



# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

## Newsletter

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### CALENDAR

Saturday 20th Conference on local history at The Castle  
October Winchester.

Thursday 25th The deserted Medieval village at Netherton:  
October lecture by John Fairbrother, Chute House 7.30pm

Saturday & Two days of training in fieldwalking in the  
Sunday 27th Field, meet North Warnborough - details to  
28th October follow.

Wednesday 31st Towns and the origins of European nation  
October states: lecture by Prof. Martin Biddle, the  
first in the Aspects of Antiquity lecture  
series, Lecture Theatre, Physics Building,  
Southampton University (fee for course £4;  
per lecture £1).

Saturday  
10th November C.B.A. Group 12 Annual Meeting, at John of  
Gaunt School, Hungerford (see inside).

## The Deserted Medieval Village at Netherton, Hampshire

Probably your first reaction to the title of our October lecture was to wonder where Netherton might be. If you are still wondering, you will be surprised to learn that it is relatively near Basingstoke. Netherton lies midway between Andover and Newbury, approximately 2 miles WNW of Ashmansworth on the A343, close to the village of Fawcote. Excavations have been progressing there for several summer seasons with the City of London Archaeological Society under the direction of John Fairbrother, in a dig that has gone unnoticed through lack of publicity.

It first came to our attention when Mike Hughes, in his medieval paper at the Southampton conference last November, made us aware of it by likening it in importance to any deserted village site in Southern Britain, if not to Wharfedale Percy in Yorkshire which has established itself as the major type site in Britain.

Deserted Medieval Villages (DMVs) are common and are scattered all over the country. Indeed, this Society has been involved in the excavations of two quite nearby; at Deane, in the grounds of Hillsea College with Stephen Moorhouse in 1972 and at Popham, Peter Fasham's first MARC 3 site.

There are various reasons why medieval villages should be abandoned and pulled down but the main reasons in chronological order are as follows:

- the creation of royal forests or haryings by William the Conqueror in northern Britain during the 11th Century;

- deliberate removal of villages from the proximity of monastic sites belonging to the Cistercian order during the 12th Century;

- severe deterioration of the climate leading to the abandonment of wet marginal sites;

- wars with Welsh and Scots, depopulation from pestilence, as with the Black Death; disasters of the Hundred Years War; failure of the newly created new towns, all in the 14th Century;

- enclosure of arable land for sheep farming which greatly expanded during the 15th Century (and 16th Century);

- finally during the 17th and 18th centuries with the rise of the "great houses" villages were re-sited.

Why Netherton should have been deserted and where the people went to can remain a mystery until John Fairbrother's lecture. What can be told is that it is a site which has never been ploughed and has survived as a group of low platforms, in which the houses stood, with shallow troughs between them representing roads and lanes. Rubbish pits and lost or discarded artifacts are providing the scientific evidence from which life in this once thriving Hampshire village can be reconstructed.

Clennell Room, Chute House, Thursday 25th October at 7.30pm.



Fieldwalking - the conference and the next stage.

Following the first lecture of the season, by Dr. Steve Shennan on the Field survey - East Hants, several members of the Society joined over 100 keen amateurs from all over the county at a one day conference on fieldwalking in Winchester on Saturday 29th September. The three organisers - Peter Fasham, Tim Shadla Hall and Steve Shennan were delighted by the response and it was felt that the whole ambitious project of fieldwalking in the chosen areas over a number of years (as outlined in the last newsletter) had got off to a very enthusiastic start. It was a full and enjoyable day, including description of the project, explanation of the methods to be used, and a session on artefact handling. In attempting to summarise, I would like to stress the following points:

- 1) The value of fieldwalking - and of this particular scheme, was underlined by all the speakers, indeed, Hampshire will be blazing a trail if the scheme is successfully completed. The area that we will be concerned with stretches from Basing to Fleet and covers land of different geological types and some of it has received little attention by archaeologists in the past. A proportion of the arable fields of each grid square will be walked, by the same methods as used in the other areas of the project so that can be compared. Over a period of years, some new and meaningfully information about the distribution of settlement will be obtained
- 11) Fieldwalking is the ideal activity for amateur archaeologists - it requires no prior knowledge and is easily learnt; it needs no specialist equipment and is therefore cheap; and it is suitable for all ages - children are especially good at it! Several speakers made the point that different people "get their eye in" for different things - one walker spots pottery, another picks up flint, it is unlikely that one walker will recognise every category of artefact. Happily, this does not matter, as field walking is a random sample technique and a number of walkers in a field will gather representative information. Like all archaeological activities, fieldwalking depends for its success on proper recording - finds must be bagged and labelled, and the field work will be followed up by familiar washing and marking sessions.
- 111) All the speakers stressed that this venture will stand or fall on amateur support. Professional help (in our case, provided by Tim Schadla Hall) will be available in the initial months until we have all learnt the fieldwalking methods and become familiar with the objects to look for - then it is up to us. In order that the long term objectives can be realised, some degree of commitment is required from us.

Please come along and join in the next stage - a training weekend in the field on October 27/28th, on the methods to be used, and on the recognition of artefacts. Further sessions on recognising flints, pottery, non-natural stone etc. in the museum are planned - details to follow - watch this space!

The meeting place is at North Warnborough - details to follow ...  
at, 10.30 am, both Saturday and Sunday, 27/28th October.

Ring Basingstoke 65902 (Willis Museum) nearer the date.



# Library Books on Archaeology.

Any ideas that you can read this article and rush into your local library and find THE archaeology section must be quickly forgotten.

The Dewey Decimal Classification used by Hampshire County Libraries and most other public libraries has not always been helpful in the archaeology student. The mainstream of archaeology was previously housed in the geography section. Tucked untidily between Maps and Europe at 913.- Here you will still find a large number of fascinating works of both general and particular interest. Prehistory has also proved a problem to classification experts and many of the older works can still be found at 571.-, with the anthropology books and coming under the general heading 'Life Sciences'.

However, the modern approach has been to place the archaeology books with history. The latest books therefore appear at 930.1- and where they relate to particular countries are at the relevant number for the history of that country. This is all relatively simple but we have not finished yet by a long way. For instance, aerial archaeology can be found with books on photography; archaeology of the bible lands in the religious section and coins have their place in the art section. The whole point of this article is to try and persuade you not to have a rigid idea that all books covering our interests lie in one place. As an example, the coming lecture on Mediaeval Villages could cover sociology: architecture: jewellery: coins: agriculture: documentar, history.

If this hasn't intimidated you, and I hope it hasn't, come and do some detective work in the library. When you want to see what the library has to offer, I suggest you check the shelves at the places I have mentioned (and any others you consider might be fruitfull) and then to find titles in stock, but not on the shelves, you can check the class catalogue.

When you have time to browse, I am certain you will find something of interest, even if it is not what you originally wanted. In Basingstoke Central Library you will find a number of useful books in the Reference Library and the periodical Current Archaeology on display. If you have not seen Current Archaeology it is an attractive format with easily digestible articles and each issue has book reviews.

I was asked to produce a list of books to go with the lectures. It is very hard to do so helpfully. I have not read these books and probably better ones are available. But these are a few to be found in the stock of Basingstoke Library and they should underline the points I have been making

ALLISON. K.J.	Deserted Villages. Macmillan 1970 (o/p)	301.35
DURUY. Victor.	The World of the Romans Gifford.J.	
	1972 £2. 00.	913.3703
EMBERTON, Wilf	Love Loyalty, the close and perilous siege of Basing House. Emberton 1972	£2.75 H942.062
FOWLER, P.J.	Recent work in Rural Archaeology	936.1009734
	Moonraker Press. 1975	£5.25
FRERE, Sheppard.	Britannia, a history of Roman Britain	
	R.K.P. rev.ed. 1978	£8.95 942.01
GODWIN, G.N.	The Civil War in Hampshire and the story of Basing House. Gilbert & Son. 1904 (O/p)	RH942.062
GRANT, M.	History of Rome.	
	Weidenfeld and N. 1978	£12.50. 937
HORIZON MAGAZINE	The Horizon Book of the Middle Ages	
	Horizon. 1968 (o/p) (oversize)	940.1
HOSKINS, W.G.	Making of the English Landscape	
	Hodder. 1977	£4.50 942



JESSUP, Ronald	Anglo-Saxon Jewellery	
KIEFER, Otto	Shire Archaeology. 1974 £2.25	739
	Sexual Life in Ancient Rome.	
PLATT, Colin	Abbey. 8 imp. 1971.(o/p)	301.410937
	The English Mediaeval Town.	
PLATT, Colin	Secker and W. 1976 £6.00	301.360942
	Mediaeval Southampton: The Port and	
	Trading Community A.D. 1000-1600	
	R.K.P. 1973 £6.90.	RH942.27SOU
ROWLEY, Trevor	Villages in the landscape.	942
	Dent 1978. £5.95.	
TAYLOR, Christopher	Fieldwork in Medieval Archaeology	
	Batsford 1974 £4.25.	913.031.

The standard work on deserted mediaeval villages "Lost Villages of England" by M. Beresford 1954 (o/p). This book is not in the Library.

N.B. Mediaeval and Medieval are correctly spelt for the relative titles

JOY NEEDHAM.

### Social Evening.

It has been decided that the Society should again have a December Social Function and as this does not feature in the lecture programme, please book Thursday 13th December in your diaries now. As the Clennell Room seems a little small for these occasions, The Barn at Church Cottage has been booked. This 'historic' room will give us plenty of room to spread articles, so please come along and bring your friends. Details are not yet finalised, but it will follow the pattern of previous years with wine and a buffet and with some focus of interest to help the evening along.

### Notes and News

#### Help please.

The committee would be delighted to hear from anyone accessible to the Town Centre during working hours with an hour to spare, approximately once a month, who would like to help the Society by running off the Newsletter copies on the duplicator at Chute House. Help with assembling copies, stapling and addressing would also be appreciated. A list of people who would lend a hand occasionally would perhaps be the answer, as we try to bring out issues frequently, especially through the winter. Don't forget too, that your written contributions are always very welcome. Please contact Mary Oliver at Basingstoke.24263 if you can help in any way.

Reminder The Society is a subscribing member of the Hants. Field Club and receives a copy of the Proceedings. The last issue had articles on the triple barrow in Micheldever Wood, the Droxford Anglo-Saxon Cemetery and the Medieval tenements on Quilter's Vault, Southampton, as well as the Ructstalls report and three historical articles. This copy and back numbers of the Proceedings, also various books and off prints on archaeological subjects are held as a library by our Treasurer, Bob Mulla and can be used by any member of the Society at any time by arrangement with Bob (60 Fairthorne Rise, Basing).

#### Forthcoming Events.

1. Conference on Local History organised by the Hants Record Office and the Hants Standing Conference for Local History to be held at the Conference Room, Ashburton Court, The Castle, Winchester on Saturday October 20th and starting at 9.45 am., with coffee and a chance to look at a display of work by local History Societies. The programme includes an illustrated talk on his work on the history of Odiham by Mr. Barry Stapleton, then adjournment to the



Great Hall for the opening of "The Hog's Progress", an exhibition of archives by the Rt. Hon. Lord Denning and a discussion on setting up a new organisation to co-ordinate work on local history in the county. If you wish to go, please send 50p (fee including tea and coffee) to Mrs. G.L. Richardson, Westgate House, Trafalgar Street, Winchester, by October 13th.

11) C.B.A. Group 12 Annual Meeting to be held this year on Saturday November 10th. at John of Gaunt School, Hungerford. A variety of topics will be presented, including work done by Amateur groups in the past twelve months, with a final session on the state of archaeology in Wessex. Arrangements to cooperate over transport can be made if desired at the next meeting on 25th October.

LAST REMINDER. - to anyone who has not yet paid their 1979/80 subscription - Please do so! No further copies of the News letter will be sent.