



# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

Number 40

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### CALENDAR

Saturday, 3rd September Full day excursion to DORSET: Knowlton Circles,  
Badbury Rings, Maiden Castle, Dorchester.  
Basingstoke Bus Station (Stand L) 8.45 a.m.  
£2.25 (£1.50 children accompanied by adult)

15th September to 9th October Excavations at Silchester

17th to 25th September Excavations at Alice Holt kiln (details from  
Mary Oliver, Basingstoke 24263)

Thursday, 29th September: Aerial Photography Lecture by John Hampton,  
National Monuments Record department of the  
Department of the Environment. Chute House,  
Basingstoke, 7.30 p.m.

17th October onwards Excavations at Cowdery's Down

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Annual General Meeting of the Society was held at Church Cottage on 30th June, when the following officers and committee were elected:

Chairman	Barbara Applin
Secretary	Richard Searle
Treasurer	Joy Needham
Committee	Peter Heath
	Peggy Drury
	Bob Mulla

We are all grateful to Peter Heath for his chairmanship in the last two years, and to retiring committee members.

At the meeting it was agreed to set up an Excavation Fund and the first contribution was made. Joy Needham writes:

### Excavation Fund

At the AGM this year I mentioned that as Treasurer I was concerned about the finances of the society in view of the economic situation. Our subscriptions should easily cover our expenses in running society meetings and providing newsletters. However, as an Archaeological Society our main function is to excavate rescue sites and publish the results of such 'digs'. This is an expensive undertaking, often called for at very short notice when grants are not available - our application for grants to excavate Viablos and publish the results were refused. Excavating a site can call for hiring expensive equipment to remove the topsoil, and to do adequate work on the finds a number of specialists need to be employed.

At the AGM, various suggestions were mentioned for raising money by applying to local industries, selling articles at the Charity Market or eventually raising subscriptions. Another suggestion, which has been adopted, was to set up an Excavation Fund with people donating as much as they like. This fund now stands at £10. Anyone wishing to donate to this fund can either hand their donation to a member of the Committee or send it direct to me at 67 Borodin Close, Basingstoke.

Joy Needham

After the AGM a film was shown, 'On the Track of the Bog People' about experimental archaeology in Denmark. Attempts to reconstruct Iron Age houses and to use and wear Iron Age equipment were particularly interesting in relation to Hampshire's Iron Age 'village' at Butser Hill, although many members wished the film had given more detail on specific points.

### DORSET EXCURSION

Richard Searle and Peter Heath are organising an excursion on Saturday, 3rd September to Knowlton Circles, Badbury Rings, Maiden Castle and Dorchester. Full details are given on the enclosed sheet, with an application form to be returned to Richard Searle by Monday, 29th August.

### AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY

Programme cards for the 1977/78 lectures will be out shortly. Meanwhile, the first lecture will be:

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHY by John Hampton (of the National Monuments Record division of the Department of the Environment) at 7.30 pm on Thursday, 29th September at Chute House.



CALLING ALL DIGGERS! Dates to note:

17th to 25th September

Malcolm Lyne will be excavating a late 2nd/early 3rd century Roman kiln site and pottery dump in the Alice Holt forest and would welcome a few experienced helpers - during the week or at weekends. Mary Oliver has a map showing the site and will be glad to organise car-sharing if anyone who is willing to help will let her know (Basingstoke 24263).

15th September to 9th October

Mike Fulford, who lectured recently on Silchester, will welcome visitors to his excavation there. Details again from Mary Oliver.

17th October onwards

The Hampshire County Museum Service have invited the Society to help with the excavations at Cowdery's Down in the proposed Chicheam development area, to examine a group of three ring ditches in the path of the distributor road and to establish the date and function of the ?Civil War rectangular earthwork. The excavation will probably last about a month, but full details are yet to be announced. Meanwhile please keep some time free - if possible a complete day or several days, but weekend help will be welcome too.

The Chicheam development plan is one of the first statutory local plans in the county which includes an excavation policy for local sites - a useful precedent, so we hope that members will give as much help as possible to the excavation, to make it a success. The air photographs which Alan Burchard passed round at the AGM should whet everyone's appetite - for the dig and for our September lecture.

HIDDEN TALENT? An appeal from the Chairman

I would very much like to know what sort of skills we have within the Society. Have we any members who can do some typing, drawing (technical or imaginative) or poster-making? Have we any potters or surveyors? Is anyone knowledgeable about trees and shrubs, for hedgerow dating? Or about animal bones (apart from Iris Gregory)? Or geology - what are the features we dismiss as 'natural' in an excavation?

If you possess any skill or expertise we can call on, please let me have a note about it with your name and address and telephone number on the attached slip or send it with your booking for the Dorset excursion to Richard Searle.

Now members may like to know what is going on already:

Josie Wall is keeping a Register of sites and finds and wants to know of any newly discovered site, stray find or threat to a known site. Tony Robson is organising the Sarsen survey in this area.

Duncan Russell is working on the material from the Viablos excavation, runs the Calleva Field Survey Group and has a special interest in coins.

Mary Oliver and I are working on the material from the Ructstalls Hill excavation, with Iris Gregory writing up the animal bones.

Peter Heath is continuing limited excavation at Viablos on Sunday mornings.

Occasional field walks are held.

Richard Searle, as Secretary, would welcome contributions to the Newsletter and help with delivering.

We are often asked to mount small exhibitions at archaeological meetings and need to put out posters to publicise our activities.

If anyone wants to get in touch with one of these people to offer help, look out for them at the next meeting or say so on the slip.

BARBARA APPLIN

## BOOKS AND PERIODICALS AVAILABLE

### Victoria County History

Parts of the Victoria County History are now available from Bob Dobson of 'Acorns', 3 Staining Rise, Staining, Blackpool FY3 0BU. Members will probably be interested in particular in the following parts:

- 19 The Basingstoke, Mainsbridge & Bontisborough Hundreds (1920) 83pp + plates, at £3.
- 20 The Overton & Chuteley Hundreds (1920), 47 pp + plates, £2.50.
- 21 The Kingsclere Hundred (1920), 27pp illus, £2.

Orders of over £11 are given 10% discount, so members are asked to order through our Treasurer, Joy Needham, so that the Society may place a bulk order. We hope that members will then allow the Society to claim the discount. Each part is folio size, bound in the original blue paper wrappers; prices are post-free. Richard Scarle has a full list.

### Chichester Excavations, Vol. III

Alec Downes, who met members on the Fishbourne and Singleton outing, tells us that the next volume of Chichester Excavations will be published in January next year (368 pp, 154 line drawings, 20 plates, price £12 + 85p postage). There is a pre-publication offer of £8.95 for copies ordered before 31st December. This Volume will contain the results of eight years' continuous rescue work in Chichester, with material ranging from the advent of the II Legion in 43 AD, and hints of earlier settlement, to the nineteenth century and including the Blackfriars medieval kilns and a Roman cemetery. The volume also includes an essay by Barry Cunliffe on the first 100 years, and a new gazetteer of post-medieval sites. Mary Oliver has offered to make a block order if members who wish to order copies will let her know before the end of August (Basingstoke 24263: 3 Milkingpen Lane, Old Basing).

### The Archaeologists' Year Book

Mrs Verstage has kindly given the Society a copy (held by the Secretary).

### The Avebury Monuments

A new guide to The Avebury Monuments has been published (HMSO, price 50p), setting the prehistoric background to the Avebury Circle and Silbury Hill spanning the period from 5,000 to 600 BC in particular.

### The Local Historian

The Secretary has received details of this journal of the Standing Conference for Local History. Published quarterly, it offers readers information on methods of research, sources of historical information and background material for further study. Annual subscription to the journal £2.50 including postage.

## SEMINAR ON THE CERAMIC INDUSTRIES OF THE HAMPSHIRE, SURREY AND BERKSHIRE BORDERS - a note from Alan Burchard

A meeting to discuss the pottery industries of the Hampshire, Surrey and Berkshire borders was held on 19th February at Farnborough Town Hall. Invitations to the meeting, which was held under the auspices of the Hampshire County Museum Service, were circulated to county societies and to the local groups and planning departments within the immediate border districts. As the industries are of much more than local significance, members may be interested in a short report of the meeting.

The meeting was chaired by Kenneth Barton, Director of the County Museum Service, and he drew attention to the existing situation where poor co-ordination on research and rescue work existed in what was a vitally important ceramic production centre. This could very largely be attributed to the fact that the key area straddles the borders of the three counties and has therefore no single strong museum presence.



at its centre. The intention in calling the conference was to present first a chronological review of the current state of knowledge and then to hold a general discussion to examine how the situation might best be improved.

The first speaker was Malcolm Lyne of the Alice Holt Survey Group and he gave a detailed summary of his painstaking research into the Alice Holt Pottery Industry. He not only discussed the stylistic history of the industry but looked at it also from a marketing point of view. He showed how, starting with a very small range of types in the first century A.D., the industry changed and expanded, constantly adapting itself to the varying circumstances of demand and competition. He showed how the maximum distribution of its products occurring from the late third century onwards could probably be related to the use of various pottery types as containers. A phase in which decoration in a rather Celtic style was favoured gave way around the middle of the fourth century to one of rather crudely made and fussily over-decorated pottery; and there is some evidence that the industry continued into the first half of the fifth century.

The contribution on the Medieval pottery industry was to have been given by John Hurst but he was unable to come and his place was taken by Mrs Maureen Smith, Assistant Curator of the Kingston-upon-Thames Museum and Art Gallery. She spoke of her excavations on the site of a kiln producing green-glazed white ware pottery at Kingston-upon-Thames. This site, dating to perhaps 1250-1350, was of particular interest because of its situation in a non-clay area. Kingston was reported by Leland as one of the most important market towns of Surrey. This might therefore be a case where the industry and its raw material were brought to the market rather than risk the transport of comparatively fragile pottery. If this is so, the so-called "Surrey greenware" might well have been manufactured at a number of widely separated urban centres.

After giving a short resume of the main Medieval pot types of the area, Felix Holling, Curator of the Guildford Museum, explained the chronology of the early Post-Medieval wares. The first of the three principal horizons which he was able to isolate was one of the 16th century, represented by a kiln at Ship Lane, Farnborough. In this horizon, fine gritless tablewares, under clear foreign influence and including such types as the lobed cup, the two-handled cup and the corrugated beaker were produced alongside gritty Medieval forms such as the cooking pot, the large pan and the bung hole water jar. The next horizon also represented by kilns at Ship Lane, Farnborough, dated to the same century but later. In this horizon the Medieval wares had vanished and with the single exception of one form of jug there appeared a completely new range of grit-free wares. The new types included a form of footed pipkin, shallow handled bowls, a corrugated drinking cup as well as fuming pots, chafing dishes, costrels and chamber pots. In this horizon there appeared a proportion of redwares; and yellow glazes were used as well as green ones. Pottery found in excavations at Minley Road, Cove, belonged to an early 17th century horizon. Wares in this horizon showed relatively little change from those of the 16th century. Red wares and white wares were still made alongside each other; but there was a greater regularity and symmetry in the pottery shapes as well as a considerable improvement in the quality of the glazing. Much work was still needed to fill out the picture between the horizons, as also to show the development of industry in the later 17th century.

Mrs Maureen Rendell, Curator of the Camberley Museum, looked at the end of the industry in the 18th and 19th centuries. She demonstrated very clearly the large variety of historical sources that could be tapped for this purpose. Using the post office and other directories, it was



possible to find evidence for a number of phenomena such as the dramatic decline in the manufacturers of clay pipes from the time of the first introduction of the briar pipe, of the steady increase in brickmaking during the 19th century with an exceptional peak occurring in the 1860-1880 period when a sudden rise in prosperity corresponding to accelerating population growth caused a boom in the building trade. Conversely, the records seem to indicate that the conventional picture of the decline in the pottery industries of the area in the middle of the 19th century was not strictly accurate. In fact, there appears to have been a steady and marked growth in this industry, but possibly not at a sufficient rate to keep up with the population growth and demand.

The chronological surveys were then followed by a general discussion. It was generally felt that the best way to ensure continuity and co-ordination on research was to set up a Hampshire, Surrey and Berkshire Border Ceramic Research Group which would be run by a committee with representatives from each of the three counties concerned. Historical research was to be under the guidance of Mrs Rendell and survey work under that of Malcolm Lyne but general responsibility for the overall co-ordination to be in the hands of the Director of the Hampshire County Museum Service. Until such time as the area of research could be more closely defined it was decided that a radius of 25 miles from the junction of the Hampshire, Surrey, Berkshire borders should be taken as the preliminary study area. It was suggested that meetings of this type might be held annually to report on progress and examine particular aspects in greater detail.

ALAN BURCHARD

#### SINGLETON/FISHBOURNE EXCURSION, JUNE 1977

About fifty members of the Society joined the coach at Basingstoke Bus Station and set off to the south via Alton and Petersfield. As we climbed the hills beyond there we met cloud and rain, but after a stop for coffee in Midhurst on again to Singleton, by which time the weather had cleared. The Weald and Downland Museum is set in a beautiful wooded valley with the buildings well spaced and ranging from the thirteenth to the nineteenth centuries.

After a picnic lunch we stopped in Chichester for an interesting talk by Alec Down on the excavations in progress; the Roman levels were exposed and the area had been occupied by the Second Legion and their barracks then replaced by civil occupation until about 360 A.D.

From Chichester it was only a short ride to Fishbourne and the Roman palace (of King Cogidubnus?). The north wing of the palace is completely excavated and is covered by a single-span building with a museum attached. The gardens have been set out in the same design as the original, with plants that would have been known to a Roman gardener.

After tea at Fishbourne, we made our way home after a short stop on the road near the Earl of Halifax's "folly" with the story of the building given to us by Iris Gregory.

It was a most enjoyable day and very well organised by John and Mary Oliver, to whom we owe our thanks.

PETER HEATH

#### BON VOYAGE!

We are very sorry to say goodbye to Alan Burchard, who has given us much valuable help and encouragement at the Willis Museum, and we wish him and his family good luck for their new life in America.