

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



N E W S L E T T E R

Number 91

December 1985

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CALENDAR

- * Thurs 9 Jan HATCH WARREN (BRIGHTON HILL SOUTH) LATEST RESULTS Peter Fasham
- Thurs 16 Jan 'Garden Landscape: Main Trends from Egyptian to Modern Times' Graham Burgess (Friends of the Willis Museum) Willis Museum 7.30
- * Thurs 13 Feb LOCAL HISTORY AND THE RECORD OFFICE Rosemary Dunhill
- Thurs 20 Feb 'Recent Developments at Fort Nelson' Nick Hall (Friends, Willis Museum, 7.30)
- Thurs 25 Feb 'Clausentum' R Thompson, Tudo Merchants Hall, Southampton 7.30 pm (Hampshire Field Club/SCMAS)
- Sat 1 Mar SPRING FROLIC Church Cottage 7.30
- * Thurs 13 Mar DOMESDAY AND THE NORMANS Mike Hughes
- * Thurs 10 Apr NEWNHAM IN THE PAST Nigel Bell
- Tues 15 Apr 'Flint Buildings' Bernard Johnson, King Alfred's College, Winchester (HFC Hist Buildings Section) 7.30
- Thurs 17 Apr 'Medieval Buildings and the Winchester Area' Elizabeth Lewis (Friends, Willis Museum, 7.30)
- * Thurs 8 May EXCAVATIONS AT A MAJOR PREHISTORIC SITE AT POTTERNE, WILTS Andrew Lawson
- Sat 7 June Local History Event in Salisbury

*Society lecture: 7.30 pm Chute House

HATCH WARREN (BRIGHTON HILL SOUTH) LATEST RESULTS

Lecture by Peter Fasham (Wessex Trust for Archaeology)
at 7.30 on Thursday 9th January at Chute House

Our January lecture will be a chance to catch up with the latest news of the current Basingstoke excavations at Hatch Warren (destined to become Brighton Hill South). Was the church the centre of the lost village of Hatch, which was thought to be in quite a different position? How does the Iron Age site relate to what we have known from Oakridge, Buckskin, Ructstalls Hill, Viables etc?

LOCAL HISTORY AND THE RECORD OFFICE

Lecture by Rosemary Dunhill (Hampshire County Archivist)
at 7.30 on Thursday 13th February at Chute House

The Hampshire County Record Office, in the converted church of St Thomas in Winchester, holds a 'surprising number of records from Basingstoke. Readers of Anne Hawker's Voices of Basingstoke will already know of the wills, inventories, rentals, court rolls etc preserved from the 14th to 16th centuries, but there is much else besides. Rosemary Dunhill will tell us of the part the County Record Office plays in preserving and investigating our local history.

SPRING FROLIC!

at 7.30 on Saturday 1st March at Church Cottage

For 1985-6 we are breaking with tradition, postponing our Social evening from Christmas to become a "Spring Frolic". Details have yet to be worked out - ideas welcome - but please book the date now.

DOMESDAY AND THE NORMANS

Lecture by Mike Hughes at 7.30 on Thursday 13th March
at Chute House

1986 is the 900th anniversary of the nationwide survey known as the Domesday Book. Mike Hughes will talk about the background to the survey and give an introduction to the "Domesday 900" exhibition due to open in the Great Hall at Winchester on 27th March. This is the mystery lecture given in our programme card as "To be announced".

As we have no Christmas Social this year, the Chairman and Committee would like to take this opportunity to wish all our members and friends a Happy Christmas.

LONG BLADES, WRECKS, DWARVES ...

This year's meeting of the Council for British Archaeology Group 12 was held at Cricklade College, Andover, hosted by the Andover Archaeological Society, who provided tea, coffee, delicious home-made biscuits and a warm welcome. The meeting followed the same successful formula of previous years, with a number of reports on different archaeological topics.

The first report was from Mr R Froom, who had worked for many years as an amateur in the Kennet Valley, tracing the distribution of Mesolithic sites on the flood plain between Newbury and Ramsbury. He spoke about an unusual site discovered during fieldwalking, producing a long blade flint industry, which he had followed up by small scale excavation. On pollen evidence, it would seem to have dated from at least 10,000 years ago, late in the Last Glacial.

Mr Julian Richards, of the Wessex Archaeological Committee, who is connected with the Stonehenge landscape project, spoke about the difficulties of presenting this area satisfactorily to the public. Although it has been a sad year for people visiting Stonehenge itself, with miles of extra wire to imagine away, the surrounding area is now more accessible, with six miles of walks, with explanatory panels beside the footpaths and more information in leaflets and books (NB - new booklet by Julian Richards Beyond Stonehenge).

Most people know about the Mary Rose and shared in the excitement of seeing the wreck raised, but the Studland Bay wreck project is far less well known. Speakers from the Hamworthy Sub Aqua Club and Poole Museum showed a film and described their work on the wreck - a carvel-built merchantman - and the pottery, eg Isabella Polychrome ware, dated c 1500, which means that it predates the Mary Rose. This type of vessel was used by Isabella's Spanish sailors. It is just offshore on a sandy bottom and is a designated wreck, but there is a lot of work still to be done by the dedicated diving team to recover her full story.

After lunch Max Dacre gave a fact-filled summary of the work that has been done in the Andover area, particularly that done by the Andover Archaeological Society since the redevelopment of the town. Like the Basingstoke area, it seems to have been intensively occupied in the Iron Age and Roman period, though the area of the Anton crossroads, the junction of two major roads, saw a spread of about 10 acres of occupation and was probably more urban than anything in our immediate area. However, Andover has produced far more evidence of the Saxon settlement, eg a cemetery at Portway and grubenhauser (sunken-floored huts) at Old Down Farm.

Frank Green, Field Archaeologist for the Test Valley District, continued the local theme, describing later Saxon finds from Andover building sites, and Saxon and Medieval evidence from Romsey, Foxcotte, Kings Somborne and Michelmersh. The amount of work achieved made me all the more regretful that there is no comparable Field Officer for the Basingstoke District. (Newcomers to the Society may be interested to know that Society members and other interested people tried very hard, but unsuccessfully, to get such an appointment here some years ago.)

The last speaker of the afternoon was Julian Richards again, giving a report of the activities of the Wessex Archaeological Committee, which ranged from Neolithic to Roman in Dorchester, with the earliest example of a dwarf, a Roman dwarf from a cemetery - and on to several projects concerned with pipelines and oil wells, to rescue sites in the gravel working of the Kennet Valley - a large Late Bronze Age site and a probable Neolithic monument. He also mentioned the Brighton Hill South rescue excavations in Basingstoke and the discovery of the medieval church and village.

There was a great deal of "meat" to the day, and it was very well presented, which made the meeting a pleasure to attend.

MARY OLIVER

ONE HUNDRED YEARS OF HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGY: Conference

The Archaeology Section of the Hampshire Field Club and the Winchester Archaeology Office organised this Conference as their contribution to the centenary celebrations of the Hampshire Field Club. It was the first function to be held in the Conference Chamber of the newly refurbished Winchester Guildhall.

Five members from our Society attended what was a well-structured and stimulating day of old and new Hampshire archaeology, mainly from some of the best known names in British Archaeology.

Dick Whinney, who has spoken to our Society, reviewed the history of the Field Club. The number of the great names in British Archaeology associated with the Field Club is a matter of pride. John Collis of Sheffield University (Winchester-born and did his first excavations in Hampshire, most notably at Owslebury) was provocative in suggesting that too much emphasis has been placed on hillforts in the Iron Age economy and that even now researchers are too parochial in their approach to regional influences.

Martin Biddle treated the Conference to a masterly review of the inter-relationship of Winchester and Hamwih, the dual centres of Wessex during the Anglo-Saxon period, and the reasons for their growth and decline. David Ball spoke on the role of the Archaeology Branch of the Ordnance Survey, now part of the Royal Commission on Historic Monuments.

The highlight of the day was the lecture by Christopher Hawkes, now very much the Grand Old Man of British Archaeology. His Looking Back and Looking Forward review of the archaeological scene over the past 65 years was an attention-holding masterpiece.

There were two exhibitions associated with the Conference. One, organised by Annie Robinson, was a pictorial and documentary history of the Field Club. The second was by Mrs Sonia Chadwick Hawkes on her work on Early Anglo-Saxon Settlements in the Itchen Valley.

BOB APPLIN

After Richard Dexter's article in the last Newsletter, I invited members to send in more articles about places (or people) they find particularly interesting. Here Andrew Duckworth looks in some detail at a nearby valley that is full of history.

Editor

THE CANDOVERS

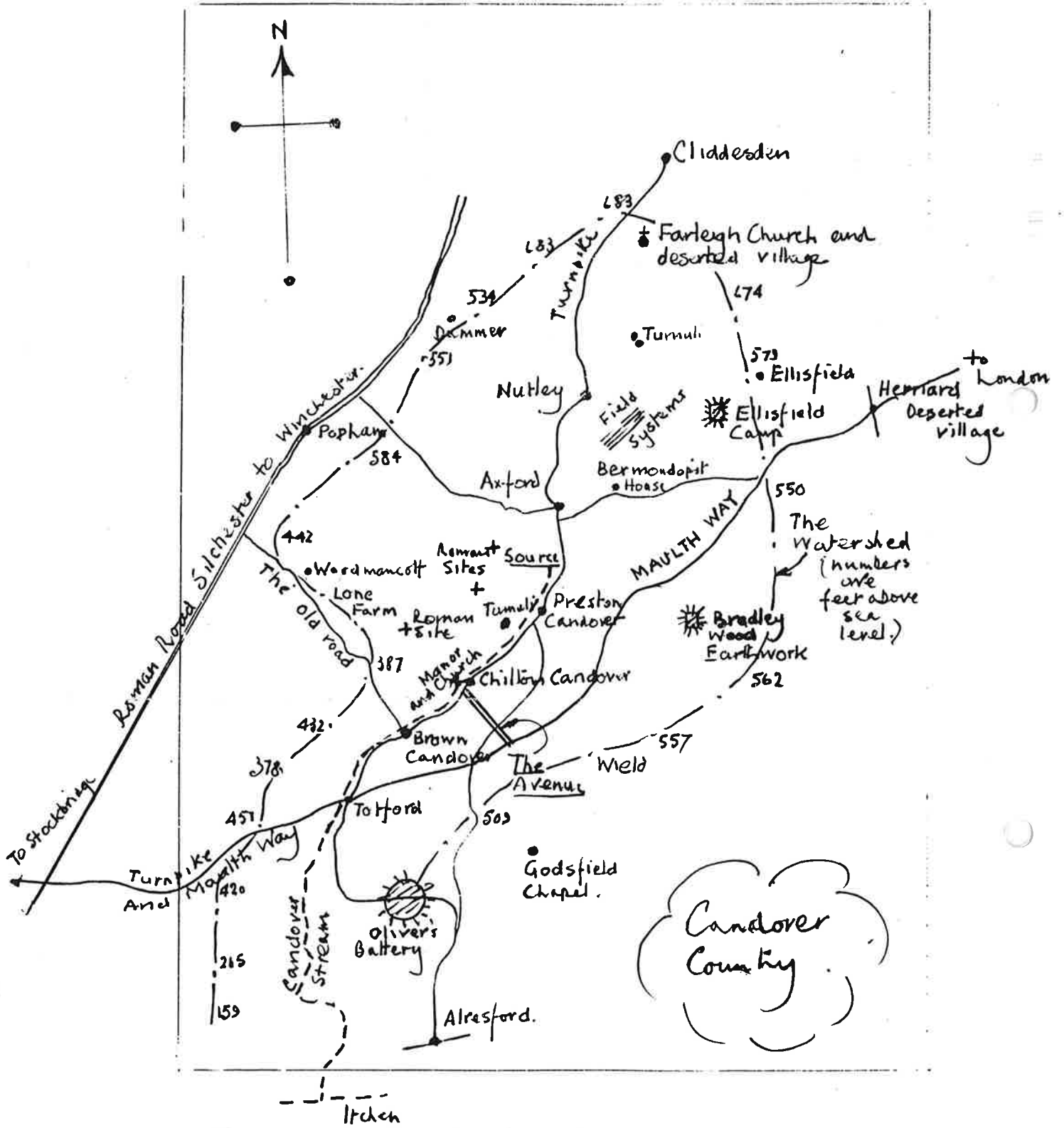
Soon after moving to Basingstoke in 1971, we "discovered" the Candover valley. Although my enthusiasm for this corner of Hampshire may perhaps seem exaggerated to someone born in the area, it is no exaggeration to say that there is so much of interest in that small valley in the North Hampshire Downs that, if it had been in a part of the County better known to the tourist, it would have featured in every guide book.

As with many other valleys in the chalk downlands of southern England, its stream provides the key to its history. Like a similar valley in North Hampshire, that of the Bourne, it is rich in the remains of early man and his successors, along the valuable water source it provides.

It is not a long stream - less than ten miles from its source to its confluence with the Itchen. From Basingstoke the entry to the valley is over the crest of the watershed after a steep climb from Cliddesden to Farleigh Wallop at 683 ft. From there the valley descends to 179 ft at the junction with the Itchen. There is a slight difference in landscape on each side of the river. On the west a series of low downland hills rise to the watershed with the Test and its tributaries. On the east a more wooded landscape finishes with a high plateau to the south, the river eventually passing between the chalk bluffs of Northington Down and Abbotstone Down to reach the water meadows of the Itchen. The landscape is one of rich farmland enclosed between low hills, fertile, comfortable and of great character.

In wet seasons the stream rises at Preston Candover at an elevation of about 325 ft. There can be little doubt that it receives an underground supply from a higher source still. At Axford, further up the valley (361 ft), several old roads converge which were once renowned as being almost water courses in wet seasons. The chalk here lies so near the surface that the drainage of this part of the valley is easily absorbed, helping to swell the stream below. Although some control of the water flow is now exercised, by the time the stream reaches Brown Candover it is visible in the meadows on the west of the road.

The road from Basingstoke to Alresford would seem to be an old road. Between Cliddesden and Farleigh Wallop, and between Nutley and Axford there are indications that it was once a hollow way, but it must have been a poor road in winter and never as important as the trading route to Alton and Portsmouth. So, before the turnpike road was laid in 1795 between Basingstoke and the Lunway Inn on the Winchester road, through the Candover villages, the people of the valley looked to Alresford rather than to Basingstoke for their market.



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The villages of the Candover valley - Nutley, Preston Candover, Chilton Candover and Brown Candover - have never been large. It is a quiet valley, now well farmed and prosperous, changing with the seasons, always attractive to the visitor, with its rich verges and well-tended cottages. The name, sometimes spelt "Candeure" in old documents, takes us back to pagan Britain. It is perhaps not surprising that a large number of names in Hampshire can be traced to the pre-Saxon "eure" or "oure", always associated with water. Some philologists trace a connection with the Iberic of the Basque country, Portugal & Spain, as in the names Douro and Adour, and claim that it goes back to Neolithic times, an interesting speculation that is difficult to prove. In our own district we have Mapledurwell, Micheldever, Andover, Overton and Andwell. It seems clear that words such as this and other similar traces of the language of pre-Roman Britain lived on through successive invasions of these shores, and combined with later languages to become living evidence of Britain before the written word.

Signs of early occupation of the Hampshire countryside are everywhere around us, and this valley is no exception. There is mention of a long barrow in the Preston Candover area, now difficult to locate. There is said to be a "Longbarrow Field" in the area. Round barrows occur throughout the valley and have been documented by L V Grinsell and G W Willis. Two in the Nutley area appear to be associated with an ancient field system north-east of Axford, but this is conjecture.

There are two enigmatic earth-works, at Ellisfield (see our Newsletter 87) and in Bradley Wood, neither of which could be dated by Williams-Freeman. The one in Bradley Wood is named "Hurst Castle" and could be an incomplete motte and bailey site. There is no evidence that it is of the same historical period as the Ellisfield earth-work, so there may be no significance in the fact that the two earth-works are at almost the same distance each side of the gap in the eastern downs through which passes the Axford-Herriard road, the only way into the valley from the east, and that both are some 150 ft above it.

It should however be kept in mind that this is the point where an old track, the Mault Way, coincides with the road, and one can suppose that the track way was in existence before the road. It was probably an important route for travellers from very early times. On the east of the valley at the southern end, where the river passes through the gap in the chalk, is a wooded earth-work of probable Iron Age origin known as "Oliver's Battery". As well as dominating the valley at its narrowest point, the road south to Alresford passes across this earth-work. If it is noted that the way out of the valley to the west, the Lunway, a continuation of the Mault Way after it crosses the valley road at Totford, is crossed by a bank and ditch on Northington Down, one could argue that there seems to be evidence for the control of movement into and across the valley at three key points.

The existence of large sandstones in the valley gave rise in early times to stories of druidical worship. Sometimes the stones appear to have risen up into the fields through the clay topsoil. The imagination of early antiquarians saw in the hollows and

depressions in their surfaces holes made for the purpose of sacrificial rites! They made good landmarks. One is mentioned in a charter of AD 902 which relates to the boundaries of lands owned by St Peter's Abbey, Winchester. Their origins go back to the last Ice Age, when they were moved and rounded by glacial action. They are now part of the valley landscape and its folk-lore.

Evidence of some Roman occupation is well documented in the Victoria County History, although I have been unable to find any reports of excavation. Two sites are marked on the one-inch Ordnance Survey Map, and a third exists close to them. Stanchester villa is in the parish of Preston Candover, $2\frac{1}{4}$ miles east of the Silchester-Winchester Roman road north of Stratton Park. Three low ridges can be seen in the ploughed field, on which flint, tiles and pottery have been found. In a grant of Edward the Elder in AD 981, one boundary of the land is given as Stan Castel, a significant name. A little over one mile north-east of Stanchester and a long half mile west of Preston Candover, in Chapel Field, outside the east angle of a copse is a defined area of tile and pottery fragments, oyster shells and iron nails. Half a mile north of Chapel Field in Dummer Breach, north-west of Preston Copse, have been found scattered fragments of tile and pottery. It is possible that these three sites are all part of one farming complex, and the probable link with the Roam road was by a still-existing road from that one, via Lone Farm to Brown Candover. If this were the case, the Romans may not have crossed the river into what was probably a much more forested area on the further slopes of the valley.

There are several areas of Hampshire that have names which are names of districts rather than of parishes or manors. Candover in Anglo-Saxon times was one of these areas. It seems originally to have been a Royal estate. It is mentioned as early as AD 701 in the detailed boundaries of the land at Alresford which King Ine gave to the Old Minster at Winchester. It is also mentioned in the Charter of King Egbert which confirmed the grant. In his will, King Alfred bequeathed Candover to his daughter, Aethelgiva, the Abbess of Sherborne. The area covered by this bequest is not clearly defined, but it is known that the lower part of the valley, subsequently named Candover Abbas, was granted to the New Minster at Winchester by King Edgar the Elder, the son of Alfred, and most of it remained in the possession of the New Minster or Hyde Abbey from about AD 902 until the dissolution of that Abbey in the 16th century.

The entries in the Domesday Book referring to Candover supply us with information which shows how the district in later Saxon times had been divided into manors. Eight separate manors or holdings are mentioned. Five refer to Preston Candover, one to Chilton Candover, and two to Brown Candover. At the time of the survey, the Abbey of St Peter at Winchester still held one of the Brown Candover manors. The fate of the possessions of the Abbey in this district is a reminder of the Battle of Hastings, and of the part which the Abbot and monks of that Abbey took in the battle, in which they were all said to have been killed. Because of the opposition of the Abbot and his monks, King William took away some of the land of the Abbey, and as a result the Norman baron, Hugh de Port, held part of the Abbey lands at Candover at the time of the survey, a significant transfer of ownership.

Returning for a moment to Saxon times, the valley had been divided administratively between two of the hundreds of this part of Wessex. Preston Candover was in the hundred of Beremellesputte, a name still perpetuated in the name of Bermondspit House, which lies north of the Axford-Herriard road. Chilton and Brown Candover were in the hundred of Maynesburg. The King was the Lord of the hundred of Beremellesputte, for the Domesday Book tells us that all the land in this hundred was, in the reign of King Edward the Confessor, held by various thegns of that King, except for one of the manors, which was held of Earl Harold. After the Battle of Hastings that hundred continued as royal land, but Maynesburg was owned partly by St Peter's Abbey, Winchester, and partly by Hugh de Port.

Two hundred years after Hastings an interesting circumstance occurred in relation to Chilton Candover, of which records exist. The manor was then held by the de Audeley family, the lord at that time being Robert de Audeley. He was also lord of the hundred of Maynesburg. The mis-rule of Henry III was over; Prince Edward had returned from the Holy Land to become King Edward I, a strong ruler determined to re-assert and maintain the power and rights of the Crown. About 1280 AD he resolved to ascertain by what warrants certain privileges were held, which some lords of the manor claimed by ancient right. In Hampshire a number of nobles were summoned to prove their claims. Robert de Audeley was one of these. He was required to show by what warrant he claimed the privileges of free gallows, and the assize of bread and ale. He proved his claim not as lord of the manor of Chilton Candover, but in right of the hundred of Maynesburg. These privileges were of great importance. He held the Hundred Court, which could try criminals and hang them on the gallows. It also regulated the price of bread and appointed the ale taster who had to see that "the bread was of good weight and the ale fit for man's body". So this peaceful valley must have seen some rough justice in its time, and this story, going back as it does to the original bequest of King Ine, shows how powerful the great Bishopricks of England were, for such privileges to have been confirmed after over 200 years of great change.

Chilton Candover is to me the most evocative part of the valley. William Cobbett passed through it in 1822 and wrote:

"Chalk is the favourite soil of the yew tree, and at Preston (sic) Candover there is an avenue of yew trees, probably a mile long, each tree containing as nearly as I can guess from 12 to 20 feet of timber, which as the reader knows, implies a tree of considerable size. They have probably been a century of two in growing."

Cobbett entered the valley by the Maulth Way. This drove road, as we have seen, passes through a gap in the downs, crosses the valley, becomes the Lunway at Totford, and crosses the Roman road near the cross roads where the Lunway Inn stands; eventually linking with the road to the west at Stockbridge. 'Maulth' is said to come from a Welsh, or British root, meaning sheep. Lunway is a corruption of London Way, so may be later in name origin. The way must have been a sheep drove from very early times. The clearance of the downs for sheep pastures goes back at least to

the 13th century, and the movement of many thousands of sheep to the great markets and fairs such as Alresford and Weyhill, and to London, must have meant that these drove ways were very heavily used. There are indications that they were in existence as track ways many centuries before such activity, and they may well have been the first "roads" of Great Britain.

The yew avenue mentioned by Cobbett runs from the site of the medieval manor house of the de Audeleys at Chilton Candover, now demolished. It goes in a straight line across both the valley road and the earlier road a mile to the east, to end at the Maulth Way. In 1893 members of the Hampshire Field Club measured many of the larger yews, and found that some had a girth of up to 12 feet at 4 feet from the ground. From this it was deduced that the avenue could have been 700 years old, which takes it back to the de Audeley occupation of the Manor. But there remain many unanswered, and possibly unanswerable questions. Why was it laid out in the first place? Certainly it pre-dates ornamental gardening and estate layouts. Why did it start at the Maulth Way? It is now a green ride, well tended, with gaps in the trees filled by saplings, although, sadly, not with yews. If it had been an approach road to the Manor, it would not have been paved. To quote Cobbett again:

"From Wreccllesham to Winchester we have come over roads and lanes of flint and chalk. The weather being dry again, the ground under you, as solid as iron, makes a great rattling with the horses' hooves."

Were the yews planted for the production of long bows? The imagination takes flight, but we must not speculate. As a teasing postscript, however, T D Atkinson in a Field Club article on Chilton Candover Church writes:

"Behind the (Manor) House, there is the wreck of a fine bowling green, perhaps originally archery butts."

Stand on the site of the Manor House at sunset, with the avenue stretching away seemingly for miles in the gathering dusk, give your imagination free rein, with the whisper of the swifts all around, and you may think you hear the whistle of the arrows as the archers test their new bows around you. Then, suddenly, it will seem a sensible move to return to your car, parked on the road below!

The Manor House stood until comparatively recent times, and traces can still be seen of brick footings in the grass. The church stood until 1878, immediately to the west of the house, and it seems clear from the nature of the surface and the foundations adjoining the east end of the church that the two buildings were joined. It would appear therefore that a de Audeley built a church which served the estate generally and his own household in particular, with a crypt below the church as a mausoleum for his family. A full description of the crypt is outside the scope of this article, but it is open to visitors, and quite visible as a low structure from the road. When it was rediscovered in 1935 imagination ran riot in the press: it was even stated to be an underground church, and a Temple of Mithras! Much still needs to be researched about the de Audeleys and their successors at the Manor, an interesting medieval study. The manor house site

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would make an interesting and revealing excavation project, as interesting as Wickham Manor was, for it must go back to the Norman Conquest and possibly earlier.

Which is perhaps the moment to mention some of the legends, folk-lore and "old peoples" tales which are special to the valley. Where better to begin than with the last historical episode to disturb its calm. One day in March 1644 a Cavalier riding in great haste to Basing spread the news of a great and bloody battle on Cheriton Down. The cottagers bolted and barred their dwellings and waited apprehensively. They did not have long to wait. All through the night horsemen in their hundreds, weary, hungry and often wounded, thronged the lanes and greenways through the valley in retreat to Basing, Reading and Oxford. Many were on foot, and the few carts were laden with wounded men crying out for water and relief from pain. The word came from them that "the kingdom was lost", and that the hated "lobster-backs" of the Parliamentary Army were close behind. In desperation the Cavaliers killed over 200 horses to block the road behind them, and Colonel Norton, who left the battlefield with nine valuable guns, buried six of them somewhere in the valley; they have never been found. Many a Cavalier sacrificed a beloved horse in the retreat, and, in deep despair struggled on to Basing House on foot. One of these, seemingly always in grey, comes out of the March mists during the night, at Candover Springs, on the anniversary of this retreat. Villagers tell the story of the gypsy girl who was murdered one night on the road between Preston Candover and Wield. Every year since, on the anniversary of the crime, a wreath has appeared on the spot where the body was found, and no-one ever sees who puts it there. There are also tales of gold hidden in the valley, which may well be true, for such tales span many generations. In the 1941 Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club there is a report from the Folk-lore Section that in a garden in Chilton Candover, where there are two mounds, local tradition states that a golden calf is buried. This is a curious legend, told also of Basing House, and which is repeated in other parts of England.

With all this wealth of archaeology, history and legend, it seems strange to me that my collection of Hampshire Guide books hardly mentions the Candovers. For I have not even spoken of the great houses of the valley, such as Moundsmere and The Grange (see Newsletter 79); the Priory of the Knights Templars (which justifies an article on its own, for it was the principal house owned by the Order in Hampshire for 200 years after Henry de Blois founded it at Godsfield, an evocative name; or the deserted village of Farleigh Wallop on the watershed.

Perhaps it is just as well that the tourist passes it by as he drives west along the motorway. It is on our doorstep. We can enjoy its tranquility, and the beauty of its scenery. At leisure the archaeologist can uncover its secrets, the historian delve into its past, and between them create a living landscape in which the traveller can find not only visual enjoyment, but also become conscious of the forces which fashioned the valley into one piece of the jig-saw which is the history of our country.

ANDREW DUCKWORTH

A LOCAL HISTORY EVENT IN SALISBURY

On Saturday June 7th a Local History Event in Salisbury will be sponsored by the British Association for Local History:

- talks in the Cathedral and Medieval Hall
- award-winning Museum
- Magna Carta
- Trust for Wessex Archaeology
- View from St Thomas's tower
- Mini-bus to Old Sarum
- Guided City walks

Inclusive fee £5.00 (under 15 £3.50)

For booking forms send s.a.e. to Mrs A Martingell,
34 Rolleston St, Salisbury SP1 1ED (tel 0722 20390)

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB

Are you a member? If not, have you considered joining? They require more members to maintain the vitality and viability of the Club. The subscription is £7.50 (£10 for a joint membership). The annual Proceedings costs £4. For your subscription you get membership of the Club itself and sub-groups: Archaeology, Local History, Historic Buildings, Geology, New Forest Section. Sub-groups publish a Newsletter twice a year and organise programmes of lectures and events around the county. The membership secretary is Mrs B R Turnbull, Uplands, Hurdle Way, Compton, Winchester.

Dear Editor,

May I through the medium of the Newsletter express my appreciation of the WEA Course on Local Archaeology and the fine series of lectures given by our fellow member, Mary Oliver. Without wishing to embarrass her, let me say that she certainly makes the subject come alive. I would suggest that another series is called for to enable her to go deeper into some areas, my special plea the Roman military campaigns and fortresses.

ERIC E ROBINSON