

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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SUBSCRIPTIONS - Concessionary rates

Paragraph 6 of our Constitution, referring to subscriptions, allows separate rates to be applied in particular to two or more members of the same household, students and "members in receipt of the National Insurance Pension" and "for any other member at the Committee's discretion". Your Committee has minuted their interpretation of this paragraph so that all members over the age of 60 will be eligible for the concession in force at the time, thus riding over the quirk pensions ranging from 60 to 65!

HAMPSHIRE CHURCHES VISIT

Saturday, February 21st 1998



Tim Herrington has arranged a morning visit to two churches in the vicinity of Winchester. We will visit St Andrew's at Chilcomb and All Saints at Compton. The former, sitting alone and looking across the valley to Winchester and bedecked with snowdrops, is a splendid example of a simple very early Norman church, little altered from the days of the Conqueror. The latter is, in effect, two churches as the original Norman building, which was a simple oblong, has been enlarged on the south side in 1905 to accommodate an influx of new parishioners from neighbouring Shawford. The manner in which this was accomplished is fascinating.

Some 15 members attending the January meeting have signed the clipboard to come to this outing. The numbers are limited to 25 so early booking is requested. If you are coming to the February meeting you will be given your newsletter there and can tell Tim then. If not, tel. 01256 322090. Maps and times will be issued before the day.

The cost will be £3 on the day to cover donations to the churches.

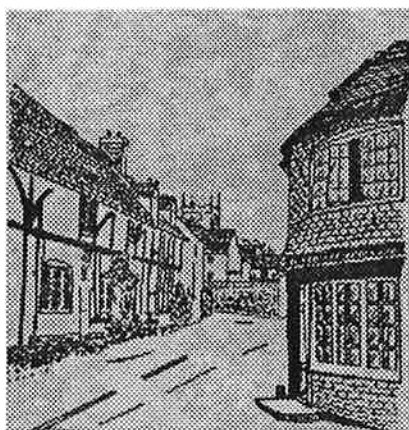
SOCIETY DINNER AT BCOT

(Thursday, February 26th - 6.00 for 6.30 pm)

We have had a very good response by members and friends wishing to attend this special occasion. There are a few places left at table and we invite those of you who have mislaid their application form to telephone Tim Herrington on 01256 322090 to reserve your place(s). The cost has been settled at £13.50 for the three course dinner with coffee to follow. Thanks to those of you who have already completed your form; Tim would appreciate your cheques @ £13.50 per head (if not already sent) to arrive at 16, Scotney Road, Basingstoke RG215SR.

ODIHAM TOWN WALK

Sunday, 22nd March



We are arranging a perambulation of the nearby town of Odiham to be led by Society member Derek Spruce. This will be an afternoon excursion to point out some of the features of a Parish which contains one of the richest collections of historic buildings in Hampshire. If you would like to join us, please let Tim Herrington know at the February meeting, or soon after, so that we can go ahead with the arrangements. Tel. 01256 322090. There will be a charge of £1.50 on the day to cover expenses.

FORTHCOMING LECTURES

- * **Thursday 12 March, 1998**
Conference Room, Queen Mary's Centre (NB Not the Main Hall!!)
Recent Work in Maritime Archaeology
by Tony Firth (Wessex Archaeology)

We have had many enjoyable lectures and visits over the years from Wessex Archaeology (local professional unit) and this year we'll also be continuing another successful theme, that of ships and maritime archaeology. Our speaker will describe

for us several projects - in the Bristol Channel, Southampton Water, North Kent and, the most recent, at Folkestone - which involve the inter-tidal area as well as underwater archaeology and many different periods.

✳ **Thursday 9th April 1998**
Main Hall, Queen Mary's Centre
Is Scotland Different? An Archaeological and Historical
Perspective
by Marta Cock

Marta Cock, one of our own members, and a Scot, will present us with a challenging evening about her homeland. What is Scotland anyway? Is it a homogenous entity? Who are the people we now know as Scots? Marta will give a personal view illustrated by slides, drawings and music, about some key factors which shaped the country from early evidence of settlement to the consolidation and struggle to survive of the relatively feudal kingdom of Scotland. You will decide on what is different from what!

✳ **Thursday 14th May 1998**
Church Cottage (behind St Michael's Church)
King Alfred and the Vikings in Hampshire

Dr Barbara Yorke is a Reader in the Department of History and Archaeology at King Alfred's College, and author of many books and articles on Anglo-Saxon topics. She has a particular interest in King Alfred and is currently co-organiser of a major conference on him to be held at Southampton University in 1999. She will be talking to us about King Alfred's response to the Vikings in Wessex, in particular the effect on local communities. Come and hear how our own Battle of Basing (871 AD) fits into the wider picture.

EASTER TRAINING DIG

Friday April 10th - Monday April 13th.

We hope that enough of our members who have not yet had the opportunity to take part in one of our previous training digs, will join us now. These are designed to provide an introduction to techniques and to give hands-on experience. The venue will once again be at Worthing and the leader this year will be David Score. Please let David know now if you might be interested. If you have been before we would welcome your return: there is a need to have some experienced veterans to help with these albeit light-hearted proceedings!

Before the event, the owner of the field has asked whether we could offer some little help to re-instate some of the boundary hedging, and David would like to hear from you for either or both ventures. After the dig there will be an opportunity to sort out and clean the finds. So there you are! Contact David on 01252 548591 or, failing that, Mary Oliver on 01256 324263 or Peter Heath on 01256 327713.

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY

Barbara Applin

Excellent news! We have received grants from the County Council and from Macmillans so we very nearly have enough money to go ahead with the first publication. Watch this space!

Meanwhile you will see that we have decided on a new title for our project (oral history always did sound rather dull) and this will be the series title for any books or tapes we produce.

At our last meeting various members undertook to record interviews with people who had offered their memories, and we are also going to help Shirley Baker of the Willis Museum with the recordings she began about people who worked at Thornycrofts. Work on transcriptions will also continue - much faster if we can find some way of operating a tape recorder with a foot pedal, to leave hands free.

We shall be very glad if more members come to help us with transcriptions, interviews and any associated research. If you're interested, come to one of our meetings at the Willis Museum to find out what we're up to - no obligation. We have planned several meetings ahead, each starting at 7.30 pm: 4th March, 1st April, 6th May, 3rd June and 1st July. If you want more details, ring me on 01256 465439.

THE CHRISTMAS PARTY

Some 40 members and friends enjoyed the Society Christmas Party and we thank all of you who came and especially those who also provided the vital sustenance for the occasion. As ever, it was a team effort and followed the format which seems to work for us! We are open to suggestions for the 1998 event so please let us know if you have some bright ideas to enliven the programme.

The winners of the photography competition were -

1 st Prize :	Chris Horrocks	A Disused Pottery Kiln
2 nd Prize:	Sue Strawson	A View of Stonehenge
3 rd Prize:	Marten Harris:	Hadrian's Wall

- and we congratulate them and all the others who took part. The standard of the entries was first class and, as the competition seems a popular one, we propose to invite entries for 1998! Modest prizes will be awarded.

The rules are:

- 1] Entry fee per photo: 50p
- 2] Subject can be anything of historical or archaeological interest, or of interest to the member.
- 3] Photographs must be taken in this calendar year by a Society member and be a print, up to 10" by 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.

MARY OLIVER'S GRAND TOUR



by Sue Headley

An almost capacity crowd at Church Cottage was treated to an afternoon in the 18th century on 6th December, when Mary Oliver and her friends Jane Baker and Jeremy Pearson took us on the Grand Tour.

Jane's talk opened with descriptions of the arduous nature of the Grand Tour at a time when travel was only for the wealthy and determined. She told us much about the art history of the period (not all Canalettos!) and her slides took us to the great centres of Italian culture, including Venice, Rome and Naples. It was a pleasure to listen to such an enthusiastic and knowledgeable speaker.

Mary herself took us on a lightning tour of the archaeology that visitors to Italy might have seen at that time. Most would have spent some considerable time in Rome, where the major sites were as impressive, if less crowded than they are now. They would also have seen the early excavations in the Naples area and, like us, marvelled at the revelations not only of Roman style and sophistication, but also of everyday life at Herculaneum and Pompeii.

After an excellent tea, with home-made cakes, thanks to Mary's friends, Jeremy showed us how those Englishmen who had undertaken the Grand Tour - and some of them were away for more than 5 years - made use of their observations in designing their own homes and gardens. His slides of both the exteriors and interiors of some of the finest Palladian houses in the country were superb. It was interesting to see how even the kitchens at Erddig (National Trust) reflected classical proportions.

I shall certainly make a point of visiting Devonport (Plymouth) when I am next in Devon to see the fine Town Hall (Greek temple-style) and the adjacent former Oddfellows Hall (unusual Egyptian style). All-in-all, it was a most interesting afternoon and our sincere thanks go to Jane and Jeremy and, particularly, to Mary who organised the event whilst in the early stages of recovering from her accident. Those who attended will have the added pleasure of knowing that over £500 was raised for St Michael's, Basingstoke, a cause dear to Mary's heart.

WORKSHOP ON ANCIENT TEXTILES AND CLOTHING IN EUROPE

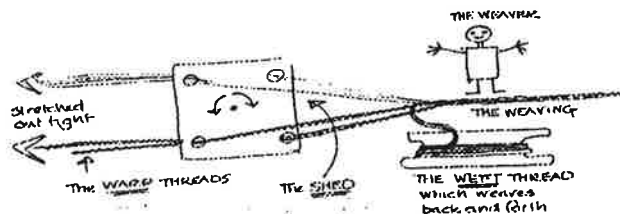
November 29th 1997 Museum of the Iron Age, Andover
Chris Horrocks

The idea for this workshop resulted from a visit to the Silchester collection at Reading Museum made by the Society some time ago, when several members expressed the desire to know more about ancient textiles and how they were made.

Hilary Underwood, an Art Historian and WEA tutor, told us how she had become interested in ancient textiles. I have experienced the same feelings of indignation she described when seeing museum exhibits showing Iron Age people wearing extremely coarsely spun and woven cloth garments. Surely a people who could make fine jewellery from exquisite metal work would not be satisfied with such crude workmanship in textiles? After relatively little tuition and practice it is possible to spin quite a fine even thread using a drop spindle, as we found at lunch time. It is clear the technology was available to weave it into a fine cloth fabric. Closer examination of existing finds and more recent discoveries have revealed fabric of high quality with as many as 46 warp threads per centimetre, made from silk, wool, goat hair, horse hair, linen, nettle, hemp and lime fibres. The natural dyes and mordants available would result in colourful fabrics being worn, some with elaborate braids and borders. The archaeological evidence shows that cloth was woven in pieces which were the desired length for use, unlike the present practice of producing long lengths which are then cut to the shape and size required. The fabrics were held by brooches or pins and tied with braids. Only a small amount of sewing was done, using first bone, then metal needles.

At lunch time some of the group learned how to spin wool from a Butser farm Herdwick fleece, using a drop spindle. It was clear that anybody practising this skill every day, as the Iron Age people must have done, would soon become very competent at this craft.

Hilary Underwood continued after lunch with a demonstration of making braids using a tablet loom, a craft still carried out today by Bedouin tribes-people. She also demonstrated how a loom could be set up with weighted warp threads introducing stripes and checks using different colours, and it could be transported from place to place while our forefathers were still a nomadic people. The possible way in which the process of weaving developed was suggested, speeding it up by using methods of lifting groups of threads to form a shed, and a bobbin to hold the weft thread. Hilary brought with her examples of threads dyed from natural dyes and mordant, which were very impressive.

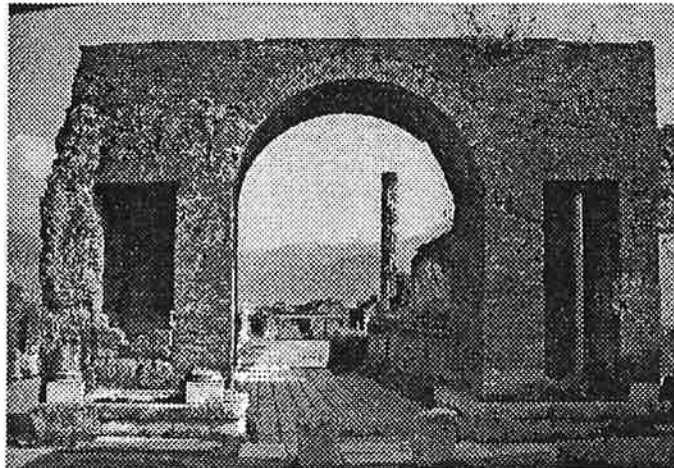


Sara Champion, who is a lecturer in Archaeology at Southampton University, concluded the day by talking about the Hochdorf tomb which has recently been discovered in Germany. The contents have remained undisturbed since burial and contained clear evidence of finely woven colourful fabric. The body had been clothed and a fine bronze sofa had cushions on it for the body to rest on and was probably covered by some type of upholstery. The slide pictures were impressive and left us all wanting to hear more of this recent find. She also mentioned finds from a salt mine at Hallstatt which were very well preserved.

The day was a most successful collaboration between the South of England Costume Society and Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society, and organised by Marta Cock. Hilary Underwood tutors courses at Butser Ancient Farm, which sounds like an interesting extension of this workshop. With luck, Sara Champion may come to the Society to talk about the Hochdorf tomb, Hallstatt salt mine and Italian ice man finds, as only the textiles were described in detail in this lecture and there is so much more of interest to hear about.

POMPEII & SILCHESTER: A TALE OF TWO CITIES

Ralph Atton



The Arch of Tiberius at Pompeii

On 13th November, the Silchester Parochial Church Council were fortunate in being able to persuade Professor Michael Fulford, of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Reading, to interrupt a hard-earned sabbatical in order to give a talk on the above subject. Such was the amount of interest generated by the event, that there was not even standing room in the Silchester School Hall, where the talk took place.

Professor Fulford is, of course, well-known for his previous excavations at Roman Silchester; for example, of the basilica, amphitheatre and north gate. This year saw the start of a five-summer season of archaeological excavation of Insula IX. Professor Fulford has also been involved in recent times in excavations at Pompeii. As there are distinct similarities at each site and similar archaeological problems, Professor Fulford considered it would be of interest to speak about each in turn.

Both Pompeii and Silchester were large urban centres, with administrative functions, such as the collection of taxes. Both were abandoned, although, of course, in different circumstances. A parallel with Pompeii was the case of present-day Montserrat. There are limits to what can be explored at Pompeii, but a great deal can still be learned at Silchester, one of the few Roman sites in Britain which has remained undeveloped since the end of the Roman occupation.

The facts about the destructive earthquake, at Pompeii, in AD 62, are well-known. It seems that, in AD 64, there were riots! Today there are a few houses accessible to the public, often containing frescoes depicting scenes from classical mythology. A huge area has hardly been examined by archaeologists, but it is possible to visit buildings used, for example, as bakeries and brothels. Rather than searching for new finds, archaeologists were examining, in detail, what had been left behind, so as to gain a greater insight into daily life in Pompeii. A slide was shown depicting what must have been a bar counter, behind which was a large collection of jars, written on to show, for example, the name of the supplier, jars from the Aegean and Crete having been identified. A skeleton of a mule, found in what was probably a stable or manger, suggested how deliveries were organised. Pollen of walnut, often used for worming, was also found. In a pile of rubble behind older wine jars, was found a large quantity of wall-plaster, which will merit further study. A box, containing the cremated remains of old cockerel bones, suggested a religious cult. A mosaic, in Naples Museum, depicting a boxer, with a cockerel at the foot, was identical to a box found by the archaeologists. Insights were often gained by examination of items in detail and digging down through time (rubbish pits were a rich source of information).

Silchester is a town similar to Pompeii, with temples, a forum, shop and baths etc. Although only the walls are now above ground, excavators in the 19th and early 20th century delineated the town plan, as at Pompeii. Although much information was lost at the time of the first excavations, we were now aware of the basics. Recent aerial photography has shown that more stone buildings existed than were found by the Victorians. Insula IX is a city block, within the street grid, adjacent to the forum and basilica at the heart of the Roman town.

Work started this year has cleared up the Victorian outlines and mapped out their trenches systematically. Part of the north/south and east/west roads have been uncovered, together with a rubbish pit, dug in 1893, the contents of which included "finds" discarded by the Victorians, e.g. fragments of pottery, bone and metal objects, which are now being systematically examined.

Professor Fulford remarked on the exciting earlier excavation of a column fragment with latinised Ogham script (horizontal lines across a vertical line), which was a funerary stone giving the genealogy of Ebicatus. The stone may be dated to 6th century AD, when the Romans had left.

It is possible this building was in use after the end of the Roman occupation and evidence of medieval fire-marks adds to the intriguing nature of this part of the site. Is it possible the excavators are close to revealing more about the transition from Roman to later periods, about which so little is currently known?

We are grateful to Professor Fulford for a fascinating and enjoyable evening. And it seems there is more to come!

BOOKSHELF

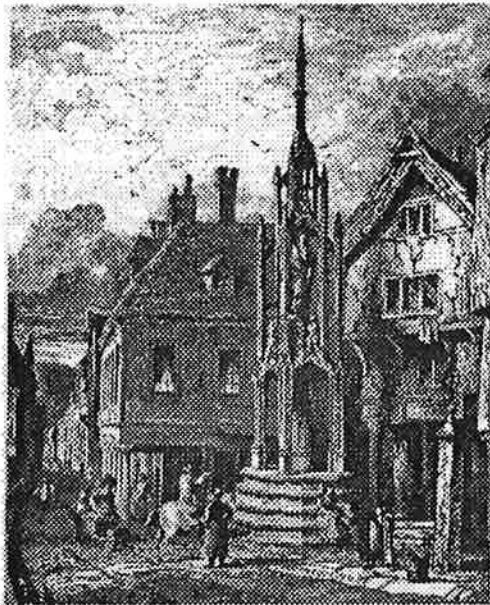
Reviews by Barbara Applin



WINCHESTER Tom Beaumont James (B T Batsford/English Heritage) £15.99

This is really good value. Anyone with an interest in Winchester should be sure to buy a copy! The back cover blurb proclaims it as "the definitive guide to the story of Winchester and the people who played a part in it", though the author calls it "an interim report" as so much excavation work is yet to be published.

Tom James is well known to many members of our Society, and certainly to people who go to Hampshire Field Club conferences, for his lectures on topics like the Black Death and Clarendon Palace. In this book he covers a dazzling range of evidence from archaeology, architecture, documents and scientific analysis. His writing is authoritative and full of detail, yet clear and easy to read. As you would expect, his approach is broadly chronological but he is not afraid to pursue themes over time, which gives a fuller perception and a sense of patterns developing.



From the author's collection

There are many delights to discover across this great spread of time, from Sir Christopher Wren observing a Roman tessellated floor in 1683 to a 19th century architect using black porphyry for internal details in houses, "perhaps the first imports of such stone into the city since Roman times".

Tom James gives full credit to the archaeologists and historians who have discovered so much of Winchester's past. We feel we have seen in action people like Sydney Ward-Evans, Frank Cottrill, Barry Cunliffe, Martin Biddle, Ken Qualmann etc. But he must himself take full credit for this synthesis which succeeds in treating 19th century and modern Winchester as part of the full story so that we can feel

ourselves to be not just learning about history but part of it. One feels that an understanding of national and international history underpins the account of local event and developments.

The book is very fully illustrated. I particularly like the copious cross-references between illustrations and text. Several illustrations are from the author's own collections. It is interesting to see, not just the familiar "top" side of the famous Round Table in the Great Hall, but a photograph of 1873 showing the underside with broken mortices where legs once fitted.

Many subheadings within chapters make the information very accessible, and the book contains not only a glossary, and index and a list of Further Reading but also 3 pages of Winchester Chronology and a map and notes for a tour of the city.

Walks around the Parish of Old Basing

This booklet (price £2.00) has maps and descriptions of several walks around Basing, with some historic features and some flowers, trees etc to be seen. It is attractively produced, though I do wish the labels on the maps were bigger - it's difficult enough to read them in the comfort of your home but will be much more difficult on the move (especially on a cold day when the wind makes your eyes water!) Congratulations to the Footpath Committee of Old Basing Parish Council for their initiative.

CROATIAN AWARD

Congratulations to Professor Patrick Boylan, who lectured to us last year on Protecting Sites and Monuments in Times of Armed Conflict. He has been awarded Croatia's High Order of Merit "Danica Hrvatska" for his work in Croatia.

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

We have booking slips for the following forthcoming lectures:

MINOAN CRETE Kay Ainsworth 7.30 pm, Wednesday 25th February at the Milner Hall, St Peter Street, Winchester (Free)

AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY Bob Bewley of the RCHM(E) 7.30 pm, Thursday 12th March in the Science Centre Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds' College, Winchester (use Bereweke Road entrance) (Free)

MEETING THE ANCESTORS Julian Richards 7.30 pm, Wednesday 25th March (Science Centre Lecture Theatre, as above) Free

SPRING SYMPOSIUM : COMMUNICATIONS IN HAMPSHIRE 10 am to 5 pm, Saturday, 18th April, in the Cinema, 4th floor, Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester. (£4 for Field Club Members, £5 for non-members)

CALENDAR

Thurs 19 Feb	What was in the Bottle? George Plummer	FWM
Sat 21 Feb	VISIT TO HAMPSHIRE CHURCHES	BAHS
Wed 25 Feb	Minoan Crete Kay Ainsworth, <i>Milner Hall Winchester</i>	HFC
Thurs 26 Feb	ANNUAL DINNER	BAHS
Wed 4 March	Basingstoke Talking History meeting <i>Willis Museum, 7.30 pm</i>	BAHS
Thurs 12 March	RECENT WORK IN MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY Tony Firth <i>Conference Room QMC</i>	BAHS
Thurs 12 March	OGS Crawford lecture: Aerial Archaeology Bob Bewley	HFC
Thurs 19 March	A Waterside Walk in West Berkshire Nick Channer	FWM
Sun 22 March	WALKABOUT IN ODIHAM	BAHS
Wed 25 March	Meeting the Ancestors Julian Richards	HFC
Wed 1 April	Basingstoke Talking History meeting <i>Willis Museum, 7.30 pm</i>	BAHS
Thurs 9 April	IS SCOTLAND DIFFERENT? <i>Marta Cock</i> <i>Main Hall, QMC</i>	BAHS
10-13 April	TRAINING DIG AT WORTING	BAHS
Thurs 16 April	The People of Kilombero Amanda Green	FWM
Sat 18 April	Spring Symposium: Communications <i>in Hampshire Hampshire Record Office</i>	HFC
Wed 6 May	Basingstoke Talking History meeting <i>Willis Museum, 7.30 pm</i>	BAHS
Thurs 14 May	KING ALFRED AND THE VIKINGS IN HAMPSHIRE Barbara Yorke <i>Church Cottage</i>	BAHS
Thurs 21 May	Ancient Churches and Cathedrals Arthur Blackham	FWM
Wed 3 June	Basingstoke Talking History meeting <i>Willis Museum, 7.30 pm</i>	BAHS
Thurs 18 June	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING <i>Conference Room</i>	BAHS
Wed 1 July	Basingstoke Talking History meeting <i>Willis Museum, 7.30 pm</i>	BAHS

BAHS Our Society
FWM Friends of the Willis Museum
HFC Hampshire FieldClub