

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



NEWSLETTER

Number 85

November 1984

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CALENDAR

- * Thurs 8 Nov THE FIRST 6000 YEARS OF METALLURGY by Paul Craddock, 7.30 pm, Chute House (Jackson Room)
- 9 Nov-10 Mar "The Golden Age of Anglo-Saxon Art' BM exhibition
- Sat 10 Nov HFC (Historic Buildings Section) Day Conference on "Ceramics in Building" & AGM, King Alfred's College, Winchester
- Thurs 15 Nov "A Look at Beaulieu" by Michael E. Wood (Friends of the Willis Museum) 7.30 Willis Museum
- Sat 17 Nov HFC (Archaeology Section) AGM & Day Conference on "Archaeology of Industry in Hampshire", Adult Education Dept, Southampton University
- * Sat 8 Dec MEMBERS' EVENING Church Cottage
- * Thurs 13 Dec THE SECOND STAGE OF THE HAMVIC EXCAVATIONS AT SOUTHAMPTON by Mark Brisbane, 7.30 Chute House
- * Thurs 10 Jan THE ORIGINAL "ODIHAM SOCIETY" by Derek Spruce, 7.30 Chute House
- Thurs 8 Feb HFC (Historic Buildings Section) "The Winchester Diver & How they saved the Cathedral", John Crook, 7.30, Pilgrim's Hall, The Close, Winchester
- * Thurs 14 Feb READING WATERFRONT EXCAVATIONS by Peter Fasham, 7.30 Chute House
- Tues 19 Feb HFC (Archaeology Section) "Archaeology & History of the Nunnaminster", M Morris, 7.30 Tudor Merchants' Hall, Southampton
- * Thurs 14 Mar GENERAL PITT-RIVERS AND CRANBOURNE CHASE by Claire Conybeare, 7.30 Chute House

THE FIRST 6,000 YEARS OF METALLURGY in the British Museum's
Research into Mining and Smelting - lecture by Paul T. Craddock,
Chute House, 7.30 pm, Thursday, 8th November

Please note that the printers of our programme couldn't believe the number of noughts ... this talk will cover the first 6,000 years of metallurgy (not just 600).

Our speaker is Paul Craddock of the Department of Metallurgy in the British Museum. He is warmly recommended to us by Peter Heath, who was one of his successful students for the Certificate in Field Archaeology at the City Literary Institute. If you saw Peter's slides of Welsh prehistoric sites at our AGM, you will already have seen another aspect of Paul Craddock's interests, as these were taken on one of the archaeological weekends which he organises.

DIGGING NOW! - BRIGHTON HILL SOUTH HERITAGE PROJECT

The dig at Brighton Hill South started on 23rd October and will continue till January, directed by Peter Fasham and Stephen Rendell. Volunteers are welcome (for the moment weekdays only, 8 am to 4.15, light permitting) but please ring Stephen Rendell first - his phone is being put in now, Basingstoke 470377. Three quite distinct sites are known from aerial photographs, and some Iron Age pot and some Alice Holt pot have already been found. The first trench is intended to cross an enclosure to check its nature and date (?Romano-British). The grid reference for the site hut is SU 607494.

FIELDWALKING

The results of the Society's fieldwalking have been passed to Peter Fasham, and he has asked us to fieldwalk an area near the dig. It is planned to do this probably on Sundays, starting November 4th but please ring Peter Heath (Basingstoke 27713) for details.

CHRISTMAS PARTY

By popular request, the Christmas Members' Evening will be on a Saturday evening this year, Saturday 8th December at Church Cottage. We are planning wine, interesting eats and entertainment (but not, this year, a fancy dress theme). Instead we would like to bring back Links With the Past - For this members are invited to bring any objects that are old/interesting/unusual and lay them on a table for people to discuss - and at a later stage in the evening to let us know if our ideas were right. There will also be a light-hearted family quiz.

Raffles are being held at preceding meetings to raise money for the buffet. The committee will organise savouries, but if anyone would like to make a sweet dish they will be very welcome. Please let Jean Mellor know (phone Basingstoke 464206) as soon as possible what you plan to bring.

NB * And please buy your tickets in advance so that we know how many to cater for! At meetings or from Barbara Applin (Basingstoke 465439). £2 adults, £1 students/children.

THE STORY OF BASINGSTOKE by Anne Hawker

Anne Hawker's second book will be published by Local Heritage Books in mid-November at £3.50. It is fully illustrated and traces the history of Basingstoke through all periods from prehistoric to the present - featuring the granting of the first charter, the period of the Court Rolls, the Civil War, the Enclosures and the commercial and industrial expansion and ultimate redevelopment. Please buy your copy at a Society meeting (we shall get a contribution to our funds if you do).

VOICES OF BASINGSTOKE by Anne Hawker

Anne's first book, our own publication, is still available, price £2.50, at Society meetings, at Hammicks, the Library or the Museum. We would like to do some pre-Christmas publicity as it makes a good Christmas present, and we have many spare covers that can make posters for office notice boards etc. Please take one if you can and recommend the book once more to your friends.

THE SECOND STAGE OF THE HAMVIC EXCAVATIONS AT SOUTHAMPTON - lecture by Mark Brisbane, Chute House, 7.30 pm, Thursday, 13th December

Two years ago Mark Brisbane, of Southampton Museums, gave us a talk on Recent results from Saxon Southampton and we shall look forward to hearing what has been discovered since then of the Saxon town of Hamvic. Has the latest work caused any changes of interpretation?

THE GOLDEN AGE OF ANGLO-SAXON ART 966-1066

A special exhibition opens at the British Museum, running from 9th November to 10th March next year; admission £2 (£1 for children under 16, senior citizens, unemployed and students). It is "the first major display of the arts of the last century of Anglo-Saxon England every to have been brought together".

HAMPSHIRE FARM MUSEUM

On Saturday 30th June I had the pleasure of attending the opening of the Hampshire Farm Museum by Lord Montagu. It was a warm sunny afternoon and made very pleasant by the fact that those present were all interested in the project and included many members of the local Friends of the Farm Museum. It was also helped by an excellent refreshment marquee provided by courtesy of the County Museum Service and the friends and staff.

The farm museum is situated in the Hamble Country Park and in fact you have to go right through the country park in order to reach the farm buildings. If you are on the newly opened M27 then the entrance to the farm is within a few hundred yards of Exit 8 or, alternatively can be reached via the country road from Hedge End or Bursledon.

The farm museum has been developed to show, explain and demonstrate development of agriculture in Hampshire between 1850 and 1960. During that period farming was the major industry in the county and it is intended to display a wide range of tools, artifacts, implements and machinery relative to this period. There are some live-stock in the form of dairy shorthorn cows, Wessex pigs and some chickens.

The site is based on what was Manor Farm, and includes a pond and church building, although this is now used as a display area. The farmhouse is very interesting and has one or two unique features. A number of buildings have been brought in from outside to demonstrate the type of building that was being used in agriculture during that period.

When the opening took place there was still a lot of work to be done on the site and if I had been writing this immediately after the opening my recommendation would be that it is well worth looking at if you are in the area. However, once the site is finished and settled down I am sure that people will feel that it is worthwhile making the journey, particularly as the Country Park has attractive walks and picnic areas, and from this point of view is certainly ideal for those with children.

M G B DIXON

HAVE A DORMOUSE FOR LUNCH

"This piece of rudness was more than Alice could bear: she got up in great disgust and walked off. The dormouse fell asleep instantly, and neither of the others took the least notice of her going, though she looked back once or twice, half hoping that they would call after her: the last time she saw them, they were trying to put the dormouse into the tea-pot."

(Alice in Wonderland)

I must have read this many times, the greatest piece of nonsense writing in the English language, but it only occurred to me recently

that Lewis Carroll, a man of great erudition, may have had some knowledge of Roman table customs. Every Roman kitchen of any standing had an earthenware vessel known as a glirarium, which is seldom found unbroken. Among the creatures brought to this country by the Romans for culinary purposes was the edible dormouse, or "glis glis". Only an epicure would have taken so much trouble, but the Romans were great epicures.

A fat little animal with a tail like a squirrel, he was reared in a grove of oak and beech trees, fed upon currants and chestnuts, and for final fattening was put in a glirarium. A good dormouse grew so fat that it was necessary to break the pot to remove him, after which he was cooked and served with a honey sauce. In the British climate he hibernated seven months of the year, sleeping with his tail wrapped over his head, but when he awoke, to be stuffed with food, he was available for the table during the months when it was traditional to avoid the oyster. He was so much esteemed that scales were brought to the table to record his weight before he was eaten.

Some must have escaped, for he exists today in the beech-woods of Buckinghamshire. Not to be confused with the grey squirrel, a much later importation. All of which came to mind when I read the other day that someone had tried to cook and eat the latter. I thought how much more of a gourmet the Roman patrician was, to prefer his dormouse fattened and basted in honey, even if it meant a considerable expenditure in pots, and a rubbish pit full of sherds after entertaining friends from the next villa!

ANDREW DUCKWORTH

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

See the front page for details of the AGMs and day conferences of the Historic Buildings Section and the Archaeology section. 1985 is the centenary year of the Hampshire Field Club, and our contribution is our May lecture next year by Arthur Attwood on George Willis, the founder of the Willis Museum, who was a prominent member of the Field Club.

LECTURES AT READING

Course on Silchester and the Arts and Crafts of Roman Britain
Tuesdays from 15 Jan 85, 7.30 - 9.30 at Reading Museum, £5.15.

Saturday symposium on Reading Abbey Waterfront 16 March 1985,
9.30 am to 5 pm, University, London Road (£3.85)

Saturday symposium on The Civil War around Reading 13 April 1985,
9.30 - 5 (£3.85) Abbey Gateway, Abbot's Walk, Reading

WHO LIVED AT GOLDINGS?

An item in Newsletter 73 for March/April 1983, STOP PRESS, told of Anne Hawker's last-minute discovery, as her VOICES OF BASINGSTOKE was at proof stage, of the real position of a house called Wolfes. It ended a red-herring hunt that had seemed to suggest that one of the houses owned by Anne Dennet might have been on the edge of the present Memorial Park - perhaps where Goldings is now? Well, if you've read VOICES you'll know that Wolfes turned up somewhere else ... But this led me, now that Goldings has been so splendidly restored, to invite Anne to give an account of the succession of owners she has managed to trace (including the "red herring", Thomas Wolfe, and other names familiar from VOICES such as John Belchamber and John Ronanger. It is an impressive example of the detail of Anne's researches that she can produce such an account so readily.

BA

Goldings

The first mention of the name GOLDINGS in my records is in 1859 (Apletree, Wm., Goldings). When the demolition of Basingstoke began in the 1960s I was allowed to see lots of deeds and noted from them the names between William Apletree and the eventual ownership by the Council:

William Apletree died December 1867. The property was left to Isabella Margaret Apletree and Rev. Edmund Hector Shepperdson on trust.

1900 Robert Neville Grenville of Glastonbury and Francis Lazenby of Basingstoke (manager of Capital and Counties Bank) appointed trustees

Dec 15 1900 conveyed to Thomas Burberry of Basingstoke, Clothier, and Tom Cox of Alton, Corn Merchant

1901 conveyed to William Chambers Lefroy of Church Crookham

1916 conveyed to Mary Maude Janetta Mackenzie of Henley on Thames

1920 conveyed to Thomas Burberry of Hook

1922 conveyed to Basingstoke Borough Council.

The information I have for before William Apletree comes from various Basingstoke Rentals, and I shall give it "backwards". The sums of money mentioned are the Quit Rent paid for the land, not the house: 5s 3d yearly. Up until just after 1757 the Quit Rent was paid half-yearly.

1806 Appletree Esquire (even this late, the spelling of names varied) late Russell

1798 Executors of the late Francis Russell for lands behind the house heretofore Thos. Hall late Woodmans 5s 3d p/a

1757 Heirs and assigns of Thos. Woodman 2s 7½d half yearly

1741 Mrs Rebecca Rimes 2s 7½d

On the 1762 map, it shows the land labelled "late Rymes" as being on the eastern corner of the point where Hackwood Road joins London Road, running south along the road to Alton. There seem to be three fields there, reaching to a lane then called Litchen Lane which may be the lane by the present White Hart. It appears to cover the ground now occupied by the Memorial Park enclosed by the plantations of large old trees.

1717 William Rimes for part of the land called WOOLFS and
ANNES heretofore Simon Cufaudes late John Greens since of
Mr Thomas Hall (the closes behind his house) 2s 7½d
1699 Wm Rymes for part of Woolfs and Annes 2s 7½d
1679 Heirs of William Rymes " " 2s 7½d
1668 Heirs of Mr Cape and Mr Thomas Hall for tenement and
lands called Woolfs and Anns heretofore Simon Cufaudes
and late John Green (Mr Edwards pays and Mr Rimes 7s 1d)
1655 Heirs of Mr Cape and Mr Thos Hall for Tent. and land
called Annes h.t.f. Simon Cufaud late John Green 7s 1½d
1634 back to 1607 John Green
1601 George Norton late purchased of Simon Cufaud
1574 Simon Cufaud formerly Rob. Roninger 7s 1½d
1565 " " " " 7s 1½d
1520 John. Ronanger 4s 6d Ric Ronanger 2s 7½d
1487 Wm Cowderoy 7s 1½d
1432-1436 William Lodlow for Annys 7s 1d
1400-1428 Thomas Wolfe for Annes 7s 1½d

It was rather a surprise to find it was once called Annes. This was a composite property, part of which was in the Market Square, where John Belchamber used some of the rent to pay an allowance to a chantry priest in Basing in the seventeenth year of the reign of Henry VIII (1525). From the Court Rolls there is more information:

Hen. VIII (3) Cowdray Armiger who holds of the fee-farm of Basingstoke 1 messuage 2 crofts 100 acres of arable land called Annes sold the said land to John Ronanger
Hen. VIII (13) Ronanger holds 1 messuage with crofts and 100 acres of land for an annual rent of 13s.

Somewhere between 1487 and 1520 the owner of the land died and the land was shared between his sons so that one part paid a quit rent of 4s 6d and the other a rent of 2s 7½d. The latter property was, I suppose, Goldings and the rest in the Market Place. Probably the 100 acres arable was the land now the Park, and the 2 crofts and the messuage was the place owned by John Belchamber. At present there is no more to tell.

ANNE HAWKER

William Apletree

The 1844 Census gives William Apletree at Goldings as a man of independent means, aged 55, not born in Basingstoke. His wife must have died by then, or been away from the house when the census was taken, but there are three daughters, a nine-months old girl who may be a grandchild, 5 female servants and one male servant. William Apletree was listed as a Commissioner for the Market Act in 1829, among the gentry in Pigot's Directory of 1844 and as a subscriber to the new Town Hall and Market between 1832 and 1834 (he gave £10.0.0.)

BARBARA APPLIN

OUR ROMAN ROAD

Frank Mayo's article on "our Roman road" has stimulated the following thoughts - and any further contributions will be welcome for the next Newsletter.

I read Mr Mayo's article in Newsletter 84 with great interest, for so little is recorded of this road that any discoveries by members must be of value. He mentions Margary's statement that a 20 ft width of flints on a bed of blue clays recorded near Latchmere Green, and Codrington in 1905 gave a reference to this excavation as MacLaughlin, Archaeological Journal VIII, 1851. Apart from this and the work done by the Winbolts in 1939 and 1943, I can find no other record of work on this road until Peter Fasham's excavations at East Stratton with MARC 3.

It is therefore important that we should look for evidence of this road whenever excavations take place along its stated position, and all members can do this by casting an observant eye on builders' or service pipe ditches, deep ploughing, topsoil stripping etc, which they may notice while walking in the area. Bob and Barbara Applin have done this wherever possible on the line between Worting Road and Pack Lane with no success, and it is clear that considerable disturbance of the road has taken place in that area due to road and building works.

We perhaps underestimate the damage done by farming activities in the past. In "The Reminiscences of William Clift of Bramley", the writer describes how he improved his farm:

"A big wide old lane used to pass through the farm.

I grubbed that and added it to the farm, and improved it as much as I could during the six years I held it."

He was talking about Beaurepaire Farm, and I have located this lane on the line of the Roman road (627576 to 624571); this must be happening all the time in this heavily cultivated county.

We must not forget our second Roman road, which branches from the first north of Latchmere Green (636606) and passes through Bramley to what is now the road past Cufaude Manor. The moat of Four Lanes Farm is the next landmark, after which it crosses the Basing-Newnham road (at 670538) and takes a course west of Mapledurwell through the centre of Upton Grey. This is the road to Chichester, joining two tribal capitals, and therefore a pre-Roman trackway, although Millett proposes a date of AD 43 for its construction. The first major settlement south of Silchester is the interesting Romano-British town site of Neatham, near Alton, and for much of its length from Upton Grey to that site the road runs through the country now destined to be exploited for oil, so one hopes that the County Archaeological staff are watching for any disturbance due to this work. I wonder, with some regret, how much of this road was destroyed in the Chineham urban development, and it is perhaps a criticism of our Society that we did not establish closer relationships with the local authority and the builders concerned at the beginning of this development.

References

(Bracketted figures above denote OS grid locations)

Clift, W 1909 The Reminiscences of William Clift of Bramley,
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- MacLauchlin, H 1851 "Silchester", Archaeological J. VIII 227-243
- Margary, I D 1955 Roman Roads in Britain, Vol 1 (& 1973)
- Winbolt, SE 1939 "The Winchester-Silchester Roman Road" Proc. HFC 15, 241-242
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ANDREW DUCKWORTH

The Wheatsheaf

Mr Mayo mentioned a Roman site on the Winchester-Silchester Roman road near the Wheatsheaf at Popham, and I thought newer members might like to know something of it.

When the M3 was being constructed I was working for the County Museum Service, spending a lot of time on the Common Plantation site (near Ructstalls Hill, Basingstoke), with odd forays along the line of the motorway to check if anything was being turned up. I had hoped that something might show up at the Wheatsheaf, as Roman walls had been found years before when the petrol station beside the Wheatsheaf was put up. I'd asked the Resident Engineer for that section to let me know when they started work there, and one day he turned up at the Common Plantation site and said "They've started at the Wheatsheaf. I found this on the spoil heap. Is it anything?" It was a fine Roman bronze brooch! So I dashed along to the other end of the motorway, to find nothing showing. As luck would have it, I was just a few hours too early. That evening I went to an evening class given by David Johnston, who had passed the site on his way from Southampton. To my chagrin, he had timed it better - the natural clay-with-flints had been reached and pits and post-holes and ditches were showing.

So I and the Archaeological Group (the fore-runner of this Society) turned our attention to Popham and investigated a number of these features, producing a good range of pottery, including some good Samian (one really nice signed piece exactly like a bowl on display at the British Museum). One feature of the clay-with-flints was its changeability in different weather, leading to a wierd experience one day when a thunderstorm broke and we all rushed to shelter. When the rain stopped and we came out, we looked to see if the wetting had shown anything up - and found a large black circular area that had just not been visible when it was dry.

It turned out to be the mud floor of a hut, which went down a couple of feet and was itself over a deep rubbish pit. There was a great deal of pottery, animal bones, nails, boot nails and even pieces of tile in the mud floor. But more unusual (for Romano-British sites that I've had anything to do with) were several styli (writing implements), quantities of broken bronze necklaces, bracelets and rings and a great many coins. I rashly said I'd give a party if we found 100 coins - and my bluff was called! They were mostly fourth century coins, clipped at the edges so that they became minute.

All this in a hut floor - and in fact in only half a hut floor,

as we never did manage to complete the other half before the huge machines swallowed it up.

The pit beneath the floor was an oddity, too, containing among the rubbish a complete chicken that seemed to have been trussed for table - did it go bad or was it a "votive offering"?

That suggestion may not be far out. The hut seems to have been occupied by a very busy bronze-worker. What was he doing there? Interpretations of the masonry site under the petrol station have ranged from a villa to a posting station (as it were, a precursor of the Wheatsheaf) or even a temple. Its position on the Roman road, equidistant from the cantonal capitals of the Belgae (Winchester) and the Atrebates (Silchester) makes the posting station theory attractive, and apparently temples are often found where areas of tribal influence overlap. The masonry site should be seen in the light of our humbler settlement now under the motorway. Maybe the whole complex was a mixture of stopping-place/ market place/ fair site/ area of religious observance. Was the bronze worker making goods to sell or for people to offer in some religious rite? How much did we miss in our hurried rescue work?

BARBARA APPLIN

PHONE NUMBERS

A reminder to begin the following phone numbers with 4:

Barbara Lovell	462495 (programme organiser)
Jean Mellor	464206 (Christmas party)
Barbara & Bob Applin	465439

Articles for the Newsletter, and letters for publication, will be welcomed by the Editor, Barbara Applin, 138 Old Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke
