



# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

Number 38

January 1977

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### CALENDAR:

Thursday 13th January. Social Evening and Links with the Past.  
Church Cottage, Basingstoke. 7.30 p.m.

Wednesday 19th January. Catal Huyuk - A Neolithic City in Anatolia.  
Lecture by Mr. James Mellaart, Lecturer in  
Anatolian Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology,  
London. University of Southampton, Physics  
Lecture Theatre A. 7.30 p.m. (Aspects of  
Antiquity Series).

Thursday 27th January. 'Britain's Earliest Farmers'. Lecture by  
Mr. A. ApSimon, Department of Archaeology,  
University of Southampton. Church Cottage,  
Basingstoke, 7.30 p.m.

Friday 4th - Sunday 6th February. Rural Settlement in Southern Britain  
(From Normans to Tudors). Weekend Conference,  
University of Southampton. (Details page 2.)

Saturday 12th February. The Hampshire County Museum Service. Lecture  
by Mr. K.J. Barton (Director of the Service).  
Council Chamber, Guildhall, Winchester.  
3.00 p.m.

### SOCIAL EVENING AND LINKS WITH THE PAST

Postponed from 11th December, our annual Christmas/New Year social evening will now be held on Thursday 13th January at Church Cottage beginning at 7.30 p.m.

As usual it will take the form of a party with food, this year organised by Stella Dixon with the help of an outside caterer, and wine. Members may bring their friends as guests. Following the now traditional pattern everyone is invited to bring with them anything ancient, old or simply old-fashioned which provides us with a Link with the Past. Last year members brought probably the most varied and interesting assortment of bric-a-brac yet. If everyone brings something(s) this year we might even do better than last year.

Barbara Applin is organising an 'entertainment' which will take the form of an archaeological 'Call My Bluff'. This will be a complete change from our usual activities and should be great fun.

To cover the costs of food and wine there will be a charge of £1.25 per head. Because outside caterers are involved it is essential that we know how many people are coming.

Please inform Peter Heath on Basingstoke 27713 (evenings) before Monday 10th January.

### BRITAIN'S EARLIEST FARMERS

We ended 1976 with two meetings which could be described mostly in terms of 'history' rather than archaeology. While we make no apologies for extending our range of interest, and express our grateful thanks to Elly Templar-Stokes and Nigel Bell for putting together their December contribution at such short notice, we make a marked return to true archaeology in 1977.

Our January lecture will be given by Mr. Arthur ApSimon of the University of Southampton Department of Archaeology whose subject will be a review of 'Britain's Earliest Farmers'.

Agriculturalists, as opposed to hunters and gatherers, began to establish themselves in Britain, it is believed from Northern and Western France, sometime before 3000 BC. They are as fascinating for their first domestication of plants and animals as for their use of polished stone tools, their burial customs using earthen long barrows and collective chambered tombs, and for their individual homesteads.

Mr. ApSimon, who is a well-known authority on the Neolithic era, and other prehistoric periods in Britain, can be expected to give a lively talk which will appeal equally to those who know little about our stone-age cultures and also to the more well-informed.

This meeting will be held at Church Cottage on Thursday 27th January at 7.30 p.m.

### RURAL SETTLEMENT IN SOUTHERN BRITAIN (from Normans to Tudors)

Following the three previous most successful annual weekend conferences on rural settlement from prehistoric times to the Domesday survey of 1086, Southampton University, Department of Adult Education, are holding a further



such weekend. This year the evolution of the medieval landscape is the theme, which will discuss the common lands and estates, both monastic and lay, and the society which supported and worked them. From the evidence of current research from most counties of Southern Britain the conference will illustrate the growth and decline of the medieval village and rural population. There will also be a rare opportunity of a field visit to the granges of Beaulieu Abbey.

The organisers point out that the weekend is intended primarily for the non-specialist archaeologist or local historian, but some background knowledge could be useful.

It is a non-residential conference and the fee of £4.00 (£2.00 to full-time students) includes tea, coffee and biscuits, and sherry on the Friday evening. The field visit to Beaulieu Abbey on Saturday afternoon is optional and a charge of £1.00 extra will be made.

Further details and application forms from Mr. D.E. Johnston, Tutor in Archaeology, Department of Adult Education, The University, Southampton, SO9 5NH, University of Southampton, 4th-6th February 1977.

#### LATE MEDIEVAL GLASS AND POTTERY FIND AT SOUTHAMPTON

During last summer excavations at a medieval site bounded by Upper Bugle Street and Simnel Street, Southampton, produced a magnificent find of pottery and glassware, including some very fine examples of fifteenth century Venetian craftsmanship. The glass, known as Cristallo ware and fragments of Maiolica pottery were found in a medieval equivalent of the toilet - the garderobe. Around 200 pieces of glass and pottery were recovered, arguably the finest collection of its kind anywhere in Europe, including bowls, flasks, beakers and other vessels. Some were highly decorated, even with gold leaf; they were mostly clear, and in some cases almost complete.

Cristallo glass was a major breakthrough in medieval glass technology and upon which Venice based its great export trade in the fifteenth century.

Not completely colourless, it is usually brownish or greyish in cast, Cristello glass was the product of a technique which managed to reduce the number of impurities and which created glass appreciably thinner than its contemporary rivals.

At the time it was found there seemed little hope of a conservation treatment to prevent deterioration but a chance contact with the famous Pilkington glass-making firm from St. Helens in Lancashire led the area conservation officer for museums in the North West of England to make a new process available. Preliminary tests on glass fragments have proved 100% successful.

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