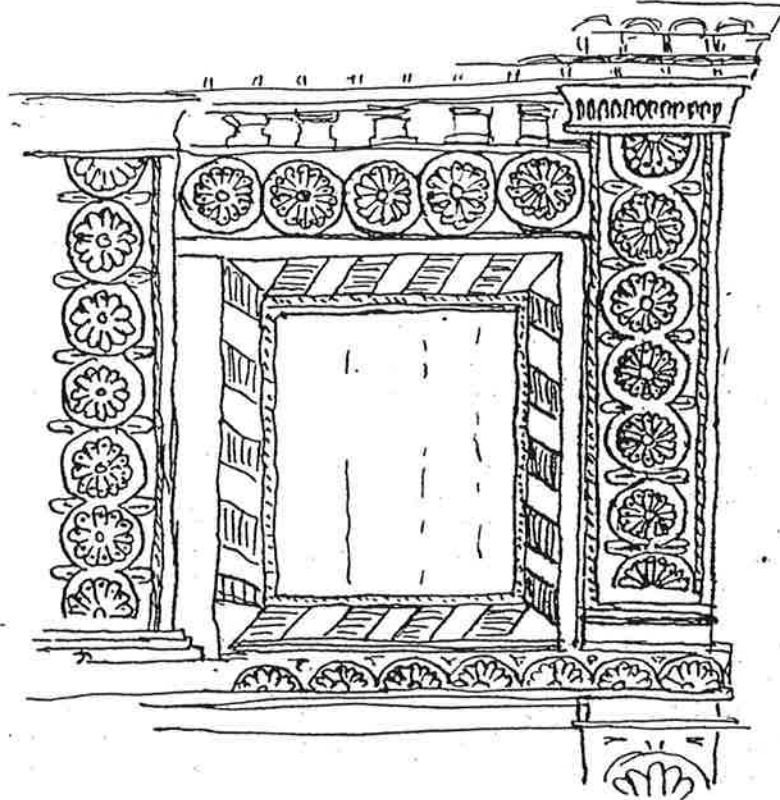
On behalf of the Publicity Sub-Committee, thank you for taking the time to complete and return the questionnarire and remember that any committee member will be only too pleased to listen to your suggestions.

Marta Cock

PANELLING

by Anne Hawker

In the Spring of last year, I was asked to look at a piece of panelling over a fireplace, and to give my opinion as to whether it was really of the date carved on it:



This panelling had been removed from "Hillstead" in Cliddesden Road in Basingstoke (salvaged prior to demolition) in 1983, and placed in "Chells" in Hackwood Road, a house of about the same date as Hillstead. These two houses are said to have been caused to be built by a Mr Blatch, the uncle of two girls, Kate and Agnes Blatch, who had the houses when they married, Kate to her cousin William Playters Stark in 1877, Agnes to Edward Petman Conran in 1887. Kate had "Hillstead" and Agnes the house later called "Chells".

The tradition is the usual one, that the panelling came from "an old inn" (I was glad that the other suggested origin, from an Armada ship, had not turned up). It was suggested that the inn was the Angel, but I felt that was unlikely.

Tim Evans (Curator of the Willis Museum) and I went to see the panelling, and we felt that it was at least possible that it was 17th century in date, because I doubted that a Victorian would have known the way the number six was written then. The carving is not very fine, but it is reasonable in style. If it had come from an inn, it would not have had to be very special, but I did feel that if it had come from the Angel it would have been rather better. Also there was no tenant there with the initial W.

I began by consulting the Rentals for the years 1682 and 1683. That for 1684 is not present and the next one is of doubtful date.

In the "W" section for 1682 and 1683 are:

Richard Woodroffe for Fortunes *
Heirs of John Wheatstraw for land
William Wither esq. for land
Tristram Wattmore for land
Joseph Windover for tent. [tenement] & land nr the George *
Heirs of John Wakefield, land in Basing
Robert Wallop, 3 fields
John Watts, the Maidenhead sign post *

The three possibilities are marked with a *, since they were for buildings rather than land:

- 1 Richard Woodroffe for Fortunes, which later became the site of the Brewery at the bottom of Chapel Hill. The aforementioned Mr Blatch lived in the Brewery house at the beginning of the 20th century. If there had been a piece of panelling there which he felt like changing, he could have done it.
- 2 The tenement near the George (Joseph Windover) became the ironmonger's, Kingdon.
- 3 The Maidenhead (Watts) became Ody's, later the Halifax.

All of these places could well have been renovated in the 1870s.

The only old inn that is well known to have been pulled down in the 1870s was the Fleur-de-Lys, site of the present main Post Office, but that was very small and much decayed at the time. Also there seems to have been no tenant with the initial "W".

Mr Blatch appears as one of the owners of the Feathers, along with Mr May, in 1886. The woodwork could have been transferred from the Feathers, which has a fireplace missing from the ground floor although there is a support for a hearth below in the cellar, and a fireplace in the room above. In 1710 the Feathers was said to be "A common Inn in Tenure of Thomas Ingram late Henry Herbert sometime Daniell Wigg". Although there is a file in the Record Office in Winchester devoted to Courage (brewers) deeds, referring to properties earlier owned by May's brewery, it does not contain records of alterations to the premises and the records of the Borough Surveyor either do not go back so far or are not in the Record Office.

The panelling could have come from the Feathers and so borne out the rumour that it came from an inn. Equally it could have come from the Brewery on Chapel Hill. I do not feel able to be definite about either.

It is, however, an interesting object in itself, and so far the earliest dated fire surround ... perhaps someone else knows better?

LEYS, LIES OR WISHFUL THINKING?

by Eric Robinson

The theory of Ley Lines is based on the assumption that lines of force are traced through the landscape and can be connected through present-day established landmarks. It would appear that to find one, you first lay out an Ordnance Survey Map and by swinging a ruler around from a given point you are going to line up two or more places in a straight line. Is this armchair archaeology at its worst? Or has it a basis in fact?

Alfred Watkins back in 1921 gave a paper on his initial "proofs" that ancient monuments and sacred sites across Britain had originally been arranged in a pattern of straight lines, which he termed Leys.

To accept his "proofs" means first accepting that prehistoric man had considerable skills in surveying. This does seem possible and even likely; it would have involved using a base object such as a rock, and two staves, and sighting forward to another point in the distance. The figure of the Long Man of Wilmington is said to be holding two staves for this very purpose. However, prehistoric man wouldn't have been able to draw maps, and it is only when plotted on maps that Ley lines are seen to be straight!

Areas like the great sites around Stonehenge allow the imagination to wander in all directions involving the Avenue and various barrows; surely these sites were not chosen by accident and were carefully sited. But most people seem to accept that the best reason for the stones' alignment was marking the Midsummer/Midwinter solstices.

But even if they could identify these straight Ley lines, would our ancestors have travelled along them when walking the landscape from one place to another? This idea hardly holds up to scrutiny, as early man mainly used the hill tops and the ridge-ways, an excellent example of common sense for several reasons. First, it would have been comparatively dry for walking, and secondly he could see greater distances, a great advantage when hostile people were in the area. Also the higher ground was the first to be cleared and deforested so it generally provided pasture for his stock, and it was sensible to take the higher paths when driving stock, being alert to wild animals that might be about. Early man was not going to fight his way through boggy ground and dense forest along an ill-defined way in order to suit a theory that the shortest or quickest way between two points is a straight one - it wasn't in those times!

An early Ley hunter and writer was Dion Fortune, and in a novel "The Goat Foot God" he described standing stones and other landmarks of the Ley system as "sighting marks on the lines of force between power centres". This is a theme which occurs in folklore traditions all over the world, attributing strange magical qualities to sites and paths between them. It is said that "archaeological dowsers" have regularly detected springs of energy at stone circles of ancient ritual - many now occupied by

a Christian church or shrine. From this the Ley hunters are easily persuaded that there are such links between points and places shown on maps. For instance at Silchester, four temples and one Christian church are said to be in alignment on three Leys - which also include all the mark points on a 1/25,000 map, namely two parish churches, a moat, a mark-stone and the Roman amphitheatre, sites of very different periods.

What of the suggestion that an early ritual area was chosen by following generations to site a barrow or a church or other monument? It can be accepted, for instance, that some pre-Christian sites were later used as meeting places by Christian preachers and perhaps have become the place where it was decided to build a church. But practical factors too might have influenced this choice, such as the junction of roads or tracks providing an obvious meeting place.

VISIT TO READING MUSEUM

John Feuillade

On 18th February eighteen members braved the rigours of the English climate and, in most cases, British Rail, to gather in the entrance hall of Reading Museum. We were then taken into the subterranean depths of the Town Hall for a slide presentation of the highlights of the Silchester Gallery exhibition before making our way around firstly the Silchester Gallery and then the rest of the museum. The new Silchester Gallery is excellent and very well presented. Also in the Museum is the replica Bayeux Tapestry and a gallery devoted to the history of the town and of the Abbey, complete with monastic music.

In the afternoon a depleted number of members visited the Blake's Lock Museum. This is the museum devoted to the industrial and commercial history of Reading, situated in the old sewage pumping station alongside the Kennet Navigation. The flow of the river was harnessed by turbines to pump the sewage from the lowest part of the system to the sewage works. The pumphouse is preserved and open to view.

In the main exhibition area all the commercial and industrial life of the town was covered, as well as the three Bs on which the prosperity of Reading was said to rest: Bulbs at Suttons Seeds, Brewing at Morland and Courage Breweries and Biscuits at Huntley & Palmer's. There was also a temporary exhibition of Reading in World War II.

The Reading Museums are well worth visiting, and an additional bonus is to walk from one to the other through the Forbury Gardens and the Abbey Ruins, not forgetting the restored Inner Gateway.

A GARDEN AND A PALACE

by Alison Williams

It was on a cool, overcast November morning when we travelled from Basingstoke to London for a Society visit to Lambeth Palace and the Museum of Garden History.

The museum is situated next to the palace, in the historic church of St Mary-at-Lambeth; the Tradescant Trust have therefore saved a ruined church from demolition, and provided an interesting and attractive setting to house their vast collection of information and artefacts - the first museum of garden history in the world.

The Tradescant Trust takes its name from the two John Tradescants, father and son, who were gardeners to Charles I and II and brought back from their plant-hunting travels in Europe and America many of our familiar flowers, shrubs and trees, which they propagated in the garden of the Ark, their house in Lambeth. The house contained their collection of "all things strange and rare" and became the first museum in Britain open to the public. The collection formed the basis of the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.

A £3 million appeal was launched in 1989 by HRH The Prince of Wales, and the restoration of the church has now been completed. The churchyard has been designed as a replica 17th century garden, containing plants grown by the Tradescants, and other plants of the period. This delightful small garden contained so many plants, with a box and germander knot as centre-piece, surrounded by paths and beds of thymes, lime-scented southernwoods, and many rare and unusual medicinal and culinary herbs. Spring and summer when the plants are at their best would be an ideal time to return to study them again, preferably clutching Gerrard's Herbal for reference!

Both Tradescants are buried in a tomb in the garden, the sides elaborately carved with plants and curious beasts, and a lovely poem on the top which is still just about legible. Next to them is buried Admiral Bligh of the Bounty.

The museum in the church provides much interesting background information, both on the plant hunters and growers, who imported so many of our familiar favourites, and on the many gardens throughout the country styled by famous names over the last three centuries.

The site is still expanding, with the acquisition of Victorian school buildings next door in 1993, which have become lecture rooms and offices. At the rear is a charming small enclosed garden which has only just been completed, largely with the help of local businesses and tradesmen, with donations of everything from pots, seating and paving to bags of cement. It is a remarkable and heartening example of what can be achieved by volunteers with local community help. Planting was well under way, with everything from tiny violas and thymes to climbing roses and clematis.

Our visit to Lambeth Palace in the afternoon was fascinating. We entered through the 14th century Morton's Tower, and were shown through the courtyards and gardens to the entrance of the palace itself, where we met our guide. She took us on a marvellous tour through the ages; from the undercrofts and chapel of the early palace, where the tide flood marks still show where the Thames lapped the buildings, to the halls and rooms of the Archbishops' state apartments and corridors from each succeeding century, each making its addition to the architecture and atmosphere of this "ancient and modern" seat of the Archbishop of Canterbury.

I enjoyed especially looking at the Great Hall with its magnificent hammerbeam roof, now the library, which houses thousands of beautiful and priceless books and manuscripts. I could quite happily have explored and stayed reading in there for days!

The paintings were a surprise. There was a continuous record of the Archbishops over the centuries, and so many rare and important works that I've only ever seen in books before. The chapel had a modern painted ceiling which was explained to us by our guide, and it is good to know that this generation of owners will be leaving something from this century for the next millennium's tourists!

All this and more; a marvellous day trip with so much to see and do. Thank you to the organisers for all their hard work, and for arranging the tea and biscuits!



STOP PRESS !!! Barbecue at Basing House

A date for your diary - 22nd June - a barbecue at Basing House to continue celebrations of our 25th year. More details later.

CALENDAR

Fri 15 March	Hampshire Castles, Michael Hughes (Dacre Memorial Lecture, 7.30 pm at Cricklade Theatre, Andover, tickets £2 from theatre box office or Andover Museum)	
Also	Windsor Castle and the Fire, Brian Kerr, Historical Association, see page 4	
Thurs 21 March	Arctic Wildlife, Andrew Cleave (Warden of Bramley Frith Study Centre)	FWM
5th-8th April	TRAINING DIG see page 3	**
Sun 7 April	Basing House Opening Ceremony by Sealed Knot	FBH
Thurs 11 April	PREHISTORIC AND ROMAN BOATS Prof. Sean McGrail CENTRAL STUDIO	*
Thurs 18 April	The Story of Alton, Tony Cross	FWM
Sat 20 April	VISIT TO BRAMLEY CHURCH See page 3	**
20/21 April	English Civil War Society display	FBH
Thurs 9 May	RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT POMPEII Prof. Michael Fulford QUEEN MARY HALL	*
11/12 May	Life in 1830s display	FBH
Thurs 16 May	Basingstoke Canal Park Project, Neil Cole	FWM
Sun 19 May	Tudor Cooking	FBH
Thurs 20 June	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	*
Sat 22 June	Society barbecue Basing House	*
Sun 23 June	Songs & Dances of Elizabethan England	FBH

* Society meeting, 7.30 pm

** Society event

FWM Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 pm Willis Museum

FBH Friends of Basing House, at Basing House