

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 138

February 1997

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ASPECTS OF HAMPSHIRE'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE

Day conference at Queen Mary Hall, Queen Mary College, Basingstoke on Saturday 12th April 1997

A leaflet is enclosed with details of this Conference which our Society is organising in conjunction with HAC (The Hampshire Archaeological Committee). This is a key event for our Society and we hope that members will support it in large numbers. Please return your application form as soon as you can. Entry is free to members.

We need to ask for practical help as well:

- We need members to act as stewards - help to set out chairs, tables etc; help to show visitors where to go and answer queries.
- We need members to serve coffee and tea at the appropriate breaks.
- We have agreed to provide lunches: a cold first course, sweet and juices and need volunteers to help with this: some to prepare things beforehand but also some to put them out at the time. If you have come to listen to the talks you will probably not be too keen to miss anything, so can you coax any husband/ wife/ sister/brother/any friend who won't mind missing part of a talk to come and help at lunch time??

Volunteers please contact Tim Herrington: 01256 22090 or Margaret Porter: 01256 356012

THANK YOU!

A big Thank You to Linda Chapman who did such a splendid job in organising the food for our Christmas Party. And to everyone who organised games and gave talks.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winners!

First	Marten Harris (Maiden Castle)
Second	Chris Burrowes (children at Portchester)
Third	John Feuillade (GlastonburyAbbey)

VISITS

HAMPSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL Sites and Monuments Record at Winchester on Tuesday 18th March

See page 7. Rosemary Braithwaite has arranged an evening visit. Meet on the top deck of the HCC car park at 6.50pm. This is the Sussex Street car park; ignore the first door and go up the ramp to the HCC parking which gives direct access to the Planning Department which houses the Sites and Monuments Record. The door will be closed at 7 pm, so don't be late!

GUIDED TOUR OF THE NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORDS CENTRE at Swindon on Saturday 19th April

Following the society trip to the NMRC on Saturday 18th January, a number of people have expressed a wish to make such a trip again. This has now been provisionally booked for Saturday 19th April. The NMRC is packed with information, photos and magazines, books and articles on Historic Sites, Buildings and Towns of England. They have some 750,000 aerial photos alone. The guided tour provides a fascinating insight into the collection and is angled towards Basingstoke and the surrounding area. There is also time afterwards to browse for yourself. Following this trip, those who are interested can visit the White Horse Pub in Woolstone for lunch, followed by a walk up to the White Horse at Uffington, on the downs above Woolstone.

The guided tour would start at 10.30 and last for approximately 2 hours. The charge would be 45p which would simply cover the cost of coffee on site. Numbers are limited and I would like to confirm the booking, so please call me if you are interested.

Julian Porter 01256 356012

BUTSER HILL AND FISHBOURNE on Saturday 17th May

Mary Oliver is arranging this trip for her Archaeology class; own transport but possibly sharing cars. If any member hasn't been and would like to join this group, please contact Mary on 01256 24263.

NORTH FORELAND LODGE, BASINGSTOKE

John Feuillade is arranging a visit on Sunday, 25th May. Details to follow (John's number is 0118 9700761).

THE STONEHENGE LANDSCAPE

Julie Gardner will lead a (light) walk starting at the Stonehenge car park at 6.30 pm on Thursday, July 10th.

OFF BEAT WALKS

The following Off Beat Walks have now been arranged :

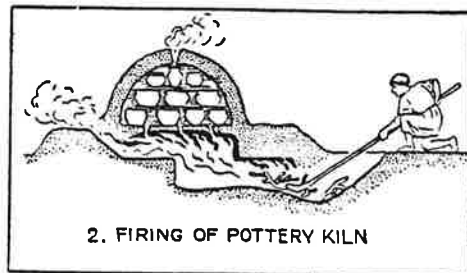
Walk Around Winchester :

Saturday 15th March, meet at Winchester Station at 10.00am

Walk from Hammersmith to Kew Bridge :

Saturday 7th June, meet at Hammersmith Tube Station at 10.30am

Contact Julian Porter on 01256-356012



BAHS Fieldwork Update

by Julian Porter and Mary Oliver

Contact Names and Telephone Numbers for assisting in Field Work

<i>Event</i>	<i>Name</i>	<i>Telephone No.</i>
1. Field walk of the field at Worting.	Julian Porter	01256-356012
2. Easter Dig.		
3. Field work help list.		
4. Old Frame Tent.		
5. The Vyne	Edward Wilson	01256-881337

Church Lane, Worting

JP/MO

EASTER TRAINING DIG Still on for Easter weekend, March 28th - 31st 1997. The aim will be to introduce beginners to the basic techniques of excavation and recording and the treatment of finds. We have already worked in this field, and hope to build on the knowledge we have

gained so far. Work will start with laying out the trenches, at 10 am on Friday, 28th March and finish on Monday 31st with the trenches backfilled. It is helpful if you can provide your own trowel, small hand shovel and kneeler.

FIELDWALK

The field in Church Lane is about to be ploughed and sown, so we should get the chance of carrying out our fieldwalk once this has been done. The field is not enormous, and with a good turnout of members it should be possible to complete the walk in a weekend. The date has yet to be fixed but will probably be in the coming weeks.

RESISTIVITY SURVEY

Following the interesting results from the Resistivity Survey last November, the next stage is that we will be building our own Resistivity Meter, or rather Chris Burrowes has offered his services to build it on our behalf. We hope this will be ready to test towards the end of the year.

The Vyne

JP

There is so much to do at the Vyne, now Edward Wilson, the Project Archaeologist, has decided to sacrifice his Saturdays for the cause and so it is now open 6 days a week. Please try and support him. Les and I have spent some time up there in recent months and there have been some fascinating finds both within and outside the house. One such find is the letters sent to boys whose school was evacuated to The Vyne during the last war. I am currently transcribing these and it makes interesting reading. I am also trying to make contact with one of the boys whose letters we have.

Society Field Work Help List

JP

A new list will be available at the next meeting so if you are interested at all in undertaking field work of any type, please remember to sign it. Those who are on the list will be contacted first as things turn up.

Request for an old frame tent

JP

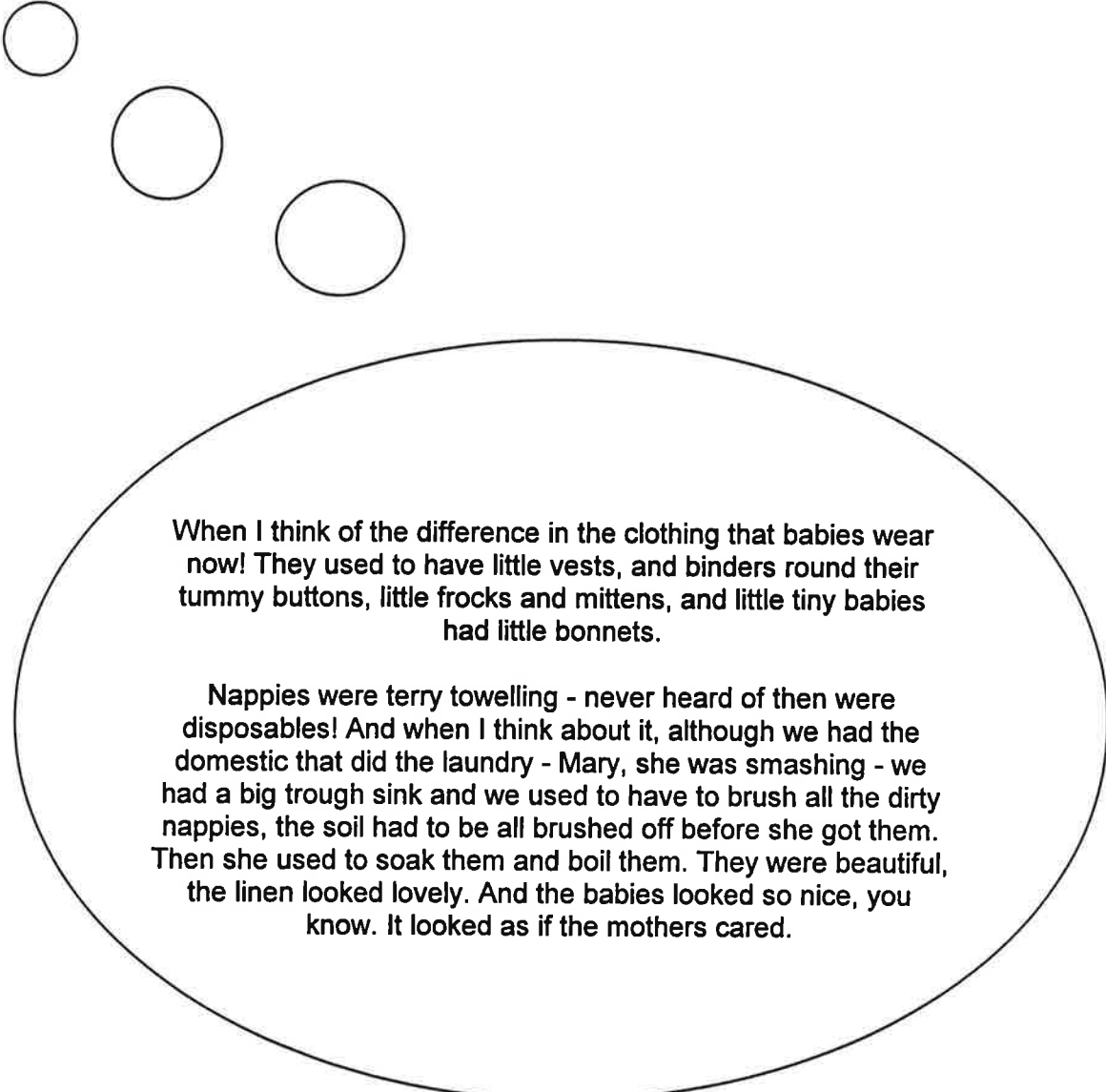
We could really do with an old frame tent for things like the Easter Dig. If you have one please contact me and I will arrange collection.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Barbara Applin

The next meeting of the Oral History group, again at the Willis Museum, will be at 7.30 pm on Wednesday 5th March.

Extract from tape by Mrs Jessie Jack, who was a midwife at the Shrubbery Maternity Hospital



When I think of the difference in the clothing that babies wear now! They used to have little vests, and binders round their tummy buttons, little frocks and mittens, and little tiny babies had little bonnets.

Nappies were terry towelling - never heard of then were disposables! And when I think about it, although we had the domestic that did the laundry - Mary, she was smashing - we had a big trough sink and we used to have to brush all the dirty nappies, the soil had to be all brushed off before she got them. Then she used to soak them and boil them. They were beautiful, the linen looked lovely. And the babies looked so nice, you know. It looked as if the mothers cared.

A small group of Society members are starting this Project and we would welcome more. Some are transcribing tapes already recorded for the Willis Museum (including the one by Mrs Jessie Jack) and some have begun to record more interviews. We had a meeting at the Willis Museum on 18th December when David Lee of the Wessex Film and Sound Archives gave practical advice and information about suitable equipment - details of that meeting are being circulated to people who are interested. He told us that the WFSA would loan out recording equipment and tapes

on the understanding that the original recorded tapes will be deposited with the WFSA who will make copies for us (and for the Willis Museum Resources Room).

At the next meeting of the group, on 5th March, It would be useful if members could bring any transcripts or tapes they have been working on so that we can discuss any problems that have cropped up. Also we could perhaps try out equipment. But the main aim will be to decide on priorities - the range of our interviews, what sort of information we are looking for and what we hope to do with it - so I hope as many as possible of those interested will be able to come.

The Hampshire County Council Sites and Monuments Record

by Rosemary Braithwaite
Senior Archaeologist,
Hampshire County Council

Time passes rapidly and I have now worked with Hampshire County Council as an archaeologist for over eight years! During that time I have seen many changes and none more so than to the Sites and Monuments Record (SMR). When I first arrived it was in a state of flux, being completely 'recast'; a chance to validate entries, create a better classification structure to enable computerisation and put on new information such as geology and land-use. More recently the computerised database has been moved from the English Heritage sponsored 'Superfile' package to the main system used by the County - IBM's ORACLE relational database.

This does not mean that the SMR is 100% up to date. We are constantly receiving information from archaeological units, local societies, students, museums, English Heritage, the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments, County Council funded projects and interested members of the general public, which all has to be accessioned onto the system. At present we have an SMR Assistant, Bruce Howard, who is employed to add data to the system and to answer enquiries. Thanks to his work and information provided by archaeologists all across the county and beyond, there are now almost 19,000 records on the database, which represents a total of just under 13,000 archaeological sites.

The computerisation of the information is vital to enable detailed searches of data to be undertaken. It is now possible to provide information for specific monument types, periods or areas. We can, for example, search for all Bronze Age sites in a parish, all Iron Age pottery found in areas of upper chalk geology or all listed churches. This, as you can imagine, is a very useful facility!

Other initiatives are also being developed. The Planning Department has a geographical information system (which uses ARCINFO software) and we have been trying to make the most of it! One of the main problems with our computer database has been that it has necessarily relied on locating sites to specific grid references. Thus a Roman villa site which may cover several hectares comes out as a single point on a map. The Geographical Information system (GIS) allows us to store

boundary details on the computer. For the moment this has been limited to Scheduled Ancient Monuments and Registered Historic Parks and Gardens, as these boundaries have been nicely defined for us. I would hesitate to be so precise for Hampshire's Roman villas! At the same time other boundaries are being added e.g. Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSIs), Areas of Outstanding Natural Beauty etc. This means that we are able to show all the archaeological sites within SSSIs as we recently did for an English Nature/English Heritage initiative to promote better management of archaeological sites within these areas. The system will also be useful for assessing distributions of monuments, which has always in the past been a laborious task.

The computerisation of all the archaeological information has helped to confirm the gaps that exist in the archaeological data for Hampshire. Over the last couple of years Hampshire County Council has supported a number of important survey projects to fill some of these.

The Air Photograph Project has involved the plotting of crop and soil marks visible on air photographs taken across Hampshire by the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments during the 1980s and early 1990s. Now the marks are all being classified and the information added to the SMR.

The Langstone Harbour Project consists of a multidisciplinary team from Wessex Archaeology, Portsmouth and Southampton Universities and the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology, who have undertaken a survey of the harbour both above and below the water line. This has provided a fascinating insight into part of Hampshire's coastline. Dominic Fontana from Portsmouth University will be speaking on the project for the Hampshire Field Club's OGS Crawford Lecture on 6 March 1997 (7.30 pm at the United Reform Church, Jewry Street, Winchester - visitors welcome)..

The Loddon Valley fieldwalking survey, in which members of the Basingstoke Society have worked with staff from the Thames Valley Archaeology Service, was designed to look at a particularly 'blank' area to see if it was blank merely due to a lack of survey. We have also been undertaking a survey of medieval rural settlements, gathering data in order to better understand their origins and begin to define their extent and development. This has been completed for the New Forest, Test Valley and Basingstoke districts and will now move on to East Hampshire and Rushmoor.

The most recent survey, funded by English Heritage, is of historic towns in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. This will look at all available data on all the towns, bar Winchester, Southampton and Portsmouth, the first two of which have existing or planned Urban Archaeological Databases. Again this is with a view to defining core areas of archaeological interest and identifying how settlements developed. In Basingstoke District the towns will include Whitchurch, Overton, Kingsclere and Basingstoke itself.

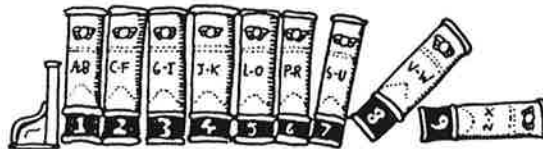
So how can this all be of use to you? Well the main advantage is that we can now provide printouts of information from the SMR for projects which you are undertaking. Though we would ask that the requests are made once the projects have been fully designed and the query has been narrowed down as much as possible. A recent A-level student from the Hampshire Surrey border had a study area of almost half the county, which would have produced over 8,000 sites until our discussions with her managed to zero it down to a few specific parishes! But the

computer is mainly an indexing tool and we frequently hold a lot more information from published and unpublished sources in our backup files - only available on paper! Our office is in the Planning Department on Sussex Street, Winchester. It is open on weekdays from 9am to 5pm, so you are welcome to come and visit to use the SMR, but please ring us to book as we only have one visitor's desk! Phone Bruce Howard on 01962 846736 or myself on 01962 846737.

I am also very happy to arrange an evening visit or visits (depending on the demand) to the SMR for members of the society so that you can see the kind of information which we hold.

Tuesday, 18th March, 1997: see page 3.

BOOKSHELF



by Barbara Applin

The Development of Timber-framed Buildings in the Sussex Weald *The Architectural Heritage of Rudgwick* by Diana Chatwin (Rudgwick Preservation Society, £15.95)

I will be very glad to take orders for this book, on our book stall for two reasons. One is that Diana Chatwin is a former member of our Society (the part she played in excavations in the Basingstoke area features in "About the Author" on the back cover). The other is that this is a very readable, thorough, well-researched book which should be snapped up by anyone with an interest in timber-framed buildings - not just in the Sussex Weald. Wherever possible, details of construction are related to the social context - for instance, worn brickwork at the side of a hearth, indicating that knives were frequently sharpened on it, in a house occupied by a cobbler. There are plenty of good illustrations and a detailed glossary.

Northington and Swarraton: 100 Years of Parish History 1890-1990
Northington Village History Group, £9.00

We will also have copies of this book for sale. This is a part of Hampshire I am looking forward to finding out more about. Chapters cover The Grange, the church, the school, agriculture, people and employment, houses and surroundings, village services and village organisations.

NEHAS EXCAVATION: Heckfield

The North East Hants Arch. Soc invite help on their excavation of a post-medieval manor from 24th May to 8th June. Contact Don Woollhead 01276 33056.

BEWARE WHAT YOU DRINK - A TRAGIC TALE OF A CONSUL

Anon

In the city of Rome, in the days long ago,
There lived a great Consul, named Plancus,
A noble patrician this Consul, and so
A noble descent he was able to show
From the fourth of the kings - who was Ancus.



He lived many years on the Aventine Hill,
When, feeling exhausted and tired,
He moved to Pompeii - contracted a chill,
And kept to his bed at Pompeii, until
Pompeii was where he expired.

They buried him there, in the orthodox way
It behoved them a consul to bury;
In a tank of the choicest Falernian he lay,
This eminent, popular man of the day,
(He had made himself popular - very).



He slumbered for ages in ruby red wine,
But slowly he suffered contraction,
Until about Plancus - the last of his line -
Of anything solid there wasn't a sign;
He'd yielded - to chemical action.

Oh fearful that day when the lava rolled down,
And wrought its supreme execution
On cottage and mansion, o'er country and town,
And blasted a landscape of fairest reknown;
But Plancus slept on - in solution.



He slept, when the rage of Vesuvius was spent,
And hidden its flames and its flashes,
And folks, on their toil or enjoyment intent,
Scarce glanced at the terrible traces that meant
Pompeii was buried in ashes.

He slept, while our country of moorland and streams
Afforded a home to the Druid;
He slept, without dreaming, for somehow it seems
A certain solidity's wanted for dreams,
And Plancus was only a fluid.

He slept - till the era of steamers and trains,
And then - they discovered the city!
And grave archaeologists puzzled their brains
With classifications of Roman remains
(Which, p'raps, on the whole, was a pity.)



They dug to the villa of Plancus at last,
And eagerly peered through a casement,
And through it the grave archaeologists passed,
Discovery followed discovery fast,
Until they arrived at the basement.

There, weary and worn with their tramp underground,
They longed for some ale, or some "toddy";
When, lo! A magnificent cistern they found
Of wine that - as one of them put it - was "sound,
And mellow, with plenty of body!"



Thus ended at last was that slumber of thine,
Oh, noble descendant of Ancus!
I fancy, my reader, the truth you divine;
They thought they were drinking great Plancus's wine;
As a matter of fact - it was Plancus.

*From The Boys' Own Reader ed George Andrew Hutchison
A prize awarded for regular attendance at a Primitive Methodist
School in 1906*

MYTHS ABOUT BASINGSTOKE

Anne Hawker

DICK WHITTINGTON ...

It was rumoured that there was once a tablet on the wall near the Westminster Bank in the old Market Square, informing us that Dick Whittington slept here.

It is much more likely that it referred to George Whitfield, a famous Methodist preacher, who visited Basingstoke in the 18th century.

THE OLD SWAN INN

Often said to be in Queen Anne House or Bedford House (now demolished, opposite St Michael's in Church Street). It wasn't there but in a building on the west side of the lane (Church Lane) that once led from Church Square to New Street. The large field shown on the 1762 map of Basingstoke, between Mortimer Lane and Flaxfield Road, was called Swan Lease

Courtesy of Classic FM

*One chap says to another "Your friend tells me his career's in ruins."
"Well, he would," says the second chap. "He's an archaeologist."*

CALENDAR

Tues 18 Feb	"The Butser Iron Age Ancient Farm" Peter Reynolds	FBH
Wed 5 March	Oral History Project meeting (page 6)	BAHS
Thurs 6 March	"Langstone Harbour Project" OGS Crawford Memorial Lecture (page 8)	
Wed 12 March	"Tudors in Basing" Peggy Drury	FBH
Thurs 13 March	UNDERSTANDING THE ROMAN ARMY Richard Bridgland	BAHS
Sat 15 March	Offbeat Walk around Winchester (page 4)	BAHS
Tues 18 March	Visit to HCC Sites and Monuments Record (page 3)	BAHS
Thurs 20 March	"Past Times in Nursery Rhymes" Dorothy Hughes	FWM
Thurs 28 to Mon 31 March	TRAINING DIG (page 4)	BAHS
Thurs 10 April	BRICKMAKING IN THE LOCAL AREA Dr Edwin Course	BAHS
Sat 12 April	Conference: ASPECTS OF HAMPSHIRE'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE (page 2)	HAC/ BAHS
Thurs 17 April	"Mazes and Labyrinths" Graham Burgess	FWM
Sat 19 April	Visit to National Monuments Records Centre, Swindon (page 3)	BAHS
Sat 17 May	Visit to Butser Hill and Fishbourne (page 3)	
Thurs 8 May	WELLINGTON IN POLITICS: PRIVATE LIFE AND PUBLIC SERVICE Dr Michael Turner	BAHS
Thurs 15 May	"History of Firefighting in Basingstoke" Peter Morrall	FWM
Sat 10 May	Local History Section Spring Symposium: "Hampshire Women of the 19th Century" Hampshire County Record Office: contact Sara Lewin: 01962 846154	HFC
24 May-8 June	NEHAS excavation (page 9)	NEHAS
Sat 7 June	Offbeat Walk: Hammersmith to Kew Bridge (page 4)	BAHS
Thurs 19 June	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	BAHS
Thurs 10 July	Walk: Stonehenge Landscape (page 4)	BAHS

BAHS	Our Society, 7.30 at Queen Mary's College unless otherwise stated
FBH	Friends of Basing House: 7.30 in tea room at Basing House
FWM	Friends of the Willis Museum: 7.30 at Willis Museum
HFC	Hampshire Field Club
NEHAS	North East Hampshire Archaeological Society