



BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

NEWSLETTER 71

MARCH 1982.

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Calendar.

Wednesday 17th March 'The great god Pan' by Prof. John Boardman.
Physics Lecture Theatre A. Southampton University
7.30pm.

Thursday 18th March. Basingstoke 1970-1990 by A.R. Vines and W.Fergie,
Friends of the Museum, 7.30 Willis Museum, New St..

Saturday 27th March. H.F.C. O.G.S. Crawford Memorial Lecture. 'Wolvesey
Palace, Castle and House for 1000 years' by Prof.
Martin Biddle. 2.30pm. Room 12, King Alfred's College
Winchester.

Wednesday 31st March. Richard White of Basingstoke, the erudite exile.
by Dr. Dennis Rhodes. 7.30pm. St. Mary's Hall, Eastrop.

Friday 9th- Training Excavation.
Sunday 11th
April

Thursday 22nd April The Agricultural Revolution in Hampshire, by
Dr. Gavin Bowie, Friends of the Museum. 7.30pm. Willis
Museum.

Wednesday 28th April. The Parish of Basingstoke in the Middle Ages
by Mrs. Barbara Carpenter Turner. 7.30 St. Mary's Hall
Eastrop

10th Anniversary Lecture.

Richard White of Basingstoke - the erudite exile.

I imagine many members have looked at the title of our March lecture and wondered who was Richard White? I, for one did and turned to that ever useful source of information on our town's past - Baigent and Millard's History of Basingstoke - for enlightenment. There is a sketchy outline of his life - he was the son of Henry White of Basingstoke, admitted as a fellow of New College Oxford 1557, he became a lawyer, a Regius Professor of Law at the College of Douay and outliving two rich wives, was ordained priest and was high in the Pope's regard. However, his chief claim to fame lies in the History of Britain which he wrote in Latin, eleven books published between 1597 and 1606, one of the earliest scholarly works on our past. So much by way of introduction, we look forward to hearing more about him from Dr. Dennis Rhodes. Dr. Rhodes is Keeper in Charge of Incunabula (early printed books) at the British Library, based in the British Museum, London. He is a scholar whom we are fortunate to have lecturing to us, his talk will be the fruit of original research, and to judge by his letters, we are promised a lively, entertaining and stimulating evening. Although Richard White's only connection with our town would appear to be his birth, he always acknowledged it, signing himself Ricardus Vitus Basingstochius, and it seemed appropriate to celebrate this early son of Basingstoke as our 10th anniversary lecture, at which we shall, it is hoped, be joined by the Mayor.

Training Excavation.

It is intended that once again, the Society will organise a training course at Easter for those members who have little or no experience of working on an excavation.

The course will cover the three days of Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9th, 10th and 11th of April, the working day will be from 10am to 4pm. The site of the excavation will be at Worting and members taking part will be advised of details nearer the time.

The course will be designed to show how to tackle an excavation starting with the setting out of the site using basic geometry with simple instruments and possibly taking the instruction a little further with the use of a theodolite and staff.

Having set out the area to be excavated, the turf will be removed and stacked, the subsoil will then be removed using mattocks and spades with final removal using hand trowels.

Plans and sections of the excavation will be drawn and 'finds' from the site will be recorded. Following removal of any items found they will be washed and marked in preparation for storage in the Willis Museum.

Apart from the physical work there will be discussion of the methods of locating sites including the use of all documents, aerial survey, field walking and the various types of ground survey instruments.

The most important aspect of any excavation is the writing of the report and this will be discussed and a final report prepared by members taking part.

Everyone is welcome to join the course whatever their experience - if possible, please bring a hand trowel, kneeling mat and bucket but don't hesitate to come for lack of them! It will be a help with planning to know how many members are interested in taking part: if you would like to join in, please ring me on B'stoke 27713.

Peter Heath.

As our Easter training dig approaches it seems appropriate to remind members of the insurance cover taken out by the Society for their protection. This article was printed by the Alton Archaeological Society and is copied with their permission.

INSURANCE.

In these days of health and safety consciousness the Society feels it necessary to cover its officers and members through an appropriate insurance with the Council for British Archaeology. The cover is for the legal liability of members to third parties for injury or property damage while engaged in bona fide activities of the Society. Members and other persons working as volunteers for the Society are also insured for personal accident.

As is usual in insurance policies, there are limitations and exclusions, and members are asked to note particularly where they are not covered - particularly regarding personal effects.

1. In almost all cases loss or damage of personal effects is not covered. A member wishing to have such cover should arrange it through their own household insurance policy.
2. There is no cover for working over 6 feet below ground level.
3. Minors working on sites should have written consent of parents or guardians.
4. Anyone working on another society's activity (eg. a dig) should expect to come under that society's or organisation's insurance(s), as a voluntary, unpaid worker. Agreement for participation should be made with the activity supervisor.
5. Any paid work on an activity requires by law the cover of Employer's Liability Insurance.
6. Members who join in other organisation's dig etc., without any specific arrangements being made by the Society, do so on their own responsibility and have no call on our Society for insurance purposes. Information given about another organisations activities, in our Newsletter or at a meeting etc., does not imply the Society's official participation in an activity. Also, using the Society's membership card as an introduction to another society does not imply an authorisation or agreement by our Society for a member's participation in another's activity.
7. Any mishap, accident or loss should be reported promptly to the activity supervisor.

The Parish of Basingstoke in the Middle Ages.

The object of our April lecture is obvious in its appeal and we are pleased to welcome Mrs. Barbara Carpenter Turner to Basingstoke to tell us about her researches into Basingstoke's Medieval documentary history. Some members may have attended Mrs. Carpenter Turner's WEA class on Hampshire history, but this will be her first visit to the Society and I am sure we can look forward to a most interesting and entertaining evening. It is clear from contributions to this newsletter, from the interest aroused by the WEA class on documents and the Society's forthcoming publication of Anne Hawker's book that there is considerable local interest in documents and also very great scope for original work. I feel sure that Mrs. Carpenter Turner's talk

will delight those who are already "hooked" and may well inspire others to join them.

JOHN HOOPER, Physician, midwife, surgeon. Reading Berks ?1760 to 1831?

A 150 years separate us out it seems as if the family are friends of mine. John Hooper was the son of a physician, and grandson of a physician in Reading, Berks in the 1800's. The grandfather had an "Enrolled parchment" granted by the Monarch in about 1748 (which I believe is a patent) he made "female pills". The family were very proud of these pills and they were in a tripartnership, making them, in the 1800's with Newbery (of Reading Mercury fame and a bookseller in St. Paul's Churchyard, London later) and Watlington, the family who provided two Mayors at least for Reading. This document was left by John to his daughter, unmarried Caroline, when he died. The organising and ownership of the pill manufactory appears to have gone to his nephew, another Hooper and a tobacconist in Reading.

I must explain some things I suppose. "My John" and I have been together since winter 1980. He's been in my thoughts and in my dreams constantly since then. He obsessed my working hours and disturbed my leisure time. He turned up in some calf bound books lent me by a friend whose family had a pharmacy in Reading between the two World Wars, and whose distant relatives were tied up with the Reading Mercury in its infancy.

These four books are as follows. No. 1, appears to be John's daily account from 1803-11. The second book appears to be a cross reference account system from 1803-11. The third book is a smaller one, from 1787 to 1825, being yearly credit and loss accounts from when he took his partnership with his father. The fourth is a problem book.

The first book is a daily account of his midwifery, mainly two guineas for a birth (and a guinea for an aborted child!) the women are all named. Other sums of money are more puzzling. The monthly account is very interesting, he paid 1/-d each for French leeches for example! He puts down the education expenses, drawing lessons, dancing and painting lessons. He paid a guinea for a Brown Welsh wig; an umbrella and livery for "my grey mare".

The year books shows his profit and loss and suddenly it ends in 1828. Why is the water mark in this book 1819? The fourth book is a real mystery. Its the same kind of book, and has a series of rents in it, and copies of documents and a lot of information about old Reading - if it could be dated, and provenanced. Did John write this one as well?

I first began looking casually at these books, making notes on the varied fascinating snippets that I saw. But stealthily the character of the writer seemed to emerge from the neatly written papers, and untold tales of ordinary every day life in the 1800's in Reading. I began to bore all who I listen (or appear to) telling them of John's marriage to Sarah, the birth of his children, Caroline, Louise and William. He lived over the shop first of all, in London Road, then rented a better house in King Street, We found a room by room inventory of the furniture in it, showing where he'd bought it, and what he'd paid for it. He paid paving tax, hair powder tax (he must have been old fashioned by the date, as the wearing of wigs had gone out earlier) and a horse tax (!). He belonged to the Literary Society, the Philosophical Society and paid out, on one occasion "£1.10s. for an urn from a very dirty warehouse for my partner Dr. Sherwood"

He had taken into partnership one of the well known Sherwood brothers. He gave one guinea to his apprentice William after he'd done his apprenticeship. He had a rare holiday taking all the family and Miss Kepple the governess to Haidstone, Brighton .. £57.10s. He sold timber from his demolished malthouse to Sir Charles Marsh (who died suddenly still owing £1.) Sir Charles' Bank - Marsh and Deane went bankrupt in 1815. John was owed money by them. He had a warehouse along the canal side, where he made his boxes to hold these female pills, and the pills themselves.

He had to deal with the probate when his father died, and the Berks Record Office has the notebook he kept to record this. In his accounts he mentions quite often that his mother is chief beneficiary only by his good will, as his father's will was only witnessed by two witnesses! And also writes that all these benefits accrue to him on her death - I have seen the Deeds to the property they owned in Bristol (he also records a journey he took to Bristol with Caroline in his account) which are in the Record Office.

He seems a generous and very wealthy man. The Record Office has his draft will and in the same box of goodies (and very dusty!) I found the answer to several questions - the relationships of the people he appeared to act as Banker for - Blissetts, widow of an East Indian. The Boehuns (? Danish war victims) and an involvement with the Brocas's of Beaurepaire. He held money in trust for the daughter of a family, and she was "divorced" now called Alhouse". Hows that for the period?

The books are returned to their owners now, but several people have come to take information from them. John moved in illustrious circles in Reading and a whole volume of information can and must be written about him and his period. Every avenue explored opens up further exciting vistas. John led me to the Records Office, to a lengthy search to be carried out in Parish Registers, to microfilms of Reading Mercury - what a fascinating voyage of discovery that was. To the Patents Office, where I should be able to find out about those female pills.

Whatever I do about the information in these books and whatever happens to any articles I write, or others write in the future, I shall owe John a great debt, I have a consuming interest to follow for years to come. And John Hooper, physician, midwife and surgeon will be "my John" like no other John could ever be.

Josie Wall.

Money-raising and Archaeology.

Basingstoke's near neighbour, Reading, has recently produced two contrasting styles of money-raising events for archaeology, both based on lectures. The first, in late 1981, was a well-publicised lecture on Viking York by television's best-known archaeological frontman, Magnus Magnusson. The second, which we only discovered by accident, was given on 17th February by Peter Fasham, known locally for his work on sites.

Magnus Magnusson's lecture was part of a long-term campaign to raise money for the York Archaeological Trust's ambitious plan to make the highlights of Viking York available to the public. If I understood

it correctly, Viking walls will be reconstructed and finds displayed in an 'Underworld' through which visitors will pass on a cross between a miniature railway and a conveyor belt. In fact, this lecture at Reading was the result of someone's brilliant timing in persuading the speaker that Reading lay more or less on his way to London Airport and his departure for more extensive money-raising in America. A sizeable portion of the Hexagon Theatre was used and was almost a sell out, so it seems that the function was a financial success. It was quite a social occasion, with several local societies and a bookshop putting on displays in the foyer. Some of the questions from the audience at the end of the lecture suggested that the less informed 'man in the street' was there as well as professionals and keen amateurs, and that the lecture had roused his interest and produced questions to be answered.

One question never tackled was 'What about the Vikings in the Thames Valley?' The lecture had been billed as 'Viking York' and in smaller type 'and the Vikings in the Thames Valley'. This was presumably an appeal to local interest, but it received only a few throw-away sentences, more or less to the effect that hardly anything was known.

I did enjoy the lecture - Magnus Magnusson turned out to be smaller and more appealing in life than on the screen, and to have a lively turn of speech - but some of the slides were dirty or out of focus and the more interesting ones were whipped away too quickly. I felt that many lecturers to our Society had done a lot better in that particular respect.

Peter Fasham's lecture was billed as 'Reading Abbey Re-discovered'. This was presented on a rather more modest scale (despite being introduced by the Mayor). The old Town Hall was well-filled, however, and this evening too appears to have been a financial success. Its cause was less well-known and had to be explained: WAC, The Wessex Archaeological Committee, who are responsible for funding local excavations. The social aspect was covered here too. The lecture was given in two parts. During the coffee-break there was time to look at the small display of finds from Reading Abbey and then to move to an ante-room and some delightful pictures by mainly eighteenth and nineteenth century artists of Reading Abbey's remains as they saw them.

To my mind, this was a more authoritative lecture than Magnus Magnusson's. I knew more about York before these lectures than I did about Reading Abbey: I had read newspaper accounts of Viking discoveries in York, and seen a small bit of the Copnagate excavation, but all I knew of Reading Abbey was that the Forbury Gardens were somehow connected with it. I don't think it's just that and the difference in time since the lectures that leaves me now with an interest but rather vague impression of the industrial activities of Viking York but a much more vivid picture of the planks and uprights of the successive medieval waterfronts of Reading Abbey. It was also the difference between a performance by an experienced narrator of scripts (others' or his own) and an exposition given by the man who had planned, organised and recorded the excavation himself. Perhaps it is significant that at question time Magnus Magnusson was joined by the director of the York excavation and understandably passed most of the questions on to him. Peter Fasham was joined by two Reading University lecturers, a historian and the director of earlier excavations

at the Abbey. They helped to answer questions where appropriate, but mostly it was Peter Fasham who had the answers.

These were two very successful ways of tackling, with different emphases, the needs to pass on information, to interest the public and to raise money. It is encouraging to see that archaeology can sell itself so well.

Barbara Applin.

Four Marks Golden Jubilee.

Those members who live in the east of our area may already be aware that the village of Four Marks is celebrating its golden jubilee this year with a number of special events which include a Heritage exhibition in the village hall during March and during the rest of the year a craft festival, folk dance, beating of the bounds, civic service, gala, jubilee picnic and bonfire with fireworks. Here is an example of local history in the making, the creating of a new village and some 2,500 people at the junction of four parishes, with to judge by this programme of events, a well developed sense of identity. The Heritage exhibition illustrating the growth of the village, sounds particularly interesting, but a full programme of events can be obtained from H. Storey on Ropley 3207.

NOTES AND NEWS.

1. As you will all probably have seen in the local paper, Tim Schadla-Hall, Keeper of Archaeology and Curator of the Willis Museum left Basingstoke to take up a new post in Hull. We shall miss his active involvement in the archaeology of the district, but wish him well in his new life in his native Yorkshire.

At the same time we welcome Dr. Gavin Bowie as Curator of the Willis, who many of you will remember for the interesting lecture he gave us last year on the restoration of the tide mill at Eling, Southampton Water. Gavin is an industrial archaeologist with a special love of mills; there is another opportunity to hear him lecture on 22nd April at the museum (see calendar). We look forward to seeing him at some of our meetings.

No archaeologist has yet been appointed to the county museum service. The new keeper will be based on the new museum at Andover.

2. Fieldwalking.

A reminder that fieldwalking is now taking place on Sundays, for details please ring Peter Heath, Basingstoke 27713. We would like to finish the current project before the crops are too high, so please help if you can.

3. We have been asked by Mrs. P.M. Lawrence of 2 White House Cottages, The Ridgeway Wantage OX 12 8LX, to ask if any members know anything about the surname TOCOCK (or variants such as TOWCOCK, TOMCOCK) both in the past and the present day. It is thought that this family lived in Hartney Wintney and Sherfield. Any information would be appreciated.

4. Information is also being sought by Iris Gregory, 1 Springfields, the Street, Old Basing (B'stoke 62413) about the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion, the chapel which stood till the 1960's in Wote Street. She is interested to know the names of any 'past' Basingstoke families who worshipped there. Also if anyone knows what happened to the tombstone which stood in the burial ground, after the chapel was demolished. To enable her to complete her WEA project she would be most grateful for information any member may have about this Chapel.

5. Forthcoming Weekend Courses.

Members may be interested in the following non-residential courses organised by Southampton University Department of Adult Education. Mosaic Art in Roman Britain 7 - 9th May, enrolment fee £10, concentrating on mosaics as an art form. Practical Flintworking, 12 - 13th June, with Mr. Chris Draper, enrolment fee £8. (All those members who enjoyed our recent demonstration of practical flintworking and who would like to try their hand, under Chris Draper's expert guidance, should seize this opportunity! Further details of both courses available from Mr. D.S. Johnston, Department of Adult Education, The University, Southampton.

6. What price feminism? Andrew Duckworth has kindly passed on this quote from a local newspaper for our enjoyment!

"Dudley Castle's 1,000 years history could be brought to life through an archaeological dig.

The scheme has received a cool response from Miss Josephine Wade, Secretary of Dudley Archaeological and Historical Society.

"If people go grubbing around under the castle walls they could further ruin its foundations and I wouldn't expect there to be much in the ground anyway" she warned.

"I shouldn't think our society would help carry out the dig because we are mostly ladies" she added."

Subscriptions.

Subscriptions to the Society are due from 1st May. In line with the proposals agreed at the 1980 AGM, the committee have decided to raise subscriptions again in order to keep pace with inflation, and the increasing expenses of running the Society, the new rates will be

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| OAP and student membership | £2. |
| Ordinary membership | £5. |
| Joint or family membership | £7. |

New members who have joined the Society since the new year will not need to renew their subscriptions until May 1983. It would be a great help to the Treasurer if all longstanding members could pay their subs at the beginning of the Society's financial year, rather than on the anniversary of their first joining the Society, so as to avoid any confusion about which year they are paying for.

Notepaper. After the introduction of our new headed paper in the last newsletter, some members may wonder why we have returned to the old - we are using up all the old stock, not wishing to scupper the assets of the Society - but the next letter will be entirely 'new style'.