

**BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY**



Newsletter 226
February 2019

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The News from Bosworth! See page 16

Thank You to All You ROMAN ROVERS!

Annabel Stowe



Yes, a VERY big thank you to everyone who has shown interest in, and bought a copy (or two, or three) of ***ROMAN ROVING: Walking a Roman Road***. I am so touched by your support. The book is on its third, and probably final, print run now, as other projects hover on the horizon.

So, when and why was *Roman Roving* born? It all started one New Year's Eve a few years ago, when I dreamed up the plan to see how much of a Roman Road could be walked. The Icknield Way presented itself, partly because it was local, and partly because it looked from the OS maps to be less clearly defined than,

say, the Clarendon Way, and therefore more of a journey of discovery.

At first there was no plan to produce a book, just curiosity to see how much of Margary's Roman Road 43 could be traced. It was clear that some stretches would be on modern roads, but, I reasoned, if Tom Fort could make the A303 intriguing, perhaps I, in a much more modest way, could do the same for the Walworth Industrial Estate in Andover?! Seriously, though, I had no idea that the Road would also lead me through some of the prettiest countryside in Hampshire and Wiltshire. Over the next year, when poor health limited energy, bit by bit I worked my way along green lanes, byways and quiet woodland footpaths until my partner said "Why don't you write a book"? Cue start of detailed research (based to a large extent on the Historic Environment Record) and, of course, the need to walk the Road **again**, to plot on the ground the ancient sites and monuments listed. And this was the REAL discovery... the sheer number of Roman and prehistoric sites adjacent

to the route, now largely and inevitably ploughed out or built over, but nonetheless **there**.

So *Roman Roving* finally began to take shape. As more and more of our farmland disappears under new housing developments (Barton's Farm, Winchester, was open fields when I started my adventure), it seems to me doubly important that we keep a memory of the layers of history beneath, so that the ancient "spirit of place" can live on into the 21st century.

Happy roving, and maybe one of these Spring days we can rove together, taking in a hostelry – or two – along the way ...

Roman Roving is for sale to BAHS members at the discount price of £8.99

Pigeon Post in Milkingpen Lane

Mary Oliver

I recently read an article in *History* magazine about the part played by carrier pigeons in WWII and it reminded me of an episode in the history of my home which I thought might interest members, especially those who have sat on the lawn of no. 3 with their sandwiches during 'Dig Basing'.

A previous occupant, 'Gilly' Gibbons was an ardent pigeon fancier with his own system of training carrier pigeons known to those in the pigeon world, so when it was decided to have a National Pigeon Service, codenamed 'Columba', Gilly was enrolled to supply trained carrier pigeons to fly home from Southampton on the last leg, and Gilly would then send on the message in a special little cartridge strapped to the leg of a London-based pigeon.

All kinds of information about troop dispositions, the effects of bombing, aerodrome locations and so on could be sent back, and messages of support could go to the continent. The location of Jasmine Cottage (no. 3) was ideal, set back from the road on the edge of the village, and the motor bikes arriving quietly by night would not be discussed. In the three and a half years the operation ran, over 16 thousand pigeons were parachuted into the continent.

Anyone interested to see more of this story should either consult the new book 'Secret Pigeon Service' by Gordon Corera published in February this year, and for the local details including pictures, Anne Pitcher recorded them in her book on Old Basing, and in her biography of Betty Holmes (*Betty MBE*), both of which are available in the library.

2019 BAHS Tour – Exploring the East



Each year we arrange an extended visit to an area of interest and in the past have visited places such as the bay of Naples, Malta, North Cyprus, Hadrian's Wall, Shropshire and Northumberland.

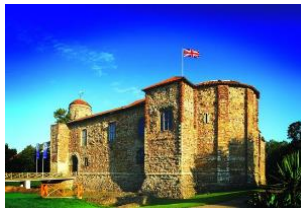
We organise a programme of visits to sites in an area, wherever possible arranging for a group guided tour and a group discount. If you have not been away on one of these trips before, then rest assured that you will be welcomed and will enjoy the company of like-minded people.

We organise a programme and then you are free to join in as much or as little as you like. You will be responsible for arranging your own

accommodation and transport. If you don't have a car, or would prefer not to drive, there is usually someone who is willing to give you a lift.

This year's BAHS tour will be a long weekend spent exploring some of the counties of Essex and Suffolk and will include visits to Colchester, Sutton Hoo and Lavenham. The provisional dates are from Friday 12th July to Monday 15th July.

The programme is yet to be finalised and so the table below is only an indication of the places we are likely to visit and when.



Day	Place
Friday 12 th July	Colchester
Morning	Roman Colchester, including the Circus
Afternoon	Castle Museum, Hollytree Museum
Saturday 13 th July	Lavenham
Morning	Lavenham Guildhall and guided tour
Afternoon	Melford Hall
Sunday 14 th July	Felixstowe Area
Morning	Sutton Hoo
Afternoon	Languard Fort, Felixstowe
Monday 15 th July	Orford Area
Morning	Orford Castle
Afternoon	Framlingham Castle

If you would like to join us on the tour, please contact Mark Peryer – (markperyer@gmail.com, 07770 832397)

Joseph Harding Gent. of Basingstoke

Tony Wright

Joseph was born in 1696, a son of William Harding who had been employed as a *factor* for the Royal African Company based in Bridgetown, Barbados. Some years earlier, William's first marriage to Elizabeth Maycock had produced a daughter Jane (b.1679) who would marry Frederick Jones, the son of Captain Roger Jones. Shortly after their marriage Jane and Frederick left England and settled initially in Virginia and then North Carolina where Frederick was active as a militiaman in the Indian Wars of 1711/12 and would ultimately become Chief Justice of the colony in 1716.

William's second marriage was to Elizabeth Breviter, who, when her father died, inherited a share of the Mount Breviter sugar plantation on Barbados. They had two sons, William (b.1688) and John (b.1689) and following his wife's death, William Senior wrote his long and detailed will in 1699 spelling out how his considerable wealth was to be distributed. The eldest son William would receive five-eighths of the value of the plantation plus a significant sum of money when he reached maturity, and for John three-eighths of the plantation value and money, also when he reached 21 years of age.

The will referred to '*the little boy that lives with me*' and instructed that Margaret Hunt, his servant, be paid an allowance to see that the little boy Joseph would, in time, be given an apprenticeship. William's love of Joseph was clear when the will went on that should either of the other sons die before they reached twenty-one then Joseph would receive £500 and should both die before maturity then Joseph would receive yet further monies. Only a few years before his death, William Harding married his servant Margaret at St James, Dukes Place, London, and so effectively legitimising Joseph. Margaret fulfilled William's request and after schooling Joseph was apprenticed to James Field, a solicitor in Odiham and Steward of the Manor, for the not inconsiderable sum of £107.

The young William was a pupil at Merton College, Oxford where he matriculated aged 15 but tragically died the following year and was buried at Merton College Chapel in 1704. William's second son John would in time inherit Mount Breviter from his father and was listed as a manager there.

In the 18th century many wealthy merchants purchased country houses for their retirement or just to avoid living in the increasingly unhealthy London, and in 1697 William Harding acquired Clear Place from the widow, Jane Fielder. To-day, we know that it was a 15th century farm residence which in time became Clare Park, the Georgian mansion situated in Dippenhall, Crondall, and it is certain that the family were living there in the first quarter of the 18th century.

Joseph completed his apprenticeship with James Field and whilst living with his mother Margaret at Crondall in 1717 he married Jane Atfield of Upton (Grey) at Shaldon church. Looking to improve himself within a prosperous environment, Joseph with Jane moved to Basingstoke sometime before 1720 where he would set himself up to use his new skills.

Meanwhile, John Harding had married and he and his wife Elizabeth were certainly at Clear Place when it was recorded that he had died in Crondall in 1718 aged only 29 years. Only a year earlier, Thomas Maycock had bequeathed to John the remaining portion of Mount Breviter plantation making John as wealthy as his father William Harding had been.

We know so little about Joseph. We don't know where he and Jane settled in Basingstoke, where he worked from, who his clients were or who he mixed with. What we do know is that in 1720 their daughter Jane was baptised at St Michael's Church. Three years later they had a son James and in 1728 a second son Joseph, and two years later a second daughter Martha was baptised there. Joseph rose in Basingstoke society and in time acquired a lockable family box pew at St Michael's.

At the close of his apprenticeship Joseph would have anticipated receiving his inheritance of £500 from the will of his father William Harding so would be set up financially for a new phase in his life. However, in 1717 when he married Jane and was now twenty-one, he had a major quarrel with his brother John which escalated such that he submitted a Bill of Complaint at Chancery against John and the three executors of William's will relating to his inheritance. The Bill was answered and challenged leaving it to the Court to decide. However, John's death the following year took place before any action was taken and so this dispute now transferred to John's wife Elizabeth.

John's will stated that everything should go to Elizabeth with no mention of either Jane his sister in Carolina or his brother Joseph, and furthermore Elizabeth would be sole executer of his will.

By 1731, Joseph was living beyond his means and in debt to a number of creditors. Worse was to follow when, in the same year of his death in 1732 aged 40, his eldest son Joseph aged only 10 was a defendant in litigation related to debt and five years later Jane his wife faced litigation.

Further tragedy befell the family only a few years later in 1741 when a widespread outbreak of smallpox hit Basingstoke, to which daughter Martha aged 10, James aged 18 and Jane herself succumbed.

Joseph reached the highs and lows of life and was proud of his background – his gravestone in St Michael's churchyard reads '*Joseph Harding, son of William Harding*'.

(Extract from *The Harding family of Clear Place*, an unpublished research paper by Tony Wright.)

Church Excursion 6 April 2019

Mary Oliver

At Nicola's suggestion, we would like to take a group of members to see the Aldworth giants – a group of remarkable monuments in St Mary the Virgin, Aldworth, across the border in Berkshire. The church dates from 1315 and is of interest.

Not far away is St Clement's, Ashampstead which boasts some fine wall paintings. There is a good lunch possibility at the Four Points, Aldworth, or Basildon Park (NT) is quite near.

There is another church, St Bartholemew's, at Lower Basildon which could also be visited – there is a monument to Jethro Tull, the agricultural innovator, and on the way home we could call in to pay our respects to the siege Marquess of Winchester, buried in Englefield church.

If you are interested in joining this excursion, please give your name to me or to Nicola, and we will supply directions and try to arrange car sharing if required.

Field Work 2019

This summer, we plan to run two excavations at Stanchester, from 25 May – 8 June, and from 17 – 31 August.

This would give us four weeks on site overall, allowing plenty of scope for further discoveries.

If you would like to take part, please make a note of these dates in your diaries and let Ian Waite know: email: waite52@live.co.uk
Tel: 07963 372989).

Editor's note: As some of you may know, my first childhood passion was for fossils, and thanks to my first headmaster, I very early developed an admiration for May Anning, so I am a great supporter of this campaign. You may have seen Evie on *South Today*, and I thought you might enjoy this piece from a different part of the country. Written for us by Evie's mum!

Mary Anning Rocks

Anya Pearson



So Who Was Mary Anning And Why Did She Rock? There's one thing we hear a lot when we start to talk about Mary Anning, and that's a sheepish 'Who is she?' Pretty much the majority of non-scientific groups we talk to about our campaign have no clue who she was. Shocking really, when you consider this remarkable woman's achievements. Not only was she an early pioneer of palaeontology and a scientist with a huge capacity to understand the fossilised remains she discovered in the Blue Lias cliffs of Lyme Regis, but she was also from a poor working-class background and struggled for most of her life with poverty. Yet without a formal education, her discoveries and ideas about the first ever Ichthyosaurs and Plesiosaurs to be discovered became the catalyst that changed the way we think about the origins of our planet and how life evolved on it.

Born at a time when women were not allowed to vote, own property, or attend university, it's no wonder Mary has been forgotten. Being a woman in Victorian Britain was bad enough but to be working-class as well, it's clear to see why her remarkable achievements never made it into our history books.



Mary Anning Rocks wants to change this. By raising a statue to her memory, we want to rectify this injustice for Mary by putting her

name at the forefront of education and into our history books where she belongs.

But why in this age of social media and all things digital, is a statue really the best way to honour and remember her? Here are the three reasons we think you need to consider.

Firstly, we wish to acknowledge and remember Mary in a visual way because we want to give her a tangible work of art that will not only give her a physical presence in her Lyme Regis but will equally give the people of Lyme and the thousands of tourists that come to visit every year a focal point of remembrance and respect. We see the statue as an inspirational presence in the landscape where she worked, to inspire and show people, young and old, locals and visitors alike, that great things can be achieved from almost impossible circumstances.

Secondly, Evie, our inspiration for the campaign, told us that when she grows up she wants to go into outer space, not as an astronaut (she was very clear about that) but to be in space. To do that she knows she has to work hard at her STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Maths) and make sure she passes all her exams. When you consider that, statistically speaking girls outperform boys in STEM subjects at GCSE and A Level, as long as she studies hard she should have a good chance of achieving her space dream. But here's the thing: even though school-age girls excel at STEM, when it comes to selecting and attending university and going on into careers in the sciences there is a huge decline; girls are just not taking up STEM subjects, especially Engineering, Technology and Computer Sciences.

Marian Wright Edelman, the American activist for the rights of children once said, 'You can't be what you can't see'. If we do not visualise for children the women who have been written out of history because of their sex, then what futures for all our children can we hope for?

We think and we hope you do too, that a visual celebration of Mary Anning's incredible contributions to science is the perfect way to address this imbalance, and create an example, especially for young women to follow.

We also strongly believe a statue for Mary will set in motion a wider debate, a discussion for all the forgotten women of history and their marginalised and overlooked contributions to the world in which we live.

Thirdly, we want to address a great imbalance here in the UK - and we suspect this isn't just a British issue. Did you know that over 85% of statues in Great Britain celebrate the achievements and deeds of men? And only 2.7% of civic monuments commemorate named women. There are more statues in the UK of men called John than there are of all women. In Dorset alone, where Mary Anning was born, there are more statues of animals than there are of women. Even more shockingly, and hard to believe, in the whole of the Southwest of England, which includes Dorset, Devon Somerset and Cornwall there is only one example, a bust to Agatha Christie.

So, you can see where we are going with this and please do correct us if we are wrong. We would love someone to show us a statue in the south-west of England that is not Queen Victoria, the Mother of Christ, a nude or a scantily clad nymph.

Mary Anning Rocks believe passionately that we need to start to address this inequality and honour the millions of women who have transformed Britain for the better. We can start that right here, right now, by erecting a statue for Mary Anning in Lyme Regis on the Jurassic Coast where she figuratively and literally carried out her ground-breaking work.

Mary Anning Rocks plans to crowd-fund the statue in February 2019. Anyone who would like to contribute or learn more about the campaign

can check us out on our website www.maryanningrocks.co.uk or follow us on social media @MaryAnningRocks.



Evie – Mary Anning’s Champion



Basingstoke YAC Report January 2019

Penny Martin & Nikki Read

The first two sessions of the new school year have now taken place and we have 13 young people signed up for this year. This is a mix of some children continuing from last year and some new ones. The September session saw us taking a walk around Basingstoke, led by Cathy Williams, through the old town identifying some features on standing buildings (Goldings), and then to St Michaels for a more detailed investigation of a church building both inside and out. We were ably assisted by Mary Oliver at the church.

In October we looked at where people have lived through time and started with Stone Age to the Saxon period. We looked at lots of examples of shelters and the reasons for the placement of settlements, comparing a stone age settlement and a Saxon village. We talked about what is left in the ground for archaeologists to find and identify. Most of the session was taken up with the building of three Iron Age roundhouses, which was great fun, required teamwork and building skills and demonstrated some of the issues the Iron Age villagers would have encountered. This was the result – there was an issue with the available supply of reeds as a resource for roofing the huts !



In November, we continued with the theme of settlements and buildings, and moved forward in time to look particularly at motte and bailey castles and how they have helped to shape a

large number of the towns and cities in which we now live. The children began by playing a game that allowed them to plan and develop their own town / city from the Norman period to present day. By using tracing paper overlays and coloured pencils to represent each time period, they were able to build up different phases of development and then at the end they were able to peel the layers back through time, to see what lay beneath the modern buildings – just like an archaeologist!

But it was then time to get down to the nitty-gritty – and a settlement is only as strong as its castle. So with wild abandon the YACsters set about making the most amazing motte and bailey structures. Lots of thought went into the construction – features included wells, armaments and retracting bridges.



As usual, the YACsters were all incredibly well behaved and seemed to enjoy every minute.



In January we will be going for a total change of topic and are looking at mummification – Egyptian style; more to come on this next time, it should be great fun...

NEHHAS

Mark Peryer

Our friends and colleagues of the North Hampshire Historical and Archaeological Society (NEHHAS) held their last meeting at the end of December. Originally formed in 1970 as a section of the Royal Aircraft Establishment recreation society, the members produced an impressive body of research material on their locality based on small scale excavation work and desk top research into land ownership.

Over the years, NEHHAS built up a reference collection for the Farnborough pottery industry and this will continue to be available. The society had been meeting at the Farnborough community centre, but the local council served notice that it would be redeveloping the site in early 2019. It was this event that forced their hand and the decision to close was made at their last AGM.

It is sad to see over fifty years of collective work and friendship come to an end, and towards the end of 2018 the BAHS committee held sympathetic discussions with NEHHAS; at a practical level we offered their members a home and we have put work in progress to help preserve their legacy. I am sure that you will make former NEHHAS members welcome at BAHS meetings and events.

Trip to London – a Report

Nicola Turton

In January, Ginny took a group of us to visit the London Mithraeum and the exhibition at the British Library, *Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War*. Due to circumstances beyond Ginny's control (i.e. me), I booked things the wrong way round, so our day might not reflect that of the rest of the group!

We started at the British Library, where we were dazzled by the quantity of treasures – the oldest complete book binding, the 8th century St Cuthbert Gospel, to the Alfred Jewel, and taking in Spong Man and the giant Codex Amiatinus illuminated bible, which is returning to England after 1,300 years.

After that we sped off to the Mithraeum. This Roman temple, initially discovered in 1954, led an exposed and difficult life until the recent development of the site called for action to be taken. Finding that parts of the temple are still in situ, the reconstruction has been sited a few metres from the original site. But what a triumph. We started by looking at a wall display of artefacts, then headed down some nine metres to the Roman level. Waiting in an anti-room, we looked at

information panels, before entering the partly rebuilt temple, and it is stunning. It feels slightly claustrophobic and the sound and light show evokes the atmosphere of what the Roman rituals might have been like. I highly recommend it and compliment Bloomberg for such an excellent job.

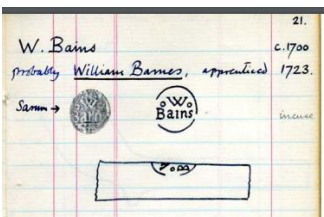
Snapshots in Time: A clay pipe maker's mark recovered from the Worsley Hall site

Ginny Pringle

BAHS excavations last summer at Worsley Hall, Chilton Candover, produced the only fragment of clay pipe unearthed so far from the site to have carried a maker's mark.



Described as a local style of incuse stem stamp, it can be dated to the 18th century from its form alone. In this particular instance, the mark has been identified as reading W Barns for William Barns, who is recorded as working at East Woodhay, where he had children baptised in 1704 and 1707 and where he took an apprentice in 1723. Examples of his mark have been recorded from Brimpton, Facombe Netherton, Highworth, Littlecote, Newbury, Marlborough, Swindon and Winchester. David Atkinson, the notable researcher of clay pipes and who died in 2011, had illustrated the mark in his Marlborough/Salisbury notebook (LIVNP 2012.06.216, p21). Originally Atkinson read the mark as 'Bains' but the correct name is Barns.



Details of the Worsley Hall find have been shared with the National Pipe Archive and we thank Dr David Higgins of the NPA for his assistance with identification.

Ref: Accession No. LIVNP 2012.06.216 available at www.pipearchive.co.uk/pipes/atkinson.html

The News from Bosworth

Nicola Turton

Just before Christmas, we were invited to attend an afternoon conference about the Bosworth Battlefield. One of the speakers was to be Professor Anne Curry, who has spoken to the BAHS.

The conference was to reissue the book, *Bosworth 1485 – a Battlefield Rediscovered*, and Professor Curry was midway through a very good talk about different aspects of the battle, battlefield and how it was eventually located after centuries of confusion.

After a brief break, Richard Smith from the Richard III Society spoke, and told us about the recent planning application. As you may know, part of the land is owned by a Japanese company called Horiba Mira Ltd. And they want to build a track for testing driverless cars. The area they wish to use is a very small part of the scheduled battlefield, but includes the part from where Henry Tudor first saw the army of Richard III.

Additionally, a full survey has yet to be done of the area immediately adjacent and south of the testing track area, and it may be that the battlefield extends beyond the scheduled area. Richard then told us that the Planning Committee meeting only permitted one speaker in opposition to the project, and that the speaker was allowed just three minutes to put their case. So, having conferred with other groups, including our own Battlefields Trust, a short statement was agreed and read at the meeting, which he then read to us.

He went on to tell us that there are suspicions that anyone on the planning committee who was opposed to the proposal was removed from the committee, and there is email evidence to support this. A local councillor joined the conversation and told us that in the New Year, he and other officials would be presenting this evidence and pressing for an inquiry. Throughout this last part of the conference, I kept thinking

of the old rhyme: *Jack of Norfolk, be not too bold, For Dickon, thy master, is bought and sold*, and reflecting that the battlefield was already bought and sold before we could do anything about it.

The second part of the event was visiting the Richard III centre, which is in the Victorian building (previously Alderman Newton's School) adjacent to the famous car-park where Richard was found in 2012. The building has been converted to a very nice exhibition, which follows the Wars of the Roses and the dynastic conflict which led to the wars. It also looks at the finding and identification of the remains of Greyfriars church beneath the building and of course of the burial and exhumation of Richard from under the painted R in the carpark.



It was a surprise to us to find that the excavation and grave are still open (left). The area is now encased in what is effectively a glass chapel, including a glass panel, over which one may walk, and every few minutes an illuminated silhouette of the skeleton is projected into the open grave.



We also crossed the square outside to the Cathedral Church of St Martin to visit the King's tomb which is made of Swalesdale fossil stone from north Yorkshire. I found the tomb both peaceful and moving in its powerful simplicity.

We can thoroughly recommend a visit to the Centre and the cathedral if you are in Leicester.

And if you are in a carpark in Winchester, don't be tempted (as I am) to dig under every A in the hope of finding King Alfred.

2019 DIARY DATES



**BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL &
HISTORICAL SOCIETY**

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

14 February WESSEX SAINTS IN EUROPE – Mary Harris

14 March A HISTORY OF ALRESFORD – Don Bryan

11 April MORTUARY RITES IN EARLY BRONZE AGE
WESSEX – Dr Jackie McKinley

9 May DATING CAVE PAINTINGS – Professor Alistair Pike

14 June EXCAVATIONS AT DATCHETT – Gareth Chaffey

FRIENDS OF THE WILLIS MUSEUM

At 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke

21 February WHITCHURCH SILK MILL REFURBISHMENT:
Derek Cooper

21 March KING ALFRED: Professor Barbara Yorke

11 April SIMONDS FAMILY OF READING: Raymond Simonds