

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 140

August 1997

CONTENTS

<i>Page 2</i>	YOUR NEW COMMITTEE
<i>Page 3</i>	MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1997/8 THE PROGRAMME CARD FOR 1997/8 Programme notes for Autumn meetings Visit notes
<i>Page 4</i>	Excursion notes
<i>Page 5</i>	THE GRAND TOUR HFC CHEESE & WINE ARCHAEOLOGY CLASSES AT BCOT
<i>Page 6</i>	ORAL HISTORY PROJECT CONGRATULATIONS!
<i>Page 7</i>	A CELEBRATION OF WINCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGY HAMPSHIRE & THE ISLANDS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST - Annual sponsored walk/bike ride
<i>Page 8</i>	NOTES FROM FIRST MEETING OF NEW COMMITTEE
<i>Page 9</i>	VISIT TO THE EXCAVATIONS AT ROMAN SILCHESTER
<i>Page 10</i>	THE GRADUATE
<i>Page 12</i>	SURFING TO COLCHESTER
<i>Page 13</i>	PLANTSMEN & GARDENERS ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS REMINDERS UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD day schools & weekend courses

*** YOUR NEW COMMITTEE FOR 1997/98**

The officers, committee members and co-opted members resulting from the elections held at the AGM on June 19th 1997 are as follows:

Chairman:

Mrs Barbara Applin, 138, Old Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke RG22 5EN
tel. 01256 465439

Hon. Secretary:

Tim Herrington, 16, Scotney Road, Basingstoke RG21 5SR
tel. 01256 322090

Hon. Treasurer:

Peter Good, 95, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke RG21 3EY
tel. 01256 322771

Membership Secretary: (co-opted)

Julian Porter, 58, Minden Close, Chineham, B'stoke RG24 8TH
tel. 01256 356012

Committee:

Mrs Linda Chapman, 41, Fountains Close, Popley 4, Basingstoke RG24 9GZ
tel. 01256 467872

Mrs Marta Cock, 16, Soper Grove, Basingstoke RG21 2PU
tel. 01256 351506

Mrs Margaret Porter, 58, Minden Close, Chineham, Basingstoke RG24 8TH
tel. 01256 356012

Miss Susan Strawson, 33, Alderwood, Chineham, Basingstoke RG24 8TU
tel. 01256 353077

Les Fitzgerald, 10, Warbleton Road, Chineham, Basingstoke RG24 8RF
tel. 01256 812557

Marten Harris, 3, Ramsholt Close, North Waltham, Basingstoke RG 25 2DG
tel. 01256 397651

Co-opted:

Mrs Mary Oliver, 3, Milkingpen Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke RG24 7DD
tel. 01256 324263

Mr David Score, 57, Broadhurst, Cove, Farnborough GU14 9XA
tel. 01252 548591

See also **NOTES** on page 8.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 1997/8

Membership fees, which were due on May 1st, are unchanged at £11 for ordinary membership; £15 for family, and £7 for seniors and students. If you have not yet paid up, there should be a replacement form attached to this newsletter for the one you have mislaid. Send your fee to Julian Porter, 58, Minden Close, Chineham, B'stoke RG 24 8TH tel: 01256 356012

THE PROGRAMME CARD FOR 1997/98

Please check that your programme card for 1997/98 has been included with this newsletter. We have included as many visits as we have details for now. We invite your comments and suggestions for future events and meetings. Well done Mary (again!).
NB: Please make a careful note of the place of each meeting, as they do vary!!

PROGRAMME NOTES FOR THE AUTUMN MEETINGS

Mary Oliver

- **September 11th : Taulas, Talyots and Tourists - The Bronze Age of Menorca**
This intriguing title marks the a welcome return to the Society by Dawn Webster, who will explain that there is far more for the discerning tourist to Menorca to enjoy than beaches. Taulas are T-shaped standing stones and talyots are towers - just two of the aspects of the Bronze Age culture of this small Mediterranean island.

Dawn is a social historian, curator of the Museum of East Dorset Life in Wimborne Minster and also acts as a guide on archaeological tours.

- **October 9th : The Oldest Europeans**
Following the popularity of our lecture and visit to Boxgrove, this lecture will bring us up to date with the latest thinking on human evolution. Dr Clive Gamble is Reader in Archaeology at Southampton University, and author of several books on the Palaeolithic, including "In Search of the Neanderthals" with Chris Stringer.

- **November 13th : The Eton Rowing Lake : A Prehistoric Landscape by the Thames**

The excavation of this large area beside the Thames has revealed a complex archaeological landscape with sites and finds dating from the Mesolithic to Roman, and, most significantly, a buried former channel of the river. Waterlogged timbers include structures and bridges from the Bronze Age and the Iron Age.

This important site will be described to us by Tim Allen, Project Manager for the Oxford Archaeological Unit.

VISIT NOTES

Our member, Joy Needham, has offered members a tour of the **Local History Section** of Basingstoke Library. **Meet at the Central Library, Basingstoke Town Centre at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 25th September.**

EXCURSION NOTES

Mary Oliver

Your Committee felt that it might be helpful to members if we tried to standardise the timing of our excursions: we shall aim to have an event on the third Saturday of the month (i.e. the Saturday 9 days after the usual evening meeting) where this can be arranged. The first two events will be on 20th September and 18th October. There will be no excursion in November as there are archaeological conferences on the 8th and 26th, nor in December - but please note the event on December 6th advertised in this newsletter.

- **BADBURY RINGS & PRIEST'S HOUSE, WIMBORNE MINSTER**

Saturday, 20th September

As we did not have a full-day excursion this summer, we are hoping that this early autumn trip to Dorset will be popular. Dawn Webster (our speaker in September) has invited us to see her museum which is housed in an interesting building with many former uses. The varied displays include domestic interiors (17th century hall, 18th century parlour, Victorian kitchen), an ironmonger's shop, a stationery shop, a Rural Life gallery, a childhood gallery and a hands-on archaeology display.

There is also a lovely garden with a 1920's boathouse serving teas. The museum, a private one, has won several prizes in recent years and charges £2 entrance fee (£1.60 for seniors, 80p children). Dawn is expecting us at 2.00 pm.

Just outside Wimborne is one of the great Wessex hillforts - Badbury Rings. The site has never been excavated and has suffered some erosion through bikers' over-use but is well worth seeing, set imposingly amongst Bronze Age barrows and beside the Roman roads. It would make a good venue for a picnic before going into Wimborne. Meet at 11.00 am in the car park north of the B3082 between Wimborne and Blandford. If the weather is too wet to picnic it may be preferable to go straight on to Wimborne, where the beautiful Minster Church could be visited. Details of car parking/car sharing etc. will be arranged at the September 11th meeting - or ring me on 01256 324263.

- **COMPTON, SURREY**

Saturday, 18th October

Most people will have driven past or through Compton, near Guildford, perhaps visiting Loseley House. But there are several good reasons to visit the village itself. Our first stop will be to see the church, Saxon in part, and with a most unusual two-storey chancel. We meet there at 10.30 am (parking in the approach road, a right turn off the main street by a nursing home).

Compton was also the home of the Victorian painter George Frederick Watts who moved here from London for the last few years of his life. The village houses an art gallery, containing many of his pictures and much more of interest, which we plan to visit after lunch. Nearby is Compton's special treasure, the chapel in the cemetery, which has just been restored and re-opened. It was designed by Mary Watts in the Arts & Crafts tradition of supporting local crafts and industries. She took classes in tile-making for the villagers, using local clay from her grounds. The chapel, dedicated in 1898, was also sumptuously decorated by Mrs Watts and her team in Celtic style ornament, glowing with colour. It is a remarkable sight and not to be missed.

Note: As usual on these outings, a collection will be made on the day to be given to the church and the Watts Chapel, which is the responsibility of the Parish Council.

THE GRAND TOUR : Saturday 6th December

*(In aid of the Fabric Fund,
St Michael's Church,
Basingstoke)*

Mary Oliver



This half-day study session on the Grand Tour grew out of a chance remark by my friend Jane while we were all on holiday in Italy - that, between us, our special interest in fine and applied art and archaeology covered very well all the aspects of the 18th century Grand Tour.

I am most grateful to my friends for offering their time and expertise in support of a cause which is dear to me and I hope that the subject will be of interest to some members.

Programme:

- 1] Encounters With Art and Artists in Venice, Florence, Rome and Naples
by Jane Baker (formerly Curator of Fine Art, Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter)
- 2] Classical Sites Visited - Rome, Pompeii, Herculaneum
by Mary Oliver (B.A.H.S.)
- 3] Legacy Within the English Country House
by Jeremy Pearson (Historic Buildings Representative for National Trust in Cornwall)
Saturday, 6th December 2.00 pm - 5.15 pm Church Cottage, Basingstoke

Tickets, including afternoon tea, £5.00 from Mary Oliver. Tel: 01256 324263

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB Cheese & Wine

at the Museum of the Iron Age, Andover, 6.30 pm, Friday 26th September

This event includes a tour of the Museum and tickets are available, price £2.50. Our Society is an Institutional Member, so let our Secretary know if you would like to go, and send your booking to: Robin Iles, Hyde House Resources Centre, 75 Hyde Street, Winchester (tel 01962 848269)

ARCHAEOLOGY CLASSES AT BCOT

Advance warning that if sufficient students enrol, these classes next term will be on Tuesdays, not Mondays as before.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Quotation from memories by Mrs Eleanor Goddard, who was Dispenser for Dr Potter and Dr Housden in Church Square in the 1930s:

"On Wednesdays two carriers came into town and came to the surgery with messages from patients in other villages. One came from Dummer and the other from North Waltham. They arrived about 11 o'clock and called back for answers and medicines during the afternoon. They also shopped for their customers and their vans were fitted as crude buses. There was a special surgery for country patients from two to three."

The Oral History group continues to meet from time to time at the Willis Museum: next meeting **7.30 pm, 27 August**. Several transcriptions have been made of the Museum's collection of tapes, and we are about to start interviewing for ourselves - after a practice session when we try out the equipment and ideas on each other.

More members are welcome to join us at any time - and we are glad to add to our list of potential interviewees if you have any ideas.

The 9th annual Oral History Seminar will be held at the Wessex Film & Sound Archive Cinema at the Hampshire Record Office, Winchester from 10 am to 4 pm on **Wednesday 15th October**. Anyone interested is strongly recommended to apply (tel: 01962 841841: Wessex Film & Sound Archive)

For details of our Project ring Barbara Applin (01256 465439) or Margaret Harris (01256 397651)

CONGRATULATIONS!



to * Richard Dexter on his degree in History
* Jo Kelly on her election as County Councillor
* Mary Oliver on her appointment as Churchwarden of St Michael's
* Paulline Williams on her election as Chairman of the Basingstoke branch of the Citizens' Advice Bureau

A CELEBRATION OF WINCHESTER ARCHAEOLOGY - THE LAST 25 YEARS

Saturday 18th October 1997, 9.45 am to 4.45 pm

Staff of the Winchester Museums Service, together with **Professor Martin Biddle OBE**, present this lecture seminar at Peter Symonds' College, Science Lecture Theatre.

- Programme summary:
- The last 25 years in Winchester
 - Planning Archaeology
 - Rural Archaeology
 - Roman and Saxon Property Boundaries
 - Archaeology in the Museum
 - Progress with Winchester Studies

Early booking advisable (£6.00, cheques payable to WARG - i.e. Winchester Archaeological Rescue Group); available from Historic Resources Centre (in person at Heritage Centre, Upper Brook Street, Winchester; by post from 75 Hyde Street, Winchester, SO23 7DW)

HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLANDS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST **Annual sponsored Walk/Bike-Ride, Saturday 13 September 1997**

Our member, Ralph Atton, who was sponsored for this event last year (see Newsletter 137) makes the following appeal. He is Bike-Ride Organiser (Basingstoke Area):



Calling all walkers and cyclists once more! The aim of this year's nation-wide event (organised by counties) is to enjoy visiting churches and chapels (all denominations), at the same time raising funds via sponsorship. Half the money raised goes to the work of the Trust, which helps churches in need with loans and grants for repairs. The other half is given to the church of the walker or cyclist's choice.

Full details of the churches which will be open to visitors this year (a record 33 in the Basingstoke/Tadley areas and about 360 in the County as a whole) have been issued to church representatives, together with sponsorship forms. In 1996 over £33,000 was raised in Hampshire, including £3,000 locally.

Contact me at any time for more information (0118) 970 0825.

NOTES FROM THE FIRST MEETING OF THE NEW COMMITTEE

Funds

In reviewing the discussions that took place at the AGM in June, it was noted that a good case had been put forward to change the format of the accounting system used for the Society finances. It was agreed that the Publications Fund and the Excavation Fund might well be assimilated under the heading of Projects Fund, which can include finances relevant to excavations, visits and publications taken together.

It might be helpful to explain why the previous divisions were made.

The Publication Fund was started after a grant had been received from the Four Lanes Trust for the publication of *Voices of Basingstoke*, so that money from sales of the book could be used for future publications. This fund has provided resources for *Past Pieces* and a contribution towards the cost of producing the video *Beneath Basingstoke* among other things. However, it is perhaps no longer necessary to isolate a special fund for future publications, though your Committee is giving thought to our future publications policy - watch this space.

The Excavation Fund was started when the opportunity was taken to sell home-produced garden produce at meetings and in other places, and it was felt that people would prefer the money taken to go to a specific cause rather than into the general Society funds, so that it could help to buy equipment for digs at the trowel and bucket level, but it was never meant to be the sole source of finance for our excavations! Again, this fund too has run its course.

Working Groups

It was decided that there should be some changes made in the format of our working sub-committees responsible for publicity, fieldwork, publications and oral history. It was argued that a more flexible approach was needed to allow our membership to join working groups. There will be three working groups now, promoting publicity, fieldwork and oral history. Further groups can be initiated as needed. Responsibility for the running of these groups and the liaison back to main committee will be

Publicity:	Margaret Porter
Fieldwork:	Mary Oliver
Oral History:	Barbara Applin/Tim Herrington

The idea is that the above can invite Society members (or others) to join their group, or that members, in turn, can ask to help with the work. If you are not already helping we hope that you will decide where your particular interest lies and contact the appropriate liaison 'officer'. Do it now!!

Membership

Julian Porter reported that 119 members had paid their dues so far, and that he was waiting now for the rest to pay up. We could have some 155 all told this year, which is most heartening. There will be a renewal form attached to your newsletter if you have forgotten where you put your original form !

Coffee

Sue Strawson has kindly volunteered to arrange for the coffee-making and washing-up at our meetings. This does **not** mean that she will do it all herself but that she will welcome offers from members to take their part in this, and see that there is someone in charge of this important aspect of each meeting.

Room management

Les Fitzgerald had agreed to continue to organise the setting out of chairs, equipment etc for meetings - but again, we urge members to offer help with this as much as possible. Do see Les and tell him what you can offer to do.

Bookstall

Marten Harris and Linda Chapman will look after the bookstall, and will also be glad of volunteers to help.

Finally, if anyone has any skill they can offer, please contact your secretary, Tim Herrington on 01256 322090.

VISIT TO THE EXCAVATIONS AT ROMAN SILCHESTER

Ralph Atton

Readers will know of previous excavations at Silchester Roman Town, led by Professor Michael Fulford of Reading University - of, for example, the North Gate, Basilica and Amphitheatre. This summer has seen the first of what is planned to be a five-summer-season excavation of Insula IX and about 50 members and friends of the Society were privileged to visit the site on a hot sunny evening in August. Our guide was Amanda, assistant director, and we were given an expert view of what had been achieved so far.

Amanda explained that the dig was both a training exercise for students of the University and also a "research" project, leading, it was hoped, to a greater understanding of life in a Roman town and why, perhaps, the town was left abandoned when the Romans withdrew. This is highly significant in that Calleva is one of the few Roman sites that has remained undeveloped.

Insula IX was first excavated by archaeologists in the Victorian era. Before the present dig commenced, careful study was made of old maps and documents left by the Victorians. Today's students have been busy cleaning up the surface after the removal of topsoil by machinery, to reveal the foundations of buildings, and to locate and empty the Victorian trenches. One or two anomalies have arisen, in that buildings not on the original plan have come to light, some by studying air photographs. Part of the north/south and east/west roads have also been uncovered, where a Victorian pit was found, containing many fragments of pottery, bone and metal objects, plus a few Victorian beer bottles made in Basingstoke! A large well was opened up, from which the Victorians had recovered a column piece, with an Ogham inscription.

Unfortunately, there have been two unauthorised intrusions by people with metal detectors, who have dug holes into the site and may have damaged some features, so the area has to be secured. In subsequent years, work will proceed to excavate the various strata in the site down to the Iron Age settlement.

Members may like to be aware of a newly prepared air Photographic Transcription Map of Roman Silchester, produced by the Royal Commission on the Historical Monuments of England. Copies will be available for sale at Society meetings, price £2. Proceeds go to maintaining the Calleva Museum at Silchester.

THE GRADUATE

Richard Dexter



In a previous article a while ago I described how I was given compulsory early retirement like so many of my age. I decided, after having taken stock of the situation, to embark upon fulfilling a lifelong ambition in going to University. I was accepted as a full time mature student to read history at the Royal Holloway College in Egham, just up the A30. I described how the course was modular and that it was on a continual assessment basis; this meant that the pressure was on from the word go. I ended by expressing a measure of apprehension as to whether I would be able to keep up with the prescribed reading and whether the age related failure of short term memory would be a handicap for the exams. Well, I did manage to complete the course and I graduated this summer. Here I shall describe what it was that I really learned and now that it is all over how I feel about it.

To start with, as the subject is so vast, I honestly do not feel that I know any more history than the average informed man in the street. Indeed there are many historians, who have written fine works on a variety of topics, who have not themselves formally studied the subject and I wish I could emulate them.

One of the first books that we were encouraged to read is an old chestnut: E H Carr's "What is History?" Written in the 1960s, it takes an objective, if not a side-ways view, of History by saying that History is not absolute and that as a subject it is only man's reflection of his past. As he evolves, so does the way he sees himself and it is only comparatively recently (in evolutionary terms) that importance has been placed on chronology. You have only to look at the Old Testament to see how myth and legend are intertwined with straight narrative. To dwell briefly on just this one example, it was in the seventeenth century, following the Renaissance and Reformation, that it was first realised that the Bible could not stand up to deconstruction when applying basic reasoning, since the narrative just would not hold together. Protestant and Jewish writers could take this on board but the Catholic Church found it very difficult, as we see from the way the Catholic priest Richard Simon's writings were placed on the List of proscribed books; he was one of the first "modern" biblical scholars to realise that inconsistencies needed to be explained using explanations other than simple recorded facts. It was Benedict Spinoza (1632-1677) who said you cannot study the Old Testament in translation without a knowledge of Hebrew, since there are many ambiguities in the original unvoiced Hebrew script, the voicing having been added by Hebrew scholars at a later date. It was he who pointed out that miracles could be explained as being serendipitous events retold with the benefit of hindsight. And it was David Strauss (1808-1874) who recognised the value, not error, of myth and it was Emile Durkheim (1858-1917) who introduced the idea of comparative religion. Indeed there are minority sects today who have not yet come to terms with these problems.

In past times History has been used for teaching, propaganda, establishing national identity and many other uses. The quest for historical accuracy, what some might call real history, is only one feature. This was pursued, together with the narrative approach to history, by the Victorians. "Give us the facts" was the implicit cry from which followed the many books and accounts of the "History of" Weights, measurements,

dates, events, battle, wars and people were all recorded in writing in great detail and duly published. We must not belittle this effort, for it formed the backbone of subsequent work. The aim for a definitive history of any topic remains today in popular publications but by the late 1960s there arose a school of historical thought which started to question the traditional interpretations; it became known as the Revisionist Movement. Since the facts appeared to be already known, or rather historical sources had been fully exploited, research turned towards checking out basic premises. Take the Reformation as an example. Henry VIII dissolved the monasteries and assumed the title of Supreme Head of the Church because Catholicism was seen to be corrupt. Also, once Mary Tudor had died, the English continued to destroy all vestiges of popery from their parish churches and they welcomed the more personal approach to their religion based on reading the bible and developing a personal faith without the compulsory intervention of the Church.

This has been the official line ever since John Foxe (1516-1587) wrote his famous "Foxe's book of Martyrs", the martyrs being Protestant martyrs starting with the Lollards. However, in looking at accounts more closely, some awkward questions remain unanswered, such as - if the English church is Protestant, how is it that it still has an episcopacy, Apostolic Succession and sacraments? If the hearts and minds of the laity had been won over to Protestantism, why was James I so reluctant to bring in Presbyterianism and why was Archbishop Laud able to set up a style of worship that was copied at the Restoration and which was used as a guiding principle by the Oxford Movement? Was England at heart still Catholic? This revisionist thinking was also applied to other well established concepts. The "Wars of the Roses" for example were not wars at all but just a series of banner wavings with the occasional skirmish. The name was only introduced in Victorian times just to make a good story run along more easily. And was there really a Norman Conquest or was the vibrant English economy simply taken over by a few French nobles who had an excellent propaganda machine? Revisionism was at its peak in the 1970s and nothing was sacred or immune from its thinking. It had its more bizarre moments, as when a Mycenaean axe head was found carved on a trilithon at Stonehenge, causing a major rethink of cultural associations.

We then came, in the late 1980s, to the Post-Revisionist thinking when the revisionist ideas themselves came under close scrutiny. Maybe the English are Protestant after all, otherwise how could all the pre-Enlightenment thinkers such as Thomas Hobbes be able to write so freely and openly criticise both Protestant and Catholic practices and beliefs? Their ideas were the bread and butter of the French Revolutionaries. So far as Catholic intransigence was concerned, did the Catholics not get there in the end at Vatican II when they updated their thinking, which in some ways even surpassed the Protestant Reformation? They virtually banned the Latin Tridentine Mass, whereas the good old Anglican Church still doggedly retains its 1662 Book of Common Prayer.

Studying History against this background is both trying and stimulating for many of the post Revisionist books argue the toss on interpretation. This makes finding out what actually happened very difficult, since it is to be taken as read. Well, it may be taken as read by those writing the books but for the poor undergraduate who knows not where to turn to find out what did happen the subject remains clouded in mystery. One of the pieces of advice we were given, and only partly in jest, was before you start any serious reading on a new subject go to the library and find the oldest, dustiest and dullest looking book from the reserve collection and read it to find out what happened. It will be in narrative form and without footnotes, it may be verbose but it will be easily understood. It was the same tutor who later told me "Richard, you really must get away from the chronological approach in your essays. Start from the end if you like and work backwards but don't plod through in date order." He was right (I think) because events in themselves do not make history but rather trends, ideas and themes.

As a simple test, try this one out when you have a quiet moment. Take for example the battles of Salamis, Actium, Hastings, Agincourt, Lepanto, Waterloo and Britain and ask yourself whether the events that followed in the medium and long term were affected by the outcome of the battles - or were cultural and economic forces more responsible and would change have happened anyway? In recent times (for those above the age of sixty) was the outcome of the Battle of Britain a knife edge or had the expansionist days of the Axis powers begun to wane? I do not want to be unpatriotic or to question a myth, for myth is as important as historic fact, but there can be more than one way of looking at past events.

So what was it that I learned over the last three years? One thing was that, when faced with a fact or event and seemingly incontrovertible evidence, one does not argue against it by saying black is white or, as in a pantomime, "Oh yes it is" or "Oh no it isn't" but rather find an alternative fact and build a separate argument. The result can be interesting for more than one scenario or viewpoints can be justified. One could say yes, Britain was prosperous nation and yet, yes, there was much poverty. From this one could then ask where was the wealth, who controlled it and what did they do with it and could they do exactly what they liked or was there an element of a restraining influence exercised by the have-nots? Also, without sounding too much like James Burke and his "Connections", there can usually be found an interrelationship between most events, though whether anybody else would agree with you is another matter all together. I have learned as well that, however seemingly reprehensible an action has been, the perpetrator would generally have had his reasons. To understand them is history. However to make a moral judgement is something different; that is moral philosophy.

How do I feel now that it is all over? Relieved but sorry it has all finished. It was thoroughly worthwhile and I hope it will tempt me to continue with something along the same lines, although not quite so intensive. There are two questions that naturally come to the fore. The first is - what am I going to do with my degree? The answer to that is simply just enjoy having done it.

The other well, ask me and I'll tell you.

SURFING TO COLCHESTER

Bob Applin



Current Archaeology No 153's reporting of the excavations at Colchester gave the address for the Colchester Archaeological Trust's (CAT) information board on the Internet. It is well worth visiting the web site; apart from a diary which is updated regularly, there are notes on some of the major finds (see also *Current Archaeology*). When they have their modems sorted out there will also be an on-line video.

A popular account of the Colchester excavations has been published by CAT. At £11.95 post free it is a good buy. It is well illustrated and written in an easily readable style:

City of Victory, Philip Crummy, Colchester Archaeological Trust Ltd,
12 Lexden Rd, Colchester, Essex, CO3 3NF

Internet address: <http://peipa.essex.ac.uk/CAT>

PLANTSMEN & GARDENERS by Margaret Drury

BAHS member Margaret Drury is the tutor for this course of 7 weekly meetings at St Leonard's Centre, Rectory Road, Oakley, starting on Friday, October 3rd, 10.30 - noon. The illustrated course will study plant collectors and botanist gardeners as well as present-day specialists. The fee is £22. Please 'phone the tutor (01256 850028) if you would like to join the course.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TOURS

Following her article on a study tour of Doric Temples in Sicily (Newsletter 139), when she mentioned the sad death of Ted Bull, the organiser of the tour company, Sue Headley has sent in details of a new company, Avoca Tours Ltd which is hoping to carry on the same idea. This is run by Malcolm and Helen Roberts and many of the tour leaders are familiar to us, including Mike and Elizabeth Hughes, Dave Allen and Dawn Webster. The phone number for bookings and enquiries is 01205 821104.

We also have details of tours by Andante Travels (and again, Dave Allen, Denise Allen and Andrew Lawson are familiar names.

REMINDERS

- **Photographic Competition**

In the May Newsletter (page 3) we invited you to take part in our annual photographic competition. The rules are explained there and we look forward to receiving your entry.

- **Ancient Textiles & Clothing in Europe:**

29th November, Museum Of the Iron Age, Andover, 10.30 to 16.00

Details of this one-day workshop, arranged by Marta Cock (01256 351506) are in the May Newsletter (page 5). Please let Marta know if you want to attend.

UNIVERSITY OF OXFORD day schools and weekend courses

We have details of some interesting day schools (e.g. *Prehistoric Ritual* and *The Neanderthals and their European Ancestors*) and weekend courses (e.g. *Romanisation in Britain, Arms, Armour and Fortifications of the Middle Ages, Archaeological Interpretation and Mapping from Aerial Photographs, Iberia: Europe between Two Seas, Anglo-Saxon Art and Architecture and The Etruscans and their Neighbours*).

Details from Tim Herrington (01256 0322090) or at meetings, or from OUDCE, 1 Wellington Square, Oxford OX1 2JA - tel 01865 270369.

CALENDAR

Wednesday 27 Aug	Oral History Project Meeting 7.30 pm, Willis Museum (see page 6)	BAHS
Thurs 11 Sept	TAULAS, TALYOTS & TOURISTS - THE BRONZE AGE OF MENORCA Dawn Webster, Central Studio, Queen Mary's Centre (page 3)	BAHS
Sat 13 Sept	Hampshire & Islands Historic Churches Trust: sponsored walk/bike ride (page 7)	
Thurs 18 Sept	Stories of Tadley by members of The Tadley & District Society	FWM
Sat 20 Sept	BADBURY RINGS & WIMBORNE MINSTER Excursion (page 4)	BAHS
Thurs 25 Sept	Visit to Local History Section, Basingstoke Library (page 3)	BAHS
Fri 26 Sept	Wine & Cheese party (page 5)	HFC
Fri 3 Oct	Plantsmen & Gardeners start of course (page 13)	
Thurs 9 Oct	THE OLDEST EUROPEANS Clive Gamble, Main Hall, Queen Mary's Centre (page 3)	BAHS
Thurs 16 Oct	AGM & The Past, Present & Future of the Royal Naval Armaments Depot, Priddy's Hard	FWM
Sat 18 Oct	COMPTON, SURREY Excursion (page 4)	BAHS
Sat 18 Oct	A Celebration of Winchester Archaeology (page 7)	
Thurs 13 Nov	THE ETON ROWING LAKE: A PREHISTORIC LANDSCAPE BY THE THAMES Tim Allen Church Cottage (page 3)	BAHS
Thurs 20 Nov	The Creation of the Basingstoke Town Centre Bob Brown	FWM
Sat 29 Nov	ANCIENT TEXTILES & CLOTHING IN EUROPE Workshop (page 13)	BAHS/ SECS
Sat 6 Dec	THE GRAND TOUR (page 5)	
Thurs 11 Dec	CHEESE & WINE	BAHS
Fri 12 Dec	Christmas Get together	FWM

Unless otherwise stated:

BAHS	Our Society event, 7.30 pm - please note place
FWM	Friends of the Willi Museum, 7.30 pm, Willis Museum
HFC	Hampshire Field Club