



# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## NEWSLETTER

Number 45

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### OLD COTTAGES AND FARMHOUSES

Our programme for March is particularly busy. For the first of our two lectures, on March 18th, we join forces with the Hampshire Field Club and The Basingstoke Industrial Archaeology Group when we shall turn our attention once again to old buildings.

Miss Joan Harding, a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries and founder of the Surrey Vernacular Architecture Group, will be speaking on Old Farmhouses and Cottages, with particular reference to those of the Surrey - North Hampshire border. She will illustrate her talk with colour slides and she is bringing with her a number of objects for display. Miss Harding is a well-known authority on local building styles who has worked on several cruck cottages in north Hampshire.

This meeting will be held in the Jackson Room, Chute House, on Saturday 18th March at 2.45 p.m. Tea and cakes will be available after the talk.

### EXCAVATION AT COWDERY'S DOWN, BASING

The long-awaited excavation at Cowdery's Down, postponed from last September-October, will now take place from the end of March through April. Beginning on the 20th March, the Monday before Easter, the dig will be run full-time, working six days each week. After Easter Monday it is expected that Monday will be the weekly day off so that maximum amateur volunteer help can be used at weekends. Anyone wishing to work at the site on weekdays also will be very welcome.

Directed by Martin Millett, the dig is being organised by the Hampshire County Museum Service. Martin is an experienced excavator who is known to the Society for his digs at Neatham

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and Alton and for the lecture he gave us on Neatham in 1975. He is currently doing archaeological research at Oxford University.

Members may like to be reminded that the features expected to be excavated include ring ditches - probably Bronze Age - and a rectangular ditched enclosure which probably belongs to the period of the Seige of Basing House during the Civil War.

The site lies on the north side of Barton's Lane in the field bounded to the west by Swing Swang Lane (National Grid Ref: SU 657532).

This is a general call for help from as many volunteers as possible. All archaeological work has to be completed by 31st April.

Further details will be announced at the lecture on March 18th.

#### CURRENT ARCHAEOLOGY IN EGYPT

On Thursday 30th March our lecturer in the monthly series will be Mr. W.V. Davies, Assistant Keeper in the Department of Egyptian Antiquities, British Museum. Mr. Davies has first-hand experience of what is happening in Egypt at present. Shortly after agreeing to speak to us, in September last year, he flew out to Egypt to work on an excavation on behalf of the British Museum.

This will be our first ever lecture on Egyptian archaeology and indeed one of our first on a non-European topic: not to be missed!

Chute House, 30th March 1978, at 7.30 p.m.

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