Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

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Members of Lymington Union Board of Guardians March 1915© St Barbe Museum.

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Newsletter

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Local History

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Edith Lucy Sharp 1853-1930: Lymington's proto-feminist?

Roger Ottewill

The contribution of Edith Sharp to the administrative, political, religious and social life of Lymington in the years leading up to the First World War and beyond deserves to be recorded and celebrated. At a time when most women did not venture into the public sphere, she set an example which many others have subsequently followed. Whether she would have embraced or eschewed the label 'feminist' is not known, but she was nonetheless an exemplar of those who blazed the trail during what has become known as the 'first wave of feminism'.[1]

Born in 1853, Edith was a native of Lymington and as the daughter of a well known solicitor, Richard Sharp, she undoubtedly enjoyed a privileged upbringing. For example, the 1881 census returns show her living at 53 High Street, The Red House (Fig. 1a and b), with her parents, two sisters and two live in servants, a cook and a housemaid.[2] Nevertheless, very little is known for certain about her early years and the kind of education she received. That said, there is evidence to suggest that she had artistic interests in the fields of both music and painting.

Fig. 1a. The Red House, on the left of the picture, at the turn of the 20th century. © St Barbe Museum.

Through her home background it is clear that Edith was socialized into the religious and political beliefs of her parents. Richard and his wife, Lucy, were members of Lymington Congregational Church and it is highly probable that their daughter regularly attended the Sunday school of which she was later to become Superintendent. In 1872, at the age of 18, Edith made a declaration or profession of faith thereby becoming a church member.

In a similar manner to most middle class Nonconformists her parents were committed Liberals and in the 1850s her father was active in the passive resistance campaign against church rates. Fifty years later and after his death in September 1899, his widow and daughters participated in a similar campaign against the Education Act 1902. This involved a refusal to pay that part of the rates which was to be used to fund denominational teaching in Church of England schools. When the case came before the Borough Bench in 1904, Edith was the spokesperson. She 'explained the reason for non-payment, and the non-attendance of her mother'.[3] It is likely that she would have been unfazed by a court appearance and would have greatly appreciated the opportunity for expressing her opposition to the legislation in a public forum. Indeed, in 1906, Edith was again before the magistrates for the same reason.[4]

Fig. 1b. The Red House today.

Edith never married and this coupled with the fact that, as recorded in the 1911 census returns, she had 'private means', namely an independent source of income, meant that she had much time and energy to devote to public affairs. These fell into three broad categories. First, she stood successfully for election to the Lymington Board of Guardians on a number of occasions and served continuously for just over 30 years from late 1894 to early 1925. Second, during the Edwardian period she played a leading role in the revival and reorganization of the Lymington and District Women's Liberal Association, occupying the post of President. Last, and by no means least, she was a key member of Lymington Congregational Church for all of her adult life. From 1899 until her death in 1930, she was Church Treasurer, a post which had previously been held by her father. In 1910, in a very enlightened move for the time, the church members unanimously elected her to the diaconate. This meant that, in all probability, she was the first female Congregational church deacon in Hampshire. In 1929, shortly before her death, she was appointed a life deacon.

In this short article, consideration is given to Edith's activities in the administrative, political and religious spheres. In so doing, an attempt is made to assess the motivations which lay behind her involvement.

Poor Law Guardian

Under the provisions of the Local Government Act 1894, women were able to serve as guardians for the first time. This was a role which appealed to Edith and another woman, Mrs Eliza Jessie Tait-Scott, both of whom stood for election to Lymington Union Board of Guardians at the earliest opportunity in December 1894. At the time, the Board had 23 members, six of whom represented the borough of Lymington.[5] There were ten candidates for the six seats. At a campaign meeting held by the two female and one of the male candidates, which was chaired by her father, Edith explained what had prompted her decision to stand for election as well as how she would approach the task in hand if elected. Echoing the comments of the first speaker, Mrs Tait-Scott, she said that 'she would try to do her duty with judgment and benevolence, and with wisdom and sympathy, being thoroughly convinced that it was quite as much woman's work as it was men's work'.[6] In the event, the two female candidates topped the poll (see Table 1).

Candidate	Votes	Elected/ Not elected
Mrs Eliza Tait-Scott	303	Elected
Miss Edith Sharp	279	Elected
Mr G. Pardey	274	Elected
Mr J.C.N. King	264	Elected
Mr S. Dore	256	Elected
Mr E. Badcock	244	Elected
Mr W.F. Gatrell	179	Not Elected
Mr F.S. Herries	159	Not Elected
Mr W.E. Laing	134	Not Elected
Mr R.F. Stirke	128	Not Elected

Table 1: Result of Lymington Board of Guardians Election 1894

As reported, 'the announcement [of the results] was received with loud cheering, the success of the lady candidates being especially popular'. After the count Edith and Mrs Tait-Scott 'attended a meeting at the Ashley Lane Hall, and briefly thanked all friends for their kind support'.[7] In all probability, it was the novelty of having female candidates standing for public election for the first time that contributed to their success.

For Edith this was to be the first of nine occasions on which she put herself forward as a candidate. In a majority of cases there was no contest, but in 1907, 1913 and 1922 the electors were called upon to decide. Of these contests, the one in 1907 was the most competitive:

> *Great interest is being taken in the forthcoming election of Guardians … for Lymington … [where] there are eight candidates for the six seats. The retiring lady members, Miss Helsby and Miss Sharp, who have rendered useful service during their tenure of office, are joined by another lady Mrs Lawrence.*[8]

In the event Edith and Rose Helsby held their seats, but Mrs Lawrence was unsuccessful. The full result is shown in Table 2. For the 1913 election details of Edith's appeal to the ratepayers, who constituted the electorate, has survived thereby affording a glimpse into her thoughts on women serving on public bodies:

Candidate	Votes	Elected/ Not elected
Miss Rose Helsby*	327	Elected
Mr Saul	282	Elected
Mr Prince	280	Elected
Miss Edith Sharp*	277	Elected
Mr Stone	272	Elected
Mr Matthews	193	Elected
Mr Courtney	180	Not Elected
Mrs Lawrence	174	Not Elected

* Sitting guardian seeking re-election.

Table 2: Result of Lymington Board of Guardians Election 1907

> *In coming forward as a Candidate for a seat on the Board, after eighteen years, I feel, if possible, more strongly than ever of having Women Guardians. There are Women Ratepayers to be represented and many things to be considered with regard to Women and Children and Household Management, with which women are well acquainted. If you re-elect me I hope to be able to carry out the duties that may devolve upon me with due regard to efficiency and economy.*[9]

In other words, the insights of women were essential in making decisions which affected their wellbeing (Fig. 2).

Fig. 2. Members of Lymington Union Board of Guardians (including Edith Sharp?) © St Barbe Museum.

As a guardian Edith appears to have been assiduous in her attendance at meetings and conscientious in exercising her responsibilities. It was mentioned by the Chairman at her final meeting in 1925 that she had been a pioneer in Hampshire through paying particular

attention to what went on in the workhouse, especially with regard to children's welfare (Fig. 3).[10]

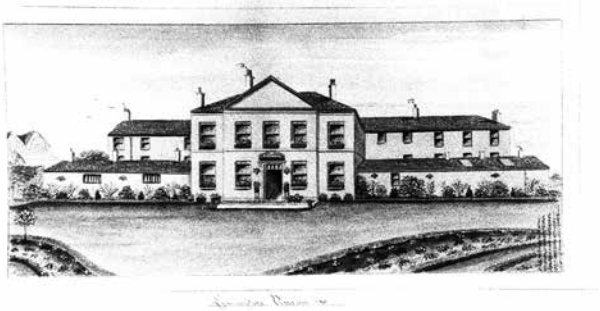

Fig. 3. Lymington Union Workhouse shortly after its construction. © St Barbe Museum.

Unfortunately, the minutes of the Lymington Board of Guardians do not appear to have survived. However, meetings were regularly reported in local newspapers and from this source it is possible to obtain traces of Edith's contributions to the affairs of the Board. It would appear that she was very much, in the language of today, a 'people person'. That is she took a particular interest in staffing matters and especially the wellbeing of the female staff. For example, in 1904 she supported the motion of Rose Helsby to increase the wages of the laundress by 2s. per week, but this was defeated on the Chairman's casting vote.[11] In 1905 following an epidemic of measles Edith proposed 'a special vote of thanks … to the Matron for having attended to … cases personally, without calling in extra help, and … in consequence of these extra duties the Matron looked quite worn out'. As a result, Edith and her fellow lady guardian 'wished they could give her a week's leave of absence'.[12]

Four years later, Edith proposed increasing the Matron's salary:

> *With regard to the application by the Matron for an increase of salary, after 16 years service, Miss Sharp proposed that it be increased from £35 to £45, thinking Mrs Hillier's services were well worth this. She considered the Matron at present was decidedly underpaid. Mr Sparks seconded, and Mr Prince in supporting, quoted statistics to show that the present payment was considerably below the usual scale compared with other Workhouses.*[13]

This and the earlier examples indicate that Edith's sympathetic nature was frequently to the fore. She also gave expression to her interest in the work of the caring professions through membership of the committee of the Town Nursing Association.

Edith's work as a guardian and her concern for the wellbeing of nurses can be seen as examples of the way in which she applied her Christian faith and demonstrated her fidelity to what was known as the 'social gospel'. This has been defined by David Bebbington as 'an attempt to change human beings by transforming their environment rather than touching their hearts'.[14] Improving the lot of those less fortunate than herself was undoubtedly something to which Edith attached considerable importance.

Political Activist

Like her parents Edith was a staunch Liberal. Although this did not play a major part in her role as a Poor Law guardian, it did come to prominence in the middle of the first decade of the 20th century. In 1905, the Hon Douglas Scott Montagu, Conservative MP for the New Forest constituency, was elevated to the peerage as Lord Montagu thereby giving rise to the need for a by-election. This was held on 6 December. At the time the Unionist Government led by Arthur Balfour was extremely unpopular, not least with Nonconformists and members of the working class, owing to its policies with respect to education, temperance, trade unions, tariff reform and various other matters. Although the New Forest constituency was normally held by the Conservatives, indeed the Hon Douglas Scott Montagu had been unopposed at the two previous general elections in 1895 and 1900, it was one in which the opposition Liberal Party felt that they might have some success given the right combination of circumstances. Thus, the seat had been nursed by a Liberal candidate, Sir Robert Hobart, for a number of years.

At the time women were unable to vote, but this did not prevent those who were politically minded, such as Edith, from campaigning. Consequently:

> *One result of the By-Election … [was] the resuscitation and reorganization of the Lymington and District Women's Liberal Association, which ha[d] put in good work during the past few days in vigorously canvassing. At a meeting held on Thursday afternoon, Miss E.L. Edwards (Home Counties Union), and Miss Maclaren Ramsey (of the Women's Liberal Federation) addressed a large and enthusiastic body of workers, and Miss Hobart also said a few words. A committee was elected, and the following officers appointed: President, Miss E.L. Sharp; hon. Treasurer, Miss Helsby; and hon. Secretary, Mrs J. Richards-Butt.*[15]

The fact that Edith was elected President is clearly indicative of her standing within the local Liberal Party. Notwithstanding their efforts, however, the Conservative candidate, Henry Francis Compton, just won but with a wafer thin majority of 199 votes over Hobart.[16]

Nevertheless, by this time the Government had resigned to be replaced by the Liberals under the leadership of Sir Henry Campbell-Bannerman. He secured the dissolution of Parliament on 8 January 1906. In the subsequent general election, the New Forest contest was a rerun of the by-election and undoubtedly Edith and her colleagues played a major part in mobilizing the Liberal vote, although no further references to the Lymington and District Women's Liberal Association have been found. That said, it is probable that Edith was present at 'a densely crowded meeting' which was held at Lymington Town Hall on Friday 12 January in support of the Liberal candidate and chaired by the Congregational pastor, Willie Lawrence. It is recorded that Rose Helsby presided at the pianoforte as the audience sang 'election songs, set to well-known tunes' while they waited for the meeting to begin.[17] Again it is very likely that Edith was one of the 'many ladies in the [High] street, a very large portion [of whom] were sporting the Liberal red ribbon' as they excitedly awaited the declaration of the poll on Tuesday 23 January.[18] This time the Liberals were the victors, but Hobart's majority was only 48.[19] Nonetheless, as reported: 'The figures having been announced, a scene of wild excitement followed … Some fighting took place, but the police under Superintendent Wakeford,

managed the crowd splendidly and kept it fairly good humoured.'[20]

Following the euphoria surrounding these two elections in quick succession, there was inevitably a lull. It is not known whether the Lymington and District Women's Liberal Association survived. There is no evidence to suggest that it played a part in the next general election held in January 1910 at the height of the controversy over the People's Budget and the clash between the Liberal Government and the Conservative-dominated House of Lords. In this election the New Forest constituency reverted to the norm of Conservative hegemony and Sir Robert Hobart was heavily defeated.[21]

In the later part of the Edwardian era it is possible that Edith's activism waned. Certainly there is no mention of her in the context of the great political issue that mobilized a substantial number of women at this time namely the campaign to secure the suffrage in parliamentary elections. At the Lymington Congregational Literary and Debating Society at least two meetings were devoted to discussing women's suffrage. In 1908, for the first time *'in the history of the society … [the] … debate … [was] opened by a lady speaker'*, *Miss Wheeler*.[22] The second meeting was in 1910, when Rose Helsby occupied the chair, and the subject was opened for debate by Miss Bateson, Secretary of the New Forest Women's Suffrage League.[23] On neither occasion is there any reference to Edith participating. This does not necessarily mean, of course, that she did not support the cause or that she was absent. However, given her high profile role as a guardian it does seem surprising that there is no reference to her.

One political campaign that she did continue to support was that of passive resistance against the Education Act 1902, which remained on the Statute Book despite the efforts of the Liberal Government to replace it with a measure that took more account of Nonconformist sensibilities. As late as 1910, she and her sister were still being summoned for non-payment of the education portion of the rates. Although she did not attend, their solicitor stated that 'he had been asked by the Misses Sharp to state that they abstained from paying their full rate because they had no other form of making their protests'. No doubt they would have concurred with one of the other defendants who argued that 'as a matter of conscience he could not willingly pay for what he regarded as a "serious injustice and interference with one's religious convictions which latter pertain to a higher power than to the State." '[24] For Edith, this was an issue that challenged her beliefs as a Nonconformist and Congregationalist as much as her political affiliation.

Ardent Congregationalist

Edith was one of the stalwarts of Lymington Congregational Church (Fig. 4a and b). In the roles of Church Treasurer, Sunday School Superintendent and deacon, which have already been mentioned, she was at the heart of church affairs. These, however, were only the most high profile indicators of her involvement in the life of the Church. She also appears to have been highly supportive, and a close friend, of many of the pastors, a further example of her people skills. This is evidenced by the fact that at the time of the 1911 census she was visiting Willie Lawrence, who had been pastor from 1903 to 1909, and his family at their new home in Hendon. While at the conclusion of his address at the memorial service for Edith, which was held following her death in August 1930, Revd Edward Sainsbury struck a personal note and 'spoke of the friendship and help … [she] had given him as minister of the church'.[25]

Fig. 4a. Lymington Congregational Church c.1900. © St Barbe Museum.

At East End, one of two chapels in outlying areas for which Lymington Congregational Church had pastoral oversight, Edith was for many years Secretary of the Women's Slate Club, a local savings' scheme. The affection in which she was held by club members can be seen in gifts she was given 'to mark their appreciation of her kindly rendered services'.[26]

As was the norm for many leading Congregationalists, another cause to which Edith was strongly committed was that of temperance. For example, in 1910 she presided at the ninth annual general meeting of the Lymington and District Band of Hope Union, which 'consisted of 10 societies with a membership of nearly 800'.[27] Later, she served as President of the Hants and Dorset Band of Hope Union. At the time, the Band of Hope was the leading temperance organization with both an educative and campaigning role.

In the wider world of Congregationalism, Edith was for many years Lymington's representative at district, county and national meetings. In addition, she was the first President and Treasurer of the Women's Guild of the Congregational Union of England and Wales and a member of the Union's Council, while her

dedication to foreign missions led to Edith becoming a director of the London Missionary Society. Such involvement meant that she became a familiar and admired figure well beyond the confines of Lymington.

To summarize her faith, as the pastor put it in his address at her memorial service:

> *[Edith] was a good and faithful Christian woman, and it was her love for her Lord which was the source of inspiration for all her activities … She had many friends in the Anglican Church, but they knew she was a staunch and stalwart Nonconformist, and a most faithful Congregationalist.*[28]

A few weeks later the Church minutes recorded that:

> *Mr Sainsbury spoke of the great loss the Church had sustained in the death of our late Honorary Treasurer and proposed a vote of sympathy to Miss Sharp [this was a reference to Edith's older sister, Alice, with whom she lived], this was carried by a silent vote, the Secretary promised to write to Miss Sharp.*[29]

Clearly, her death was keenly felt and left a void within the church family.

Fig. 4b. Lymington Congregational, now United Reformed, Church today.

Conclusion

In keeping with the language and mores of the time, the newspaper report of Edith's memorial service was headed 'A Choice Character'. Indeed, it was to be many years later that a term such as 'feminist' came to the fore. Nevertheless, regardless of how she is described, 'proto-feminist' or 'choice character', either way Edith was an archetype of those women who were in many ways ahead of their time.

From the available sources, she would appear to have been someone of a genial and loveable disposition as opposed to the stereotype of the stern, unbending and frustrated spinster who had reached maturity during the Victorian era. Moreover, the requests she made as to what was to happen after her death, speak of one who had a positive and optimistic outlook on life. 'There was [to be] no mourning worn, no flowers and no funeral service. She expressed the wish that if any memorial service was held it should be of a bright and cheerful character.'[30] As previous references indicate, such a service was held and it provided her many friends with an opportunity to reflect upon her multifaceted life and assess her true worth. Perhaps these were best captured in further comments of the pastor at her memorial service and provide a fitting epitaph, 'Blessed with wealth, she consecrated it to help make others happy, and in doing so found her own happiness.'[31]

Acknowledgements

Thanks are due to the St Barbe Museum and Art Gallery for allowing me to reproduce the images that constitute Figs. 1a (from the King Collection), 2, 3 and 4a and to Jackie Millard for her help in securing the necessary permission and in copying them; and to Jude James, the President of the Lymington and District Historical Society, for his encouraging comments on the article and for enabling me to correct a couple of factual errors. If anyone has any further information about Edith please do get in touch via the editor.

References

1 This expression was coined during the 1970s.
2 At the time Edith was aged 27 and her sisters Alice, 29 and Grace, 20. The Red House remained the family home until the Second World War. As Fig. 1b illustrates, the building survives to this day, but has been in commercial hands since at least 1946. See Robert Coles, *Lymington High Street: Then and Now* (1984), p.2.
3 *Hampshire Independent*, 27 Feb. 1904.
4 Ibid. 24 Feb. 1906. On this occasion one of the other passive resisters was the Congregational pastor, Willie Lawrence.
5 The Lymington Union also comprised the civil parishes of Boldre (4 guardians), Brockenhurst (2), Hordle (2), Milford (3), Milton (3), Rhinefield (1) and Sway (2).
6 *Hampshire Independent*, 20 Dec. 1894.
7 Ibid.
8 Ibid. 9 Mar. 1907.
9 Poll card for Election of Guardians held on Monday 7 Apr. 1913 in collection of St Barbe Museum, Lymington.
10 *Lymington Chronicle*, 2 Apr. 1925.
11 Ibid. 7 Jan. 1904.
12 Ibid. 2 Mar. 1905.
13 Ibid. 30 Dec. 1909.
14 David Bebbington, *Evangelicalism in Modern Britain* (1989), p.211.
15 *Lymington Chronicle*, 14 Dec. 1905.
16 The full result was Henry Compton, Conservative, 4539 votes and Sir Robert Hobart, Liberal, 4340 votes and the turnout 82.1 per cent.
17 *Lymington Chronicle*, 18 Jan. 1906.
18 Ibid. 25 Jan. 1906.
19 The full result was Sir Robert Hobart, Liberal, 4949 votes and Henry Compton, Conservative, 4901 votes and the turnout 89.3 per cent.
20 *Lymington Chronicle*, 25 Jan. 1906.
21 The full result was Walter Perkins, Conservative, 6516 votes and Sir Robert Hobart, Liberal, 4423 votes and the turnout 90.3 per cent. The Liberals did not bother to contest the seat in the December 1910 general election and Walter Perkins was returned unopposed.
22 *Lymington Chronicle*, 12 Mar. 1908.
23 Ibid. 10 Mar. 1910.
24 Ibid. 3 Mar. 1910.
25 Ibid. 21 Aug. 1930.
26 Ibid. 11 Jan. 1906.
27 Ibid. 3 Mar. 1910.
28 Ibid. 21 Aug. 1930.
29 HRO 12M83/4, Lymington Church Meeting Minute Book 1928-63.
30 *Lymington Chronicle*, 14 Aug. 1930.
31 Ibid. 21 Aug. 1930.

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Paul H Vickers, **Aldershot Through Time**, Amberley Publishing: Stroud, 2012; pp.96, £14.99.

Aldershot developed rapidly after 1853, when the decision was taken to establish the first permanent training camp for the Army on Aldershot Heath. This collection of photographs illustrates some of the dramatic changes to the town's architecture since the late 19th and early 20th centuries. Many of the Army's Victorian buildings were demolished and replaced after the Second World War, while others lie disused awaiting redevelopment. The town's public and commercial buildings have also undergone considerable change, though in the 1960s Aldershot suffered from some drab Modernist redevelopment, and some more recent additions to the townscape also lack architectural distinction. More continuity from the Victorian and Edwardian periods is evident along residential streets, while the town's parks and gardens have been maintained and improved. The photographs provide a fascinating glimpse into Aldershot's recent past, and are enlivened by the author's sometimes pithy remarks.

Mark Page

Lookback at Andover, vol. 3, no. 4, 2013; pp.52, £4 incl. p&p from Mill Pound Cottage, Monxton, Andover SP11 8AW.

This issue of Andover's regular historical journal includes articles about the church, music and war. Phyllis Chapman and Enid Gilbert give an account of St Michael's parish church from its late 19th-century beginnings as a mission hall to the consecration of the present-day church in 1964 and its development to 2012. Based largely on the authors' personal knowledge, it provides details of parish life that would be impossible to reconstruct from documents alone and as such is an important record. Also based on personal knowledge is Philip Farlow's biographical sketch of the acclaimed musician Hubert Dawkes, who was born in Andover in 1916, retired to the town in 1982 and died in 2012. Martin Coppen explains how the 14th-century royal servant Peter de Brugge endowed a chantry in St Mary's church, the memory of which lingers in the town's Chantry Centre shopping mall. Finally, David Borrett uses the private papers of Isidore Harvey, the man whose refusal to acknowledge a paternity suit sparked the Andover riots of 1914, to reconstruct his experiences during the First World War. Although by no means experiencing the worst horrors of that conflict, Harvey was by his own admission lucky to survive and was discharged from the army before the end of hostilities as a result of shellshock.

Mark Page

Anne-Louise Barton, **Winchester Through Time, Amberley Publishing**: Stroud, 2012; pp.96, £14.99.

As the 'then and now' photographs in this excellent collection show, parts of Winchester were totally transformed during the 20th century, while other parts of the city survived almost completely unchanged. The first half of the book is devoted to street scenes: a photograph of St George's street in 1956 is particularly striking, showing a narrow road not much wider than the present-day footpath overshadowed by Victorian buildings, one side of which was removed for road-widening. Many industrial and institutional buildings were demolished to make way for commercial and residential properties, among them the Lion Brewery on Eastgate Street, the County Hospital in Parchment Street, and St Maurice's church on whose site Debenhams now stands. A second group of photographs illustrates some of the city's most distinctive buildings including the cathedral and close, guildhall, great hall, west gate, hospital, university, and library. The former Chesil Street railway station is now a multi-storey car park, while a view of Shawford railway junction c.1906 is so wholly different from a modern photograph of the M3 motorway (p.73) that it is difficult to appreciate that they show the same landscape. The brief but informative captions provide a worthy accompaniment to the photographs.

Mark Page

Early Methodism in Northern Hampshire until 1852

David Young

I was born in Basingstoke in 1946, and my early Christian life was spent in northern Hampshire, in the churches of the Methodist Basingstoke Circuit, formed by an amalgamation in 1948 of the old Wesleyan and Primitive Circuits. It is where I was brought to faith; it is where I began to preach.

In about 1964 I read Joseph Ritson's The Romance of Primitive Methodism (1911) and was lastingly impressed by a passage about Berkshire, itself a prelude to the Hampshire mission:

> *It was in the following February that he and his superintendent had the memorable meeting in the neighbourhood of Ashdown, where the famous battle was fought. Theirs, however, was a spiritual conflict. Russell walked ten miles to this meeting for consultation and prayer. The Conference was drawing to a close, and they were about to part, when it was proposed that they should turn aside into the coppice 'for another round of prayer'. Entering the coppice, they threw themselves on their knees amid the snow and pleaded with God to give them Berkshire. The round of prayer lasted for hours, and at last Russell sprang to his feet, exclaiming, as he pointed across the country, the prospect of which was*

bounded by the Hampshire hills: 'Yonder country is ours, yonder country is ours, and we will have it.' At the end of three years there were nearly thirteen hundred members in that circuit.

At about the same time as I read Ritson's book, I met elderly men in chapels at Wootton St Lawrence, Oakley, Charter Alley, Burghclere, men probably born in the final decade of the 19th century, who looked back to, and spoke longingly of, the revivalist days which they knew of in their youth. The quality of their aspirations and their conversation attracted me to that religion. When I first encountered in them what were perhaps the final embers of early Primitive Methodism in northern Hampshire, I felt that attraction which might have been expressed in the words of Ruth of old: 'your people shall be my people, and your God my God.'

Also, I had a hobby of going with friends on cycle rides 40 to 50 miles in length, and I noticed that the villages were dotted with Methodist chapels. I left Basingstoke in 1968 when I went to work in Kent, but when I retired at the end of 2011, all of this prompted me, in looking back to my roots, to wonder how Methodism came to be established in my native region, and the more I tried to find out, the more I discovered that no one had written the story. The desire to fill this gap was the genesis of my current research, which is moving towards an MPhil or PhD with the University of Chester.

The research begins therefore from a background of almost complete absence of published historical accounts of the coming of Methodism to northern Hampshire in the years 1738-1852, in an area extending approximately from Andover and the Bourne Valley to Silchester, except scattered reports in old magazines from the 1830s onwards. Its primary aim is to discover and understand that history, including special reference to my birth town of Basingstoke and nearby villages. I aim to discover the events themselves; to identify the main players in the story, their beliefs, motives and characters; and to gain a feel for the ethos of the meetings and congregations involved.

The thesis sets out to explore both the events and the religious experience and practice of those people. It is not primarily an institutional history or statistical analysis of the two Connexions (Primitive and Wesleyan) on which it focuses, nor of their national leadership, but is a local study of the pioneers and the ordinary believers in northern Hampshire. It takes their religion seriously, not deeming it *a priori* a false or detrimental philosophical system, nor reducing it to merely one element among a much wider range of social phenomena. To explore their faith in terms other than what it meant to them would be misleading.

After a summary of the social situation in Hampshire, and the characteristics of Methodism which distinguish it from other strands of Evangelicalism, the thesis narrates the coming of Wesleyan Methodism in two phases: the age of Wesley 1738-91, and the subsequent age of the Wesleyan 'Methodist wilderness' until 1852. There is an excursus taking the Basingstoke Wesleyan story to the 1870s, which is when they finally managed to become established in the town.

It then turns to Primitive Methodism, which fills the bulk of the thesis, partly because the Primitives were considerably more numerous than the Wesleyans in this whole area, and partly because considerably more archival material has been preserved concerning them. There is first a brief overview of the wider, national movement, and then an examination of the features which distinguished Primitive from Wesleyan Methodism. Its advent and spread in the relevant parts of Hampshire is then narrated, showing that the movement spread from Shropshire to Brinkworth, Wiltshire, and how from there, from 1830, it penetrated northern Hampshire from Shefford in Berkshire and Reading in the north, and from Micheldever in the south.

The discussion then considers, among other topics, the responses which the Primitive Methodist movement in Hampshire aroused, namely remarkable expansion and success, and persecution extending to imprisonment of preachers, eviction of followers from tied cottages and destruction of property. It has been repeatedly asserted that persecution in Hampshire was more severe than in any other county of England.

However, having reached that point, I faced a dilemma: an MPhil allows only 60,000 words, a PhD only 100,000, both of which limits I had already breached, borne along by the interest of the subject and the wealth of material in the County Record Offices at Winchester and Reading (which holds all the Silchester Circuit records), the Primitive Methodist archives at Englesea Brook, and the wider Methodist archives at Oxford and Manchester. A decision must therefore soon be made as to what to excise from the thesis, and the choice will probably need to fall on the Wesleyans. This would remove the first 80 years of the history and some of the commentary, leaving the dissertation to deal with the Primitive Methodist mission alone. But nothing is wasted: 10,000 words of Wesleyan narrative may be incorporated into a book, or distributed among a series of articles in such journals as might be interested.

The research stops at 1852, that being the year when the parliamentary Report on England's one-and-only religious census (1851) was published; except that I include one chapter, which very briefly surveys developments in the Basingstoke and Bourne Valley areas until the 1960s, with the purpose of exploring where and how the movement established there was sustained and developed in subsequent generations.

It may be that readers of this brief note of my interests have ideas, knowledge, or material which would enrich my own writing, and which might lead to mutual benefit in a cross-fertilisation of ideas or exchange of information. I should be glad to hear from any such, by telephone, email or post:

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Archives and Local Studies News from Hampshire Record Office

David Rymill

Recent additions to the archives

In the classroom

Several interesting series of school records have arrived recently, notably from Ringwood. These include admission registers for the school variously known as Ringwood National and Church of England School, listing girls, 1876-1921, boys, 1890-1929, and infants, 1899-1919 (58A13). We have also received a series of records of Ringwood British School, subsequently Ringwood Council School and (from 1948) Ringwood Secondary School (60A13); these include log books, 1869-1967. A log book for Kingston School, covering the years from 1887 to 1890, was received with these records (60A13/LB8). Early entries show some of the reasons why attendance might be lower than usual, such as picking blackberries or camomile, or a visit to the town by a circus.

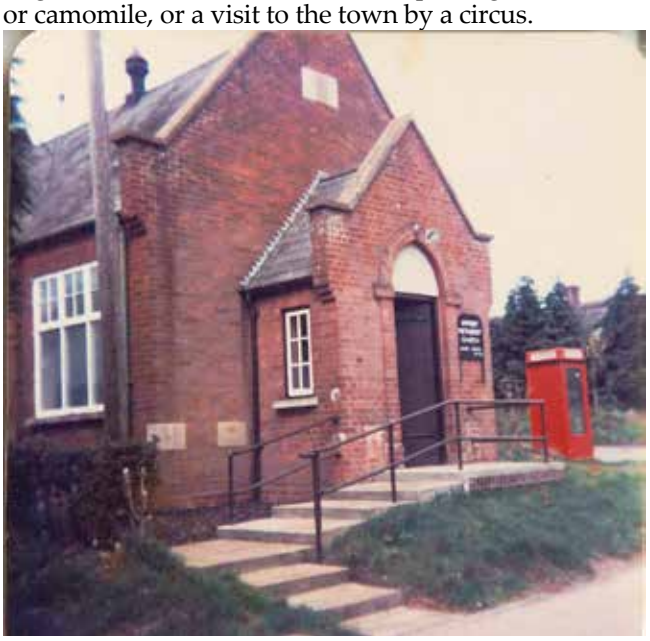

Fig. 1. Amport Methodist Chapel, built in 1928 (replacing an earlier chapel from 1846) and closed in 1992. This photograph, dating from 1983, appears in the Andover Methodist Circuit album compiled by Marie Turner who preached her first sermon in this chapel. HRO, 96M72/NMC30.

A fine series of school records has also arrived from Fawley (105A13). These include log books, 1863-1993, and admission registers, 1881-1931 and 1979-99, from the school variously known as Fawley Council/Board Mixed and Infants Schools, later Fawley County Primary School, then First School (now Fawley Infant School). The early log books contain many names of individual pupils, their admission to the school, children who were not up to examination standard, and for a number of years, lists of all the children entered for examinations and what they passed in. The examination questions are also given for a number of years, notably in 1872 and 1884 (105A13/LB3).

Other new arrivals of school records include some photographs of Bursledon C of E School classes at Bursledon Church Fete, 1935-8 (72A13), and a set of photographs of the classes of Swanmore C of E Primary School taken in 1908 (80M96/54). We have also received a useful history of the school, *The Story of Swanmore Church School* by Bob Smith (80M96/62).

Churches and chapels of the Test Valley

We were delighted to receive two volumes of original architectural drawings and perspective drawings of Romsey Abbey by John Buckler and the Revd Richard Cattermole, dating from the 1800s-10s, with subsequent additions of other drawings, engravings and printed material (10M58/PZ46-PZ47).

A recent additional batch of records of Andover Methodist Circuit included an unusual album compiled by Marie (Marion) Turner, relating to the history of chapels in north-west Hampshire and the adjacent part of Wiltshire, mostly in the East Street (Andover) Methodist Circuit (96M72/NMC30). For each chapel there is a short history, often including Marie Turner's own memories of the building and the people associated with it, and also newscuttings and photographs. Some of the information relates to earlier times, such as extracts from the journal of William Fowler, who preached in villages such as Leckford and Longstock in the 1830s. Many of the chapels have now closed, so this provides a valuable record of their activities and appearance, and of families connected with them (Fig. 1).

Also from north-west Hampshire, we have received a collection of joint parish magazines for Amport, Appleshaw, Fyfield, Hatherden, Kimpton, Monxton, Tangley, Thruxton, Vernham Dean and Weyhill, covering much of the first half of the 20th century; there are gaps, and not all the parishes were covered throughout, but this was a very welcome arrival, filling gaps in our holdings of this magazine (45A13). They give a vivid insight into both the annual round of village events and rarer occurrences: for instance, the February 1917 magazine mentions Christmas and New Year festivities such as a Sunday School tea at Thruxton, with crackers and oranges and 'a consignment of dough nuts, home-made, hot out of the oven', while Mrs Faith of Weyhill Lodge gave the schoolchildren a tea 'followed by a beautiful Christmas tree, lighted and decked in the approved style, and laden with presents for all'.

Parishes, charities and cemeteries

New deposits of civil parish records include minute books of Oakley Parish Council and of Parish Meetings there from 1894 onwards (102A13). Topics covered in the first volume range from arrangements for the presentation of an illuminated address to Mr and Mrs Wyndham Portal on their golden wedding in 1899, to an objection to the cessation of Saturday evening postal collections in 1923.

The records of parish charities can reveal ways in which our ancestors made ends meet. An account book of Soaper's Charity, Southwick, contains an account of loaves of bread distributed to charity recipients, 1869-80 (100A13/1). In 1837 John Soaper, surgeon, bequeathed interest from a capital sum of £400 to be spent on bread, which was to be distributed to the poor on 25th January each year, under the supervision of the parish overseers of the poor. The recipients are listed alphabetically by year, with accounts of suppliers.

Carole Olding has kindly donated a bound copy of her index to Catholic burials in Southampton civil cemeteries. The volume is with the register transcripts

on open shelves in the search room. It covers Catholic burials in Hill Lane Cemetery, 1846-1962; Hollybrook Cemetery, 1915-66; Millbrook Cemetery, 1954-66; South Stoneham Cemetery, 1945-66; and of Catholic cremations at Southampton Crematorium, 1945-70.

Leisure in Eastleigh and Fareham

A set of albums kept by Eastleigh Dramatic Society includes photographs of their performances from their formation in 1932 to the early 1980s (128A12). The albums also cover their purchase in 1950 of Allbrook Church School, and their work to convert it to a theatre, opened in 1960.

Moving outdoors, a set of official programmes for fixtures of Fareham Town Football Club, in the Hampshire League, includes fixture lists, programme notes, players' names, team formations and advertisements, for the seasons 1958/9 to 1962/3 (111A12), whilst the records of Fareham Wheelers Cycling Club, covering 1936-2004 (72A12), include numerous photographs of time trials, road races and other events, many of which can be seen at www.fareham-wheelers.org.uk.

War and peace

Records of campaign groups are generally less likely to be preserved than those of official bodies, but provide important evidence of the concerns of local people, so we were pleased to receive a file of minutes, newsletters and other records of the Eastleigh Campaign against Nuclear Weapons dating from the 1980s (75A13); it also contains a few newsletters of kindred local organisations, including Southampton CND (1986) and Winchester CND (1982).

A recently-donated group of papers relating to the operation during the Second World War by Mr S S Hall of civic cafés in Gosport, the Mitre Catering Establishment at 26 and 27 York Street, and the Methodist Church Canteen at 5 St Matthew's Square, includes notebooks recording numbers of meals, sandwiches and beverages served between February 1942 and April 1943, with statistical notes (some written on the reverse of letters from suppliers); correspondence with the Ministry of Food and others; coupons; and orders, notices and certificates issued by the Ministry of Food and the Gosport Food Control Committee, 1941-3 (81A13). The variety of forms that had to be completed gives a hint of the work involved in running these cafés, especially at a time when so many aspects of daily life were already severely disrupted.

A small group of material from Alresford includes a notebook containing hand-drawn maps of the streets in about 1946, marked with house names and businesses, and a key listing the residents by house number (32A13/1). Especially given the lack of a 1941 census, this could be very useful as a way of locating the homes of individuals, and of finding out about house names for those properties too small to be named individually on Ordnance Survey maps.

At Watership Down

A recently-received series of volumes provides insights into life on the farms of the Sydmonton Estate in northern Hampshire. These volumes are letter books, containing copies on flimsy paper (similar to carbon copies) of out-letters written by Harold Barton and his son Colin as agents to the estate between 1923 and 1956 (174A12). They reveal changing farming practices in the 1930s, such as the conversion of arable land to pasture and the decline in demand for underwood, and include

Fig. 2. A photograph included in an album believed to have been compiled by Councillor Frederick Holdaway who was Mayor of Winchester in 1912. We should be grateful for any suggestions of a likely location or occasion. HRO, 194M84W/43.

correspondence with many of the tenant farmers as well as with the Kingsmill family who owned the estate. Watership Down is frequently mentioned, and it is curious to read, in June 1938, the suggestion that there were 'far too many rabbits' there, such that 'not only does the whole of the Down look like a rabbit warren, but that the rabbits are coming over onto Nuthanger Farm'.

There are also references to various possible uses for Sydmonton Court itself during the Second World War, as a temporary home for a school from Lee-on-the-Solent, as a store for films for General Film Distributors Ltd, or as offices for the Air Ministry; the war also caused the agents to become involved in dealings with new bodies such as the National Vegetable Marketing Company and the War Agricultural Executive.

Researching Hampshire gardens

We have also recently catalogued over 250 research files relating to the history and features of gardens in Hampshire, produced by the Hampshire Gardens Trust Research and Recording Group (47A12). The files are arranged by borough or district, and there is a separate file for each property researched. They typically include a range of the following: research entry form, features list, gazetteer entry, chronological history of site with sources and references, and photocopies of maps, photographs, sketches, sales particulars, postcards and magazine articles.

A decorator's account book

Some additional papers of the Bursey family of Ringwood record the business activities of Charles Bursey, and later his son Walter, who were painters, decorators, glaziers and carpenters in Ringwood (93A07). Of particular interest is a ledger arranged by name of client, 1879-1928 (93A07/3), showing commissions ranging from making a pestle and mortar for a chemist, Mr Garnett, to work for Mr W M Bradford at The George.

Fordingbridge and Lee-on-the-Solent through a lens

The recently-deposited archive of the Fordingbridge Society (169A12) includes minutes, newsletters, and three sets of photographs: the eight albums making up 'Snapshot Fordingbridge' form a photographic record of the life of Fordingbridge on a single day, Friday 7th September 1990 (169A12/B1), complemented by a Millennium album (169A12/B2) and another record of a single day, 16th September 2005 (169A12/B3). We have also received an interesting

set of over 40, mainly black-and-white, vertical and oblique aerial photographs of HMS *Daedalus* (Lee on the Solent Airfield) and the surrounding area, dating from between 1957 and 1981 (21A13/1).

Local Studies Collection: some new books & pamphlets

The recently-published *Vision of the Past: a history of sight loss through the eyes of some remarkable people* edited by Leonie Mountney and published by the charity Open Sight, founded in 1922 as Hampshire Association for the Care of the Blind (362.41), gives insights into the changing experiences of blind people in Hampshire over the last 90 years, drawing on oral history interviews. Recollections by local people, this time specifically from Titchfield, are also the basis of *Eyewitness Account*, compiled by Wordwrights (a local writing group) and Titchfield History Society (Wordwrights, 2007) (942.2275).

The role of one family firm in local building development is explored in *The Haines legacy: a century of masterbuilding in West End: three generations of one family who helped build and establish the village of West End near Southampton* by Pauline Berry (2012) (942.277), which is illustrated with pictures of the family and some of their buildings.

Numerous books with a military theme have arrived recently: *Oakley and Deane Parish War Memorials: the stories behind the names* by Ros Blackman and Sally Warner (Oakley and Deane Parish Council, 2012) (940.342271) devotes one or more pages to each First and Second World War casualty from these villages.

Recent books about local involvement in the Second World War include *The War History of 7th Battalion, the Hampshire Regiment 1939-1946* by Ian Taylor (Natula Publications, 2013) (356.11), which gives information about recipients of decorations, as well as an account of the Battalion's service in north-west Europe. This Territorial Battalion recruited in Southampton, Bournemouth, Christchurch, Lymington and Fordingbridge, and therefore very many Hampshire men served in it, including almost all the members of the Twynham Wheelers Cycling Club from Christchurch. One specific incident in the war is studied in *Exercise Fabius 2. Hayling Island, May 4th 1944*, a 'Discover Hayling' pamphlet by A D Higham (940.53422795) concerning the rehearsal for the British D-Day landings on 'Gold' Beach.

Two recent books record the appearance of Hampshire places over recent decades. *Deane Clark's Hampshire, Sussex and the Isle of Wight* (Tricorn Books, 2013) (720.284094) contains reproductions of works produced over the course of 50 years in watercolour, pen-and-ink and other media by the eponymous author and artist – formerly Historic Buildings Architect for Hampshire County Council. The scenes depicted range from medieval churches to the Moscow State Circus camp on Southsea Common, and include many buildings later demolished, such as boatbuilding sheds at Emsworth and Havant Town Water Mill. *A Lifetime in Postcards* (Little Knoll Press, 2013) (914.2275) by New Forest artist Gervase A Gregory contains watercolours, memories and poems by the author. Another memoir, *Three Gardens* by Dorothy Wise (Chaplin Books, 2013) (712.609422), published to mark the author's 100th birthday, vividly describes the gardens at her childhood home, The Abbey School in Sherborne; at Sherborne House School in Chandlers Ford which her mother founded in 1933 and where she later became Headmistress herself; and at her home in Wickham.

Recent publications about Jane Austen include a second edition of Deirdre Le Faye's *A Chronology of Jane Austen and her family 1600-2000* (Cambridge University Press, 2013) (B/AUS), which sets out in chronological order, on over 700 pages, thousands of facts, with clear indications of the sources from which they are drawn, ranging from Jane Austen's own letters to the account book of a Basingstoke ironmonger, John Ring, held at Hampshire Record Office, thus enabling one to piece together the story of the Austen family day by day.

Forthcoming events

Exhibitions, in the Record Office foyer unless otherwise indicated:

18 Feb-30 Apr (in the foyer and the top-floor gallery): **Then and Now**: selections from the Hampshire Museums' photographic collections from around the county, and the same views as they are today (presented by Hampshire Arts and Museums Service)

Lunchtime lectures: last Thursday of each month, 1.15-1.45pm, no need to book. Free, donations in the region of £2 welcomed.

27 Mar: **Hampshire and D-Day** – by Andrew Whitmarsh.

24 Apr: **First steps in rewriting Hampshire's Victoria County History** – by John Isherwood and Jean Morrin.

Family history for beginners. £12, booking essential: 01962 846154

3 Apr and 5 Jun, 2-4pm; 18 Mar, 15 Apr and 20 May, 6-8pm (you only need to attend one session):Practical advice and help in starting your family history research: discover the main sources available and how to use them; access material on microfiche/film with staff on hand to answer any questions. All you need to know to begin researching your family tree.

Workshops. Unless otherwise stated, 2pm-4pm; each session £12 per person. Booking essential, on 01962 846154

6 Mar: **Meet the conservators**: find out how archive documents suffer from poor storage, damp and pests, and how conservators repair the damage and protect them for the future.

Wed 26 Mar, 2-5pm, Wed 30 Apr, 2-5pm (you need only attend one session): **Voices of the First World War**: using archive sources to mark the centenary of the First World War. Workshop looking at the range of sources and how they can be interpreted creatively and historically.

The Archive Ambassador training scheme

Wed 7 May, 10am-3.30pm: Sign up today and help us preserve Hampshire's heritage. Training in archive preservation/conservation, cataloguing, digitisation and film and sound archives. £18, booking essential.

For more information about events, please visit www.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro or ring 01962 846154. We have also recently launched a monthly **e-newsletter** to provide regular updates on events, activities and archive news. Hampshire Archive and Local Studies news currently goes out to a mailing list of over 5,000 people, and the first few editions have received a positive response. To sign up go to www.hants.gov.uk/rh/mailinglist – then enter your details and select 'Archives' from the pick-list.

Finally, please note a change in our **Saturday opening arrangements**: there has been a steady decline in visitor numbers over a number of years, due in part at least to increasing remote digital access. On Saturdays, this decline has combined with traditional low usage (in terms of visitor numbers we are only half as busy on an average Saturday compared to an average weekday). To make more effective use of our staff resources, we have reduced the number of Saturdays we are open to 24 per year, opening on the **1st and 3rd Saturday of each month** only. This will be for a trial period of a year, with a review after six months. We welcome your views on this at any time.

Historic Buildings

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A Wellhouse at 2 Milkingpen Lane, Old Basing

David Whiter

When we moved to No. 2, Milkingpen Lane, Old Basing, I was intrigued to find our new home described as "a former wellhouse" (Fig. 1 and editor's note below). My interest quickened when the replacement wellhead at Old Basing Green was declared

Fig. 1. The Old Basing wellhouse (left) in 1886 with the addition (right) to form a cottage – now No. 2, Milkingpen Lane.

open by Alan Turton. A quick Google visit found the Hampshire Wells Summary of July 2000, listing 305 wells and well sites in Hampshire; at least sixteen wells and wellhouses could be identified in Old Basing alone. Water is a daily essential, and many supplies are private, typically in cottage cellars or gardens; most are dateable to between 1300 and 1900. Many dwellings indicate former well sites (Well Cottages in Old Alresford and the

Fig. 2. Avington wellhouse and the cottages it served.

properties named Well House in Winchester, Oakley, Old Basing, Heckfield and Upham) presumably for their proximity to a well rather than their provision of a communal water supply.

Fig. 3. Dummer wellhouse. A donkey operated the winding gear.

But my interest centred particularly on communal supplies and wellhouses. Pevsner (North Hampshire, 2010) lists public wellhouses at Avington (Fig. 2), Bramshott, Dummer (Fig. 3), Houghton & Old Basing (but not Clanfield, (Fig. 4), which will perhaps be mentioned in the forthcoming Pevsner for South Hampshire). The Old Basing wellhouse is dated late sixteenth century (see editor's note below), but Avington, Dummer and Houghton are listed as late nineteenth or early twentieth century. Does this suggest a neo-gothic reconstruction of earlier village features?

Fig. 4. Clanfield wellhouse.

There was a public supply at a wellhouse on the Green, Old Basing, which was incorporated into No.2, Milkingpen Lane when it was extended to create a cottage in the early eighteenth century (see Fig. 1.). The original can be envisaged fairly easily from identifiable surviving timbers (Fig. 5-7), but other aspects are only apparent from closer consideration. First among these is the care and attention to detail shown in the preparation and assembly of the components. Visible timbers such as the posts, beams, knee braces and rafters are regular in size and shape, with smooth surfaces and finish. The spacing of members and pegs joining them is regular and carefully set out. This was a high quality building. Secondly, the building was open. As with other wellhouses, the sides were not infilled and there was no first floor, leaving the roof open to view. But entry was regulated by the middle rail so there must have been an opening, probably on Milkingpen Lane (see east elevation Fig. 5). Thirdly, while the foundations are long since gone, they would have included timber sole plates similar to the eaves beams, probably set on low brick foundations to cope with the slope of the site (Fig. 6).

So who built these communal facilities? We can guess that a landowner or principal landlord was involved, as the occupants of estate cottages would not

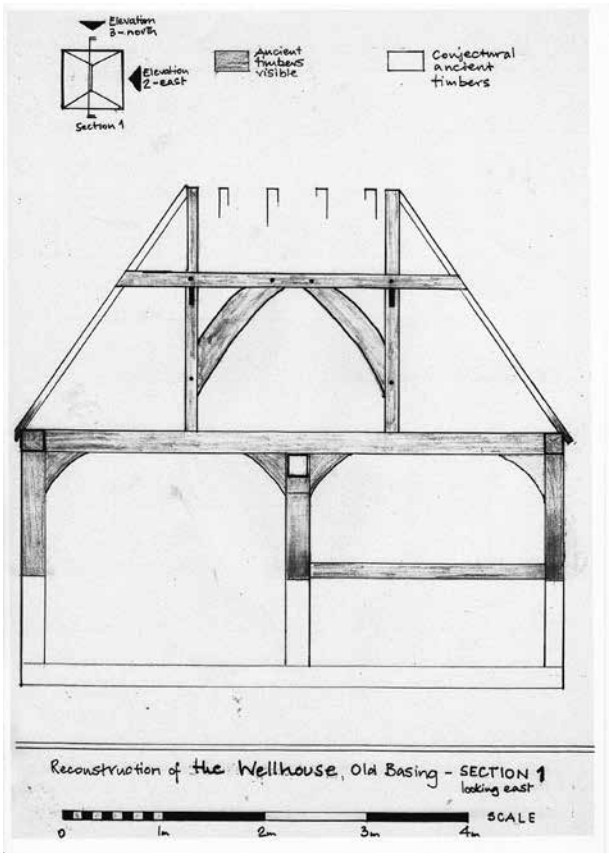

Fig. 5 Reconstruction of the wellhouse, Old Basing, section.

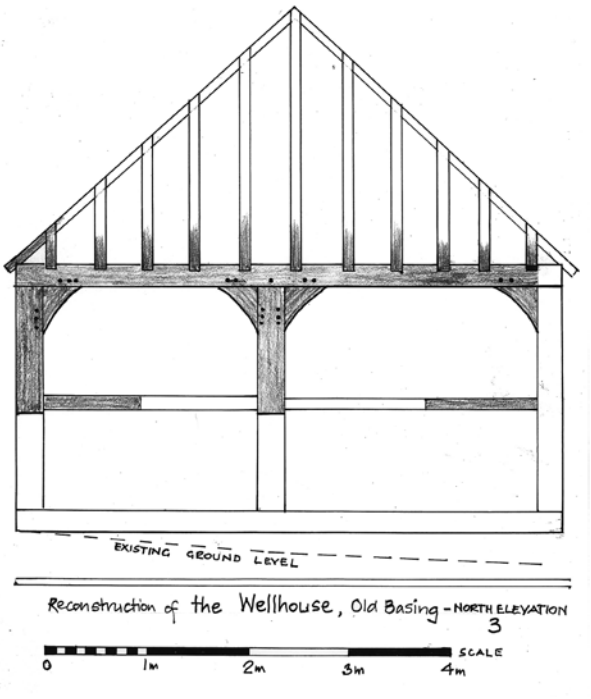

Fig. 6 Reconstruction, north elevation.

have had the financial means. Their situation on common land (Old Basing) or on the roadside next to rows of cottages (Avington) reinforces this view of public use. They gave shelter for people's frequent visits to collect water but they also provided (like the modern office watercooler) a meeting place for gossip and chatter; some even have seats in the structure, and at Dummer wellhouse, in 1887, George Eales rescued a child who had fallen down the 256 feet deep well. George was in his fifties and the child was rescued and revived. This wellhouse was built in 1879; it takes five minutes to bring a bucket of water to the surface.

Does all this suggest that communal wellhouses are a particular Hampshire phenomenon? Given the universal necessity for water they cannot have been more common in Hampshire than in any other county, but they are more likely to occur in nucleated settlements (villages) than in areas of scattered farmhouses. And their survival into the twentieth century in rural areas can be attributed to the later spread of public water supply there. Finally, their reappearance and the care afforded them in the nineteenth and early twentieth century indicates the enduring appeal of wells, and a wish to maintain connection with our rural past.

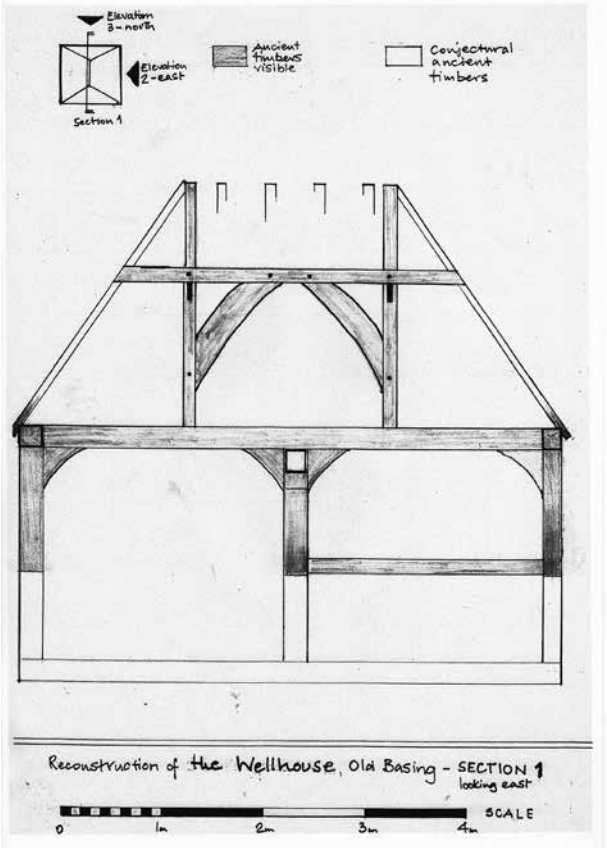

Fig. 7 Reconstruction, east elevation.

Editor's note:

The tightly curved wind braces at No. 2, Milkingpen Lane, Old Basing are compatible with a 16th-century date. Moreover, Dr. Dan Miles, a national expert on historic carpentry joints, noted that the refined, mitred joints where the wall plates meet are only found in Hampshire at No. 2, Milkingpen Lane and Berry Court Barn, Nether Wallop (dated 1580). The latter was almost certainly built by a member of the Paulet family and it is possible that the Paulets, as lords of the manor of Old Basing, may have built the wellhouse there as an act of noble patronage.

The Hook, Titchfield: Country Residence of William Hornby

Penny Daish

William Hornby (Fig. 1) travelled from England to Bombay in 1741 and spent the next 43 years of his life working for the East India Company. Initially he was employed as a writer but slowly gained promotion until in 1771 he was appointed Governor of Bombay[1]. He returned to England, richly rewarded, in 1784 and purchased land in Titchfield, Hampshire, from the Duke of Portland and set about designing a mansion, to be known as 'The Hook' or 'Hook House' after the feature of the spit nearby (Fig. 2).[2]

Fig. 1. A portrait of William Hornby (courtesy David Webb Carter, a descendant of William Hornby).

It is likely that he not only wanted an impressive country residence but also desired commanding views over the landscape, the Solent and Southampton Water. These views were probably obstructed by Hook village, which had been a thriving medieval port and fishing community, but by the eighteenth century, when William Hornby was planning his mansion, the

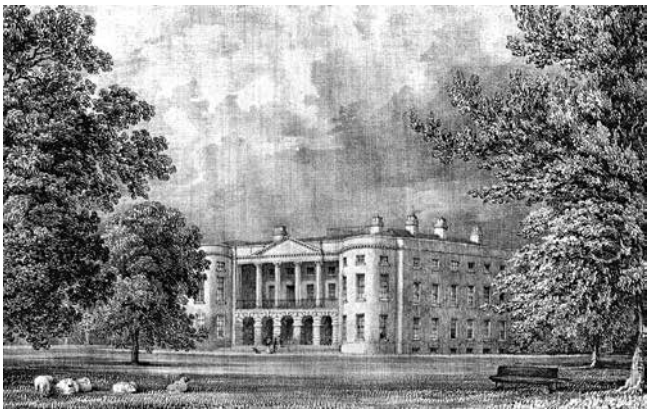

Fig. 2. Hook House (Engraving 1856 by James Gray).

industry had substantially declined due to silting in the Fleet and the community was in decline. The evidence of

Fig. 3.Taylor's map (1759) on the left shows the few remaining tenements which formed the original Hamlet of Hook.

two maps, one dated 1759 and the other 1791 (when construction had begun) suggests that he may have considered the village was inconveniently placed as it spoilt the view. By 1791 the old village had gone and new cottages had been built out of sight for the remaining villagers (the present Hamlet of Hook) (Figs. 3 and 4).

The construction of the house commenced in 1785 and a small but thick leather bound account book, kept by the foreman Thomas Andrews between 1785 and 1791, survives at Hampshire Record Office.[3] He was placed in administrative control of the building project, with responsibilities for overseeing finance, organising raw materials and for recruiting and paying the men who worked on the site, from skilled professionals to jobbing labourers. The document gives an insight into expenses, the materials used, where they came from, who provided them and often names of the craftsmen and other workers, many of whom would have lived locally. The even ink colours, lack of errors and corrections, absence of empty pages between

Fig. 4. Milne's map of 1791 shows Hook House on the site of the original village and a new site for the village of Hook to the right.

contractors and flowing copperplate writing indicate that this record may not have been completed over a period of time, but copied from other records as a fair copy to be given to William Hornby.

The accounts of William Bradby are the first to be recorded. They start in March 1786 although the earliest date in the book is October 1785. In all he supplied over 25,000 bricks and 37 quarters of stone lime for £29.2.9 ½. From Jan 1786 through to Oct 1787 bricks arrived almost daily by the 1000. Mr Bradby was not the only supplier. Spencer's account shows that he charged £278.10s for 70,000 bricks in the same period and was paid for 44,000 bricks during the following year. James Cousens charged for 95,000 bricks between April and June 86, Robert Ekhless for 44,100, Robert Coombes for 19,500, James Wassell for 58,500, and Robert Woodman for over 2000. In total over 400,000 bricks are noted in the ledgers at a cost, including the lime, of nearly £1750. Today's equivalent cost would be about £98,000.

The bricks were probably made locally. Fareham had a long established brick making industry but it is

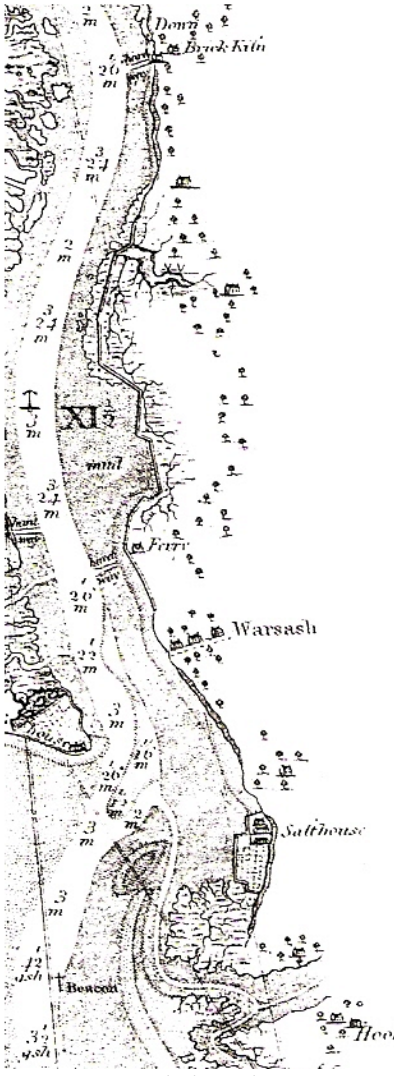

Fig. 5. Lt. Murdock Mackenzie's Survey of the Hamble River 1783 [www. geog.port.ac.uk]

very possible that the bricks were made even closer to home. There is a record at Westbury Manor Museum in Fareham of a Mr Eckles at Bursledon /Swanwick in the 1840s making bricks, perhaps continuing a family business run by the Robert Ekhless mentioned above in 1786. There is much evidence of thriving local clay and brick industry in Titchfield at the time The Hook was being built. Mackenzie's survey, dated 1783, shows a brick kiln between Warsash and Bursledon and so it would have been easy to transport the bricks by barge on the water (Fig. 5). A survey covering William Hornby's Titchfield Estates in 1803 lists Kiln Close at Brownwich and Great Brick Field.[4] Various Titchfield Estate records mention links to the industry. For example Kilns both at Pegham in Segensworth and Park Farm and digging clay on Meon Common.[5] Another material purchased in huge quantities was slates, Thomas Reynolds, being only one of many suppliers, was paid £128 (today's value would be £7,170) for 93,000 best blue, large slates between January and October 1787. Other materials were constantly being delivered, for example Mr William Spencer charged £1.4.8d for supplying twine rope for scaffolding and John Ailing was paid £48.19.8d for 'watchmen and labourers.'

All the bricks and other materials had to be transported to the site. Hook was isolated and roads would have been poor so barges were commonly used to ferry items required. For instance Richard and Barlow give carriage costs for a quantity of bath stone including landing of barge, £284.0. 6d was paid to various Captains for freight of slates, bricks and bath stone, Garlands Company charged for shipping, permits and portage and James Cooper was paid nearly £40 for 'drawing brick from barges and carting sand and lime.' (Today this would be equivalent to £2240 and so you can begin to imagine how much sand he had to transport using just a shovel and horse and cart.)

Occasionally the places where the craftsmen or materials came from are named, For example £6.7s 9d was paid to Pierce and Chesham 'for carriage of capitals for the Venetian windows from Bath' in Feb and March 1787. Richard Halstead was paid 'for sashes, windows, doors and glass filling, including 12d for a carrier from Chichester to Hook.' John Hinxman was paid 'for carting sand from Shidfield to Hook'. Skilled craftsmen were also brought from some distance such as Richard Westacott, a stone mason from Bath, who was paid £100. 19s (Today this would be about £5600 although there is no indication how long he worked on the building.)

As the project progressed, the nature of materials changed, from bricks and lime to wood and glass, then marble, pilasters, sky lights and decorating. The occupations of account holders are not usually given, but by reading through the lists of materials provided it is usually clear in what areas each contractor's skills lay. John Young worked on the project at times during 1786 and 1787, and it seems he was a mason as he was providing masons drawings, and 'cutting away stone for arches, also working with mouldings, columns, pilaster and Portland stone.' Joseph and William Andrews were probably carpenters as they are charging for door jambs, architrave, mouldings, dados and casings, as was Pierce Chesham who was employed to carve capitals for the Venetian windows. Joseph Robins was paid for painting in the dining room and glazing and painting 72 sash lights, James Knight put in bills for endless quantities of lead, glass, solder, firkin, turpentine (glazier) whereas Joseph Brainah supplied items such as '2 patent apparatus, for water closet, pipes, valves and cistern valves…' and it is likely he is actually Joseph Bramah, the famous supplier of sanitary equipment who patented 18 inventions including the first flushing toilet in 1778 as well as the hydraulic press in 1795.

Slowly quantities of basic supplies arriving dwindle and ornamental materials take over – James Hay supplied marble chimney pieces and bath stone, Richard Westacott marble chimney pieces, John Jaques decorative chimney pieces and Underwood and Co are billing for ornamental staircases and circular fan lights. Columns and capitals, pilasters, palisades, glass, Venetian blinds, fan lights and marble paving are detailed on almost endless accounts in seemingly endless quantities. Some materials seem to be used in rather a strange way – can any reader explain why the copper purchased from John Kemp in 1788 was used to cover the veranda floor?

The accounts show that craftsmen are busy fitting items such windows, latches, hooks, shutters, locks, hinges, handles, banisters and chimney funnells – as supplied by John Holt, Mr Hobby and John Watts throughout 1786 - 89 . Reference is made to work on the brew house, coach house, stables, building the garden wall, and 'the taking down of the old stable and garden wall', possibly evidence of removal of other houses – or a larger house - in order to build The Hook.

The colours used to paint different rooms and the quantity of paint required is sometimes given: Wm Golding painted 36 yards in blue to back staircase, and 34 yards in blue on grand staircase and 'whited' 666 yards of ceiling. Thomas Wigmore painted 91 yards green in chambers, in attic 229 yards, blue on part of stairs and 218 yards blue for the parlour and water closet. Thomas Wigmore also painted friezes and decorative panels and there are descriptions such as 'frieze with swags and drops of hanks, ribbons and

open flowers'. In total he was paid nearly £1430, (This converts to £80,122 in 2010) much of which was for decorating.

Marble and plaster work was also ornate and numerous descriptions are given including '…a chimney piece with an enriched cornice, …a marble chimney piece with a festoon of flowers on either side, ... a fluted frieze of earth in centre and 2 cupid boys and a harp, ...2 ovals and medallions with fluted sides,… tablet over chimney to the history of Troy, …a tablet of a Griffin over door caps and …great ruffled leafe flowers to centre of ceiling.'

One interesting entry concerns details of a clock for the court yard supplied by Ayres and John Thwait in July 1788. Thwait's are famous for the production of Turret clocks, their most famous being on Horse Guard's Parade in London which they made in 1756. The description in Thomas Andrews' account book is as follows:

'A new 8 hour turrett clock to shew 4 outside dialls, hours and minutes and to strike the hour over a bell. 4 new copper diall plates and diamond with gilt molding around edge, painted black with gold lacquer. Bell. A copper phane (weather vane) of 5ft 6'' long and layered pedestal, brass with copper letters of 10'' long. A strong trew spindle for the phane letters and pedestal gilt'. With £5 charged by a mason to fit the clock the total cost was £169.13. 2d.

The clock was intended to make an impression when guests arrived at the Hook.

It was also an important way of governing the operations of the estate as the chimes, which could be heard for many miles, not only gave the time but informed staff of work routines and church services.

After 'The Hook' was completed in 1791 it was William Hornby's country residence until his death on the 18th November 1803. His town house was in Portman Square, London. He was buried at Titchfield Church on 29th November but surprisingly, despite his career, wealth and influence on the neighbourhood, there is no surviving memorial to him at this church. In his will, written on the 28th October 1803 and proved at London on 29th November his eldest son John inherited properties and land in London, Hampshire (including the Hook), Bombay and New York.[6] The Hook remained in the ownership of various descendents of William Hornby until it was totally destroyed by fire on July 17th 1903 (Fig. 6). The clock was salvaged and is now installed at Gunby Hall in Northamptonshire. Today

Fig. 6. Hook House shortly after it was destroyed by fire in 1903.

some of the Hook Estate properties survive, including the stables which are now converted into private apartments. Much of the original estate is a nature reserve surrounding the present residential Hook Park which is still considered a most prestigious address.

More information

(For more information on Hook and William Hornby please contact Penny Daish, West View, 336 Brook Lane, Sarisbury Green, Nr Soton, SO31 7DP.)

Acknowledgements

With grateful thanks to Hampshire Record Office for allowing me to use documents in their collection.

Notes

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5. Examples of Titchfield Estate records referring to clay/bricks: 5M53/1115/13, 5M53/1116, 19M48/37, 5M53/10867.
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Polhampton House, near Overton

Richard Tanner

Polhampton is a deserted village[1] half a mile downstream of Ashe, the source of the Test, a stream that grows through Quidhampton to become a river at Overton, a mile to the west. Domesday Book[2] has two Polhamptons, one with a church owned by the king (probably our Polhampton), and the other with two mills owned by the bishop (more likely to be Quidhampton for the stream at Polhampton is tiny). The confusion between Polhampton and Quidhampton continues into the 19C when William Portal has Polhampton Farm and John Portal has Polhampton Lodge Farm[3].

Polhampton House or Farm[4] was a mid-17C gentleman's house. Timber-framed from an earlier building on its eastern side, with Artisan Mannerism brickwork to the north and west and mid 18C Palladian work to the south, it richly deserves its Grade II* listing

Fig1 Polhampton House from the south-west

for features both external and internal.

The Exterior

The east side has a 19c extension; when the tiling was being rehung in the 1990s, Edward Roberts found that this wall was timber-framed, it being the west wall

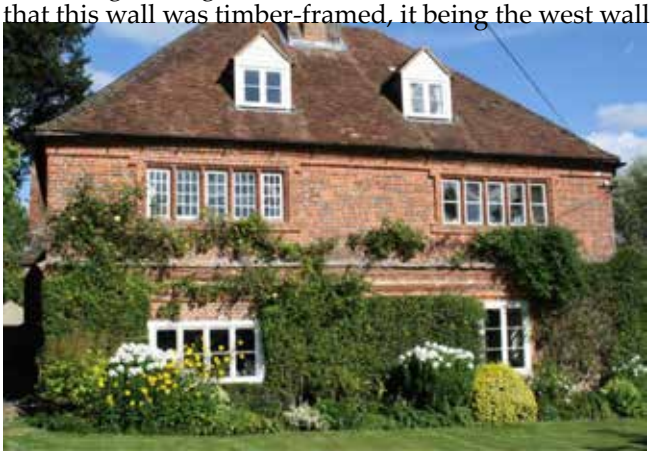

Fig2 The west side.

of a Tudor yeoman's three-bay farmhouse onto which our mid-17C gentleman farmer had attached his new brick house. When this older house was removed c1800, the upper part of the incorporated east wall had to be tile-hung.

The north side has mullioned brick windows in the Artisan Mannerist style, but the smaller, lower pair in the centre has been blocked, as have the north-west parlour window by later panelling and a window upstairs. The north-east corner has undecorated brickwork of a similar age and a chimney.

The west side continues the ornate brickwork of the windows and string courses, though the ground floor windows have been altered and the doorway which led into the mid-19C garden lost. Dormers have been inserted into the steep roof to light the top floor.

The south side, which has the main entrance, is in a quite different style but using similar well-weathered bricks. Its Palladian front reflects the change in taste c1750 when Artisan-Mannerist enrichment gave way to

Fig3 The south side

a much plainer style with no string courses or mullioned windows. A pediment with a round window or oculus lights the top floor.

The Interior

The dining room (c15′ sq on the north-west side) has a central beam 10″ wide whose ogee chamfer stops are consistent with a date of c1650. A 'rustic Jacobean style' plaster frieze[5] appears to have been added fairly soon after the house was completed. Late 17C panelling graces the east side which, when extended in the 19C, blocked the mullioned window to the north. Though the room is some 8′ high, the doors are quite low and have original catches. The sitting room (south-west) is of a similar size; both rooms have back-to-back fireplaces with a small lobby to the old garden door to the west.

On either side of the main entrance (to the south), brick walls replace mid-17C timber-framing,

Fig4 The plaster panel over the dining room fireplace has three demi-figures set in foliage and flowers, possibly Green Men[6].

presumably from the mid-18C reconstruction of the south façade. Before this, it is likely that the south-east room extended over the front entrance area, a reminder of earlier hall houses. Under the north-east corner of the house is a cellar with some substantial rough timbers; if the steps to this cellar were formerly under the main staircase, moving them to their current position would explain why the low windows on the north side were

Fig5 Door catch

blocked.

The splendid 17C staircase is in oak with finials on its newel posts and uses three dog-legs to reach the top floor. On the first floor are three good sized bedrooms directly over the downstairs rooms, with similar 10″ chamfered beams and side timbers boxing inside walls. The north-west bedroom has a fireplace with a plaster frieze over (c1680), an odd timber exposed in the north wall and some interesting latches to the windows. The south-west bedroom has wainscoting and contemporary door hinges. Between this and the south-east bedroom is a boxroom with panelling and

a simple frieze. The north-east side has been altered to take a new back staircase, above which is a blocked doorway to the south-east bedroom.

The top floor, described as two attics in the Ashe Park sale brochure of 1889[7], has four decent rooms off a large central hall, each entered by stepping over a tie beam. The timbers are judged to be contemporary with the rest of the building, which must have been a substantial house in the 1660s.

Ownership

Polhampton Farm marks the site of the Manor of Polhampton, most of whose owners can be traced from 940 AD[8]. In 1501, the manor was split between four sisters, one of whose sons sold his quarter to Corpus Christi College, Oxford in 1528[9]. The Lay Subsidy Roll for 1586 shows William Ayliffe as the major landowner[10], after whom the manorial rights and the greater part of the manor seem to have passed by marriage to Richard Vaus, in whose family it stayed for several generations. The Corpus Christi College map of 1615 shows Mr Vause owning the manor house and all the land to the east of it[11].

The Tudor yeoman's farmhouse was probably built by the first of the Vauses and the mid-17C house by Edward Covey[12]. After his son, another Edward who may have added the murals, died, Edward Head of Winterbourne, Berks bought the estate on 26 June 1710[13]. John Coxwell acquired it through marriage,

Fig6 Door hinge

possibly in 1722, selling it in 1753 to Thomas Hodgson of Cheapside; he willed it in 1786 to Rev Charles Norris, whose executors in 1803 sold to William Portal[14] (from whose archive this comes), but which of these last three altered the south façade is unknown.

Fig7 The top of the 17C staircase

William Portal inherited Joseph Beale as tenant of Polhampton Farm's 425 acres[15]. As the Beales leased 380 more at Quidhampton from the Dean of Winchester, it would have been appropriate for them to have occupied so fine a farmhouse[16].

The 1871 OS map shows the house set in landscaped gardens to the north and west, barns around a courtyard to the south and a drive from the north-west replacing the approach across the ford. The path to the small garden on the west can still be seen on a 1950s aerial photo, though both path and doorway have since gone.

Polhampton House featured in the Ashe Park sale of 1889[17], Wyndham Portal's Laverstoke sale of 1922[18] and TL Martin's sale of the Ashe Warren Estate in 1928, when A Brewis rented 206 acres including the 'Jacobean manor house (sic) with 5 main and 2 maids' bedrooms'[19]. Today it stands, well restored by the last two owners, as a testament to its builders of 350 years ago.

The architectural history of the house was first worked out by Liz Lewis and Peter Smith and also by Edward Roberts who undertook a survey of the timber-framed wing for Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council. I am grateful to Edward for his help and to Tony Pullinger, the current owner of Polhampton House, a late medievalist himself.

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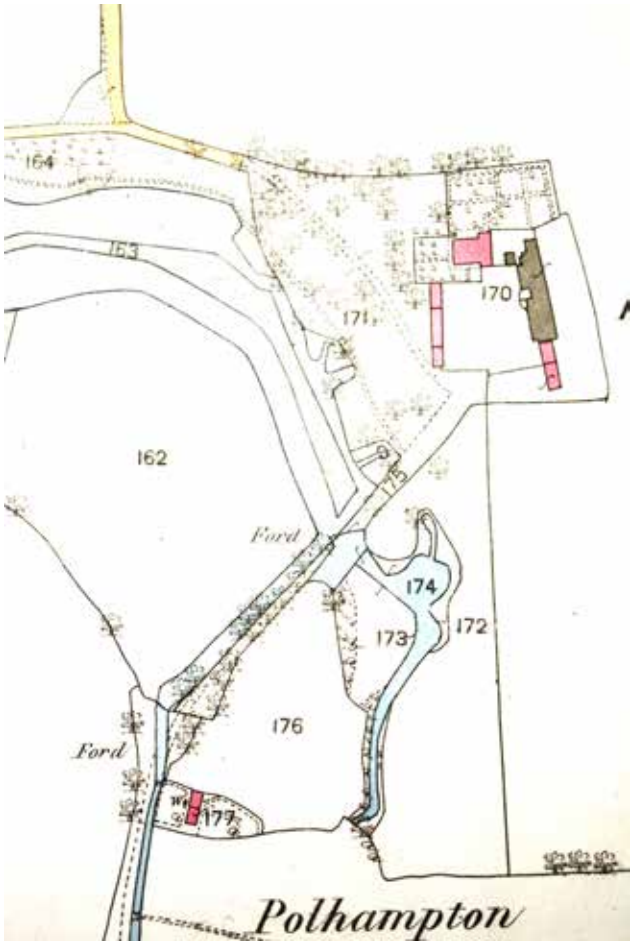

Fig8 Polhampton House in 1871

5 Edward Roberts, *Hampshire Houses 1250-1700*, 2003, p108
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7 HRO 10M57/SP14
8 *VCH Hants IV*, 1911, pp 213-215
9 HRO 5M52/T110
10 HRO 44M69/G4/1/2 shows William Ayliffe with £8/8/-, Thomas Vaire/Vause and William Hockley each with £3/3/-
11 HRO 83AO2/8 is Stan Waight's detailed survey of CCC estates in the Overton area, while Richard Paulet's accounts book of 1613/4 mentions Richard Vaus of Odiham's land in Polhampton in HRO 44M69/E4/31
12 Edward Covey had 8 hearths taxed in 1665 (Hughes E & White P, *Hampshire Hearth Tax Assessment* p175) and would have been at Polhampton to have witnessed wealthy neighbour John Penton's inventory in 1663
13 HRO 5M52/T110
14 op cit
15 5M52/T113
16 HRO 5M52/E76
17 op cit
18 HRO 46M84/F52/3
19 HRO 46M84/F6/2

The Wool House, Southampton.

Edward Roberts

The origin and building-date of the Wool House, Bull Street, Southampton are matters of debate. The Listing description states that it "was built, after the French raid of 1338,by Cistercian Monks [of Beaulieu] as a storehouse". Colin Platt in his Medieval Southampton (pages 142-3) writes that Thomas Middleton, mayor of Southampton in the first decade of the 15th century, "very probably built the great warehouse at the southern end of Bull Street, long known as The Wool House". He goes on to say that an inquisition held on 25 July 1407 refers to "A new house of Thomas Middleton .. is of all houses in Southampton the most suitable for weighing wool". The Historic Buildings Section has recently granted money towards the dendro-dating of the building and the date should throw light on this debate.

Fig 1: The Wool House, Exterior

Fig 1: The Wool House, Roof

Landscape

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Editorial

George Campbell

One of the many follow-ups to the Hoskins Conference of 2005, which celebrated progress in historic landscape study over the fifty years since the publication of 'The Making of the English Landscape', has been the 2007 publication of 'Medieval Landscapes' edited by Mark Gardiner and Stephen Rippon. In the 'Introduction' the editors provide an overview, and briefly summarise all of the sixteen chapters that follow, each of which reports on progress in our understanding of some aspect of the medieval landscape, written by a leading researcher. The chapters are organised under four sections: 'Urban Landscapes', 'Regional Perspectives', 'Landscapes of Settlement' and 'Perceived and Ritual Landscapes'. Together, they represent a comprehensive view of the present state of play, but with few examples from the south of the country. A more recent publication by Higham and Ryan, 'Landscape Archaeology of Anglo-Saxon England' in 2010, provides a further updating on landscape researches. One chapter by Stephen Rippon: Landscape Change during the Long Eighth Century in Southern England' although it challenges the 'midland-centric focus' of medieval landscape studies, is still short on examples drawn from the south.

So, perhaps, this provides us in the Field Club with a challenge, and a timely stimulus to investigate what our county contributes to the medieval period, and to what extent the landscape can reveal the evidence. To start the process, the Landscape Section is proposing to organise its autumn conference around a comparative perspective, to study the Hampshire landscape in a wider context, to increase awareness, interest and a deeper understanding of how it compares and contrasts with its neighbours.

With the title: *The Bigger Picture: The Medieval Hampshire Landscape in its Regional Setting* the speakers will include Professor David Hinton, Dr John Hare and Dr Mark Page. The medieval landscape will be viewed from a series of perspectives and the influences that have been brought to bear, such as environment, lordship, and economy.

The Economic and Social Impact of the Dissolution of the Monasteries in the Beaulieu area, and the Response.

George Campbell

In the 2009 publicity to mark the accession of Henry VIII in 1509, there was much discussion and debate over whether as a monarch he was an asset or a liability. The continuing close examination of his beliefs, policies and actions made possible by access to new information, exhibitions and various television documentaries conducted by leading historians, have cast fresh light on his actions and the motives behind them. However, although it is an inescapable truth that he plundered the monasteries, his motives for doing so have become more clearly defined, as a need for their accumulated wealth in order to combat external threats to the realm by maintaining an army on standby, and to fund his ambitious building programme, and, by so doing, display himself as a figure of wealth and power. It is also evident that he was driven by fears about the basis of his entitlement to the throne and a desperate wish for a male heir to ensure the succession. In the light of all this, it is understandable that the debate reached no further than a few references to those forlorn and picturesque ruins in the landscape, the monasteries, and certainly nothing beyond.

It is not always appreciated that the monasteries were a significant part of the national economy, as the medieval equivalent of our modern multi-national corporations, although they were not founded for financial profit. Nevertheless, they became prosperous landowners with well-organised farming and manufacturing businesses, and big employers and consumers. They also provided services to the community on a scale no one else did; notably, the care of travellers, the sick, the poor and the homeless, and schooling.

At the time of the Dissolution there were about 1700 monasteries in this country (fig.1, overleaf). With their closure in the 1530s and the destruction of their buildings and dispersal of their estates, many thousands of families lost their livelihoods, and the landscape gradually underwent profound changes as the new owners designed their new estates. Because of the dearth of records, little is known about the impact of these events on the local communities. However, the enactment of a series of poor laws in the years following the Dissolution, devolving responsibility for the poor and the homeless on to the parish, conveys a stark impression of the scale and gravity of the problems that had been created. In spite of the shortage of records, it may be possible to tentatively reconstruct a little of the nature and scale of the post-dissolution problem that was about to descend on the secular communities in Hampshire, and how it was met.

Fig.1 Monasteries in Southern England at the time of the Dissolution.

One example, Beaulieu, the former Cistercian abbey in the south-west of the county has been well researched and written up by Dom Frederick Hockey, a member of the Quarr Abbey community on the Isle of Wight [1]. By the time Beaulieu was founded in 1204 there were more than 300 Cistercian foundations in Europe, extending from Portugal to Sweden, and from Ireland to the Holy Land. Two others in Hampshire were Netley Abbey and [Hartley] Wintney Priory, the latter a small community of nuns [2].

Beaulieu was created in what was at the time a remote and physically poor environment on the fringe of the New Forest. This was in keeping with the isolation from towns and villages that the order required, as well as providing a challenging landscape from which to wrest a living. However, it was located on a geographically advantageous site on the bank of the navigable Beaulieu River at what was then the lowest crossing point. The royal personages who founded monasteries endowed them with lands, so that from the start they had the means of survival, and were always landowning, by corporate ownership. King John, Beaulieu's founder, granted a large tract of land to the abbey, and devolvement followed on to semi-autonomous estates, the granges, largely under the management of lay brothers. This organisation into smaller economic farming units made for more efficient organisation, management and development. At the same time it freed the monks to concentrate on their religious responsibilities at the abbey.

Inevitably, this creation of many new farming units also required the employment of a locally recruited labour force to work the land. The eighteen granges created around Beaulieu (fig.2), and their development as more and more land was cultivated and the variety of farm activities increased, suggests that the number of workers on these estates must have been large. What is especially fortunate in the case of Beaulieu, is that much detail has been preserved of the operation of each of the granges over a particular one year period, 1269/70[3], so that it is possible to reconstruct each grange's contribution to the overall abbey economy, and the nature, scale and diversity of their activities then.

The Abbey clearly prospered. The size of the barns required to store its products underlines the scale of its activities. The 1269/70 record of all its activities reveals impressive figures (in quarters) for the weights of grain produced: wheat 2,898, barley 712, oats 3,281, rye 224 [4] (fig.3). Although the Abbey used much of the wool produced, there remained a large surplus to be sold. By the end of the 13th century the surplus sold was of such good quality that it was in great demand and commanded a high price. Consequently, the abbey

Fig. 2 The Granges of Beaulieu Abbey.

'was assessed for taxation at a higher figure than any other Cistercian monastery in the Diocese of Canterbury' [4a]. There is also evidence of food processing and manufacturing in the employment of such tradesmen as bakers, brewers, butchers, tanners, carpenters and blacksmiths. In addition, there was a maintenance department that employed plumbers, wheelwrights and road menders, and carters to transport the produce of the granges. There were also apprentices being trained[5]. The Abbey's ship, the Salvate, was engaged in trading with the continent. Smaller vessels may have carried on inshore trading, sailing as far as the east coast fishing ports to purchase herring for domestic consumption.[6]

With harvest failures and famines in the early 14th century followed by the Black Death and subsequent epidemics, the Abbey's fortunes must have suffered

Fig. 3 The large 18th c. St. Leonards barn dwarfed by the remains of its predecessor.

seriously, like other south coast settlements. Although no details are available, Widnell reports 'the gradual disappearance of lay brothers' as one result, and 'the leasing of farms to ordinary farming tenants' as another[7]. But if the lay brothers left, the granges could not be managed, and it was then inevitable that a leasing out of the farms would follow. At this period Hockey estimates the number of paid workers to have been cut by one third.[8] A further setback had been a collapse in the price of wool, an important source of income. In the 15th century there is more evidence of an abbey unable or unwilling to readjust or readapt to its changed circumstances[9] and a fading prosperity revealed in a further drop in income from the granges and the leasing of more lands, e.g. Pennerley in 1479, and Newlands, a subdivision of Beufre, in 1497.[10] More leases continued to be arranged by the Abbot until the eve of the Dissolution, by which time some of the larger granges had been divided into small, workable units more appropriate for leasing. e.g. Beufre (fig.4). By 1538, even within the Great Close itself, 'there were already 35 copyhold tenants, holding lands on life tenancies' [11].

This suggests that although the Abbey was still in business, it was at a greatly reduced level compared with its performance at the close of the 13th century.

Fig. 4 The 18thc. barn at Beufre

Moreover, the balance had changed from being entirely a primary producer to that of a landlord, and with a consequent dramatic fall in income. The reduction in the scale of the Abbey's farming activities is given some indication by the greatly reduced number of monks. In its heyday, 1269/70, they numbered 73; at the Dissolution, 17; i.e. less than 25% of the original strength. There is no information on the numbers of remaining lay brothers and estate workers, since unlike the monks they did not receive pensions and do not appear in the accounts; but their numbers, correspondingly, must have been greatly reduced.

With regard to the notional numbers of dispossessed Abbey employees looking for work, the problem for the area around Beaulieu would seem to have been less than first thought. This was not only because of a greatly reduced workforce compared with the late 1200s, but because the reduction had been gradual, spread over the period from 1349, the year of the Black Death. In addition, it is probable that a proportion of former abbey employees would have been taken on by the new leaseholder to help work the land. So, apparently, there was no sudden large-scale dismissal, and therefore no massive population

of unemployed from the Abbey and its granges, descending on the locality. Nevertheless, Hockey estimates the workforce at the Abbey at the Dissolution to have been about 200, many of whom would have had families living locally. It was also a period of rapid inflation and steep increases in the price of grain and bread. So, probably many more than were displaced by the Dissolution found themselves facing hardship and unable to afford to feed their families.

Ironically, at the time when support for the poor became a prime necessity, the abbey, hitherto the only provider for the poor and homeless, no longer existed. Such provision included the regular distribution of pottage, and a twice-yearly distribution of old clothes and shoes[12]. As for the other services to the community outside the abbey walls: care of the sick in the secular infirmary, a sanctuary for those escaping the law, shelter for travellers, the upkeep of roads and bridges; they too ceased.

Nationally, the scale of this problem must have been enormous considering the thousands of personnel displaced from the monasteries. There was the loss of livelihood, and of the support services, as well as the denial of the 'old religion' and the shrines, relics and pilgrimages with which it was associated. The understandable distress of the populace led to a serious rebellion in the north, the Pilgrimage of Grace, which was brutally suppressed. One of the more constructive measures introduced by the government to offset any further expressions of discontent and bring about stability, was the series of Poor Laws designed to contain the problem at local level. This it attempted by laying responsibility for care of the poor and homeless on to the parish, which was empowered to discourage wanderers, provide work and apprenticeships, and shelter; and to meet the costs from local sources.

The problem for Beaulieu was that at the time of the Dissolution it had no ecclesiastical parish. It is evident from the local records compiled by Widnell that one must have been created soon after the closure of the abbey, for within a short time the parish had acquired a church, the former abbey refectory. It is also evident from the records that the newly created parish began gradually to assume the responsibilities laid down by the Poor Laws.

The brief reports contained in Widnell's 'Record' enable some reconstruction of the steps taken by the officers of the newly established church and leading members of the parish to restore the lost services: '*…their task became almost overwhelming, it included the welfare of travellers, the running of the almshouse, the provision of medical attention, the maintenance of unmarried mothers, the apprenticing of poor children and the provision of clothes*'[13]. As an example, Cross House, first mentioned in an indenture of 1535/6 became an almshouse sometime before 1578 when it is described as 'a house of charity.' That they conducted their duties with due diligence, care and compassion, is illustrated by the case of a churchwarden who was taken to task over his ill-treatment of a poor apprentice [14]. Beaulieu's reputation as a sanctuary apparently persisted for some years after the Abbey's closure. As late as 1588 it was sought as a refuge by Lady Oglander, having fled the Isle of Wight, after being frightened by the sight of the Armada appearing off the coast[15].

With the passage of time, and particularly after the 1601 Poor Law, provision of the services formerly supplied by the Abbey became an integral part of the parish support system. However, even by the latter part of the 16th century this was being supplemented by almshouses, hospitals and schools founded by prosperous local benefactors. Rather than investing in chantries for the good of their souls as formerly, they were diverting their resources to those in need in the secular world. Centuries after the Dissolution, the village of Beaulieu had an unexpected gift. When the village's water supply was thought to be contaminated, the old conduit from 'The Monks' Well', originally built by the Abbey for its own uses, was reopened, and fresh, unpolluted water flowed once more, this time to the village[16].

It would be useful to know what economic and social impact the Dissolution had in other parts of the county. There were about a dozen monasteries, excluding Beaulieu.

With acknowledgement of the invaluable pioneer work of Dom Frederick Hockey.

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Marling, manuring and share-cropping on the Titchfield Abbey

George Watts

Ce est le dite de hosbandrie ke vn sage homme
fist iadie ke auoyt a non syre Walter de henle

The Abbots of Titchfield took a keen interest in the improvement of the agricultural practices employed on their estates. The Abbey's library contained a copy of the thirteenth century treatise *Walter of Henley's Husbandry,* which was widely read by the estate officers of medieval cathedrals and religious houses[1].

Amongst Walter's many detailed recommendations is a long passage on the processes of manuring and marling:

> *Do not sell your stubble or take from the ground if you do not want it for thatching; if you take away the least you will lose much. Good son, cause manure to be gathered in heaps and mixed with earth, and cause your sheepfold to be marled every fortnight with clay land or good earth, as the cleaning out of ditches, and then strew it over ….*

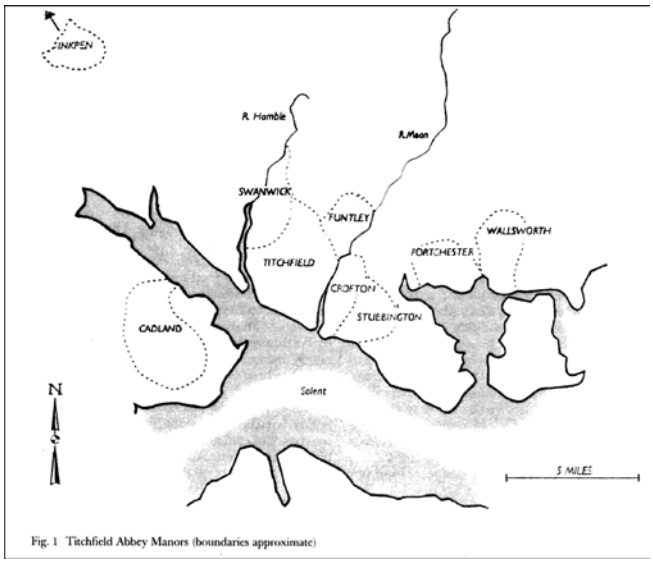

Fig. 1 Titchfield Abbey Manors (boundaries approximate)

Fig. 1 Titchield Abbey Manors

Evidence from the Abbey's manuscripts makes it possible for us to see Walter's suggestions being put into practice in the day-to-day business of running the estate[2]. In addition, most of the Titchfield manors had an advantage, which Walter's farms did not have, of being near the sea and so having other resources.

Marling was the spreading of one type of soil, dug from marl pits or elsewhere, over other types of soil to improve their texture and fertility. The Abbey's Portchester custumal distinguished between two kinds of marl, white and black [3]; that it was considered particularly onerous to carry marl to the upper field of Portchester, on the slopes of Portsdown Hill, and that like other Titchfield estates where marl was used Portchester had access to extensive tidal flats, suggests that some of this marl consisted of mud and sand, black in comparison with the lime-streaked soil from marl pits[3]. A Stubbington manorial court of 1370 ruled that if the lord wanted to carry marl from the sea he had the right-of-way across a particular strip of land (a *helum*) in Stubbington field. At Titchfield itself there were fields called Nyewmarle and Marlmede near the Eastfield. At Wallsworth near Cosham there was a field called Marlpot. At Cadland, across Southampton Water from Titchfield, a court entry of 1332 records a grant of two plots (*doulas*) of moor (*bruer*) south of the Abbot's *marlere.*

In contrast, inland on the downland of Inkpen, some of the marl pits were in the open fields themselves, the amount of marl to be carried by the tenants as labour service being greater if it were from the field (furlong) in which it was to be used. The amounts to be carried by each tenant were six or eight barrow-loads (*pottes*), each of six reasonable shovelfuls (*tribulatis*)[4]. At Portchester the marling service was also of six barrow-loads.

Manuring was a labour service at Inkpen, eight barrow-loads to be carted by each tenant within three furlongs in any direction in the open fields there, six if further than three furlongs. At Titchfield, some of the tenants, whether they had horses or not, had to carry manure for three days in the week after Michaelmas, ready for the autumn ploughing. At Cadland the customary tenants had to carry manure for half a day, once a year. At Wallsworth there was both a manuring carrying service and a service of collecting stubble for the sheep-fold where it would become part of the manure.

These references are of marl and manure being used on the Abbot's demesne land. But the tenants were at least as active as their landlord. At Crofton it was customary to make leases between tenants in which marling was required by the lessor. From 1335 to 1349 leases of this kind were recorded regularly in the manorial court. During these 14 years there were 36 such leases, involving 18 specified acres, 26 undescribed plots of land, and a whole croft. In 1335 Roger Gamelyn took a lease of half an acre of land called Longhelva, which had formerly been Alice Buriman's, for 16 years, marling it and getting half the crop each year. In the same year Margery, widow of William Kech, paid sixpence for a third of an acre of William le Longe's land next to the sea, for 13 years, also marling it and getting half the crop. William was to find half of the seed and do half of the ploughing and harrowing, and he was to hoe the crop and reap half of it at his own expense. In later leases the reference to half shares is replaced by *in campipartem,* clearly explained in one case as *in campipartem videlicet pro medietate vesture*, now commonly called share-cropping. Each transaction had to be recorded in the manorial court, the fee usually sixpence an acre: it is clear that the lord had no other material interest in the transaction.

There were a number of similar leases on the neighbouring manor of Stubbington. In 1303 a father granted to his son all his land for 14 years, his son to marl, plough and sow with 'common corn', and to compost it in mid-term. In 1309 Isabella Foucedame granted a third of an acre to Henry Pek for 15 years, to be composted once in mid-term. In 1339 Roger le Pipere undertook to marl third of an acre of John le Coupere's land in the North furlong of Rattesham, having the whole crop for ten years. In 1344 Peter Deele undertook to marl two acres of Robert Bruese's land *ad campipartem* , together with Robert's executors, until Robert's son William should be of age. Some leases did not involve marling or manuring. Leases in which the lessor holds the land and pays the rent, the lessee cultivates and sows it, each getting half the crop, occur at Titchfield, Crofton and Fontley. Not all of such activities were licensed by the courts. At Portchester in 1337 Nicholas Blanchard was fined for digging and carrying marl on the lord's land and making a path across it with his cart.

References to the use of household manure, woodland compost and rotted straw also appear in the Titchfield manorial

courts. But perhaps the most interesting compost was seaweed. In an undated case at Cadland, various people were accused of seizing by violence *waya et wora* cast up by the tide on the beach at Hardley and using it as manure [5]. Seaweed collection was a perquisite of the Abbot which could be let to tenants: in 1311 William Amy surrendered his right to collect *wara* from the whole of the Abbot's marsh at Cadland. A lease of the *wara* called Croftonswara for the large sum of six shillings appears to be a similar case on the other side of Southampton Water.

This Titchfield evidence of the agricultural activities of landlord and tenants enables us to offer a modest local contribution to the long-running international debate about supposed soil exhaustion in fourteenth century Europe[6]. More parochially perhaps, it makes it possible for us to see Walter of Henley's recommendations being put into practice not just by the lord of the manor and his bailiffs but by quite ordinary people, the Williams, Henrys and Isabellas of medieval society.

References

1. B.L. 29/56 (Abbey library number P 8) contains two agricultural treatises, one of them Walter of Henley's: this is translated in *Walter of Henley's Husbandry* ed. E. Lamont, 1890.
2. B.L. 29/55, the *Rememoratorium*, contains the custumals of the Titchfield estates; B.L. 29/57, the Court Book, contains the evidence from manorial court proceedings.
3. B.L. 29/55, f. 43b.
4. B.L. 29/55, f. 23b.
5. B.L. 29/55, f. 32a.
6. See, for example, *The Fontana Economic History of Europe: the Middle Ages,* ed. C. Cipolla, 1972, p.198; and compare *Rural England 1066-1348,* H.E.Hallam, 1981, pp.88-90.

Hampshire Fortified: Early Medieval to the Tudors: A review of the Landscape Section Annual Conference, 9th November 2013

Mike Broderick

Ryan Lavelle: Anglo-Saxon Fortifications in Southern England with special reference to Hampshire

Ryan Lavelle's presentation covered mainly the south of England but did refer to examples from in or around Hampshire. He stressed that the work, which was responsible for the development of defences, took place both before and after the reign of Alfred; he used the term 'Alfredian' to cover these changes. He emphasised Alfred's leadership qualities in terms of his administrative abilities which enabled him to plan defences effectively against the Danish 'hit and run' raiders, by for example building roads and designing a system of inter-visible beacons. As well as using his burhs as a resource base he actively involved the civilian population in their defence. He considered the development of the burhs, and the link between the hides and the number of men needed to man the burghal walls.

Richard Reeves: The Normans, Domesday & the New Forest

Richard Reeves spoke about the areas of the later New Forest, which were used, prior to the Norman Conquest, as hunting areas of the Saxon Kings. He went on to consider the ambiguities around the entries in Domesday, which relate to the New Forest, both in its own folio and the main Domesday account. He gave evidence for entries to Domesday being written across a number of years. Problems have arisen in identifying the modern equivalents of some Domesday entries; careful examination of the entries, by him and others, has revealed some of the previously unknown locations on the basis of place name evidence. He questioned the level of afforestation prior to and after the establishment of the New Forest. He also discussed changes in status of some areas. His researches had also revealed hitherto unsuspected areas of ridge and furrow.

Alan Morton: Southampton's Missing Defences

Alan Morton began by questioning the traditional account of the French raid of 1388 when, it has been said, the inhabitants of the town made no effort to oppose the French and took immediate shelter in St Michael's church. He gave an account of the eastern, landward defences and their development over the years. He went on to explain that, though there were no extensive sections of wall to the west of Southampton at this time, there were features that acted as defences:

- the tidal mud flats
- the cliffs toward the northern end of the city were high enough to deter attackers
- gates and very narrow alleyways

He gave an account of the use of Genoese mercenaries who were supporting the French attackers. He related events of the raid: the deaths in St Michael's church and the burning of buildings as the raiding party withdrew.

Dominic Fontana: Medieval and Tudor Defences of Portsmouth

Dominic Fontana began by saying that, in the 14th Century, Southampton's best defence was Portsmouth, which was attacked three times to Southampton's single raid, described by Alan Morton. He considered the development of Portsmouth as a naval base, so that by Tudor times, the defences had developed, with the building of the Round Tower, the Saluting Platform and the Square Tower. In his current research he is developing a Geographical Information System (GIS) to reconstruct the events of the battle, which took place in the Solent in July 1545 when the Mary Rose was sunk. He used the events shown on an engraving of a painting, formerly in Cowdrey House before it was destroyed in a fire, of the scene of the battle. On all occasions so far, the engraving has been proven to accurately depict events. The defences were examined in relation to the naval battle and the disposition of the two fleets. The larger French fleet's line of attack was hampered by shallow water between them and the English fleet in Portsmouth; this was clearly demonstrated by the overlaying of the depths of the sea bed on a map showing the location of the two fleets. The defenders had use of the deep-water channel while the French were in the shallow water by the Isle of Wight. His GIS has allowed him to plot the changing positions of the fleets in relation to the tidal conditions during the day.

Summary

The conference was enjoyed by around 100 members and non-members, and we were very grateful for the highly productive efforts of our speakers.

The Revision of the Victoria County History of Hampshire

Stan Waight

The Victoria County History series of volumes, or the Big Red Books as they are also known, was founded in 1899 and dedicated to Queen Victoria (fig. 1). The intention was to create an encyclopaedic record of each of the historic counties of England. In most cases, the histories begin with one or more volumes of general studies of the County as a whole, followed by others consisting of historical surveys of each parish.

However, it has been said that, the VCH is "very much a gentleman's history", in that the detail for the majority of parishes is restricted to a general topographical and demographical survey, a history of any manors within them, what is known about notable families and a description and history of the church - often covering just a page or two. There are five volumes for Hampshire, of which Volume I was the very first VCH Red Book to be completed, published on 1st January 1900. The county set was completed in four further volumes published in 1903, 1908, 1911 and 1912.

Nearly a century after the county history was completed, a group of interested organizations came together to seek to revise the original VCH Hampshire volumes. These partners included Hampshire County Council, the Hampshire Archives Trust, the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society, and the University of Winchester. The object was to update the original volumes and to broaden the range of topics to include local government, public services, the economy and society, migration, sport and recreation. Basingstoke and its surrounding area was chosen to be researched for the first three volumes of the new series.

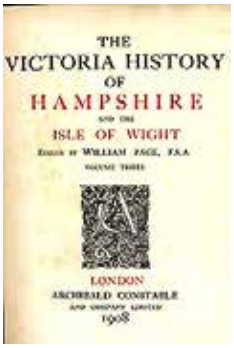

Fig. 1 The flyleaf of Volume III of the original VCH for Hampshire. The volume contains 537 pages and is dedicated to more than 93 parishes.

Fig. 2 The front cover of the revised chapter of Mapledurwell. The volume contains 85 pages and is dedicated to a single parish.

A public appeal for volunteers was made and a co-ordinator (Dr. Jean Morrin) was appointed. Although many members of the group are experienced local historians, most are not and monthly classes are held to improve research skills. Where appropriate, experienced members undertake the research of individual parishes.

The format of each of the new volumes will be:

- The Introduction - Parish Boundaries, Landscape and Communications
- Settlement and Population - Secular Buildings, Landownership and Local Government
- Economic History - The Agricultural Landscape, Farming 1050-1550, Farming 1550-2013, Crafts and Other Activities, Commerce and Services
- Social History - Social Structure, The Life of the Community, Education, Charities and Welfare
- Religious History - Parochial Organisation, Pastoral Care and Religious Life, The Church,

and they will be illustrated by photographs, maps and plans. Thus, the broader content will impinge upon the activities of all the Sections of the Field Club.

It so happened that aspects of one of the parishes, Mapledurwell, had already been researched in depth as the manor of the same name, whose boundaries were contiguous with it. The manor had been owned by an Oxford college for nearly 500 years and its archive contained a great deal of material upon which a new VCH chapter could be based. Further research was then concentrated upon land within the joint boundaries and the first revised version of a Hampshire parish was published in paperback form in April 2013 (fig.2).

Considerable progress has already been made on other parishes in the chosen area and it is hoped that Steventon and Up Nately will soon be ready for publication. Nevertheless, it will be seen that the overall project stretches out into the distant future.

book review book review

Richard Wade and George Watts (eds), **Titchfield, A Place in History**, The Titchfield History Society, 2012

After three volumes of detailed reports on every corner of the history of Titchfield and its parish, one would have thought that there was nothing left to research. Not a bit of it. As everyone knows, with the passage of time and further research into earlier interpretations of evidence, reports must be revised in the light of new discoveries. This is one reason why Volume 2 of Titchfield's history has been revised and reports updated. In addition, there are several new reports including one whose author, sadly, will not be issuing any more. This is a hitherto unpublished article by Chris Currie on 'Old fishponds in the Titchfield area', well researched and attractively illustrated. The articles cover the usual wide range of subjects, all well-written and presented, and arranged chronologically from the pre-historic to the 1980s. A new feature is the inclusion of colour, with maps and other illustrations, all reproduced to a high standard. It concludes with a useful page on further reading, also recently revised.

George Campbell.

Archaeology

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Editorial

David Allen

A number of regular excavation projects took place last summer, most of them enjoying far better weather than in recent years. The University of Winchester's work at Magdalen Hill probably had the worst of it (if hot and dry is good). Our visit on a June evening was not for the faint-hearted and our thanks go to Simon and Phil for their perseverance. With 2014 now well upon us a topical area of study on the hill could be the remains of one of the county's largest Great War transit camps.

At Silchester, work on insula IX is nearing completion and huge Iron Age halls are taking shape. An entertaining blog on the 2013 season can be found at http://blogs.reading.ac.uk/silchesterdig/. The aerial photography, by kite and drone, is stunning. At Damerham, the project enjoyed its sixth and final season of evaluation with a mix of excavation and fieldwalking. Progress can be followed by tracking down the RocDam 'blog' or by turning out for Martyn Barber's Archaeology Section talk in late April.

'Pop-up museums' were where it was at and the Iron Age & Roman temple on Hayling Island benefited from such a display last July. Prof Tony King and Graham Soffe put together an exhibition and compiled a small booklet about the project and progress with the definitive publication. Contact me for further details.

WARG took advantage of St Cross church being clothed in scaffolding to dig up the lawn, an area generally in use these days for wedding parties. They confirmed expert opinion and geophysical evidence that early buildings stood on the east side of the church and found traces of lead smelting and other activities. http://www.warg.org.uk/ . In this edition we carry an account of the 2012 work at St Elizabeth's College, a site they plan to return to this year.

At Basing House, a long-considered plan to re-excavate and properly backfill the trenches dug by the Aldermaston Archaeological Society in the 1960s was finally realised, and this can be enjoyed digitally too http://basinghousecat.wordpress.com/

The latest news from the local authorities is that Hampshire is heading for Arts & Museums Trust status, in partnership with Winchester. If all goes according to plan an 18-month 'transition period' will bear fruit in 2015.

In November, the Section held its ever-popular Day Conference. Chairman Jan Bristow, always keen on the latest technology, puts us in the picture.

John Barton, known to many for his foyer bookstall at Conferences, and for his scholarship and love of Hampshire history, died in December. We include an obituary provided by the family – to whom we send our deepest sympathies.

Technological Innovation in the Past: Archaeology Section Conference 30th November 2013

Jan Bristow

This was quite a subject area to cover in a Day Conference, especially when our first speaker, Dr. Laura Basell from Queen's University Belfast, began with the Palaeolithic era! Her talk was entitled ' *From Hand Axes to Harpoons*', and in it Dr. Basell brought out some very important principles behind innovation relevant to all of the contributions - stating that innovation occurs when an invention is adopted and becomes widespread. What is especially applicable to the Palaeolithic and Mesolithic periods is that research has shown how population size affects the rate of change - there has to be a big group size. This can in turn be affected by environmental factors, as smaller group sizes could hold less cultural knowledge. Applying this to the earliest periods of modern man, population groups were initially just too small for technology to advance very rapidly. By the time the Mesolithic period can be said to have started (about 10,000 BC) there were two long-term trends, involving on the one hand, changes in the variety of artefacts and on the other, an increase in the pace of change. These factors were further emphasised by the subsequent talks at the Conference.

A lithics site at Wood Green in the New Forest is being studied by Dr. Basell's Ph.D. student, Ella Egberts, as one of the key Palaeolithic find spots in Hampshire. Hopefully we will follow Ella's findings and invite her to report on them at a later date!

A much later prehistoric era was discussed by Dr Jody Joy of the British Museum, when he considered the metalworking technology of Iron Age Britain. He took the Chiseldon cauldron hoard found in Wiltshire and the Snettisham torc hoard from Norfolk as examples. These two major finds demonstrate how sophisticated metal working innovation had developed by the fourth to third centuries BC. The 17 cauldrons found in a two metre pit (a very rare occurrence) were similar,

Fig 1: Mesolithic harpoon

Fig2: Palaeolithic Hand Axe

but all slightly different. Made of copper alloy, with iron bands and rims produced by the quenching method, every cauldron had been well used before being placed in the ground and most had been patched. Some of the later patches were less fine than earlier ones, showing different levels of expertise even with construction and repair.

The Snettisham torcs, clearly votive deposits (a Romano - Celtic temple was found close by) have now been closely examined so that we can see, for example, how the torcs were placed around the

Fig 3: Snettisham torc

neck. The technology is again highly developed and designed for maximum visual impact using a number of techniques such as laying a thin sheet of gold over iron. Some were silvered then gilded, gold adhering well to silver because it is close to it in structure. These techniques clearly illustrate that our island Iron Age craftsmen experimented with what worked to produce the right effect of gold colour. Dr. Joy ended by emphasising that these torcs were every bit as complex in their construction as the Winchester Hoard, which is considered to probably originate from the Middle East, so British Iron Age craftsmen could produce as well as the best!

Sir Barry Cunliffe then took us into the Roman period in Hampshire with his work on the water mill excavated at Fullerton villa site on the River Anton, a tributary of the Test. The use of purpose-built mills for grinding wheat seed into flour is an innovation developed from the use first of saddle, then rotary querns. Within a mill building the milling surface is on an upper floor using a power source below. Sir Barry first gave an overview of some of the known mills from elsewhere in the Roman Empire, such as the second century mills from the Janiculum Hill in Rome, and the mill complex at Barbegal, 13 km from Arles, southern France. Barbegal represents an extreme example of Roman milling innovation; water gushing down a

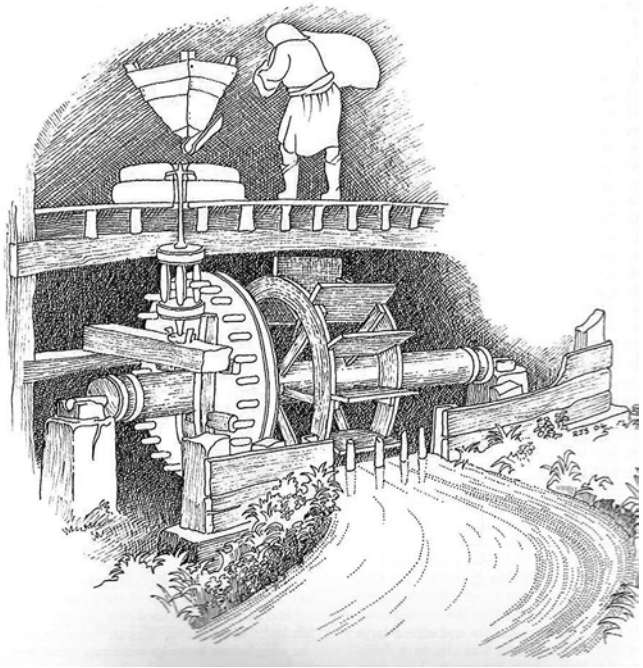


Fig 4: Artist's view of Fulleron Roman mill in operation (Bob Spain)

hillside was used to turn 16 wheels, each one driving a millstone.

Fullerton was a much simpler operation, dating from the late second to the late fourth centuries AD and used a four metre wide leat or dug channel, accurately graded down slope for two hundred metres, as a power source. The mill, mill wheel and tail race were all revealed by archaeology, showing that the weight of the wheel was taken by posts on either side. The villa became higher status in the later period. It would seem likely that the villa and mill were connected economically, which leads us to consider how much grain was being produced in Hampshire in the Roman period, and where was it going? Several mills have been recognised from Roman Britain, including two from Hadrian's Wall, but if the Fullerton Mill represents economic prosperity, asked Sir Barry, where are the others we could expect to find and how can they be identified? There certainly ought to be more present in Hampshire.

The fourth speaker was Gustav Milne from

University College London on' *The Necessary Invention of the Box-Frame Building*'. Here our speaker identified an invention which became an innovation as a result of a changing resource, that of the composition of our woodlands, from AD 700 to AD 1300. During this time there were fewer and taller straight-grained,

Fig 5: Half-timbered buildings

hundred-year old trees (which can be cleaved and split) and increasing numbers of younger 30-50 year old standards (which are better for sawing). As a result, by the time of the *Magna Carta*, the box-framed building existed entirely without the earlier tradition of earth-fast buildings, where posts are placed directly into the ground. Before this time (around the twelfth century) a transitional phase in building showed uniformly squared timbers set into a base plate, which increased the life of the building, but was not yet a full box-frame. Not only is the nature of the resource driving the method of construction, but the life-span of the resource too. If a building contains wood which is only a few years old and it lasts for twenty years, then this is a sustainable way of managing the woodland. An opposite effect is achieved by felling trees which are a hundred years old to build a structure which only lasts thirty years. According to Gustav there is evidence for this happening from the Roman period onwards.

Finally, Luke Winter from the Ancient Technology Centre, Dorset brought together many of the strands, discussing how good *Experimental Archaeology* can help

Fig 6: Reconstruction of a Neolithic house

us understand not only past technologies, but details of human behaviour and complex processes. An example of this is the handaxe: it is the cutting edge which is important, not necessarily the shape. So Experimental Archaeology also gives us insight into developing human cognition and how the brain has arrived at a solution, which underlies technological innovation.

A recent case study is the reconstruction of some Neolithic houses for the new Stonehenge Visitor Centre, in particular 'building 851', which was excavated at Durrington Walls. During the reconstruction work a thousand coppiced hazel rods were used. It was found that the gaps in the wall (evidenced by excavation) suited a particular size of hazel, that of ten to twelve year-old hazel rods, which is informing us about Neolithic woodland management. We also learnt that the time taken to fell a tree with Neolithic stone tools is about twenty-two hours, so the massive labour investment to build even a modest-sized house is evident.

This brief summary of our Conference can only give a flavour of the points made by our speakers, but it is evident that the archaeological record helps us to understand the ingenuity of our ancestors, and the creativity with which they solved the challenges presented by their varied environments.

Basing House, 2013

David Allen, Gareth Beale, Nicole Beale, Chris Elmer, Jude Jones, Kristian Strutt, Clare Allen, Daniel Jones

Excavation

In 1962 Aldermaston Archaeological Society dug at Basing House to see if there was evidence for the 'widely held view' that the site was lived on before Norman times. Their use of a 'proton magnetic gradiometer' revealed a complex of ditches to the south of the ringwork and the 'customary square grid' they employed revealed evidence of Belgic and Romano-British occupation and medieval ditches; the work was published in Proceedings Vol 23.

One omission was not to backfill the 'square grid' fully and this had left something of a blemish on the flanks of the Civil War defences at Basing. It was, therefore, gratifying to be given permission to re-examine the 1960s trenches, backfill them, and

reinstate the pre-1960 profile. In order to do this the Arts & Museums Service invited the University of Southampton to participate, both by using the site as a training ground for geophysics and by making the excavation one of their summer field-schools. Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society members worked alongside the students, providing excavation expertise and supporting the public engagement activity designed to inform visitors about the project.

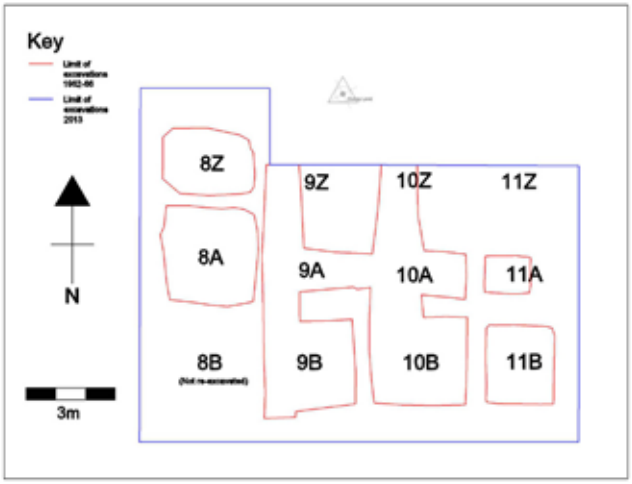


Fig. 1 2012 excavation overlaid on 1962 trenches

Excavation took place between 22 July and 11 August and an area 18m x 17m was opened. Some squares had become dumps for burnt material and excitement levels ran high as sherds of slip-decorated pottery were found. Spirits were only slightly dampened when it was realised they were fragments of a Civil War history re-enactment replica, particularly as the potter who made it could be traced by his maker's mark and reached by email (the pot is about forty years old!).

Fig.22012 excavation in full swing

As work continued, the earlier occupation layers identified by Aldermaston came more clearly into view. Chief among these was a spread of crushed burnt flint which had all the appearance of a deliberately metalled surface. Finds placed this in the Roman period, more specifically the 3rd and 4th centuries. A new feature, found just beyond the limits of the AAS dig, was a substantial rectangular posthole, heavily packed with large flints. This produced a coin of Probus (276-82) minted at Lyons.

The burnt flint layer covered deposits of chalk and yellow clay which filled the upper part of the two hollows noted by the AAS. They had identified the hollows as 'Belgic huts' but the scoops were rather elliptical and had no accompanying structural features. They are perhaps best considered as 'working hollows' which attracted Late Iron Age occupation soil before the more deliberate infilling of the Roman period.

The excavation was recorded by staff and supervised students using University of Southampton context sheets. All contexts and find locations were captured in 3D as part of a comprehensive total station survey of the excavation. This archive was supplemented by a dig diary, a digital photographic record and plan and elevation drawings where appropriate.

Geophysical Survey

Survey work took place on Basingstoke Common, using GPS and Magnetometry. The main aim was to examine the potential archaeology on the Common

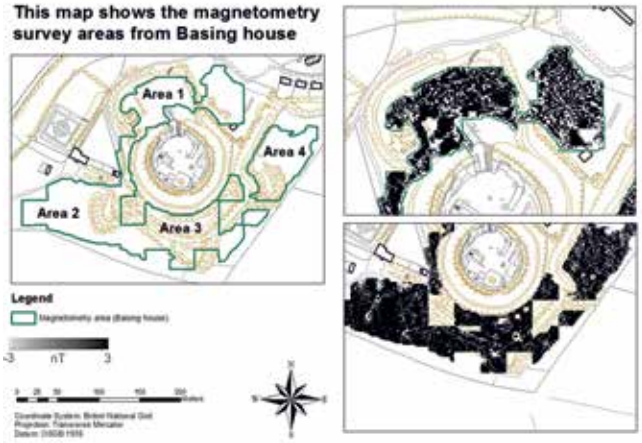


Fig. 3 The magnetometry survey

using previous survey results, aerial photographs and the historical background of Basing House. A magnetometer survey was carried out using a Bartington Instruments Grad 601 dual sensor fluxgate gradiometer. Readings were taken at 0.25m intervals along the 0.5m interval traverses. This technique was used to survey the site grounds and Basingstoke Common.

The results of the survey (fig. 3) indicate a number of archaeological features belonging to the prehistoric, medieval, Civil War and 20th century archaeology of the site. A ditch associated with the prehistoric or medieval settlement of the ridge is visible enclosing part of the Common, running into the curtilage of Basing House and being cut by the Civil War defences. The half-moon earthworks of the Royalist defences show clearly in the magnetometry, including the ditch and possible remains of the palisades. The location of Parliamentarian siegeworks close to the site is more difficult to trace. It is possible that they are located along the line of the present hedgerow and fenceline, but this would be less than 30m from the defences of Basing House. The results of the survey did reveal the line of a substantial World War II anti-tank ditch, running north-east to south-west across the Common. This evidence, supported by air photographs from the 1940s, indicates the defensive role given to the Basingstoke Canal and River Loddon. There remains scope for future geophysical survey.

Further archaeological excavations at St Elizabeth's College, Winchester, 2012

Dick Whinney

Introduction

Following the successful exploratory excavations on the site of the church of St Elizabeth's College in 2011 (Newsletter 57), volunteers working under the auspices of WARG, returned to the site in the summer of 2012. Significant information was revealed about the construction of the church and its internal arrangements.

Historical Background

Documentary sources describe a substantial medieval complex, known as St Elizabeth's College, located on land to the south of Wolvesey Palace. Commissioned in 1301-2 by Bishop John de Pontoise, the College church or chapel was completed by the time of his death in 1304. The College was dedicated to St Elizabeth of Hungary, and the church is recorded as having three altars at its east end. It was governed by a Provost, and a living was provided for seven chaplains and choristers. The College was originally endowed with six acres of land in the meadows of St Stephen, together with income from estates elsewhere.

St Elizabeth's College was surrendered to the Crown in 1544. The deed of sale describes a wealthy establishment with church, belfry and cemetery, in 4½ acres. The estate also contained houses, buildings, barns, granaries, dovecotes, kitchen gardens, orchards, gardens, pools and vineyards. In the 15th century, the buildings included a cloister, hall, kitchen, bake house, brew house and chambers.

Following the Dissolution, the site was sold to Thomas Wroithesley, who quickly re-sold it to Winchester College on condition that the buildings were either used as a grammar school or were to be pulled down. Much of the complex was demolished and materials used for building elsewhere. The buried foundations of St Elizabeth's College have remained in the estate of Winchester College to the present day, and lie in an area of pasture and water-meadows.

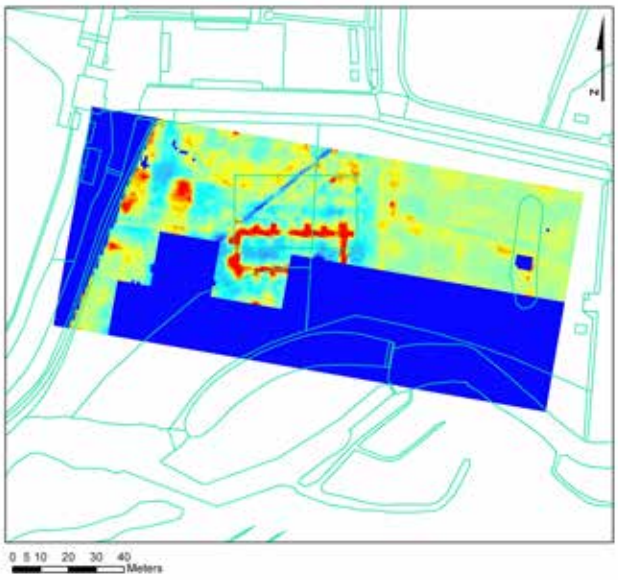


Figure 1 – St Elizabeth's College, Winchester – plot of geophysical anomalies survey in 2012. The outline of the church can be clearly seen.

The site of the College church or chapel was known in the middle of the 19th century, when some survey work was undertaken. Two poorly documented excavations took place, one in 1922 and the other in 1964. The walls of the church were at least partly exposed, allowing plans of the building to be drawn, but very little other information was recorded or archived.

Investigations in 2012

The dig was preceded by a detailed geophysical survey of the site, undertaken by WARG volunteers led by David Ashby, from the University of Winchester. The survey not only confirmed much of the locational information already known, but also added greater precision and detail to both the main church area and outlying parts of the overall site, including a large rectangular feature to the NNW of the chapel (Figure 1).

The dig, which took place between 28 July and 12 August, had three main objectives:

- to further explore the western end of the church, which had been partially exposed in 2011;
- to examine a central area, only briefly examined in 2011, in order to gather information about the survival and development of the internal elements of the building;
- to investigate one or two other areas of the site, identified by geophysical survey as anomalies, which could represent the remains of other structures and features of the medieval College complex.

The west end of the church

At the west end of the church, excavation exposed the full extent of the surviving masonry remains, already located in 2011. The area is badly disturbed by Victorian, and later, foul drains, but it was possible to excavate and at least partially elucidate the general sequence of construction, redevelopment and repair. Unfortunately, the interpretation of the remains was hampered not only by the 19th century drains, but also by a high water table.

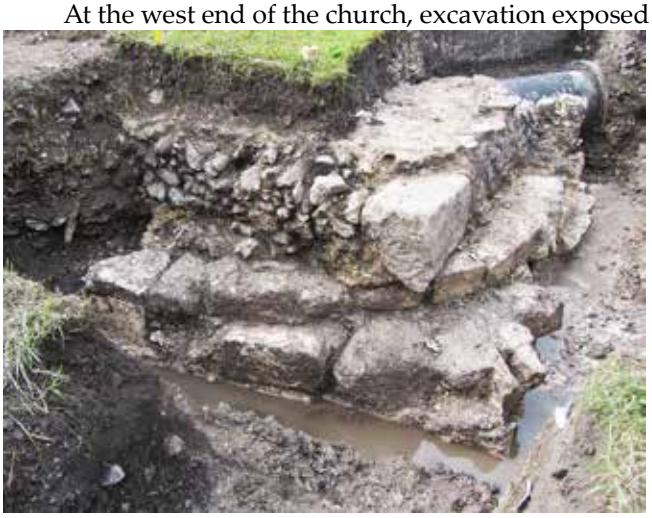


Figure 2 – St Elizabeth's College, Winchester. Foundations at the NW corner of the church. Three phases of building activity can be seen.

Despite these difficulties, careful work has partially explained the relative sequence of events, especially at the north-west corner of the church. The area was prepared by the construction of a deep and extensive raft of chalk rubble and blocks and into this the foundations of the church, comprised of a strong, dense flint and mortar mix, were cut. This sequence was also seen in other parts of the church in 2011. Corners and other locations were strengthened by the addition of limestone blocks. Upon these substantial foundations the church was built. However, in the north-west corner, it appears there was some structural weakness, as there is clear evidence for a sequence of repair, reconstruction and consolidation. As illustrated in Figure 2, at least three phases of masonry can be recognised, perhaps relating to different episodes of rebuilding and repair. However, it is also possible that these and adjacent remains at the west end point to an earlier building preceding the construction of the College chapel in the early 14th century, a suggestion perhaps borne out elsewhere.

Figure 3 – St Elizabeth's College, Winchester – A stone-lined grave at the West doorway

A substantial stone-lined grave, identified at the west entrance in 2011, was fully investigated in 2012 (Figure 3). In difficult circumstances, the fragmentary skeletal remains were removed. Examination by Dr Katie Tucker at the University of Winchester identified the skeleton as that of a middle-aged male, aged 36 - 45. Artefact evidence for dating of the burial is poor, and so it is not possible to tell at this stage whether this isolated burial is contemporary with the other burials inside the 14th century church, or relates to an earlier phase of building, as suggested by its location.

The central area

In 2011 the very limited excavations which took place in the interior suggested that few of the internal features of the church had survived the systematic destruction of 1544-5. In 2012,however, more extensive investigations showed that in the central part of the church, a complex arrangement of masonry wall foundations and associated structures was present, together with a number of human burials in stone coffins or tombs. Although nothing of the above ground parts of these walls survived, they clearly indicate a complex of internal features. Analysis of these remains is on-going, but at least two phases of construction and change have been identified. The wall footings clearly define a number of small rooms or chambers (Figure 4). Fragmentary remains of floor surfaces, some of inlaid polychrome tiles, were also located.

Figure 4 – St Elizabeth's College, Winchester – the central area of the church, showing remains of small internal rooms or chambers. In the background are two stone-lined graves.

At least four human burials were located. These interments, clearly of important individuals within the College community, had been made into either stone-lined tombs or grave cuts The remains of one skeleton were excavated, and have been identified by Dr Tucker as being those of a mature adult, possibly male, over 45 years of age.

Other areas

A small trench was cut into the area to the NNW of the chapel identified by geophysics as a major anomaly, perhaps representing another contemporary medieval structure. The anomaly was found to be caused by an extensive and deep area of mortar and masonry rubble. It has been tentatively interpreted as a dump of demolition material dating to the time of the destruction of the church in the mid-16th century.

Future Work

Preliminary discussion and planning is taking place for a further season of excavations in the summer of 2014, when it is hoped to investigate the structural remains at the east end of the church, and to try to identify the location and nature of the three altars noted in documents.

Acknowledgements

Once again, WARG would like to acknowledge the significant financial help and practical support given to the excavation by Winchester College. Equally, without the unstinting involvement and dedicated support of WARG members, together with students from both local and more far flung colleges and universities, the excavation would not have been the success that it undoubtedly was.

Editor's note

WARG is returning to St Elizabeth's College in August 2014 and a visit is being planned by the Archaeological Section.

Obituary

John Barton : Ordnance Survey Archaeologist, Winchester Bookseller and Author of Books of Local Interest

John Barton was born in Norwich in 1927, the eldest son of poor parents hard pressed by the depressed economy of the 1930s. John excelled at primary school and went on to the City of Norwich Grammar school where again he became one of the top pupils. He was called up for National Service in 1945 and spent the next three years as ground staff in the RAF, one advantage he obtained from this being a long stay in Egypt where he enjoyed trips to the Pyramids and the Valley of the Kings. After initially training to be a Weights and Measures Inspector, he eventually found permanent employment with the Ordnance Survey at their temporary office in Chessington, Surrey. One of his favourite subjects at school had been Geography and a career with the O.S. was entirely suited to him. He eventually moved into the Archaeological Branch, then a new and expanding section of the O.S.

While in Surrey, John lived at Ewell where he met Patricia Arrowsmith who became his wife in 1962. When the Chessington office of the Ordnance Survey closed following the opening of their new HQ in Maybush, Southampton in 1969, John and Pat moved to Oliver's Battery, Winchester which was to become their permanent home. John's interests in geography, archaeology and history led him to becoming a collector of antiquarian books and from this base he moved onto becoming a private bookseller. It was a natural development when his friends decided to open a second-hand bookshop in St. George's Street, Winchester that John decided to join them. John became a familiar figure at conferences of the Archaeological Section of the Hampshire Field Club with his annual stall selling books devoted to archaeological, historical and topographical interest.

With his knowledge of the area allied to a keen enjoyment of BBC quiz shows, and his own published quiz books, John then compiled The Hampshire Quiz Book. He went on to write several more books related to Hampshire and its history: two of which, particularly useful to tourists, are The Visitor's Guide to Hampshire and the Isle of Wight and Hidden Hampshire. John was a keen traveller all his life. He enjoyed the satisfaction of visiting as many countries as possible. This led him onto taking a trip round the world along with his daughter which they did by using the Trans-Siberian Railway and container ship passage across the Pacific. His desire to visit all the continents led him to taking a cruise ship voyage down to the Antarctic. He also took a delight in visiting places with an unusual distinction such as being the most extreme places in Britain in terms of their location such as being the most northerly, easterly and so on. He still planned to get to Ardnamurchan Point as being the most westerly place in Scotland but alas this desire has now escaped him.

After generally very good health, John became seriously weakened during his last year becoming too frail for further travel. His wife predeceased him in 1991. He leaves behind his daughter Anne-Louise, who carries on the family tradition of writing books on local history (see review on page 6 of this issue), a son Jeremy and two grandsons.

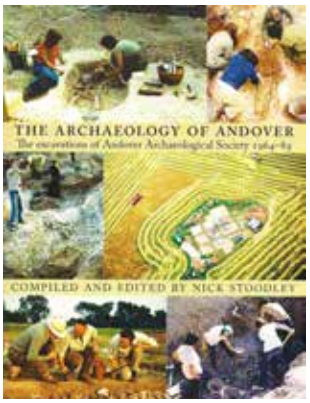
John Barton born 30th June 1927, died 7th December 2013.

book review book review book review book review

The Archaeology of Andover: The excavations of Andover Archaeological Society 1964-89, Compiled and edited by Nick Stoodley. Andover History & Archaeology Society, 2013, xiv &114p, £20. from Mill Pound Cottage, Monxton, Andover, SP11 8AW

Amateur archaeology in Andover followed a classic profile. The very evident threat to sites in the 1960s brought a determined response from a number of locals, notably Max and Peggy Dacre. Along with others they formed the Andover Archaeological Society and rescued and recovered valuable information from many sites. It was not easy, building contractors were not always compliant and, as the archaeological infrastructure grew, there were tensions with 'the professionals', which encouraged the Society to dig on a number of rural sites where they had a freer hand.

The twenty-five years of dedicated endeavour involved a number of sites – including Portway Saxon cemetery and the Kimpton Bronze Age cairn field,



which have been published to the highest standard and high acclaim, but at the time of his death Max Dacre was working on a publication that would tell the story of the others, up to 20 in number. This work has now been completed by Dr Nick Stoodley, who has made good use of the 'Dacre archive' to put the sites in their chronological and geographical context. This handsome volume is very well illustrated and the photographs, in particular, give a real sense of what was taking place. One only has to look at the intense concentration and effort captured in the images on the front cover to get a real feel for what the book contains.

Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

Newsletter

Programme of Events

March- December 2014

7th March	Friday - Local History Section **Annual Lecture**: Almshouses 8.00 pm, Hampshire Record Office, Winchester, SO23 8TH
26th April	Saturday - Local History Section **Spring Symposium**: The Struggle for Democracy in Hampshire 9.30 – 4.30, Hampshire Record Office, Winchester, SO23 8TH
29th April	Tuesday - Archaeology Section **Evening lecture**: Martyn Barber (English Heritage) and Helen Wickstead (Kingston) An update on the Damerham Project 7.30, Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds' College
10th May	Saturday - Landscape Section **Visit**: Portsmouth (half day) to be led by Dominic Fontana.
14th May	Wednesday **President's lecture, AGM and New Members Evening:** Dr Katie Tucker, *Hyde Abbey bones and the making of the TV programme* 7.00pm venue TBA
17th May	Saturday - Archaeology Section **Visit**: The Ancient Technology Centre, Dorset.
12th June	Wednesday - Archaeology Section **Visit**: Winchester University's dig at St. Mary Magdalene leper hospital, Winchester 6.30 pm from Chesil car park (walk to site along old pilgrims' route)
5th July	Saturday - Local History Section Summer Outing to Overton.
12th August	Tuesday - Archaeology Section **Visit**: WARG's dig at St.Elizabeth's College, Winchester 6.30 pm
4th October	Saturday - Local History Section **AGM** & Outing to Bishopstoke
8th Nov.	Saturday - Landscape Section **AGM** & Conference: The Bigger Picture: Medieval Hampshire in its Regional Setting 10.00 - 4.45, Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds' College
29th Nov.	Saturday - Archaeology Section **AGM** & Conference: The Archaeology of Conflict

The Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society Newsletter is produced by the Society and printed by Sarsen Press of Winchester.
Information about the Society, its activities and other publications can be found at www.fieldclub.hants.org