

A yellow-bordered box with a wavy border. Inside, on the left, is a small icon of a hand pointing to the right. To the right of the icon is the text "It's closer than you'd think!" in a bold, black, sans-serif font. Below this, in a smaller, italicized, black, sans-serif font, is the text "Claiming Date for the BAHS 40th Anniversary Conference and Celebration". Further down, in a black, sans-serif font, is the text "Please put the 17th September 2011 in your diaries. We are planning an afternoon conference to be followed by an evening social event to celebrate the Society's 40th anniversary." At the bottom of the box, in a black, sans-serif font, is the text "More details will be announced nearer the time."



Christmas Party

This year's BAHS Christmas social evening will be on **Thursday December 9th 7.30 pm at Church Cottage**. The evening is always relaxed and gives you a better opportunity to talk to other members than our normal lecture-orientated meetings.

Please bring a mystery object with you, there will be prize for the one that keeps most people guessing. There will be also be quizzes, competitions and a raffle.

Please make offers of food to Margaret Porter (01256 356012).

Tickets will cost **£1.50** which will include your first drink and they will be on sale during the November meeting and on the door on the evening.

Hampshire Museum Service Reorganisation

In September Hampshire County Council announced a comprehensive reorganisation of the Museum Service, pre-empting an anticipated reduction in the Renaissance funding they have enjoyed from central government over recent years and a general reduction in funding. The Museum service staff entered what is known as a consultation period, and partners are being sought for four sites around the county (the Allen Gallery and the Curtis Museum in Alton, Rockbourne Villa and Bursledon Windmill). In plain English, the County is cutting the Museum Service, laying off its staff and closing sites to the public.

Several members of the committee wrote to the County to object to the cuts and, as chairman, Mark Peryer wrote on behalf of the Society to the leader of the County Council, Ken Thornber. The letter registered our objections and requested that we be kept informed of developments. The response we received suggests that the original cut backs may be ameliorated a little, but that we should be aware that we are only seeing the first round of cuts. This does not bode well for the Museum Service and its staff.

Alan Jacobs, HCMAS Collections Manager, is leaving and has found a job in Essex. So the last STORES SUNDAY at Chilcomb House will be on 21st November (10 - 5)- with an opportunity to say goodbye.

Fieldwork Report

QDAEP excavation work at Cholderton came to an end in August, but there may be some further work over the Christmas period. In the meantime, there have been several field walks on the Cholderton Estate, aimed at getting more background information on the pre-history of the Quarley Downs area. A newsletter has been published by the project team, giving an update on the project work completed.

The F.O.A.M. volunteers carried out some sterling work at the Basing House Fish Ponds on Sunday 31st October, clearing away vegetation, trees and general rubbish from the ponds. We were helped by the Worting St Thomas scouts who were delighted to uncover the remains of a wall as they cleared the bank closest to the River Loddon. Both pairs of the Society's waders were christened and successfully tested in operation.



*This season Barry and Mark will be wearing
the latest high reaching footwear
from our collection
- thanks to Tim Herrington
for his generous gift!*

The next F.O.A.M. event will be at Odiham Castle over the weekend of the 13th/14th November and will be a catch up session to keep the undergrowth under control. In the New Year the F.O.A.M. activities will switch to the amphitheatre at Silchester, with the first session being held over the weekend of the 23rd/24th January.

We plan to organise an Archaeological study day in the New Year and a good number of you have registered your interest in the topics ballot that I sent out to get a feel for the topics that people would be interested in. The outcome of the ballot was that the most popular topic was pre-Roman and Roman pottery, followed by Glass, followed by Landscape Archaeology.

The fieldwork committee are actively working on getting access to land for field walking, and to woods for woodland surveys. We are also researching other sites where we can engage

in some survey or limited excavation work. This tends to be a lengthy process that suddenly comes to life, and we will let you know when we have something ready to go.

Meanwhile, Briony Laylor is busy working on the archive material from our Worting training digs and we look forward to the results of her efforts.

If you would like to get involved with our fieldwork, please contact me by email (mperyer@f2s.com) or by phone (01256 780502) and I will make sure you get joining instructions.

BAHS Trip To Pembrokeshire 2011

Mark Peryer – email: mperyer@f2s.com, Tel: 01256 780502

Next year's BAHS trip away will be to Pembrokeshire and the provisional dates are July 1st – July 4th.

Pembrokeshire has a range of Neolithic, Bronze Age, early Christian and Medieval sites and we shall endeavour to visit as many of these as we can fit in. Those that enjoy walking will appreciate the coastal scenery.



During Neolithic and Bronze Age times, Pembrokeshire was a place where sea trade and migration occurred. There are a number of megalithic tombs to explore. The region contains the Preseli hills where the blue stones from Stonehenge were quarried, and it is still possible to see some of the stones in situ. We shall be visiting Castell Henllys Iron Age Fort, which has a reconstructed Iron Age village and an on-going series of excavations. There are a number of medieval castles to see and there is the city and the Cathedral of St Davids to explore. We will also arrange a visit to the Roman town of Caerwent for the outward journey.

We shall organise a comprehensive programme of visits and where possible arrange a guide or an introductory talk.

From preliminary enquiries, it seems that there are a couple of possible group accommodation options in either Fishguard or Newport. However, we will provide an accommodation guide to suit different budgets.



If you would like to join the party for the trip, please let me know as soon as possible so that I can secure accommodation.

NEW BOOK LAUNCH

THE BASINGSTOKE RIOTS Massagainsians v The Salvation Army by Bob Clarke

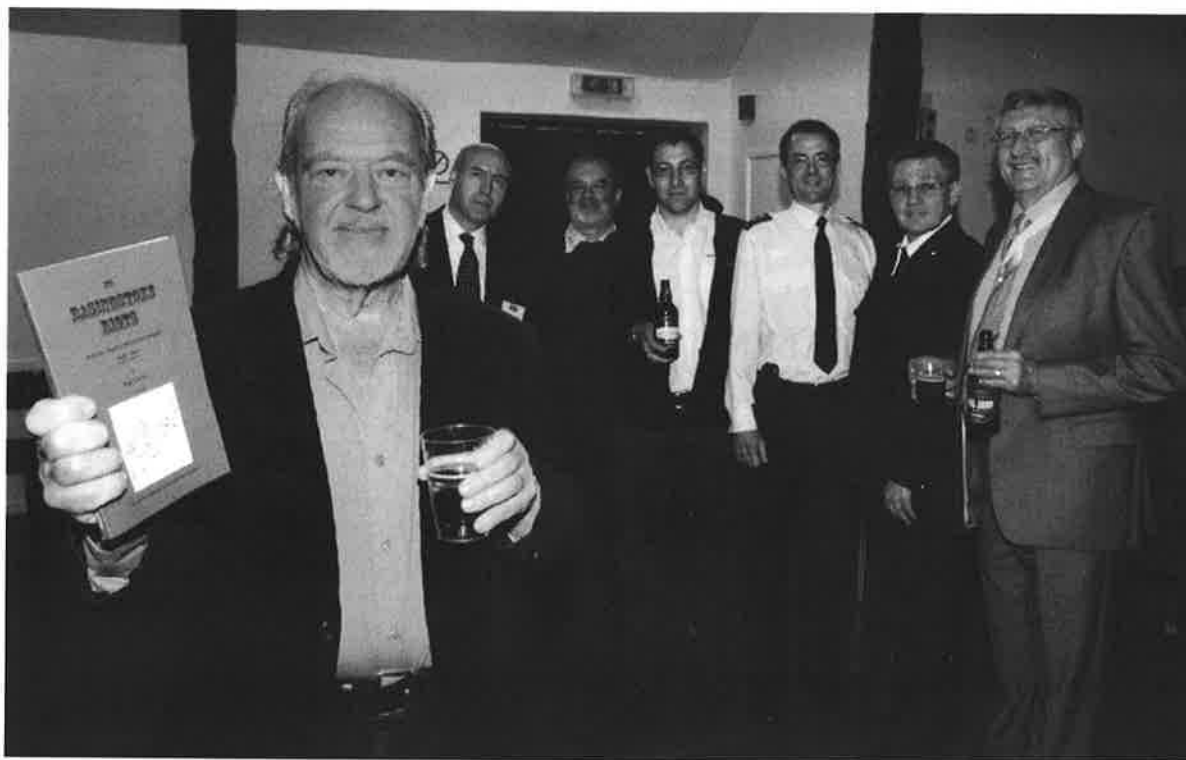


Photo Richard Garfield

Our new book was successfully launched at Church Cottage on Friday 22nd October. The Deputy Mayor, who had accepted our invitation, was unfortunately taken ill - and we wish him a speedy recovery. Cllr Brian Gurden kindly came to represent the Mayoralty and accept copies of the book for himself and for the Mayor's Parlour.

Bob Clarke quoted with glee the description of Basingstoke as a "benighted town... which appears to be populated chiefly by a set of barbarians", before going on to thank those who had helped in the production of the book: the Society's publications sub-committee, Alan Turton who had done some lively drawings, the designer, Paula Turner and printer, Iain Wyeth.

We had also invited representatives of various organisations that had been involved in the 1880s disturbances. Cllr Gurden acknowledged that there had been considerable dissension among the Borough Council and the Magistrates, and he was intrigued by "The Charge of the Basingstoke Beer Brigade", a clever skit on Tennyson's poem about the Light Brigade. Captain Fred Eardley and Captain Elaine Eardley brought other representatives of Basingstoke's Salvation Army - who kindly helped with the refreshments and provided suitable background music on a CD. Richard Garfield represented the Basingstoke Gazette, whose fore-runner, the Hants & Berks Gazette, had reported the events in considerable detail. Chief Inspector Clifford Williams of the Hampshire Constabulary History Society represented the police who had met with such difficulty in keeping order. Adam Komrower of Andwell Brewery spoke of the responsible attitudes of breweries and public houses today, in contrast with the activities of people like the Adams brothers. He brought two beer barrels as "set dressing" and also some thoroughly appreciated bottles of beer for consumption.

Display stands showed extracts and illustrations from the book, as well as details of the Beer Club and Temperance Societies that used to meet at Church Cottage, and The Salvation Army showed many photographs of activities over the years which roused considerable interest.

Bob Clarke was busy signing books - and spent much of the following day doing the same thing at Waterstone's. We have already sold more than 100 copies and are now sending out others to the copyright libraries and for review. Posters and fliers will be available at the next meeting. Some have been put up already around the town, but we hope members will find other places for them as well.

And for anyone who hasn't yet got a copy, do remember that the price for members for copies bought from the Society is £8. The full price is £10 at Waterstones, the Willis Museum or Milestones Museum, or by post (£1.50 p/p) from 138 Old Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke RG22 5EN (01256 46539)..

ST MARY MAGDALEN LEPER HOSPITAL, WINCHESTER

Ginny Pringle

Last autumn Drs. Simon Roffey and Phil Marter visited Church Cottage in order to give a talk on medieval leper hospitals and the recent excavation at the site of St Mary Magdalen in Winchester.

Excavations have continued this year at the site of the former leper hospital and have uncovered convincing evidence for a much earlier phase than was otherwise thought to have existed at the site.

Students and staff from the University of Winchester spent three weeks during August and September this year excavating to levels below the post-medieval and medieval levels reached in the previous two years excavations.

It now looks as though this may be the site of the earliest known hospital in the country as radio carbon dates indicate a date range of AD 960 – 1030 for a series of burials, many which exhibit evidence of leprosy.



(Photo: Winchester University 2010)

A number of other artefacts, pits, and postholes also relate to this period including what appears to be a large sunken structure underneath a medieval infirmary.

Until now, most historians and archaeologists thought that hospitals in Britain only dated from after the Norman conquest of 1066. The discovery is a significant archaeological development, as apart from possibly similar activities which may have occurred within monasteries or minsters, this is the first evidence which suggests late Anglo Saxon hospitals existed outside these institutions. On this basis the site is being claimed of national importance.

Further excavations are planned at the site for 2011 and 2012.

Trip to Horsham

Barry Hedger



*Photo
Julian Porter*

Horsham was the destination of a troupe of BAHS members on the 23rd October 2010. Our host was local resident Tim Herrington, previously an active member and Chairman of BAHS. After a short park and bus ride he guided us through the Memorial Gardens to the parish church of St Mary the Virgin for some welcome refreshments in the Bethany. This is a square single-storey meeting room recently built onto the south side of the church, in a modern style with pitched lead roof aloft of honey-coloured stone walls. Some of us didn't like the visual contrast to the main church. Yet on closer inspection the church reveals a variety of architectural designs from Norman, Old English, Perpendicular and Victorian using various types of stone, which rarely attract critical comments.

The inside of the church is gorgeous! In 1864 the Victorians removed the oppressive galleries and high box pews and extended the south wall, allowing natural light to flood into the liberated and uplifting space. There is a glorious Victorian east stained glass window, awash with vibrant blue, red and green colours, enhanced by the streaming light. Other features are a split-level chapel with the altar six feet above the ground and a small but delightful pillar-mounted brass of the Virgin, sadly hidden from easy view behind a table. *Photo Bob Applin*



We left by the north door, walking up the Causeway, lined with some 15th and 16th century buildings, past the vast vicarage, reaching the old and sadly redundant Town Hall with its fairy tale castellated frontage. Despite urban development and the ubiquitous clone shopping mall, Horsham has retained its old buildings and ancient street layout, with the Carfax and its pedestrianised cobble streets and gas lamps at its hub. There is a thriving street market, offering a wide range of goods, simple and exotic to tempt all, a stark contrast to the exiguous offerings found at Basingstoke's street market.

After lunch we headed to the Town Museum, a 15th century building. Within its two storeys are many small rooms displaying a myriad of artefacts and extensive information boards, reflecting Horsham life over the ages. They include a history of the Shelley family, as the poet Percy Bysshe Shelley was born in nearby Field Place, galleries on Horsham history, local flints and fossils, crime and punishment, saddlery, blacksmithing, toys, costumes, crafts and art, library and more. Outside is a garden surrounded by buildings holding farm implements, old bicycles, a fire engine and horse drawn carriages.

On our return journey we stopped at nearby Slinfield House, the home of Diana Chatwin and her husband, Charles. Diana, a friend of Mary Oliver, is a former BAHS member but for the last 22 years has lived at Slinfield. A keen local historian, she has written several books about her village, including the story of Slinfield House, complete with architectural drawings.

This house started as a small dwelling in the Middle Ages but has been added to and changed over the centuries. The frontage is Georgian as are the rooms behind, but to the right side is an extension of a different period whose wall is clad in bull nose tiles. Rooms have been added at roof level, which break into the Georgian roof line. Inside is a rabbit warren of rooms, all of which seem to have a step to negotiate. Each room has its own character. Two bathrooms even have original timber frame walls. There is a rota for visiting young grandchildren to sleep in the lonesome topmost tiny bedroom, accessed by a narrow staircase. Despite its size the house is semi-detached, sharing timber framed walls with its neighbour. The garden extends forever.

Before departing, we had tea and biscuits in the barn, which was once the village Reading Room, now used by Diana for family occasions and her history meetings.

For those of you who didn't come, you missed a very enjoyable day at Horsham.



Report by Barbara Applin

We are continuing to do interviews on different aspects of education in Basingstoke, and suggestions for these are being co-ordinated by Jo Kelly. The interview with Michael Whitty carries on the story about Bishop Challoner School begun by Paul Connolly and we hope to go on to other schools as well as Queen Mary's College, BCOT and the University of Winchester.

Now that the RIOTS book is out we can continue our work on the Co-op book and we have gathered memories of the Overton Co-op and an account of what is involved in Co-op membership today, with meetings, visits and excursions arranged. It is particularly interesting to hear about the Co-op's involvement with local charities and local produce.

As always, more ideas and help will be welcome.

MORE ABOUT OAKLEY HALL

Barbara Applin



The BTH project has surprising links. Following my visit to Oakley Hall with Keith and Dulcie Armstrong (Newsletter 191) Bob and I went back with Gavin Bowie (who has a particular interest in agricultural and horticultural history) and were taken round the grounds again by the gardener, Chris Tasker.

This time we were able to locate the places mentioned in Harry Armstrong's story about the bear. The Bailiff's Cottage, as you see, is almost hidden in scaffolding, as it and the Barn are being converted into a new Care Home, to allow the existing one to be used for more hotel bedrooms. The ground in front of the Bailiff's Cottage is where the pond would have been, and the bear would have been tied up nearby. The carpenter's workshop was above the barn.



Chris showed us a strange ha-ha which appeared to have a tunnel through it. If anyone knows of something similar, do let me know where it is - and what it was used for!

He also let me scan some documents about Oakley Hall as well as copies of photographs from the Hicks Beach album, a wonderful collection of photos of family and friends, plenty of local bigwigs such as the Portals and

Lady Rycroft - and even the butler, the housekeeper and the dog. He passed copies to Hampshire Record Office, which already holds records for Oakley Hall and Oakley Manor.

Finally, I recorded an interview with Chris (BTH 065) which covered not only his work at Oakley Hall but his previous work at Aylings Nurseries in Basingstoke and at Oakley Manor.



The Silchester Field School – some fascinating statistics

Margaret Porter

The Silchester Town Life Project has now been running for 14 years. Here are some fascinating statistics kindly provided by Amanda Clarke and Fran Taylor of Reading University Archaeology Department:

Total number of weeks of excavation	84
Total number of plans drawn	12,400
Total number of small finds	6,093
Total number of samples taken	5,777
Total number of contexts	10,959
Total number of people attending since 1997	5,000 (approximately!)

In the first season in 1997, 74 Reading students attended, 24 outside participants attended and there were 6 paid staff. That year dig cost around £45,000.

The busiest year was 2006 with 338 people attending overall. That year the University provided: 5,634 lunches, 5,118 dinners, 1,650 vegetarian meals and 552 meals for people with special dietary requirements!

Statistics for the 2010 season alone were:

Number of context cards	1,220
Number of plans drawn	1,380
Number of small finds (special finds)	460
Number of samples taken	1,515
Number of participants over all 6 weeks	208
Number of staff:	46

Cost of running 2010 season: £150,000!

Happily, Janice Kulagin and I added to the 2010 statistics and we would both like to express our thanks to the Society for sponsoring us.

Note how expenses have risen over the years. The Project needs substantial funding to continue to the end. If you know of any potential sponsors do have a word with me.

A COMMENT ON COMPARATIVE COSTS!

Barbara Applin

In 1969 when the Willis Museum was doing a rescue excavation at Common Plantation (near the Black Dam Roundabout) we had a budget of £500 - and I haven't missed off any noughts! All we could afford was one Drott machine to take off topsoil over a very limited area so we weren't able to make a complete plan of the features uncovered.

There is a brief account of the Common Plantation excavations in the report of the much fuller excavations at Ructstalls Hill, Basingstoke (Oliver & Applin, *Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club*, Vol 35, 1978)

The Regicide Martyrs

Alan Turton

'You are now to enquire of blood, of Royal blood, of sacred blood like that of the saints...this blood cries for vengeance and it will never be appeased without a bloody sacrifice.' These are some of the closing instructions issued by Lord Chief Justice Orlando Bridgeman at Hicks Hall in Islington to the jury for the trial of the regicides in October 1660.

The regicides were those who had signed the death warrant of King Charles 1st in 1649, or had participated in his execution. Now his son Charles II was back and on the throne. Charles had initially insisted on bringing before Parliament a Bill of Indemnity and Oblivion, granting a general pardon for all treasons, felonies and similar offences committed since 1637. All acts of hostility between King and Parliament committed during that time were consigned to perpetual oblivion. However forty-nine named persons were to be exempt; 'for the execrable treason in sentencing to death, or signing the instrument for the horrid murder, or being instrumental in taking away the precious life of the late sovereign lord Charles.' Of those named, 19 had already given themselves up with the hope of clemency. Two others, Lieutenant General Whalley and Major General Goffe, fled to the New World taking up residence in Massachusetts where they were made welcome by the colonists. General Edmund Ludlow, having initially laid low in London, gave himself up, but soon escaped into exile in Switzerland, whilst General Barkstead, Colonel Okey and other Cromwellian officers managed to reach Germany where they obtained asylum at Hanau and were made burghesses.

Eventually, 29 prisoners were brought to London where, manacled, they were paraded through the streets and into solitary confinement at the Tower. Meanwhile, illegal secret meetings were held between the judges, and the prosecution where it was decided to charge the defendants with treason by 'compassing and imagining' the King's death, and it was also decided to discard rules of evidence to ensure that all the defendants were convicted. An old mediaeval procedure was also evoked, whereby all the accused who had not yet been apprehended were to be 'attained by outlawry' which made it a capital offence not to turn up for trial.

The trial commenced on 9th October, with prisoners only being informed at 9 o'clock that night. The next morning they were taken in carriages to Newgate Prison, and then at 9am they were herded across the street to the 'Sessions House' in the old Bailey. The first prisoner up to the bar of the court was Sir Hardress Waller, who had been one of the King's judges. Waller had been pressured into pleading guilty to preserve his estate and his life. Waller was to die a prisoner in Jersey. The next defendant was the redoubtable Thomas Harrison. Harrison did not deny his part in the King's trial, stating 'The things that have been done, have been done upon the stage, in the sight of the Sun.' and he confirmed his signature on Charles's death warrant.

Harrison asked for no mercy, and received none. The senior judge told the jury, that there was no need for them to leave the box to find him guilty. After sentence, Harrison was taken back to prison, where he told his waiting wife, 'Not a tear, wife, what hurt have they done me, to send me so soon to heaven?' Harrison's trial was quickly followed in succession by Adrian Scroop, Gregory Clement, Thomas Scott, John Carew and John Jones, all of whom were found guilty. The Earl of Manchester, former Parliamentary general, was the only one of the judges to have doubts about the sentences, saying to his colleagues, 'I beseech you my lords, let us go some other way to work.' They did not heed him, and went on to sentence to death the prosecutor of the late King, John Cook, Cromwell's chaplain, Hugh Peters and army officers, Francis Hacker and Daniel Axtell.

The place of execution chosen for the condemned regicides was the site at Charing of the old Queen Eleanor Cross at the top of Whitehall. From here it was possible to see in the distance Inigo Jones' banqueting hall, from a window in which the late King Charles was led to his execution. Charing

Cross had been partly demolished for being an idolatrous symbol in 1643, but had not been finally removed until the late 1650s, leaving a considerable hole which had to be filled and fenced off. It was in this railed area that the gallows were erected.

Harrison was the first regicide to suffer the horrendous death of being hanged, drawn and quartered. He was first taken from Newgate on the 13th October, and laid on a hurdle or sledge to be dragged through the streets to Charing Cross. On his passage through jeering crowds one of the bystanders called out to him, 'Where is your Good Old Cause?' He put his hand to his heart and replied, 'Here it is, and I'm going to seal it with my blood.' At the scaffold, Harrison made one last speech, concluding with, 'God hath covered my head many times in the day of battle. By God I have leapt over a wall, by God I have runned through a troop, and by my God I will go through this death.' And this he did, even arousing the admiration of the crowd when having been hanged, emasculated, and disembowelled, he succeeded in clouting his executioner about the ear.

Two days later, John Carew made the supreme sacrifice for his beliefs, followed after two more days by John Cook and Hugh Peters. On the 17th October, Gregory Clement MP, Colonel Adrian Scroop, Colonel John Jones, and Thomas Scott all met their ends with great fortitude and dignity, unrepentant, 'In a cause not to be repented of.' Their bearing was such that even the usual jeering crowds were almost reduced to tears and the hangman so discomforted that he took to the bottle in order to finish his ghastly job.

There was again another two day break in the horrific string of executions. This appears to have been caused by the protests from wealthy householders who lived in the vicinity of Charing Cross, who complained of the stench from the victims' burning entrails. Another site therefore had to be prepared for the two remaining condemned men, and it was to be at Tyburn, the traditional place of execution for the capital's felons.

King Charles himself watched some of the executions, and was much moved. During a Privy Council meeting, he passed a note to his Chancellor, Lord Clarendon, stating, 'I must confess that I am weary of hanging, except on new offences...Let it sleep.' Whatever the King might have thought, it did not prevent his minions from continuing the persecution for vindictive Royalist wrath had the corpses of Cromwell, Ireton, and Bradshaw (President of the court which tried Charles the first), exhumed, given a mock trial and publicly hanged at Tyburn.

Meanwhile, former New Model Army Scout Master General George Downing had succeeded in getting the position of British minister to the United Provinces. Upon hearing that Colonels Barkstead and Okey and another Regicide, Miles Corbet were visiting Holland, he decided to please his new Royalist masters by having them illicitly detained and deported to England. Samuel Pepys noted in his diary for March 1662, 'That Sir George Downing (like a perfidious rogue, though the action is good and of service to the King, yet he cannot with a good conscience do it) hath taken Okey, Corbet and Barkstead at Delfe in Holland and sent them home...'

The trial of the three commenced at Westminster Hall on the morning of 14th April, and was over by the end of the day, with all defendants being found guilty and being sentenced to die at Tyburn on 19th April. Pepys saw the men on their way to execution and records that, 'They all looked very cheerful'. Another contemporary, noted that Barkstead was eating, Okey had an orange and Corbet a book. All three men died bravely. All three reaffirmed that their cause had been good and the King's death justified, and they asserted that they had acted with neither malice nor self interest. They were the last Regicides to suffer execution.

What is physically left to remind us of all these brave Commonwealth men? At Tyburn Marble Arch now stands near to the site of the famous gallows, whilst at Trafalgar Square (the site of Charing Cross), unhappily the bronze equestrian statue of Charles 1st now stands upon the very spot of the first executions. The perfidious Sir George Downing is commemorated, ironically in the street name of the official residence of the Prime Minister of Great Britain.

March to Honour the Regicides

Nicola Turton

On 24th October we left home at 6.30am to pick up our re-enactor friends in the village. 15 minutes later we returned to pick up Alan's gun licence and my period specs.

Finally on the road we reached London and parked (for free!!) in Wellington Square, just across the road from St James's park. Gradually other re-enactors arrived, and it grew less embarrassing to make the long lonely walk to the loo. I have to say, when you're a fairly lumpy girl wearing the clothes of a mid-17th century soldier, you do attract *looks*.

Oddly the waist of my breeches had shrunk in the cupboard. I just about did them up, but when I included one of Alan's huge linen shirts in the equation, there was No Hope, so a good job that the soldier's coat covered the unfastened buttons.

At last the army (some several hundred, including foot and cavalry) gathered and we marched along to Horse Guards. It was quite thrilling, and the tourists seemed delighted. Bemused, but delighted. I don't suppose they had any idea what we mad English were doing. I carried a dummy musket which was just as heavy as the real thing, and I still have a slight sore patch on my left shoulder.

Once at Horse Guards we waited (hot sun, lots of dust) whilst lots of people, Alan included, were given medals, then off we went along the Mall. We stopped inside Admiralty Arch and Alan, of all the hundreds there, had been chosen to lay the wreath. It was a proud moment, and I was so pleased to know how Alan is respected and loved by his peers. Sadly I couldn't see anything, but I knew Alan would say just the right thing, and honour the memories of the brave Regicides.

It turned out that as Alan turned his back on the statue of Charles the first, that 'Man of Blood', he quoted Harrison's words about the Good Old Cause and sealing it with his blood. I will leave it to you to imagine with what depth of emotion he spoke. These events may have happened hundreds of years ago, but study them, show an interest in our history and these men, women and events will start to live again, just as they live for us.



Photo Ian Mansfield

ATHERTON HARRISON 1915 – 2010

Mary Oliver

Atherton, a long-standing member of the Society, died in her care home this summer. I joined several other members to attend a service of thanksgiving for her life in her home village of North Waltham, which was a great tribute to her. She had not attended our meetings for a few years, but many will remember her sitting at the front with her friend Nancy, whom she chauffeured in. Independent until quite recently, Atherton was an inspiration to many of us, and a wonderful friend.



Her son Harvey said in his tribute, you could almost say that Atherton had several lives, as she put her talents to more than one career. She studied theatrical design at Art College, and her first job was painting scenery for London theatres. She met Harvey, her film director husband, during the war and worked with him on wartime projects before moving to North Waltham. After their son (also Harvey) was born, she was a busy wife and mother but found time to develop a career as a lecturer for the WI, a branch of which she had started locally. The death of her husband put an end to her happiness, but she went on to develop another career, organising and curating their first display of costume for the National Trust at Killerton in Devon. She also continued to love and be involved in theatre, and was always a great supporter of the Haymarket Theatre in Basingstoke.

Her last career was as a designer of church embroideries, examples of which can be seen in the parishes of the North Waltham benefice. The Society had a morning trip to these churches a few years ago, and she explained her inspiration behind the designs for each church. Her last big commission was designing a cope for Trevor Wilmott, Bishop of Basingstoke, which included roundels illustrating different aspects of life in Basingstoke; they were embroidered by different needlewomen from the northern area of the diocese. I was so pleased that we were able to include this magnificent cope in the recent exhibition about St Michael's at the Willis Museum. Although Atherton was not able to visit the exhibition herself, her grand-daughter Tracey did, and reported back to her. She would have been pleased to see the newly appointed Bishop of Basingstoke, Peter Hancock, wear the cope at St Michael's at the first service he took in his new role.

I first met Atherton socially through a mutual friend from the National Trust; I was charmed by this young at heart lady, who dispensed red wine and good conversation in her delightful little sitting room. There were many subsequent occasions! One of the first stories she told me was about her fire room. The cottage was in need of attention when they moved in, including the hearth bricks which had burnt away and been replaced by a sheet of metal. Always adaptable, Atherton put her skills as a scene painter to work, and painted the metal to match the surrounding bricks – and very convincing it looked!

Somehow, it seems to sum her up – she was able to put her abilities to good use in whatever circumstances she found herself. What a role model, what a privilege to know her!

Barbara Applin

Yes, indeed, Atherton was a true professional with high standards - and also a great deal of fun! After the church visits Mary mentions, we arranged an exhibition of Atherton's church designs at the Willis Museum, with the Bishop of Basingstoke's cope as centre-piece. It seemed, though, that all these needed to be seen in context, so, with David Ogden behind the video camera, we made the video **ANGELS' WINGS AND SUCH THINGS**.



New members might like a little account of this. At each church in the united benefice of North Waltham, Steventon, Ashe and Deane (as well as Lower Bullington) the Rector, wearing the appropriate vestments, met Atherton and they discussed the special character of each church that had inspired her designs for vestments, altar frontals, falls for the pulpit and lectern and hassocks. Then the Bishop, wearing his cope, told us what was special to him about being Bishop of Basingstoke, and we investigated the aspects of the town illustrated by the roundels Atherton had designed.

The video had a showing at Central Studio and what delighted me particularly was that we were also able to show the film **FAME AND FASHION** which had been made so many years ago by Atherton and her husband Harvey.

I greatly enjoyed working with Atherton on all this - and just chatting with her about her amazing life which she had described in her autobiography **CHANGING SCENES**.

Sarah Fry, a much-loved stalwart of NEHHAS

Pam Taylor

Members of NEHHAS, all of whom would have regarded Sarah as a friend, were shocked by the unexpected news of first her sudden illness, and then of her subsequent death. We had been enjoying the recent spring and summer events organised by her as Programme Secretary, and felt bereft to lose her so suddenly and finally.

Sarah had served on the NEHHAS committee for many years in several different capacities. She was always modest of her talents, but it was thanks to her that lecturers were booked, exhibitions assembled and outings organised. The recent afternoon event on food through the ages, held under the auspices of the CBA, was largely her work and a variety of displays and activities were available for all ages. She also invited the involvement of the Hampshire Museums' Collections Officer, with whom the society has established a worthwhile working relationship.

Sarah loved to dig, as do many archaeologists, but she was also very interested in the later work of the recording and reporting, so vital to the discipline. She took part in many excavations with the society, at first as an ordinary volunteer, but taking more of a primary role as she gained in confidence and experience. She became especially interested in the potteries of Cove and Farnborough, and established a good working relationship with experts at the Museum of London. Her help is acknowledged in the definitive book published on the subject, a matter of quiet pride to Sarah (*Pots and Potters in Tudor Hampshire* by Jacqueline Pearce). Her recent work on garden digs and watching briefs showed Sarah at her competent and efficient best.

As a person Sarah was gentle and kind. She was devoted to her family and after her early tragic widowhood she determined to continue her interests and love of travel in a different way. She was a good friend to many, always encouraging, never judging. On a personal note, she was always there for me after my own bereavement, and I will be especially grateful for that. We had much enjoyment from our visits to London to see exhibitions, attending lectures at many venues and the odd visit to the Chelsea Flower Show and Wisley. As members of NEHHAS we will miss Sarah greatly, for her leadership and at the personal level. She will be remembered with gratitude and much affection

Sarah was also a member of BAHS, regularly attending our meetings..

2010 DIARY DATES

BAHSOC

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

MEETINGS on Thursdays at 7.30 pm Church Cottage, Basingstoke (except for 9th September)

- 13/14th Nov FOAM at Odiham Castle, see page 3
- 9th December **Christmas Social Evening**
- 13th January **Amphitheatres in Roman Britain** Tony Wilmott
- 23rd/24th Jan FOAM at Silchester Amphitheatre, see page 3
- 10th February **Archaeological surveying in Egypt and Syria** Kris Strutt
- 10th March **The archaeological evidence for the Saxons in Hampshire** Nick Stoodley
- 14th April **A traitor's death? The mystery of the hanged, drawn and quartered man from Hulton Abbey, Staffordshire** Mary Lewis
- 12th May **Edward Jenner and the smallpox virus** Ian Mason
- 9th June **AGM**
- 1st/4th July Proposed trip to Pembrokeshire, see page 4



see page 5

Articles for the Newsletter to
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www.bahsoc.org.uk
Registered Charity No. 1000263

FRIENDS OF BASING HOUSE at 7.30 pm, Basing House Education Centre, The Street (for parking arrangements contact Andrew Howard, 01256 327014)

- 11th January Life and Times of King Alfred Kay Ainsworth
- 8th February The Basingstoke Riots Bob Clarke

FRIENDS OF WILLIS MUSEUM at 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke

- 18th November The history of Thornycroft, part 3 Christopher Tree
- 16th December Christmas p

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

- 27th November AGM and Conference: New Thoughts about Late Roman Britain
- 21st January Florence Nightingale: a Hampshire life and death T R Foster
7.30 for 8 at Hampshire Record Office