

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



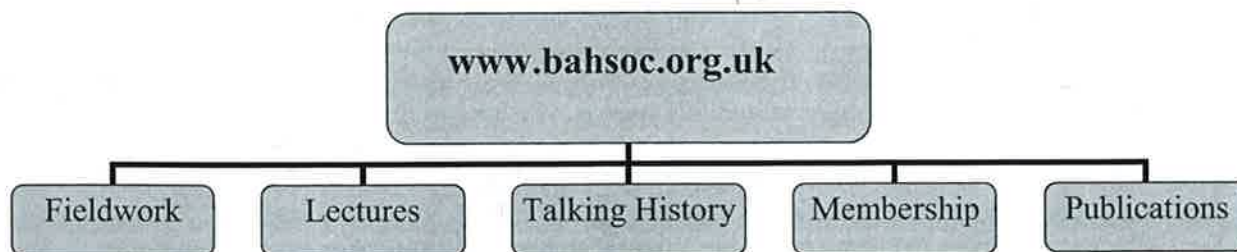
NEWSLETTER 181

November 2007

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Have you tried our Website yet? Have a look at it and tell your friends!



***** Annual subscription was due on 1st 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

A reminder!

Christmas Party

7.30 pm, Thursday 13th 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 Margaret (01256 356012) to offer help. You can collect your ticket at the door but please let Margaret know in advance.

Mystery Photo *A challenge!*

Take one or more photos that have some connection with archaeology or history or aspects of Basingstoke 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.

NB New e-mail address
barbara.applin@btinternet.com
Please delete the old one



The Tutankhamun trip is now fully booked. Ginny will send out tickets nearer the time to those who have paid.

Society Trip To Pompeii

Several members have expressed interest and will be meeting soon to firm up plans. If you would like to join them please contact Margaret Porter now (01256 356012 or margaretporter333@yahoo.co.uk)

Fieldwork Report

Mark Peryer – Tel: 01256 780502, e-mail: mperyer@f2s.com

As I find myself writing this report from Munich, with the winter's first snow falling outside, I am struggling to remember the summer season this year, maybe because it was not much of a summer

That said, I am glad to report that, as ever, several of our members have been actively involved in various digs and investigations around the area. Jim Oram and Nicola Turton, our sponsored Silchester trainees for 2007, report on their experiences of 'underwater archaeology' elsewhere in this newsletter. A few of us (Peter Stone, Ian Waite, Martin Watson, Jim Oram and myself) courted controversy and helped trace a Roman Road in the Medstead-Bighton area. Martin also found time to help out at the Southampton University dig at Tidgrove Warren, which turned up a wine cellar and an impressive rectangular double ditch system. These are just the things I know about, other members were involved with other activities.

We held a training dig over at Lamb's field, Worting, on the weekend of the 8th/9th September in glorious weather. This year we were able to open two trenches with the aid of a mechanical digger (ably hired and driven by Ian Waite). One trench was to take a section on the upper of the two circular ditches, and the other to plan the corner of the square enclosure at the top of the field. These results should enable us to

fill in some gaps in our knowledge and allow us to write up the whole series of excavations. I should like to thank everyone that came along for their help, old friends and new.

Debbie Charlton and I presented our findings so far on the site of the Austen Rectory in Steventon to the Jane Austen Society's annual conference on 21st September. Our presentation seemed to go down well, and we made some good contacts whilst we were there. We now have a completed magnetometry survey, and are considering other options for getting a firmer fix on the location of this building.

If you were interested in attending Woodland Archaeology training, I have recently received an email to the effect that there will be some training by the NWDAONB team in the New Year. If you are interested in attending, please let me know. I have not forgotten about organising a refresher/practice activity for everyone that has been trained, and will let you know the date when I am ready. There are more woods in the pipeline, and access is being sought for January to March next year.

After the positive show of hands at the October meeting, I will work to organise a fieldwork seminar to go over the results of our fieldwork. This will most likely be on a Saturday morning or afternoon next spring and more information will be forthcoming once I have worked with the committee to organise it. If you feel that you have something of interest to share at the seminar, then I would be pleased to hear from you.

*** **Winter Field Walking** ***
Ginny Pringle

Good news for all those who like to get stuck into some practical work; we have made arrangements with a farmer near Dummer to walk on one, possibly two, fields early in the New Year.

The fields are due to be ploughed in December or early January, and once this has happened we can arrange a suitable date to walk them before they are then drilled. Further details will be issued via the fieldwork e-mail list (do let Mark have your name if you aren't already on it – see phone/e-mail address above) and also at the 10th January meeting at Church Cottage.

When you come field walking, do remember to wrap up warm and bring something hot to drink!

ODIHAM CASTLE AND FOAM
Marjolein Mussellwhite

I wrote last year about the above project, and it seems that we are now going to go ahead over two weekends early next year. To refresh your memory, here is what I wrote previously:

In my role as Hampshire Representative for the CBA Wessex, I have been attending several committee meetings in Salisbury. One of my fellow committee members is Julian Richards, who is heading a new organisation called FOAM (Friends of Ancient Monuments). FOAM's aim is to identify monuments that have been neglected and are in need of some TLC in the form of cutting back shrubs, small trees, long grass, etc. to bring them back to their full glory. Julian has been working with a group of volunteers in Wiltshire, but is very keen to see this expanding into other counties, and I too feel this is a very worthwhile effort.

As you may be aware, Odiham Castle has received funding from the Lottery Heritage Fund and as a result a lot of work is now taking place at the castle to repair the structure and improve access. However, no money is available to clear up the area around the castle. We are now looking to help with this over the weekends of 19/20 January and 16/17 February, and I'm very much hoping that Julian will be joining us!

I already have a small list of volunteers, but am looking for more. Should you be interested in taking part, I would very much like to hear from you. If you'd like to participate, please send me an e-mail on marjoleine_2000@hotmail.com, or call me on 01256 701192.

I look forward to hearing from you.

EXCITING TIMES FOR BASING HOUSE!

Basing House has succeeded in attracting a Lottery grant of £0.9 million! Approval has been given for stage one of the development plans and money has been set aside ready for stage 2, subject to approval of the detailed plans. The scheme is to make Basing House an educational site for children, with an education centre and visitor services. Matching this sum, by the County Council, will partly be taken up 'in kind', involving archaeological work – "cue BAHS", we are told! More news to come...

Archaeology 2008

Visit www.archaeology.co.uk or e-mail conference@archaeology.co.uk for details of this conference at the British Museum, February 9/10 to showcase the year's best British archaeology and offer sessions on selected world archaeology projects. Organised by *Current Archaeology* and co-hosted by the British Museum's Dept of Portable Antiquities & Treasure.

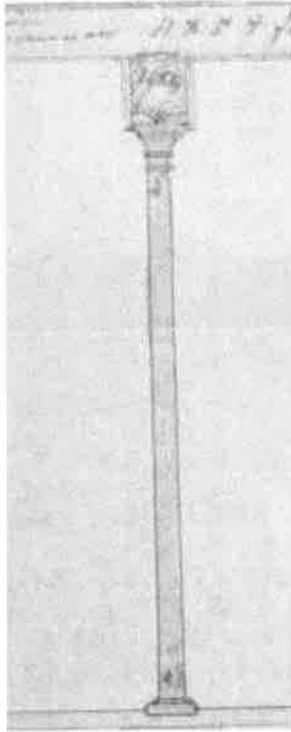
MAKING HISTORY **Antiquaries in Britain 1707-2007**

Barbara Applin

This exciting exhibition at the Royal Academy (Burlington House, Piccadilly) continues until 2nd December and is definitely one to see. It celebrates the achievement of the Society of Antiquaries of London, founded 300 years ago. To quote the leaflet, "Through objects, monuments and the biographies of the Society's leading Fellows, the exhibition traces milestones in the discovery, recording, preservation, interpretation and communication of Britain's past ... and reveals how new discoveries, technologies and interpretations have transformed understanding of our island story."

We see portraits of, and work by early antiquaries like John Aubrey and William Camden, through the Wiltshire antiquaries, Sir Richard Colt Hoare and William Cunnington who excavated several hundred prehistoric sites, to the stars of "Animal, Vegetable, Mineral?", "Time Team" and "Meet the Ancestors". We see footage of Sir Mortimer Wheeler's excavations at Maiden Castle and contrast early surveying and recording techniques with those of today. My favourite items were an amazing roll giving the pedigree of English kings (right back to Adam and Eve), and the Richborough helmet, a masterpiece of Roman metalwork.

Entrance is £7.50 (£6.50 concessions). and there are free gallery talks at 1.30 pm on Tuesdays (45 minutes) and 2 pm on Thursdays (10 minutes).



Original cast iron column as depicted in Lewis Wyatt's drawings of the Old Town Hall

GREAT NEWS FROM THE WILLIS MUSEUM!

Sue Tapliss, Curator

Hampshire Museums Trust and the Hampshire County Council Museums Service have secured nearly £150,000 for the redevelopment of the Willis Museum through grants from our Friends of the Willis, The Linbury Trust, Renaissance South East and the DCMS/Wolfson Foundation. Our first task will be to create a special exhibition space designed to the highest security standards to allow us to display material from the most important galleries, museums and private collections in the country. The gallery will occupy the entire main space on the ground floor and we will install environmental and security improvements. We will also have the opportunity to reveal some of the original features of the building obscured by the 1980s redevelopment, including the cast iron columns clad by the square columns you can currently see and the suspended ceiling will also go.

The programme for this new **Sainsbury Gallery** will include treasures from national institutions and we are already consulting with the British Museum to host treasures from ancient China in 2009 (sadly not figures from the terracotta army!), there will also be art works of famous contemporary artists and craftspeople, touring art and museum shows and much more. Exhibitions will also have workshops, lectures and activities for adults and children.

Our coffee shop will move into the current natural science gallery, and this space will become the Old Town Hall Café Gallery which will provide an opportunity to display newly discovered information about the Town Hall and its architect Lewis Wyatt, enhanced with a redisplay of the Willis Museum's horology collection plus retail, coffee shop and a small contemporary craft area.

In our current archaeology gallery we will create a **community temporary exhibition gallery** to include high quality display cases, hanging space and audio visuals for people and organisations to publicise their achievements and engage with the process of creating an exhibition. During the school holidays this venue will host the family learning activities and workshops. The archaeology gallery will move temporarily to the top floor while we undertake additional fundraising to redevelop the 'Story of Basingstoke' gallery, where it will eventually be integrated into the town gallery.

The ultimate vision for the Willis is to create a museum fit for the 21st century, where new and existing audiences will enjoy and influence a modern, adaptable museum that works together as part of its community to connect and enrich people, collections, places, knowledge and ideas. The galleries will be designed to be flexible and renewed regularly, enabling us to change displays on an evolutionary basis rather than the 'revolutionary' approach where galleries are changed every ten years, whether they need it or not!

Sue is inviting comments on what people would like to see in the Museum – themed displays or the history of the town? Why not wander round the Museum and think about the changes you would like to see, write down your ideas and leave them at the reception desk?

BA

REPORT

*Barbara
Applin*

01256 465439

barbara.applin@btinternet.com

At a recent interview, Mrs Margaret Evans showed us this photo and told us how in 1940 she made wings for a pageant at All Saints church. She made a frame with buckram and stuck round bits of crepe paper onto it to look like feathers. It was a Nativity scene, with Mary, Joseph and the baby, with shepherds and the three kings and other people coming to the crib.



She also told us of the Skipping Troupe she belonged to, in the Girls' Friendly Society. They used the proper ball-bearing skipping rope and they did ballet steps while they were skipping. They wore ballet pumps, and her mother made the pleated skirts, navy blue, which they wore with white blouses. They used to perform in Basingstoke and were supposed to go to London to perform with lots of other skipping troupes, but unfortunately that was cancelled, because of the ban on public events in wartime.



We have several people to interview and lots of ideas for more so we would welcome more help. Do let me know if you would like to do interviews, transcriptions or research.

SILCHESTER

Here are reports from two members we sponsored for the Silchester dig. And a note from Debbie Charlton

Nicola Turton

I'd like to thank the Society very much for generously sponsoring me to attend a week at the Silchester dig. It was a great experience and to be recommended. Of course, I enjoyed some parts more than others, finding a real aptitude for sitting in the shade on a sunny day washing pots and chatting. And I had a good day on Thursday when I attended lectures on geology, geo-archaeology and Roman Arms and Armour. Because of my arthritis, I found it hard work kneeling and digging, but did my best.

Whilst there I became friendly with a lady who marks the A level archaeology papers, and I think it says volumes about my self control that I was able to refrain from asking her if she'd marked mine!

On my first finds washing day I was already wary of the person in charge, who was no doubt worn by the demands of the long dig. When nervous, I find it even easier than usual to forget simple instructions, so I felt very edgy and managed to drop a finds tray (!!!) Luckily, the supervisor wasn't there, but Mike Fulford was. Oh dear, one of those moments of silent horror that John Cleese does so well. I nearly died of embarrassment, but he was very kind, just smiling at me, saying, 'Well, that's it, the chronology for the whole site is now lost. We're finished.'

Quite early on, I was impressed when Professor Fulford appeared from his porta-cabin, immaculate in blue shirt, cream trousers and panama, and strolled round the site with a visitor. I was full of admiration, but it wasn't until I mentioned it to Alan that Alan said I have a disease. Alan too suffers from it, and it's called supervisor's syndrome, which is manifested by standing with hands on hips, saying, 'Yes, that's a ... Yes, dig that up. Do this, do that...'

On Saturday I spent the day washing finds, which was very pleasant, but on Sunday was forced to dig for a couple of hours. My bit was in the North West corner, where they are getting down to the Iron Age. I was working on a clay floor over some gravel. I had to clean it up, plot a Small Find (a piece of iron, possibly a knife blade), draw the feature, and then dig it up.

In the afternoon I worked on a tray of gravel, going through it with tweezers, picking out CBM (ceramic building material), bone, charcoal and anything else of interest. *I loved it!* It was my favourite thing all week, and my cup ran over when I found a seed. It was tiny, about the size of a poppy seed, pale cream and segmented. My supervisor thought it was a carrot seed. I wished I'd had more of a chance to do environmental work, but the week and the dig were now finished.

Before I went home, I thought I'd drive round to the church to see the work being done there. A dig was taking place in the area where an extension is being made to the church, and will enable the archaeologists to see the full extent of a previously known Roman building. When I arrived, Mike Fulford was there and showed me round. So overwhelmed was I that I found not a single intelligent thing to say. Oh my.

But it was a great experience, and again, thank you for helping with my education!

Jim Oram

Started week with usual Health & Safety, Rules & Regulations, then a site walk. Was then issued with trowels, shown how to take off top soil or silt, this was a good feeling, knowing you were going into the deep past, 3rd, 2nd, 1st century, getting nearer to the Iron Age,

Day 2 I found lots of small bone, small pottery, wood and straw mixed. I then moved on to how to do context readings.

Day 3 I started off with EDM readings and measurements on a furnace believed to be industrial rather than domestic, as there were lead particles found which means it had a lead water tank above the furnace. Next I went to the finds room, to see and hear of finds found in and around Insula IX. Then a context talk, on putting numbers to finds tray.

Day 4 Then a little more digging, next a lecture on drawings, plans, description of finds, furnace, mosaic floors, post holes, walls etc. Took photos, feeling for different soils. More EDM) recordings and readings, using a Dumpy level and staff this time. Back to drawing, sketching the NE and NW of the furnace.

Day 5 Silchester single context planning, a drawn record of a beam slot I had found, using a grid, coordinates readings, finds washing, filling in context sheets, phased matrix and readings – just some of the things I enjoyed...

Sadly, we were rained off one day, but I really had a good experience to help me enjoy my hobby. Thanks to BAHS!



Debbie Charlton

EDM = electronic distance measurer, a fantastic piece of equipment programmed into GIS, for pinpointing co-ordinates for the whole site.

When I was shown how to use it at Silchester I encountered what was called a "small technical problem". I was too small to use the eye-piece, so I had to carry a plastic chair around to stand on!

VICTORIA COUNTY HISTORY

Barbara Applin 01256 465439
e-mail barbara.applin@btinternet.com

A meeting will be called soon for people willing to help in reworking material for the Basingstoke Hundred, in the **Victoria County History**. Would anyone who is interested in this (even in a small way) give me contact details for when we have more information? No commitment at this stage.

2007 - 12th Congress of the Council for Independent Archaeology

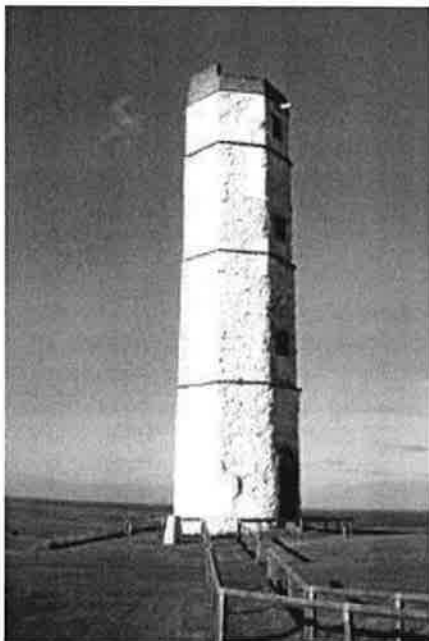
Debbie Charlton

Congress Theme: *“Archaeology and Agriculture – the relationship”*

Debbie represented our Society at this Congress, hosted by The East Riding Archaeological Society at the Bishop Burton Agricultural College, Beverley, East Yorkshire

The congress opened with an outline of proceedings from the Chairman, Andrew Selkirk. Independent Societies from the north of the British Isles (Scotland) to the south (Isle of Wight) were represented

The presentations began with an informative overview of the host area, The Three Ridings or ‘Thridings’ of Yorkshire. The county is 95% green space and, although little survives in relief, it is rich in accessible archaeology due to the agricultural land use - which, to an inquisitive archaeologist, is enough to make you feel extremely envious of simple geographical residency!



The near-by Wolds is an expanse of open well-drained chalk land that has excellent visual crop-mark potential for all who wish to see, with the downside of suffering from extreme damage by some ill-informed and non-recording metal detector users. The area had a lack of local building materials before the 18th century and chalk quarrying was extensive. Chalk is like mud and its past structures rarely, if at all, survive, with the exception of the Flamborough Head Lighthouse built in 1675. Surviving timber buildings in the landscape are regarded as potential ‘indicators’ of past woodland locations.

The society presentations given were highly informative and exceptional in their content but sadly there were too many to comment on individually within this article. Several societies are currently researching and recording local farm buildings and their history and producing publications of their own society origins and history.

The main speaker for the congress theme was Carl Champness (Oxford Archaeology), who gave a very informative presentation on the risk to archaeology from deep ploughing. The statistics show that our ancient past is 42% at threat from agriculture and only 4% from development. A survey compiled from farmers showed that 25% plough deeper than they necessarily should or than they know. Plough depth trials have been taking place and new guidelines are being issued to coach farmers towards more acceptable plough methods and to accommodate the new ‘Heritage Stewardship’ (English Heritage and DEFRA) programme for the protection of archaeology within their land ownership.

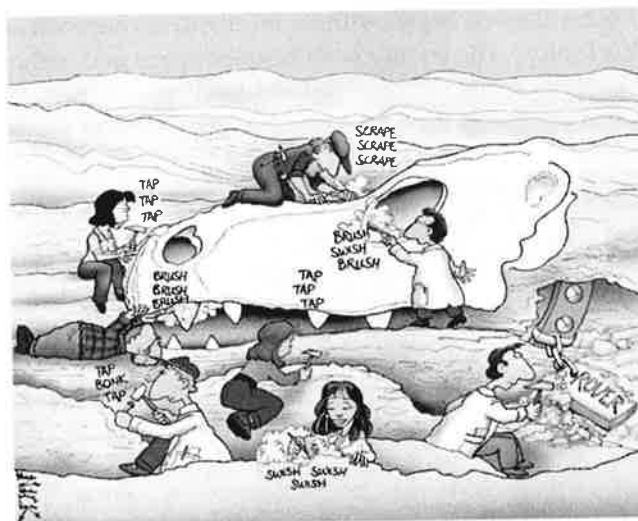
Margaret Nieke, of Natural England, which works in conjunction with DEFRA, presented an update of their programme for the new ‘Environmental Stewardship’ schemes that were launched in 2005. These schemes are an incentive for farmers to provide protection for the whole of their land and not just areas with archaeological interest and to encourage positive management for the protection of the land by reducing cultivation for specific sections. At present 450 hectares of arable land around Stonehenge and Avebury have already been reverted to pasture under this scheme.

As the new ‘Heritage Stewardship’ institution is promoted and pressed forward, through Government, there may potentially be many changes to the British archaeological discipline and to the methods,

directions and permissions that independent societies are sanctioned to continue with. When the question of the inclusion of independent archaeological societies in the new programme was put forward, the answer given by the speakers was sobering as it appears that, at present, the position of the 'independent' has not been individually considered within the submitted White Paper in terms of future laws, rules and guidelines.

This statement and the concluding presentation that 'voiced' concerns for the continuing restrained 'silence' of independent societies up and down the country because of the inaccessibility of their individual work, was further fuelled by Barry Horne (Leighton Buzzard Society) who reported the recent statement made by MP David Lammy, Culture Minister "that metal detectorists were the *unsung heroes of heritage*". I was also surprised to discover that the Portable Antiquities Scheme was not favourably looked upon, by those present, with the exception of Basingstoke and Hendon! Relations between archaeological societies and PAS appear to be strained and the belief that PAS exists purely for an alliance with 'metal detector archaeology' appears to be the main contender and cause of this unease.

The congress closed with a lively debate on the major issues that had been raised, with agreement being reached to use the World Wide Web to greater effect, to bring together an accessible register of independent societies and their works. The serious question of the perceived opinions of individual and institutional bodies and the general public on 'what had our archaeological societies been doing for the past 60 years!?!' and how to progress in the archaeological 21st century to ensure inclusion, standing and decidedly deserved recognition was the lingering thought we all took away with us.



Neolithic News and Bronze Age Breakthroughs

Hampshire Field Club, Archaeology Section, Annual conference
Saturday 17th November, 10 am – 5 pm (registration from 9. 15 am)
Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds' College, Berewecke Rd, Winchester

New Research at Stonehenge & Durrington Walls
Stonehenge – Bones of Contention
Boscombe Down: A Stonehenge Landscape
Cranborne Chase, the Cursus and Sacrificial Burials
Gathering time: building chronologies in the early
Neolithic of Southern Britain

Mike Parker-Pearson
 Julian Richards
 Andrew Fitzpatrick
 Martin Green

Alex Bayliss

Our Society is a member, so if you are not in the Hampshire Field Club yourself and want to go, check with Margaret Porter (01256 356012 or margaretporter333@yahoo.co.uk). If no-one else is going as the Society representative; you can pay £12 for a member rather than £14 for non-members (NB £6 for full time students). Send your booking and payment (to Hampshire Field Club Archaeology Section) to Robin Iles, 75 Hyde Street, Winchester SO23 7DW. Include £6.20 if you wish to book a hot and cold buffet lunch and lunchtime drink. Otherwise you can bring a packed lunch or visit local pubs. Parking on site, at the Owen's Rd entrance, and at the Berewecke Rd entrance.

Japanese Nurses at Netley Hospital during the Great War

Gordon Daniels

Hampshire Field Club, Local History Section, Annual Lecture

Friday, 25th January 2008, 8 pm

Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College, Winchester

Refreshments will be provided from 7.30 p.m.

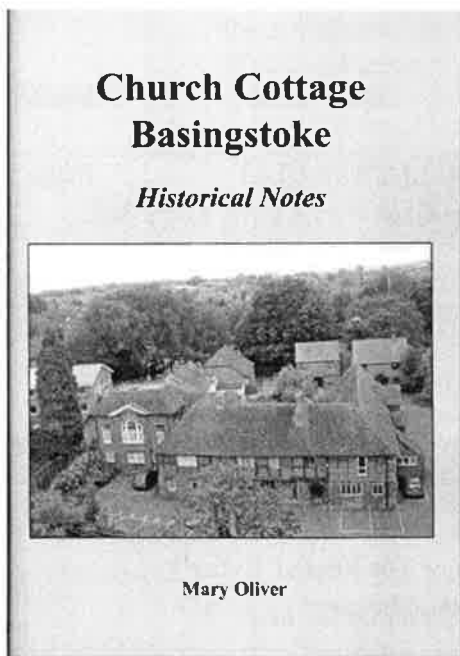
The Local History Section Annual Lecture for 2008 will explore a little-known episode in the history of the county's great military hospital at Netley when a contingent of Japanese nurses served there during the First World War. Our lecturer Dr Gordon Daniels is Reader Emeritus in History at the University of Sheffield and a leading figure in the study of Anglo-Japanese relations. The lecture is open to all and there is no fee. However, because places are limited, if you wish to attend please apply to Sarah Lewin, c/o Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester, SO23 8TH, no later than 18 January 2008, saying how many places, and giving your name, address and telephone number.



CHURCH COTTAGE

Historical Notes

by Mary Oliver



£3.00

From the Willis Museum, St Michael's
Parish Office or at our meetings

RECOMMENDED FOR YOUR BOOKSHELF

This will make a good Christmas present, as will Malcolm Parker's book of Basingstoke photographs and his two little books about Mrs Blunden & Charles Spiers!

Review by Georgina White

I have lived in and around Basingstoke for 47 years and in that time have attended various functions both fun and formal at Church Cottage. At first it was no more than an old building with strange "bits" in it, later as I became older I was aware that this building was probably older and more important to our local history than first appears. So many buildings we see regularly are viewed without any real understanding of their history and function. What this small book does is unwrap layers of history for this building, it feels like dust is being blown away to show a more vibrant, living picture than one had before. It has gathered together work, research, opinion and photographs to bring the story of Church Cottage and the people who have used it to a new readership. The book is affordable and engaging, no matter if you study timber framed buildings, are supporting children in local history projects, like stories about local communities or are just plain curious this book has something for everyone. Readable, informative, like the building, a little gem.

CALENDAR

Tues 13 Nov	AGM and Christmas Party	FBH
Thurs 15 Nov	AGM (7 pm) and TALES OF A WORKING WINDMILL Gavin Bowie	FWM
Sat 17 Nov	CONFERENCE AND AGM, Archaeology Section: <i>Neolithic News and Bronze Age Breakthroughs</i> (page 10)	HFC
Thurs 13 Dec	CHRISTMAS PARTY (page 2)	BAHS*
Tues 8 Jan	LORD WILLIAM SANDYS – LORD CHAMBERLAIN TO HENRY VIII John Jenkins	FBH
Thurs 10 Jan	A MEDIEVAL HOUSEHOLD: SIMON & ELEANOR DE MONTFORT AT ODIHAM CASTLE Rupert Willoughby	BAHS*
Sat 19/Sun 20 Jan	FOAM (page 4)	BAHS
Fri 25 Jan	JAPANESE NURSES AT NETLEY HOSPITAL DURING THE GREAT WAR Gordon Daniel (page 11)	HFC
Sat/Sun 9/10 Feb	Archaeology 2008 (page 4)	
Tues 12 Feb	EARLY PORTABLE HOSPITALS OF THE BRITISH EMPIRE Dr Eric Gruber von Arni	FBH
Thurs 14 Feb	LORDS AND HALLS IN ROMAN HAMPSHIRE Prof. Sir Barry Cunliffe	BAHS*
Sat 16/Sun 17 Feb	FOAM (page 4)	BAHS
Tues 11 Mar	THE WILLOW OF BASING – WILLIAM PAULET Alan Turton	FBH
Thurs 13 Mar	RECENT EXCAVATIONS AT THE HENGE AND CIRCLE, BROOMEND OF CRICHIE Amanda Clarke	BAHS*
21 Mar	Basing House opens for 2008	

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
HFC	Hampshire Field Club

BAHS Secretary: Margaret Porter 01256 356012

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

Registered Charity No. 1000263

Please note editor's new e-mail address: barbara.applin@btinternet.com