

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER 168

August 2004

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- \* **Annual subscriptions due 1<sup>st</sup> September.**  
Rates unchanged.: £11 individuals, £15 family; £7 students and over 60s;  
over 60 family rate £12. Please send cheques payable to BAHS to Garth  
George, 71 Camrose Way, Basingstoke RG21 3AW. Tel 01256 464763.  
If you haven't signed a Gift Aid form and would like to, please ring Garth.

*Registered Charity No. 1000263*



**Visit to Silchester**  
*Thursday, 5<sup>th</sup> August*

Once again we will meet at 6 pm for 6.30 at Silchester car park to be shown round the excavations of Insula IX by Professor Fulford. As usual, we will take a collection for the Silchester Excavation Fund.

**Visit to Churches in the Odiham Area**  
*Saturday, 25<sup>th</sup> September*

Derek Spruce will be leading our Society's visit to four churches in the Odiham area, two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Details will be given at our September meeting. You can choose to join either the morning or the afternoon visits, or both. Please ring Sue Strawson (01256 353077) before 12<sup>th</sup> September to let her know you are coming. If there is any change in your plans after 12<sup>th</sup>, please ring Margaret Porter (01256 356012).

**2004**

**BAHS**  
**Programme Notes**  
*Mary Oliver*

**2005**

**9 September** Further results from excavations at the Oracle site, Reading:  
**1000 years of the town and its urban floodplain**  
*Ben Ford, Oxford Archaeology*

To start the new season, we are returning to this important site whose excavation was described to us by David Wilkinson 4 years ago. Oxford Archaeology have now had time to study the finds and have a much fuller picture of mediaeval Reading to describe to us. This is the first lecture with a watery theme which, unintentionally, seems to 'flow'! through this year's programme

**14 October** Recent work on the Vindolanda tablets  
*John Pearce, Kings College, London*

I am sure all members will have heard of the Vindolanda tablets, the fragile thin leaves of wood written on in ink, like paper, and miraculously preserved in a water-logged layer at Vindolanda near Hadrian's Wall. Unlike most of our written records from the Roman period (inscriptions, works of literature etc) these tablets were never meant to be preserved and record ephemeral details of life on the northern frontier which have transformed our understanding. Many of the best are on display in the British Museum, but it will be fascinating to see how recent work has added to the picture.

**11 November Living on the floodplain; The Neolithic and Bronze Age landscape at Yarnton**  
*Dr Gill Hey, Oxford Archaeology*

Landscape archaeology is a favoured approach to the subject these days. The excavations at Yarnton were very large-scale and uncovered the development of the landscape of this Thames Valley site right through history, too much to cover in one lecture. Gill will concentrate on the prehistoric evidence, which is her special interest.

**12 December Cheese and Wine Social Evening**

This is our annual social event/Christmas party and will follow the usual formula, found to be popular with all the members, This is your chance to have more time to chat and catch up with old friends.

**13 January The Vikings**  
*Julian Richards*

When the committee asked me to contact Julian Richards, I did not expect him to agree to come to Basingstoke, but he did so readily, and will talk about the subject of one of his recent TV programmes, those often maligned seafarers, the Vikings. He also is just about to bring out a book on Stonehenge, and will have copies of that and other books, which I'm sure he will sign if requested. Please advertise this lecture among your friends as Julian has asked for a donation to charity rather than a fee.

**10 February Romsey Abbey, its archaeology, restoration and repair**  
*Frank Green, Heritage Officer, Test Valley District Council*

This month we move to another watery site, 'Rum's island' in the Test Valley, where the wonderful Romsey Abbey has survived since Saxon times. Frank has been involved in the work there for many years and is ideally placed to tell the abbey's story.

**10 March Reconstructing the Ferriby boat**  
*Dr Edwin Gifford*

I have to confess to self interest here; it was my privilege to have one of the amazing Bronze Age boats recently discovered on the shores of the Humber in my department when I worked at Hull Museums, so when I saw the piece in Current Archaeology about Edwin Gifford's half size model of one of them, I couldn't resist the temptation to ask him to come and talk to us about it. Some of you may already have seen his model of the Sutton Hoo ship, and will know we are in for a treat.

**14 April Indiana Jones and the Dipole of Doom; Geophysical prospection for archaeologists**  
*Dr Neil Linford, Archaeometry Branch, English Heritage*

It cannot be over-emphasised how much the geophysicists have aided the discovery and understanding of archaeological sites. All watchers of Time Team will surely agree! This lecture, giving an overview of all the different techniques in use, is definitely one for those studying on the Archaeology Course, but, as the title indicates, it will be anything but stuffy. (Watch out for the water connection!)

12 May

**The Swing Riots in Hampshire**  
*Jane Harris, HRO*

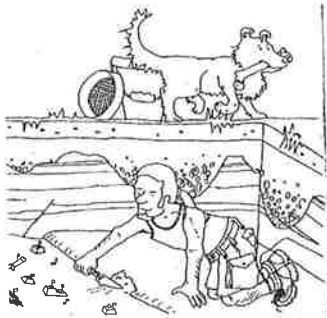
This lecture will describe what I think of as one of the most fascinating episodes in Hampshire's recent history, when economic developments threw up sharp class divisions and violence. Jane is on the staff of the Hampshire Record Office, and will share with us the extraordinary records of those times. No water in sight!

9 June

**AGM**

**Update on the excavations of the Duke of Bolton's House, Old Basing**  
*David Allen*

I write this with my fingers crossed that the last season of excavations at this site beside the Loddon is able to go ahead and that David is able to come and share the results of all the hard work over the years with us



**BAHS**  
**FIELDWORK**

*Mark Peryer*



We have a growing number of Fieldwork projects in progress. We held a successful planning training day on the 3<sup>rd</sup> July. Those who came enjoyed planning Marjolein's garden – see Nick Porter's article for more details. We plan to hold some more training days to help people become confident with various fieldwork skills.

**There will be a training excavation at Worting on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> September.** This year there will be more emphasis on recording, and tracking the curvilinear features towards the bottom of the slope.

We plan to test our resistivity meter over the August Bank Holiday weekend at the Butser Ancient Farm test site. This has been an on-going project for some years so it will be good to get the 'RM' in service.

The Fieldwalking program is progressing, we now have permission in principle to walk a number of fields. However, at the moment, these are all under crop. We may be able to walk some in the Autumn and some in the Spring but this is dependent on the crop, the land management regime and so on. This project is a long-term one, which may take us several years to complete.

If you are new to the society, and/or would like to find out more about getting involved with the Fieldwork activities, please feel free to contact me either by phone: **Basingstoke 780502** or by email: **mperyer@f2s.com**

## Training Day? *Nick Porter*

Not quite, as most of those who turned up at Marjolein's house on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> July were reasonably well versed in the techniques of planning a site; however, Dave Score took us through the basic principles, including planning and drawing up the whole of Marjolein's garden using 3, 4, 5 triangles, grids, offsets, triangulation, scaling and, most importantly, base lines.

We started off the day by laying out two base lines. using the walls of the house as our starting point, from which we could then measure the garden's main features. We worked from these base lines and split the garden into 4 sections. The idea was to split into 3 groups of two and measure all the features in the garden, using the techniques above. From these measurements each group produced their own scaled plan of their section.



We worked around circular brick structures, paths, irregularly shaped bedding areas, fence lines and the house to each produce our finished plans. We marked out every possible line including base lines and main feature lines. We then transferred these 3 plans onto a master plan which gave us a single plan of the entire area we had covered.

The finished plan of the garden was at a 1: 50 scale.

I think, despite our previous knowledge, everyone learned something new from the day, including the fact that the neighbouring cows in the field next to the garden eat stinging nettles.

Thanks to Dave Score for leading the exercise, Marjolein for letting us loose in her garden and every one else for turning up and joining in, despite the inclement weather.

My garden survey - just wished they'd stayed to do some gardening! We had a lovely time, and yes, the plan is most impressive!

*Marjolein says*

## **Visit from Hampshire Field Club**

### **Local History Section**

*Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup> October*

*10.30 am at Church Cottage*

The Local History Section of the Hampshire Field Club like to combine their AGM with a visit to a Hampshire town, and this year it is our turn. The AGM itself is usually a fairly brisk affair and we will be providing three speakers in the morning on the topic **Basingstoke – a Typical Hampshire Town?** and a walk round in the afternoon. Our members are welcome to attend, free of charge and for anyone who wants to know more about Basingstoke this is an excellent opportunity.

Note the question mark in the title – what do you think? The speakers are:

- Derek Spruce* - **From the Market Town to Redevelopment**  
*Bill Fergie* - **The process of town redevelopment, what buildings were lost and what survive**  
*Jo Kelly* - **Recollections – her own and also from Basingstoke Talking History**

Anyone who doesn't want to find lunch in town may eat a packed lunch at Church Cottage. There will be a historical display, and books and videos to browse through (or buy).

Please let Marjolein (01256 701192 e-mail [marjoleine\\_2000@hotmail.com](mailto:marjoleine_2000@hotmail.com)) know if you plan to come, and particularly if you can volunteer to help with tea and coffee, preparing the display, and stewarding (someone will need to stay at Church Cottage to look after any items left there during the walk around).

## ***Sean's Questionnaire***

Sean Caveille, who made the videos of Calleva and Danebury (starring Marjolein!) is now studying for an MA in film studies, focused on archaeology, at Bristol. For his dissertation he needs to make another video and he has enlisted the help of a number of very prominent people, such as Julian Richards, Guy de la Bedoyere, Francis Pryor, etc – and Marjolein!

He has devised a questionnaire that he would like to send to as many people as possible, so you will find it with this Newsletter. Please return it to him at the address given **by 30<sup>th</sup> August**. Alternatively, if you come to the Silchester visit we can collect up a number of completed questionnaires and send them off together.

**Wessex Archaeology**  
***Practical Archaeology Training Course***  
***At Down Farm, Sixpenny Handley***  
**September 13-17<sup>th</sup>, September 20-24<sup>th</sup>**

A 5-day course at Martin Green's farm on Cranbourne Chase – 'one of the most carefully studied areas in western Europe' whose landscape includes parts of the Dorset Cursus and Ackling Dyke, Bronze Age barrows and Roman and Iron Age buildings. The course will include instruction and practice in site surveying, excavation recording and finds processing. During part of each day there will be lectures and workshops on environmental sampling, pottery analysis, faunal remains (bones) and surveying techniques. The course is suitable for both beginners and those with some experience.

To book contact Hilda Young, Management Assistant, Wessex Archaeology, Portway House, Old Sarum Park, Salisbury SP4 6EB; phone 01722 343444 e-mail [info@wessexarch.co.uk](mailto:info@wessexarch.co.uk), [www. Wessexarch.co.uk](http://www.Wessexarch.co.uk) under the heading NEWS.

## THE WEDDING OF PHILIP AND MARY



See [www.visitwinchester.co.uk/themarriageofenglandandspain.shtml](http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/themarriageofenglandandspain.shtml) for details of many events to celebrate this occasion (why do we never say "Mary and Philip"??) And a booklet is available from the Winchester Tourist Board.

There is a splendid exhibition of pictures, armour, tapestry, books etc in Winchester Cathedral Mon-Sat 10 am-4.30pm, Sun 12.30-2.30; adults £3.50; seniors/adult students £2.40 (but free if a cathedral donation is made). And every Wednesday till 29 September Cathedral guides will take you on a Tudor tour around the cathedral with their own interpretation of the exhibition, and tea or coffee. 2.30-4.30pm; admission £6.50.

*Also of course.....*

### **THE PERIOD PICNIC AT BASING HOUSE**

***On Sunday 1<sup>st</sup> August 2-6 pm.***

Why not come – in costume if you like - and bring a picnic? Living History display presented by the Armada Militia. Adults £2, children & seniors £1.

Philip and Mary spent their "honeymoon" at Basing House on their way back to London. Let's celebrate it! I'm trying to get this issue out in time to remind you!



# BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY

**Barbara Applin**

## **D-DAY EXHIBITION AT THE WILLIS MUSEUM**

This has now finished, but we have an impressive collection of interviews; the master tapes are as usual held at the Wessex Film & Sound Archive and copies in the Resources Room at the Willis Museum. The ring-binder with "stories" from the interviews that was available during the exhibition will now be part of the museum's educational handling collection.

## **TAKING THE PULSE OF BASINGSTOKE**

We are now looking for grants or sponsorship for publishing this book based on extracts from our BTH interviews, so any suggestions will be welcome! And has any member experience of indexing – and time to offer...?

## **HAMPSHIRE AND THE ISLANDS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST**

*Ralph Atton*

**This year's annual sponsored walk/bike-ride will take place on Saturday, 11 September 04.** The aim is to enjoy visiting churches and chapels, at the same time raising funds, via sponsorship, for church repairs. A large number of churches in Hampshire and Berkshire (and indeed nationwide) are participating in this year's event and the opportunity is there to visit many interesting churches locally, or elsewhere. Half the money raised goes to the Trust, whilst the other half is for the Church nominated by the individual cyclist or walker. Contact me for further details.

**Ralph Atton 0118 970 0825 e-mail: [ralph.atton@btopenworld.com](mailto:ralph.atton@btopenworld.com)**

*See also page 11.*

## **BOOKSHELF**



## **CRONDALL HUNDRED BOUNDARY**

**North East Hants Historical & Archaeological Society  
Journal, Volume 2:** is available from Tony Wright,

1 Longmead, Fleet, Hants GU52 7TR, £6 plus £1 p&p.  
Cheques payable to North East Hampshire Historical &  
Archaeological Society.



# CHILCOMB HOUSE OPEN DAY

*Ian Waite*

By kind invitation of the Hampshire Museums and Archives Service, Chilcomb House threw open its doors on 26<sup>th</sup> June to all the loyal helpers over the year, Friends and various dignitaries, and revealed all its hidden treasures kept out of sight in the stables and stores which surround where we have been working.

And what a revelation it turned out to be! Insects, from tiny gnats to large moths and butterflies; stuffed birds, from a wren to a great bustard and even bones from the do-do, with various animals to match - and this was only the first building.

The vehicle workshop and paint shop gave a good insight into how items first arrive, from a totally derelict Twinings delivery bicycle to a fully restored Sinclair C5 and then progressing on to see a 125mph 3 wheel Gordon Keeble (I'll take their word on the top speed) to the beautifully restored 1926 Thornycroft Petrol Tanker, acquired as a wreck in 1995, but now resplendent in Shell Livery. Someone actually managed to get a ride in it. (Check out the web page on the restoration process).

A buffet lunch provided a chance to take in all the morning's viewing with a couple of speeches thrown in. We all received goody bags and for those who did not attend, bad luck, you missed a nice fleece.

The afternoon continued as the morning with so many things to see, like the costumes of yester year where people must have been a very odd shape; and the sword restored from a pile of rust; photographs from the 1850s, which are extremely fragile but have been copied digitally to enable everyone to see their beauty.

Building 12 has been my home for the last couple of years on our "Sorting the Stores Sundays" so I skipped this tour (although I popped in to say hello) but cannot write this without a thank you to Kay for an enjoyable time spent and I promise to finish Marc3 soon.

My last call of the day was to the library where, totally engrossed in all the historical information and settled in a very comfy armchair, I lost track of time until Gill hinted it was time to go.

To be able to talk with the staff in the various departments and to see so much knowledge, commitment and enthusiasm in each individual really added to the day and how they maintain this, given the far from satisfactory buildings and lack of space is all credit to them.

This takes me quite nicely on to "What about the future?" There was talk of having new purpose-built buildings, with easier to maintain environments required for the different objects, to store the existing items and have room for expansion and I'm sure I speak for all of us when I say this is long overdue. No doubt, though, there will be much discussion by the powers that be and by the time it is agreed, the cost will be too high and sacrifices will have to be made. This could be a very attractive site, with

greater public access (maybe even paying tourists) but it's that age-old problem - Money.

Political aspects aside, this was a most enjoyable day and I hope I get invited to the next one, as I ran out of time.

## *The New Word in Archaeology*

*Debbie Charlton*

The 'Buried Treasure' exhibition compiled by the British Museum took to the road in May with the first stop being the National Museum & Gallery, Cardiff. This exhibition is comprised mainly of the remarkable 'finds' made by metal detectorists, farmers and the general public. A small point that was added by JD Hill, British Museum, was that the word 'Buried' was added by the BBC for their accompanying programme to give a more dramatic appeal to their viewing audience and was not a word that the museum and archaeological professions viewed with favour. The accompanying book for the exhibition is entitled 'Treasure' and is an excellent read.

To coincide with the showing of the exhibition in Cardiff, a conference was held by the group who have provided a new word to archaeology, PAS - Portable Antiquities Scheme. PAS was set up to provide a national record of 'finds' for the gathering of valuable information about our heritage and not to acquire every item discovered as 'treasure'. The heart of PAS is a central data-base that recorded finds are logged into. The site is accessible to anyone with internet access. It can be found at [www.finds.org.uk](http://www.finds.org.uk).

Funding for PAS comes principally from the Heritage Lottery Fund; however this ends in March 2006. The Treasure Act of 1996 and the extensions that were added in 2003 have led to an increase in finds that must by law be declared to the coroner. PAS, Treasure Act and the increase in 'finds' have begun to provide a unique 'map' of Britain's heritage that surely must not be allowed to phase out purely from a lack of funding and support. To protect this scheme and in truth the continuance and advancement of modern archaeological work, it is necessary to have a political guardian. This comes in the form of APPAG - the All-Party Parliamentary Archaeological Group [www.sal.org.uk/appag/index.htm](http://www.sal.org.uk/appag/index.htm). The group chairman is Lord (Colin) Renfrew and the members' list is impressive. The Secretary of APPAG, Lord Rupert Redesdale, who is a strong supporter of PAS, was a main speaker at the conference. His message to us all was for voters to write to their local MPs about archaeology; this will bring more MPs into APPAG. In this way we can provide archaeology with a strong and protective body within central government.

The archaeological profession is divided, with some of its members attempting to come to terms with the greater involvement of the general public with regard to 'finds'. Great concerns are held as to the 'digging up' and treatment of the objects for conservation by the untrained. The facts are that 95% of 'finds' are made by trained professionals who do not receive or expect monetary compensation for items found. The museums cannot always afford to purchase the 'finds' from members of the

general public who wish to receive payment and some of our past is being lost. PAS in its intermediary role can bring both sides together, using the recording of all 'finds', and appears to be the best solution for the future. The only 'value' to be associated with PAS is the unique knowledge and information which will be gained for Britain's ancestral past. A goal we must all support and strive for.

## Heritage Open Days

Friday 10<sup>th</sup> to Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September 2004

Part of the National Heritage Open Days and co-ordinated by The Civic Trust

**North Hampshire Churches of outstanding historical and architectural interest open their doors**

### All Saints Church, Monk Sherborne

Information 01256 850 315

An exceptional complete, Grade 1 listed, early 12<sup>th</sup> C. Norman parish church, probably even older than nearby Pamber Priory. It has retained much of the original shape and simplicity. The chancel arch is decorated with grotesque heads. The north door is framed by a beautiful 14<sup>th</sup> C. wooden porch.

A 15<sup>th</sup> C. oak rood screen, Jacobean communion rail and 16<sup>th</sup> C. wooden pews furnish the nave. The tower was altered in the 19<sup>th</sup> C. to become a tile hung bell turret.

#### Opening times

Friday 10th 12 Noon - 5pm Saturday 11th 10am - 6pm Sunday 12th 12 Noon - 5pm

### Pamber Priory Church, Pamber End

Information 01256 850 315

Pamber Priory was completed around the year 1130AD as a dependency of the Benedictine Abbey of Vigor at Cerisy in Normandy. In its time it was the second largest and wealthiest monastic establishment in Hampshire. It was suppressed in 1414 and in 1471 given to the current owner, The Queen's College in Oxford.

#### Opening times

Friday 10th 12 Noon - 6pm Saturday 11th 10am - 6pm Sunday 12th 12 Noon - 6pm

### St Paul's Church, Tadley

Information 0118 981 5451

Built in 1966 St Paul's has a wonderful 45 feet high west window in plain glass. The altar is in the shape of an anvil. The font is made from Aldermaston pottery. St Paul's has one bell in an open tower

#### Opening times

Saturday 11th 9.30am - 6.00pm

### St Peter's Church, Tadley

Information 0118 981 5451

A 12<sup>th</sup> C. Grade 1 listed building situated in what is thought to be the original site of the village of Tadley. The church has signs of Norman development of the original Saxon building, with Jacobean pulpit dated 1650. The bell tower was rebuilt in 1685.

#### Opening times

Saturday 11th 9.30am - 6.00pm

### St Luke's Church, Pamber Heath

Information 0118 981 5451

Built as a mission church in 1880 it was also used as a school until 1909. In 1972 St Luke's was transferred to the Tadley Parish. St Luke's has a lovely round stained glass window. Light refreshments served all day.

#### Opening times

Saturday 11th 9.30am - 6.00pm

### St Mary the Virgin, Silchester.

Information 0118 970 0825

Grade 1 listed parish church, built around 1125 in the Norman/Transitional Early English style, extended 13<sup>th</sup> C. Many interesting features including 13<sup>th</sup> C. wall paintings, 14<sup>th</sup> C. effigy, 16<sup>th</sup> C. screen (reputed to be one of the finest in Hampshire), Commonwealth pulpit and historic organ, together with modern sculptures of Christ and the font corona.

Light Refreshments available

Opening times Friday 10th 2pm - 5pm Saturday 11th 10am - 6pm Sunday 12th 11am - 6pm.

Guided tours Saturday and Sunday 2.30pm

Sunday 10am Communion Service (all welcome) 3.30pm Bell ringing demonstration

**THROUGH OUT SATURDAY 11<sup>TH</sup> SEPTEMBER THE HAMPSHIRE HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK/BIKE RIDE WILL ALSO TAKE PLACE.**

INFORMATION: 0118 970 0825

National website [www.heritageopendays.org](http://www.heritageopendays.org)

Issue No 2 6/04

## CALENDAR

<b>Sun 1 August</b>	Marriage of England and Spain 1554: period picnic at Basing House from 2 pm. (page 7)	FBH
<b>Thurs 5 Aug</b>	<b>SOCIETY VISIT TO SILCHESTER 6 pm</b> (page 2)	<b>BAHS</b>
<b>Sat/Sun 7/8 Aug</b>	Mediaeval Craftsmen & market from 2 pm	BH
<b>Fri/Sat/Sun 10/11 Sept</b>	Heritage Open Days with Guided Tours at 3 pm to commemorate the raising of the 1644 Siege of Basing House. Also North Hampshire Churches (pages 8,11)	BH
<b>Thurs 9 Sept</b>	<b>FURTHER RESULTS FROM EXCAVATIONS AT THE ORACLE SITE, READING</b> Ben Ford	<b>BAHS</b>
<b>Sat/Sun 11/12 Sept</b>	<b>TRAINING EXCAVATION</b> (page 4)	<b>BAHS</b>
<b>Thurs 16 Sept</b>	Is It Worth Saving? How Do We Save It? Ms S Howard Hampshire Textile Conservator	FWM
<b>Sat 25 September</b>	<b>CHURCHES, ODIHAM &amp; AROUND</b> (page 2)	<b>BAHS</b>
<b>Sat 25 Sept</b>	CONFERENCE: HENRY OF WINCHESTER; HENRY III IN HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY (Centre for Wessex History & Archaeology, 10-5 at Hampshire Record Office: ring 01256 465439 for details)	
<b>Sat 2 Oct</b>	<b>BASINGSTOKE - A TYPICAL HAMPSHIRE TOWN? and LOCAL HISTORY SECTION AGM</b> (page 6)	<b>BAHS</b> HFC
<b>Thurs 14 Oct</b>	<b>RECENT WORK ON THE VINDOLANDA TABLETS</b> John Pearce	<b>BAHS</b>
<b>Sat/Sun 4/5 Nov</b>	CHRISTMAS & TASSEL MAKING WORKSHOPS	FBH
<b>Thurs 11 Nov</b>	<b>LIVING ON THE FLOODPLAIN: THE NEOLITHIC &amp; BRONZE AGE LANDSCAPE AT YARNTON</b> Dr Gill Hey	<b>BAHS</b>
<b>Thurs 18 Nov</b>	40 YEARS OF CHANGE IN BASINGSTOKE Derek Wren	FWM
<b>Thurs 12 Dec</b>	<b>CHEESE &amp; WINE SOCIAL EVENING</b>	<b>BAHS</b>

**BAHS** Our Society; lectures 7.30 pm at Church Cottage

BH Basing House

FWM Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 at the museum

HFC Hampshire Field Club; we can send one representative - Ring Marjolein for details

**Secretary: Margaret Porter 01256 356012**