

Newsletter Number 232

August 2020

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*In Memory of
Marija Currell
1950-2020*



Some Words from the Chair

I hope and trust that this newsletter finds you safe and well.

Earlier in the year, we had hoped to be able to resume near normal life in the autumn, including holding lecture meetings at Church Cottage, but that is looking increasingly unlikely. Therefore, the committee has decided to hold a virtual AGM on the 17th September over Zoom. We realise that not everyone has internet access and that virtual meetings are a substitute for face to face encounters but this is the best we can do in the circumstances. With this newsletter you should receive the various papers and reports that we would normally review during the AGM. The details for the Zoom meeting will be sent out nearer the time. Voting forms will also be sent out separately by email. Please may I encourage you to return your voting forms by the deadline of 10th September, and if you have any questions that you would like to raise at the AGM please could we have those by the same date.

When you read the AGM calling notice you should realise that we are actively seeking new committee members. If you would like to contribute to the society in this way then I should be very happy to talk to you.

In order to encourage more member involvement, we are setting up a number of new sub-committees to cover specific areas of interest. The sub-committees are trips and events; publications; history; lecture evenings and fieldwork. These sub-committees have been seeded with main committee members but we would really value contributions from yourselves. Speaking personally, I always find that the more you put into something, the more you get back, and I am sure that you would find the same.

Our lecture season will resume in September but it will be a virtual meeting, with the notices and lecture broadcast via Zoom and a limited potential to ask questions. Until the Covid19 situation improves, lecture meetings will be virtual, although there may be deviations from the advertised programme. As soon as it is feasible, we will transition back to “normal” meetings, but that will not be until we feel that it is safe to do so.

Mark Peryer –Tel: 07770 832397, email: markperyer@gmail.com

Letter from the Editor

After five years I have decided to stand down as Editor. I would like to thank all those who have contributed pieces to the newsletter. Especial thanks are due to Bob Applin who will continue to distribute the electronic and paper copies and to my dear friend Derick Murfin who valiantly volunteered as my proof-reader and taught me much about being a newsletter editor. Good luck to my successor, Penny Ingham.

Nicola Turton

BAHS Subscriptions

The new membership year is now upon us starting from the 1st September 2020. If you do not pay by standing order, I would be grateful that you forward your membership subscription as soon as possible. Membership fees remain the same as last year. Payment methods:

1. Either direct to BAHS Bank Account:
Sort code 30 90 53
Account number 00932097
Making the reference your name
2. Or, by cheque payable to BAHS direct to me at:
1 Mothes Houses
The Green
Tadley
Hants RG26 3PQ

Thank you for your co-operation.
Steve Kirby, BAHS Membership Secretary

In memory of Marija Currell 1950-2020

It is with great sadness that we must report the death of BAHS member, Marija Currell. Marija had enormous enthusiasm for life, and her many interests included poetry, music, motorbikes and archaeology. She unearthed her favourite find at the Maryport Roman vicus site: a Roman spearhead wedged between stones at the back of what is thought to have been a shop. The spearhead is now on display in the Maryport museum. Marija also loved to travel, one of her favourite places being Orkney and its Neolithic sites.

A skilled and stalwart digger at Stanchester, even temperatures well in excess of 30 degrees did not dampen her enthusiasm. When everyone else had wilted, she remained ever-cheerful and hard at work under a makeshift awning. Marija's many friends recollect with great affection her good nature, her compassion and her unstinting kindness. She will also be remembered for her unfailing ability to brighten up everyone's day by being so full of fun: from friendly rivalries as to who arrived the earliest at Stanchester and therefore parked closest to the tent, to her wicked banter in the trench. Her positive outlook, her strength and courage in adversity, especially during her final months, made her an inspiration to all who knew her. She will be sorely missed and our sincere condolences go out to all her family.



*Marija hard at work
on the Stanchester
dig in 2019.
(Photos courtesy of
Annabel Stowe)*

Virtual Heritage

Penny Ingham

Heritage sites and museums across the country are beginning to re-open at last, but we are still a long way from the resumption of ‘normal service.’ So, for those who prefer, here’s a small selection of the many excellent resources available online.

Archaeology

The theme for this year’s CBA Festival of Archaeology is Climate and Environment. On the ground events have been pushed back to late October but a comprehensive programme of digital lectures events went out online. Many of these (including a two-part ‘Tour of Roman London’ by London’s Inspector of Ancient Monuments, Dr Jane Siddell) are still available at: <https://festival.archaeologyuk.org/>

The Hampshire Cultural Trust contributed to the Festival with a series of posts on the conservation of the Late Iron Age Oakley Hoard, which was initially excavated by a BAHS team led by Ian Waite.

<https://collections.hampshireculture.org.uk/topic/conservation-case-study-oakley-ward-claire-woodhead>

<https://www.cultureoncall.com/the-oakley-ward-1/>

<https://www.cultureoncall.com/the-oakley-ward-2/>

<https://www.cultureoncall.com/the-oakley-ward-3/>

Or why not search the Portable Antiquities Scheme database for finds from Hampshire?

<https://finds.org.uk/database/search/results/countyID/17765>

Historical Research

For those interested in research, a good place to start would be the National Archives.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/TheNationalArchivesUK/playlists> includes videos on researching your family history and, intriguingly, UFO file releases.

In the same vein, Barry Shurlock of the Hampshire Field Club has produced an excellent webinar on how to make the most of the many

national and local archives available online, including the Hampshire Record Office in Winchester, and the University of Leicester's website <http://specialcollections.le.ac.uk> which features the Hampshire Directory of 1784 and the Directory of Hampshire and the Isle of Wight 1859: http://www.hantsfieldclub.org.uk/media/Archives-Shurlock20-07-01.mp4?fbclid=IwAR0V_sMOHru52Ytc0CElCCruKjH6wr81XrpcD_uPk_oq6qZuULjMyKn2rrUU

Museums

All 23 of the Hampshire Cultural Trust's attractions have re-opened. There are social distancing measures in place, with reduced opening hours and advance booking required. But for those who prefer, their collections can be viewed at: www.collections.hampshireculture.org.uk

Jane Austen's House at Chawton reopens on 8th August, pre-booking required. An appeal has so far raised £75,000, giving tangible hope for its survival. Their unparalleled collection of objects relating to her life, ranging from books and letters to furniture, clothing and painting, can be browsed at: www.janeaustens.house

Butser Ancient Farm near Petersfield specialises in experimental archaeology. It is open with reduced visiting hours and pre-booked tickets only. Its latest build is a reconstruction of a Neolithic house based on an archaeological footprint from Wessex Archaeology's Kingsmead Quarry site at Horton, Berkshire, which boasts some of the finest Early Neolithic buildings in the country.

Wessex Archaeology has been working in partnership with Butser Ancient Farm and you can follow the progress of the build at:

www.butserancientfarm.co.uk/butser-blog



The British Museum is currently closed, but there is a treasure trove of collections to explore at: www.britishmuseum.org Highlights include ‘Pompeii Live’ - a tour of the 2013 blockbuster exhibition ‘Life and Death in Pompeii and Herculaneum’; and ‘Objects in 3D’, including the Rosetta Stone and the Lewis Chessmen.

Educational Resources

Futurelearn offer free, online courses run by some of the most prestigious universities in the world.

Archaeology courses include: ‘Archaeology: from Dig to Lab and beyond’ (run by the university of Reading and featuring the latest discoveries in the Vale of Pewsey); ‘Hadrian’s Wall, life on the Roman frontier’; ‘Rome: a virtual tour of the ancient city’ and ‘Exploring Stone Age Archaeology: the mysteries of Star Carr.’

History courses include: ‘The Book of Kells’; ‘The Tudors’, and ‘England in the Time of Richard III’.

www.futurelearn.com/courses

Expert lectures from the Society of Antiquaries’ back catalogue, encompassing a huge range of archaeological subjects, can be watched at: www.youtube.com/user/SocAntiquaries

Heritage and Archaeological Sites

- Check out the National Trust Curators’ Blog.
www.nationaltrust.org.uk/blogs/curators-blog
- Stroll through the Roman baths at Bath.
www.romanbaths.co.uk/discover .
- Take a look at Wessex Archaeology’s YouTube channel which features 360 degree heritage landscape videos including Old Sarum hillfort and Salisbury Cathedral, and much more.
<https://www.youtube.com/user/wessexarchaeology>:
- Or accompany Dan Snow and Chief Yeoman Warder Alan Kingshott on a guided tour of the Tower of London.
www.youtube.com/watch?v=yeLQVare-3k

Arthur Charrett: Basingstoke's first scout leader

David Hopkins

Arthur Charrett, Basingstoke's first scout leader, was born in Hurstbourne Tarrant on the 8th January 1879 to George James Charrett and his wife Ellen, nee Baverstock. He was their third child and had two older sisters, Ellen and Sara Rose. He would later have a younger sister called Daisy and a younger brother called Frank. George, his father, was the grandson of a wheelwright from Bishops Sutton just outside Winchester and had been a tailor, but by the time Arthur was born he was a Congregational Minister.

The family was still in Hurstbourne Tarrant two years later at the census of 1881, but by 1891 they had moved to Dibden in the New Forest, residing at 31 Newtown Villas. The Charrett family then moved to Emsworth, but in the 1901 census, Arthur is living in Guildford and working as an assistant in a music shop.

In 1910 Arthur, now an organ and piano tuner, married Agnes Lucy Macdonald. They lived at 6 Lyndon Villas, Bounty Road in Basingstoke. By this time he was already a scout leader. He and his wife remained at this address in the 1911 census, and were still there when he enlisted in the army in 1915. On the 24th March 1914 they had a son, Macdonald Arthur Charrett, who went on to become a successful and well regarded doctor.



In 1915, aged 36, he joined the Durham Light Infantry. On his short service attestation form, his profession is still a piano tuner, and his height is given as 5 feet 2 inches. It seems very likely that he joined the 19th, Bantam, Battalion of the Durham Light Infantry, as previously the minimum height for military service was 5 feet 3 inches. This was reduced in 1915 - Arthur signed up just as the DLI was forming its Bantam battalion of shorter men who now qualified in the north. Arthur reported to the DLI at Winchester in June 1916, at the same time as the 19th Battalion arrived at Salisbury Plain to train at

Perham Down. They moved to the trenches in the Somme area and saw much hard fighting during the war.

After the war Arthur must have moved profession, because when his wife Agnes died on 27th February 1925, aged only 41, he is recorded in probate records as being a chemist's assistant, (presumably working at the Wote Street chemist).

In March 1934 Arthur married Gladys Cogwell Burge, who was 15 years his junior and from Cirencester. They married in Basingstoke but by the late 1930s they had moved to Horsham where Arthur ran a dispensing chemist shop at 31 East Street. His son, the doctor, is registered at this address whilst serving as a doctor in the RAF(VR) working at Park Prewett Hospital in Basingstoke in 1940. Arthur is listed as a Senior Air Raid Warden in Horsham in 1939.



He continued as a scout leader in Horsham where he was known as 'Pop' Charrett. It was as ADC to Horsham Scouts that he was awarded his Silver Wolf. This was announced in the April 1956 edition of the Scouter magazine, and the citation states: "A Charrett A D C Horsham District, in recognition of his services of the most exceptional character in Sussex and Hampshire over a period of 47 years".

Arthur and Gladys retired to 45 St Leonard Road, Horsham, where Gladys died on the 19th November 1971. Arthur died two years later, but the exact date could not be given, and the record states that he was last seen alive on the 31st of August and his dead body was found on the 1st of September.

He was 95 years old.

(Photos courtesy of Horsham Scouts)

YAC Update

Nikki Read

What a bizarre year it has been! Despite all that has occurred our current membership still stands at 20 children, and we currently have 6/7 young people on the waiting list. As many of our plans have been scuppered for this season, it is nice to reflect back on the two sessions that we did manage to run prior to lockdown.

With the theme of 'Territory', January saw us take the YACsters across to the Basingstoke War Memorial, where they learnt a little about the history of the memorial itself, and how and why it came into being. They also studied the names listed and we collectively took a moment to remember the lost.

From there we made our way down to the Discovery Centre. The original idea was to borrow some of their laptops so that we could research the names on the memorial. However due to a countywide 'glitch' in the computer system, we were unable to log on.

Never to be daunted by technology going awry, our intrepid YACsters and volunteers all whipped out their mobile phones and used them instead to research the CWGC website.



Once a soldier's name had been correctly matched, the children were able to find out more about the soldier's life, including what theatre of war they fought in, where they were buried, and for some, where they lived in Basingstoke at the time of signing up. Armed with this information the children were then able to plot on a 1911 map of Basingstoke where each soldier had resided and on a 1918 WW1 map, where the soldier died.

Being able to look at a soldier's journey in this way was incredibly powerful and helped the children to engage in the activity and ask lots of questions. Some even continued their research at home – which was brilliant!

In February we were joined by the lovely Mike Whitty as we explored the theme of Typology. Penny cleverly devised a starter activity where the YACsters had to categorise mobile phones according to their own typology! Well – never has there been such a range of 'oooo's' and 'ahhhh's' muttered from the children as they eagerly rifled through the array of mobiles that we had managed to collect between us. Words such as 'android', 'smart' and 'slidey', became the hot topic of debate as the phones were sorted and re-sorted into suitable categories.



Then it was time for Mike to charm us with all things sparkly – coins! The children were treated to a magical session of coin recognition and handling, as Mike patiently explained about the various coin styles, told us about when and where they were minted, and ultimately showed us how to work out what each one said about the ruler at the time. It was fascinating and the children were really absorbed and had some excellent questions to put to Mike.

The YACsters then put their own artistic skills to the test by designing their own coins. The finished results ranged from warriors to football and the whole thing was great fun! Finally, the children ended by making themselves a piece of ‘jewellery’ in a typology style. Where would we be without garden wire and tin foil? The end products were...interesting!

Suddenly, Covid 19 hit Britain and things started to shut down, meaning that our final T – Technology – couldn’t go ahead as planned. We sadly had to cancel our medieval tile making trip to Pots2Paint, but if restrictions have lifted sufficiently over the summer, we hope to visit there in September. Our summer expedition to the Mary Rose also had to be postponed but we hope to be going there very soon.

In the meantime, we have kept in touch with our YACsters, informing them of online activities – the museums have been brilliant for this. And we have just sent out information regarding the virtual ‘Festival of Archaeology’, so hopefully some of them will get involved with that too.

We have also had lots of support from YAC HQ, who have been busy keeping us up to date with activities and protocol. So for the time being,



all we can do is dream of digging and rummaging around on spoil heaps, but one day – and hopefully soon – we will be able to open our doors once more to all our YACsters – and I bet they’ve all grown taller than me, Penny and Paul!!

Congregationalism in Worting c.1840 to 1965: A Brief History

Roger Ottewill

The intriguing article about Worting, published in the last edition of the *Newsletter*, included a photograph of Worting Town End that provided a tantalising glimpse of a chapel. As mentioned, the building still exists and 'is now a Welding Supplies outfit'.¹ Until 1965, however, it was home to the Congregationalists of the village.

For over 100 years, Congregationalism played an important part in the religious life of Worting. Although the cause was overseen by an evangelist attached to, and receiving support from, London Street Congregational Church in Basingstoke, for much of the time it had, in keeping with the principles of Congregationalism, a degree of independence. This article provides a short account of its history drawing primarily on reports from local newspapers, in particular the *Hants and Berks Gazette*, and records from the London Street United Reformed Church (URC) archive.² At the time of the 1851 Religious Census, there was already an Independent/Congregational presence in Worting.

The entry reads: "**663 Cottage House, Worting. Independent.**

Not used exclusively for worship, it is a dwelling House. Evening (attendance) 26. Alfred Johnson, Minister of London Street Chapel, Basingstoke (who completed the return)".³

As was common practice in the early days of a Nonconformist cause, a room in a private house was used for gatherings. Precisely when these began, however, has not been established. The year 1840 in the title of this

¹ Richenda Power, 'Worting Scrapbook abridged', *Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society Newsletter*, No. 231, 16. The Basingstoke Welding Supplies website confirms that the company's address is 'The Old Chapel', see <http://www.basingstokewelding.co.uk/> (accessed 4 May 2020).

² Since 1972 London Street has been a United Reformed Church (URC).

³ John A Vickers (ed.), *The Religious Census of Hampshire 1851* (Winchester: Hampshire County Council, 1993), 181.

article is a ‘guesstimate’. Later a chapel was erected - probably in 1872.⁴ The chapel’s location at Worting Town End, on the Basingstoke side of the Worting parish boundary, is shown in Figure 1.

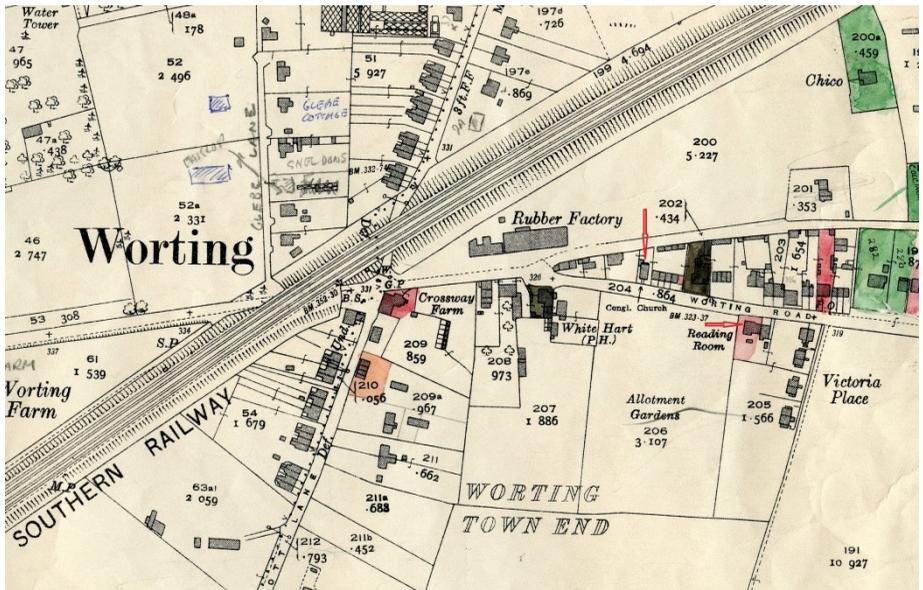


Figure 1: Extract from an Ordnance Survey map of 1932 showing the location of Chapel in relation to other buildings at Worting Town End (Courtesy of Alastair Blair)

A newspaper report of the funeral of John Curtis in 1904 records the minister of London Street Congregational Church, the Revd Capes Tarbolton, as saying that: ‘He [i.e. Curtis] was deeply interested in the village work, for the furtherance of which he built the two chapels at Worting and Pyott’s Hill at his own expense.’⁵ The Worting chapel was a very simple building which, data from Hampshire Congregational Union (HCU) reports indicate, could accommodate about 90 worshippers (see Figure 2).

⁴ This is the year shown in the records of the Hampshire Congregational Union.

⁵ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 13 February 1904.



Figure 2: The chapel in c.1905 (Courtesy of Alastair Blair and Lynn Martin)

Until 1965 the building served as not only a place of worship but also a venue for meetings of various kinds, including entertainments. Reports suggest that there were on occasions plans to rebuild the chapel at some point, but none of these seem to have come to fruition.⁶ During the 19th and well into the 20th century the chapel had a loyal congregation and received support from some of the leading families in the area, such as Mr and Mrs Hobbs of Crossways Farm.

Important events in the life of the chapel included anniversary celebrations. In 1883, these ‘proved to be one of the greatest successes that ... [had] been achieved in connection with the cause in this place’.⁷ Another annual event, which frequently attracted considerable interest, was harvest festival. In 1908, although the ‘morning service [was] not well attended ... the Chapel was packed with attentive listeners in the Evening’.⁸ In keeping with the harvest theme, as it was put in a report from 1920, the chapel was ‘very tastefully decorated’⁹ with flowers and produce, which were subsequently sold to raise funds.

⁶ In November 1933, for example, a sale of work was held in ‘aid of Chapel Funds and the New Building Fund’. *Basingstoke and North Hants Congregational Magazine*, Vol. 26 (New Series), No. 11, November 1933, 9.

⁷ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 9 June 1883.

⁸ *Basingstoke and District Congregational Magazine*, Vol.1 (New Series), No. 10, October 1908, unpaginated.

⁹ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 9 October 1920.

The embellishment of the chapel at harvest time is illustrated in a photograph from 1914 (see Figure 3).



Figure 3: The chapel decorated for Harvest in 1914 (Courtesy of Alastair Blair)

For much of its history, the chapel sponsored a Sunday school, which was probably established in 1884.¹⁰ Thereafter, Sunday school anniversaries, treats and outings were eagerly anticipated. For example, an outing to Southsea in July 1923 was an occasion of ‘great excitement’ since many of the children ‘had never been to the seaside’. It was a ‘perfect day’ with ‘no hitches anywhere in any of the arrangements’. Transported by three charabancs, two for children and teachers and one for parents, once they had arrived, the children were treated to trips in a rowing boat and ‘bathed and paddled and had a great time’. Tea was provided in one of the cafés.¹¹ Regarding the number of scholars, after 1917, when figures were published, a high point of 90 was reached in the mid-1920s.

¹⁰ During April an entertainment was held as part of efforts to establish a Sunday school. *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 19 April 1884.

¹¹ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 21 July 1923.

Another organisation which was well supported was a 'Women's Own'. Its meetings continued throughout the Second World War. On 7 May 1940 a visit from the Salvation Army Home League was 'an outstanding event, worthy of note' with the visitors presenting 'a very full programme of solos, recitations, etc., which was much appreciated by ... members'.¹² Such occasions undoubtedly helped to boost morale during this very difficult period.

From its earliest days, chapel members welcomed groups from other churches to lead services and provide entertainment. These included the London Street Congregational Choir in 1889;¹³ and later, particularly during the inter-war years, the Salvation Army Songsters and Baughurst Primitive Methodist Band. As an example, in 1929, the latter 'led the singing, and their music was greatly appreciated'.¹⁴

The chapel survived the 1939-45 War and continued to serve what was probably a diminishing congregation in the years that followed. Certainly, membership was down to single figures.

However, during the 1950s the statistics show that the Sunday school enjoyed a resurgence of interest with 40 scholars being recorded in 1957, but this was not sustained and by the 1960s numbers had declined to a handful.

In 1965 it was reported that 'a letter had been received from the Student Pastors Association of the [Congregational] Union, to the effect that it would no longer be possible to arrange for a Student Pastor at Worting, on the termination of Miss Pullin's period of service'.¹⁵ This effectively brought to an end the Congregational ministry at Worting Chapel.

¹² *Basingstoke and North Hants Congregational Magazine*, Vol.33 (New Series), No. 6, June 1940, 7.

¹³ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 28 September 1889.

¹⁴ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 6 July 1929.

¹⁵ London Street Congregational Church Minutes, 3 March 1965, London Street URC Archive



*Figure 4: The chapel building today.
(Courtesy of Bob Applin)*

That said, the building has had an ‘afterlife’. It was leased for ‘a short time to the Buckskin Christian Association’¹⁶ and then to the British Red Cross.¹⁷ It survives to this day and, as previously indicated, is currently used for commercial purposes (see Figure 4). In addition, at London Street URC, the chapel is memorialised in the Worting Room.

Acknowledgements:

Grateful thanks are due to Bob Applin, Alastair Blair, Jean Holton, Lynn Martin and Richenda Power for their varied contributions to this article.

¹⁶ London Street Congregational Church Minutes, 1 March 1972, London Street URC Archive.

¹⁷ London Street Congregational Church Minutes, 31 May 1972, London Street URC Archive.

Forthcoming BAHS Lecture Programme

We are delighted to announce the details of our lecture programme from September through to next June. Three of the talks were postponed from last spring and given the current uncertainty we have taken the decision to present the September and October talks live online via Zoom. By November we hope we can all meet in person but if this still proves difficult we are planning more online talks until we can meet again. Full details of how to log in to the Zoom presentations will be emailed to members nearer the time and so we ask that you check you have given us your correct email address, particularly if you think it has changed since you last contacted us.

September 10th Land of the White Horse

David Miles Former Chief Archaeologist for English Heritage

The White Horse at Uffington, a giant, sinuous hill figure has mystified and inspired in equal measure for centuries. Once thought to mark the victory of Alfred's Saxon army over the Danes, investigations in the late 1980s and 1990s placed it between the late Bronze Age and middle Iron Age. David Miles, who took part in those excavations, weaves archaeology, science, history, mythology and literature together to give us the origins, historiography, and significance of the White Horse.

October 8th Stanchester So Far

Mark Peryer, BAHS

Known from at least the 19th century, this enigmatic site near the Candovers on the chalk downs of Hampshire has revealed Iron Age ditches and pits and the foundations of a Roman building. Following several seasons of excavation by BAHS members, Mark brings us up to date with what has been found so far and what the site might represent.

November 12th The Scythians – nomad warriors of the Steppe

Prof. Sir Barry Cunliffe, Emeritus Professor, University of Oxford

Brilliant horsemen and great fighters, the Scythians were nomadic horsemen who ranged wide across the grasslands of the Asian steppe from the Altai mountains in the east to the Great Hungarian Plain in the first

millennium BC. Sir Barry's talk will immerse us in the splendour and vitality of this ancient culture.

December 10th The Mapledurwell Treasure: its place amongst coin hoards of the English Civil War

Dr Barrie Cook, British Museum

This local discovery by a Canadian visitor out with his metal detector made the Archaeology in Britain TV programme and the expert at the British Museum who talked to Alice Roberts about it has kindly agreed to come and talk to us too.

January 14th Roundabout Basingstoke - timber framed buildings in and around Basingstoke

Bill Fergie, Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust

Our speaker will guide us through many of the timber framed buildings that still exist within the town, ranging from Anchor Court, built before 1400, to Church Cottage, the grandest of them all, built in 1527.

February 11th Settlement and Agriculture at Milton Heights: archaeological discoveries at Milton Heights, Oxfordshire

Susan Porter, MOLA

Archaeological excavations undertaken prior to construction of a housing development have revealed evidence of activity from the Middle Bronze Age to the Early Medieval period. This activity allows us an insight into the changing landscape of the Milton Heights area through the ages. In this talk, the lead site archaeologist will outline the key periods of activity and highlight important archaeological features and finds from the site.

March 11th A Nation in Crisis - the Stephen & Matilda Wars 1135-1154

Don Bryan, Independent historian

When King Henry died there was a dispute as to who should be crowned king. Henry's two legitimate sons were drowned in "The White Ship" disaster in 1120. After this event Henry forced the barons of England to swear an oath of allegiance that upon his death the crown should go to his last legitimate heir, his daughter Matilda. Despite these oaths, when Henry

died, his nephew Stephen de Blois, William the Conqueror's grandson, claimed the throne of England. There followed a 19 year Civil War which ended in a stalemate. The talk follows this Civil War in some detail, especially the events that happened in Winchester.

April 8th A royal precursor to Windsor Castle? Excavations at Old Windsor in the 1950s: the excavator, the archive and the future

Roland Smith, Berkshire Archaeology

Between 1953 and 1958 Dr Brian Hope-Taylor carried out a series of excavations at Kingsbury, Old Windsor, with the aim of uncovering the location of the historically recorded royal palace of Edward the Confessor. The work revealed continuous Saxon occupation from the seventh century. However, the details of what Hope Taylor found in the 1950s have never been fully explored, until now.

May 13th The Writing on the Wall - looking at the work and findings of the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project

Karen Wardley, Coordinator for the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project

Modern graffiti receives a bad press but in the medieval period it seems to have been an acceptable way for people to express their beliefs and hopes in a tangible and lasting form. Later, as literacy increased, it was also a way of recording one's presence, with initials and dates. Despite the name of the project, all graffiti found are recorded and to date over 50 buildings within the county have been surveyed.

June 10th The Influence of the Church on the Emergence of North Hampshire Towns

Derek Spruce, Local historian

When Derek told us he was hanging up his lecturing hat after many years sharing his landscape and historical knowledge, it seemed only right to have one more talk from him. He has a great interest in our local north Hampshire towns and their growth and development and the different influences which shaped them: minster churches, geographical factors, royal connections and more.

Multi-period site at Netherhouse Copse, Fleet

Tony Wright

In October 2018, Thames Valley Archaeological Services Ltd. (TVAS) returned to Fleet to undertake an archaeological evaluation in Hitches Lane on behalf of Berkeley Homes (Southern) Ltd. Two years earlier, TVAS had been in Hitches Lane on a similar exercise in which they uncovered a Middle Bronze Age pit circle and field system, as well as evidence of a Roman settlement in the form of a large farm dwelling. The 2018 evaluation took place over a 21-hectare site, this time on the opposite side of Hitches Lane, and located just north of Netherhouse Copse.

Their findings suggested that there was occupation on the site from at least the Middle Bronze Age (750 BC) to the early Roman period, though not necessarily continuous. Significant features included the remains of a Middle Bronze Age round barrow containing sherds from a bucket-shaped cremation urn, and contemporary with linear ditches.

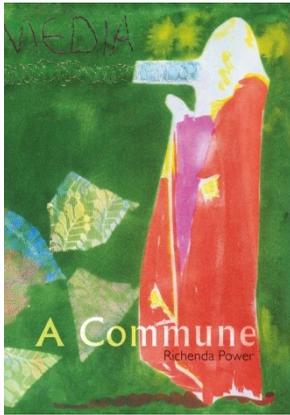
Only one context was tentatively dated to the Middle-Late Iron Age (350-100 BC) because of the small groups of pottery sherds found. However, the main phase of activity probably occurred in the Roman period, identified from a loom-weight and a small assemblage of imported pottery dated to the Early Roman period (1st – 2nd centuries AD), as well as a larger group of sherds originating from the Alice Holt kilns.

As to the Post-Medieval period, (post-AD 1500) only a few sherds were found, well distributed across the site, from the Surrey/Hampshire Border Industry (Borderware) and may represent farm scatter.

Over 180 trenches were excavated, demonstrating the scale of the evaluation. In their conclusions TVAS commented that the site had further archaeological potential. Their reports can be accessed on-line from the Archaeological Data Service archive.

References:

Pine, J, 2016, *A Middle Bronze Age Pit Circle and Field System, Roman Settlement at Hitches Lane, Fleet, Hampshire*, TVAS Occas Pap **12**, Reading.



‘A 1969 experiment in living, told as a novel,’ by Richenda Power

BAHS member Richenda Power’s latest publication is a novel entitled ‘*Commune*’. It tells the story of a rather ascetic group of people. Their days are filled with eating brown rice after getting up early to meditate at dawn. Inspired by ‘Gandalf’s Garden’, the nineteen sixties ‘spiritual scene magazine’, they see themselves as counterculture to the counterculture. For more information, please

contact: richendapower@btinternet.com

Where in the world...?

Any ideas where this photo was taken?
(The correct answer will be revealed in the next newsletter.)



2020 DIARY DATES

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
& HISTORICAL SOCIETY



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10th *September*

THE LAND OF THE WHITE HORSE

David Miles, Former Chief Archaeologist for
English Heritage

(Live online via Zoom)

8th October

STANCHESTER SO FAR

Mark Peryer, BAHS

(Live online via Zoom)

12th November

THE SCYTHIANS – NOMAD WARRIORS OF THE STEPPE

Prof. Sir Barry Cunliffe, Emeritus Professor,
University of Oxford

(Mode of presentation/venue to be confirmed)

10th December

THE MAPLEDURWELL TREASURE: ITS PLACE AMONGST COIN HOARDS OF THE ENGLISH CIVIL WAR

Dr Barrie Cook, British Museum

(Mode of presentation/venue to be confirmed)