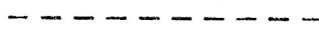


B A S I N G S T O K E  
A R C H A E O L O G I C A L  
S O C I E T Y

N E W S L E T T E R

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\* \* \* \* \* Calendar of Events \* \* \* \* \*

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|--------------------------|---|
| * Thursday, 31st Oct.    | Lecture by David Hinton on ANGLO-SAXON ART:<br>THE WESSEX REVIVAL. 7.30 pm at Chute House                           |
| * Wednesday, 6th Nov. )  |   |
| * Wednesday, 13th Nov. ) | Bone seminars, Willis Museum Annexe, 7.30 pm  |
| * Wednesday, 20th Nov. ) |   |
| * Saturday, 16th Nov./   | Conservation Workshop at Harriet Costello   |
| * Sunday, 17th Nov.      | School  |
| * Wednesday, 20th Nov.   | Overton Society: Lecture by Duncan Russell<br>on SILCHESTER. 8 pm at St. Luke's Hall,<br>Winchester Street, Overton |
| * Saturday, 23rd Nov./   | Vernacular Architecture in Hampshire weekend  |
| * Sunday, 24th Nov.      | at Southampton and Botley   |
| * Thursday, 28th Nov.    | Lecture by Prof. Colin Renfrew on THE RADIO-<br>CARBON REVOLUTION. 7.30 pm at Chute House                           |

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Lecture by David Hinton  
ANGLO-SAXON ART: THE WESSEX REVIVAL  
7.30 pm 31st October  
Chute House

Members who attended David Hinton's stimulating lecture last year on the early period of Anglo-Saxon art will not want to miss the opportunity to hear the sequel this Thursday when he will talk about the art associated with the revival of the kingdom of Wessex.

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

Members are reminded that this course, for which details are enclosed, will be a marvellous opportunity to learn about the techniques we should be able to employ to prevent fragile materials found on sites from disintegrating before they can be professionally conserved and studied. Since there will now be two course tutors, both from the Department of the Environment's Ancient Monuments Laboratory, the number of places on the course has been increased to 24. This means that there are still places available, although the official closing date has now passed, and late applications should be sent as soon as possible.

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE IN HAMPSHIRE  
Saturday/Sunday, 23rd/24th November  
Southampton University and Botley

Details are enclosed with this newsletter of a weekend to be organised by the Hampshire Field Club and the University of Southampton. The Saturday will consist of lectures on a wide range of subjects relevant to vernacular architecture, including legislation, planning procedures and surveys, while the Sunday will be devoted to practical instruction. Members should find this very interesting, and it would also be helpful for the society to have members trained in this sort of recording, so that we can cope with the recording that needs to be done in our own area.

PORTWAY B, ANDOVER

The exciting work of our colleagues in Andover is well-known to many of us already, but our lecture on 26th September, given by their director Max Dacre, proved once again the importance of their sequence of sites. (These are being excavated in advance of new town expansion, similar to that of Basingstoke.)

Max opened with a general description of sites in Andover and district, and of his own early work in the town. We then moved on to discuss in greater details his current site, known as Portway B.

Early air photographs had revealed a concentration of barrow ditches, and the excavation had initially concentrated on these relatively straightforward Bronze Age features. Investigation had then continued on an impressively curved boundary ditch, whose form and course led to interesting speculation on Iron Age agricultural practices; we may indeed have to question some of our simplistic assumptions on 'linear ditches' in the future! As an unexpected bonus, investigation of this feature led to a major Anglo-Saxon

inhumation and cremation cemetery. The cemetery itself was quite regular in pattern - the inhumations mainly aligned, the skeletons for the most part extended, and the finds consisting largely of iron objects - knives and spears included - and bronze jewellery, including saucer and annular brooches. Max indicated a number of divergent features in certain of the graves - the presence of 'pillow stones', a grave with a different alignment, the presence of one burial with a coffin - the last two possibly being an indication of the arrival of Christianity in the area.

ASPECTS OF SAXON SOUTH EAST ENGLAND  
Sussex Archaeological Society Conference  
19th October

The packing density of this conference's programme (with 7 talks in 6 hours) reflected the packing of the delegates into the hall, with an attendance of something like 500 for what would, even only a few years ago, have been considered an abstruse subject.

A general introduction was provided by Sonia Hawkes, who collated information from a variety of archaeological, manuscript and art-historical sources from both Britain and the Continent, to provide a general background to the settlement period in South East England and in Europe. While recent research has confirmed the general pattern expounded by Bede, the detail of settlement and of dating is only slowly becoming clear. An indication of the amount of work required to give significant advances in our knowledge even of later and more settled years was given in David Leigh's account of his research into the Kentish Jewellers. As a result of exhaustive computer-aided microscopic analysis of stylistic details and manufacturing techniques, he proposed a typology for square-headed brooches implying an advanced technological society with specialised workers and mass production workshops; which, if further work proves the hypothesis, could necessitate total reconsideration of our present view of the structure of Anglo-Saxon society.

After the lunch break, we moved on to a later period - the 9th to 11th centuries - and to art-history rather than archaeology. Professor David Wilson is rarely at a loss for either a hypothesis or for words, and in his account of the art of Southern England at this period showed us numerous examples of the works of art - embroidery, jewellery, illuminated manuscripts - which were regarded even by contemporary continental authors as typical of an English pre-eminence in art during this period.

Returning to field archaeology of the Migration period, the emphasis on settlement sites rather than cemeteries was a further feature which would have been impossible five years back. We are all familiar now with the sunken-floored hut or 'grubenhaus'; from the work now being carried out at Chalton (described by Tim Champion) and from Bishopstone (described by Martin Bell) it is now obvious that we must regard large wooden buildings and street planning as increasingly typical of some settlement period sites. It was also most instructive to note, from lectures given by Messrs Drewett and Freke, the sheer volume of work being achieved by the Sussex Archaeological Field Unit, even though this body was called into existence as recently as this year; further major excavations seem likely from this source.

PHIL JUDKINS