



BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Number 65 February/March 1981

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CALENDAR

- Wednesday
25th February Aerial Photography: The contribution to archaeology, by Professor J. K. St. Joseph - the last of the Aspects of Antiquity lectures at the Physics Building, Lecture Theatre A Southampton University
- Thursday
26th February The development of the landscape at Cowdery's Down, Basing by Martin Millett Assistant Keeper of Archaeology HCMS, 7.30 p.m. Chute House, Basingstoke.
- Saturday
28th February C.B.A. Group 12 A.B.M. at The Museum, Salisbury details inside
- Tuesday
3rd March 'Danebury' by Professor Barry Cunliffe, HFC Archaeological section, at Andover Museum 7.30 p.m.
- Monday
16th March 'Development and death of tramways of the United Kingdom by Mr Mike Beard. BIAG meeting, S.E.B. Social Clubroom, Bounty Road 7.30p.m.
- Thursday
19th March 'Basingstoke schools - their history and origin' by Mr Peter Davis, Friends of the Willis Museum 7.30 p.m. Willis Museum, Basingstoke.
- Sunday
22nd March Meeting for the washing and sorting of finds from fieldwalking, 2 p.m. Willis Museum, see inside for details.
- Thursday
26th March 'The Eling Tide Mill, Dr Gavin Bowie, Keeper of Social History HCMS 7.30 p.m. Chute House, Basingstoke.
- Friday
27th March Identification Evening at the Willis Museum, when the Keepers of the various disciplines will identify objects for the general public. For details, contact the Museum.
- Wednesday
8th April 'Timber framed buildings of Hampshire' Mr Richard Warmington. HFC Archaeological Section, 7.30 p.m. King Alfred's College, Winchester.
- Friday
17th April to Monday
20th April Society Training Excavation (see inside for details).
- Saturday
18th April Folk Evening at Viables Centre organised by Friends of the Willis Museum: for details contact The Museum.
- Thursday
30th April 'The Iron Age and Roman Temple at Hayling Island' by Mr Anthony King, Institute of Archaeology, 7.30 p.m. Chute House, Basingstoke.

The Development of the Landscape at Cowdery's Down, Basing,
by Martin Millett.

We are very pleased to welcome back Martin Millett as our next lecturer. Martin is well known to many society members both as a previous lecturer and more recently, since his appointment as Assistant Keeper of Archaeology at Hampshire County Museum Service, as the leader of our field walking activities. Martin has directed the excavations at Cowdery's Down over the last few years and it is hoped will continue to explore the extent of the large and important Saxon Settlement. His lecture this month will be a useful reminder that this aspect of the site was a completely unexpected bonus.

The reason for excavating the site in the first place was to examine, prior to building works, an enclosure and ring ditches appearing on an aerial photograph. As post excavation work on these earlier phases of Cowdery's Down nears completion and plans for publication are well advanced, it will be most interesting to have a resumé of the history of the whole site in relation to its surroundings. This treatment of a site as part of the landscape, with more stress on the environmental and economic evidence as indicating how man was affecting the revolution of the landscape, is very much the fashionable approach to archaeology today. It is certainly a more profound approach than a straight forward description of features and finds. All in all, this month's lecture is definitely one not to be missed by anyone interested in local archaeology, especially by those who have helped or would like to help in the excavation of Cowdery's Down - probably our most interesting and important local site at the moment.

The Eling Tide Mill, by Dr Gavin Bowie.

This year seems to be the year for adaptation of the original titles given by our lecturers for the year - probably the penalty of organising the programme so far in advance! The speaker for our joint meeting with the Industrial Archaeology Group, Dr Gavin Bowie, Keeper of Social History with Hampshire County Museum Service, whose speciality is mills of various kinds, has chosen to speak to us about the Eling Tide Mill project with which he has been intimately involved. This mill on Southampton Water is of a type once common along the coast and is now the only surviving working example in this country and it is thought in Europe. A tide mill is a water mill with a difference, being powered by sea water which is trapped at high tide and released gradually at low tide through the mill.

It has been restored to full working order by a specially created Trust at a cost of £150,000 with the help of grants from the Science Museum, Hants County Council and the New Forest District Council. It was opened for the first time last spring, by Angela Rippon, but more work has been done over the winter season ready for re-opening this spring. Our lecturer has not only been directing the restoration work, but also last year acted as Miller, and he will be bringing with him 1 cwt of 3lb bags of wholemeal flour so that we can all buy the end product of all this work, and help the Trust funds too.

George Willis documents.

Mrs Nora Jupe has in her safe keeping, by courtesy of the executors of Mr Willis, a quantity of personal papers - letters, lecture notes and such-like belonging to Mr Willis, which constitute a very important archive on his life and work. It was the wish of the Willis society inherited by the new joint society to work on this material with two intentions:-

- 1) to make Transcriptions of the original material so that it can be deposited with a safe reposition, such as the County Archives.
- 2) to use the Transcriptions as the basis for a biography of Mr Willis.

Many members will remember Mr Willis personally - it is only 11 years since he died, all will know of the great contribution he made to the life of this town and particularly to the archaeology of the area. The committee feel that this is a most worthwhile project which many members will wish to be involved in, and that it is most suitable for this society to undertake this work - particularly in the Jubilee year of the museum which he founded and loved. Obviously the more people who are involved in the transcription work, the faster it will be achieved. It is planned to hold an initial meeting for discussion and a preliminary sort out of the material for members to work on in their own time - hopefully matching the category of material with the interests of the person working on it. Until we know the response of members to this project, we do not know where to hold the meeting or if you are interest

in taking part you are asked to contact the Secretary either at the next meeting, or on Basingstoke 24263. Please help, if you feel you have the time - no special qualifications are needed other than time, patience - and interest.

Council for British Archaeology

1) Group 12 Annual Business Meeting will be held on Saturday 28th February at 2p.m. in the Stevens Lecture Theatre, The Museum, St Ann Street, Salisbury. After the business meeting, Dr Ann Ellison, Director of the Wessex Archaeological Committee will speak on 'Rescue Archaeology in Wessex: the 1980's', and answer questions. The Society has group membership of the CBA, so anyone interested will be very welcome to attend this meeting and learn what is planned on the wider front for Wessex archaeology.

2) The CBA are offering some of their publications at a special rate for a limited period. We have to make a group order, so if you are interested in buying any of the titles listed below please write to the Secretary, enclosing your cheque, before the end of March.

Title	Published price	Offer price
Romano British coarse pottery: a students guide	£ 1.75	£1.00
Aerial reconnaissance for archaeology	£ 9.50	£5.00
Medieval moated sites	£ 7.50	£4.00
The Saxon shore	£ 7.00	£3.00
The effect of man on the landscape: Lowland Zone	£12.50	£6.50
Stone axe studies	£11.75	£7.50
Roman shipping and trade	£ 8.50	£5.00
Viking Age York and the North	£ 7.50	£4.50
Archaeology in Sussex to AD 1500	£ 8.50	£5.00
British archaeology: an introductory booklet	£ 0.90	£0.30
Archaeology and agriculture	£ 2.25	£1.00
Signposts for archaeological publication	£ 1.95	£1.00

North East Hants Fieldwalking Programme

As Spring approaches and the farmers' crops become established the fieldwalking season has to come to an end until next Autumn.

A large quantity of archaeological material has been collected during the winter months, including some spectacular flint implements, and before we finish for the season we must analyse the finds, draw the conclusions and decide what next should be done.

To give everyone a chance to look over what has been found we are arranging a meeting in the Willis' Museum Annexe at 2 p.m. on Sunday 22nd March. All fieldwalkers are urged to come to this meeting.

Training dig Easter 1981

Arrangements are currently in hand for a training dig at Cowdery's Down over the Easter weekend - Friday 17th until Monday 20th April.

It is hoped that a small number of beginners ideally about 6-12 people, can be shown the rudiments of archaeological technique from surveying the site to digging and recording finds.

Our archaeological objective will be to take a section across a large Civil War nit, partially examined during Martin Millett's 1980 season there.

Further details will be announced as they become available but anyone wanting to participate should contact either Peter Heath (27713) or Richard Searle (Hook 2411) as soon as possible.