

B A S I N G S T O K E
 A R C H A E O L O G I C A L
 S O C I E T Y

N E W S L E T T E R

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Contents

RESCUE DIG
 LECTURES
 WASHED AND MARKED POT
 PROCEEDINGS OF THE HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB
 EXCAVATIONS AT CHURCH COTTAGE
 BONE SEMINAR
 OLIVER'S BATTERY
 SOUTHAMPTON RURAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE
 'IN THE SECTION'
 FINDS REGISTER
 ADDITION TO BOOK BOX

* * * * * Calendar of Events * * * * *

* NOW till 31st March Rescue dig at Neatham. Ring David *
 * Graham, Farnham 24630. *

* Monday 25th February ** Lecture at Chute House, 7.30 p.m. *
 * Prof. K. D. White ROMAN AGRICULTURE AND *
 * LAND SETTLEMENT PATTERNS IN ITALY. *

* Thursday 28th March Lecture at Chute House, 7.30 p.m. *
 * John Norwood HAMPSHIRE CRAFTS (Joint *
 * meeting with Industrial Archaeology *
 * Group) *

* Saturday 13th - Sunday Society's excavation outside Church *
 * 21st April (except Cottage, Basingstoke. 9.30 am to 1 p.m. *
 * Easter Day). and 2 - 5 p.m. *

* Thursday 25th April Lecture at Chute House, 7.30 p.m. *
 * Michael Dann THE ARCHAEOLOGY AND *
 * HISTORY OF MARTYR WORTHY. *

* May (details and date Hedge-row dating fieldwalk at *
 * to be decided) Popham. *

* Saturday 30th May Walk round Silchester, led by Duncan *
 * Russell. Time, meeting place etc. to *
 * be announced. *

* Practical sessions on the treatment of excavation material continue *
 * on Tuesday evenings in the annexe behind the Willis Museum, New *
 * Street, from 7.30 p.m. *

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'RESCUE DIG'.

All digging members of the Society are urgently asked to help if possible with a rescue dig at Neatham near Alton. The Farnham Museum Society have got until April to finish their work on an important and extensive Roman site which is to be developed as a housing estate. The Silchester, Chichester road runs across the site and work is being concentrated on the shops and working areas and kilns on either side. This group have already excavated parts of a Roman Cemetery and what may be a Roman Fort at Neatham. The present site sounds like part of the vicus or civilian settlement outside the fort.

Your help would be much appreciated and for further details ring the director MR DAVID GRAHAM. FARNHAM 24630.

The site is at SU 740412 - Follow the old A31 eastwards through HOLYBOURNE and look out for a deserted garage (the site hut) with the site behind it.

Mary Oliver.

'LECTURES'.

Since our last lecture we find that Chute House may be used. Prof. White has agreed to change to Monday and we cannot very well ask him to change again so he will give his lecture at Chute House on Monday 25th February. There are no other changes from the original programme. Therefore, we have (all at Chute House)

- Monday 25th February - Roman Agriculture and Land Settlement
Patterns in Italy. - Prof. K.D.White.
- Thursday 28th March - Hampshire Crafts - Mr. John Norwood.
- Thursday 25th April. - The Archaeology and History of Martyr Worthy.
- Mr. Michael Dann.

Prof. White's book 'Roman Agriculture' is in the book-box and may be borrowed by coming to the Museum annexe on Tuesday evenings. In passing, John Norwood's book Victorian and Edwardian Hampshire is a collection of fascinating photographs showing the life of the county at this period.

WASHED AND MARKED POT.

Please bring any pot you have finished washing or marking to the lecture on 25th February, or let Barbara Applin or Mary Oliver know if you have problems.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB.

The Society is affiliated to the Hampshire Field Club and has just received Volume XXVIII (for 1971) of its Proceedings.

- Contents:-
- Excavation of three Romano-British Pottery Kilns in Amberwood Inclosure, near Fritham, New Forest. by M.G.Fulford.
 - Bishop Waltham Dikes. by G.P.Hewlett and Jane Hassell.
 - Early Medieval Pottery from Westbury, East Meon Hampshire, by S.Moorhouse.
(members will remember his talk on excavations at Oakley.)
 - An Early Medieval Rubbish-Pit at Catherington, Hampshire. by J.S. Pile and K.J. Barton.

Contents contd:

Abbotstone; A Deserted Medieval Village. by Isabel Sanderson.

Lomer; Study of a Deserted Medieval Village.

by Frances Collins & J. Oliver.

Cast Iron Bridge at Upper Clatford, near Andover, Hampshire
by R. Warrington.

A Gazetteer of Brick and Tile Works in Hampshire
by W.C.F. White.

Brickearth Soils. by G.C. Fisher.

As many members will wish to borrow this, it has been suggested that loans should be limited to a fortnight. Between loans it will be in the book-box from which books can be borrowed on Tuesday evenings (at the Museum annexe).

EXCAVATIONS AT CHURCH COTTAGE.

There will be a further excavation at Church Cottage this Easter to follow up last year's excavation which revealed Victorian brick built features overlying earlier surfaces and occupation layers producing medieval sherds. Complete investigation was not then possible owing to the building work; we hope this time, by working on an area just outside the building, to recover a complete sequence of layers associated with Church Cottage to amplify last year's findings and produce a greater body of dating evidence.

Work on the site will be from Saturday 13th April to Sunday 21st April (except for Easter Day itself) during the hours 9.30 a.m. - 1p.m. and 2 - 5 p.m. The first day may involve some heavy work and the last day will be spent back-filling.

Since the area we have to work in is limited, it is hoped that members will be able to come for a full morning and/or afternoon session at a time, so that their efforts may be used to fullest advantage. It would also be a help if members could let us know in advance on which days they will be coming.

All members who want to help will be most welcome. There will be further details and a reminder in a newsletter nearer the date.

Pam and Phil Judkins.

43 Sylvia Close, Basingstoke.

BONE SEMINAR.

The recent Bone Seminar at Southampton University under the tutorship of Mr. R. Harcourt was well worth attending.

It is very hard to further ones knowledge on the subject of animal bones without the guidance of experts and it is essential to hear how they set about identification, interpreting the evidence, measuring the bones, analysis and eventually writing the report.

Mr. Harcourt stressed the importance of not falling into the trap of "20th century think". We must always bear in mind that because we now do things in certain ways, we should not assume our fore-fathers did. The eating habits of past generations were so different to those of today, it would no doubt surprise (and horrify) some people to learn that dogs were eaten in prehistoric times;

Until quite recently animal bones from excavations were considered of secondary importance; but as knowledge has increased on the subject, the information provided by bones is as important as that given by pottery. Bones provide a clue to the climatic conditions, fauna, hunting methods, religious practices, agriculture, and stock-breeding; in fact a whole way of economy, ecology and social behaviour.

Bone Seminar contd.

This is the third conference I have attended in the past twelve months and it has been valuable to meet people who share a similar interest and to have the opportunity of talking over the difficulties of bone identification and report writing. Too often there are the problem bones which never look like any comparative specimen or in fact like any illustration in any of the 'bone' books. Problem bones can be saved up and 'waved' in front of the expert. One gets a little satisfaction when they too are foxed and the said specimen is recommended to be sent to the Natural History Museum. It is also interesting to compare notes from different tutors and confusing when they hold conflicting views on some aspects. An appeal; I'm always looking for bones. If any member should happen to come across the skeleton (BONES ONLY) of any animals (i.e. Dog, cat, fox, badger or any small mammals) I should be most grateful to be able to add them to my specimen collection. Address: 1 Springfields, The Street, Old Basing.

Iris Gregory.

OLIVER'S BATTERY.

Some of you may have noticed a note in the local paper to the effect that 'Oliver's Battery' in Old Basing was to be given to the village by Mrs. B. Holmes and that the Parish Council's plans to build a car park and landscape the site had had to be postponed owing to lack of funds. Since the site is a scheduled Ancient Monument and is tantalisingly known from Saxon Charters as 'King's Horse Croft' or 'Friestcroft' we were anxious to discover what the Parish Council's plans involved. Fortunately the site itself will not be affected except by tree planting. We are however, hoping that Mr. A. J. Clark of the Department of the Environment will do a Gradiometer survey of the interior as he did for Ructstalls Hill; this would add a great deal to our knowledge of the site.

Mary Oliver.

SOUTHAMPTON RURAL SETTLEMENT CONFERENCE.

Professor Renfrew welcomed members to the conference and suggested the themes which would be dealt with in the following talks; Prof: Barry Cunliffe's lecture 'The Hill Fort and its Environment' was particularly interesting to us as it was illustrated by references to and slides of Danebury. His account of its development from an enclosure to a distribution centre seemed to prove that it might be counted as an urban rather than a rural settlement, as Professor Renfrew had suggested. The point that was new to us was the amount of briquetage sherds found in the pits, which suggested that Danebury was a distribution centre for the salt trade, the pots of salt having been brought there from the Dorset coast.

'Man's Impact on the Landscape' given by Mr. Wagstaffe, was a clear exposition of the geology of S. Britian; he showed diagrammatically how man's need for fuel, shelter, food and industry all affected the flora. Conservation was needed even then!

After coffee, Mr. ApSimon reviewed settlements in S. Britain and related areas before 1000 B.C. He showed how sites in Ireland helped to understand our local sites. Mr. Chapman's account of settlement types in Britian and on the Continent from 1000 - 50 B.C. was illustrated by a series of studies of post-holes. He stressed the point that the Continental long-house, which included accommodation for stock, was not known in Britain, although there are long rectangular houses in the Cotswolds.

We were wondering what Mr. Hodder could tell us about Inter-relations between Settlements. His theories ranged from the obvious to the obscure and his presentation was inadequate and irritating. We needed to

Southampton Rural Settlement Conference contd;

refresh ourselves at the Common-room Bar before leaving for home.

Colin Bowen's talk 'Prehistoric Remains; Implications of Pattern' was entertaining, provocative and informative. His remarks on Causewayed Camps, Ranch Boundaries and Celtic fields aroused much interest.

In the account of Owslebury, Dr. Collis left the broad themes to study a particular excavation and traced how the farm had changed during its occupation.

'Post-holes and Pits', Mr. Reynold's contribution, demonstrated how the reconstruction of an Iron Age Farm on Butser is helping to direct future excavations in methods of study and recording. We are looking forward to the visit and talk which Barbara has arranged with him.

Mr. Johnston, in his closing remarks acknowledged the Basingstoke Society's suggestion which led to the Conference. We all felt it was well planned and that we had learnt much from the varied themes.

Susan Verstage.

'IN THE SECTION'.

LAYER 1. Thank you Duncan for an excellent lecture, we are all looking forward to the conducted tour on May 30th; dare we hope for an old-fashioned May evening?

LAYER 2. Talking about lectures, I am sure everyone will be pleased to know that David Hinton has agreed to give the next and I am sorry to say, final 'instalment' of his intriguing lecture on Anglo-Saxon Art in the 1974-75 series.

LAYER 3. Now we come to the Excursion for this summer, the fuel situation permitting. What is certain is that Richard Searle has undertaken to organise it for us and the provisional date is 6th July. Where? we hope it will be in the Devizes area.

LAYER 4. Generally similar to layer 3 but it relates to the lecture to be given by Peter Reynolds later on and is a visit to Butser Hill sometime in August. Watch out for the date; Now to plot the section; sorry; NOTE THE DATES.

Les. Fawcett.

'FINDS REGISTER'.

Once upon a time; a long long while ago, when we were young; (that's badly placed) someone volunteered, Nowadays people know better, but I'll never learn. Everyone's seen the pub with the sign of a man hanging outside - he's called 'The Volunteer' and you see what's happened to him - he's still hanging around waiting for something to turn up. To be honest I was the Volunteer but I kept doing the hanging around, well, it was all rather involved and the more I thought about my volunteering for such a task the more I thought about getting out - I mean getting on with the job.

You all know what indexes are? I'm the indexer and I index whatever information you can send me. Its a joint project for the B.A.S. and the I.A.G. and I'm doing it 'cos I volunteered and belong to both lots. At present, until I get the systems all go, I want it fairly simple. I'd like you to send me details of any sites, objects, finds, buildings etc. that you have seen, found, picked up, walked over or on; What isn't there is as important as what is; e.g. a field walk where nothing is found (it means a barren area, or else you walked it with

Finds Register contd:

your eyes shut). I need the following information from you, if possible (don't be put off if you haven't all these details:)

Site/Object, Your name and address, Parish, County,
Grid ref; nearest road (house and number if possible) who holds object, drawings to scale.
Whether site is being demolished, built over etc.
Kind of soil. Whether find was surface find etc.

e.g.

MESOLITHIC FLINT AXE.

MRS. IRIS GREGORY,

BASING. HANTS. G.R.666534.

Near footings being dug for housing development, at rear of 'Bolton Arms' off The Street, Old Basing.

River alluvium, undisturbed area near house footings. Found - 9.10.73.

When you send this information to me I shall transfer it to some C.B.A. (Council for British Archaeology) Cards, and I send them a copy and keep one for ourselves.

So please - I can't be a volunteer standing idly by - please send me details c/o Barbara Applin,

1 Gordon Close,
Queen Mary Ave,
Basingstoke.

and keep those cards flowing.

Josie Wall.

ADDITION TO BOOK-BOX.

'Treasures of China' by Michael Ridley, kindly donated by Mrs. Susan Verstage.