

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 186

February 2009

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NEWS FLASH.....Change of lecture!

Due to unforeseen commitments Dr Richard Carter's Mesolithic lecture on **Tuesday 14th May** will now have to be postponed until next year. Please note that our May lecture will be by **Alan Turton** on "**The Flower of the King's Ships - the *Mary Rose***".

Society Outings

Ginny Pringle

Henry VIII: A 500th Anniversary Exhibition

**At the Drawings Gallery, Windsor Castle
Saturday 25 April 2009**



To mark the 500th anniversary of Henry VIII's accession to the throne, some of the most important and beautiful treasures to survive from the king's reign will be brought together from the Royal Collection and the St George's Chapel archives. Windsor Castle played host to Henry VIII and his court on many occasions, and the monarch is buried in St George's Chapel with his third wife Jane Seymour. Through paintings, drawings, miniatures, prints, books and manuscripts, the exhibition will explore the life of a king who had a profound impact on British history and whose fascinating story continues to generate widespread interest. Among the highlights of the exhibition will be a number of works by Hans Holbein the Younger, who became painter to Henry VIII soon after his arrival in England in 1526. He captured many of the key personalities of the king's reign, including two of his wives, Jane Seymour and Katherine Howard. The Tudor line of succession from Henry VII to Edward VI will be illustrated through beautiful miniatures by Nicholas Hilliard, which originally formed part of the Bosworth Jewel. Key religious texts of the period and books from the king's library will also be on display, including Thomas Wriothesley's Garter Book, which contains what is thought to be the earliest surviving view of the Opening of Parliament.

We meet at the main public entrance to Windsor Castle at 10:30am. The group ticket price (for groups of 15 or more) is £13.95 for adults and £12.60 for over 60s (ID required). Child prices are also available. This includes admission to the State Rooms and St George's Chapel etc. as well as the exhibition. Changing of the guard takes place at 11:00am. For car parking please see <http://www.thamesweb.co.uk/parking/index.html>. If you would like to come along, then let me know as soon as possible on 01420 550028 or email ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk. Tickets will be purchased at the beginning of March.

Hadrian's Wall Trip

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

Following on from last year's trip to Pompeii and the Bay of Naples, we have decided to organise a trip to Hadrian's Wall. Although the wall originally stretched east to west from Wallsend to Bowness on Solway, centuries of stone robbing have meant that only fragments of it still remain. However, there are quite a few forts that have been excavated and the plan is to spend a long weekend visiting most of them.

The proposal is that the trip take place **over the weekend of the 19th to the 22nd June** and that we stay in the central area of the wall country, around Once Brewed where there is a variety of accommodation available. If you joined the party you would be responsible for booking your own place to stay and for getting yourself up there. However, we would provide details and help let you know who was staying where, and who would be able to offer help with transport. Depending on numbers, it may be possible for everyone to stay at the same place, but we can't make any promises. During the day we would visit the various sites as a group, which should get us an entry discount, and we will arrange guides where these are available. Although we would organise a full programme you would be free to join in when and how you liked. Evenings would be free, but we'd try to organise things so that everyone could eat together.

The programme under consideration is:

Day	AM	PM
Thurs	Travel from home	
Fri	Housesteads	Vindolanda
Sat	Chesters	Corbridge
Sun	Arbeia	Segedunum
Mon	Birdoswald	Roman Army Museum
Tues	Return home	



The area around Once Brewed is where the wall is best preserved and also where the best scenery is found. If you are feeling energetic you may like to consider staying on for a bit longer and walking some of the Hadrian's Wall long distance footpath.

If you would like to join the party, please let me know either by email or by giving me a call.

A Walk along the Sarsen Trail

Ginny Pringle



The Sarsen Trail and Neolithic Marathon is an annual 26-mile walk and run across the Wiltshire countryside. The route is unique, linking two of the UK's World Heritage sites - the ancient stone circle of Avebury and the world famous Stonehenge. The trail takes you across the Vale of Pewsey and the Avon Valley, with their stunning views, and then the contrasts of Salisbury Plain, parts of which are normally closed to the public. The multi-terrain route is a mix of grassland tracks and roads with variable surfaces.

By taking part in this sponsored walk or run you will be helping to keep the county rich in wildlife. Every penny made from the walk goes to Wiltshire Wildlife Trust, the county's biggest nature conservation charity. This year's walk is on Bank Holiday Monday, 4th May.

If anyone is interested in forming a small group then please let me know on 01420 550028 or email ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk. (For the faint-hearted there's also a shorter route of about 13 miles!)

Fieldwork Report

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

I'm afraid that we are still waiting for landowner permissions to conduct some fieldwalks and woodland surveys that we had hoped to do over the next few months. However, when I know something definite I shall be in touch.

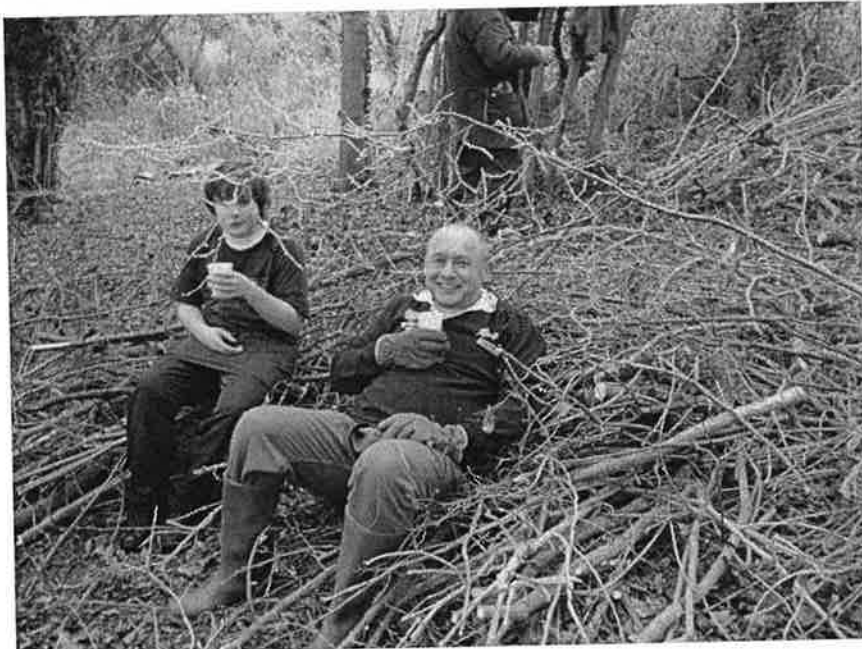


Photo: Peter Heath

There was a F.O.A.M. activity at Odiham castle over the weekend of the 10/11th January. This was aimed at clearing the undergrowth that has inevitably grown up around the moat area. I'd not visited the site since helping out with last year's works, but I was impressed by what the county has done to refurbish the castle and its surroundings when I turned up to do my bit. Now that the F.O.A.M. weekend is over, the site is once again in good order and looking very tidy.

You may recall that last year we helped Dave Allen to investigate and clear a section of the moat at **Basing House** as the first part of a programme to improve the visitor experience. **Part two of the series will be held during the last three weeks of May** and will be aimed at excavating and reclaiming the Western gateway. If you are interested in taking part, please let me know and I'll let you know more when the details firm up.

Silchester Sponsorship

Every year, we sponsor up to two people to spend a week at Reading University's training dig at Silchester. The purpose of the field school is to give a general introduction to the practical aspects of archaeological excavation and recording, but it also gives a good insight into the on-going research at Silchester. There is a website if you are interested in knowing more about it (<http://www.rdg.ac.uk/acadepts/la/silchester/publish/field/index.php>).



Alternatively, see our last Newsletter (185) which contains a report from Louise Sheldon on her experiences when she attended the school last summer.

If you think you would be interested in being sponsored, please apply by sending a letter, outlining your case, to the Chairman (Mark Peryer, 6 Aviemore Drive, Oakley, Hants RG23 7EN) by **28th February 2009**.

Thanks to Ginny for organising these!

Society Outings to Digs...

2008 produced some enjoyable Society outings, particularly our visits to the excavations at Stonehenge in September, and Winchester in December. Considering the appalling weather during the year we were extremely fortunate in our choice of days. At Stonehenge we were reminded of the vagaries of English weather, as a violent storm briefly lashed us with a severe burst of wind and rain. However, as always, BAHS members were ready and prepared (must have been all those scouting years), and the sun returned, allowing us to continue to enjoy a most fascinating tour around the Stonehenge landscape led by Steve Fisher of the National Trust. Steve has been working



Steve with our intrepid band of explorers

closely with Mike Parker Pearson of Sheffield University and the Stonehenge Riverside Project team, so he was able to give us all the latest info on this season's dig. The great man himself also popped in briefly to talk to us, but had to devote a somewhat high proportion of his time on a diplomatic session with the self-styled King Arthur, who spent most of *his* time yacking on his mobile to another druid.

Over fifteen trenches have been dug across the Stonehenge landscape this season with the aim of finding out more about the development of such features as the Avenue and the Cursus, as well as Stonehenge itself. Some of these were located on the Avenue, re-opening excavations from the 1950s and extending them to investigate the possibility of an even earlier Avenue. Here deep ruts were



Deep ruts running from Stonehenge down the Avenue

found running parallel with the Avenue; however Mike Parker Pearson is confident these are geological rather than archaeological, quashing the idea of a pre-historic motorway running from Stonehenge down the Avenue.

A short drive to another trench found us at an idyllic location on the banks of the Avon at Amesbury, where it was calculated the Avenue should meet the river. Here a ring ditch was being excavated, similar in size to that at the Heel Stone at the other end of the Avenue, leading to considerations as to whether a sarsen had once also stood here, perhaps lending itself to a long distance game of giant quoits. Tantalisingly, sarsen stone



Discovering a ring ditch close to the River Avon

had been used in a nearby footbridge support over a leat running alongside the Avon and it was wondered whether this had originated from the ring ditch. Microliths and cores; evidence of Mesolithic activity, were found here, although many centuries of human

activity at this particular location right up until medieval times made prospective interpretation of the site somewhat tricky for the team. However, Mike Parker Pearson



One of the cores found close to the Avon

seemed well satisfied with this fifth and probably final year of the project. It remains to be seen whether more will be done in the future.

Despite a definite chill in the air the sun shone at Winchester where, in early December our merry band dropped the Christmas shopping and visited the site of a new park and ride facility just outside Winchester. Here, Jamie Lewis of Thames Valley Archaeological Services guided us around the excavations that are taking place prior to construction. No signs of grazing megaliths here, but evidence for plenty of other features, somewhat later than Stonehenge, being mostly Iron Age or Romano British, but with at least one probable Saxon grave thrown in for good measure. The well preserved remains of a



Society members viewing a ditch at Winchester

skeleton from this grave, together with a knife and perhaps a spear, are currently undergoing analysis. A rectilinear enclosure awaits positive interpretation, but early thoughts favour military use, inspired by the line of sight from St Catherine's Hill – perhaps a case of the Romans goading the British...-Italy v. England...?

A female skull found in the deep "V" cut enclosure ditch together with a tibia gave further food for thought. However, little evidence of settlement had been found before our visit, but Jamie informed us of the discovery of a most unusual quern stone complete with phallic symbol - often used as a good luck symbol in Roman times. A later



Jamie of TVAS showing us examples of wheel ruts

road cut across the enclosure, with wheel ruts still visible, but this road although running parallel to the Roman Road further up the hill, then bore right and down the hill towards the M3, possibly leading to yet another ancient highway...

We hope to arrange similar visits during 2009 and as soon as we have details they'll be posted in the newsletters. In the meantime, thanks to everyone who turned out for our trips during 2008. It's great to see them so well supported. – Ginny ☺

NEWSLETTER

If you would like to see the Newsletter in colour we shall put the latest issue on our website. If you would like to receive the Newsletter as a Pdf attachment to an e-mail rather than as hard copy, please e-mail barbara.applin@btinternet.com.

**Breaking news -
BAHS makes successful grant application!**

Thanks
to...



The Society has been successful in its application for a Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation (HIWCF) "Grassroots grant". We have been awarded just under £3,000 over the next two years to cover the costs of two projects. The first part of the grant allows us to purchase a Total Station which will be used for recording during our various field work activities. The second project is a new series of BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY booklets, where the grant covers the cost of the first three publications, after which the series should be self-financing.



Barbara Applin
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As Mark has reported, we are most grateful to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Foundation for the award of a "Grassroots grant". The Basingstoke Talking History project is planning to use its part of the grant to publish three little books based on Talking History interviews. Not as big an undertaking as TAKING THE PULSE OF BASINGSTOKE but still, we hope, something that will attract and interest many readers.

CHRISTMAS IN BASINGSTOKE will be based on the extensive childhood memories of Mary Felgate, who was born in 1912. Would we be allowed Christmas crackers with fireworks in them today? *'There was always a snail shell stuffed with something or other, with a little string showing, which Father lit with a match. We waited and suddenly a long thick grey worm started to curve out of the shell, twisting as it emerged and with a simply terrible smell, which we loved.'* We have collected other memories from a variety of people: about Christmas concerts at Cliddesden's village school, Christmas at the Cottage Hospital, the staff Christmas parties at Hackwood House, and the Boxing Day Hunt. And we hope to collect yet more - what can you offer? Has anyone helped sort pre-Christmas post, gone carol-singing, or done anything unusual over the Christmas period? Not necessarily way back when, we'd like to compare farther back memories with some up to date ones.

THE CO-OP IN BASINGSTOKE will be based on excerpts from interviews which we put together for a Hampshire Museum Service exhibition with its Family Park, including memories of working as a Provision Hand, in the Despatch office, in the cash office, and the Co-op Treats. We are hoping to get permission to include a fascinating extract from an autobiography of a Co-op shop assistant in Basingstoke during the First World War. And again, we would love to have even more memories - did anybody go to the Furniture Department in the old Drill Hall? Was anyone in the Co-operative Women's Guild - and is it still going in Basingstoke? What about the modern Co-op and the way things have changed?

MIDWIVES AND YOUNG MOTHERS IN BASINGSTOKE - the title is very provisional, but it indicates that we want to base this on the memories of Jessie Jack, midwife at The Shrubbery (some of which were published in TAKING THE PULSE OF BASINGSTOKE) and add to them memories of other midwives, at the Maternity Unit of North Hants Hospital and 'in the community'. We would like to hear from the mothers as well as the midwives. And fathers too will have tales to tell!

If you have memories of this sort, please let me know as quickly as possible so that we can plan our work. We can bring our digital recorder to you to record an interview or, if you prefer, you can write something out and either post it or e-mail it. We shall probably concentrate on the Christmas book first, but would be glad to know about the other subjects. too.

Queries

Answers please to barbara.applin@btinternet.com
01256 465439

?? Has anyone any information on the Basingstoke Militia?

?? Are these nurses? At the Cottage Hospital or where, and when?



H.A. AYLWARD

PEOPLING THE PAST THROUGH SCIENCE *Conference*

Peter Stone

This conference, organised by the Archaeology Section of the Hampshire Field Club, was held at Peter Symonds College Winchester on 22nd November last and was notable for the excellence of its speakers and the wide range of topics covered.

The morning session began with an up to date summary by Mark Roberts of current understanding of *hominin* lineages of Europe. This very interesting and amusing lecture covered the complex evolutionary path taken over two million years to produce *homo sapiens* about 160000 years BP and the earliest evidence of the species appearance in Europe about 30-40000 years BP.

Beginning with the 'out of Africa' hypothesis, Dr. Roberts described how researchers are now confident that the earliest *hominin* type emerged in a very different climate about 2 million years BP when a vast savannah extended east from the area of what is now the Atlantic coast of Europe to

beyond the Caucasus and south into present day Africa, there being then no Mediterranean or Black Sea. He went on to explain the important rôle of applied science in recent years as DNA and isotope analysis have been used to understand a succession of evolutionary stages, which has led palaeontologists to the important conclusions that the present day human population is not descended from the Neanderthals and that the chimpanzee is our closest relative. ^[1].

The next two lectures, by Jacqui McKinley of Wessex Archaeology and Mary Lewis of the University of Reading, were to some extent complementary. The former explained how bone morphology can be used to determine age and sex of individuals, how chemical analysis from inhumations uncovered in Britain throws light on an individual's state of health and diet and how dentine isotope analysis is applied to identify regions where that person had lived - readers may recall that the use of the last named technique has led to the conclusion that the likely birth place of the 'Amesbury Archer' was in the Alpine region of Western Europe.

However, wholly unexpected information came from Mary Lewis, who explained how examination of a limited number of skeletal remains dating to the Roman period from the Newcastle and York areas have provided solid genetic evidence that the population included people whose origins were North Africa, Syria and sub-Saharan Africa. But that was not all - the dentine isotope analysis showed that some of these individuals had never lived in those regions, indicating second or third generation descent in Britain from immigrants.

The biggest surprise, however, had resulted from further examination of the skeletal remains of a young woman discovered almost a century ago at York. She had been interred along with exotic ornamentation that included bangles of ivory and Whitby jet never before associated with 'Roman' burials. No evidence could be found to explain the mystery until recent DNA analysis showed that she was of part sub-Saharan African ancestry.

Along with evidence from memorials demonstrating the presence here of Greek and Syrian individuals in the geographical area of Roman Britain as well as Germans and Gauls, plus the lengthy bilingual inscription on the memorial on present-day Tyneside to the ex-slave 'Victor the Moor' that implies the presence of others who could speak his native tongue, it seems pretty plain that there was some ethnic diversity among the general population almost two millennia ago. As Ms. McKinley had said earlier - if an 'immigrants go home' policy was implemented today perhaps we might all have to leave the country!

However, the scale of immigration has yet to be established so some caution needs to be exercised before coming too firmly to sweeping conclusions. As Dr Lewis pointed out, the sample analysed is small and was obtained from just two places, both being the location of army garrisons. It can therefore only be hoped that future opportunities will occur for research to be undertaken using larger samples from a more representative distribution of the settled population, but such research may not take place at an early date as it is costly and recently only came about in response to a request from an American institution that provided financial support.

The afternoon session commenced with a lecture on the subject of 'Bodies in the Bog' given by Jody Joy of the British Museum, who explained why bodies found in bogs across Northern Europe, Great Britain and Ireland, and dated by radiocarbon dating have provided such a superb source of information about people of the Iron Age and into the Roman period. A combination of high acidity, cold temperature and low oxygen content of the water has meant that skin, internal organs and stomach content have often been remarkably well-preserved, while bones have generally been dissolved. As a consequence, not only has much been learned about diet but the survival of skin has allowed modern facial reconstruction methods to be used for re-creating individual appearance.

Evidence points to many individuals having met truly gruesome ends. Many show signs of physical deformity. It may be, and this can only be conjecture, that these men, women and children, were ritually killed because they were unusual. Perhaps in some cases they were dangerously violent (they

were psychopathic, as we say) while in others possibly some physical or mental abnormality brought about their condemnation. What is certain is that the practice was sufficiently widespread to support the theory that there was some degree of cultural uniformity across much of Northern Europe and the British Isles in the Iron Age and into the Roman period.

This lecture led naturally to the final presentation given by Richard Neave, formerly of the University of Manchester, who was among the first to develop facial reconstruction techniques. A medical artist by profession, his introduction to facial reconstruction came about as a result of a need to provide accurate pictorial material obtained from hospitals and mortuaries for medical schools and for identification purposes in post-mortem investigations. In a fascinating talk he took the audience step by step through the process of facial reconstruction, beginning with copying the skull in plaster, building muscles onto it and finally adding such detail as skin colouring and hair to a finished model cast in wax.

The last speaker was Julian Richards who, after receiving from the audience an appropriate but entirely unrehearsed choral rendering of 'Happy Birthday to You', gave a summary of proceedings in which he emphasised the benefits obtained from the increasing importance of applied science to archaeology in recent years.

He concluded by thanking all participants for their individual contributions and on behalf of all who attended the conference he expressed appreciation of the efforts of its Hampshire Field Club organisers.

[1] After many years devoted to watching regular broadcasts of 'Match of the Day' I have long suspected the connection although in fairness the chimps sometimes seem better behaved – it is perhaps possible that club managers may be evolving as a sub-species.

... AND WHAT HAVE YOU GOT IN YOUR POCKET?

Barbara Applin

The Hampshire Record Office has a typescript (HRO M94/61) of an article by Ernest A Burrows on WARREN HOUSE AND THE CHANDLER FAMILY. It is probably also in the Burrows Scrapbook in the Resources Room at the Willis Museum, but inaccessible there until building works are completed. Ernest Burrows was a partner in the Basingstoke firm of Wills Chandler, Burrows & Beach, solicitors & commissioners for oaths and he gives a good account of the house and the family. He says that Warren House had been bought in 1894 by Hugh Wills Chandler, who lived in part of the house with his mother and his sister, Blanche. When Mr Chandler married in 1921 he went to live in Fleet, "commuting" to Basingstoke by train; his mother died the next year and Blanche Chandler continued to live at Warren House until she died in 1947. The other part was the offices of the law firm and after his sister's death Mr Chandler sold the house to his partner and the office eventually took over the whole building.

Ernest Burrows says that Blanche Chandler wrote several one-act plays and was a regular contributor to *Punch* and to a great many other periodicals. Diana Stanley in *Within Living Memory* (Basingstoke, 1968) says that everyone, including her pupils at Queen Mary's School, called her Judy, 'presumably because of her connection with *Punch*'.

Apparently she told a good tale....

He [Hugh Wills Chandler] was well over six feet tall and thin and his sister told a story of a visit he made to London at the time of the 'Ripper' murders. He had purchased a carving knife as a wedding present and, having some time to wait for a train, decided to have a look at the

scene of the crimes. As he peered into a dingy East End alley in the dusk of a winter evening, it suddenly occurred to him that his figure corresponded with the account of the Ripper and that he would have some difficulty in accounting for his presence there with a carving knife in his pocket. Unfortunately, when, as she frequently did, Miss Chandler recounted some such incident, one was left wondering whether it was founded on fact or whether she was testing one's reaction of a possible tale for Punch. but "si non vero...!!"

This incident reminds me of Norman Cook, who was Chairman of the Museums Association when I was working there in the 1960s. As Director of the Guildhall Museum in London he was involved with the setting up of the Museum of London, formed from the amalgamation of the Guildhall Museum and the London Museum in Kensington Palace. He told me once that he had gone down to one of the museum's waterfront excavations and been delighted to see that they had found a Roman "jemmy" that looked almost identical to the modern burglar's tool. It needed to be taken quickly to the museum's lab for conservation, so Mr Cook offered to do that as he went back to his office. He too wondered, as he made his way through silent London streets as dusk was falling, 'What if I meet a policeman and he asks what I am carrying...?'

Attentive readers will wonder if Hugh Wills Chandler was related to another Basingstoke solicitor, Samuel Chandler (Newsletter 184). I imagine so, but haven't proved it yet. Does anyone know?

Baigent & Millard

A History of the Ancient Town and Manor of Basingstoke in the County of Southampton
Has anyone got a copy of this that they want to sell? Julie Riley, Clerk to the Queen Mary's College Foundation, would very much like to buy a copy - either the single or the twin volume.

EMIGRATION AND DEBT

Barbara Applin

The diaries of Samuel Attwood, in Hampshire Record Office (8M62/27) make fascinating reading (nowadays this has to be done on microfilm but there is a transcript in the Willis Museum). He was the (great great uncle?) of Arthur Attwood and when he was apprenticed as a tailor to his father in 1816 he began to keep a diary, at first mainly recording when he had days off for funerals etc (probably he had been making the relevant funeral clothes). He continued to keep this diary until 1870 and entries became fuller. He noted a day off to go on the Basingstoke Canal in the boat belonging to Robert Cottle (printer, postmaster, several times Mayor) and a morning off to get over the excesses of an evening at the Conviviality Club. And he recorded marriages and deaths of many of the people he knew in Basingstoke, nearly always giving their trade. Sometimes he would mention a birth.

What particularly interested me was the number of people he noted who had left the town - and sometimes later came back, so I have been trying to match these up with people recorded in the 1851 census and trade directories of this period to get more details of their trades and location.

EMIGRATION

Some emigrants from Basingstoke went with friends or wives and children. Some were young sons of prominent tradesmen but one was an "Agricultural Labourer" and several had been declared insolvent

or bankrupt - how did they find the money to go? For some the Poor Law helped; the workhouse guardians paid for passages for paupers, to get them off their books. Why did some of them come back so quickly - and some go out again? This is what I have been able to find out so far.

1852

Mr Kerr

Sailed to Australia on the *Able Gower*. He was a watchmaker in Church Street, mentioned in directories for 1844, 1847 and 1852. Samuel Attwood mentions that he was married on 27th February 1851 and died on 6th July, 1855.

Joseph Curtis Jr

Sailed to Australia on the *Chalmer* in August with his wife and child.

John Taplin Jr,

Formerly of Oakley, sailed to Australia in August, returned in November 1853, went back in 1854. Died in Australia in 1855.

Daniel Dicker

Sailed to Australia on the *Altrovia* in September.

Henry Hussey

Son of George, sailed to Australia in November. Died on the way.

1853

Giles Soper

With *Edward Elford* sailed to Australia on May 5th; returned on 17th July 1857 but on 31st July 1860 he sailed for Russia with his wife and Edward Elford.

Thomas Tidcome

Draper, sailed for America on 15th September.

1856

Yeates

Coal-merchant, sailed for the West Indies; his goods had been up for sale under a distress in January 1852 and he had become insolvent in July 1855. He died of yellow fever.

1858

Frederick Blunden Jr

Sailed for America with Gibbs of Andover on 19th May. He was 18. His father, Frederick Blunden, was a wine merchant in the Market Place (1851 census), Mayor 1861-2 and died in 1867.

George Paice

Sailed to Australia on 26th June. He was 26, the son of William Paice, cabinet maker & upholsterer, Winchester St & New St (1841 census). He died in Australia about 8th June or July 1865.

Thomas Megroff

Was "said to be gone to the Indies" on 10th August. He was recorded as an agricultural labourer, 28 Barge Lane (1851 census).

George Penn

With Mary, Ann and Sarah, left the town on 4th October, sailed on 14th October for the Cape of Good Hope and 'arrived safe in 74 days' in 1859.

1859

George Gibbs

Sailed for the Indies about 22nd February. He was 19. His father was George Gibbs, tea dealer and grocer in the Market Place and Mayor 1859-60.

1861

Charles Shebbeare

Sailed for Canada in March but died in the same month. His father was Joseph Charles Shebbeare, solicitor and "Lord High Everybody", who had died in 1860 (see last Newsletter)

Alfred Dunn

Sailed for America by way of Quebec in April, came back and went out a second time with a lad named Aldridge on the *Bohemia* in 1862, but came back "about 4th June".

1865

W Hegden,

Stonemason, a bankrupt, insolvent, sailed for America on 12th October.

Samuel Attwood also mentions two families from nearby villages. *Mr White* with his wife and *Thomas Mills*, - he refers to them as 'The emigrants from Herriard' - sailed for Australia on the *China* in 1852. *The Merrit family* and another family from North Waltham sailed for Australia on the *Agricola* in October 1852.

He also mentioned two villains who were transported for life. *Charles Attwood* was transported for forgery on 7th January 1859. He was the son of George Attwood, the grocer (Samuel doesn't mention if they were connected to his family, but there were several Attwoods around). Also *Jack Bartlett*, dog dealer, was transported for 7 years for housebreaking, January 8th 1852.

DEBT

Between 1823 and 1867 Samuel Attwood mentions 41 people who were in trouble for debt. For instance. '*Thomas Penton*, late of South Ham Farm, died very much reduced about 13 February 1845, aged 43.' and '*James Hellis*, relieving officer, died aged about 54, much in debt, 10 February 1854.' *Derbridge*, 'the quack doctor', was declared insolvent in May 1851 and died on 22nd March 1852.

One bankruptcy was particularly surprising. *George Caston* had been elected to the Borough Council in 1836 but he was made a bankrupt 'about £10,000 in debt' on 6th June 1843. A billhead of 1842 shows him to be a Furnishing & General Ironmonger' in Market Place, with the foundry in the area behind the premises - hence Caston's Yard. His bankruptcy was a golden opportunity for Francis and Charles Wallis, who took over the business in 1844 - eventually to become Wallis & Steevens.

William Draper, a coach builder in Winchester Street, 'failed in business and paid nothing, 1844.' Several people left the town for debt: *David Downs*, maltster, 1823; *William Bradmin*, coach painter, 1841; *Adam Holloway*, draper in Church Street, 1843; *Charles Carpenter* 'a swindler', 1846; *Chas Hooker*, coachmaker, 1850; *Coxon*, shoemaker & beer shop, 1853; *Charlton*, grocer in Winchester Street, 1854; *Colson*, grocer in Church Street, 1858, *William Guthrie*, breeches maker in London Street 1864; *Charles Beatley*, gunsmith in London Street, 1866; *Bennett*, draper in Market Place, 1866; *Joseph Bond*, a shopkeeper, 1856; *Collins* the painter, 1833 and *Fitzgerald*, tailor, 1868. *Johnson*, the draper, who was in debt for about £100 and left the town in 1848, was probably Benjamin Johnson in the Market Place, but he is still recorded as draper there in the censuses for 1851 and 1861 so his fortunes must have revived. *Gibbs*, the shoemaker, left the town for debt in 1827, returned 2 days later and in 1851 had a sale for the benefit of creditors and left the town again.

Many of those in trouble are recorded as having a sale for the benefit of creditors: *Mr Bushell* at the Wharf (live & dead stock sold) 1856; *W Gardner*, cabinet maker, 1826; *John Doman* (probably the tailor in Victoria Street), 1831; *Billimore*, leather cutter and shoemaker, 1853; *Clark*, coal merchant (probably Emmanuel Matthew Clarke in Wote Street), 1861; *Henry Nichols*, builder, 1864, *Geo Hayden*, stonemason, 1867; *John Hall*, whitesmith (recorded in the 1859 directory as ironfounder & engineer, and whitesmith in Church Street), 1865; *Hawkins*, 1825 and *Wm Heath*, 1826, both grocers. Samuel Attwood had half a day off work to go to the sale of goods of these last two. *William Attwood*, butcher, in Winchester Street, 'gave a deed of sale 28 March 1844, assignment for the benefit of creditors, £100 in debt, and died aged 44, October 1852'. There is no mention whether he was related to Samuel Attwood, but there were several Attwood families in the town.

The diary does mention some people who 'got their certificate' (presumably to release them from insolvency or bankruptcy): *James Blunden*, baker in Church Street, 1847 and *Wm Howlings*, miller, who paid 3s 6d in the pound in 1853.

Various people were sent to prison for debt (sometimes specifically noted as Winchester prison): *Greaves*, painter, 1823; *Richard Soper*, gunsmith, 1841; *Charles Penton*, baker, miller, maltster & corn merchant, 1852.



A particularly interesting case is *Richard Curtis*. In February 1851 he and his family were 'finally ejected from the *Angel Inn*'. The *Reading Mercury* of 12 April that year carried an advertisement for the sale of his brewery plant etc. Richard Curtis Senr 'gone to jail again for debt Jan 11th 1852 and come out about 23rd March; 9th Sept gone to prison again for debt; 22nd August 1858 paid his creditors 1s 10d in the pound.' The *Angel Inn* had been the busiest of the

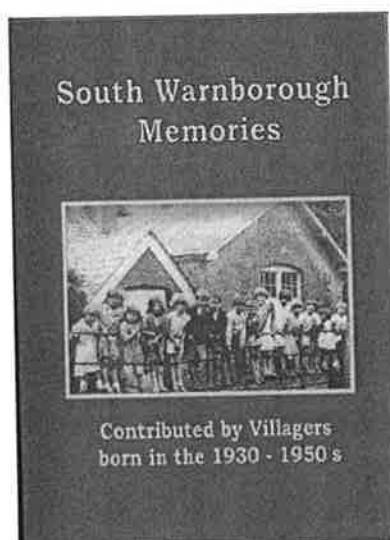
coaching inns in Basingstoke and the Curtis family had owned 22 acres and rented 564 acres around the town, for barley growing and horse grazing (see the note by Derek Spruce in *THE MAKING OF BASINGSTOKE*, pages 45- 46). Presumably their troubles were caused by the coming of the railway. But the billhead of 1863 shows that the *Angel* later had a new lease of life and made a feature of access to the railway.

It would be interesting to know whether numbers of emigrants and debtors were greater during the few years we can glimpse here than at other times, and whether the pattern in Basingstoke is typical of the country as a whole. Anyone like to follow this up?



BOOKSHELF

Reviews by Barbara Applin



Published by the South Warnborough Memories Project 2008

ISBN 0-9560302-0-7

£5.95

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Winchester SO22 5LJ

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The strength of this collection of memories is that so many of the villagers know each other, played and grew up together, so their memories interlink and shed different lights on shared experiences. Photographs bring us closer to the speakers as mischievous youngsters, finely dressed for a fancy-dress parade, learning to ride or later in RAF uniform or with a first motor cycle. Even photos that don't reproduce very well convey special interests and enthusasms. I found the typesize uncomfortably large, but I imagine it was chosen to suit readers with imperfect eyesight

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ISBN 0 9534428 5 3

£8.99

**READING
 AND ITS
 CONTRIBUTION
 TO WORLD
 CULTURE**

Rupert Willoughby

Yes, it is **Reading** the town, not **Reading**, the activity! And yes, Rupert Willoughby eloquently persuaded me that Reading could indeed claim this title. I must admit that at first glance I thought the extraordinary collection of titles and phrases on the cover were the sort of thing a typesetter uses to display different fonts. But no, every one has its place in the book, from the obvious "Huntley and Palmer Ginger Nuts" to "The Oxyrhynchos Papyri". Rupert says his book is "intended as an antidote to the vulgarity of modern Reading or as a provocation to higher thoughts than it usually inspires." I found this little book so fascinating that I can't either summarise its contents or pick out "cherries". Do find it yourself (at Waterstones or Milestones) and make your own

discoveries. By the time this Newsletter is out Rupert will have given a talk on this book at the February Meeting of the Friends of Basing House (as you will have seen in the Calendar of our last issue). Watch this space ... Rupert is now working on a follow-up: guess what? **BASINGSTOKE AND ITS CONTRIBUTION TO WORLD CULTURE!**

DVD.

Review by Ginny Pringle

'An Airfield in England'

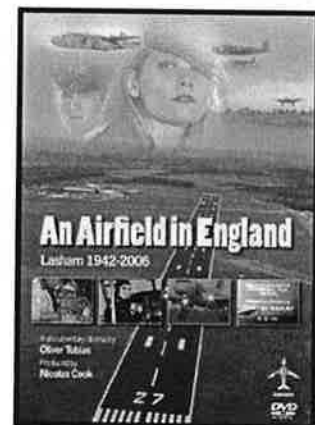
Lasham 1942 – 2006

- A Documentary Drama DVD by Oliver Tobias

(63 minutes)

Available from Amazon – currently at £11.97, also other online stores (prices may vary)

On loan at Basingstoke library



Oliver Tobias, film star and now successful director, works a slightly quirky but entertaining theme, which combines memories of both locals and wartime personnel with the history of Lasham Airfield during WWII, cleverly interweaving a piece of wartime romance, - all this integrated with cameos of present day jet aircraft maintenance at the airfield. There are a couple of drawbacks with this DVD; the dual focus on WWII and the present day leaves the viewer wondering whether it's aimed at historians or at aviation enthusiasts. In addition, only minimal mention is made of gliding operations at the airfield, which considering their presence for well over 50 years and worldwide renown for producing many world champions, (not to mention wartime training of troop carrying gliders) should have provided plenty of fuel for a more balanced presentation of the history of the airfield.

However, for anyone interested in local history particularly associated with WWII, or for those interested in aviation, it provides a pleasant hour of relaxation.

CALENDAR

Thurs 19 Feb	CONSERVATION OF OLD VEHICLES AT MILESTONES Graham Smith	FWM
Tues 10 Mar	CASTLES OF WESSEX Alan Turton	FBH
Thurs 12 Mar	ROMAN NEATHAM - SILCHESTER'S SOUTHERN NEIGHBOUR . David Graham, Surrey Archaeological Society	BAHS
Sun 15 Mar	<i>Stores Sunday</i> Chilcomb House, Bar End, Winchester	BAHS
Sat 21 Mar	CLARENDON PALACE NEAR SALISBURY Afternoon tour 2 pm	HFC
Thurs 9 April	JANE AUSTEN, HER LIFE AND FAMILY IN HAMPSHIRE Elizabeth Proudman, Jane Austen Society	BAHS
Thurs 16 April	THE BASING HOUSE RAISED WORK EMBROIDERY Ruth Smith	FWM
Sun 19 April	<i>Stores Sunday</i>	BAHS
Sat 25 April	CRIME AND PUNISHMENT IN HAMPSHIRE Spring Symposium Cinema, Hampshire Record Office, Winchester	HFC
Thurs 14 May	'THE FLOWER OF THE KING'S SHIPS - THE MARY ROSE' Alan Turton	BAHS
Sun 17 May	<i>Stores Sunday</i>	BAHS
Thurs 21 May	A HISTORY OF PUNCH AND JUDY Alix Booth	FWM
Thurs 11 June	ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING	BAHS
Thurs 18 June	THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD John Hook RVM	FWM
Sun 21 June	<i>Stores Sunday</i>	BAHS

BAHS **Our Society, 7.30 pm at Church Cottage**

Stores Sunday 10-5, Archaeology stores, HCMAS Headquarters. Chilcomb House, Bar End,
Winchester (Alan Jacobs 01962 826738 alan.jacobs@hants.gov.uk)

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 Milestones while the Willis Museum is
closed for refurbishment.

HFC Hampshire Field Club

BAHS Secretary: Ginny Pringle ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk 01420 550028.

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

Registered Charity No. 1000263

Items for the Newsletter to Barbara Applin barbara.applin@btinternet.com