

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



N E W S L E T T E R

Number 94

July 1986

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SOCIETY PROGRAMME

1986	Thursday 24 July	Visit to SILCHESTER
	Thursday 11 Sept	VIKINGS Lesley Webster
	Saturday 24 Sept	Excursion: THE DOMESDAY EXHIBITION etc
	Thursday 9 Oct	ALINGTON AVENUE, DORCHESTER Sue Davies
	Thursday 13 Nov	To be announced
	Thursday 11 Dec	SOCIAL and THE MUSEUM OF THE IRON AGE, ANDOVER David Allen
1987	Thursday 8 Jan	BURSLEDON WINDMILL
	Thursday 12 Feb	HOOK Glynis Wilsdon
	Thursday 12 Mar	THE TECHNIQUES OF MUMMIFICATION W V Davies
	Thursday 9 April	BASING, LONDON & MID-SAXON ENGLAND David Hinton
	Thursday 14 May	THE ROMAN BASILICA AT LEADENHALL COURT, LONDON Simon O'Connor Thompson

Wednesdays (other than lecture weeks) Pot washing/finds
sorting etc at Kempshott Village Hall from 7.30 pm

Articles and information for the Newsletter to Mrs Barbara
Applin, 138 Old Kempshott Lane, Basingstoke

JOHN OLIVER - A Tribute

The tragic death of John Oliver, at the early age of fifty, has robbed the Society of one of its most active members. Founder and first Chairman, he seemed always to be present over the years, on 'digs', at meetings and on outings; always the liveliest and most inventive mind among us during our social events. No task was too menial for him. Everything he undertook was carried out with great care and attention to detail, whether it was the organisation of an outing, or the operation of the slide projector at our lectures.

It is difficult to write of John in an impersonal manner. A Basingstoke man by birth, he loved his town and his county, and was steeped in their history; yet he was always tolerant of those of us who came to live here in recent years.

When redevelopment devastated the centre of Basingstoke, John was eager to rescue some of the architectural and historical details of the older buildings in the town, and the Willis Museum in its Town Gallery shows many of the artefacts he saved. A prominent member of the informal Archaeological Group attached to the Museum, he played a key part in the formation of our own Society. He inspired his friends with his enthusiasm; their help, together with his marriage to Mary, linking his practical building experience with her deep knowledge of archaeology, did much to create the firm foundation the Society needed in order to expand and prosper.

John carried his Christian beliefs into every facet of his working and leisure life. He was a quiet, kind and gentle man with a bubbling sense of humour. He could be the life and soul of a party, and our Socials were enhanced by his presence. Yet in committee he could always be relied upon for a sound and positive contribution to our discussions.

Knowing his love of the mediaeval world, John would know the description in The Canterbury Tales of "The varray parfit gentil knight". He would have been too modest to believe that this description could possibly apply to him. But that is how those of us who were privileged to know him will remember him; no-one could have a better epitaph.

ANDREW DUCKWORTH

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Chute House, Thursday 26th June 1986

About 25 members attended, and all were saddened to hear of the death of John Oliver. Betty Waters offered the Society's condolences to Mary. It was decided to donate £50 for a specific piece of restoration in St Michael's Church in memory of John.

Mary Oliver is to be Chairman for the coming year, Sarah Duckworth will continue as Treasurer and Lynne Freshwater takes over as Secretary. Peter Heath, Sue Headley, Andrew Duckworth and Richard Dexter continue as Committee members, but Barbara Lovell and Barbara Applin have both retired. There being no nominations, it has been left to the Committee to co-opt members as necessary.

Parking at Chute House is now restricted to 16 cars, regardless of the number of functions being held, so members are warned they may need to park elsewhere.

Instead of a separate "Social" this year, it has been decided to combine the December meeting with a cheese and wine party.

Barbara Applin's play "Swing Swang Lane" (based on events and people in Anne Hawker's "Voices of Basingstoke") will be performed by the Bell & Howell Players at the Central Studio in the last week of October/1st November. Anyone interested in being involved should contact Barbara quickly (Basingstoke 465439).

VISIT TO SILCHESTER

Thursday 24th July

Meet in the car park by Silchester Church at 7 pm.

EXCURSION: THE DOMESDAY EXHIBITION ETC

Saturday 20th September

Andrew Duckworth has provided the attached map and notes on a tempting variety of places to explore after our morning visit to the DOMESDAY EXHIBITION at the Public Record Office in Chancery Lane.

As we have booked to be given a guided tour of the exhibition, we shall need to leave Basingstoke at 8.30 am. Members are asked to make their bookings & let us have £1 non-returnable deposit by the end of August (full charge £5.00).

OPEN DAYS FOR EXCAVATIONS

There will be an "Open day" at Brighton Hill, Basingstoke, on 26th July with guided tours and an exhibition

There will be an "open day" for what may be the last season of excavations at the Iron Age hillfort of Danebury on Bank Holiday Monday, 25th August.

BASINGSTOKE FROM THE CENSUSES

A Progress Report based on the efforts of members of the WEA/University of Southampton Adult Education Class in Basingstoke, January-March 1986

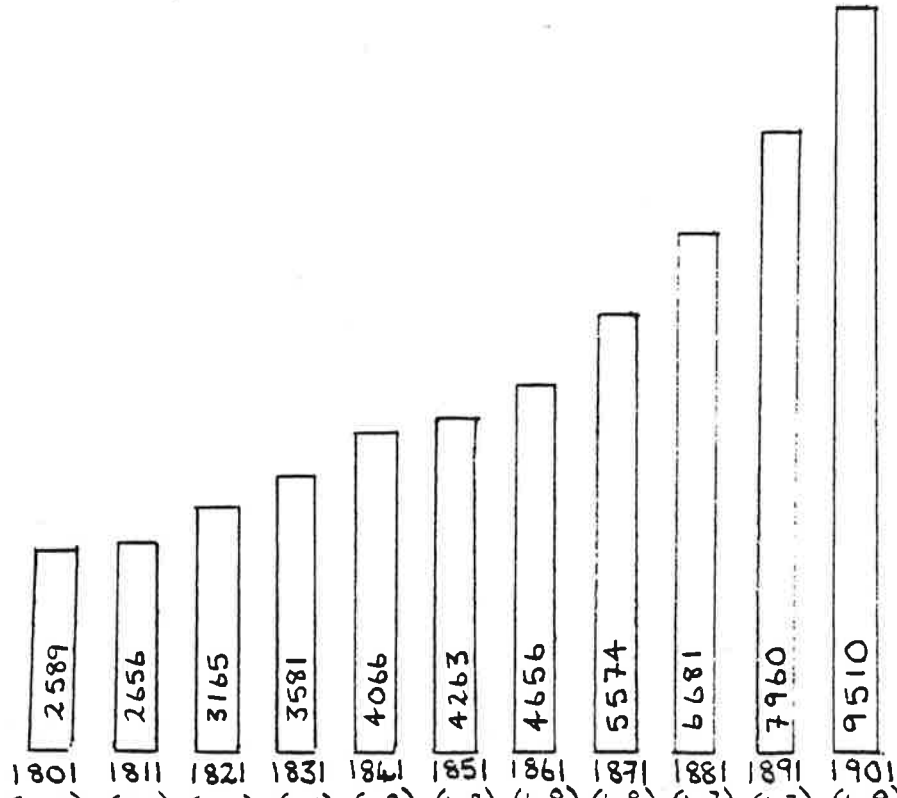
Information from Census Abstracts and Enumerators' Books are an invaluable source of factual data about the way a town has developed, who lived there, how people lived and earned their living, where and when they were born and to a certain extent what their lifestyle was. The currently available published Histories of Basingstoke have used Census data illustratively rather than quantitatively, but information derived systematically from analysis of censuses for the town would contribute both to our understanding of nineteenth century Basingstoke and to our conception of this town compared with other areas. Hence our course.

Our work has involved collecting and studying evidence found in printed statistics issued by the Census Office 1801-1901 and a printout of the eight Census Enumerators' Books covering the whole town in 1861. Much of the work has involved recording information on standard forms, prototypes of which had been made available to us by the Cambridge Group for the History of Population and Social Structure. This will make our results directly comparable with those for other towns. For the same reason, although our class felt that this did not clearly reflect the social standing of a household within the local community at this one fixed point in time, the information available about the occupational structure of the town has been recorded according to the system of classification favoured by the Census Office. Using these systems will also aid comparison with information available on the town in more recent times. Details of the classification systems used are published in R. Lawton ed The Census and Social Structure (Frank Cass 1978). (see figure 5).

Although we have only begun to explore the range of information available in our source, we have discovered certain features applicable to the town as a whole, while unearthing many differences between various streets and areas of Basingstoke. All of these are worth recording and indicate the value of pursuing further research based on similar and ancillary sources.

From the printed statistics we knew that we were dealing with an expanding town, (see figure 1) where, despite some evidence of overcrowding and unsanitary housing, house building had kept pace with population growth (there were on average just under five people to a house). Compared with its hinterland, Basingstoke's growth had been greater and more evenly sustained. How would this general picture be borne out in our detailed study of the town in 1861?

The recorded ages of everyone except boarders and visitors listed in 1861 indicated that the population was a young one, with approximately 46% of all men and women aged under 20, and only 3% of the men and 4% of women aged 70 and above (see figure 2). At the same time, information on the place of birth of individuals showed that almost half the population had been born in the town and less than a quarter outside Hampshire (see figure 3).



Persons per House . (5.0) (5.0) (5.4) (5.1) (4.9) (4.8) (4.9) (4.8) (4.7) (4.7) (4.9)
 FIGURE 1 :- Population Growth and Persons per House Basingstoke 1801-1901
 (Source O.P.C.S. Census Abstracts)

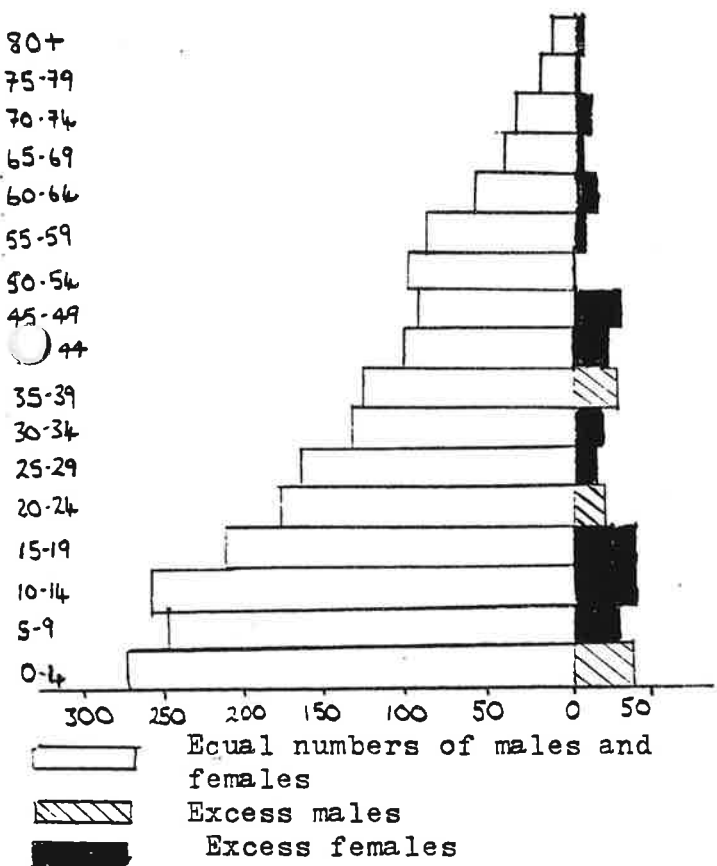


FIGURE 2 :-1861 Population by Sex and Age Group (Source 1861 C.E.F.'s)

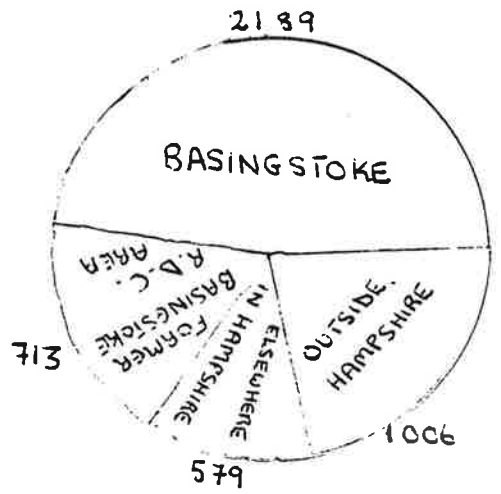


FIGURE 3 :- Birthplace of the 1861 Population. (Source 1861 C.E.F.'s)

Our growing population was essentially local in origin, and if information on the places of birth of dependant children was reliable, most people had settled in the town prior to raising their families. Basingstoke clearly had sufficient work and housing to attract and keep young families. Since only about a quarter of all wives had been born in the town, there was also scope to argue that young girls coming to the town from the surrounding area - possibly to work as servants - tended to marry and stay in the town. What were the employment opportunities available in 1861? Which jobs had been filled by the Basingstoke-born and which by outsiders?

Although this investigation is not yet complete, it has revealed much about the local economy and has also pinpointed the differences between various streets and groups of houses in the town as reflected by a householder's occupation, place of birth and ability to keep servants. The professional classes - lawyers, clergy, doctors, bankers etc, for example William Challis, the Attorney, John Watts MRCS, Edward John Gill, Sub-Manager of the Bank - lived primarily in the Winchester Street/London Street area. There was another small enclave around Church Lane and Church Square where, in addition to the Rector of Eastrop, the Minister of New Road Chapel and the Evangelist Minister lived. Most of this group had been born outside Hampshire. Well-to-do tradesmen, on the other hand, though scarcely more likely to be Basingstoke-born (with the obvious exception of Burberry) tended not to have migrated from as far afield as their professional neighbours. Again, they were commonest and at their most affluent in the Winchester Street/London Street part of the town (take the case of Benjamin O. Johnson, the Draper in London Street, with his family of 6; a brother, 5 Assistants, an Apprentice, a Governess and 2 Domestic Servants). Where upper class families were found living in the Church Street/Chapel Street area, however, most had been born locally.

Here too a new feature of Basingstoke was emerging - Housing Zones. In Winchester Street, London Street, Hackwood Road or Wote Street, skilled and not so skilled artisans (John Ellis the Dairyman, Henry Irall the Carpenter and joiner, David Bone the Timber Carter and Joseph Wilkins a Bricklayer's Labourer) lived in close proximity to Henry Downs, Land Agent, Maltster and Farmer, and to the Winton House Boarding School for Girls run by the Misses Dunstanoy. This trend for mixed housing was also found near the Rose and Crown. However, in the Church Street and Chapel Street area artisans tended to be grouped together, with a predictable enclave of Railway workers near the station (see figure 4). A similar pattern of artisan housing and an absence of servant keeping was found in the North-Brook Street area of the town. Here the only servants found were those living apart from their employers.

Predictably, Agricultural Labourers were most commonly found on the fringes of the town as it then stood - near Viables Farm, at the bottom of Hackwood Road, in Eastrop, and even at the bottom of Winchester Street, relatively close to the town's then most affluent trading area. This group were the least likely to have come to the town from far afield and reflected the closest contact with the area subsequently administered by the Basingstoke RDC.

Parish or Township of	City or Borough of	Municipal Ward of	Parliamentary Borough of	Town of	Hamlet or Tything of	Residential District of		
BASINGSTOKE								
No. of Sched-	Road, Street etc & No. or Name of	Houses I* U*	Name and Surname of Person	Relation to Head	Condi- tion M* F*	Age M* F*	Rank, Profession or Occupation	Where born
132	BUNNIAN PLACE	1	WILLIAM WHITE LOUISA D ^o GEORGE d ^o ROSE d ^o MARY d ^o SARAH d ^o	Hd WIFE SON DAU DAU DAU	MAR MAR UN UN UN	36 36 14 12 10 7	RAILWAY PORTER WIFE ERRAND BOY	HANTS, COVE " FARNBOROUGH " COVE d ^o d ^o MIDDLESEX, PADDINGTON d ^o
133 134		1	JAMES d ^o EMMA d ^o SAMUEL HOSKINS CHARLES FRANKLIN MARY d ^o WILLIAM d ^o ELIZABETH d ^o ISABELLA d ^o SELENA d ^o RICHd d ^o HENRY ECCARELL	SON DAU LODGER Hd WIFE SON DAU DAU DAU SON Hd	UN MAR MAR MAR UN UN UN UN MAR	3 10 months 21. 47 47 11 19 9 5 11 months 77	LABOURER CARPENTER DRESSMAKER SCHOLARMASTER	HANTS, BASINGSTOKE DEVON, HONITON HANTS, BASINGSTOKE d ^o d ^o d ^o d ^o d ^o d ^o d ^o d ^o ST JAMES', WESTMINSTER BERKS, HURST HANTS, CROOKHAM SURREY, LAMHILL d ^o d ^o
135		1	HENRY d ^o JAMES RANDALL JANE d ^o JAMES d ^o JANE ALFRED W MIDDLETON MARY d ^o	SON Hd WIFE SON DAU SON Hd WIFE	UN MAR MAR MAR MAR MAR MAR	12 26 25 5 3 1 month 46 46	SCHOLAR RAILWAY CARMAN SCHOLAR	HANTS, BASINGSTOKE HANTS, BASINGSTOKE d ^o d ^o BATTERSEA HANTS, BASINGSTOKE d ^o d ^o BERKS, READING
136		1						
137		1						

*I Inhabited U Uninhabited B Building *M Male F Female

Figure 4: An extract from the Basingstoke Census, 1861

To take one area in detail - Schedule 8, covering Eastrop and a North-east part of Basingstoke parish, members working on this report that Oakridge Farm, Basingstoke Mill (later part of Mussellwhites), Vinces Farm, North Ham Farm and Eastrop Mill were all occupied by agricultural workers or mill workers, and the majority of the other houses in Gashouse Road, Basing Road and Goat Lane were inhabited by artisans, domestic workers or agricultural labourers. Understandably, since this is near the Wharf, several men were sawyers, including the landlord of the Goat Inn. Only one household head fell into Social Class Ia - the doctor living in Eastrop House, and his was the only household with servants. In this area, 47% of the inhabitants were born in Basingstoke and only 14% came from parts of England outside Hampshire (it must be remembered, however, that several pages of the schedule were in too poor a state to copy, so that the portion studied gave only 41 persons, though the 1859 Directory gives 62 inhabitants for Eastrop alone).

Although many notable examples exist to the contrary, the 1861 Census seems at first sight to indicate that Basingstoke was a net importer of professional and highly skilled labour, working with a predominately locally born, less highly skilled labour force. This did not, of course, mean that Basingstoke had failed to produce its own highly skilled pool of labour. On the contrary, the Census reflects plenty of educational and training opportunities. Rather it reflects the increased mobility open to the better paid, together with the increase in opportunities for skilled workers offered by the mid-nineteenth century town.

Interestingly, the newer areas of the town had the lowest proportion of Basingstoke-born workers (43% as against 54%). This shows that, although some families already resident in the town had been in a position to avail themselves of new and possibly better accommodation than previously, they were in a minority. Given the present state of our study, it is not possible to tell whether or not it was customary in Basingstoke, as in some of the large urban centres studied in the industrial north, for workers to move from one new development to the next, leaving the older housing vacant for newcomers.

As with so many other things, our glance at a Basingstoke census has proved to be rather like opening Pandora's box. Although we have made some use of the information available on each individual's age, sex, occupation, household position (see figure 6) and place of birth, there has as yet been no concerted attempt at in-depth studies of various groups within the community - occupational groups like the railway workers, foundry workers, coach builders, brewers and dressmakers; age-specific groups such as the elderly and very young and, of course, persons in specified relationships to heads of household - wives, servants, lodgers, kin. How many widows supported their own households? How many servants shared their place of birth with their master or mistress? Clearly we need to consolidate and possibly expand our existing work until we have a well-balanced census-derived picture of our town to compare with other towns and with evidence of Basingstoke's past, both from different sources and at different points in time.

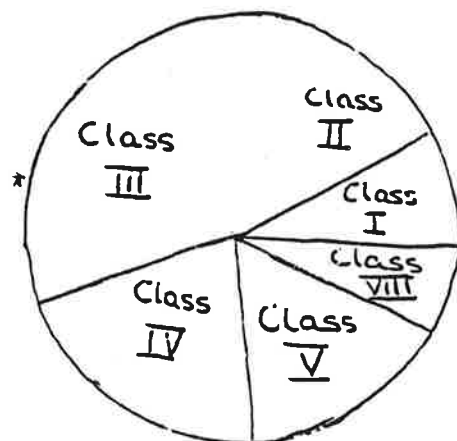


FIGURE 5 :- Distribution of the working population by Socio-Economic Class (as per Lawton , Appendix VI)

AGE GROUP	HEAD	SPOUSE	OFF-SPRING	ADOPTED /FOSTER CHILD	RELATIVE	SERVANT	DEPEN-DANT OF SERVANT	INMATE	DEPEND-ANT OF INMATE	TOTAL
0 - 4			530	4	28		2	5	15	584
5 - 9			464		28	2	1	5	7	507
10-14			430	3	36	42	3	14	6	534
15-19			224	1	23	154	1	34	2	439
20-24	25	52	119	1	20	80	2	74		377
25-29	75	95	50		18	40		49	1	328
30-34	103	103	26		12	12		26	2	284
35-39	135	78	11		17	12		20	1	274
40-44	99	78	11		17	5		16		226
45-49	98	79	1		14	8		16		216
50-54	111	58	1		12	4		10		196
55-59	88	54			8	4		11		165
60-64	79	43			12	4		14		152
65-69	56	19			5	1		11		92
70+	<u>87</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>13</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>140</u>
	956	676	1867	9	271	370	9	318	34	4510

FIGURE 6: Population in Age Groups by Relationship to Household Head (Source Basingstoke C.E.B.'s 1861 - Percentage and breakdown by sex also available)

Depicting our study thus, as indicating the need for further work, in many ways understates the level of the work already completed, especially our achievement in reporting findings which cover the town as a whole and not the 10% samples commonly resorted to in studies of towns of similar size. Our study of Basingstoke therefore satisfies the needs of local historians rather than merely students of local and national trends.

In conclusion, two apologies are due. Firstly, I must apologize to the class members for failing to include such a vast amount of the work they have already undertaken, with their many interesting examples from each Census Enumerator's book. Secondly, apology is due for the failure to name most of the inhabitants of Basingstoke in 1861 who, as we read through the lists, week by week, became almost as familiar to us as today's inhabitants.

The course will re-commence in January 1987, again at 7.30 on Wednesday evenings at Brighton Hill School. Newcomers and old hands will be most welcome in our attempt to complete and consolidate the existing study as we expand our knowledge of mid-Victorian Basingstoke, hopefully in a form we can readily communicate to others. Will anyone interested in finding out more about our research and/or joining the group please contact The University of Southampton Department of Adult Education, the Basingstoke Branch of the WEA, or myself? (Telephone: Hartley Wintney 2941)

MARGARET ESCOTT
(Course Tutor)

HAMPSHIRE FIELD CLUB Forthcoming events (all Saturdays)

<u>30th August</u>	Field trip to Maiden Castle excavations and Dorchester
<u>20th Sept</u>	Annual Conference, "The Hampshire Landscape", Botley Farm Museum
<u>27th Sept</u>	Guided tour around watercourses of Winchester, with preliminary talk by John Crook in Pilgrim's Hall, 2 pm
<u>4th Oct</u>	AGM and day conference of Local History Section at Alton
<u>11th Oct</u>	Day conference on "Roofs", King Alfred's College, Winchester

SUBSCRIPTIONS A further reminder, for anyone who has not yet paid for 1986-7 - these were due on 1st May and should be sent to the Treasurer, Mrs Sarah Duckworth, 177 Pack Lane, Basingstoke: £6 single, £8 family, £3 OAP/student

"POT WASHING"

"Pot washing is rather a misnomer, as there is much to do apart from washing sherds of pottery. At present we are drawing sections and profiles of pottery with a view to preparing items for publication. Washing pottery is merely the first step towards extracting information from sherds which have been found on excavation or fieldwalking. The cleaned sherds are compared with similar known sherds in order to date them. Flint implements and other artifacts are dealt with in a like manner, although metal objects are processed somewhat differently.

None of us are experienced "artists", but by practising with sherds which have been drawn previously we hope to attain an acceptable standard. An example of one such drawing, by Sue Headley, is reproduced here (from Ructstalls Hill: 1971.512/81.5).

"Pot washing" evenings are held at Kempshott Village Hall on three Wednesday evenings each month (not during August) from 7.30 pm to approximately 9.30 pm.

It is hoped to carry out a fieldwalking exercise at Ellisfield later this year and, of course, we shall require help in the field and afterwards to process our finds.

Although "processing finds" may sound like hard work, in fact we also regard these evenings as an opportunity for members to meet informally. The Society's "library" is available for browsing or borrowing, and a cup of coffee is usually available!

Please contact me on Basingstoke 27713 for further information concerning both pot washing and fieldwalking.

