

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

## **BAHSOC**

### **Newsletter 190** **January 2010**

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**HAPPY CHRISTMAS, BASINGSTOKE** displays  
at the Library

at the Museum



## NOTICE BOARD



### Sorry!

We offer our apologies if you turned up for the last talk only to find the hall empty. Due to the extreme weather conditions we made an early decision to cancel in order to let everyone know in good time. It seems that despite e-mailing everyone three days before and individually phoning those without e-mail addresses, a few members managed to escape the net and loyally turned up!

We hope to re-book Prof. Barbara Yorke for the next season's programme, and we look forward to hearing about Anglo Saxon Northumberland then.

### UPDATES

[secretary@bahsoc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bahsoc.org.uk)



Please let Ginny know if you have changed your phone number or email address. As you'll have discovered when January's lecture had to be called off, we need to be kept in the loop.



### HIDDEN TALENTS

Please let Ginny know if you can use any of the following talents for the Society

Keying text to WORD  
Working with EXCEL or ACCESS.  
Designing (books, posters etc)  
Setting up displays  
Editing sound files (WAV)  
Transferring cassette to WAV files  
Illustrations  
Photography  
Anything we haven't thought of??

### AGM 2010



Following the AGM on 10<sup>th</sup> June there will be an opportunity for short talks. If there's a project you would like to tell members about, please let Mark know by the beginning of May, and say if you will need a slide- or digital-projector.

[mperyer@f2s.com](mailto:mperyer@f2s.com) or 01256 780502

# Fieldwork Report

*Mark Peryer*

I got a pleasant surprise in early January when I received a draft report on some Roman road investigations that some of our number helped out with a couple of summers ago. The article is destined for publication by the Hampshire Field Club and puts the case, backed up by evidence, for a route between Winchester and Neatham which is different from that postulated by other authorities.

Over the Christmas period the Cholderton project moved forward and there will be a series of Woodland Archaeology surveys on **February 14<sup>th</sup>, 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup>**. Each survey will start at 10:00 am and finish around 2-3 pm. These dates are all on Sundays to avoid shooting. If you are interested, please contact me for joining instructions.

The woods in question are known to contain landscape features, so surveying and recording will be required. We shall be using the Society's GPS receivers, so if you never understood the pace and compass bearing approach you'll never need to.

Later on in the year, there will be the opportunity to get involved in some excavation as part of the same project.

**This year's excavation at Basing House will be from the 24<sup>th</sup> May to the 4<sup>th</sup> June.** This project will involve some 'rescue archaeology' on a cut into one of the Civil War defensive earthworks made by the Aldermaston Archaeological Society in the mid-1960s. There will be some recording of the Roman features they uncovered, and then some landscaped backfilling to restore the original shape of the earthwork.

If you would like to get involved with any of our field work activities, please speak to me after a Society meeting, email me ([mperyer@f2s.com](mailto:mperyer@f2s.com)) or call me on 01256 780502.

## **FOAM (Friends of Ancient Monuments) at Basing House** *Marjolein Mussellwhite*

We spent another two days in November at Basing House, continuing the work we had started in the Spring on clearing out and revealing the Tudor fish ponds behind the Great Barn. The first day we managed to work a full day, with amazing dedication from our volunteers. Barry Hedger in particular deserves a mention for his tenacity in clearing out debris from the water, without the aid of waders. Or wellies or socks for that matter! I am pleased to say we are now investing in two pairs of Society waders, thanks for a generous donation from our past chairman, Tim Herrington!

On the second Sunday the weather was appalling and work had to be abandoned at lunch time. We have, however, made a real difference to that area and the work has been extremely worthwhile. I am waiting to hear whether we can go back to Odiham Castle as management



*photo © David Allen*

of the site is now no longer in the hands of Phil Allen. I have had a look and it probably needs no more than half a day to tidy it up.

If you want to join as a volunteer, please let me know, either by email [marjoleine\\_2000@hotmail.com](mailto:marjoleine_2000@hotmail.com) or by phone.

If you know of any monuments that could do with the FOAM treatment, please let me know and I will investigate the feasibility.

### **FOAM in Wiltshire**

Should you be interested in doing some work in Wiltshire, Julian Richards will be pleased if you are able to join him. The dates are as follows:

**Saturday 13th February** - back to the **LAKE BARROWS**. Meet up at 10.00am at Borelands Farm (Lower Woodford in the Woodford Valley) Grid Ref SU 125374, look out for the FOAM signs. (For this weekend if anyone can't make the Saturday and would prefer the Sunday please let Julian know and he may do both days.)

#### **Sunday 7th March OLD SARUM**

**Saturday 13th March LAKE BARROWS** (Unless we have finished what we can do here, in which case it will be OLD SARUM - we will know this by 13th/14th Feb). For those who haven't been before, please bring suitable/stout/waterproof clothes. Bowsaws/loppers are useful as is some lunch! Old Sarum has toilets.

If you want to take part, either turn up on site, or if you need more details contact Julian on phone/text **07974 913878**.

### **SILCHESTER**

#### **SPONSORSHIP**

As before, we are offering to 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, and it also gives a good insight into the on-going research at Silchester. (<http://www.rdg.ac.uk/acadepts/la/silchester/publish/field/index.php>)

If you wish to apply, please send a letter outlining your case to our chairman, (Mark Peryer, 6 Aviemore Drive, Oakley, Hants RG23 7EN) by **1<sup>st</sup> March 2010**. We expect people sponsored to take an active part in our Society's fieldwork and excavation, passing on what they learn to other members.

#### **SOCIETY VISIT**

Our annual visit to the Silchester excavations will be on **Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> July**. Meet at the **Silchester car park at 6 pm for a guided visit at 6.30**, remembering that it takes about twenty minutes to walk to the site.

#### **LECTURES**

Mike Fulford will be giving a talk about **SILCHESTER** at Silchester Village Hall, 7.30 pm, 12 February; £5 to include coffee & biscuits (details from Jo Stanley 0119 9700282).

He will also be giving a talk **CALLEVA, FACING UP TO ROME** at the University of Reading, 8 pm, 27<sup>th</sup> April and to the Roman Society at the Stenson Lecture Theatre, British Museum, 1.15 pm, 6<sup>th</sup> May.

## Welcome!

*Dr Janet Owen has just been appointed Director of the Hampshire Museums & Archives Service and we are delighted to welcome her to Hampshire.*

Janet Owen has over twenty years of wide-ranging experience in the museum's profession working for local authority museum services, the National Maritime Museum and the Department of Museum Studies at the University of Leicester. An archaeologist by background, her professional life is dedicated to transforming museums and their collections as places of inspiration for a wide audience. At Leicester, she taught courses relating to collections management and archaeological curatorship and was inspired by a generation of keen young museum professionals to think about museums and collections differently. She believes in the importance of cross-disciplinary and integrated working, and that it is vital for museums to be customer-focused and outcome-driven. At Nottingham Castle, she managed a major regional visitor attraction with over 300,000 visitors each year. At the National Maritime Museum, as Head of Curatorial Group, she was responsible for encouraging new audience-centred ways of looking at collections and curatorship that placed these functions back at the heart of the museum's overall purpose. Most recently, at Southampton City Council she led on the development of an inter-disciplinary arts and heritage team and championed the role of museums and culture in delivering wider city ambitions concerning economic regeneration, educational attainment and civic pride.

Janet Owen lives in Hampshire and outside of work enjoys time with family, walking in the New Forest and messing about on Southampton Water. She also continues to undertake research into her academic interests relating to the history of collecting, archaeology and science. She was awarded a doctorate from the University of Durham in 2001, having studied part-time, and is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and Associate Member of the Museums Association.

## Congratulations to Joanne!

*Although we are sorry that the Lee family (Steven, Margaret and their daughter Joanne) will not be continuing their membership of BAHS, we are delighted with the news they give of Joanne's achievements in archaeology, and we very much appreciate their kind remarks in the letter below. We wish Joanne every success in looking for archaeological work.*

*Although as a family we have not been active members for some time, our daughter Joanne Lee has gained great experience by attending BAHS meetings, and the Silchester Excavations every year since she was first sponsored by BAHS when she had just turned sixteen. She has been every year since except 2009 when she was in her final year at Bournemouth University completing a BSc in Archaeology for which she gained a 2.1 degree.*

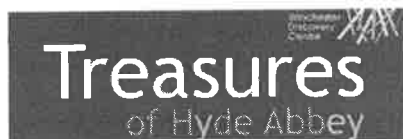
*Needless to say we are extremely proud of her, and grateful to you for giving her this opportunity. Ever since she first saw Time Team at the age of four, archaeology is all she has wanted to do!*

*She has completed a number of digs since then, including one in Sweden, and is now looking for employment in her chosen field, which is proving difficult due to the current economic climate.*

*Please thank all your members and your committee for helping Joanne achieve her goals - she loved attending Silchester, and I know if she has time she will return in the future.*

*With all best wishes for 2010.*

*Mrs Margaret Lee  
Mr. Steven Lee  
Miss Joanne Lee*



**Exhibition 6<sup>th</sup> March to 2<sup>nd</sup> May**  
**with associated Gallery Tours (see website)**

## TREASURES OF HYDE ABBEY EVENTS

A major free exhibition "Treasures of Hyde Abbey" is to be held in the Gallery at Winchester Discovery Centre from Sat 6 March to Sun 2 May 2010. The exhibition will bring together in Winchester for the first time in over 450 years treasures from Hyde Abbey on loan from The British Library, the V&A, the Bodleian Library, Winchester College, St Bartholomew's Church and Winchester Museums.

**Please book all events through Winchester Discovery Centre Box Office, Tel. 01962 873603, or book online at <http://www.discoverycentres.co.uk/winchester>**

### LECTURES

**To be held in the Performing Space at Winchester Discovery Centre.**  
**Each lecture costs £5.**

**WED 17 MAR 2010, 7.30PM**

**JUSTIN POLLARD**, lecture

#### RE-DISCOVERING KING ALFRED

Alfred is the only English king ever to be granted the title 'Great', yet he is most often remembered for some burned cakes. So how did such an important figure slip under our historical radar? This talk by popular historian and author Justin Pollard, reveals what made Alfred 'Great,' and why he deserves to be celebrated as one of our national heroes.

**WED 24 MAR 2010, 7.30pm**

**DR JOHN CROOK**, lecture

#### THE ARCHITECTURE OF HYDE, 1110-2010

Dr John Crook is an architectural historian, archaeological consultant (including Winchester Cathedral), and author of the forthcoming revision of one of the Hampshire volumes in the Pevsner Buildings of England series: '*Winchester with North Hampshire*'. In an illustrated talk he will talk about the architectural evolution of Hyde during the past 900 years.

**WED 7 APR 2010, 7.30pm**

**PROF SIMON KEYNES**, lecture

#### TWO BOOKS FROM HYDE ABBEY, WINCHESTER: THE LIBER VITAE AND THE LIBER ABBATIAE

Professor Keynes is Professor of Anglo-Saxon, and a Fellow of Trinity College, Cambridge. His talk will feature two important historical books. The Liber Vitae of the New Minster is the primary record of the abbey's history in the 10th and 11th centuries, remaining in continuous use until Hyde Abbey's dissolution in 1539. The Liber Abbatiae was compiled at Hyde Abbey in

the early 15th century, and presents a rather different view of the abbey's increasingly distant past.

**THURS 15 APR 2010, 7.30pm**

**PROF DAVID HINTON**, lecture

#### LIFE AND DEATH IN NORMAN HAMPSHIRE

Professor David Hinton of the University of Southampton is the author of "Gold and Gilt, Pots and Pins; Possessions and People in Medieval Britain". His lecture will look at the archaeological and documentary evidence about people in Winchester and the rest of Hampshire during the 11th and 12th centuries; how they made their livings, bought and sold their goods, paid their taxes and did their labour services, and how they died and were buried.

**WED 21 APR 2010, 7.30pm**

**DR LEONIE HICKS**, lecture

#### ROUTINE, RELICS AND RELATIVES: LIFE IN A MEDIEVAL MONASTERY

Drawing on examples from Hyde Abbey and other monasteries, Dr Leonie Hicks of the University of Southampton will be talking about daily life in the monastery, pilgrimage and access to relics and the interaction between monks/nuns and their families.

### OTHER EVENTS

**WED 17 MAR, 9-11.30AM**

**DISCOVERY CENTRE WINCHESTER**

#### READING OLD HANDWRITING cost £6

At this practical workshop, led by staff from Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, you can discover the secrets of old letter forms and learn more about the past by exploring documents written in English from the 16th century onwards.

**Download the Discovery Centre events brochure including all Treasures of Hyde events at <http://www.discoverycentres.co.uk/winchester>**

## Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society

### ***To book a place on the evening lecture of the workshop***

*Apply, with SAE to Robin Iles, Hon. Sec., HFC Archaeology Section, 113 Bodycoats Road, Chandler's Ford, SO53 2NP - Tel. (wk) 01962 848 115. For the workshop places will be allocated on a first-come basis and a reserve list will operate. Please inform Robin if you are subsequently unable to attend as places are limited. For bookings for the conference, see below.*

**Contact Ginny if you want to go as a BAHS representative, as we are members:  
[secretary@bahsoc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bahsoc.org.uk)**

### **Winchester Park & Ride Interim Results from the 2009 Compton Dig James Lewis, Project Manager 7.30 pm on Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> March**

We visited this wet and muddy site and will look forward to hearing this talk.

In the Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds' College, Berewecke Road, Winchester  
(use Berewecke Rd entrance) £2 members, £3 non-members, on the door.



### **An Introduction to Human Remains in Archaeology**

**Saturday 27th March, 2010, 10am - 1pm, University of Winchester, Sparkford Road, Winchester, SO22 4NR**

This free workshop, **exclusively for Hampshire Field Club members**, will be suitable for people with no or little knowledge of the subject. It will introduce members to the study of human remains in archaeology and the methods used in their post-excavation analysis, including sexing, age, and the identification of trauma and disease. The workshop, conducted by staff from the department of archaeology, will include both a lecture and a supervised practical session. A range of materials will be used including skeletal material from the excavations of the medieval hospital of St. Mary Magdalen, Winchester. **Parking** in the Dytche car park, entrance just downhill of the Stripe Theatre. **Meeting place** -at the main University Reception by 10 am.

### **125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference**

**1.30 - 7 pm Saturday 22 May at St Swithun's School, Winchester**

**Speakers:** Sir Barry Cunliffe, Prof. C M Woolgar, Prof Maurice Howard and Professor John Beckett

Details & booking form from Julia Sandison, Publicity Officer, 22 Clifton Rd, Winchester, SO22 5BP, 01962 867490. Bookings no later than 7<sup>th</sup> May, please include SAE for tickets, map and directions. £10 for HFC members, £15 non-members; including afternoon tea & (at Reception) wine & cake.



Sales of **HAPPY CHRISTMAS, BASINGSTOKE!** are good - 376 to date, and we even had an order from Canada! Members have been sending copies to friends and families in all sorts of places - Canada again, the Isle of Man, Nigeria - anywhere else you can tell me? There is a lovely review in the Newsletter of the Hampshire Archives Trust (associated with Hampshire Record Office), which says that because many of the reminiscences centre on Christmas rituals you don't have to be from Basingstoke to enjoy it, and adds "This book is a delight; one to slip in a few stockings this Christmas." The librarians on the desk in Basingstoke library said they were sad when we took our colourful display down, as they enjoyed looking at it, and Sue Franklin filled a case at the top of the stairs in the Willis Museum with a delightful collection of Mary Felgate's toys and games - and the book! See the photos on page 1.

There's good news about our next project too, on **THE CO-OP IN BASINGSTOKE**. In the last Newsletter I mentioned that we were having difficulty in locating a copyright owner but now, thanks to a great deal of persistence and some excellent detective work by Jo Kelly, we have found him! And he and his family are very pleased to give us permission to include an extract from his mother's autobiography **ONE WOMAN'S STORY**. She was Winifred Griffiths, born in Oakley, who worked in the Basingstoke Co-op during the first World War, and we just had to include her account of her work there, with her growing interest in the ideals of the Co-operative movement and the Labour Party

Some of our Talking History group visited the Co-op "archives" and hunted out items relating to Basingstoke. Anita photographed several objects, such as a Co-op token, Co-operative Women's Guild badges, a shoe, a gift token and a milkman's money-satchel.



We were allowed to bring back some annual reports which have interesting "snippets" to use, and various photographs.

To my delight we were also given a programme for a Co-operative Womens' Guild Drama Festival, with cast lists and the adjudicator's comments on each performance. Basingstoke didn't win, I'm afraid, but the cast list included Mrs Phebe Miller, who was landlady in turn to Mary Oliver and then to me when we came to work at the Willis Museum. Mrs Miller offered her house as a meeting place when the Basingstoke Co-operative Party was set up in 1960 and we have copies of their Minutes. Mary and I both remember Mrs Miller's keen interest in the Co-operative movement - and the Labour Party in general. And she gave us both a great welcome to Basingstoke!

There are still Co-op interviews and researches to do.



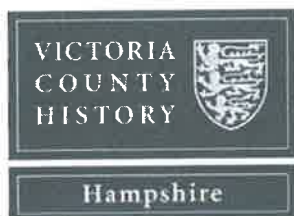
Recently we were sad to hear of the death of Miss Muriel Pink, who kept a preparatory school for children from 1939 to 1981 at her home in Richmond Road. Tim Herrington and Beryl Kay had interviewed Miss Pink and her sister Edith in 2000, and Nina Koch interviewed Edith again in 2003 (BAHS 046 and 098 if you want to listen to the cassettes or read the transcriptions). They were also interviewed by Jenny Rutt and Lesley Sams for the Church Cottage Open Day in 2006. They spoke about their Confirmation at St Michael's in 1926 and described how they had to go to Church Cottage to put on their veils and then process to the church.

Miss Edith Pink sadly died some years ago. Now many friends and former pupils have attended Miss Pink's funeral, and Richard Garfield wrote a moving tribute in his Memories on Monday page of the Basingstoke Gazette (January 11<sup>th</sup>).

Some of our members may remember that in 2002 we put on a Basingstoke Talking History exhibition in the Willis Museum, with photos of people interviewed and quotations from the interviews. On that occasion we organized a tea party at the exhibition and invited the two Misses Pink and various people who had been pupils at the Richmond Road school. Here they are sitting in basket chairs, with Anne Hawker bottom right.



In 2006 we sent extracts from several of our interviews about World War 2 to the BBC website, THE PEOPLE'S WAR. One of the interviews (BAHS 105 and 106) was with Doug Hawkins, a Prisoner of War who told of his horrific experiences on the Long March from Stalag 344 in Poland across Germany. As a result, he was contacted by another survivor of the Long March, and their meeting was shown on television. Recently our Secretary had an e-mail from someone who wanted to contact Doug because his father-in-law was also on the Long March, so we passed on the details to Doug who is now getting in touch with him.



## An invitation to our members

*Jean Morrin, who is leading the work for the revision of the Basingstoke volume of the Victoria County History, invites any of our members who are interested, to help with some research for the section on Education. If you would like to know more, or offer to help, please contact Jean [jeanmorrin@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanmorrin@btinternet.com) or Barbara Applin [barbara.applin@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.applin@btinternet.com) (01256 465439)*

We mentioned the possibility of members of the BAHS being prepared to research particular Basingstoke schools. This would involve initially visiting Hampshire Record Office to read and make notes on log books and school attendance registers. These records can then be linked with records in the National Archives – mainly Inspectors' reports of the schools. The documents are typed or hand-written but the script is generally easy to read.

The work is interesting and guidance will be given. I am happy to meet anyone interested in Basingstoke, at HRO and in due course to arrange dates to visit the National Archives.

Schools range from secondary schools such as Queen Mary's to a wide range of primary schools. Basingstoke College of Technology also needs research. People may wish to take one school or a group of schools or to work in a small group.

If you need more information, please let me know.

*Jean Morrin*

## ***New Light on Dark Ages Conference*** **HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB & ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

***Peter Stone***

The Hampshire Field Club Archaeology Section held its annual conference on Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> November, when speakers addressed a range of aspects of the 'Dark Ages', beginning with a presentation by Bruce Eagles of Winchester University on the subject of English County boundaries. These, it seems, evolved piecemeal from former British tribal territories and Roman *civitas* administrative units following the demise of imperial Rome and the consequent fragmented assumption of local power by Anglo-Saxon chieftains from the early 5<sup>th</sup> century onwards, that in turn led to the rise of the kingdoms of early medieval England.

He was followed by Roger White, Senior Lecturer at the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity at Birmingham University, who gave an up to date interpretation of the chronology of events from 410 AD. He explained how the resistance of the Britons to the incoming Anglo-Saxons was to bring about the existence of Celtic nations in western Britain. In so doing he revealed the little known fact that the last bastion of resistance of the former Western Roman Empire was indeed Wales – only conquered in 1296 by the 'barbarian' King Edward I of England – whose princes always claimed authority from the Roman Emperor. Equally interesting were his interpretation of the significance of the *notitia dignitatum* to an understanding of resistance to the 'barbarian conspiracy' and his use of a map that showed the 'Atlantic Archipelago' from a western viewpoint to explain origins and movements of the invaders of 367AD.

The lecture given by Sam Moorehead of the Portable Antiquities Scheme, British Museum, ably complemented its predecessor. He explained that the distribution of debased coin hoards of the late Roman period, such as those of Valentinian I, was evidence of expenditure incurred by the imperial government to purchase and secure grain from Britain to supply the Rhine Army, following lasting damage inflicted by Germanic invasions of Gaul. Hence, the motive that lay behind the 'barbarian conspiracy' 367AD, when Britain was attacked from Scotland, Ireland and across the North Sea, was the seizure of grain and not plunder.

The afternoon session consisted of lectures by Anthea Harris of the Institute of Archaeology and Antiquity at Birmingham University, who described the continuing influences of the Byzantine or Eastern Roman Empire on religious art and artefacts through to the recorded era of Anglo-Saxon England.

She was followed by Ian Blair of the Museum of London, who related first-hand experience of the excavation from 2003 of the rich Anglo-Saxon chamber grave at Prittlewell in Essex close to the site of a known Anglo-Saxon burial ground. Among the wide range of grave goods, some of which had to be excavated with the greatest care, there were glass vessels, gold-rimmed drinking horns and the remains of a lyre. Continuing links with the Eastern Roman Empire were evidenced by a Byzantine silver spoon with a Christian inscription and a pair of gold foil crosses that are believed to have been laid on the eyes of the deceased occupant. There were also gold coins of the Frankish Merovingian dynasty. This grave is now reckoned to be second in importance only to that of the Sutton Hoo ship burial found in 1939 and the richness of its content and the association of some of the artefacts with the Christian religion are indicative of a person of high rank, perhaps recently converted. This has led to speculation that it may be the tomb of Saebert, King of the East Saxons in the early 7<sup>th</sup> Century although direct evidence of this seems unlikely to be found.

Overall this was a conference well worth attending for the excellent quality of some thought-proving lectures on a period which modern scholarship continues to illuminate.

## ***BASINGSTOKE IN 18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY DIRECTORIES***

***Barbara Applin***

Ginny Pringle recently asked if anyone was interested in looking at a 5-volume Facsimile Text Edition (1993) of **The Universal British Directory, 1793-8** and Bob and I jumped at the opportunity. The promoters of this Directory were Peter Barfoot, a wealthy lawyer living near Droxford, and John Wilkes, a journalist, printer and publisher in Winchester, and proprietor of the *Hampshire Chronicle* (He was granted a royal patent to produce the Directory, dedicating the first parts to George III. This facsimile edition has a foreword and index by Clive Wilkins-Jones.

In their Prospectus, Barfoot and Wilkes explained that their work was "not confined to the mercantile and trading part of the citizens and inhabitants of the metropolis alone but comprehends every city, town and principal village in England and Wales, in each of which the gentlemen, clergy, tradesmen and persons occupying official departments are correctly entered and methodically arranged." They were interested in the nature of trade and manufactures of cities and principal towns, "their magisterial authority and internal government, their banks and hours of business..., the stage coaches and carriers belonging to each place with the hours of setting off and fare to London." They were also interested in navigable canals and public roads, the best inns, gentlemen's seats and the curiosities and antiquities of the country. The Basingstoke entry says that the canal is "now in the making" and the description of the town is well worth reading. I thought it would be interesting to compare the Basingstoke entries in this Directory (1793-8) with those in the Hampshire Directory of 1784 and the Pigot directory of

1792 (available in the Local Studies section of Basingstoke Library on microfiche and photocopies).  
An interesting source for future study.

<p><b>1784</b> Gentry not listed Clergy not listed</p> <p>Mayor, 6 Aldermen, Recorder, Town Clerk</p> <p>Attorneys 3 Apothecary &amp; surgeon Surgeons &amp; men-midwives 2 Chemist &amp; druggist</p> <p>Auctioneers 2 Shopkeepers 2 <b>Food:</b> bacon-seller, bakers 3, butchers 4, grocers 5 (1 also breeches-maker, another also tallow-chandler), corn factor <b>Clothes etc</b> breeches-maker, haberdasher 2 (1 + milliner, hatter &amp; bookseller), habit- maker, mantua-maker, patten- maker, stay-maker 2, tailor 4, woollen-draper 4 (1 also breeches-maker) Barbers 2, hairdressers 2, shoemakers 4 <b>Drink</b> brewers 3, maltsters 4 brandy m'chants 2, hop factor, <b>Trade/industry</b> cabinet- makers, carpenters 3, brazier, watchmakers 2, mealman 2, miller, plumber, glaziers 3, bricklayer, stonemason, tanner, currier, farrier 2, collar maker 2, hoop bender, saddler 2, leather-dresser, basket-maker, edge-tool maker, sack-maker, sack weaver, seedsman</p> <p><b>Innkeepers</b> 9</p>	<p><b>1792</b> Gentry 13 Vicar, Clergyman, Dissenting Minister, Priest Yeomen 9 Postmaster</p> <p>Excise-man</p> <p>Attorneys 5 Apothecary Surgeons 4</p> <p>Master (Blue School) Ladies' Boarding School Schoolteacher Auctioneer (&amp; upholsterer) Shopkeepers 10 <b>Food</b> bacon factor, bakers 6 (1 also ironmonger), butchers 4, fishmonger, fruiterer, grocers 2, poulterers 2 <b>Clothes etc</b> breeches-maker 2, cordwainer 9, draper 3, hatter 2, linen-draper, mantua-maker 3, peruke-maker 3, stay-maker 2, tailor 7</p> <p><b>Drink</b> brewer 3, hop merchant, maltsters 4 <b>Trade/industry</b> carpenters 6, glazier, plumbers &amp; glaziers 2, thatcher, turner, bricklayers 2, brick burner, stonemason, tanner, baler, blacksmiths 5 blanket-maker, brazier, chandlers 3, collar-makers 2, comber, cooper, currier, fellmonger, hoop shaver, horsecloth manufacturer, gardeners 3, painter, plumbers &amp; glaziers 2, printer, watchmakers 3, wharfinger, wheelwright, whitesmith, gunsmith</p> <p><b>Victuallers &amp; Inns</b> 17</p>	<p><b>1793-8</b> Gentry 15 Vicar, Dissenting Ministers 2, Priest Yeomen 8 Postmaster Bankers 3 (1 also ironmonger) Excisemen 2 Clerk of the Market Attorneys 5 Apothecary Physician, Surgeons 5 Mrs Kinchin Licensed for the Reception &amp; Care of Lunatics Master (Blue School) Ladies' Boarding School Schoolmaster Upholder [sic] &amp; Auctioneer Shopkeepers 7 <b>Food</b> bacon factor, bakers 6, butchers 3, fishmonger, fruiterer, grocers 2</p> <p><b>Clothes etc</b> breeches-maker 2, cordwainer 8, draper 3, hatter, linen-draper, mantua-maker 3, milliner 2, peruke-maker 2, stay-maker 2</p> <p><b>Drink</b> brewers 3, hop merchant, maltsters 5, vintner <b>Trade/industry</b> carpenters 5, watchmakers 3, glazier, plumbers 2, thatcher, turners 3, tanner, bricklayer, brick burner, millwright, tanner, stonemason, blanket-maker, chandler, collar-makers 3, comber, cooper, currier, edge- tool maker, fellmonger, hoopshavers 2, horsecloth manufacturer, ironmonger, painter, sack-maker, stonemason, upholsterer, wheelwright, gunsmith</p> <p><b>Victuallers &amp; Inns</b> 15</p>
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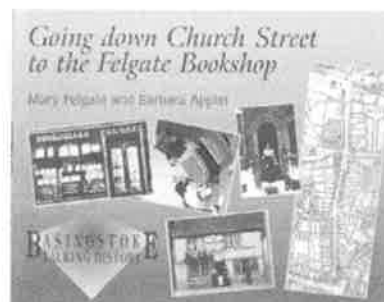
A mantua is a loose cloak and a peruke is a wig. A cordwainer made shoes & boots.

Recently the Basingstoke Writers' circle put on a display of their work at the Willis Museum. The centerpiece of the exhibition was a collection of their writings, inspired by objects in the museum, which are now available in a book **WRITING FOR THE WILLIS - FROM FACT TO FICTION**. **Joan Sullivan** has kindly allowed us to reprint this article, which has such resonance for our Society.

## TRACING THE STEPS OF MARY FELGATE AND OTHER FACTORS

**Joan Sullivan**

*This story evolved from the book:  
'Going Down Church Street to the Felgate Bookshop'  
by Mary Felgate and Barbara Applin (published in 1998)*



This captivating book 'Going Down Church Street ...' resulted from a project run by Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society with the Willis Museum. Barbara Applin researched and moulded the historical facts together after being inspired by Mary Felgate, in her eighties at the time. Mary, a lady of many talents, unfolds an astonishingly detailed account of her childhood and surroundings.

Turning to page four, I noticed that Barbara had invited us to add to the memories of Mary Felgate. Unfortunately, Mary died in 2001 before I knew of the existence of the book or of her many artistic talents and before I had any reason to trace her steps! But seemingly, I'm now in the position to 'add to the memories' by firstly asking a crucial question: Do we find sometimes that there are strange coincidences that occur during one's lifetime and we can usually find a willing ear when it comes to telling the tale? Well, my story is one such tale, having uncanny connections with Mary, her regular journey down Church Street and other factors.

Consequently, with this thought in mind, I'll not postpone putting pen to paper and unravel the facts before me.

Mary was born 6<sup>th</sup> April, 1912 in a typical Edwardian house: No. 33 Beaconsfield Road, in Basingstoke. A self-published booklet 'Rings of Reflections' shows Mary's first attempt at poetry written at the age of ten for the Basingstoke High School Magazine (now Harriet Costello School) entitled 'The Fairies' Dance.' Mary was an eager child bursting with the joys of life, more than willing to practise the art of independence when asked by her mother to fetch a few items from the local shop. One could imagine this child being quite content to play in the garden with her spinning top or rolling clay marbles on the path - possibly favouring her pretty cloth doll that she would have always been loyal to - for that has always been a girlie thing to do!

Her older brother John Harold may have been otherwise engaged in much more important matters of the day: re-enacting some war strategies and commanding his World War One lead soldiers. A less pensive pastime may have employed Master John Harold, as a farmer with the characteristics of John Bull, taking stock of as many farmyard animals as he could muster.



Unquestionably, the Felgate Edwardian home was the same house where my daughter Paula and her husband had raised their family of three children. It's interesting to note: from the window in the small back-bedroom of this address, one could see the upper back windows of No 63 Southern Road (far beyond the natural growth), where my other daughter Lynn lives with her family. It's uncanny to think that Mary would have had a clear view of this same house from the same room, whilst peering out of the sash windows to greet her day. When I had occupied 'the room with the view' dutifully baby-sitting, the top bunk-bed was allocated to me, even though a trifle unbecoming for a Nanny with a touch of arthritis, to be climbing that narrow ladder by the light of the moon!

The room had a closet set high in the wall, a shelf at the top with a panelled door and brass handle. There was a tiny cast-iron fireplace that was prettily moulded with tulip detail. When all was quiet, I had time to reflect how young Mary, herself, would have found comfort on chilly evenings, sat crossed legged in front of the flickering flames rising from the tiny grate, before kneeling by her bedside for her last prayer of the day.

Shortly after my daughter's family moved in to No.33, a gentleman neighbour, Mr D Pettle, came knocking on her door to show a family photograph of the previous occupants. Paula, so charmed by it, copied and framed the picture. It became a welcoming presence and a distinct matter of discussion to visitors entering the hallway. Quite at home, in fact, hung from the old picture rail! The distinctive Edwardian ceiling roses, corbels and coving being of added interest. The picture was taken down during their move in 2006 and, having no place in the new modernised bungalow, it was passed on to me for safe keeping.

At first glance, the picture is easy to distinguish as being the said No 33, showing the bay fronted Edwardian terraced house after an extreme snow storm. The depth of the snow that had settled on the wall and walkway appears to be around six inches. Snow clinging precariously on the roof and windowsills; the hedges to the left of the picture are bowing with the strain of the weight. There is a dwarf brick garden wall, distinctive of the period with beautiful wrought iron trimming on top with a matching gate. A smart, lean, maternal woman is seen standing in the open doorway (Mrs Felgate), with a girl of around five (Mary), and a boy of seven (John Harold) - giving some warmth to the picture.

The snow on the tiled path appears to have been disturbed somewhat. Could those two youngsters in their excitement have dared to venture outside to test the snow earlier when their Mummy wasn't looking? I understand the picture was taken by their father (who was fanatical about cameras), just in the nick of time actually, before an avalanche of snow had thundered from the roof.

Mary Felgate describes on page 23 how she closed her eyes to recall her first memories, at the age of nine, of her regular journey from her home to Church Street. She walked to her dear Aunt Lizzie's bible book shop - known as the Felgate Book Shop at No. 65 Church Street as it was numbered then - before many houses were demolished to establish new structures and the Timberlake Link in the late sixties.

The final coincidental fact to be unravelled is centred on the ownership of Box Hairdressing pictured on page 57 of the book 'Going Down Church Street.' The salon was first established in 1989, occupying the very same shop once owned by the Felgates. The hairdressing business expanded to combine three ground floor premises: the old Felgate Book Shop, Mr Alfred Green's china and glass shop and the extension added to the end of the terrace in later years.

The salon, unit numbers 71, 73, & 77 Lower Church Street, is pleasantly situated adjacent to the beautiful 16<sup>th</sup> century St. Michael's Church. The unit is now owned by my son Peter, in partnership with Mark Patten. The five star salon employs my daughter Paula as a Master Colour Expert and daughter Lynn, as a Receptionist Co-ordinator plus thirty four other staff.

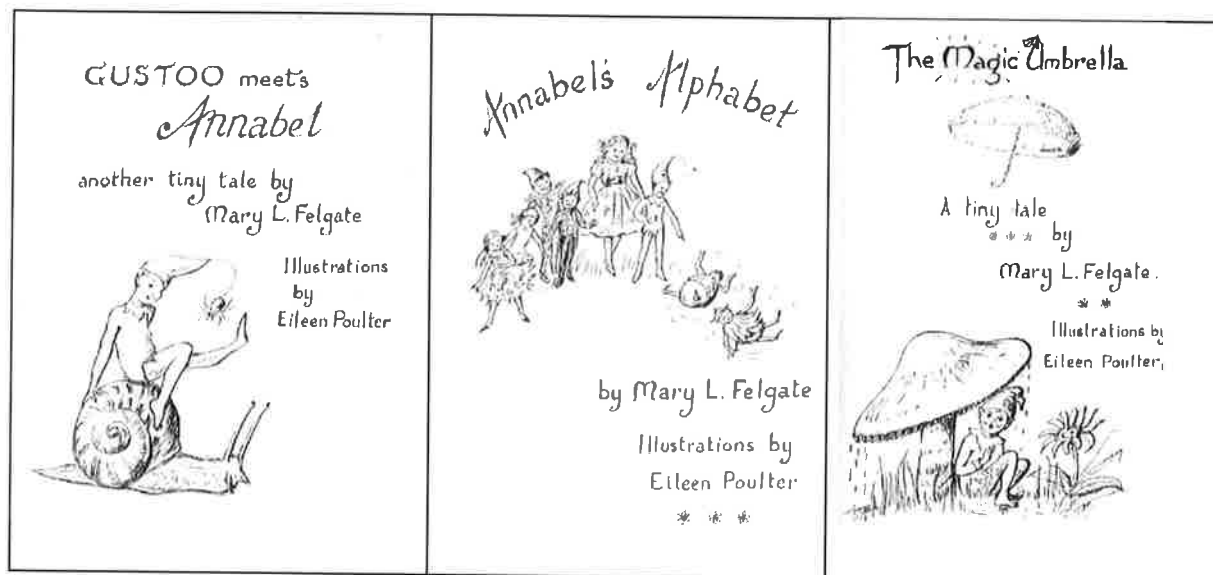
So...Paula walked each day from her home at 33 Beaconsfield Road to Box Hairdressing (previously Felgate Book Shop). Both my daughters have traced the steps of Mary as a child in the 1920s as she walked so often down Jacobs Alley to London Street through the Market Place into Church Street, down the hill to the Felgate Book Shop, where she had spent many pleasurable occasions with family members.



My pleasure indeed is being greeted by my three children at the salon, and being pampered by them, and the friendly staff. Quite an uncanny connection wouldn't you agree?

After the discovery of the existence of the book in 1999 and learning of the strange coincidences therein, I was then introduced to Eileen Poulter, known to have been a friend of Mary Felgate. I was hence interested to learn how her friend Mary had moved from her home (No. 33) to a flat opposite and then to Ashcombe House Nursing Home for the five years before she died.

During this time, Eileen encouraged Mary to finish a set of seven booklets. The children's tales evolve around a friendship between a tiny wee elf named Gustoo and a little girl Annabel who lived in woodland with creatures and fairy folk. The stories were originally based on two figurines: Gustoo made by Eileen, and Annabel made by Anne Hawker, friend and co-researcher of 'Going Down Church Street.' Mary dictated the last of the stories to Eileen from her bed at Ashcombe House and Eileen illustrated the set dated from 1993 to 1998. They are still to be found for sale at London Street United Reformed Church.



I recall inviting Eileen as a speaker to my home, where the Basingstoke Writers' Circle members were intrigued by the subject matter of the book, 'Going Down Church Street,' a selection of Mary's colourful hand-crafted ceramic items and the Felgate family snow scene. Many of Mary's personal artefacts are to be found at the Willis Museum, along with other items from the Bookshop. Lovable Mary was an artist in all aspects of the word: being a writer, painter, potter, organist, pianist, photographer and archivist. She also sang in the church choir for fifty five years.

There are people we meet in our lifetime who positively enrich our lives; I believe Mary Langdon Felgate to have been one such person. For me, this was not to be. But, for the coincidences therein and the chance to hear the sound of her voice recorded on tape at the Willis Museum – I shall be thankful.

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## *Letters to the Editors*

**We would like to start this occasional feature and invite our members to write in. This is your opportunity to tell other members about interesting happenings, ideas or projects. Tell us your feelings about them, perhaps start a discussion.**

**Barbara Applin and Peter Stone**  
**e-mail [barbara.applin@btinternet.com](mailto:barbara.applin@btinternet.com)**



## 2010 DIARY DATES

**BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL &  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

**BAHSOC**

### MEETINGS

at 7.30 pm Church Cottage, Basingstoke

*Thurs 11 March The Earliest Art of Europe* Andrew Lawson

*Thurs 8 April Leaves From a Family Album: The 1890s and 1900s Through the Eye of the Camera* Rupert Willoughby

*Thurs 13 May Who Cared? Nursing and Health Provision for Soldiers and their Families in the Civil War and Interregnum* Dr Eric Gruber von Arni

**VISIT** *Thurs 29 July 6 for 6.30 pm Silchester* (page 4)

**FIELDWORK** *14, 21, 28 Feb Woodland Archaeology*  
*24 May-4 June Basing House dig* (see page 3)

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### **FRIENDS OF BASING HOUSE at 7.30 pm The Bothy, Basing House**

*Tues 9<sup>th</sup> March The Last Days of Charles I* Alan Turton

### **FRIENDS OF WILLIS MUSEUM at 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke**

*Thurs 18 Feb From Cream Teas to Clapperboards: A local's view of Lacock* Sue Tapliss

*Thurs 18 March Living with Jane Austen* Richard Tanner

*Thurs 15<sup>th</sup> April Sign Posts, Milestones and Village Signs* Brian Lacock

*Thurs 20<sup>th</sup> May Updating the Victoria County History for North Hampshire* Dr Jean Morrin

### **HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB** (see page 7)

*Tues 16<sup>th</sup> March Winchester Park & Ride: Interim Results from 2009 Compton Dig* James Lewis

*Sat 27<sup>th</sup> March An Introduction to Human Remains on Archaeology* Free workshop to be held at University of Winchester 10 am - 1pm

*Sat 22 May 125<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conference* 1.30 - 7 pm

**WINCHESTER DISCOVERY CENTRE** Treasures of Hyde Abbey, exhibition and lectures,  
6 March to 2 May, see page XXX

**DACRE LECTURE 2010** In the Steps of Churchill Richard Holmes, at The Lights, Andover, Fri,  
23<sup>rd</sup> April

**HAMPSHIRE COUNTY MUSEUM SERVICE** at Chilcomb House, Bar End, Winchester  
**STORES SUNDAY** on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month (21<sup>st</sup> February etc) 10.00am to 5.00 pm  
Contact: Alan Jacobs on 01962-826728 or alan.jacobs@hants.gov.uk

Secretary: Ginny Pringle Tel: 01420 550028  
Email: [secretary@bahsoc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bahsoc.org.uk)

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