

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**NEWSLETTER 139**

**May 1997**

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## SUBSCRIPTIONS FOR 1997-8

*Peter Good, Treasurer*

Happily, there will be no increase in the subscription rates for the forthcoming year 1997-8, and I would like to remind you that membership runs from May 1<sup>st</sup>.

So, may I ask all members to fill in the renewal form to be found with this newsletter as soon as possible? You can appreciate how much easier it is for your Membership Secretary to have as many of the subscriptions accounted for within the next few weeks after receiving the May Newsletter. Why not fill in the form now and send it back to Julian Porter, 58, Minden Close, Chineham, B'stoke, RG24 8TH. His telephone no. is 01256 356012.

The fees are :	Ordinary membership	£11
	Family membership	£15
	Pensioners	£7
	Students	£7
	Occasional guest	£2

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

We give formal notice of the **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING** of the **BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY** in the Conference Room at Queen Mary's Centre, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke on Thursday, 19<sup>th</sup> June 1997 at 7.30 pm.

Please come and support your Society so that you can take this opportunity to give us your views and suggestions for our greater success in both activities and administration.

The agenda for the AGM and copies of the annual financial report will be available to members at the meeting, or subsequently by post from the Hon. Sec. by request.

The present elected committee members are:

<b>Chairman</b>	John Horrocks
<b>Hon. Secretary</b>	Tim Herrington
<b>Hon. Treasurer</b>	Peter Good
<b>Membership</b>	Julian Porter (co-opted)

Linda Chapman, Marta Cock, Margaret Porter, John Feuillade, Les Fitzgerald, Marten Harris. Other co-opted members are Barbara Applin and Mary Oliver.

Of the above members, John Horrocks and John Feuillade are not seeking re-election. There is, therefore, a vacancy for the post of Chairman and for one committee member. We invite nominations for these vacancies and further nominations for officers and committee as listed above. Please obtain permission from any nominees and inform the Hon. Sec. in writing, preferably at least one week before the date of the AGM. Nominations may, of course, be taken at the meeting.



The business part of the evening will be followed by a talk about the drama and events on **THE DAY THAT BASING HOUSE FELL** to Cromwell and his troops. Our speaker will be Alan Turton, now in charge of this historic site.

## PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION

We offer you the chance, once again, to take part in our annual photographic competition for which the fee is just 50p per entry.

Rules:

- a] The subject can be anything of historical or archaeological interest, or of interest to the member.
- b] Photographs must be taken in this calendar year by a Society member and be a print, up to 10" x 8", mounted or unmounted with a title on the mount (or on the back) and including the member's name. The final date for entries is two weeks after the November meeting.

Modest prizes will be awarded.



## **VISIT TO NORTH FORELAND LODGE, Sherfield-on-Loddon**

We shall be visiting North Foreland Lodge on Sunday, 25<sup>th</sup> May, by kind permission of the Head of the School. We meet in front of the House at 2 pm.

North Foreland Lodge was re-modelled in 1896 and has many interesting features. It was transformed into a girls' school in 1947 but is still largely maintained in its 1896 state.

To get to The Lodge, from Basingstoke, take the A33 Reading Road. Take the turning to Wildmoor on the right from the stretch of road by-passing Sherfield-on-Loddon and immediately turn right again through an ornamental gateway. Follow the drive and park tidily in front of the house. It would be helpful to me to have some idea of numbers, so please let me know if you would like to join the party!

**John Feuillade: tel. 0118 9700761**

## **Update on Off Beat Walks**



Due to unpopular demand, the Off Beat Walk Around Hampstead, earlier in the year, had to be cancelled. This *will* take place again, but not I fear until either September/October this year, or maybe sometime later, into next year. Timing will depend on demand.

The Hammersmith to Kew Bridge walk will still take place on June 7th, starting at Hammersmith Tube (Piccadilly and District Line station) ticket office area at 10.30am. Places will be limited and a small charge of £2.50 a head to cover expenses will be made.

Anyone wishing to attend either of these should contact Julian Porter on 01256-356012.

## **SILCHESTER 1997**

Professor Michael Fulford is planning to return to Silchester to excavate a residential insula west of the basilica. Details are not entirely finalised, but it is hoped that this will be the first of several years' work, mainly for students at the University of Reading, but anyone who can offer one or two weeks' digging may like to apply. Probably this will be in July and the first half of August.

As in previous years, Mike has kindly agreed to take Society members round the excavation. **This will be on Thursday, 7th August. Meet at the new car park at 7 pm.** Car sharing can be arranged at the AGM.

## **ANCIENT TEXTILES AND CLOTHING IN EUROPE**

**29 November 1997**  
**Museum of the Iron Age, Andover**  
**10.30 to 16.00 (coffee/tea on arrival from 10.00)**  
**£11.50 (£10.00 to members of BAHS and SECS)**

A one-day workshop where you can find out about what people wore in the period from about 2,000 BC to 400 AD. The day will start with workshops on spinning and weaving as they might have been practised about 700 BC. These will be led by tutors from Butser Ancient Farm. You will have a chance to try some out for yourselves.

In the afternoon Sarah Champion from the University of Southampton will give us an overview of clothing and textiles in Europe in prehistoric times and bring us up-to-date on the clothes of the "Iceman" who was found frozen high in the Alps a few years ago. You will also be able to look round the Museum of the Iron Age itself.

If there is enough interest, this event will lead to further opportunities to practise and to research into ancient clothing and textiles.

Please bring a packed lunch, as well as any materials and information you have about textiles and clothes of the period.

Coffee, tea and squash are included in the price.

For further information, please contact Marta Cock on 01256 351506.

## **ASPECTS OF HAMPSHIRE'S ARCHAEOLOGICAL HERITAGE - *Reflections on the conference***

***John Horrocks***

Hampshire was the thread that linked the speakers at Queen Mary's College on 12th April.

Edward Wilson had developed a whole new lecture, since speaking to us in December last, on the developments at **The Vyne**, during its refurbishment. A major re-write of the guidebook will be inevitable as clear evidence of the early building and moat emerges. The trench for the gas pipeline, in front of the house, is a particularly rich source of material. Further platform evidence of the early village settlement has been confirmed. It is good to know our Society is taking an active part in the work; volunteers are still urgently needed.

**Richard Whaley and Janet Smith**, two members of the North East Hampshire Historical and Archaeological Society, outlined their efforts to identify the places and boundaries in the **Saxon Charter for the Manor and Hundred of Crondall** - a case of "detective work" and "field work". It showed local initiative that was appreciated by the members of other societies present.

**Chris Currie's** lecture on **Mills in Hampshire** was, as usual, put forthrightly and challenged some previous assessments.

**Stuart Bridges**, archivist at the Hampshire Record Office, gave details of the records on **Transport in Hampshire** held at Winchester. Among the slides was a list of the objectors to the extension of the Basingstoke Canal to Southampton - the "guilty men", so to speak.

**Andrew Fitzpatrick** from Wessex Archaeology explained the site near the M27 at **Testwood Lake** where Bronze Age timber has been uncovered, recalling that seen at **Flag Fen**, though with its own special features. It was postulated that this was a jetty linked to Bronze Age boats, one small part of which was found.

Finally, the **Roman villa at Monk Sherborne**, excavated last summer, was reviewed. **Paul McCulloch** explained why he felt it had never been occupied, the hypocaust system never fired - interesting in view of other sites in the locality.

A lunch-time **Quiz** on objects, organised by **Robin Iles** of the Hampshire Field Club, was very popular. Many other exhibits and displays provided by local societies confirmed interest in archaeology is alive and thriving in our county.

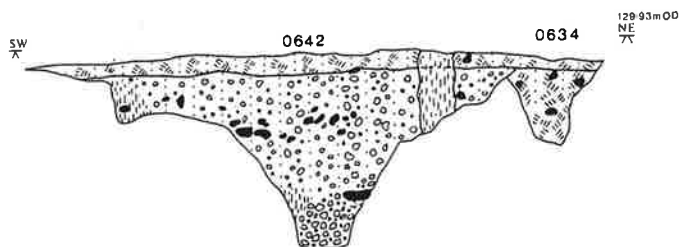
The **Hampshire Archaeological Committee** financed the Conference, and we are grateful to them for providing the means to stage this well-supported jointly organised event.

## **BAHS Fieldwork**

*by Julian Porter  
Member of Fieldwork Committee*

### **The Vyne**

Work at the Vyne, as detailed by Edward Wilson at the Conference on 12th April, continues apace. If you would like to take part in the current work please ring Edward on **01256-881337**.



## **Easter Training Dig - Church Lane Worting**

Again this year the Easter training dig at Church Lane, Worting was very successful, attracting a good number of people both those with past experience and those who were experiencing their first dig (which was what it is all for).

A display of photographs of the event will be shown at the next meeting and a variety of reports follow.

### **From a "young hand" (Nicholas Porter, age 8½ )**

At the Easter weekend I worked for two days on the dig at Church Lane, Worting.

Archaeological digs can be very dangerous especially where there are deep trenches and ditches but there are still lots of things for children to do.

The things I did were field walking, measuring, washing finds, emptying buckets of earth and keeping the spoil heap tidy.

Field walking is quite exciting because you can find all sorts of things that have been ploughed up from under the earth. One funny thing is when you think you have found a Roman coin which is really the flat side of a broken pebble. When you lay out the field for field walking you have to use a measuring tape to measure out squares and you mark the corners of the square with ranging rods. Then everyone walks between the ranging rods picking up anything which might be interesting.

The things that we found were pottery, a buckle, tile, bone and brick. The most exciting finds were a Roman brooch and an old key. Most of the finds were washed with water and soft brushes but the Roman brooch will go to the County Museum Service to be properly cleaned and preserved. I hope the brooch will be put in the Willis Museum in Basingstoke one day.

### **From an "old hand" (Eric Robinson)**

The Society's Easter Training Dig returned to the field where we have already dug in two previous years. The field owner kindly gave consent to explore this site further.

The two previous digs were in the same field, one close to the bridle path and the other north of the old orchard. Both of these excavations were successful in that we located a boundary ditch and found useful material when the sectioned ditch was emptied.

Before this year's excavation, the North Hants Archaeological Society showed us how to carry out a resistivity survey of an area to the south of the field, 30 x 30 metres. The first tests with their resistivity meter were made at 1 metre intervals along a base line running at 75 degrees roughly east/west, and then up the field

again at 1 metre intervals. The readings were taken at each point and recorded by two recorders (this being a useful check for later cross-reference). A weekend later the first readings were cross-checked. This proved to be rather slower, as a different system was employed, using four electrodes placed along the measured line, the reading being taken next to the probe bearing the instruments placed at a half metre from the line. The time-consuming factor is having to move the four electrodes along the line, advancing by colours, one moved forward after every noted recording. However this method is probably far more exact and likely to save digging time.

A rather more way-out system was also tried - divining rods (in this case, bent welding rods), and three persons picked up the same spots as had been located previously.

Then came Easter and the excavation itself. The first day dawned fine and bright, and we old hands at this site arrived early to set out the area that we planned to dig this year. The object was to dig near the Bridle Path but farther into the field than before. This, it was hoped, would enable us to find the rectangular enclosure which appears on an air photograph and cuts into the northern boundary ditch - that might seem easy enough, but the fact is that it can be difficult to calculate the exact distance from the Bridle Path.

We started with a 20 x 0.5 metre trench, which located the enclosure ditch, and then a further area was opened up. Care was taken in removing the top soil, as this contained the crop seed. During the initial work, one of the team found a Roman cross-shaped brooch - a stray find, on the surface, but it no doubt added to the enthusiasm. The team felt vindicated, as we had long thought that the rectangular ditch shown on the air photograph was Roman in date.

The main ditch did contain a goodly amount of Roman first and second century pottery, some with good rim and foot sections, together with some coarser ware.

While the dig was going on, the whole area was surveyed by Peggy Drury and her helpers, and the position of the ditches plotted. The whole field was also walked on 10 metre lines. Unfortunately, the surface finds were not plentiful. Indeed this was disappointing in view of the fact that more had been found when part of this area was field-walked before, including a large amount of worked flint and various items of pottery of different periods.

The weather was kind to us throughout. The whole weekend was enjoyable, and it is hoped the experience gained will be of use for the future.

**Mary Oliver adds:**

One of our members has flown over the site, hoping the dry weather would reveal crop marks, but unfortunately there was nothing to be seen.

It was a splendid achievement to have walked the whole field, as this was the last opportunity to do it before the field is put down to permanent pasture. However, we shall have more opportunities to return to the site to find out more about it in future years - and to try out our own resistivity meter when this has been made. This year's "trial run" with the borrowed resistivity meter showed the start of interesting features but we need to do much more to get really meaningful results.



There will soon be an appeal for help in dealing with the finds from the fieldwalk; we hope to combine pot washing and sorting with chat and a cup of coffee. It is a little early as yet to assess the results of the dig itself. A proper report will be prepared when more work has been done.

I would like to record our thanks to Richenda Power for her permission to dig and her interest in the project.

## **ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

### *Barbara Applin*

At our meeting at the Willis Museum on 5th March we agreed that our aims are:

to record and transcribe memories relating to Basingstoke and the local area, to undertake associated research and to produce and publish any books or cassettes based on these memories.

We discussed amendments to a proposed form which we will ask interviewees to sign, assigning copyright to our Society and authorising us and the Wessex Film and Sound Archive to copy and use their contributions for private study, educational use, broadcasting, publishing, public performance, displays and exhibitions and for use by researchers in the Resource Room at the Willis Museum and at the Wessex Film and Sound Archive. (Of course, interviewees will be consulted wherever possible).

Several people played extracts or talked about tapes they were transcribing or people being interviewed, and Tim Evans had some good advice to offer on interviewing. (Many thanks to Tim for his hospitality.)

If anyone else would like to join us to transcribe tapes, do interviews or do some follow-up research, please let me know (01256 465439). And if anyone who has a tape to transcribe has finished it, do ask for another. Finally, we will welcome suggestions of people to interview. Our priority must be to interview older people with good memories, but we do have wider interests as well.

## **News**

### *News from the British Museum*

- The summer of 1997 will see the opening of two completely new galleries at the British Museum: one on the late Bronze Age and Iron Age of Europe and one on Roman Britain. The latter, funded by a donation of £1.75m from the Garfield Weston Foundation, will show many objects never before on public display, such as the early 5<sup>th</sup> Century hoard from Hoxne, and the building facade from Meonstoke.

- There is also an exhibition called "Ancient Faces. Mummy Portraits from Roman Egypt" running until the 20th July. On show are nearly 200 portraits from the 1st and 2nd Centuries AD along with grave goods, examples of clothes depicted in the portraits and Roman jewellery and sculptures.

### **Are you interested in Nomads ?**

If so, there are two exhibitions on in London this year. Firstly, "Striking Tents: Central Asian Nomad Felts from Kyrgyzstan" at the Museum of Mankind, Burlington Gardens (between Regent Street and Piccadilly) until December 31st and "Nomads: Life on the Move" at the Horniman Museum, London Road, Forest Hill, London SW23 includes tents from Mongolia, Turkey and Iran as well as a Blackfoot tipi. Admission is free to both of these.

## **OFF-BEAT WALK AROUND WINCHESTER**

### ***Marten and Margaret Harris***

On Saturday 15th March, twenty or more members of the Society gathered together outside Winchester railway station. We were to be led by Julian Porter on an exciting walk around Winchester. It began at the station, which was designed by Sir William Tite M.P. in 1839 - he was also responsible for part of Basingstoke station and others on the LSWR route.

We crossed over to Victoria Road to view a doorway, removed from Hyde House. The doorway looks like a fireplace, as the road has been resurfaced so many times it is now halfway up the jamb!

The remains of Hyde House is now the History Resource Centre. In 1538 William Bethnell was given this land after the dissolution and destruction of Hyde Abbey. When Hyde House was demolished in 1769, many ornate features were sold and can be seen in surrounding buildings.

We viewed the wonderful 15th century gatehouse to Hyde Abbey. The Abbey once held the bones of King Alfred, his Queen and his son. Their exact resting position today is not known, but it is thought to be close to St Bartholomew's church. This is a pretty, flint building with much of the material used from the remains of the Abbey. We were unfortunately unable to visit the "Hyde Public House" which has a floor dating from the 13th century - that's for our next visit!

We moved on along Hyde Street, passing the sites of Marston's and Wyeth breweries on our way into the city. We passed many interesting buildings in Jewry Street, whilst dodging traffic on a busy Saturday morning: the old Corn Exchange, the gaol that was a copy of Newgate prison and is now a furniture shop, and many others. This led us into George Street. To the left is St Peter Street, and no 4 was the home of the Duchess of Portsmouth, one of Charles II's mistresses. From here we walked through an alley way between Godbegot House and the Royal Oak into the High Street. The High Street still follows the Roman alignment from West Gate to East Gate and has done so for 2000 years.

Moving into St Thomas Street, we saw a magnificent Georgian stable block, now converted into up-market dwellings. Crossing into Minster Lane, we got our first view of the Cathedral. We did not dwell on the Cathedral but walked through the flying buttresses into The Close, where there are some wonderful 16th and 17th century dwellings, all worth close observation. We left The Close by St Swithun's Gate and went into the small church sited above King's Gate. We continued along Kingsgate Street and some of us into "The Wykeham Arms" for a much needed rest and refreshment.

After lunch, we went to see Moberly's, the first recorded brick building in Winchester, dating from 1571. Walking along College Street, past Jane Austen's house, and stopping to admire Winchester College, we then went on to Wolvesey Palace, built by Bishop Henri de Blois 1130-1140. We went on as far as Wharf Mill, once the HQ for the Itchen Navigation Company, and through to Chesil Street to view the old GWR station, closed in 1964. Proceeding down Chesil Street, we came to St Peter's Church old rectory, which dates from 1459 and is now a restaurant.



The City Mill now owned by the National Trust

The City Mill was our next stop, where we went inside to observe the mill race and the wheel working. We crossed over City Bridge and walked beside the Itchen to view a very small section of Roman wall that is still standing. We returned to Bridge Street and The Broadway, where King Alfred's statue stands. The statue was designed by Sir Hamo Thornycroft and cast in bronze. The Almshouses on both sides of The Broadway were built in 1834 and the grand Gothic Guildhall is also very imposing, designed by Jeffery and Skiller in 1873.

Now back to the High Street and looking at The Pentice overhanging the street, built in the 16th century. Next we came to the site where butter was once sold, in the 15th century Butter Cross. Walking up the High Street, we passed the former Guild Hall, built in 1773. From this building the curfew bell is still rung every evening at 8 pm - as it has done for 900 years. The Great Hall came next, containing the famous round table. This is the only part of the Norman castle still standing. Outside, the remains of the castle are exposed below ground level, having been built against a Roman buttress. The castle building was started in 1222 and took 14 years to build.

Our last visit was to the West Gate, rebuilt in the 14th century, standing on the side of the old Roman gate; it is now a museum. Some of our party went into the museum, while the rest said our farewells and thank-yous to Julian, who had done such a magnificent job in researching and organising this delightful walk. He also gave each of us a copy of his excellent notes. Thanks, Julian!

# **DORIC TEMPLES IN SICILY**



*Temple of Zeus. Agrigento*

**Sue Headley**

Most islands have an interesting history and Sicily is no exception. I spent a week at Easter on a Pingrum study tour, looking primarily at Doric temples. Some may think that if you've seen one Doric temple you've seen them all, but this was certainly not my experience. This article concentrates on the temples, but I have mentioned one or two other "gems" and could have mentioned many more.

The tour started in Syracuse (a colony founded from Corinth in 734 BC). Here, after a visit to the Greco-Roman theatre - an immense size, seating some 15,000 persons in 61 rows, but explicable when the population in the city's heyday is estimated at 500,000 - the Roman amphitheatre and the quarries from which the stone for these structures was taken, we saw the remains of the altar of Hieron II (C3 BC). This altar was nearly 200 metres long and 22 metres across, and was designed for the mass sacrifice of up to 450 bulls at a time. We then moved to Ortygia, the island of the original settlement, whose Great Harbour witnessed the total annihilation of the Athenian fleet by the Syracusans in 413 BC (recorded in dramatic and harrowing detail by Thucydides). Ortygia is now a wonderfully medieval and baroque area, a legacy of the Aragonese aristocrats who built there between C15 and C17, and particularly after the major earthquake of 1693.

Our first temple, dedicated to Athena in celebration of the Greek victory over the Carthaginians at Himera in 480 BC, was incorporated in the present-day cathedral in C7 AD. The stylobate is visible, the peristyle infilled to create the outer walls and the cella perforated to create 3 aisles. This extraordinary building now has a baroque facade. Excavations are underway in the area in front of the cathedral and there must be a good prospect of recovering evidence of the city's earliest years. Unfortunately, as with so many monuments in Sicily, the information was presented only in Italian (all Greek to me!)

Our second temple in Ortygia was the oldest in Sicily, built around 600 BC. It was dedicated to Apollo, later used as a Byzantine and Norman church and, still later, as barracks for the Spanish troops. A number of monolithic columns still stand to full height with their characteristic 16 flutes (as against the later 20) and one can see the typical saucer-shaped capitals. Our tour leader Geoffrey Toms, explained that this temple, with its 6 sharply tapered front columns and 17 side columns and at a height of about 4 times that of the lower diameter of the columns, considerably less than the C5 BC "norm" of 5 times the lower diameter, would have had a squat appearance. Squat or elegant, it was impressive.

From Syracuse we travelled inland to Pantalica, which is an almost unexcavated city site in spectacular countryside (the wild flowers were delightful). It took us a while to find the remains of the building known as the Anaktoron, but it was worth the ups and downs and dead-ends (neither Geoffrey nor our Italian guide had been to this site, although on Easter Monday it was a popular spot with the local youth) when we saw the remains of a structure that strongly resembled a Mycenaean megaron. Pantalica is the site of some 5,000 rock-cut tombs. A considerable number have been excavated with their grave-goods intact, the material ranging from the 13th to the 8th centuries, and a considerable amount with Mycenaean links. Altogether, a strange and beautiful place.

Later we made our way, via the cold and snowy lower slopes of Mount Etna (no cable car trip that day!) to Taormina. The next day's visit revealed no great temples but a spectacular C3 BC to C3 AD theatre, with the stunning backdrop of Etna (snow now stopped, but the summit obscured by cloud!). It must be one of the finest examples of Roman brick-built stage-building anywhere. Was the clay for so many bricks found locally (the volcanologist in our party assured us that there was clay in the vicinity), and bricks made on the spot, or were the bricks imported from mainland Italy?

Then a long drive through the interior - mountains and plateaux, citrus and olive groves, wheat fields and the occasional grazing animal - to Piazza Armerina and the Villa Casale. This Roman villa/palace is a C2/C4 AD structure with wonderful mosaics, many with a strong North African influence reminiscent of those in the Bardo Museum in Tunis. The Villa is a popular tourist stop, even for those with little or no interest in archaeology, because of the mosaic of the "bikini girls". Although this mosaic is of inferior quality compared with others in the Villa, it has a certain crude charm. Perhaps more interesting is the earlier and finer mosaic beneath, of which only a fragment is exposed.

Our next overnight stop, at the Hotel Kaos on the outskirts of Agrigento, was approached with some trepidation. If it lived up to its name, we might be in for an uncomfortable stay. It turned out that the Kaos was named after the local village birthplace of Pirandello (*Six Characters in Search of an Author*, etc). No problems here and a wonderful morning spent visiting the superbly presented Museum and exploring the Valley of the Temples (more accurately, the Temple ridge) at the foot of the city of Agrigento. The highlight is probably the Temple of Concord (true dedication unknown) which, along with the Hephaesteion at Athens, is the most completely surviving Greek Temple. It was built around 450 to 440 and is thus contemporary with the Parthenon. The fact that it survived was due to its transformation in C6 AD into the Church of San Gregorio Della Rupe. However, the most extraordinary site is probably that of the Temple of Olympian Zeus, begun in 480, again in celebration of the victory at Himera, and still unfinished in 409 BC. This would have been a structure of monumental proportions, some 110 metres long with columns 50 feet high and 14 feet thick, considerably larger than the Parthenon. In the afternoon we explored (in the rain) the remains of the Greco-Roman city and the medieval city of Agrigento. Even here there was no escape from the Doric temple; finding the Norman Cathedral closed (we had been assured that it would be open - that's Sicily for you!), we made our way down the steep flights of steps to the Church of Santa Maria dei Greci where a service was just coming to an end. In the crypt we were able to see, with some squeezing and stooping, almost the full length of the stylobate of the early 5th century Temple of Athena and, in the Church itself, parts of the columns incorporated into the walls.

On the following day, a short drive took us to the temples at Selinunte (ancient Selinus). This is another wonderful site, with seven temples falling within the period 550 to 450 BC. The city was permanently abandoned in 250 BC, but not before the building of an extraordinarily complex system of defensive works, double walls with five towers and four gates, and probably much more as yet unexcavated. The temples here are named, most unromantically, A to D and O. 14 columns of the oldest, Temple C (c550 BC) were re-erected in 1927 and show the different periods of construction: some are monolithic, some of drums, some are slender, others more robust in shape, and the flutings vary from 16 to 20. Temples E, F and G are outside the city. Temple E, the youngest, built about 460 BC, was re-erected in 1958. Perhaps more impressive is the chaotic collapsed masonry of Temple G, built about

520 BC, and one of the largest temples of its day, with columns over 16 metres in height, each drum weighing around 100 tons.

The last temple on our itinerary, located in a most beautiful spot in open countryside, was Segesta. It is a unique example of a classical temple frozen in time during its construction. The transport bosses on the unfluted columns can still be seen, as can the unfinished state of the capitals. However, its most remarkable feature is its visible curvature "refinement", comparable to that of the most sophisticated Athenian buildings. The stylobate rises on a regular curve three inches on the sides and 1½ inches on the front (over stylobate measurements of 58 and 23 metres). The idea, apparently, was to achieve visual perfection!

Excavation is continuing at the Greco-Roman theatre set into the hill nearby, and there appears to be evidence of a settlement. Even guide books of comparatively recent date will tell you that there is nothing at Segesta except the Temple!

A trip to Sicily would be incomplete without a day or two in Palermo (which I did not find in the least threatening). There are some spectacular Norman buildings and Byzantine mosaics, both in the city and at Monreale and Cefalu, which are not far away. The city's history is fascinating but so complicated that I will not attempt it here.

I would gladly recommend this particular tour, but sadly it may not be repeated, following the sudden death of Ted Bull, Pingrum's founder and joint proprietor. If anyone is planning a visit, I will gladly lend my map and guidebook and the comprehensive tour notes prepared by Geoffrey Toms (on which I have gratefully drawn for this article).

## PIPE STEMS UNDER THE FLOOR AT THE VYNE

*Anne Hawker*

Fascinating though it may be, the picture of Georgian women in mob caps sewing away and **smoking** at the same time, is not very convincing.

If the room recently investigated at the Vyne really was a sewing room - and the presence of scraps of cloth and pins along with the aforesaid pipe stem fragments indicates that it was - the stems may have been used as weights, either for embroidery or for lace making, as they are quite small even lengths and do appear fairly clean (did anyone check if they had ever been smoked?)

Lace bobbins were about 3" long, I understand, so these pieces might have been rather too short for that. "Bone" lace, to which there are references in the last quarter of the 16th century, may have come into England with Flemish immigrants in the 1560s. The "bones" were the bobbins, for which small bones would have been ideal, knobs at each end and a length in the middle around which to wind the thread.



In the Napoleonic wars no foreign lace could be imported and lace could well have been made in the home.

Some lace was not woven on a cushion but made by embroidery on net, which would certainly have had to be kept flat, therefore needing weights not heavy enough to stretch or tear the net.



# CALENDAR

Thurs 15 May	<b>The History of Firefighting in Basingstoke</b> Peter Morall (Basingstoke Fire Brigade)	FWM
	<b>AGM and The Origins of Hampshire</b> Barbara Yorke, 7.30 pm at Colden Common Community Centre	HFC
Sun 25 May	<b>VISIT TO NORTH FORELAND LODGE</b> See p 4	BAHS
Sun 1 June	<b>Guided tour of Basing House</b> 3 pm	FBH
Sat 7 June	<b>OFF-BEAT WALK TO HAMMERSMITH &amp; KEW BRIDGE</b> See p 4	BAHS
Sat 14 June	<b>Day visit to East Dorset houses &amp; gardens</b> Historic Buildings Section	HFC
Thurs 19 June	<b>AGM and THE DAY THAT BASING HOUSE FELL</b> Alan Turton See p 2	BAHS
Sat 21 June	<b>Midsummer Night Revels</b> various entertainments on site (in aid of Wessex Cancer Trust) 7 - 10 pm	FBH
June	<b>Evening walk with Bill Fergie</b> Date and venue to be announced	FWM
Sat 5 July	<b>Visit to Warblington Castle &amp; Church and Emsworth</b> Historic Buildings Section	HFC
Sat 12 July	<b>Day visit to Portsmouth</b> Historic Buildings Sect	HFC
Thurs 10 July	<b>STONEHENGE LANDSCAPE WALK</b> 6.30 pm Stonehenge Car Park	BAHS
Sat 19 July	<b>Visit to excavations on Dorset/Hants Border</b>	HFC
26/27 July	<b>Conquest/Knights &amp; Retainers (1066-1199)</b> Living History Display	FBH
Thurs 7 Aug	<b>VISIT TO SILCHESTER</b> 7 pm See page 4	BAHS
Sat 29 Nov	<b>ANCIENT TEXTILES 7 CLOTHING IN EUROPE</b> Workshop. See p 5	BAHS/ SECS

Unless otherwise stated:

<b>BAHS</b>	Our Society event: 7.30 pm Queen Mary Hall
<b>FBH</b>	Friends of Basing House, 7.30 pm in Tea Room
<b>FWM</b>	Friends of Willis Museum, 7.30 pm Willis Museum
<b>HFC</b>	Hampshire Field Club