



# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

Number 26

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### CALENDAR

Thursday 24th April

Lecture by Peter Fasham (Director, M3  
Archaeological Rescue Committee) on  
'Pre-Motorway Archaeology: the M3'.

Basingstoke Willis Museum Annexe, 7.30 p.m.

April/May/June

Excavation of deserted medieval village at  
Popham (see details inside, page 3).

Saturday 3rd May

Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological  
Society One-day Conference, King Alfred's  
College, Winchester. 9.30 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Saturday 10th May

Hampshire Field Club visit to Borough Court  
(medieval and later house) near Hook and  
Farnborough Abbey (museum) and Farnborough  
Parish Church.

## CHUTE HOUSE

No doubt everyone will be aware of the tragic fire last week at Chute House which caused extensive damage to several rooms including our lecture room. Although the building is believed to be sound structurally, it will be a long time before it can be repaired for public use again. This Society will have to find alternative accommodation for lectures and other general meetings in the meantime.

Next Thursday's lecture by Peter Fasham on the M3 will now take place in the annexe at the rear of the Basingstoke Willis Museum, which is reached through the wrought-iron gateway to the left of the Museum main entrance in New Street.

## PRE-MOTORWAY ARCHAEOLOGY: THE M3

Our final lecture of the current season will be given by Peter Fasham (Director, M3 Archaeological Rescue Committee) who will concentrate particularly on selected sites he has excavated along the route of the next phase of the M3 extension from Popham to Winchester. He has kindly lent us photographs and plans illustrating his work which we have mounted in the windows of the Eastbourne Mutual Building Society, 8 Winchester Street (close to Thomas Wallis') to advertise his lecture and to promote this Society. The display is both informative and eye-catching and should attract considerable interest. It would be worthwhile visiting it before the Thursday lecture.

Reminder: This meeting will be held in the annexe to the Basingstoke Willis Museum, not Chute House.

## THE NORMAN PERIOD IN HAMPSHIRE

Our joint meeting with the Hampshire Field Club at Church Cottage on Saturday 15th March was attended by approximately 70 people. Mike Hughes briefly sketched in the history of the period from the Norman Conquest to the end of King Stephen's reign, after which he devoted much of his lecture to a discussion, with slides, of the structural monuments. Beginning with castles, he described, with Hampshire examples, the familiar motte-and-bailey type and the less well-known 'ringworks' which consisted of earth bank and ditched enclosures, usually circular in shape, which have come to be recognised in recent years.

Of ecclesiastical buildings, attention was drawn to the alien priories of which a number were founded in Hampshire, notably at Pamber (or Monk Sherborne) which may have been the largest in Hampshire. Mention was also made of the towns, many of which had achieved urban status by the end of the period.

The Domesday Book of 1086 was the basis for a number of population and woodland maps of Hampshire, which Mr. Hughes showed as slides.



## EXCAVATION AT POPHAM

The long awaited excavation of the deserted medieval village at Popham (National Grid Reference SU 556437) has begun under the direction of Peter Fasham. This is a full-time M3 Rescue excavation through April and May till the middle of June. Again volunteers are urgently needed both in the week and at weekends. It is hoped that a number of training weekends will be organised so that expert tuition in excavation, surveying and recording techniques can be given to those who need it (don't we all!).

Collins Field Guide to Archaeology says "Deserted villages show usually as a group of low platforms, the shallow troughs between them representing the roads and the little lanes between and behind the cottages." Peter Fasham hopes to excavate at least one house platform or croft. He will have more to say about all this at his lecture next Thursday.

Diggers and visitors to the site should approach via the M3 from Basingstoke, taking the A33 'to the West' at the end of the present Motorway. After about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile, look out for a long flint and brick wall on the left and take the left-hand turn to Popham Court immediately at its end. This road leads through a short cutting directly to the excavation in front of Popham Court.

## EXCAVATION AT PAMBER PRIORY

Mike Hughes' rescue excavation over Easter at Pamber Priory (Monk Sherborne Priory) was a success despite the Arctic conditions. This was a 'cosmopolitan' dig with volunteers from Southampton University, South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group, North East Hampshire Archaeological Society and this Society. A full summary report will be included in the next Newsletter.

## HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB AND ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ONE-DAY CONFERENCE

On Saturday 3rd May a conference has been organised at King Alfred's College, Winchester, 'to highlight the current activities of the Hampshire Field Club by lectures, members' contributions and exhibits, and to provide an opportunity for members from all over the county to meet and discuss common interests'. The fee, which will include morning coffee, lunch and afternoon tea, is £2.00 for members, £3.00 for non-members.

Lectures will be held in the John Stripe Theatre. There will also be a display of exhibits from the various Branches and member Societies, together with a bookstall with a wide range of publications about Hampshire.