



# **BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**Newsletter**

number 66

April/May 1981

**Notes and Diary**

**The Iron Age and Roman Temple on Hayling Island**

**The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Region**

**Trip to Selbourne,**

**Son et Lumiere - St. Michael's Church.**

**Forthcoming Events.**

~~Subscriptions -~~ May I remind members that, as agreed at the last AGM, subscriptions for 1981-2 will be at the increased rate of £3 for an ordinary member, £4 for a joint subscription and £1 for student and OAP members. ~~Subscriptions are due on 1st May, and should be sent to Mr Bob Mulla, Hon. Treasurer, Fairthorne Rise, Old Basing.~~

~~Articles and notices for the newsletter should be sent to the editor, Mr G. E. Hall, Apple Tree Cottage, Wyaford Lane, Charter Alley, Nr Ramsdell, Basingstoke, Hants RG26 5PZ.~~

~~All other queries about Society activities should be sent to the secretary, Mrs M Oliver, 3 Milkingpen Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke 24263.~~

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Diary

- Wednesday  
29th April 'Roman Hampshire Reviewed', by Mr D Johnston, HFC Archaeological Section at St Peter's Hall, Petersfield at 7.30 p.m.
- Thursday  
30th April 'The Iron Age and Roman Temple on Hayling Island' by Mr A. King at Clennell Room, Chute House, Basingstoke at 7.30 p.m.
- Wednesday  
6th May 'The Prehistory of South East Hants', by Mr D. Rudkin, HFC Archaeological Section, Havant Museum at 7.30 p.m.
- Saturday  
16th May Society excursion to Selborne (see inside)  
meet at 'The Wakes' at 2.0 p.m.
- Thursday  
21st May Conservation in the County Museum Service by Mr A Johnston, Friends of the Willis Museum, Willis Museum, Basingstoke at 7.30 p.m.
- Thursday  
28th May 'The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Region' by Mr D Miles, Clennell Room, Chute House, Basingstoke 7.30 p.m.
- Thursday  
18th June 'The re-birth of London's lost route to Basingstoke' by Mr R Higgs Friends of the Willis Museum, Willis Museum, Basingstoke 7.30 p.m.
- Saturday  
13th June Society Excursion to Salisbury Plain  
details later

STELLA DIXON

It is with great sorrow that we announce the death of our member Stella Dixon. She was a keen and active member of the Society, a hard worker and her love of Archaeology was well known outside the Society. We shall miss her very much.

Our lecture this month is by Mr Anthony King of the Institute of Archaeology and a joint director of the excavations of the temple site about which he is to speak. The site has been known for a long time, but not its function: antiquarians in the last century identified the massive stone circular foundations as an ornamental pool in the centre of a Roman villa complex! In fact, those foundations supported a masonry tower, a known type of Roman-Celtic temple of which the best surviving example is at Périgueux, Central France where the cylindrical tower still stands 70 feet high. The tower was surrounded by a square ambulatory with an imposing entrance. The quantities of imported stone, very early mosaics painted plaster are closely paralleled at the Roman palace of Fishborne, just across the water and the site is thought to be the cult centre for the kingdom of Cogidubnus. Equally fascinating, this prestigious Roman phase has an Iron Age predecessor, which closely parallels it in form and size: from both phases there has been a wealth of temple offerings. Mr King has been associated with the site since interest in it was reawakened by a first class aerial photograph in the drought year 1976, and we look forward to a fascinating first hand account.

7.30 p.m. Clennell Room, Chute House, Thursday 30th April.  
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The Iron Age in the Upper Thames Region

Many of you will, I am sure, remember that the first lecture of our winter season was due to be given by Mr David Miles on this subject. Unfortunately, he was unable to come at the last minute, but we did manage to persuade him to come on 28th May and have therefore extended our lecture programme by one month. Mr Miles works for the Oxfordshire Archaeological Unit and has had a great deal of experience in the field, particularly with Iron Age Sites. It will be of special interest to all those who have taken part in excavations at local Iron Age sites such as Rickstalls Hill, Viables, Cowdery's Down (or for those with long memories, at Oakridge, Buckskin or Common Plantation) to compare & contrast the kind of sites and finds we have in this area with those which Mr Miles has examined not so very far away. It is, always a pleasure to hear an expert talk about his subject and we look forward to welcoming Mr Miles on Thursday 28th May, 7.30 p.m. Clennell Room, Chute House, Basingstoke.

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Trip to Selbourne, Saturday 16th May, 1981.

One of the society's activities which has proved popular in recent years has been the half day or evening excursion to some place fairly nearby for a 'walkabout tour' of the main points of interest. The attraction of a guide with local knowledge and the company of friends has made these events extremely pleasurable. This year, the venue for the first trip of the season is Selborne, best known as the home of its most famous inhabitant Gilbert White, the eighteenth century curate and naturalist, country gentleman and writer of the Natural History of Selborne, which even after all these years still stands as a work of literature and scholarship. The Wakes, Gilbert White's old home, is now open as a museum on the ground floor, devoted to him and his work in Selborne, while the upper floor is the Oates Memorial Library and museum, with exhibits relating to the travels of Frank Oates in Central America and Africa in the late 19th century and for Captain L.E.G. Oates, who was a member of Scott's ill fated expedition to the South Pole 1910-1912. The Sacre garden is also open to visitors, where items of special interest include White's ha-ha, his brick path and melon walls with his initials, an old rose garden and a herb garden. A reconstruction of his bird hide is in the field beyond the garden. Entry to the museum will be at a specially reduced party rate of 45p for adults, 15p for children, meeting at the museum for an introductory talk at 2.0 p.m. After the museum - and weather permitting, there are several very attractive walks to choose from, or the village of Selborne with St Mary's Church with Gilbert White's tombstone, the 'Plestor' or village green, to explore. The climb up the Zig Zag, constructed in 1755, up the Hanger of beech trees is a favourite walk, with views to reward you at the top and there are many paths to choose on the Common. For those who do not want to climb, there is the walk through the long and short lyches, another very pleasant walk through meadows, by woods and streams. There will be leaders for these walks for those who wish to join and who are not sure of the way.



For those who would like a cup of tea afterwards, there are a number of places, we suggest that we all meet up at the Bush House Restaurant (tea alone 40p plus scones and jam 80p, full set tea £1.40p) and those who would like their tea ready at a certain time can order in advance by ringing the Secretary (Basingstoke 24263) who will make a block order if it is required.

To set the mood for this excursion, Andrew Duckworth has offered to bring along to our next lecture a small display of editions of Gilbert White's Natural History of Selborne. Andrew is compiling a bibliography of all the editions published since the book first appeared in 1789. They number in hundreds! We do thank him for this display.

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### Son et Lumiere - St. Michael's Church, 26th April to 9th May

As part of the Basingstoke Festival of Arts, an ambitious Son et Lumiere is being presented inside the parish church of St. Michael's. This promises to be an exciting and interesting event. It will be held each evening at 8 p.m. for two weeks.

Son et Lumiere at St. Michael's will tell the story of the church from the earliest days of Christian worship on the site up to 1978 when the parish communion was televised. Older members of the congregation will be able to re-live some of the more dramatic and moving experiences which this church has known in this century - the dedication of the Memorial Chapel after the First World War; the fire in 1938 which destroyed the south aisle roof; and the bombing which wrecked the chancel in 1940.

In comparison the preceding centuries had been peaceful, ever since Cromwell's troops had left the town where they had been billeted during the siege of Basing House. They left the church with all its windows blown out. Gunpowder stored in it, had exploded one night.

But the story of St. Michael's is not just of fire and destruction. It is, above all, the story of ordinary men and women - the fortunate few who supported the church with their gifts and the poor who received its charity; the workmen supplied with beer when they re-hung the bells and the churchwardens grappling with the problems that face every generation.

Tickets for this unique occasion will be on sale from early March at £1.50 (O.A.P.s and children £1.00), with a 10% reduction for parties of 12 or more. They can be obtained by postal application to Son et Lumiere, Church Cottage House, Church Square, Basingstoke; from members of the St. Michael's congregation and at the Haymarket Theatre, Basingstoke.

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### 1. Excursions at Forthcoming Events.

1. Excavations at ~~Rockborne~~ Roman Villa by H.C.M.S. will take place from Friday 29th May to Sunday 14th June. The area below the mosaic in room 1 is to be examined. Anyone who can help with the work should contact Tim Schadla Hall at the Willis Museum, Basingstoke, 65902.
2. This Society's full day coach excursion to Salisbury Plain, covering 4000 years of history, Saturday 13th June. Please reserve this date, further details and booking forms in the next newsletter.
3. H.F.C. Archaeological Section coach excursion to Rockborne and Cranborne Chase, Saturday 4th July, sites include Rockborne Roman villa, barrows settlements and field systems on Martin Down, the intersection of the Sarum-Badbury Roman road, with Bokerley Dyke and Gissage All Saints, where Mr Green will show visitors his prehistoric collection and give a demonstration of flint knapping. Coach leaves Basingstoke 9.30 a.m. cost £3. H.F.C. members should send booking forms to Miss A. Robinson, King Alfred's College Winchester. Society members who wish to go should ring the Secretary, Basingstoke 24263.
4. Local History Workshop: A summer school organised by the WEA from Saturday 29th August to Saturday 5th September at La Sainte Union College of Higher Education, the Avenue Southampton. This is a residential course aimed at providing students with a good grounding in the methods and techniques of studying local history. A wide range of sources and methods of interpretation will be explored, both via documents and in the field. Cost - £118 all inclusive. For further details please contact the Secretary.
5. Society Barn Dance, Friday 23rd October. Last year's barndance was such an enjoyable occasion the committee have been asked to organise another one. Please make a note of this in your diaries. Numbers are limited to 120, so please order your tickets