

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 166

February 2004

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poon? Find out from  
Tim.*

# Society Outings

*Dates for  
your Diary*

**Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> May** **SALISBURY** Day visit (own transport)  
Salisbury tour guides offer a variety of fascinating walks. We will have details for the March meeting and in the May Newsletter, but if you are interested please let Sue Strawson know as soon as you can (01256 353077)

**Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept** **ODIHAM AND AROUND** Day visit (own transport)  
Derek Spruce offers to be our guide to Nately Scures and Greywell in the morning, lunching at Greywell or Odiham, and around Odiham itself in the afternoon. You can, if you want, opt for either morning or afternoon – or both. Please let Sue Strawson know if you are interested. Derek is also leading a Hampshire Field Club visit to Odiham on 4<sup>th</sup> September, but with different churches.

## **GO WEST! ANCIENT GREEKS IN ITALY AND SICILY**

We now have this fuller title for the lecture by Gillian Shepherd on 13<sup>th</sup> May. She will be talking about early Greek settlements and city development in Italy (including Paestum) and Sicily (her special subject).



**CALLING ALL  
ARTISTS!**  
*Have we any members  
who can draw maps,  
cartoons -or anything???*  
**Please ring  
Barbara Applin  
(01256 465439)**

## **A MESSAGE FROM MARJOLEIN . . . .**

### ❖ **ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING TRAINING SESSION – 3 JULY**

You've done the digging. Would you like to learn more? We are organising a training day on Saturday 3 July to learn some of the techniques of recording. The idea is to gain practical experience by learning to establish baselines and grids, locate and plan archaeological features, and practise drawing plans to scale. This is intended to be quite informal, but it will give you a good idea of what goes on at an excavation besides the mattocking, trowelling and discovering! If time permits we may also look at the other records that go with the archaeological record, such as context sheets, etc.

The actual training session will be held from 10.30 – 16.00 and will take place in my back garden! If the weather is nice, we will have a barbeque as well, so please bring chairs, things to cook and whatever you may like to drink.

If you'd like to take part, please let me know. My details follow below.

❖ **SILCHESTER SPONSORSHIP**

Would you like to become more actively involved with the fieldwork that is carried out by the Society? Would you be willing to give your time when we run the training dig at Worting? Are you able to help out with future fieldwalking sessions? If so, the Committee has agreed to sponsor another two people this year to take part in the Silchester Field School which will be held from 5 July until 15 August. Details of this excavation can be found at [www.silchester.rdg.ac.uk](http://www.silchester.rdg.ac.uk). If you would like to be considered for this sponsorship, please could you write to me, outlining why you would like to take part, by 15 April.

❖ **FIELD WALKING**

As you are aware, we have been working on arranging field walking activities for some time. In conjunction with the County Archaeologist, David Hopkins, we have located some sites that are suitable for this, and we are now trying to contact the landowners to get their permission to walk their fields. We will then need to establish when the time is right to do the field walking, so it may be that we can only give you relatively short notice of a walk coming up.

As you can see, this is rather a slow process, but what I am doing in the meantime is putting together a list of people who are interested in taking part. If you haven't done so yet, and you would like to be involved, could you please let me have your details, including your telephone number and email address, so I can contact you once we have some dates?

❖ **BASING DIG**

The fifth (and probably final) excavation at Basing has provisionally been arranged from Monday 5 April, finishing on the 25<sup>th</sup> (the only exception at this moment is the 24<sup>th</sup>). It will be very different this year as we don't have access to the farmhouse any more, although the owner is very interested in our work and has mentioned drying out by the AGA if required... (in return for doughnuts!).

If you are interested in taking part, could you please let me know, and give me an idea of the dates that you are likely to be there? Further details will be made available nearer the time.

Marjolein Mussellwhite  
32 King Johns Road  
North Warnborough  
RG29 1EJ  
Tel. 01256 701192  
Mob. 07753 724435  
Email [marjoleine\\_2000@hotmail.com](mailto:marjoleine_2000@hotmail.com)

# 'A HISTORY OF BASINGSTOKE'

## by Baigent & Millard

*Tim Herrington*

A copy of the single volume edition of Baigent & Millard's **History of Basingstoke**, which belonged to the late Eric Stokes, has been offered for purchase by Margot Stokes. This is a book well worth having, being one of the few copies remaining of a definitive work on the history of our town.

This particular copy carries a handwritten inscription from the Rev. Millard, addressed to a Mr Cooksey, thanking him for his assistance in the preparation of the **History of Basingstoke**.

If you are interested in acquiring this volume, please ring Barbara Applin on 01256 465439 with your offer. How much? As a guideline, we believe that the market price for the single volume edition is in excess of £100 . . . having said that, this particular example has suffered just a little with time in that (although quite complete) two or three pages have come loose and the binding needs to be repaired. However, the inscription to Mr Cooksey might add value.

We would be interested to know what your particular interest is in this book if you make an offer, as Margot is particularly keen that it goes to someone who will value it and make real use of it!

### *Note by Barbara Applin*

*I thought the name Cooksey was familiar, and Reading Museum tell me that Mr Charles F Cooksey, of Basingstoke (!) brought in a varied collection to the newly-formed Reading Museum in 1884 and 1885 (then sold most of it to a Mr W J Palmer). This included a bronze axe head, Roman pottery and Palaeolithic material. Would anyone like to find out more about Mr Cooksey? Let me know if so (01256 465439), I have some leads you might follow.*

*Margot Stokes also sent us a copy of White's 1859 'Directory of Hampshire' and copies of Basingstoke maps: 1762, 1788 (new allotments), 1851 ('The Archer Davis map') and 1912 (6"). Bob and I are holding these, but do let me know if you want to consult them.*

### **THE HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB**

As members of the Hampshire Field Club, our Society regularly receives its **HAMPSHIRE STUDIES** and Newsletter, and we can send a member to any meetings or outings at members' rates, so do look at HFC events listed in our **CALENDAR**. The 2003 edition of **HAMPSHIRE STUDIES** will contain an article by Hall-Torrance and Weaver on **The excavation of a Saxon settlement at Riverdene, Basingstoke, Hampshire, 1995**.

Sue Tapliss at the Willis Museum is planning an exhibition associated with the next anniversary of D-Day and is asking for the loan of objects or photographs – and also for people who are willing to be interviewed, either by us or possibly on video by members of the Basingstoke Camcorder Club. We have given her details of some existing Basingstoke Talking History interviews that mention D-Day – especially a very moving account by David Kansler, who tells first-hand of the horrors of disembarcation. If you know anyone who can help, please let me know. Not just the veterans, but anyone who can talk about the way the build-up to D-Day affected people on the route: the gliders going over, the troops moving towards the coast, the gathering of supplies.

We are hoping to get copies of interviews which our member Atherton Harrison gave some time ago to the Imperial War Museum, and to give them copies of some of ours in exchange. Our own interview with Atherton (BAHS 88) is held at the Wessex Film & Sound Archive, with a copy in the Resources Room at the Willis Museum, and we are about to supply the WFSa with a copy of our last Newsletter with the article about Atherton's work in designing the Bishop of Basingstoke's cope, as well as newspaper cuttings about it.

In April Milestones will open an exhibition **Life in the Fast Lane – a Century of Speed in Hampshire**. We have sent them some extracts from BTH interviews which might be relevant, particularly in the 1920s when young lads used to ride their motor bikes up Farleigh Hill:

*Arthur Saunders:* “The engines weren't so powerful in those days, and it was quite a feat to get up Farleigh Hill without changing right down into bottom gear. And they would meet there on occasions during the summer evenings and have these trials and tests, all these boys.”

*Margot Woodcock* “Some of them could only get half way up and we used to stand by the side of the road like they do at racing now and watch these motor bikes puff and blow and filthy blue smoke come out of them. And I remember my brother having one. It was called a Douglas. I suppose it must have been one of the first motor bikes.” She also remembers coming off the back of her boyfriend's motor bike and landing in stinging nettles.

We still have plenty of people to interview and transcriptions to do, as well as associated research, and would welcome anyone else who would like to help. And if you want to listen to any of the tapes or see the transcripts, just ask at the Resources Room at the Willis – or give me a ring, as I have copies too.

A message from .....

# King Alfred's @Basingstoke

## Do You Have Memories of Chute House?

King Alfred's University College Winchester re-opened Chute House last September as its new study centre in Basingstoke.

Since our opening, we have been amazed by the level of interest shown by members of the public, in the history of the building and the activities which have gone on within it.

In response to public demand we are pleased to announce a special Chute House Celebration event to be held on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> March at 7.00 pm.

The evening will be an opportunity to share memories and memorabilia and to enjoy a look back at the history of the house as it may have been beyond living memory.

One of our guests will be Councillor Mike Woodall who grew up in Chute House and whose father was the last clergyman to use the building as a church residence. We shall also be celebrating the life of the Warton family – the building's most famous residents.

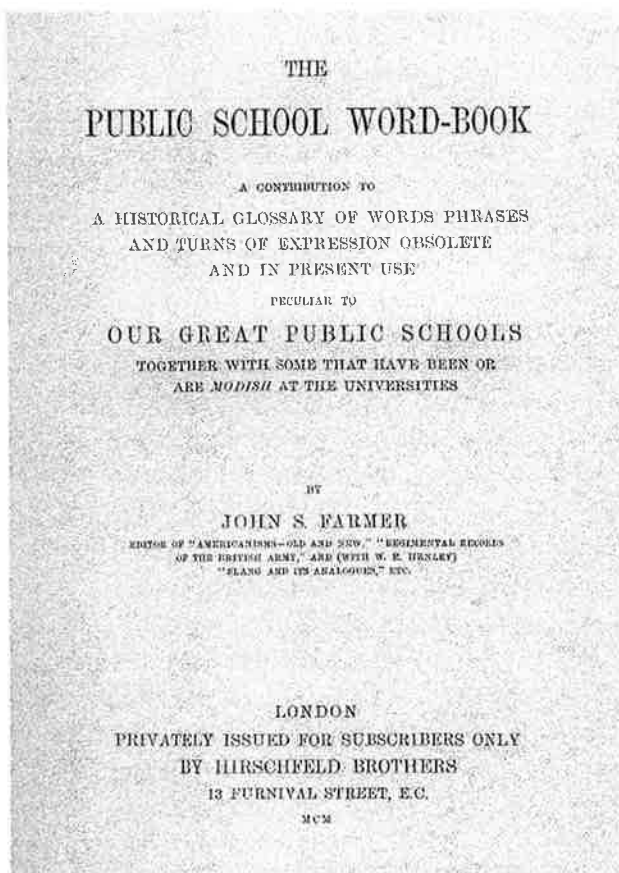
As the rectory, Chute House and its grounds was the site of numerous meetings, conversations, study sessions, political interventions, social events, festivities, community projects, gardening and landscaping experiments. Since the 1960's Chute House has been the base for a range of community organisations and agencies.

Whether you have memories going back to the rectory days or reminiscences from the building's more recent life we should like to hear from you.

The conversations, controversies, rituals, battles, shocks, intrigues, feuds, loves, disappointments, celebrations, scandals which have formed the real life history of the house can be mostly only a matter of conjecture. As a result of the event on 9<sup>th</sup> March we hope to gather more evidence of that real life history.

For a free ticket for the event please contact reception at Chute House, Church Street, Basingstoke, RG21 7QT.  
Tel: 0870 3578500  
or E.mail: [Louise.Day@kingalfredsbsingstoke.ac.uk](mailto:Louise.Day@kingalfredsbsingstoke.ac.uk)





## THE PUBLIC SCHOOL WORD-BOOK

*Tim Herrington*

*A present from BAHS to me  
features in an article in  
The Saturday Telegraph*

*...103 years after publication !*

My Grandfather, John Stephen Farmer (1854-1916), collected together what he termed “A historical glossary of words, phrases and turns of expression obsolete and in present use peculiar to our great public schools ...” and published this in 1900. Incidentally, this was the year that my Grandmother gave birth to my Mother: it was a propitious year for the Farmer family!

In 2003, JSF’s grandson (**me**) had the honour to be made a life-member of BAHS and was also presented with two volumes of JSF’s authorship. One was *The Regimental Records of the British Army (1660-1901)* which was first published in 1901 but reprinted in 1984, showing that it had relevance to military historians in modern times. The other was the subject of this article which, I venture to suggest, not many of you will have read. Come to think of it, not many world-wide either!

The book was suddenly highlighted for me, however, when I perused the Weekend supplement of the recent Saturday Telegraph, December 20<sup>th</sup>. There, on page 18, below the *Giant Holiday General Knowledge Crossword* which you may well have completed without looking at the following article(?) was *Schott’s Original Miscellany: a vocab test of uncommon knowledge, compiled exclusively for Weekend by Ben Schott*.

Happily for all, he acknowledged the source of his compilation as “extracted from The Public School Word Book, John Stephen Farmer 1900” It was, indeed, a number of verbatim extracts from JSF’s book consisting of words and sayings in common use in a range of public schools and universities in the 19<sup>th</sup> century, a few of which have survived to this day.

JSF would no doubt have been pleased to receive national newspaper coverage for one of many books (there are 37 titles listed in various library archive lists), and for those of our

readers who take the Times, or were too busy buying Christmas pressies on December 20<sup>th</sup>, and have missed this article, please indulge me as I trot out a few of the entries from the book, with the emphasis on Winchester College – in your county – and Christ’s Hospital, just down the road from me, near Horsham:

W = Winchester College CH= Christ’s Hospital

Abroad	W	Convalescent; out of the Sick Room	Founders	W	Boys who proved their descent from the Founder and were afterwards elected as such
Apple-pie Day	W	The day on which six-a-side football was played when hot apple-pie was served at evening dinner on gomers, which were large pewter serving plates	Funkster	W	A coward
Barter	W	A half-volley bowled at cricket	Hills	W	St. Catherine’s Hill. The boys had to ascend the hill twice a day on whole holidays. These sorties were known as “going on to hills”
Bells	W	‘Bells go single’; a single bell is rung 5 minutes before chapel	Mouse-digger	W	Plying a small pick-axe in search of mice
Beeswaxers	W	Thick boots for football	Nigshiuos (sic)	CH	Ingenious
Cargo	W	A hamper from home	Poon	W	Prop up a piece of furniture with a wedge under the leg
Clow	W	A box on the ear	Remedy	W	A holiday
Cruggy	CH	Hungry	Rabbiter	W	A blow, delivered by the side of the hand, on the back of the neck
Domum Day	W	Going home day at Midsummer	Scuttle	CH	To cry out under oppression with a view to attracting the notice of one in authority
Finjy	W	An exclamation excusing one from an unpleasant task which he who says the word last has to undertake	Thoker	W	A thick slice of bread, soaked in water and baked.



Tin Gloves      W      “A bully would ask a victim if he possessed a pair of tin gloves. As this article does not generally form part of a boy’s outfit, the bully would proceed to furnish him a pair in the following manner: Taking a half-consumed stick from the fire, he would draw the red-hot end down the back of the victim’s hand between each of the knuckles to the wrist, and having produced these satisfactory lines of blisters, would then make two or three transverse lines across. A scientifically fitted pair of gloves of this description was generally, if not pleasant wear, of great durability.”

*Mansfield School Life at Winchester, 186, pg 54)*

Toe-Pan      W      A large basin of red earthenware placed in each chamber for washing the feet in

Yellow-Hammer      CH      “In the case of a hardened offender, or of gross misdemeanour, a system of degradation was adopted by causing the culprit to wear his coat turned inside out, and as the body of the coat had a yellow lining the metamorphosis was remarkably striking, and (unkindest cut of all!) the subjects of his hideous transformation - these involuntary turncoats - were by their schoolfellows nicknamed ‘yellow-hammer’.

*Reminiscences Of Christ’s Hospital [The Blue, August 1874])*

## *Richard’s Reflections on Revolutions*

*Richard Dexter*

WHEN WAS THE DAWN OF THE MODERN AGE? This was the very first question that was asked of us in the first seminar of the first week of our degree course - it was, after all, a degree in modern history. The replies were as many and varied as they were ingenuous but they ranged from Henry VII to the Beatles. Indeed, one wag asked rhetorically if the modern age had yet dawned. That was eight years ago and I am still thinking about it.

On reflection, the question was asking us to assess and evaluate the various quantum changes and ‘revolutions’ that had taken place in the past and to decide which of them marked the point when modern society was born. The more you think about it, the harder it is to answer, for there are any number of critical points in history where there appears to be a sea change in ideas and ways of doing things.

The first movement into the modern age that comes to mind, I suppose, would be the Renaissance. Then there was the Reformation, followed by the ‘Glorious Revolution’, which led into the French Revolution. At the same time there was, in this country, the Agricultural Revolution and then the Industrial Revolution in whose wake there followed the revolution in mechanised military conflict. In the twentieth century we see the revolution in economic ideas led by John Maynard Keynes (1883-1946), the revolution in psychology inspired by

Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) and then in the present day the explosion in communications with computers and the electronics industry. This leaves out other turning points such as the Russian Revolution, the sexual revolution and the developments in transport and so on. None of these events is straightforward, nor are they cut and dry, for each one of them has its own antecedent and each one has a knock-on effect that influences what came later. The only safe thing to say about all these turning points is that the period of time between the first stirrings of change and the final observed outcome becomes increasingly shorter. One only has to see how the TB sanatoriums became redundant overnight with the discovery of antibiotics and how telephone boxes are now little used with the advent of the mobile phone. It was from this formidable list that a choice had to be made and a date fixed upon.

But before doing this it is worth taking these events one at a time and looking at them in greater detail. The Renaissance was an important harbinger of modern times because, as has been said, it was the first time that contemporary society saw history objectively and placed it in its correct context. For example, Roman emperors in pictures were no longer shown dressed in medieval clothes, but in antique armour, and Roman buildings were shown anew with their rounded arches, which were very unlike the pointed and Gothic arch of the late middle ages; that is why the movement started in Italy, where the evidence of an earlier civilisation was to be seen all around. Adventurous navigators realised that Ptolemy no longer held the last word in cartography and philosophers understood that Arab mathematicians could offer something that Pythagoras could not, such as the algebraic properties of an ellipse. This was accompanied by an awareness that seeing things from a human perspective made more sense (the Humanists). But still society was organised on medieval lines with the Church and the prince's court binding it together.

The Reformation, which closely followed the discovery of printing with moveable type, was a real step towards the modern world in that it was a reappraisal of the writings in the New Testament and in particular those of St Paul. Educated laymen were beginning to read for themselves the religious truths which in earlier times had been only known to clerics. It caused men to think and many (i.e. the Protestants) saw that man could have his own unique personal relationship with God without the intervention of the Church. That this led to a cataclysmic power struggle for men's minds and temporal hegemony is another matter altogether, but it did not in itself displace God as the supreme being in man's thinking.

The Glorious Revolution was political in that the concept of the Divine Right of Kings was laid to rest and government was taken away from the autocratic control of a monarch. An elected parliament assumed the prime role in legislation. France followed a century later with her own revolution where government control was in theory, and for a short time at least, given to the ordinary people. Some will argue like Mao Zedong that this revolution still has to be fully worked out.

The late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries saw the agricultural and industrial revolutions which brought huge changes in our social structure, so much so that of all the revolutions these were the ones that made our environment more like it is today.

The twentieth century saw developments in transport, electronic communications, economic models, psychology and the change in sexual and social mores. But were these really the turning points or were they just the product of a more subtle and earlier change of thinking that allowed them to happen? By what criteria do we now assess and recognise the modern world?

This was the question being asked. However, before committing ourselves, there has been one development in Western European history that has not yet been mentioned and that is what has been described as the Age of Enlightenment or the Age of Reason, which took place between the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. It was a period when there was a sea change in the way men thought. It is possible to trace its origins to the years of tumult during the English Commonwealth when the Episcopal church, if not Christianity itself, had all but been discarded. Questions were being asked that had never been asked before, such as 'What is God really like?' 'Is there an alternative?' 'Does He exist or is religion just a myth?' And for the first time Atheism became a real alternative to a religious creed. Thomas Hobbes (1588-1679), whose works included *The Leviathan*, offered an alternative to government by divinely appointed monarchs. Herbert of Cherbury (1585-1648), brother of the poet George Herbert, wondered whether a belief in God could be replaced by a belief in a mere higher ideal (Theism) and Baruch Spinoza (1632-1677) questioned if the New Testament miracles were really miracles at all or just serendipitous events coloured by their retelling without question. And then there was the notorious John Toland (1670-1722) who was the Eric von Daaniken of his day, who questioned all the old pre-set ideas of the Bible and put forward his own interpretation where fact and fancy were interchangeable. It was a time when it became fashionable to question, satirise, lampoon and 'scoff' at anything and everything that defied convention or common sense, as we see in the writings of John Dryden (1631-1700) and Jonathan Swift (1667-1745) and the pictures of William Hogarth (1697-1764). The Church of England, for its part, and not wanting all this free thinking to roll on completely out of control, gave active support to a new scientific debating chamber, namely the Royal Society (founded 1660) where it could thrash out such scientific conundrums as 'What is the space that is to be found above the twenty-ninth inch in a column of mercury?' - for it must be something, because you can see it. In other words, 'What is a vacuum?' - a concept for which at the time there was not even a word.

In France, René Descartes (1596-1650) asked, 'What is the bottom floor of reasoning? What fact is so unquestionably sound as to be a good enough to base all further reasoning on?' and he came to the conclusion 'Cognito ergo sum' (I think, therefore I am). Jean Jacques Rousseau (1712-1778) was asking the same sort of questions and Denis Diderot (1713-1784) started to compile his famous Encyclopaedia, which included articles by non-clerics who openly questioned the existence of God. Its formal title was *Encyclopédie, ou Dictionnaire Raisonné des Sciences, des Arts et des Métiers*. Reason became the order of the day.

It was as though, for the first time ever, objectivity in thinking became the accepted norm and man was now able to move into the uncharted realms of new ideas with a new and powerful tool - independent thought based on reason. It could be likened to the way the first steam ships could be seen going where they pleased, including into the teeth of a gale, and not being limited by a prevailing wind. Man started to think the unthinkable and ask those all important questions, 'What if ...?' 'Why not...?' and 'Why should...?' It released him from the straightjacket of accepted dogma and enabled him to embark on all those other developments associated with the modern world, such as Biblical scholarship, scientific innovation and empiric research. The men and women of that age still wore periwigs and beauty spots but their manner of thinking enabled them to invent the bill of exchange, mercantile insurance, banking with its associated fiduciary issue of paper currency and all those other institutions that form the backbone of modern life.

This was the answer which was expected and to which we were collectively steered. It took another three years and more before what was said then would be fully appreciated.

# CALENDAR

Thurs 19 Feb	THE KENNET & AVON CANAL Shirley Lawson	FWM
Thurs 4 March	ANNUAL DINNER 6 pm for 6.30	BAHS
Tues 9 March	CHUTE HOUSE CELEBRATION (page 6)	KAC (B)
Tues 9 March	ANGLO-SAXON ART AND ARCHITECTURE	FBH
<b>Thurs 11 Mar</b>	<b>EXCAVATIONS AT WHITBY ABBEY 1993 TO 2002</b> Tony Wilmott	<b>BAHS</b>
Fri 12 Mar	Dacre Memorial Lecture at Andover VILLA LIFE IN ROMAN HAMPSHIRE Barry Cunliffe	
Thurs 18 Mar	WINGS FOR VICTORY: ANDOVER'S LANCASTER BOMBERS Dr A Hobley	FWM
Sat 20 March	THE HISTORIC BUILDINGS OF ODIHAM All-day visit: £12 (HFC members only, see below)	HFC
Wed 24 March	THE AMESBURY ARCHER King of Stonehenge? Andrew Fitzpatrick	HFC
<b>5-25 April</b>	<b>BASING DIG</b> (page 3)	
<b>Thurs 8 April</b>	<b>THE SANDYS FAMILY AT THE VYNE AND MOTTISFONT</b> Pamela Johnston	<b>BAHS</b>
Thurs 15 April	THE CODEBREAKERS OF BLETCHLEY PARK J Davis	FWM
<b>Thurs 13 May</b>	<b>GO WEST! ANCIENT GREEKS IN ITALY AND SICILY</b> Gillian Shepherd	<b>BAHS</b>
Thurs 20 May	HCC 2001 CENSUS Robin Edwards	FWM
<b>Sat 22 May</b>	<b>DAY IN SALISBURY</b> (Page 2)	<b>BAHS</b>
<b>Thurs 10 June</b>	<b>AGM</b>	<b>BAHS</b>
<b>Sat 3 July</b>	<b>ARCHAEOLOGICAL PLANNING TRAINING SESSION</b> (page 2)	<b>BAHS</b>
<b>Sat 25 September</b>	<b>ODIHAM AND AROUND</b> (see page 2)	<b>BAHS</b>

<b>BAHS</b>	<b>our Society; lectures 7.30 pm at Church Cottage</b>
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
KAC (B)	King Alfred's University College (@ Basingstoke)