

# BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



N E W S L E T T E R

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## CALENDAR

- \* Thurs 10 Oct COWDERY'S DOWN: RECONSTRUCTING A DARK AGE  
SETTLEMENT Simon James (British Museum)
- Sat 12 Oct HFC Historic Buildings Sec. One-day Conference  
"The Re-use of Redundant Historic Buildings",  
10 - 4 at The Barns, Michelmersh, Hants (£3.50  
but £2.50 HFC members)
- Thurs 17 Oct AGM of Friends of the Willis Museum & "Hidden  
Basingstoke" by Bill Fergie (Museum, 7.30)
- \* Thurs 14 Nov NEW DISCOVERIES FOR ROMAN WINCHESTER Ken Qualmann  
(Winchester City Archaeologist)
- Sat 16 Nov "One Hundred Years of Hampshire Archaeology"  
(see page 8)
- Thurs 21 Nov "Aerial Photography of Hampshire" (Friends,  
Willis Museum, 7.30)
- 5th, 6th & Elizabethan Banquets (see page 10)  
7th Dec
- Fri 6th Dec "Stained Glass with particular reference to  
Winchester" Sarah Brown, Hants Field Club  
Historic Buildings Sect. at King Alfred's College
- Sat 7 Dec HFC Centenary O G S Crawford Lecture "Hampshire  
and the Iron Age of Britain" Prof Barry Cunliffe,  
5 pm, King Alfred's College, Winchester
- \* Thurs 12 Dec THE SHEEP HAVE PAID FOR ALL Phoebe Berrow

\* Society lecture: 7.30 pm, Chute House

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

A reminder that subscriptions for 1985-6 were due on 1st May:

£6 per individual member  
 £8 for family membership  
 £3 per OAP or student

If the front page of this Newsletter is marked with a ~~·~~ it means that we have not yet received your subscription and that, regrettably, this is the last Newsletter that can be sent until it is paid. Our Treasurer will be glad to receive subscriptions at the next meeting or by post: Mrs Sarah Duckworth, 177 Pack Lane, Kempshott, Basingstoke

## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The Society's AGM held, belatedly, on Wednesday 28th August, was attended by about 20 members. Presenting her report for 1984-5, the Chairman, Betty Waters, concluded that the Society had enjoyed another successful year with an interesting lecture programme. The Christmas Social had gone well and members could look forward to the Mary Rose outing on 21st September. Membership had remained fairly static; the Society had been sorry to lose several members of long standing, but were pleased to welcome a number of new members. Although it had been the Committee's intention to repeat last year's successful experiment of an evening for new members, there had been insufficient response and the event had been cancelled. However, it was the Committee's hope that the idea would be resurrected next year. The weather had put paid to hopes of an early start on the site at Hatch Warren Farm (Brighton Hill South) but Peter Heath was raring to go as soon as conditions permitted. All offers of assistance would be gratefully accepted.

The Chairman sounded a warning that all of the Society's officers who had each served for a number of years, had given notice of their intention to stand down at the end of the 1985-6 season. Replacements would have to be found and it was suggested that members who wished to sample Committee life should seek co-option on a 'trial run' basis. There being no other nominations for 1985-6, the Society's officers were re-elected, as follows: Chairman - Betty Waters; Secretary - Sue Headley; Treasurer - Sarah Duckworth. Jean Mellor had resigned from the Committee and Richard Dexter was elected to fill the vacancy. The remaining Committee members were re-elected: Barbara Applin, Andrew Duckworth, Peter Heath, Barbara Lovell, Joy Needham and Mary Oliver.

The Treasurer reported that the Society's financial position was sound. An Investment Account had been opened and now contained over £1,000. Thanks were conveyed to Bob Applin and to Andrew Duckworth for their horticultural efforts, the proceeds of which had gone to swell the Excavations Fund.

Under 'Any Other Business' Richard Dexter wondered whether there was scope for allocating a greater role to the Newsletter. This theme was pursued by Graham Hall and it was agreed that the

matter be referred to the Society's Publications Sub-Committee.

Announcements were made relating to: a Tudor Banquet which was to be held at Church Cottage on 5th, 6th and 7th December; the last season of excavations at King John's Castle, Odiham (tours of the site on 21st and 22nd September); Mary Oliver's WEA lectures, and fieldwalking at Ellisfield (the date of this still to be fixed).

At the conclusion of the business session, members welcomed County Councillor Dudley Keep, who introduced the Planning Department's film on Hampshire's Countryside Heritage Policy. This non-statutory policy had secured the protection of Calleva (Silchester), the Basingstoke Canal, the Hillier Arboretum and Martin Down near Cranborne Chase, to name but a few. The film was enjoyed by all and contained much artistic photography.

Members were also able to inspect some of the 'finds' from recent fieldwalking, and identify with Peter Heath's realistic representation of the archetypal field-walker!

SUE HEADLEY

#### COWDERY'S DOWN: RECONSTRUCTING A DARK AGE SETTLEMENT

Lecture by Simon James (British Museum) at 7.30 pm on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October at Chute House

The unexpected discovery of a Dark Age settlement at Cowdery's Down before the building of the Lychpit Estate was one of national importance. The large timber halls were not only imposing in themselves but demonstrated a variety of building techniques. This lecture is a 'must' for anyone who lives in the new Estate - and for anyone interested in the period.

#### NEW DISCOVERIES FOR ROMAN WINCHESTER

Lecture by Ken Qualmann (Winchester City Archaeologist) at 7.30 on Thursday 14<sup>th</sup> November at Chute House

Recent local discoveries will again be the theme for our November lecture; this time an update on Roman Winchester, before we turn to a historical theme for our December lecture.

#### CHURCHES, A HILLFORT AND THE MARY ROSE

The ingredients for this year's coach trip on 21st September guaranteed that everyone's taste would be satisfied.

First stop, after a pleasant drive down the Meon valley, was to visit the Saxon church at Corhampton. The church is built on a man-made mound and it has been suggested that it may stand

on the site of a heathen temple of Roman or earlier times, although no objects have been found to substantiate this in the digging of graves. The walls of the nave are thought to date to the first quarter of the 11th century and are typical of Saxon work, with corners of long and short stones, probably from the Isle of Wight, holding in plastered whole flints. Another outside feature of interest was a Saxon sundial divided not into twelve sections as one would expect but into eight. This apparently was because the Saxons divided the day into eight tides and not into twelve hours. Inside the church the dominant feature is the Saxon chancel arch, although attention is quickly switched to the wall paintings which were uncovered in 1968 and are said to date back to the early 13th century. The paintings in the nave are in poor condition compared with those in the chancel, where the theme is the story of St Swithun, the first Bishop of Winchester.

The second stop was to visit All Saints Church at East Meon. The church is dramatically situated under the lee of a steep hill and dominates the village. From the beginning it was conceived on a grand scale and building probably continued throughout the period 1080-1150. It is suggested that the main builder was Bishop Wakelin who was also responsible for the rebuilding of Winchester Cathedral. The greatest treasure in the church is a black font made from Tournai marble and brought from Belgium around 1150. It is said to be a gift from the then Bishop of Winchester, Henry of Blois, brother of King Stephen and Chancellor of England. The carvings around the sides of the font tell the story of Adam and Eve and there is evidence that the lid used to be padlocked in medieval times to prevent the theft of the holy water for black magic purposes.

Lunch was taken with the coach parked at the Old Winchester Hill National Nature Reserve. The reserve was set up to safeguard the best of what is left of the natural vegetation and wildlife of this area, especially the downland flowers and butterflies. It is also the site of an Iron Age Hillfort and two Bronze Age tumuli. A few members, sound of limb, ventured up the hill while lesser mortals picnicked in the shelter of the coach.

Third stop was the Royal Dockyard at Portsmouth, to visit the 'Mary Rose' Exhibition. The remains of the hull, displayed in the Ship Hall, are a breathtaking spectacle. Viewing is from a footbridge and, as only the starboard side remains, it is like looking at a great cutaway drawing exposing the ship's structure. The Ship Hall is currently being kept at a constant 5°C and 95% humidity until the method of conservation has been decided. This is likely to be by replacing the water in the waterlogged timbers with an inert chemical such as polyethylene glycol. In a three year programme up to 3000 original timbers - deck planking and internal structures - will be replaced in the ship.

The techniques used to present our history have come on in leaps and bounds and, after listening to a commentary in the Ship Hall, our party proceeded to the 'Mary Rose' Exhibition housed in a former boathouse. Here we saw a short audio-visual presentation

which painted in more background before entering the exhibition. More than 14000 artefacts were recovered by painstaking archaeological excavation and they represent almost every aspect of Tudor life at sea. Many of these objects are displayed in the exhibition, where several are used in re-creations of scenes of the life aboard. The exhibition takes about two hours to see and tells the story of the 'Mary Rose' from launching in 1510 to lifting in 1982.

My memory of the day will be entering the Ship Hall and seeing the size of the remains of the hull. I had expected to see something about half the size and had had doubts whether it was all worth the effort. After seeing the results I have no such doubts and suggest another visit should be planned after the decking has been installed in the hull.

ALAN ROACH

### THE 'ANCHOR' AND ITS PREDECESSORS

Recent work on 'The Anchor' in London Street has revealed the timbers of a house which may be as early as 13th century, and surprisingly is set back from the present street frontage. I asked Anne Hawker what records exist for this site, and she has sent a list of rents paid, with an explanation.

#### Rents for CHEKER, BOWERS als. JEKIR, BOWYERS

1483	Bowyer	12s 10d			
1487	Bowris	12s 10d			
1520	Bowres	John Kyngesmyll	12s 10d		
1574	Bowyere	voc. CHEKER	John Poulet	12s 10d	
1601	Bowers	otherwise the	Cheker	William Lord Marquis	12s 10d
1607	"	"	"	by William Moore	
1655	"	"	"	More, gent.	
1668	"	"	"	Wm Colsell	
1679	"	"	"	Marquis of Winchester	by
	Gilb. Hether				
1699	Laurence Palmer	for the tenement he lieth in called Bowers otherwise the Jekir			
1717	Two houses,	one late Mr Robert Blundens now John Smith, rent 5s 4d paid by him, the other late Robert Palmers now Mr George Prince, rent 7s 6d paid by him * †			
1741	5s 4d	John Smith			
	7s 6d	" "			
1751	10s 8d	p/a John Covey late John Smith			
	15s	p/a " " late Robert Palmer			
1800	Reserved Rent Mr John Covey for Waste Ground whereon the wall of his House is built taken out of the passage leading out of London Street into Chequer Close about a Foot & ½ in Breadth & 24 in length 1s				
*1723	John Smith wheelwright ... a lease from Duke of Bolton for a messuage in London Street commonly called the Chequer Inn ... & also the cottage and garden adjoining on the West side of the common footway leading out of London Street & through a close now or late Whitehead Esq called Chequer Close ... and also all that orchard ... having the messuage or farmhouse heretofore occ. John (??) Goreing on East				

tenement now or late occ Laurence Palmer on West and the Kings Highway leading forth of the street of Basingstoke called London Street on South

‡1723 John Smith ... a tenement in London Street near the Chequer together with a room over the gateway that leads from London Street to a piece or close belonging to Eastrop Farm called Chequer Close (all which premises now in possession of the said John Smith)

Early houses in Basingstoke were known by the name of the owner, so that the first we hear of the house later known as the 'Anchor' is in 1483 when it was called Bowyers. There must have been land with the house as the half-yearly rent was 12s 10d. The rents of single houses were counted in pence rather than shillings. The rent of the 'George' was 7s 9d but a shop (or workshop) in the market place with a forge was just 2s 6d. It is likely that the land marked on the 1762 map as Chequer Close was part of the land belonging to the Chequer in the same way as Swan Lease (south side of the lane later Mortimer Lane) belonged to the old Swan.

In the proceedings of the Hock Court in 1520 there is mention of the 'Chekyr' ... 'beneath the Chekyr the high way is in great pe<sup>er</sup> the which diverse carts hath been overthrowen'. There must have been ruts and holes in the road, probably filled with water and mud at that time of the year - late Spring.

The holding went to John Kingsmill in 1520. He owned most of the south side of Winchester Street and put Catherine of Aragon up for the night in one of his houses. Ownership then passed to John Poulet and lastly the Marquis of Winchester in 1601, the rent stayed at 12s 10d and the name became Bowers rather than Bowyer. Gradually the 'Bowers' became 'Bowers otherwise Cheker', and it seems to have been divided between two owners or tenants in 1717 and even into three houses in 1751, but in 1723 it is definitely an inn. The 'common footway' in the 1723 entry must be Sydenham Place.

On the 1762 map the references r3 and r4 belong to the Chequer, now Anchor, tying the whole question up nicely. Maps show the changes in the buildings between 1762 and 1851, but the land boundaries appear the same.

ANNE HAWKER

#### SOMEWHERE IN HAMPSHIRE

Great Britain has been likened to a gigantic open air museum; I wonder how many of us who live here see it that way and know what lies under our feet?

There is, for example, about 24 miles from Basingstoke, a deserted village that is represented only by the remains of an old Manor house, a church and a name on the map.

The site of the old manor house is mediieval but when the land adjacent to it was sold to a railway company in the last century the owner upped stumps and moved a mile or so to the south west, built himself a new house and left the manor and old out-buildings to be used as a farm.

Now the church is different; it is still there up a hill but lies in the middle of a field. There used to be until fairly recently an avenue of lime trees leading to it, but even these have gone, leaving just the building standing. It is only a chapel in size and looks quite unassuming with just a small chancel and nave with a small bell turret. It dates back to Norman times, there being a round-headed light in the centre of the north nave wall and a mysterious blocked doorway of this period to the east.

It had been allowed to fall into disrepair in the last century and avoided 19th century 'restoration' which was finally undertaken during more enlightened times between the wars. When I visited it one Saturday this summer, it was open, quiet and not a soul around.

What therefore is so special?

It is a gem of a building because it has a series of 14th century wall paintings that are second only to those of Winchester. The main one is on the north chancel wall and is in two horizontal levels. The top one, surrounded by hounds and all within a wood, is of a saint confronting a man on all fours in very wild attire. It is thought to be of St Hubert who is supposed to have cured a man from the insane belief that he was a wolf. The lower picture is full of movement and depicts a long table with courtly folk eating, but in front a girl contorts herself and is obviously making a show. With a man's head on a charger, this can only be Salome.

There are more paintings on the chancel walls of a complementary nature. On turning round with your back to the altar, you can appreciate the quiet intimacy of the restored interior, box pews, a Jacobean pulpit and a medieval font.

Where is this? If I were to say, there would be a possibility, albeit remote, of it being spoilt by tourists. However, here is a clue - it is within about 400 yards of the Hampshire side of the Sussex border and its name used to mean Iddi's homestead - and not much has changed, apart from the railway.

RICHARD DEXTER

#### IS ANYONE INTERESTED IN LISTED BUILDINGS?

A cry for help has been received from John Crook, who is the Secretary of the Historic Buildings Section of the Hampshire Field Club. One of his tasks is to monitor, on behalf of both the Field Club and the Council for British Archaeology, applications for listed building consent to demolish or alter listed buildings in the County. He cannot do all the work himself and relies on local 'correspondents' to whom details of the applications are sent, for investigation and comment. He has been unsuccessful in recruiting a 'correspondent' in the Basingstoke and Deane area; a serious omission in view of the large number of applications received in this district.

If any member is qualified and interested in becoming a local 'correspondent', Mr Crook would be delighted to hear from them. His address is 52 Canon Street, Winchester and his phone number is Winchester 64392 (he has an answerphone). He indicates that

the 'correspondent' might be asked to deal with 15-20 applications per annum, each normally involving a visit to the planning office and a site visit. All postage and similar expenses are reimbursed and there is a mileage allowance.

SUE HEADLEY

'100 YEARS OF HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY'

To celebrate the centenary of the Hampshire Field Club, the Archaeology Section has organised this conference, the last in a very successful series. There have been many notable discoveries, sites and archaeologists in the county in the last 100 years, and a review will be presented by five speakers:

Mr Dick Whinney, of the Winchester Archaeology Office, will give a general summary of past, present and future

Dr John Collis, who started his career excavating at Owslebury, near Winchester, will talk about landscape and settlement

Prof. Martin Biddle, best known for his work at Winchester, will talk on 'Two Cities'

Mr David Ball, of the Ordnance Survey, will discuss 'Archaeology, the Ordnance Survey and beyond'

Prof. Christopher Hawkes, 'father of British Iron Age studies', who did so much important work on Hampshire hillforts, will terminate the proceedings by 'looking back and looking forward'

Such a line-up of speakers will ensure that this is a conference to remember!

The conference will be held on Saturday 16th November from 10 am to 5.30 pm at the Winchester Conference Chamber, The Guildhall, Winchester. The fee is £4 for students and HFC members; £6 for non-members, and enrolment and fee should be sent to Mr Tony King, 70 North Side, Clapham Common, London SW4 9SB. Full programme details will be sent to those who enrol. Several Society members have already expressed an interest in going, so it should be possible to arrange transport at the next meeting for anyone needing a lift.

MARY OLIVER

THINKING OF CHRISTMAS PRESENTS?

Don't forget that we still have stocks of our first publication, Anne Hawker's VOICES OF BASINGSTOKE 1400-1600. It makes an excellent Christmas present, and I urge all members to buy it for or recommend it to any friends who haven't got it yet. It is on sale at our meetings, or you can ring me on Basingstoke 465439 or get it at Hammicks (ask for it if you can't see it on the shelves).

BARBARA APPLIN



ONE-DAY COURSES AT SOUTHAMPTON UNIVERSITY

These include:

Ancient Egypt: an introduction by H Wilson, on Saturday 19th October, 10 - 5 (fee £6)

The Archaeology of Salt Industries by Dr E Morris and others, on Saturday 26th October, 10-5 (Fee £6)

The Romans at Play by D E Johnston, on Saturday, 9th November, 10 - 5 (fee £6) at St Albans Hall, Lynchford Rd, Farnborough

William Cobbett by Prof. J Sambrook, on Saturday 16th November, 10 - 5 (fee £6)

Board Games in Antiquity by R C BaLL ON Saturday, 30th November 10 - 5 (fee £6)

The Romans at Sea by R Bridgland on Saturday, 8th February 1986, 10 - 5 (fee £6)

The Archaeology of Southampton by a panel of tutors, on Saturday 15th February, 9.30 - 5 (Fee £6) - details yet to be finalised, organised in collaboration with Southampton City Museum Service)

English Place Names by J Swannell on Saturday, 31st May, 10 - 5 (fee £6)

All are held in the University Adult Education Centre unless otherwise stated; prior enrolment is not essential, but it is a good idea to phone to check that the course is running: Southampton 559122 (extension 3469)

EDITOR'S NOTE

Richard Dexter has relented and allowed me to say that the church he was describing is at Idsworth.

Somehow we have rather a lot of churches in this issue! If you feel we are getting overbalanced in any one theme, do send in something to counteract it for the next issue. I would like to make a feature of articles like Richard's, where members tell us about places (or even people) they find particularly interesting.

So do please send in articles:

138 Old Kempshott Lane  
Basingstoke,  
Hants RG 22 5 EN

BARBARA APPLIN

ST MICHAEL'S ELIZABETHAN BANQUET

Would you enjoy taking part in an Elizabethan Banquet, with food, drink, music and entertainment in the spirit of that age? The opportunity could be yours on 5th, 6th and 7th December. The Banquets will be held in the Barn, Church Cottage - the lovely half-timbered hall which has been the setting of many of our own social meetings - and will start with a mulled wine reception at 8 pm, for the Banquet at 8.30 pm. Elizabethan costume would add to the atmosphere and fun, but modern dress can be worn if preferred. The all-inclusive cost is £12 on Thursday, £14 on Friday and Saturday, and further details of menu and programme can be obtained from John and Mary Oliver (Basingstoke 24263). The event is being organised by St Michael's church, and proceeds will go towards the urgently needed roof repairs and electrical wiring.

As the Society has no Christmas Social planned this year (we are planning a Spring event instead), it has been suggested that those wishing to go to a Banquet should try to go on the same evening - Friday 6th has been proposed. It promises to be a merry and memorable evening!

MARY OLIVER

A LETTER FROM THE CHAIRMAN

30th September 1985

Dear fellow-members,

As there were so few members at this season's opening lecture, I am taking this opportunity to welcome you all to our "new year" just begun. Your committee has thought and worked hard to arrange an attractive programme for the coming season, and it was very disappointing when September's lecture was so sparsely attended. It must have been sadly disillusioning to the lecturer, who had prepared an excellent talk and slides and also brought some very rare finds of mediaeval glass and other artefacts for members to see. Lecturers must feel they have wasted their time and energy - as well as sometimes coming from a distance - to talk to a half-empty room. Think how you yourself would feel in the same circumstances, and please try to support your Society by attending as many lectures as you can.

The committee join me in wishing you an enjoyable 1985-6 season and hope to see you at the next lecture.

Yours sincerely,

BETTY WATERS

Chairman