

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

**BAHS**

**Newsletter 211**

**May 2015**

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**Our Friend Barbara**

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR: A REPORT ON OUR SOCIETY'S ACTIVITIES OVER THE PAST YEAR

*Ginny Pringle*



I am pleased to report that our Society has enjoyed another successful and active year, although not without a degree of sadness. During the course of the year we were saddened to hear of the loss of several members, both past and present, and most recently our dear friend Barbara Applin. Mary Oliver has written Barbara's obituary for our newsletter and in there you can read about Barbara's long and dedicated commitment to our Society.

Last summer we were fortunate to experience enjoyable outings to Southampton for a historical walk and also to London for a tour of the Palace of Westminster and the parliamentary archives and I would like to especially thank Julian Porter, Marjoleine Butler and Penny Martin for organising these trips. Also my thanks to Mary Oliver for arranging our annual visit to the Silchester excavations which as always proved thoroughly interesting, but sadly, was the final in a long running series now that Reading University has completed that particular project. Moving on in time, this March we were fortunate to have a double bill where members visited the Museum of London archives and later in the month churches at Winchfield and Crondall. Again, very many thanks go to both Penny Martin and Mary Oliver for arranging these visits.

Members also enjoyed an extended trip of several days duration at the end of June to the Fenland area, Norfolk and Cambridge. Those who attended visited a vast range of sites and our thanks go to Ian Waite and Mark Peryer for arranging a splendid programme. By the time you read this some of our members will also have enjoyed another extended trip, this time to sunny North Cyprus and our thanks must go to Ian Williams and Mark Peryer for their slick organisational skills.

In the field, in addition to assisting excavations at the 'New House' site at Basing House, some volunteers also assisted UCL with excavations at Chilton Candover and also with commercial archaeology along the Wootton St Lawrence pipeline, where positive feedback received regarding our professionalism was much appreciated. Our main Society fieldwork project for 2014 was the Dig Basing community test-pitting project that ran for two weekends in September last year in collaboration with Chris Elmer. This project was highly successful and is being repeated this year, with a weekend in June followed by another in September. We reinforced our experience gained from last year with a well-attended training day in April this year, where we were blessed with warm sunny weather and Mary Oliver's hospitality.

Our Society has also become involved with the UK wide Hillfort Atlas Project, kicking off with a survey of Oliver's Battery near Alresford and we have also continued to contribute to the Friends of Ancient Monuments (FOAM) initiative with clearance work held at Odiham Castle. My thanks go to Penny Martin and Marjoleine Butler for organising these events and to our participating members.

During the course of the year we also co-published 'Basingstoke Races' with Barry Dale, on behalf of Jean Dale who sadly did not survive to see the completion of her research. Barbara Applin was instrumental in bringing Jean's work to publication and spent a great many hours advising and editing. Our Basingstoke Talking History team have also been busy throughout the year and we are deeply committed to continuing this project, albeit in very different circumstances, but I would like to thank everyone involved with this and to assure you that we will continue to support your work.

Mary Oliver continues to surpass each season with another set of grand talks which enjoy a consistently good turnout. We began with a talk in September last year on Neolithic houses by Alastair Barclay and will be finishing this season with a presentation by Tim Schadla-Hall on aspects of archaeology at Chilton Candover to directly follow our AGM. In between we have had a wonderful variety of talks, including one on the Magna Carta by Dr Nick Barratt which had us all riveted to our seats. By the same token I should mention and warmly thank Alan Turton for standing in at the last moment when a speaker had to postpone due to illness. Alan gave a wonderful

presentation on the topic of the English Civil War soldier, complete with costumes, which we could handle and try on for size.

As before, I would like to acknowledge the hard work of everyone on the Committee and I welcome Nicola Turton as our new newsletter editor who has taken on the role at such short notice. I encourage you to regularly supply Nicola with material. As always, I would like to thank those of you who help with refreshments on talk evenings, particularly Ann Broad and Jo Kelly for ensuring we do not run out of biscuits!

Despite our sad losses in recent months, we are left with a great legacy, and I know we will always be an active and successful Society - not least because of the enthusiasm and support which you, our members continue to freely give.

## THE NEW EDITOR

*Nicola Turton*



Dear BAHS members

We are all devastated by the death of our beloved Barbara Applin. This isn't the place for her obituary, as Mary Oliver will deal with that later in this issue, but this is the place for me to introduce myself as the new newsletter editor. I was to take over the work from Barbara whilst she was convalescing, but sadly, time slipped away from us, and we didn't get the chance for a handover.

So I am working this out as best I can with the support of Bob Applin and the BAHS committee members. Fortunately (from my point of view if not yours!), I have a small store of articles, but I would ask you to help me in the future with reports of visits you've made, notes from lectures, and jolly tales of interesting finds in the garden. Basically, if you find it interesting from an archaeological or historical point of view, then other members will too.

Although I have been a member of the BAHS since 1991, my only qualification for this job is a passion for archaeology since I was about 3, and a love of writing. I have big feet, but I fear I'll have trouble filling Barbara's shoes. But I'll do my best.

My email address for articles is [newsletter@bahsoc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bahsoc.org.uk), or if you prefer, slip me a handwritten paper, and I'll type it up.

## THAMES STORIES – ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY

This exhibition is currently on show at Reading Museum and Art Gallery (a few minutes walk from the station) and the Society have booked a tour with the Keeper of Archaeology, Dr Jill Greenaway, on Saturday 26 September at 10.30, lasting an hour, price £4.50. There will be many archaeological finds on display including Bronze Age swords and other ritual deposits, and Jill will have much to tell us. There is a limited number of tickets available, so do book your place early with Penny on [pennypitstop53@hotmail.com](mailto:pennypitstop53@hotmail.com) Tel: 01256 321 423

There is a great deal to see in the museum as well as this chance to see the finds from the Thames; including the Silchester collection and the copy of the Bayeux Tapestry, now an antique in its own right! The exhibition closes on 4 October, but is open all summer.

# 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY KILN FIRING AT LITTLE WOODHAM 17<sup>th</sup> CENTURY VILLAGE

[www.littlewoodham.org.uk](http://www.littlewoodham.org.uk)

Little Woodham is near Gosport in Hampshire, it is a re-created hamlet set in the year 1642 which consists of a few houses and workshops peopled by volunteers in period costume. There is an ale house, together with a blacksmith's forge, weaving shop, wheelwright, scribe and potter etc.

The most recent addition to the village is the pottery workshop which now produces pottery thrown on a kick wheel of the period, and this year the pottery will be fired in the recently completed replica kiln. We were fortunate to have advice on the kiln structure from the builder of the Plimoth Plantation kiln in the United States of America, and believe that our kiln may now be the only working one of its type anywhere, since the Plimoth kiln was dismantled last year.

The kiln has been fired up empty to test the basic structure, but the inaugural firing is due to start on Sunday, 2nd August, and the kiln will be opened perhaps on the fourth day.

This has been an exiting project and we have learned a lot from visiting potters, and so if you have a general interest in pottery or are particularly interested in 17th Century ceramics we would love to see you during the firing period.

If you would like more information about the pottery or the kiln firing, please contact me at [rogerharris@pumpcottage.me.uk](mailto:rogerharris@pumpcottage.me.uk) (due to holiday commitments please don't expect a reply until mid June).

## DAY OUT IN LONDON

*Rose Loveday (aged 14)*

First of all we went to the London Archives and I thought it was very well laid out and the guides were very friendly and they were very good at explaining things (especially for me) in a good way that you would understand easily. I especially loved the Glass room because you could see all the different finds, overall was a very good day and I enjoyed it because it was very interesting and I learnt a lot. The second place we went to was the Docklands museum, now my sister Grace and I had lots of fun in this museum in a part called "Sailor town" it was a really good museum and was all new and modern, I thought the section on the Slave trade was really good and very educational with lots of videos and stations for younger children so they could understand it too. In all the day was very good and my feet hurt after and that always means a fab day out! I also got to catch a glimpse of St. Paul's!



*A selection of Rose's photographs: St Paul's, and in the Museum of London Docklands*

**Geophysical survey**  
Saturday, 13 June 2015, Practical option Sunday 14th June  
**Preparing for the dig**  
Saturday 04 July 2015  
**Training excavation**  
Saturday 11 July & Sunday 26 July 2015

## **CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY LIVE 2015**

*Penny Martin*

The CA Live conference is an annual event and takes place in February each year, for some years now I have been meaning to book and attend but never quite managed it. This year however I finally made it and it was well worth the effort, being both informative and entertaining. The content of the talks for the 2 days was very extensive ranging from science to burials to some thought provoking discussion on the state of archaeology today and in to the future, so I will concentrate on the high points.

The 2 days were split into 4 sessions on each day with built in breaks and excellent tea/coffee facilities (including biscuits), lunch was not provided but this was easily overcome due to the proximity of Senate House to the British Museum and shops and restaurants in the area. There were numerous book stands, and other stands included WAFWA, Butser and the Turkish Culture and Information Office to name but a few.

We began a focus on the Anglo Saxon with Sedgeford and an update from Dr Neil Faulkner on the current thinking and the evidence of settlement on the site from the Iron Age through to the present day. Prof Andrew Reynolds followed on the development of settlement landscapes in Anglo-Saxon England which pulled together evidence on farming practices (they grew vines – very sensible) and technology (maltings and water mills).

Our own Cowdery's Down site was mentioned as having evidence of specialised buildings and settlements. Interestingly our picture of the Anglo Saxons is skewed by the small number of examples of Anglo Saxon settlements, most of which are high status. Dr Helena Hamerow followed on with a talk on the development of society through the Anglo Saxon period focusing on the forgotten settlement at Avebury (now under the car park) and West Stow (some of us visited the reconstructed village last year) and when talking about politics (I didn't fall asleep) I was reminded of the Anglo Saxon Meeting Place, and the Hundreds assembly site that we came across at Grimes Graves.

The international section began with an extremely entertaining talk from Prof Ian Hodder on the joys and blunders of working at Catal Hoyuk. We were treated to an account of his experiences including: 50° heat, burials under house floors, DNA and social structure. I really must visit - perhaps an idea for the next BAHS foreign excursion? The burial theme continued in this session with a report on the Viking King (?) burial at Auldham in East Lothian This was followed by Rescue Archaeology with a hot off the press report from Neil Holbrook, complete with photos taken the previous day, of highly unusual burials being uncovered at Hinckley Point. Celebrating the success of the Portable Antiquities Scheme followed from The British Museum which included a call for volunteers.

Day 1 rounded off with the keynote speech from Martin Biddle reminiscing on 50 years of publication of Current Archaeology, the announcement of the death of Sheppard Frere at the age of 98 and reference to Wolf Hall, The TV series which somehow kept popping up throughout the day.

Day 2 started with the Prehistoric Session which comprised of a talk from Dr Chris Stringer on 1 million years of history with emphasis on the weather, and explaining how changes in the climate are normal. David Jacques on the exciting discoveries at Blick Mead and radical views on dating of the Mesolithic flint tools found and the posts dated to 5-7000 BC from the area now covered by the Stonehenge visitor centre car park.

Jim Leary reported on the new Reading University Archaeology field school which will be at Wilsford Henge & Barrow Cemetery together with other henge sites in the Wessex area.

Session 6 was a series on boats which covered conservation of the Mary Rose focussing on the current stages from Prof Mark Jones, the Bronze age boat reconstruction at Morgawr and ancient log boats and votive offerings from Lough Corrib and the difficulties encountered by underwater archaeologists, very scientific.

Roman Frontier Life followed lunch on Day 2 with David Breeze setting the scene for the Roman Wild West including murder, counterfeiting and gambling from artefact evidence. New thoughts on Hadrian's Wall and its purpose from Matt Symonds comparing the Wall to a modern frontier for controlling movement and collecting taxes, and a study of the gateways and mile castles on the wall, from which has been collected vast amounts of data for study. (I found this particularly intriguing as I hadn't really thought of the wall in this light before.) David Petts told us what to look out for when visiting a Roman bath house – ramparts, smelly latrines and bad building technique - at Binchester which has its final dig season this year.

The plenary session consisted of a talk by Paul Cornish of the Imperial War Museum on how they developed the new galleries; these are well worth a visit if you haven't visited since the refurbishment. Andrew Selkirk delivered the last word and announced that if there was sufficient demand an additional conference would be planned in Durham on Hadrian's Wall in September 2016.

So as I said at the beginning of what has become a very long article, these were a thought provoking couple of days, with interesting speakers and stalls to visit. I have lots of new leaflets which are available at our meetings and I enjoyed talking to other delegates. I would certainly go again next year or maybe even attend the Durham Conference.

## **CHURCHES ON THE DOORSTEP – A TOUR OF WINCHFIELD AND CRONDALL**

*Nicola Turton*



*Chancel Arch, Winchfield*

As anyone unfortunate enough to be cornered by me knows, I love old churches. I can be distressingly brusque about modern (post 1820) churches, and can bore for England on the ravishingness of mediaeval woodwork. Imagine then, my delight when Mary Oliver organised a trip to two local churches, and so we foregathered, as Joyce Grenfell might say, on a cold morning at St Mary's, Winchfield. When I worked in London, Winchfield was one of the litany of stations through which my train would sail; Hook, Winchfield, Fleet, Farnborough... but I knew no more. Well, Winchfield church is a joy, Pevsner describes it as "...Norman of a singular ferocity" and speaks of the coarseness of detail, but I was delighted by the unusual cancel arch ("two hollows to one roll") and the lovely dog tooth windows. I also spotted a couple of very heavy and old bench pews, which I cuddled. I don't hug trees, but give me some old architecture. Yes, I know...

We swarmed all over, bagging photos and marvelling at the details, before the cold finally got to us, and we departed for the next church. Crondall is hardly far away, approx 12 miles from Basingstoke, but once again, it was embarrassingly new to us. It seems that All Saints is known as the cathedral of north Hampshire, and is truly stunning. Set in a tiny, quiet village, it sits high above the houses, and is quite a surprise. The tower prompted a debate between Alan and me. I said mid 17th century and he put it a century later, but it certainly doesn't match the main church, being made of bricks, and joined by some wooden walkways which has the look of a Jacobean playhouse. We were fortunate that a works party were being fed tea and coffee and brownies, and were willing to share, so we clustered round the large, plain font whilst shamelessly taking the food from the mouths of the hardworking volunteers.



And the font – which is supposedly late Anglo-Saxon, is wonderful; plain and very powerful. But in 1648, Parson Humphrey Weaver grew concerned that his flock would be corrupted by using a pre-reformation font, and purchased a tiny marble font to place inside the old one and protect his congregation.

The vicar, a lady with a clear speaking voice, took us up the tower (c1659), and we were there in time to hear the clock strike midday. George Paulet (brother to our William, builder of Basing House) is buried there with quite a nice tomb.

It occurs to me that my love of old churches is perhaps a wish to time travel. That magical moment when you open the door. If it's unlocked – then you go in and you might be able to make a brief link with an England of over a thousand years ago.

And as Pevsner puts it so beautifully, "Englishness is of course the purpose of my journey".



[www.odihammagnacarta.com](http://www.odihammagnacarta.com)

King John rode out from Odiham Castle in June 1215 to seal the Magna Carta. To mark Magna Carta 800, Odiham village will be running a series of events this year. Details may be found on their website [www.odihammagnacarta.com/events/](http://www.odihammagnacarta.com/events/)

**Alan Turton will be conducting free tours of the castle on 23 May at 11am and 2pm, 24 May at 2pm and 25 May at 11am and 2pm – just turn up.**

# ODIHAM AND THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

*Alan Turton*



*Sir Ralph Hopton*



*John, 5<sup>th</sup> Marquess of Winchester*

When on 22<sup>nd</sup> August 1642 King Charles 1st raised his standard at Nottingham declaring war on his revolted parliament, members of the Odiham Hundred militia had probably already seen action. The County of Hampshire had Parliamentary leanings and the Lord Lieutenant, the Earl of Pembroke, had called out the Trayned Bands to assist in the siege and taking of Portsmouth whose erratic governor George Goring, had declared for the King on 2<sup>nd</sup> August. Goring had moved too early for any significant support and had surrendered the port on 7<sup>th</sup> September to Colonel Sir William Waller, MP for Andover, who was to play a prominent role in the military affairs of the county in the coming years.

The Trayned Bands were allowed to return home but kept on alert as two large armies manoeuvred in the Midlands before engaging in the first great battle of the Civil War, the indecisive action at Edgehill on 23<sup>rd</sup> October. Following on from the battle, the King marched on London only to be repulsed at Turnham Green. He then fell back to Oxford which was to serve as his HQ throughout the war. It was during this time that the first Royalist troops appeared in the Odiham area. A troop of horse under Lord Grandison arrived at Basing and they began to requisition cloth and linen from known Parliamentary supporters in the area. The Catholic owner of Basing House, the Marquiss of Winchester, who until then had been neutral, declared for the King. On the other side of Odiham Sir John Denham and a group of Royalist gentlemen seized Farnham Castle but were not long left in possession for on 1<sup>st</sup> December Sir William Waller stormed and took it back. On 29<sup>th</sup> December, Parliament ordered that the Castle be slighted but very little was done and by spring had become Waller's HQ.

Severe winter weather and attempts at national negotiations put a halt to much military activity but Parliament ordered a Southern Association of Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex and Kent to be formed to finance and raise local regiments which after much disagreement they began to do.

By February 1643 Prince Rupert's Royalist cavalry was in the area unsuccessfully searching for a Parliamentary military pay wagon, which resulted in a sharp confrontation at Alton. Odiham seems to have escaped any fighting but a Parliamentary scout reported that on the Basingstoke road he had seen 300 horsemen that "plundered all the country as they came along and took a great number of horses from country men." Another scout reported on 18<sup>th</sup> March that on the same road, "there lay certain scouts which call themselves the Marquiss of Winchester's men and take all the horses that pass by that way, and when they have taken then they sell them." This type of disruption of trade and travel was to go on for the next two years.

As the spring progressed Royalist activity in the area decreased as Sir William Waller carried out a successful campaign in the west and Parliament's Lord General the Earl of Essex captured the important Royalist garrison of Reading, leaving the Marquiss of Winchester's Basing garrison very much isolated. However, with the summer, fortunes reversed with Waller's army destroyed at Roundway Down and Essex's laid low with typhus contracted in Reading. Waller began to rebuild his army at Farnham and was made Sergeant Major General of the Southern which now meant that Odiham was now very much in the front line.

In November, Waller his new army now reinforced with three regiments of the London Trained Bands, went on the offensive and marched on the recently installed Royalist garrison at Winchester. He had reached Alresford when news reached him that a strong body of Royalists were advancing from Oxford, causing him to change his plans and strike at Basing House instead. The attempt on the House commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> November in foggy weather which then turned stormy, conditions which were to last until the 14<sup>th</sup>, when Waller lifted the siege. Sir William's scouts had brought news of the advance from Kingsclere of the Royalist general Sir Ralph Hopton to the relief of Basing with a large force of cavalry and infantry. Hopton had defeated Waller in the West Country yet despite this was a close personal friend of his opponent in that "war without an enemy". Waller fell back to a position between Basing and Odiham and prepared to face his old friend in the field, however Hopton did not appear and with the morale of his men at rock bottom Waller retired to his base at Farnham. Hopton arrived the next day at Basing having been delayed with mutiny amongst his troops and rested that night there. Then "with the advice of his Council of War, resolved to advance towards the Enemy, and to quarter in, and about Odiham." By his own estimation Hopton's army consisted of nearly 3,000 foot and dragoons, 2,000 cavalry and a good train of artillery. The 3,000 infantry and guns would have been billeted mostly on Odiham itself with the cavalry posted in the surrounding villages, particularly those facing Farnham. Local householders were expected to accommodate and feed those soldiers allocated to them by regimental quartermasters in return for which the soldiers were supposed to pay between 4d and 6d per night. But since pay was always in arrears their guests usually took "free quarter".

Over the next few days there were skirmishes between the outlying cavalry and horse from Farnham whilst Hopton's strength continued to grow in Odiham with Sir John Berkley bringing in a good party of horse and dragoons followed by nearly 1,000 foot. William Butler, a parliamentary scout, visited Odiham and reported that he had seen there "9 peeces of ordnance and a box of small drakes, there are 6 or 7,000 horse and foote in the towne and townes adjacent. " With these reinforcements Hopton "did resolve to draw out to Farnham to see the countenance of the enemy" and over the next couple of days made a number of advances on Farnham Castle but was unable to dislodge Waller from his stronghold. Each night Hopton would withdraw to his quarters at Odiham because of the bad weather, and each time suffered casualties from Waller's aggressive patrols.

Hopton by the end of November, realised that he would not be able to dislodge Waller so upon consultation with his officers at Odiham "it appearing that those quarters grew bare, and that there was little good to be done upon the enemy", he withdrew his army. William Butler who had returned to spy on Hopton reported on 1<sup>st</sup> December that "upon Tuesday night about 12 of the clocke the enemy marched from Odiham to Upton where now they quarter." From here Hopton dispersed his troops into winter quarters.

Odiham was now essentially in no-mans-land with patrols from both sides scavenging the area for supplies, and the new year of 1644 seeing no let up. In January Widow Zouche, whose husband had died in the King's service at Reading, complained to the Royalist Council at Oxford that she was resident in Odiham but was unable to pay the contributions levied upon her by the Marquiss of Winchester for support of his garrison. Winchester's troops also took nearly 3,000 sheep from the fields around Odiham. Not even the parishioners attending Sunday service at Odiham Church on 11<sup>th</sup> February were to be left in peace, for according to the Royalist newsletter "Mercurius Aulicus", troopers from Farnham Garrison rode into the building. The Reverend Holmes was forced out of his pulpit at pistol point, one of the troopers shouting "Sir, you must come down, for we do not allow of such kind of preaching." A shot was fired in the air which caused a number of ladies to faint whilst "one Bushell's wife fell down dead." This kind of incident was not uncommon; the Marquiss of Winchester's troopers had caused a similar incident at Tilehurst Church during the previous month.

With the arrival of spring, and better weather, both sides took to the field again. On 28<sup>th</sup> March, Sir William Waller won a convincing victory over Hopton at the Battle of Cheriton and cleared most of north Hampshire of Royalists with only Basing House left still flying the King's colours. Waller would have besieged once again this Royalist outpost but he was called to join with the Earl of Essex in a joint expedition against Oxford. This left only local Parliamentarians to deal with Basing and plans were made to muster troops against it. Winchester hearing about this build up and that some enemy troops were already quartered in undefended Odiham, decided to take the initiative and strike first. On the night of 31<sup>st</sup> May, Winchester's force of 80 horse and 200 foot, virtually his entire garrison, set out with the intention to "fire the town of Odiham and put all to the sword." Two local men were employed to lead the raiding party through the

darkened lanes with the aid of a dark lantern; they also carried "torches to fire the town." Fortunately for Odiham the mission had been betrayed by a spy within Basing House who informed Colonel Samuel Jones, the commander at Farnham. Jones immediately reinforced the troops at Odiham and sent messages for assistance to Colonel Richard Norton the senior commander in Hampshire.

Winchester's troops first made contact with Jones's men in the lane next to Warnborough Mill then pushed on towards Odiham only to find that Colonel Norton had "got most of his horse and drew them into the field, leaving the rest for the town and, marching close to the enemy, very furiously fell upon them with great valour, which caused the enemy presently to retreat." Colonel Jones and his green coated infantry joined in the action and the Royalists broke and fled, leaving nearly 100 men prisoner.

Odiham was saved and for the next six months all attention was on another unsuccessful siege at Basing House. This was lifted in November and once more Royalist troops entered Odiham. Under the command of Lord Goring this force of 4,000 "roaring boys" had swept in from the west and succeeded in reaching as far as Sussex before being pushed back to the West Country leaving a trail of looting and destruction in their wake.

When the campaigning season opened again in earnest in the spring of 1645, Parliament fielded its recently formed "New Model" army under the command of Sir Thomas Fairfax. Meanwhile at Odiham the republican Colonel Edmund Ludlow had been stationed with three troops of horse to contain the activities of the Basing House Royalists, and in May he was reinforced with three companies of foot from Farnham. In June Fairfax destroyed the King's main army at Naseby and by August Basing was once more under siege. Fairfax detached a brigade of his army under his second in command Lieutenant General Oliver Cromwell to mop up surviving Royalist garrisons in the south and on 14<sup>th</sup> October Cromwell stormed Basing House. The war would last another year, but Odiham was to see no more fighting and luckily also avoided being involved flare ups of 1648 and 1651. The townsfolk who had lived through all these miseries were only too glad to return to their pre-war lives and it is amazing how little enmity survived from "these distracted times".

Note: this article was originally written for the Odiham Society journal.

Sources:

Sir Ralph Hopton's Narrative of his Campaign in the West 1642-1644 ed C.E.H Chadwyck Healey – Somerset Records Society XVIII

Journal of Sir Samuel Luke – ed I.G. Philip M.A. – The Oxford Record Society

Cheriton 1644 – John Adair – Roundwood Press

The Civil War in Hampshire – G.N. Godwin 1904

The Civil War in Hampshire – Tony MacLachlan – Rowanvale Books 2000

## **FIELDWORK REPORT**

*Mark Peryer*

*Email: [mperyer@f2s.com](mailto:mperyer@f2s.com) Tel: 01256 780502*

Dig Basing is our community archaeology project, which involves digging test pits in gardens around Basing with the aim of gaining an insight into the development of Basing as a community outside Basing House. We had a trial run last September which went well and got a good response from those residents who took part.

Arrangements for this year are moving forward with the dates for the test pit digging weekends having been arranged for the 13<sup>th</sup>/14<sup>th</sup> June and the 19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> September.

We have had a promising response to an article placed in the February edition of the Basinga magazine and there have been other enquiries via the web-site. As a result, we have a growing number of people who have volunteered their gardens for test pits, but we do need your help since the majority would appreciate a hand with their pit whilst others would prefer us to do the digging on their behalf.



*Busy, busy, busy at the "Practical" station*



*Ginny explains the finds system*

As part of our preparations, we held a training day for Dig Basing volunteers on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> April in Mary Oliver's garden. Around 12 members enjoyed taking advantage of this opportunity to learn more about the methodology we are using and the associated paperwork. Ginny, Ian Waite and I ran 3 stations where the participants learnt about the recording process; how to approach digging a test pit; how we go about processing finds; and what sort of finds to expect based on last year's results. Many thanks to Mary who, as always, was a very obliging host, even allowing myself and Ian to pitch a tent on her lawn for the finds station.

Over the Whitsun Bank Holiday weekend (23<sup>rd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup> May), the Odiham Society are organising some living history Magna Carta celebrations at Odiham Castle. As part of these we have an opportunity to get involved with some test pitting aimed at locating the road out of the castle. Several members have expressed an interest in taking part and we will be working with Oliver Good of Cotswold Archaeology who is organising the project. By all accounts there will be some celebrity archaeologists in attendance at various points over the weekend (Carenza Lewis and Paul Blinkhorn). Since this is a potential opportunity for engaging with the public, we plan to have a BAHS stand.

Please let me know if you would like to take part in Dig Basing or the Odiham Castle test pitting on 01256 780502, or by email: [mperyer@f2s.com](mailto:mperyer@f2s.com)



## Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

[www.fieldclub.hants.org.uk](http://www.fieldclub.hants.org.uk)

12th May	Historic Buildings Section, guided tour of Longford Castle near Salisbury from 10-15 a.m. to 12.30 p.m.
24th May	Archaeology Section, visit to Basing House, led by Alan Turton.
7th June	Historic Buildings Section, 'Barns Day', Old Basing

# BARABARA APPLIN

*Mary Oliver*

The recent unexpected death of Barbara has caused shock and grief among her family and friends and deprived the Society of one of its founder members and most stalwart supporters.

Barbara was a Lancashire lass who studied English at Newcastle, then part of Durham University; while there she also learned her trade as an archaeologist on training digs on Hadrian's Wall, and later at St Albans while working in London. She first came to Basingstoke in 1967, following me as Assistant Curator at the Willis Museum, a post created to deal with the work arising from the Town Development programme. There was certainly plenty to do, rescuing items from the buildings about to be demolished (now in Milestones) and excavating the sites discovered on the new housing estates around the town (Oakridge, Popley, Buckskin) and on the route of the M3. She was helped by a group of enthusiastic volunteers – which included both our future husbands – and by me when I returned to the town as Mrs Oliver.

When the museum HQ moved to Winchester and could no longer supervise excavation, the Archaeological Society was begun, with Barbara as its first Secretary, and we began the first major project – Ructstall's Hill. We were joint directors and worked well together both on site and in preparing the report, the first of many happy cooperative efforts.

However, Barbara decided on a career change and began working at Macmillan's publishers in the English as a Foreign Language Department, where within a couple of years she was a full time editor, using her English specialism. She also wrote some of the books herself – the first one was called 'Bluestones', which drew on her archaeological interests in an imaginative way. She stayed with this job until she retired in 1996, and continued with some of her projects to completion as a freelance. I know she was a popular and valued colleague.

She still took a major part in Society activities, serving as Secretary, Chairman, and, notably, as Newsletter Editor, a post she held for c.30 years. Under her capable leadership, the Newsletter was transformed from a duplicated sheet into the professional publication it is today, beautifully presented and full of interest. She was so good at commissioning articles from us all. Another project was the video about the town's archaeology 'Beneath Basingstoke' – her title! – which we had fun scripting and producing with so many members. It earned the Society a Countryside award in 1993 and is still available on DVD.

Because of back problems, Barbara moved away from excavation towards local history, especially after her retirement. She realised the importance of oral history and that the Society should be recording the memories of those who had witnessed the transformation of the town – so Basingstoke Talking History began, with a group of interested volunteers led by Barbara interviewing people from all walks of life.

She used this evidence in giving talks and putting on displays, and also most importantly in producing books. A glance at the list of books produced by the Society is tribute in itself to Barbara's creative ability as both author and editor. Her contribution to the recording Basingstoke's local history – recognised by the well-deserved personal achievement award of the British Association for Local History in 2009, will give future students of the town much cause to be grateful to her. I'm full of admiration for all she did. In recent years, with Bob, she has been a key member of the team working to re-write the Victoria County History volume for Basingstoke, and was a major contributor.

Above all, she was a lovely person. We will all miss her warmth, kindness, interest in people, enthusiasm, willingness to help. She will not be forgotten. For me, she was the best of friends for 50 years. To Bob, her perfect partner in every aspect of their lives, we offer our sincere sympathy.

## DR MARGARET RULE

*Nicola Turton*



*25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the lifting of the Mary Rose –  
Alan Turton and Margaret Rule at the wreck site 11 October 2007*

Many members will remember the Mary Rose lecture given to BAHS by Dr Margaret Rule, and it is with great sadness that I report her death, aged 86.

Margaret Rule's association with the Mary Rose began in 1965, when she joined Alexander McKee in his search for wrecks in the waters off Portsmouth. In 1971 when storms exposed the ends of the vessel's timbers, they knew they had found the Mary Rose.

To salvage the remains, tunnels were dug underneath and iron bars drilled through the timbers to attach wires and lift the wreck into an iron cage. On 11 October 1982, watched by the world, the Mary Rose appeared above the water.

In 2013 a £36 million museum housing the wreck and most of the 19,000 artifacts opened at Portsmouth Dockyard.

Margaret Helen Martin was born at High Wycombe on 27 September 1928. She had always been interested in archaeology, and, after her marriage to Arthur Rule in 1949, worked as a practical archaeologist excavating bomb sites in London.

Her involvement in the excavation of Fishbourne Roman Palace began in April 1960 when her husband Arthur took a call from a contractor laying a pipeline who thought he might have found archaeological remains. Warned that the trench was about to be closed, Arthur drove to the site after nightfall and by torchlight could see mosaic and pieces of Samian ware.

In January 1961 Margaret Rule persuaded the landowner to agree to a trial excavation. This was followed by larger scale excavations, directed by Barry Cunliffe, which continued until 1968, after which a cover building was constructed over the excavations, alongside a museum. From 1968-79, Margaret Rule served as the first curator.

After the raising of the Mary Rose, Margaret Rule worked for the Mary Rose Trust until 1994, and in 2013, the Trust was delighted to welcome Margaret and Arthur to the new museum building. Arthur spilt his champagne in the entrance, and thereby properly christened the building.

Margaret Rule, born 27 September 1928, died 9 April 2015.

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**Death is not extinguishing the light; it is only putting out the lamp because dawn has come.**

## WATERY DISCOVERY AT HILLSIDE

*Mark Peryer*

Some of you may remember our training excavations in Lamb's Field, Church Lane, Worthing, and our host, Richenda Power who lives at Hillside in Church Lane. The stable block opposite Richenda's house is currently in the process of being converted into a domestic house. The building has been gutted and re-ordered inside and in the process of preparing the floor; the builders uncovered a well under a packed chalk floor.

The well is about 3 feet in diameter and has been measured to be 88 feet deep. When I visited, there was about 6 feet of water in the bottom of the well. The top of the well has three courses of flat brick to a depth of about a foot.



*Looking down the well - note the regular grooves in the chalk*

When we shone a powerful torch down the well, it was possible to see that it was cut through chalk all the way down. The walls of the well appear to have a groove in them suggesting that some kind of rotary cutting tool had been used to bore the well out. However, the experts maintain that such a well would have been dug by hand with the possible use of an auger to keep a constant diameter, this would account for the regular groove. At this time, there were labourers who specialised in well digging.

Given that the well was discovered under the packed chalk floor of the stable block, it must pre-date the stable-block which dates from the mid 18<sup>th</sup>/early 19<sup>th</sup> century. Parts of Hillside date from the 17<sup>th</sup> century so the well may be contemporary with the original house.

The Hillside well has now been capped with concrete and a new floor surface has been put in place over it. There are several deep wells cut into chalk in this area of the town. If you are curious, another well was discovered at Fox pub at Newfound when it was re-furbished, and has been made into a feature in the public bar area.

# UNIFICATION DAY

Nicola Turton



Nearly 50,000 people applied for the 1,250 Magna Carta Unification day tickets at the British Library, which meant odds of 80:1, so you can imagine how very excited we were to be there. The photo (left) shows Alan with the Bishop of Chichester aka re-enactment chum, Simon Kirk, and a Baron.

On entering the conference centre, we were greeted by a mediaeval knight, who asked how far we had travelled. I told him that it'd taken us three days to walk from Hampshire. I could tell he was *very* impressed, but suggested we get a horse for next time. After refreshments, we assembled to hear a presentation from historian Dan Jones, but the knight told us there would be a slight delay whilst we waited for one ticket holder, a member of the US Supreme Court (bet they wouldn't have hung around for me). When he did arrive, it was to a

desultory ripple of ironic applause, and in my case, a raised eyebrow. Then Mr Jones told us about the four surviving Magna Carta documents, and here's what we learned.

Each one is what is called an engrossment of the negotiations between King John and his barons. In 1215, there were perhaps as many as forty Great Charters sent around the country, or maybe as few as thirteen. In 2007, a 1297 copy sold for \$21 million. So if you have a spare one...

Three Magnae Cartae – known as Lincoln, London and Canterbury - are written in chancery (or cursive) hand, and the Salisbury copy is in book hand. Until a fire in 1731, the Canterbury copy was, by all accounts, the best preserved one. And even after the fire wasn't too badly damaged, but in the 1830s, conservators decided to stick the vellum onto backing, and the rollers they used to press it down removed the ink. Can you imagine that conversation? So now it is unreadable, though a recent imaging technique has discerned the ghost of the writing. On the others, one's untrained eyes can make out certain words such as "Stephi Canmar Archiepi" and of course, "Runingmed".

This is of course, the first time that all four surviving 1215 copies have been brought together, something that even King John never saw (or would have wanted to see). The London copy has three short slashes along the bottom edge, and this is not, as was once believed, where King John stabbed at it in frustration, but part of the fastening for the seal or for a binding process.

Then we went to see the actual documents. Whilst we waited, the re-enactors entertained us by chatting to us, or playing music and one poor chap endlessly recited the charter in English. I especially listened out for the famous bit, "To no one will we sell, to no one deny or delay right or justice" and I smiled. It felt so English to be there at this grand 800<sup>th</sup> birthday party for four pieces of calfskin, and I was very proud.

When we entered the Treasures Gallery, Alan kindly held our place in the queue, thus allowing me to dash about like an excited dog, peering into the darkened cases and returning to tell him what was in there. So many wonderful things; the earliest version of Beowulf; scores by Beethoven, Mozart and Ralph V W, and the first draft of Arne's national anthem. The first printed music book; Jane Austen's manuscript of Persuasion and her writing desk. King Charles's letter saying that his "boddie was too thicke to pass through the window" at Carisbrooke (there was me thinking he was too thick in the head), and the will of Aethelstan the Atheling, in which he leaves a bequest to Godwine the Driveller. I think every village should have a driveller.

Then finally to the Magnae Cartae themselves. As we reached the four pieces of vellum, shining softly in the dim gallery, I was surprised how moved I felt to be there. I thought how frail the charters are both physically and metaphorically, yet they continue to inspire us to try and improve. And I think that's all one can ask of society, to keep trying our best.

# 2015 DIARY DATES

**BAHS**

**BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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Penny Martin Tel: 01256 321 423

[www.bahsoc.org.uk](http://www.bahsoc.org.uk)  
Registered Charity no. 11000263

**MEETINGS** *On Thursdays at 7.30 pm Church Cottage, Basingstoke*

- 14 May* REBUILDING THE PAST – Luke Winter (ATC)
- 16 May* TRIP TO ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY CENTRE & SALISBURY MUSEUM
- 11 June* AGM and GUEST SPEAKER –  
Tim Schadla-Hall will speak on the subject of archaeology at Chilton Candover
- 10 September* EXCAVATIONS AT SELBORNE PRIORY – David Baker
- 26 September* READING MUSEUM TRIP FOR A TOUR OF “ART & ARCHAEOLOGY”  
EXHIBITION – limited places, booking essential. See page 2
- 8 October* THE LIFE OF THE COMMON SOLDIER; WATERLOO TO WW1 –  
Ian Williams
- 12 November* A BIRD’S EYE VIEW OF CRANBORNE CHASE – Martin Green
- 10 December* CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

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## FRIENDS OF BASING HOUSE

*Winter Lectures at 7.30 pm, Basing House Education Centre, The Street, Old Basing*  
*Summer programme tbc.*

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## FRIENDS OF WILLIS MUSEUM

*At 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke*

- 21 May* THE FOUR SEASONS OF CYPRUS - Gwen Barton
- 18 June* RESEARCHING THE FALLEN OF BASINGSTOKE - David Stewart
- 16 July* THE VICTORIAN DEFENCES PORTSMOUTH - Michael Forrest
- 17 September* THE BATTLE OF BRITAIN OVER BASINGSTOKE - Dr John Smith
- 15 October* AGM & POSTCARDS OF RAILWAY SUBJECTS - John Hollands

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## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

[www.fieldclub.hants.org](http://www.fieldclub.hants.org)

- 7 June* ‘BARNS DAY’, OLD BASING
- 11 July* VISIT TO ODIHAM: ‘COMMON FIELDS, CASTLE AND CANAL’ – to be led  
by Derek Spruce
- 18 July* VISIT TO TWYFORD WATERWORKS
- 11 August* EVENING VISIT TO WARG EXCAVATIONS (TBC)
- 10 September* EVENING VISIT TO THE UNIVERSITY OF WINCHESTER  
EXCAVATIONS AT MAGDALEN HILL, WINCHESTER (TBC)

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Articles for the Newsletter to:  
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[newsletter@bahsoc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bahsoc.org.uk)