

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 172
August 2005

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*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)

AGM 2005	Chairman	Marjolein Mussellwhite
	Secretary	Margaret Porter
	Treasurer	Peter Good
	Committee	Barbara Applin, Garth George, Marten Harris, Graham Hayward, Diana Medley, Sue Strawson.
	Co-opted:	Mary Oliver and Mark Peryer, with Ian Waite replacing Dave Score

Society Outings

Winchester Walk, Saturday 17th September

It was a pity that Julian Porter's illness meant the first date for this walk had to be cancelled, but he has now offered this new date when he 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, 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, past the Guildhall, 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! **Please ring Julian (01256 356012) to book your place.**

APPEAL FOR DRIVER Is anybody prepared to do MIRAS training for driving a 12-seater or 20-seater minibus for trips? It would be wonderful if one or two people could do this and be available – we understand that South View School are also looking for a minibus driver if anyone's looking for a job!! Please contact Sue Strawson (01256 353077).

Antiquities Roadshow

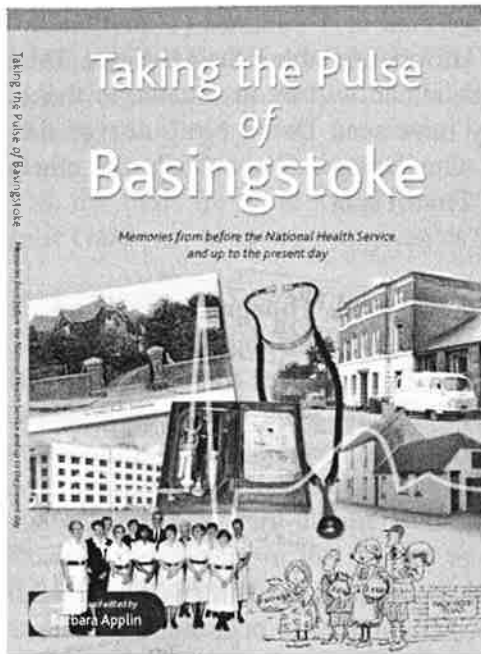
2 pm, Saturday 13th August at Basing House

£2 for adults,
£1 for senior citizens & children of school age,
Free for Friends of Basing House

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!

PLACE YOUR ORDERS NOW FOR OUR NEW BOOK!!

Barbara Applin



Members and contributors who place their orders **before 12th September** can claim their discount (£11 as opposed to £13), so please send your money now to Peter Good, 95 Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke RG21 3EY and say if you will collect your book at the Publication Party or a Society meeting, or whether you wish it to be posted (£3.40 postage/packing).

The Publication Party will be held at 7.30 pm on Saturday 8th October at Church Cottage, for members and contributors who have placed advance orders.

The Official Launch will be held at Ottakars Bookshop at 7 pm for 7.30 on Monday 10th October. Tickets will be available at Ottakars (£1, including complimentary refreshments). **Tell your friends!**

We are planning extensive promotion. The book will be included in the publicity material for the Borough's WORDFEST events and we are hoping to distribute posters to surgeries, dentists', opticians, chemists and anywhere else appropriate. Ideas welcome! Both the North Hants Hospital and the Hampshire Clinic have invited us to put up stands in their entrance hall, and we shall be taking copies to the tea party being planned for ex-staff of the Hospital to celebrate its 30th anniversary. Can anyone help on 2nd, 3rd or 10th November? Or on other dates? Let me know. Is anyone going to a village fair or company "do" etc, especially before Christmas, and willing to take some books to sell? We could supply some of our other books and videos as well.

I do hope that members will give this book their full support, both by buying copies and by enthusing about it. Remember – an ideal Christmas present!

For the Publication Party we would like to display any medical items members can bring. Please let me know as soon as possible – 01256 465439. I am bringing a Phantom Head!

Many thanks to all who made the Antiques Evening such a success – the lasagnes, salads and treacle tarts were delicious, the "service" admirable and the antiques brought by Dreweatt Neate challenging and intriguing. We all enjoyed it immensely and – together with the proceeds of the raffle – it raised about £500.

We are still waiting for responses to some requests for financial support so that we can take final decisions on print run, possible use of colour etc. Meanwhile, we have kindly been offered a loan from the Hampshire Field Club, which is very welcome.

LECTURE PROGRAMME 2005-6

8th September 2005

ROMAN MOSAICS IN HAMPSHIRE Steve Cosh

The Corpus of Roman Mosaics in the UK will be published in 4 volumes (1 and 2 now finished). Fully illustrated with detailed drawings and information about their location, this is a most important (though expensive) reference work which will be invaluable to those studying Roman Britain for years to come. You may have seen David Neal, one of the authors, excavating a mosaic on the Big Roman Dig. Our lecturer, Steve Cosh, the other author and a skilled draughtsman, is also often seen on Time Team.

13 October

EUROPEAN AMBER – A MAGICAL SUBSTANCE Dr Nick Thorpe

Amber is a naturally occurring substance remarkable for its colour and ability to be worked, and it has been valued by our ancestors since Palaeolithic times. It was traded throughout Europe and used for high status objects, often deposited in burials. Nick Thorpe has made a special study of this extraordinary substance and the information it can give us.

10 November

WILLIAM COBBETT Chris Hellier

William Cobbett was almost a local man, being born to farming stock in Farnham, and settling later in life in Botley in the south of the county. Although most of us know him best for "Rural Rides" with its detailed picture of the Britain he encountered, he was also interested in gardening and forestry, particularly influential in the education of the working man, and a witty and often subversive journalist. He spent time in America in exile for his outspoken views and went to gaol for debt. This lecture should be a good follow-on from the "Swing Riots" topic of the 2004-5 programme.

8 December WINE AND CHEESE

12 January 2006

FOREST FRONTIER: BASINGSTOKE, A TOWN ON THE EDGE David Hopkins

As County Archaeologist, David Hopkins forms a very good overview of the archaeology of the different parts of his territory, and has views on the particular nature of Basingstoke's archaeology. He says, "Archaeological study of the landscape can shed light on how landscape has evolved through time, how it has been used and valued. This might help us to a better interpretation of the archaeological evidence we find."

9 February

ANCIENT GLACIER MUMMIES: THE LIFE AND DEATH OF OETZI AND KWADAY DAN TS'INCHI Prof. Jim Dickson, Emeritus Professor of Archaeobotany and Plant Systematics, University of Glasgow

One of the most important and informative archaeological discoveries of the last few years has been the unexpected find of the frozen body of a 5300 year old man high in the Alps. Known as Oetzi, he and all the equipment found with him are now on display in the South Tyrol Museum of Archaeology in Bolzano, Italy. Our speaker is one of the specialists who worked on him, and the plant remains have been extremely informative about his origins,

lifestyle, state of health etc. Prof. Dickson is also working on another ancient ice mummy found in British Columbia, a 550 year old Indian known as 'Long Ago Person Found'. He will talk about the wealth of information that both these exceptional finds have been able to give us. This is a lecture not to be missed!

9 March

LIFE AND DEATH ABOARD THE *MARY ROSE* Dr Julie Gardiner

Following the anniversary of Trafalgar, it seemed important to have a nautical lecture and, although this navy ship pre-dates Trafalgar by some many years, there were probably plenty of similarities in serving on wooden ships. The publication of the volume dealing with the finds from the *Mary Rose* is due soon, and will form the basis of this lecture by Julie Gardiner, who has also given us talks on other subjects.

13 April

RECENT ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT KINGSCLERE Prof. David Hinton and Kris Strutt

The local historical group in Kingsclere managed to put together a funding package for a community archaeology project, also involving Southampton University Dept of Archaeology, which started in 2004 and is continuing in 2005. Some of our members visited and took part. In the first season the site produced evidence of prehistoric and Roman occupation; in the second the presumed site of King John's hunting lodge is the target. Kris Strutt directed the first season. David Hinton will be in charge of the second and is hoping for some results he can share with us.

11 May

TERRY HUNT'S BASINGSTOKE Bruce Howard

This talk should be of interest both to those who remember the old town of Basingstoke before re-development, and to those who moved here later and who are curious about what has disappeared. Terry Hunt was a prolific photographer of the early 20th century town and its people, and his photographs were stored on glass negatives now in the collection of the Hampshire Museums & Archives Service. They are unfortunately difficult to work on, but there has recently been a project to develop the images because they are such a wonderful source of information. Bruce Howard was seconded from the Planning Dept to organise this project and make them available on-line.

FIELDWORK REPORT

Mark Peryer

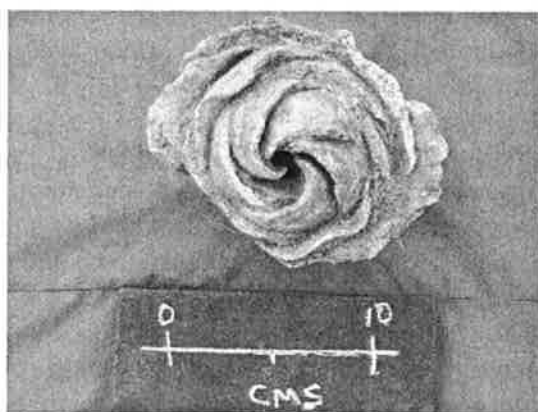
Digging deep at the Grange, Old Basing 16th May - 6th June

This year's dig at the Grange was on a larger scale than we've seen before - Dave Allen was obviously trying to make sure that he had everything uncovered for this last dig in the series. Fortunately, there was a good attendance by society members and a number of newcomers got involved as well and overall there was a lot of work achieved. However, as the excavation went on and more came to light, it became clear that the inscrutable Mr Allen had more than a few new questions to answer.

There was a pair of Time Team trenches contained within the northern trench; these had been abandoned, since nothing but rubble was turning up. Digging deeper around this area revealed a rough brick floor surface about 2 metres below the surface. From the context it was first thought that this was a small cellar and that the Time Team had just been unlucky with the position of their trenches and had missed its wall. Then, in exploring another strange feature at the end of the north trench, two valiant and enthusiastic diggers spent several days digging out a 2 metre deep trench, 5 x 2 metres in area, and found a continuation of the same brick floor surface, which had a drainage channel around the edge. The implication is that there was a large cellar at the north end of the excavations; given its size there must have been a substantial structure over it. The Time Team gave up approx. 1.5 metres too early.

Other interesting features found included some indication of how the demolition of the mansion was carried out. There were a number of part walls that were found on their side lying close to or on top of their footings.

In the 'coach house' area some plaster moldings were found, including two rosettes and one or two leaves; these look to be part of some ornate plaster work, but it seems mysterious that they should turn up in the area of the stables. Also in this area was a beveled surface with what seemed to be a drain along one side of it.



A rosette plaster molding from the coach house



The complex of walls, footings and surfaces in the coach house area

Dave brought us up to date with his findings in his talk after the society AGM, and there seemed to be more to come. My thanks to Dave for running this dig, and also to all those who supported it by turning up to dig so deep.

Investigations at Sherborne St John Junior School

We were invited by Tony Cox, the headmaster at Sherborne St John Junior School, to investigate a "bump" in his school grounds and also to involve the children in an archaeological investigation. Dave Score took charge of things and arranged two visits, the first to carry out a resistivity survey and the second to dig an exploratory trench.

The resistivity survey was carried out by Margaret Porter and Peter Heath at the beginning of May and seemed to indicate that there was some kind of rectangular structure in the area of the mound. The survey results were sent to the school and seemed to tie up with the anecdotal evidence that there had been a World War II air raid shelter in the school grounds.

A return visit was made on the 8th June by Dave Score, Peter Heath and Ian Waite in order to dig a trench across the place most likely to reveal something, according to the resistivity survey. (Other assistance had been arranged, but for some reason it didn't get much further than the Swan). Ian Waite tells me that it was the hardest ground he has ever dug; the ground under the mound turned out to be heavily compacted. The end result was that the trench did not progress very far and no signs of a structure appeared. There are plans to make a return visit, but with a mechanical digger!



Dave Score distracts his public whilst his beautiful assistant (Ian Waite) struggles to pull his mattock out of the ground.

However, there were some finds - some school milk bottles and bottle tops, some marbles and a slate pencil - these are to be mounted in a display at the school. The children were also able to take part to some extent and the *Gazette* was on hand to capture their enthusiasm. I'd like to thank Dave Score for taking on this project.

Worting Surveys

Over the weekend of the 23rd/24th July some survey work was carried out in Lamb's field, Worting. Peter Heath led one group in an exercise aimed at getting an accurate plan of the field, and I led another group in an investigation of the lower curved ditches, using a resistivity meter.

The Saturday was good, weather-wise, and by the end of the day a series of pegs was in place marking the estimated mid-points of both ditches. Unfortunately, the Sunday morning was a wash-out. However, following the maxim that there is "no such thing as bad weather, just inappropriate clothing", a small group of enthusiasts strung a line between the pegs and planned them against a baseline.

There will most likely be another weekend arranged in September to finish off the plan of the field and perhaps to conduct a resistivity survey of the rectangular ditch feature at the top of the field.

Fieldwork email list

As a side effect of the recruitment campaign for the dig at Basing, I have organised an email group that contains the email addresses for those society members that I know are interested in fieldwork. I have been using this list to keep people up to date on the fieldwork that we are organising, and also to make sure that everyone is aware of other digs going on in the local area. If you would like to be included in the mailing list, then please send me an email on mperyer@f2s.com

A SPECIAL OFFER



to the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society. Milestones offers members discounted entry to the museum for the following talks.

Pay £6 (a saving of £1).

This includes a visit to the museum and current exhibitions.

Tuesday 30th August 2.00 Afternoon talk in Finches Yard by Jane Harris, Hampshire Record Office: **Speed traps and seat belts: One hundred years of The Automobile Association.** The illustrated talk will last for 45 mins.

Tuesday 27th September 1.00 Lunchtime talk, **Food and Families** by Mrs Marguerite Patten. The years from 1940 - 1950 were a difficult time for housewives to provide for families. Rationing and food shortages meant that housewives had to make meals for their children from very few ingredients. Join Mrs Patten as she reminds us how we 'made do' as best we could with mock black pudding, cheese pudding and fish paste. The talk will last for up to one hour, with opportunities for a Q and A discussion and book signing.

SEABRITAIN 2005

Basingstoke Library (in conjunction with Basingstoke Camera Club) is holding a Photographic Competition and exhibition. Closing date for entries 17th Sept. Exhibition 10-20 October. Ring 01256 363793 for more information.

BEAVERCROFT – A Question for all Members 'Over 21'

Ian Waite

I desperately need your help, please, to trace any information, for a local resident, regarding the building of 7 combine harvesters in the mid to late 1940s which were called Beaver-crofts. These were built partly in Pack Lane, Kempshott and partly at Thornycrofts and I would ask anyone who has any knowledge of these machines, no matter how small, to contact me, please.

I have also found a reference to Beavers Buses pre 1926 which ran from Basingstoke Market Place to Kempshott Park, which seems to have a similar origin and will add to my research.

Any details on either to Ian Waite on 01256 330704 or e-mail waite52@tiscali.co.uk.



HAMPSHIRE & THE ISLANDS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST

ANNUAL SPONSORED WALK/BIKE RIDE SATURDAY 10TH SEPTEMBER (10am- 6pm)

The aim of this nationwide event is to enjoy visiting churches and chapels, at the same time raising funds to help with church maintenance and repairs. Half the money raised goes to the Trust for their work, whilst the other half is devoted to the church chosen by the walker or cyclist.

Many interesting churches, both historic and more modern, in Hampshire and elsewhere, can be visited either by participants in the event or by the general public.

Contact Ralph Atton, 0118 970 0825 for full details.

OPEN DAYS

As part of the **National Heritage Open Days, Friday 9th to Sunday 11th September**, North Hampshire Churches of outstanding historical and architectural interest open their doors. Information from www.heritageopendays.org

St Andrew's Church, Sherborne St John

01256 850 264

Retains the south door and font from the original 1150 building, with later additions and alterations. The Brocas Chapel, 1420, houses many fine brasses as memorial to the De Brocas family of Beaurepaire. The north aisle and spire evidence the long association with the Chute family of The Vyne. A 17th C three sided lectern displays Fox's Book of Martyrs. There will be a display of Church history on all three days, and guided tours on Saturday at 11.30 am and 3.30 pm.

Opening times: Friday 2pm-5pm; Saturday 10am-6pm; Sunday 1.30pm-4.30pm

Pamber Priory Church, Pamber End

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 12 Noon - 6pm; Saturday 10am- 6pm; Sunday 12 Noon - 6pm

St Mary the Virgin, Silchester.

0118 970 0825

Grade 1 listed parish church, built around 1125 in the Norman/Transitional Early English style, extended 13th C. Many interesting features including 13th C. wall paintings, 14th C. effigy, 16th 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.

Opening times: Friday 12noon- 5pm; Saturday 9am - 6pm; Sunday 11am - 5pm.

BOOKSHELF



Insistent Voices
Stories on Claiming Identity
Tony Taylor

Kingston Advocacy Group, London
ISBN 0-9546079-0-2
Available at Society meetings, £6

Georgina White

If you have spent the vast majority of your life in institutions with very little voice, how do you speak in a way people will listen? This collection of five reflections of lives of individuals with varying degree of learning difficulty living locally, is a moving attempt to share their experiences with others. From workhouse, asylum, and many difficulties to finding family, dignity and home, this is a fascinating read about life and inclusion.

Southern History
A Review of the History of
Southern England

Southern History Society, yearly
ISSN 0142-4688
Subscription £18

Barbara Applin

Southern History contains articles and reviews covering the historic counties of Cornwall, Devon, Somerset, Gloucester, Wiltshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Oxford, Buckingham, Berkshire, Surrey, Sussex and Kent. Volume 26 for 2004, just out, has plenty relating to Hampshire as well as more general themes. Ryan Lavelle's article "All the King's Men?" covers land and royal service in eleventh-century Wessex, and Andrew Thomson contributes an article on "Winchester Cathedral: Its Clergy and the Duties before and after the Interregnum. Part I: the Characteristics of the Cathedral Clergy".

The Review section is particularly interesting, as the reviewers relate the books in question to a wide background of research. Ryan Lavelle writes a joint review of "Charters of the New Minster, Winchester", S M Miller, Anglo-Saxon Charters IX, OUP, and "Property and Piety in Early Medieval Winchester: Documents relating to the Topography of the Anglo-Saxon and Norman City and its Minsters", A R Rumble, Winchester Studies 4. He comments "Each considered on their own terms, these books are of great academic value. Considered together, they should prove indispensable for the study of the development and politics of the minsters of Anglo-Saxon Winchester." John Hare reviews "The Winchester Pipe Rolls and Medieval English Society", Richard Britnell ed, Boydell, saying "This volume ... both enables us to pause and reflect on what has been done, and should encourage us to move forward". However, Michael Hicks doesn't pull his punches in his review of another book which had better be nameless: "Exhaustively researched, densely documented, massively footnoted, under-punctuated and often infelicitously expressed, her book relentlessly pursues its hypothesis often through complex – and sometimes far-fetched – symbolism that requires resolute concentration from the reader. Even her best data is imperfect and is at times severely strained to support the weight of interpretation attached." However, he also says she "does expose s the complex range of factors underlying individual choices." It isn't often that reviews are reviewed, but this one gets a gold star!

CALENDAR

Sat 13 Aug	Antiquities Roadshow at Basing House (page 2)	FBH
Tues 30 Aug	SPEED TRAPS & SEAT BELTS, Milestones (page 8)	
Sun 4 Sept	Danebury Trust Dunkirt Roman villa excavations	HFC
Thurs 8 Sept	ROMAN MOSAICS IN HAMPSHIRE Steve Cosh	BAHS
Fri 9 September	Sponsored Bike Ride (page 9)	
Fri/Sat 9/10	Open Days (page 10)	
Thurs 15 Sept	The Work of the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust	FWM
Sat 17 Sept	WINCHESTER WALK (page 2)	BAHS
Tues 27 Sept	FOOD AND FAMILIES, Milestones (page 8)	
Sat 1 Oct	Local History Section AGM, Botley	HFC
Sat/Sun 1 and 2	360 th Anniversary commemoration of the fall of Basing House	FBH
Thurs 6 Oct	Roman Glass, Denise Allen	FBH
Sat 8 Oct	Publication Party TAKING THE PULSE OF BASINGSTOKE (page 3)	BAHS
Mon 10 Oct	Launch “ “ (page 3)	BAHS
Thurs 13 Oct	EUROPEAN AMBER – A MAGICAL SUBSTANCE Dr Nick Thorpe	BAHS
Thurs 20 Oct	AGM	FWM
Thurs 3 Nov	AGM and Cheese & Wine Party	FBH
Sat 5 Nov	Landscape Section Conference & AGM	HFC
Thurs 10 Nov	WILLIAM COBBETT Chris Hellier	BAHS
Thurs 17 Nov	Hampshire Magistrate: Procedures in the Local Courts	FWM
Thurs 8 Dec	CHRISTMAS PARTY	BAHS

BAHS **Our Society; lectures 7.30 pm at Church Cottage**
FBH Friends of Basing House, 7.30 pm, Basing House meetings room
FWM Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 at the museum
HFC Hampshire Field Club; we can send one representative; details from our Secretary

Secretary: Margaret Porter 01256 356012

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

Items for Newsletter to Barbara Applin; e-mail 106441.3542@compuserve.com (01256 465439)