

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER 188

August 2009

CONTENTS

<i>Page 2</i>	AGM Society Outing: Excavations of St Mary Magdalen Hospital
<i>Page 3</i>	Fieldwork report
<i>Page 4</i>	FOAM
<i>Page 5</i>	<i>New Publication</i> HAPPY CHRISTMAS, BASINGSTOKE!
<i>Page 6</i>	Programme Notes 2009-2010
<i>Page 7</i>	Stores Sundays Sponsored RIDE AND STRIDE
<i>Page 8</i>	Heritage Open Day: South View (Holy Ghost) Cemetery Anna Valley Archaeology
<i>Page 9</i>	Please Let us Know Get Out the Woad, The Wo-mans are Coming!
<i>Page 11</i>	Six Days at Silchester
<i>Page 13</i>	The Loddon School Calling all Dads! Where is This?
<i>Page 14</i>	Bookshelf
<i>Page 16</i>	CALENDAR

Where did
our intrepid
explorers go?



ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, 11 June 2009

Warm thanks were given to Marten Harris who retired from the Committee after many years service. Ian Waite has become a full committee member and the rest of the committee remains unchanged:

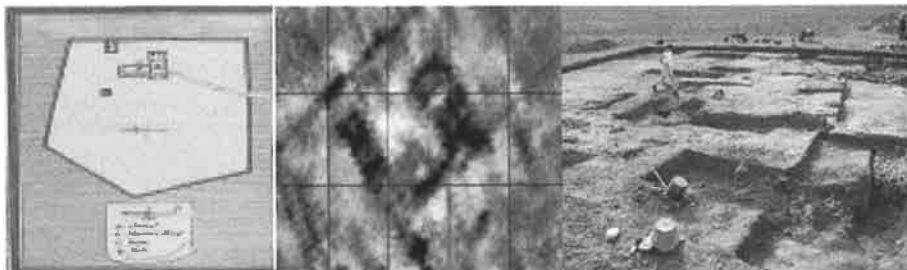
Mark Peryer (Chairman)
Ginny Pringle (Hon. Secretary)
Marjolein Mussellwhite (Hon. Treasurer)
Barbara Applin, Deborah Charlton, Garth George (Membership Secretary), Graham Hayward, Alan Turton, Ian Waite, Mary Oliver (co-opted), Margaret Porter (co-opted).

Following a discussion on membership subscriptions, a motion proposed from the floor was passed to raise subscriptions by £1 across all categories as of 1st September 2009. However, £1 discount is being offered to all those who opt to renew by standing order and the necessary forms for this are included with this newsletter. Membership renewals involve an extraordinary amount of work each year and it is hoped that as many members as possible will support their Committee by now opting to pay by standing order.

After the AGM, presentations were given by Mark Peryer and Dave Allen on this year's successful excavations at Basing House. Mark congratulated Marjoleine Mussellwhite on her election as Chairman of the Wessex branch of the Council for British Archaeology and Barbara Applin on her Personal Achievement award from the British Association for Local History.

Society Outing

Excavations of St Mary Magdalen Hospital, Winchester: Saturday 12th September at 10am



The Archaeology Department at the University of Winchester is running an excavation project at the site of a medieval hospital just outside Winchester. The site, originally founded as a leper hospital in the twelfth century, has been the subject of detailed survey which has identified the existence of several below-ground features including the chapel, almshouses, gatehouse and precinct wall as well as other ancillary structures. Excavations this year focus on the area of the Master's Lodge, Almshouses/Dormitory and Chapel as well as a section of the cemetery.

An Open Day on Saturday 12th September gives visitors a chance to see work in progress as well as to view the remains of the medieval hospital and the range of artefacts found. *Parking is a problem on site so the University are requesting visitors to take advantage of pre-arranged transport running from the University campus to the site.* Minibuses leave on the

hour from outside the University Reception, Sparkford Road, Winchester (directions are on the University website: <http://www.winchester.ac.uk/view.ashx?Item=27468>). We are aiming to be on the 10am departure and there is plenty of parking available at the University, so meet there just before 10am.

This is an excellent opportunity to view the site as on Thursday 8th October Dr Simon Roffey and Dr Phil Marter from the University of Winchester will be coming to talk to BAHS about the excavations and history of the hospital. If you have any questions about the visit then please contact me on email ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk or by phone on 01420 550028. Ginny.

Fieldwork Report

Mark Peryer – 01256 780502 or mperyer@f2s.com

From May 11th to May 29th a number of Society members took part in the excavation of the Western Gatehouse at Basing House, run by Dave Allen of the Hampshire Museums Service. The purpose of the excavation was to reveal the remaining brickwork of the Gatehouse and the piers of the bridge that spanned the ditch that surrounded the Bailey and to try learn some more about its chronology. The excavations have not been back-filled because an architect-designed bridge is destined to be put in place across the ditch, leading into the gateway and so onwards into the citadel. This year's efforts were part of the lottery-funded revamp of the Basing House 'experience', and our 'volunteer hours' go some way to ensuring that the project achieves its community involvement goals. A big thank you is due to all those who took part.

Since the Gatehouse had been excavated in Edwardian times and then again in the 1970s by the County, the graft of the excavation was pretty easy going by Basing standards, since we were digging through a black loam that had been used as a back-fill material rather than the hard-core which has been a regular feature of previous years. We found that the north-eastern part of the Gatehouse structure was pretty much robbed out to its chalk footings but that the rest of the structure was well defined. The central roadway was found to have several distinct layers, suggesting a repeated pattern of road build-up. Finds were rare until we exposed a piece of cobbled surface on the opposite side of the ditch to the Gatehouse, at which point a number of small finds were made.



Then as now, celebrating 110 years of excavation at Basing House

The Society's Total Station made its debut during the dig. A number of Society members were trained on its use and it was used to prepare the plan of the excavation. One important feature of the plan was that the architect required a comprehensive set of levels across the brick structure and this was where the new equipment came into its own, proving to be very efficient at making measurements. There will be other opportunities for other members to learn how to use the Total Station and with it to create site plans or to survey an earthwork.

Do You Enjoy Working With Young Archaeologists?

The committee are exploring the possibility of setting up a branch of the CBA's Young Archaeologists Club (YAC) to serve the Basingstoke area. The YAC is aimed at the 8 to 16 year old age group and the club would meet about once a month. The CBA (Council for British Archaeology) run the YAC as a form of junior membership, and provide support, training and insurance to leaders.

In order to get this started we need around five to six volunteers who would be interested in helping to run the club. If you would like to know more the YAC website can be found at <http://www.britarch.ac.uk/yac/>

Assuming that we get enough volunteers, we think it would take about 6 months to get a YAC branch up and running. Please contact me on 01256 780502 if you would be willing to join the YAC leadership team.

FOAM

Basing House

Earlier this year a group of volunteers spent a day clearing out the Tudor fish tanks at Basing House. This revealed for the first time in many years the outline of the tanks and the results of just one day's work were fantastic. There is more to be done and we are intending to hold another FOAM day in the autumn.

Odiham

We are also planning to do another day or so at Odiham Castle early next year where the work that we've been doing over the last two years has had a significant impact on the visibility of the moat.

The work that we do as volunteers helps both Basing House and Odiham Castle as it is counted as having a monetary value, and goes towards match-funding for the lottery funded projects, so not only is it fun to do, it is also a worthwhile investment into our local sites.

If you would like to get involved in this, please contact me.
marjoleine_2000@hotmail.com, or on 01256 701192.

HAPPY CHRISTMAS, BASINGSTOKE!

Our new book will be published on Thursday, 1st October, when you are invited to the Launch at Church Cottage. The Mayor and Mayoress will arrive at 7.30 pm, so please arrive before that.

Our **BASINGSTOKE TALKING HISTORY** team have collected a wide range of memories of Christmas in Basingstoke, interspersed with some historical items from more distant times. Plenty of photographs, including several of toys etc given by Mary Felgate to the Willis Museum, and line drawings by our own members Anita Leatherby and Alan and Nicola Turton, as well as a special Twelfth Night illustration by Jane Baker.

The retail price of the book (100 pages + 4 pp colour section) will be £8.99 but the price to members and at the Launch will be £7.00.

Here's a small taster:

*a photo of a Nativity play
at Coombehurst School*



and memories from Jessie Jack, midwife at The Shrubbery Maternity Home

We used to have a great time and we all used to arrive on duty on Christmas morning to have breakfast together and we used to give Matron her communal present and she used to give us all little individual ones. All the patients had presents, and the babies and then all day long we were entertaining the patients really. If we were busy with deliveries of babies, well then, you know, we did what we could.

Early in the morning, say, about ten-ish, the doctors used to come, not particularly to do rounds but to come and see the patients and wish them a Merry Christmas, and they'd bring their children - oh, it was great. And then the Salvation Army used to come. If it was a nice morning, sunny and crisp, they would be out on the lawn to play Christmas carols and the patients would have a whip round for them. If it was raining they'd come into the hall and there was a sort of a well there you looked up, and there was a sort of a balustrade where the patients who were up and about used to stand watching them and when they'd finished we used to give them mince pies and coffee, or squash, whatever they wanted.

PROGRAMME NOTES 2009-2010

Mary Oliver

10 September Popley, Basingstoke: the evolution of a prehistoric and Romano-British landscape by Alistair Barclay

Many members will remember visiting this excavation a few years ago on a very cold day! It was fascinating then to see yet another piece in the mosaic of the early settlement of our area, and now that work has been completed on the finds and the site is almost ready for publication, we have the opportunity to hear the interpretation of the results. Alistair has promised to bring a selection of finds with him, which will be of particular interest to those of us involved in local excavations and fieldwalking – especially as it includes pre-Iron Age pottery!

8 October Excavations of St Mary Magdalen Leper Hospital, Winchester by Dr Simon Roffey and Dr Phil Marter

Although much is known from historical sources about mediaeval times, excavations such as this Winchester University dig, have much to add to the detailed knowledge of architecture and social history. By the time this lecture is given, some members may have visited this site on Open Day, 12 September (see page 2), but we are very fortunate that the two lecturers have offered to bring a selection of finds as well as the usual illustrations.

12 November Modelling Mesolithic settlement and subsistence in southern Britain by Dr Richard Carter

This is the re-scheduled opportunity for us to hear Richard give us the results of his research into the Mesolithic, which had to be postponed last year. We have a special interest in this project as one of our members, Peter Heath, helped with his fieldwork in the Weald. This often overlooked period has been in the news recently as scholars have considered the richness of the hunter-gatherer diet compared with the dependence on a few cultivated cereals following the advent of farming, and its social consequences. This lecture will keep us right up to date.

11 December: Wine and Cheese, the usual formula

14 January Treasures in Late Roman Britain by Richard Hobbs, British Museum

The great dish from Mildenhall is one of the most popular exhibits in the British Museum, but probably most of us don't realise that its discovery is still a source of mystery. This has recently been re-examined by Richard Hobbs, and he will give us the latest thinking on the subject – as well as discuss the contribution which this dish and other exotic treasures can make to our knowledge of life in Roman Britain.

11 February Anglo-Saxon Northumberland by Prof Barbara Yorke

It will be good to welcome back Barbara Yorke, whom we have heard in the past on Saxon Winchester and Hampshire. Her recent research has taken her north, to the kingdom of Northumbria, and we await with interest what she has to tell us. Those who recently visited Hadrian's Wall will know what an important area this was even after the Romans left; perhaps another trip to examine the later history might be arranged?

11 March The Earliest Art of Europe by Andrew Lawson

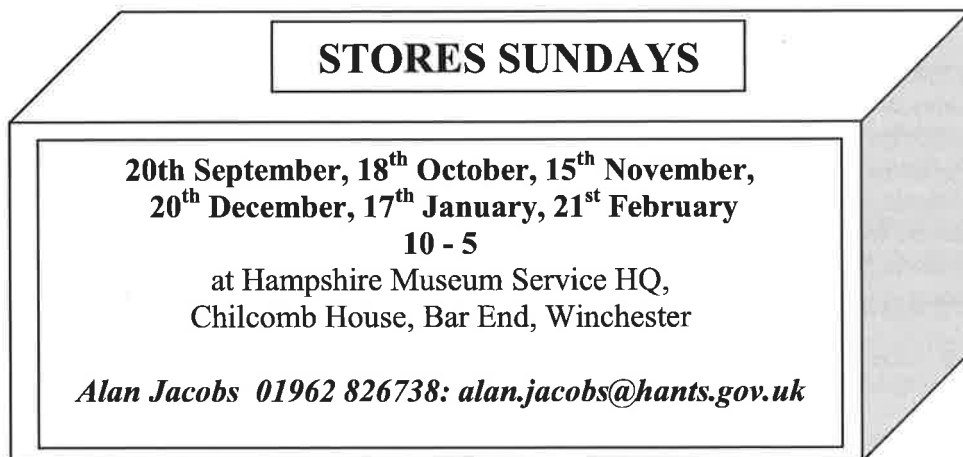
Andrew is another old friend of the Society who has not visited us recently, so we shall be pleased to hear about his latest work on the new dating techniques for Palaeolithic art. This should make a good follow-up to last year's lecture on the female figurines.

8 April Leaves from a Family Album: the 1890s and 1900s through the eye of the camera by Rupert Willoughby

The opposite end of the time spectrum for our next lecture, a return visit by Rupert Willoughby, who has made a study of many of our important local sites and personalities. He brings interesting insights to whatever he turns to, and this evening should be of particular interest to those of us who have studied family history, as well as our camera buffs.

13 May Who cared? Nursing and health provision for soldiers and their families in the Civil War and Interregnum by Dr Eric von Arni

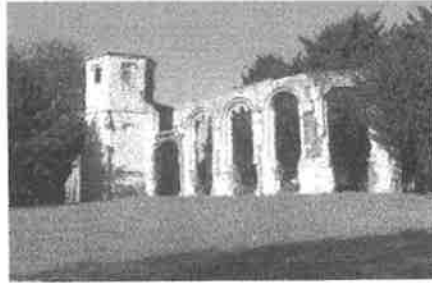
The turbulent 17th century made many impacts on our subsequent history. Eric has brought his professional knowledge to his love of the period, and the results of his studies will give us a very different viewpoint on a familiar subject. Some of us have already met Eric at Basing House, and will look forward to meeting him again.



**HAMPSHIRE & THE ISLANDS HISTORIC CHURCHES TRUST
SPONSORED RIDE AND STRIDE, SATURDAY, 12 SEPTEMBER 2009**

The aim of 'Ride and Stride' is to enjoy visiting churches and chapels, either walking or cycling, at the same time raising funds via sponsorship. Half the money raised goes to the Trust, to assist their work in helping restore and maintain historic churches. The other half is devoted to the church chosen by the individual walker or cyclist. Lists of churches, which may be visited, are available now, together with sponsor forms.

Contact **Ralph Atton**, email: ralph.atton@btopenworld.com, tel 0118 970 0825.



South View (Holy Ghost) Cemetery, Burgess Road, Basingstoke will be open under the Heritage Open Days scheme on

Sunday 13th September 2009
10.00 – 4.00

In 1525 Sir William Sandys of The Vyne House, Sherborne St John built a splendid chapel onto an existing chapel as a burial place for his family. These are the ruins which can be seen today. Find out about the history of the chapels: why are they now in ruins, how do they fit into national history and what do they tell us of our local story? There have been 10,000 people buried here – come and find out about some of them.

During the day there will be:-

- * Talks on the architecture and history of the chapels
- * Exhibition in marquee
- * Performances by the Proteans on a local historical theme
- * Historic trail around the graveyard – who is buried here
- * World War I re-enactment group
- * Historic tree trail for children
- * Bring a picnic and enjoy the park

Best level access is on foot from Burgess Road, Vyne Road end. Park in Vyne Meadow car park, Vyne Road, RG21 5ND. For further information look at www.bas-herit-soc.org



Basingstoke Heritage Society

The Basingstoke Heritage Society is grateful for the help and assistance of Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council and Destination Basingstoke.

Anna Valley Archaeology

A small dig on a late Bronze Age site was started at Cholderton last year and planning is underway to continue this dig on a more regular basis. Under the name the Anna Valley Archaeology Project, it will be open to anyone from BAHS who is interested in coming along to help.

Details will be made available during the Autumn, once all the planning is complete.

PLEASE LET US KNOW . . .



At a recent Committee meeting we were discussing the many members who have done/are doing courses in different aspects of archaeology and history, and thought it would be good to have details of these. So if you are doing/have done/are planning to do anything like this, please let us know - and what the course is like, how you get/have got on.

Also let us know if you are working on a history or archaeology project you'd like members to know about (ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk or by phone on 01420 550028).

GET OUT THE WOAD, THE WO-MANS ARE COMING !

BAD PUNS-R-US

Nicola Turton

I had a dream. I dreamed of finding 32 hand-axes. There were so many that I couldn't hold them all, but trust me, I tried. But this is an article about our trip to Hadrian's Wall, so just hold on to the image of axes for a while...

In June the Exploration Wing of our Society embarked on a trip to north Britain. We tried to stay within the Roman Empire, except for indulging in the usual pass-time when confronted with a border of jumping back and forwards: '*In* the Roman Empire, *Out* of the Roman Empire, *In*, *Out*...'

On the way up, Alan and I visited St Winifred's Well at Holywell. The signs outside the little town promised us 'The Lourdes of Wales'. I wondered if the approach to Lourdes has the legend 'Lourdes, the Holywell of France' ? The shop is very Father Ted, all wailing Irish laments and cards with rosy cheeked Virgins Mary, but outside is great peace. There is a bathing pool, and the spring itself, which bubbles up inside a ravishing and unique two-storey late 15th century Perpendicular shrine. I dipped in three times as instructed, but was So Very Disappointed to wake the next day and find arthritis still with me.

Once with the rest of the group, my favourite British Roman site came first and we hunched in the drizzle to hear a talk about Vindolanda from the dig director. I expect you know about the thousands of wonderful Roman Post-its that have been uncovered there in anaerobic conditions. They tell us about things as diverse as an order for some socks, about running out of beer, the number of soldiers, and perhaps most famously, the invitation from the Commandant's wife to her friend next-door-but-one along the Wall to her birthday party. This is not only the earliest British women's writing, but shows us that life was often peaceful along the Wall if the ladies were doing lunch without too much concern.

Later that first day we went to Chesters fort and had some trouble with the guide's accent. We all heard 'Common Dance House' and gradually processed it until concluding she meant Commandant's House, which was vaguely disappointing and crushed all thoughts of chaps going out for the evening and meeting Common Ladies in the Common Dance House.

Tantalised by the hint of bridge abutment on the other (eastern) side of the river, Alan, Margaret and Julian Porter and I determined to find our way there. In retrospect, we'd not have got nearly so wet if we'd simply waded across the river. Goodness me but it rained as we walked from the modern bridge to the Roman one! But it was very much worth it; as Alan says, probably the most complete Roman engineering left in Britain. And even in the rain we could see that good old luck symbol, the phallus. It's a sight that never fails to make people giggle and pretend not to be interested, whilst taking a photo.

At Housesteads the next day, we saw a Barn Owl flying for quite some minutes. Incredibly, and this hardly ever happens, I had my binoculars, *and* got them out of my ruck-sack in time. We were struck by the amazing length of its wings. When you think that they are quite small birds, well, with all that wing, they must have little ratty bodies. We then captured a kind man to take our group photo, and there was the usual kafuffle with lots of cameras. I advised him to run if he saw us again. Point of particular Roman interest at Housesteads: a very complete Roman loo.

When someone says 'Stop throwing skulls at me!' it's time to realise that you've gone too far. This moment came as we explored the mole hills and rabbit scrapes of Corbridge. Such piles of earth are often good for fragments of pottery, and in this case also for rabbit skulls. Margaret was on a lower path, and I thought that she too would admire the delicate structure of the skulls. I was particularly impressed by the fine bones that provided both strength and lightness, and tossed them down the bank to her, but I'm afraid that impact was not the same as my intent and she really didn't like it.

At Wallsend, we were taken round by a man who really knew his stuff, but also gave us an unfortunate and lingering image. Not the shapeliest of men, he told us with great glee of the opening of the reconstructed bath house, when he wore his leopard skin Speedo. I for one tried to lose the image by concentrating on the barrack blocks with room for horses and the trough in the floor to carry away their waste. I didn't recall seeing that before. The name Wallsend kind of gives the game away, as one really can see the last of the eastern end of the Wall. Sadly, much was lost during the more recent industrialisation of the area. Incidentally, the shop stocks Newcastle Brown ice-cream, which was quite toothsome.

At Arbeia (home of 24 granaries!), we saw the mountains of ballast that have to be excavated before reaching the Roman level. This ballast came from the coal ships that came up from the south, dumped the chalk, Tudor brick and any other detritus you can imagine before returning with the loads of coal. They also have more reconstructed buildings and we were able to lounge on Roman beds and admire the wonderful painted walls.

As we left along a gravel path I spotted a flint axe, *just there*. I picked it up, 'Alan, look!' I hissed. We thought it must be a remnant of a flint knapping class. I mean, it couldn't be a real axe! I showed it to Kay, who said it was a real one, a Mesolithic tranchet axe. Alan and I sat on benches facing each other and it must have seemed as if we were having a row as anguished glances passed between us. But Margaret did the Right Thing and marched me off to the archaeologist, where I handed it over. 'My friend has found this axe,' she said, preparing to gently work on him to let me keep it. 'It's a Mesolithic tranchet axe from the gravel path and completely out of context,' I said urgently, 'so I'm really hoping you'll let me take it home, as it would be a dream come true for me,' whilst doing the eye-thing on him. It worked, as he handed it back and agreed it was completely out of context, and all they'd do

was use it for school groups. 'Off you go', he added, 'and don't say it was me said you could have it.'

I returned to the group, clutching the precious axe, and I was surely glowing, as if full of Ready Brek. As we passed the dig on the outside of the fence, I pulled up my hood and hid beside Alan in case the chap changed his mind and came after me (he didn't). The rest of the day; walk on the beach (where Margaret and I received a fulsome greeting from a man who had had a little too much Newcastle Brown ice-cream), cocktails and an Italian meal in Newcastle, all passed in a happy blur as I lived the best Monday of my life!

I think I was allowed to keep the axe because of karma. One previous night we visited the Mithraic temple, and I contemplated pocketing the money that people had put in the altar stone. I thought it would save me going to the bank in Haltwhistle, the Dead centre of Britain. I bet if I'd taken it I would still have found the axe, but not been able to keep it! You can't be too careful, you know.

Our final day saw us at the Roman Military Museum, where I fell asleep in the Eagle's Eye film, and finally at Birdoswald Fort, where our poor guide had been dreading our visit for a couple of weeks. She thought that we were all professional archaeologists and was very nervous. The fort has a wonderful view over a precipitous drop down to a river, and one of the stones sports a charming incised horse.

This is about a tenth of all we did and saw. If you think you've missed out, why not come on the next trip...

Six Days at Silchester

Briony Lalor

Twenty-five years ago I lived in Tadley and would regularly walk the walls of Calleva Atrebatum, little knowing that in July 2009 I would have the opportunity of digging on Insula IX. Being new to BAHS and archaeology I fully appreciated the opportunity of being sponsored for a week on the training dig, yet had no idea what to expect. The six days on site turned out to be varied, educational and a lot of fun.

As luck would have it, as I parked up on site on the first day, I met up with Babs Roberts who, having lots of experience at Silchester, was able to steer me to the marquee where all new diggers were to meet. From then on in I was highly impressed by the organisation and dedication of the Field School team. My week had been carefully planned to ensure that I had the opportunity to spend time in the trench learning the skills of excavating and recording as well as assisting with other aspects of archaeology. I was mightily relieved to see that I had been spared portaloos, washing up and cooking duties – all the things archaeology normally helps me to escape from!

Needless to say, before any of the uninitiated were allowed to pick up a trowel, we had a number of briefings and a site talk. Amanda Clarke, the Field School Director, must have given her site talk more times than she wishes to remember, yet she came over as enthusiastic and genuinely pleased to share her knowledge. What we needed to take into consideration was that over the previous 12 seasons the phases of occupation from Late Roman (AD 500/700) through to Early Roman (AD40/50) had been meticulously excavated. The focus

was now on the Late Iron Age phase of the town, with the more ephemeral remains concealed in the gravel.



NW corner of site with track way marked out



SW corner with track way and pits

To the untutored eye the excavation resembled a bomb site, with random holes of various sizes distributed over a sea of grey looking gravel. However, very quickly the Late Iron Age track ways, with wheel ruts, and remains of houses became obvious to the eye. What was clear was that the track ways were aligned SW-NE and NW-SE, as opposed to the Roman grid system of NS, EW. And that, in the absence of organised rubbish collections, pits were the order of the day – and lots of them. Walking home at night along one of the tracks might well have been a dodgy experience – one false step and you're up to your neck in decaying detritus.

By the start of my third day I had all the introductory lectures under my belt, including: Health & Safety (with the picture of a foot speared by a garden fork), recording, planning, drawing and using the dumpy level and total station. Thankfully having been using both these pieces of equipment some time previously meant it was one less thing to be worried about. I'd also had a few hours cleaning a gravel surface, plus a stint on finds washing, so knew what to be looking out for.

Now in the capable hands of my Supervisor, Sarah Henley, I started work on cleaning, planning, recording and sampling some small areas of clay flooring. This is when theory, which all sounds pretty logical, turned into practice. What I soon realised was that what appeared straightforward became a lot more complicated and that was just finding the right book to get a context number from! With plenty of patient support from my trench buddy Sue, I managed to turn out four plans and full context sheets and learn that drawing can be fun once you get the scaling right in your head. After the third plan something seemed to click and for that I was infinitely grateful.

Over and above the excavating there was always something of interest going on and my week coincided with the start to the Festival of Archaeology. Throughout the week there were lunchtime lectures on a range of topics and on the Wednesday we had a visit from BBC South Today. There was always a steady flow of visitors round the site despite the rather showery and blustery weather and for the Open Day on Saturday this flow became a flood. The site attracted some 1600 people, who were entertained by the student archaeologists in fancy dress plus site talks from Amanda and Prof Mike Fulford and a variety of activities and demonstrations.

On Sunday Prof Mike Fulford hosted a lunch for the sponsors of the 'Town Life' project and while they dined we were treated to a silver band playing some stirring music. My abiding memory will be of removing the silt from yet more gravel to the rousing strains of the Star Trek theme. Unfortunately, we were having lunch when the Indiana Jones theme was played.

All in all it was a thoroughly enjoyable week. Being surrounded by helpful and dedicated people was a real bonus and the experience has helped me no end in understanding the practice of field archaeology. I look forward to developing and sharing what I have learned with BAHS in the coming years.

THE LODDON SCHOOL

Can anyone help the Loddon School research and compile a brief history of the building their school is housed in? Originally built about 1860 as St Leonard's Rectory, Sherfield on Loddon, it was later known as Sanguilo Manor. Amongst other things it has been owned by Huntley and Palmers, been a convalescent home for soldiers and became Drayton Manor School in 1964.

To celebrate The Loddon School's 21st birthday they are hoping to prepare a booklet about the history of the building. If anyone would like to help with this please contact Ginny on

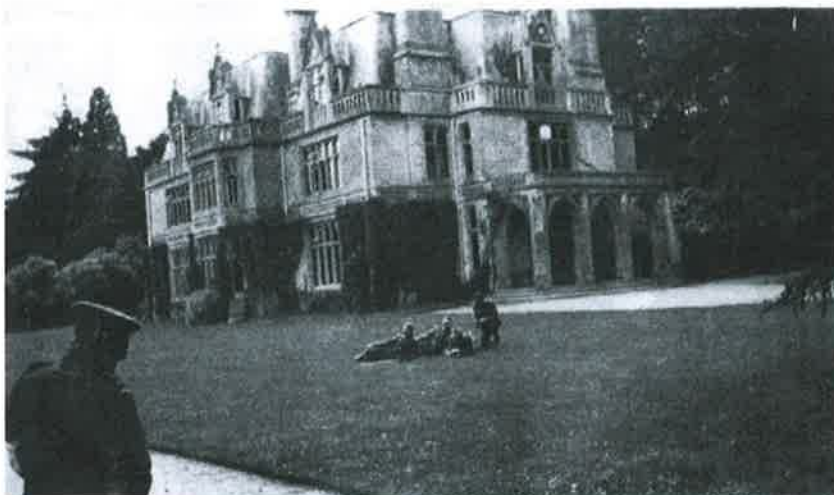
01420 550028 or ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk

CALLING ALL DADS!

A Century of Fatherhood Bristol-based TV company Testimony films is making a BBC 4 TV series on this topic over the past 100 years. They particularly invite stories from the older generation about their roles of fathers; and from dads in WW2 and their children; also men who were dads in the 60s and 70s. Details from Ginny Pringle (as above) or www.testimonyfilms.com (Janet Mills, Researcher):

WHERE IS THIS?

Garth George asks if anyone can identify this house, which was used for convalescent troops in the First World War.





REVIEWS by Peter Stone

The Inheritance of Rome: A History of Europe from 400 to 1000AD

Chris Wickham

650 pp

Allen Lane Penguin Books 2009

£35.

For more than two centuries a 'grand narrative' of nationalism has influenced historians and history writing. Put simply it rests on hindsight. It suggests that during the early Middle Ages following the collapse of the Western Roman Empire, 'barbarian' settlement and folk movements in Europe resulted in the formation of basic political units of varying degrees of stability that were to coalesce over the centuries and develop into culturally superior, enlightened states such as England or France – depending of course on whether the writer is French or English.

A second influential grand narrative, the 'modernist' - which is not so modern as it has its origins in the Renaissance period - rests on the assumption that classical civilisation ended abruptly, along with the Western Roman Empire, following which disaster 'progress' stagnated in a violent and mostly chaotic world lasting for about a thousand years until the wisdom of the ancients was re-discovered and given new impetus by Renaissance scholars. In succeeding centuries other 're-discoverers', such as the Enlightenment philosophers of the 18th century, unremarkably produced dates for the re-establishment of civilised life rather closer to their own time. In reaction to this disdainful view of the entire period from 400 through to about 1500 and beyond recent medievalists have come to identify the later Middle Ages around 1050 – 1200 as the point when progress re-establishes itself.

In this book Professor Wickham, Chichele Professor of Medieval History at the University of Oxford and a Fellow of All Souls College, makes plain that he will have none of this nonsense and cites both grand narratives as causes of false history making.

Instead he draws on the results of international research of historical documents that has taken place since the 1970s, and which throws light on contemporary socio-political, cultural and economic conditions, and complements it with an understanding of the economic implications of recent archaeological discoveries. He deliberately avoids both judgment of political decisions by way of hindsight and explanation of historical events by reference to some future end which they appear to serve in order to show that, although nuanced in time and place, there was indeed a Roman inheritance that continued throughout the early Middle Ages.

The result of his efforts is a volume of immense scope written with great clarity any one of whose four parts might serve as a stand alone treatise. Of particular interest to anyone who had to swallow an Anglo-Saxon biased historical diet, topped up with overviews of the 19th century histories of France Germany, Italy and Russia, are the sections dealing with the Carolingian empire and its influence on England and on the continuity of the Eastern Roman empire and its relationship with the 'Abbasid Caliphate which conquered much of its former territory.

This is a superb work - Read it

Europe Between the Oceans: 9000 BC – AD 1000

Barry Cunliffe

516 pp

Yale University Press 2008

£35

As the title implies, the argument that underlies this work by Sir Barry Cunliffe, Professor Emeritus of European History at the University of Oxford, sets out to show how the geography of Europe has been critical to the pattern of human settlement from pre-history to the end of the early Middle Ages from which time the diverse and complex societies that now inhabit it have developed.

This line of approach to studying the past stems from the author's acknowledged influence of the *Annales* school of French historians who sought to break away from the 'stultifying narrowness' of historical studies before the early part of the 20th century. Among this school was Fernand Braudel who developed the concept of perceiving history as one of varying cycles of time among which was the *longue durée* which the Professor Cunliffe explains as '...geographical time – a time of landscapes that enable and constrain, of stable or slow developing technologies and of deep-seated ideologies'.

He describes how Europe, the smallest of the continents and in reality a large western peninsula of Asia, differs in its geography from that of other continents; no one region is particularly remote from the sea which surrounds it on three sides with many navigable rivers flowing into it; mountain ranges do not pose insuperable barriers to overland movement of people and exchange and natural resources are conveniently distributed and relatively easy to exploit; the flow of the Gulf Stream provides large areas with the great advantage of a year round moderate climate to fairly high latitudes of the northern hemisphere in which it lies.

The narrative then proceeds from the Mesolithic to the close of the early Middle Ages presenting and interpreting evidence for a constant interplay of factors such as population growth and distribution, the movement of peoples and the technological change stimulated by the need to discover and exploit natural resources. The author makes a point of ensuring that the reader is aware that a preponderance of written historical sources from the Mediterranean region from the critical second half of the first millennium BC does not imply unimportance to other parts of the continent and draws extensively on the findings of archaeology to redress the imbalance.

Nevertheless where either documentary and archaeological evidence is available their interpretation always made plain that geography and in particular the use of the sea and navigable rivers remain as crucial to developments of the early Middle Ages as they were in the westward movement of people from the eastern Mediterranean region in prehistory.

Not only is this book clearly written but it is also exceptionally well-illustrated and contains many excellent maps. For anyone who wants to gain an understanding of the processes that led to the Europe of the 9th century from the Mesolithic against a background of the *longue durée* of geographical time it is essential reading.

Worth every penny

CALENDAR

Thurs 10 Sept	POPLEY, BASINGSTOKE: THE EVOLUTION OF A PREHISTORIC AND ROMANO-BRITISH LANDSCAPE Alistair Barclay	BAHS
10-13 Sept	Heritage Open Days, Basing House	
Sat 12 Sept	OUTING TO EXCAVATIONS OF ST MARY MAGDALEN HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER , see page 2	BAHS
Sat 12 Sept	HISTORIC BUILDINGS SECTION OUTING TO NEW FOREST CHURCHES led by Frank Green	HFC
Sat 12 Sept	Sponsored RIDE AND STRIDE, see page 7	
Sat 13 Sept	HERITAGE OPEN DAY, HOLY GHOST CEMETERY see page 8	
Thurs 17 Sept	THE QUEEN'S BODYGUARD OF THE YEOMEN OF THE GUARD, John Hook, RVM	FWM
Sun 20 Sept	STORES SUNDAY	
30th Sept	Basing House closes for refurbishment till late summer 2010	
Thurs 1 Oct	LAUNCH OF THE BOOK <i>HAPPY CHRISTMAS, BASINGSTOKE!</i> see page 5	BAHS
Thurs 8 Oct	EXCAVATIONS OF ST MARY MAGDALEN LEPER HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER Dr Simon Roffey and Dr Phil Marter	BAHS
Sat 10 Oct	LOCAL HISTORY SECTION CONFERENCE & AGM, ODIHAM	HFC
Tues 13 Oct	WATER MILLS & INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY OF HAMPSHIRE John Silman	fbh
Thurs 15 Oct	AGM and MAGIC LANTERN SHOW W Arnott	FWM
Sun 18 Oct	STORES SUNDAY	
Sat 31 Oct	LANDSCAPE SECTION CONFERENCE & AGM: MARKET TOWNS IN NORTH HAMPSHIRE venue to be confirmed	HFC
Tues 10 Nov	AGM & Christmas Social	FBH
Thurs 12 Nov	MODELLING MESOLITHIC SETTLEMENT AND SUBSISTENCE IN SOUTHERN BRITAIN Dr Richard Carter	BAHS
Sun 15 Nov	STORES SUNDAY	
Thurs 19 Nov	THE SWING RIOTS IN HAMPSHIRE OF 1830 speaker from Hampshire Record Office	FWM
Thurs 11 Dec	CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING, the usual formula	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)
FWM	Friends of the Willis Museum, at the Willis Museum, 7.30 pm
FBH	Friends of Basing House, 7.30 pm in the Bothy, Basing House
HFC	Hampshire Field Club (details from our Secretary)

BAHS Secretary: Ginny Pringle ginny@powntleycopse.co.uk 01420 550028.
Website: <http://www.bahsoc.org.uk> Registered Charity No. 1000263