

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 160

July 2002

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The following were re-elected:

Chairman	Tim Herrington
Secretary	Margaret Porter
Treasurer	Peter Good
Membership Secretary	Garth George
Committee	Barbara Applin, Susan Strawson, Les Fitzgerald, Marten Harris

Andrew Hunt retired from the Committee and Mark Peryer was co-opted in his place. Other co-opted members as before: Mary Oliver, Mary Shelley and Marjolein Mussellwhite.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2002-3

Members are reminded that subscriptions for 2002-3 will be due on September 1st to Garth George, 71 Camrose Way, Basingstoke RG21 3AW. The rates are £11 for individuals, £15 for family and £7 for students and over 60s (the over 60s family rate is £12). Please make cheques payable to BAHS. *A renewal form is enclosed with this Newsletter.*

SILCHESTER VISIT

15TH August, 2002

Our visit to the excavations at Silchester will be on **Thursday 15th August. Meet at the Silchester car park at 6 pm for a 6.30 pm guided tour** (NB this allows time to walk to the site). Mary Oliver (01256 324263) would be glad to know who is coming. Once again we have sponsored two members to take part in the training dig. This year they are Claire Lorrain and Steve Kirby.

BAHS TRAINING EXCAVATION, 7TH - 8TH SEPTEMBER 2002

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the BAHS Training Excavation will take place in the field off Church Lane, Worting, on 7 and 8 September.

From the evidence of an aerial photograph and previous excavations, we know there to be a number of features in that field, including what appears to be a rectangular boundary ditch of Iron Age date. We are keen to expand our knowledge of this site, and we have

scheduled the 7th and 8th to try and find further evidence of the ditch, and if we have time, work on the interior of the enclosure to explore possible activity within the boundary.

No prior experience is necessary to participate in the excavation, as training will be given on site. If you would like to take part, I would be grateful if you could let me know. My details:

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

A DAY IN TUDOR BASINGSTOKE



We have received the following letter from the Rector of St Michael's, Basingstoke.

Dear Mr Herrington,

I am delighted to receive your very generous cheque for £1,191 on behalf of the Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society. As I write, the scaffolding is on the tower, the masons are expected in a few days, and your society's contribution to this essential conservation work could not have come at a better time.

*I'm very pleased that the **Day in Tudor Basingstoke** proved to be such an enormous success. Please convey to your society St Michael's heartfelt thanks for enabling us to benefit from your production.*

With every good wishes for your future activities.

Yours sincerely,

Philip Welsh

VIDEO of A DAY IN TUDOR BASINGSTOKE

The video of the performance, made by the Basingstoke Camcorder Club, is now being edited and should be available shortly. Many thanks to David Ogden and his team for making such a superb record of a unique occasion. We are hoping that this too can raise more money for the Tower Appeal. The exact price is not yet certain, but it should be no more than £10. It will be available at Society meetings or from Margaret Porter (01256 356012).

Sheena Archer showed great initiative in loaning some of our costumes to The Vyne for their own Tudor Day, when the Brewhouse Café was re-opened. She now has a catalogue of the costumes, with procedures and prices for loans. Meanwhile, one dress is on display in the ROUNDHOUSES TO ROUNDABOUTS exhibition on the top floor of the Willis Museum, and others have been displayed, with the historical notes from the programme, in St Michael's Church for its Jubilee Fete on 13th July.

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

As institutional members, we can send two members to HFC events, so if you want to go to any of the following, get the details from Tim Herrington (01256 322090). If any are fully booked, you may be put on a reserve list.

- Wednesday, 11th Sept** Visit to the Iron Age site of Oram's Arbour, Winchester and to the Exhibition **Ice to Iron** at Hyde House. *
- Friday, 13th Sept** Cheese and Wine at Winchester College, viewing some of their treasures.
- Sat 19th October** Conference on "Revolution and Revision in the Georgian Landscape" 10 – 5, Peter Symonds College, Winchester.
- Sat 23rd Nov** Conference (name not yet certain) about early Anglo-Saxons

*You can also visit Oram's Arbour on the Heritage Open Weekend, 14/15 September, when there will be tours of the site. The **Ice to Iron** exhibition of prehistoric finds continues till April: 9 – 4.30.

The Hampshire Field Club, in collaboration with Hampshire Archaeological Committee and Hampshire County Council have published a Review of Archaeology in Hampshire 1980-2000, entitled **The Millennium Publication**. It has a comprehensive illustrated gazetteer of archaeological sites excavated in the county during the period under review. Copies from Dr Nick Stoodley, nick.stoodley@nottingham.ac.uk

HAMPSHIRE RECORD OFFICE

The HRO and the Wessex Medieval Centre are holding a day conference on **WILLIAM OF WYKEHAM** on Saturday, 28th September, 9.30 – 5pm, in the HRO Cinema, Sussex Street, Winchester.

The Record Office are interested in receiving photographs, programmes, videos, administration files etc about this year's Jubilee celebrations. They are looking for ephemera too – things like posters, flyers, programmes, menus etc. Contact David Rymill (01962 846154) e-mail david.rymill@hants.gov.uk or, for films, David Lee in Wessex Film & Sound Archive (01962 847742).

HAMPSHIRE ARCHIVES TRUST are planning the following visits. As we belong, two of our members can go, but booking needs to be quick and there may be a ballot. Details from Margaret Porter (01256 356012).

Jane Austen's House, Chawton, Wednesday 11th September at 6.30 pm (£5 per member, £7 per guest)

Goodwood House and West Sussex Record Office, Monday 16th September 10.15 - 4.39, £16 per member, £18 per guest)

St John's Winchester Charity Wednesday 2nd October at 6 pm (£5 per member, £7 per guest)

See also details of the **Oral History Seminar** in our **BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY** report on page 10.

At a **Local History Week** lecture at the Library, Alan Fielding received a 45-page handout listing holdings relating to Basingstoke in Hampshire Record Office. Barbara Applin has asked for another copy.

Hampshire County Council have now combined their **Museums, Library, Arts, Countryside and Community services and Hampshire Record Office** in a new Recreation and Heritage Department under the leadership of Mr Yinnon Ezra. Hampshire Record Office is now linked with the Museum Service under the overall leadership of the Head of Museums and Archives, Stephen Locke.

INVADERS: A DARK AGE MYSTERY

This exhibition is on at Andover Museum till 31st August and well worth a visit. It's a Hampshire Museum Service touring exhibition but won't reach Basingstoke till September next year. It is described as "the latest family-friendly interactive exhibition, which invites you to crack the clues left in the ground 1,500 years ago, using archaeological material unearthed by Channel 4's Time Team!" – with a warning note that human remains are on display – Anglo-Saxon burials from the New Forest.

Particularly exciting for us is the wonderfully decorated Anglo-Saxon buckle from Monk Sherborne, a real conservator's triumph.

The explanatory panels give insights into the way Anglo-Saxons understood their world and the impact of their settlement in Britain, and often they present varying interpretations. There are opportunities to design a decorated buckle, dress up in Anglo-Saxon costume and even try your hand at rowing. As the blurb on "Hantsweb" says, "this is a challenging and provocative exhibition, bringing you face to face with the past".

THE WHEATSHEAF, NORTH WALTHAM - AN UPDATE

Marjolein Mussellwhite

I recently received a copy of "**The Search for the Lost Roman Villa**", written by Richard Tanner, Chairman of the North Waltham, Steventon, Ashe and Deane History Society. You may well remember that members of the BAHS and the NWSADHS did some fieldwalking in the field near the Wheatsheaf Hotel in North Waltham recently, where we found a wealth of Roman brick and tile, and also wall plaster and sherds of pottery. Mary Oliver wrote an account of the work carried out in the May newsletter and there is a display in the Local Societies exhibition **ROUNDHOUSES TO ROUNDABOUTS** on the top floor of the Willis Museum (until September).

Richard has been researching the history of the 'North Waltham Villa', a Roman site 'said to be near the Roman road from Silchester to Winchester, though the actual positions of both road and 'villa' were uncertain'. Richard has spent the last year or so trying to establish its exact location, and his publication reads like a detective novel, searching for clues in archives, Record Offices, books and publications, pulling together the strands of information. The result is a fascinating account of the history of the area around the Wheatsheaf, and the excavations carried out during the last two centuries, notably by Barbara Applin who dug on the other side of the A30 in 1969 (see our video **BENEATH BASINGSTOKE**). Although at this stage it is not certain whether we are dealing with a 'villa', it is clear that a Roman site has been identified, and Richard's publication is no doubt the first of many more to follow.

In his publication, Richard mentions the resistivity survey. In June members of the BAHS and the NWSADHS carried out their first resistivity survey in the field adjacent to the Wheatsheaf. Pippa Smith of Wessex Archaeology came to teach us about the use of the machine, and then left us to it. We managed to survey some 200 square metres, but the results so far are inconclusive, with no major anomalies showing up. Richard Tanner is planning further forays, and we are very much hoping to be able to survey the field where we did the fieldwalking, and where the finds show so much promise. It is clear that there is a lot more work to be done, and we are looking forward to working together with the NWSADHS in the future. Have we found the site of the 'lost Roman villa' or whatever it turns out to be? Only time will tell....

Richard Tanner's "**The Search for the Lost Roman Villa**" comprises 24 pages, costs £2.00 and is available from the Willis Museum or from Richard Tanner, The Old Post House, North Waltham, Basingstoke, Hants RG25 2BQ (tel: 01256 397610).

BRITISH ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

Tim Herrington (01256 322090) has a programme of meetings of the British Archaeological Association in the rooms of the Society of Antiquaries of London, Burlington House, Piccadilly, London. Non-members are welcome to attend occasional lectures but are asked to make themselves known to the Hon. Director on arrival and to sign the visitors' book.

IMPRESSIONS OF THREE CHURCHES

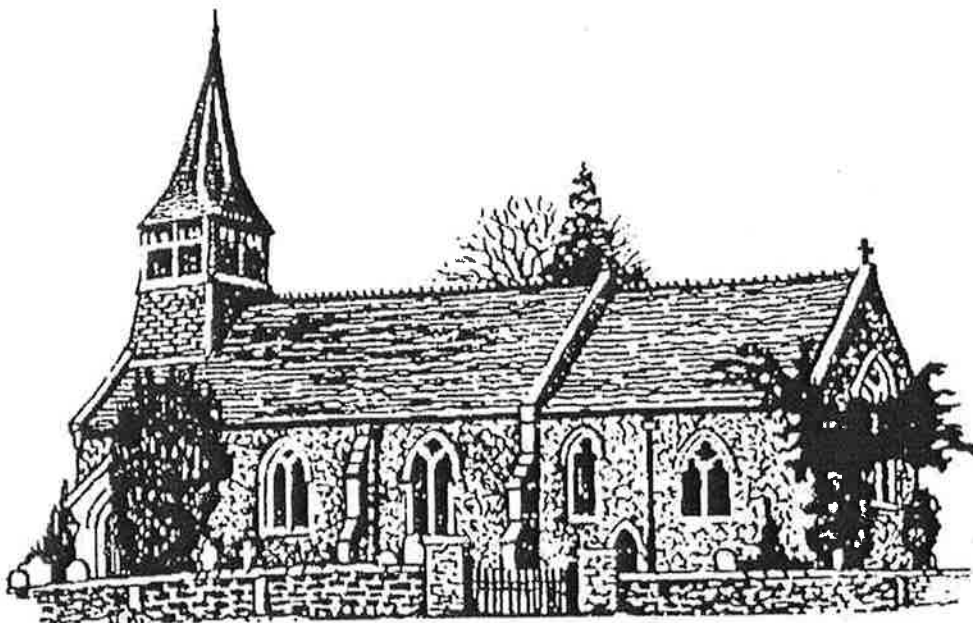
Sue Headley

More than 20 members and friends spent a very pleasant day at the end of June looking at three of the four churches in the United Benefice of North Waltham, Steventon, Ashe and Deane,

Our visit began at **ST MICHAEL'S, NORTH WALTHAM**, where the Rev Michael Kenning, Rector of the United Benefice churches, explained the debt due to the Rector at the time of the Victorian restoration (1865-66), Henry Carey, whose personal dedication and financial support ensured the preservation of what was then by all accounts a largely ruinous structure.



*Drawing by
Michael
Laizans*



*Drawing
by the late
Anne
Pitcher,
MBE*

The church contains some evidence of earlier structures, including sections of 13th century work. Of particular note is the highly decorative 14th century piscina in the south wall of the sanctuary, and the pretty 15th century font, which was acquired from Popham church when it closed.

The modern altar frontal and lectern and pulpit falls, featuring an angel's wings, were designed by Atherton Harrison, who explained how the colours of the glass in the east window had influenced the design. She also designed the kneelers, choosing a countryside theme including birds, flowers and insects. The "odd man out" here, literally, is a kneeler depicting HMS Hood, worked by a Mr Cole in memory of his brother who died aboard her in 1941.



ALL SAINTS, DEANE, shares with St Michael's a narrow escape from dereliction; in this case averted in the 1970s by the sale of a tazza (a saucer-shaped cup) hallmarked in London in 1551. Only one other tazza from this period is known to have survived. It was given by Elizabeth I to the Tsar Ivan the Terrible and is kept in the Kremlin.

Fortunately the cup was bought by the Willis Museum, where it can be seen today. *(Postcard on sale in the Willis Museum)*

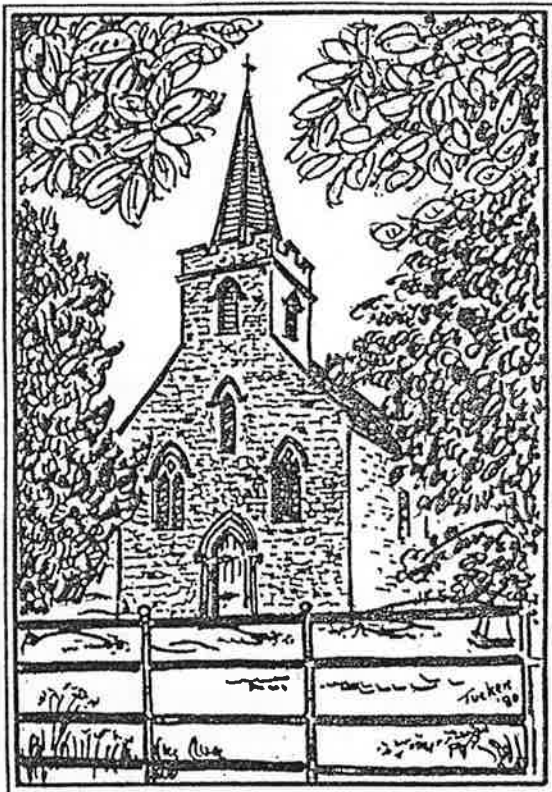
The PCC Secretary, Graham Talbot, gave us a very interesting talk about the church, its benefactors and principal features. Unusually for a church of this size, there are 8 bells in the tower. However, full peals are not rung for fear of bringing about the collapse of the structure, due to the absence of secure foundations! All Saints missed, by only a few years, the fame that attaches to St Nicholas' Church, Steventon, through the Jane Austen connection. Jane's father had the living at Deane and occupied Deane parsonage (now the home of the Lord Lieutenant, Mrs Mary Fagan) until 1771, when the family moved to Steventon Rectory (now demolished), where Jane was born in 1775.



All Saints dates from 1818, when the church was completely re-built as a thank offering for the victory at Waterloo. The style is Gothic and features a large amount of Coade stone, an early type of moulded concrete, used also for the lion on the South Bank of the Thames

near County Hall, The Church is very light, thanks to the Coade stone and also to the sparing use of coloured glass. The colours of the glass are predominantly those of the national flag of Belgium, reflecting the Waterloo connection. There are some interesting memorial tablets, including one to a gentleman who died in 1666 at the extraordinary age (for those times) of 85,

Atherton told us that the Coade stone motifs inspired her designs for the kneelers here, They include the fleur-de-lys, Tudor rose and portcullis. The latter may reflect the Parliamentary connections of one of the church's patrons from Oakley Hall, but may equally be attributable to the fact that Coade stone mouldings were expensive and, once made, were used in various buildings.



*Sketched by George H. Tucker
Founder Member of the Jane Austen Society of North America*

After lunch the party reassembled at **ST NICHOLAS, STEVENTON**, which is structurally little altered since the 12th century. It is somewhat detached from the present day village, and its comparative isolation adds to the charm of its setting.

Among its treasures are the remains of a Saxon cross, recovered in 1952 from a wall of the original Steventon Manor, some early Victorian and medieval wall paintings uncovered in the 1980s and the "Digweeds' pew", a box pew now in use as the vestry.

There are many Austen memorials in the church itself, and some Austen graves in the churchyard, which is also remarkable for its 900 year old yew.

Drawing by George H Tucker, Founder Member of the Jane Austen Society of North America

Atherton's designs can be seen here in the new set of frontals and falls, beautifully worked by Doreen Dean, and on the covers of the kneeler cushions. For the latter, Atherton chose flowers, reflecting the country setting of the church.



We are very grateful to Michael Kenning for giving up the greater part of his day off to accompany us, to Graham Talbot for giving us his time at Deane and to Tim Herrington for organising the day. Particular thanks go to Atherton, not only for devising the visit but also for telling us about the embroideries and for providing tea.

Thanks to Michael Kenning for giving us permission to reproduce illustrations from the guides for the three churches, and to the Willis Museum who hold Anne Pitcher's archives and sell a postcard of the Deane tazza, and to Atherton Harrison for allowing us to reproduce the photographs of her designs for chasuble and falls.

Report by Barbara Applin

BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY

Oral History Seminar

David Lee is organising his twelfth seminar in the Wessex Film and Sound Archive Cinema, Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester, from 10 am to 4 pm on **Saturday 16th October** (fee £6, £3 for senior citizens and students). As usual, David will give a practical demonstration of recording equipment and techniques. Dr Ann Day of University College, Chichester, will speak on the principles and ethics of recording people's memories. Karen Narkiewicz, External Funding Advisor of Hampshire County Council's Economic Development Office, will explore ways of attracting grants for oral history projects. Sarah Bussy will talk about her experiences in producing a book *Winchester Voices*, published by Tempus. **I hope some of our members will attend and report back. I have full details, or you can ring 01962 847742. In any case, please let me know if you wish to go (01256 465439).**

Roundhouses to Roundabouts

This exhibition is on the top floor of the Willis Museum until 7 September, and as well as the costume etc from **A DAY IN TUDOR BASINGSTOKE**, mentioned elsewhere in this Newsletter, we have a display of printed excerpts from **BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY** tapes, sometimes with photographs. On some Saturday mornings we are taking it in turns to sit and play some of the tapes. Do come and see – and listen, if you catch the right moment.

Nancy Powell

Brian Butler has sent us a copy of a programme for an Invitation Concert of the Basingstoke Choral Society (Fourteenth Season) held in the Town Hall on Tuesday, February the 10th 1903. The conductor was Mr H E Powell (Nancy's Uncle Harry), who

also performed a violin & pianoforte duet with Mr Charles Griffiths. His sister, Madame Blanche Powell, A.R.A.M, a professional singer, sang "When all was young", from Gounod's "Faust", as well as two other songs. Mr Powell's daughter, Miss Marion Powell, performed a "violoncello obbligato" [sic].

He also says that a letter from Nancy mentions that her Uncle Harry gave music lessons to the Royal Belgian family who were visiting Hackwood Park at the invitation of Lord Curzon of Kedleston, the then owner. Uncle Harry taught Prince Charles and Princess Marie-Jose (to become Crown Princess of Italy), and Marie-Jose put some glue on the chair one day to play a prank on him!

HELP NEEDED !!

We are falling behind with interviewing and transcribing and would very much welcome help. Also, see the list of Hampshire Record Office holdings mentioned on page 4. We would like to look at those connected with topics covered by BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY, particularly items relating to hospitals etc. Anyone interested, please let me know (01256 465439).

TALKS

Margaret Porter and Barbara Applin gave a talk to the Basingstoke Deane Rotary Club on how we made the video, **BENEATH BASINGSTOKE**. The talk was illustrated by excerpts from the video and slides showing the camera crew, equipment and some of the "trade secrets".

Barbara Applin has given another talk on **BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY**, this time to the Kempshott W.I.

iMap

A letter in *The Daily Telegraph* recently asked if there was a reasonably priced computer program that could be used for mapping historical sites, the distribution of artefacts and places. The writer wanted to place a symbol at a precise spot on the National Grid reference and to draw in and colour features such as rivers, roads and escarpments.

The reply described the program **iMap**, developed by the University of Leuven in Belgium, originally for mapping biological specimen data. It will import maps in most common formats and they can be calibrated by selecting and entering the co-ordinates of two diagonal points. There is a pre-calibrated high-resolution relief map of the UK. The program can plot symbols or characters from any installed font, so you can create many kinds of attractive and informative maps.

NATIONAL MONUMENTS RECORD

Tim Herrington (01256 322090) has details of exhibitions and events at The Gallery, the National Monuments Record Centre at Swindon, which we visited some time ago.

CALENDAR

2 and 3 August	TO THE FRONT: WW1 Re-enactment	Milestones
Thursday 15 August	VISIT TO SILCHESTER 6 pm for 6.30 (page 2)	BAHS
Sat/Sunday 7/8 Sept	BAHS TRAINING EXCAVATION (page 2)	BAHS
Wednesday 11 Sept	Visit to Oram's Arbour and Hyde House exhibition ICE TO IRON Hampshire Archives Trust visit to Jane Austen's House, Chawton	HFC HAT
Thursday 12 Sept	ROMAN COINS AND COIN HOARDS John Hutchinson, Reading University	BAHS
Friday 13 Sept	CHEESE AND WINE at Winchester College	HFC
Sat/Sun 14/15 Sept	Heritage Open Weekend: Oram's Arbour tours and ICE TO IRON	
Thursday 19 Sept	DAYS IN THE LIFE OF A SHEPHERD Mr L Atkinson	FWM
Monday 26 Sept	Visit to Goodwood House & W. Sussex Record Office	HAT
Saturday 28 Sept	WILLIAM OF WYKEHAM Day Conference	HRO
Thursday 10 Oct	WOODLAND CRAFTS IN NORTH HAMPSHIRE AND THE KENNET VALLEY: THEIR RISE AND FALL Prof. Ted Collins	BAHS
Wednesday 16 Oct	ORAL HISTORY SEMINAR	HRO
Thursday 17 Oct	AGM and A LOOK AT LATE VICTORIAN BASINGSTOKE George Plummer	FWM
Saturday 19 Oct	Conference REVOLUTION AND REVISION IN THE GEORGIAN LANDSCAPE	HFC
Saturday 23 Nov	Conference on early Anglo-Saxons	HFC

BAHS Our Society, Church Cottage, 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated
HFC.....Hampshire Field Club, see page 4
FWM Friends of the Willis Museum; 7.30 pm at Willis Museum
HRO..... Hampshire Record Office, Winchester, see page 4
HAT..... Hampshire Archives Trust, see page 5