

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BAHS

Newsletter 217

November 2016

CONTENTS

Page 3	Archaeological Dowsers at Stonehenge
Page 5	Dig Basing! Reflections of a Digger
Page 6	Pound Day
Page 7	Letters from a Car Boot Sale
Page 9	Roman Roads Conference
Page 10	Garlic, Guillemots and The Devil's Quoit
Page 13	BAHS Christmas Party
Page 14	Fieldwork Report and <i>Dig Basing!</i>
Page 16	Current Archaeology Live 2016
Page 18	The Changing Colours of HMS Victory



Members at the BAHS stall on Local History Day

A Message from Our Chair

Ginny Pringle

The last few months have been very busy; in October we enjoyed a visit to the Mary Rose Museum in Portsmouth, an outing kindly organised by Steve Kirby.

Before this in August, the archaeologists amongst our members were busy digging with Tim Schadla-Hall at Chilton Candover; followed in September at *Dig Basing!*, where a very chuffed Nicola Turton found a Roman coin (see her report on page 5). My thanks go to Ian Waite and Mark Peryer for organising these excavations and we look forward to doing lots more in 2017.

We were also represented at this year's Local History Day held at the Discovery Centre and I'd like to thank Penny Martin, Steve Kirby and Nicola and Alan Turton for being there. I am pleased to announce the Discovery Centre has agreed to house our considerable number of reference books; a good home where they will now be available for all to read, rather than gathering dust in cupboards.

In the meantime Christmas festivities are fast approaching, not least our Christmas social on the 8th December, when we continue our 45th birthday celebrations with entertainment by the Redding Morreys.

And plans are also afoot for trips in 2017, including our annual longer trip away - more on these later.

My thanks also go to Nicola for continuing to edit our newsletter; and also to Derick Mirfin and Bob Applin for their continued support with proofreading and distribution.

Please continue to send in your articles to Nicola, either by email newsletter@bahsoc.org.uk or by post to The Keep, 28 Badger's Bank, Lychpit, RG24 8RT (01256 321 192).

The Archaeological Dowsers Group Walk the Stonehenge Landscape (again!)

Edwina Cole

Following the success of our first Stonehenge Landscape walk in 2014, we decided to do it again for those who missed it before. 19 of us met at the Stonehenge Inn at Durrington to walk with Don Bryan across this ancient landscape. Durrington Walls, the biggest henge in Europe, is slowly giving up some of its secrets. The first dowsing task was to locate the stones that are believed to be here, and predate those at Stonehenge. Crossing the road, we came to Woodhenge where members were invited to dowse the energy lines. Don showed us where other henges have been found in this area. It is not surprising that powerful energies were picked up in this ritual landscape.

Across the field lay the Cuckoo Stone, which we believe is so called, because it is in the wrong place! We know that it is an erratic – a stone moved by the ice. Edwina showed everyone a detailed map of the area so they could see the relationship between the monuments they were seeing. Don then invited everyone to pick up the rings of energy pulsating from the Stone, and then the ancestral pathway, which goes from the Cuckoo Stone to the Avenue.

Later we stopped at one end of The Cursus that runs across the land. Members were encouraged to dowse this area and establish where The Cursus was, and looking for one of the 2 shafts recently found there. We managed to eat our lunch in woodland close by before the rain threatened to interrupt us. Fortunately, this did not amount to much, so we were able to walk to where the Avenue crosses the landscape. We were invited to dowse for the 2 ditches on either side of it together with the energy line that runs down the centre of it. Don explained about the 2 energy lines that meet in the centre of Stonehenge itself. He recounted how people react to the energy with some people's hair standing on end!

Walking down to Stonehenge Bottom, Don explained that in ancient times, a natural spring fed a lake here. The natural watercourse was dammed up in the 17th century so this area is now prevented from flooding.

You cannot see the stones of Stonehenge from this point, so Don told us to locate the energy line and let our rods guide us towards the Heel Stone. As we arrived at the fence, Don explained about the different phases of development that took place here. He illustrated it by use of diagrams, pictures and maps that made it easier to understand.

We walked up one of the small roads to the side of the monument to see a group of Druids who were just leaving the site. In one week's time the summer solstice celebrations were due to take place. In past years, over 30,000 people have gathered there to watch the sunrise.

As we made our way back to Durrington across the landscape, we enjoyed wonderful views and the chance to reflect on all we had learned. Don is an expert with many years experience of introducing people to this fascinating area. We all had time to ask questions, dowse and enjoy each other's company. As one satisfied member wrote later, "A day spent in such a way and amongst like-minded people is one to treasure. Thank you very much."

HYDE900

David Spurling, a HYDE900 Trustee, has revealed that oak timber in the attic of Old Hyde House, Winchester, could be dated back to the late 13th century and, almost certainly would have originally constituted a seven canted roof in the Hyde Abbey structure.



For more please see <http://www.hyde900.org.uk/2016/09/07/timber-launch/>

Dig Basing 2016–Reflections of a Digger

Nicola Turton

Thank you Bob Applin for starting the trend of mini-reports, and I apologise for pinching the title for this piece. Somehow, despite this being year three of the *Dig Basing!* project, we'd managed to miss every other date. So it was good to finally be part of the team, and we were further thrilled to find ourselves in the garden of our friends Sue and Mike, in The Street, and we managed to do more digging than gossiping (really!).

Alan quickly showed me what an amateur I am, and demonstrated his 40+ years of digging and planning experience to measure and make a nice clear plan of our pit. I must at this point say that despite holding GCSE and A Level Archaeology qualifications, I'm really a labourer, with the heart of a treasure hunter, but don't tell the real archaeologists.

Anyway, we trowelled away, and it seemed that despite nearly 21 years of partnership, this was our first dig together. We worked very well, and were delighted when Alan found a lead pistol ball. It was a productive pit, with animal bone and teeth, ceramic building material (CBM), a dear little Neolithic scraper, and some interesting pottery, which may be Kennett



Ware. There was what might be a Roman tesserae and, rather excitingly, my very first Roman coin. It's awfully worn, but Dave Allen has managed to identify it as Antoninus Pius probably with Concordia on the obverse. Sue asked me to find treasure, and I could only oblige. It was a brilliant weekend, and we would like to thank our hosts for cups of tea, glasses of wine and being such fun.

And of course thank-you to Mark, Ian and all the other organisers and diggers.

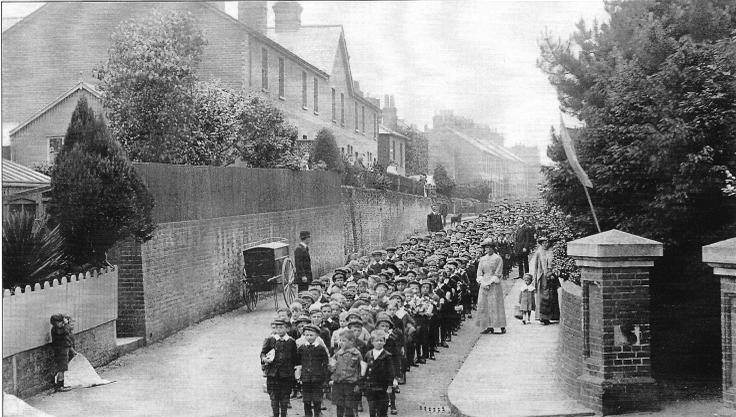
After 40 years of playing in the mud; a Roman coin.

Photo: Alan Turton

Pound Day

Bob Applin

IMAGES OF BASINGSTOKE'S PAST



The above photo is the September page of the 2016 calendar, *Images of Basingstoke's Past* (published anonymously). It shows the pupils of the Council School about to deliver their donations to the Cottage Hospital, entrance to the right, on one of its **Pound Days**.

The Cottage Hospital was a local charitable foundation opened in 1879 and supported by subscriptions and donations. As part of the fundraising each of the local schools held **Pound Days** when each child would donate a pound of something, usually dry goods of some description.

Taking the Pulse of Basingstoke, page 27 (a BAHS publication), has the following quote from Irene Hill who would have been a child in the early 1920s.

“When I was at Brook Street School, one day a year we would be walked from the school very proudly carrying a pound of something, whether it was a pound of rice, or a pound of sugar, or flour, or something from Dad's allotment, to the Cottage Hospital.”

I do not remember a Pound Day when I attended Brook Street from September 1945, so they were probably stopped because of rationing during WW2 and would not have been needed after the establishment of the NHS in 1948.

I wonder what the two ‘urchins’ on the left were doing and why they were not in school.

Letters from a Car Boot Sale

Alan and Nicola Turton

A couple of years ago, Alan bought a bundle of letters and manuscripts from a car boot sale in Winchester. Probably the best £5 we’ve ever spent, the papers cover subjects from the recent (1760) excavations at Herculaneum, to A Cure For the Bite of a Mad Dog...

Over the new few issues, I propose to transcribe a few of the most interesting ones, and I start with an extravagant recipe (*fifteen pounds!*), and conclude with an almost unbearably poignant one, which sounds like inspiration for Jane Fairfax in *Emma*:

Making Cherry Jam

Take 15 pounds of Kentish Cherrys, Boyle them & break them as they boil & when you have boiled away all the juice & can see the bottom of the pan put in three pounds of lump sugar, finely beat, stir them well & let them have two or three boils to this quantity add a pint of currant juice as you skim it the stones will rise to the top most of them must be taken out when done put into pots covered with white paper dipped in brandy not to be covered until the Cherrys are quite cold.

Spring Hall October the 17th 1800

I have to apologise to your ladyship for having permitted your very kind letter to remain so long unacknowledged, but trust you will receive as a reason for my silence my own & Mother's indisposition, allow me now Madam to return you our united grateful thanks for your kind condolence on the late severe loss we have sustaind, the only consolation we can now experience is the firm persuasion that my dear Father is translated from a World of Misery to the Realms of Bliss.

I entreat my Dear Madam you will pardon the liberty I take by intruding on your time for entering into my own concerns nor would I presume to do it was I not convinced of the esteem & friendship you entertaind for my beloved Parent. My Mother's health is much impaired & Bath is recommended for her complaints, she has a Brother who lives there in Genteel stile & has kindly given her a very pressing invitation to pass the Winter with Him which she intends to accept.

With regard to myself it is my wish to go as a companion to an elderly lady. My Dear Father has left me a Genteel independence consequently emolument is not my inducement but a wish to be in a respectable Family; in the circle of your Ladyship's acquaintance it is possible you may hear of a situation that might suit me, should one fortunately offer I shall feel myself particularly indebted if you will think of me & shall make it my study to render myself as useful & agreeable as possible. I will not longer encroach on your Ladyship's time than to add my Mother's & own best respect to you, Mrs Wyre, & Mr Porten & sign myself dear Madam

Your truly obligd Friend
Margaretta Aiskell

Roman Roads Conference 3rd September

Mary Oliver

I learned about this conference at Portsmouth University at the last minute and was pleased to be able to go for the first day; and although I'm not a road fanatic (they have proved very elusive in my archaeological career), I certainly have an interest. The conference was partly to celebrate the work of Ivan D Margary who wrote the seminal work on Roman roads in the 1950s and it was fascinating to learn more about this philanthropic man; as well as roads, he was interested in Avebury, published widely, bought 'Antiquity' periodical with Richard Atkinson in 1960, and perhaps his greatest achievement, was behind the purchase, excavation and preservation of Fishbourne. His system of numbering the roads is still used, but as more roads are discovered it becomes awkward.

There were some interesting presentations on the variety of roads, their location and discovery, and the settlement which followed them. For those for whom the detective work of discovering the course of a road is the great attraction, there was much helpful information, on working with maps, Apps, resistivity, magnetometry, lidar and ground penetrating radar. In this area, where the town's western boundary has for many years been a Roman road, there must be scope for discovering side roads!

There are researchers up and down the country working hard, but there are several ways of recording work and no central resource; part of the purpose of the conference was to introduce a new group – the Roman Roads Research Association – to work on an on-line data base of all road information and keep an up to date archive which can be easily accessed. A pilot has been started, but this is a mammoth task not easily accomplished by a few devotees and the new Association hope to win grant aid for what will be a most useful resource for all researchers. If there are members who would like to follow this up, go on-line to:

<http://romanroads.org/joinus.html> to download an application form, or just access more information on their general website.

Garlic, Guillemots and The Devil's Quoit

Penny Ingham

When I told people we were intending to holiday in Pembrokeshire, many looked aghast and asked: "Why on earth are you going to wet and windy Wales?" But the Pembrokeshire coastline was recently voted the third most beautiful walking country in the world, whilst National Geographic readers voted it as having the second best beaches in the planet. Are they wrong?

No, they aren't; the Pembrokeshire coastal path continues uninterrupted for 186 glorious, breath-taking miles. Everywhere you look are spectacular limestone cliffs, sandy coves, hedgerows crammed with pungent wild garlic, clifftops dotted with bluebells and orchids, and towering stacks over-crowded with vast colonies of guillemots. At close range, the stench of fishy guano was eye-watering and the squawks deafening – noisier and more frantic than Festival Place on a Saturday afternoon.

Whilst we revelled in the geology and the wildlife, we were also bowled over by the history and archaeology of the area. The coastal path is crowded with Iron Age hillforts, Bronze Age burial mounds and Neolithic burial chambers, like the impressive 'King's Quoit' - easily reached from the idyllic beach at Manorbier.

A few miles along the coast, The National Trust's Stackpole estate is not only staggeringly beautiful - with lily ponds and tiny harbours and dune-lined beaches. It also has an Iron Age coastal fort with well-preserved banks and ditches and the visible remains of stone hut circles. And there is also a menhir, or standing stone, named The Devil's Quoit. It was not signposted, and not particularly easy to find, but after a lot of Duke of Edinburgh's Award-style crashing through the undergrowth with maps in our hands, we finally discovered it, standing proudly in the middle of a large, sunny field.

Scholars seem undecided as to its purpose – burial site, ceremonial gathering place? I'm going to go for 'boundary marker' because, after further blundering around the surrounding woodland, we came across two Bronze Age round barrows, more hut circles, and a rectangular enclosure. Some of the stony banks were up to 0.4m high. Excavation has revealed

this to be a multi-period site from Mesolithic to early Romano British, producing shell middens, worked flint, burnt mounds, iron slag and possible spindle whorls. Preservation by sand also revealed extensive field systems, and the identification of prehistoric plough marks and hoof prints.

A little further west, the MoD has laid claim to 5,900 acres of the Pembrokeshire Coast national Park. The Castlemartin Training Area Ranges are home to direct live-firing gunnery exercises and armoured vehicle manoeuvres. Fortunately, it is open to the public most weekends, because the area is beautiful and dripping with history and legend. Take for example, Huntsman's Leap, near Bosherton – a deep narrow, sheer sided coastal chasm or 'geo' developed in the carboniferous limestone cliffs. Legend has it a huntsman jumped across the leap on horseback whilst being pursued. When he looked back and saw the gap, he is said to have died of shock.

Or St Govan's chapel; a small medieval chapel nestling in the side of a cliff, and accessible by some steep steps. Saint Govan was a monk who lived in the sixth century AD. He was set upon by pirates, but at a supremely opportune moment, the cliffs opened up and left a fissure just big enough for him to hide in until the pirates left. In gratitude, he decided to make his home on the cliff and minister to the locals. I think he must have had an eye for a pretty spot too, because the cove beneath the chapel is wonderful in a 'Famous Five' sort of way.

On 7th August 1485 Henry Tudor landed at Mill Bay, at the mouth of the Milford Haven estuary. With him were two thousand French mercenaries. Little more than a fortnight later, he defeated Richard III at Bosworth and became Henry VII. Familiarity was probably one reason Henry chose Mill Bay, as he was born at Pembroke Castle. Wales, of course, is famous for its castles. Picturesque Carew is one of the few to display the development from Norman fortification to Elizabethan country house. It also has a restored tidal mill, one of only five in Britain. Then there's Tenby, which actually doesn't have much of its castle still visible today, but does have a lovely little harbour, beautiful sandy beaches and impressive town walls – buttressed somewhat incongruously with palm trees. We have a gentleman called Dr Charter to thank for the survival of Tenby's medieval walls. In

1873 he obtained an injunction from the Court of Chancery to prevent the town corporation from pulling them down.

I'll finish by mentioning my favourite Welsh castle - Manorbier, which sits right on the coastal path, just above an unspoilt beach. The lands were granted to a Norman knight called Odo de Barri by William the Conqueror in grateful thanks for his help in subduing Wales. In other words, the Saxon Lord of the Manor was kicked off his estate and at best reduced to slavery, at worst murdered. In this case however, Odo at least had the decency to marry the daughter of the Welsh Lord, thus ensuring that his grandson, the clergyman/historian Gerald of Wales (born at the castle in 1146) was of Welsh-Norman descent. Manorbier has everything you would expect from a castle – winding staircases to towers with lovely views of the sea, dark dungeons, a great hall, a good tea-room, and even a smugglers' well with a secret passage to the beach. Gerald, nostalgic for his home, once wrote: “in all the broad lands of Wales, Manorbier is the most pleasant by far”. I couldn't agree more.

Mediaeval Soldier Database

You may recall the excellent lecture given to the Society by Professor Anne Curry about the Battle of Agincourt. For many years Anne and her team at Southampton University have been working on a [database](#) which contains the names of soldiers serving the English crown between 1369 and 1453. Most were fighting the French. In the second phase of the Hundred Years War, major invasions of France were launched, including that which culminated in Henry V's victory at Agincourt in 1415. How do we know so many names? The simple explanation is that soldiers received pay and this had to be audited. The main way of doing this was by checking off names at a muster at the beginning of, or during a campaign, or every few months for troops in garrison. Thousands of muster rolls survive in archive collections in England, France and beyond, and around 100 newly discovered rolls are currently being added.

If you have internet access, do have a look at the site, <http://www.medievalsoldier.org/> The team are always keen to receive queries and contributions; please contact Anne on a.e.curry@soton.ac.uk



Christmas Party

7.30 pm. Thursday 8th December
Church Cottage, Basingstoke

£3.00 (includes first drink)

*This year we continue our 45th birthday celebrations with a special Christmas social; the **Redding Morreys** will tell the story of Morris dancing from its origins in 1513, and also give us a demonstration. Maybe there will be an opportunity to try it out...?*

Also food, wine and the chance to chat to friends, the usual formula!

Tickets available at our November meeting or contact Penny Martin to reserve yours pennypitstop53@hotmail.com or 01256 321423.

Offers to help prepare or supply buffet food are very welcome, again, please contact Penny.



Fieldwork Report

Mark Peryer

The last time I wrote a fieldwork report I was careful not to mention Stanchester, since I didn't know whether any work was going to take place this year. This time, I'm pleased to report that we did roughly three weeks of excavation on the site of the Worsley mansion at Chilton Candover. I'd like to thank those members who responded to my rather last minute appeal for help and joined in with their usual enthusiasm.

In 2015, one "T" shaped trench was dug, which confirmed the presence of a Commonwealth era mansion in a planned landscape. All visitors to the site have been impressed by the vista which at the front of the house which is a yew tree avenue stretching for about a mile in a straight line. The house itself is on one of several terraces cut into the hillside, and behind the house there is another terrace which contained a garden.

This year we established the extent of the main part of the house, which appears to have a stable block to one side. The house was around 100 feet wide, with two wings at the front that were about 20 feet across. One wing extends into the church yard at the north side of the house. The site brought back memories of the digs at the Grange and Basing House because we had to shift a layer of demolition debris in order to get to what remained of the footings. The front wall appears to have been rendered and in the rubble we found several pieces of "egg and dart" moulded rendering. The rear of the house appears to butt up against the natural slope of the hill, and had an interesting drain and cob-wall arrangement to cope with water run-off from the hill. A central lateral wall was traced at several places. At the front of the house we uncovered a flint cobble path that re-appeared in front of the best preserved wing.

I think that Tim Schadla-Hall was bowled over by what we managed to achieve in the time, even though we subjected him to a continuous barrage of banter. I'd also like to thank Ian Waite for his continuity work and supervision.

We aim to return to Stanchester next year, most likely as a series of shorter duration excavations time-tabled by ourselves. However, before then we

shall be organising work parties over the winter to process the finds and to build up a database. Anyone is welcome to join in with this effort, which we aim to parcel up so that it can be done in comfort and light.



A brick pier emerging at the mansion, with the avenue in the background

Our final fieldwork effort this season was our second *Dig Basing!* weekend in September, when we were joined by members of NEHAS. This time we dug 6 test pits. One was in an allotment, and yielded a very positive negative result, demonstrating that it was outside the settlement boundary. Two were in gardens by the River Loddon in ground which proved to be very moist, and one was in the front garden of a recent housing development that yielded 20cm of builders' rubble on top of clay with flint.

However, the pit dug by Nicola and Alan Turton produced a pistol shot (a slightly smaller musket-type ball) and our first coin, believed to be Roman, together with some pottery from about the 1100s. Another pit in the garden of one of the terraces of railway cottages produced what could be footings for the leg of a railway water tower.

My thanks to all who took part in *Dig Basing!* 2016, both diggers and finds processors, and especially to Mary Oliver who let us use her garden and allowed us to drink her out of tea and coffee for the weekend. Ginny will do some analysis on the finds so that hopefully we can arrange a feedback evening in either December or early next year.



An intense discussion concerning the downsides of demarkation at a Dig Basing! test pit

Current Archaeology Live 2016

Penny Martin with Steve Kirby

Penny Martin - It's that time of year when I am starting to think about things to do in the off-season as far as fieldwork is concerned and looking forward to the 2017 'CA Live' Conference organised by *Current Archaeology* magazine. I have been twice, and on both occasions had a most enjoyable couple of days talking with fellow archaeology lovers, and listening to a wide variety of talks from the great and good of Archaeology.

The conference takes place over a long weekend (Fri to Sun) in late February, and the 2017 dates will be 24-26 February. It consists of two days of lectures on a variety of themes, and evening events include an optional dinner and the Current Archaeology awards ceremony. There is a discretionary site visit organised for Sunday morning.

From the start, 2016 was fascinating with Session 1 – *In Search of the Prehistoric*, including Francis Pryor who spoke on *Ritual at Flag Fen* and Mark Knight who talked about the now-famous Must Farm, which was of course pretty much unpublished at the time and was, even then, an absolutely enthralling site.

Session 2 was *Rescuing the Past* and told the story of the rescue excavation at Greyfriars in Oxford by Ben Ford (Ben previously worked on our own familiar and nearby site of Silchester), and Neil Holbrook who spoke about a lady from the Roman cemetery at Cirencester. Lunch was followed by Session 3, *Around the Ancient World*, the highpoint of which was Sir Barry Cunliffe on the *Birth of Eurasia*.

There was also an interesting talk about Roman roads and why they were important to the Empire. The keynote speaker for the day was the recently retired Professor Mike Fulford who detailed *The History of Silchester from the Iron Age Onwards*.

Saturday morning contained my favourite session, which was *The Osteology of Trauma*, including an analysis of some of the skeletal remains from sites such as Sedgeford, The Ridgeway (a rare Viking mass grave) and a *Study of Violence in the Neolithic*. Session 6 was the Roman period...

but now I am going too far, as I promised to share this article with Steve who also attended last year. I am really looking forward to 2017 and am poised for action as soon as the booking form appears. I look forward to seeing some of you there too, and I promise, you won't regret it.

Steve Kirby - Section 6 was the Roman period and we had a lecture from Dr Mike Bishop who described the types of Roman Soldier and their uniforms. This was followed by an interesting lecture from Phillip Crummy on *Boudicca's Revolt, the history of Colchester* and the *Fenig Hoard*.

The next lecture was by Dr John Reid, who gave us an insight into a Roman siege at Brunswick with details of the excavations and the finds. Section 7 found us learning about Experimental Archaeology, and started with our old friend, the Butser Ancient Farm. This lecture was given by Ryan Watts who described the history of the site, what was happening now and what their future plans were. Pieta Greaves and Dr Eleanor Blakelock then gave us two brief lectures about the conservation of the Staffordshire Hoard, and how they preserve precious metal.

Next came a controversial lecture from Dr Zena Kamash about the reproduction of museum artefacts with 3D printing and all the relevant processes.

Professor David Breeze gave us an awe inspiring lecture on his forty years of research into Hadrian's Wall, during which he covered the history of this monument, including details of those who have worked on it in the last four decades. David then went on to debate more recent theories and the work that he felt should continue well into the future.

The last word at the conference was from Andrew Selkirk, the Editor in Chief of *Current Archaeology*, in which he thanked all the contributors and gave a brief history of his tenure at the magazine, and the pace of change over his time in the archaeological world. He wished us a safe journey home and hoped that we would all attend next year.

The Changing Colours of HMS Victory

Alan Turton

You may have seen in the press the controversy over the repainting of *HMS Victory*. I had seen the start of this restoration work a few weeks before, when we visited the *Mary Rose* museum before its planned closure. As we walked past *Victory*, which was as usual clad in scaffolding, it actually looked for once as if people were working on her. There was the sound of hammers and saws, and on her portside, a number of painters were at work. I said to Nicola that they were obviously repainting her and what the men were working on was clearly the undercoat.

But no, we found a small information panel which stated that recent research had revealed the colours in which *Victory* had been painted in at Trafalgar were slate grey and pink-ish buff. Evidently, it was left to the ships captains to chose which colour his ship was to be; the wealthier he was, the more elaborate the colour scheme. Being a career officer, Flag Captain Hardy, could not afford anything special, and had to use whatever he could get supplied free from Admiralty stores, and evidently the two new colours were the only ones he could get. Alas, all those years of painting black and yellow model *Victorys* for naught!

Recently Nicola and I attended a marine archaeology conference, at Southampton University and amongst the speakers was Andrew Baines, the current curator of the *Victory* who gave us an update on the conservation work being carried out. He said that it is only recently that really detailed plans have been made of the structure of the vessel which has enabled them to work out which part of the ship belonged to which of the many refits of her long history. Some of these refits cost more than her original build costs, so only a small portion of the vessel survives from her launch. Dendrochronological dating has aided the research and destroyed a few myths. For instance, on the orlop deck, the timber of the ship's knee against

which the mortally wounded Nelson was traditionally laid, and which now acts as a shrine to him, was found to have a felling date of 1813-44; at least eight years after his death.

The changes of colour have been based on samples taken in the 1990s by English Heritage and only lately examined. Up to 70 layers of paint have been identified on over 250 parts of the hull, and it has been found that at one stage some of the internal spaces were painted baby blue. The gun room walls are painted white, the colour at the time of Trafalgar, and this original layer was sealed beneath a coating of soot. An evocative discovery, as we know that this room caught fire during the battle.

There are many more years of restoration work to be carried out on Victory and one wonders what fresh stories will be revealed.



Victory from the front: the left hand side shows the old paint scheme and the right is the new, peachier version. Photo: Nicola Turton

2016 DIARY DATES

www.bahsoc.org.uk

Penny Martin Tel: 01256 321 423

secretary@bahsoc.org.uk

Registered Charity no. 11000263

MEETINGS *Church Cottage, Basingstoke at 7.30pm*

10 November **AETHELRED THE UNREADY & CNUT THE GREAT: A TALE OF TWO KINGS – Dr Ryan Lavelle, University of Winchester.**

8 December **CHRISTMAS PARTY WITH THE REDDING MORREYS.**

12 January **PORTABLE ANTIQUITIES IN HAMPSHIRE: Katie Hinds, Finds Liaison Officer for Hampshire.**

9 February **EXCAVATIONS AT KENNEL FARM: Damian De Rosa, Cotswold Archaeology.**

9 March **JANE AUSTEN'S HOUSES: Derek Spruce, local historian and BAHS member.**

FRIENDS OF THE WILLIS MUSEUM

At 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke

17 November **JANE AUSTEN AND THE MILITARY: Alan Turton.**

15 December **AGM and FRIENDS' CHRISTMAS PARTY.**