

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 180

August 2007

## CONTENTS

<i>Page 2</i>	<b>AGM 2007 Christmas Party Fieldwork Report</b>
<i>Page 3</i>	<b>Heritage Open Days Society Outings</b>
<i>Page 4</i>	<b>Society Trip to Pompeii Courses at BCOT and QMC</b>
<i>Page 5</i>	<b>Basingstoke Talking History Report</b>
<i>Page 5</i>	<b>HAC Local Societies Conference 2007</b>
<i>Page 7</i>	<b>Visit to Petersfield</b>
<i>Page 8</i>	<b>Visit to the Basingstoke Canal and the site of the Up Nately Brickworks</b>
<i>Page 10</i>	<b>Basing House</b>
<i>Page 11</i>	<b>Recommended for Your Bookshelf</b>
<i>Page 12</i>	<b>CALENDAR</b>

**\*\*\* Annual subscription due 1<sup>st</sup> September\*\*\***

*Rates unchanged: £11 individuals; £15 family; £7 students and over 60s; over 60 family rate £12. Please send your membership application/renewal form and cheque payable to BAHS to Garth George, 71 Camrose Way, Basingstoke RG21 3AW. If you haven't signed a Gift Aid form and would like to, please ring Garth: tel 01256 464763.*

Apologies! Silchester visit is **WEDNESDAY,**  
**8th August, NOT Thursday!**  
6 pm for 6.30 at the car park

## Annual General Meeting, 2007 *Changes to the Committee*

Warm thanks were given to Peter Good and Sue Strawson who both resigned from the Committee, after much hard work – particularly Peter in his role as Treasurer, which is now taken over by Marjolein Mussellwhite. New Committee members are Alan Turton and Deborah (Debz) Charlton.

After the AGM presentations were given by Nicola Turton on her “A” level work on Basing House, by Debz Charlton on her “geophys” project for her degree, and by Mark Peryer on the Society’s recent fieldwork. We are delighted now to congratulate Debz on gaining her degree in Archaeology.

### Christmas Party

**7.30 pm, Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December. Church Cottage,  
Basingstoke**

**£1.50 (includes first drink)**

Once more a relaxed get-together with members and friends, with a glass of wine or soft drink and a finger buffet. Offers of help to prepare or supply buffet food will be welcomed (the Society will refund expenses). Ring Marjolein (01256 701192) or Margaret (01256 356012) if you can offer help.

### Mystery Photo

*A challenge!*

*Take one or more photos that have some connection with archaeology or history but will take some ingenuity to identify. We'll put them up and see who can find the answers.*

*Send your photos, (mounted on A4 or electronic) to Barbara Applin, 138 Old Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke RG22 5EN \*\*\**

**\*\*\* Please note my new e-mail address [barbara.applin@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.applin@btinternet.com) and delete the old one!**

### Fieldwork Report

**Mark Peryer – Tel: 01256 780502, email: [mperyer@f2s.com](mailto:mperyer@f2s.com)**

On the 5<sup>th</sup> May, about 15 society members conducted a survey on Basingstoke Common to see if we could pick up any signs of civil war entrenchments. Unfortunately, we were disappointed in our efforts and the mystery still remains as to the whereabouts of the parliamentary lines.

Over in Steventon, Debbie Charlton and I have been working on a magnetometry survey of the Austen Rectory site, following on from some excellent desk research by Pam Green. This work is at the request of the Jane Austen Society, who would like to put up an information board near the site. We did one survey in June which we thought would cover the right part of the field, working from the desktop research results, only to find that the results suggested that we needed to extend the search area. At the time of writing we have just finished a second survey and are waiting for the results to be processed. The molehills in the field have yielded some finds that tie up with contemporary descriptions of the Rectory, and indicate that something is there but confirming the exact location will be a longer term project.

Our next practical project is scheduled to be a training dig at Lamb’s field, Church Lane, Worting on the weekend of the 8<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> September. The objective of the dig will be to confirm the location of the

upper curved ditch and to take a section of it to compare it to the lower ditch. If you would like to get some excavation and recording experience, then I would recommend that you block the weekend out in your diary.

Please contact me if you would like to take part, since I need to ensure that you have a copy of the society's excavation rules. If you are under 16, then our insurance stipulates that you must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

### **Helping out at Chilcomb House**

Volunteers from the society have been helping out at Chilcomb House, the home of the county's archaeological archive, for about four years now. To date, most of the help has consisted of getting the archive boxes for various excavations into order and then cataloguing and consolidating them.

We shall be resuming work in October, after a summer break. We are about to start a new phase of work whereby we shall be working on specific projects aimed at organising the various human remains (A must for those taking the QMC Forensic Archaeology course? – see page 4) and the paper archive. During the course of a day's work at Chilcomb you can more or less guarantee to learn something or gain an unexpected insight.

Anyone is welcome to come along and take part. The first day of the new season will be Sunday 21<sup>st</sup> October and will run from 10 to 5. If you would like to come along, but need directions to Chilcomb House, then please let me know.

### **Heritage Open Days, 6<sup>th</sup>/9<sup>th</sup> September**

**Church Cottage** will be opening its doors on **Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> September** with displays including photographs, a time line and oral history. Short tours of the building by Bill Fergie at 10.30, 11.15, 2.0 and 2.45. Light refreshments available. Free entry. It is hoped that Mary Oliver's new booklet on the history of Church Cottage will be available for sale.

There will be a guided tour of **Basing House** at 3 pm from the Kiosk on each day (6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup>).

## *Society Outings*

*Any queries contact Ginny  
on 01256 862165 or  
[ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk](mailto:ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk)*

### **Visit to Longford Castle and gardens, Salisbury, Wiltshire, Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 2.15pm**

A private tour of Longford Castle - the residence of the Earl of Radnor - has been arranged for BAHS members for the afternoon of Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September.

We have been asked to arrive at 2.15pm ready for the tour to begin at 2.30pm. The tour occupies approximately one hour and three quarters, after which guests are welcome to wander in the garden for as long as they please.

We will meet at Longford Castle. Access is from the A338 at Bodenham, which is approx. 3 miles south of Salisbury. The entrance is through the park gates marked "Private – Speed Limit 20 MPH – No Overtaking". For those with navigation systems the post code is SP5 4EF.

The entrance fee to Longford Castle and gardens is £7.50 per person. If you have not already booked, then please contact Ginny Pringle (see above) for a reservation form, as the fee is payable in advance. If you need a lift, please liaise with Ginny.

### **Tutankhamun & the Golden Age of the Pharaohs Exhibition at the O2, London, Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> November**

Starting in November, this exhibition marks "Tutankhamun's return" to London for the first time since 1972. The collection includes approximately 130 treasures from the tomb of Tutankhamun and other Valley of the Kings Ancestors and is presented in eleven different galleries, each with its own backdrop and thematic.



Travel will be by train from Basingstoke and the exhibition tickets will be in the region of £20 - £25 each, slightly less for concessions. The exhibition is likely to be very popular with the public and so we are pre-registering for tickets to avoid queuing or delays. If you wish to join this outing and pre-register for a ticket then please email Ginny or phone her (see above) as soon as possible, as places will be limited. Please state ticket type e.g. adult, child or concession. More detailed information will be made available later.



## **Society Trip To Pompeii**

*Mark Peryer – Tel: 01256 780502, email: [mperyer@f2s.com](mailto:mperyer@f2s.com)*

Several times over the last few years, the committee has discussed arranging a Society trip to Pompeii, and sites in the surrounding area, and I feel the time is right to gauge your interest. The advantage of going as a society is that it should make it easier to obtain guides and perhaps to get access to areas not normally seen by the public.

What we have in mind is organising a core of four days of visits to Pompeii, Herculaneum, the Museum of Naples and Oplontis but leaving it up to you to organise your own flights and accommodation based on some suggested options. We think that this approach makes sense in these days of the internet where you can get cheap flights quite easily and you can choose the grandeur of your hotel to suit your needs on line. The flexibility would also allow you to add on extra days if there were other places you wanted to explore

The trip would most likely take place in April 2008. My quick survey of flights and hotel costs suggests that you would need to budget around £400 to £500 for a flight and a reasonable hotel.

Please let me or a member of the committee know if you would be interested in going on the trip.

### **Courses at Basingstoke College of Technology and Queen Mary's College**

**Introduction to Archaeology, BCOT** A year course and a Prehistoric Pottery Project. For more details contact: [Carolwhite1arch@aol.com](mailto:Carolwhite1arch@aol.com) [carol.white@bcot.ac.uk](mailto:carol.white@bcot.ac.uk)

**Forensic Archaeology, QMC** A 10-week course on Tuesdays from 25<sup>th</sup> September, 19.00-21.00, fee £78.00. "Not for those of a sensitive disposition", it investigates the role of archaeology in forensic investigation – not just the study of human bones.

## REPORT

*Barbara Applin*

01256 465439

*barbara.applin@btinternet.com*

On the same day that Mark Peryer gave a presentation and display about our fieldwork and the Woodlands project at the HAC conference (Hampshire Archaeological Committee), some of the Basingstoke Talking History group were mounting a display at the Local History and Conservation Fair at the Willis Museum. Several of our interview tapes had fascinating memories connected with music and dance in Basingstoke, so we showed some quotations, with suitable illustrations. We took our books and videos and made quite a few sales, and now have more people to interview. We were glad to let Richard Garfield use our display as the basis of one of his Memories on Monday pages in the Gazette. Here are some snippets.

*I had 4 pianos. I've got a lovely one upstairs, like the first sort of piano that was ever made, it's a square piano and it's the sort that Beethoven and Mozart and all that played on, and I always kept it tuned beautifully. I had pupils from about the age of 8, and of course I had a lot of adults. It was only a guinea for a quarter, that was 12 lessons for a guinea."*

*I managed to find a banjolin which is like the same fingering as a mandolin but it had a banjo velum. I bought that at Hallsworth, Potters Lane, and I managed to play that. Then I teamed up with two or three others, one played violin and one played the drums and we made a little bit of a band we called the Ensign Band.*

*I got involved with the Basingstoke Old Tyme Dancing Club. And every year we decided we would do something as a special dance. And one year we all dressed up as fairies and we sang "Nobody loves a fairy over 40". Now this was hilarious because I expect we were all past our forties, and in our little fairy things some of us were a bit fat! But it was a great lot of fun and caused a lot of hilarity. The next year we thought, well, before we got too old we would do the Can Can. So we all had these dresses made in different pastel colours and then we did the Can Can. Well, the first place we did it was at a Chamber of Commerce dancing do, they wanted a bit of entertainment during the interval after their dinner. It would have been lovely if we'd just done it the once! But they kept shouting "Encore! Encore!" And my goodness, eventually we were all collapsed on the floor, we really could not lift our legs any higher!*

*Miss Ruby Philpott, whose family cake shop was also in Potters Lane, gave me piano lessons; she was great fun and wore jangly jewellery, which intrigued me. With her efforts and the obligatory half-hour practice daily, duly recorded by my mother in a nasty yellow book, made me a satisfactory pianist in my parent's eyes anyway.*

*... In Church Cottage or in the Rectory because every Sunday evening we were expected to go to Evensong, and then after that at about nine o'clock we would go over and sit on the floor in Roy Dacre's study which was a big room downstairs and he would play Classical Music to us and talk to us about Classical Music and it was our introduction to real music.*

*There was a Co-op social every year at the Basingstoke Town Hall. We used to go up in the afternoon, we'd blow up balloons and decorate it. The Town Hall was a nice place to have the Social. It had quite an elegant stairway and you felt quite posh, all dressed up, going up the stairs. They had a dance – you used to do your waltzes and quicksteps and palais glides – and they used to have refreshments.*

Also, the following Tuesday, Georgina White and Margaret Harris took a display to BCOT (Basingstoke College of Technology) where the students were having a day based on environment issues. Under the heading OUR PAST IS PART OF OUR ENVIRONMENT we displayed examples of the urban environment (pages from GOING DOWN CHURCH STREET TO THE FELGATE BOOKSHOP) and examples of the rural environment (based on our Society's fieldwork, the Basing dig and the Woodland project. This attracted plenty of interest. We were glad to introduce the Society to a wider, younger audience, while the Principal expressed a wish to work with local societies.

I was invited to give a presentation to the Oral History Society Conference at London Metropolitan University, about our TAKING THE PULSE OF BASINGSTOKE book, in the section discussing the question WHICH AUDIENCE? I looked at the audience that was anticipated for Basingstoke Talking History interviews in general, and how that compared with the people we hoped would be interested in the book. Several presentations were taking place at the same time, so the audience for that was not huge, but they did seem interested and responsive. It was a good opportunity to meet people doing a great variety of projects and to learn more about the best equipments and methods. I put my presentation on Powerpoint and had to learn how to digitise a cassette recording and then how to copy just the bit I wanted, so that I could click on the little symbol and – magic – it played! The nurse who was knocked out by a dead man got a good response, as well as the phantom head (if anyone finds that mysterious, just look at the book!)

We do need more interviewers and transcribers, so if you are interested please let me know!

## **HAC Local Societies Conference 2007**

*Ginny Pringle*

Local societies continue with their activities, with the Avon Valley, Basingstoke, Liss, the New Forest Section of the *Hampshire Field Club*, North East Hants and Woolmer Forest all being active in the field. A useful forum for recent work was the Hampshire Archaeological Committee biennial conference, held at Ringwood in April. The papers were extremely good, but there was unfortunately only a small audience to enjoy them.

From the local area John Pemberton described his work at Ipley Manor, where evidence for the abandoned medieval farmstead visible on Beaulieu estate maps was tested by excavation with a reasonable degree of success – the map was found to be remarkably accurate.

Steve Ford (Thames Valley Archaeological Services) described his work on a rare Upper Palaeolithic site, where test-pits revealed a spread of flint debitage which presumably represents the campsite of a nomadic group of hunter-gatherers of about 12,000 years ago.

Anthony Passmore gave an authoritative account of the HFC New Forest Section work over the past 50 years. He was justifiably pleased with the way in which the Section, effectively a local archaeology society for the Forest, had discovered and logged some 1600 sites over the years. They must be well practised in the arts of 'woodland archaeology'.

Numbered among their discoveries are over 300 Bronze Age 'boiling sites'. These are streamside locations which contain a mass of burnt flint and a pit for heating water and sometimes a mound that results from the activity. Theories abound as to the use that was made of the hot water. Cooking still has the vote, but open-air saunas are not without support. A similar site was found recently just behind the Hatch pub at Old Basing (a boiling site – *Hampshire Studies* Vol. 61 pp1-15 – not an open-air sauna).

Representing the BAHS, our Chairman Mark Peryer detailed field-walking and woodland archaeology pursuits recently enjoyed by our own members.

George Anelay gave a progress report on the Liss Roman villa dig, which has a final season this September. They are hoping to find some of the main buildings this year, as so far excavation results have produced tantalising evidence for a bath-house and industrial activity.

Richard Whaley outlined the search for Roman roads and 'centuriation' east of Winchester. Incidentally, there are at least three groups/individuals searching for the line of the Winchester to Staines road, and at least two preferred routes, which makes for interesting discussion.

The day ended with Ben Ford (Oxford Archaeology) describing the varied results of the excavations in Jewry Street, Winchester, which included late Bronze Age and Iron Age roundhouses, Roman streets and a possible aqueduct. There were also clear indications of late Saxon and medieval activities such as weaving and an apparent trade in valuable raw materials - ten sets of scales were found.

## VISIT TO PETERSFIELD

*Peter Stone*

About twenty Society members went to Petersfield on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April for a two-part tour of the town conducted by members of the Petersfield Area Historical Society. The tour began at 10.30 am with an interesting talk on the history of the parish church, St Peter's, and an explanation of its fabric parts of which date back to the 12<sup>th</sup> century. Members then divided into two groups for a guided tour of the ancient town centre.

Petersfield was founded in the 11<sup>th</sup> century, when it was granted the same freedoms as Winchester by Henry II. Although there have been many changes during the past half century, some of which have caused irreplaceable losses, it was surprising to discover how much of the original medieval centre around the market place remains, although much is hidden from the casual viewer.

As with other ancient Hampshire market towns, in particular Odiham but sadly not Basingstoke, ancient structure which dates back as far as the thirteenth century still stands behind relatively recent facades erected in the 18<sup>th</sup> or early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries. It was equally interesting to discover that medieval 'burgage plots', which were essentially sizeable market gardens to the rear of the more prestigious urban houses, continue to influence the present day layout.

A curiosity in the market square is a statue of William III that is a survival from the grounds of a much larger town house, now demolished, and is the only one of this king outside Northern Ireland.

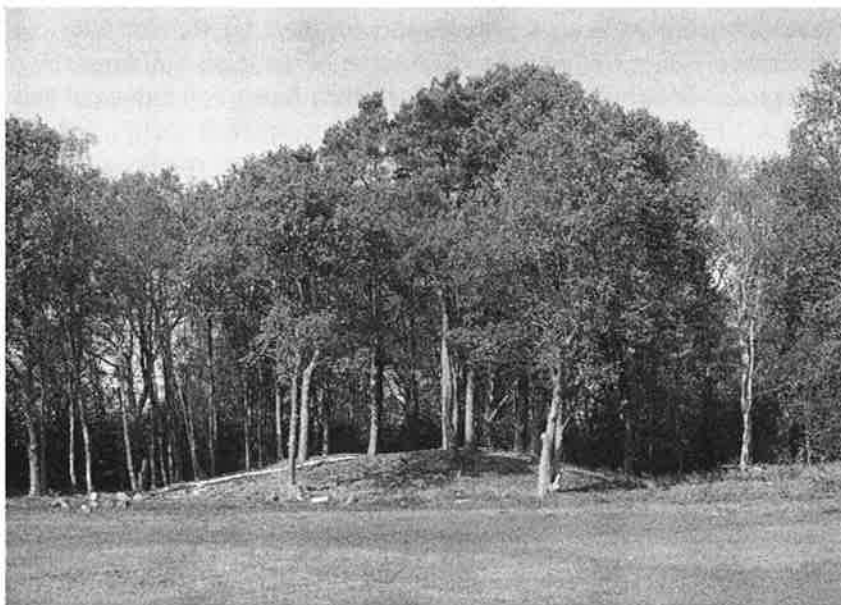
Originally gaining importance for its cloth industry in medieval times, the town became an important staging post on the London to Portsmouth road in the late 17<sup>th</sup> century with a consequent establishment of excellent hostelries along a new bypass to the east of the old town centre. These are mentioned by Daniel Defoe in his 'Tour through the Whole Island of Great Britain' 1726 in which Petersfield is described, perhaps a little unfairly, as 'a town eminent for little but it being full of good inns'.

The 18<sup>th</sup> century agriculturalist John Worlidge is perhaps the best known of past residents and one who left a permanent reminder of his work in the form of the very pleasant 'Physic Garden' which was visited at the end of the morning.

After a lunch break at the 'good inn' The Red Lion, there was a conducted archaeological tour of Petersfield Heath, which is only a short distance from the old town centre, where our guide was Peter Price. This piece of land, once part of a golf course and now a public open space, contains 35 Bronze Age barrows of which 21 have survived mostly undisturbed to the present day. It was explained that a number of these appeared to be deliberately sited close to the ancient lake that could have been the focal point of a ritual landscape during a period when the climate was warmer than now.

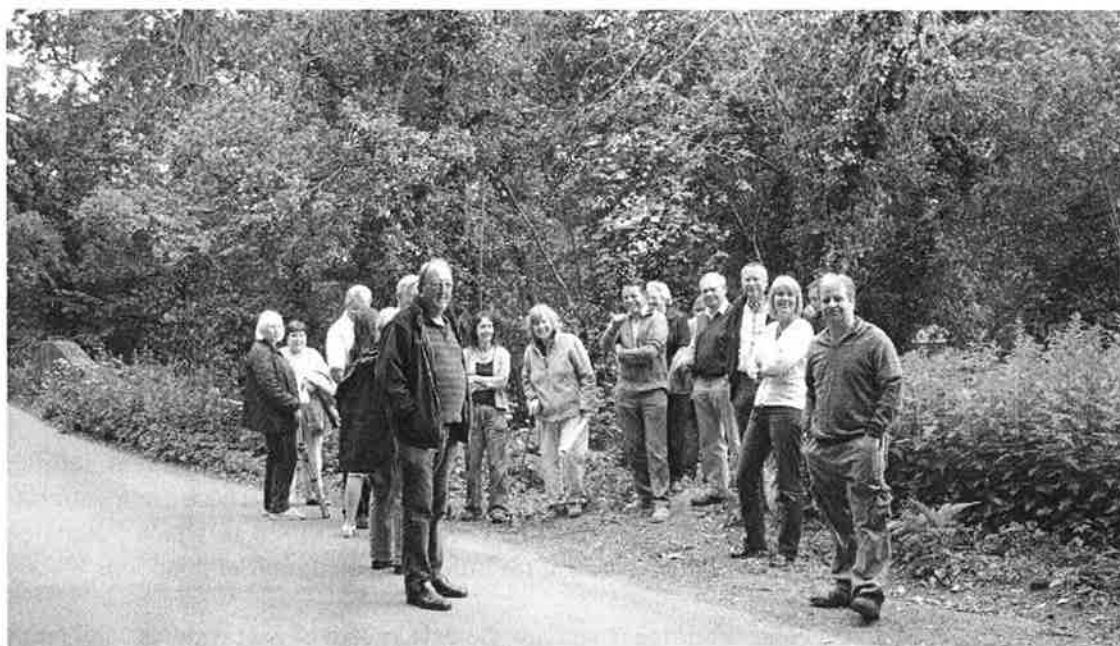
It was pointed out that lines of sight to Butser Hill and Stoner Hill, which respectively coincide with sunset at the winter solstice and sunset at the summer solstice, add further weight to the theory that the area had religious significance.

The day finished about 4 pm with thanks to our hosts, in particular Eric Leaton, who had provided such excellent guidance around a town whose interesting links with the historic and pre-historic past are not widely known.



## **Visit to the Basingstoke Canal and the site of the Up Nately Brickworks**

*Martin Watson*



### **Background to our visit**

A party of around 24 people comprising Society members and their families, assembled at Brick Kiln bridge, just off the Greywell Road, (map ref. SU 698 521) on Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> June, 2007, at 7.30pm., where we were met by Roger Cansdale of the Canal Society (officially The Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society), who was to be our guide to the canal and the site of the Brickworks.

Despite the lack of a car-park, we all managed to find suitable spaces within easy reach of the bridge.



The construction of the Basingstoke Canal was begun in 1778 and took six years to complete, an amazingly short time for such a major engineering project. There were 37 miles of canal between Basingstoke and the River Wey at West Byfleet. The canal required 29 locks, 2 tunnels (including the 1230 yard Greywell Tunnel), 69 bridges, 5 canal houses, 4 wharves and 3 warehouses. The Canal Society have a very interesting website ([www.basingstoke-canal.org](http://www.basingstoke-canal.org)) which is worth a visit, and there is also a recommended book "London's Lost Route to Basingstoke" by P.A.L. Vine, published in 1968 and revised and reprinted in 1994.

For a number of reasons, the canal did not prosper and by 1834 was described as "derelict". Attempts were made to revitalise the canal at various times; the final attempt being in 1894, primarily to allow an existing brickworks at Up Nately to supply the military camp at Aldershot with bricks for a major rebuilding programme.

In 1895, Sir Frederick Seager Hunt bought the canal and founded "The Hampshire Brick and Tile Company", to develop the existing brickworks. A short (100 yards) extension to the canal was built at Up Nately, known as the Brickworks Arm, to provide wharfage and harbourage for the barges which would bring coal to the site and take away the finished bricks. The Arm could be isolated from the main canal by a sluice gate and the Arm could then be emptied into the surrounding meadowland for maintenance etc. There was also a railway which brought clay and other raw materials to the site, from the surrounding area.

Unfortunately, the clay used was found to be of an inferior quality which meant that the bricks developed faults and were unsuitable for housing. In 1901 the canal company was wound up - but not before Sir Frederick had got rid of his shares.

### **The Brickworks**

The visit to the site began from Brick Kiln bridge. The party walked a few hundred yards eastwards along the towpath to the Brickworks Arm, where Roger Cansdale pointed out some of the most interesting features. The wharf at the end of the Arm is built up with brick walls (not surprisingly) and the end of the "drain" by which the Arm could be emptied, was also brick built and in reasonably good condition. Just evident in the water of the basin, are a two or three metal and wooden uprights which indicate the remains of "The Seagull", a steam powered narrow boat used by the Canal company, now lying, almost wholly submerged, in the silt. Roger Cansdale was able to show us photographs of the "The Seagull", when it was excavated some years ago by the Canal Society.

There is little evidence of the site of the Brickworks. A large house and extensive garden now occupy the likely site. However, retracing our footsteps back to the main canal and continuing east over the Arm footbridge for another 100 yards brought us out on to a lane at Slade's bridge. Here, opposite the entrance to the house, and behind a graffiti-decorated concrete shed, we found evidence of extensive industrial workings. There were two or three brick and concrete bases with the remains of metal "superstructures"; unspecified earthworks; and two large bridge arches which appear to have supported a sloping overhead wooden ramp of some sort. The whole area is overgrown and heavily wooded. Major excavation of the site would be very difficult but it might be possible to excavate a number of the key features to try to identify their relationship to the whole site.

For a relatively large industrial site (it produced 2 million bricks in its first full year of operation), there is surprisingly little evidence on the ground, nor does there appear to be much, if anything, in the way of photographic or written records. There are a number of Information Boards at points on the towpath which are helpful to visitors (and newsletter article writers!).

The canal and the towpath continue eastwards for another three-quarters of a mile to the end of the Greywell Tunnel, closed due to roof falls. The tunnel now houses a colony of rare bats which hibernate there and are protected. The canal towpath itself is well worth a visit, just for the wild life and the seclusion. Although only half a mile or so from the M3, the canal serves as a peaceful but

slightly mysterious wilderness corridor. The walking is generally easy, although there may be the occasional problem with fallen trees or muddy patches.

The main restoration of the canal has been carried out due to the enthusiasm of the members of the Surrey and Hampshire Canal Society (so named to avoid confusion with "The New Basingstoke Canal Company" who owned the canal at that time and proposed to fill it in!) The full extent of the restoration work can be seen eastwards from the eastern end of the Greywell Tunnel.

My thanks go to Roger Cansdale of the Canal Society and the Society website. The facts are from Roger or the website. Any errors are mine.

## **Basing House**

*Nicola Turton*

Just in case you've never visited Basing House, this is a brief history of what was once the greatest private house in England, what happened to it, and what's left. It was visited by all the Tudor monarchs, was the place where Queen Mary and Philip of Spain had their honeymoon, and underwent the longest siege of the English Civil War.

Basing House is close to the A30, once the main London/West Country route. On site there are traces of Iron Age huts, overlain by a Roman Farm. Later, the West Saxons owned the manor until 1066 when William the Conqueror gave it to Hugh de Port, whose descendants built the great ringwork and bailey castle.

By the 16<sup>th</sup> century Basing was owned by William Paulet, Marquis of Winchester, who redeveloped the castle between 1530 and 1561, building 'the greatest of any subject's house in England'. In 1531 William received a licence to 'build walls and towers within and around, and to fortify the manor of Basing.' This was the last such licence to crenellate issued, making Basing House the last official castle built in England.

Basing House was visited by Henry VIII, his son Edward VI, Mary and Philip of Spain, Elizabeth, and later James the 1<sup>st</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>.

By 1635, Basing House was crippled by expense, and described as 'forsaken and desolate', but was reoccupied as a Royalist fortress 7 years later in the Civil War. 'Loyalty House' suffered three major sieges before falling on 14<sup>th</sup> October 1645. The House caught fire during Cromwell's final assault and was so badly damaged that he reported to Parliament that it was not worth garrisoning and should be blown up. Parliament decreed that whoever should take brick, timber or lead from the shell could have it for their pains, allowing the residents of Basing to rebuild their homes, but this still left a considerable ruin, which was later landscaped as a garden for the Duke of Bolton's new house across the Street, which was pulled down around 1760.

There are accounts from both sides of the Basing House action: a siege diary, newspaper reports, letters, reports, and, exceptionally, a contemporary engraving of the House under siege. This is known as the Hollar view, as the artist was thought to be a member of the Garrison, but it's now known he was on the continent at this time.

The Old House was the site of the last stand of the defenders. This circular Norman earthwork is the largest feature of the House, and was dominated by a great four-turreted Tudor gate-house. The eastern postern gate had been blocked when the Old House was landscaped, circa 1680s. It was excavated in 1991, when amongst the fill of the passageway drain was found a battle-damaged human skull.

Half of the ruins of the New House were lost when the canal was built, but a small section of a gatehouse remains and was excavated by Time Team in 1999, but little was found.

The earthworks at Basing are attributed to Inigo Jones, who was sent as engineer to Basing by the King. They are some of the most extensive remaining Civil War earthworks in the South of England.

The best surviving section of curtain wall is on the Western perimeter of the site. It is largely Tudor, but with considerable patching, so the musket loops and gun ports are barely, if at all, visible from the garden side of the wall, whilst on the outer face they are mostly still open.

The canal completely destroyed the wall beyond the Thatched Tower, leaving on its Northern side a ruined loop-holed turret and a small part of the wall running down to Garrison Gate.

The Barn (1535) is separated from the House by The Street. On 7 November 1643, the besieging forces captured the Barn and Grange complex. The Barn contained large amounts of provisions, and the Garrison were anxious to regain the area. Shots were fired from the House, and adjoining buildings were set alight, driving out the men, and there was much fighting. The Barn is still known as Bloody Barn.

I have conducted a survey of the damage to the Barn which shows that most of the damage is on the East end and North side of the barn. There are several clusters of musket ball damage, as well as spaced out shots both high and low, suggesting either ranging shots or shots made from too far away for effective aim. The roundshot damage is mostly all high and may well be from distant fire, either from the House or from Cowdrey's Down. Three of the shots may be seen from inside the Barn, and one is in line with damage to a roof beam, showing that the shot was fired from the House. This shot may therefore be dated to 7 November 1643.

The account says that there were two gun platforms 'near the Lane'. This may mean Redbridge Lane where the ground is very marshy (in fact I fell in). The water table is likely to have been higher in the 17<sup>th</sup> century and it would have been important to site the works on solid ground with access from the road. Two mounds of uncertain date remain in Slaughter Close, with a good sight line towards the Dovecot Tower. It should be considered that they may be canal dredging deposits.

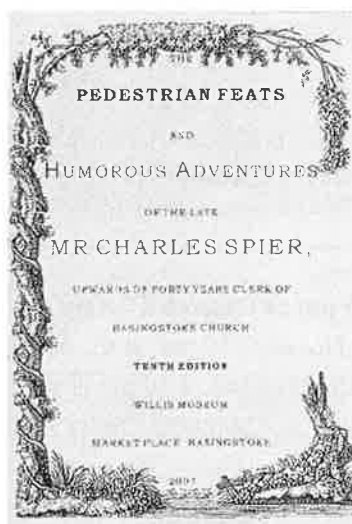
Basing House was bought by Hampshire County Council in the 1970s and my husband Alan has been the curator there since 1987. It's a beautiful and peaceful place to live, even though our back garden is a graveyard.



**RECOMMENDED  
FOR  
YOUR BOOKSHELF**

*Two tiny books  
by Malcolm Parker*

Available from the Willis  
Museum



# CALENDAR

<b>Wed 8 Aug</b>	<b>Visit to Silchester (page 1)</b>	<b>BAHS</b>
Sat/Sun 11/12 Aug	Meet an English Civil War Soldier	FBH
<b>Sat/Sun 8-9 Sept</b>	<b>TRAINING DIG, WORTING (page 4)</b>	<b>BAHS</b>
Thurs-Sun 6/9 Sept	Heritage Open Day (page 2):	
Sat 8th	* Church Cottage	
Sat/Sun 8 <sup>th</sup> /9th	* Guided tour of Basing House, 3 pm from the Kiosk	FBH
<b>Thurs 13 Sept</b>	<b>THE BASINGSTOKE ADMIRAL</b> Michael Franks	<b>BAHS*</b>
Thurs 20 Sept	NORTH HAMPSHIRE GARDENS THROUGH THE AGES Elizabeth Proudman	FWM
<b>Fri 28 Sept</b>	<b>Visit to Longford Castle &amp; gardens (page 3)</b>	<b>BAHS</b>
Tues 9 Oct	THE 'MARY ROSE' Alan Turton	FBH
<b>Thurs 11 Oct</b>	<b>THE PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES SCHEME</b> Sally Worrall	<b>BAHS*</b>
Thurs 18 Oct	AGM and THE MILLENNIUM BELLS Hector Goldsack	FWM
<b>Sun 21 Oct</b>	<b>WORK AT CHILCOMB HOUSE (page 3)</b>	<b>BAHS</b>
<b>Thurs 8 Nov</b>	<b>THE FIRST FARMERS, OR HOW DID THE NEOLITHIC REACH BRITAIN?</b> David Miles	<b>BAHS*</b>
Tues 13 Nov	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	FBH
Thurs 15 Nov	TALES OF A WORKING WINDMILL Gavin Bowie	FWM
<b>Sat 24 Nov</b>	<b>TUTANKHAMUN EXHIBITION (page 4)</b>	
<b>Thurs 13 Dec</b>	<b>CHRISTMAS PARTY (page 2)</b>	<b>BAHS*</b>
Tues 8 Jan	THE VYNE John Jenkins	FBH
<b>Thurs 10 Jan</b>	<b>A MEDIEVAL HOUSEHOLD: SIMON &amp; ELEANOR DE MONTFORT AT ODIHAM CASTLE</b> Rupert Willoughby	<b>BAHS*</b>
<b>Thurs 14 Feb</b>	<b>LORDS AND HALLS IN ROMAN HAMPSHIRE</b> Prof. Sir Barry Cunliffe	<b>BAHS*</b>

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

FBH          Friends of Basing House, 7.30 pm, at the new Tea Room ('Bothy')

FWM          Friends of the Willis Museum, 7.30 pm at the Museum

**Secretary: Margaret Porter 01256 356012**

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

**Registered Charity No. 1000263**

Items for Newsletter to Barbara Applin:

**Please note new e-mail address: [barbara.applin@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.applin@btinternet.com)**