

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BAHS

Newsletter 207

May 2014

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*What does this
have to do with
our forthcoming
AGM?*



See page 16.

... A WALK, A TRIP, A VISIT, A TOUR ...

SOUTHAMPTON HISTORICAL WALK

Saturday 21st June

When this walk took place last year, there were a few who couldn't come along and Julian Porter agreed to do it again this year. The date chosen is **Saturday June 21st**. Anyone who wants to attend should email Julian direct at jcmporster@gmail.com

Penny Martin, Secretary

REMINDER - Fenland Trip A group of us will be going away on a trip visiting sites and museums around Cambridge, Ely, and Norwich over the weekend of **27 - 30 June**. Details were in the February newsletter. If you would like to come, it's not too late to contact Mark Peryer: mperyer@f2s.com

VISIT TO SILCHESTER

Sunday 10th August

The long-running 'Town Life' excavations at Silchester Insula IX come to an end this summer after many years of fascinating discoveries. We have had a guided tour of the excavations every year and this year is no exception; **We shall meet as usual in the car park at 1.30 ready for the tour to begin at 2.00 pm.** There will be an opportunity to see some of the finds and a collection will be taken for the dig funds

TOUR OF PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

Friday 5th September

We have arranged a visit to the Archives **11 am**, about 1 ½ hours, maximum 16 people. Possibly a visit to the Jewel Tower, and then a visit to the Houses of Parliament **3.40 pm**, maximum 25 people. No charge.

As numbers are limited, please let me know quickly if you wish to come. Are there any documents you would like to ask to see?

Penny Martin, secretary@bahsoc.org.uk (01256 321423)

BAHS Fieldwork

Mark Peryer

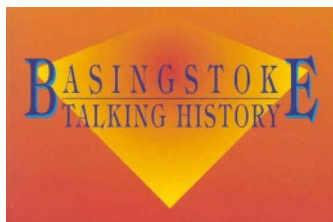


There will be a dig at **Basing House** from the 21st July to the 17th August exploring the “New House” area of the site. This is being organised by Southampton University and is a follow up to their geophysical investigations from last year. BAHS members are welcome to take part as volunteers and get involved with a variety of archaeological activities. Unlike last year, there is no need to sign up for a minimum of a week and there is more of an emphasis on engaging with the public. The University’s approach is multi-disciplinary, so if trowelling or swinging a mattock doesn’t appeal to you then there will be opportunities to get involved, learn about and contribute to other aspects of the discipline. For more details, and to sign up, the project website URL is:

<http://basinghouseproject.org/about-the-project>

We are in early stage discussions regarding another project in **Old Basing** which would involve engaging with residents to dig and record test pits in their gardens. We hope that this would happen in September this year. If you live in Basing and would like to contribute a test pit, then we’d love to hear from you. Otherwise, we are looking for members who would be prepared to give up some time to help encourage and supervise residents who volunteer to dig a test pit. This would involve following a standard methodology for digging and recording the pits, giving a preliminary identification of any finds and making sure that they are bagged against context. The actual test pitting activity would be framed within a project which would involve some public meetings and a post-excavation write up of the findings. If you’d like to get involved, then please let me know either by phone (**01256 780502**) or email: mperyer@f2s.com

Finally, CBA Wessex has recently launched the Wessex Archaeology Field Academy (WAFA). This promises to be wonderful resource within a reasonable distance. I’d encourage members to get involved either by attending the courses, or over time helping to support the academy in other ways. For more details see the WAFA website: <http://www.cba-wessex.org.uk/wafa.html>



Report by Barbara Applin

Educating Basingstoke

I was asked to give a talk at the Basingstoke Discovery Centre about Basingstoke schools and colleges, based on BTH interviews and research done by Jennie Butler for the ongoing revision of the Victoria County History. I wanted to play excerpts from the interviews so Barbara Large digitised the bits I needed and used IT magic to improve the sound quality. Luckily, Mark Peryer warned me that I needed to be sure the sound was embedded in the Powerpoint presentation, not just linked to it, otherwise it would not have worked on a different computer. Thank you, Barbara and Mark!

People told me they enjoyed hearing the actual voices of people giving their memories as pupils, students or teachers. Now we are planning a further eight interviews to fill in some of the gaps in our recording of this part of Basingstoke's history, past and present.

Morris Singer

John Hollands is preparing an exhibition at the Willis Museum on this famous art foundry (**Bronzes for the World**, 28 June to 23 August) and he has co-opted our member Shelagh LeMarechal to help put it together.

Some of the information, and several quotes to be used in the exhibition are taken from BTH interviews with people who worked at Morris Singer in various jobs such as furnaceman, sand moulder and chaser. Our first Morris Singer interview was with David Vallance who will be giving a talk on Morris Singer to the Friends of the Willis Museum on 17th July.

The full interviews reveal fascinating details of the processes used in making bronze sculptures, as well as the relationship between the workers there and artists as famous as Henry Moore and Eduardo Paolozzi.

Here are two quotes from our interviews.

The artists used to come in and there was this chap who'd stand for hours looking at the thing and then say, 'That foot's not quite right', then we'd have to cut it and move it and re-weld it ...

Mick Major, BTH 102

It was a different kind of work altogether, you know. Messing about with pouring bronze, when all hands were called to the deck and you put on all your protective gear and go and stand by this massive pot that is pouring all this molten metal. Sparks flying everywhere and people chucking the flux in and stirring it. Quite magical.

Steve Eagle BTH 103

Digitising

All the M series of interviews (for the Willis Museum) and the BAHS series (our first set) were recorded on cassettes, which are liable to deteriorate with time, so Barbara Large has begun the long task of digitising them for safety. We would welcome help with this – it involves using some free software and can be left running while you are doing something else.

Index

Anita Plummer has made a full and very useful index of people, places, themes, events etc in the M series of interviews and is starting on the BAHS series, to be followed by the BTH digital series. This will make it much easier to answer enquiries and to put together displays, articles and talks. Here are some sample entries.

Blackouts WWII	M1;259 M7;490 M9;203 M10;463 M12;484
	M20;773 M26;010 M61;097 M13;681 Accidents M39;157
Blue Coat School - Cross Street	M12;729 Residents M5;090
Boating / Rowing	M32;405 On canal M11;594 M12;638
Boots Cash Chemists - 8 London Street	M14;062 M83;452

More Interviews

If you know of anyone who has interesting Basingstoke experiences and is willing to be interviewed, please let us know (ring 01256 465439 or email me at barbara.applin@btinternet.com). Are there any other themes you would like us to follow up?

The Other Basing House

David Whiter

I had often admired Old Basing House at 99, The Street, but it seemed something of a puzzle. Though the pedimented and arcaded front suggested the nineteenth century, other elements indicated a more complex development. In particular the roof plan made it clear that successive extensions had been added to make a substantial house. Pevsner (2010) places the original building in the early eighteenth century with the façade brought forward later in the century. My interest might have gone no further until a friend, John Baker, mentioned that he had a series of old documents and maps relating to occupiers and land of Old Basing House from the early nineteenth century and into the twentieth. I mentioned this to Mary Oliver who provided census notes and other material for the same period. Mr and Mrs Tuck, the present owners, also supplied information about the house's simple origins in the sixteenth century, and details of the Booth family from a Canadian descendant. And a friend, Guy Sclater, formerly of Odiham, added more detail. Together these make up an intriguing picture of the families living there between 1806 and 1913.

In 1806 Frederick Booth of Middlesex took a 99 year lease on a property in Old Basing, including garden and meadow, the Falcon Inn and another garden and cottage. While it is uncertain that this was Old Basing House, few other properties are as substantial, and a Richard Booth was living there with his family in 1841. Frederick was probably a close relative of Richard, but we know much more about Richard.

Richard, born in 1767, was stationed in Gibraltar in the 1790s as a purser in the Royal Navy during the Napoleonic Wars. It is not unduly cynical to suggest that this role at this time enabled him to put aside some money. Certainly he married Mary Patricia, a Gibraltar born in 1775, during this posting. Charlotte was born in 1797, and Frances Maria died in 1805. And there were other children – Sarah Elizabeth, James Richard, Henry, Charles O'Hara, Augustus St Clair, born 1810, and Amelia, born 1816, eight children in all over nineteen years.

Charlotte married Alfred C. Bartley and Sarah Elizabeth married Charles Ring. James Richard rose to be a Captain in the Royal Navy, married Jane Elizabeth and became President of Montserrat where he died in 1853. Henry died a sub-lieutenant in 1838. Charles O'Hara Booth died as a Captain of the Second

Fusiliers in 1851 in Tasmania, then a ferocious penal colony. Amelia died in 1892, and Augustus died an Admiral in 1906 – their memorial is in St Mary's .



Figure 1

It is not clear when Richard and Mary relocated to Old Basing but the census of 1841 lists Richard, then seventy four, and Mary and Amelia living at Old Basing House, with a visitor and two servants. In 1842 Richard held Old Basing House in his own right as well as 11 acres between the railway line and Priestcroft (now the Village Hall) leased from the Duke of Bolton. These lands look very like the lands shown in *Figure 3, page 8*. Richard died in 1845, aged 78, but Mary added more land in 1846 from the Reverend John Orde and Baron Bolton (William Powlett).

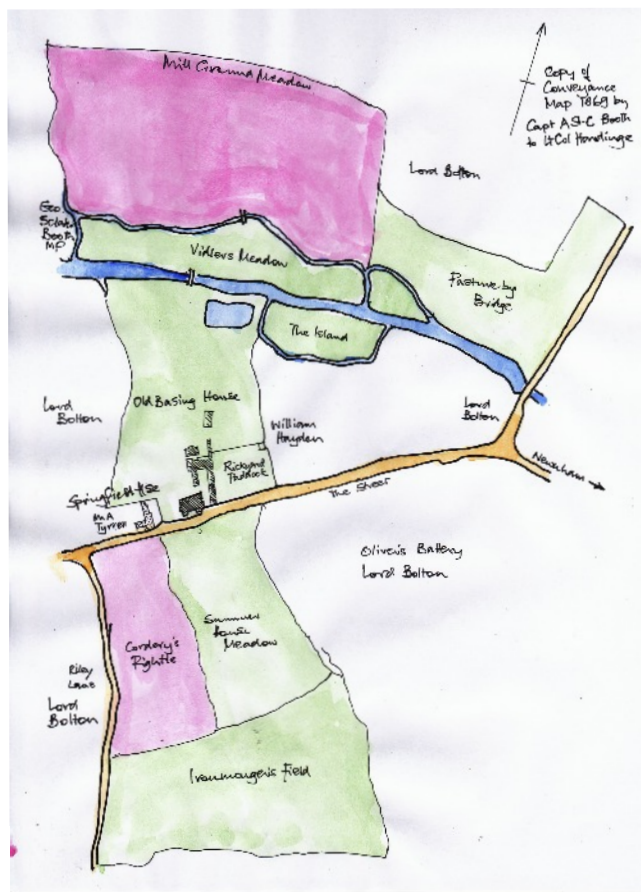
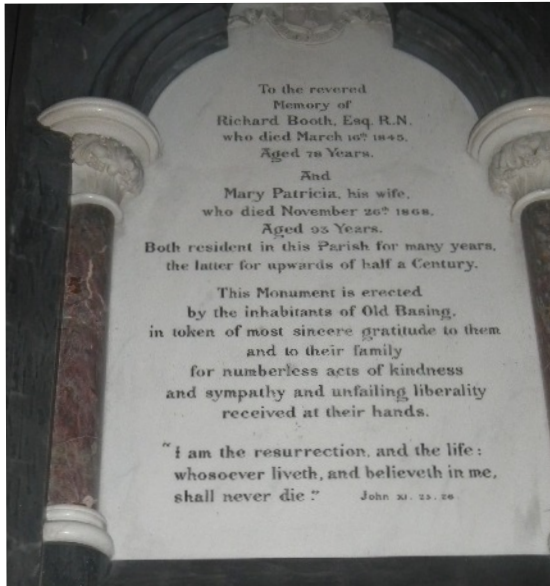
The census of 1851 shows Mary, Augustus (a Commander RN) and Amelia at the House, still with two servants - Augustus and Amelia never married. In 1861, Mary, 86, Augustus, 51 (and by now Captain RN), Amelia, 44, and the widowed Sarah Elizabeth were still living there with two servants.

Mary died in 1868, aged 93, leaving Augustus as her executor. With the agreement of his surviving relatives, he sold the property for £3,500 to Henry Hardinge, a retired Lieutenant Colonel of Hawkfield, Basingstoke. Richard and

Mary were well respected and are commemorated in a plaque in St Mary's .

Figure 2

The map included in the sale documents (**Figure 3 below**) identifies the lands attached to the House with field names and their owners, including George Sclater Booth MP.



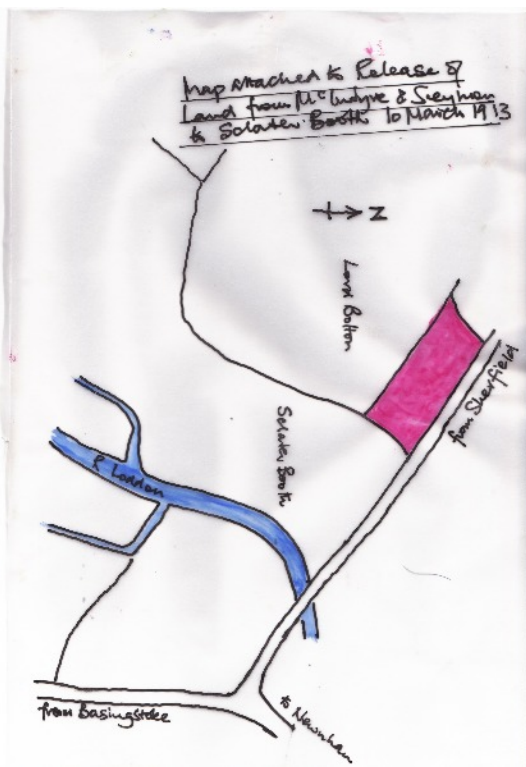
It identifies Mr Tyrrell at Springfield House (now Springfield Place), and William Hayden owning land to the east. The Street frontage of Old Basing House is indented so the arcade and pedimented front had not yet been added.

Henry Hardinge continued to own it for another thirty or so years, but he occupied it intermittently, as there is no mention of him in the 1871 census, and in 1881 the House was in the charge of Ann Bond, a housekeeper. Hardinge is noted as being of Acrise, Kent so possibly he spent time there.

By 1881, Tyrrell's widow, Louisa and her young daughters, Alice, Grace and Kate, their governess and two servants were living in Springfield House. On the eastern side William Hayden, a retired contractor, had built Warwick House and lived there with his wife Harriet, a niece Charlotte Matthews, 31, and a servant.

In 1891 Henry Hardinge was in residence at Old Basing House, still with the housekeeper, but he died in 1898. He had two sons: Herbert Richard who also rose to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel in the Army, and Admiral Edward Hardinge CB, who had died in 1894.

In 1898 Herbert Richard Hardinge, who lived in Exeter, sold the House, garden, stables, coach-house, cottage and outbuildings, orchards, paddock and meadow to Charles Lutley Sclater Booth for £3,276-7s-0d (**Figure 4, right**). However, other lands went for £922-17s-6d to trustees headed by Lord Bolton and Viscount Galway. Charles Lutley Sclater Booth agreed to continue the annual payment of £4 for the Poor of the Parish that attached to these lands. While there is no explicit statement of the trustees' aims, Cordery's Pightle, Summer House Meadow and Iron-monger's Field became the Recreation Ground and the site of the Beddington Centre so the trust



possibly had a charitable purpose. The map of the 1898 sale shows Springfield house and Warwick House and the front of Old Basing House now seems to have acquired its arcade and pediment!

Charles Lutley Sclater Booth was the second son of George Sclater Booth MP, who owned land next to Old Basing House (**Figure 3, page 8**). He was born George Sclater, read law and entered politics with substantial assistance from Anna Maria Booth, adopting the name Sclater Booth. George Sclater Booth MP was a member of a Disraeli government and became the first Baron Basing.

Charles Sclater Booth, born 1864, was a noted athlete, a barrister and director of Sun Insurance, living in St George's Square, London. He married Eleanor in 1900. Within two days of his purchase in 1898 Charles mortgaged his new property for £2,000, and in 1899 he leased the 14 acres of meadow to the Mansbridge family, though retaining the sporting rights to the River Loddon. The census of 1901 records Charles and Eleanor (or Ellen) there with three servants. Warwick House was now occupied by a widow, E. Green, 63, a boarder and one servant. In Springfield House there were two servants.

In 1913 the mortgagees released to Charles a small parcel of land on Pyotts Hill, possibly for development (**Figure 5, below**), and in December 1913 Charles redeemed the whole of the mortgage. He left Old Basing House in 1913 to live in Odiham Priory.



The mortgage release is the final detail we have from the documents, but they clearly convey the lives of the upper middle class of the high Victorian era with its dedication to service to the nation and empire, dedication that was to be cruelly tested from 1914.

There is one intriguing document, from 1799. It is a certificate for redemption of land tax by virtue of a lump sum payment by the Reverend Thomas Grimwood to the land commissioners. It refers to a cottage occupied by Thomas Hutton and John Brasier, possibly one leased by Frederick Booth in 1806. One of the signatory commissioners is Lovelace Bigg-Wither who lived at Manydown and was a friend of the Austen family. Jane knew the family well and was even, for a few short hours engaged to the son Harris Bigg-Wither. By the morning she had thought better of marrying the unprepossessing Harris, despite his prospects of wealth, and released him from the obligation.

WEALD & DOWNLAND OPEN AIR MUSEUM

Following the TV filming of the “Tudor Monastery Farm” there will be special guided tours on **19 May, 13 June, 8 July, 4 August and 18 August.**

Weald & Downland will be holding a special event marking the First World War on the weekend of **7 - 8 June.** “**Horses at War: Remembering WW1 and WWII**” will include re-enactments, parades and demonstrations, focusing on the courage of horses in war, and their rôles on the battlefield and on the home front. The museum is joining forces with Andy Robertshaw, curator/manager of the Royal Logistics Corps Museum, who was the historical consultant on the Stephen Spielberg film, *War Horse*.

*This item comes from **Local History News,**
the Magazine of the British Association
for Local History - just arrived in the post!*

AN APPEAL!

RESTORATION OF ST ANDREW'S CHURCH, FARLEIGH WALLOP

Before the Norman Conquest the Manor of Farleigh Wallop was held by King Harold. In September 1591 Queen Elizabeth paid a visit to Sir Henry Wallop who had been knighted by her in 1562. Cromwell's forces, during the Civil War, attacked Farleigh House and pillaged and burnt the village, and afterwards went on to the historic sack of Basing House. Hence the reason for the splendid isolation in which Farleigh Church stands to-day.

The Church of St Andrew is cruciform in design and dates from the 13th century. It is to this Church that I ask your attention. It stands like a flint stone cross, recumbent upon the grass, hidden away in green meadows, a silent witness for Christ through the centuries in this quiet English countryside. It is approached by a winding country lane along whose banks grow the wood violet and the yellow primrose, and birds sing 'Mattins and Evensong.' Down this lane, in other days, came the wagons loaded with corn, and the cattle to the fairs and markets. A fine old yew in the churchyard is a reminder of England's one time armaments policy with its bow and arrow arsenal. Gray might have written his *Elegy* in this ancient Churchyard. Farleigh Church was built of flint and very fine examples of this type of craftsmanship are to be seen here, but, alas the mortar perished, and damp and weather added their part to neglect, until gable walls bulged, window mullions became out of truth and dry rot and death watch beetle did their work of destruction. The tower became unsafe, one of the buttresses no longer acted as a support, and masses of masonry fell to the ground. Services could no longer be held in the Church and the small congregation, with their Rector, now hold a service every Sunday in the Village Club.

Mr Sawyer[?] the Diocesan architect with Messrs H. J. Goodall and Son, builders of Basingstoke, were entrusted with the work of restoration. And with love and craftsmanship, under Mr John Kinge, the foreman, the Church has now been made secure for centuries, and the continuity of its worship will, we trust, go forward unhindered. The Church is promised to be ready for services on Easter Day. Messrs Moreton and Sons of Winchester, who have done the work of re-leading the windows, report that they discovered an inscription scratched on one of the squares stating that the windows were re-leaded in [17??.] They have replaced this square of glass in one of the leads and [wh??] Another inscription stating that the windows were again re-leaded in [19??]. Lord Lymington and his family have most generously done their part in helping to meet [?] the heavy cost involved of nearly a thousand pounds, and as Rector of this ancient little agricultural parish, I now appeal for help from outside.

Will you, please, send to me at the Rectory, Cliddesden, Basingstoke, a donation as God has prospered you, which will be thankfully received and faithfully applied. Ladies and Gentlemen Christ and His Church of St Andrew's Farleigh Wallop. Won't you help me? I know you will! Thank you!

Arthur W. Badger
Rector of Cliddesden and Farleigh Wallop.

Editor's note



I was almost about to reach for my cheque book when I saw that this appeal had been accompanied by a handwritten Hallowing and Thanksgiving Service Sheet for Whit Sunday - 1938....!

If you wonder why there are question marks in square brackets, it's because there were problems with reading the handwriting of the appeal.

Sue Lane, who found the Appeal stuck in the back of a burial register, is one of the volunteers working on the revision of the Victoria County History, and this year she led us on a walk from Cliddesden to this very special church at Farleigh Wallop. She asked me to attach her own “health-warning” to this appeal.

“There is no evidence to confirm the Civil War story and I have checked with Alan Turton as well as the records. Alison Deveson and I continue to research this - where the man got his idea from we don’t know. It was repeated by Lady Portsmouth on her hand-out. Our understanding is that there was a deserted medieval village - the church presumably rebuilt to serve as a Wallop family chapel. All very complicated!”

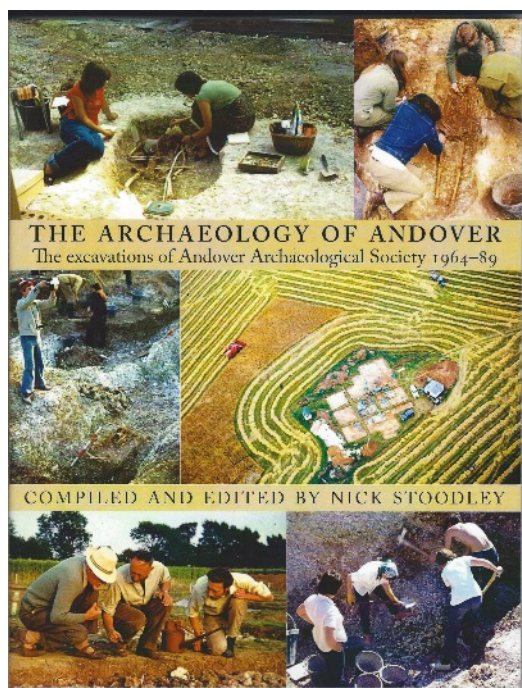
BOOKSHELF



THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF ANDOVER the excavations of Andover Archaeological Society 1964-89 Compiled and edited by Nick Stoodley *REVIEW by Mary Oliver*

I recently read this volume with very great interest, as it brought back many memories of some early rescue work, and of working with Max and Peggy Dacre. One of my early fieldwork tasks as Assistant Curator at the Willis Museum was to take a look at a site uncovered during the construction of the new Spine Road round Andover – a ditched Iron Age enclosure with the familiar storage pits showing up so well against the newly scraped chalk, and getting lower with each pass of the big machines. This was rescue archaeology before PG16, and we were fortunate that the site had been reported at all! Health and Safety regulations were far in the future then as I dodged across the site to take measurements and rescue what I could. As well as the settlement site, there was a curious shaped feature which turned out to be a Roman T-shaped corn drying oven, which we negotiated permission to excavate. This resulted in the oven becoming gradually isolated on its own little island as the chalk round it was scraped away, but it was worth it! However, the most important result of this rescue work was the interest it caused locally; schoolgirls and staff from the neighbouring High School came over to help, and other adults, including Max and Peggy Dacre. This lovely couple gathered many interested individuals around them to found the Andover Archaeological Society which went on to do such important rescue work in their town; Andover, like Basingstoke, was a redevelopment area.

I was too busy thereafter with our own sites to be much help in Andover, but I always kept in touch with the Dacres, and visited some of their excavations, so it is really good to see the reports of their work in print at last. In spite of his best intentions, there was always another archaeological emergency which prevented Max from doing a complete write up – we shared that problem! Many of the most important Andover sites were written up, such as the Bronze Age urnfield at Kimpton, a meticulous excavation, not a rescue job, which added considerably to understanding of such monuments, but many of the smaller sites reported in this book have also important contributions to make to the fuller understanding of our Hampshire past. And it is very satisfying to see my efforts at that first Andover site included in the later work at the Spine Road by the Andover Society. It is not an easy task to bring order out of varied and incomplete records made years ago by other people, and Nick Stoodley is to be congratulated on a splendid job.



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2014 DIARY DATES

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

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Registered Charity no. 11000263

MEETINGS on Thursdays at 7.30 pm Church Cottage, Basingstoke

- 12 June AGM and New light on the Bayeux Tapestry Matthew Bennett
21 June Southampton Historical Walk *See page 2*
26-30 June BAHS FENLAND TRIP *See page 2*
10 Aug VISIT TO SILCHESTER *See page 2*
5 Sept VISIT TO PALACE OF WESTMINSTER *See page 2*

Items for Newsletter to barbara.applin@btinternet.com

21 July - 17 August EXCAVATIONS AT BASING HOUSE
See page 3

FRIENDS OF WILLIS MUSEUM *Thursdays at 7.30 pm at Museum*

- 15 May Confessions of a Professional Genealogist Ken Smallbone
19 June The Newbury Coat Jan Blight
17 July The Morris Singer Foundry David Vallance
8 June/23 Aug ***Exhibition*** Bronzes for the World *See page 4*
18 Sept The Arts and Crafts Movement Hazel Ball

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB *www.fieldclub.hants.org*

- 5 July Outing to Overton booking by 20 June £12 HFC members, £15 non-members