

Newsletter Number 227

May 2019

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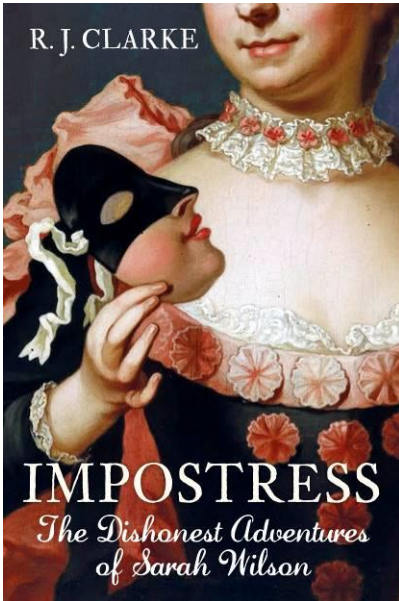
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YAC Have Fun at the Willis

A Real-Life Moll Flanders

Bob Clarke



By the time you are reading this, my book, *Impostress: The Dishonest Adventures of Sarah Wilson* (The History Press), should be on sale.

Sarah Wilson was an 18th century imposter and a fraudster, a real-life Moll Flanders who created a remarkable series of different lives for herself on both sides of the Atlantic.

Beginning in her late teens Sarah wandered alone all over England, living on her wits, inventing new identities for herself, often as an aristocrat's daughter with great powers of patronage, embroidering her story to suit different audiences in order to fool people into

providing her with food and shelter, money and expensive clothes. A Coventry J.P. described Sarah as 'The greatest Impostress of the present Age'.

After four or five years on the road one of her crimes caught up with her. Sir John Fielding sent Sarah to Tothill Fields Bridewell for obtaining a full set of clothes by false pretences. She was found guilty and sentenced to be transported to America. In 1768, after a spell in Newgate awaiting the next convict ship, she sailed for Maryland where she escaped from her master and began a new set of adventures.

In Virginia and the Carolinas she was passed from one plantation house to another as an honoured guest in the guise of Queen Charlotte's sister. She later moved to the northern colonies and was in Boston when the Tea Party took place. She may have been one of the spectators who stood on

the waterfront watching the Sons of Liberty throwing the tea into the harbour.

I first met Sarah when I came across an account in an 18th century newspaper of a trick she played on a Surrey farmer. I later found another report about her adventures three years later in Wiltshire in 1767 and realised it was the same person. This set me off on my quest for Sarah. I wanted to find out more about her to try to piece together her history. This involved searching for reports about her in British and American newspapers, examining the records of her committal and trial at the London Metropolitan Archives, discovering letters she wrote that are an American archive.

Using contemporary accounts of travel in England and America, conditions in Tothill Fields Bridewell and Newgate, convict voyages and transportation, the Boston Tea Party and what Boston was like after the siege in 1777 I sought to recapture the atmosphere of the times and what she experienced.

I also wanted to know about the people she met: the people she defrauded in England; the prostitutes, pickpockets and highwaymen she lived with in prison and on board the convict ship; the plantation owners in the southern colonies; and the New England puritans and active participants in the American Revolution she stayed with in the north. The more I researched, the more fascinating her story became.

Silchester Visit Tuesday 9 July 2019

Long-time friend of the Society, Professor Mike Fulford has once again agreed to give us a tour around this year's Silchester excavations.

Exceptionally, we are going after-hours to allow those who work to attend.

Please meet in the carpark at 5.30pm and the tour will start at the site at 6pm.

Joseph Harding Gent. of Basingstoke

Tony Wright

This article was printed in the last newsletter, but due to my error, a crucial paragraph was omitted. I apologise to Tony, and thank him for his kind understanding. I here reprint the last section of his article, with the missing paragraph. Nicola Turton

...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.

[missing paragraph]

So, in 1719 and not getting anywhere with the dispute Joseph submitted another Bill of Complaint. This was set against Elizabeth Harding, her daughters Elizabeth and Catherine, and the one remaining executer of William's will. In the Bill, Joseph argued that Elizabeth had enough funds to pay his demands previously raised in the original Bill. This second Bill was not answered nor was there any follow up. The probability is that Joseph did not get his legacy, as in the 18th century illegitimacy would affect a child's right to inherit and John would have known of Joseph's birth as a 'love child'.

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.)

Fieldwork Report

Mark Peryer

Preparations for the Society's 2019 excavations at the Stanchester Romano-British site are gathering pace. After comparing the results of the work so far against the original geophysics results, we have been encouraged that there is a good correlation between them. We have therefore decided that this year we will open up two fairly large trenches. One is aimed at defining a linear region, potentially of small buildings, adjacent to a large Iron Age enclosure ditch. And the other to explore a rectangular feature as well as the entrance to the Iron Age enclosure ditch. These trenches will be started by machine, and then we plan to excavate them during the four weeks that we plan to be on site.

The four weeks on site will be split into two, two-week, excavations. The first running 25 May - 8 June, the second running 17 - 31 August. If you would like to be involved in any way (digging, planning, finds-processing or just generally interested) then please contact either Ian Waite (email: waite52@live.co.uk tel: [07963 372989](tel:07963372989)) or Mark Peryer (email: markperyer@gmail.com, tel: 07770 832397).

CBA Wessex 2019 CONFERENCE

**'Sunrise Over the Stones: Recent Research into Neolithic and
Chalcolithic Wessex'**

Saturday 9 November at Bournemouth University.

Both members and non-members are welcome to attend our events, but as a member (which costs from just £10 per year) you will benefit from discounted rates. <https://cba-wessex.org.uk/events/>

Basingstoke Air Raid Precautions Post B1 (Burgess Road)

Bob Applin



Mary Oliver has recently been given a series of group photographs that were taken at the end of WW2 as an official record of part of the Civil Defence organisation in Basingstoke. Unfortunately, only one has the names of the participants and that is not the subject of this note. The photos have been provided by the family of Herbert Sterry Terrell (HST) the Senior Warden of post B1 which was situated in Burgess Road. In the photograph above, HST is the central figure in the first row with glasses. In the 1941 Kelly's Directory he is recorded as living in Darlington Road.

Included in the collection is a report from the *Hants & Berks Gazette* of Friday 7th September 1945 of the celebration held to mark the disbandment of the post (57 column inches of text) written by Arthur Saunders the editor of the paper who was one of the principal guests.

The celebration started with a Luncheon at the Baredown Hotel, Hook (now The Hampshire Country Hotel) where the Mayor & Mayoress (Cllr

& Mrs Alfred Kirk), Cllr WW Webber, the ARP Controller and others with the members of the post and their guests were treated to:-

Cream of Tomato
Roast Chicken and Bacon, Roast Potatoes
& Marrow au Gratin
Topsy Pudding & Rum Butter
Cheese & Biscuits
Ale & Minerals

Toasts and Speeches followed which were reported in almost word for word detail. Group photographs were taken and then the party, which had been transported to the Baredown in a Venture double-decker bus, boarded the bus to take them to Osterley Park Tube station. Petrol regulations prevented the bus going into central London.

In London the group split up to find tea and then attended the evening performance of George Black's Musical Farce 'Happy and Glorious' at the London Palladium.

Getting back to Osterley at 10.45pm they were driven back to Basingstoke, during which time *'sandwiches were handed round and from the upper deck there was the sound of singing and revelry'*.

Although not specifically stated, the members of the post were spending their 'social fund' (my assumption), and after the speeches a donation of £5-15s (about £250 today) was given to the Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind.

The photos will be deposited with the Hampshire Record Office and copies placed in the Willis Resources Room. Please let me know if you can identify anybody.



Basingstoke YAC Report January-March 2019 (and beyond)

Nikki Read

Well, the Young Archaeologists' club hit the New Year ground running, with a full on, fun-packed agenda – and a steady increase in membership to 17. What more could we hope for? Read on to see just what we've been up to...

January's session: 'Bring your ancestor to work day – mummification & preservation', led by Nikki: This session focussed on different types of mummification / preservation. The areas we touched on were the Egyptians, the Mayans, bog bodies and Otzi the ice mummy.

The YACsters were introduced to the concept of anaerobic conditions and how each of the mummies was created within its environment. Treatment of dead was also briefly looked at.

Group members then went on to take part in an Egyptian quiz, based on what they had just been listening to, winning amulets for correct answers.

The final part of the session involved the stripping out of the inside of oranges, drying them and then filling them full of salt, bicarb and spices such as cinnamon and cloves. The oranges were then wrapped in bandages, with the amulets from earlier being inserted between the layers. The YACsters now have these drying in their airing cupboards. The experiment is designed to show the process of mummification. The oranges will be looked at in later sessions.

February session: ‘Take a look around you – landscape & maps’, led by Penny: In this session we wanted to introduce the reasons behind parch/crop marks - what they could signify and how they occur.

We enlisted the help of David Hopkins, who supplied us with some maps of Basingstoke over different time periods. This enabled us to show the children how certain features within the landscape remain whilst other change over time. We also discussed the difference between natural and manmade features, and found out how maps can tell us a lot about settlement and spread, from clues in place names and their positioning in relation to rivers, hills etc. This part of the session built upon the November session of the development of settlements.

Penny then led an experiment to show how parch marks are formed, whereby the YACsters created in a foil tray a feature out of stones, such as a wall. This was then covered by soil, on top of which cress seeds were sown. YAC members were then encouraged to take the trays home to grow the seeds and see how underlying features affect the growth of ‘the crops/grass’ above them. They were therefore able to explain to their parents how archaeologists are able to detect sub-surface features. We did ask for them to send in photos of their ‘fields’ but sadly no one did.

March session: Something Fishy - Underwater Archaeology – led by Nikki and Penny: This session was scheduled to have been delivered by Cathy and Wessex Archaeology. Unfortunately, a new session had to be devised at short notice, as Wessex pulled out due to lack of available staff. Nikki ran the first part of the session and explained the similarities and differences between land based and underwater archaeology. We looked at The Black Sea Project – location, purpose and some of its finds. The varied amount of professionals/skilled personnel that it takes to run such a project was also touched on, showing various potential career paths.

The YACsters then completed an exercise on stratigraphy to begin to give them a sense of the order in which things may be laid down over time. Penny’s second half also looked at context/stratigraphy and then went on to look at the problems of visibility in underwater archaeology. Penny

devised an exercise whereby, in groups, the YACsters set up a 1m x 1m trench. They then placed some artefacts within the 1m² area. The trenches were then covered by thin material to hamper ‘visibility’ and the groups moved round to a different trench. Once there, they had to wear goggles that were masked by fabric, again to make visibility difficult. They then had to draw/plot the finds in the trench as best as possible from what they could see.



Still to come... Milestones visit, Potty about Pots and a trip to Longbridge Mill...and not forgetting our Sponsored event! Walk around Roman Silchester – 14 April 1pm-3pm

We have also been extremely busy preparing our fund-raising event for the CBA/YAC HQ. YAC members and their families have been invited to attend a sponsored walk to help us raise money. It will involve one ‘lap’ of the walls, (a shorter, half route is available) whilst completing a quiz. There

will be activities in the amphitheatre and a refreshment stop in the churchyard of St Marys's, supported by ASDA. YAC members completing the walk will receive a goodie bag and certificate of participation and we would like to thank ASDA for their help in providing some of the fillers for the goodie bags, as part of their work within the community.

We would also like to thank the Revd Robert Young of St Mary the Virgin for his support, - they are even lending us a table for our refreshment stand! We have set up a JustGiving page, and are welcoming support and or sponsorship from anyone who would like to donate. <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/yacbasingstoke>

Wish us luck and hope for a dry day!



Hadrian's Wall *Nicola Turton*

I hope members will forgive a little self-publicity – but on 9 May I will be travelling north to start My Great Attempt on Hadrian's Wall.

As many of you will know, in 2006 we very nearly lost Alan to kidney cancer, and now my father is fighting bone marrow cancer. And when I started to count how many friends and family have had or are fighting cancer, I quickly ran out of fingers and toes on which to count. And that breaks my heart.

To that end, I will be walking in aid of Cancer Research UK. I'll be taking 9-days, as I have psoriatic arthritis and prefer to be gentle on myself.

If anyone would care to donate to Cancer Research UK please use this link: <https://fundraise.cancerresearchuk.org/page/nicolas-giving-page-627> or collar me at a meeting. Or just wish me well; it will be nice to have everyone's best wishes in my rucksack!

A Message from Your Membership Secretary:

Dear Member

I hope by now that you will realise that there are new regulations concerning keeping membership records and that we need your permission to do that. The committee have devised a membership form to comply with these regulations and many of you have already completed this form. I have by now been in touch by email with every member that has not completed a form.

I would therefore be most grateful if those I have contacted would complete the form and return it to me as soon as possible. This can be done by post, email or at a meeting. There is no requirement for anymore subscriptions until 1st September 2019.

If you have already completed this form, there is no need to complete a further one, and unless the regulations change again, there are also no plans to ask for you to complete any more forms.

Thank you all for your help with an onerous task.

Steve Kirby, BAHS Membership Secretary.

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SUMMER 1919: AN ENDING AND A BEGINNING - Significant Events as Reported by the *Hants & Berks* *Colin Williams*

Early summer 1919: negotiations to conclude the Great War are nearing the end and will result in the signing of the Treaty of Versailles on 28th June. Locally the temper of that time is revealed by the *Hants & Berks* of 24th June with its

paragraph headings of GERMAN CRIMES EMPHASISED, WARFARE BY ATROCITY, PIRACY, SLAVERY, BARBARITIES, THE LUST FOR TYRANNY, and so on. However, striking a more upbeat note is the report in the adjoining column -

ATLANTIC AIR FLIGHT.

BRITISH AIRMEN'S SUCCESS.

1,900 MILES IN 16 HOURS.

The first direct Transatlantic flight from America to Europe has been achieved by Captain Alcock, D.S.C., a Manchester pilot, flying the Vickers Vimy-Rolls aeroplane, with Lieutenant Brown as navigator. The record is briefly:

Left Newfoundland coast Saturday, 5.23 p.m.

Arrived Clifden, Galway, Sunday, 9.40 a.m.

Newfoundland to Galway, 1,880 miles.

Total flying time, 16h. 12min.

Average speed, 116 miles per hour.

Thus the honours of the direct Atlantic crossing go to a British pilot and navigator and to a British-built machine. Captain Alcock's performance also sets up a new record for non-stop distance flights, the previous record being that made by Lieutenant-Commander Read, of the NC4, who in the first stage of the Newfoundland-Azores-Lisbon flight flew 1,380 miles in 15h. 18min.

The flight gains the prize of £10,000 offered by the *Daily Mail* for the Transatlantic crossing.

PREVIOUS ATTEMPTS.

Earlier attempts to cross the Atlantic were:

The NC4, the American naval seaplane, left Trepassy Bay, Newfoundland, on May 16th. It did the journey in stages, Trepassy to Azores, Azores to Lisbon, Lisbon to Plymouth. Reached Plymouth May 31st.

Mr. Hawker, who was accompanied by Commander Grieve, left St. John's, Newfoundland, on Sunday, May 18th, and flew just over 1,100 miles across the Atlantic. Then owing to trouble in the water pipe if his engine fell into the sea, and was rescued by the Danish ship *Mary*. He took just over fourteen hours to do the distance of 1,100 miles.

A 'benefit' of the war had been the development of aircraft: Bleriot's 1909 hop across the Channel had been surpassed by airships, particularly Zeppelins, and Vickers Vimy and German Gotha bombers; and now the opportunity arose to divert such long-range aircraft to peaceful use.

An inducement was offered by the *Daily Mail*: a prize of £10,000 for the first non-stop flight across the Atlantic. As reported by the *Hants & Berks* this was achieved in June by pilot Alcock and navigator Brown in their Vickers Vimy.

Also, the *Hants & Berks* reports the flight in May of the United States Navy Curtis No. 4 flying boat; with US NC 1 and 2 it had flown from Newfoundland for the Azores but Nos. 1 and 2 ditched leaving No.4 to reach Horta; after a delay it continued to Lisbon and on to Plymouth where at the Barbican, then the fishing harbour, a commemorative plaque records the flight.

USNC 4 was therefore the first aircraft to cross the Atlantic but having done so in stages did not qualify for the *Daily Mail* prize. These flights indicated that trans-Atlantic passenger carrying aircraft could become reality.



*Vickers Vimy being assembled at
St. John's, Newfoundland, 1919*
<http://www.aviation-history.com>

Monitoring of Drainage Works at St Peter's Church, Farnborough

J. M. Paddon

Recently a new drain was inserted to relieve the brick gutter installed in 1901 when the south aisle and transepts were built. The line of the new drain was carefully selected to run at the edge of the excavation for that extension. The grave-yard, set around the church, on a Bronze Age barrow, was closed in 1860 when it was saturated by the deaths of those returning from the Crimean War.

The line for the new drain was planned to run through disturbed ground from the building and from grave digging. Within this material a small quantity of Border Ware was found and some other sherds; Redware, sandstone tile (thin), a piece of pipe stem and bleached-looking 18th/19th fragment of a plate rim. More scattered bones were found including a trio of skulls with heavy jaws. The bones, which are scattered relics from long-disturbed graves, were reinterred in three groups related to the section where they were found: first under the south door path and secondly under the rodding-eye where the line curved to exit the barrow by the lych-gate where the holly hedge provided shelter for the last bones, while the water disappears through a small grating.



J. M. Paddon is a past chairman of NEHHAS and participated in two previous excavations on the east face of the barrow, where tip lines suggested this was where the 1965 extension spoil was tipped. John will be available at meetings to answer any questions readers may have.

2019 DIARY DATES

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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Registered Charity no. 11000263

MEETINGS *Church Cottage, Basingstoke at 7.30pm*

9 May **DATING CAVE PAINTINGS – Professor Alistair Pike**

18 June **EXCAVATIONS AT DATCHETT – Gareth Chaffey**

FRIENDS OF THE WILLIS MUSEUM

At 7.30 pm Willis Museum, Basingstoke

16 May **THE LIFE AND TIMES OF THE DUKE OF
WELLINGTON: Diana White**

20 June **TALES OF THE UNEXPECTED PART 1: Alan Copeland**

18 July **COMMANDER CRABB –
WHAT REALLY HAPPENED: Dr John Bevan**