

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

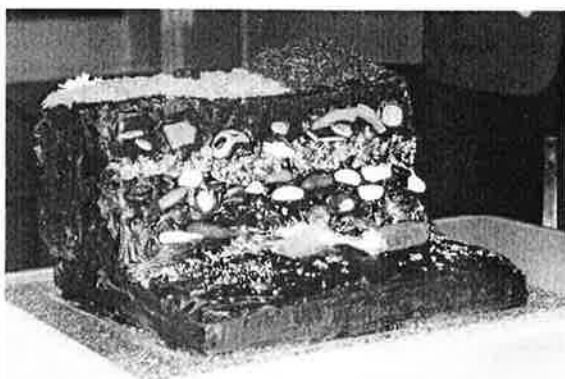


NEWSLETTER 164

August 2003

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What cake is this? See inside.

A Letter from Tim

Dear Marjolein & Committee,

Having now recovered from a) the shock and b) the enormous enjoyment and sentimentality of the AGM and what followed, I write to you, enjoying your honeymoon as chairman of BAHS, and to your committee. Please accept my deep gratitude for my send-off extraordinaire.

To have received my honorary life membership was all that I had wistfully hoped for! As for the rest, this was a complete surprise. To crown it all, the gift of two volumes of the work of my Grandfather, John Stephen Farmer, published over a century ago, was unbelievable.

So, in the modern vernacular, I owe you one – or even two!

I promise that I will not lose interest or contact with BAHS and will slip in quietly from time to time to sample the excellent programme laid before us, as a member of an exceptionally friendly and interested group of people whose company has always given so much pleasure.

My best wishes to all and may your 2003/4 committee prosper. Please tell the members, once again, how much I appreciated the uncovering of the story of my first 75 years with the sordid bits left out!

Love



Tim (John) Herrington

TIM HERRINGTON - THIS IS YOUR LIFE !

Anyone who missed the AGM may like to contact Margaret and Julian Porter (01256 356012) as Julian videoed what followed. We heard many tales about Tim from his family, friends, our own members, WEA, golfers, AWE, National Trust – and videoed messages from absent friends, even from the Isle of Man – all ably compèred by Alan Turton, followed by a delicious special cake made by Nicola.



ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION

Membership fees will be due on September 1st 2003. The rates are unchanged at £11 for individuals, £15 for family and £7 for students and over 60s. The over 60s family rate is £12. Cheques, payable to BAHS, can be sent to Garth George, 71 Camrose Way, Basingstoke RG21 3AW: tel. 01256 464763. He will be more than happy to take membership renewal now.

We would also 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 the Inland Revenue. Members who have already signed the form do not need to sign another one.

A Note from our New Chairman

Marjolein Mussellwhite

As you are now all aware, Tim Herrington “retired” from his post as Chairman at the recent AGM, and I was elected to succeed him. Several members of the Committee put together a wonderful “This is Your Life” event for Tim and I would like to say a big THANK YOU to all those people involved in making this evening such a memorable one. A lot of time and effort went into putting everything together and I know that Tim thoroughly enjoyed it all.

Les Fitzgerald and Mary Shelley also retired from the Committee, and I’d like to thank them for all the hard work they have put in over the years. Three people joined the Committee at the AGM and I would like to welcome Diana Medley, Graham Hayward and David Score on board.

I’m very much looking forward to the next year, Mary Oliver is in the process of putting together what promises to be another great calendar of lectures, the Fieldwork Committee is working on the “hands-on stuff” and we are looking to go on some trips and visits.

I look forward to seeing you all at our forthcoming events.

Congratulations!

Marjolein has passed her exams and achieved her Certificate of Higher Education in Archaeology with distinction! And she has been offered a place at the Department of Continuing Education at Oxford University. Well done!!

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2003-2004

Mary Oliver

2003

11 September 'Highclere' by John MacDonald

Our first lecture of the season is likely to encourage a visit or revisit to this local stately home. Once a bishop's summer palace, it was bought in 1671 by the Attorney General and has descended in an unbroken line to the 8th Earl of Carnarvon. It is best known for the remodelling of the exterior by Sir Charles Barry, which will be described along with furniture, pictures and interiors completed from 1860. Another architect, Thomas Allom, was also involved at Highclere, transforming the old Elizabethan courtyard into the Grand Baronial Reception Hall. John MacDonald is a retired architect who lives in Andover, where he is a heritage guide.

9 October 'The Amesbury Archer: King of Stonehenge?' by Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick, Wessex Archaeology

The discovery of the grave of the archer last summer, prior to the building of a new school in Amesbury, has been hailed as one of the most interesting archaeological finds of recent times. It is certainly the richest Beaker burial yet found in Britain, and one of the earliest, radiocarbon dated to 2,400 - 2,200 cal. BC, a busy period at nearby Stonehenge. All the finds, and the body too, have yielded important information and added to the discussion on the origins of Beaker culture in Britain so we are promised a fascinating evening from a speaker who has given us many good lectures in previous years.

13 November 'Pots, Porphyry and Petrology' by Dr. David Williams, Southampton University

Scientific analysis of different kinds has added considerably to our knowledge of archaeology over the last few decades. One technique, perfected by David Williams and his colleague at Southampton, Professor David Peacock, is the identification of the heavy minerals in the clay from which pottery and other artefacts were manufactured. Being able to source raw materials tells a lot about the economy of the site in question. Some of our local sites, Winklebury and Ructstall's Hill, were studied in this way at the post-excavation stage; it will be good to welcome David back to Basingstoke after all these years, and to hear about some of the projects he has been working on since then.

11 December Wine and Cheese Party

2004

8 January 'Big ladders and little fingers; latest advances in Ice Age Art' by Dr Paul Bahn

Everyone is familiar with the images of large bulls and little 'Chinese' horses from Lascaux in France. Until I visited them recently, on a tour led by Paul Bahn, I did not realise how much more there was to be gained from experiencing them in situ – (admittedly not Lascaux itself, but many of the others.) Paul is one of the foremost authorities on Ice Age art. He has written about, lectured on and taken groups to enjoy this art, all with infectious enthusiasm. He is coming down from Hull to share this with us – Don't miss it!

12 February 'Glimpses of the Client Kingdom; continuing excavations at Silchester Insula IX' by Prof Mike Fulford Reading University

I feel that we can claim a 'special relationship' with Silchester! Over the years, Mike Fulford has conducted exemplary research training excavations with his students at Reading. Some of

our members have been able to take part and many more have visited the different sites and listened to Mike explain his finds. Now we shall get an update on what has been learned so far from the excavation of part of this interesting Insula about halfway through the programme of excavation.

11 March **'Excavations at Whitby Abbey 1993 to 2002' by Tony Wilmott,**
English Heritage

There are a great many abbeys and monasteries in this country, some of which had only local importance, but Whitby, under its Abbess Hilda, is known to all students of the early church as being the site of the Synod, in 663, which addressed the differences between the Roman and Celtic traditions of Christianity. The excavations uncovered the history of the site from Anglian times until after the Dissolution of the monasteries – a very long stretch of our history. It will be most interesting to hear the story from the excavator, Tony Wilmott, from English Heritage, whom some of you may recognise from 'Time Team'.

8 April **'The Sandys family at The Vyne and Mottisfont' by Pamela**
Johnston

I am sure our doorstep stately home will be a very popular subject with members! Since she retired as a history teacher, Pamela Johnston has made a study of the architecture, contents and the family history behind of some of our best-known Hampshire properties, and has lectured widely. The Sandys family, one of the great Tudor families, were important in Basingstoke's history and left us one of our oldest buildings in their burial chapel at the Holy Ghost.

13 May **'Classical Italy' by Dr Gillian Shepherd**

Dr Shepherd is a specialist in classical studies, lecturing at Birmingham University, and leads Andante holidays.

10 June **AGM and 'Update on the Programme of Excavations at the Duke of**
Bolton's mansion at Basing House' by Dave Allen

Society Trip to BRADFORD ON AVON on 23rd August

If you would like further details of this trip, and to make a booking, please contact **Marten Harris** before 20th August (3 Ramsholt Close, North Waltham, RG25 2DG Tel: 01256 397651). It is about 68 miles to Bradford on Avon, and we hope that people can share cars.

The plan is to meet at the Tithe Barn in Bradford on Avon, followed by a visit to the Saxon church of St Laurence (the subject of last year's lecture by Professor David Hinton). This church is a delight, not to be missed. After lunch we will view other buildings in the town. Members of the Bradford on Avon Preservation Trust have kindly offered to lead our party. We shall take a small collection for the Trust.

FIELDWORK

Marjolein Mussellwhite

..... *Training Excavation – Church Lane Worting*

This year we have decided to hold the training dig over two weekends, 6 & 7 September and 13 & 14 September. We are hoping to have access to a small digger, which would allow us to strip the top soil quite quickly. If this is the case, we will be looking to open a larger area for investigation, and possibly dig more than one trench. Yes, we will be looking for the ditch in the square enclosure (!), but we are also hoping to locate some ditches that appear nearer the gate in the aerial photograph.

If you would like to take part, could you please contact me and let me know which days you are able to be there. If you have an email address, could you let me have that as well?

..... *Fieldwalking*

If digging is not your thing, but you would still like to be involved in some of the practical work that we carry out, how about joining us for some field walking? No previous experience is necessary and you don't have to get down on your knees!

The Fieldwork Committee are looking to put together a programme of field walking later on in the year, details of which will be announced at forthcoming meetings. If you are interested in further information or you want to come along, please let me know and I will contact you once I know what the dates will be.

..... *Work in the Archaeology Stores at Chilcomb House*

As the summer months are here, we have decided to cancel the work in the stores during August and September, as a lot of people will be away on holiday. We shall start again in October.

If you would like to help in the stores, we work every second Sunday of the month, so the next occasion will be on the 12th October. We are making good progress in sorting out the collections, but a lot more work needs to be done - and so lots more people are needed to help. If you want more information, please give me a call.

Kay Ainsworth has requested that people let her know in advance if they are going to be there on a Sunday (this goes for the "regulars" too!). Would you please give her a call on 01962 826738 to let her know you are coming? A few people go during the week, so if that suits you better, please discuss it with Kay.

We very much appreciate all the help that is given and the results are already visible. We would very much like to maintain the momentum, so if you are willing to give some of your time, your help will be gratefully received!

Marjolein Mussellwhite
3 Burrowfields
Basingstoke RG22 4XJ
Tel. 01256 325387
Mob. 07753 724435
Email: marjoleine_2000@hotmail.com

The “Moody Wagon” – a postscript

Bob Applin

Kevin Lockyer of Milestones Museum has filled out the background to the photo of the Wallis & Steevens steam wagon with “Moody” pantechnicons, featured in my article in the last Newsletter.

The wagon shown was No 2904, registration AA 2124. This was the protooype and it was supplied on 15th June to Miller Lilley of Honiton, Devon, who later sold it to The Devon Trading Co. Ltd.

Before delivery it was photographed in various guises for publicity purposes, mostly in Basingstoke’s eastern railway goods yard. The photos, published in various books, are:

- Nearside from the front (taken in the works yard)
- Offside from the rear
- Empty with a trailer
- The same configuration, as a brewer’s dray – presumably the barrels were borrowed from May’s brewery
- A close-up of a flatbed furniture removal configuration with equipment borrowed from Moody’s Furniture & Removal business.

This little ‘saga’ is a good example of how the chance coming together of various unconnected interests can lead to all the parties gaining additional information. Brian Butler is interested in his Moody grandmother’s history and passes on a photo relating to the Moody firm to Barbara, who is also interested in Moody history from a different angle, her research into Basingstoke traders. The photo leads me to think that the Moody furniture removal business had a Wallis & Steevens steam wagon so I consult Kevin Lockyer. He provides the information on the wagon and now has a copy of the Moody photo to add to his collection.

If anyone wants references for the photos mentioned above, ring me (01256 465439).

The logo features the word "BASINGSTOKE" in a large, serif font with a horizontal line underneath it. Below the line, the words "TALKING HISTORY" are written in a smaller, all-caps serif font. The entire logo is set against a light, textured background that resembles a stylized mountain or a hill.

We’ve all been quite busy! Barbara Applin gave a talk at the inaugural meeting of the **Southern Oral History Exchange** at Southampton, making some useful contacts. Work on **Taking the Pulse of Basingstoke** is continuing. We’re still waiting for up-dating from the Hospital but three of us recently were allowed to extract items from past reports and newsletters for St Michael’s Hospice. An interesting spin-off from this contact is that Barbara Applin and Jan Patterson were invited to give a talk and play tapes for Day Care patients, a very friendly group who have already provided a volunteer to be interviewed (Les Pickett, who has tales to tell about time in Saudi Arabia, among other things).

Sue Tapliss wants to mount an exhibition in the Willis Museum about D-Day, for its 60th anniversary next year, and invited us to provide an oral element. We have already located some

useful interviews and are planning more. If you know of anyone who would be willing to be interviewed about D-Day memories (even if just the effect of the build-up towards D-Day in the area), please ring Barbara Applin (01256 465439).

And, as always, we have people waiting to be interviewed, transcriptions to be done, associated research to undertake – more helpers will be very welcome!

The Grange, Northington

Alison M Deveson

A group from the Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society visited The Grange as part of their field trip on Saturday May 17. They were guided round the house by John Redmill, the consultant architect for the site, who had given a talk to the Society last November. The present Grange, though internally a ruin, is still spectacular, and a great deal is known about its chequered history from the late-17th century onwards.

The Grange estate is generally said to have originated as a manor belonging to Hyde Abbey in Winchester, but nothing is known of the manor house before Sir Robert Henley acquired the estate and built a new house around 1670. However, recent work on the documentary evidence has suggested that the medieval manor belonged, not to Hyde, but to Waverley Abbey in Surrey (a Cistercian house). On the Dissolution the estate passed first to Sir William Fitzwilliam, the Lord Admiral, and then to Sir Anthony Browne, Viscount Montague. Browne sold it to Thomas Cobb, a member of a Hampshire gentry family, whose descendants sold it to Lord Henry Paulet, brother of the 5th Marquis of Winchester. It was Paulet who sold it to Sir Robert Henley, and at the time The Grange must have been a substantial house, considerably improved since its origin as the farmhouse of the Cistercian grange.

It is likely that Sir Robert built his house on a new site rather than extending the old one. Aerial photographs show a series of garden features, which could be associated with Sir Robert's house, and one also shows anomalies south of the present Grange, in an area which was a formal garden in the 19th century. The anomalies seem rather heavy for a garden structure, and may possibly be the foundations of a substantial house, perhaps even the Cobbs'. It is hoped that geophysical survey will elucidate both these areas. The survey will take place in Autumn 2003, and should add to our knowledge of an important Hampshire house.

The Mulberry Dyer

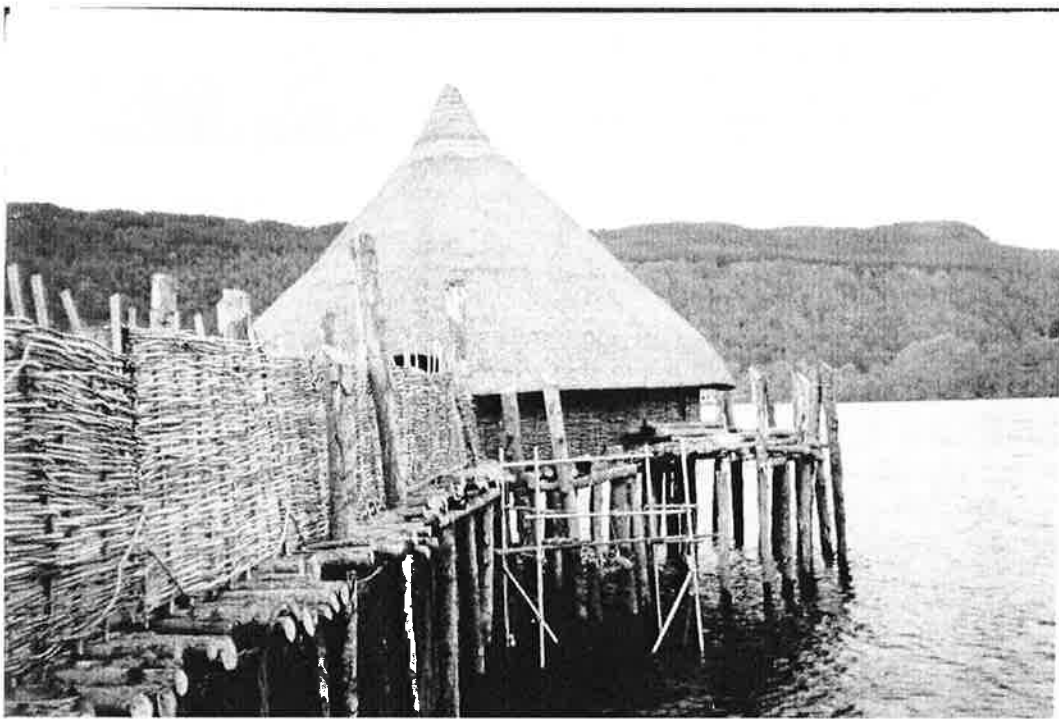
Two one-day dyeing courses will be held in the tea room at Basing House on Saturday and Sunday 20th and 21st September from 10 am to 4 pm, covering natural dyeing techniques up to the late seventeenth century. The cost is £15 per head, to include a ploughman's lunch, fabric samples and dyeing handouts. When booking, please send cheques (payable to The Friends of Basing House) with a stamped addressed envelope for confirmation of booking, to Mrs Nicola Turton, Basing House, Redbridge Lane, Basing, Hants RG24 7HB w- refunds will not be made unless the course is cancelled or if there is a waiting list for places.. Please bring rubber gloves and something to carry your samples home in. Please wear old clothes that you don't mind getting splashed with dye. Please use the Redbridge Lane entrance, where parking is available.

VISITING A CRANNOG

Ann Broad

One rather dull day during May this year I was taken to see a crannog on Loch Tay by some Scottish friends. What is a crannog? I hadn't any idea really, even after my friends' rather vague explanation.

Crannogs, I found out, are a type of ancient loch dwelling found throughout Scotland and Ireland. They were built out in the water as defensive homesteads from 5,000 years ago, and people continued to build and occupy them periodically until the 17th century AD.

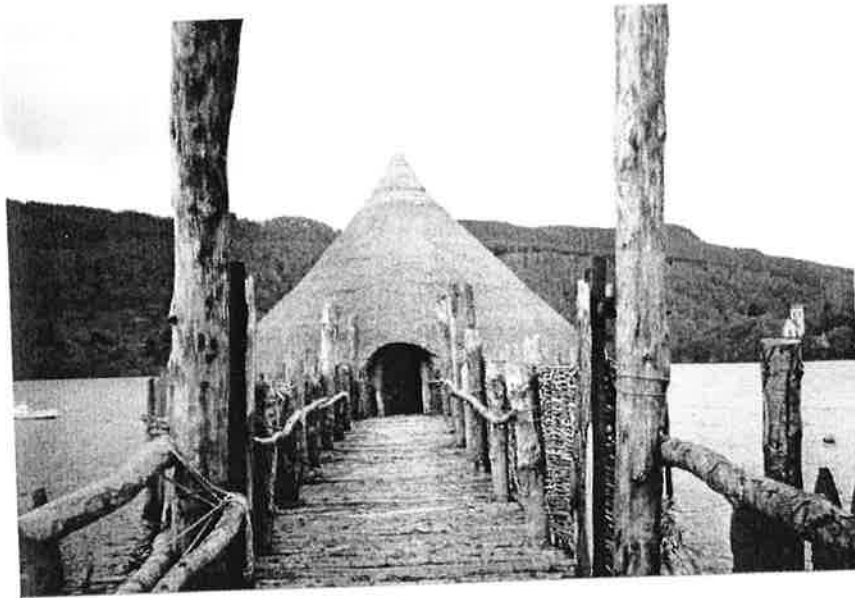


In the wooded heartland of Scotland, the prehistoric crannogs were originally timber-built roundhouses supported on piles driven into the loch bed. Today they appear as tree-covered islands or remain hidden as submerged stony mounds. Over a period of time, about nineteen crannogs were built around the loch.

Diving archaeologists have been exploring the crannogs in Loch Tay since 1980. They carried out a unique experiment to find out how these offshore homes were constructed, and then built a life-size crannog, rediscovering the secrets of ancient technology in the process.

Underwater evidence shows that these early crannog people were farmers who kept animals and exploited the natural environment around them. They also managed the woodlands to ensure a ready supply of selected timbers for specific purposes.

The reconstruction I visited on the south side of Loch Tay is based on their excavation results from the 2,600 year old Oakbank Crannog off the village of Fearnan. The ancient structural timbers, plant remains, food, utensils and even cloth have been remarkably well-preserved by the cold, peaty water. Particularly spectacular are a butter dish with butter still sticking to the inside, and a handful of sloes with the fruit still intact.



The crannog itself is approached across a platform of logs bound together and supported by upright logs driven into the loch bed. Although the shape of the crannog conformed to the ancient piles found, some of the remaining features were conjectural. The floor is made from thinner logs and covered with straw. The walls were double wattle filled with straw and sheep's wool. Inside, areas were sectioned off with wattle partitioning and it was conjectured that raised areas might have been used for sleeping. The hearth was in the centre. A guide in appropriate clothing, with rather chapped hands, talked us through the experience of living in a crannog and later showed us the hands-on area on the bank where one could experience the early Iron Age activities of making fire with wood and a small bow-type tool, drilling a hole in a stone for a weaving weight and spinning sheep's wool with a spindle. We had a go – great fun – for well-clothed 21st century visitors to the past!

Altogether an interesting, if chilly, visit bringing home how difficult life could be in the past.

Experiments in Archaeology – “Mine Howe Know how”

Marta Cock

I am fascinated by how things work and how this shapes people's lives, so I was excited by the prospects offered by an experimental archaeology conference in Orkney in late May last year, mostly based beside the enigmatic “Mine Howe” earthen mound and sunken chamber at Tankerness, which was probably built and used some time between 700 BC and 500 AD.

“Mine Howe Knowhow” took place over four days, giving opportunities to watch, listen, try out, investigate and argue about evidence on prehistoric cooking, metalworking, weaving, pottery, sweat lodges, music, ritual and Mine Howe itself. Local school and college students joined other participants to help experimental archaeologists build an iron smelter and work its bellows, polish amber, carve ivory and bone, prepare and cook meat, herbs and vegetables, using “prehistoric” methods, dig out clay for pottery, comb flax for spinning, weave, help build the native Canadian type sweat lodge and use their voices in a number of ancient sites like the Ring of Brodgar and Maeshowe. It was thought-provoking to see and discuss how people in

ancient times might have worked, lived, enjoyed themselves, developed and affected their environment.

The organisers of the event, a partnership of Art Discovery, Orkney Heritage Society, Orkney Archaeological Trust and its Friends, were sponsored by 20 public, voluntary and business organisations. In collaboration with the National Museums of Scotland, they commissioned a re-creation of the woollen "Orkney Hood", found in boggy ground near Mine Howe in 1867 and now confirmed as about 1750 years old, dated to the Iron Age, putting it in the time Mine Howe was in use. Jacqui Wood, its re-creator, is also responsible for the reconstruction of the grass cloak and shoes of the Ice-Man found in the Alps. She gave the inaugural lecture and the demonstration of prehistoric cooking. Other experts covered the Baltic Amber trade and Fire rituals, ancient and modern, in the Baltic area, Sweat Lodges, iron smelting, jewellery making, voice, Bodrhan, pottery, guided tours of Mine Howe and its environs, Maes Howe Neolithic tomb, and the Ring of Brodgar.

For me, some key illuminations of ancient lives, coming out of the experiments and exchanges between archaeologists are:

- The famous stone-lined sunken tanks in the floors of 5,500-year-old houses at Skara Brae, thought to have been for keeping live fish and/or bait, could equally be cooking troughs into which hot stones were dropped to boil food, as they appear to be in Cornwall.
- By trying to replicate the pattern and yarn counts of the Orkney Hood, it became clear that a number of separate spinners were involved and that the hood was put together from pieces of top quality textiles by someone who had less skill than the original weavers and makers.
- The huge amounts of firewood and kindling needed to make charcoal and smelt iron must have contributed a lot to the largely treeless landscape of the Orkney Islands today. Environmental archaeology points to there being plenty of gorse and willow scrub there 3,000 years ago.
- The Neolithic standing stone "Ring of Brodgar", even in its current form with so many stones lost or prostrate, has a cathedral-like quality in sound made from its centre. This sound vanishes as soon as one goes behind a standing stone.
- The potter, Andrew Appleby, came across clay near Mine Howe suitable for "Beaker" type and earlier pots which he made and fired while we watched. No-one had known about it before.
- Andres also postulated the cheekiest interpretation of the Mine Howe sunken chamber as a cold-store for the huge quantities of cheese, hams etc required by the ostentatious lifestyles and entertainments of the high status owners of Mine Howe, and generated by their cattle ranching and other animal husbandry habits. Traditional interpretations of the site point to ritual use, a natural development from Neolithic practice over thousands of years.

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

Several of our members are individual members of the Hampshire Field Club, but don't forget that the Society is a member too and receives its publications, so do feel free to borrow them. We can also send one member to lectures, conferences etc. The Landscape Section is holding a conference on **RE-DEFINING AND RE-CONSTRUCTING THE LOST LANDSCAPES OF HAMPSHIRE** on **Saturday 18th October 10 am – 5 pm** at **Peter Symonds College, Winchester**. Members £7.50; visitors £10; students £5. Further details from Margaret Porter (01256 356012).

CALENDAR

9-10 Aug	Living History at Basing House from 2 pm	FBH
Sat 23 Aug	Society trip to Bradford on Avon (see page 5)	BAHS
Sat/Sun 6-7 Sept	Training excavation, Church Lane, Worting (see page 6)	BAHS
Thurs 11 Sept	HIGHCLERE John MacDonald	
Sat/Sun 13-14 Sept	Heritage Open Days at Basing House, free entry	FBH
Sat/Sun 13-14 Sept	Training excavation, Church Lane, Worting	BAHS
Thurs 18 Sept	TRYING TO FIND THE ROMAN VILLA AT NORTH WALTHAM Richard Tanner	FWM
Sat 20 Sept	Guided tour of Basing House, 3 pm at kiosk	FBH
Sat/Sun 20/21 Sept	Two one-day practical dyeing courses at Basing House; techniques up to the 17 th century. Ring 01256 467294 for booking information	FBH
Sat 27 Sept	Local History Section AGM and visit to Petersfield	HFC
Friday 3 Oct	Cheese and Wine at Basingstoke Museum, and Private View of Invaders exhibition, 6.30 pm	HFC
Thurs 9 Oct	THE AMESBURY ARCHER: KING OF STONEHENGE Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick	BAHS
Tues 14 Oct	Polar Bears from the Pacific to the Hudson	FBH
Thurs 16 October	AGM & A LOOK AT "THE WELL" AT OAKRIDGE AND ITS ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONTENTS Mary Oliver	FWM
Sat 18 Oct	Landscape section conference RE-DEFINING AND RECONSTRUCTING THE LOST LANDSCAPES OF HAMPSHIRE (see page 11)	HFC
Tues 11 Nov	AGM and Social Evening	FBH
Thurs 13 Nov	POTS, PORPHYRY AND PETROLOGY Dr David Williams	BAHS
Thurs 20 Nov	JANE AUSTEN AND HER HAMPSHIRE CONNECTIONS Elizabeth Proudman	FWM
Thurs 11 Dec	WINE AND CHEESE PARTY	BAHS
Friday 12 Dec	MAGIC LANTERN AT THE CHRISTMAS PARTY	FWM
Thurs 8 Jan 04	BIG LADDERS AND LITTLE FINGERS: LATEST ADVANCES IN ICE AGE ART Dr Paul Bahn	BAHS
BAHS	our Society; lectures 7.30 pm at Church Cottage	
FBH	Friends of Basing House, lectures 7.30 pm at Basing House	
FWM	Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 at the museum	
HFC	Hampshire Field Club; we can send one representative- ring Margaret Porter 01256 356012 for details	