

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 171
May 2005

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PLEASE NOTE! *The date of
the AGM is now THURSDAY 16th
JUNE, not 9th as previously
announced!*

Would anyone who has e-mail and would like it to be used, please send an e-mail to Margaret Porter so that she can check she has the right address?

Hers is margaretporter333@yahoo.co.uk

<http://www.bahsoc.org.uk>

(Registered Charity No. 1000263)

Buy your tickets now!

Enjoy a fun evening! Not an Antiques Roadshow, so don't bring your own precious objects. Instead, Dreweatt Neate will bring antiques to look at and discuss. Enjoy a good supper - lasagne, salad and garlic bread, followed by treacle tart.

? What is it? ? What was it used for? ? How much is it worth?

Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society

*Tickets available at meetings
or from*

Margaret Porter,
57 Belvedere Gardens,
Chineham, Basingstoke
RG24 8GB
(01256 356012).

*Let her know if you have any
dietary requirements.*

Mary Oliver (01256 324263)
will welcome calls from
anyone volunteering to make
lasagnes!

Antiques evening and supper in association with Dreweatt Neate

Thursday 30th June 2005 7.30 p.m. – 10.00 p.m.
at Church Cottage, Basingstoke



To raise funds for the BTH book
"Taking the pulse of Basingstoke"

Tickets £7.50

Ticket price includes supper and soft drinks,
bring your own beer and wine

The Grange Dig – Old Basing

Tel: Basingstoke 780502 Mark Peryer Email: mperyer@f2s.com

This will run from the 16th May to the 6th June overseen by Dave Allen. The hours being 9 to 5 each day. As we go to press details have not been finalised. The main reason for this being that the Grange Farmhouse kitchen is no longer available to us as a HQ/tea shelter and, as a result, other facilities are being sought. I will write a letter with details as soon as I know more. If you have been along before, I suggest that you should turn up and pitch in. If you are new to the game and feeling a bit more hesitant then if you have contacted me recently don't worry - I will be in touch, otherwise feel free to contact me for further details.

Alan Turton is organising an Archaeological We4ekend on 5/6 June, with tours of the site and Basing House.

Please place your order NOW!

Taking the Pulse of Basingstoke

Barbara Applin

We are planning to publish this book at the end of September at a price of £13 – but there is a **special pre-publication price of £11 to members and contributors**, so we hope to have lots of orders now, to give us a good idea of the print run we need. We hope to arrange a Launch Party in early October, at which you can collect your book (if you miss that, then at the October meeting). If we need to post a book it will be £3.40 postage/packing. Orders and cheques (made out to BAHS, you don't need to give the full Society name) to Peter Good, 95 Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke RG21 3EY.

You will read of many varied experiences, in people's own words, recorded for **BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY**: from a patient having a broken leg set on the dining-room table (Before the NHS) to community nurses and Hospice Day Care (On the NHS), with contributions from Professor Bill Heald and Myrddin Rees. There are comic moments as well as serious ones, and the memories reflect not just the great changes arising from the coming of the NHS and recent developments, but also the changes caused by Basingstoke's redevelopment and subsequent growth. As well as being of particular interest to local readers, who will recognise many of the 'speakers' and have a feeling for the experiences recounted, this book provides a 'case study' which should be of interest to students of medical and social change. There are plenty of photographs and even cartoons, some by John Dinan (Danni) and some by Alan and Nicola Turton. Here are some doctors to tempt you:

As soon as he came in, he always offended my sense of decency, because he always said, 'Have the bowels been opened?' And the next thing was, 'Open your mouth.' Mother had to give him one of our dessert spoons and he stuck the handle of the dessert spoon right down my throat till I nearly choked, to see what my throat was like.



*Dr Potter – one
of the old school
of doctors*

My mother always used to say that you would hear stories of him before the NHS: when there were poor families in this town that had got young children, not only did he waive his fee but he would supply anything that they needed. So if there was any medicine to be bought, he bought it. If they needed extra food, he would provide it. It would be sent round with the man who did the gardening and who drove for him sometimes. He would turn up on the doorstep of their house with a basket of food.

Society Outings *Sat 25 June WINCHESTER WALK*

Julian Porter (01256 356012) will lead a walk starting at Winchester Railway Station at 10 am (the 09.36 train from Basingstoke arrives at 09.52). There is a limit of 12 people, first come, first served and the charge of £2.50 a head will go to the fund for publishing TAKING THE PULSE OF BASINGSTOKE. The itinerary will include Orams Arbour (probably the Iron Age origin of Winchester), the Great Hall, West Gate with its museum, down the High Street past the Guildhall, into the Square and visiting the Museum. Passing the Cathedral, through the Close to College Street (lunch suggested in the Wykeham Arms). Down College Street past Jane Austen's house and Winchester College, then past Wolvesey Castle, the Wharf Mill and into Chesil Street where the old GWR station was (now copied in Milestones). Up Bridge Street, past the City Mill and a bit of Roman wall, up the Broadway, High St, George St and Jewry St to Hyde with the remnants of the old Abbey, then back to the station. A fairly brisk walk, though stops can be added. Likely to finish about 15.00-16.00. And don't forget your camera!

Thursday 4 August VISIT TO SILCHESTER DIG

As usual, we meet in the car park at 6 pm to walk to the dig for a 6.30 start. If you miss our visit, the Hampshire Field Club are visiting on Sunday 7th August.



*With a Smile and a Wave:
The Life of Captain Aidan Liddell
VC MC*

By Peter Daybell, Pen and Sword
Aviation, ISBN 1 84415 160 3

BOOK SALE BY LOCAL HISTORY AUTHORS

*Basingstoke Library, 10 – 3.30 pm,
Saturday 21 May. Free admission*

**Our books and videos will be there – as well
as our authors!**

Aidan Liddell is buried in the South View cemetery and the book contains interesting photos of the cortege passing through the town. Debbie Reavell tells us that it is very readable.

Antiquities Roadshow

BASING HOUSE

2 pm on Saturday 13th August

- £ 2 for adults
- £ 1 for senior citizens and children of school age
- Free for Friends of Basing House
- NB Not to be confused with the Antiques Evening in Church Cottage, 30th June!

Bring along that strange object you found in your garden. Ask Jody Puls (the County's Portable Antiquities Officer) and David Hopkins (the County Archaeologist) to tell you all about it!

WE WATCHED, AND IT WAS BRIEF – OR WAS IT?

Mary Oliver

Peter Heath and I recently undertook a 'watching brief' when a trench was dug for electricity cables at St Mary's church, Old Basing. We found footings of buttresses and a possible soakaway. There was some charnel (isolated human bones), a few churchwardens' pipes and slate and a slate pencil confirming that there once was a school on the site. But even though the list of finds may be brief, it still took two and a half days on site and several sessions writing up the report for the church and the County Archaeologist.

At least, our meticulous drawings now show where the electricity cable is, for the future!

One surprising discovery is that there are two 'bench marks' on the church (the mark which records height above the Ordnance Survey datum) – and they are different! So a surveying team of Margaret Porter, Diana Medley and Babs Roberts is attempting to discover which is correct.

Field Walking at Oakley Park

Tel: Basingstoke 780502

Mark Peryer

Email: mperyer@f2s.com

Over fifteen hardy members braved the cold weather over three weekends in February to take part in a field walk at Oakley Park. My thanks go to Dave Score for supervising us for the first two weekends and showing us the way and to everyone that came along and took part.

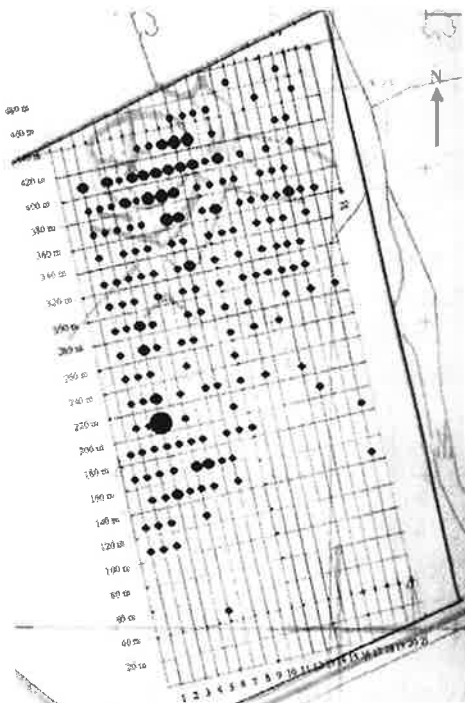


Just started – those wellies look clean!

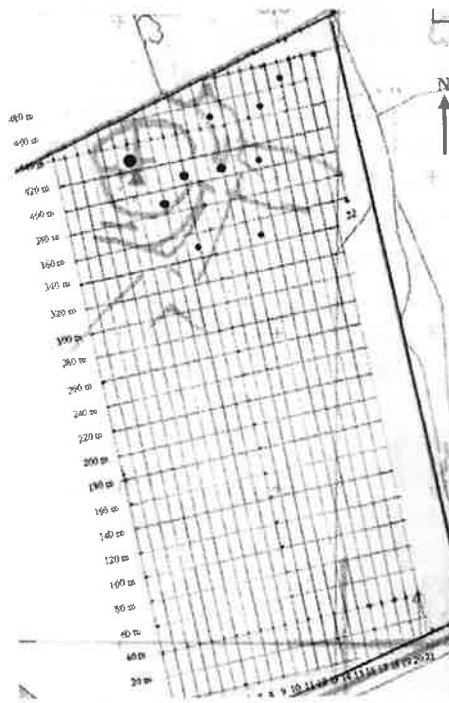
The site is identified in the Hampshire County Council Archaeology and Historical Buildings record and the plan we were given by David Hopkins showed some crop marks identified from an aerial photograph. The marks suggest a banjo enclosure. We walked over the site along transects 10

metres apart and collected man-made artefacts over 20 metre intervals. The number and nature of the finds were then recorded and they were left in-situ, apart from some which were taken away for further analysis. In terms of results, you can see in the two diagrams

that we found densities of Iron age pottery sherds and burnt flint around the plotted crop mark features. At the time of writing the report is approaching completion and will be sent to all those that took part – if anyone else is interested in a copy please let me know.



Burnt Flint Density



Iron Age Pottery Sherd Density

This field walk was a learning experience for all involved; some of us learnt how to organise a field walk more efficiently; we learnt some valuable lessons in setting up right angles and keeping lines straight and we all learnt what to look out for. By the third Saturday we had quite a slick operation and most of the regulars could get going straight away.



*Learning about
CBM (Ceramic
Building
Material)*

I hope to organise another field walk in the Autumn.

LOCAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE 2005

Margaret Porter

The Hampshire Archaeological Committee Local Societies Conference, on 9 April in Farnborough, was hosted by the North East Hants Historical & Archaeological Society.

The first speaker was our very own Chairman, Marjoleine Mussellwhite, who gave an excellent account of the work we have done at the Basing Grange site from the Time Team visit up to our last dig in 2003. During her talk, Marjoleine made the fascinating revelation that the window lead we have been digging up all these years actually contains a maker's mark and dates! There are two dates, 1677 and 1693, which would indicate either that some windows had to be replaced for some reason or perhaps the property was extended.

Nigel Pratt from Hampshire County Council Planning Department gave a very interesting demonstration of the information held in the Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record database, previously known as the SMR. The database is an index to archaeological sites, finds, historic buildings, etc. and contains 37,000 records. Public access to the database is currently available by visiting the offices of the environment department at Winchester and on-line access should be available in the next few weeks. For more information visit www.hants.gov.uk/environment/historic-environment/ahbrecord.html.

Jodi McCrohan who is the Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer of the Portable Antiquities Scheme gave an update on her work and showed some excellent slides of recent finds including the beautiful medieval sapphire ring which was found in Tadley and which the Willis Museum are hoping to buy. Jodi mentioned that "Finds Days" are being organised at Basing House and at the Willis Museum. The provisional dates are 2nd July 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Willis and 13 August from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at Basing House (see page 4). Check local press nearer the time or the arts and heritage section of the website www.winchester.gov.uk. The Portable Antiquities Scheme also has a database which is available on-line and includes images of most of the finds recorded. The site address is www.findsdatabase.org.uk.

There were several very interesting brief updates from other local societies on recent and current projects and fieldwork. Despite the fact that one or two of the updates were not so brief, Richard Whaley, Chairman of HAC, was extremely skilful in wrapping up the day only ten minutes over time.

Among our forthcoming lectures 2005/6

Roman Mosaics

European Amber – a Magical Substance

The Development of the Archaeological Landscape of Basingstoke

William Cobbett

Terry Hunt's Photographs of Basingstoke

CALENDAR

16 May – 6 June	EXCAVATIONS AT OLD BASING (page 2)	BAHS
Wed 18 May	AGM Landscape Section	HFC
Thurs 19 May	AN INSIGHT INTO ASPECTS OF THE COUNTY RECORD OFFICE Suzanne Foster	FWM
Sat 21 May	Book Sale by Local History Authors, Basingstoke Library (page 4)	
Sat/Sun 5/6 June	Archaeology Weekend and tours of Basing House	BAHS/FBH
Thurs 16 June	AGM and UPDATE ON THE EXCAVATIONS OF THE DUKE OF BOLTON'S HOUSE, OLD BASING David Allen	BAHS
Sat 18 June	Visit to Butser and tour of Roman villa	HFC
Sat 25 June	WINCHESTER WALK (page 42)	BAHS
30 June	ANTIQUES EVENING AND SUPPER (page 2)	BAHS
Sat/Sun 9/10 July	Small Living History (friends of Alan Turton), Basing House – see FBH Newsletter	
Thurs 4 Aug	VISIT TO SILCHESTER (page 4)	BAHS
Sat 13 Aug	Antiquities Roadshow at Basing House (page 4)	
Sun 4 September	Danebury Trust Dunkirt Roman villa excavations	HFC

BAHS **Our Society; lectures 7.30 pm at Church Cottage**
FBH Friends of Basing House, 7.30 pm, Basing House Tea Room
FWM Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 at the museum
HFC Hampshire Field Club; we can send one representative

<http://www.bahtoc.org.uk>