

B A S I N G S T O K E
 A R C H A E O L O G I C A L
 S O C I E T Y

N E W S L E T T E R

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* Thursday, 26th Sept. Lecture by Max Dacre on PORTWAY B, ANDOVER. *
 7.30 pm at Chute House *

* Saturday 28th/ Extra weekend, Viables excavation *
 * Sunday 29th Sept. *

* Sunday 29th Sept. Visit to Butser by Basingstoke Field Society. *
 Meet at Butser car park, 2.15 pm *

* Wed. 9th Oct.) Bone Seminars, Willis Museum Annexe, 7.30 pm *
 * Wed. 16th Oct.) *
 * Wed. 23rd Oct.) *

* Thursday 31st Oct. Lecture by David Hinton on ANGLO-SAXON ART: *
 THE WESSEX REVIVAL. 7.30 pm at Chute House. *

* Wed. 6th Nov.) Bone Seminars, Willis Museum Annexe, 7.30 pm *
 * Wed. 13th Nov.) *

* Saturday 16th/ Conservation Workshop at Harriet Costello *
 * Sunday 17th Nov. School *

* Wed. 20th Nov. (Overton Society; lecture on SILCHESTER *
 (Bone Seminar, Willis Museum Annexe *

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Lecture by Max Dacre
 PORTWAY B, ANDOVER
 7.30 pm 26th September
Chute House

Don't forget the first lecture of the season - Max Dacre on the complex site at Portway B, Andover.

SEMINARS ON ANIMAL BONES
 From Wednesday 9th October
 7.30 pm
Willis Museum annexe, New St

Now that the lecture evenings are starting again we are planning a New Look for the practical sessions. This year we are going to concentrate on one thing at a time. A lot of members, particularly those who have helped in washing and marking finds, have been intrigued by the variety of animal bones found on our recent excavations at Ructstalls Hill and would like to know how you can tell one animal from another. Iris Gregory is going to lead a series of seminars on Animal Bones, in the Annexe behind the Willis Museum. Please remember that, unlike the lectures, these will be on Wednesdays. The County Museum Service are kindly allowing us to use the larger room in the Annexe for these seminars - so don't be put off by the cramped nature of our activities last year!

Iris Gregory explains what is planned for the six seminars:

"I wonder if people realise just how much information can be gained from the study of animal bones found on excavation sites. Every bone excavated represents part of a one-time living animal. What sort of animal did it belong to? Was it large or small? Where did it live? Was it a wild animal or a domestic animal? How old was it when it died? Does the bone show any sign of disease or marks from butchery? All these questions can be answered by just looking at one complete bone or even certain parts of the bone. One cannot hope to learn in a few evenings all there is to know about bones, but with the aid of the bones found at Ructstalls Hill I will try and show and explain just how we can identify one species from another. I am sure that with a little practice you will find no difficulty in sorting out various animals connected with this site, and it is hoped we may indeed form a Bones Group to make a report on these bones."

IRIS GREGORY

OVERTON SOCIETY
 Lecture on SILCHESTER by Duncan Russell
20th November 1974

The Overton Society have invited any of our members who missed Duncan Russell's talk to us on Silchester, or would like to hear it again, to join them at St Luke's Hall, Winchester Street, Overton on Wednesday 20th November at 8 pm

CONSERVATION WORKSHOP
Saturday/Sunday, 16th/17th November
Harriet Costello School, Basingstoke

Southampton University have kindly agreed to run a weekend Workshop on the conservation of archaeological material IN BASINGSTOKE at the Harriet Costello School. This is a not-to-be missed opportunity to discover the simple techniques that can be used in the field when fragile material is discovered, as well as learning which techniques must be left for laboratory work. The tutor will be John Price, and the weekend will probably include a visit on the Sunday afternoon to the Conservation Laboratories in the Department of Archaeology at Southampton University. Fee £4.50. The course is limited to 15, so please get your applications in quickly - and in any case before 18th October - to: D. E. Johnston MA, Dept of Extra-Mural Studies, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH
The programme will be out shortly.

Extra weekend
VIABLES EXCAVATION
28th/29th September

An appeal for help..... there will be an extra weekend of excavation at Viables. All help needed.

DANEbury 74

September 5th was one of those days early this month when it was more April than September. There were frequent very heavy rain showers, the wind blew and the temperature was a cold 18. Just the day for a visit to a hill fort!

However, the devil looks after his own and somebody must have sacrificed to the right gods because those of us with more archaeological curiosity than sense met Bill Startin, the Site Director of this year's Danebury dig, as the clouds lifted to give a pleasant, but cool evening, for a comprehensive tour of the excavations.

The work this year was in two parts, the major part extending into the centre of the fort from the previous excavations at the East gate area and the smaller excavation was under the bank continuing the work started last year.

The major area contained the usual mass of post holes and pits of various sorts. The post holes could be seen to make four- and six-hole settings and with a little imagination these could be seen to lie on either side of a "street". A new type of pit this year was a finely cut conical pit at the bottom of which was clay from the Reading Beds, i.e. imported over a considerable distance. This pit and two others like it were thought to be puddling pits for the clay.

The second area turned out to be very complicated, with much in-filling and rebuilding around what could have been a wattle and daub hut.

BOB APPLIN