



# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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## Newsletter

Number 53

May 1979

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### CALENDAR

Sunday 3rd June -Outing to Kingsclere area.  
9th June - 8th July -Excavation at Cowdery's Down.  
Thursday 14th June -Evening meeting at Festaen Dic.  
Saturday 30th June -Coach excursion to Gloucestershire.  
Thursday 5th July -Annual General Meeting.  
7th July - 5th August-Excavation at Basing House.



### FORTHCOMING OUTINGS

On Sunday 3rd June we join forces with the Willis Historical Society for a day trip to the Kingsclere area. The itinerary will include the important unfinished hill-fort at Ladle Hill, the Burghclere Lime Works, remaining evidence of the once Didcot-Newbury-Southampton railway and Kingsclere Village with observations on the geology, flora, fauna and fossil remains by the way. The round trip will involve some car riding and some walking but there is no charge.

Meet at SU 516566 - the car park towards the brow of White Hill on the B3051, the Kingsclere to Overton road - at 10.00 a.m. Please bring picnic lunch and tea.

In an attempt to revive our previous practice, we are organising a short, evening visit to the 'Festaen Dic', a little known Saxon earthwork just west of and almost opposite Blackbushe Airport on Thursday 14th June at 7.45 p.m. Meet at SU 797585 - by the gateway to the Bramshill Forest on the A30. Car parking along the grass verge. For those not averse to such practices, we shall probably end up at a convenient hostelry on a nearby village green.

Our major summer excursion this year will be a coach trip to the Cheltenham area of Gloucestershire on Saturday 30th June. The programme is still to be finalised but it is expected we shall visit Chedworth Roman Villa, which may be described as something in-between Lullingstone and Fishbourne in grandeur, and the Belas Knap chambered long barrow. Further details and application forms for this particular excursion will be circulated around mid-June.

### FORTHCOMING EXCAVATIONS

Martin Millett will resume his excavation for the County Museum Service at Cowdery's Down on Friday 8th June. Work will continue till Sunday 8th July, every day except Mondays, from 9.00 a.m. till 5.30 p.m. Volunteers are particularly welcome whether experienced or beginners. Last year we looked for a Civil War earthwork and found Iron-Age/Romano-British. This year a Saxon village could be hoped for but its anyone's guess what will turn up in the event.

Basing House dig 1979 follows immediately on the heels of Cowdery's Down. Working from 9.00 a.m. till 5.00 p.m. from Saturday 7th July to Sunday 5th August, Tim Schadla-Hall will continue excavating the gatehouse and this year will also explore the kitchen range. The above remarks about volunteers apply here also.

### NEWS AND NOTES

Ann Hawker. It is our pleasure to report our member Ann Hawker's contribution to the Hampshire Field Club's current Newsletter No.11 'Two Basingstoke Wills'. Ann has been investigating Tudor wills relating to Basingstoke families and properties in the Hampshire County Record Office for a few years now and is hoping to publish something more substantial on them before long. Brief notes on some have also been printed in our Newsletters (41, 42 and 44).

Her regular and frequent visits to the Record Office in Winchester have not gone unnoticed by the Record Office staff either. A committee has



been set up recently to review the publishing activities of the Office and to examine possible archival material as potential candidates for a series of official Record Office publications. Because of her obvious interest in such matters and her geographical situation at the northern end of the county, Ann has been appointed to this committee. Hearty congratulations Ann!

Blue Stones. Barbara Applin is justly proud of her little book entitled 'Blue Stones' which Macmillan's have recently published. It is a fictional story about the building of Stonehenge designed for English teaching to foreign students.

Forgotten plate! After the Links with the Past evening last March a rather nice white, china plate was left behind in the kitchen at Chute House. If the owner would like to claim it please contact Clare Searle who is looking after it.

Fort Hill School. Fort Hill School, built on the site of Winklebury Camp, was officially opened on the 11th May. To mark the occasion the school mounted an exhibition using the Iron-Age as its theme. We were invited to contribute and Mary Oliver organised a display depicting the Society's contribution to our understanding of the Iron-Age from sites in and around Basingstoke.

Wessex Archaeological Unit. With the reorganisation of rescue archaeology in Britain following two DoE papers and much discussion at all levels, local, county and regional, a new Wessex Archaeological Unit has been set up. From May 1st this year the new Unit's director, Ann Ellison, took up her post. The Unit covers Berkshire, Dorset, Hampshire, Isle of Wight and Wiltshire. Initially there will be Ann as director and later, from about August, an administrative officer will take up his post. The existing DoE funded county field officers, people like Peter Fasham of MARC 3, Les Groube of Dorset, the post previously held by Mike Hughes and Steve Shannon for the Hampshire Archaeological Committee, will be transferred to the Unit. It is anticipated that there will be some fifteen people employed by the Unit and directly responsible to the Wessex Archaeological Committee.

For her first few months Ann Ellison will be visiting archaeological organisations around Wessex, looking for central headquarters and working on a policy document to cover the period 1980-85. For the moment she is based at the Willis Museum in Basingstoke.

Archaeology Awards to Schools. Readers of this Newsletter and watchers of televised archaeology will remember Malcolm Lyne's success in winning the 1978 Chronicle award. 'Rescue' makes several awards each year for outstanding work in a variety of different aspects of archaeology. Some of these are allocated to schools and school projects. The Young Rescue Award, which is a new award sponsored this year by British Gas, is organised by Young Rescue the national archaeological club for children aged between 9 and 16. This award is to be allocated for individual project work. Another award, the Sire Publications Award, sponsored by the publishers, is organised by the Council for British Archaeology. Awards are given, again for individual project work, to school students between 16 and 18.

Further details of these awards and further information about educational work undertaken by the CBA may be obtained from Mike Corbishly, Education Officer, Council for British Archaeology, 112 Kennington Road, London SE11 6RE. Tel. 01-582-0494.

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