

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



## NEWSLETTER 183

May 2008

### CONTENTS

- Page 2* SOCIETY OUTINGS
- Page 3* FIELDWORK REPORT  
BENEATH BASINGSTOKE DVD  
THE MAKING OF BASINGSTOKE
- Page 4* Michael Dixon
- Page 5* BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY; *MERCY SHIPS & AFRICA*  
IFA Annual Conference for Archaeologists at Swansea
- Page 7* If you Realise Your Ambitions You have Nothing Left Or  
How I Went to Pompeii & Vesuvius
- Page 10* Believe It or Not!
- Page 11* WARG  
A New Book from TADS
- Page 12* CALENDAR



*Photo Nicola Turton*

# Society Outings

## **Chawton House Library and Gardens Friday 11<sup>th</sup> July at 2 pm**

***Reminder!***

Chawton House Library is a charity with a unique collection of books focusing on women's writing in English from 1600 to 1830. This specialist collection is set in the home and working estate of Jane Austen's brother at Chawton near Alton. We meet at 2pm at Chawton House for a guided tour of the house and library which normally takes about one and a half hours. For more details and directions on how to find the House see [www.chawton.org](http://www.chawton.org) Jane Austen's house and Chawton Church (where Jane Austen's mother and sister are buried) are both nearby. Chawton village also has an excellent gastro pub for anyone requiring somewhere to lunch.



The guided tour has to be pre-booked at £9.50 per head and refreshments will be made available after the tour at an additional £2.50 per head (on a group basis). If you wish to join in, please contact Ginny, together with your payment. If you have any questions, contact her on 01420 550028 or at [ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk](mailto:ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk).

## **Visit to Silchester Excavations Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> July**

***Reminder!***

As usual, meet at the car park at 6 pm for 6.30. (remember, it's quite a long walk to the site).

## **Stonehenge Riverside Project 2008**

During September we will be visiting this year's excavations at the Stonehenge Riverside Project. The Project itself is still in the planning stages, so we are as yet unable to publish an exact date for our visit, but suffice to say it is most likely to be a Saturday morning in mid September.

Run in collaboration between Sheffield University, Manchester University, Bournemouth University, Bristol University, (is there a university not involved?), University College London, and Wessex Archaeology, the Project has received much attention throughout the media for Professor Mike Parker-Pearson's interpretation of the site as being divided into two zones; for the living and the dead.

The last couple of seasons' excavations have seen the exciting discovery of Neolithic floors, similar in layout to those better preserved at Skara Brae in the Orkneys, together with indications of what may have been buildings used for ritual purposes overlooking the River Avon. This year's excavations are likely to be concentrated nearer Stonehenge itself, and provide an exciting opportunity to experience at first-hand the latest findings in this huge jigsaw puzzle of prehistory.

The timing of the next newsletter makes it difficult to publish the date of our visit in plenty of time for everyone, so if you are interested, then contact Ginny as above so she can keep you posted.

## **Fieldwork Report**

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

We carried out three field walks during January and February in the North Waltham area and reports have been written up. We hope to walk other fields in the same area either in late summer or at the beginning of 2009.

The F.O.A.M. weekends at Odiham Castle have successfully reclaimed the moat from the undergrowth and I'd recommend a visit to see its shapely curves and the newly restored castle.

**There will be a dig at Basing House, run by David Allen, from 24<sup>th</sup> May to 15<sup>th</sup> June.** The objective is to finish off excavations on the moat of Basing House, which may yield some interesting finds. Please contact me for application forms. Watch out in the August Newsletter for information on our annual training dig at Worting.

If you are interested in any of these activities or would like to be put on the fieldwork e-mail list, please contact me by phone or email.

***Congratulations to Mark, David Allen, Marjolein  
Mussellwhite and the Fieldwork team  
for a memorable seminar on the Society's work!      Ed***

### **BENEATH BASINGSTOKE**

***Our Video is now available on DVD,  
price £12.***

We have longer-term plans to make an accompanying DVD on what has happened "Beneath Basingstoke" since the video came out. We would like to set up a sub-committee for this, and members who are not on the main committee will be welcome to join it. Is there anyone who has expertise, or simply an interest, in scripting, filming or just helping to organise this? The first stage is to collect material on recent work and to capture film of current and future excavations and fieldwork.

Contact Margaret Porter 01256 356012 or [margaretporter.333@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaretporter.333@yahoo.co.uk)

### **THE MAKING OF BASINGSTOKE**

**From Prehistory to the Present**

***Eric Stokes***

***Edited by Bob & Barbara Applin***

A major new book!

We are hoping to have it available to buy at the AGM in June.

Price to be confirmed

## Michael Dixon

*Peter Heath*

I am sorry to report the death of Michael Dixon, a society member for many years. Although retiring to Eastbourne almost twenty years ago, he continued his membership, keeping contact through the Society's Newsletter and very occasionally visiting our town.



Michael started life in Redbourne, Hertfordshire but at four years old moved to Tamworth and spent his early years on his uncle's farm. No doubt his love of the countryside stemmed from those early days, continuing throughout his working life.

Michael left school to work in a corn chandlers' but with the outbreak of the Second World War volunteered for the Royal Air Force, much to the dismay of his family. He could have remained at home in a protected occupation. His Royal Air Force service took him to the Far East and I remember him telling me that he would never buy anything Japanese (I had just shown him my camera) after the appalling atrocities he had witnessed. He had no wish to talk about his experiences.

Returning from the Services, he enrolled at an agricultural college and, finishing his studies, joined the Southern Counties Agricultural Trading Society (SCATS); he remained with them until his retirement, ending his time with SCATS as Managing Director. He travelled extensively in southern England, providing farmers with animal food and with fertilizers. He also helped to develop computer programs for farmers to control their animal feedstuffs.

Michael's travels enabled him to see many field monuments and he was joined by his first wife, Stella, in an interest in archaeology. They were particularly intrigued by the Iron Age and gave support to Peter Reynolds in his Butser Hill project. In later years Michael's health prevented him from carrying out field work as often as he would have liked but his enthusiasm for archaeology remained.

Sadly, Stella died before Michael retired. After some years, Michael found happiness with his second wife, Anna. They moved to Eastbourne after his retirement, but with Sussex archaeology centred on Lewes, he was unable to get involved. Anna and Michael, however, were fortunate to have some twenty years together.

In the last year of his life Michael had been quite ill and, after a spell in a nursing home, went to his daughter's home near Bury St Edmunds. Anna had had several heart attacks and was unable to nurse him.

Jean and I attended his funeral and, as Michael had no religious beliefs, the humanist ceremony was conducted by a Civil Celebrant. It was, none-the-less, a moving experience and as we left the chapel a recording was played of country sounds culminating in the song of a blackbird. No doubt Michael would have approved.

Michael died in February 2008.

The interviews we have recorded have already been used in some books, newspaper articles, talks and displays – and some put out on the BBC website THE PEOPLE'S WAR. A new outcome is a fund-raising event we are planning on 21<sup>st</sup> May, and we hope members will give us plenty of support. Since the publication of TAKING THE PULSE OF BASINGSTOKE, we have been continuing the Health theme, so Jan Patterson interviewed Dr Keith Thomson, consultant anaesthetist at North Hants Hospital, who has been out 19 times to Mercy Ships docked in African ports to carry out anaesthetics in their state-of-the art operating theatres. Tickets available at BAHS meetings, or ring Jan (see below):

## **Mercy Ships and Africa**

*A Talk by Dr Keith Thomson, (consultant anaesthetist, North Hants Hospital) to raise money for Mercy Ships*

7.30 pm, Wednesday, 21<sup>st</sup> May 2008  
at St Joseph's Church, St Michael's Rd,  
South Ham, Basingstoke RG22 6TY

**Raffle                      Display**

**Tickets £2.50** (including tea/coffee/soft drink & cakes) **Phone 01256 842138 Or on the door**



## **IFA Annual Conference for Archaeologists at Swansea**

**Debz Charlton**

*As the 'professional group' of archaeology has been coming under some strong criticism of late and regarded as being separate, uncooperative, serious and distant, I hope you will indulge me a little as I would like to report on the lighter side of the conference as well as the 'business in hand' side.*

The annual conference of 2008 was held in March and hosted by Swansea University. The setting of the university is exceptional and you merely have to cross the road from the campus to be on the sandy bay. Very early each morning the sands (which could not be resisted) were transformed by an unusual form of 'persons' who have a peculiar behavioural condition of walking up and down with their heads bowed .....yes you have it .....the 'diggers' were in town!

*Photograph by Debz  
one beautiful early morning*



The conference was sponsored by the 'Royal Commissions on the Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland and Wales in celebration of their joint centenary' (*IFA – Institute of Field Archaeologists*). The opening address was met with a fair amount of good natured boos and jeers from the English contingent present, as it was immediately pointed out (in fact, several times) that England had 'questionably and perhaps foolishly' separated from the Royal Commission at the young age of 93ish to become 'a part' of English Heritage.

'Diggers' (an affectionate term that has been applied to IFA delegates by the cities who host the annual gathering) require essential social activities when brought together (purely for unhindered debate of methods, technology and theory agreement and disagreement) and this year 3 wine receptions were arranged and of course the annual 'party' evening.....photography is definitely discouraged at this function to avoid any potential 'innocent' disclosure of individuals 'disco' dancing or subsequent resulting law suits!

The main wine reception was sponsored by Towergate Risk Solutions and was held in the new National Waterfront Museum. The museum was built as part of the regeneration work around the docks. As you know, I have a strong passion for museums and there is something particularly satisfying about being allowed to explore at your ease, with a glass of wine, after hours, not to mention having approximately 500 to 550 archaeological experts at hand to freely explain and provide information about anything you don't understand or wish to know more about.

There are many varied talks available throughout the 3 day conference and I can only speak about the ones I chose to attend. The 1<sup>st</sup> day afternoon session of talks I shall return to later.

The theme of the conference was very much geared to the archaeological 'digital age'. Landscape survey was strongly emphasised with regard to archaeological adaptation of GIS (Geographic Information System), geophysical survey methods and LIDAR (Light Detection and Ranging - an airborne mapping technique) being the main contenders for discussion. As you can imagine I had difficulty in choosing which talks to attend as they were all 'right up my archaeological path' and I wished to hear most of them.

Digitalisation is not only affecting our methods of gathering archaeological information but also has given birth to a wide range of systems that we now use to record, report, present and most importantly archive resulting data. The digital archaeological archive for the country is already massive and growing daily and speakers talked of 'the early 21<sup>st</sup> century having the potential to becoming a dark age of digital archaeological data' (*Headland*). The other strong warning was that proper storage would have to be provided or we are in danger of 'digitally' losing the plot. I am reporting this serious matter lightly due to space for this short article as I have too much to say on the matter!

'Artefacts, Geomatics and Landscapes' my favourites in one afternoon session, which I couldn't resist. These talks were strongly set within the use of GIS and its application for spatial data and artefacts. Again, digitalisation was running strongly through the centre and the recent near miss of almost losing PAS (Portable Antiquities Service) and all its digital data which is archaeologically used 'chiefly for distribution of our past rather than value of an object' (*Kings College London*) was firmly brought into the lime light. Thankfully PAS has now been saved (personal conversations informed that the IFA 'professionals' played a large part in this action) and hopefully will no longer have to contend with fighting for funding to remain in existence. It was an interesting and very informative session that ended with the last (running late) speaker giving the session a completely intriguing twist!

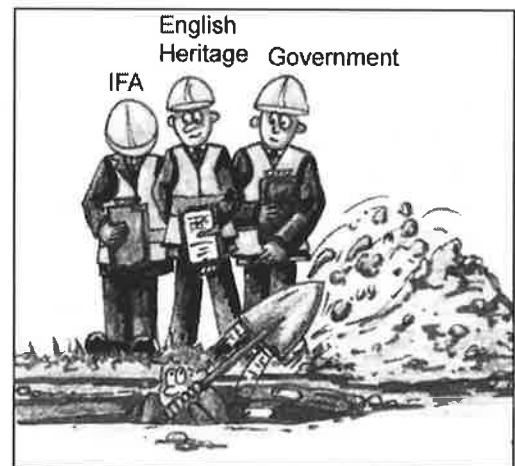
Mid end of session debate, this highly charismatic individual suddenly appeared before us and we were all transported to a Harry Potter film. It just had to be a very tall 'Dumbledore' complete with a very large multi-capped waterproof coat!! The talk was of excavation, GIS, how to and definitely how not to digitally record your data from a 'field archaeologist' point of view; refreshing, interesting and highly informative and I have never heard, nor joined, so much laughter during a presentation before. The lateness meant that there was no time for the complete presentation and we were asked by the speaker if we minded staying longer as "two \*\*\*\*\* days of life and sweat had been given to



preparing the presentation for our sole enjoyment, not to mention over 24hrs of travel, and it was going to be given". A unanimous yes to staying was returned (even though free wine was waiting for us), it was simply too good a presentation to miss.....besides we might have been turned into spiders or frogs if we had disagreed! (May come under the Archaeology of Magic).

Archaeological evaluation techniques sessions took up the rest of my choices and I heard an amusing and interesting comment on the reason for the apparent bias of the record for clay substrata. Apparently one of the main reasons is a simple 'digger' issue....we hate to dig it and prefer to leave it alone with the view that it stands up to reasonable evaluation, that if we don't like it today then they didn't like it in the past either. Scientific archaeological reasoning and evaluation does not always win, it seems! The talks ended, for me at least, on 'the argument for a consistent approach' and 'the unnecessary confusion caused by individualism in approach' (*Under Construction*). As a member who is a fringe spectator of the 'professional' core it was time to put on my protective safety equipment as the debate severely heated up with the 50/50 attendance of 'suited' Project Managers who say they are planning what will be done and the 'booted' Field Archaeologists who say they are happy for them to plan but will carry it out in the manner they consider archaeologically correct. No change there then!

This brings me back to the 1<sup>st</sup> session of talks 'the future of the IFA'. You may wonder how it affects the Society, and at the moment I am unable to say directly. The 'White Paper' on Heritage and Archaeology was firmly walked through parliamentary procedures and the Draft Bill (all 500 pages or more....*double groan!*) published on April 2<sup>nd</sup>. I have presented my thoughts and comments in writing and at present I am awaiting a reply from the IFA on what 'implemented' changes there will be for individuals and independent societies and I shall report these as and when I am able to. Unfortunately all I can say, at the moment, is that change is definitely due to come into force and a form of 'big brother' may be watching our future activity, is in the air ..... or should that be in the earth!?!



*ArchArt- Adapted by Debz*

## If You Realise Your Ambitions You Have Nothing Left to Hope For, or How I Went to Pompeii and Vesuvius

*Nicola Turton*

**31<sup>st</sup> January** To be above the clouds is like being a god, and I was especially thrilled to pass over the Alps. This is clearly going to be a list of superlatives, but the Alps Were Magnificent. As we neared Naples, I spotted a large hill and could scarce breathe thinking it was Vesuvius, but then an even bigger one hove into view and I fainted. We reached Naples and quickly took to the city, walking and walking through tiny streets fringed by even smaller alleys. Buzzed by scooters and hooted at by cars, and all we could do was look about in wonder. The buildings are often hundreds of years old, broken down and crumbling, but beautiful and vast, and trimmed with washing that looks like bunting. Alan and I were delighted to find a tall brick and tile tower, studded with fragments of Roman marble; bits of capitals and possibly a Roman altar. Finally, we ended up by Castle Nuovo. As with much of Italy, we were rendered speechless by the massiveness of the castle. I mean it was *huge*, beyond human scale. I especially liked a cartoon-like splat on one side, presumably caused by some hefty missile but I don't know when or why.

**Friday** A glorious day with blue skies and enchanting vistas as we visited the amphitheatre at Puteoli; supposedly the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest of the Roman world, and littered with bits of columns and marble, and looking like the architectural reclamations place at Hungerford. By train then to Castle Baia, another dominant castle, housing in one wing the very impressive finds from the area. We then walked into the small town of Pacoli for lunch. Most places were closed, but we found a café whose owner was greatly cheered on that quiet afternoon to see a group of 13 people, but nearly lost us when it emerged that he didn't serve food. But, full of initiative, he got pizzas from next door! It was further complicated by the fact that he only spoke Italian or French. But beers came and pizza, and were quite delicious!

Wandering off into the afternoon, we thought to catch the Archaeological Bus to another site, but it didn't come, though we changed bus stops and ran after the wrong bus, before finally giving up and returning to Napoli, where someone had the happy thought to take the funicular up to Castle Sant'Elmo. You've got the hang of it by now; another neck wrenching, huge goggling edifice. We took the lift to the parapet and walked round, cameras snapping the bay in the soft blue dusk with Naples and the distant islands twinkling away. We finally all piled into the lift to descend, and were so busy chatting that we didn't realise we weren't moving. Then the lights went out, and Louise's scream rent the air as she embraced death. But movement brought the lights back on, and we soberly descended, having pressed the button!

**Saturday** We met our guide for a tour of Underground Naples, which started in a tiny, typical house, where underneath a trap door were steps down to part of a Roman Theatre where Nero had performed. The houses are so higgledy piggledy that one house has a window opening into the ruins, and the old lady living there used to chat to the visitors and offer refreshments, until the Underground Naples people nailed the window shut so she can't do it any more. After the theatre, we went into the Greek-Roman tunnels and cisterns, exploring 1km of 400km. There used to be wells for the water, but after the 19<sup>th</sup> century cholera epidemic, the water was drained and people dumped building waste down the wells. When it was needed for bomb shelters, the authorities had to bring machines down and compress the rubbish. In the tunnels are very narrow passages to increase water pressure, and we lit candles and squeezed along one to a chamber which still has water in it.

When we finished, the guide recommended a church nearby of the Cult of Purgatory. Mary said 'Don't go, it's the stuff of nightmares.' But we went anyway, and boy, she was right! We descended to an odd monochrome copy of the church above, then past a glass box on the wall filled with bones and faded artificial flowers, and into a larger space with a drop down to dim and dreadful depths at



one end, in which piles of bones could be discerned. Along either side were 6' wide earthen beds. Each of these 'flower beds' had six body shaped and sized mounds in them, and if one looked too closely, well, one didn't. All around the walls were shrines made of bathroom tiles, each stuffed with bones, faded photographs and dusty relics such as the deceased's glasses and so on. I can't stress enough how awful it was. Thinking about it afterwards, it was the sheer ordinariness of the tiles, and so on, but all imbued with an air of great corruption. Alan says it was like pictures he saw of the Rillington Place bathroom.

Alan didn't care to stop for lunch and we sped off to the Naples Archaeological Museum. Much was closed but it was still spectacular: mosaics and frescos, statues and so many glorious items from Pompeii. We even went and looked at the Rude Collection, which is now open to anyone, but it wasn't terribly offensive. Better than rude things, I found Louise who gave me a cake! In one of the rooms, I was sitting on a bench and had the feeling that



someone was looking at me. I turned and met the creepy eyes of a black bronze of a running boy. From where I sat he was lurching towards me, and I was quite startled.

It was raining as we left Naples that evening, but by the time we reached Sorrento it was like having water poured on us. It was only 10 minutes walk to the hotel but we got soaked. Poor Alan couldn't have been wetter if he'd sat in a bath with his bag. The pavements are appalling; the kerbs are about 10" high and constantly punctuated by trees, phone boxes and so on, so that it's impossible to walk more than a few paces without recourse to the road. We got to the hotel and they were brilliant, speeding us to our rooms, and promptly serving a 4 course dinner. The chef came and commiserated with us, and I said that I'd never seen such heavy rain. 'Thank you,' he said! It was such a nice place, relaxed and friendly. The next morning pappa could be seen picking oranges in the garden, which moments later were juiced and on the table, and it was liquid sunshine. There was also sunshine orange jam, for our freshly made croissants.

Then off to Herculaneum, to be amazed by the survivals of the catastrophe, especially the remarkable bath house which is usually locked. I very much liked the Villa of the Screens, where a great stretch of screens across one end of a villa have survived, albeit carbonised. When the Bourbons started to discover and pillage the sites in the 18<sup>th</sup> century, one of their tunnels went right through the screen, taking out several of the central panels. Only a fairly small part of Herculaneum has been excavated, as much of it is under the modern town. I'd move them off and get digging right away.

The day was so clear that we then decided to go up Vesuvius, so we found a man with a mini bus. Forget Health and Safety, we all crammed in; most of us on proper seats but one on an office chair, and one on the wheel arch, along those curvy roads and steep inclines! Due to a strike, the top of the volcano was closed, but when we got up there, seeing the coast was clear, the driver said that for another €5 each, he'd show us where the hole in the fence was! I'm not sure how far we climbed, but I made heavy weather of it. Alan was quite quickly ahead of me, and soon I felt like Tantalus, as he waited for me, only to move off again as I got near. But it was worth it; the views across the bay to the distant misty islands were ravishing, and it was jolly interesting to peep into the crater and see spouts of steam, and just wonder...

**Monday** It seems odd that a disaster which happened nearly 2000 years ago is still bringing people in to rubber-neck, but here we were, Pompeii at last and the sun shone on the golden and white stone and marble. I loved how complete the buildings were; far more so than I had expected. The roads are made of skilfully placed pieces of volcanic rock; think Giant's Causeway, but smaller. They are rounded and not easy to walk on, and the pavements are sometimes more than a foot higher. In some parts of the road are large oval stones to use as stepping stones to the other side. Having experienced the rain in Sorrento, we presume that it was just as heavy then. Vesuvius watched over everything and it was so beautiful. At the airport Alan bought a Pompeii and Herculaneum DVD, and one of the final comments is how you carry it in your heart forever, and it seems we're doing just that.

By the way, as we passed a bakery in Pompeii, I said 'What sort of bread did they make at Pompeii?' The answer is of course, Lava Bread. Ta da!

Each morning we took Circumvesuviano train. Imagine a William Morris print of bright oranges or lemons against a mass of dark leaves, and you have some idea of the great swathes of citrus groves we constantly passed. Tuesday saw us reduced in numbers; two had gone home and several were still abed from the excesses of the night before. I would have died before I'd miss anything, and so off we went to Oplontis. Surrounding it is a cliff showing the strata of the different sorts of volcanic deposit, and I spent some time peering closely at it, and the villa's not bad either!

If it was afternoon, it must be Stabia. It was Shrove Tuesday for us, and clearly a festival day for the Italians. The little children were all dressed up, from pirates to Princesses, Robin Hoods to Ladybirds. And to my amazement, we saw a tiny toddler in a black dress with padding fore and aft. She had a white apron and a white scarf round her head, ends tucked in at the front. And best of all, her face blacked! Alan put on a black mamma voice and said 'I'se a-coming.' Oh well, when in Rome...

We talked to some young men on motor bikes, who said we wanted Red Bus No 1 to take us to the villas in the hills, but it didn't come. A very steep climb up a fairly short road later we reached Villa Arianne, which had the most complete room decoration we'd seen. The approach had not been very promising, along a dusty track to a builder's hut, but a couple of Corinthian capitals encouraged us. By dint of following our noses, as the signs were no help, we then found Villa St Marco. And that was the villa of my heart. If I ever lived in the past it was there. Glorious rooms, wonderful frescos, and a haunting and eerie atmosphere. I lost everyone else and had it all to myself. We'd approached down a farm track and the dogs we'd disturbed along the hill road were barking off into the distance, and a chap came and peered at us, but no-one asked for money or waved a shot gun! It was a really tatty farm, with a horse neighing in a stall little bigger than an elevator, and rusting equipment all over the place. Julian said 'Ah, the EU farming policy at its finest!'



All at once it was going home day. Alan, Louise and I went to Pompeii again to see the parts we'd missed, including the Villa of the Mysteries. One thing we had noticed was the lack of retail opportunities at the sites, and so were pleased to see Trottero Indipendato Tradoro. Louise and Alan bought some books, and I bought two small statues, real ones, of course (!) Italy seems chronically short of change, so before committing myself, I asked if he could change a €50 note. He grinned at me, and said confidentially, 'Madam, I can change 500.' And winked at me! Whilst there I used the loo and smiled to see a sign saying 'Nothing is due to the cleaners'.

All too soon we collected our luggage, got the train to Naples, the bus to the airport, the plane to Gatwick, the bus to the car park, the car to Basing.

And next year...?

## BELIEVE IT OR NOT!

*Peter Stone*

UKTV Gold/'Daily Telegraph' polls have revealed that 20% of teenagers believe Winston Churchill to be a fictitious character, 47% think Richard the Lionheart a mythical character and 25% believe that Florence Nightingale never existed. Furthermore 65% believe King Arthur was a real historical person, 51% that Robin Hood really lived in Sherwood Forest and 58% that a real-life Sherlock Holmes solved crimes from a flat in Baker Street (*'Poll Watch' from 'The Week' 9<sup>th</sup> February 2008*).

A school teacher on a recent arranged visit to Basing House was overheard to remark that she was unaware that England had experienced civil war. However, before members begin to feel smug about the superior quality of their historical knowledge compared with the young (to say nothing of that of present day teachers) I suggest the following 'true or false' test. The material has been obtained exclusively as the result of a Department of Education leak in advance of publication of further planned revisions to the national curriculum and final examinations at teachers training colleges. It is understood that the aim of the revisions, when put into practice, would be to ensure a level playing field for teachers and pupils alike.

- 1 Palaeolithic people were so-called because they spent too much time living in dark caves.
- 2 Henry VIII executed Thomas Cromwell when he was told that he could not enter the Flanders Mare in the Oaks.
- 3 During the Great Fire of London, 1666, a layer of soot accumulated on the Albert Memorial; thereafter the late Consort of Queen Victoria became popularly known as the Black Prince.
- 4 The Lords Appellant were Australian Test cricketers who called for an England batsman to be dismissed every time the ball passed on delivery directly to the wicket-keeper.
- 5 Friar Tuck wrote the original recipe for a Big Mac.
- 6 The Anglo-Irish Treaty 1921 was signed for the Irish by Phil Collins
- 7 Henry Percy founded the first football club in north London in the late 14<sup>th</sup> century.
- 8 'The Sun King' title was applied to Louis XIV when his private life was exposed by the tabloid press in late seventeenth century France.
- 9 The Dark Ages was a period during the Second World War when street lighting was severely restricted to disadvantage enemy aircraft attacking urban areas at night.
- 10 The Lords Despenser were granted financial privileges by Edward II for inventing hole in the wall cash machines. [Do not confuse with (4) above]
- 11 The Levellers were a 1960s pop group who took the title because all its members considered themselves equal since none of them could sing, play an instrument or read a note of music.
- 12 'Carry on Cleo' was a film scripted by William Shakespeare that was made famous by the actors Julius Caesar and Mark Antony who respectively played Kenneth Williams and Sid James.
- 13 Eamon de Valera was the first Spanish manager of the Irish Women's Gaelic football squad.
- 14 Winnie Mandela, not Nelson, commanded the English fleet at Trafalgar.
- 15 Queen Anne granted the title 'Duke of Marlborough' to the tobacco baron John Churchill in recognition of his services to Formula One motor racing.
- 16 Among changes to the British way of life following the Roman conquest was the introduction of cornflakes to the breakfast table by the first century governor Petillius Cerialis.
- 17 The marching song 'John Brown's Body' (music W E Gladstone lyrics B Disraeli) was first heard at an early Isle of Wight Pop Festival. Queen Victoria was not amused.
- 18 The Battle of Bosworth Field was lost when a knight misheard Richard III and gave him a packet of tablets for a sore throat.
- 19 Jane Austen originally planned a series of novels of three-word titles with the first and third words beginning with the same letter taken from the second half of the alphabet. She dropped the idea when she discovered the letter 'X'.
- 20 King Alfred and Joan of Arc both discontinued work experience in the catering trade after Alfred burnt the cakes and Joan burnt the steak

To those of us who are parents and grandparents, take heed: all this and perhaps more could soon be laying the foundations of historical consciousness for a teenager near you.

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**WARG – for Winchester Archaeology & Local History will be continuing its excavations on land to the south of St Cross Hospital, Winchester between Saturday August 2<sup>nd</sup> until Sunday August 17<sup>th</sup>. Anyone wishing to take part in this dig will need to be a member of WARG (for insurance purposes), which costs £10 per annum or £18 for 2 people living at the same address. Membership runs from April 1<sup>st</sup> to March 31<sup>st</sup>. The daily dig cost will be £10 per person and tea / coffee will be included in this cost. Further details can be obtained from: Julia Sandison [julia@ntcom.co.uk](mailto:julia@ntcom.co.uk) 22 Clifton Road, Winchester SO22 5BP**

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**A new book from TADS**

***An enhanced version of Florence Davidson's 1913 "History of Tadley"***

# CALENDAR

Thurs 15 May	UPSTAIRS, DOWNSTAIRS AT HACKWOOD PARK Brian Spicer	FWM
Wed 21 May	<b>MERCY SHIPS AND AFRICA</b> Fund-raising talk organised by our Basingstoke Talking History Group, 7.30 pm at St Joseph's Church, St Michael's Rd, South Ham ( <i>see page 5</i> )	BAHS
<b>24 May to 15 June</b>	<b>BASING HOUSE EXCAVATIONS</b> ( <i>see page 3</i> )	
Sun 8 June	Visit to Archaeological sites on Salisbury Plain	HFC
<b>Thurs 12 June</b>	<b>AGM and Members' talks</b>	<b>BAHS*</b>
Sun 22 June	Historic Buildings Section visit to Southampton	HFC
Sun 22 June	Tour the Works – guided tour of the surviving defences, Basing House (3 pm from The Kiosk)	
<b>Fri 11 July</b>	<b>VISIT TO CHAWTON HOUSE</b> ( <i>see page 2</i> )	<b>BAHS</b>
Sat 12 July	Local History Section visit to Nether Wallop & Houghton Lodge	HFC
<b>Thurs 24 July</b>	<b>VISIT TO SILCHESTER</b> ( <i>see page 2</i> )	<b>BAHS</b>
2-17 Aug	WARG excavation ( <i>see page 11</i> )	
Sat/Sun 9/10 Aug	Meet an English Civil War soldier, Basing House from 2 pm	
<b>September (tba)</b>	<b>STONEHENGE RIVERSIDE PROJECT Visit</b> ( <i>see page 2</i> )	<b>BAHS</b>
Thurs 6 September	Oliver Cromwell talk, 3 pm in the Bothy, Basing House	
Thurs 18 Sept	EVACUEES AT THE VYNE Nigel Beazley	FWM
Sat 27 Sept	THE CIVIL WAR & THE HAMPSHIRE LANDSCAPE Conference & AGM Landscape Section, 10 – 5 pm	HFC
Sat 4 Oct	Local History Section AGM, Hook & Warsash	HFC
Thurs 16 Oct	AGM	FWM

<b>BAHS</b>	<b>Our Society</b>	<b>* 7.30 pm at Church Cottage</b>
FBH	Friends of Basing House, unless otherwise stated, 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 at Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College, Owens Rd, Winchester	

**BAHS Secretary: Margaret Porter 01256 356012**

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

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