

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY




## NEWSLETTER 185

November 2008

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What's the Hogget? And what was it?

*Annual subscription was due on 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.*



# Christmas Party

7.30 pm. Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> December, Church Cottage, Basingstoke  
£1.50 (includes first drink)

Our seasonal get-together with members and friends, with a glass of wine or soft drink and a finger buffet. Our special guest, Derek Wren, opens the evening with a preview of his DVD *The Story of Basingstoke*, followed by our special quizzes and a raffle. Offers to help to prepare or supply buffet food will be very welcome (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.

## FIELDWORK REPORT

*Mark Peryer – 01256 780502 or mperyer@f2s.com*

We held a training excavation at Worting over the weekend of the 20<sup>th</sup>/21<sup>st</sup> September in what seemed to me like one of the best weekends for weather this summer. There was a good turn-out, which was just as well, since we uncovered a large area inside the top corner of the square enclosure with a mechanical digger on the Friday before. We were joined by new and old friends who enjoyed a variety of learning experiences ranging from trowelling, through taking levels and planning.

In terms of research aims, the objective of this year's dig was to establish whether there were any signs of occupation inside the square enclosure. To this end we dug a 15 x 5 m trench to uncover a reasonable area. By lunch time on the Saturday, there were some suspicious signs emerging in the chalk, suggesting a shallow drainage ditch around a hut. However, by Sunday lunch time the excitement was over as the feature revealed itself to be a natural gully in the chalk. Therefore, what we can say is that this large area of the enclosure yielded the same as all the other smaller trenches that have been put across the rest of the enclosure interior – no signs of activity.

At the July committee meeting the committee authorised some expenditure on some new fieldwork equipment to bring us more up to date. One of the items was a handheld GPS unit, not one of those things that bosses you around in cars, but one where you can record your position to within a few metres. I bought one of these GPS units and tried it out on another Saturday in September, in an experimental field walk using the GPS unit for recording the position of finds. We threw away our canes and tapes and wandered freely across the field, leaving plastic bags to mark the place of surface finds. I kept the number of participants low because it was an experiment, and it was just as well because the process was so efficient that the bottleneck turned out to be in the recording. I recorded something like 250 samples over 5 hours. Once these were downloaded onto the computer I was able to super-impose the find spots over a map of the crop marks in the field. After this experience, I am convinced that this is the way to go, but next time there will be a few more GPS units and people doing the recording. Once all the follow-up work is complete, I'll share the results at one of the coming meetings.

We are still intending to do some more fieldwalks (GPS, no cane grids) and some woodland archaeology in the Spring, landowners and crop cycles permitting.

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 e-mail (see above):

## A Week at Silchester

*Louise Sheldon*

Amid great excitement and last minute tent hunting, I finally arrived at Silchester. It was a beautiful sunny evening, which thankfully remained that way for the entire week. As I had never erected a tent in my life, Amanda Clark and John Tierney kindly organised some help for me, and some veteran campers came and built what was to be my house for the next week. I then took a stroll around the walls of the Roman Town, and I found it easy to see why the Iron Age people chose this spot to settle. On my return, I was offered a lift to the hub of village life, the *Calleva Arms*. Along with the *Red Lion*, this is where most students spent their evenings after a hard day in the trench!



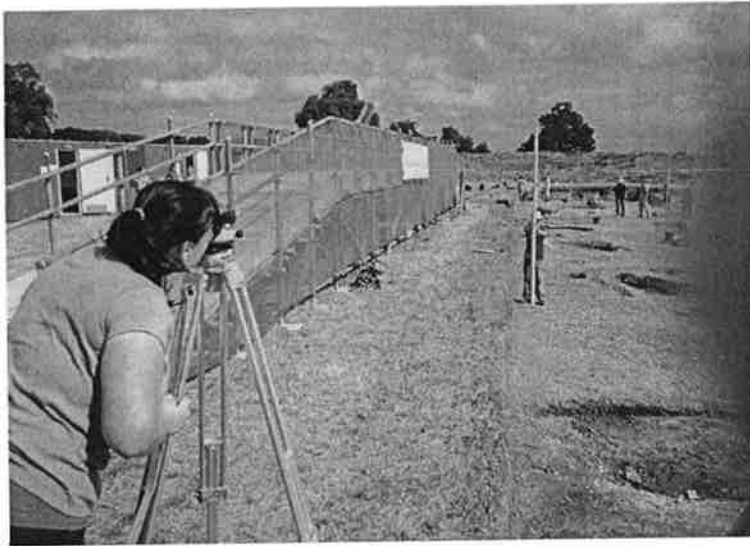
The first day on site, and we were all given our introductory lectures, and shown around the site; all invaluable to a newcomer, or a refresher to old hands.

A particular well was creating quite a stir, and I later found out that they had hoped some Roman wine barrels would be at the bottom, along with who knows what treasures! This particular well was actually inside a larger well, and it was thought that the barrels may have been put in to stop it from completely collapsing in on itself.

The finds lecture on the first day also proved very helpful on what to put, and just as importantly, what not to put in the finds trays.

As this was the first week of the dig, the first couple of days involved 'cleaning up the site' before any real archaeology could begin. Unfortunately, a year's worth of wind and rain had left a couple of inches of silt on top of the open site, and this all had to be cleaned away.

It was on the first afternoon of the clean-up that I found a nice piece of Samian Ware with a partial maker's stamp. As it was broken and incomplete, I did not realise how important it was and just hoofed it into the finds tray for cleaning. It was only later that the lady who ran the finds hut told me that the little piece of fine pottery was actually quite important and could be used as dating evidence. I then registered the piece with small finds, feeling a little foolish, but also very chuffed! Once the clean-up was completed and the managers could see what was going on in each section, we finally got on to *real archaeology*!



It was such a privilege to finally have the opportunity to put into practice what I had learnt in class [Nicola Turton and I finished A level Archaeology last year, both with B grades]. My foreman John quite happily showed us and then gave us each the opportunity to plan, take levels and record sections.

It was explained that each time we went through a different context; we must go through these procedures before we could even think about digging. As Amanda explained on the first day, it is our responsibility to record as accurately as possible, and

not take short cuts, because once you have dug, there is no going back. Any evidence, even a soil change will be lost if it is not recorded. So I kept those words in mind every time I got excited, and was tempted to mattock my way right to the bottom!

In a week of digging, I found plenty of Silchester ware fragments, black-burnished coarse ware, some ceramic building material (CBM), some fine Samian ware, a few Roman nails, but for me the most exciting thing was the changes in soil. As I was troweling, I realised that they must be post holes, and when I looked at Lee's (one of my team mates) area, he had also uncovered some, and they appeared to be in the same line as one another.

I was working in the south west corner for most of the week, and on my last day, a flint path or foundation was found in what is thought to be the garden of the rectangular house.



As the weather was so hot on site, and there was No Shade (the marquee didn't go up until Thursday), it was advisable to sign up for as many lectures as possible! What started as a way to escape the sun for half an hour ended up being very informative. The lectures not only helped my understanding of Silchester, but added to my knowledge of new techniques that are being trialled at Silchester.

One such trial was the use of digital pens and notebooks. They looked like a normal pen and paper, but are actually a device to record information, which is then uploaded to a computer system. Archaeologists can record and present information straight onto the Integrated Archaeological Database, so that specialists anywhere in the world can access the evidence and interpret the site. Before the digital pens, it would take up to six months to transfer the hand-written records on to the computer. This is obviously a great advance and if successful can be used at other sites.

Margaret Dixon gave a wonderful talk on 'Photographing the Evidence', and gave some very practical tips on how to take the best pictures of finds. David Sim also gave a very impressive, albeit gory, demonstration of Roman Arms. I think that BAHS would enjoy one of his lectures. The Dacian weapon demonstration left the hairs on my arms standing! 'Understanding the Environment' gave me an insight to Silchester and how we can learn of everyday life, health and the economy. Who knew there was so much to learn from cess pits and fruit stones!

I was sad to leave at the end of a fast-moving week. I learned so much, and was hungry for more. Indeed for days I found myself wandering aimlessly round the kitchen, wanting to heft a mattock rather than load the dish washer. My team foreman had told me this was trench fever. I thought he was joking, but now I know the truth...

I enjoyed Silchester so very much and intend to return another year.

So I will close by thanking all the members of the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society for giving me this wonderful opportunity, and helping remind me why I fell in love with archaeology in the first place.

### **FOAM (Friends of Ancient Monuments)**

Several members helped with clearing work for this project at Odiham Castle (Newsletters 182 & 183, Feb/May 2008) and here is advance notice that more work may be planned at Odiham Castle and Basing House. If you are interested and aren't already on the volunteers list, please contact *Marjolein Mussellwhite*, 01256 701192, e-mail *marjoleine\_2000@hotmail.com*.



### **BOUNDARY STONES**

*Debbie Reavell*  
*Basingstoke Heritage Society*

Milestones Museum has a new acquisition which is a fascinating piece of the town's history. With the help of the Basingstoke Heritage Society a boundary stone, still on its concrete plinth has been put into the collection. It can be seen in Milestones near the 'village green' behind the gypsy wagon.

These boundary stones were used to mark the old boundaries of the parish. They have a cast iron plaque with the seal of the town of Basingstoke and were put into the fields at various points. They are marked on old OS maps "BS".

The line of the actual boundary from stone to stone had to be learned from one generation to the next and the way in which this was done was through the annual ceremony of 'beating the bounds' or perambulation, as it was more properly called - when boys, often choirboys, went out with the Mayor and Corporation walking from stone to stone. Sometimes they were tapped on the head or beaten with willow wands, but often small coins or sweets were tossed and the boys scrabbled for them. A boy would probably have gone out 5 or 6 years in a row, so the memory of exactly where the boundary went would have been fixed in his mind so that when he grew up the boundary would have been known. The custom is very ancient and may have its roots in pagan rites to do with the harvest.

James Lunn (1855-1955) had taken part in the old custom of beating the bounds when he was a boy scholar at the Bluecoat School in Cross Street. He described how he and other boys were made to go around the town's boundary with sweets and money being thrown at various points and the precise boundary marked, even if it went over a building. The point of this was that the next generation of townspeople would remember exactly where the boundaries were. Where the boundary crossed a

stream or canal, the boys had to go through it. If it went through a house, as he says it went through The Danes at the corner of Goat Lane and Wote Street, then they all passed through the house – the sexton with his measuring wheel, the Mayor and all the boys.

His description was from 1867 when Arthur Wallis was mayor. James Lunn would have been 12. He described the boundary stones to George Willis and John Ellaway in 1935 and his account is preserved in one of Arthur Attwood's books *Around Basingstoke: Arthur Attwood's Look into the Past*, Gazette Publication, pp 52-56. At that time, he said that several of the boundary stones were still there 'three of them still retaining the iron plates with the Basingstoke Arms'.

The OS maps Basingstoke SU65 and Lasham SU64 show boundary markers as BS in the sites mentioned at Cliddesden.

*One of the metal plaques with the town seal had been bought in Honiton and brought back to Basingstoke and is in the Willis Museum! This may (or may not) have been one that used to be on a wall above the railed-off steps in the Lesser Market. It was removed during re-arrangement of the Lesser Market but can just be seen in a print by the artist Trevor Frost (1979) Ed*

## THE NEW ANTIQUARIANS

A large contingent from BAHS attended this conference on 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> November to celebrate 50 years of CBA (The Council for British Archaeology) Wessex. A clever bit of organization was to intersperse among the more 'solid' lectures various 'vignettes', giving shorter, lighter accounts (e.g. Phil Harding *Living with Flint*, Martin Green, *Down on the Farm*, Roland Smith *When archaeology met football*). The tone was unashamedly celebratory, with many speakers attempting to rattle through their specialist interests of 50 years, but there was a certain amount of taking stock and looking to the future.

Quite a few of the speakers were well known to us, either through television or as speakers to BAHS or the Hampshire Field Club, but several others who had before been names on articles or books now became real people. It was particularly interesting to watch the interaction between speakers and the way they referred to other speakers' work, or talks just given - full marks to the many who didn't just turn up and deliver a talk in isolation. We all had name badges, but perhaps a list of those attending, and where they came from would have been a help to anyone hoping to 'network'.

Marjolein Mussellwhite, as well as being our Treasurer, is the Hampshire Representative on CBA Wessex and was kept busy helping with the organization. During the final Panel Discussion she was the panel member speaking on behalf of amateurs and local societies - and did us proud!

Andrew Fitzpatrick, who was running a bookstall, kindly let us sell a few copies of our BENEATH BASINGSTOKE DVD and put out posters for the November and next January lectures. It was good to be able to tick off things on BENEATH BASINGSTOKE that were mentioned in various talks - the Buckskin barrow, Silchester, the Oakridge well and the Cowdrey's Down Saxon halls.

Many of us came away with bags of books - and below is a list of **Wessex Archaeology Reports** which were kindly made available free, and which we have acquired for the BAHS library:

*Brighton Hill South (Hatch Warren): an Iron Age Farmstead and Deserted Medieval Village in Hampshire*  
*Excavations in Newbury, Berkshire 1979-1990*



*Excavations on Reading Waterfront Sites 1979-1988*  
*Excavations at Thames Valley Park, Reading, 1986-88 – Prehistoric & Romano-British Occupation of the Floodplain and a Terrace of the River Thames*  
*Archaeological Survey of the Lower Kennet Valley, Berkshire*  
*Early Settlement in Berkshire: Mesolithic-Roman Occupation in the Thames and Kennet Valleys*  
*Excavations in the Burghfield Area, Berkshire: Developments in the Bronze Age and Saxon Landscapes*  
*Excavations at County Hall, Dorchester, Dorset, 1988: in the North-West Quarter of Durnovaria*  
*Excavations in Trowbridge, Wiltshire, 1977 and 1986-88: The Prehistoric, Saxon and Saxon-Norman settlements and the Anarchy Period Castle*  
*Three Excavations Along the Thames and its Tributaries, 1994: Neolithic to Saxon Settlement and Burial in the Thames, Colne and Kennet Valleys*

Please contact Mark Peryer if you'd like access to any of these reports. **Mark Peryer – 01256 780502**  
 or [mperyer@f2s.com](mailto:mperyer@f2s.com)

... Advice for speakers (arising from this conference and other experiences) ...

- Use the microphone if your voice is not strong.
- Don't drop your voice at the end of a sentence (which usually is the most important part).
- Don't turn away from the audience to look at the screen.
- If you're using a laser pointer, start outside the image so that we can see it move to the place you want to show.
- Don't put too much text on the screen - break it up into separate 'slides' to give a sense of movement and make it easier to read.
- Just put key words or phrases on screen, not lots of text.
- Don't put too many images on one 'slide' - or, if you do, zoom in as you talk about one so that we can see the detail.

## ***GOODBYE, DORCHESTER ARMS!***

*Edwina Hancock allows us to reprint this article from the Newsletter of the Hook History Group.*

You may have noticed that the Dorchester Arms has had a refit and it has been renamed as The Hogget. The pub was built around 1830 and in 1860 a mortgage was taken out for £500 to secure the premises (formerly the Rose and Crown). It was also known as The White House and around this time the pub was owned by the Kenward and Cave families, who leased it to various landlords.

The Dorchester Arms was named after General Sir Guy Carleton (1724-1808) of Greywell Hill, a Soldier-Statesman who was awarded the title of Lord Dorchester for his services to the Sovereign. An outstanding British Officer of cardinal importance, wounded several times during various battles, he was appointed Commander in Chief of the British Army and twice served as Governor of Quebec. He successfully defended Quebec during the American Revolution, and he was largely responsible for framing the Quebec Act of 1774. He laboured long and hard to make Canada a loyal part of the British Empire.

The pub became popular, being on the main turnpike road between London and Exeter. In 1914 the first fatal motor car accident occurred at the crossroads and Mr Froud, a photographer from Hook, was there to capture the scene. With the increase of traffic on this busy road, which was now known as the A30, between 1959 and 1965 Hampshire County Council proposed improvements to the junction. It wasn't until 2001, after much consultation, that they announced their preferred traffic calming scheme of traffic lights. After many years of local people knowing this area as The Dorchester Arms junction, and also people using it as a landmark when giving directions to Hook or Odiham, we must now get used to saying 'Turn right/left at The Hogget' - and Sir Guy's name and legacy is possibly gone from the area forever!

*Mary Oliver adds a comment.*

*I am sure I am not the only member of the Society to do a double take on the newly named 'Hogget'. To the best of my knowledge, a hogget is a yearling sheep, and yet the inn sign shows a pig - perhaps meant to be a Hampshire Hog! It seems to be yet another example of the cavalier attitude to fact which breweries have when naming their pubs. Dear me, I get to be more of a Grumpy Old Woman by the day, I'm afraid.'*

## ROMANORUM NOX NOCTIS PROCUL BRITISH MUSEUM

*Debz Charlton*

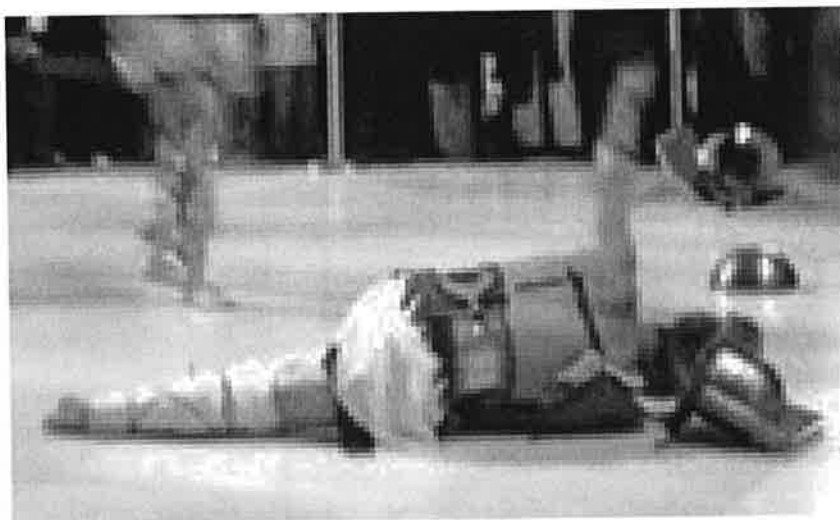


To end the Hadrian exhibition the British Museum opened its doors to an evening of Roman entertainment and experiences for all to enjoy.

There were musical performances, dancing and you were able to discover what the Romans ate and drank. Sit-down meal areas were provided with a wide variety of olive oil dishes and accompanying wine to taste. Various Roman board games were available for you to try your gaming skills and tutors were on hand to allow you to learn a little Latin and all about Roman coinage.

Once food and wine had been enjoyed, you made your way to the museum's equivalent of the amphitheatre and watched as the gladiators fought; the beaten and fallen surrendered and the jeering crowd gave the Roman thumbs down for his demise.





A most enjoyable evening to take part in, and the museum should be congratulated for making learning culture fun and stimulating.

### RECENT TALKS given by Society Members

***SOUTH HAM*** - from the 'Down Grange long barrow' to playing on 'the Dumps' and the various stages of development of the Estate - Barbara and Bob Applin.  
***HOPS, WINE ... AND BOOZY ARCHAEOLOGY*** - Debz Charlton  
***MY LIFE IN FILMS*** and ***THE MARY ROSE*** - Alan Turton

### CONGRATULATIONS, QMC!

Rachel Kirby tells us that the Archaeology course at Queen Mary's College has got off to a splendid start. She says 'Five of the 12 students got 'A's in the A-level exams, and 3 'B's; four or five of them are pursuing a degree in Archaeology and another two are looking to go into History at Uni.'

Rachel reports also on the 2008-09 course. 'Interestingly, we have 3 adults on roll at the moment - some here for interest and some looking to requalify. As part of the A level reforms the course has been changed slightly, but not hugely. There are two modules in the first year: Archaeological skills and methods, which focuses on the theory of archaeological processes before, during and after excavation, and Religion and Ritual, which explores the Mesolithic to Iron Age in Europe (with a strong focus on the British Isles) and involves a visit to Stonehenge and Avebury ritual landscapes. The second year consists of a major archaeological project into a subject of the student's choice and a module focusing on settlement, social and economic archaeology - basically applying theory to archaeology case studies.'

# Looking for Christmas Presents?

## THE MAKING OF BASINGSTOKE

Eric Stokes

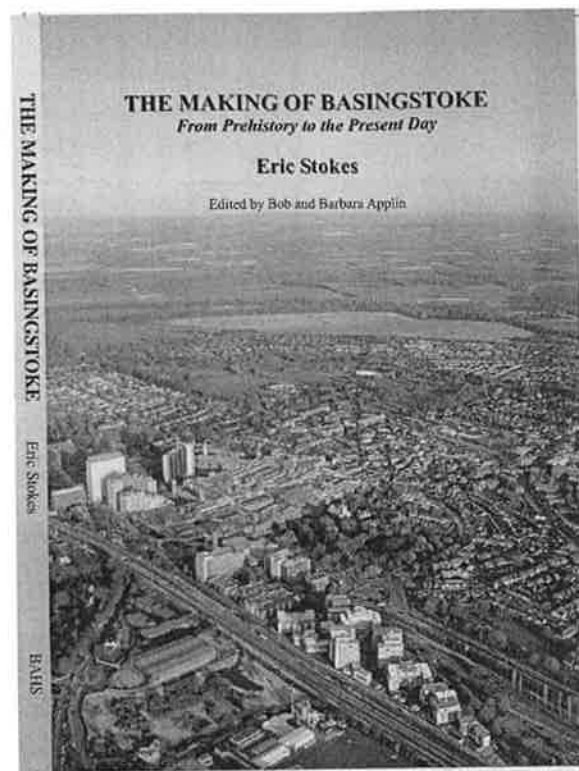
We have sold all our first print run and are now starting on the reprint! Do support your Society by buying it for yourself - and for your friends. On sale at meetings, at Waterstones and Milestones.

**Remember that copies bought by members at our meetings only cost £12.00.**

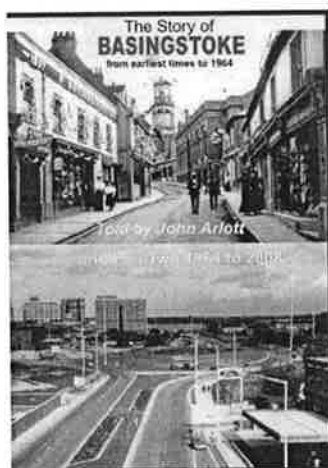
If any need to be posted, p/p is £3.20.

*'It's a huge and valuable piece of work, and I'm sure will be much used by researchers here' - Sarah Lewin, Hampshire Record Office.*

*'The book ... charts a varied history explaining names and their variations, social and economic changes, such as the controversial Basingstoke Enclosure Act, the town's governance and its markets and fairs. Indeed, a significant theme in the book is transport, which has had a direct bearing on the town's fluctuating fortunes.'* - Richard Garfield, Basingstoke Gazette



## THE STORY of BASINGSTOKE - a new DVD



### Review by Bob Applin

The Friends of The Willis Museum, with the support of Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council, have published in DVD format Derek Wren's *The Story of Basingstoke*.

There are two parts. The first tells the story of Basingstoke from pre-history to the start of the Town Development project; this was originally produced as a slide/tape presentation and later converted to video format. Derek Wren has made a new, revised, version by scanning all the original slides, digitally cleaning and improving them and adding more pictures, many supplied by the Willis Museum. The script for the commentary, which was recorded by John Arlott, was developed from the syllabus of a WEA local history study class set up by Eric Stokes

(author of the recently published book *The Making of Basingstoke*). Dave Mann, a member of the Basingstoke Video Film Makers, has digitally re-mastered the sound to a very high standard and refitted the pictures to the sound track.

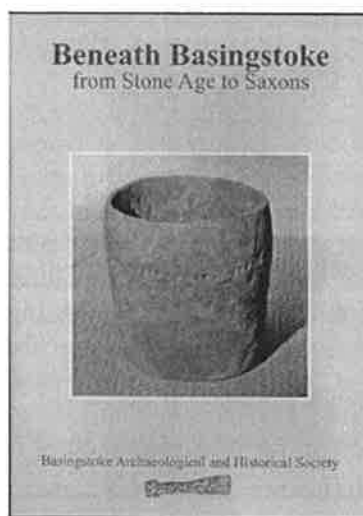
The second part shows briefly how the new town rose literally from the ashes of the old, using photos ranging from those taken during the 1960s to the present day. It finishes by drawing attention to the historic buildings that have survived.

For anyone with an interest in Basingstoke's past this DVD is a 'must have'. The original production has withstood the test of time and this much improved version, in the modern format, will continue to be a valuable visual record of the Town's history for many years to come.

Launched in early October at a Mayoral reception, it is on sale, price £10, at Waterstones, the HCC information office (next to the Town Centre Library), Milestones Museum, our Society meetings and (when it reopens after its major refurbishment) the Willis Museum. All profits go to the Friends of The Willis Museum to support the work of the museum.

This DVD - *The Story of Basingstoke*, Eric Stokes's *The Making of Basingstoke*, with its extensive bibliography of the publications about Basingstoke, together with BAHS's DVD *Beneath Basingstoke* which documents the archaeological finds around Basingstoke, particularly those made during the town development up to 1986, can legitimately claim to provide a comprehensive introduction to Basingstoke's history as known in 2008. Anne Hawker's more popularly written account, also called *The Story of Basingstoke*, gives a very readable introduction and the 19<sup>th</sup> century *The History of the Manor of Basingstoke* by Baigent and Millard is a scholarly account based on documents that are now, mostly, in the Hampshire Records Office.

## BENEATH BASINGSTOKE



*Our video too is now on DV, price £12.00.*

How we made a round barrow,  
The strange burials at Viabes  
The amazing contents of the well at Oakridge  
Why the pub was called the Nine Saxons  
The aristocratic halls at Cowdreys Down  
- and much more.

### Featuring

Phil Harding (before Time Team)  
Dave Allen  
Professor Michael Fulford  
and BAHS members

*The Making of Basingstoke* and the DVD *The Story of Basingstoke* are works that were prompted by WEA courses run in Basingstoke when Eric Stokes was chairman of the Basingstoke Branch and Tim Herrington, ex-chairman-but-three of BAHS, was its secretary. A considerable number of the founder members of BAHS were regular participants in the history course they organised, including Anne Hawker (*The Story of Basingstoke* - book, not video - and *Voices of Basingstoke 1400-1600*) and Mary Oliver (*Church Cottage: Historical Notes*). There were no other regular meetings or courses available for those of us interested in history and the high standard of these WEA courses set the standard of speaker that was aimed for when BAHS was established in 1972. Eric and Tim have much to be proud of in preparing the ground for our Society of today.

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## SOME ENQUIRIES

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*Barbara Applin*

BAHS has received several enquiries recently, often by people who found our website. Here is one that proved quite a challenge, leading to much e-mail to-ing and fro-ing.

### *The Australian Connection*

Johan Alferink, President of the Margaret River & District Historical Society in Western Australia, is compiling a paper for the town's 100th anniversary in 2013, and he wanted information on Margaret Chandler, after whom the town is named. Apparently she was related by marriage to the Bussell family who migrated from Portsea to Western Australia around 1830, were the first settlers in the Margaret River area and in 1839 named a river after Margaret (in 1913 the town was gazetted as Margaret River.) There is also a Whicher mountain range in the region (see below).

To our astonishment he said that this is the Margaret Chandler who appears in the Basingstoke census for 1881. In fact we have a lot of information about her. She was born in Petersfield on 21.4.1822, the daughter of James Whicher and Mary Anna Helena Cookson. Johan Alferink's source said that she married Samuel Chandler of Basingstoke, a solicitor, in 1844, but this turned out to be a mistake. She did marry Samuel Chandler but much later. In fact, this turns out to be the Margaret Chandler who married Joseph Charles Shebbeare of Basingstoke in 1852. He was a solicitor - in fact a 'Lord High Everybody' - Town Clerk, clerk to the magistrates and coroner, actuary to the Savings Bank, agent for the Royal Exchange and Registrar of the County Court. From the 1829-30 directory he was recorded in Church Street (the house we knew as Queen Anne House, see the BAHS publication *GOING DOWN CHURCH STREET TO THE FELGATE BOOKSHOP*), He was recorded in the 1851 census as a widower and in 1852 married Margaret Whicher at Petersfield..

By the 1849 directory Samuel Chandler had joined him in the solicitors' partnership, at Queen Anne House. Shebbeare died in 1860, aged 71. In 1863 his widow Margaret married Samuel Chandler - who was himself a widower, aged 51, with two sons and three daughters, and they continued living at Queen Anne House. Rather confusingly, Samuel Chandler's father had also been called Samuel; he was the printer who published and sold 'The History of the Holy Ghost Chapel, Basingstoke', 'The History of Basing House', as well as a book on Christian Courtship, an Introduction to Orthography (for the use of the junior classes in Schools) and 'Reasons for rejecting the Roman Catholic Petition for Emancipation...' John Alferink had also found Margaret, the younger Samuel and his three daughters and said the 1881 census claimed the daughters were all solicitors - which seems very unlikely for that date! In fact, the census entry is 'solicitor's daur' (daughter).

I remembered Rupert Willoughby telling me he was related to the Chandlers (you will remember his lecture to our Society last January on Simon and Eleanor de Montfort at Odiham Castle, and look out for him in the Calendar on the back page). He confirmed the connection with the Bussell family and says Margaret Chandler was known in the family as Aunt Peggy, was keen on amateur dramatics and died in 1908. He is now in touch with Johan Alferink too.

We were hoping to find a grave for Margaret Chandler, and Debbie Reavell of the Basingstoke Heritage Society contacted a friend who had a list of burials in South View cemetery, but no luck. And it would be very satisfying to find out why the Bussells chose Margaret's name for the river (and so, later, the town).

### *Drapers Hill Terrace*

We had a query from the Basingstoke Heritage Society (in return to ours to Debbie, above) asking whether we could locate a Drapers Hill in Basingstoke. They had details of a South View burial of Annie, Purdue, wife of G Purdue, a bricklayer, on 24 May 1909; they lived at 11 Drapers Hill. We've been able to link this with an entry in the 1916 directory for G Purdue at no 11 Drapers Hill Terrace, but this looks like a small terrace in some street. Debbie wondered if it might be in Hackwood Road. Does anybody know? If so, please ring or e-mail me (**Barbara Applin 01256 465439 [barbara.applin@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.applin@btinternet.com)**)

### *Old Basing miller*

Our member Keith Armstrong asks if anyone has information about a William Armstrong who was listed in 1800 as a miller - it seems in Old Basing where William's father James was a labourer. But which mill?

***Stop Press!! Now we know - it's Barton's Mill.***

### *White Horse*

We were also asked if there was a pub called The White Horse in Basingstoke. Searching through directories from 1784 to 1916, we found only the White Hart in London Road, and another in Worting - BUT the 1852 Slater Directory gave the White Horse, not the White Hart, in Worting. I wondered if this was a misprint or whether for a short time they changed the name and then changed it back. However, there was an earlier White Horse in Worting. In the Victoria County History of Hampshire (page 243) there is an account of a fire at Worting on 9<sup>th</sup> May 1655 'which burnt to the ground the parish church, a farm-house adjacent to the parsonage, the White Horse inn, six other dwelling houses, eleven barns and many goods.' (ref. *Cal. S.P. Dom* 1655, p 350). Still no White Horse in Basingstoke, though.

### *Did you know? A note from Ann Broad*

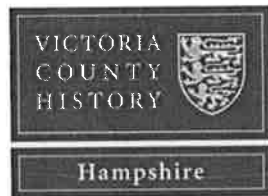
If you are ever in the vicinity of the Guildhall, London, spare a few minutes to visit the new Art Gallery attached to the Guildhall. Whilst digging the foundations for the new gallery, the East entrance to the Roman amphitheatre was discovered. Such was the excitement that the plans for the gallery were altered to provide for these Roman remains to be incorporated, below ground level. They are well worth a visit and the paintings are interesting as well. Very small charge and even smaller for senior citizens.

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### **A DATE FOR YOUR DIARY    Feb 20<sup>th</sup> 2009**

***Barry Cunliffe will be giving the second June Lloyd lecture in the Winchester Guildhall, organised by Winchester Archaeology & Local History ([www.warg.hampshire.org.uk](http://www.warg.hampshire.org.uk))***

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## AN UPDATE

*Barbara Applin*

As we have mentioned in previous Newsletters, several members of BAHS have joined the group working towards the revision of the VCH Hampshire volume for the Basingstoke area. We meet at Chute House to plan work, report on progress, exchange ideas etc,



We are aiming to use primary sources as much as possible, but some of the work already done is proving useful too - *The Making of Basingstoke*, obviously, and Anne Hawker's *Voices of Basingstoke 1400-1600*, which is proving particularly useful to the Wills group.

Transcribing 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> century wills and inventories proves to be quite a challenge, as many of the letters are most unlike modern lettering, so this is being practised in group sessions at Chute House.

We are also putting some censuses and directories onto EXCEL so that they can be searched more easily.

Following a visit to the Hampshire Record Office, some of the group are looking at tithe and other maps of their area. Some are beginning to research specific themes like education.

We have had several walks round different villages (and two round Basingstoke), trying to get the 'sense of place' - usually ending up with a pub lunch. In Mapledurwell Stan Waight, who has been researching the records of properties there owned by Corpus Christie, took us round the parish boundaries, pointing out a double bank hidden in trees which may well be an Anglo-Saxon boundary. In Up Nately a local explained that the chimney stack of the brickworks had been demolished during World War 1 as it was thought to have been used as a beacon guiding Zeppelins aiming for the railway. And in Basingstoke, just north of the railway, we found a piece of Brunel's railway line being used to prop up a hedge. Richard Tanner led the walk round Steventon, having recently published a book *Steventon, Jane Austen's Birthplace* (£4.99) - and made several sales at the next meeting!

Those researching villages are obviously moving a lot more quickly than those working on Basingstoke, where simply gathering material is a long job!

Basingstoke is the 'guinea pig' for the new Hampshire VCH, so Jean Morrin of the University of Winchester, who is leading the volunteer project here, has to make regular reports on our progress, and recently Bob (Applin) gave a short presentation on our work to the AGM of the Hampshire Archives Trust.





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## DESTRUCTION BY FIRE AT SILCHESTER

PDS

Evidence of apparently widespread destruction by fire at Silchester discovered during the 2008 excavation of Insula IX came as something of a surprise to archaeologists and poses an important problem of interpretation as it may be linked to similar evidence discovered some years ago in the nearby area of the town centre. It seems possible that the destruction was a single event and could have taken place about 60 or 61 AD during the rebellion by Boudicca.

One recent theory connects its cause with the increase in cross-Channel trade in wine. It appears that in the aftermath of the Claudian conquest there was a rapid increase in imports of fine wines from the Mediterranean region and that an enterprising native chieftain-turned-merchant among the Atrebates made an arrangement with Vespasian, then a Roman general, to control the trade - the arrangement being that the chieftain would provide the distribution network centred on Silchester and Vespasian would provide the security, with both getting a cut from the added value of the imported liquor. In due course Vespasian departed from Britain for other imperial duties but left behind at Silchester a small, trusted band of soldiers and administrators made responsible for keeping the racket going and the sesterces flowing into his offshore bank account.

All went well until the rebellion of Boudicca, which was partly caused by the imposition of VAT on wine imports to the area we now know as East Anglia in order to punish the Iceni for questioning the authority of the Roman governor. Unfortunately for the chieftain, the rebellion occurred while he was on a marketing trip up north among the Brigantes, trying to persuade them to drink less beer and more wine, as their living standards had improved with Roman occupation due to an expanded single market in slaves and hunting dogs (*Strabo*), of which they were key suppliers.

Fearing that his warehouse at Silchester would fall into the hands of the rebels, he hurried south, only to find that the loyal band of soldiers and administrators had decided that discretion was the better part of valour on the appearance of a large, aggressive number of Iceni and their allies who, after several nights on the town, had become uncertain of their bearings and had mistaken the road from London to Silchester for the road to Verulamium; they decided to sell them the entire stock of wine at a substantial discount before disappearing into the general population, along with the proceeds. Furious at this double-cross, the chieftain ordered his men to set fire to Silchester, which they did - hence the destruction level now uncovered almost two millennia later.

Thus at a stroke this theory explains the development of radial roads from Silchester, the finds of wine amphorae, the purpose of buildings designated 'House 1' as stores, the evidently small military presence in the town and the apparent widespread destruction by fire. And there were long-term historical consequences for this incident - the interruption to his cash flow concentrated the mind of Vespasian on how to exercise greater control in future so when, some years later, the opportunity arose he seized it, to become Emperor, founding the Flavian dynasty.

*No references have been found in Tacitus but intensive research is continuing among the now fully recovered archives of the distinguished early 20<sup>th</sup> century German scholar Dr. Hans Fodion, in order to establish the identity of the chieftain. It now seems that it cannot be entirely ruled out that he was Hebescio Maximus whose enthusiasm for public works, which has given us the plan for the Brighton Hill Roundabout, had been rewarded by the Atrebates when they made him a member of their newly-Romanised hierarchy.*

*Further publications on this subject may be anticipated (editor permitting).*

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## CALENDAR

Thurs 20 Nov	THE HISTORY OF ENGLAND IN PUB SIGNS Gerald Gregory	FWM
Sat 22 Nov	Archaeology Section Conference and AGM: PEOPLING THE PAST THROUGH SCIENCE	HFC
Mon 8 Dec	WINCHESTER EXCAVATIONS IN CONTEXT Steve Teague	WARG
Thurs 11 Dec	<b>CHRISTMAS PARTY</b>	<b>BAHS</b>
Thurs 8 Jan	<b>SOFT CURVES AND FULL FIGURES: IMAGES OF WOMEN IN THE OLD STONE AGE</b> Dr Jill Cook, British Museum	<b>BAHS</b>
Tues 13 Jan	THE MONARCHS WE NEVER HAD David Ford	FBH
Fri 30 Jan	Local History Society Annual Lecture: LABOUR, LIFESTYLES & LITERARY INTERESTS: FRESH LIGHT ON THE PORTSMOUTH DOCKYARD WORKER 1660-1820	HRO
Mon 9 Feb	STEPHEN, MATILDA AND WINCHESTER Don Bryan	WARG
Tues 10 Feb	READING AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD CULTURE Rupert Willoughby	FBH
Thurs 12 Feb	<b>DRAWING ON THE FUTURE TO MAP THE PAST</b> Simon Crutchley, English Heritage	<b>BAHS</b>
Tues 10 Mar	CASTLES OF WESSEX Alan Turton	FBH
Thurs 12 Mar	<b>ROMAN NEATHAM - SILCHESTER'S SOUTHERN NEIGHBOUR</b> David Graham	<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 Milestones while the Willis Museum is closed for refurbishment.*

**HFC** Hampshire Field Club at Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College, Owens Rd, Winchester

**HRO** 7.30 pm, Cinema, Hampshire Record Office,

**WARG** Winchester Archaeology & Local History, 7.30 pm, Peter Symonds College Recital Room, Winchester

**BAHS Secretary: Ginny Pringle** [ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk](mailto:ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk) 01420 550028.

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