



Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

Newsletter

No 63, Spring 2015



The Red Lion, Chalton. An original three bay Wealdon house, later added to at both ends

Archaeology



Historic Buildings



Landscape



Local History



Contents Spring 2015 2014

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Landscape

Editor: George Campbell, 10 Church Lane, Highfield, Southampton, SO17 1SZ
e-mail: campbell.georgef@gmail.com

Editorial George Campbell

One of the hazards of being this Newsletter editor, is that you do not know what is lurking in the undergrowth, likely to spring out and confront you. The undergrowth, as you have probably already deduced, represents the knowledge and expertise of our members, which in the absence of any list of members' interests, an editor may be unaware of, since so many of our members work assiduously at their researches, while modestly refraining from publicising their work, until some naive amateur has the temerity to venture into their field of operations, and commits a *faux pas*. That member's hackles, justifiably, but invariably politely, are raised.

This has occurred twice recently. The more recent case revealed David Freemantle as an authority on religious houses, who, once he had declared his hand, agreed to set my Beaulieu piece (Newsletter Spring 2014) into a wider context (below).

The landscape is peppered with evidence of former initiatives that were overtaken by later events,

giving rise to that evocative expression: 'It seemed a good idea at the time'.

The religious houses are one example, where, although for centuries they grew and prospered, were overtaken by events when Henry VIII dissolved them, and acquired their wealth, which, in turn, was eventually drained by the cost of his futile wars with France.

However, investment in land and property can lead to wealth and power. It ensures survival; it may lead to prosperity. Investment can be for self or for others; one's family, to maintain 'the estate'; or a community such as a religious group; or even at national level, where, for example, the government of Norway is investing its profits from North Sea oil for the benefit of its people.

The following three articles explore various investments in land and property, which at the time seemed a good idea, and their effect on the landscape. The editor would welcome more examples.

The Religious Houses of Medieval Hampshire

David Freemantle

Between the introduction of Christianity to England by St. Augustine in 597 and the Dissolution of the Monasteries, communities of religious men and women multiplied in number and evolved. In the process they acquired extensive landholdings that made the Church exceptionally wealthy, with combined assets greater than those of the King.

Communal life spread quickly. A house of secular priests in Winchester can be dated c. 604, and legend places its origins even earlier. St. Boniface, who in middle age introduced organised Christianity to Germany c. 716, had studied at a community at Nursling (on the lower Test) as a young man. Similar quasi-monastic groups are known from Twynham (Christchurch), Eling (at the head of Southampton Water) and elsewhere. Each lived according to its self-imposed code of conduct. However, when the Rule of St. Benedict (written in the first half of the sixth century for the monks of Monte Cassino) reached these shores, monastic uniformity began to develop, albeit sporadically. The later tenth century brought reform which standardised monastic observance. Promulgated at Winchester c. 970, *Regularis Concordia* combined the Rule with both established practice and innovations which included the appointment of the king as protector of all monasteries with the queen given similar responsibility for nunneries; lay founders and patrons of religious houses were forbidden to interfere in monastic affairs. Documentary evidence is uneven. Although records have survived from individual

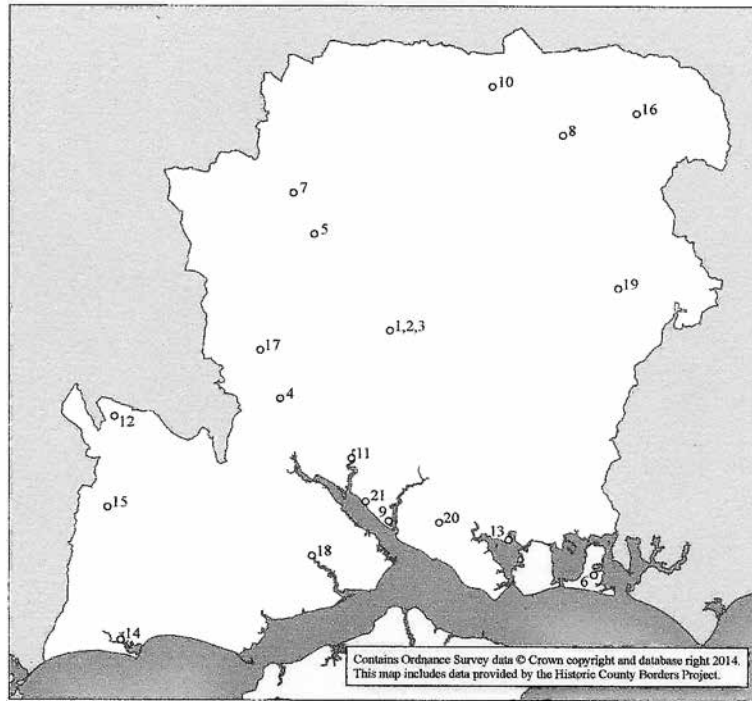
houses much was destroyed or dispersed, either deliberately at the Reformation or later by accident. Surviving sources include Domesday Book (1086), which gives details of the land owned by the earliest houses; for later foundations, historians have *Taxatio Papae Nicholae*, compiled in 1291 as the basis for clerical grants to the Crown, and *Valor Ecclesiasticus*, a valuation of all religious units made in advance of the dissolution of the first monasteries. However, the location and extent of property can be hard to determine precisely. Monastic land was usually acquired piecemeal and was often far from the house which owned it. For example, the Nunnaminster at Winchester had estates on the Test at Leckford, Shalbourne and Bradford-on-Avon (both Wilts.), and Thatcham (Berks.). Beaulieu not only had six granges in the so-called 'Great Close' near the Abbey but also manors, granges, and parcels of land in Oxfordshire and Cornwall, as well as other parts of Hampshire. The monks' account book for 1269/70 attests the skill with which they managed these widely separated assets.

Except for a handful of alien cells - small priories under the direct control of French monasteries, to which they sent *apport* (i.e. revenue from land) - all the county's Benedictine houses date from before the Norman Conquest. **Winchester Cathedral Priory** [1] which came into being c. 604 adopted the Rule of St. Benedict in 964. The following year the **New Minster** [2] was founded on the site of what had originally been one of the communities of secular canons mentioned above,

before its monks relocated to **Hyde** in 1010. The county's three great nunneries also date from the tenth century. The **Nunnaminster** [3] (c. 900) and **Romsey** [4] (c. 907) were respectively re-founded in 963 and 967. Whereas both adopted the Rule at the time of the re-foundation, **Wherwell** [5] (c. 986) was Benedictine from its inception. Hampshire did not witness the introduction of Cluniac monks that occurred elsewhere in the wake of the Conquest, but in 1067 the untypically large cell of **Hayling** [6] was founded by thirteen Benedictines and an abbot, all sent from Jumièges. **Andover** [7] was settled from St. Florent de Saumur not later than 1087.

At, or shortly after, the turn of the twelfth century, Henry I confirmed the foundation of a moderately-sized monastery at **Andwell** [8] where the first monks all came from Tiron (Normandy), which before 1128 also populated even smaller **Hamble** [9]. A large Benedictine cell of similar size to Hayling was established at **Monk Sherborne** [10] from Cerisy-la-Forêt c. 1120-30. The twelfth century also saw the rapid expansion of the Augustinian Canons whose Rule held that ministry to the spiritual needs of the laity formed part of the order's devotional work. Hampshire resembled the rest of the country in the speed with which the order spread. Houses were established in quick succession at **St. Denys** [11] (1127), **Breamore** [12] (1128-33), and **Portchester** [13] (1133), the latter moving to **Southwick** at an unknown date in the next two decades. The community of secular canons which had been at Twynham since before the Conquest was dispossessed c. 1150, and the successful Augustinian priory of **Christchurch** [14] established on the site by the powerful de Redvers family, who had earlier founded Breamore. The county's final Benedictine foundation was the small cell at **Ellingham** [15], settled from St. Sauveur-le-Vicomte in 1160. A Cistercian nunnery - the first in the country - was established at **Hartley Wintney** [16] no later than 1200.

The Augustinian Canons continued to expand after this date. **Mottisfont** [17] was founded in 1201 and **Selborne** [19] in 1233. However, the thirteenth century is noted for the somewhat late arrival of the Cistercians in the county. Since the order considered Benedictinism to have become lax and debased, its own Rule sought



Hampshire Religious Houses numbered in order of foundation

- | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. Winchester Cathedral Priory | 8. Andwell | 15. Ellingham |
| 2. New Minster (Hyde) | 9. Hamble | 16. Hartley Wintney |
| 3. Nunnaminster | 10. Monk Sherborne | 17. Mottisfont |
| 4. Romsey | 11. St. Denys | 18. Beaulieu |
| 5. Wherwell | 12. Breamore | 19. Selborne |
| 6. Hayling | 13. Porchester (Southwick) | 20. Titchfield |
| 7. Andover | 14. Christchurch | 21. Netley |

to reimpose monastic austerity. In 1204 King John made substantial gifts to the community at **Beaulieu** [18] to add to his previous year's benefactions at Faringdon (Oxon.) from where the monks had relocated. Premonstratensian Canons established **Titchfield** [20] in 1232-3 and, finally, **Netley** [21] was settled by monks from the flourishing community at Beaulieu in 1239. After this date the only new religious foundations in Hampshire were mendicant friaries, which form no part of this discussion since their members did not live communally.

Not all the houses mentioned survived until Henry

VIII's split from Rome. During the Hundred Years War with France the political position of alien cells became increasingly untenable. In 1391 Andwell and Hamble were granted to Winchester College, which c. 1414 also received Andover. When Hayling was suppressed in 1413 its assets were given the following year to Sheen Priory. Also in 1414, Ellingham was granted to Eton College and Monk Sherborne (where the parish church of Pamber was once the priory chapel) to St. Julian's Hospital, Southampton ('God's House'), from where it ultimately passed to The Queen's College, Oxford. When Selborne became unviable it passed to Magdalen College, Oxford in 1484. At the Reformation, the surviving possessioner houses and their vast assets together with the estates of the county's two houses of Knights Hospitallers, seven mendicant friaries, and seventeen hospitals all became part of the secular economy.

Acknowledgement

Many thanks to Ed Merritt who drew the map and patiently corrected errors.

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 Diana K. Coldicott, *Hampshire Nunneries*, (Chichester, 1989)
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 David Knowles & R. Neville Hadcock, *Medieval Religious Houses: England and Wales*, 3rd. edn., (London, 1971) N.B. All dates have been taken from this indispensable work.

Financial Planning, Investment, and Town Planning in the Late Middle Ages.

George Campbell

In 1477, when Warden Thorbern of Winchester College purchased the Swan Inn in Romsey, it was an investment to yield a profit, as today one would purchase an ISA. However, it was not for his old age, but for his death. It was not to support him in his retirement, but to help meet the cost of a fine chantry, endowments, and the masses to be said, after he died. Like everyone who wanted to realise the maximum appreciation on their investment, it depended on the choice of a sound manager. His was the innkeeper, appointed by his tenant; one who was trustworthy, entrepreneurial, and able to develop a diversity of profitable activities of benefit to the inn and its clients, thereby increasing its profitability.

The Swan was well placed for trade, fronting the market place at its north-west corner, at the entry point of the road from the north and close to the Abbey, which depended upon it to house its male visitors (fig.1). It is also evident from the detailed description of the inn's interior and the inventory, that it could adapt easily to changing circumstances, and, if necessary, revert to a private house (1). So, this inn was evidently a low risk/high yield investment, likely to bring in a steady income, and in the long term, appreciate significantly in value, in order to meet the cost of the expensive chantry he so desired.



Fig.1 The White Swan, Romsey

Many others besides Warden Thorbern recognised the potential of inns as sound investments, and planned accordingly. In the early 1400s, one, Mark le Fayre of Alton, invested in the George, Winchester, which, like the Swan, was on a prominent site at the corner of the High Street and the Jewry, obviously a prime trading site. At the time, this was a new inn, and clearly a sound investment. But Le Fayre was not simply an inn owner; he also possessed thirty seven properties in the city (2b), and was a leading vintner. Keene described him as probably the wealthiest landowner and merchant in the city in the early 1400s (2). His home was the first building to the left of the corner property.(fig.2). Overall, his investments appeared to be soundly based.

Corporate bodies were also active in the purchase and building of similar properties for long-term investment. By the mid 1400s, they recognised that manufacturing industry and towns were developing, with expanding trade particularly in cloth, and with much business



Fig.2 Parchment Street/High Street corner, Winchester: residential centre of the wealthiest tradesmen, including le Fayre

conducted in the market place and neighbouring inns. A prominently positioned inn seemed then to offer corporate bodies unlimited scope for profit. In what Edward Roberts describes as 'a sudden burst of activity in the 1440s', Winchester College built the Angel at Andover, the George at Alresford, and the Swan at Kingsclere. Later, Magdalen College, Oxford built the Bell at Andover, and Corpus Christie College, Oxford, the Pelican at Hursley and the White Hart at Overton (3).

Even more numerous than the colleges were the monasteries, those medieval equivalents of our multinational corporations. They were large landowners, and by the 1400s had developed agricultural and manufacturing industries. They were big employers,



Fig.3 Newtown, IOW. The High Street on medieval burgage sites

producers and consumers, as well as the main providers of hospitals, schools and other social services, to their local communities. Their records reveal how rigorously the best of them planned their economies, with the aim



Fig.4 Newtown, IOW. The 17c Town Hall

of perpetuating their community's welfare, preserving its spiritual traditions and providing services to the secular world.

But the corporate body yielding the greatest wealth was undoubtedly the Bishopric of Winchester, which planned and built in a big way. The inspirational pioneer was Bishop de Lucy, who, in the early 13th century, planned and laid out six new market towns on his estates (4). Their central purpose was to promote and develop trade, which in turn would generate wealth; the four Hampshire ones of (New) Alresford, Overton, Newtown (Burgclere) and Downton, operating in unison as a network, each drawing on an advantageous position where routes converged and within a productive hinterland. The central market place in each one was created to a standard pattern, large and rectangular for ease of regulation and administration, and with easy access. The adjacent streets of houses were all laid out in a regular grid-iron pattern for the same reasons. Alresford still clearly displays these features. The fifth and sixth new market towns were Newtown, originally Francheville, on the Isle of Wight, and Hindon in Wiltshire. Newtown (IOW), not being advantageously positioned, at the head of a shallow creek, and too far from the Island's crossroads, never prospered. However, its medieval burgate plots are still occupied by a line of cottages in the former High Street, preserving a straight east-west arm of the original grid-iron plan (figs.3 &4).



Fig.5 Overton Court Farm. The barn.

successive bishops also showed a continuing interest in the maintenance of their property by investing in renewal and replacement when necessary. Edward

Bishop de Lucy's foundation in the early 13th century was well timed, in relation to the prospering agricultural economy and sense of security engendered by the political stability of the country, following a long period of civil strife. The newly founded towns benefited from this, particularly in the early years of that century, before the 14th century impact of the disastrous harvests of 1315-1321 and later pestilences. But

Roberts provides a good example, where at Overton in about 1500 the bishopric paid a total of £34 for a new farmhouse and £47 for a new barn at Court Farm, the high quality of which can be judged from the buildings which are still used for their original purposes, although situated just outside the 'planned town' (5) & fig.5.

But the Bishopric of Winchester was not the only wealthy corporate body to be thinking of increasing its prosperity by planning and building big. In 1220, in the next county, the Bishop of Salisbury planned and built New Sarum on an open and easily accessible level site to replace Old Sarum on its ancient and cramped defensive hill. Because of its favourable position at the confluence of several valleys and routes, New Sarum not only succeeded in establishing itself, but effectively eclipsed Bishop de Lucy's recently founded (1214) market town of Downton by siphoning off much of its potential trade. In a similar show of foresight and initiative, the Count of Perche, Newbury's landlord, realised the economic potential of its site, at the crossroads of the east-west London road and the midlands-south coast routes, and developed the town and its prescriptive market, from about 1204 (6). His early success ruined Newtown's



Fig.6 Netley Abbey founded, 1239, dissolved 1536, photo 2012.

hopes of ever becoming an important market centre, two miles south of the key crossroads.

Bishop de Lucy's shrewd investment in towns as profit yielding trading centres, perhaps did not foresee some of them becoming even more successful in the post-medieval period, which they did. A later Winchester bishop, Richard Fox, made the mistake of underestimating the potential profitability of towns when he founded Corpus Christi College, Oxford in 1517. He had earlier invested in agricultural land, with the aim of supporting the College with the income realised from leasing it. Unfortunately, towns were developing, while the weight of his investments lay in country estates, in long leases. This meant that the income from them did not rise with the increasing value of the land, which, during the period of the lease, may have been extensively built upon and thus yielding a much higher return, but of benefit to the lessee rather than the landowner, the College. (7). An example is described by Waight of the renewal of a college lease as late as 1813, on land which by then was occupied by a mansion house, when the formula for the calculation of the rent was, as it had been in 1594, on undeveloped land. (8).

The period of Bishop Fox also witnessed the destruction of the monasteries, and with them their planned economies, which had extended into their local communities.. All these services disappeared along with the jobs performed by local employees, which left many families desperately in need, and creating large numbers of vagrants (fig.6).

It was left to succeeding generations of prosperous local tradesmen, who rather than investing their wealth in a chantry or masses as they might have done earlier, complemented such government initiatives as the Poor Laws, by helping to fill the vacuum left by the Dissolution. They built schools, of which examples are Eggars Grammar School, Alton (1638) and Richard Lyne's Free Grammar School, Ringwood (1587); almshouses, such as John Pollen's Almshouses, Andover (1686); hospitals, such as Peter Symonds' Christe's Hospital, Winchester (1586). Henry VIII's children also helped to pick up the pieces left in the wake of the Dissolution. Edward VI founded schools, including King Edward VI Grammar School, Southampton. Elizabeth I created the first Poor Law in 1572.

With the Dissolution's destruction of chantries, so ended that tradition illustrated by Warden Thorbern's investment. Colin Platt describes below one of the last local examples of investment in an expensive chantry, and how after a very short time, it was succeeded by a cheaper alternative.

'Thomas Huttoft, in June 1554, had been among

the last to provide elaborately for the ceremony at his death. His careful directions for the siting of his tomb in the fraternity chapel of St. Barbara at St. Michael's, for the celebration of memorial masses, and for the reward of all concerned, belong to a reputable but failing tradition. John Staveley's testament, prepared within the decade, is refreshingly free of such morbid preoccupations. The arrangements were to be left to the good sense of his wife and his friends. The one stipulation made was that they should not be "over costely" ' (9).

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2. Keene, Derek, *Survey of Medieval Winchester, Part 1, 1985, pp. 272/3, 275, 281; Part 2 1985, pp. 481 35-9*
- 2b Biddle, Martin Ed., *Winchester in the Early Middle Ages, 1976 , p. 3743.* Roberts, Edward *Hampshire Houses 1250-1700, pp.194/5.*
4. Beresford, Maurice, *The Six New Towns of the Bishop of Winchester, Medieval Archaeology 3 1959, pp. 187-215.*
5. Roberts, Edward, *Overton Court Farm and the Late Medieval Farmhouses of Demesne Lessees in Hampshire, HFC Proc. 51, 1996 pp. 89-106.* Field Club members were privileged to be able to verify this, when during the summer of 2012 Edward Roberts and Bill Fergie arranged a visit, reported in Newsletter 59 pp.5-7.
6. Letters, Samantha, et.al. *Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs in England and Wales to 1516, 2004 p.56.*
7. Waight, Stan *The Hampshire Lands of Corpus Christie College, Oxford, and their Management, 1500-1650, Hampshire Studies,1996, p.168.*
8. Waight, *ibid.* p.183.
9. Platt, Colin, *Medieval Southampton, 1973, pp.212/13, quoting H.R.O. Will of Thomas Huttoft,1554; Black Book III p.10.*

Corpus Christi College's Estates in Hampshire: *Their acquisition, security and ultimate disposal*

Stan Waight

The 1996 edition of Hampshire Studies contained an article on the management of the Hampshire estates of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. This, much shorter, piece concerns the College's proprietorship of those estates - the endowment of other colleges could have proceeded in a similar manner.

The Founder, Richard Fox, Bishop of Winchester, had had the foundation of a college in mind for several years. Therefore, when he founded Corpus Christi in 1517, he had already acquired a number of estates for the purposes of endowment. His elevated position gave him access to intelligence when desirable estates became available, and he continued to purchase suitable ones. A few other endowments came from the bishop's acquaintances, such as the complete manor of Mapledurwell, donated by his steward William Frost. It is of note that the College was said to be founded 'out of the private revenues of Foxe and a few friends and not, as was the case with some other foundations, out of ecclesiastical spoils' (1). All the estates were of good quality, and varied from arable land on the Hampshire Downs to grassland on the heavier soils of the Hampshire Basin; the open-fields around Mapledurwell were an example of the former, while the pastures at the end of droving roads in Nursling

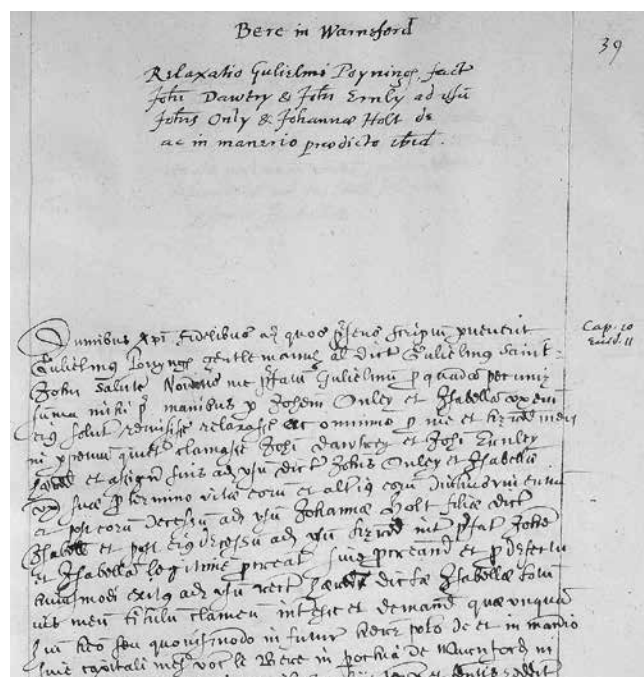


Fig.1 Part of a page of the Twyne Transcripts relating to Bere Farm in Warnford. Reproduced by permission of the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. Twyne Transcripts Volume 10, p.39



Fig. 2 The Langdon Map of the Nursling and the S. Stoneham estates. Reproduced by permission of the President and Fellows of Corpus Christi College, Oxford CCCO MS 533 Vol. 2.

and South Stoneham were both cases of the latter.

Land was the principal source of income at this time, and proof of ownership was all important. For Corpus Christi, evidence of title was provided in

two series of documents. The first were the so-called Twyne Transcripts - copies of the original title deeds transcribed by College members in 1627 (fig. 1). The second was the set of extremely accurate maps drawn by Thomas Langdon in the early years of the 17th century (fig.2). Together these documents would have provided a formidable armoury with which to fight lawsuits. In the event, none of the Corpus estates was lost to challenges to its ownership.

Upon endowment, the Corpus Christi estates, as in other colleges, became subject to mortmain - that is, they could not be sold. Furthermore, the rents obtained from them tended to be fixed. This acted against the College's interest, and by the early 19th century its leases were termed 'beneficial' (for the tenant that is). However, the *Universities and College Estates Act of 1858* (2) released all colleges from the ban on alienation and much of Corpus Christi's landed estate was gradually sold off after that year.

Notes

1. Fowler, 1893, 30 *The History of Corpus Christi College*
2. Public General Statutes 21 & 22 Vict c 44

'The Bigger Picture:' Brief Conference Report.

George Campbell

About 100 members attended the annual conference, held at Peter Symonds College on November 8th 2014 which brought to bear four different perspectives on Hampshire's medieval landscape, in relation to what lay beyond its borders. All four speakers: Professor David Hinton (*The Anglo-Saxon Landscape and the Influence of the Church*), Dr. Simon Roffey (*Medieval Hospitals and the Landscape*), Dr. John Hare (*Settlements and Landscape in the Chalklands of Wessex 1100-1500*) and Dr. Mark Page (*Hampshire's Medieval Landscape in Context*), presented authoritative statements, appropriately illustrated and convincingly

argued, based on new evidence, much of it drawn from their own researches. From time to time, each of them related their findings to the work of the other speakers, so that one had the impression of an interdependent field of study, with interlocking sections. However, it also became increasingly apparent of some uncertainty over the accuracy of earlier work, which, perhaps, in the light of new evidence, required revision. So, as in many fields of study, as new evidence emerges, new questions arise. All four speakers left us with new questions to ponder, after a most enjoyable conference.

A full report will appear in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Archaeology

Editor: David Allen, Hampshire Cultural Trust, Chilcomb House, Bar End, Winchester, SO23 8RD
tel (01962) 826738; email: david.allen@hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk

Editorial David Allen

The winds of change whistle softly around the museum corridors, and the Hampshire Cultural Trust is now a reality, merging the previously separate Winchester City and Hampshire County services. The new organisation is run from Chilcomb House, and in common with many businesses, is constantly endeavouring to improve its 'on-line' offer. As well as a straight-forward search which will bring you a developing home page, look for <https://hampshirearchaeology.wordpress.com/> which consists of a number of thumbnail sketches drawn from the collections, and may even hold a tid-bit about somewhere near you. For the time being the sheer bulk, and discrete nature, of the archaeological collections means that the city material is in the city depot and at 'F2', looked after by Helen Rees, and the county collections at Chilcomb, attended to by David Allen. Both parties welcome volunteers, so if you want to get up-close to many varieties of pottery, or help sort through old archaeological archives, look no further – just get in touch.

In the last Newsletter we made mention of Petersfield Heath, where a community archaeology project is picking its way between the cricket pitch and the boating lake to take a close look at the surviving features of an extensive Bronze Age barrow cemetery.

An interim report has just arrived, describing the successful sectioning of one of the largest mounds, which yielded parts of a bronze dagger, a whetstone, and a number of arrowhead 'blanks'. Further work is planned for June and September and anyone interested in joining in should contact Petersfield Museum. A paper on this will be given at the Landscape section Conference in November 2015

In this issue our attention is drawn to some much earlier activity. A spin-off from the Section Conference of 2013 was for a small group to meet up with Ella Egberts at Woodgreen, near Fordingbridge, where modern dating techniques are being brought to bear on a site examined over 27 years ago – Techer Jones takes up that particular story. Delving even deeper into the gravels is Dr Rob Davis who, having looked at as many Hampshire axes as he could lay his hands on, is able to cast a critical eye over the contextual information, and come up with what may be the three earliest examples from the county.

We redress the chronological balance by taking a look at the most recent work by WARG at St Elizabeth's Chapel in Winchester, courtesy of Dick Whinney and, in addition, Section Chair Jan Bristow describes her efforts to bring a Gosport 'test-pit' experience to members of her evening class.

Visiting the Lower Palaeolithic at Woodgreen

Techer Jones

In September some Field Club members and other local societies had a very interesting morning at Woodgreen in the western part of the New Forest. Ella Egberts, a doctoral student at Bournemouth University, was conducting a one-week excavation, re-visiting a 1987 excavation by John Wymer. In the period between 1850 -1930 around 400 hand axes were discovered in this very small area during gravel extraction. Wymer's excavation found evidence for axe manufacturing and concluded that the gravel terrace was likely to date to the Palaeolithic – a time when the Avon was a wider, braided river. The project aim was to try and date the site.

Optically Stimulated Luminescence (OSL) was not available to Wymer, hence Ella's re-opening of the site. OSL analysis can date the nuclear protons in the mica within sand. This allows dating of the axes lodged in that sand - a gross oversimplification by your scribe of the technology involved! The Hampshire Avon valley has four other sites out of a national total of 19 which are important for the manufacture of hand axes of this period. These are at Bemerton, Milford Hill, Fisherton and Harnham. The Harnham axes have been dated to around 250,000 years ago BP (before present).

Ella has geological reasons to believe that the Woodgreen site may be earlier at perhaps 350,000 BP. It is telling that the Hampshire Avon axes are of the

Acheulean type related to *Homo heidelbergensis* (think Boxgrove man), whereas those found in the Thames Valley from the same period are of the later Levallois industry. Ella's story was fascinating and very instructional. Those who attended are waiting with bated breath for the OSL results.



Fig. Ella with the Woodgreen section: Photo Chris Sellen.

Three Lower Palaeolithic Handaxes from Southampton Common: Candidates for the Earliest Archaeology in Hampshire

Robert J. Davis

Department of Archaeological Sciences, University of Bradford, BD7 1DP

MIS, or Marine Isotopic Stages, dating uses marine cores for absolute dating; MIS 11 is c 424,000 years ago (kya) and MIS 15 c 620 kya.

Introduction

The Pleistocene sands and gravels of the rivers Test and Itchen have produced a rich archaeological record that provides evidence for the earliest human occupation in Hampshire and, potentially, some of the earliest Acheulean handaxes in Britain (Hosfield 2011). Over the last 150 years, large quantities of Lower Palaeolithic handaxes have been discovered in fluvial terrace deposits in the Southampton and Romsey areas, as well as at key sites such as Dunbridge and Warsash (Wessex Archaeology 1993). Precisely dating much of this material is problematic. In the absence of a comprehensive absolute or biostratigraphic dating scheme (Bridgland 2001; Briant et al. 2012), the river terraces themselves at least provide a relative dating framework in which the comparative age of the archaeological material can be considered.

Stone artefacts that can be demonstrated to have been recovered from the fluvial deposits that form a terrace must be at least as old as that terrace. As each terrace was formed during successive phases of the climatic cycles of the Pleistocene (Bridgland 2001), their associated archaeology can be placed in a relative chronological order where artefacts from higher terraces are likely to be older than those from lower, more recently formed, terraces. However, artefacts recovered from the surface or from deposits that overlie the terrace sands and gravels are likely to have been manufactured and discarded sometime after terrace formation. The location of a find spot is therefore not enough to determine the relative age of an artefact if its geological context cannot be demonstrated.

This can be problematic if detailed contextual information is lacking or absent, something specifically highlighted for the Solent Basin (Ashton et al. 2011). Identification of the likely earliest evidence for human occupation of the region must therefore be based on a thorough review of all available contextual information (Davis 2013).

Establishing the earliest artefacts in the Test and Itchen terraces

The Southern Rivers Palaeolithic Project (SRPP; Wessex Archaeology 1993) database provides a starting point for assessing the relative richness of successive terraces of the Test and Itchen. Ashton and Hosfield (2010) critically reviewed the SRPP data for the Solent Basin in light of current geological mapping and produced a summary of the quantity of handaxes and Levallois artefacts recovered from each terrace. This has been further refined by a thorough study of all available contextual information (Davis 2013; Table 1). Ashton and Hosfield (2010) identified a pattern, common to all the main river valleys of the Solent Basin, where the middle terraces are characterised by rich archaeological records with secure provenance that contrast the sparse and poorly contextualised records of the higher terraces. In the Test and Itchen, terraces 2 through to 6 have rich records recovered from well-known gravel pits, whereas terraces 7 through to 11 have a very small number of associated artefacts for which contextual information is

either extremely limited or non-existent. On this basis, the Terrace 6 handaxes recovered from Ridge Gravel Pit and Pauncefoot Hill Pit are certainly earlier than most, recently dated to either MIS 11 (c.400 kya) or MIS 13 (c.500 kya; Westaway et al. 2006; Briant et al. 2012). The question is: can a reliable provenance within the relevant terrace deposits be determined for any

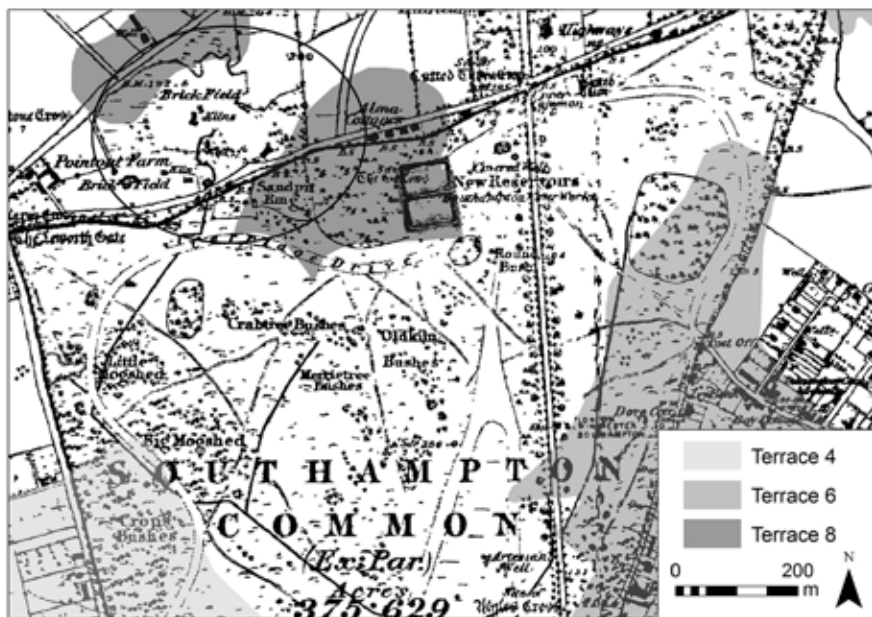


Fig.1: The northern end of Southampton Common in 1872. Note the brickfields at the north-west corner that match the description of the Town Pits by Mr Read and are the likely source of the Town Pit handaxes. Created using 1st Ed. (1872) 1:10,560 County Series (Hampshire Sheet), © Crown Copyright and Landmark Information Group Limited (2015). All rights reserved. (1872).

	Terrace	SRPP		Ashton & Hosfield(2010)		Davis (2013)	
		Handaxes	Levallois	Handaxes	Levallois	Handaxes	Levallois
Youngest	Terrace 1	35	-	32	-	37	-
	Terrace 2	391	1	353	1	412	3
	Terrace 3	197	14	215	14	472	31
	Terrace 4	577	4	1577	8	1585	7
	Terrace 5	13	-	13	-	13	4
	Terrace 6	4	-	152	-	168	-
	Terrace 7	152	-	5	-	1	-
	Terrace 8	73	1	11	-	3	-
	Terrace 9	1	-	1	-	-	-
	Terrace 10	1	-	1	-	-	-
Oldest	Terrace 11	2	-	2	-	-	-

Table 1: Summary of changing understanding of the distribution of handaxes and Levallois artefacts across the terraces of the rivers Test and Ichen. This article hand axes shown in bold.

of the small number of artefacts associated with the higher terraces?

One handaxe that can be confidently viewed as older than the Ridge and Pauncefoot Hill material was recovered from a geological test pit dug into Terrace 7 gravels at Great Copse, Mottisfont (Bates *et al.* 2004). This is the *only* handaxe that can be reliably assigned to Terrace 7, as historic mapping and artefact labels clearly indicate that the five handaxes from Stanbridge attributed to Terrace 7 by Ashton and Hosfield were in fact recovered from a gravel pit at Lone Barn Farm, west of Romsey, which was exploiting Terrace 3 gravels (Davis 2013).

In fact, none of the higher terrace artefacts listed by Ashton and Hosfield can be confidently assigned to the relevant terrace deposits. In the cases of the three handaxes recorded from Chilworth associated with Terrace 10 and Terrace 11, and the one handaxe from Netley Common associated with Terrace 9, an absence of contextual information makes it impossible to rule out the possibility that these were surface finds. This is compounded by the current location of the handaxes being unknown, preventing examination of their condition for the tell-tale signs of time spent in a fluvial gravel context. Furthermore, in the case of Netley Common, historic mapping reveals a number of gravel pits at this location that exploited terraces 6, 8 and 9, and there is no evidence to determine with which pit the handaxe is associated (*ibid.*). Likewise, in the case of the 11 handaxes recorded from Midanbury Hill, Southampton, and associated with Terrace 8, there is no clear indication of the specific location of their discovery, with a number of candidate gravel pits in the area depicted on historic maps (*ibid.*).

There is, however, evidence that three handaxes recorded from a pit at the north-west corner of Southampton Common may have been recovered from Terrace 8 gravels. The site is listed as the

Town Pits by the SRPP but without a geological context, indicating an unknown provenance. However, a record of their discovery survives in the archives of the Ashmolean Museum, Oxford, in the form of a series of letters from their discoverer, a Mr. Read of Southampton, to John Evans, who mentions the site in *The Ancient Stone Implements of Great Britain* (1872). Written in 1869, the letters record the discovery of three handaxes from the upper gravel pit located in the north-west corner of Southampton Common, where the surface height is between 180 and 190 feet above sea level (approximately 55m to 58m OD). More specific contextual information is provided for one of the handaxes, with one letter recording its discovery in a mass of gravel that had fallen from the exposed section. This handaxe is in the Evans Collection at the Ashmolean Museum and is in a rolled and stained condition that is typical of artefacts recovered from fluvial gravel contexts. The only pits depicted on historic mapping that match this description of location and altitude are a sand pit and brick fields that overlap two patches of Terrace 8 (Fig. 1). On this basis, the three Town Pit handaxes can be assigned to Terrace 8 with a reasonable degree of confidence, which, if correct, makes them the oldest known artefacts in Hampshire.

Implications for early human occupation of southern Britain

A recent chronological model for the Test terraces equates Terrace 8 with MIS 15 (c.600 kya; Westaway *et al.* 2006). While this remains contentious, if correct then the presence of handaxes in Terrace 8 gravels has implications for broader understanding of the timing of the appearance of Acheulean technology in southern Britain. There is widespread evidence for Acheulean occupation in Britain during MIS 13 such as at Warren Hill and High Lodge in East Anglia, and Boxgrove and Kent's Cavern on the south coast (Hosfield 2011). These sites are part of

a broader proliferation of Acheulean sites across Europe at this time, and it is tempting to view the first appearance of large handaxe assemblages in the Solent Basin, such as the Terrace 6 handaxes of the River Test, as being part of this broader pattern. Evidence for Acheulean occupation in Britain during the preceding MIS 15 (620 kya) interglacial is much rarer, perhaps limited to a handaxe assemblage from Lakenheath, Suffolk, recovered from deposits related to the second terrace of the erstwhile River Bytham (Ashton & Lewis 2005). If this reading of the record is correct, then it suggests an earlier dispersal of Acheulean technology into Britain during MIS 15 that appears to have been less successful and/or more short-lived than the later dispersal during the MIS 13 interglacial. It is possible that the Palaeolithic record of the rivers Test and Itchen reflects such a scenario. To test this, the development of an absolute chronology for the fluvial terraces of the Solent Basin should be a priority for future Palaeolithic research of the region.

Acknowledgements

This work was conducted as part of doctoral research funded by the AHRC. Thanks to Rob Hosfield, Nick Ashton and Simon Lewis for their advice and guidance, and to Dave Allen of Hampshire Cultural Trust and Alison Roberts of the Ashmolean Museum for providing access to the collections and archives under their care.

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Report on a Test Pit opened in the front garden of 'The Thatched Cottage', 12 Little Lane, Alverstoke, Gosport, PO12 2LA.

Jan Bristow

A Test Pit was opened in the front garden of 12 Little Lane, Gosport, on 25 October 2014, as a training exercise for a small group of Adult Education students from St. Vincent College, Gosport, led by Jan Bristow, their tutor. The cottage is thought to be 17th century in date, and fronts onto a small triangular space within the heart of the village (Map 1).

The pit was opened to a depth of 0.60m and each context described represents a roughly 100mm (4") spit, giving 6 contexts in all. The methodology followed the Test Pit Digging Guide from Access Cambridge Archaeology. As well as a location plan, each context surface was sketched, with sketched section drawings. The finds retrieved from sieving were treated according to ACA guide lines, and each context can be briefly described as follows. (A more detailed list of the categories of finds is entered on the Context Record sheets.)

Context 1: Contained a considerable variety of occupation and demolition debris, including glass, metalwork and building material. There were



Fig 1: Probable scraper from Context 1



Map 1: Central Alverstoke in 2014



Map 2: Central Alverstoke in 1932

a number of pieces of clay pipe stem, and some worked flints, including a probable Neolithic scraper (see Fig. 1).

Context 2: Contained fewer artefacts, but again they consisted mostly of 20th and 19th century occupation debris such as mass-produced glazed pottery and coal/slag pieces. A number of probable worked flints was also present.

Context 3: Contained more occupation debris from the last two centuries, plus some flint flakes.

Context 4: This was a layer of more abundant finds, with several animal bone fragments showing butchery marks and a planate oyster shell.

Context 5: Contained a similar variety of building and occupation material, but with relatively more glazed pottery fragments.

Context 6: Contained some substantial chunks of red handmade brick, up to 60mm across (comprising about 30% of finds), mortar, tile and a few slate fragments. Butchered animal bone was also abundant (about 20%), plus a few more oyster

shells. About 30% of the surface contained burnt debris. The final surface (context 7) showed evidence of extensive burning.

From the finds retrieved there is evidence for continuous occupation, of not particularly high status, most of it of 20th and 19th century date, and some demolition debris (see map 2 dated 1932). Some of the clay pipe bulb fragments may be 18th century in date. The burning evidence became more apparent as we dug down and may represent the destruction of an earlier or adjoining structure. The presence of prehistoric flintwork is testament to its durability and, while not at all rare in Hampshire, shows the presence of Neolithic/Prehistoric settlers using this higher ground not far from the shoreline, currently about 250m away.

Editor's note: A site at Grange Road, about 2km to the northwest of Little Lane, was examined by Thames Valley Archaeological Services in 1992. They found evidence for a 9th-8th century BC Bronze Age open settlement with characteristic pottery and flintwork. *Proc Hants Field Club* 50, p 5-34 (1995) and the authors, Hall & Ford, placed the finds into their wider context.

Further archaeological excavations at St Elizabeth's College, Winchester, 2014

Dick Whinney

Introduction

Following excavations on the site of the church of St Elizabeth's College in 2011 and 2012 (Newsletters 57 and 61), volunteers working under the auspices of WARG (the Winchester society for archaeology and local history) returned in the first two weeks of August 2014, for a further season of investigation.

Historical Background

Documents describe St Elizabeth's College, commissioned in 1301-2 by Bishop John de Pontoise, as

a substantial medieval complex, located on land to the south of Wolvesey Palace. 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.

St Elizabeth's College was surrendered to the Crown in 1544. The deed of sale describes a wealthy establishment with a 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 Wriothesley, who quickly re-sold it in 1544 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 remains 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.

The excavation

Based on the earlier discoveries, the dig had three main objectives: to continue to investigate the western end of the chapel, to try to fully understand its origins and development; to examine a further area of the central portion of the chapel, to gain a better understanding of the transition from nave to chancel; and to try to locate the remnants of the three altars at the east end of the chapel.

The west end of the chapel

Further excavations were carried out at the north-west corner of the building, to try to resolve the rather unclear sequence uncovered in 2011 and 2012. It was postulated that the remains might provide evidence for an earlier, pre-14th century building. Although the area



Fig 1: Construction repair and demolition in north-west corner

is badly damaged by Victorian and later foul drains, careful and painstaking excavations yielded evidence for a complex sequence of construction, repair and demolition (Fig 1).

The overall sequence of construction, seen

elsewhere on the site, was confirmed. The foundations and superstructure of the church were built on a massive chalk raft, presumably laid to provide a solid platform in an area of high water levels but, as previously reported, this north-west corner of the chapel suffered from some structural weakness that required additional buttressing and support. Perhaps the underlying ground was wetter and thus had poorer load-bearing qualities than in other parts of the chapel. The alignments of the foundations in this corner were not perfect, and had to be corrected at the time of building. Although previously suspected as perhaps indicating the remains of an earlier structure, it is now thought that the misalignment and corrections created an inherent structural weakness, resulting in later subsidence both internally and externally, and necessitating further buttressing and repair. There is no clear evidence for a pre-14th century structure.



Fig 2: Relaid tiles?

There is some evidence for internal wooden scaffolding, to support the internal repair work. An area of apparently in-situ tiles (Fig 2) was initially thought to have survived the 16th century demolition. Close examination, however, suggests that they might be dated as late as the 1960s, perhaps as part of a modern experiment to recreate something of the floor.

It was previously thought that the isolated, substantial stone-lined burial at the west end may have been related to a possible earlier structure. In 2013 a sample of the human remains from the burial were sent for radio-carbon dating. The remains, of a male aged between 36 and 45, were dated to AD 1313, with a 95.4% probability, thus placing the burial squarely in the life time of the chapel.

The central area of the chapel

In 2012, investigations in the central part of the church uncovered a complex arrangement of masonry wall foundations and associated structures, together with a number of human burials in stone coffins or tombs. The 2014 investigation revealed more details about this area. It was confirmed that there were two steps leading from the nave into the chancel; these steps were the width of the nave. A further grave was located, but this had been robbed of its stone lining (Fig 3). The demolition debris was rich in Purbeck marble shafts, probably from windows, together with much dressed



Fig 3: Stone lined grave

stone and decorated floor tiles. Another disturbance in the area was confirmed as a trench dug in the 1960s!

A sample from the remains of the burial excavated in 2012, a possible male, over 45 years old, was also sent for radio-carbon dating. These remains were dated

to 1306, with a 95.4% probability. This male was thus interred only a few years after the completion of the chapel in 1304.

The east end of the chapel

In 2014 a concerted effort was made to try to identify remains of the three altars recorded in documents, as being located at the east end of the chapel. At a central point in the east wall, a large deposit of cut chalk blocks was discovered, where the central altar once stood. These blocks formed the remains of a foundation structure of some strength, such as might be required to support the weight of an associated altar with its masonry. No similar foundation has been found elsewhere on the site, and it therefore seems reasonable to interpret this as the central altar foundation. No trace of the superstructure of this or the other two altars survived.

Future Work

It is hoped that limited excavations will take place on site later this year, when a few areas to the east of the main chapel will be investigated. Identified as anomalies during geophysical survey, it is thought that these areas may contain some evidence of ancillary buildings that certainly existed at the height of the chapel's life.

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 could not have revealed the substantial amounts of new information about the building, thereby enhancing our knowledge and understanding of what was undoubtedly one of Winchester's significant medieval religious complexes.

Local History

Editor: Mark Page, 7 Irwell Close, Oakham, Rutland, LE15 6SX
email: mrp15@leicester.ac.uk

The Watermills of Twyford: Compton Mill

Chris Corcoran

Documentary Evidence

Within the Parish of Twyford today there are two watermills (Shawford and Hockley) and the site of a third (Brambridge). However Domesday book records six: 'the Bishop holds Twyford...4 Mills at £4' and 'also in Twyford, the Bishop has one manor...2 mills at £4 15s.' There is no indication of where any of these were. The Winchester Pipe Roll of 1301-2 (ed. M Page 1996) lists on p.269 under the manor of Twyford five mills and names them as Brambridge, Compton, North Twyford, South Twyford and Shawford. The entry for Compton is: '£2 15s. for the farm of the mill at Compton.' In the Winchester Pipe Roll of 1409-10 (ed. M Page 1999) p.363 the mill of Compton is again named in the Twyford entry as "at farm". There is today no knowledge or tradition of its existence.

Where was Compton Mill?

J S Drew in 'Compton, near Winchester' (1939) p.43 confirms the existence of a mill in 1302, rented from the bishop by the Wascelyn family of Compton Place. Drew surmises that the Wascelyn mill may well have been Shawford Mill which he knew to be part of the bishop's estates at that time. I do not agree. Drew does not seem to have been aware of the references to the mill of Compton in the entries for Twyford. The Pipe Roll for 1301-2 indicates that Shawford was managed by manorial officials, not 'at farm' as the mill of Compton was. Drew shows no knowledge of the existence of Compton mill. He may also have been unaware that the bishop had the rights to the full flow of the Itchen and so was able to control any use of it for milling or any other purpose. This of course explains the special position of the mill of Compton from a manorial perspective, namely that it was within Compton parish but paid rent to the bishop via his manor of Twyford.

So Where was Compton Mill?

Locating a mill last heard of in 1410 would not normally be possible without digging, but the contemporary references give several clues, firstly that the mill of Compton was within the parish; second that it functioned as the mill for the village; thirdly that it may have been operated by the Wascelyns; fourthly that it was a watermill. Applying these clues to the OS

maps and topography, it narrows the area of search to a small area north of Place Lane, Compton, between the railway and Compton Lock (Fig.1). It is Ancient Monument 1012675, described in the citation as the site of a moated manor house but with no mention of a mill. It is within the parish boundary of Compton.

Next, the flow of water: Shawford mill has abundant water via the Navigation. Compton mill was far enough upstream to make use of the same flow. However the Navigation dates only from about 1710 and does not connect to Compton Place. So we are looking for an earlier watercourse which can be shown to predate the Navigation and feed a mill within

Compton Place. One of the channels marks the boundary between Twyford and Compton. This indicates it was there before 1087. To understand how this drain (let us call it the Bishop's Drain) would have been fed in 1300 we have to airbrush out the Navigation. The level of the river would then have been significantly below that of the Navigation, so the feed into this old drain would have required a weir across the river. This is consistent with the delineation of the parish boundary. However the Bishop's Drain is below the level of Compton Place. A mill leat was required. This was provided by a take off from the Bishop's Drain about 200 yards

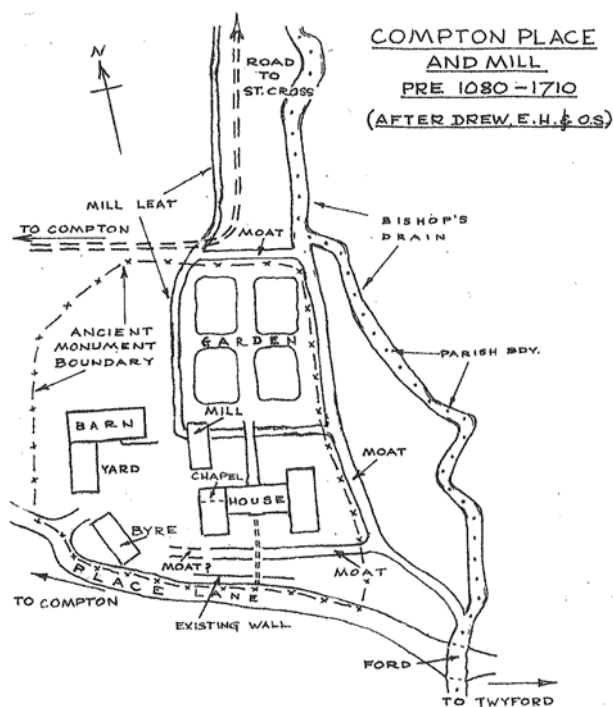


Fig 1: Compton Place and Mill pre 1080-1710

above Compton Place and led along the western edge of the valley. A possible channel is visible within the Ancient Monument itself, and to the north. Within the site there is the necessary fall and a deep depression indicating the mill race. (See also the earthworks survey of the Ancient Monument in HCC Historic Records and a survey note suggesting a mill in this location.)

When did the Mill Cease to be Used?

Compton Place was demolished shortly before 1713. The mill could no longer function after the Navigation cut off its water supply in about 1710. These

two events are likely to be linked. Whenever the mill ceased operation, Shawford mill was available to do the milling for the village. (See *The Mills and Millers of Hampshire* (Hants Mills Group) pp.61-2.) The water flow was then available for new watermeadows which were then of very high value, and which survive in part.

Conclusions

This study identifies for the first time the site of the mill of Compton; it applies documentary evidence and the findings of others to existing landscape features, using OS maps and close and frequent personal observation. As the subject of investigation is a mill, there are engineering requirements which are helpful in the search. Verification should be possible

by excavation of a very limited area within the Ancient Monument. The existence of a mill, adjacent to Compton Place and predating it, adds significantly both to the knowledge and significance of the site; it is an example of a high-status house established by a Norman family who were not lords of the manor on land incorporating a mill and operating it 'at farm'. The existence of a mill in Compton adds to the understanding of the day-to-day life of the mediaeval village.

Similar techniques can be used to locate other lost buildings, in particular mills, of which there is at least one in Twyford. Twyford is however exceptional in the number of its mills.

book reviews book reviews book reviews book reviews

Paul Fenwick (ed.), **Memories of Alton Project: Life in Alton During World War II**, MOAP no.2, 2014; pp.40, £3 + £1 p&p from Curtis Museum or Jane Hurst, 82 The Butts, Alton, GU34 1RD.

Oral testimony is a useful, and sometimes unique, source of information for the historian of 20th-century social and cultural life. Like written records, however, oral accounts have to be interpreted with care, and if possible corroborated by comparison with other sources. The *Memories of Alton Project* has gathered together contributions from 17 inhabitants who experienced life in the town and surrounding villages during World War II. Among the themes considered are the arrival of evacuees from towns affected by air raids, the impact of the air war on Alton itself, employment, rationing and the black market, the movement of troops, construction of the airfield at Lasham, the detention of German and Italian prisoners of war, the billeting of American forces, and the celebration of VE Day. Inevitably, given that 2015 marks the 70th anniversary of the war's end, these are mostly childhood memories of the war, though no less valuable for that. This illustrated selection provides some vivid and fascinating stories of ordinary life during extraordinary times, offering different but mostly compatible perspectives of the war's impact and its excitements, privations and dangers.

Mark Page

The Remembered Ones of the Great War from the Alton Villages, Alton and Villages Local History Forum, 2014; vol.1 pp.74, vol.2 pp.88, £4.50 + £1.50 pp each from Curtis Museum or Jane Hurst, 82 The Butts, Alton, GU34 1RD.

War memorials are a familiar feature of most towns and villages, but often little is known of the men whose sacrifice is commemorated by them. A group of local historians in the Alton area have compiled biographical information about all those killed on active service during World War I from the villages of Bentworth, Binsted, Chawton, East Tisted, East Worldham, Farringdon, Froyle, Hartley Mauditt,

Holybourne, Kingsley, Medstead, Newton Valence and Selborne. Most of those included are named on their village war memorials, though several were overlooked including John Parfitt of Binsted, whose family attended the memorial's dedication in 1921 and whose complaints led to his name being added later. A photograph of each village's memorial is provided with a short description of its commission, design and unveiling, followed by brief accounts of each man's birth, upbringing, service record, death and place of burial. Despite (or perhaps because of) all the events that have been staged over the last year to mark the centenary of the outbreak of war, the roll-call of mostly (very) young lives cut down in battle or lost at sea still has the power to shock.

Mark Page

Jean Dale, **Basingstoke Races**, Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society, 2014; pp.44, £6.50 + £1.20 p&p from www.bahsoc.org.uk.

Horse racing at Basingstoke was a regular feature of the racing calendar between 1687 and 1850, as this well illustrated booklet makes clear. Painstaking research by Jean Dale, mostly from newspapers, racing records and local documents, reveals the popularity of the races held on Basingstoke Down near Kempshott Lane until its inclosure by parliamentary Act in 1787. The races, held over several days in summer, were a lucrative source of income for local traders and an opportunity for gambling, drinking, cockfighting and socializing for the town's inhabitants. After an interval racing resumed in 1811 on a new course on Basingstoke Common, but despite support from local dignitaries including the Duke of Wellington it never regained its former success. No races were held during the 1830s, and when they restarted in the 1840s they were more genteel occasions with reduced prize money, a ban on gambling and restrictions on trade. At a meeting of the town council in 1881 a proposal to revive racing in Basingstoke was overwhelmingly rejected. This is a valuable work of local history on a topic that could all too easily be overlooked in accounts of the town in the 18th and 19th centuries.

Mark Page

George Parsons of Bursledon: Shipbuilder

Frank Wagstaff

Some 35 years ago I discovered, courtesy of a Prayer Book that had belonged to my three-times great-grandmother, that I was a direct descendant of George Parsons. It carries an inscription 'S. Swinburn. The gift of her beloved Grandfather George Parsons, who departed this life April 16th 1812. Bursledon Hants.' A J Holland's *Ships of British Oak* was therefore of particular interest and the ensuing family history researches have brought new material to my attention, which in some instances makes minor revisions to Holland's text necessary, as well as filling a few gaps.

Holland gives Parsons' birthplace as Poole without saying how he came upon this. However, in an unpublished paper, Joyce Moore, a former Bursledon resident, mentions two documents to which Holland may have had access, namely a statutory declaration made in 1848 by his grandson and an unfinished history of Bursledon. It is the latter which apparently sets us on the right track. The baptismal register of St James's, Poole contains a long line of Parsons and we may be confident of his descending from a Thomas Parsons, via George baptised 1669 and George baptised 1700. George, baptised 21 September 1729, is the subject of this article.

He served an apprenticeship in Portsmouth Dockyard though Holland gives no details. In 1748 a George Parsons aged 47 years 7 months is listed among the dockyard workmen.¹ This ties in with George snr's baptismal date and therefore by 1740² he had moved his family from Poole. George jnr began his apprenticeship in midsummer 1744 and is recorded as having entered on 18 June.³ The Portsmouth Dockyard pay book for Midsummer Quarter 1744 gives on p.7 Shipwright George Parsons receiving £13 12s. 1d. wages, and later on p.31 among the Quarter Boys, George Parsons receiving 12s. as wages with a further 5d. lodging. This was seemingly paid direct to him; he had worked 12 days and 24 'tides'⁴ at a daily rate of 5d. His apprenticeship would have ended in 1751 though he continued working there until 1762, when as a second shipwright his earnings, augmented as above, were around £10 quarterly.⁵

The move to Bursledon almost certainly occurred after he was discharged from the dockyard on 6 April 1763.⁶ To this we may add the baptismal evidence of his children; the eldest six were baptised at St Mary's, Portsea, the youngest, George, on 7 March 1762. Two more children were baptised at St Leonard's, Bursledon including John on 27 May 1765. So Holland's remark 'when he moved to Bursledon, [he] was the father of three children, two daughters and a son, aged ten'⁷ suggesting a date of 1772 is clearly wrong. Additionally, I doubt the attribution to him of a daughter, Martha,⁸ born 1752, who is rather more likely to be the child of George Parsons of Kingston (IOW) and Martha née Barlin of Titchfield who married at Holyrood, Southampton in 1752, though a Portsea burial in October 1753 of a Martha Pasons (sic) means it is not impossible.

By 1764 he was living in a house in Bursledon belonging to Thomas Cooper, a shipowner who was listed as paying poor rates on 'Pasons house'. Presumably

he was employed by Cooper and remained so for a number of years but by 1772 he had moved to a house belonging to Philemon Ewer, and was, one imagines, by now employed by him. Ewer was paying rates on this, though by 1779, when he was still in the same house he paid his own tax.

It is quite possible he moved to his own yard at Bursledon Point in 1774.⁹ Moore quotes an advertisement for the lease of a 'commodious yard' appearing in the *Hampshire Chronicle* that year. It was said to be especially suited to 'a timber dealer or shipbuilder'. The grandson's declaration lists the principal features of the yard, namely a timber yard with workmen's shops, a mould loft and other buildings in addition to the dockyard area where ships were built and repaired. There was a house on the site in which the family lived.

Now no one is going to be able to set up as a shipbuilder unless he has money or backing. The capital requirements will always be correlated to the raw materials, labour, rent and other overheads involved and the lead times in ship construction are necessarily long. Creditors cannot wait for ever. Parsons is unlikely to have had anything in the way of an inheritance sufficient to establish him in business while his earnings equally would not have sufficed. Consequently the nature of his relationship with Cooper and Ewer would be of interest. The only clue we have appears to be the wording of a 1776 advertisement for 'a good burthensome well built Sloop, about 30 tons, just finished' with enquiries being directed to Mr Philemon Ewer or Mr George Parsons at Bursledon. This suggests the latter's position was either agent to Ewer or that they were partners, which is more likely, and that Ewer put up the money with Parsons superintending the work. His share of the profits would have advanced his capital more appreciably and rapidly than ordinary paid employment could have done.

The first we know of Parsons building on his own account is via a Navy Board letter of 19 December 1778 to the Lords Commissioner of the Admiralty referring to 'an offer from Mr George Parsons to build in his Yard at Bursledon in Hampshire a Ship of 32 guns'. This was *Fox* and it did not have an auspicious start in life. On 20 May 1780 the Master Shipwright reported to the Navy Board that he had attended the launching of the ship and that

'as soon as the ship started the spurs on the larboard side of the bilge-ways broke and went from under her... She was two-thirds off from her launching ways with the after part of her keel in the mud... I therefore recommended to Mr Parsons to shore and secure her and wait for low tide, returning to report to Sir Sam. Hood. He directed me to send Mr Pollard, first assistant, to see if she will be got off on next tide, as it is a great misfortune that so well built a Ship should meet with such an accident in Launching'.¹⁰

Commissioner Hood wrote to the Navy Board on 2 June, 'Fox was hove off at 10.30 a.m. today and is now at her moorings and makes no water'.

There are few variations from Holland with regard to the warships built though the next, *Quebec*, another 32 gun frigate launched a year later, and the rebuilt *Ardent*, 64 guns in 1782, were built in partnership with one Stares suggesting his working capital did not provide the necessary margin for safety yet and that a backer was an essential safeguard. *Phoenix*, a 36 gun frigate, followed, launched 15 July 1783.

The American War of Independence ended in 1783, but *Elephant*, the ship by which he is best remembered, had been contracted as early as 26 December 1781 so work would have been well advanced when peace came. She was one of the *Arrogant* class, designed by Sir Thomas Slade, a third rate carrying 74 guns with two main decks, a quarter deck and three masts.¹¹ The keel was around 138 ft, the draught about 20 ft and the gundeck 168 ft. The postcard has some other interesting statistics: 'Her sides were of solid oak 24 inches thick; 2000 oak trees being cut up to supply the necessary material.'

Descriptions of its armaments also differ in detail and I shall use the figures from the postcard as the entry as a whole is more graphic:

'Her armament consisted of 28 guns weighing 3½ tons each on the lower deck – heavy 6 inch 32 pounders with a range of three miles, 28 long eighteens with a 5 inch bore on the main deck, and 18 nine pounders with a 4 inch bore on the quarter deck; besides carronades on forecastle and poop, and a heavy bow chaser on each side of the figure head.'

The figurehead has not survived, but was carved by the Hellyer family of ship carvers to the Navy. They submitted a price of £16 for their endeavours, though the Navy Board reduced this to £11.

A severe thunderstorm in late November 1790, when she was moored in Portsmouth Harbour, saw her struck by lightning nearly putting paid to her career before she had seen action. Two midshipmen and a quartermaster reported they were taking shelter under the poop deck and had seen a brilliant flash of lightning 'like a ball of fire' followed almost immediately by an immense clap of thunder. The lightning struck the brass fittings at the bottom of the main topmast, splitting the mast into pieces for a length of more than 20 ft. The mainmast exploded, while a thick pall of smoke began to fill the ship, accompanied by a heavy sulphurous smell and static charges ran about the *Elephant* for some time after. By very great good fortune she did not catch fire, nor was anyone hurt. Daylight showed that matters might have been much worse for it was only the toprope that saved the topmast from coming free and crashing down onto and perhaps through the quarter deck. It was reported 10 years later that 'a piece of maintopmast with part of the toprope still in it, is visible in the mast house at Portsmouth'. After the end of the war she was a partial victim of the need to reduce the size of the Navy and was cut down to a 58 gun fourth rate frigate in 1818 being finally broken up in 1830.

Dover, a 44 gun frigate, was also launched in 1786 and was to be the last for a while, as there had been peace for three years. A sloop, *Diana*, launched in October 1786 was one of the earliest of the merchant vessels that replaced the naval work. A detailed description of her has survived; a square-sterned carvel-built sloop of 63 tons having

'one deck and one mast, her length from fore part of the Main Stem to the After Part of the Stern post aloft is 56 ft 5 ins, her breadth at the broadest part above the Main Wales is 17 ft 3 ins, her height in the hold 9 ft 6 ins. Neither galley nor figurehead'.

George retained a half interest in this until 1809 when he sold it for £400. A further sloop, *Brothers*, launched c.1788, was part of the sequence of merchant vessels listed by Holland. Two sailing lighters were launched in 1793 but the resumption of warship building came the same year due to the outbreak of the French Revolutionary War and they may well have overlapped with *Galatea*, 32 guns, which was launched on 17 May 1794 with *Diligence* in 1795. In what was clearly a very busy period *Lighter* YC 18 was also launched in 1795 in Bursledon but on 21 December the same year a sloop named *Rattler* was launched at Northam.

Having two vessels under construction was by now seemingly the norm. *Lighter* No. 6 was launched in 1797 but *Penelope*, a 36 gun frigate, was launched on 26 September 1798 and therefore almost certainly overlapped with it. *Penelope* was only six months later to play a spectacular part in the capture of the 80 gun *Guillaume Tell*, the last fugitive from the French defeat at the Battle of the Nile. *Penelope*, under Capt Henry Blackwood, engaged her vastly superior opponent single-handedly for several hours by dint of approaching her stern within musket shot range by which means *Guillaume Tell* lost much of her sails and rigging. *Penelope* suffered two dead and two wounded.

Another half dozen ships followed during the course of the next few years: *Jason*, 36 guns, was launched 27 January 1800, *Resistance*, 36 guns, 29 April 1801, *Tribune*, 36 guns, 5 July 1803, *Fly*, 22 guns, 26 March 1804, *Apollo*, 36 guns, 27 June 1805 and *Horatio*, 38 guns, 23 April 1807. Holland makes a good point and emphasizes Parsons' efficiency on the basis that *Horatio* was finished two months early and *Apollo* seven weeks ahead of schedule. He was paid a premium of £500.¹²

The launch of *Apollo* was reported thus: 'On Thursday the *Apollo*, a fine frigate, of 44 guns (sic), was launched at Mr Parsons's yard, at Bursledon. She was christened by Sir Joseph Sydney Yorke, and went off in a very easy style. She has 15 ports of a side, and is built on the same model as the *Lively* frigate: her timber and workmanship cannot be excelled. Mr Parsons has an order for another of the same size and mould. The launch was attended by all the rank and fashion of the country around.'

The lease of his yard came up for renewal in 1807. The owner, William Thackthwaite, for reasons best known to himself, was eager to let the site to a new builder, who had secured a contract to build a 74 gun ship of the line. What Holland does not tell us is that George Parsons appeared to be renting the yard in conjunction with a third party, William Raingecroft. The Land Tax Assessments for 1808 show Thackthwaite's premises as then occupied by Blake and Raingecroft and one can only speculate as to the part played by Raingecroft in the proceedings. Parsons must, however, have had some reasonable period of notice and there is virtually nothing to add to the tale of his removal to Warsash. One small variation concerns the inn, the 'Shipwright's Arms', which was built for the workforce, with another source¹³ saying it was 'The Sun' which still survives on

the quay as 'The Rising Sun'.

There are no amendments to the Warsash built ships that I am aware of, though it is noteworthy that the 36 gun *Hotspur* was, whilst in American waters during the war of 1812, involved in the capture of the American frigate *Chesapeake* by *Shannon*, as the timbers of *Chesapeake* ended up in Wickham, incorporated into their mill by a branch of the Prior family, who were distantly related by marriage to the Parsons. The mill was consequently known as Chesapeake Mill and is still in existence.

*The last ship was Nymph, again a 36 gun frigate, launched on 13 April 1812. 'On Monday last a fine frigate called the Nymph (sic) was launched from Mr Parsons's Yard, at Warsash. The day being favourable, there was a great assembly of persons, amidst whose acclamations the ship glided into the water, in a fine style. A cold collation was provided in the morning, and upwards of seventy gentlemen afterwards dined with Mr Parsons, at his house at Bursledon.'*¹⁴ Later that year it was in American waters and by coincidence in 2004 I was in Massachusetts and visited the pretty little seaport of Rockport where we came across a plaque. Headed 'Old Stone Fort' it went on to say 'Site of fort erected by public subscription as a protection against British warships during the war of 1812, captured in a sneaky attack and dismantled by frigate NYMPH (sic). Ammunition gone, all nine seafencibles taken prisoner, the townsmen hurled rocks, using their stockings as slings'.

As a shipbuilder being a timber merchant too was a natural concomitant, his will referred to his timber barge, *Royal Oak*. The need to be well provided with timber is self evident, and an insight into this is provided by a document which accompanied the papers acquired in 1977. This is an agreement between him and James Collins, acting on behalf of Major William Peachey regarding a property in Durley identified by a pencil note in the margin as Stapleford Farm. The land had been bought at auction and the standing timber was to be valued once the leaves had fallen, by two independent assessors to be mutually agreed upon. The document, dated 8 October 1799, carries his signature in clear bold copperplate.

Unsurprisingly he was closely involved in

the consortium that got together for the purpose of bridging the Hamble from Bursledon to Swanwick. In his will he left his holding of four shares to his son John, having been one of the original shareholders. When problems arose a meeting was called on Christmas Day 1809 and over the following two years no less than £1,485 18s. 2d. was spent in what seems to have been a total reconstruction. Instead of employing outside contractors local expertise was called upon, and Parsons possessing a suitably skilled workforce undertook the job.¹⁵ The bridge lasted until a modern road bridge replaced it in the 1930s.

Three days after launching *Nymph* he died at home, the *Hampshire Telegraph* reporting: 'It is, with regret we announce the death on Thursday morning, of George Parsons, Esq. (the builder of the *Nymph*) in the 84th year of his age. He has left a high character for inflexible, undeviating integrity, and, the punctuality and uprightness with which he performed his Contracts with Government, in the building of ships of war for the Navy, gained him the esteem of the Navy Board, and render his death a public loss.' In accepting this judgment by his contemporaries it is appropriate, I think, to bear in mind the distinctly ordinary background from which he came, which makes his achievement all the greater.

References

- 1 M T Govern (ed.), *List of Workmen and Apprentices in His Majesty's Dockyards 1748* (Naval Dockyard Soc., 2002): ref. supplied by P Lockyer.
- 2 TNA, ADM 42/1258.
- 3 Ibid. ADM 42/1262.
- 4 A 'tide' was two hours overtime (Lockyer).
- 5 TNA, ADM 42/1278.
- 6 Ibid. ADM 42/1279; ADM 106/1123/112.
- 7 A J Holland, *Ships of British Oak* (1971), 120.
- 8 Ibid. 193.
- 9 Ibid. 120.
- 10 R J B Knight (ed.), *Portsmouth Dockyard Record Papers 1774-1783* (Portsmouth Record Ser. 6, 1987), 108: ref. supplied by P Lockyer.
- 11 Among some papers I acquired in 1977 was an old postcard of the Parsons' monument in St. Leonard's, Bursledon with handwritten annotations by, I have always assumed, John Denham Parsons (great-grandson). The dimensions he gives are slightly at variance with those contained in the Nelson Society's *Nelson's Flagship at Copenhagen HMS Elephant* (2001), 167.
- 12 Holland, *Ships*, 150.
- 13 S Ritchie, *The Hamble River* (1996), 8.
- 14 *Hampshire Telegraph* 18 Apr. 1812.
- 15 D Chun, *The River Hamble: A History* (2009), 73-6.

Archives and Local Studies news from Hampshire Record Office

Mark Pitchforth

Recent additions to the holdings

Schools and solicitors in Fareham

Documents, mainly relating to the Fareham area, collected by the late Alice James, a leading local historian of the town (149A09), including school magazines for Price's School, 1915-80, Fareham Girls' Grammar School, 1956-81, and Stubbington House School, 1949-55.

Churches, choirs and Quakers

Latest arrivals of parish records include documents about choirs at two churches: a choir register from Langrish, 1924-6 (205M84/PI8), and a choir donation and subscription book from West Meon, 1859-1924

(67M81), whilst a vestry and annual parochial church meeting minute book from Steep, 1878-1990, gives insight into the running of the church.

Album of drawings and paintings of buildings, places and people bearing the bookplate of Thomas Spencer and including depictions of Sopley Church and Rectory, Winkton Cottage in Sopley, Christchurch Priory, Chewton House and Milton Church (34A14/1).

The latest deposit of records of the Society of Friends (Quakers) comprises minutes of the Bournemouth Elders' Meeting, 1963-96, and the Bournemouth Friends' Literary Society, 1931-49

(24M54/624-5).

Romsey week by week

Two bound volumes of the Romsey Register newspaper, covering December 1858-December 1868 and February 1879- December 1884 (108M97/C1-C2).

Clubs and societies

Eastleigh and District Co-operative Society (87A14) records including management committee minutes, 1894-1900, a valuation ledger, 1920-53, reports and balance sheets, 1921-59, and early minutes for the Romsey Society, 1910-13.

Material relating to the Pumpkin Club, based at the Bear and Ragged Staff public house, Michelmersh including minute books, 1973-97, a 'Pumpkin Show' record book, 1971-97, accounts and treasurer's reports, 1975-89, correspondence and newspaper cuttings (59A14).

Swanwick and District Fruit Growers' Association records (62A14) including minutes, 1904-84, a letter book, 1904-18, and membership books, 1906-38.

The Southern Orchestral Concert Society committee minutes and files containing every concert programme, press releases, posters, etc. for each concert season from 1952 to 2012.

New Forest Cricket Association records including committee minutes, 1969-93 and scorebook, c.1966-1987 (120A13).

A railwayman at Eastleigh

The Chandlers Ford and Eastleigh area is represented by a group of papers of the Wadden and Crumplin families (54A14) including photographs of London and South Western Railway cricket teams and the clerical staff of the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Department at the Eastleigh Railway Works, 1937.

A hospital in Petersfield

Among accessions of official records, we have received some records from Petersfield Cottage Hospital. Material available for consultation includes a register of patients, 1871-1908 (52A14/B1) and a committee minute book, 1869-73 (52A14/A1).

Schools and estates

Petersfield Infant School records including admission registers, 1958-75, stocks and stores books, 1918-26, and an inventory, c.1960-98 (85A14/A1-6). St Mary's Church of England Aided School, Old Basing managers'/governors' minutes from 1903 onwards (49A06).

Managers' minute books for Herriard Church of England School, covering the years from 1903 to 1981, shortly before its closure, have been added to the Herriard parish records (86M82).

Recent additions to the Jervoise of Herriard Collection include account books of labour for forestry work, 1915-16 and 1921-2, and journals of forestry work recording the work done by each forestry worker, 1947-66 (44M69/E17/67-73), and also the minute book of the Herriard Horse Show, 1946-67 (44M69/E21/15).

Hampshire at war

Wartime records continue to be deposited, marking both the centenary of the First World War and the 70th anniversary of D-Day. These include:

A revised version of Kings Worthy's Roll of Honour (74A14/1-2), listing names of those who served in the Great War.

Album of photographs and poems presented to the Countess of Northbrook by patients at the Red Cross Hospital in The Judges' Lodgings, The Close, Winchester, 1915 (69A14/1).

DVD produced by Wemsfest, a community group based in Westbourne, Sussex, This was our D-Day, telling the story of the build-up to the momentous events of D-Day in the Havant and Emsworth area.

Businesses and people

Recent additions to a collection of material relating to the Alton area (43A05) include a diary of Harriet Purefoy Causton, 1869 (43A05/14) and company magazines of Courage and Company, The House of Courage, 1949-58 (43A05/25).

Personal papers recently received have included scrapbooks compiled by Lady Mary Long, wife of Walter Long of Preshaw House, Corhampton, c.1798-1815 (94A14).

Daily life at Beech

Diary believed to have been written by Edward Owen Wathen, covering 1906-35 (133A06/23), contains entries on his life in Aldershot, Jersey and Cheltenham and Beech, near Alton (28A14/1).

Houses and their owners

Research papers of Diana Coldicott about the history of Milford House, Milford (53A14), includes notes from title deeds, copies of plans and photographs, and information about individuals and families connected with the house.

Local Studies Collection: some new books and pamphlets

The attractively-illustrated Jane Austen's Country Life by Deirdre le Faye (Frances Lincoln, 2014, shelved at 823 AUS) explains how the landscape, the social fabric and the annual round of rural life in Hampshire provided the background for her novels.

Several recently-acquired titles use oral history interviews to give vivid insights into Hampshire life in the Second World War. Hampshire at War: An Oral History, 1939-1945 by Patricia Ross (The King's England Press, 2013, 940.534227). Updated edition of The New Forest at War by John Leete (Sabrestorm Publishing, 2014, 942.275084) includes memories on subjects ranging from the D-Day preparations to the work of RAF Ibsley. Action This Day, edited by Simon Lemieux (Portsmouth Grammar School, 2nd edition, 2004, 940.5310942279) is based on interviews conducted by Portsmouth Grammar School pupils and written reminiscences of Old Portsmouthians, and includes memories of veterans and evacuees. The Illustrated History of Southampton's Suburbs by Jim Brown (paperback edition by DB Publishing, 2013, 942.27) covers districts such as Merry Oak, Maybush, Millbrook, Weston and Woolston.

Three new books celebrate Hampshire County Cricket Club's 150th anniversary: 150 Not Out: Hampshire County Cricket 1863-2013 by Dave Allen and Stephen Saunders is a year-by-year chronicle of the club's history. Hampshire's First Eleven, by Alan Edwards, explores the lives of the eleven players in Hampshire's earliest first-class matches, in July 1864. Hampshire County Cricket Club: The Original Committee by Stephen Saunders, recounts the lives of the club's first committee members. They are on sale in

the HRO foyer, for £20, £10 and £10.

Forthcoming events

Exhibitions, at the Record Office unless otherwise indicated:

6 Jan- 26 Mar 2015 **Waiting in the Wings of War:** art by 2D3D South Contemporary Art group members inspired by civilian life in and around Winchester in the months before the outbreak of the First World War.

Apr-Jun: **Bronzes for the world:** the Morris Singer Foundry has cast bronzes for many of the world's leading sculptors including Henry Moore, Barbara Hepworth and Elisabeth Frink. The foundry was located in Basingstoke from 1967 to 1999 and is now operating at Lasham.

Lunchtime lectures: last Thursday of each month (except Dec), 1.15-1.45pm, no need to book. Free, donations welcomed.

26 Mar: The first Charlotte Yonge Scholar, Amy Locke by Alys Blakeway

30 Apr: From family research to novel – by author Simon Wills

28 May: Romsey Remount Depot – by Phoebe Merrick

25 Jun: Flora Thompson in Hampshire – by John Owen Smith

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

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. 19 Mar, 14 May 6.30-8.30pm, 16 Apr, 11 Jun, 2-4pm (you only need to attend one session).

Maps as a source for local history. £12, booking essential: 01962 846154

Workshop on how to use historic maps to uncover the history of your local area. 20 Mar, 2-4pm.

The Archive Ambassador training scheme. £18, booking essential: 01962 846154

Sign up today and help us preserve Hampshire's heritage. Wednesday 22 April, 10am-3.30pm. Training in archive preservation/conservation, cataloguing, digitisation and film and sound archives.

For more information about events, please visit www.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro or ring 01962 846154. To receive our monthly e-newsletter, which provides regular updates about events, activities and archive news, please go to www.hants.gov.uk/rh/maillinglist – then enter your details and select 'Archives' from the pick-list.

Historic Buildings

Editor: Bill Fergie, Foyle Cottage, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3HH

Email: fergies@onyxnet.co.uk

Quick Off the Mark - The Aisled Barn at Parkers Piece, Crown Lane, Old Basing.

Bill Fergie and Edward Roberts.

The western wall of Parker's Piece barn forms the boundary with Crown Lane in Old Basing and is therefore clear for all to see (Fig.1). As with many buildings in Old Basing it appears to be built with bricks salvaged from Basing House. This magnificent medieval castle and Tudor house was sieged and badly damaged during the civil war. It lies only half a kilometre away from Parkers Piece.



Fig.1. View of Parkers Piece Barn from Crown Lane. (Bill Fergie)

An approximate date could be gauged from the assumption about re-used materials, but when the opportunity arose for a tree ring dating exercise, supported by the owners, the chance to arrive at a specific date was too good to miss. Such is the timber framed tradition in these parts that brick built barns from the 17th century are relatively unusual. This was a further reason why the bricks were likely to be salvaged, but dendrochronology might give a specific date to prove it.

The Parker's Piece Barn is an aisled barn of five bays. The roof has full hips at both ends, so that the end bays could be called return or hip aisles. The



Fig.2. Interior view showing roof construction. (Bill Fergie)

original waggon entrance faces the former farmyard and the possibly coeval farmhouse, which is now in a separate ownership. Another smaller entrance was created on the opposite side of the building but it is clear from the evidence that this was in a second phase of construction. The internal structure of the barn is of oak. The two roof trusses facing the central threshing floor have raking queen struts supporting the purlins, but the hip end trusses have the more usual vertical queen posts and collar beams (Fig. 2). The omission of the collar is a feature sometimes found in barns and may have facilitated movement in the roof area when sheaves were being moved around during storage and threshing.



Fig.3. Interior view including evidence of bark on one of the main posts. (Bill Fergie)

The posts supporting the roof structure have been formed by quartering large trees. The section of each post is therefore that of a quarter of a tree, with the curved surface of the timber clearly in evidence, with the bark still 'in situ' in some places (Fig.3). Unusually the posts have no jowls - the swelling at the top - which facilitates the jointing of the various timbers. All the diagonal bracing timbers are straight rather than curved, which is an indicator of a post medieval date.

Five core samples were taken by Dr Martin Bridge of the Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory in July 2014. Four gave a consistent date that showed that the trees had been felled in the winter of 1646-7. The fall of Basing House in October 1645 was followed by a Parliamentary order stating that "whosoever will come for brick or stone shall freely have the same for his pains"¹. The builder of the Parker's Piece barn clearly didn't need much urging to take some free bricks, and within a year had also sourced the timber to complete the structure. It is assumed that the original roof covering was of thatch which would presumably have been acquired at relatively modest cost. The fact that the posts were so simply formed, without being

properly squared and without the normal jowl at the top, indicates a degree of haste to take advantage of the bounty in bricks so kindly provided by Parliament.

A number of interesting details were noted in the building during the examination in July. On each of the main doorposts interlocking Vs had been carved



Fig.4. The crossed "V"s found on both main door posts which are thought to represent the Virgin Mary, the virgin of virgins. (Anne Davies)

(Fig.4). These are generally understood to represent Mary, the "virgin of virgins", and were intended to give protection against witches and other malevolent spirits². On the same theme burn marks were present



Fig.5. Burn marks which might represent attempts to protect the building from fire or witchcraft. (Anne Davies)

on some of the timbers (Fig.5). The current thinking in vernacular building circles is that such marks made with a taper or candle were also intended to protect the building from fire and/or witchcraft³. Unusual carpenter's marks formed by a gouge were also found in addition to the more usual marks formed by a chisel



Fig.6. Carpenter's marks on adjoining timbers formed with a gouge. (Bill Fergie)



Fig.7. Conventional carpenter's marks formed with a chisel. (Anne Davies)

(Figs. 6 & 7). Perhaps the builder employed two sets of carpenters to ensure that the barn was constructed even more rapidly.

Acknowledgements: The writers would like to thank the owners, Mike and Anne Davies, for their enthusiasm for the study, their provision of refreshments during the work and for some of the photographs which illustrate the article. We are also grateful to Dr Martin Bridge of the Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory for his permission to use the results of his tree ring dating investigation.

Notes:

- 1) Carlyle T 1845. The Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell, Vol.1 Letter xxxiii. (Mary Oliver is thanked for this reference and for other advice.)
 - 2) Roberts E V 2010 Hampshire Houses 1250-1700 (Revised Edition) Ch 5 (Linda Hall) Page 102.
- Dean J & Hill N Vernacular Architecture Vol. 45 (2014) 1-15. Burn Marks on Buildings: Accidental or Deliberate?

Hazeley Down Farm, Twyford – report on redundant farm buildings

Gavin Bowie

The group of grade 2 listed buildings to be described are located in a dry valley east of Twyford and to the south of Hazeley Cottages on the Morestead road. Some members of the Historic Buildings Section carried out a survey of these buildings in August 2014 because they are not relevant to the farmer's current activity, and are to be converted into dwellings. The farmer intends to continue to manage the surrounding land in an environmentally sensitive way, the main feature being a grass-fed herd of pedigree Sussex cows for beef.

The farm buildings are placed around two adjacent square courtyards, each of about one acre. See (Fig. 1) for the location of the buildings on site.

Four-bay thatched barn (1)

The straight braces and the square-cut jowls of the arcade posts suggest a late 17th century date. This barn has been shortened, probably during the Agricultural

Depression of the late 19th century. In this case the whole of its storage space would no longer be needed - the profits from grain cultivation had collapsed because of the import of cheaper and better quality wheat from the US. Proof that the barn has been truncated is provided by the scarf joints in the roof arcade timbers within 0.5 m of the present south end of the building; they would originally have extended another 5 m into the next bay.

The original plan of the barn is shown by the dotted lines on the plan. The parish tithe map of 1841 and the OS map of 1872 show that it once extended to 9 bays and had 2 porches and threshing floors. It was probably similar to that preserved at Hensting Farm, about 2 miles to the south, which also has 9 bays. Both barns were probably built when a Henry Mildmay was the major landowner in the area. His account books are

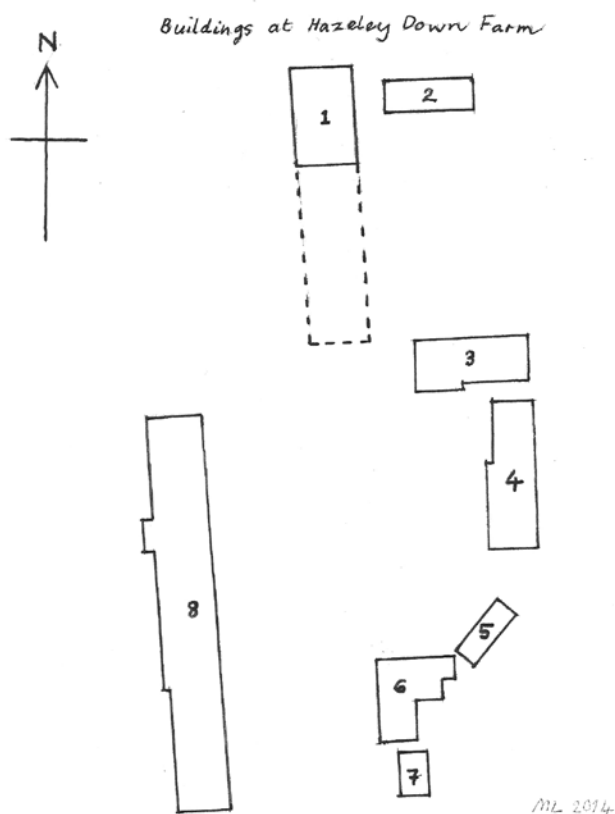


Fig. 1 Buildings at Hazeley Down Farm.

preserved in the Hampshire Record Office and show that he invested heavily in the construction of farm buildings on his estate in the late 17th century.



Fig. 2, building 1: A 4-bay thatched barn built in the late 17th century.

Staddle barn (2)

This was probably built in the late 18th - early 19th century. This was the period of the Napoleonic Wars when the high profits from farming encouraged investment in farm buildings. It was probably used for storing sheaves of wheat. The staddle stones are designed in such a way that mice and rats cannot gain access to the barn from the ground. The staddle barn is similar to one preserved at Botley Manor Farm - this was originally located at a farm in Longstock, near Stockbridge, and was moved to its present position in the early 1980s.

Four-bay barn (3)

This was probably built in the early 18th century.

It is largely composed of re-used timbers and has been much repaired.

Five bay thatched barn (4)

This was probably built in the early 18th century and is also largely composed of re-used timbers. It has a single porch and one threshing floor. It was probably built at about the same date as the adjacent 4-bay barn. The reason for this supposition is that it has only a half-aisle on its west side located south of the porch - if it had had an aisle to the north of the porch it would have been difficult to access the entrance to the adjacent barn!



Fig. 3, building 4: A 5-bay thatched threshing barn built in the early 18th century.

Cow shed (5)

This is shown on the OS map of 1872 but not on the parish tithe map of 1841. About ten milking cows would be kept, and the cream from the milk converted into butter for sale.

Stable for horses (6)

Built of brick with flint panels, and shown on the parish tithe map of 1841. It can accommodate 6 'heavy' horses. The general rule of thumb on such chalkland farms was one cart / plough horse for every 100 acres, and it is probably no coincidence that the farm had about 600 arable acres when it was surveyed for the tithe assessment in 1840-41. The stable was probably built in the 1830s, when farming began to recover from the prolonged depression in agriculture in southern England, 1810 - about 1830.

Staddle granary (7)

This is a double granary with slate tiles on sides. It is shown on the OS map of 1872 but not on the parish tithe map of 1841.

Barn (8)

Built of brick with flint panels, and shown on the parish tithe map of 1841. Its roof construction and other features indicate that it was probably built shortly before this date. Its central section was built as a threshing barn, with centrally placed porches on either side. A central cross-beam has 'Mrs Dummer 1850' inscribed on its north side. The outer sections were for keeping cattle stock in winter.

It should be noted that barns 1, 4 and 8 were deliberately built orientated north - south lengthways. The porches for barn 1 no longer exist, but large porches facing west remain at barns 4 and 8. These were to facilitate winnowing. After the sheaves had been threshed with the flail, the grain was cleaned to remove dust, weed seed and husks, and the prevailing westerly



Fig. 4, building 7: A double staddle granary with slate walls, probably late 1850s.

wind was used to achieve this. When there was a strong westerly breeze blowing, the 2 doors of the porch were opened and shovelfuls of grain cast up into the wind coming through. The heavier grain kernels fell to the ground more or less straight away, but the lighter dust, weed seeds and husks were blown downwind – a



Fig. 25 building 8. The west-facing porch of the brick and flint barn, which was probably built at the end of the 1830s.

process of fractional separation. The cleaned grain was then bagged up in sacks.

Acknowledgements:

Edward Roberts gave advice on probable buildings dates; photos by John Ashworth.

A Rare Survivor at Frobury Farm, near Kingsclere.

Bill Fergie and Edward Roberts.

In the late summer of 2014 news came to the committee of the Historic Buildings Section that the substantial remains of a very early house had been identified at Frobury Farm, near Kingsclere. The news came from Bob Edwards, a building conservation consultant who had been appointed by architects working for the recent purchasers of the listed property who proposed alterations and extensions. In common with the authors Bob is a member of the Hampshire Buildings Survey Group, and it seemed clear from his initial site inspection that he had identified a timber framed aisled hall. Such buildings represent our earliest surviving houses. Examples are rare but they are most prevalent in eastern counties, with the earliest dating back to the mid-12th century. They are extremely rare in Hampshire. Only nine are identified in "Hampshire Houses 1250-1700"¹, with most of these being later derivatives of the original early form. The best known Hampshire aisled hall is the Great Hall at Winchester built for Henry III in the early 13th century, although this is a very prestigious stone version of the form, with aisle posts of Purbeck marble. A timber framed example relatively close to Frobury is Burghclere Manor at Old Burghclere². This is a derivative version of the aisled hall and has been dated to 1328-9.



Fig 1 Frobury Farm viewed from the north. The crosswing of c1500 to the right of the photograph replaced part of the original house.

The Historic Buildings Section committee agreed that if such a relatively rare survivor had indeed been identified it was important that an attempt should be made to establish its date. To this end the committee agreed that a grant of £400 should be made as a contribution to the cost of a tree ring dating exercise, on the understanding that the owners would also support the investigation and that the results would ultimately be published.

With the extremely helpful and enthusiastic support of the new owners a number of site investigations were carried out and Dr Martin Bridge of the Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory took samples for tree ring analysis. Also present at two of the site meetings was John Walker, who is an acknowledged expert on early aisled buildings. His expertise was essential to an understanding of the significant changes which had occurred over the lifetime of the building.

An academic and detailed appraisal of the building will undoubtedly ultimately be written, probably for publication in "Vernacular Architecture", and the writers will therefore give only a brief outline of the emerging story at this early stage. Two distinct phases of early building were identified from the tree

ring analysis. The earliest surviving elements of the structure, the upper central parts of the roof, were built from oak trees felled in the period 1263-8. These timbers form part of the original fully aisled house. At a date soon after 1334 a major reconstruction of the house took place. This entailed either a major dismantling, or the propping up of the roof structure, so that the two central aisle posts in the open hall could be removed and large curved timbers - known as base crucks - inserted to provide a clear central space. This was a relatively common adaptation for early aisled halls and was sometimes employed 'de novo' in later aisle derivative buildings. Also in 1334 it seems a crown post/collar purlin roof structure was inserted under the original coupled rafters of the roof to ensure greater longitudinal stiffening.

Further drastic alterations were subsequently made but cannot yet be accurately dated. The original building probably comprised five in-line bays. In c1500 the most westerly bay was replaced with the two bay two storey cross wing seen to the right in the photograph (Fig. 1). At an unknown date the most easterly bay was also removed but not replaced. At a date which probably post-dated the western cross wing both north and south aisles were removed. The three hall bays, minus their aisles on either side, are therefore all that survive of the early structure. The cross wing of c1500 is at its western end, which was originally its 'high' end.

The tree ring dates for the house are neatly paralleled in the Victoria County History, where we

find that William de Wyntershull acquired the manor of Frobury in Kingsclere in 1249 through marriage to an heiress whose properties were mainly situated in western Surrey³. Although he subsequently acquired other properties, Frobury was probably his principal seat and he is very likely to have been the builder of the aisled hall there dated to 1263-8. This is certainly of a size suggestive of manorial status and aisled halls in Hampshire are nearly always associated with the landowning classes. In 1269 he was granted a licence to create a deer park at Frobury and in some documents he is referred to as Sir William de Wyntershull, knight. He died in 1287 having established a family at Frobury that remained in possession for over 100 years. It is possible that his descendant Edmund de Wyntershulle, who was living at Frobury in 1327, was responsible for the second phase of building there in 1334⁴.

Acknowledgements: The authors are greatly indebted to the owners who, through the good offices of Bob Edwards, allowed a number of visits to their house and were extremely supportive of the investigation. John Walker's expertise was critical to the understanding of the structure as was Dr Martin Bridge's tree ring analysis. Both are thanked for their contribution.

References:

1. Crook. J. in Roberts. E. 2010 Hampshire Houses 1250-1700 (Revised Edition) pp 2-14.
2. Ibid
3. VCH Surrey iii, pp 2,20,53,84,105.
4. Mitchell-Fox. P. and Page. M. 2014 The Hampshire Tax List of 1327 (Hampshire County Council) p 36 .

The Transformation Of Victorian Basingstoke

John Hare

Since the 1960s Basingstoke has been transformed by the construction of high rise offices, extensive housing, new shopping centres and a ring of roads and roundabouts. What is easily forgotten is that it is a town with a distinguished history and with much earlier periods of dramatic growth, now being studied for publication by the New Victoria County History of Hampshire in collaboration with which body a conference was held on 15th. November¹. Two periods of rapid expansion stand out: that of the later 15th and early 16th centuries, and that of the late 19th century. It was the latter which was the subject of the conference, mixing the evidence of buildings (surviving and lost) with some of the products of industrial expansion displayed at Milestones Museum, a modern building but with a singularly appropriate range of contents which were visited during the day.

Basingstoke in 1800 was an important country market town serving the north-east of the county, but part of a landed world, its pretensions and its architects reflected in the new town hall of 1832-4 (whose architect Lewis Wyatt also worked at neighbouring Hackwood House). The coming of the railways helped transform the town, opening up new markets and allowing the

import of the raw materials needed by industry. The railway to London was opened in 1839, but perhaps more important was the opening of the route to Reading and the industrial north in 1856, particularly once that route became easier with the conversion of the line to the narrow gauge used by the rest of the country. Now goods could be moved about without having to be transhipped. A group of nonconformist (Baptist, Congregationalist and Quaker) entrepreneurs took advantage of these new opportunities, allowing Basingstoke to produce goods for the rest of the country and abroad in Europe, South Africa, and North and South America. Wallis and Steevens transformed a small country iron foundry producing agricultural machinery into an international engineering company. Another engineering company, Thornycroft, later also added to the town's engineering activities producing lorries and buses. Examples of both companies' products can be seen in the museum. Thomas Burberry, who moved to the town in 1856, was instrumental in using sewing machines for mass production, and the accessibility of coal and cloth enabled him to found and to develop three successive factories catering for different types of clothing, from the mass production of made-to-wear



Fig. 1 The main building of Burberry's final factory in London Street, built in the early 1890s

clothes to the more expensive waterproof gaberdine clothes used by the well-off in their outdoor sporting activities (Fig. 1). Some of the buildings of this changed world still survive along the main commercial street of



Fig. 2 Houses in Worting Road built in 1899 by John Mares who had taken over Burberry's New Road factory

the town, and in the expanding areas beyond the old town core - the corn exchange, the religious buildings, banks, fragments of factories, the new corn exchange and, above all, the new housing required by the growing population, some of which was built by the factory owners (Fig. 2). Much survives only in the photographs and records made prior to the redevelopment of the 1960s, reminding us how important and valuable such records are.

Reference:

1. For materials concerning the VCH see <http://victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/hampshire/> & <http://victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore>

Acknowledgements:

Thanks are due to all the speakers: Bill Fergie (the surviving legacy of buildings), Jean Morrin (Wallis and Steevens), Jo Bailey (Milestones Museum and its collections), John Hare (Burberry and the growth of the clothing industry), Bob Applin (the lost buildings of Basingstoke), and to the Hampshire Cultural Trust for its hospitality at Milestones.

Grants for Publication

The Historic Buildings Section is able to offer small grants towards the publication of information on historic buildings in Hampshire. Grants can be made for technical services (e.g. drawings, photography, dendrochronology and surveying). Evidence will be required that the project is well founded, and that there are realistic plans for future publication.

Interested readers should apply in the first instance to the section editor whose contact details are given at the beginning of the Historic Buildings section of the Newsletter.

Sheila Millard MBE (1932-2014)

Sheila Millard, who died last November, had been a member of the Field Club for over 30 years and yet she was perhaps unknown to a majority of members beyond her home at Odiham. She contributed well-researched articles to the Odiham Journal and to the Field Club Newsletter but her crowning achievement deserves to be better known. In spite of her severe disability, it was entirely due to her local knowledge and contacts that 32 building phases in 22 buildings were dated by dendrochronology in Odiham and the adjacent village of North Warnborough. These dates, ranging from 1300 to the early 17th century, have made a significant contribution to the regional study of vernacular architecture.

Wealden Houses in Hampshire

Edward Roberts

A Wealden house is, in many ways, a typical medieval house, with an open hall that is usually flanked by a two-storey bay on either side (although sometimes by a two-storey bay on only one side – as at Alexandra House, Wickham)¹ A Wealden house is atypical, however, in that the flanking bay or bays are not only jettied but also lie under the same ridge as the open hall. This hall, being unjettied, is recessed behind the flanking bays at first-floor level; a point well illustrated by The Red Lion at Chalton (Fig. 1). The Red Lion is the best



Fig. 1. The Red Lion, Chalton. The original three bay Wealden house was later added to at both ends.

surviving example of a Wealden in Hampshire and the photograph clearly illustrates the recessed central hall bay. Because of this recession the beam (called a wall plate) on top of its wall must also be recessed (and is called an 'inner wall plate'). However, another 'flying wall plate' is needed parallel to the inner wall plate and aligned with the wall plates of the jettied bays in order to support the ends of the rafters of the roof over the hall.

Wealden houses are so called because they are very common in Kent and Sussex, where there are nearly 70% of all the known Wealdens (543 out of a total of 789). Yet there is only one known Wealden west of Wilton in Wiltshire and only two north of Newark in Nottinghamshire. Hampshire has only 17 examples but can boast the oldest known Wealden at No.35 High Street, Winchester, which has been tree-ring dated to 1340.² This result challenges a previously held view that medieval urban houses were adaptations of rural plans. Instead, it could be argued that jetties were a way of getting more spacious upper-floor accommodation in the restricted space in the commercial centres of towns and were copied as prestige features in rural locations.³

Indeed, in many counties, Wealdens are more likely to be an urban form and in Hampshire there are two in Wickham, two in Petersfield and others in Titchfield, Hambledon and Andover. In rural areas, Wealdens seem often to be typical of the yeoman or minor gentry class: such as Neatham Manor house near Alton. Unsurprisingly, as many as 12 of Hampshire's

16 Wealdens lie to the east of Winchester; that is, closer to the Wealden heartlands of Kent and Sussex and they range in date from the mid-14th to the mid-16th century by which time open halls were becoming obsolete.⁴ No. 35 High Street, Winchester is by far the earliest dated Wealden house in Hampshire: also dated are Franklin Farmhouse, Corhampton (1433-65), Tullys in Petersfield (1441), West End in Sherborne St. John (1444), Abbey Farm Cottages, Mottisfont (1473)⁵ and Sutlers, Headley (1523-46).⁶

When jetties and open halls went out of fashion, the wall of the recessed hall was generally demolished and a new wall built below the flying wall plate; and the ground-floor walls beneath the jetties of the flanking bays were also pushed out so that the whole house took on a box-like appearance. Externally, this can completely disguise the original Wealden form. In the interior, too, evidence that a house was once a Wealden can be very subtle and may require an experienced eye to pick out. For example, at Abbey Farm Cottages, Mottisfont (1473) the original existence of an inner wall plate is only attested by an empty mortice in a tie beam about 450 mm from the outer face of the building (Fig. 2). The recessed wall of the hall that has been removed



Fig. 2. The filled mortice for a missing inner wall plate in a tie beam at one end of the hall at Abbey Farm, Mottisfont.

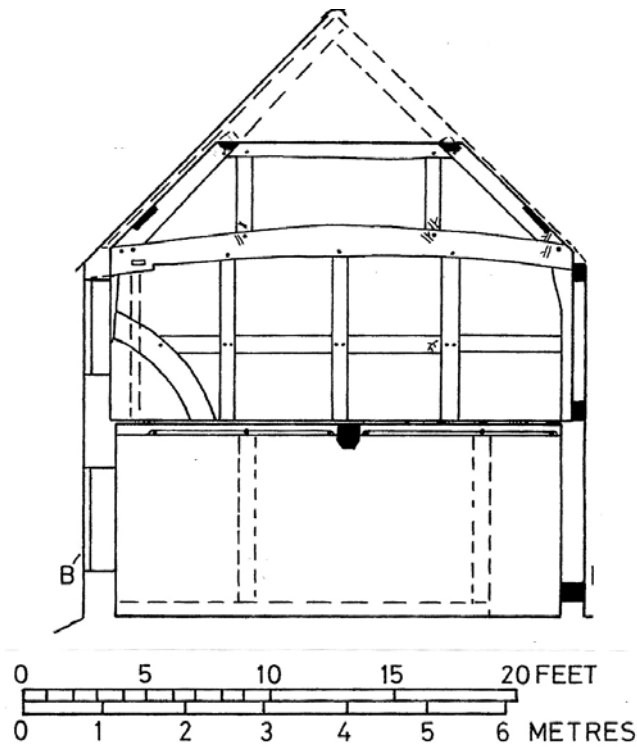


Fig. 3. A section showing the same frame at Abbey Farm Cottages, Mottisfont with dotted lines indicating the recessed wall beneath the missing wall plate (drawing by Linda Hall).

has only left a faint vertical scar on a brace, and this does not show in the photograph. The drawing however (Fig.3) shows with vertical dotted lines the position of the missing wall below the empty mortice.⁷

Elizabeth Lewis, formerly Curator of Winchester

City Museum was a pioneer of the study of Wealdens in Hampshire and wrote a seminal article on the subject in 1991.⁸ Since then several more have been recorded and no doubt there are still more to be discovered. The author would welcome any information on Hampshire Wealdens that are not in the Archaeological Data Service website.⁹ The ADS website may still include Bittles Farmhouse at Denmead as a Wealden. This information was first published some time ago but a recent visit to this house by the present author has ascertained that this is definitely not so.¹⁰

Acknowledgements:

Liz Lewis introduced me to Wealden houses and Dr Nat Alcock advised me in the preparation of this paper; both are warmly thanked.

References:

1. Lewis, E., Roberts, E. and Roberts, K. 1988 Medieval Hall Houses of the Winchester Area, Winchester, 54-5.
2. Alcock, N. 2010 'The Distribution and Dating of Wealden Houses', Vernacular Architecture 41, p. 39-41; Roberts, E 2003 Hampshire Houses 1250-1700, 31.
3. Alcock 2010, 39 quoting Sarah Pearson.
4. An up-to-date list of Wealden houses, both nationally and in Hampshire, may be found on the Archaeological Data Service website but see note 9 below.
5. Roberts, E. 2010 Hampshire Houses 1250-1700 (revised edn.), 276, 243, 244, 276.
6. Suters at Headley was given a dendro-date range of 1510-45 when it was sampled in 1988. A recent re-examination of the cores by Dr. Martin Bridge has refined this date to 1523-46 (Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory Report 2011/18).
7. Hall, L. and Roberts, E. 2004. Unpublished report on Abbey Farm Cottages, Mottisfont.
8. Lewis E. 1991 'Three Hampshire Wealden Houses' Hampshire Field Club Proceedings, 46, 113-30.
9. The two-starred Schoolhouse Farm at Lockerley is called a Wealden in the list description but the present author has not visited the house to confirm this attribution.
10. Lewis et al. op. cit., 120.

NEWSLETTER

Updating Hampshire's History

VICTORIA
COUNTY
HISTORY



No. 4



Autumn 2014

Hampshire

Wilkes Challenge - £10,000 Donation !

Since the last newsletter it is very pleasing to report that the 'Wilkes challenge' has been met. Particular thanks are due to the Hampshire Field Club's promised grant of £2,000 for professional short term help to research and write parts of Old Basing. This news reduced the final gap to reach our £10,000 target, to less than £900. A final appeal to a few generous individuals closed this, with the happy result that Professor Wilkes' promised matching cheque arrived the day before the Hampshire Archives Trust AGM. Our chairman, Felicity Hindson, was able to give everyone present the good news and to publicly thank our very generous donors, Jim and Mary Ann Wilkes in their absence. Our reserves now set us up well for our present project on Basingstoke and its surrounding parishes. More funding will be needed to extend our work.

John Isherwood

Medieval Basingstoke

Basingstoke is a town with a distinguished and often forgotten history. It was transformed in the medieval period from 1000-1600. This period saw the creation of the town, a pattern of streets that survived until the 1960s and buildings that still dominate the town like the magnificent parish church and the ruins of the chapel of the Holy Ghost, visible to all train passengers who pass through the town. Both these buildings also reflect the period of the town's peak prosperity when to its existing functions as a market town and as a stopping point on the road from London to the west, was added its role as a major centre of the expanding cloth industry. In the early 16C its tax assessments show that Basingstoke was among the top 55 towns in England. Also the town has a substantial body of documentation which for the medieval historian makes it particularly valuable. We can gradually build up a picture of some of the individuals, their families and their activities. Many were directly involved in the cloth trade as manufacturers or traders: as weavers, dyers, fullers, drapers or clothiers. Other occupations depended on the prosperity of the cloth industry: the wealthy innkeepers or the large-scale butchers. For some, success in Basingstoke was the launchpad for a career in London and beyond.

John Hare

For more, see:

<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/hampshire/work-in-progress/basingstoke-medieval-history>

Wills Reading Group

This is a group of volunteers who meet fortnightly to read copies of 16C and 17C wills provided by the Hampshire Record Office. These are transcribed verbatim and subsequently modernised for the **VCH Explore** site. To date, we have uploaded 233 wills and inventories of individuals from five parishes: Basingstoke (65), Mapledurwell (72), Steventon (31), Up Nately and Andwell (55), Newnham (10). Work is still in progress in reading a further 12 for Newnham and preparing 94 Basingstoke probate documents for **VCH Explore**, which have already been transcribed.

<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore/themes/people-and-communities/probate-material>

Jennie Butler

Disasters on the London Road

1889. A report in the *Hants & Berks Gazette* of 12 October, tells of the sad death of Mrs Bradshaw of Audleys Wood, Cliddesden. Out riding on the London Road, her horse stumbled, throwing her head down and falling on her. Recovering his feet, the animal galloped away at full speed, dragging Mrs Bradshaw along the road, her riding habit having caught in the pommel. Eventually rescued, Mrs Bradshaw was carried into *The Hatch Inn* where she died. The runaway horse was stopped on the Mapledurwell road by the vicar of Basing, the Revd R F Hussey, who at the time was returning on his tricycle from Up Nately.

1914. February 13 saw the first fatal car accident at the *Dorchester Arms* junction, Newnham (now *The Hoggett*). Mr Lunn, employed by W J Buckland who had a shop in Wote Street, Basingstoke, collided with a car in which T E Gilchrist was a passenger. He was the 35-year-old son of W O Gilchrist of Oakley Hall. Mr Lunn was uninjured but Mr Gilchrist suffered a fatal neck wound from a large splinter of wood and was taken to the *Dorchester Arms* public house, as it was then. A doctor from Odiham attended promptly, but was unable to save the casualty's life. An inquest was held at the school in Newnham the following day.



DAY CONFERENCE, Hampshire Field Club, Historic Buildings Section, in association with the new **Victoria County History of Hampshire**. "*The transformation of Victorian Basingstoke*", Milestones Museum, Basingstoke, 15 November. For further information see <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/hampshire/news/transformation-victorian-basingstoke>

Newnham Parish Walk

Our second walk to Newnham on 10 September, led by Stan Waight, was a very pleasant and instructive occasion, though truthfully, it was more of a stroll and several car journeys, as there was a lot of ground to cover between the chosen stops. These ranged from the relatively recent (a memorial plaque to 6 soldiers killed during the defusing of a bomb in 1940 and a WW2 pillbox next to the railway), through to the early Norman in St Nicholas' Church, still evident within the



19C restoration. The church is in the centre of the village, close to the Green, fringed with interesting old buildings, some of which have seen several different usages, but along the road towards Hook we were shown an altogether more unexpected religious building – a former Primitive Methodist Chapel, hiding behind a modern house. We also visited the two mills, one on each of the rivers bordering the parish before the creation of Hook, and enjoyed a sociable lunch – altogether a good way to spend a sunny autumn day.



Mary Oliver

Hampshire VCH group is currently researching the history of Basingstoke and its surrounding rural parishes. When a rural chapter or urban section is completed, it is published on the Hampshire section of the national **VCH** website: <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/hampshire> Transcriptions of documents used for research and short articles about interesting local people, places and themes are published on the Explore section of the same national **VCH** website: <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore/>

Dr. to Robt. Cottle,
PRINTER,
Bookbinder, Stationer, Book-binder,
Printer & Printerseller,
PERFUMERY and TOY WAREHOUSE.
SIZES AND PRICES BOOKS IN ELABORATE BINDINGS.
A VARIETY OF ORNAMENTAL BOOKS.
ALL KINDS OF ACCOUNT BOOKS.
GOLD & PAPER PAPERS & PAPER ARTICLES.
GUNS, RIFLE, HALL, AND CLOTHES BRASS, GUNS, AND CUTLERY.
NEW PUBLICATIONS, RECEIVED BY POST AND THROUGH A LIBRARY.

Robert Cottle, a man of many parts, is mentioned in both these articles. The **VCH Explore** article contains much more information, including a transcript of his will:
<http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore/items/robert-cottle-postmaster-stationer-book-binder-and-printer-winchester-street-basingstoke-1788>

Four Dozen Sparrow Heads

This is the Eastrop Churchwarden's account for 1823:

		£	s	d
Feb	Sparrow heads		1	0
Feb 23	Cottle's bill for prayer books	3	3	0
Apr 6	Smith clerk his salary	3	0	0
	Smith & wife cleaning church and churchyard one year		6	6
May 27	Church visitation day	8	5	½
	4 doz sparrow heads		1	4
July 18	Sparrow heads			10
	Millard's bill repairing church	1	16	10
Sept 17	Andrew James' bill repairing the churchyard fence		9	0
	John James one day		3	0
	Churchwarden's oath		5	0
	Visitation expenses for sundries		12	6
Oct 4	Pritchett's bill for repairs &c	6	2	8½
	Bottle of wine for sacrament		5	3
Nov 6	Mr Higgins' bill for singers' dinners &c	3	16	10

In many villages in the 19C the churchwardens paid for sparrow heads from the church rates. Most of the church rates in Eastrop parish were paid by landowners and farmers, who regarded sparrows as vermin, eating their corn. In some other villages there were sparrow head clubs which would pay a bounty for sparrows' heads and rats' tails. This tradition died out towards the middle of the 19C when sparrows were beginning to be regarded as the farmers' friends, for eating caterpillars and other insects that were destroying the farmers' crops. It was also reckoned that the birds ate more seeds of weeds than they ate corn.

Bob Clarke

To benefit the poor, the long term teacher in the Sunday school, William Gauntlett (d. 1796) of Upton Grey bequeathed all scholars, whether attending or not, a shilling and a threepenny plum cake, which was to be made by a baker in Odiham.

Wills Reading Group

Soup for the Poor

Robert Cottle, who was Mayor of Basingstoke five times, had a strong sense of civic duty. This extract from a draft letter in the Hampshire Record Office shows his concern that poor families should not go hungry and that the charitable Soup Kitchen should not be misused (HRO 46M89/14/1).

My Dear Sir, I regret to hear that our excellent Soup Society is very much abused, and that Families in this Town, where the Heads are in the receipt of from 18/- to 30/- per week, all the year round, regularly send for Peas Soup, at 1d per quart, every day of the distribution, to the exclusion of families who are really poor, and I may say almost destitute. I understand that on Friday last 9 very poor families could not be served in consequence of parties who are not entitled to the benefit of the Charity having been previously served. Truly this system requires an amendment, so that those families who are really poor, may be served in preference to those who do not stand in need of such assistance. The circumstance has been raised to me by several individuals.

I beg to suggest that any Family who may be considered entitled to a supply of Soup should be supplied with a printed Card similar to the one enclosed on which the name of the Family should be written, which the Party can retain, but on application for Soup must show the Card to the person in attendance before the Soup can be delivered. The names of all the Families to whom Cards are given to be entered in an Alphabetical Book, when the cards are issued, and an alphabetical list of all the recipients be stuck up in the Soup Kitchen in order that the attendant may have ready information and so that the Charity not be imposed upon. The tickets not to be transferable. I have now discharged a duty which I felt to be incumbent upon me in the hope that some remedy for the above complained of may be devised out of hand....

Robert Cottle Basingstoke Jan 9th 1854 Barbara Applin

WW2 Rationing in Cliddesden School

A recently discovered file at Cliddesden School sheds light on the procurement of school meals after WW2. Basingstoke shops supplied the strictly rationed supplies, as we can see from the receipts from *Cotton's Cash Stores* at 1/2 Downsland Parade. For an eight-week period the school was allowed 1½lb bacon (weekly), 1lb 5oz tea, 36lb preserves, 25lb cooking fat, 60½lb margarine, 75lb sugar and 7lb cheese. This would be for an average of 93 children and two or three teachers.



Nearer to the school the *PO and Stores* in Cliddesden (Mr W J Reeves in 1945, Mr Laker in 1947), was also a supplier. Receipts for 28/04/46, 16/09/46 (week 41), and 14/09/47 show an average order for 1½lb tea, 4lb preserves, 27lb cooking fat, 54lb margarine, 85lb sugar, 16lb cheese.

One recent product of the work into the rural parishes is a piece in the latest Newsletter of the Hampshire Field Club looking at four of the parish churches of the area: Mapledurwell, Newnham, Up Natley and Natley Scures.

The *Co-op* in Essex Road had a Ministry of Food permit to supply liquid milk on a daily basis and meat came from the *Empire Stores* in the Market Place. A Vitamin C boost with a suggested serving portion of 1oz/child/week was provided by orange juice jelly supplied by the Ministry of Food Welfare (Foods) Scheme costing 6½d / lb.

Rationing also applied to clothing, and in 1946, the headmaster had to apply to the Ministry of Labour and National Service for supplementary clothing coupons for his canteen and cleaning staff. Both Gladys M Rolfe, the cook, and her assistant, Elsie L Newman, were each awarded 10 extra points.

The Board of Trade *CONFIDENTIAL* circular sent to School Heads instructed them to measure children who were over 5'3" tall or weighed over 7st 12lbs, or had feet 9¼" boys, 8½" girls. We have a letter from ten year old Elsie Pittard's mother in 1946 applying to the headmaster for a form to present to the Food Office to enable Elsie to get her size 4 shoes.

Joan Wilson

Too Many Clothing Coupons?

In 1946 the Ministry of Food issued instructions on how the heads of establishments could apply for supplementary clothing coupons for children. The LEAs issued more forms than the number of children born from January 1936 onwards who might be expected to qualify for these. Heads of schools were asked to return the unused forms immediately.

Joan Wilson

Contact: Dr Jean Morrin jean.morrin@winchester.ac.uk
 History Department, University of Winchester, Winchester, SO22 4NR

In the back

General Editor: Dick Selwood, 34 North View, Winchester, SO22 5EH
Email: newsletter@ntcom.co.uk

Welcome to a personal round-up of news and other interesting items about, or relevant to, the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society

Victoria County History

As part of the 125th Anniversary Conference of the Field Club, there was a paper by John Becket, at the time the Director of the Victoria County History, on the VCH in Hampshire (HFC Newsletter, 54, Autumn 2010, p23.). As John pointed out, the original project, begun at the end of the 19th Century, of



completing multi-volume histories of every English county was never completed. Today there is a different approach. Just as with the original programme, groups of volunteers are working together with professional historians to fill the gaps or revise the histories that were published. Just as with the original project, where Hampshire lead the way, and was the test bed where some difficult lessons were learned, so it is today. Rather than take on an entire county the work is concentrating on areas, and in Hampshire the area chosen by the New Victoria History of Hampshire group is Basingstoke and the surrounding area. As material is prepared it is published on the VCH website prior to an eventual physical publication. Additionally the VCH has supported the publication of parish histories. The first of these was from Hampshire, on Mapledurwell.

Stan Waight, one of the stalwarts of the project wrote about it a year ago (HFC Newsletter, 61, Spring 2014, p25 and to keep you up to date, we have re-printed the projects latest Newsletter on pages 30/31 of this issue.

The website at <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/hampshire> has a ton of fascinating work in progress and is where future New VCH newsletters will be found.

The conference on The Transformation Of Victorian Basingstoke, written up by John Hare on page 25 of this issue is another aspect of the links between the Field Club and the New VCH project.

Mastering History

Michael Nelles, the Field Club's Membership Secretary recently completed an MA in Regional and Local History and Archaeology at the University of Winchester. His dissertation on the topic of Modernity in a historic setting: Urban redevelopment and the rise of the historic buildings conservation movement in Winchester, c1925-1970 was recently given a commendation in the Institute of Historic Building Conservation's Gus Astley Annual Student Award.



Publications

After a long time without publishing any monographs, we have produced two in the last year. In this issue is a flier for *Selborne Priory: Excavations 1953-1971* about which Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe wrote " ... a fine example of an Augustinian religious establishment that also plays a revealing part in the archaeological history of the county, excavated between 1953 and 1969 by a band of enthusiastic local amateurs led by the much-loved Rev George Knapp. *Selborne Priory*

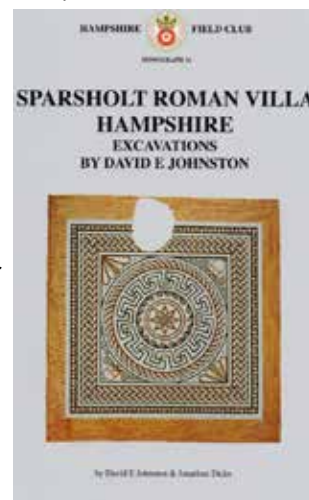


can now take its place in archaeological literature as a monument to all those, amateur and professional, who have worked to bring it to life."

This is a wonderful insight into the structure of a medieval monastic building.

And last year we published *Sparsholt Roman Villa Hampshire* described by Professor Martin Biddle as: "... an important event in our developing understanding of the Romano-British region."

and: "...one of the last triumphs of the age of the local volunteer...". You can download an order form for *Sparsholt Roman Villa* from the Field Club website.



Hampshire Papers

The Hampshire Record Office for some years published *Hampshire Papers*. With financial pressures these have had to be abandoned, but a small group

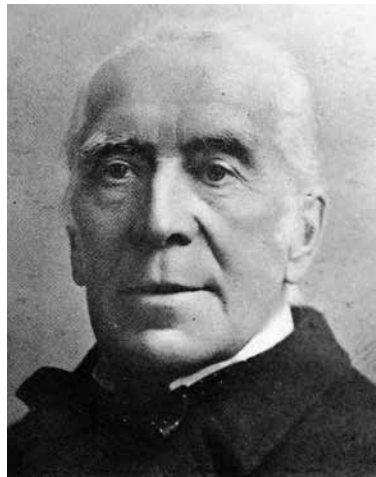


Florence Nightingale

of enthusiasts has formed a new section in the Field Club to restart publication, with help from a grant from the University of Winchester. The planned first three volumes are:

1. **Florence Nightingale and her Hampshire connections.**

This paper explores how Florence was able to use her position and social connections in Hampshire to move in spheres generally regarded as off-limits for women in nineteenth-century England.



Dr. Joseph Stevens

2. **Dr Joseph Stevens of St Mary Bourne.**

Public and private health in north-west Hampshire c.1835 - 1900

3. **The Japanese Red Cross at Netley, 1915-1916**

A form to register your interest is included in this issue.

Archaeology on the web (1)

David Allen mentions in the introduction to the Archaeology section in this issue the new website <https://hampshirearchaeology.wordpress.com/> What he doesn't mention is the video clips in which he talks through different aspects of the collection. The five minutes on the Blackmoor Hoard is well worth watching.

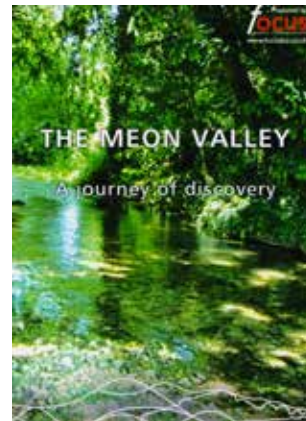
Archaeology on the web (2)

Our own website at fieldclub.hants.org.uk is full of useful information. The last few months have seen the latest updates to Archaeology in Hampshire, the annual review which was previously a printed volume, funded by Hampshire County Council. With the funds being withdrawn, the Field Club has funded the compilation and hosts a pdf version on the web site. The reports for 2012 and 2013 are now available and 2014 is underway.

Also on the websites is an index to the Newsletter and to Hampshire Studies, including its earlier incarnation as the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club. I have found that if you use your browser's "find" function on each web page you can quickly find material of interest.

Meon Valley DVD

In the last Newsletter (HFC Newsletter, Summer 2014, No 62, pp 9-13) Nick Stoodley wrote about the Saxons in the Meon Valley Project. The team behind the project has now produced a DVD, *The Meon Valley: a journey of discovery*. It follows the steps of Saint Wilfrith, later Bishop of York, who in the 7th Century travelled up the valley from Titchfield Haven to convert the Meonwara people. It uses aerial photography as well as more grounded filming and looks in particular at the string of churches that he founded. There are a number of options through the material on the DVD, which can be initially confusing. Perhaps it is an age thing but I find the combination of the continually moving camera and very short shots irritating.



That said some of the images that flash before our eye are stunning, particularly the chance to see these churches from above. The script is also a little on the Janet and John level, but even so I learned some things.

The DVD is available from various people and places in the valley, see <http://www.saxonsinthemeonvalley.org.uk/>. The site is worth a visit in its own right.



Programme of Events

March - November 2015

2015

- 28th March Saturday- Local History Section
Spring Symposium: 'Wish you were here! From holy days to holidays.'
- 29th April Wednesday - Archaeology Section
Lecture: Chris Stringer (Natural History Museum), Origins of Early Man 7.30 pm,
- 12th May Tuesday (Morning) - Historic Buildings Section
Visit: guided tour of Longford Castle near Salisbury
- 13th May Wednesday
AGM, New Members Evening and President's lecture: A Historian Looks at the History of the HFC (7.00pm new members welcome 7.30 AGM 8.00pm Lecture)
- 24th May Sunday - Archaeology Section
Visit: Old Basing earthworks, led by Alan Turton.
- 7th June Sunday - Historic Buildings Section,
Visit: Barns Day, Old Basing
- 27th June Saturday - Local History Section
Summer Outing
- 11th July Saturday Landscape Section,
Visit: Odiham and King John's Castle.
- 18th July Saturday - Historic Buildings Section
Visit: to Twyford Waterworks
- 11th Aug. Tuesday (evening) - Archaeology Section,,
Visit: WARG excavations (TBC)
- 10th Sept. Tuesday (evening) - Archaeology Section,
Visit: Winchester University excavations at Magdalen Hill, Winchester (date tbc)
- 3rd October Saturday- Local History Section
AGM
- 7th Nov. Saturday - Landscape Section
Annual Conference & AGM: 'Petersfield: Development of a Market Town and its Surroundings'
- 21st Nov. Saturday - Archaeology Section
Annual Conference & AGM: 'Turning the Tide: the coming of Canute'
(Provisional Title)