

BASINGSTOKE ARCHAEOLOGICAL & HISTORICAL SOCIETY



N E W S L E T T E R

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CALENDAR

- Thursday 18 Sept Hand Tools from the Middle Ages to the Present Day Philip Walker, Willis Museum, 7.30 (Friends)
- Friday 19 Sept Hampshire Field Club evening viewing of new Museum of the Iron Age, Andover Museum, Church Close, Andover, 7-9 pm (entrance incl. wine & cheese 80p; children & senior citizens 40p)
- * Saturday 20 Sept Society excursion: THE DOMESDAY EXHIBITION etc
- Saturday 27 Sept HFC guided tour Watercourses of Winchester, with preliminary talk in Pilgrim's Hall, 2 pm
- Saturday 4 Oct HFC Local History Section AGM and day conference, Alton
- * Thursday 9 Oct ALINGTON AVENUE, DORCHESTER Sue Davies, 7.30 pm Chute House
- Saturday 11 Oct HFC day conference Roofs, King Alfred's College, Winchester
- Thursday 16 Oct AGM of Friends of the Willis Museum & George Willis by Arthur Attwood, 7.30 Willis Museum
- 27 Oct - 1 Nov Performances of SWING SWANG LANE by Ian Cullen & Barbara Applin, Central Studio, Basingstoke
- * Thursday 13 Nov THE WINCHESTER DIVER John Crook, 7.30 pm Chute House
- Thursday 20 Nov Silchester Michael Fulford, Willis Museum, 7.30 (Friends)
- * Thursday 11 Dec Society CHRISTMAS SOCIAL and THE MUSEUM OF THE IRON AGE David Allen

*Society event

COMMITTEE

Many apologies to Joy Needham - somehow we managed to leave her name out of the list of members elected to the Committee; Joy is continuing to act as our very able Programme Secretary.

SUBSCRIPTIONS

Another reminder that subscriptions for 1986-7 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

ALINGTON AVENUE, DORCHESTER

Lecture by Sue Davies

7.30 pm, Chute House, Thursday 9th October

Andrew Lawson whetted our appetite for details of this site when he mentioned it during his May lecture on Potterne. Sue Davies, co-director of the excavations, has agreed to tell us what has been discovered there many periods of settlement and burial, from Neolithic long barrow/cursus, through Bronze Age and Iron Age settlement to Roman burials. Come and hear about the decapitated burial, and the earliest dwarf in the country.

POT WASHING

Pot washing at the Kempshott Village Hall (entrance at the back) starts again on 17th September at 7.30 pm and will continue to be held there on Wednesday evenings other than lecture weeks. It's more than just pot washing, of course; opportunities for sorting and drawing finds, consulting the Society's library and just meeting other members.

FIELD WALKING AT ELLISFIELD

We are still waiting to hear exactly when the site at Ellisfield will be available for fieldwalking, but it may be quite soon. Please ring Peter Heath (Basingstoke 27713) to let him know if you would like to take part.

CHUTE HOUSE: PARKING

We have been warned that almost no parking space will be available outside Chute House, and we are concerned that this will cause inconvenience to members. The multi-storey car park is probably the best bet.

EXCURSION: THE DOMESDAY EXHIBITION etc
Saturday 20th September

There are still some seats available - do please let a Committee member know at once if you know of anyone else who would like to come; we have taken a gamble and booked some extra places. We shall as a party be seeing a video, and then go round the exhibition independently, using Andrew Duckworth's splendid map and notes for whatever we want to do after that. £5. Leave Basingstoke 8.30 am (corner of Lower Wote Street/Churchill Way).

O LEVEL ARCHAEOLOGY

The Technical College hope to repeat this course, with Mary Oliver and Teresa Hook. If there are enough enrolments it will start later this month and be on Monday evenings (not Thursdays as announced in the prospectus). This is traditionally a very enjoyable class, with some fieldwork involved, and it has had consistently high examination results. Details from the Technical College.

SITES OF CLASSICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Mary Oliver will also be giving a 10-week WEA course at Harriet Costello School, starting on Wednesday 24th September at 7.30pm. It features sites in Rome, Greece and Crete. Fee £14.

SWING SWANG LANE

At last I can announce dates for the performance of this play.

Bell & Howell Players present a new play

SWING SWANG LANE

by Ian Cullen and Barbara Applin

at The Central Studio, Basingstoke

October 29th until November 1st

Wednesday-Saturday 7.45 £3.00
Matinee Saturday 3 pm £3.00 & £2.00

Tickets from the
Haymarket Theatre Booking Office

Directed by Ian Cullen

Many of you already know how this play had its inspiration in the Tudor records of Basingstoke which Anne Hawker examined in her VOICES OF BASINGSTOKE 1400-1600 published by this Society. Reading the details she uncovered about Anne Lane and her family, I felt the attraction of this strongly independent woman in such an uncertain world. (The blurb about the play invites you to "experience the tumultuous effect of the Reformation on ordinary people living in Basingstoke in the mid 16th century). Thanks to Ian Cullen's professional collaboration, I can promise you not just a glimpse of local history but a real play which I hope will grip your emotions and imagination.

The Bell & Howell Players would welcome help from our members behind the scenes, so if you would like to help, please ring me (Basingstoke 465439). I would particularly like to ask for volunteers to put on a small display about the Society at the Central Studio and to sell copies of VOICES OF BASINGSTOKE there.

And do come and see the play!

BARBARA APPLIN

ALONG THE ROMAN ROAD FROM BASINGSTOKE TO SILCHESTER

There are two sites along this road line which have aroused my curiosity and I would be grateful to members if they could say whether there has been any literature on these sites since S E Winbolt wrote about them in 1937 (1), or whether they have investigated them on the ground. The square 62-63/56-57 on the 1" to the mile Ordnance Survey map locates the area

Winbolt said, "I proceed from Sherborne St John northwards. About 160 yards North of the crossing of the Weybrook, the line of the road, close East of the Sherborne St John earthwork, is simply a track used as a footpath. The earthwork is on a slight southerly slope and is bounded on the West by the Aldermaston Road, here a cutting. The other three sides are slight banks with traces of ditches outside. The entrance was probably in the middle of the North side.

North side, c 105 paces; East side, c 75 paces;

South side, c 105 paces; West side (on the road) c 165 paces

"This is almost certainly a mediaeval (?house) enclosure: its shape and similarity to Morgaston Wood and its position beside the road justify this inference (see below).

"About 700 yards North of this earthwork the line of the Roman road is represented for a few hundred yards by a distinct, broad agger, especially where it passes close West of the Morgaston Wood earthwork, between the West bank of which and the agger is a broad ditch.

"Morgaston Wood Earthwork Whereas Sherborne St John earthwork is West of the line of the Roman road, this is East of the visible agger of the road. It is on level ground on the top of a rise from the South and consists of banks and ditches outside.

West side, c 67 paces, has a tree on each of its two rounded corners; North side, 65 paces; East side, with three trees on it, 43 paces; South side, 74 paces. Entrance probably middle of the South side.

"Downhill South the agger passes through a hedgerow diagonally. In the North-West corner of the area I found several fragments of possibly 14th century mediaeval pottery. Outside the North-East corner there was a fish-pond. There is no earthwork South of this, as I have seen represented on a map, and as the conformation of the ground might lead one at first sight to suppose.

"The two earthworks are not Roman, but mediaeval. They were probably there when the Roman road was still in use before about 1400 AD. (It is known that)* the portion of the Roman road was enclosed in the Beaurepaire property as derelict by W Brocas in 1415. These two earthworks should be shown in future maps as mediaeval evidence of the course of the Roman road."

I can find no later reports in the Proceedings about this interesting area, and there seems to have been no correspondence regarding Winbolt's conclusions. Do any members know whether there were any finds when the Aldermaston Road was widened in recent years? I would be most interested in any information or comment members may be able to offer on these two sites, further evidence of the richness of archaeological remains in our area.

Ref: Proc. HFC XIV, Part 2, 1939. Winbolt, CE "The Winchester-Silchester Roman Road from Sherborne St John to Silchester"

ANDREW DUCKWORTH

GUERNSEY HOLIDAY

A most enjoyable holiday island, not only for its beaches and countryside but for dolmens, menhirs and castles!

As you approach the island by air (only 35 minutes from Southampton) you notice the contrast between the flatter north and the hilly, wooded south. The underlying geology no doubt plays its part - the south largely composed of the much older metamorphic rocks 2500 million years old and the north of the younger 600-800 million years old igneous rocks.

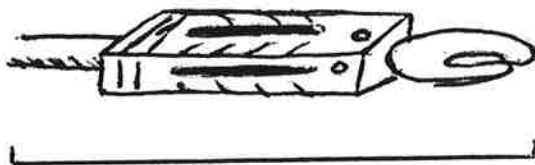
The majority of the neolithic tombs are situated in the northern half of the island, including the most recently discovered (1977) site at Les Fouaillages which is considered to be the oldest stone-built structure in Northern Europe. The finds from this site and others on the island are well displayed in an excellent museum in St Peter Port.

During my stay I was able to spend a day excavating at Castle Cornet under the direction of Ken Barton, the Hampshire archaeologist. Castle Cornet is situated on a small islet connected by a causeway to St Peter Port harbour. The object of the investigation was to reveal details of the early castle which was almost totally destroyed in 1672 by an explosion caused when the powder store was struck by lightning.

After some "pick and shovel" work I started trowelling across an area which had been levelled during 15th/16th centuries and considerable amounts of animal bone came to light. There was also the occasional piece of glazed ware and white stone ware which I was told originated in either Bristol or Stoke. Alongside me the "great hall" of the original castle was being carefully disclosed - a floor composed of small pebbles which appeared to be firmly imbedded. One find of particular interest was a 17th century lace bobbin carved from animal bone in the shape of a hand - a sketch is shown below (from memory).

The excavations at the castle have been carried out over a number of "seasons" and a report has yet to be written during the coming year.

An interesting day which added to the pleasure of the holiday.



APPROX. 4 CMS

PETER HEATH

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHAMPTON: Study tours, residential & weekend courses

- * Sat 15 Nov Women in Parish Life Mrs M Escott & Mrs J Thorp
An insight into the lives of women in local communities between the reigns of Queen Elizabeth and Queen Victoria, as illuminated by national and local documents of the time.
- * Sat 22 Nov Roman Oratory Prof A E Douglas
1987
- * Sat 13 Jan Mediaeval Food and Drink Mrs M Black
- * Sat 24 Jan Preserved Ships Dr E Course
* 10 am - 5 pm £6 (concessionary fee £2)
- 16-25 Ap ROMAN PROVENCE D Johnston & P Fasham
Residential course for up to 40 students, provisionally based in Vaison-le-Romaine, on the town planning, architecture and arts of Narbonensis, Rome's oldest province in Gaul. Classwork combined with excursions and fieldwork.
- 25-26 Ap GILBERT WHITE'S 18TH CENTURY GARDEN Dr D Standing
Non-residential course at Gilbert White Museum, Selborne £12 (concessionary fee £4)

WINCHESTER DOMESDAY

Most members probably have already visited the Domesday 900 exhibition in the Great Hall at Winchester, organised by the Hampshire County Council, Winchester City Council and The Sunday Times, but I would strongly recommend those who haven't visited it to do so before it closes on 1st November. The exhibition fully lives up to the promises made by Mike Hughes when he talked to the Society last March, and will complement our visit to the Public Record Office Domesday exhibition. There are six sections to the exhibition, in replicas of the field tents shown on the Bayeux Tapestry, and the carved wooden replica of the Bayeux Tapestry is displayed round the walls of the Great Hall. It is an excellent audio-visual experience, and I found the hire of the tape commentary well worth the additional charge.

BOB APPLIN

THE WINCHESTER DIVER

Lecture by John Crook

7.30 Chute House, Thursday 13th November

This is the title of our "mystery" November lecture and not to be missed.