

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BAHSOC

Newsletter 192 August 2010

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**Reminder:
Subs due
1st September!**

Photo: Simon Butler

Debz Barry Margaret Mark Ian Marjolein Garth Ginny Mary Alan Barbara - your Committee

BAHS AGM – Summary

The BAHS AGM was held on 10th June and this year's committee will comprise Mark Peryer (Chairman), Ginny Pringle (Secretary), Margaret Porter (Treasurer), Garth George (Membership Secretary), Marjolein Butler, Deborah Charlton, Alan Turton, Ian Waite, Mary Oliver (Co-opted) and Barry Hedger (Co-opted).

During the discussion following the presentation of the accounts we were asked why the project and the general fund had been merged. These two funds were notional, and for all practical purposes have been merged for a number of years. The project fund was originally set up to cover the costs of a book publishing project but for flexibility, we now manage the finances of each book project separately and have chosen not to set up specific funds.

Furthermore, since we are now publishing books on a regular basis, we have recently set up a publishing sub-committee which is chaired by Barbara Applin and comprises Peter Stone, Jim Osgerby and Nicola Turton. This sub-committee is responsible for overseeing our publishing projects and for preparing costed proposals which have to be approved by the main committee before they can go ahead.

After the business part of the AGM, Bob Clarke gave a lively and entertaining talk on the Overton Messiah (see page 10) and Mark Peryer gave an update on recent work at Basing House.

Membership Renewal

Membership subs are unchanged from last year:

Membership	Paid by direct debit	Paid otherwise
Individual	£11	£12
Family (same household)	£15	£16
Student / Over 60	£ 7	£ 8
Over 60 Family	£12	£13

If you are already paying by standing order, then you do not need to fill in a membership renewal form unless there has been a change in your address or tax status for Gift Aid. If you are not, then you should complete the form and send it with your cheque to Garth George. Should you wish to swap to the convenience of a standing order, then you should get a Standing Order form from your bank and fill in the details for the BAHS account (Account number 00932097, Sort code 30-90-53), making the SO payable yearly on the 1st September.

Fieldwork Report

Mark Peryer

This year's season at Basing House was scaled back from the original plan of re-landscaping the Civil War earthworks to a continuation of the works on the western gatehouse that was started last year. Those who joined in enjoyed good weather and were able to bring the area back to some of its original surfaces. One of the main results was finding out the depth of the brick piers which were the main support for the bridge across the Bailey ditch. This turned out to be on a par (at about 25 courses of brick below the present day surface) with the piers on the main bridge into the Citadel. This suggests

that the Bailey ditch was considerably deeper than it is now. A new bridge has been designed for this area of Basing House, and this may even be in position by the time you read this newsletter.

Work is on-going at Cholderton and again the diggers are enjoying the good weather. A large area has been exposed, and there are a number of features belonging to the Bronze Age site which are evident. There are postholes and a number of pits to be investigated and recorded by the end of the summer. Work is continuing one weekend a month into September, the next weekend being the 24th/25th August. If you are interested in coming along, please contact either myself (01256 780502, mperyer@f2s.com) or Briony Laylor (01256 364161, briony@brionylalor.co.uk).

We hope to be organising some restorative work at the Silchester amphitheatre and at the Basing House fish ponds under the F.O.A.M. banner some time in the autumn; more details will be given nearer the time.

CHILCOMB HOUSE STORES SUNDAYS See Newsletter 191

BREAKING NEWS...!!

THE BASINGSTOKE RIOTS

Pre-publication offer

The next BAHSOC publication will be Bob Clarke's thoroughly researched and sometimes hilarious account of the "Massagainian" riots against the Salvation Army in Basingstoke in the 1880s. Due out in October..

Published price £10, price to members £8, but if you order and pay before 1st October it will be £7.50.

**Orders to Margaret Porter , 57 Belvedere Gardens, Chineham, Basingstoke RG24 8GB,
01256 356012, margaretporter333@yahoo.co.uk (cheques payable to BAHS)**

BAHS VISITS

We are planning a Society visit to Horsham on 23rd October.

It will be good to see Tim Herrington again, our past Chairman. Many members will remember the visits to churches in our area organized by Tim before he moved away, so it is not surprising that he will be taking us to his local church. The Horsham Museum is well worth a visit, and Diana Chatwin will be showing us an interesting timber-framed building. Full details will be announced at meetings, and if you are interested please contact **Margaret Porter, as above.**

Next year will be our 40th anniversary and we are hoping to organise a special conference in the Great Barn at Basing House.
Watch this space ...

NOTICE BOARD

ST MICHAEL'S: Church and People - celebrating 500 years Mary Oliver

This year, Basingstoke's parish church is celebrating the rebuilding of the major part of the church by our Tudor predecessors. Among the programme of events is an exhibition at the Willis Museum, which runs **from 7 August until 4 September** which will highlight some of the interesting facts about the church, its history and the people connected with it. Obviously, most things cannot be moved from the church, but some excellent photos have been specially commissioned to illustrate the story, and there will be exhibits as well as pictures, including an opportunity to see the Basingstoke cope, designed by our member Atherton Harrison. I have even agreed to loan my precious Baigent and Millard 'History of Basingstoke' for the duration, an example of the historical work of Millard, the Victorian vicar on whom we all depend!

For those who would like to follow up with the real thing, the church, as well as Church Cottage, will be open on Heritage Open Day, Saturday 11 September, when there will be guided tours and displays. All are free events – please come along and see what is giving me sleepless nights at the moment!!

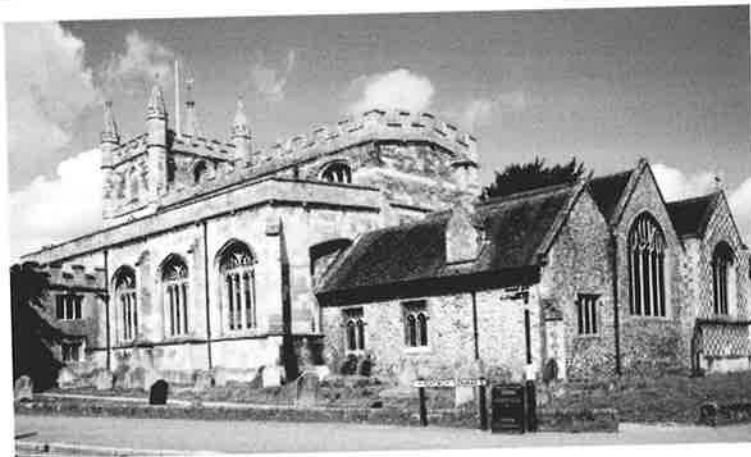


Photo ActiveShot



Work still continues on both the Grange side of The Street, and the Basing House side. Major re-wiring is taking place in the museum which will be completely redisplayed.

On the archaeological side, a brick threshing floor has been uncovered in the Great Barn. It has not yet been dated. And a surviving fragment of the outer wall has been discovered on the north side of the canal.

Basing House will reopen to the public on 14th August 2010, and there will be a major Sealed Knot re-enactment over the three days of the August Bank Holiday. New opening times are 10am - 5pm, Saturday through to Thursday (closed Fridays) until the end of October. The new season will start 1st March and run till the end of October. This is the link to the new website: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/museum/basing-house/basing-info/bh-siteplan.htm>



**Annual Sponsored 'Ride & Stride'
for Hampshire Historic Churches Trust
Saturday, 11 September 2010**

The Trust has as its main objective giving financial assistance to churches requiring restorations or repairs. Their main source of income is the annual walk or bike-ride, from church-to-church, raising money through sponsorship. Details are available now as to churches which may be visited and there are many interesting and attractive buildings to see in all parts of the county. Further information from **Ralph Atton, Area Co-ordinator, 0118 970 0825 or ralph.atton@btopenworld.com**

**Heritage Open Days, 10 to 12 September 2010
Parish Church of St Mary the Virgin, Silchester**



The doors of this grade-one listed building (dating from around 1125) will once again be open for the HODS scheme, co-ordinated nation-wide by English Heritage.

There will be talks on the history and architecture of the church building, display of photographs and historical documents, a bell-ringing demonstration and sale of postcards, guides and good-quality second-books. And, of course, tea, coffee and light refreshments will also be available throughout.

Contact Co-ordinator, Ralph Atton, as above.

MEMBER ALERT ...

This article contains a serious health warning!!

by Debz



As a research student procrastination is my middle name! Where do I mostly and easily indulge my procrastination . . . ? Why of course, on a website - there should be one called www.whatevertakesmyinterestatthemoment

It does give me a little spark of guilt that I am not really achieving anything constructive and so you can imagine my delight, whilst attending a conference, when I heard of two 'on-line' projects that will make my procrastination totally acceptable (at least to my mind if not to my study directors!)

I am a member of IMSIG (Information Management Special Interest Group) and the theme of this conference was the latest buzz word - 'crowdsourcing'. The projects may be of some interest, especially for those winter evenings indoors that are sadly not very far away, so I thought I would share the links . . .

Victoria & Albert Museum <http://collections.vam.ac.uk/crowdsourcing/>
University College London <http://www.ucl.ac.uk/transcribe-bentham/category/transcription/>

I hope you enjoy . . . Be warned though . . . They are **highly addictive!!**

AN APPEAL!

In 2008, the 16th / 17th century syringe was found in the gatehouse dig at Basing House. It was found in two pieces, and the cap and plunger were found in the last minutes by me! That evening, someone took a photo of me holding my bit and the chap who found the other half holding his. We're beaming like mad, and I would love to have a copy of that photo, but I can't remember who took it. I do think it was a member of the Archaeological Society. Please let me know if it was you!

Nicola Turton

Congratulations!

to Nicola Turton, who has been awarded second prize in the Hampshire Local History Essay Competition., for her essay on "**The English Civil War Remains of Basing House in Hampshire**". Look out for it in *The Best of 2010 Anthology* to be published by The Winchester Writers' conference.



The Mary Rose – Making the Tudor World 1st October 2010 – 1st January 2011 The Willis Museum

This special exhibition uses objects from the wreck of the *Mary Rose*, the favourite warship of Henry VIII. The *Mary Rose* was a home on the sea for its crew. It carried everything that they needed for everyday life, from weapons to tableware and from clothes to gambling games. All of these items were hand made. The exhibition looks at how these beautiful objects were created and will offer you the chance to make your own.

The exhibition explores five carefully selected key themes of clothing, food, leisure, tools and warfare during the Tudor period. Artefacts that link to these areas will be on display, alongside examples from modern day makers who have created their own replicas. Through the work of these people and original objects, we can gain a better understanding of how people lived and worked. We can understand more about the things that the Tudors used, the materials they relied on and the methods they applied when creating their world.

This exhibition will be supported with a variety of events and activities at The Willis Museum and Basing House. Details of the workshops, talks and other events taking place will be available online from Hampshire Museum web pages, later this summer. Book early to avoid disappointment.

This exhibition has been created in partnership with The Mary Rose Trust.

BAHS PROGRAMME NOTES 2010 - 2011

Mary Oliver

9 September Wessex Film and Sound Archive, Winchester tour and demonstration by David Lee, Hampshire Record Office This meeting, held at the Record Office, will include a tour and explanation of the facilities, followed by both sound and film demonstrations in the film theatre. These will, we hope, include some local material, and should be of particular interest to the Talking History members. Church Cottage is not available that evening, because of preparations for St Michael's Heritage Open Day (see page 16) and gives us an excuse for an outing.

14 October Anglo-Saxon Northumbria by Prof. Barbara Yorke, University of Winchester

We were disappointed to miss this lecture in the spring because of the snow and grateful that Prof. Yorke has agreed to re-schedule. She will probably have even more to tell us about her recent research on the important kingdom of Northumbria, (those who visited Northumberland to see Hadrian's Wall had a foretaste of it last year).

11 November Stonehenge; the debate continues by Julian Richards, independent archaeologist

It is rare for Stonehenge to be out of the news in recent years with the exciting results of the latest inter-university programme of excavation under Mike Parker-Pearson, (which we visited in 2008) and the discussions over the Visitor Centre. Julian Richards has been connected with the site for many years, since his programme of field-walking and the excavation of the neighbouring Coneyborough henge and we can depend on him to bring us up to date. It will be good to welcome him to the Society again.

9 December Wine and Cheese, the usual formula.

13 January Amphitheatres in Roman Britain by Tony Wilmott, English Heritage

Another old friend returning to lecture is Tony Wilmott, one of English Heritage's Roman specialists, excavating many important sites for them. He has made a study of amphitheatres in the province and excavated the site at Chester, one of the best preserved.

10 February Archaeological Surveying in Egypt and Syria; by Kris Strutt, University of Southampton Kris is an Experimental Officer with the Department of Archaeology, specialising in mapping and geophysical survey. He has worked both locally, in Europe, and much further afield in Syria and Egypt, on such famous sites as Dura Europas. It is the latter work that we have asked him to tell us about, both the survey methods and the results.

10 March The archaeological evidence for the Saxons in Hampshire by Dr Nick Stoodley, University of Winchester The Dark Ages, so called, are an often neglected period of our history, but this year we are devoting two lectures to them. Nick has done intensive research into the Anglo-Saxon burial grounds of Southern Britain and will be able to give us a very detailed look at the archaeological evidence from our county. Somewhere in our immediate area, there must be a cemetery . . .

14 April A traitor's death? The mystery of the hanged, drawn and quartered man from Hulton Abbey, Staffordshire by Mary Lewis, University of Reading Mary studies human remains in the award winning Archaeology Department at Reading, and suggested this unusual topic which she thought we would find interesting. It is a mixture of scientific study and historical detective work – come and be intrigued!

12 May Edward Jenner and the Smallpox Virus by Dr Tim Mason, University of Portsmouth

Smallpox was a very ancient disease which troubled humans everywhere until the advent of immunisation. Dr Mason, a microbiologist, will trace the history of the disease and methods of preventing it. No doubt you already know that 'vaccination', a term we are familiar with, comes from Jenner's use of cow pox to inoculate against smallpox, but there will be more to learn about this hero who has probably saved more lives than any other man.

IN MEMORY OF JOHN FEUILLADE

John Feuillade. 30th June 1931 – 19th June 2010.

This a shortened and edited version of Ann Broad's appreciation of John read at his Memorial Service on 30th June 2010 at which several members of the Society were present.



John Feuillade was a man of many parts and in whatever area he served, like the good Scout he was, he "did his best" and was greatly appreciated.

Born in Balham and evacuated during the war, John did his National Service in the Navy, achieving the rank of Petty Officer. For most of his working life John was a Chartered Mechanical Engineer at AWE Aldermaston where he remained until he retired. In the late 1960s, with the coming of the Test Ban Treaty, staff at AWE Aldermaston were put to work on projects unrelated to nuclear weapons. John became involved in the assessment of kidney machines for the NHS. Later in his career he did considerable work on lasers.

In December 2000 John was awarded his Open University Degree, BA (Hons).

He was a long standing member of the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society and for a time served on the committee, regularly attending the monthly meetings and joining visits arranged by the Society. With Tim Herrington he arranged a well received series of visits to local churches of interest.

John also supported the TADS (Tadley History Society), attending the meetings and was always willing to give a lift in his car to neighbours who would otherwise have been unable to attend.

The Scout Movement was his major and life-long interest. John held many positions in the Tadley Scout Group, first as Scout Leader, later as Group Scout Leader, and in the 1980s he was an active and well respected District Commissioner for Silchester Scout District. When he retired from active leadership at the age of 65, which was a requirement at that time, he took on the position of Silchester District Secretary, a post he held, apart from two years as Assistant District Commissioner, until his death. The Scout Association awarded John the Medal of Merit in 1978 and a Bar to his Medal in 1991. In 2006 he was presented with his 50 years service badge.

With Mike Broad, John was a founder member of the Calleva Life Saving Club. He became a qualified R.L.S.S. Trainer/Assessor and was still examining scouts and guides for their RLSS awards until a couple of years ago when standing for any length of time became too difficult. When the Calleva Lifeguard Club was formed as an adjunct to the Life Saving Club to allow older scouts and guides to learn boat handling and open water rescue skills as part of the Thames Rescue Service, John with other scout leaders, trained through the TRS as an Instructor and gained his Royal Yacht Association Sports Boat Certificate with Rescue Boat Endorsement. Using the Calleva Lifeguard Club's sports boat he passed on his knowledge to the younger members during the Club's TRS duties, providing cover at various places on the River Thames at weekends during the summer.

John had many other hobbies and interests; history- he was a room steward at The Wyne, the National Trust Tudor mansion near Basingstoke, giving answers to the many and varied questions from the visitors- gardening, swimming, sailing, windsurfing, painting, walking his corgis, reading and learning.

Many clients of the Tadley Citizens Advice Bureau have reason to be grateful for his knowledgeable assistance in the years since he joined the Bureau, where he was a valued and committed member of the team, quietly and successfully helping many people with their various problems.

For many months during his retirement he battled his way back from being almost completely paralysed, caused by an abcess on his spine, to almost complete independence and continued with his previous activities.

For many years John's holidays (apart from camping with the scouts) were in the Greek Islands where he swam, painted, visited historical sites and went windsurfing. Since his daughter Rosalind and her husband decided to live on the island of Crete he enjoyed his trips to stay with them where he could continue with these pastimes.

John Feuillade – a life of service, freely given to all ages – a father to be proud of for Ros, Robert and Vanessa and a super grandfather to his four grandsons and great grandson.

Barbara Applin adds *When doing an Oral History component for his Open University Degree, John hadn't enough use of his hands to key in transcriptions of his interviews - so he got voice-recognition software, taught it his voice, listened to the interviews and repeated the words into a microphone attached to the computer!*



Report by Barbara Applin

More members are helping now - and even more would be welcome, especially anyone with a particular expertise who can interview people in their field - for instance, engineering, the building trades, aspects of farming.

There was an interesting interview with Mac Capelin, engineer with the Development Group during the town's redevelopment. Plenty of people interviewed give their opinions of the changes but it was good to hear the reasons for some of the decisions.

Because the VCH group are now looking at records of education in Basingstoke, we decided to focus on different schools, to provide more recent information. Margaret Bailey has trawled through past BTH transcriptions, finding references to different schools. Our recent interviews included George Hood on his experiences as a school governor, Margaret Bailey about teaching at Fairfields and Chris Burrowes on teaching crafts and then technology in three different schools, explaining the changes in teaching methods and the contrasts between the different schools. Lynden Jones was interviewed as the last headmaster of St Thomas's School for the Deaf and the effects of changing approaches to children with special needs. He contrasted that with his later involvement with the special unit at Park View School, leading to a joint interview with Ann Broad (a supply teacher there) and Jo Kelly (a governor). It is particularly valuable to get these descriptions of key changes in local and national education.

For the book on Basingstoke and the Co-op (planned for 2011) we are getting help from southern Co-operative, including a cheque for £250 "to get us started". Interviews include Alan Andrews about the Furniture Department on Sarum Hill and Paul Bosley, a driver for the Co-op. Paul and his wife Christine and Alan Applin also spoke about working for Lansing Bagnall - again, this covered a period of change, with the take-over by the German firm Linde.

Our four digital recorders are now in frequent use. The original Museum recordings (over 90) have now mostly been transcribed. We have recorded 145 interviews on cassette and 64 digitally, making this a significant collection in the Wessex Film & Sound Archive.

The False Messiah of Overton

Bob Clarke

(the talk given after the Society's AGM in June)

In 1650, Humphrey Ellis, one of the two ministers appointed by Parliament to serve the Cathedral Church at Winchester, wrote a 62 page piece of instant journalism, entitled *Pseudochristus: Or, a true and faithful Relation of the Grand Impostures, Horrid Blasphemies, Abominable Practices, Gross Deceits; Lately spread abroad and acted in the County of Southampton.*

Ellis tells the story of William Franklin who claimed to be "The Christ, The Messiah, The Son of God, who dyed and was crucified at Jerusalem for the sins of the People of God"; and Mary Gadbury, "The Spouse of Christ, called the Lady Mary, The Queen and Bride, the Lamb's Wife".

In 1649 we had just undergone the upheavals of two bloody Civil Wars. Thousands had left their homes to follow the armies. The monarchy and the House of Lords, the established church and the bishops had all been abolished. All the old certainties and authority figures had gone.

In this vacuum people were free to interpret the Bible in their own lights, as the spirit moved within them. This was fertile ground for new sects to spring up – Anabaptists, Seekers, Muggletonians, Quakers going naked for a sign, Ranters and Fifth Monarchy Men. Anyone with wild ideas and an ounce of charisma was guaranteed a following.

Ranters believed that God was in everything and in everybody. Because God was within us, we could not sin. Sin and Heaven and Hell were man-made inventions, devised by the Church and ruling class to keep the lower class in check. Lawrence Clarkson, "Captain of the Rant", preached that to the pure, all things are pure. We must act as how we are moved and directed by God within us, even those acts which Man might call "Swearing, Drunkenness, Adultery or Theft." Thomas Webbe, vicar of Langley Burhill in Wiltshire, wore long shaggy hair, enjoyed mixed dancing, and said it was lawful for him to lie with any woman, there was no Heaven but women, nor no Hell save marriage, and Moses was a conjuror.

The Fifth Monarchy Men interpreted the books of Daniel and Revelation to believe that the thousand year reign of Christ and his Saints was shortly due to begin. Army preachers had taught that Parliament's victories were signs of God's providence, and that Christ's kingdom was at hand.

For many, not just the Fifth Monarchists, King Charles's defeat had cleared the way for the physical reign of Christ on earth. The question was not so much when, but in what form of man, Christ would reappear.

William Franklin was born in Overton in about 1610. He was apprenticed in London as a ropemaker, and moved to Stepney to follow that trade. In early 1649 he began to receive revelations and visions, and to be able to see into the future. He abandoned his wife of 16 years and his three children, and joined a set of Ranters.

Mary Gadbury was aged about 30 in 1649. Seven years earlier, her husband ran off with another woman, leaving Mary to support herself by selling "small Wares, as Laces, Pins, Bandstrings and other trifles for Gentlewomen." She experimented with religion, moving from sect to sect, where she would have heard preachers confidently preaching that King Charles's defeat had cleared the way for the Second Coming.

In July 1649 she met William Franklin. He made such an impression on her that Mary began to have ecstatic fits and to see visions and hear voices. A voice told her, "I will send my Son in the person of a Man, who shall rule over the Nations, and they shall see him face to face, eye to eye."

Shortly before William visited her again, the voice announced, "It is the Lord; it is the Lord."

Excited by this message, she asked him, "Hath God revealed to you, that his Son shall reign in the person of a Man?"

"I am that Man", he replied.

Mary laughed at him, and said that she would have expected to see "the same body that suffered, and was laid down at the Sepulchre at Jerusalem."

"That was an old body, but that which I hath now is a new body."

"But you are a married man, who hath wife and children."

In an impressive line in seduction, William told her that the Lord had destroyed the body and nature of Franklin, born at Overton. It had been revealed to him that Mary was the woman who was set apart for his use. It would do her good if he stayed the night with her.

One day in November 1649, William told Mary that he had received a revelation to go to the "Hill Country, the Land of Ham". Mary gave away all her possessions, and two days later they set off for Hampshire in Hunt's Andover Wagon. In Andover, they took lodgings at "the sign of the Starre", now the White Hart Hotel. Word got around that there was a new preacher from London, and people flocked to the Star to hear him preach.

Mary told everyone that William Franklin was the expected Christ. Edward Spradbury, a cloth worker from Andover, was one of the first to believe her. Fired with the news that Christ was in Andover, he rode to Crux Easton to tell William Woodward, the Minister of that parish, and his wife Margaret.

At first, the Woodwards didn't believe it, but a few days later, Margaret had a vision that Mary Gadbury was the woman in the Revelation, "clothed with the Sun, and the Moon under her feet." William Woodward was still unsure, until, "being much troubled, he went to his barn, and there sate down, where a perfect audible voice was heard by him, which said unto him, 'Arise, and declare what thou hast seen'."

In Andover, the mood was mixed. There were those who believed William was Christ. And there were people from Overton who knew him as a lad, and knew he had a wife and children in Stepney. The landlord of the Star was getting fed up with the disruption caused by Franklin's followers, and when he discovered that he had let a single room to an adulterous couple, he gave them notice to quit.

As feelings in Andover were running high against William and Mary, mainly led by a woman named Goody Waterman, they moved in with the Woodwards at Crux Easton Rectory on 11th December 1649.

The following Sunday, while out walking, Goody Waterman found herself "with a great power drawne ... to Crooxeason". Arriving at the rectory "in an exceeding great sweat", she told William Woodward that she had been possessed by Satan, but the power she had reproached (meaning William Franklin) had delivered her from Satan.

Reports of Goody Waterman's conversion, stories of Mary Gadbury giving birth to a dragon which William Franklin destroyed, and other strange reports drew "multitudes of people" to Crux Easton. William selected his disciples. They included John Noyce, who was given the title John the Baptist, "sent forth to tell that Christ was come upon the earth."

Henry Dixon of Stockbridge became one of the destroying angels in the Book of Revelation, "sent forth to curse the earth, and the inhabitants of it." He cursed Thomas Wilkins, the constable of

Andover, telling him that he should be damned in three weeks, and should come howling and crying, and wish that he could touch the hem of Dixon's garment.

William Holmes of Houghton, two miles south of Stockbridge, was another destroying angel. He told the vicar of Houghton that he and the rest of his village were damned.

Edward Spradbury was the healing angel, sent to save and restore, in the name of the newly arrived Christ, those whom Dixon and Holmes had cursed, thus claiming more converts. It was said that some 600 people believed that Christ had come to earth in the form of William Franklin.

The local clergy became alarmed by this collective madness that was sweeping North-West Hampshire and emptying their churches. They petitioned Thomas Bettesworth and Richard Cobbe, the two Winchester Justices of the Peace. The Justices issued warrants against William Franklin, William Woodward, Edward Spradbury and Henry Dixon.

When the constable came to arrest Franklin, they found him in bed with Mary Gadbury. She told the constable, "how he durst be so bold as to come in the presence of the Lord, and bid him put his shooes from off his feet, for the place wherein he stood was holy ground."

The trial took place on 27 January 1650. During the trial, Goody Waterman, "a very talkative woman", insisted on addressing the Justices. One told her to stand further back, "saying her breath did stink". She snapped back, saying, that her "breath was the breath of the Lord." When one of the Justices called Franklin a "fellow", Mary Gadbury shouted, "Thou dog, how darest thou call thy Saviour Fellow, thou art not worthy of a crumb."

Edward Spradbury told the Justices that "the man whom some call Franklin is the Messiah." Henry Dixon testified that Franklin was "the Son of God, the Christ crucified for our sins, now come down from Heaven" and that he, Henry Dixon, was "one of the seven angels spoken of in the Revelation, and that he is sent to plague the Earth, and that he is sent by God."

Franklin admitted that he had a wife and three children, "according to the flesh, but he had cast off that flesh." He was "the Son of God, and was crucified without the gates at Jerusalem."

At the end of the hearing, the Justices, concluding that Franklin was probably more sensible than his followers, took him aside, and warned him of the terrible punishments that lay in store if he persisted in his claims. His only hope was to renounce his divinity. To everyone's surprise he signed a statement saying that he was sorry that he pretended to be Christ.

When his disciples were shown the statement, they went ballistic. Only hours before, they had confidently asserted that William Franklin was the Son of God. Edward Spradbury, "looking angerly upon *Franklin*, yea holding his hand at him, as if he would have stricken him, said, 'Thou Villain, how has thou deceived us by thy lyes'."

As Franklin had admitted his offence, he was sent to the common gaol to await his appearance at the Assize. Poor Mary Gadbury was condemned as a lewd woman and an adulteress. She got the worst of it as she was sent to the Bridewell to undergo a daily flogging. However, Franklin somehow persuaded the prison authorities to let her join him in the common gaol. As the trial had caused their fame to spread, crowds came to visit them, many leaving convinced that Franklin was the Messiah. He and Mary Gadbury were said to "make trumpets sound in the very bellies of their converts, and great ships to appear to the view of the people near them."

At the Quarter Sessions on 8th March 1650, Franklin was committed to gaol until a surety could be found for his good behaviour, which meant that he could be released at any time. Margaret Woodward was indicted for being a bawd for allowing the pair to lie together in her house "in an adulterous way", and William Woodward was thrown out of his living in Crux Easton.

Mary Gadbury was sent back to the Bridewell to undergo her daily flogging until the next Quarter Sessions. However, in April, she "petitioning with tears ... for her liberty, acknowledging publicly her errors and wickedness" and she was released. On 22nd April 1650 "she went from this City of Winchester towards London, in the Wagon which weekly travelleth between these places", and disappeared from history.

I don't know what happened to Franklin and Mary Gadbury, but there was a surprising sequel. William Woodward turns up as rector of Trottescliffe in Kent. Some time after the Restoration, he had his living taken from him. There was a hearing about this in the ecclesiastical Court of Delegates in July 1663 to confirm his deprivation.

Some of his parishioners attended the hearing as witnesses. They testified that, when one of his parishioners tried to give him a copy of the Book of Common Prayer to read in Church, he told him to keep his book and stop his breech with it, and that when he was evicted from his church, he broke the church windows. They also said that he told one of his parishioners that William Franklin was a better saviour than he (the parishioner) would ever have.

*I first came across the story of William Franklin and Mary Gadbury some 30 years ago in **The World Turned Upside Down** by Christopher Hill, where it received a brief mention. I wanted to know more, as it was a local story set in a period full of strange and interesting characters. Fortunately, the reference section in Andover Library had a photocopy of **Pseudochristus** which I copied about 20 years ago.*

When I was in the National Archives earlier this year, I chanced across the Court of Delegates' papers on William Woodward. I have a dozen or so books on the Ranters, Fifth Monarchy Men and other nutcases that have helped to put William and Mary's activities into the context of their times and explain why so many believed them. But I do wish that I knew what happened to them after they left prison.

Skipton Castle, Yorkshire

Ann Broad

A child's dream of a castle complete with dungeon, spiral stairways and a privy. For those older children amongst us there are mason's marks, beer cellars, a shield scratched on the wall of the dungeon and the thought of 'at the most' eleven weeks surviving in this windowless, fresh-airless cell before being taken to the court in Leeds.

Skipton Castle dates from 1090 and, approaching the inner castle, one enters through the very same arch that the Norman soldiers used 800 years ago but it was massively strengthened in 1310 by Robert, the first Clifford Lord of Skipton.

The charming Conduit Court, so named because it was the termination of the spring water supply piped to the Castle, is central to the Castle as is Lady Anne Clifford who planted the yew tree in the court as a sapling in 1659 after her restoration of the Castle. The Yew is now over 9ft. in girth and shades the court and rooms overlooking it. Without the sheet given on entry directing you around the Castle, with sketches and information about each stopping point, much would be missed, as the temptation to 'just have a quick look in this room, that stairway' is great.

A small door from the Conduit Court leads into the oldest parts of the castle, consisting of the Norman north fighting chamber, the tower which was part of the original Norman gatehouse of the first stone

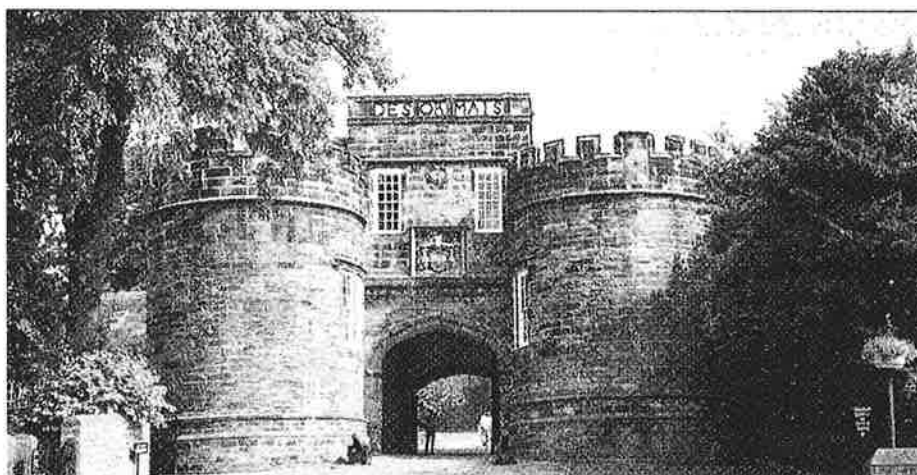
castle and the dungeon. Tread carefully down the steep stone steps into the dungeon where prisoners were well secured behind bolted doors at the head and foot of the stairs. It is not thought that prisoners were tortured here, just kept safe... although special prisoners were restricted with leg irons specifically made for them. One prisoner said at his trial in York that he had never been fed so well as when in the care of Lord Clifford. Looking at the shield carefully carved into the wall of the dungeon promotes thoughts of who might have been the artist, did he have a candle, what tool did he use and what were his thoughts?



The castle survived a three year siege in the Civil War and was the last fortress in the North to hold out for King Charles. Not surprising when the thickness of the walls and the height of the ground floor of the Watch Tower above the ground outside is considered.

Lady Anne Clifford was born in Skipton Castle on 30th January 1590. She was the daughter of George Clifford, 3rd Earl of Cumberland, Queen's Champion to Elizabeth I, and was remarkable for the extensive restoration she effected in the 1650s after she inherited the castle in 1643. But Cromwell insisted that the 4 metre thick walls of the Watch Tower be 'slighted', reduced in thickness and that the roof should not be thick enough to bear cannons, before he agreed to the restoration.

The kitchens are worthy of note, the first one served the castle for over 350 years, between 1300 and 1680 and consisted of stone baking ovens, a huge roasting hearth, a serving hatch and a small room, the garderobe or privy. The castle is bare of furniture except the privy which has a wooden seat over the hole! The new kitchen near the beer cellars was used from 1680 until 1900 and boasted the modern conveniences of a charcoal heated stone stove, charcoal hotplate and later an iron range. Two new kitchens in 600 years – an interesting thought.



Even without furnishings there is so much to see in Lady Anne's restored castle, a magnificent gatehouse surmounted by the proud challenge of the Cliffords, DESORMAIS (Henceforth!) cut in stone, lead castings of the rainwater heads and brackets bearing the family arms and date, the curing room, a stone wall safe in the Muniment Tower, a cunning 'squint', Henry Lord Clifford's 1620s Renaissance Grotto or Shell Room, Lady Anne's Steps with her stone tablet above and the commanding views.

As stated on the direction sheet – 900 year-old Skipton Castle is one of the most complete and best preserved mediaeval castles in England. It stands fully roofed and in remarkably good condition. Well worth a visit.

MEMBERS' CHARITY INTERESTS

Marjolein and Simon Butler

Marjolein and Simon are now in training for a fund-raising **Trek Nepal 2010** for research into Parkinson's disease, from which their friend suffers. They are asking for sponsorship from friends - see <http://www.justgiving.com/simonandmarjolein> or contact Marjolein and Simon, sbutler@horizonsguides.com or 01256 701192.

Simon says, "With local guides and porters to carry our supplies our group will trek 120 km, over a period of 10 days, up to some 10,000 feet ... on average we shall trek 5 to 7 hours per day over uneven terrain. We may experience temperature variations between as high as 30°C during the day and as low as -10°C at night! We shall be living under canvas, enjoying the delights of local amenities and cuisine! We may even experience altitude sickness! We can't wait..."



Both Marjolein and I are totally committed to undertaking this incredible challenge and have started serious training already; an average of 5 to 7 hours back-to-back trekking a day on rough terrain requires a high degree of fitness, so our work has already begun!"

Paulline Williams, Jo Kelly and Peter Heath

These three of our members are on the board of a new charity, **RadCan**, aiming to provide support and develop radiotherapy services for people with cancer living in North Hampshire, by setting up a satellite Radiotherapy Unit from Southampton in Basingstoke. As Paulline says, "Why should people from Basingstoke - and there are a lot of them - have to go down the M3 to Southampton for therapy especially when they are feeling so low at such a stressful time in their lives? Often people have to go down with carers, friends or relatives every day for almost six weeks and the treatment can make people feel very sick." Call Paulline on 07771 284724 or visit voluntaryservices.com

More about the Bear - next time?

The story about the Bear in Newsletter 191 will have a follow-up - in the next issue, we hope. No room in this one!

BOOKSHELF

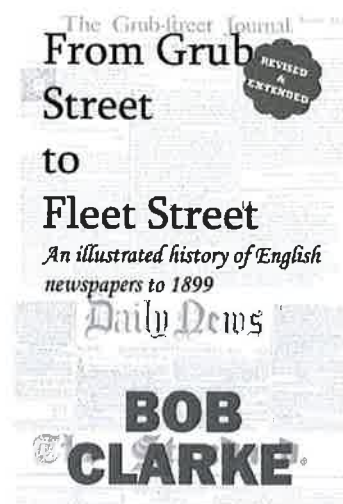


This is Bob Clarke's year! His book about the history of English newspapers is coming out in paperback any day now.

Fully researched, and very entertaining.

It will be available at Waterstones but of course we'll have copies at our meetings.

Price £12.99.



2010 DIARY DATES

BAHSOC

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETINGS on Thursdays at 7.30 pm Church Cottage, Basingstoke (except for 9th September)
See page 7 for full details

- 24th/25th Aug** Excavations at Cholderton, see page 3
- 9th September** Wessex Film & Sound Archive: Tour and demonstrations by David Lee,
at Hampshire Record Office, Sussex St, Winchester... **NOT at Church Cottage!**
- 14th October** Anglo-Saxon Northumberland Prof. Barbara Yorke
- 23rd October** Visit to Horsham, see page 3
- 11th November** Stonehenge: the debate continues Julian Richards
- 9th December** Christmas Social Evening

Secretary: Ginny Pringle Tel: 01420 550028
Email: secretary@bahsoc.org.uk

www.bahsoc.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1000263

ST MICHAEL'S CHURCH: 500TH ANNIVERSARY

- 7th August to 4th September** Exhibition at the Willis Museum, see page 2
- 3rd September** Organ recital, 7.30 pm Tickets £8
- 11th September** Heritage Day 19 am to 4 pm
- 18th September** Big Band Music 7.30 pm Tickets £7
- 25th September** Michaelmas Fayre 10 am to 3 pm

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

- 12th October** Merton Priory Sheila Fairbanks
- 9th November** AGM and Christmas Party
- 11th January** Life and Times of King Alfred Kay Ainsworth

FRIENDS OF WILLIS MUSEUM at 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke

- 16th September** Home Truths? A closer look at domestic technology Stephen Hoadley
- 21st October** AGM and Developments in domestic lighting Derek Anthony & David Carwardine
- 18th November** The history of Thornycroft, part 3 Christopher Tree
- 16th December** Christmas party

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB further details www.fieldclub.hants.org

- 4th September** New Forest sites of special archaeological interest Landscape section
- 2nd October** AGM & conference at Headley, Local History Section
- 23rd October** Visit to Boldre Grange & Walthampton House Historic Buildings Section
- 30th October** Boom & Bust in the Hampshire Landscape AGM & Conference, Landscape Section

STORES SUNDAYS at Chilcomb House, Bar End, Winchester 10-5. Aug 15th Flint identification;
Sept 19th, Oct 17th, Nov 21st, Dec 12th. Alan Jacobs 01962 826728 or alan.jacobs@hants.gov.uk