

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



**NEWSLETTER 161**

**October 2002**

## **CONTENTS**

- Page 2      **COMMITTEE**  
**CHRISTMAS WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL**  
**A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER**
- Page 3      **THE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER**  
**GREEK VASES AND OTHER DELIGHTS**  
**A DAY IN TUDOR BASINGSTOKE : VIDEO**  
**EXPERIMENTAL POTTERY FIRING**
- Page 4      **BAHS TRAINING EXCAVATION, CHURCH LANE, WORTING**
- Page 5      **CALLEVA DOCUMENTARY**
- Page 6      **A TEA PARTY FOR THE MISSES PINK**
- Page 7      **DID RICHARD III VISIT AACHEN? OR, WHEN DID JULIUSCAESAR**  
**CROSS THE CHANNEL?**
- Page 10     **BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY**
- Page 11     **TALKS**  
**SIR JAMES LANCASTER**  
**TITHE AWARD MAP**  
**BOOK SEARCH**
- Page 12     **CALENDAR**

*Registered Charity No. 1000263*

## COMMITTEE –News and Apology!

At the 2002 AGM, Andrew Hunt retired from the Committee and was replaced by Mark Peryer. Sincere apologies to Marjolein Mussellwhite who was inadvertently listed as co-opted, rather than elected, as she is!

---

### CHRISTMAS



### WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL

Thursday  
12<sup>th</sup> December 2002

Church Cottage  
Basingstoke

7.30 pm

The pattern of events will be as usual – a relaxed get-together, complete with a quiz or two. Included in the price of **£1.50** will be a glass of wine or soft drink and a finger buffet. We invite you to bring along any items of interest that you have “unearthed” – photos, books, objects from the past, whatever. Hope to see you there!!

Margaret Porter (01256 356012) will be delighted to take up any offers of help to prepare/supply buffet food, the Society refunding any expenses.

---

## A NOTE FROM THE TREASURER

*Peter Good*

I have just received £234.10 from the Inland Revenue as a result of all those members who signed up for the Gift Aid scheme to apply to their last year's subscriptions. This is an important contribution to our income and I would like to thank everybody who has already signed up for the scheme. I would be grateful if anyone who has **not** signed a Gift Aid form could do so as soon as possible, so that we can maximise the amount we get back from this year's subscriptions. Members who have already signed the form do not need to sign another one.

I would also like to thank the member who has – most generously – sent me a donation of £250.00 to be spent at the Committee's discretion. With the money we have decided to buy a new audio system to be used at the monthly lectures.

**NB** *Have you paid your subscription for 2002-3, due 1<sup>st</sup> September 2002? If not, please do so NOW, otherwise we shall not be able to send you any more newsletters !!!*

## THE SOCIETY ANNUAL DINNER BCOT



On Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> March, 6 for 6.30 pm

This is always a really good social occasion for our Society – and will have a particular interest this year when our guest speaker will be Alan Turton! Please book your place as soon as you can – the cost remains £15.00, as for the last two years! Bookings and cheques (BAHS) to Tim Herrington at 16 Scotney Road, Basingstoke, Hants RG21 5SR (01256 322090).

---

## GREEK VASES AND OTHER DELIGHTS!

Ure Museum  
7 pm, 27<sup>th</sup> February

At his talk on **Roman Coins and Coin Hoards** in September, John Hutchinson offered to show us round the Ure Museum, which has, among other things, the largest collection of Greek vases in the country. He says he will get some things out especially for us to see. The Museum is in Room 37 on the ground floor of the Humanities Building, Reading University (Whiteknights Park). Please let Margaret Porter know if you wish to go, so that she can tell John how many to expect and let you have directions if needed (01256 356012).



## A DAY IN TUDOR BASINGSTOKE

*Video now available!*



The Basingstoke Camcorder Club made a video of the evening performance at Church Cottage, Basingstoke on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2002, and this is now for sale at our meetings, price £10. Not to be missed for those who could not come to the performance itself – and an excellent reminder for those who did. Also it makes an unusual Christmas present! **If you want it to be posted, ring Margaret Porter on 01256 356012 or Barbara Applin on 01256 465439 and please add £1.20 for postage to the £10 cost.** *Many thanks to David Ogden for putting in so much skill and time in editing this video, and to his colleagues for their camerawork.*

---

## EXPERIMENTAL POTTERY FIRING

Members are invited to take part in a day of potting and two days of building and firing a clamp pit kiln at the Viabes Craft Centre, in an attempt to reproduce pottery of late Iron Age type in the style of that found with the Viabes burials (finds in the Willis Museum; report in *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club, Volume 40, 1984*).

Clair Lamerton, potter at Viables, is running this experiment with some of her adult education class and would welcome members of our society to take part, at a reduced rate. For us the fees would be £15 for the pottery day (9<sup>th</sup> February 2003) and £25 for the kiln-building and firing weekend (15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> February).

As Malcolm Lynes did with his experimental firing of Romano-British Alice Holt pottery, many years ago, Clair will have a thermocouple to record the temperature of the fire, and she plans to experiment with different quantities and coarseness of flint temper. She will make her research available to people doing the course, and hopes to mount a display for visitors (who can come free).

Clair will stay overnight at Viables to take readings and says people are welcome to camp overnight to help – bearing in mind this will be February! There's a challenge!

More details will no doubt be available nearer the time. Meanwhile, if you are interested, write to:

Clair Lamerton  
19 Ladywood Avenue  
Cove  
Farnborough  
Hants  
GU14 9SR

Or ring her mobile: 07855 1284 38

Or Unit 25  
Viables Craft Centre  
Harrow Way  
Basingstoke

---

## **BAHS TRAINING EXCAVATION CHURCH LANE, WORTING**

*Marjolein Mussellwhite*

In early September a group of BAHS members gathered in the field off Church Lane in Worting for the training excavation, with the aim of re-establishing the exact location of the Iron Age boundary ditch that last year eluded us. David Score had kindly agreed to lead the way, and so he and Andrew Hunt had marked out the site the previous weekend, based on earlier excavations.

Some twenty people took part, and over a period of four days we dug a trench that covered both the interior of the enclosure and the ditch itself. Although it took us a while (calculations slightly out....) we did find the ditch, and we have now been able to mark the exact location of both this and previous excavations on the map, which should make future work a little easier!

The ditch itself yielded quite a lot of what appears to be Iron Age pottery, some Romano British pottery, and some animal bone. We also investigated part of the interior of the enclosure, but although some pit-like features were found and excavated, there were no finds associated with them.

I would like to thank David Score for all his help, I've learned a lot, especially about the recording side of the excavation. Thank you to all of you who took part (in spite of the "digs" about "just another metre"....), and a thank you also to Richenda Power, who owns the site, for allowing us to dig up her field once again.

Looking forward to next year!

# CALLEVA DOCUMENTARY

*Marjolein Mussellwhite*



During the summer of 2001 I was sponsored by the BAHS to take part in the Silchester excavations for a week. A few months before I was due to start, I was approached by Sean Caveille, a semi-professional film maker from Newbury, who asked me if I would be willing to take part in a documentary he was making about Roman Silchester.

I have taken the following description of the film, entitled *Calleva*, from Sean's website at [www.timesequence.com](http://www.timesequence.com) which also gives details of other projects.

"The documentary is introduced by Adam Hart-Davis (BBC's *Tomorrow's World*, *What the Romans Did For Us*, etc.) and features the excavation of the Roman town by the University of Reading. At its core is a series of video diary entries from a site excavator, around which is painted the intriguing tale of the most complete circuit of Roman town wall in Britain. The film draws to a stunning climax as two gladiators viciously do battle. As the Field School Director, Amanda Clarke, ponders the end of Calleva Atrebatum, a Roman soldier fades into the sunset, leaving the viewer with a haunting chill..."

I was the video diarist, and thoroughly enjoyed working with Sean in making the film. *Calleva* was finished earlier this year, and already has won a Silver Award at the Cotswold Film and Video Festival. It would have won Gold, had not the judges decided that Sean could not possibly have got Adam Hart-Davis involved, so he must have "stolen" the footage. This is obviously not the case!

In the meantime, the documentary has been entered into the Guernsey Lilly Film Festival, a Tokyo Film Festival, it will be included in a Spanish Archaeology Festival (dubbed in Spanish!), and a Canadian TV network has expressed an interest in showing it. It is regularly played at the Willis Museum, and is available at libraries, schools, colleges and universities (including Reading).

If you want to get a copy, e-mail Sean on [calleva@timesequence.com](mailto:calleva@timesequence.com); or his address is 22, Sheridan Court, London Road, Newbury RG14 2BH (cost £3 including postage and packing).

## A TEA PARTY FOR THE MISSES PINK

*Barbara Applin*

Another "first" for BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY – with the kind permission of the Curator, Sue Tapliss - we arranged a surprise tea party in the Willis Museum, where the guests of honour were Miss Muriel Pink and Miss Edith Pink.

Many people in the town remember "Miss Pink's School", and Beryl Kay and Tim Herrington recorded an interview with Miss Muriel Pink for Basingstoke Talking History. An excerpt from this interview was included in our display for the exhibition **ROUNDABOUTS TO ROUNDABOUTS** in the upper room at the Willis Museum from July to September. So Edna Fielding arranged a taxi to bring the two Misses Pink to the Museum, organised police permission for it to bring them right to the door, and escorted them upstairs in the chair lifts. Little did the two sisters know that friends and ex-pupils would be waiting to greet them, with a tea party to follow!



In her interview Miss Muriel Pink had told us that she started her Victoria Preparatory School in May Place Hall at the outbreak of war in 1939, but when that hall was commandeered for a first aid post she moved the school to her front room in Richmond Road.

She said, 'I used to have children from 4 to 9, but the Inspector thought it would be better to run from 3 or 4 to 7, which I did. In that time I managed to get one clergyman, several doctors and dentists, several PhDs and one professor. No child ever left this school without being able to read and write, tables and discipline. I went for strict discipline.'

She explained something that used to mystify her pupils: 'They used to go home and tell their mothers, "I don't know why it is, but when Miss Pink plays the piano she can always see what we are doing." You see, I kept the front of the piano polished and I could see if the boys were misbehaving.'

When the school closed in 1981, the pupils wrote to the Queen about 'our very special teacher, Miss M B Pink, who has taught the pupils of this school for over 45 years, giving herself unselfishly over and above the call of an ordinary teacher. She has not only given us a good start to our Scholastic life but has shown, through her own dedication to the church and the

community of Basingstoke, a good moral and social responsibility and guidance which will remain with her pupils for the rest of their lives.' Miss Pink cherishes her copy of this letter, and the reply she received from the Queen's Lady in Waiting.

If you know of any ex-pupils we were not able to contact in time for this tea party, please let me know. Miss Edith Pink contributed some remarks to her sister's interview, and we now hope to interview her about her own life.



*Miss Edith Pink meets two of her sister's former pupils*



*Alan Fielding shows school pictures to Miss Edith Pink (left) and Miss Muriel Pink (right)*

---

## **DID RICHARD III VISIT AACHEN? Or, WHEN DID JULIUS CAESAR CROSS THE CHANNEL?**

*Nicola Turton*

This what we did on our holidays, and no jokes about Richard the Third, please. Remember that history is written by the winners, and that the Tudors were great propagandists.

In late May, we went with the Richard III Society to Aachen, which is in the west of Germany. With Aachen as our base, we made trips to interesting places of all periods, not just mediaeval. Our first trip was to Liège. Well, we started on the wrong foot with Liège, when we both forgot to bring the map and notes. So we found the tourist office, bought a plan, and found that several museums were closed. Never mind, we thought, we'll go to the flea market. Which was just closing. We were dusty and grumpy by now, and feeling that a day was a long time in Liège, but lunch cheered us up. After lunch we found the tremendously impressive steps up to the Citadel, but Alan's sciatica was making his legs very sore, so we didn't attempt the climb. But determined to see something interesting, we went to the cathedral treasury. Not yet sated by reliquaries, we admired the one for St Lambert, and the delightful tableau of Charles the Bold and St George.

One museum which was open was the museum of Walloon Life, and it was a real treat. It is vast and contains huge quantities of every day items from the last couple of centuries, from carnival costumes and (sinister) puppets, to kitchens and workshops, china and maps, and the curators huddled in groups smoking. This last was rather alien to us; couldn't imagine it at the V&A!

Incidentally, according to my toothpaste tube, Colgate seem to have their European office in Liège.

Saturday - Cologne - wonderful. And what better way to start the day than a gallop (crawl) up one of the towers. Very high, but worth it for the views and the feeling of superiority. I was amazed to learn in the museum that the Roman ground level is some 20 feet lower than the mediaeval/modern level of Cologne. Then to the chocolate museum via a lovely riverside walk along the Rhine, with cyclists and jazz bands and ice cream stalls, and people just gently enjoying the afternoon.



Sunday was for both of us the highlight of the trip, and we travelled to Trier. If you have only seen pictures of the Porta Nigra, they won't go anywhere near conveying the massive bulk of the gate. Alan (who reads the books before we go) told me that the foundations go down sixteen feet. Then to the Basilica, now the Protestant Church. It is hard to describe the sense of vast space and quiet enclosed by this wonderful place, which was once Constantine's throne room. The simplicity is perhaps the secret of the incredible grandeur.

*Constantine's Baths at Trier*



*Roman wine barge at Trier*

From the photograph of the amphitheatre, we were expecting a small one, perhaps on the scale of Silchester, but we should have known better in this country of superlatives. Perhaps I haven't seen many things, but I was impressed, especially by the famous stones in the entrance showing wheel ruts. I understand these are one of the pieces of evidence showing the width of Roman chariots (Alan tells me they drove on the left, blame Napoleon for the change). We visited too



many wonderful monuments to list here, but we ended the day footsore and full of chips, mayonnaise and ice cream.

The next day we went to the three countries viewpoint, taking in Germany, Holland and Belgium. Whilst speeding around the bollard marking the point where the three meet (three countries in a minute!), I was intrigued to see a tiny segment, which we later learned was once a country between Holland and Belgium called New (?Neu) Moritz. At the time of writing, I have yet to discover when this little country ceased to be.

Then a rattle around Valkenburg, and a nippy tour of the ruined 11<sup>th</sup> century castle. Quickly on to Maastricht for lunch, where we found a wonderful department store, appealingly named V&D, and had a nice meal. When we went upstairs to find the lavatories, we found them at the back of another restaurant which was undergoing renovation, but still serving food. Amazingly – remember we are in Maastricht - the workmen were standing on the counters and opening the ceiling ventilation filters above the food. European Health and Safety wouldn't allow that in our country!

Our final stop of the day was in Tongeren, where the Roman Museum made a lot of not much, but did give me the chance to buy a Julius Caesar glove puppet. His head is a six-inch resin replica of a marble statue and is killingly funny. I could have chosen a Hawaiian shirted one, but went for the tasteful imperial purple. Look out, Christmas party...

On our last full day we had a tour of the Aachen treasury. *More* reliquaries, although some stunners, including one for the top of Charlemagne's skull. To our great disappointment, Margaret of York's Crown had *just* left for an exhibition in the Tower of London. The Aachen link with our Richard is that the two sons of John la Pole, Richard's heir, fled to Germany. One was finally captured (and of course killed) by Henry Tudor, but the other one continued as a mercenary until his death in Aachen. I was moved by the very simple throne in the cathedral, which is made of marble from the Holy Land, and may even be the marble that covered Jesus' tomb. Interestingly, one of Charlemagne's many descendants was Basing House's very own 1<sup>st</sup> Marquis of Winchester.

At the Aachen Spa, we took the water. It did taste eggy, and quite vile, and I raised an eyebrow when Alan gulped it down and declared it to be most refreshing.

On the way home on Wednesday, we stopped at Waterloo, for a climb up the Lion Mound, a visit to the wonderful 1940s wax works, and the Panorama; one of the largest paintings in the world, and I'm sorry, but I bought a lollipop cunningly named "Napololly". In case you were wondering, Julius Caesar crossed the English Channel on Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> May 2002. I have a photograph to prove it!

A *much* longer version of this report has appeared in *The Ricardian*. And as a P.S., Jane Austen thought that Richard the third was a respectable and innocent man.

### **Oral History Seminar**

Six of our members attended this seminar at the Hampshire Record Office on 16<sup>th</sup> October and, as always, found it a useful opportunity to see our efforts in a wider context. Dr Ann Day, from University College, Chichester, gave examples of her own recordings, many in Hampshire, showing how her technique improved with experience. It was heartening to see that she had at first encountered the problems so many of us have met, and instructive to see that by now she can bring out the best in an interviewee without intruding unnecessarily. She brought copies of booklets resulting from interviews at Portsmouth Dockyard and with corset makers. She and her students had also made fascinating video interviews at Tredgolds' ironmongery in Portsea – making the case that video is particularly effective for recording something with good visual content, explaining processes or the workings of machinery. David Lee talked about recording equipment and methods, a useful “revision” session. Karen Narkiewicz, of Hampshire County Council, gave a lucid presentation on how and where to look for grants for oral history projects, and her handouts will be very helpful. Finally Sarah Bussy told of her experiences in producing a book based on oral history interviews: WINCHESTER VOICES (Tempus) and in particular of the problems she encountered in getting the required illustrations.

### **Interviews**

Recent “Health” interviews were with Dr John Williams and the dentist R. E.W. (Bob) Pearce, and various other interviews are under way – though some “targets” are proving rather elusive.

### **Exhibition**

It is hard to judge what interest there was in our part of the ROUNDHOUSES TO ROUNDABOUTS exhibition at the Willis Museum – unfortunately, not many people were looking round when we took it in turns to play some of the interviews, though we had a feeling numbers improved once a large notice was put up to encourage people to venture up the second stairs. However, as you will have read elsewhere in this Newsletter, we did take the opportunity for a very successful tea party!

### **Database**

We are beginning to design a database to make it easier to find specific items in the interviews. Watch this space!

### **Appeal**

Once again, we would welcome more members to help with interviews, transcriptions and any associated research. As some people who are willing to do transcriptions have no typewriter or computer, would anyone be willing to type or key in any handwritten efforts?

## SIR JAMES LANCASTER

*Nicola Turton*

Sir James Lancaster was a well known seaman and one of Basingstoke's most famous sons. In the late sixteenth and early seventeenth centuries, he helped lay the trade routes to the East Indies.

James Lancaster was knighted for his work which he continued until he died in June 1618. Lancaster had an estate in Lincolnshire which when he died, he left to the Basingstoke Corporation. I gather the estate was recently sold, but until then the farmhouse bore a plaque saying that the land belonged to Basingstoke.

One of the most interesting things about him is that he carried bottles of lemon juice on his voyages, with which he dosed his crew, and thus prevented scurvy.

I would like to research Lancaster more fully, and would be grateful for any snippets of information anyone may have (phone 01256 467294).

---

## TALKS

Mary Oliver recently gave a talk on the digs at Oakridge to the Basingstoke Amateur Winemakers. Barbara Applin talked on BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY to the North Waltham, Steventon & Deane History & Archaeology Society, and BTH was naturally included in her talk on Local History to teachers at Queen Mary College. With a bit of luck, these talks sometimes end up with sales of some of our books or videos!

---

## TITHE AWARD MAP

At the recent Hampshire Field Club conference on REVOLUTION AND REVISION IN THE GEORGIAN LANDSCAPE, we were told that the Public Record Office at Kew will copy tithe award maps onto transparencies and that you can do a digital scan on CD. Cost about £21 + VAT. You can look up the catalogue on their website (numbers for awards begin IR17 and maps begin IR18).

---

## BOOK SEARCH

Has anyone got a copy of Anne Pitcher's book on Old Basing that they want to sell? If so, please ring Barbara Applin (01256 465439).

## CALENDAR

Wed 20 Nov	HOW THE RAILWAY CAME TO BASINGSTOKE David Brace	TADS
Thurs 21 Nov	DESIGN: "NOTHING NEED BE UGLY" Derek Wren	FWM
Sat 23 Nov	THE EARLY ANGLO-SAXONS: BUCKETS, BODIES AND BOUNDARIES Archaeology Section conference & AGM, Boldrewood Conference Centre, Southampton, 10 am-5pm	HFC
Wed 27 Nov	THE END OF HADRIAN'S WALL Tony Wilmott, Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College, Winchester, 7.30 pm	HFC
Thurs 28 Nov	HAMPSHIRE ON THE MOVE: SOURCES FOR THE STUDY OF TRANSPORT HISTORY AT HAMPSHIRE RECORD OFFICE Adrienne Allen	HRO
Thurs 12 Dec	CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING (Page 2)	BAHS
Thurs 9 Jan	UNDERSTANDING STAR CARR: MESOLITHIC HUNTER-GATHERERS IN NORTHERN ENGLAND Tim Schadla-Hall	BAHS
Fri 24 Jan	SMALL TOWNS WERE IMPORTANT PLACES: SOME EXAMPLES FROM MEDIAEVAL HAMPSHIRE Prof. Christopher Dyer, United Reform Church, Jewry St, Winchester, 7.45 pm	HFC
Thurs 13 Feb	WINCHESTER – THE ANCIENT CAPITAL: A SURVEY FROM PREHISTORY TO EARLY 20 <sup>TH</sup> CENTURY Prof. Tom James	BAHS
Thurs 27 Feb	VISIT TO THE URE MUSEUM 7 pm (page3)	BAHS
Thurs 6 Mar	ANNUAL DINNER, BCOT, 6 pm for 6.30 (page 3)	BAHS
Thurs 13 Mar	DIGGING UP THE BRONZE AGE IN SPAIN Prof. Bob Chapman	BAHS
Thurs 10 April	"THE SAINTS ARE COMING HOME": THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE ST MARY'S STADIUM, SOUTHAMPTON Roland Smith	BAHS

**BAHS** ..... Our Society, Church Cottage, 7.30 pm unless otherwise stated  
**HFC**.....Hampshire Field Club (Secretary has details)  
**FWM** ..... Friends of the Willis Museum; 7.30 pm at Willis Museum  
**HRO**..... Hampshire Record Office, Winchester, 1.15 – 1.45 pm, free  
**TADS**.....Tadley & District History Society, 8 PM, St Paul's Church Hall, Tadley