

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 157

November 2001

CONTENTS

Page 2	MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL
	SECRETARY'S NEW ADDRESS
	CHRISTMAS PRESENTS
Page 3	MERTON PRIORY
Page 4	CHRISTMAS SOCIAL
	CHURCH LANE, WORTING
Page 6	CHAWTON HOUSE
Page 7	SILCHESTER FIELD SCHOOL
Page 8	BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY
Page 9	COLOUR SLIDES
Page 10	PETER REYNOLDS
Page 11	TRAVEL THROUGH TIME
Page 13	MILESTONES EVENTS
Page 14	CALENDAR

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2001/2002

A reminder that membership fees were due on 1st September 2001 (note the new subscription year published in the May newsletter). The rates are unchanged from last year for ordinary members (£11), and for over 60's and students (£7) but the rate for family membership is reduced to £14 to bring it in line with two separate 'over 60' applications.

If you still haven't renewed, please do so now in order to continue receiving your newsletter. The address to which your subscription should be sent is Mr Garth George, 71, Camrose Way, Basingstoke RG21 3AW (tel. 464763)

SECRETARY'S CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Please make a note of Margaret Porter's change of address:

*57, Belvedere Gardens, Chineham,
Basingstoke RG24 8GD*

(Margaret retains her previous tel. no. – 01256 356012)

CHRISTMAS PRESENTS

Don't forget our bookstall when you're looking for presents! Have any of your friends not yet been given these?

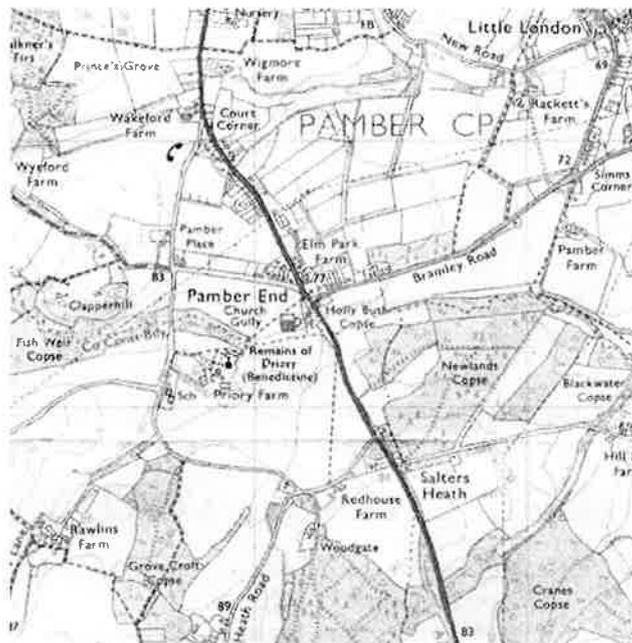
THE STORY OF BASINGSTOKE
VOICES OF BASINGSTOKE 1400-1600
GOING DOWN CHURCH STREET TO THE FELGATE BOOKSHOP
or the "stocking-filler" **ROUNABOUT BASINGSTOKE?**
Or, of course, the video, **BENEATH BASINGSTOKE?**
Or Atherton Harrison's delightful **CHANGING SCENES?**

Arthur Attwood's new book
THE ILLUSTRATED HISTORY OF BASINGSTOKE, at £14.99.
is just out - in time for Christmas.

MERTON PRIORY

At
Pamber Priory

An illustrated talk by Sheila Fairbank
on
Saturday December 1st 2001 at 2.00 pm
in
Pamber Priory, north of Monk Sherborne
(west of the A 340 road to Tadley)



Sheila Fairbank has been studying the history of Merton and Walter de Merton since 1998. Merton Priory, in the county of Surrey, was the religious foundation where Walter de Merton trained. Merton College, Oxford, is named after the Priory and Sherborne St John, where Walter's family settled, and Pamber Priory are both historically linked with Merton.

The K-Bis Theatre School is due to give a performance of T.S.Eliot's "Murder in the Cathedral" at Pamber Priory on Saturday 30th March 2002 at 7.30 pm, for which tickets will be available at the talk.

CHRISTMAS



WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL

THURSDAY

13TH DECEMBER 2001

**CHURCH COTTAGE
BASINGSTOKE**

7.30 PM

The sum of £1.50 will yet again unlock the gates and welcome you to the annual Society Christmas Social. The pattern of events remains the same – a relaxed get-together with the odd quiz thrown in. A glass of wine, or soft drink, and the finger buffet are included in the price.

Bring along any items of interest, that you have discovered, to share with us – photos, books, objects from the past, whatever. Hope to see you there !!

Margaret Porter (01256 356012) will happily accept any offers of help to prepare/supply finger buffet food, the Society refunding any expenses.

CHURCH LANE, WORTING

22 & 23 September 2001
MAGNETOMETER SURVEY

Tim Herrington

As a preliminary to the proposed training excavation at Worthing timed for the following weekend a magnetometer based survey was carried out to cover the whole of the area within which the dig might be sited. We are indebted to "Soyl Precision Farming" for the loan of the survey equipment, to Simon Griffin for instructing our group in its use, and to Barry Ward for introducing us to the company in the first place.



On Saturday, Martin Pryor drove the buggy towing the magnetometer, back and forward across the area of interest, whilst, at the same time, checking that the on-board computer was logging the magnetometer signal response and GPS (satellite positioning) values coming in at the rate of one every second! His support team consisted of Ian Waite (who valiantly agreed to transport the equipment back and forward on his trailer to his home overnight for safe keeping), Peter Good, Les Fitzgerald, Andrew Hunt and Tim Herrington.

On Sunday, Andrew Hunt was the driver as we attempted to survey the same ground again at an enhanced sensitivity to make certain that we had the best chance to pick up any buried features. Our luck deserted us after a few runs when the computer crashed and steadfastly refused to stabilize again. We reluctantly gave up the second scan.

As you may have guessed, the survey on Saturday was not able to pick up decent signals at the lower sensitivity setting and, as the Sunday runs were aborted, the sad truth is we got a lot of experience and no useful results for the next weekend. Sorry chaps – does it remind you somewhat of the *Time Team* geophysics?

29 & 30 September 2001 BAHS TRAINING DIG

Marjolein Mussellwhite

On Saturday 29th and Sunday 30th September the BAHS undertook a training excavation in the field off Church Lane in Worting. From the evidence of an aerial photograph and previous excavations we knew there to be a number of features in that field, including what appears to be a rectangular boundary ditch of Iron Age date.

The BAHS has previously excavated various sections of the ditch, and the main aim of the weekend was to locate a part of the ditch at right angles to that already known. This would give us the opportunity to map the exact location of two sides of the ditch. Unfortunately the aerial photograph was taken from an angle that does not allow us to work out exactly where the ditch is, so this was going to be an excavation of trial and error! But, as I was told, "a negative result is archaeology too..."

On the Saturday some 17 volunteers turned up to assist in this quest. Peter Heath and Mary Oliver worked out where we should start, based on the photograph and previous work carried out. We started by digging a trench one metre wide by ten metres long, hard work as, unlike the *Time Team*, there was not a JCB in sight! We dug down to the chalk, trowelled it clean, and found absolutely nothing! There were some lovely plough marks, but no sign of a ditch.

Enthusiasm still going strong - we decided to dig a second trench, another ten metres long by one metre wide. A few more mutterings about a JCB, and the promise of one in the future by Alan Harris, but again it came down to hard physical labour. We dug down to the chalk, trowelled it clean again, and found.... absolutely nothing!! Some more lovely plough marks, but still no ditch. By this time it was nearing 5 p.m. and we decided to call it a day.

The following morning it was raining, but the hardy diggers still turned up for another attempt at locating the elusive ditch. We decided to extend the second trench by another five metres - "I'm sure we're only centimetres away..." - but again found nothing. By this time the rain was getting heavier, and we were getting a little more despondent, but felt we would dig one extra metre just in case. It very much looked like there was nothing there either, but then, just as we were getting absolutely soaked and about to backfill the trench, Ian Waite put his trowel into the furthest corner of the trench, and dug down... and down... and ...

... It very much looks like we have found the ditch!! Unfortunately the weather wasn't with us, and although we planned to dig one more day the following weekend, this had to be cancelled due to the gales, driving rain and typical British autumnal weather. . We shall have to wait until next year to go back, but at least we know exactly where to start!

I would like to say a big thank you to the members of the Committee for all their help and guidance in organising this dig, and also to all the volunteers who came and helped. Thanks are also due to Richenda Power for allowing us to carry out the work again this year. In spite of the weather it was great fun, and I can't wait until we can start work again in the Spring of 2002.

VISIT TO CHAWTON HOUSE

Nicola Turton

The 22nd of September was a lovely autumn morning and perfect for our visit to Chawton. Around twenty of us gathered at the handsome Victorian church, where we met our guides Professor Michael Wheeler, the Director of Chawton House library, and his assistant Olivia, and had a brief tour of the church. Unfortunately for us, there was a wedding due at midday so our visit to the interior was necessarily brief, but we admired the various Knight memorials and enjoyed the organist warming up.

Outside we saw the gravestones of Jane Austen's mother and sister, then passed through the gate into the grounds of Chawton House. In an earlier article, I explained that Chawton House belonged to the Knight family, who not having a son of their own, adopted their distant relation John Austen, Jane's brother. John took the Knight name and in time inherited the estate. He was then able to move his mother and sisters into the cottage we now know as Jane Austen's House.

The lease of Chawton House has recently been bought by an American lady, Sandy Learner, whose dream is to have a centre for Early English Women Writers (1600 - 1830). A lot of work is being done to the house to return to the state it was in when Jane Austen would have known it. This means that the house is currently a hard hat area so we could only imagine what it will be like when finished.

The project was started some years ago, indeed, I sent a donation in 1994, but it was only when two English directors were appointed that the scheme really took off. The American team found that it's not easy to deal with problems such as a badger set stopping planning permission, when you are on the other side of the "pond". Before Sandy Learner was involved the site was due to be developed as a golf course and country club. Sadly the company went bankrupt.

We sat on a low wall in the glorious sunshine as Michael Wheeler told us about the restoration and their hopes for the future which includes having some rare breeds on the estate. Then he gave us a very graphic description of the end of one of the "gothic" novels which is currently available from the Chawton House website. At the end, our anguished heroine leaps the Ha-ha to die at the feet of her drowned husband who is also her half brother. Michael hopes for a re-enactment in the future!

We walked through part of the Wilderness, and into the walled garden, which is to be restored as a vegetable and flower garden according to the style of the late 18th century, and we even gathered a few apples, which were very tasty. After admiring the beautiful lime tree avenue, we stood under a walnut tree to thank Michael and Olivia, and say goodbye. I am also pleased to say

that after some generous donations from the group we were able to give £45 to the Chawton House fund. It should also be noted that Michael and Olivia gave their Saturday morning freely to us, for which we are very grateful.

We have also been invited to return in two years time and see the finished Centre, but in the meantime, volunteers are always welcome! I will be in contact with Michael, so will be able to advertise anything which may be of interest to us as a Society, and you can also keep up with things on the website: www.chawton.org

SILCHESTER FIELD SCHOOL

Dr John Harrow

This was to be my first foray into the world of 'real live archaeology'. Prior experience had involved peering down the trench on a London dig and trying to look as if I knew what I was doing. Anyway, the chance arose to attend the school, thanks to the generosity of the Basingstoke group, so I found myself joining a number of potential students, all of whom seemed to have attended many digs or were archaeology students – help!!!

Anyway, we were welcomed by Amanda Clarke, the director of the field school who, after a brief introduction on all aspects of health and safety, got down to the basics of the week. I felt a little more useful now since I was asked to provide assistance, should anyone decide to fall down the well or such like – what was I letting myself in for?

We were given a site tour, so the BAHS visits came in handy (as well as some background reading) and so I felt knowledgeable in the history of the site and the present excavations, I even asked some questions. We then got down to the basics, being assigned to a supervisor and being let loose with a trowel.

Our supervisor, Ben from the Oxford Archaeological Unit, was excellent, instructing everyone on how to trowel correctly and then being very enthusiastic when we found anything. The area we were assigned to was a midden, and so revealed some excellent pieces of Samian ware and Silchester ware pottery. Then we found our first bones, animal of course, but revealing some clear butchery marks. At this point I was hooked.

Tuesday started with a talk about 'finds' and how to recognise specific finds and then how to process them – from issuing small finds context numbers to cleaning and recording. I think some of the people must have fallen asleep at this point! Don't ask me how many pieces of gravel we had to wash, having been recorded as small finds! Then it was back to the trench. Again, lots of interesting pottery, then a boot stud (which Josie, an archaeologist, thought was a fossilised tadpole!). Then we found an iron ring which had to be recorded as a small find – so now we could experience filling in a context card, site planning and assessment of the soil. This was of great interest, especially as one may assume soil to be soil coloured – but what could be further from the truth? A Maunsell (I think that's how to spell it) chart revealed to us a large number of choices of soil colour. Amanda explained the use of this chart in terms of standardisation for further research. Apparently, students still fill in the context card with the soil colour stated as 'soil was the same colour as my favourite jumper, of my dog, etc. I now felt that I was a soil expert, no longer would plants in my garden grow in earth, but rather a 'sandy silt with organic matter and small inclusions (stones to you)'.

Wednesday saw us site planning and recording, with an introduction to surveying, including the use of a 'dumpy level' and a theodolite. This was followed by a talk on Roman coins by Dr. Edward Besly of Cardiff Museum, which again was very interesting. Then it was back in the trench with trowel and a new introduction - the mattock - which is very good exercise even if it seem a little destructive!

Meanwhile, some of the others were talking about the neonate bones that had been found in another pit and it was mentioned that some traces of hemlock had been found in the mineralised samples. This got the medical mind thinking, could there be a connection with the hemlock and the skeleton? What happened next - I was in the midst of things studying the skeleton, possibly about three months old at death, unless the mother suffered from diabetes, all these questions, was the hemlock connected? Certainly it came to be used for medical purposes but has been used to induce labour and as an abortive drug as well as a spasmodic and sedative. This was all new information to the team so I felt useful in terms of transferable skills, since most of the week people had been asking the relevance of medicine to archaeology and in his talk Professor Michael Fulford mentioned that the course was now attracting many, including stressed out doctors!

The rest of the week saw us learning how to draw and photograph finds for record purposes. As it was the last week of the school, it was all hands to the pump to clean, record and mark all the finds. The rain called short the last of the digging, but some of us stayed back to record finds and help with the general site analysis, we finally finished in the early hours of Monday morning.

Anyway, that was just a brief introduction to a very comprehensive week and I would recommend it to anyone, but with the warning that once you start there will be no end. By the time you are reading this I will have been digging on an Iron Age site in Sussex and then our own dig at Worthing, where next? - well it was mentioned to me that I might be useful in the field of osteo or forensic archaeology, so the applications to UCL are in the post as we speak.

Finally, just to thank the committee and members for offering me the chance to go on the field school and for generously funding it. I hope that I can now be a useful member to the group, even if still a novice. So it's 'hail to the digmaster' and ready waiting with trowel until the next time.

BASINGSTOKE
TALKING HISTORY **E**

REPORT by Barbara Applin

Ann Broad and Nina Koch attended David Lee's Oral History workshop at the Wessex Film & Sound Archive and brought back a useful document on copyright. There was also plenty of advice on methods and equipment.

Anne Hawker's article for the *Basingstoke Observer*, based on the interview with Vicky Simmons, has now been published. Unfortunately Vicky has now died, but her daughter was glad to have a copy of the tape and we will now send a copy of the article. We were also sorry to hear of the death of Jessie Jack, known to so many people as "Sister Jack" at the Shrubbery, and sent a copy of her tapes to her sister-in-law.

We are continuing to conduct some very interesting interviews, followed up with transcriptions – one was with Arthur Saunders, a previous editor of the *Gazette*, who gives an excellent account of the workings of the paper in his day. Several people are interviewed more than once, as we think of further questions later – in fact, sometimes whoever does the transcription has questions to suggest. We're also pooling our own experiences and are beginning to "interview" some of our own members whose knowledge of Basingstoke needs to be recorded.

More help would be welcome!!

Bob and I had a holiday in France, near Nogent-le-Rotrou where Nancy Powell and her family lived (see previous Newsletters; she comes from a Basingstoke family but was born in France, "escaped" with her family from the German advance in 1940 and finally settled again in Basingstoke). We took the opportunity to meet M. Jean-Pierre Bagland and M. Jacques Daupeley who, as young boys, had known her there, and Mme Koechlin who had compiled the book of postcards of Nogent. They were all tremendously helpful and delighted to know of our researches – luckily M. Daupeley speaks excellent English, so I now have pages of notes on the Powell family and friends in Nogent, and particularly an account of what happened to people in Nogent after the Powells made their "escape" from the German advance in 1940. They talked, in fact of an "exodus" when almost the whole town fled. M. Daupeley says his mother picked up some books of photos and bundled him and his brother into the car his aunt drove, and they simply left, spending several nights in a barn. A schoolfriend took some lumps of sugar, jumped on his bike and rode off as fast as he could, until he reached Poitiers.

Having Nancy's diary of her own family's "escape", aiming for Brittany and a boat across the Channel, Bob and I decided to follow that route as closely as we could. Of course we came across many more recent roads, ring roads and roundabouts, but where we could we passed through the villages she mentioned, driving along minor country roads, very aware that for quite a while they had to go in completely the wrong direction, to sweep round danger points. Often we could see the main roads that would have been full of traffic, and places where road blocks would have turned them back. After two days we did succeed in reaching Landivisiau in Brittany, where they spent a night in a hotel run by Mr Powell's friend - the next day we had to hurry back on the major roads to get back to Nogent for the meeting M. Bagland had arranged.

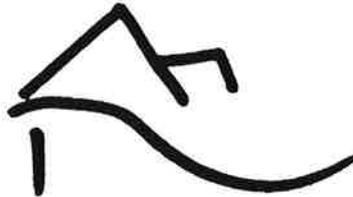
We came back with several photos, lots of information and a promise of more – our project is growing! Now Mary Shelley is following up what happened in Falmouth, where the Powells eventually arrived on their Norwegian collier from Brest.

COLOUR SLIDES – A SOCIETY ACQUISITION!

We have been fortunate enough to buy a considerable selection of archaeological/historical slides for £10. John Feuillade has catalogued them and his list will be available at meetings. A Portable slide viewer was kindly donated to the Society by Antalis before their office closed. Any member who would like to borrow some slides and the viewer should ring Margaret Porter on 01256 356012.

Logos Epitaphios (Words in Commemoration)

Peter Reynolds.
1939-2001.



Peter Heath

On 27th October, many of those who knew and loved Peter gathered in the Great Roundhouse at Butser Farm to celebrate his life. He had died, after a short illness, whilst on holiday in Turkey.

Peter was born near Shrewsbury, Shropshire and after grammar school went on to Dublin University to read Classics. He then taught Latin at Evesham Grammar School but did not always see eye-to-eye with the headmaster!

Philip Barker and Graham Webster fostered an early interest in archaeology; Peter was happy to leave the security of the classroom when the opportunity came to set up and run, in 1972, the experimental Iron Age Farm on Little Butser Hill. His drive and enthusiasm ensured the success of the project until he was badly let down by two of his trustees. It meant starting all over again at the present site near Chalton. He had always supported the Farm by lecture tours and acting as a tour guide to Middle Eastern countries where his knowledge of ancient history brought the past to life. The Farm is now back on an even keel and continues to make progress. The main emphasis at Butser has been the study of the Iron Age and how its people lived. Latterly, however, Peter had decided to start building a Roman Villa to encourage schools to visit. The curriculum set for schools now assumes that nothing happened before the advent of the Romans!

I was pleased to be one of those gathered at Butser but saddened that the occasion had arisen. A number of prominent archaeologists shared their memories of Peter over the years and without exception had nothing but praise for the man and for his work.

I first met Peter at a W.E.A. course he was running in Basingstoke library, more than 25 years ago, and I was 'hooked' on pre-history from then on. He was an inspirational teacher and Evesham Grammar's loss was certainly our gain. Another hands-on course at Butser introduced me to the 'pleasures' of Nexus House beds (in the loft) but the food, cooked by Peter, was magnificent.

Chrissie Shaw, Peter's partner, and his daughter, Jemma Reynolds, are to continue at Butser, completing Peter's most recent book and writing up the results of experiments.

All who came into contact with Peter will miss him; it is frequently said that no one is indispensable but Peter was a 'one-off' and it will be a very long time before we see his like.



Butser Ancient Farm still needs support. If you wish to make a donation to continue Peter's work, The Friends of Butser Ancient Farm (Reg. Charity No. 1039961) will accept your gifts through David Andrews, Hon Treasurer, Friends of Butser Ancient Farm, c/o 25 Richmond Road, Gosport, Hampshire, PO12 3QJ. Further details can be found at www.butser.org.uk

Travel Through Time

Our contributions to WORDFEST

Anne Hawker

On October 5th I led a walk along the top of the town, London Street and Winchester Street. This was to be one of the events prepared by the Willis Museum, to be part of WORDFEST organised by the Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. The name WORDFEST was explained to me as "a celebration of Words" and other happenings were poetry readings, drama etc, all to do with words. And the words were to be on the subject of Travel and Journeys. So my contribution was to be "A Journey through Time", beginning with 1087, the first recorded date of the name of Basingstoke, which occurs in the Domesday Book. There Basingstoke was said to have a Market, so I began with the market, continuing on to the Chequer, which may or may not have been an inn around 1400, diverging to the Gates at the end of London Street to see the bronze plaque illustrating the aforesaid Domesday Book. Then returning towards the Willis Museum, noticing Deane's Almshouses, the United Reform Church, the sites of the *Fleur-de-Lys*, the *Falcon*, the *Bell* and the present inn, the *George*.

All these buildings were roughly connected with travel – the market traders had to travel to get there with the goods for sale, the inns catered for travellers (or sold beer to the market people). On the way I dropped in a few words on the state of the roads, and about turnpikes, smithies (one in the *Fleur-de-Lys*). After the Market Square I continued with the *Angel*, the *George* and a mention of Robert Cottle, the Postmaster. After explaining how the *Crown* yard became

Joice's Coach Works, and showing where the former Town Hall would have been, I ended with the *Feathers* in Wote Street.

Although the main subject was travel, I included a few of my favourite Basingstoke stories (all, as far as I know, quite true). They were: secret passages (turning out to be drains), the young man who drank two quarts of gin for a wager, Jane Austen's mother who suffered from travel sickness, Mr Wallis and the Celebration for the Victory of Trafalgar, Mr Whitefield the preacher, and Mrs Blunden (buried alive – illustrated on the Gates). I may have said one or two other things as we went along – at one point accompanied by a road sweeper with green revolving brushes; this we could very well have done without. Before we started I had some fears that the weather would be wet, but in spite of a forecast of rain it was warm and sunny, and my companions were so pleasant that the hour went almost before I knew it had gone.

This walk is not to be confused with ANNIE'S WALK, an audio story by Elizabeth Woodgate. For that you borrow a Walkman from the Tourist Information desk and follow in the steps of "Annie", a recent arrival from London, as she wanders around the streets. A moving and often funny look at our town. Although this is fiction, we feel it deserves being preserved as a "snapshot" of the present for the future, so Elizabeth is allowing us to archive it with our BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY tapes at the Wessex Film & Sound Archive.

Barbara Applin

My contribution was to make posters of the following quotations about Basingstoke and put them up in the coffee lounge of the Willis Museum – and some also around the town. Some, but not all, can be found in Eric Stokes' book THE THINGS THEY SAY ABOUT BASINGSTOKE., which is displayed next to the posters.

1214 In the 16th year of King John's reign, the Bishop of Winchester wrote *to the Sheriff of the County of Southampton*: "Know ye that we have granted, on behalf of the Lord King, that the market which was wont to be held at Basingstoke is to be held there on Wednesday throughout the day, in order that this market day may not be injurious to the neighbouring markets." (*History of Basingstoke* by Baigent and Millard, 1889)

1593 In this year Christopher Marlowe, the 16th century author famous for the plays *Tamburlaine* and *Dr Faustus*, was murdered in an inn at Deptford. One of the murderers, Ingram Frizer, is said to have "made a killing" many years earlier in a fraudulent property deal in Basingstoke. (*Christopher Marlowe and Canterbury* by William Urry, Faber & Faber 1988).

1669 *An eminent Italian visitor didn't think much of Basingstoke*: "His Highness, having arrived early in Basingstoke, walked on foot through the town which is wretched, both in regard to the buildings, the greater part of which are wood, and the complete absence of trade, so that the gratification of his curiosity did not compensate for the fatigue of walking a few paces." (*Travels of Cosimo III, Grand Duke of Tuscany*)

1685 In this year the Reverend Sir George Wheler became Vicar of Basingstoke. He was a famous man, known for his travels from Venice to Constantinople and through Asia Minor and various parts of Greece. You can see his coat of arms in St Michael's Church, with his motto "He saw the habits and cities of many men". (*Past Pieces, Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society, 1992*)

1728 The author of *Robinson Crusoe* and *Moll Flanders* wrote about our town: "Basingstoke is a large populous Market Town, has a good market for corn, and lately, within a very few years, is fallen into a Manufacture, viz. of making Druggets and Shalloons and

such slight goods, which, however, employs a good Number of the poor People, and enables them to get their Bread, which knew not how to get it before." (*A Tour Through the Whole Island of Great Britain* by Daniel Defoe)

1759 John Wesley was not impressed at first by Basingstoke. On 10th February he reported that when he preached in the afternoon the people "put me in mind of the wild beasts at Ephesus", though they were more attentive in the evening. On 24th September again found the people here "slow of heart and dull of understanding" but on 4th September 1763 matters had improved and "Even here there was some prospect of doing good", with a large number of people coming to listen. (The Journal of the Rev. John Wesley)

From a poem written on the back of NOTICE OF REMOVAL, MEATYARD & SAPP from Winchester Street to Market Square, Basingstoke, 27th November 1872.

*Oh, won't the people stare today and wonder wherever they've got,
So altered indeed is that corner, I say they'll scarcely know the spot
And when they look at the windows fine and the house so high and
Grand
They may think that it cannot be Basingstoke but Regent Street or the
Strand.
I could fancy I hear folk talking aloud and one old crony say
"A very fine shop in the Market Place I see there is opened today.
Some large concern it seems to me, or I think it may be perhaps
That fine affair, that grand affair of Messrs Meatyard and Sapp".*

1912 Robert Potter, of Mapledurwell, was a great walker. "One fine morning" (when he was a boy), "armed with sandwiches, cake and a little pocket money, I set off soon after seven o'clock for Whitchurch, passing Basingstoke town hall at eight o'clock." He went through Tufton, Longparish, Barton Stacey, Bullington Cross and Sutton Scotney, then turned back – "and when I passed Basingstoke town hall and glanced up at the clock, I realised that it was just 15 hours since last I had set eyes on it." (*Hampshire Harvest* by Robert Potter; Phillimore, 1977, 1984)

MILESTONES EVENTS

- * *Christmas Then & Now exhibition from 20th November till 6th January, contrasting Victorian and present Christmases. With competitions.*
- * *Christmas Market on 24th and 25th November*
- * *Music in the Streets on Monday 3rd December, 6 pm till 10 pm, with the Basingstoke Choral Society and the East Woodhay Silver Band.*
- * *Performance in the Streets: on 15th December with the Hampshire Youth Band; concert from 7 pm to 9 pm; £7 adults; £6 concessions and children.*
- * *Magic Lantern Spectacular from 27th to 30th December Lucien Cumpsty Galantee Showman; throughout the day.*

CALENDAR

2001

Sat 17 Nov	SEACOASTS AND SEAFARERS Conference, 10 am – 5 pm	HFC
Wed 21 Nov	BASING HOUSE AND THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR Alan Turton	TADS
Thurs 29 Nov	TAKING HISTORY HOME: THE WIDER ACCESS TO HISTORIC FILMS PROJECT Tim Wearing	HRO
Thurs 13 Dec	WINE AND CHEESE	BAHS

2002

Thurs 10 Jan	A CHURCH FOR A MARTYR? SOME RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT THE ANGLO-SAXON CHAPEL AT BRADFORD-ON-AVON Prof. David Hinton	BAHS
Fri 18 Jan	LOCAL HISTORY AND FAMILY NAMES Prof David Hey (Annual Local History Lecture) United Church, Jewry St, Winchester 7.45, free (booking no later than 28 Dec to Sarah Lewin, Hampshire Record Office, Sussex St, Winchester)	HFC
Thurs 14 Feb	TALK ABOUT A TORC: ASPECTS OF THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME IN HAMPSHIRE Sally Worrall	BAHS
Thurs 14 March	WERE THE NEANDERTHALS OUR ANCESTORS? Prof Chris Stringer	BAHS
Thurs 11 April	DENDROCHRONOLOGY AND DATING TIMBER BUILDINGS IN HAMPSHIRE Edward Roberts	BAHS
Thurs 9 May	THE ZEUGMA PROJECT, TURKEY David Jennings	BAHS
<i>Thurs 13 June</i>	AGM and AN UPDATE ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT THE DUKE OF BOLTON'S HOUSE David Allen	BAHS

BAHS = our Society: 7.45 pm at Church Cottage, Church Square, Basingstoke
HFC = Hampshire Field Club
TADS = Tadley & District History Society, 8 pm, St Paul's Church Hall, Tadley
HRO = Hampshire Record Office, Sussex St, Winchester (Last Thursday
Lecture 1.15-1.45 pm free