

**BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL  
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



**Newsletter 213**

**November 2015**

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***Congratulations!*** See page 13

## A Message from Our Chair

*Ginny Pringle MRes*



The last few weeks have been very busy for our Society. In September members enjoyed a visit to Reading Museum to see the 'Art and Archaeology' exhibition, whilst earlier in the month the archaeologists amongst our members spent a weekend digging test pits for our Dig Basing community project where finds included some very interesting worked flint.

We also helped out with excavations at Stanchester working alongside Tim Schadla-Hall and UCL, and just over the county border at Dockenfield in Surrey where we worked alongside the Surrey Archaeological Society. Fieldwork equipment now resides in a new fieldwork stores shed; we thank Bob Applin for the use of his garden and thank Mary Oliver for the many years that her garden played host to the old stores shed.

On the publications front we are delighted to see not just one, but two new publications. We have been busy preparing for publication Bob Clarke's new book '*Drunkards, Thieves & Rioters and the Basingstoke Borough Police 1836-1889*' and we are also delighted to see Briony Lalor's report on the 1992-2008 BAHS excavations at Worting published in the 2015 volume of Hampshire Studies, both due out this month.

BAHS members also continue to volunteer with the Victoria County History project, unearthing more and more information to add to the overall picture and providing interesting off-shoots that merit further research. The Basingstoke Talking History project also continues, including the digitisation of recordings still held on cassette tape to avoid loss caused through deterioration of the tapes.

Plans are afoot for trips in 2016 including a weekend visit to Shropshire in June and next year is also our 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary, which we will mark with a special celebration. I would like to thank Nicola Turton for a grand job editing our newsletter; please continue to send in your articles to her. In the meantime I look forward to seeing you at our Christmas social at Church Cottage on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December.

Articles for the Newsletter to: Nicola Turton, The Keep, 28 Badger's Bank, Lychpit, RG24 8RT. 01256 321 193 [newsletter@bahsoc.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@bahsoc.org.uk)

# **Drunkards, Thieves and Rioters**

## ***The Basingstoke Police 1836 – 1889***

### ***by Bob Clarke***

We are excited to announce our latest publication, a book by Bob Clarke that will be officially launched on Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> November at the Willis Museum at 11:00 am. *Drunkards, Thieves and Rioters* is a lively account of the 50 year period when the town had its own Borough Police force before it was absorbed into the Hampshire Constabulary.

In his usual style, Bob tells the story of how the force was brought into being and how it dealt with characters such as the bungling burglar of Basingstoke and the cork-legged swindler. The book is based on a number of sources including local newspapers and documents from the Hampshire Record Office.



As a valued BAHS member you are invited to help us celebrate with the launch at the Willis. In addition, you are entitled to an introductory offer to purchase the book for £8, a discount of 20% on the list price of £10, provided you place your order by December 1<sup>st</sup>. You will be able to

pick up your order at the launch at the Willis, or at the BAHS Christmas party on December 11th. If you are not able to make either of these two events and would like your copy posted to you, postage and packing will be £2.00 per book.

Please send your order with a cheque payable to “BAHS” to:  
Mr Mark Peryer, Treasurer – BAHS,  
6 Aviemore Drive,  
Oakley,  
Hampshire, RG23 7EN. Or by email to: [mperyer@f2s.com](mailto:mperyer@f2s.com)

# **100 Years of the Worthing St Thomas Scout Troop & the Origins of Scouting in Basingstoke**

*David Hopkins*

The camp on Brownsea Island in the summer 1907 and the publication of ‘Scouting for Boys’ in 1908 were the birth of scouting. In the summer of 1908 some members of the Boys Brigade in Basingstoke asked Mr Arthur Charrett if he would help them to start a Boy Scout troop. In August, 12 boys formed the 1<sup>st</sup> Basingstoke Troop, which was registered in January 1909, and Mr Charrett became Basingstoke’s first scout master in June 1909. On July 18<sup>th</sup> 1910 the idea of forming a scout troop in Worthing was discussed and the first Worthing scouts were enrolled on 24<sup>th</sup> November. It was a joint Worthing and Wootton St Lawrence troop led by a Scout Master Major W Roberts-Thomson. Only two weeks later on 10<sup>th</sup> December the Worthing scouts paraded with 275 scouts from the district for inspection by the Chief Scout Sir Robert Baden Powell, who inspected the parade and spoke to Mr Charrett and Major Roberts-Thomson.

On Easter Monday 1911 the Worthing scouts were amongst those who took part in an extraordinary field day which brought together all the youth movements of the town. The scenario was that England having been invaded and Basingstoke hurriedly fortified, a small column set out to collect supplies. The enemy must stop them crossing the bridge at Hackwood Park. 330 boys took part, of which 177 were scouts “ ... the lads as well as the onlookers had a most enjoyable time in the glorious sunshine and amid the sylvan beauties of Hackwood.” The boys marched with a band, a field gun, four wagons and an ambulance flying the Red Cross and were cheered on by crowds. After preliminary manoeuvres, “...the battle opened at 2.30 and was waged strenuously for two hours ... [when] the charge was sounded and the Red force thereupon carried the bridge and rushed their transport over it”. In July 1911 82 scouts and 5 scout masters from Basingstoke with Scout Master Roberts-Thomson in charge attended the Royal Review at Windsor Great Park, a national event.

When war was declared in 1914 Major Roberts-Thomson was among many Basingstoke scout masters called up. Baden Powell immediately offered the scout movement to support the nation’s war effort, to assist the civil

authorities, grow food and to maintain coast patrols. However, it was for patrolling the railway line and guarding the bridges that the Basingstoke scouts received their war badges. The ceremony at May Place in 1915 was extensively reported. "Scout Master Charrett next read the Rev N R Fitzpatrick's report on the war service performed by the Worting Troop. It stated that 13 members of this troop qualified for the War Service Badge by guarding the bridge over the main road and the smaller bridge over the Cold Harbour Road from the end of August, on their return from camp, every night from 9pm to 7am, until prevented by severe weather in November".

In May 1916 a Parade was arranged at Fairfields School at the request of Lord Baden Powell. He said. "I am especially glad to see so many badges of public service. Fellows out in the country do not get much chance of earning that badge, but in towns, where you can help the hospitals, the police or the fire brigade, it is a great thing to do so and I am glad to see that you have not been behind in getting these badges."

In 1919 peace returned and it is interesting to note that in photographs of the unveiling of the Basingstoke war memorial Boy Scouts are represented among the soldiers, veterans, police and fire brigade.

In December 1921 Worting were placed in every event of the annual rally. The Mayor 'defraying the cost of their tea'. In June 1922, there was a rally of 200 attended by Baden Powell. "The scouts ... retired with the Cubs to the southern boundary of the ground, whence shortly afterwards at the given signal they sprang forward and greeted their Chief Scout with the scouts yell – a wild sort of reception which the Chief prefers to anything more formal. He presented a banner to the winning troop, the Basingstoke (Wesleyans)."

Over the years camps were held at Hayling Island, the ruins at Old Basing and several summer camps were held in the fort at Sandown. The boys paid for 75% of their costs and "the scout masters had the privilege of paying their own expenses". The District scout rally of 1925 was held in the War Memorial Park, at which a silver medal was presented to a scout of the 1<sup>st</sup> Basingstoke troop. "Scout Painter rendered valuable assistance to the police

in effecting the arrest of the two men recently sentenced to a term of imprisonment for breaking into Thorneycroft and Co premises”.

In December 1927 when the new Headquarters for 1<sup>st</sup> Basingstoke were opened, Lieutenant Commander Sanders, “... spoke of the instinct for adventure of the wild Indian sort which characterised most boys when they reached the age of 11” and that the need to do a good deed every day was “... not for the sake of self glorification, but with the idea of forming the character of a true Englishman ... to play the game for the game’s sake, not for reward”. After a display of first aid Scout Master Jefferies said, “...the knowledge of ambulance work which was gained by scouts was frequently put to good use in these days of swift moving traffic”.

The 21<sup>st</sup> birthday Jamboree in 1929 at Arrowe Park, Birkenhead was attended by 50,000 scouts from 42 countries, and the scouts who attended from Basingstoke were seen off at the train station by the Mayoress. In 1930 the sermon at the District Church parade included reference to Everest. “Then not so long ago ...there was that gallant attempt made to find a path to the top of the highest mountain in the world – Mount Everest –and how all the world was thrilled by the adventures of those brave intrepid men ... last seen ‘going strongly for the top’ – a fine end for anybody”. Tim Clark from Worting scouts reached the top of Everest in 2007, scouting’s centenary year.

In April 1931 during Scout Week the Town Hall crowded to its ‘utmost capacity’ for an evening’s entertainment, reported was this vivid picture. “...Rover Leader Daniels fascinated the audience with a marvellously dexterous exhibition, first of club swinging and then of light swinging. For the latter the room was darkened and as the performer swung the two electric bulbs with extraordinary velocity around his head and body circles of violet light appeared to accompany the swinging lights. It is not too much to say that this was the star turn of the evening. It was greatly admired and enthusiastically applauded”.

There was also a reunion supper for the Basingstoke 1<sup>st</sup>. “Mr Charrett warmly welcomed all the old scouts and was very pleased to include in that welcome three old boys who were in the scout movement when it started in Basingstoke. They little dreamt that they were the first in shorts that were the forerunners of this great movement.” “In the early days we did have some fun”, said Captain Swan, “and we did have some scout masters too.

He remembered one church parade in 1909 when they had two scoutmasters who, not content with the uniform, appeared dressed up in gauntlets, spurs, revolvers and all sorts of comic things. In the early days they had to fight for it. The movement, like all new things, was criticised and ridiculed, while a certain section of the population, though not influential, were actually hostile. Scoutmasters had to run the gauntlet of bricks and rotten eggs and were often followed down the streets by hooligans a hundred strong". At church parade in 1931 the Bishop of Winchester said "If there is anything quite plain about the scouts and guides in this year and in the years to which we are looking forward, I think it is that you are called to be the international peacemakers."

In June 1933 District cubs gathered at the Rectory grounds for the cubs' sports day. Of the winning pack, Overton, "A word must be said for their very able high jumping. It was not noticed until the end that one cub competing had his arm in Plaster of Paris, having broken the limb some time before. His jumping was excellent". On St George's Day 1934 was the first National Scout Service and five inspected by the royal family were from Basingstoke. By 1935 there were nine troops in Basingstoke with a total of 292 members.

Further reporting of scouting activity in the Gazette becomes fewer and farther between, and so I will leave these early glimpses, but scouting in Basingstoke and at Worting continues to thrive.

Read more at <http://www.wortingscouts.org.uk/worting-history>



Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

**Conference and AGM 21 November 2015**  
**Turning the Tide: The Coming of Cnut**  
[www.fieldclub.hants.org.uk](http://www.fieldclub.hants.org.uk)



# A Roman Lighthouse

*Penny Martin*

On a visit to La Coruna in Northern Spain this summer my intrepid fellow travellers and I discovered the World Heritage Site, 'The Tower of Hercules'. The site of the Roman lighthouse gets its name from a local legend and was apparently built on the site where Hercules buried the head of a giant which he killed to stop him terrorising the local population.

The Tower stands on a wild and windy promontory, which now forms a park with the Tower at its centre, where it has warned ships of the rocky shoreline since it was built by the Romans in 1<sup>st</sup> century AD.



The Tower of Hercules (*left*) is the only lighthouse from this period that is still in operation today. It was originally built with a ramp that wound its way up around the outside to allow fuel to be carried up to the lamp. These days it's appearance is square and

strong thanks to work carried out in 1788 by the engineer Eustaquio Giannini, who built the facades that you can see today around what remained of the Roman Lighthouse. The memory of the outer ramp was preserved in the form of an ascending diagonal band that forms a continuous line from bottom to top; he completed his work on the Tower with the addition of a series of blind windows to give the building a Neo-Classical feel.

The lantern room was added in 1804 and the stone hut at the base was built in the 19<sup>th</sup> century. The basement of the Tower contains an archaeological site with remains of the original foundations and the additions made to the tower when it was converted into a fortress.



The remaining visible Roman elements of the building are considerable. The inside of the structure (*left*) is divided into 3 floors, each with a square room and

barrel vaulted ceilings and containing evidence of typical roman construction techniques. An exciting find, located at the foot of the Tower, is a Roman inscription bearing the name of the architect, Caio Sevio Lupo who was born in Coimbra.

I must admit to being somewhat sceptical about the Roman content of the building before our visit, having only seen a photograph; however my view has now changed having seen this amazing building for myself, the fact that



it still exists at all is thanks to the excellent work of the Roman and Neo-classical architects.

Being a regular cruise passenger I admit to being fond of lighthouses and have seen a good number in a variety of styles and

sizes and places. This one however is something quite spectacular and well worth a visit if you happen to be in Northern Spain.

## **BAHS Christmas Social at Church Cottage**

**You are warmly invited to our seasonal get-together on  
Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> December at 7.30pm.**



Come and be entertained over mulled wine and a finger buffet. We will be having a quiz and a raffle and you can also find out about some of this year's exciting finds from our Dig Basing community archaeology project, and buy or collect copies of Bob Clarke's new book.

**Party tickets cost just £3.00 and the price includes one free drink. They are available at our next talk evening on the 12<sup>th</sup> November or can be reserved by contacting Penny Martin on email or by phone and paid for at the party. Penny's contact details are 01256 321423 or [secretary@bahsoc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bahsoc.org.uk)**

*If you would like to help with providing food for the finger buffet please let Penny know.*

# War Memorials

*Nicola Turton*



Earlier this year we attended a workshop run by the War Memorials Trust. The Trust works for the preservation and conservation of war memorials (any conflict, any period) across the UK. It is estimated that there are 100,000 war memorials, and only 20,000 of them are "registered".

During the workshop, we discussed types of memorial, how to assess condition, and what help (such as grants) is available. We were given report sheets, and went to look at the memorials outside Winchester Cathedral in order to practice filling in the sheets. If you list the condition as "poor" or worse, then one of the Trust's conservators will carry out a site visit. Unlike most conservation bodies, the Trust allows the restoration of names on the memorials. The names are of the utmost importance, and must be clear so that they can be remembered.

There is an on-line search so you can check if your local memorial is on the register, and they welcome more information, even if it is already listed. You can upload photos, old postcards and names, and report any emergencies. They also have the power to stop the sale of war memorials, such as plaques, so please contact them if you come across one.

We plan to keep a couple of check-sheets in the car and if we come across a memorial that is having problems, we can easily report it.

The Trust will come (free of charge) and give a presentation to any group, so please think about getting involved with this splendid project.

Contact them on 0300 123 0764 or at [www.warmemorials.org](http://www.warmemorials.org)

# A Hampshire Architect's Legacy to Basingstoke

*Colin Williams*

An observer with an interest in architecture travelling the Basingstoke length of Pack Lane will note that the characteristic form of property is detached, generally bungalowoid, and of circa mid 20<sup>th</sup> century inspiration but there is an exception: at the junction with Dellwood a pair of semis is to be found, set back from the general building line, and with their design pointing to the Arts & Crafts movement.

A search at Hampshire Records Office produced a 1909 'Notice of Intention to Erect New Buildings' by Colonel May for a 'Pair of Labourers Cottages' 'off Packhorse Lane' the amenities of which were to include wash house, water butts, cess pit, damp proof course and 'Town water'. The Notice is dated 14 May 1909 and was passed by the Borough Surveyor on 10 June. The plans accompanying the Notice are signed 'G H Kitchin Archt Winchester March 1909'. This would have been very much a green fields site which would be without close neighbours for many years as the 1930s OS 6":1 mile show. [NB These properties are privately occupied.]

George Herbert Kitchin [1870-1951] was an architect with a practice in Winchester. His father George William was, among other scholarly appointments, Dean of Winchester [1883-94] and his mother Alice Maud Taylor, the daughter of a diplomat. G H Kitchin was active from 1898 to 1940 with a late post-war commission in 1949 when he would have been seventy-nine years old – remarkable!

His commissions in Hampshire include cottages and a parish hall, and a wide range of ecclesiastical works including lych gates, reredos, memorial windows and seats, and a war memorial screen. He was also an artist of some note, and the Royal Institute of British Architects hold thirty two of his sketch books; also he provided illustrations for the books of the architect and garden designer Henry Avray Tipping. His own house was Compton End, a privately owned farmhouse with 17<sup>th</sup> century origins, which he restored and improved and for which he designed the garden.

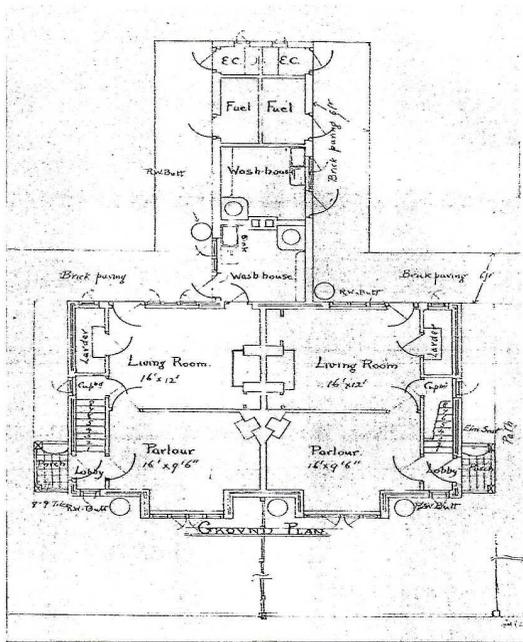
*[A non-architectural aside: a colleague and friend of Kitchin Snr was the prolific child photographer and author Charles Dodgson, and the five*

*Kitchin children were among his subjects with the oldest of the girls, Alexandra, being a particular favourite.]*



South Elevation.

A Hampshire Artist's Legacy  
Labourers Cottages for Col. May  
Packhorse Lane



HRO 58M74/BP464

After the 1940s Kitchen may be said to have slipped from public view so that a search of Pevsner's 1967 'The Buildings of England: Hampshire and the Isle of Wight' reveals – nothing! However time has brought a change and recognition of his significance is demonstrated in the 2010 'Hampshire: Winchester and the North' where, in addition to a short biography, twenty of his ecclesiastical works are indexed. [The 'South' is in preparation.] But no mention of Pack[horse] Lane. Those properties have been drawn to the attention of the Pevsner Books Trust [unacknowledged] so the mid-century may see a revision with Basingstoke's interest included.

Sources:

Hampshire Records Office: 58M74/BP464

Cohen, M., "Lewis Carroll: a Biography", Knopf, 1995

Cohen, M., ed. "Lewis Carroll and the Kitchens", New York,

Lewis Carroll Society of North America, 1980

Pevsner, N., Lloyd, D., "Hampshire and the Isle of Wight", William

Clowes & Sons, Ltd, London and Beccles, 1967

RIBA

Acknowledgements: family of G H Kitchin

## CONGRATULATIONS !



Wednesday 21<sup>st</sup> October saw the graduation of not just one, but three, of our members from the University of Winchester. Ginny Pringle, Mike Pengelly and Debz Charlton (*left & front cover*) all received Masters awards from Alan Titchmarsh, presiding Chancellor of the University, at the ceremony held in Winchester Cathedral.

Debz Charlton is now a Master of Philosophy and Mike and Ginny are Masters of Research. All three produced theses that touched on the archaeology of the Basingstoke area; Debz on a Romano British site to the south west of the town; Mike on the hypothesis that the Chichester to Silchester Roman road was preceded by a prehistoric route; and Ginny on the distribution of late Bronze Age and Iron Age settlements in the Basingstoke area.

# **Wheatsheaf, Hampshire**

*Debz Charlton MPhil*

**For Barbara**

This short summary article introduces research into a little known of rural Romano-British site, potentially listed in the Antonine Itinerary. The site location is generally known as the *Wheatsheaf*, named for a nearby 18<sup>th</sup> century Inn situated roadside on the A30 route and in close proximity to the M3 motorway, Basingstoke to Popham section.

The *Wheatsheaf* site, which is now under the M3 motorway, has ‘Monument’ status without a detailed excavation report – ‘grey’ literature - and therefore did not meet the requirements for listing as a known rural Romano-British settlement.

## ***Wheatsheaf* in the year of 1969 AD**

When construction of the *Wheatsheaf* section of the M3 motorway carriageway began, in spring of 1969, visual signs of archaeological features led to the immediate start of an archaeological rescue excavation in the parish of Dummer headed by Miss Barbara Glover (later Mrs Applin), the then Assistant Curator of the Willis Museum (later Keeper of Archaeology, Hampshire Museums Service).

The ongoing research project began in 2004 stemming from the finding in the HCMS records at Chilcomb, during 2002, of a daily *Diary* excavation notebook, produced by Barbara in 1969. Transcription and editing of the notes has allowed a report of the archaeological features and related objects to be achieved and provide a ‘Monument’ status with a detailed excavation report and archaeological interpretation for the site (Charlton, 2015).

## ***Wheatsheaf* excavation report summary**

The excavated area revealed refuse pits and ditches with ‘finds’ of pottery, animal bone, metal, coins, ceramic building material, quern fragments and glass fragments and ‘others’.

The objects recovered from the site are consistent with continuous Romano-British settlement from the early first century to the end of the fourth century. From coin loss dates, there was a distinct increase in economic activity around 330AD to 335AD.



*Barbara excavating  
ditch feature in  
'hoggin' pit:  
'Wheatsheaf' 1969  
© Hampshire  
Museum Service*

Additional research for the *Wheatsheaf* site geographical location has provided evidence for the settlement being a strong contender for the missing Roman *statio(n) Vindomi*.

On a personal note: I remember the Sunday afternoon very well, in 2004, when Barbara introduced me to some of the 'finds' from the *Wheatsheaf* site and she began to tell me the story. When I agreed to 'have a quick look at some of the boxes and perhaps maybe do a summary database of the pottery' I little knew that Barbara was entrusting to me a unique opportunity to have my own research site that would enable me to learn and grow as an archaeologist and a site that would become the very core of my academic journey which I was just starting out on. I naively did not foresee where it would lead but perhaps the very wise Barbara did. I thank her whole heartedly for instilling in me her passion for the *Wheatsheaf* site and her guidance and unwavering support over the past eleven years.

Charlton, D. (2015) *Rural Settlement in Central Southern Roman Britain: Wheatsheaf, Hampshire*. MPhil, University of Winchester, pending release Site No. **18757** (1969) *The Archaeology and Historic Buildings Record*, Hampshire. Hantsgov.uk



***Needle Felt Robin Workshop (intermediate)***, Sun 29 Nov, 10.30--2.30  
***Christmas Silk Flower Workshop***, Thursday 3 December, 10.00--3.30  
***Needle Felting Christmas Baubles***, Sunday 6 December, 10.30--2.00  
<http://whitchurchsilkmill.org.uk/>

# Thames Stories: Art & Archaeology Exhibition at Reading Museum

*Peter Stone*

Society members visited Reading Museum on 26th September for a conducted tour of this exhibition in the Sir John Madejski Art Gallery by curator Jill Greenaway.

The exhibition, which focused on the non-tidal Thames between Lechlade and Teddington, was designed to inform and to answer questions about the Thames as it has been used and how it has been seen in the past.

Within separate display cases the river was presented as a source of material for antiquarian collectors, a boundary in the sub-Roman period, a place where criminals might conceal evidence of their crimes, a managed river, a sacred place and finally as a dustbin.



*Caversham Bridge near  
Reading, by William Havell,  
1811*

Complementing the objects on show was an exhibition of more than one hundred paintings, drawings and prints dating from the mid 18<sup>th</sup> to the late 20<sup>th</sup> centuries among which Caversham Bridge, a strategically important crossing point, featured prominently.

A wall display described how the river had been subject to geomorphic influences over the past 500000 years which had thrust its course southwards before turning eastwards along the Thames Valley of today. Its former course ran further to the north of the present valley and more

directly eastwards before flowing into lowlands now beneath the North Sea as a tributary of the ancient Rhine.

Among the highlights, and of particular interest to the archaeologist, were swords, axe-heads and spears dating from the Bronze Age through to the sub-Roman period that had been deposited along the non-tidal Thames.

Not all the weapons were suitable for the battlefield and their presence strongly supports the opinion that their broadly uniform distribution over a long period of time indicates the importance of the Thames in pre-Christian belief.

Those among us who were interested in crime found a grim display of photographs and other items relating to the 19<sup>th</sup> century Reading serial child killer Mrs Dyer. On the lighter side was the display of some rather crude fake antiquities which were produced by couple of enterprising locals called Smith and Eaton who, in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century, found that a shortage of the genuine article was no bar to making a profit. It seems that they were soon found out but somehow were never prosecuted possibly because the authorities of the day had a more robust outlook than those of today and took the view that a fool and his money are soon parted.

Also it was interesting to understand from the exhibition that the Thames is a 'managed' river – there is not much that is natural locally about its banks or depth or alignment and that this has been so for much of the past two thousand years.

Following the conducted tour, members took the opportunity to visit the Silchester Annexe Gallery where there is an excellent display of objects recovered over the past 150 years from the abandoned Roman town including the wall display of some fine mosaics and a further gallery within which is a copy of the Bordeaux Tapestry.

Overall this was an enjoyable visit and I personally feel rather embarrassed at not having visited the museum before. On the other hand it does seem that locals often fail to appreciate what is close by and I am comforted by the fact that on a visit to Norfolk I discovered that the landlady of the pub in Brancaster did not know that it had a Roman fort!

# Fieldwork Report – October 2015

*Mark Peryer*

I'm happy to report that we've had a busy summer in the field.

Over three weeks in July and August, in partnership with Tim Schadla-Hall and Gabriel Moshenska of UCL, BAHS volunteers continued the excavations at Stanchester. Working alongside UCL staff and post-graduate students, a confusing Roman building was investigated further, but the result is still confusing, and work will have to continue next year. A large number of finds came out of the fill of various ditches and pits in the Roman trench.

In the Iron Age trench the boundary ditches from two intersecting enclosures were resolved and a large pit that had shown up on the Geophysics was dug out and found to be about 2m deep. The Iron Age trench has now been completed and back-filled by machine. This year, work was started on the site of a Commonwealth-era building. A trial trench confirmed that there were still footings in place, but also that it will take quite a few seasons to investigate the footprint and make sense of it. We aim to return to the Roman trench and the Commonwealth building for

3 weeks next year, most likely in July. Over the winter we hope to do some post-excavation work on the finds.



*Recording the Iron Age trench in poor weather*

In early September a few of us had the opportunity to dig with the SAS (Surrey Archaeological Society) at the Roman tile kiln on some land owned by Ginny's family just over the county border at Dockenfield.

Apart from an interesting excavation on a type of site that we had never dug before, it was good to make contact with the SAS and see how they do things. Apparently, an interim report will appear soon.



*Some people are easy to please (Ian at Dockenfield)*

Later in September, we carried out another series of test pit excavations as part of the Dig Basing project. This provided us with further results and finds that Ginny is pulling together. We hope to have a project wrap-up meeting in Basing on the 4<sup>th</sup> December as a way of saying thank you to our test pit hosts. We will repeat the presentation at the BAHS Christmas party.

## **BAHS Tour 2016** *‘Exploring the Frontier’*



Following on from our highly successful and enjoyable tour of Cyprus in May 2015, planning is in progress for the 2016 tour which will be to the Shropshire area. The tour will take place over a long weekend and promises to cater for a wide range of interests including industrial archaeology, medieval castles, Abbeys and stone circles.



Shropshire has some of the finest scenery in the country, and its situation in the borders with Wales has shaped its history and its buildings. Although it is now a tranquil place it was once the cradle of the industrial revolution with the early development of Iron and Steel making

technology at Blists hill.

The provisional dates for the tour are from the 24<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup> June. We anticipate that most people will choose to stay in or around Shrewsbury as the places we intend to visit are reasonably close by. Shrewsbury offers a wide range of accommodation.

### Provisional Programme:

Friday 24 <sup>th</sup>	
Morning	Blists Hill Museum, Ironbridge
Afternoon	Jackfield Tile Works, Horsehay Railway engine sheds
Saturday 25 <sup>th</sup>	
Morning	Stokesay Castle, Ludlow & Ludlow Castle
Afternoon	Clun Castle, Mitchells Fold (Stone circle)
Sunday 26 <sup>th</sup>	
Morning	Shrewsbury Abbey and town, Haugmond Abbey
Afternoon	Buildwas Abbey
Monday 27 <sup>th</sup>	
Morning	Wroxeter Roman city
Afternoon	Much Wenlock Abbey

Coming on a BAHS tour will give you the opportunity to spend time with like-minded people whilst exploring interesting places. Where possible we try to arrange for a guide and as a group we are sometimes able to gain access to places not normally open to the public.



If you think that you would like to come along on the 2016 tour please contact Mark Peryer (01256 780502, email: [mperyer@f2s.com](mailto:mperyer@f2s.com)), or Ian Waite (01256 972616, email: [waite52@live.co.uk](mailto:waite52@live.co.uk)). We should like to get an idea of numbers by early

January so that we can start to make some group bookings for the various sites.

# The English Civil Wars: A Beginner's Guide

*Reviewed by Nicola Turton*

My husband Alan Turton (civil war historian and erstwhile curator of Basing House) was invited to review Dr Patrick Little's new book, *The English Civil Wars*, but spotting that the series is called 'Beginner's Guides', he speedily passed the book to me, a relative beginner.

Before I married Alan and moved to Basing House, my knowledge of the English Civil War was limited to *The Children of the New Forest* and *1066 and All That*: horrid old Cromwell, and poor little Charles. So for the past 20 years my education has been ongoing, and I have found this book to be a tremendously useful adjunct to my increasing knowledge.

The author has drawn together many threads, and should one ever doubt it, proved what a fascinating period the mid-seventeenth century was. For pretty much the first time, one hears the voice of the common man, and even the common woman. For example, Susan Rodway's letter to her long-absent husband is quoted in full, and I am always moved by both her restrained anger at the continued silence from her husband '...I do marvel that I cannot hear from you as well as other neighbours do...' and by her obvious love for him '...My King Love'. Even at 350 years distance, it is a comfort to know that Robert Rodway came safely home from besieging Basing House.

Of course Patrick is the chairman of the Cromwell Association, and could be suspected of bias, but I feel he is fair to both sides in the English Civil War. But even saying 'English' and 'both sides' is incorrect, I've now learned. The English Civil War also involved the Scots (variously on the sides of Parliament and the Royalists), the Welsh, and notoriously the Irish.

Dr Little addresses the causes of the wars, and one is left astonished that we entered into the conflict when it was so clear what a tragedy the Thirty Years' War was proving on the continent. But despite this, all sides persisted until civil war became inevitable. Even with his final words, Charles proved how dangerously single-minded he was '...their liberty and freedom consists in having of government, those laws by which their life and their goods may be most their own. *It is not for having a share in*

*government* [my italics]...’. To speak colloquially, even at the very end, he just didn't get it!

One aspect I really like about the book is the little sections of information, which are virtually bullet points covering topics such as ‘The Levellers’, ‘Witchcraft’, and brief biographies. But possibly due to the constrictions of layout and budgets, they break rather rudely into the text. However, this is a minor complaint in such a small yet splendidly concentrated book.

One other concern I have is the passage about Basing House ‘...the routine execution of Irish Catholic soldiers acceptable during the first civil war, and contributed to the massacres at Basing House in 1645...’. Although the Catholic priests at Basing were indeed dealt with, there is no real evidence of a general massacre of soldiers or civilians. In fact, around 200 were taken prisoner.

The *Beginner's Guide* is usefully ordered in sections which are as distinct as such a complicated subject can be. I especially enjoyed the sections on politics and religion, both interesting in their own right, but of course so inextricably a part of this war without an enemy. Many English Civil War historians will doubtless find this book passes over already familiar ground, but to the beginner, or to someone wishing to revise their knowledge, this publication will be endlessly useful.



Patrick Little, *The English Civil Wars: A Beginner's Guide*. Oneworld Publications, 2014. (176 pp.) ISBN 978-1780743318. £9.99 paperback.

*This review was first published in Cromwelliana 2015, the annual journal of The Cromwell Association'.*

*Hollar Engraving of Charles I*

# Remembering Margaret Rule

*Nicola Turton*

Alan has been involved with the Mary Rose since 1979, so we often attend conferences and Mary Rose Information Group updates, and after this year's conference, we were invited to attend the unveiling of the newly commissioned Margaret Rule bust.

Margaret was the chief archaeologist concerned with excavating and raising the Mary Rose, though she didn't find the ship, the credit for which goes to Alexander McKee and his Solent Ships project.

It's always a delight to see the Mary Rose, and I inevitably find myself battling against the air lock doors, as I race in and see her. And this was an extra treat, for we members of the Information Group had the museum to ourselves, instead of sharing it with the usual crowds. After a wander round we went into the Margaret Rule Gallery, and the sculptor Luke Shepherd, Admiral Lypiatt, and Nick Rule (Margaret's son) each said a few words. Then the Rule family whisked away the Tudor Royal standard to reveal the bronze of Margaret. As Nick Rule said, from some angles, it is shockingly lifelike. The family are delighted and the bust makes a nice companion to the McKee bust which is also in the museum.

The next day we returned to Portsmouth to attend Margaret's memorial service. Held in the cathedral, we sang rousing hymns, and heard key figures from her life pay tribute to her. Knowing that the Unknown Sailor from the Mary Rose is buried in the south aisle, I found the words of "For Those in Peril on the Sea" especially poignant.

Margaret was a generous and incredibly hard working archaeologist, and all who knew her treasure her memory.



*Bust of Margaret Rule by Luke Shepherd*

## 2015-16 DIARY DATES



### **BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

**Penny Martin Tel: 01256 321 423**

[secretary@bahsoc.org.uk](mailto:secretary@bahsoc.org.uk)

**Registered Charity no. 11000263**

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

***12<sup>th</sup> November*** A BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF CRANBORNE CHASE –  
MARTIN GREEN

***10<sup>th</sup> December*** CHRISTMAS SOCIAL EVENING

***14<sup>th</sup> January*** TRUCKLE HILL, WILTS; A ROMAN BATH-HOUSE  
REDISCOVERED - PHIL ANDREWS

***11<sup>th</sup> February*** THE BATTLE OF AGINCOURT –  
PROFESSOR ANNE CURRY

***10<sup>th</sup> March*** THE BARBARA APPLIN MEMORIAL LECTURE –  
PROFESSOR MIKE FULFORD – SILCHESTER IRON AGE &  
ROMAN – 500 YEARS OF URBAN LIFE

### **FRIENDS OF WILLIS MUSEUM**

*At 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke*

***19 November*** DARWIN'S APPRENTICE – JANET OWEN

***17 December*** QUIZZES AND MEMBER CHRISTMAS BUFFET