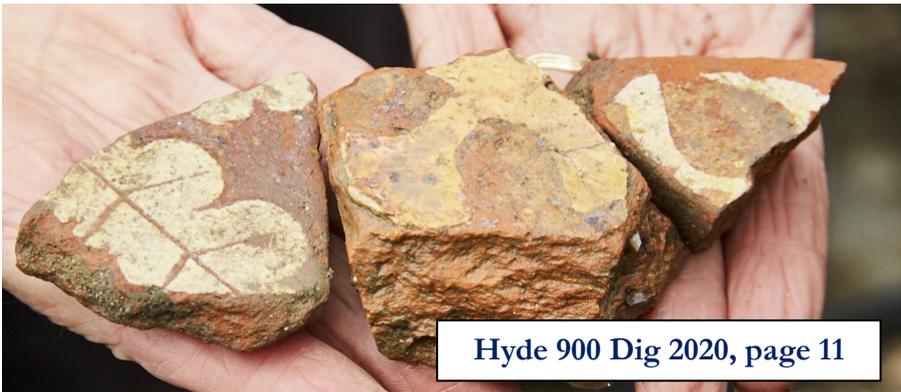


BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter Number 235

May 2021

BAHS



Contents

The Municipal Election Upset of 1890	Page 3
Review of the film ‘The Dig’	Page 9
Hyde 900 Excavations 2020	Page 11
What’s in a name, or more precisely, an epithet?	Page 14
No Stones Unturned: vanishing boundary stones	Page 16
Carausius: the break-away ‘emperor’	Page 18
Basingstoke YAC update	Page 21

BAHS AGM

This year’s BAHS AGM will be at 7:30 pm on June 16th and it will be held over Zoom. The details and the various notices and reports will be distributed nearer the time.

If you would like to contribute to the work of the society, we have committee positions to fill.

FIELDWORK AT STANCHESTER – SUMMER 2021

The fieldwork sub-committee are working towards a return to Stanchester for this summer. The provisional dates for this year’s excavation are from the 30th July to the 9th August.



For reasons that shouldn’t need mentioning, we may have to cancel the excavation if circumstances change.

The excavation will have to be run with the appropriate Covid protocols in place, i.e. social distancing,

staggered breaks and face coverings etc. As a result, we are planning to have a lower key and smaller scale dig than in previous years. Despite this backdrop, we are aiming to provide opportunities to learn some new skills and most importantly to ensure that you, as volunteers, have an enjoyable time.

If you would like to take part, please may I ask you to let me know when you would be able to attend, since that will help enormously with the planning.

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The Municipal Election Upset of 1890

Roger Ottewill

This is the first of four articles each of which focuses on one of Basingstoke's municipal elections from the nineteenth century. They will appear in the next few issues of the Newsletter. Although municipal elections do not, in general, attract much attention from local historians, I hope that these articles will demonstrate their value in understanding one aspect of the town's governance. They also serve as a follow up to a two-part Hampshire Record Office blog from mid-October 2020 which makes reference to municipal election ephemera from Basingstoke and can be accessed at:

[Hampshire Archives and Local Studies – Discover the hidden stories of Hampshire \(wordpress.com\)](https://www.hampshirearchives.com/2020/10/15/discover-the-hidden-stories-of-hampshire/)

In the annals of Basingstoke's municipal elections, the year 1890 stands out as the first and only occasion during the period 1835 to 1914 on which all four sitting councillors seeking re-election were defeated. Indeed, in reporting the results the *Hants and Berks Gazette* referred to the outcome as being 'unique'. It went on to point out that this had 'never occurred before within our recollection, and many of the older residents of the borough fail to remember a similar occurrence.'¹ In this short article, after providing

¹ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 8 November 1890.

some background information, a number of possible reasons for this upset are considered.

Following the reforms of 1835, municipal elections in boroughs such as Basingstoke were held annually on 1st November (or 2nd November if the 1st fell on a Sunday). Councillors served for three years and were eligible for re-election at the end of their term of office. Each year one third of the seats held by councillors, four in the case of Basingstoke, were filled under a system known as 'partial renewal'. There were, in addition, four aldermen chosen by the councillors who served for six years. To be able to stand for election and to vote it was necessary to be on the burgess roll. Eligibility depended primarily on the occupation of property and since 1869 appropriately qualified unmarried women could vote but not stand for election. By 1890 about 15 per cent of the names on the roll were women.

The Candidates and the Campaign:

In 1890, there were eight candidates. The four sitting councillors seeking re-election were, in alphabetical order, Henry Smith Ackland, a butcher and a councillor since 1887; Joseph Henry Baker, a grocer and elected a councillor at a by-election in November 1886; Joseph Tigwell, a builder and a councillor since 1884; and William Merryfield Tyrrell, another grocer and elected a councillor at a by-election in November 1889.



Tyrrell's Grocery Store in the Market Place (courtesy of Alastair Blair)

They were challenged by Frank Blatch, a brewer; Edwin Glanville, a grocer; William Hudson, a teacher of music; and Charles Franklin Simmons, an auctioneer.

At the time, most councillors were local businessmen, of whom a number were shopkeepers. This state of affairs, found in many towns both large and small, was sometimes, perhaps disparagingly, described as a 'shopocracy'.² In general, shopkeepers served as councillors in order to promote and protect their interests, which meant keeping the rates as low as possible, with 'economy' being their watchword.³

According to the *Reading Mercury*: Messrs. Tigwell and Glanville and Messrs. Blatch and Simmonds issued joint addresses, while each of the others stood alone. Canvassing was extensively resorted to by most of the candidates, and Mr Hudson promoted his candidature by open-air meetings in different parts of the town styling himself 'the working man's candidate' and criticising adversely the action of the Corporation in several particulars.⁴

Described as an 'irrepressible orator' by the *Hants and Berks Gazette*, William Hudson was undoubtedly an energetic campaigner.⁵ That said, as far as it was aware 'a good feeling ... prevailed all round.' Moreover, it was no longer the case that 'odious and virulent squibs were a common feature of every contest.'⁶

On polling day, proceedings were initially 'very quiet and unexciting'. However, by late afternoon 'things took a busier turn, and from five o'clock till the closing of the poll [at 8.00 pm] a continuous stream of voters poured into the polling station'.

Moreover, the Mayor took a strict approach allowing 'no canvassing in the Town Hall ... [and prohibiting] any portion of the building ... [being] occupied by any person for the purpose of ascertaining the name or number of any person who had recorded his [or her] vote'. Consequently, 'there was

² Term coined during the nineteenth century to refer to shopkeepers as a 'social class' See E.P. Hennock, *Fit and Proper Persons: Ideal and Reality in Nineteenth-Century Urban Government* (London: Edward Arnold, 1973, p.318.

³ See Hennock, *Fit and Proper*, for a full discussion of this issue.

⁴ *Reading Mercury*, 8 November 1890.

⁵ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 1 November 1890.

⁶ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 1 November 1890.

no interference with the burgesses, no badgering, no pestering or bamboozling within the sacred precincts.⁷

The Result:

Of the 1291 electors on the burgess roll, 988 cast their ballots for one or more candidates, thus the turnout was an impressive 76.5 percent. Each elector had up to four votes but could only cast one per candidate. Some electors, known as ‘plumpers’, only voted for a single candidate. The votes obtained by each candidate are shown in the table below.

Candidate	Note	Votes	Outcome
Edwin Glanville	a ¹	472	Elected
Frank Blatch	a ²	425	Elected
William Hudson	b	419	Elected
Charles Franklin Simmons	a ²	369	Elected
William Merryfield Tyrrell*	b	340	Not elected
Joseph Henry Baker*	b	319	Not elected
Joseph Tigwell*	a ¹	319	Not elected
Henry Smith Ackland*	b	112	Not elected

Notes:

* = sitting councillors seeking re-election.

a. These candidates were ‘associated’.

b. These candidates ran ‘separately’.

⁷ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 8 November 1890.

As the *Hampshire Chronicle* commented when it was declared, ‘the result seemed to astonish everyone’.⁸



Where burgesses cast their votes (courtesy of Alastair Blair)

Explanations:

In its analysis of the results the *Hants and Berks Gazette* concluded that the votes were cast, as in recent years, with ‘little regard to political party or religious sect’. The paper went on to suggest that many voted ‘with what old party hands would consider an extraordinary lack of discrimination’. In other words, there was an element of randomness in the outcome. However, it did point out that ‘the four retiring members had originally taken their seats under somewhat easy circumstances’. In 1887, Joseph Tigwell and Joseph Baker were re-elected, with Henry Ackland standing for the first time, without a contest and similarly William Tyrrell was unopposed when he gained his seat at a by-election. Thus, by implication, there may have been an element of complacency and half-heartedness in their campaigning and of being entitled to retain their seats. It was also suggested that the support of Baker, Tigwell and Tyrrell for the council policy of purchasing a steamroller, which was very controversial and unpopular in certain quarters, contributed to their defeat. However, this did not explain

⁸ *Hampshire Chronicle*, 8 November 1890.

why Ackland, who had ‘so strenuously opposed the steamroller and all kindred enterprises’, had finished so poorly at the bottom of the poll, well behind the candidate coming seventh in terms of votes cast.

It seems probable that personalities played a part as well as a desire to have some fresh faces on the Council. Of the challengers, undoubtedly the most flamboyant was William Hudson. He addressed the electors outside the Foundry, the Railway Station and the Victory at Newtown.⁹ Borrowing a phrase used of William Gladstone, he was affectionately known as ‘the people’s William’, and his tactics appear to have secured for him ‘the support of the working men of all classes.’¹⁰ Moreover, his ‘general support [was] backed up by no less than 92 faithful ‘plumpers’.¹¹ The basis of Edwin Glanville’s popularity is more difficult to determine, but the promise made in his election notice to eschew party politics and ‘to assist in the management of town affairs in a temperate, business-like and economic manner’ clearly resonated with a large number of burgesses.¹² Likewise, there was a favourable response to the joint declaration by Frank Blatch and Charles Simmons that they would do their ‘upmost to secure efficiency and economy in the conduct of public affairs’.¹³ That said, some of the defeated candidates made similar claims.

Aftermath:

Three years later, only Edwin Glanville and Charles Simmonds sought re-election. Frank Blatch ‘had ceased to be a resident in the town’ since ‘owing to ill-health ... [he had] been obliged to change ... [his] residence to the seaside’ and William Hudson had ‘temporarily lost his qualification as a burgess’ and was therefore ineligible to stand as a candidate.¹⁴ Of the defeated candidates, Joseph Baker and Joseph Tigwell regained their seats a year later, when there were only five candidates, and Baker topped the poll. By contrast, both Henry Ackland and William Tyrrell ‘called it a day’ as far as municipal elections were concerned.

⁹ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 25 October 1890.

¹⁰ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 8 November 1890.

¹¹ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 8 November 1890.

¹² *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 18 October 1890.

¹³ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 18 October 1890.

¹⁴ *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 14 and 21 October 1893.

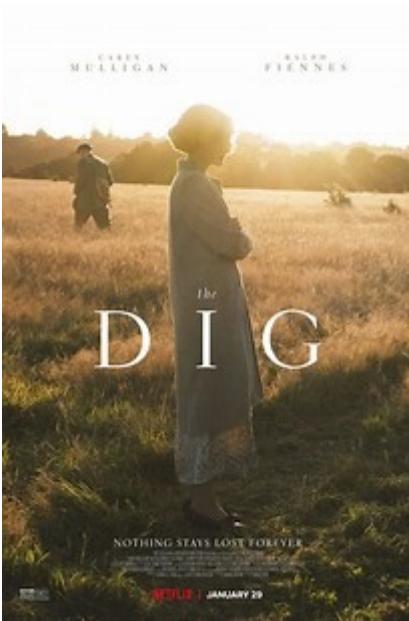
SOCIETY SNIPPETS

‘What have you been up to lately?’

In this edition, Nicola Turton is invited to the virtual premier of Netflix’s The Dig, and spends an afternoon on an actual dig at the site of Hyde Abbey in Winchester, and David Hopkins revisits the George III Cartwheel Penny.

(We would very much like to hear your news and views. Please send your contributions to: newsletter@bahsoc.org.uk)

A review of ‘The Dig’



In early January, I entered a draw and was lucky enough to win one of a few hundred tickets to attend a premier of the Netflix film *The Dig*. It goes without saying that one dresses for a film premier; Alan wore his DJ and I dug out an evening dress and diamonds. Then we took our places on the sofa.

Some years ago, I read the novel on which the film was based and, being curious, I looked up the details and did a bit of Wikipedia reading. So I was aware that the novel was a fictionalised account of the excavation at Sutton Hoo and that Edith Pretty’s cousin was purely a construct for romantic purposes. In fact, back in 1939,

Mercie Lack and Barbara Wagstaff, two holidaying schoolteachers, were given permission and took hundreds of photographs of the excavation, many in colour. It is thought that they are the first colour photos ever taken of an archaeological dig.

But to return to the film. Fully aware it was a story, not a documentary, I tried not to approach it with my criticisms already formed. But the film was so beautiful that I was quickly in love with it. Yes, it was a shame that spurious romance was introduced, but apparently that's necessary in films. And I gather that the trowel was not the correct type for the period, but I didn't notice. Had they used the wrong type of drinking glasses I'd have been muttering, but the trowel escaped us.



*One of the many
photographs taken during
the excavations at
Sutton Hoo in 1939*

There's a sudden and rather moving scene involving Basil Brown (played by Fiennes). I won't spoil it for you but look out for it when you see the film. It is a gentle film and Simon Stone, the Australian director, has made such a love story to the English countryside that I imagine it would be hard not to enjoy it.

After the showing there was a live Q&A with the director and several of the lead actors, including Ralph Fiennes who was born in Suffolk, but nonetheless underwent coaching for his Suffolk accent. As we're not subscribers to Netflix we were delighted to have the chance to see the film. I think it was a delight and I look forward to seeing it again.

9 ½ out of 10 from the Turtons.

As an aside, The Ship's Company are building the first full-scale replica of the Sutton Hoo ship. (I'm hoping it will be named Helmet McHelmet Face.) They have a very interesting page, www.saxonship.org where you can read about the project and their research and support them if you wish.

Nicola Turton

Hyde 900 Dig

Unlike many last year, we actually had the chance to dig. And not just in our own garden (I'm no gardener; I'd rather be reading).

As members of Hyde900, the group dedicated to commemorating the 900th anniversary of the founding of Hyde Abbey www.hyde900.org.uk we have dug a couple of times in Winchester. The site of the Abbey is now partly under some very pretty terraced houses, but many of the householders allow their gardens to be investigated.

We booked a session in the afternoon of 23 October and arrived with time to spare, which was just as well as we were sent hither and yon as though we were plague carriers. Finally we arrived at our garden to be greeted with relief by the supervisor, our very own Briony Lalor. 'Oh, good it's you!' she said. 'You know what you're doing. I can go and feed the carpark meter!' And, after giving us a quick brief, off she went.

It was a long and narrow garden and a fairly small trench but we managed. Our main task was to level it off and tidy the edges. My corner was especially curved and I enjoyed sharpening the angles. Oyster shells and butchered bones in plenty, whilst Alan dealt with some fallen plaster and pottery finds.

Then Briony returned, with the words, 'Found anything?' just as with a flick of my trowel I uncovered some fragments of encaustic tile. There were a couple of styles which looked familiar from local museums, the cathedral and indeed some from Basing House. But one - roughly-speaking a quarter piece - with a large and simple creamy-white oak leaf was not familiar to me. Briony didn't recognise it either and neither did a succession of people who appeared to inspect it. It was obviously a slow-news day, for David Spurling (a trustee of Hyde900) and Dr John Crook both came to have a look. I was sure that one of them would be familiar with the pattern but rather excitingly, they weren't.

Sadly, our time came to an end and we took our tools home to be cleaned and WD40'd ready for next time. Whenever that might be.

My postscript to this is that in November David Spurling gave a Zoom talk to the Society and to date he had yet to find a parallel for 'my' tile.



Hyde900 encaustic tiles. “New” tile on the left.

Nicola Turton

Worth Every Penny, Revisited



(Photo courtesy of Wendy Williams)

Dare I prolong the story of the cartwheel penny?

It is a fascinating and pivotal coin. It was produced at Mathew Bolton’s mint at the request of the government, who supplied the copper, to meet a shortage of small change and was the first of the industrially produced coins. But it was also the last penny whose face value was matched by its intrinsic value. These cartwheel pennies are substantial in order to incorporate one penny’s worth of copper. The

cartwheel ‘tuppence’ was of course twice as big. As ‘small change’ they were not suited to accumulate in pockets and purses and this made them unpopular. Although they are all dated 1797 they were minted for at least two years. When they were replaced the next penny issued was of a more practical size but its face value was now in excess of its intrinsic value, a trend that leads us to today’s coins which are all ‘face value’ and no ‘intrinsic value’. The cartwheel penny harks backwards to the need for a coin’s intrinsic value to match its face value, and harks forward to industrially produced modern coinage.

David Hopkins

GREEN HENGE

Current Archaeology magazine regularly showcases Edible Archaeology but what about Topiary Archaeology? We came across this fine example during a trip to Yorkshire last summer.



Stonehenge in topiary at Breezy Knees Gardens, near York

WHAT'S in a NAME?
or, more precisely, in an EPITHET?

Annabel Stowe

Alfred the Great. Let's start with him. Now undoubtedly he had some momentous achievements, in literacy, learning, language and law for a start, not to mention defeating the pesky Vikings. But without wishing to appear cynical, his biography was, of course, commissioned by ... guess who? ... and was therefore bound to emphasise his positive aspects. In fact, though, it was not Bishop Asser, his biographer, who came up with the epithet – that didn't appear until the Reformation in the 16th century. In this time of political and religious upheaval, Alfred's promoting of translations in English rather than Latin struck a chord with Protestants, who considered him untainted by the Roman Catholic influences of the Normans who followed. And so, seven centuries later, Alfred became 'Great', and has remained so to this day.

Let's look at another 'Great'. **Cnut.** I have always had rather a soft spot for Cnut. Not for any logical reason except I like his name, and, despite a marriage of convenience, he was well-loved by his wife Emma, former wife of Ethelred (he of the 'unready' tendencies), and Emma went on to become a local lass, being given Winchester by her father. Richard of Normandy, a Dane, also gave Emma the manor of Godbiete/God Begot - more illogical happy associations for me of the chink of china teacups in that quaint, timbered hall in the High Street. But back to Cnut. I don't feel justified in giving him the thumbs up or down as regards his 'greatness', but I can't blame him for adopting an epithet so much less cumbersome than 'King of all England and Denmark and Norway, and some of the Swedes'. Not pithy at all.

And now for something completely different. **Hereward the Wake.** There's an epithet that really does trip neatly off the tongue. But what on earth does it mean? Despite having been a fan of Hereward since childhood, with vague recollections of a thrilling TV dramatisation featuring a band of wild, long-haired (rather attractive) men lurking in marshy fenlands, I have never thought to ask myself that question. Until now. 'The Wake' was apparently first recorded in the 14th century, again several

hundred years after Hereward lived, and is thought to mean ‘the Watchful’ – those Anglo-Saxon freedom fighters needed to keep a close eye on their Norman oppressors. Alternatively it may be associated with the Anglo-Norman Wake family, who claimed descent from him. None of this diminishes the romantic aura that surrounds Hereward for me, and I am equally happy with his other epithets – Hereward the Outlaw, Hereward the Exile – though ‘the Wake’ has a more pleasing ring of mystery.

Let’s go back for a moment and bring **Ethelred** onto the stage again. It’s sad for him that, whilst most schoolchildren will have heard of him, most would struggle dismally to give his regnal number. So would most adults. We do know, though, that he was not ‘ill-prepared’ but ‘ill-advised’ (by whom? himself?) paying off the Vikings with Danegeld, which, of course, was a bad idea, as they soon came back for more. Does Ethelred deserve his epithet? Probably yes. Are there any mitigating circumstances? Possibly. A powerful, manipulative, ruthless mother Elfhryth, (we’ll come back to her in a minute), wife of King Edgar, who had Edgar’s son by his first marriage murdered (Edward the Martyr – there’s another, sadly apt, epithet), in order to put her own son, Ethelred on the throne. Apparently Ethelred was so grief-stricken at the loss of his half-brother that Elfhryth had to beat him with candles to stem his tears, provoking a lifelong horror of these waxen objects in the boy. So perhaps we should have just a little sympathy for Ethelred, despite his lack of foresight in later years.

We will shortly be reaching the end of our epithet exploration, but let’s just bring King Edgar back into the spotlight. Edgar the Peaceful or Edgar the Peaceable. Hmm. Does murdering one of your favourite earls make you a ‘peaceful’ sort? I suppose Ethelwold was asking for trouble, with his mendacious report of the Lady Elfhryth’s beauty, or lack of it, in the hope of keeping her for himself. Wrong decision. Ethelwold came to a sorry end in Harewood Forest, where Deadman’s Plack marks the spot, and Edgar went on to marry Elfhryth (she of the large and lethal candles) at the first coronation of a Saxon Queen of England.

So there we are: two ‘Greats’, one ‘Wake’, one ‘Ill-Advised’, one ‘Peaceful’, not to mention a ‘Conqueror’ (too obvious), a ‘Lionheart’ (lovely) and many more. It is interesting to note, though, that whilst Russia had a female ‘Great’, neither Elizabeth the First nor Victoria achieved that epithet.

In fact, come to think of it, all the ‘Greats’ were men ...

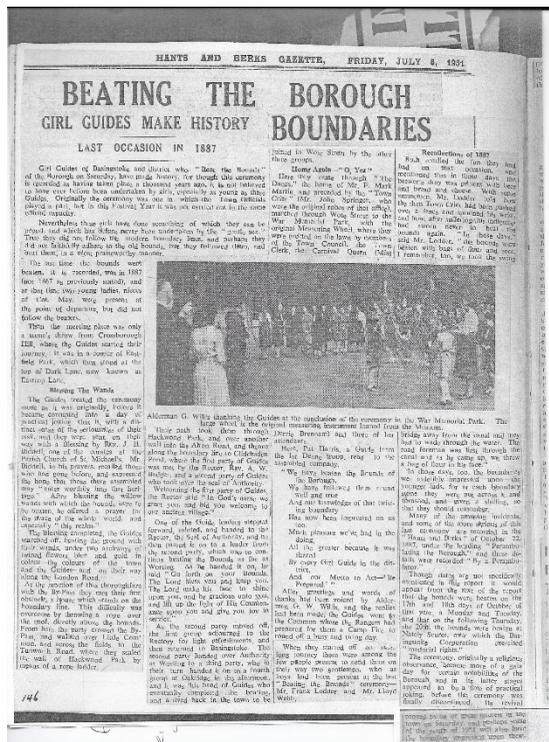
NO STONES UNTURNED

Colin Williams

The 'Beating the Bounds' perambulation by the Girl Guides in 1951 was described by H A J Lamb and Richenda Power in the February Newsletter (234). It also made headlines in the Hants and Berks Gazette of Friday 6th July, 1951 (see photo below). It was revisited in the Millennium year by Basingstoke Ramblers' Club, although the extent to which the bounds could still be found was constrained by changes in land use. However, that walk was to have a later consequence.

A Discovery: Two of those BRC walkers visiting an antiques shop in Honiton found an iron plate bearing the Basingstoke coat-of-arms. Fortunately, they knew about the Basingstoke Heritage Society securing English Heritage listing of milestones, and so sought advice, which was to purchase, and so the plate returned to Basingstoke. But what was the plate's history?

Identification: Response to local enquiries indicated that the plate was from a boundary stone so a search was made of the Town Council's Minutes Book [HRO 148M71/1/3 1852-66], which produced:



‘5 August 1856: The Town Clerk laid before the Meeting the engrossed description of the Basingstoke and Nately Manors and the progress of the Perambulations. Resolved that Stones be erected to mark the boundaries of

the Manors under the direction of those gentlemen who went to the boundaries.’

No later reference was found to the stones or any to the plates, although there is a possible earlier reference to the plates:

‘3 May 1853: Ordered that 50 castings in Iron from the Model now produced by Mr Cottle be made under the discretion of the Mayor.’

History: That the stones were erected is confirmed by the OS 6” 1-mile maps: twenty-nine are shown for Basingstoke and ten for Nately. ‘Basingstoke’ is the town prior to the 1894 Local Government Act; ‘Nately’ is the parish of which Basingstoke Town Council was Lord of the Manor.



Survey: With the whereabouts of the stones identified, I visited each site on behalf of the Basingstoke Heritage Society. Some sites were covered by housing, etc., others were visible to a degree and most of the Nately sites were undisturbed. Result: not a single stone! Oddly, two of the Nately stones remain recorded on the modern OS Explorer 144.

Disappearance of the stones: Arthur Attwood in *‘Around Basingstoke’* recorded a conversation with James Lunn, who had ‘beat the bounds’ when young. When he made these comments in 1935, he said:

‘Many of the boundary stones are still standing – six at least of those on the Up Nately bounds have been recently observed – three of them still retaining their iron plates with Basingstoke Arms.’

With the availability of OS maps showing boundaries the need for ‘beating the bounds’, and physical markers had passed.

Were the plates souvenir hunted perhaps, but what happened to the stones? Today, the Honiton plate is displayed at the Willis. And publicity about the plate revealed a stone complete with plate being safeguarded on a local estate at Farleigh, which is now on display at Milestones (see photo).

June 30th 2021: Marks the seventieth anniversary of the Girl Guides' feat but where are they now? Are they grannies and great grannies telling their tale of that adventurous summer long ago?

'The First Brexit'

Report on a Lecture at the AGM of the Association for Roman Archaeology

Peter Stone

Those attending the webinar 2021 AGM of the Association for Roman Archaeology in March were given an interesting and entertaining lecture by Sam Moorhead (National Finds Adviser for Iron Age and Roman Coins at the British Museum) about events occurring during the ten-year period, from about 286/7 to 296 AD, when the British provinces broke away from the Roman Empire.

Briefly, the panegyric source does not show Carausius, the break-away 'emperor', in an especially favourable light: a low born soldier, he was appointed by the general Maximian (the western 'Augustus' from 293 following the establishment of the Tetrarchy) to secure the Channel from Saxon and Frankish raiders. Carausius prepared and commanded a fleet, carried out the task successfully but betrayed the trust placed in him by allowing the raiders in, intercepting them on their way out, seizing their loot and keeping it. He then threw off imperial authority and along with Allectus, possibly his *rationalis summae rei* or finance minister and others, resisted Maximian by holding an area around Boulogne until 293 when it was taken by the western 'Caesar' Constantius. Forced to retreat to Britain, Carausius was promptly murdered by Allectus.



Constructed in the late third century, Portchester Castle is the best preserved of the ‘Saxon shore’ forts. They were built to deter Saxon and Frankish raiders.

Allectus then remained in control of the British provinces until 296 when a two-pronged invasion force under the command of Constantius (and with some help from the weather) defeated and killed him. Imperial authority was thus restored for the ‘happiness’ of all – or so the panegyric of Constantius tells us. But, as the lecturer explained, coinage allows for insights into these events that show Carausius and his supporters in a more favourable light. They also allow for some amusing parallels to be drawn with Brexit and our relationship with Europe.

Some twenty years before the rebellion, imperial land on the Rhine frontier had been lost to barbarian invaders making the western Empire much more dependent on the British province for supplies of grain and other commodities for the army on the Continent.

Although increased prosperity of British estate owners had followed, as evidenced by villa development beginning in the third century, it is very likely that heavier taxation was demanded to support the recently established navy, the permanently stationed legions and continuing efforts against the barbarians on the Rhine frontier.

Perhaps estate owners did not get paid as expected – the preponderance of silver among the coins minted by Carausius suggests a shortage of gold in Britain. Perhaps the pay of legions and officials was irregular or more likely in coinage that had been relentlessly debased for decades during the chaotic state of the Empire that had existed since the early third century.

Whatever the reason it seems probable that both military and civil authorities in the British provinces and the Channel coastal region of northern Gaul thought they were getting a poor return for their contribution to imperial defence and had become sufficiently dissatisfied to risk rebellion under a proven leader.

Carausius seems to have quickly remedied financial problems by issuing good quality coinage. The distribution of finds suggests that military control in Britain was extended from the western legionary bases of Caerleon and Chester before attention was turned to London, which became the breakaway capital and the location of its principal mint, and to the reinforcement of the Saxon shore forts.

Coins were also used for public relations purposes with markings such as ‘RSR’ - identified as the first letters of *redeunt saturnia regnia* (the Golden Age returns) and *expectate veni* (welcome long awaited one). Both are quotes from Virgil and suggest widespread support from the elite of a region that had become thoroughly disenchanted with imperial rule.

After the successful defence of the Boulogne area against Maximian in 289, Carausius used coins again – this time to bolster his prestige by showing him as co-emperor with Diocletian and Maximian who were certainly not going to grant him the honour.

Boulogne was eventually lost to Constantius in 293 and Carausius was murdered (an ‘act of treachery’ according to the lecturer) soon after the retreat to Britain but Allectus maintained its defences and resisted the central authority for a further three years: his *denarii* with reverse markings of *Pax*, *Providentia* and *Laetitia* (Peace, Foresight, Delight) can be taken as evidence of continuing stability in Britain.

Throughout the lecture amusing parallels were drawn with the present day British relationship with the EU by references to the referendum campaign claim that £15 billion pounds paid annually to the EU would be better spent here; the Channel region cartoon from 'Dad's Army' (which added the heads of Maximian and Constantius to the threatening swastikas) and finally the 2012 photograph of Boris, our 'breakaway emperor' when he got stuck dangling in mid-air while riding a zip wire at the time of the London 2012 Olympic celebrations.

But perhaps the most interesting reference was that made to the significance of Carausius at the beginning of the 18th century when the newly created and fragile United Kingdom was fighting the War of the Spanish Succession against the France of Louis XIV - then by far the greatest power in Europe. Carausius was seen by contemporaries as a courageous figure and the first organiser of naval power in the defence of the island. His symbolic importance faded away with the passage of time and the establishment of British naval supremacy which produced other heroic figures. References to him became not much more than footnotes in later histories - yet another example of how different generations view past events in the light of their own experience.

Basingstoke YAC update

Nikki Read

Spring has sprung! Which means it's now snowing, and as the tiny shoots of normality ease their way back out into society, we are hoping that one day soon, we will be able to resume our face-to-face YAC sessions. When we do, we will have a new member to properly meet! We are very pleased to be able to welcome Sophie, after a very long wait on our waiting list! Her membership replaces that of Jude who sadly has moved on, maintaining membership at our maximum of twenty.

In February's session, we brought our Egyptian theme to a close by looking at the amazing feats of engineering that came to define the pharaohs.

Carla Piper presented online for the first time, showing the YACsters about the development and progression of the pyramids. This cleverly highlighted that what we see today wasn't the first attempt. Pyramids didn't come in kit form ready to construct - they were in fact the culmination of years of failed attempts and experimental prototypes. The guys then all constructed brilliant little origami pyramids – which was more challenging than it looked!



Penny Martin then highlighted how archaeologists can discover engineering brilliance by discussing broken obelisks that had been left in situ in the quarry. These failed attempts were abandoned but left amazing clues as to the creation process of these monuments, thereby giving us an insight into the technologies and methods used.



Nikki Read finished the session by showing the YACsters how the Sphinx was not constructed but excavated from the bedrock. She showed how it became buried and then rediscovered (several times) and how a combination of the two is slowly leading to its demise, and talked about the subsequent daily battle that ensues to preserve it.

The session culminated with the YACsters creating soap carvings of the Sphinx and scarabs – messy but fun!

March saw Nikki and Penny introducing the theme of monument and burial recording, using



information from a YAC leader training session given by Harold Mytum, from the University of Liverpool. Respect and protocol for doing this kind of research as well as themes and typology to look out for and decipher, were covered in detail.

Paul Cater and Carla Piper assisted, as the session split into groups and used Zoom break out rooms to enable them to look for particular features in a set of shared resources. The groups then came together to share their findings. The children were all very perceptive with their observations and took an active part, sharing their ideas about their discoveries. They will now be using this newly acquired knowledge to do their own research during the next month, ready for them to present to each other at the April meeting.

Planning is now underway for looking at the worst Tudor jobs in history for May, and plans are still at a very tentative stage for our trip to The Mary Rose, in June; a back-up plan is being formalised.

Thanks must continue to go out to our regular volunteers for their help and enthusiasm; to Paul Cater for submitting to YAC HQ yet another year of tidy accounts; and to all the YACsters and parents for keeping us going!

BAHS Online

Why not check out the BAHS YouTube channel which features Bob Clarke introducing his Basingstoke Volunteer Fire Brigade book. There are also video recordings of most of this season's Zoom lectures.

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCG1s6z3dZQoUMHEMhMI6MkQ>
<https://youtu.be/YdVX8Y2e93g>



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MAY – AUGUST 2021 DIARY DATES

- 13th May** **A ROYAL PRECURSOR TO WINDSOR CASTLE?
EXCAVATIONS AT OLD WINDSOR IN THE
1950s. THE EXCAVATOR, THE ARCHIVE AND
THE FUTURE.**
Roland Smith, Surrey County Council
(7.30pm via Zoom)
- 10th June** **THE INFLUENCE OF THE CHURCH ON THE
EMERGENCE OF NORTH HAMPSHIRE
TOWNS.**
Derek Bruce, local historian
(7.30pm via Zoom)
- 16th June** **BAHS AGM**
(7.30pm via Zoom)
- 30th July to
9th August** **FIELDWORK AT STANCHESTER**
(Covid regulations permitting)