

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

*BAHSOC*

## Newsletter 195

May 2011

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*Make up your own caption!*



*See page 13*

## OUR ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE

40th 40th 40th 40th

40th 40th 40th 40th

*from 2 pm, Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> September in The Grange Barn, Basing House*

### GET YOUR TICKETS NOW!

*The programme will include the following talks (interspersed with short “vignettes”  
from past and present Society members)*

**Professor Mile Fulford ‘Calleva in fiction and film’ (Silchester and ‘The Eagle’)**

**David Allen ‘A singularly complete collection of finds’ (George Willis and others)**

**Derek Spruce ‘Eleemosynary endeavours in Basingstoke & beyond (almshouses)**

**Tim Schadla-Hall ‘Basingstoke Archaeology and the public’**

Celebrations will continue with a Hog Roast in the courtyard, with a bar available.

Tickets £15 for BAHS members, £20 non-members (including Hog Roast & light refreshments) available at meetings or (send cheque payable to BAHS and SAE) from Mrs Margaret Porter, 57 Belvedere Gardens, Chineham, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG24 8GB

### How Would You Like To Be Heard At The AGM?

Each year we offer a slot after the business part of the AGM for members to talk on a topic that either reflects some work they’ve done or an interest that they’ve researched. If you think you might have something you could offer for the AGM on 9<sup>th</sup> June, please let me know. Don’t be put off by thinking that no-one else would be interested because, knowing our members, someone will. I am also willing to help out with the practicalities of preparing some slides if necessary.

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

## Society Visits

### Visit to Cranborne Chase – 9 July

We will be visiting Down Farm at Sixpenny Handley on Saturday the 9<sup>th</sup> of July. The farm is owned by Martin Green and forms part of Cranborne Chase, just south of Salisbury (where the famous General Pitt Rivers began his pioneering work in the 1880s). It not only contains the Neolithic Dorset Cursus, numerous long barrows and Hambledon Hill, but over the last 30 years henges, shafts, plastered houses, land divisions, enclosures and cemeteries have been identified and excavated.

We will assemble at the farm at 10 a.m., and start with a visit to the museum where Martin will talk to us about his collection. This will then be followed by a guided walk in one of the most important archaeological landscapes in Britain, showing a range of sites. Please make sure you wear proper footwear and bring a packed lunch, as you’ll be most likely eating your lunch en route. The day is likely to finish around 4 p.m.

Cost for the day is £7.50. If you'd like to take part please let me know **either by email on [marjoleine\\_2000@hotmail.com](mailto:marjoleine_2000@hotmail.com), or by phone on 01256 701192**. We can take no more than 25 visitors so please book your space early!

## **Silchester Excavations - 7 August**

For a change this year we shall be visiting Silchester **on a Sunday afternoon** for a guided tour of the excavations.

**Meet 1.30 pm at the car park - remember to allow time to be at the site for 2 pm.**

## **Fieldwork Report**

*Mark Peryer*

In March we held a Pottery Study day at Wessex Archaeology (see Briony Laylor's report), this seemed to go very well and we need to find some opportunities to put the newly gained knowledge to use.

March also saw some of us carry out a survey of Hogdigging Copse, near St Mary Bourne plus one or two other bits of woodland in the area. We found a number of linear features on the ground which seem to tie up with some of the historical sources. Peter Stone is working on the report.

Contrary to what I reported in the last newsletter, there will be no excavation at Basing House this year. We rely heavily on Dave Allen to lead the work and he has been affected heavily by the cuts that the County Council have made to the Museum Service. This will be greatly missed, but no doubt things will recover for another year. Dave may need some volunteer support with some post-excavation work relating to the dig at the Grange and also at the Gate House, this is likely to start in the Autumn.

Work continues at Cholderton on the QDAEP project with contributions from various BAHS members. There have been further field walks and further excavations will be taking place over the Easter weekend and during the week following. Briony Laylor is our main contact, being one of the main organisers. My understanding is that there will be further opportunities to get involved with the project work at weekends over the summer period.

I'd also like to bring your attention to the call for volunteers for a local excavation elsewhere in the newsletter.

If you would like to get involved with our fieldwork, please contact me by email ([mperyer@f2s.com](mailto:mperyer@f2s.com)) or by phone (01256 780502).

## **Society T-shirts**

It has been suggested that we should design new T-shirts to celebrate our 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and the Committee are looking into this. Let Margaret Porter know if you are interested - [margaretporter333@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:margaretporter333@yahoo.co.uk) (no commitment until we get a design and costs, but it would be useful to know the likely demand.)

.....*Has anyone got an 8 mm film projector? .....*  
.....*If so, please let Barbara Applin know (01256 465439) .....*

## NOTICE BOARD



### Volunteers Required

#### EXCAVATION

I am managing an excavation at a site near Basingstoke and I am looking for volunteers. All areas and skills of archaeology will be needed. Experienced specialists will be on site to provide training and advice for anyone who requires it. This is a 'free' dig, a rare treat these days, and all are welcome. Breaking ground **1<sup>st</sup> November 2011** for 4 weeks, all days.

If you would like to be involved in this exclusive project, please email [debbie@archaeobriton.co.uk](mailto:debbie@archaeobriton.co.uk)

Many thanks. Debz

### **Digitithe' volunteer project working with Hampshire Archives and Local Studies**



The aim of this project is to help volunteers to develop skills in reading old handwriting and using spreadsheets and images on computers.

It involves picking out details such as names and places from images of tithe awards, which accompany tithe maps dating from the 1840s. Volunteers will be working from digital images of the schedules, and adding the names and places to spreadsheets created in Excel.

Volunteers will hopefully be able to work on their own areas, unless these places have already been done.

The outcome will be, for the volunteers, developing skills in IT and reading old handwriting, plus finding out more about the history of their community. The outcome for Hampshire Archives and Local Studies will be the opportunity to work with local volunteers to promote the archives and use them for community engagement. We will also gain an index of names and places on the maps in Excel, which can be used in future projects, possibly even online alongside the maps, although this will be some way in the future.

We'll provide training and the project can then be done in a community centre or village hall, or at home or college, using the images and spreadsheet. Ideally, volunteers should be new to spreadsheets or tithe schedules, or both!

Please contact Heather Needham at Hampshire Archives and Local Studies ([heather.needham@hants.gov.uk](mailto:heather.needham@hants.gov.uk), tel.: 01962 846154) for more details.

# THE POWELLS OF BASINGSTOKE

*"We are the music makers..." Arthur O'Shaughnessy*

*Brian Butler*

## Henry Mills Powell

Henry was born in Honiton, Devon on 21 December 1822. His father, George, had been born in Lambeth, where, at one time he owned a large tannery, according to a note by his granddaughter Catherine. George's occupation is recorded as Cordwainer on Henry's baptismal certificate.

In the 1841 census George's occupation is Comedian and he is staying at the Pheasant Inn, King Street, Hurst, Berkshire, with Catherine Powell, age 42 (Vocalist) and son, Henry, age 19 (Professor of Music). George died in Alton on 9 June 1842, his occupation still recorded as Comedian.



Henry travelled around Russia as a young man, mixing in musical circles. This daguerreotype of him was taken in St Petersburg to mark his 21<sup>st</sup> birthday on 21 December 1843. There is a family legend (with some circumstantial evidence that may back it up) that during his travels in Russia Henry had a love affair which produced an illegitimate daughter. There is talk of a link to the heart of the Rimsky-Korsakov family. This interesting possibility is the subject of current research.

I do not know what brought Henry to Basingstoke but by 1858 he had started a music business in Winchester Street, moving later to premises in London Street, where he was recorded in the 1861 census. As well as teaching music, Henry provided musicians for concerts and various events. An 1858 invoice shows that he supplied musicians for a concert to celebrate the marriage of The Princess Royal.



It seems that Henry was called as a witness in the Victorian trial for perjury of Sir Roger C D Tichborne, bart: the famous "Tichborne Trial", which had Hampshire connections. On the fifth day of the proceedings, 28 April 1873, there is a reference in the trial transcript to: "Mr H M Powel - teacher of music" having given lessons on the French horn to Sir Roger Tichborne. Henry married Sarah May from Odiham on 25 September 1856. They had seven children. Notes on five of them and six of their grandchildren follow. He died on 24 October 1882.



## Catherine Powell

Catherine was born 16 August 1859. On 21 September 1881 Catherine Powell is listed as being present at the banquet in Basingstoke's Corn Exchange which celebrated the release of the ten "Massaginian Martyrs" from Winchester prison after their riots against the Salvation Army. In 1881 she married Edward Adams of the brewing family, who figured prominently in these riots, and who later became Mayor in 1889.



After Edward's death on 27 April 1919, and after her four children had left home, Catherine sold Devonshire Lodge, the family home in Winchester Road, and went to live in Sri Lanka, or Ceylon as it was then known, where two of her sons were working in the tea business. This was in or about 1923. Here she continued to write stories and articles for *The Ceylon Cause* and other local journals. Catherine died in Sri Lanka on 17 November 1934 and is buried at Bedulla.

### **Winifred Sarah Powell**

Catherine and Edward's daughter was born on 25 February 1885. In early life she was a chaperone, mixing in fairly high circles. On 21 April 1931 she married Llewellyn Chisholm Dalton, a British colonial judge and author, who received a knighthood two years after his appointment as Lord Chief Justice of Tanganyika.

After the death of her husband in 1949, Winifred was offered a Grace and Favour apartment in Hampton Court Palace. She was very proud of this offer, although, in the event, she did not take it up!

In later life Lady Dalton lived at Stanhope Court Hotel, off the Gloucester Road, in Kensington. She was very friendly with fellow resident, Mrs Rattigan, the mother of playwright, Terence Rattigan, who based his play *Separate Tables* on the hotel and its world of well-to-do loneliness. Maureen Morgan, a grand-niece of Winifred Dalton, who remembers her well, is certain that she was the model for the character, Mrs Railton-Bell.

Winifred was a friend of the Chief Scout, Robert Baden-Powell and his wife, Olave. Olave stayed with the Daltons when they lived in Tanganyika. Lady Dalton is buried in Worting Road Cemetery.

### **Blanche Mary Powell**

Blanche, born 25 December 1862, was a singer, known professionally as Madame Blanche Powell ARAM. It is said that she sang into the first phonograph in England.

She married Frank Griffiths Hollis, a gifted young musician from Northampton. In 1899 Frank Hollis set to music some lyrics written by Blanche's sister, Catherine. The work, entitled *Feminine Strategy: a Musical Dialogue*, was performed as part of an operatic evening in the Drill Hall, Sarum Hill, on 16 November, 1893, together with *The Girton Girl and the Milkmaid* (see above).

Frank, a pianist and organist, frequently gave public performances with Blanche. They lived at 154 Elgin Avenue, Maida Vale, where Frank died, tragically, in 1896, aged 28. Blanche died in June 1938.



### **Arthur John Powell**

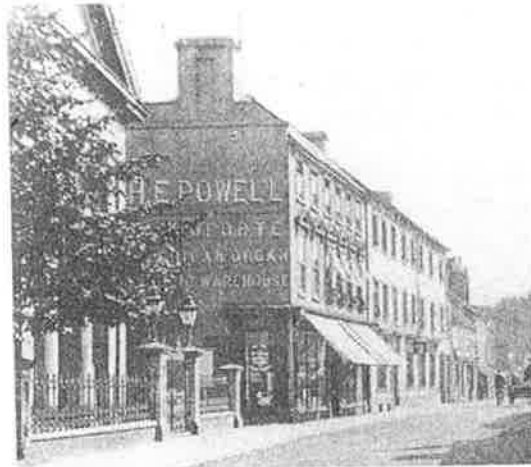
Arthur was born on 21 February 1864. In 1882 he was a Second Mate in the Merchant Service and later became a naval tailor in the City of London. His business partner absconded with funds. Arthur died 13 March 1942.

### **Harry Edmund Powell**

Harry Powell was born on 30 October 1865. He was conductor of the Basingstoke Choral Society and for about twenty years was organist at St Mary's Church, Basing.



In his Will, his father, Henry Mills Powell, had left the London Street premises in trust to his children. The trustees were his brother, Edmund Powell (of Liverpool, a Master in the Merchant Service) and John May (his brother-in-law from Odiham, not Colonel John May of Basingstoke). Harry eventually bought out his siblings' interests. Edward Adams, a Trustee appointed in Edmund Powell's Will, seems to have temporarily owned the adjoining premises on the west, which had been a druggist's shop, and sold it to Harry in 1892. The premises at 20/22 London Street now ran up to the corner of May Place. A large room above his shop was used for rehearsals, concerts and dances.



<p>Music and Musical Instrument <b>WAREHOUSE,</b> <i>London Street, Basingstoke.</i></p> <p><b>H. E. POWELL.</b></p> <p><b>PIANOFORTES</b> By HAZENWOOD, COLLARD &amp; COLMAN, BISHOP, LEACH, KIRKMAN, BISHOP, ALLEN, &amp; CO., &amp; C.</p> <p><b>AMERICAN ORGANS &amp; HARMONIUMS</b> By BELL, MASON &amp; BARNES, ESTEY, SMITH, ALEXANDER, &amp; C.</p> <p>25 per cent. Discount for Nett Cash; also delivered free and kept in Tune the first year gratis.</p> <p><b>INSTRUMENTS</b> can also be <b>PURCHASED</b> on either of the <b>ONE, TWO, or THREE YEARS' SYSTEM,</b> at list prices: and hired by the day, week, or month.</p> <p><b>VIOLINS</b> (old and new), <b>VIOLONCELLOS,</b> <b>GUITARS, BANJOS, FLUTES, CONCERTINAS, &amp;c.</b> and all kinds of small Musical Goods.</p> <p><i>H. E. P. has made special arrangement with an expert Collector of Violins for the supply of genuine makers.</i></p> <p><b>ALL THE LATEST SHEET MUSIC,</b> of which a liberal discount is allowed for nett cash.</p> <p>Tunings Promptly Attended to, <b>ALSO BY SPECIAL CONTRACT.</b></p> <p><b>Pianofortes, American Organs, &amp; Harmoniums</b> thoroughly repaired and renovated on the premises, <b>AT MODERATE PRICES.</b></p>	<p><b>BASINGSTOKE CHORAL SOCIETY.</b> (THIRD SEASON.)</p> <p><b>PRESIDENT:</b>—The Right Honourable LORD BASING.</p> <p><b>VICE-PRESIDENTS:</b></p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>A. F. JEFFREYS, Esq., M.P.</td> <td>Rev. CANON HILLARD, D.D.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>S. J. A. SALTER, Esq., F.R.S.</td> <td>Rev. H. F. HESSEY, M.A.</td> </tr> <tr> <td>LIEUT.-COL. J. MAY, J.R.</td> <td>Rev. H. K. SHARPE, M.A.</td> </tr> </table> <p><b>HAYDN'S ORATORIO,</b> <b>"THE CREATION."</b> <b>TUESDAY, APRIL 22nd, 1890,</b> AT THE <b>DRILL HALL.</b></p> <p><b>Conductor:—Mr. H. E. Powell.</b></p> <p><b>BOOK OF WORDS, PRICE SIXPENCE.</b></p> <p>PRINTED BY G. J. JONES, Basingstoke.</p>	A. F. JEFFREYS, Esq., M.P.	Rev. CANON HILLARD, D.D.	S. J. A. SALTER, Esq., F.R.S.	Rev. H. F. HESSEY, M.A.	LIEUT.-COL. J. MAY, J.R.	Rev. H. K. SHARPE, M.A.
A. F. JEFFREYS, Esq., M.P.	Rev. CANON HILLARD, D.D.						
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LIEUT.-COL. J. MAY, J.R.	Rev. H. K. SHARPE, M.A.						

Harry Powell gave music lessons to the young Princess Marie-Jose and her brother Prince Charles when the Belgian royal family came to live at Hackwood House at the invitation of Lord Curzon. Harry used to tell the story that the little Princess, later to be the last Queen of Italy, put some glue on his chair one day as a prank.



Harry also had built a large detached house: 26, Cliddesden Road. The house, then called "Stalheim", is now The Tudor Lodge. Harry married Alice Katherine Allen and they had four daughters and a son. Harry died on 11 April 1917.



Daughter, **Marion**, was a cellist. We know this from a Basingstoke Choral Society programme dated 10 February 1903. Interestingly, her aunt, Blanche, sang at this concert, which her father, Harry, conducted.

Another of Harry Powell's daughters, **Margery**, was a violinist but I do not know if this was in a professional capacity. However, I do know that her son, **Michael Hobson**, played in an orchestra which visited Basingstoke in 1952.

Harry Powell's only son, **Henry Stewart Powell**, served in the Royal Flying Corps during WW1, having transferred from the Ceylon Planters' Rifle Corps in 1916. He was awarded the Military Cross in 1917, whilst a Temporary Captain. In 1931 he became a Wing Commander in the RAF. He died on 1 February 1939 and his funeral service was held at St Michael's, Basingstoke.

### Gerald George Powell

Gerald was born 25 August 1868 in Basingstoke. He was a major dealer in Percheron horses, with a business in Nogent-le-Rotrou, France. He was made a *Chevalier du Mérite Agricole* for services benefiting French agriculture and for the export of Percheron horses to the USA, Canada and Great Britain. Details of his life and work can be found in a profile by his daughter, Nancy, reproduced on the website: [thejoyofhorses.com/june00](http://thejoyofhorses.com/june00)

Gerald's first marriage was to a French woman, **Céline Saene**. Their daughter, **Denise**, who died in 1924, left a large collection of family postcards, and this is being added to the website: [jamesmoodyandsons.co.uk](http://jamesmoodyandsons.co.uk)

After the death of his wife, **Céline**, Gerald married **Blanche Moody**, the eldest daughter of **James Moody**, my great grandfather, who ran the furniture business at 17 London Street, which was nearly opposite the Powell Music shop.

### Nancy Powell

Nancy was the only child of Gerald and Blanche. Born in Lille in 1906, she was brought up in Nogent-le-Rotrou. Twice she had to leave France, following German invasions. During the First World War she spent over two years in Basingstoke, attending the High School.



The story of her 1940 escape from occupied France with her parents, Gerald and Blanche, is told on the James Moody website (above), together with extensive correspondence from French friends, written during and after the war. In 2001 Barbara and Bob Applin retraced the family's escape journey and the account of their trip is also on the website. After the Second World War Nancy lived for many years at 17 Frances Road, Basingstoke.

Nancy served in the St John Ambulance and for 30 years was Divisional Superintendent of the Nursing Division. In 1969 she was made a Serving Sister in the Order of St John. She also worked for 15 years as a medical secretary at Park Prewett Hospital. Nancy died in Basingstoke in 1996.

## Acknowledgments

I would like to thank Maureen Morgan (great great granddaughter of Henry Mills Powell) for information about her family and for family photographs. I am also grateful to Bob Clarke for additional information about Catherine Powell, and for facts gleaned from his recently published book: *The Basingstoke Riots*. Thanks also to cousin Bob Deane for copies of the death certificate of George Powell and Henry Mills Powell's marriage certificate. Thanks to Ian Williams and Peter Stone for military information. I am also grateful to the Basingstoke Discovery Centre, for permission to reproduce the Drill Hall playbill. And a most sincere thank you to Barbara Applin for her helpful advice and assistance, and for the photographs of 20/22 London Road and Nancy Powell.

*I would be more than happy to receive any comments on this article* [brianioc@ntlworld.com](mailto:brianioc@ntlworld.com)

## **Willis Museum Exhibitions** ***Stories of Basingstoke and Diana Stanley*** **Susan Good**

For someone who has lived in Basingstoke since 1959, to stand in front of a Diana Stanley painting brings memories flooding back. Who could imagine that the 'View from Jackson's Garage' (Catalogue no.30), would evoke such nostalgia for the old gasometers! Yet, in her book 'Within Living Memory', Diana Stanley herself describes the gasometers as 'magnificent', and talks about drawing 'those splendid shapes' so perhaps the nostalgia is not misplaced!

The current exhibition at the Willis Museum, which continues till the end of May, 'Diana Stanley: Bygone Basingstoke and other Works', draws admiration, not only for the accurate depiction of places once familiar to older residents of Basingstoke, but also for the delicacy and style with which they are painted. Diana Stanley was not just a chronicler of a little market town; she was also an artist of great sensitivity. What a shame that she was not involved with the 'London Overspill Scheme'. We might then have seen a more sympathetic blending of old and new, instead of the wholesale demolition that ensued. Many elegant old buildings, for example Warren House (Catalogue no 46), could surely have been incorporated into the re-building scheme instead of razing all to the ground and erecting the concrete fortress that we suffer today. In 'Within Living Memory', that event is described by the artist as 'a holocaust'; it is difficult to disagree when one gazes at the ugly structure sitting within the remains of the town. (Catalogue no 59)

Some of 'Bygone Basingstoke' still survives and some of the views can still be seen today. For instance, St Michael's Church and Church Cottage (Catalogue no 4). Local resistance seems to have resulted in a reprieve for the Church Square Memorial Gardens (Catalogue no 38) and surrounding dwellings; I seem to remember a proposed demolition scheme and replacement by blocks of flats, one hopes that that has been vetoed. Markets are still held in the Market Place outside what was the Town Hall, now the Willis Museum, (Catalogue no 24). These and some of the scenes in 'Within Living Memory' are still extant and for that we must be thankful.

The exhibition also included some of Diana Stanley's wonderful animal and bird illustrations, most delicately depicted. They, and the illustrations for children's books at the end of the exhibition, show the artist's versatility. The comments on the printer's proof of the cover for 'The Borrowers', exemplifies Diana Stanley's sensitivity to the use of colour. In her written comments on the proof she has even stipulated the shade for the spine of the book.

Moving to the second exhibition in the Willis Museum, and glancing affectionately at the Roman and his mosaic floor in passing, one's attention is caught by the beautiful spoons displayed on the landing. These are the Titchborne Spoons, made in 1592. They have most elegantly shaped bowls and their handles are each crowned with a king of England. They are well worth a look.

The Heritage Society's Exhibition 'Stories of Basingstoke' is displayed on a series of laminated boards, and includes some artefacts. Here are interesting facts about 'Worthies', people who have links with, and have made their mark on, the town. The first board takes one back to 1284, when Sir William Brayboeuf, Lord of the Manor of Eastrop, died. His 'badly mutilated' tombstone was re-discovered in the Holy Ghost ruins in 1817. A descendant of Sir William was asked to enclose land for hunting. This was called 'Hag-woode' later to be known as 'Hackwood' Park.

The exhibition moves onwards through the ages, gradually coming up to the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Many interesting facts, not always directly involving Basingstoke, come to light as one reads. For instance, some of the glass from the Holy Trinity Chapel, built in 1525 by William Sandys of Vyne House fame, can be seen at the National Trust property, Mottisfont. It was nice to see a familiar face in the photograph displayed on the board entitled 'Oliver Cromwell and the Fall of Basing House', no prizes for guessing who it was! It was disappointing that there was no mention of the apocryphal anecdote 'Clubs were trumps when Basing House fell'.

Most visitors will be familiar with the unfortunate incarceration of Mrs. Blunden (1674), which was (partially!) re-enacted by the Heritage Society in 2009; a photo can be seen on the central board. The naturalist Gilbert White (1770-93), who was educated in Basingstoke, must surely be known to most people. Many have probably visited his museum in Selborne. Thomas Wharton (1728-90), is perhaps not so famous. He wrote a poem to the River Loddon, and might have difficulty finding it in Basingstoke were he writing today!

Various artefacts are displayed in glass cases, amongst which is a splendid Neolithic hand axe. Next to it is a sculpture of a hand holding a replica, useful for children visiting the exhibition. The axe is part of the collection of 'hand-made tools and fossils' donated by George Willis.

The boards we see next are all mostly confined to businessmen connected with the town: John Burgess Soper (1821-95), who had a 'whitesmith, gunsmith and ironmongers'. A 'Whitesmith', says the dictionary, is 'a tinsmith; a polisher or finisher of metal goods'.

It was good to see our own book by Bob Clarke in the display on the 'Massagainian' riots. Then follow well known names such as Mussellwhites the builders, whose beautiful house in Skippets Lane is still standing, unlike the one in Russell Road, which The Heritage Society did their best to save; Colonel John May, whose name lives on in the cricket ground, May's Bounty, and who also donated nine bells to All Saints Church; Wallis and Steevens, and Burberry. One cannot help but be impressed by Alfred Milward, of shoe shop fame, as, in order to preach a sermon in the Baptist church, he walked to Reading and back every Sunday. The exhibition enters the 20<sup>th</sup> century with George Willis and John Arlott. Whilst viewing this exhibition, I noticed a young girl diligently studying the fact board for George Willis. Her father was there and explained that she had to study a local dignitary for her homework. One wonders what changes she will see in the next forty years.

*Unfortunately, the Heritage Society's exhibition has now closed.*

## **A TUDOR WEEKEND AT BASING HOUSE**

**28, 29 & 30 May (Sat, Sun, Mon) - all timings to be confirmed**

### **Saturday**

A little event about the Tudor Still House. Alan Turton will give talks on giving a talk on Tudor Arms and Armour (c15 mins) and William Paulet, with a short tour of the Tudor Palace. The Basing Archers will be giving a demonstration. Other things tbc.

### **Sunday and Monday**

Alan's talk on Tudor Arms and Armour and the tour and demonstration. Also the launch of Margaret Scard's book 'The Tudor Survivor', her biography of William Paulet.

# ENTERTAINING HAMPSHIRE

The Hampshire Field Club's Local History Section Spring Symposium 9<sup>th</sup> April

Barbara Applin

Clare Barnes, Learning Officer of The Mary Rose Trust, gave an interesting talk on *Pastimes on Board the Mary Rose*, bringing along several replicas of games and musical instruments. A nine men's morris diagram had been drawn on a barrel lid, and something that might have been for a board game - someone suggested shove ha'penny. On board were pipes and tabors and fiddles that illustrations show were held against the body rather than at the neck. There was a heddle loom for weaving strops, or maybe braid or a belt; inkwells, book covers and rosary beads. Pastimes could be useful, for there was a leather jerkin that had been patched and mended, with the appropriate tools.

Dr Jane Cowling, of the Records of Early English Drama Project, talked about *Plays and Playing - Entertainment in Hampshire in the Medieval and Early Modern Period*. She stressed the oral, collaborative nature of early plays. Unfortunately many records only tell of payments to the players and not the name or even the kind of entertainment they provided. Particularly interesting was a notebook kept by a schoolboy at Winchester College (which moved to Moundsmere during the Plague), giving details of plays performed there, with comments by the teacher..

Sarah Lewin's talk was based on work she had done with Linda Champ *Seasonal Customs in Hampshire - A view from Hampshire's Archives*. It was interesting to hear that Wootton St Lawrence has a particularly fine set of churchwardens' accounts up to 1629. Some places celebrated Royal Oak Day on 29<sup>th</sup> May or paid for ringing on Gunpowder Day or St George's, while Burghclere rang the bells in 1743 for the Prince's Royal Wedding Day. Whitchurch was among places having Whit Monday feasts and processions, while in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century singers and "Mayers" and harvest feasts were recorded at Oakley Hall. Our own diarist, Samuel Attwood, mentioned Whitsun fairs and a maying at Worting, but the best Basingstoke item was the controversy about the Maypole in 1698, which was eventually removed on grounds of what would now be called health and safety. Lasham people were particularly proud of their maypole - until people from Herriard arrived "in a tumultuous manner" and took it away, later being summonsed to appear at the Basingstoke court.

Samantha Carrasco, University of Southampton (and a professional pianist), spoke on *Soirées, concerts and Competitions - a view of Hampshire music culture in the late 18<sup>th</sup> and early 19<sup>th</sup> centuries experienced by the Austen family and their contemporaries*. Several music books of the Austen family survive, giving a glimpse into the music they played and enjoyed. Some were printed and some had been copied very neatly - copying music being a desired accomplishment for a young lady. Scottish songs were in vogue - some pseudo-Scottish. Notable personalities were Charles Dibdin, song-writer and entertainer of Southampton, and George William Chard, choirmaster at Winchester College and principal organist at the annual Hampshire Music Meetings in the 1760s. The attempt to replace the regular "Messiah" at this meeting by Haydn's "The Creation" was not a success, with one reviewer making very unfavourable comparisons. I was surprised to hear of the importance of the local militia in the make-up of orchestras. Samantha played some of the music referred to - so we could make our own judgements on the merits of Handel's and Haydn's Halleluiahs.

David Trevor-Jones of the Cinema Theatre Association spoke on *Early cinema in Hampshire*, with examples of early versions of cinemas at the bioscope tents at fairs, sometimes overwintering in halls. Sometimes a Corn Exchange became a cinema for a time, as at Beverley - and Basingstoke. The Bioscope Annual & Trades Directory for 1912 listed three cinemas in Basingstoke; the Corn Exchange (capacity 400), the Drill Hall (500) and the Electric Palace & Skating Rink (which had begun life as a Swimming Baths and later became the Electric Theatre and in 1939 the Savoy Cinema. Anyone who is interested in Basingstoke's early cinemas should look out for the book *Basingstoke Entertained* by Mervyn Gould, Mercia Cinema Society, 2007.

## BOOKSHELF

Review by Barry Hedger



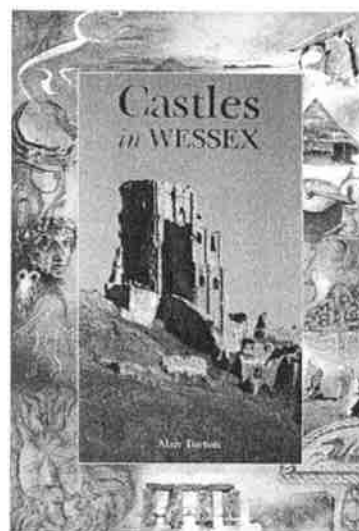
### Castles in Wessex by Alan Turton

This gem of a publication, written by BAHS member Alan Turton, with photographs taken by Nicola Turton, is a joy to read, with fascinating facts shot at the reader faster than grapeshot from a cannon. Buy it for your library, or better still have it in your car so that you can visit the castles with the aid of the map and map grid references provided. I'll certainly be visiting Binknoll, Rufus and Mere Castles. No, I have never heard of them either, so buy the book a.s.a.p and get out there exploring!

*Wessex is rich in castles and other fortifications, and this well-written and comprehensively illustrated book is an excellent and very enjoyable guide to them. Beginning with the Anglo-Saxon 'burhs' (a welcome inclusion) such as Wareham and Wallingford, it ranges through the region's many Norman fortresses (which the stoutly English author sees as 'alien intrusions') and the important if often neglected castles of the bishops of Winchester, Salisbury and Wells. It then continues through the castles of the 'Anarchy'; of the Plantagenet kings (including Corfe and little-known but heroic Odibam); and of the later Middle Ages – like Nunney, Farleigh, Hungerford and Old Wardour. Next it covers Renaissance developments, and provides a detailed account of the dramatic swan-song of Wessex castles (notably Basing House) during the Civil War, a period about which the author has such expert knowledge. Finally it lists some of the surprising transformations which overtook the region's castles after they fell out of use.*

*There are also specialised sections on sieges and siege-engines, life in the castle, and the way castles were staffed and operated, ending with a very complete gazetteer of all the castles in the five traditional Wessex counties. Both beginners and castle experts will find this book interesting and useful, all the more so because of the fascinating details in its text and its descriptions and illustrations of undeservedly obscure as well as famous Wessex castles. I certainly enjoyed it very much, and learnt a lot from it.*

DR CHARLES KIGHTLY



(Wessex Books, £5)  
On sale at BAHS meetings  
when 50p goes to the  
Society!

## Prehistoric and Romano-British Pottery Workshop

*Briony Lalor*

As we all know, pottery in assemblage can give us the opportunity of dating a specific archaeological feature or site. We also know that when faced with a crumbling pot sherd freshly pulled from the ground this simple idea takes on a whole new perspective. With this in mind fifteen of the 'usual suspects' headed off on Saturday 19 March to a pottery workshop run by Lorraine Mephram at Wessex Archaeology.

The focus for the day was to have the opportunity to handle prehistoric and Romano-British pottery and really get to know the differences between each period. Lorraine was an excellent and very patient tutor who supplied us with an extremely informative manual to help us through the day. During her initial introduction we were invited to think about what pottery can tell us about a site and culture in terms of production, trade/exchange, status, and social and economic changes. Then came the really enjoyable part of handling a wide range of pottery which had been laid before us like the most tempting buffet!



In order to begin any identification three characteristics are essential: fabric, form and decoration. It became apparent very quickly that without a decorated sherd or sherd with a rim or other identifying characteristic the fabric became the only way in which an estimate of date could be made (see table).

Period	Date	Fabric	Form
Early Neolithic	c 4000-3000 BC	Generally flint-tempered	Open vessels with rounded bases
Middle/Late Neolithic Peterborough Ware	c 3500-2500 BC	Flint-tempered	Round bases with elaborate rims or tapering body and narrow flat base
Grooved Ware	c 3100-2000 BC	Generally grog-tempered	Bucket-shaped vessels with flat bases
Early Bronze Age	c 2500-1800 BC	Grog-tempered or sandy; some flint	Standardised beaker shapes
Early Bronze Age	c 2200-1200 BC	Grog-tempered	Collared urns
Middle Bronze Age Deverel-Rimbury	c 1500-1200 BC	Flint-tempered; grog-tempered in Dorset	Coarse Bucket and Barrel urns Finer Globular urns
Late Bronze Age/Early Iron Age Post-Deverel – Rimbury (PDR)	c 1200-500 BC	Wide range of fabrics flint-tempered or sandy some sandy/organic. Coarse wares may be confused with Saxon pottery	Jars and bowls in a range of shapes
Middle Iron Age	c 500-100 BC	Flint-tempered or sandy	Rounded or shouldered jars and bowls and saucepan pots
Late Iron Age	c 100 BC-AD 43	Grog-temper, less common flint-tempered or sandy	Jars and bowls often very elegant

***Prehistoric pottery classification table: summary from Lorraine Mephams Handout***

Lorraine also highlighted that it wasn't until the Early Iron Age that more forms were added and that wheel turned pottery began to appear during 1C BC although this was limited. As they say in the ad 'simples'!



During the morning session there was much discussion about how the pottery may have been made and its uses. Some of the most interesting debates were around the use of pottery for domestic and funerary purposes. We were able to see examples of Beakers and Collared Urns that had been made and decorated differently for grave deposits. Importantly, children's vessels appear not to be decorated.

***Early Bronze Age Collared Urn used for a child's burial***

After lunch we started on the Romano-British pottery which came in a wonderful array of forms and decorations. Here we were able to look at girth beakers, indented beakers, dog dishes, dropped flanged bowls, moratoria and much, much more. The sheer range was fascinating, demonstrating how

much British pottery began to change under the Roman influence. What was most interesting to me was the fact that imported fineware forms such as Samian Ware and Rhenish Wares were quickly copied by our own potters at the Oxfordshire and New Forest potteries.



*Oxfordshire fineware copying  
Gaulish Samian*



*New Forest pinched pot copying  
Rhenish Ware*

In the coarsewares it was also useful to see the variety of greywares that were made locally by the Alice Holt pottery. We all marvel at the sheer size of some of the vessels that were so beautifully made and decorated with their bluey-grey tinge and white slip. And just when we thought we were getting to grips with some of the finer points of identification we had a little trip into Black Burnished Ware (BB1). Needless to say BB1 need not always be black or burnished and this type of burnished finish can also be found in the Middle Iron Age. Lorraine made it clear that most of this type of ware found in central southern England is from the Poole Harbour area of Dorset and it can be distinguished from other similar wares as it is always handmade rather than wheel thrown. Once again this sounds simple in theory but in practice it was difficult to tell in the pots we looked at because they were so beautifully made. So, in short a pot may be black and burnished but unless it is from Dorset it is not referred to as BB1.

Having spent such an informative day with Lorraine the room was really buzzing when we came to leave. Her in-depth knowledge, enthusiasm and responsiveness really captured everyone's interest regardless of our previous experience. My sense was that everyone got something from it and I'm certainly looking forward to using what I have learned during the coming dig season. Here's to the next one, Mark!





# 2011 DIARY DATES

**BAHSOC**

**BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

*MEETINGS on Thursdays at 7.30 pm Church Cottage, Basingstoke (except for 9<sup>th</sup> September)*

- 9<sup>th</sup> June **AGM** - see page 2  
9<sup>th</sup> July **Trip to Cranborne Chase** - see page 2  
7<sup>th</sup> Aug **Visit to Silchester Excavations** - see page 3  
Sat 17 Sept **40<sup>TH</sup> ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE** - see page 2  
1<sup>st</sup> November Excavation "near Basingstoke" - members invited - see page 4

Secretary: Ginny Pringle Tel: 01420 550028  
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**FRIENDS OF BASING HOUSE** at 7.30 pm, Basing House Education Centre, The Street, Old Basing

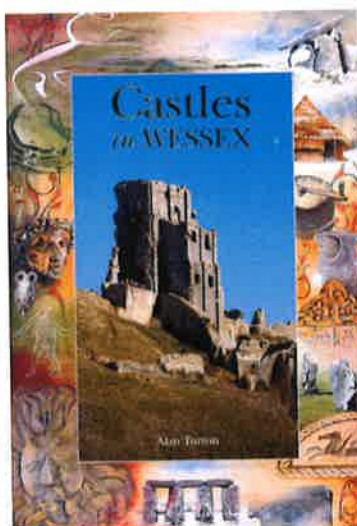
- 28<sup>th</sup> - 30<sup>th</sup> May Tudor Weekend at Basing House  
11<sup>th</sup> Oct First winter lecture

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

- 19<sup>th</sup> May Inside/outside at Heckfield Place Robert Louth  
16<sup>th</sup> June "Living on the Breadline" - the workhouse system Rosemary Rawcliffe  
21<sup>st</sup> July That magnificent man...! Samuel Franklin Cody Peter Reese

**HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB** [www.fieldclub.hants.org](http://www.fieldclub.hants.org)

- 18<sup>th</sup> May AGM at 7.30 pm; Tudor House, Southampton: deciphering 800 years of history  
Dr Andy Russell Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College, Winchester



Articles for the Newsletter to  
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