

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER 154

February 2001

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**ANNUAL SOCIETY DINNER AT BCOT**  
**Thursday March 1st 2001**  
**6 pm for 6.30 pm**

The cost of the Dinner will be £15. There are a few places left, so call me (Tim Herrington) on 01256 322090 to book your place (by 20th February). If you have already booked I would like to receive your cheque for £15 per person, made out to BAHS, as soon as possible.

The speaker is Professor Michael Fulford, who is well-known to our Society for his excavations at Silchester - and Pompeii.

Do be aware of the early start!

### **VISITS**

Look out for the enclosure with this newsletter about visits that are being arranged, and please send back your booking slips as soon as you can.

### **PROGRAMME NOTES: March to May 2001**

*Mary Oliver*

*(All the lectures are held at Church Cottage, Church Square and start at 7.30 pm.)*

#### **Thursday, 8th March**

#### **TWO ROMAN ROADSIDE SETTLEMENTS IN EAST YORKSHIRE** **Professor Martin Millett**

Martin is an old friend of the Society. He used to be with the County Museum Service and many of us worked with him when fieldwalking or digging on sites such as Cowdery's Down. He left Hampshire to lecture at Durham University, and has now returned to Southampton - but only briefly! He has secured a prestigious Chair at Cambridge University from next October, and we congratulate him on that. We are lucky to have caught him to come and lecture to us on his fieldwork in Yorkshire. He writes, "Since 1983 we have been working on a variety of Iron Age and Roman sites in East Yorkshire. Two of these lie close together on the Roman road from York to Brough-on-Humber, at Hayton and Shiptonthorpe. Both are small roadside settlements but there are a variety of contrasts between them that shed new light on the processes of social change that took place in Roman Britain."

The day before our meeting, Martin will be giving the OGS Crawford Memorial Lecture to the Hampshire Field Club at Peter Symonds' College, Winchester. His subject is his work in Italy (more details from the HFC Secretary).

**Thursday, 19th April \*\*\* Note the date which is set to avoid meeting on Maundy Thursday \*\*\***

## **THE HISTORY AND RESTORATION OF THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL**

**Tony Harmsworth**

The Canal must be one of Basingstoke's favourite bits of history: it can still be seen, be walked beside and even sailed upon. We had a Saturday Society outing here a year or two ago. The story of the Canal is full of interest, from its building in the great days of canals, its brief heyday, its eclipse by the railway, and its many years of decline until the triumphant restoration by many dedicated volunteers in recent years. Tony Harmsworth is Waterway Manager for the Basingstoke Canal Authority who manage the Canal from the eastern portal of the Greywell Tunnel to where it meets the Wey Navigation at West Byfleet. He will tell us about the history and restoration of the Canal and no doubt encourage us to go and explore the unfamiliar structures, or walk again our favourite towpaths.

**Thursday 10th May**

## **OF WATERMILLS AND WORKHOUSES: ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT THE ORACLE, READING - 1996-8.**

**David Wilkinson**

Many members will no doubt have visited Reading's new state-of-the-art shopping centre, "The Oracle". Before the shopping complex was built it was the scene of one of the largest excavations in the country, led by David Wilkinson for the Oxford Archaeological Unit. Beside the river and right in the heart of the old town, the site was full of archaeology, which will be unravelled by our speaker. The "watermills and workhouses" of the title are but two of the aspects of Reading's past which were brought to light by the excavations. Would that Basingstoke had received the same attention during its development in the 60s! Archaeology has come a long way since then.

**Thursday 14th June**

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **MOSAICS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE**

**Marten Harris**

It is always nice to welcome one of our own members as a speaker, and to have them share their special interests with us. Marten is a fan of Roman mosaics. With the Society ASPROM, which exists to promote their study, he has visited many Roman provinces (besides Britannia) to look at Roman mosaics, their subject matter, technical variation and their artistic achievement. As he is also an excellent photographer, we are in for a visual treat - something to look forward to when the business of the AGM is concluded.

## THE MAGI IN ART

*Susan Good*



The Adoration of the Magi      *Fra Angelico (c. 1387-1455)*

I wonder how many of you who attended 'A Celebration through Paintings over several centuries of the Visit of the Three Kings to Christ's Nativity' in Church Cottage on January 6th discovered, as you took down your Christmas cards on Twelfth Night, that you had been sent reproductions of some of the masterpieces featured in the illustrated lecture given by Miss Jane Baker, former Keeper of Fine Art at The Royal Albert Memorial Museum, Exeter. The scene was set for this interesting and informative talk by Mr. Paul Connolly's atmospheric reading of T.S.Eliot's 'Journey of the Magi', before Miss Baker reminded the audience that 12th to 17th century art had been kept alive both by the churches, who commissioned paintings and frescoes, and later by the patronage of wealthy families, such as the Medici. As Miss Baker commented, 'When the ordinary things of life have been dealt with, Art is the icing on the cake'. She also described the great processions held in Florence to celebrate Epiphany, which could be seen in many of the Italian paintings.

Some seventy slides were shown, encompassing not only paintings, but also English 12th century illuminated manuscripts, such as the Oscott psalter and the Winchester Bible, Pisano's bas-relief in the Baptistery at Pisa and the Wilton Diptych. All were explained and described with great enthusiasm and erudition by Miss Baker. The great frescoes of Giotto, painted in the Arena Chapel in Padua, showed how the rather formal and simplistic style of the 12th century had given way to more realistic depiction. Giotto uses soft, gentle colours and even shows a great tail-trailing comet bowling over the scene. Miss Baker entertainingly pointed out amusing details in Gozzoli's 1459 fresco in the Medici Palace in Florence, a cheetah sitting on a horse's back and the fact that most of the Medici family had been incorporated into the procession. Part of this fresco also shows angels with peacock feather wings busily gardening. Miss Baker was obviously taken with these angels, but not so enamoured of the angel cherubs which appeared to be sprouting from the Madonna's head in the central panel of a triptych by Mantegna.

The Epiphany procession threads its way through most of these depictions and landscape begins to appear, giving the idea of the distance travelled by the kings. Botticelli rejected this processional format in favour of a centralised, pyramidal design, creating a balance and harmony of composition. In Botticelli's beautiful 'Adoration of the Magi' [c. 1475], the kings are given the features of the Medici family and it could be the artist himself who, on the right-hand side of the picture, arrogantly gazes out at the viewer. In 1481, Leonardo da Vinci started a 'Magi' painting using the same compositional structure as Botticelli, but it was never finished. His sketch shows people full of quiet wonderment as they pay homage to the tranquil central figures of the Madonna and Child, whilst in the background is a contrasting scene of conflict and energy as two mounted warriors fight.

Miss Baker showed many more masterpieces, all illustrating various aspects of the development of European religious art, but it was Rubens that she acknowledged as the peak of representation. His 'Adoration of the Magi', full of vitality, dazzling light and colour, had taken the audience from the 12th to the 17th century and was a fitting climax to the lecture. Miss Baker's enthusiastic and clear interpretation of the slides enabled the audience to see the way that representation of the Three Kings had evolved, whilst still retaining the essential religious message.

After this challenging but fascinating lecture, a delicious tea was provided. In all, a most enjoyable afternoon, which had been organised by Mary Oliver in support of the St. Michael's Church Fabric Fund.



**Barbara Applin**

Lots going on! There's still time to suggest anything else we should include in the forthcoming book "Taking the Pulse of Basingstoke" - people to be interviewed, photographs to copy. Or let us know of any other people who have worked at Hackwood. We have begun looking into relevant archives at the Hampshire Record Office, hoping to compare past information with what we are getting today. We are still waiting for information from France about Nancy Powell's time in Nogent le Rotrou, but meanwhile Mary Shelley has located two "Powell" pianos (from Nancy's family's music shop in London Street). We have plenty of people to interview on other topics too, such as people who worked at Burberry's, Thornycroft's etc, or just people with interesting lives.

The book we helped with, "Memories of Basingstoke", is now in the shops, has had good reviews in the *Basingstoke Gazette* and the *Basingstoke Observer* and is selling well. All the quotations from named people come from our tapes - and are acknowledged at the end of the book. We would have liked much longer to get material together and check it, and would have liked to be able to influence the choice of firms involved as they weren't exactly representative of the town. And it's a mercy so few mistakes have been found as we weren't sent any proofs to check. The publishers sent us a "thank you present" of 12 zip disks (very welcome, as we need a good supply of these for the photographs we are scanning to accompany our tapes). We have a display copy of the book to show at meetings, and suggest that people buy copies from the Willis Museum.

Our "Lookback" series in the *Basingstoke Observer* is intentionally sporadic - and one slot was usefully taken by a review of the "Memories" book. To keep this going, if we have a break between writing articles based on BTH, I have started sending articles based on the video "Beneath Basingstoke" (the first being about excavating the Buckskin barrow). We had a nice "Happy Christmas and thanks for your efforts" e-mail from the deputy editor who is our main contact.

We are beginning research on Wote Street (as we did for Church Street for the book "Going Down Church Street to the Felgate Bookshop"). We shall be collecting memories and looking at directories, billheads, deeds, census returns etc. Helpers welcome!

We have given the County Museum Service details of material on our tapes about the Home Guard, air raids and Thornycrofts as Milestones is preparing a children's activity based on the Home Guard and air raid shelters, and is also looking for material on Thornycrofts.

The University of Portsmouth is compiling a Directory of people working in Oral History and is to include details of BTH.

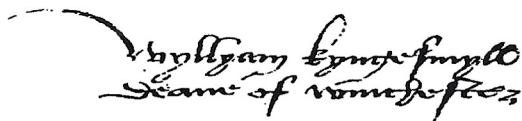
Groups who have had talks on Basingstoke Talking History include TADS (Tadley & District Local History Society), St Peter's Wives and a group at St Mark's. This is often a good opportunity to sell our books and video.

Once again, although we are gaining more members, several others have commitments which prevent them from doing much - so we still need lots more people to help interview and transcribe and research. Some people only like to interview, others only to transcribe etc - no problem. Why not come along to our next meeting at the Willis Museum, 7.30 pm on Wednesday 21 March 2001? It will be an opportunity to try your hand at interviewing (or being interviewed), or just having a say in what we should do and how. Or just ring me (01256 465439).

## WILLIAM KINGSMILL - A TAIL PIECE

*Richard Dexter*

I have just recently come across another piece of the historical jigsaw, so to speak, concerning William Kingsmill who was appointed Prior of St Swithun's Priory (Winchester Cathedral) at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries.



It will be remembered that when Thomas Cromwell was preparing the ground for the dissolution of the monasteries - for it was Thomas Cromwell who was Henry VIII's henchman and who was doing all the dirty work - he made sure that when the time came for the actual dissolution of a monastery the man who held the position of prior was one who Cromwell knew would be "conformable", that is one who would conform to the terms of the dissolution charter which would be placed before him. Cromwell achieved this in the Machiavellian way of first arranging for a visitation to be made. This gave the visitor the chance of making false or wildly exaggerated accusations against the unwanted office-holder, who would be accused of various misdemeanours.

Misappropriating funds and allowing the fabric of the buildings to fall into a state of dilapidation were the two standard ploys.

This is exactly what happened in Winchester, when the old Prior Harry Broke was found to be non-conformable since he was seen to "keep the old state and ancient possessions of his monastery." Accordingly he was accused, amongst other things, of "consenting to the spoils and sacrileges" of the monastery's property. One gets the impression that he was a poor old man who loved the old ways of the monastery and he could not bring himself to accede to Cromwell's intentions - unlike William Kingsmill. He was therefore tapped on the shoulder and given the firm hint that it might be best for him if he were to resign and that if he did so quietly he would be duly looked after. (Has this a nasty ring about it?)

It turns out that he decided to acquiesce, because in the Public Record Office there is a letter from him to Thomas Cromwell, dated 21 March 1536, saying he "complains of Dr Leigh, their visitor, who having a commission to proceed against him [Broke] for alleged dilapidations, to which he made a true answer, [Dr Leigh] threatened to remove him from his office unless he resigned. [He] was appointed by free election without ambition on his part, and never disputed the visitor's authority. [He] begs to have a pension assigned him by the King on the revenues of the Priory and confirmed under the convent seal"

This plea for fair play is even more poignant when we see elsewhere at about the same time another letter to Cromwell by the visitor himself, which says "As to the prior's pension, I think you will judge him more worthy of punishment than of pension." As we know, William Kingsmill was duly elected Prior but until now we did not know whether poor old Harry Broke was ever given the pension that he was promised.

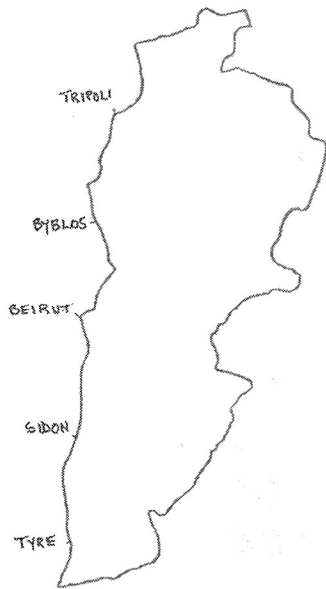
However, in the latest edition of the "Winchester Cathedral Record" (No 69, dated 2000 page 30 *et seq*) there is an account of the Cathedral's Ledger Books which run from 1345 to 1875 - a remarkable sequence of extant documents, seeing the way in which the cathedral's records were treated and abused during the Civil War. Up to now there has been a gap of two volumes, Books III and IV, which have not been published even unofficially. These were for the years 1532-1538 and 1541-1561, the gap being the time when the Cathedral's assets and accounts were sequestered by the Crown. Now a typescript copy is available for study. So far as pensions and annuities go, there are very few mentioned because all the above-board and formal business was cited in the official dissolution charter and this made due provision for all those monks who, if they did not want to become canons in the new cathedral, were to be given pensions and allowed to leave quietly.

However, there is one entry in the account book of 1532-38 that is of interest, in that there was an annuity given by the new Prior - William Kingsmill - some time before 1538 for £40 p.a. to Prior Broke, who was being cared for by two former monks. This was in contrast to a further pension of only 40 shillings p.a. given to a stone mason for the preservation of the fabric of the building. The granting of any pension at this time was most unusual, since the Cathedral had no assets of its own after the dissolution until 1541 and from then annuities and pensions were only granted by the Bishop.

If the records of other monasteries are anything to go by, then Prior Broke would have quietly slipped into retirement and ended his days having been duly released from his vows. Now we know that he did receive his pension and was being cared for by his former brothers after all. And although William Kingsmill was "conformable", it was he who gave the old man his pension.

## IMPRESSIONS OF LEBANON

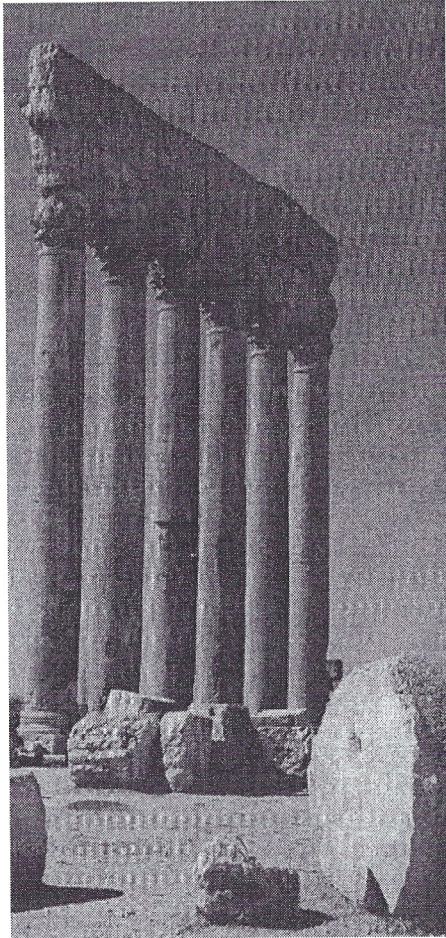
Sue Headley



A plea from our Lebanese guide, at the end of a 10-day tour, to encourage our friends and acquaintances to visit Lebanon prompts this article. Although the Lebanese are remarkably resilient, and have achieved much since the end of the civil war in 1993, their economy was always to some extent dependent on tourism, and needs a boost now if the country is to return to its former prosperity. Ironically, within 24 hours of our being assured about visitors' safety, trouble broke out again in the south and there were demonstrations in Beirut, Tripoli, Sidon and Tyre. Beirut is an extraordinary and fascinating city, which leaves one both saddened, when one sees what has been lost, and optimistic, when one sees the activity and energy that is being put into redevelopment. A certain amount of war damage is still visible in cleared sites, pockmarked apartment blocks and the blackened former Holiday Inn.

What used to be Beirut's infamous "Green Line" separating the Christian and Muslim communities is now a scruffy dual carriageway, enclosing a rectangle of waste ground that was once a pleasant tree-lined square. However, the clearance of damaged buildings and the erection of new office and apartment blocks already gives to some parts of the city a flavour of Hong Kong or New York. An excellent model of the intended redevelopment of central Beirut, complete with marinas, leisure parks and shopping malls, can be seen, with other models of particular areas and buildings, at the offices of Solidere, the company that is handling the project. Sadly, there appears to be very little left of historic Beirut, but there are some fine 19th century public buildings and a handful of much older churches. It was particularly interesting to see Armenian, Maronite, Greek Orthodox and Roman Catholic churches and mosques in such close proximity. But a word of warning; the traffic is heavy and chaotic, and it is not too comfortable to be a pedestrian when pavements are uneven and potholed.

The second city, Tripoli, advertises itself as an open-air museum, with at least 30 buildings or areas of interest. There is a Crusader castle (modified over the centuries by successive occupants) which contains, somewhat bizarrely, a sarcophagus decorated with Phoenician-style heads, 14th century mosques and madrassahs (religious schools), caravanserais (or khans), 14th century Turkish baths and age-old souks that still specialise in ancient skills such as goldsmithing and soap manufacture. A particularly pleasant feature of modern Tripoli is a splendid pastry shop where the local delicacy, "*halawet el-jibn*" (a kind of cold pancake with a cream cheese filling) can be enjoyed in air-conditioned comfort with a cappuccino and a selection of the most mouth-watering sweets and pastries!



The third city, Sidon, has far less to offer in the way of historic buildings, but the position of the Sea Castle (12th century on the site of a Phoenician temple dedicated to Melkart) alone warrants a visit. Its setting is picturesque and its walls are reinforced with pieces of granite column, supposedly to strengthen the structure in the event of earthquake. The restoration of the 17th century Khan al-Franj is almost complete and will house exhibitions of local arts and crafts. Near Sidon is Echmoun, the only Phoenician temple site in Lebanon that survives to more than foundation level. There are numerous later additions to the original building, including a Byzantine church and mosaics, from which it may be deduced that the site was of great significance for over 1,000 years.

Tyre which, with Sidon, comprised Lebanon's Phoenician stronghold, is well worth the further short trek southwards. Its history is fascinating, if complex, and it has been a World Heritage Site for the last 20 years. Its prosperity was founded on impressive seamanship and the production of purple dye from murex shells. It even resisted Alexander the Great for 7 months, finally succumbing in 332 BC. The ruins are in three parts, of which only two are accessible (the third, which includes the remains of the Crusader cathedral, is fenced off). One of the open sites contains an extensive Roman necropolis in which 2 and 3 storey family tombs are clearly visible, the remains of an aqueduct, a monumental arch and a magnificent hippodrome, including the stones around which the chariots used to turn (shades of *Ben Hur*). The seating capacity appears to be uncertain; I have seen it recorded as 20,000 but also as 40,000. The other open site is by the sea and contains buildings primarily from the Greek, Roman and Byzantine periods. Among the treasures are a vast baths complex, a colonnaded street with mosaics in situ, and a rectangular arena. The remains of the Phoenician jetties lie offshore.

The highlight of the trip for me was Baalbeck, which is situated in the vicinity of the Bekaa Valley. The sheer size of the temple of Jupiter, of which 6 enormous columns remain beneath a finely decorated entablature, is breath-taking. The "smaller" temple (probably dedicated to Venus, although described in many books as dedicated to Bacchus), of which a great deal remains, is itself larger than the Parthenon at Athens. There is no access to the "smallest" temple, dedicated to Venus, and there are other structures, of which some, such as the Odeon, are tantalisingly visible but inaccessible. A crypt or undercroft beneath the Mamluk/Ottoman fortress houses a museum, and a larger, purpose-built museum is situated near the entrance to the site.

Aanjar, where the country's only significant Umayyad site (7th and 8th centuries AD) is to be found, is located in a peaceful countryside setting. It was a walled and fortified city, built on Roman lines. Houses, shops, baths and palaces are evident.

A coastal site, one of the few that I can recommend, is Byblos, where Phoenician and Roman remains, another Crusader castle, and interesting churches and vernacular buildings are set around a small harbour. The town takes its name from the Greek for papyrus, *bublos*, imported from Egypt (see below) and exported to Greece. A number of papyrus sheets formed a Greek *biblion*, from which "Bible" is derived.

The mountain ranges, the Lebanon and the Anti-Lebanon, are spectacular in their own right. The highest point of the former is some 3,500 metres above sea level, and the latter forms a natural border with Syria. The Bekaa valley, a plateau between the two ranges, is the richest agricultural area.

At the time of my visit in September/October, grapes had still to be harvested. The other major agricultural area, apart from the coastal strip where many crops are grown in polytunnels, is the Kadisha valley, which is famous for its apples. These were being harvested both for internal consumption and for export, principally to Egypt. The countryside was not exactly beautiful in early autumn, but I suspect would come into its own in the spring. Even so, one major problem that must be addressed if Lebanon is to attract tourists is litter. The reservations on dual carriageways, and practically every roadside and piece of waste ground, whether in town or country, and including land adjacent to some of the less frequented monuments, is covered with the stuff.

An article on Lebanon would be incomplete without a reference to the cedars. I saw only a small plantation, one of the few that remains, but thankfully they are now preserved. One or two trees were gigantic, but the majority could not have been more than a few hundred years old. It is sad to reflect on the loss of the vast cedar forests, but also strange to think that the timber was shipped to Egypt for the temples of the Pharaohs in exchange for papyrus, and was used in the construction of Solomon's temple and palace.

And finally, whatever Hezbollah may be up to in the extreme south of the country, my experience is that the Lebanese people are friendly, polite and welcoming. Most have excellent English and/or French (both are taught at school) and are usually delighted to have a chance to try out their English.

A trip to Lebanon is highly recommended.

## **A VISIT TO OXFORD**

*Anne Hawker*

A party of us went to Oxford to see an exhibition of Sir Arthur Evans's work on Knossos (Crete).

Oxford runs a Park & Ride scheme. After a slight tussle with the bus driver (who told me we were going shopping and needed Debenhams) we arrived at the Ashmolean Museum, which is cleverly concealed from the street leading to it by an excavation and screens - quite like home.



The Museum is huge and echoing but much brighter than I remembered it from many years ago. The gallery we were looking for was a little difficult to find, partly because there were so many lovely things to see on the way.

However, at last we got to the place we had meant to see, and it was fascinating, because there were displayed Sir Arthur's notebooks and letters, with his guesses as to the subjects of the frescoes on the walls. These had been found in a fragmentary state, with some of the missing pieces in little flakes at the foot of the walls they were intended to decorate. The figures were in light relief, rather like enormous coins or medals, sometimes larger than life, with backgrounds of animals, fishes and flowers, all in colour.

*A bull-leaping scene painted on a crystal plaque, after a completed drawing in Evans Palace of Minos*

Sir Arthur, being gifted with a vivid imagination and unusually short sight (which enabled him to see details that escaped most viewers) used his memory of seal-stones to fill out the gaps left by missing plaster. Sometimes he got it wrong, for the first figure, shown just inside the door to the gallery, was at first thought to be a boy picking saffron. Eventually a tail turned up, which matched the body, and the shape was identified as a monkey. The clue should have been the colour, for he was blue, rather than red (for a man) or white (a woman), a convention that made one observer at the time of the discoveries exclaim, "But these are Parisiennes!", for the ladies had frizzy curls and exposed or thinly covered bosoms, and very red lips. Both men and women had very narrow waists, the men only clothed in a sort of short kilt, tightly belted, and the women probably had a sort of corset. They reminded me of a brass bell my grandmother had, a woman with a full ruffled skirt and tight bodice.

The delightful thing about these paintings is that they are peaceful, not celebrating conquest or hunting but pleasure. The most violent scenes are those of the "Bull Dance", where the team of men and women athletes played with an enormous bull. The leader grasped the horns of the bull and somersaulted over its head and just touched the back with his feet, leaping off to be caught by another of the team. The huge bulls were apparently sacred to the god who lived below ground and bellowed in the earthquake.

The bull-god seems to have won in the end. The palace was destroyed, it seems by both earthquake and fire. The remains of large jars, stored in the cellars, showed the marks of fire from burning oil, great black deposits all on one side as if blown by a fierce wind. Walls had collapsed and beams had fallen - but there had been a most civilised palace

building, with drains, at least one bathroom and lavatory, light-wells to keep brilliant sunshine from the rooms, pillars and at least five flights of stairs, down the side of which ran gutters to carry rainwater, so arranged that the water ran smoothly round the angles without splashing. And in one room a "throne" still in place, with some of the mural still on the wall behind it.

Sir Arthur Evans reconstructed some of the palace - to the alarm and distaste of some of his colleagues - and it can still be seen on Crete

## **HAMPSHIRE BUILDINGS PRESERVATION TRUST AGM**

### ***Julian Porter***

On Friday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2000, Les Fitzgerald and I represented BAHS at the above meeting, which took place in the Great Hall at Winchester. For those of you who do not know of the Trust and its work, they are an umbrella organisation, which helps and advises many preservation trusts around the county. The minutes of the 1999 AGM sum up the role of the Trust as follows: "the Trust had been established following the European Architectural Year in 1975 to save historic buildings, secure their repair and encourage the interest and support of the people of Hampshire. The Trust had often been a safety net, tackling problems which others could not, taking on the role of enabler and catalyst."

It is interesting to note that in 1999 Hampshire had more than 14,000 listed buildings of which 210 were Grade 1, 604 were Grade 2\* and 1287 Grade 2, with a further 14,500 unlisted historic buildings. Many more have been listed in the past year. Much assistance is given by the Trust throughout the county and there have been many local projects, including restoration of two listed gate lodges at Rockbourne, refurbishment of textile machinery at Whitchurch Silk Mill, the Millwrighting project at Bursledon Windmill, repairs to the clock tower at Breamore House, moulded stone work on Holy Trinity Church, Privett, and watching briefs on developments and listing of buildings in the many local council areas.

Particularly relevant to Basingstoke, during the past year, the Trust, along with Basingstoke and Dean Borough Council, Hampshire County Council and Hampshire Gardens Trust has undertaken the purchase and renovation of 4 Queen Road, a turn of the century terraced house within the Brookvale Conservation Area. This has been a community project, which included many open days to show local residents how the work was progressing and what techniques were used.

Out went the plastic windows and boarded up banisters and new sash windows and original style french doors were fitted. The roof was even retiled with Welsh Slate as had originally been used when the house was built.

The complete renovation cost £19,119, a figure that is very close to the purchase price of one of these properties 20 years ago. Recently the house was on the market at £135,000. Let us hope the new owners do not reverse any of the renovation work.

Following the AGM there was a talk by Dr John Crook on "Winchester Cathedral Close from Monastic Times to the Present Day", which was most enlightening. The talk was further brought to life in the afternoon as we were treated to a guided walk around The Close, including a visit to the Dean's House and a look inside the Pilgrims' Hall, formerly the guest house of The Priory, which has the earliest hammerbeam roof in the country, dating from 1310. A tiring but wonderful day.



### Goodbye Nanst!

Nancy Williams (who always signed herself "Nanst") was a stalwart member of our Society for many years, and we are sad to announce her death.

When she first joined Macmillans as a picture researcher, she was urged to ask colleagues about their major interests in the hopes that they could lead her to unusual sources of illustrations or reference material. She picked up at once on my interest in archaeology and local history, leading to many discussions about prehistoric man over the photocopier. She was an avid attendee at our lectures and outings, on many occasions bringing her husband Ron and her daughter Helen.

You could usually tell where Nancy was in the office by following the sound of whatever songs the Basingstoke Ladies' Choir were currently practising - and she would have been delighted to hear several choir members singing so well at her funeral service. It was also touching to hear a recording of the choir at a quiet moment in the service - a recording made by Ron, adding his own expertise to support her interest.

One of my fondest memories of Nancy is her "soup kitchen" when we at Macmillans went on strike. That may surprise you - our "chapel" of the NUJ was more noted for its minute scrutiny of the wording of any motion or aggrieved memo to management than for its militancy, but on a few occasions we just had to do it. And Nancy set to making endless supplies of soup, so good that it was difficult to chivy people back from Popley to the picket line.

Nancy had a fund of good stories, a great imagination and a warm and generous heart. Those in the Society who knew her will be sad to hear this news. She will be particularly remembered for her delicious contributions to the "eats" for our Christmas parties!

## CALENDAR

<b>Thurs 15 Feb</b>	<b>Pub Signs</b> Tony Cross	FWM
<b>Wed 21 Feb</b>	<b>Life in the Women's Land Army during WW2</b> Barbara Shaw	TADS
<b>Thurs 22 Feb</b>	Last Thursday Lecture <b>"The Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record"</b> Bob Edwards, Hampshire Record Office, 1.15-1.45.	HRO
<b>Thurs 1 March</b>	<b>ANNUAL DINNER at BCOT : 6 for 6.30 pm</b>	BAHS
<b>Wed 7 March</b>	<b>OGS Crawford Memorial Lecture</b> Martin Millett Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds' College, Winchester 7.30	HFC
<b>Thurs 8 March</b>	<b>TWO ROMAN ROADSIDE SETTLEMENTS IN EAST YORKSHIRE</b> Martin Millett	BAHS
<b>Thurs 15 March</b>	<b>Basingstoke &amp; Alton Light Railway</b> Martin Deane	FWM
<b>Wed 21 March</b>	<b>A Victorian Magic Lantern Show</b>	TADS
<b>Thurs 29 March</b>	<b>The Hampshire Labourer pre 1800</b>	HRO
<b>Wed 18 April</b>	<b>Rods, Poles &amp; Perches</b> Gary Cusworth/Roger Dobbs	TADS
<b>Thurs 19 April</b>	<b>THE HISTORY AND RESTORATION OF THE BASINGSTOKE CANAL</b> Tony Harmsworth	BAHS
<b>Thurs 19 April</b>	<b>The Rise and Fall of Hackwood Park</b> Brian Spicer	FWM
<b>Thurs 26 April</b>	<b>Most Amazingly Fine</b> (observations on 18th dance)	HRO
<b>Thurs 10 May</b>	<b>OF WATERMILLS AND WORKHOUSES - ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISCOVERIES AT THE ORACLE, READING 1996-98</b> David Wilkinson	BAHS
<b>Wed 16 May</b>	<b>Bevin Boys</b> Morris Pearce & Eric Chuck	TADS
<b>Thurs 17 May</b>	<b>Barnes Wallis and the Adventures of the Research &amp; Development Dept</b> Bernard Russell	FWM
<b>Thurs 14 June</b>	<b>ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING and MOSAICS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE</b> Marten Harris	BAHS

**BAHS = Our Society Lectures at Church Cottage, 7.30 pm**

**HRO = Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester**

**HFC = Hampshire Field Club; as institutional members we can send one representative on outings.**

**FWM = Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 pm, Willis Museum**

**TADS = Tadley & District History Society, 8 pm St Paul's Church Hall, Tadley**