



BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Number 28

August 1975

CONTENTS:

- Meeting on vernacular architecture
- Visit to Farnham
- Winter Lecture Season
- Other lectures and classes
- Planning Area and Study
- 'The Hampshire Image'
- 'Birds for Bones'
- Viables Farm excavation
- Publications received

PROGRAMME:

Saturday 13th September - Afternoon visit to Farnham (page 2)

Thursday 18th September - Meeting on vernacular architecture (page 2)

Thursday 25th September - First lecture in current season

N.B. Both meetings will be held in the Leisure Centre, Council Road, Basingstoke, at 7.30 p.m.

VERNACULAR ARCHITECTURE

All too frequently we hear and read about the destruction, both in towns and rural areas, of our more humble domestic buildings. It is very necessary that as many records as possible should be made of our 'vernacular' architecture while such buildings remain standing. These records, apart from their academic interest, provide information which can be used by planners and local authorities in formulating preservation policies within their planning and development frameworks.

In this European Architectural Heritage Year, the Hampshire Buildings Record is concerned that the whole of the County should become active in compiling adequate, systematic records of its local domestic buildings, at least of their exteriors. We have therefore arranged a special meeting for Thursday 18th September, when Mike Hughes of the Hampshire Buildings Record and David Hinton, Dept. of Archaeology, University of Southampton, will demonstrate with slides and photographs the types of buildings continually being threatened and demolished and methods by which the exteriors can be quickly and easily recorded for posterity.

The meeting will be held at the Leisure Centre, Council Road, Basingstoke, beginning at 7.30 p.m. We hope that as many people as possible will attend and that we can encourage others who may not be interested archaeologically but who have an interest in old buildings and are concerned at the constant erosion of our architectural heritage.

CONDUCTED TOUR OF FARNHAM

An afternoon walk around Farnham has been arranged for the Society on Saturday 13th September when the curator of the Farnham Museum, Mr. Ashton Booth, will give us a conducted tour of some of the most interesting streets and describe their buildings with their many architectural interests and historic and literary associations. After the tour, which will last for approximately 2 hours, tea is being provided at the Museum at a charge of 30p per head.

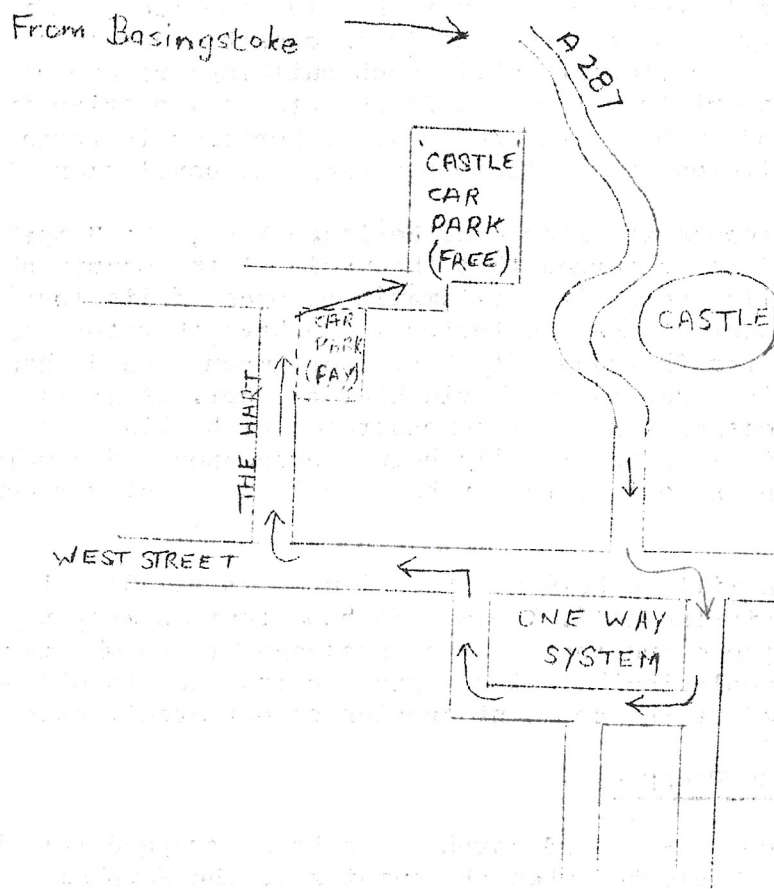
Mr. Booth has prepared a short written guide for the tour which can either be borrowed or purchased and read as we go along. The opening sentences set the scene for what promises to be a very enjoyable and informative afternoon:-

"Although this was a town in the Middle Ages, most houses have been rebuilt or refronted later, but from the back, ancient walls, irregular roofs and massive chimney stacks show which belong to the medieval town. It is however for 18th century architecture that Farnham is best known - Castle Street and West Street form the perfect starting point for the enthusiast in search of Georgian England."

Because it is difficult to talk to large groups in busy and often noisy streets numbers have to be limited to approximately 20 people only. Members intending to participate must inform Richard Searle (Hook 2036) by not later than Wednesday 10th September and must make their own travelling arrangements. Offers of lifts and requests for spare seats will be welcomed as usual.

It is best to approach Farnham via the A30 (or M3) onto the A287 signposted to Odiham, Farnham and Guildford. The A287 leads directly in to Farnham, down the hill past the Castle on your left. We

will be met by Mr. Ashton Booth at 2.30 p.m. in the 'Castle Car Park', see map below for directions:-



WINTER LECTURE SEASON 1975/6

Another full and varied programme of lectures has been arranged for the coming season. Because of the fire we can no longer hold them in Chute House but we have been fortunate in booking the Leisure Centre in Council Road for the first half, that is up to Christmas. Those who attended the AGM will know what an excellent alternative this is. A programme card will be issued shortly to all members but you may like to note in your diaries that lectures will be on Thursday evenings, 25th September, 30th October and 27th November. Our annual members' evening and 'Links with the Past' will be on Thursday 11th December.

OTHER LECTURES AND CLASSES

Details of some fascinating lectures and courses are being received from other societies and adult education centres which may appeal to members.

- I. Southampton University Archaeological Society holds a series of evening lectures throughout the academic year covering a wide range of aspects of archaeology. Although the Society is largely composed of student members they welcome and encourage outside membership. Subscription for the academic year 1975/6 will be 50p. and can either be paid to the Society or membership obtained at the door before each lecture. The programme for the Autumn term is as follows:-

Wednesday 18 February 1976

The Sea Traders - Medieval Trade in the Indian Ocean -
Dr. David B. Whitehouse, M.A. - Director of the British
School at Rome.

Wednesday 3 March 1976

Television and Archaeology - Mr. Paul Johnstone, F.S.A. -
Director of BBC Archaeology and History Unit.
Mr. David Collison - BBC Producer.

Wednesdays at 7.30 p.m. for 6 meetings in Physics Lecture Theatre 'A',
University of Southampton. Fee: £1.50 for the series or 50p per
single lecture.

III. This year's local WEA class on archaeology will be directed by
Michael Pocock, B.A., Dip.Archaeol., and is on the theme: The
Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England. Meetings will be at the library
in the Town Centre on Tuesday evenings from 7.15 to 9.15 p.m. and begin
on the 30th September.

The course will consider the archaeological evidence from the
5th and 6th centuries in Britain, including settlements, funerary customs,
pagan art and early Christian remains. It is hoped to involve students
in practical research and in museum visits.

Enrolment takes place at the first two meetings and people can
'try out' the course by attending the first lecture free, without
obligation to attend any others.

IV. Enthusiasts who would like an opportunity to study field
archaeology may be interested in the series of lectures being given
by Tim Shadla-Hall (Wessex Archaeological Committee Field Officer) at
Camberley. He is running Course 1 of the University of London
Certificate in Field Archaeology and there will be 28 meetings under the
general title 'Field Archaeology and the Prehistory of South East England'.
Basically these will be how to do field archaeology and will include field
work and visits. Lectures will begin on the 25th September, 7.30 to
9.30 p.m. at the Surrey Heath Institute of Adult Education, Watchetts
Centre, Watchetts Drive, Camberley, and people may enrol on the first
evening. Cost: £4. for all 28 meetings.

PLANNING AREA 8 STUDY

The report of the Study Team investigating the possible future
growth of Planning Area 8 - an area encompassing Reading, Wokingham,
Aldershot and Basingstoke - is to be published in September. Public
meetings are being planned to cover the whole area affected at which
societies and individuals will have opportunities to discuss the proposals
with members of the Study Team. Dates for two meetings in the Basingstoke
District have been announced as follows:

Monday 15th September at Basingstoke
Thursday 25th September at Baughurst.

The precise location for these meetings has not been announced.
Members of this Society may like to be reminded that the Study Team have
been looking into the ability of the area to cope with large scale
expansion, suggested in the Strategic Plan for the South East. Development

automatically means the removal of soil and with it the inevitable disturbance of archaeological sites requiring prior excavation and field work.

'THE HAMPSHIRE IMAGE'

An open exhibition of photography on Hampshire's architecture.

The Southern Photographic Federation, and the Hampshire Field Club, are jointly organising an open photographic exhibition to mark European Architectural Heritage Year. Entries are invited to illustrate any aspect of architecture in Hampshire: domestic, industrial, street scenes, ancient buildings or modern ones, those showing outstanding architectural quality, such as country houses or ecclesiastical architecture, and those that are more humble and functional, but show the characteristic styles and building materials of the area.

The exhibition will be held in the Guildhall Picture Gallery, Winchester, from 8th - 30th November 1975. A panel of judges will select the final exhibits. Portfolios of unmounted photographs will be made up to provide a permanent record of Hampshire architecture in 1975, and exhibitors will be asked whether they would like to contribute their entries to this archive, after the end of the exhibition.

Entries can be from individuals, or from groups such as schools or clubs. Individual entries are limited to four prints and four slides. Group entries, which might show different aspects of one building or group of buildings, are limited to 8 prints, and these should be mounted together. Groups such as schools, societies and colleges are all eligible. Individual members of these groups may of course enter individual entries.

How to enter: Prints, in either black and white or colour, should be within the size range 10" x 8" to 20" x 16". They should be unmounted initially: the prints chosen for exhibition will be mounted by a professional photographer through the organisers, or will be returned to the exhibitor for mounting if preferred. Slides, glazed or unglazed, should be in mounts 2" x 2" suitable for a Carousel projector (i.e. the mounts should not be too thick). All entries must bear the name and address of the author, name of the group (if applicable) and the title of the subject. Specific titles are necessary to annotate those photographs to be retained for the photographic archive.

Entries should be posted to the Curator, City Museum, The Square, Winchester, or handed in to the Guildhall Picture Gallery, Winchester, between October 4th and October 17th. Members of groups affiliated to the Southern Photographic Federation are asked to submit their entries through their groups to be handed in by 25th September at the S.P.F. meeting.

BIRDS FOR BONES

A request has been received from the two palaeo-zoologists working in the Department of Archaeology, Southampton University, SO9 5NH, for any dead birds we might find that can be identified to species. They are building a skeleton collection which will help them in their study of the past fauna of Wesser. They use the modern bones to compare with those excavated by archaeologists. As well as being interested in bird bones the researchers are making a complete study of archaeological animal remains - mostly bones and shells - from D.o.E.-aided excavations. They

are building collections of modern vertebrate skeletons and a collection of marine mollusc shells to help in the work on the Saxon oysters at Southampton(!). In addition they are attempting to contact all other archaeological bone researchers in the area where, if necessary, they can offer help, advice and practical support from the collection on site and identification, to recovery and conservation. Obviously their work, which will continue till August 1977, will provide a valuable service.

Before rushing off to the post office with your parcels (pigeon post?), remember that the same material is required by the Hampshire County Museum Service and first refusal should be given to the Willis Museum in Basingstoke.

VIABLES FARM EXCAVATION

Duncan Russell is continuing working at Viables Farm at weekends during September. Please, please try and get up there to give him a hand. Much still needs doing and he says there is plenty of interesting material coming up including Samian ware pottery.
Duncan Russell - Tadley 2039.

PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED

Hampshire Newsletter, Volume 2, Nos. 9 and 10, 1975

This issue brings Volume 2 to its completion. Copies will be available as usual for sale to members at our next lecture, from Joy Needham, price 35p.

Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society Proceedings, Vol.30 for 1973, 1975

A very general volume, but mostly archaeology. It contains a brief account of exploratory excavations at Stratfield Saye by George C. Boon (whose revised book on Silchester, published last year, is reviewed in the same issue) to locate the exact site of the medieval church pulled down in 1758 when another church at a more suitable distance to Stratfield Saye House was built. There are also records of recent discoveries around the county, notably a previously unknown earthwork, somewhat similar in character to our Viables Farm site and an account of Selborne Priory, 1233-1486 based on early charters.

A Dictionary of Archaeology by W. Bray and D. Trump, Penguin 1970

A copy of the above has been donated to the Society. It is a very good basic dictionary which includes well-selected photographs and textual line drawings. Entries vary from very brief, two or three word definitions of technical terms, to lengthier paragraphs which are both clear and precise. Short biographies are given for eminent non-living persons who made significant contributions to archaeology. This dictionary is very strong on European archaeology and prehistory although it does not include the Classical archaeology of Greece and Rome.

All have been added to the Society's Library and are available for loan from the Hon. Secretary.