

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 158

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THE SOCIETY BOOKSHOP

At the moment, there is no Society Bookshop at the Thursday evening meetings – at least there hasn't been since before Christmas. The reason is that there has been no volunteer coming forward to look after the book-box between meetings and then to bring it for display.

We don't need anyone, necessarily, to sell the books at the meeting, although this would be marvellous. Barbara Applin has agreed to set up the display and sell if there is no one else prepared to do this. The main problem is that she has no space at home to store them easily!

Please, will someone offer to collect the books after the meetings, look after them at home and then bring them back to the next meeting?

Please ring Barbara on 01256 465439. Thank you!

THE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER

BCOT on Thursday March 7th, 6 for 6.30 pm



I am pleased to say that the cost of the dinner will, indeed, remain the same as it was last year, namely £15. I would like to receive your cheque for the necessary amount now, made out to BAHS. Please send it to me (Tim Herrington) at 16, Scotney Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 5SR (tel: 01256 322090).

We already have about 35 members who signed up for this event at the last evening meeting, but we are looking for more to boost our numbers, to beat the 40 mark! If you would like to join us, please post me your names and your cheque as soon as possible.

AT PAMBER PRIORY

Snowberry Productions

Presents

The K-BIS THEATRE SCHOOL

In a performance of T S Eliot's play

"Murder in the Cathedral"

Saturday March 30th at 7.30 pm

Tickets are £10 – concessions £5

(Get tickets from Tim Herrington – 01256 322090 – or at the March meeting)

[The Priory is situated north of Monk Sherborne, west of the A340 Basingstoke to Tadley road. Take the minor road to the left off the A340, just after the Queen's College Arms, towards Charter Alley; the entrance to the Priory car-park is about a mile down the road. If you reach the school, you have overshot! Look out for the white double gates on the left.]

OUT OF EGYPT



**Special evening visit for our Society,
7 – 9 pm on 25th April**

at



**The Historic Resources Centre,
75 Hyde Street, Winchester**

This exhibition is open till 21st June, giving an opportunity to see scarabs and mummified animals, find out about mummies, gods and hieroglyphs and enjoy puzzles. Robin Iles has kindly invited our Society to have our own evening visit on 25th April, when he hopes to have a handling collection available.

Robin invites us to serve wine and soft drinks. The exhibition itself is free, but we shall ask members who come to contribute £1 a head to cover the drinks and enable us to give a small thank you for the special opening. Please let Mary Oliver (01256 324263) know if you wish to come.

Directions to Hyde Street: Approach Winchester via the A33, turning right to go through Kings Worthy on the B3047. Hyde Street is the road to the left just before the B3047 joins the B3420 Andover Road. Hyde Street leads to the North Gate and the entrance to the Resources Centre is half way down on the left and can be recognised by the fancy Iron Gates.



Alan Turton invites us all to celebrate the Jubilee with a picnic at Basing House. The site will be open (entrance free) from 11 am to 6. Bring your own picnic – though some refreshments will no doubt be available. Alan says this is all very informal, a chance to enjoy yourself in the June sunshine (we hope). Anyone who is dressing up or playing music for the Tudor Day is invited to come in costume and bring their instrument. There may be a tour of the site, and also an opportunity to see the last stages of the dig on the other side of the Street.

A DAY OF THREE CHURCHES

As you may have read in her book, *Changing Scenes*, Atherton Harrison has been very involved with church furnishings and vestments for the three churches at **Steventon, North Waltham** and **Deane**. She has kindly offered to show members round these churches on **Saturday 29th June**. We shall meet at the church at North Waltham at 10.30 am, going on to Steventon. After a pub lunch, we shall visit Deane. And, if it fine, Atherton has suggested we have tea in her garden.

Please let Tim Herrington (01256 322090) know if you wish to come, and if you will want a pub lunch so that we can warn the pub.

BRADFORD-ON-AVON

Following David Hinton's fascinating talk about the Anglo-Saxon church at Bradford-on-Avon, we would like to arrange a day excursion there in September. Date and details to be announced – if anyone has somewhere nearby they would particularly like to visit as well, please let Tim Herrington (01256 322090) know.

A Day in Tudor Basingstoke

7.30 pm,
Saturday 11th May
at Church Cottage

£5.00 including light refreshments **

Plans are well advanced for our Historical Entertainment as part of the Local History Week co-ordinated by the Historical Association. The script, by Anne Hawker and Barbara Applin, is in its 7th (final?) draft and rehearsals are beginning under the expert guidance of Rosemary Kershaw, Head of Drama at Bishop Challoner School, and with much technical help from Brendan Burns of the Haymarket Theatre. The entertainment (not actually a play) is based on real Basingstoke records throughout the Tudor period, covering happenings from dawn to dusk.

Sheena Archer (01256 882099) is co-ordinating the hiring, borrowing and making of costume and would be glad to hear from anyone who can offer the following items (to be cut and remodelled and so not returnable):

Velvet, brocade, damask and plain fabric curtains or bedspreads etc.

Calico (preferably unbleached), muslin and other "raw" fabric.

Leather coats and jackets.

Felt or straw hats (any style, male or female)

Cotton lace items.

Full long skirts or ball gowns.

Trimmings of all kinds – cord, beads, braid, feathers, lace, old buttons (non-plastic) etc.

Opaque or one-coloured tights and stockings.

Boots and traditional shoes (without zips or other modern fittings).

If anyone has ready-made Tudor or Elizabethan dress which they are willing to loan, **but which will be returned**, please let Sheena know. Elizabethan costume is not as easy to make as earlier Tudor – women's bodices boned and men's trunks tricky to make – so we will concentrate on earlier styles, but some helpers may wish to dress up and are welcome to wear Elizabethan costume or earlier Tudor, if they have it. Atherton Harrison has provided helpful notes on making Tudor costume, obtainable from Sheena.

Brian Archer (01256 882099) is getting together a group of musicians and arranging music to be played as the audience come in and after the performance. Please let him know if you would like to take part.

After the main performance there will be an opportunity to listen to this music, look at various historic displays (and ask questions of the experts) – and we will provide light refreshments. Sue Strawson (01256 355077) will welcome ideas for Tudor "finger-food" and offers of help, and volunteers to run a bookstall are asked to ring Barbara Applin (01256 465439).

****** One of the main aims of this entertainment is to raise funds for the Fabric Fund of St Michael's, our greatest historical monument. So we hope to attract a good audience – tickets should be bought beforehand from Margaret Porter (01256 356012) so that we know what numbers to cater for – and we hope that those helping will be prepared to make a donation.

EXCAVATIONS AND FIELD WALKING "THE PRACTICAL STUFF"

Marjolein Mussellwhite

BASING DIG

As you may be aware, following the visit of Time Team in 1999, we have spent the last two years excavating on the remains of the Restoration period mansion built by the Duke of Bolton in the later 17th century. Usually this dig has taken place during the two weeks around Easter. However, those of you who have been polishing your trowels, cleaning your boots and sorting out your wet weather gear, may also have been thinking about the fact that Easter seems to be particularly early this year, and secretly wondering whether or not you really want to be digging the mud, weathering the torrential downpours, and sheltering, shivering, in the cold farm house. Don't worry, you are not alone. Dave Allen, who after all has spent more than four weeks doing just that over the last two years, has proposed that this year we might like to dig a little later.

We have therefore agreed that the third Basing excavation will now take place from Monday 20 May until Friday 7 June, which hopefully means that we won't get as wet and cold as in the past. In fact, there might even be some sunshine, so remember to bring the suntan lotion...!

Although this dig is organised by the Hampshire Museum Service, most of the volunteers are members of the BAHS. We are hoping for many participants again this year, and I have offered to coordinate the interest from members. I would be grateful if you would let me know if you wish to take part, and also which dates you are likely to be there. Don't forget that you don't just have to be a digger. There's room for pot washers too.

Basing Grange - Monday 20 May - Friday 7 June. 9am - 5pm - ½ days acceptable. This will probably be the last year in which we use Grange Farm as our base.

My details are as follows:

Marjolein Mussellwhite
3 Burrowfields
Basingstoke
RG22 4XJ
Tel. 01256 325387
Email: marjoleine_2000@hotmail.com

BAHS TRAINING DIG AT WORTING

Having said that I'm hoping the weather will be kinder to us for the Basing dig, who can forget the excavation that took place at Worting last September! IT WAS WET!!! However, we did catch a glimpse of the ditch we were looking for (we think!) and we want to find out if it's really there. No date has officially been agreed yet, but we are aiming for the August Bank Holiday weekend. I will keep you informed!

FIELD WALKING

The Fieldwork Committee would very much like to organise some field walking in the near future. We are thinking about March, as the best time to do this is when the fields have been ploughed, but the crops have not grown yet. No previous experience is necessary. If you want to take part, would you please let me know as soon as possible, so that we can see how many people are interested and get a date organised.

SILCHESTER FIELD SCHOOL

As many of you will know from our August evening visits, the Archaeology Department at the University of Reading runs a training excavation for its students every summer at the Roman town site of Silchester. The excavation is organised in conjunction with the Silchester Field School which affords the opportunity for those who are not students at Reading to work on the dig. This year the Silchester Field School runs from Monday 8th July to Sunday 18th August and the following information has been taken from the University web site for your information:

The Field School works a six day week. New arrivals set up camp on the Sunday evening and begin training from Monday morning until Sunday afternoon. Transport is available to and from the University of Reading at the beginning and end of each week for those who request it in advance. Friday is a free day each week. Work takes place from 9.00 a.m. until 5.30 p.m. every day with short morning and afternoon breaks and a longer break for lunch. On Sunday work starts at 9.30 am and finishes at 5.00pm.

All meals are provided (but NOT on the day off) and consist of a self service breakfast, a picnic lunch and a hot evening meal; all are served in the large tent which is the focus of the campsite. For those participants wishing to camp while excavating at Silchester, the camp site is located adjacent to the excavation, within the Roman town walls. Portaloos are provided on site and there will be regular shower trips to a nearby sports centre.

For those attending the excavation daily, there are various means of reaching the site details of which are set out in the web site (see address below). For those with cars, parking is available in the Silchester Town Walls Car Park.

Full details of what to bring will be sent to participants on receipt of their application form.

Accreditation

There is a formal accreditation system for degree students and a signed Certificate of Attendance is available for all Field School participants.

Course Costs

- One week at the Silchester Field School costs £200.
- This cost covers all campsite facilities and meals (except for the day off), all training on site and off site (there are talks about finds processing, etc) and continuous supervision during the working day.
- Some bursaries may be available to those who submit an application in writing. Please contact Amanda Clarke for further details. Discounts are also available to degree students of archaeology and to those at school.
- A non refundable £50 deposit will be required on acceptance of application and full payment will be required by 1 July 2002.

Applications

Applications can be made in writing to the Assistant Site Director, Department of Archaeology, University of Reading, PO Box 218, Whiteknights, Reading RG6 6AA or by completing the **application form** at the University web site www.rdg.ac.uk. Any email enquiries can be made to a.s.clarke@reading.ac.uk.

SILCHESTER FIELD SCHOOL - SPONSORSHIP FOR BAHS MEMBERS

During 2001 the BAHS sponsored three members to take part in the excavations for one week each. I was lucky enough to be one of the three, and gained a lot of experience. It was a most enjoyable week, and I can thoroughly recommend taking part.

The Committee have decided that it would be appropriate for the Society to once again sponsor two of our members to attend the Silchester Field School for one week during this year's dig. The Field School offers an opportunity for training in several aspects of archaeological fieldwork on a site of local and national importance. Activities include excavation, planning and surveying, finds processing and environmental processing.

As we plan to continue our work at Worthing and expand our field activities, we need more members who are not only willing field workers, but also have a certain level of experience, and can lead and supervise fieldwork activities for the Society in the future.

If you wish to be considered for one of these places and are then willing to share the benefits of your experience with the Society, please contact me at the address above.

Marjolein Mussellwhite

BASINGSTO**K****E**
TALKING HISTORY

Barbara Applin

Work on our various projects is continuing steadily and, as always, we have more people to interview than interviewers! If anyone would like to help with interviewing, transcribing or researching, do let me know (01256 465439).

We were asked to send copies of the tapes of the interview with Arthur Saunders, past Editor of *The Gazette*, to the Book Trade History Group for their oral history archive. These tapes contain much information about the typesetting, printing and use of blocks for photographs, as well as the editorial side and Arthur Saunders' own life and experiences.

Bookshelf



The Church in the Bury Review by Bob Applin

All Saints Church, Odiham is always a delight to visit. From its small hill in The Bury it has dominated the town since at least the thirteenth century. A new book by Society member and former Open University lecturer, Derek Spruce, will add to one's enjoyment of the church and its setting.

It is not a guide book for, as Derek writes in his Preface, there is already a very good one. "Rather it seeks to set down the most important features of the history of the church as they have come down to the present day in the architectural and historical records. It is a carefully selective account . . . set . . . in the wider context of changes within the Church and society in England."

In seven chapters Derek covers "the Beginning" to the twentieth century with a lucid and entertaining text. This is illustrated mainly with sketches and photographs showing how the interior of the church has been altered with time to accommodate the changing numbers and fashions in church-going.

One strand of the narrative that I found fascinating was how the church and its lands were used to fund absentee vicars throughout the ages. And the efforts, including going to court in the nineteenth century, to ensure that the tithes and other dues were properly paid. Cure of souls seems to have been a secondary purpose of the Church at some periods.

The book has an extensive list of references (124 !) and a selected bibliography.

Derek is to be congratulated on a well-written and well-presented monograph. He will be pleased to sign any copy purchased from him at Society meetings. All proceeds go to Odiham Parochial Church Council.

The Church in the Bury (A thousand years of All Saints, Odiham), Derek Spruce, Odiham PPC 2001, £6.00. 77pp + 20pp. ISBN 0-9541444-0-6

(Also available by post from Odiham PPC, All Saints Church Office, Palace Gate, Odiham RG29 1JX, £6 + £1.50 pp)



Books by David Hinton

Members who enjoyed David Hinton's lecture in January may be interested in the following list of his books – highly recommended!

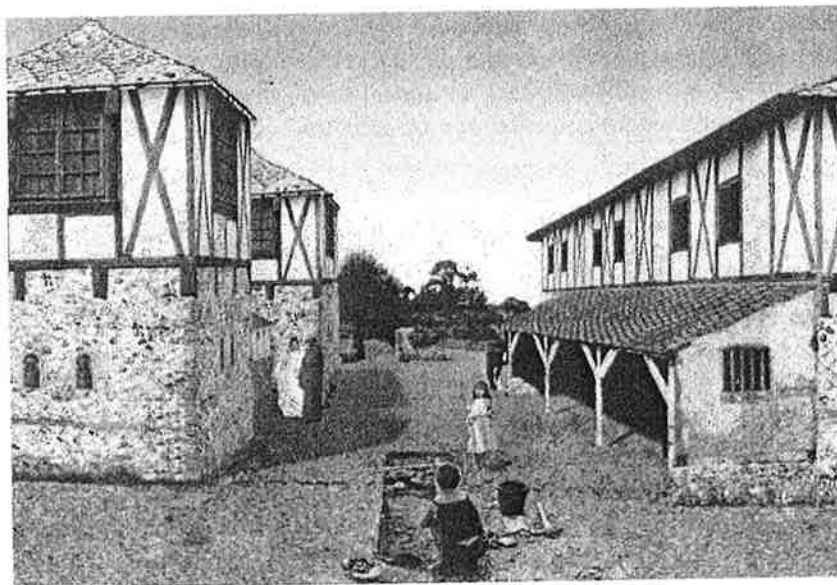
- *Alfred's Kingdom: Wessex & the South 800-1500*, Dent 1977
- *Archaeology, Economy & Society: England from the 5th to the 15th Century*
Batsford Seaby 1990, re-issued Routledge
- *Discover Dorset: Saxons & Vikings* Dovecote Press 1998

And the full Web address he mentioned is www.arch.soton.ac.uk/research/bradford
The site has several sections, and the one with the model can only be used by those with the right sort of computer, but the other sections should be accessible.



SILCHESTER

Barbara Applin



Number 177 of *CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY* for January 2002 has an eye-catching cover showing a computer-generated scene of two Roman houses, with a garden behind. Two townspeople outside one of the houses, as well as a gardener at work, give the buildings scale and reality. But what particularly delights me is the little girl looking not just at us but at the archaeologist of today, who in turn has looked up from her work in a small trench to see the girl standing there and the houses full height. The eye-to-eye contact between present and past is very moving.

So this was Silchester! This reconstruction by Margaret Mathews, and another of the north-south

street down the side of Insula IX graphically illustrate the latest thinking about this Roman city, showing "street fronts crowded with neat timber-framed buildings and modest stone houses". The reconstructions accompany a fully illustrated article, *Silchester – a crowded late Roman city*, based on interviews with Mike Fulford and Amanda Clarke, followed by a review of the Britannia monograph *Late Iron Age and Roman Silchester*.

Not to be missed!

The Gazette for 1st February carries an article about the documentary film *Calleva* being made by Sean Caveille which will feature the Dig Diary of our own Marjolein Mussellwhite when she was sponsored by our Society to take part in last year's excavation. Sean is looking for aerial shots of Silchester and at least two photos of the Victorian excavations – does anyone know of a likely source? His website is www.timesequences.com

'OUT OF SCHOOL' AT FORT HILL

Jim Hunt



I work as a Design Technology Technician at Fort Hill School (Winklebury), and was asked by the Assistant Head Teacher, who knew of my interest in Archaeology, if I could assist with a new venture.

It was proposed that Wednesday afternoons would be devoted to 'Out of School' activities designed to stimulate interests and bring an element of 'fun' into school life. The activities on offer ranged from the Art Club, Latin American Dancing and Trampolining. It was decided that the help of our Society was needed to run an Archaeology Club, and in due course Mary Oliver and team agreed to help out

At the start of the Autumn Term 2001 'Out of School' began and a gathering of ten interested pupils, aged 10- 13 years, appeared. There was only one girl who (who I promptly called Carrenza) after the 'Time Team' format which had aroused some interest.

Mary gave a very interesting slide-show which fired the pupils' enthusiasm and set the scene for the weeks ahead. The following five weeks included instruction in the use of Levels, marking out a trench, (we had a job stopping the pupils from starting a dig there and then) and in the history of Fort Hill. Peter and Les did a grand job with explanations and instructions and the slide shows were brilliant. The fascination with old pottery, stone tools, mosaics,

artefacts and the Romans was apparent with most of the group. As with most groups of youngsters, there were some with a short interest span (around 30 minutes), who would get into mischief; this was where my other role as a staff member helped to maintain a bit of order!

On the whole the archaeology club was a success and the majority of the group were disappointed that they had to move on to other things after 6 weeks. We await the interest of at least a further 10 pupils to resume the club.

A very big thank-you to Mary and her colleagues.

EVENTS AT THE VYNE IN 2002



The Vyne in the 2002 season has much that is new with which to greet the visitor. There is the new car-park (with its state-of-the-art toilets!) and the new scenic walk to the House; less able walkers can hitch a lift on the 8-seater electric buggy. In May, the Brew-house restaurant re-opens in all its new glory, too.

So, we thought you might like to see the many events planned to take place at The Vyne during 2002.

Incidentally, there are still some vacancies at the House for volunteer stewards; if you are interested, some of our members are already engaged in this role. Speak to Jean and Peter Heath, Heather Mandow or Chris Burrowes to name but a few, and they will tell you all about it and how to apply!

CONCERTS

Classic Concert & Firework Finale

Friday 12 & Saturday 13 July @ 8.00pm

Bigger & better than ever. The Riverside Sinfonia is back at The Vyne with a fresh selection of classical favourites and a spectacular firework finale.

Ticket holders will be able to picnic in the grounds from 6.30pm, prior to the performance.

No tents, candles or naked flames.

For details call The Vyne 01256 883858

Tickets Adults £19. Children £14

To book contact the Box Office on **08701 555585** or at **www.ticketmaster.co.uk**

THEATRE

As You Like It

Saturday 10 August @ 7.30pm

Unquestionably Shakespeare's most romantic comedy, AS YOU LIKE IT, is a tale of how it feels to be head-over-heels in love when the two of you are both asylum seekers. An evening of wit, sauce and desire with the international award-winning Illyria theatre company.

Ticket holders will be able to picnic in the grounds from 6.30pm, prior to the performance.

No tables.

For details call The Vyne 01256 883858

Tickets Adult £11 Child £7

To book contact the Box Office on **08701 555585** or at **www.ticketmaster.co.uk**

The Reluctant Dragon

Friday 24 August @ 7.00pm

The internationally renown Illyria theatre company stage another classic of children's literature when they bring to life this enchanting tale from the author of THE WIND IN THE WILLOWS, featuring a real 20-FOOT DRAGON!!! Suitable for saints and damsels aged 5 and over.

Ticket holders will be able to picnic in the grounds from 6.00pm, prior to the performance.

No Smoking & No tables.

For details call The Vyne 01256 883858

Tickets Adult £9 Child £6 : To book contact the Box Office on **08701 555585** or at **www.ticketmaster.co.uk**

Sunday 31 March, 10.00am – 3.00pm

Trusty the Hedgehog and the Easter Bunny will be on hand to 'egg' on children of all ages in a Woodland Trail with edible prizes. Other attractions include a colouring competition and a raffle, and of course the house, the tea room and the shop will be open. Cost : £1.50.

Sunday 21 April, 2.00 – 4.00pm

Morgaston woods should be carpeted with Bluebells when the Warden leads this picturesque walk.

SPRING PLANT & CRAFT FAIR

Sunday 12 May, 10.00am – 3.00pm

Admission £3. Discounted combined price for house and gardens £5

Your annual opportunity to purchase quality plants and accessories, plus there'll be all the usual favourites like local artisans, the Plant Doctor, and the Head Gardener's tour. Find out why all the plants on sale were grown in peat free compost and how the Trust is only using composts that don't destroy our dwindling peat moors and the endangered flora & fauna that depend on them.

National Gardens Scheme Open Day

Sunday 9 June, 11.00am – 6.00pm (Tour 2.00pm)

Special day out for garden lovers. Get ideas for your garden at home from our historical planting and garden design. Proceeds from grounds admission goes to the National Garden Scheme.

Evening Garden Tours

Wednesday 12 & Wednesday 19 June, 7.00pm – 10.00pm

Fascinating guided tours of the garden. An opportunity to get a personal insight into the care and development of the gardens with the head gardener and his team.

Tickets £20 : To book contact the Box Office on **08701 555585** or at **www.ticketmaster.co.uk**

National Gardens Scheme Open Evening

Wednesday 26 June 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Annual opportunity to bring the family and picnic in the grounds. Proceeds from grounds admission goes to the National Garden Scheme.

The Great Butterfly Walk

Sunday 28 July, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

With the help of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust and The Vyne's estate Warden leads a tour through the woods in search of indigenous and visiting species of butterfly.

Seeds & Things

Sunday 6 October, 2.00pm – 4.00pm

A family walk in the garden with the head gardener and his team looking at nature's harvest.

Apple Day

Saturday 19 October 11.00pm – 4.00pm

A celebration of the British apple in all its various forms, concentrating on local varieties, their cultivation and uses.

Boxing Day Walk

Walk off the Xmas excesses on a walk around the woods in the company of the Head Warden.

Evening House Tour & Supper

Tuesday 3 & Wednesday 4 September, 6.30pm – 9.30pm

Take advantage of this rare opportunity for a special tour of the house with our resident experts on hand to answer questions about the history of the house its contents and their conservation.

Tickets £20 : To book contact the Box Office on **08701 555585** or at

www.ticketmaster.co.uk



Basingstoke Town Hall on a Sunny Sunday

CALENDAR

Thursday 21 Feb	THE COCK THAT CROWED (archive Footage of British Pathé News) David Lee	FWM
March	FIELDWALKING (p 6)	BAHS
Monday 11 March	MAPPING HISTORIC NEVIS , recent Historical Archaeology in the Eastern Caribbean, Roger Leech, 7.30 pm, Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds' College, Winchester (free)	HFC
Thursday 21 March	BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY Barbara Applin	FWM
Thursday 14 March	WERE THE NEANDERTHALS OUR ANCESTORS? Prof. Chris Stringer	BAHS
Thursday 11 April	DENDROCHRONOLOGY & DATING TIMBER BUILDINGS IN HAMPSHIRE Edward Roberts	BAHS
Saturday 13 April	THE HAMPSHIRE PARSON Spring Symposium 10 am – 4.30 pm (£4 for Field Club members, £5 non-members)	HFC
Thurs 18 April	MILESTONES; THE FIRST YEAR Gary Wragg	FWM
Thurs 25 April	OUT OF EGYPT Society visit, 7 pm at The Historic Resources Centre, Winchester (page 3)	BAHS
Thurs 9 May	THE ZEUGMA PROJECT, TURKEY Rob Early	BAHS
Saturday 11 May	A DAY IN TUDOR BASINGSTOKE 7.30 pm at Church Cottage, Basingstoke (page 5)	BAHS
Thurs 16 May	GOING ROUND IN CIRCLES (stone Circles) Gerald Ponting	FWM
Monday 3 June	JUBILEE PICNIC at Basing House (page 4)	
Thursday 13 June	AGM & AN UPDATE ON THE EXCAVATIONS AT THE DUKE OF BOLTON'S HOUSE, OLD BASING David Allen	BAHS
Saturday 29 June	A DAY OF THREE CHURCHES Meet at North Waltham Church, 10.30 am (page 4)	BAHS

BAHS = our Society. Lectures at Church Cottage, 7.30 pm

HFC = Hampshire Field Club

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