Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

Newsletter

No 56, Autumn 2011

New Forest Bee Skep

Welcome to West Meon

Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

Newsletter

Contents Autumn 2011

General editor, Dick Selwood

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From the President

Dick Selwood, 34 North View, Winchester, SO22 5EH
Email: president@fieldclub.hants.org.uk

Firstly, may I say "Hello" to those of you who don't know me. I was elected President of the Field Club at the 2011 AGM in April, and I am greatly looking forward to my period in office.

Just a little background: the day job is as a journalist working on electronics topics. My other life is as an historian, and at the time of writing I am beginning to write up my Master's dissertation. I have lived in Winchester for 25 years, and have been a member of HFC for about fifteen years. I joined the Council as an ordinary member a couple of years ago, and I have been editing the newsletter for two years.

I recently came across Oliver Sacks discussing prosopagnosia, or face blindness, and realized that I suffer from a form of it. So if you start talking to me and realize that I am not certain who you are, it is not personal, it is just the prosopagnosia working.

Future of archaeology

The University of Winchester has recently launched the Centre for Applied Archaeology and Heritage Management (CAAHM) (see page 2). At the event, Professor Dai Morgan Evans, former General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London, spoke about the future of archaeology. In particular he was concerned that much discussion of archaeological and historical issues would go by default. Only a week later the leader of Fenland District Council effectively announced that planning requirements for archaeological evaluation would no longer apply in "his" district. Although he was forced to retract that statement, since he would be flying in the face of the law and government guidelines, it is another straw in the wind. It is clear that in the future we are going to see considerable debate over the role of archaeology, museums, record offices and archives.

David Johnston

As I began work on this newsletter, I learned that David Johnston had died. We plan a detailed tribute for a later issue of the *Newsletter* but, in the meantime, Kay Ainsworth writes:

> *It was with great sadness that I learnt of David's death; I considered him a dear friend and professional colleague. He was for more than 25 years a fellow committee member of the Archaeology Section of the Field Club, providing a wealth of knowledge and guidance to the team when planning various events for members during the year.*
>
> *I first met David early in the 1970s while digging with SHARG (the South Hampshire Archaeological Rescue Group). Many SHARG members gained valuable archaeological experience by going on to attend some of the courses and conferences organised by David in his capacity as Extra-Mural Tutor at Southampton. There can be little doubt that these courses inspired many of us to take our interest further and for some of us to become professional archaeologists.*
>
> *I can recall David visiting some of the SHARG excavations; he was always interested in the activities of local groups. He even bravely attended a Christmas Party at the forbiddingly dark, damp, mist shrouded Fort Widley on Portsdown Hill, where SHARG had been exiled following the takeover of their previous headquarters at Manor Farm, Botley, by HCC.*
>
> *David will be remembered for his professional expertise and willingness to guide others. His great enthusiasm for his beloved 'Romans' showed itself in a number of ways, including an ability to make mosaics! He will be sorely missed by all who knew him.*

There is a photo of David with the Archaeological section comittee overleaf and a further short appreciation on page 27.

Wanted - a new Membership Secretary

At the 2012 AGM Alison Deveson will be retiring from the position of Membership Secretary after eleven years. We are therefore seeking a volunteer to take over this rôle.

The HFC has just over 600 personal members and just over 100 institutional members (libraries, universities etc). The main duties may be summarised as:

- Respond to enquiries from prospective members, enrol new members, record changes of address, and generally maintain the database.
- Send annual invoices to those institutions and individuals who do not pay by standing order. Record the receipt of subscriptions, bank the cheques and send reminders to those who did not respond.
- Prepare labels for three mailings per year (January, March and August) and liaise with the Mailing Secretary.
- Liaise with the Treasurer on standing order payments, Gift Aid and the annual mailing of Hampshire Studies.
- Attend the quarterly Council meetings and present a report on the state of the membership.

The membership records are held on a modern customised database. A detailed Membership Secretary's manual will be provided, plus an external hard-drive for regular back-ups of the data. It would be helpful if the new Membership Secretary has some knowledge of databases, but training and support will be given.

December and January can be busy, because of subscription renewals, but the job is not too time-consuming for the rest of the year. If you take pride in keeping accurate records and would like to help the HFC to run smoothly, this is the job for you!

Please get in touch with Dick Selwood, if you are interested. (President@fieldclub.hants.org.uk)

News

General Editor: Dick Selwood, 34 North View, Winchester, SO22 5EH
Email: president@fieldclub.hants.org.uk

New research centre

Niall Finneran writes: We opened our new research centre, a truly international initiative, the University of Winchester Centre for Applied Archaeology and Heritage Management (CAAHM) on Thursday June 16th with a launch event at which former General Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries of London and TV personality Professor Dai Morgan Evans led with the key note address on the state of heritage in the UK in the 21st Century. A typically forthright and honest appraisal was followed up by comments from Kenneth Aitchison, who countered with his views on the UK heritage and archaeology industry in the 21st century, and then by Dr Geoffrey Tassie (honorary research fellow of CAAHM and director of the University's training and research work in Egypt) who was able to contrast the UK experiences with those challenges now faced by Egypt. A wine reception followed.

This new research centre focuses, as its name would suggest, on practical applications of archaeology and heritage. We are particularly focused on a number of sub themes such as: pedagogy and archaeological/ heritage training; Caucasian heritage; African heritage; Islamic heritage; Caribbean heritage; new applications in human osteoarchaeology and the archaeology of disease; archaeology and relations with religious groups (these are all areas where we are currently research active).

Through a programme of conferences, workshops, seminars, training excavations, research projects, links with a wide range of international partners (from Georgia to Iran, and Ethiopia to Barbados) and a new programme of PhD student recruitment, we hope over the next few years to build this Centre into a significant national and international focus for the development of research and training in all sectors of the applied archaeological and heritage industries, enabling a new generation of archaeologists and heritage professionals to face the undoubted challenges to this sector which lie ahead. Further information may be obtained from the Director Dr Niall Finneran.

An Iron Fireback from Wolvesey

Jeremy Hodgkinson writes: In 1929 an iron fireback was removed from the ruins of the bishop's palace at Wolvesey in Winchester and placed in the care of Winchester Museum. The plate was unusual, though not unique, in that it bore upon its surface an inscription that was the same as that on an iron graveslab in the church at Withyham in East Sussex. The inscription reads as follows:

ANNO DOMINI 1582 / THE 27 DAY OF / FEBRVARYE DYED / RICHARD GRAYE / PARSON OF / WYTHIHAM.

Another fireback bearing the same inscription and derived from the same pattern (see illustration) had been known at Sompting in West Sussex, and has recently been donated to Withyham church. Winchester Museums currently has no record of the Wolvesey fireback being in its collection. As there are only two groups of firebacks known to the writer that bear inscriptions derived from graveslabs, it would be of great satisfaction to him to be able to locate and record the details of the Wolvesey plate. If any readers are able to shed light on the location of this piece of ironwork, the writer will be duly grateful.

Jeremy Hodgkinson, author of British Cast-Iron Firebacks of the 16th to Mid 18th centuries (jshodgkinson@hodgers.com)

Another copy of the missing gravestone-inspired fireback.

David Johnston, in the red pullover, at the Archaeological Section's Christmas committee meeting in 2007.

Local History

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

'A Perfect Little Paradise': A History of Winslade Congregational Chapel 1888-1935

Roger Ottewill

Introduction

Some of the most poignant reminders of the vitality of rural Nonconformity in years gone by are the buildings which served as places of worship, sometimes in unexpected locations. Many are modest chapels which were built in the 19th and early 20th centuries to serve the needs of those who cherished a form of worship that was plain and simple and non-liturgical. In other words, they eschewed the formality and ritual associated with Anglicanism.

In parts of rural Hampshire, the Congregationalists were zealous chapel builders. A few of their chapels, such as those at Braishfield and Burton Green, continue to this day to serve their original purpose. Most, however, have either been demolished or converted to other uses, such as private residences or offices.[1] A building which survives but has long since ceased to be a place of worship is the Congregational chapel that served the small village of Winslade, situated on the road between Basingstoke and Alton. With a population of only 59 in 1901 it is surprising that it had its own Nonconformist chapel as well as an Anglican church.[2] The origins, construction and contribution of the chapel to the religious life of the area in which it was located are the subjects of this short article.

Origins and Location

As in other Hampshire villages, the Congregational 'cause' in Winslade began a few years before the construction of the chapel in 1888, with meetings initially being held in a cottage. These were facilitated by an evangelist attached to London Street Congregational Church in Basingstoke.[3] As the numbers attending every Sunday, 'to hear His Word and to make trial of His Grace', increased so it became necessary to look for larger and, ideally, purpose built premises.[4] Thanks to the generosity of two benefactors a chapel was eventually built. One of these was the 5th Earl of Portsmouth, the largest landowner in the neighbourhood and indeed Hampshire, who donated the land. Towards the end of his life, the earl spent most of his time in Devon, where he had one of his homes, leaving '*the management of the fertile farms … [in Hampshire] to his eldest son, Lord Lymington*', who inherited the peerage on the death of his father in October 1891.[5] He seems to have been more religiously inclined than his father and, although an Anglican, he was very sympathetic towards Nonconformity and the Protestant cause more generally. For example, in 1903 he opened the Grand 'Reformation Times' bazaar, organised by London Street, with a 'stirring' opening address in which he stressed that this was 'a time when all those who valued the principles of the Reformation and the Protestant faith should stand together' in opposing the Government's Education Act.[6]

The other benefactor was Thomas Maton Kingdon, who paid for the building and its furnishings. Kingdon ran a flourishing ironmongery business in Basingstoke. He was a member of the borough council and serving his first term as mayor when the chapel was opened. Moreover, he was a leading Congregationalist, being a deacon of London Street. At his memorial service and funeral in 1901 the pastor, Alfred Capes Tarbolton, paid the following tribute to him:

> *He was conspicuous for strength and firmness of conviction, and for courage in avowing and maintaining what he thought. In politics, municipal matters, questions of temperance and religion, questions of civil and religious liberty he had a clear vision of the value of principles, and a tenacious hold on those he felt to be true. Not from narrowness, for he had a broad and judicial mind and singularly acute and sober judgment. But truth once seen he held through good report and ill.*

Although this might suggest a somewhat stern and unbending Victorian personality, the pastor went on to indicate that it was, in fact, tempered by 'considerations of the difficulties of others', a mellowness 'as his life drew to a close', and surprisingly perhaps a 'tenderness almost feminine'.[7]

In deciding on the location of the chapel various sites were considered by Kingdon and Lord Portsmouth's steward. An initial choice had to be abandoned because access depended on the consent of Lord Bolton and it appears that this was unlikely to be forthcoming. Eventually, the chapel, or 'little Bethel' as it was termed in the *Hants and Berks Gazette's* report of its opening, was built '*near to the foot of the hill leading towards Herriard and … [was] approached by a lane called the Ellisfield Lane*'. The exact spot was 'known to the people of the parish as Westfield'. However, concern was expressed that, at first sight, the location '*would seem to be a very unfavourable one for the purpose, as it … [was] not in the centre of the village and … [was] approached by a lane which in the winter time … [would] probably be very dark and muddy*'. Nevertheless, assurances were given that:

> *the site was really a most convenient one, being only a few minutes walk from the centre of the village … and close to the point where converge several paths leading to Herriard and Ellisfield, the interests of the people residing in these two places having been taken into consideration as well as the interests of the Winslade folk.*[8]

Notwithstanding its remoteness or perhaps

because of it, Kingdon considered the location to be '*a perfect little paradise*'.

The chapel itself was described as 'a neat brick and slate building, with a porch'. Inside there was a rostrum and wooden forms with backs capable of seating 80 worshippers. Music was provided by a harmonium donated by Walter Wadmore, another member of London Street and of the borough council. There was also a copper which, as it was put in the newspaper report, would '*come in handy at tea fights*'.[9] This domestic touch echoes Everitt's observation that since the origins of many Nonconformist causes in rural areas lay in 'cottage meetings', as was the case in Winslade, they lent '*from the outset a certain domesticity to the Dissenting chapel*'.[10]

The site was surrounded by an iron fence and somewhat optimistically perhaps, it was large enough to be able to accommodate additions should they become necessary. Appropriately at the front of the

Fig 1: Railway embankment and bridge over Ellisfield lane.

building there was a stone bearing the inscription: 'Erected by T.M. Kingdon J.P., Mayor of Basingstoke'. Much was made of the office held by Kingdon at the time and it was initially dubbed 'The Mayor's Chapel'.

Opening

The chapel was formally opened on Monday 25 October 1888. The proceedings began with a service in the afternoon, which more than 100 people attended. Sankey's hymns were heartily sung, prayers were offered, lessons were read and a sermon based on the text 'I was glad when they said unto me—Let us go into the House of the Lord' was preached by Alfred Tarbolton.[11] During the course of the sermon, the preacher emphasised the different places where God could be worshipped. Referring directly to the chapel he commented, in somewhat poetic language, that:

> *This little building did not indeed make a great show, like the cathedral with its towers, yet situated in the midst of a charming landscape, and with the afternoon sun lighting up its rosy front, it was not without beauty, and they thanked God for it.*

He went on to express the hope that within the chapel 'many a heart might be born again'.[12] The service was followed by a tea. As recorded:

> *While the ladies were … engaged [in preparing the tea], assisted by a few handy gentlemen, the main company strolled along the green paths in the copses hard by, to spy out the remnants of the nuts on the bushes.*[13]

After tea, there was more singing and what was in essence a public meeting with strong religious overtones. During the meeting, Kingdon gave details of the sequence of events that had led to the erection of the chapel and challenged those living in 'Winslade, Herriard, Ellisfield and the district around' to use the building effectively as a place of 'spiritual welfare'. The next speaker was Sydney Watson, the village evangelist with responsibility for the cause at Winslade. He based his 'cheerful address on what he called the Ps of the matter', people, place, pulpit and preachers. After confirming that 'the foundation truth … declared here would be salvation through Jesus Christ', he observed, perhaps with tongue in cheek, that 'if they didn't like the preacher one Sunday, if they came the next they would hear somebody else'. Lastly, Tarbolton spoke again and gave what was described as an 'inspiring address' in which he commented on the fact that unusually the chapel was free of debt from the outset and consequently there was no need for a collection to be taken. As was the norm on such occasions the proceedings closed with a benediction.[14]

The Coming of the Railway

For the first 10 years of its existence little of import happened to disturb the 'perfect little paradise'. However, all this was to change with the building of the Basingstoke and Alton light railway between 1898 and 1901. More specifically, the nature of the chapel's location was profoundly altered by the construction of a substantial embankment, with a bridge over Ellisfield Lane (*Fig. 1*).

As it is put in a history of the line:

> *The embankment continued to increase in height and passed over Winslade Bridge which allowed a lane to pass underneath. From the vantage point it was possible to see the village cottages to the left as well as the small Congregational Chapel hard by the railway to the right (Fig. 2).*[15]

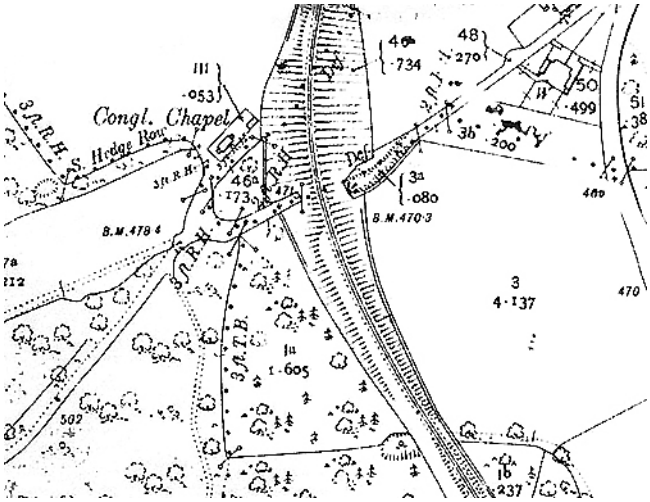


Fig 2: Ordnance Survey map of 1910 showing the location of the chapel in relation to the railway embankment..

However, nothing daunted, the worshippers saw this as an evangelistic opportunity and as it was put in the chapel's report for 1899: *'During the summer a series of open-air meetings were held outside the dwellings of the navvies employed upon the new line*'.[16] It is not recorded whether this had any lasting effect on those who were involved in constructing the embankment.

In the chapel's report for 1905 reference was made to 'the difficulties arising from the position of the

chapel since the making of the new railway'. Clearly, the presence of the embankment added to the chapel's isolation and gave the appearance of it being more cut off from the village than had originally been the case. Nonetheless, this difficulty as well as the 'scanty population' were 'bravely met' and 'a good work was being carried on'.[17]

This good work was reflected in the following report which appeared in the London Street church magazine of January 1908:

> *Winslade: We hold services at this place twice on Sundays, morning and evening. The morning services are usually well attended, considering how remote the church is from any population. The local preachers always get a hearty welcome from the Winslade friends, and no doubt they find the little sanctuary on the fringe of the wood to be a veritable means of grace.*[18]

Although numbers remained small and the cause suffered from time to time through the loss of key people, in the years leading up to the First World War services continued to be held on a weekly basis. Moreover, for the year 1911, it was being reported that '*the services held on Sunday and Friday evenings … [were] really well attended, especially by young people*'. In addition, there was a Sunday school with 18 children which met on Sunday afternoons.[19] Later, a Band of Hope branch was formed.[20]

In view of its idyllic setting and notwithstanding the railway embankment the chapel was also a favourite place of worship for Congregationalists from further afield. For example, in the spring of 1913:

> *A delightful time was spent at Winslade on Easter Monday, by friends from Basingstoke, Worting, Ellisfield, and Herriard. An excellent tea was provided, which was appreciated, especially by those who had walked long distances. After tea the friends took a pleasant walk in the wood near by which was rendered inviting by spring flowers. At almost 6.30 the friends returned to the evening service. The little Chapel was packed. The Chairman, Mr E. Jewell, having explained that the service was to take the form of a Service of Song entitled 'The River Singers' immediately preceded; the Connective Readings were given by Mr Best. The service was a very interesting and enjoyable one.*[21]

At this time, like many of the rural causes, Winslade was dependent for its survival on the support it received from its 'mother church'. In short, London Street provided the manpower and some of the money to keep it going. However, it was also reliant on stalwarts from the local area such as Mr and Mrs Godwin who lived in Winslade village and Mr and Mrs Best from Tunworth. In 1901, James and Rhoda Godwin were aged 56 and 55 respectively. In the census returns James's occupation was described as that of 'woodman (est)' and their daughter Florence, who lived with them, was 'mother's help'. Mr Godwin not only led services but also made the arrangements for visiting lay preachers. Not surprisingly, the Godwins' decision to leave Winslade in 1911 caused 'anxiety'.[22] Charles Best was a farmer and lived with his wife at Manor Farm. They served as Sunday school superintendent and organist respectively. On Boxing Day 1912 it is recorded that '*the Sunday School children spent a delightful time at Manor Farm … An excellent tea was provided after which they thoroughly enjoyed games and singing until about 8pm*'.[23] The Bests' contribution to the life of the chapel was given formal recognition in December 1912 when they were presented with '*a handsome silver teapot and walking stick … as a token of appreciation from the members of the congregation and friends from Basingstoke*'.[24]

Demise

During the First World War and the 1920s the chapel continued to serve as a source of spiritual sustenance for a small but declining band of committed worshippers, with a loyal cohort of lay preachers from Basingstoke and elsewhere leading the services. From time to time the numbers attending these and special events, such as entertainments, teas and picnics, were supplemented with visitors who continued to be attracted by the chapel's picturesque location. These included friends from Ellisfield, Farleigh and Herriard; the Basingstoke Primitive Methodist brass band; the Worting Choir; and a 'charabanc load of people' from the May Street Chapel in Basingstoke. In 1926, 24 members of the Christian Endeavour Society for young people, which was attached to London Street, conducted the harvest festival service and 'greatly cheered and helped the few who regularly gather[ed] there for worship'.[25]

Moreover, during this period improvements were made to chapel. In early 1923 hanging lamps were provided to enable evening meetings to be held and in late 1923 crockery was donated to assist with the catering arrangements. In 1924 the men of the chapel carried out renovation works and redecorated the building, with a formal re-opening being held in June. Notwithstanding these efforts, by 1929 concern was being expressed over the continued viability of such chapels. This was evident in the following appeal which appeared in the London Street church magazine:

> *With increasing travelling facilities, how easy it is to leave 'the Village Chapel!' This is a difficulty we must face up to. Your own Village needs YOU! Christ makes His demand upon your service THERE! I am really appealing for regular attendance and support of that little cause to which you would ordinarily go. REGULARITY means SUCCESS. Of that I am sure and will help to bring God's Blessing upon our work during 1929 in increasing measure.*[26]

For Winslade, however, such exhortation was of little avail and in the summer of 1930 the deacons of London Street, in facing up to the reality of the situation, decided to close the chapel during the winter months. Following this decision, the chapel never reopened. From the surviving records it is difficult to establish when the final service was held. It may have been in late August 1930 or the first Sunday in October, which had been scheduled for harvest festival. Not surprisingly, perhaps, its closure was less well documented than its opening had been.

Having decided not to continue using the building as a place of worship the deacons were faced with determining is ultimate fate. In 1931 it was proposed '*to remove the chapel building at Winslade to the recently purchased building site at Worting*', where the cause remained buoyant.[27] This suggestion, however, clearly proved to be impractical. Later that year, the deacons '*agreed that the [Winslade] organ be transferred to Ellisfield and the furniture be removed*.' Rather amusingly, at the same time it was reported that '*complaints had been received that …[the] organ …[was] causing disturbances in the wireless in houses near the church*'.[28] Presumably the

problem disappeared with the removal of the organ. The deacons then received an offer to purchase the premises from Mr Fosbury, who wanted to convert them into a dwelling house. This was declined since such usage was prohibited by the lease.

For the next four years little seems to have happened. In 1935 the deacons approached the agent for Viscount Lymington, with a view to selling the building to the Portsmouth Estate. After a certain amount of haggling over the sum to be paid, a figure of £35 was agreed. Needless to say, for Lord Lymington

Fig 3: Chapel building in 2011.

this was somewhat higher than he felt the land and building justified while the deacons of London Street 'felt the offer might have been a shade larger'. In the correspondence the future use of the building was described as that of an 'occasional winter cattle food store'.[29]

Over the years it has been used as a storage facility by various farmers. Because of its isolated position it is vulnerable to vandalism and recently it has had to be re-roofed and the windows boarded up (*Fig. 3*). Nonetheless, it retains many of its original features and looks much as it did when the area in which it was located was eulogised as 'a perfect little paradise'.

Acknowledgements

I should like to express my thanks to Bob Applin for first alerting me to the remote location of Winslade Congregational Chapel and to Jean Holton the archivist of London Street United Reformed Church for her great assistance in making available many of the sources on which this article is based. I should be pleased to hear from anyone who has further information about Winslade Congregational Chapel.

Notes

1 For example, the chapel at Mapledurwell is now a private residence and the one at Cheriton architects' offices.
2 The equivalent figures for 1891 and 1911 were 114 and 87 respectively.
3 Apart from Winslade, at one stage London Street also served as the mother church for the causes at Cuffaude, Ellisfield, Farleigh, Mapledurwell, Pyotts Hill, Round Town, and Worting.
4 *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 30 Oct. 1888.
5 *Hampshire Advertiser*, 10 Oct. 1891.
6 *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 7 Mar. 1903.
7 *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 3 Nov. 1901.
8 *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 30 Oct. 1888.
9 At the time 'tea fight' was a humorous expression for a tea party or tea meeting. It has an affinity with the term 'bun-fight'.
10 Alan Everitt, *The Pattern of Rural Dissent: the Nineteenth Century* (1972), p.64.
11 Psalm 122, v 1.
12 *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 30 Oct. 1888.
13 *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 30 Oct. 1888.
14 *Hants and Berks Gazette*, 30 Oct. 1888.
15 Martin Dean, Kevin Robertson and Roger Simmonds, *The Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway*, p.31.
16 *London Street Church Manual for 1899*.
17 *London Street Church Manual for 1905*.
18 *Basingstoke Congregational Mag.* vol 1 n.s. 1, Jan. 1908.
19 *Basingstoke & District Congregational Mag.* vol 5 n.s. 1, Jan. 1912, p.4.
20 The Band of Hope was the leading temperance organisation for children and young people.
21 *Basingstoke & District Congregational Mag.* vol 6 n.s. 4, Apr. 1913, p.5.
22 *Basingstoke & District Congregational Mag.* vol 5 n.s. 1, Jan. 1912, p.4.
23 *Basingstoke & District Congregational Mag.* vol 6 n.s. 2, Feb. 1913, p.5.
24 *Basingstoke & District Congregational Mag.* vol 6 n.s. 1, Jan. 1913, p.5.
25 *Basingstoke & North Hants Congregational Mag.* vol 19 n.s. 10, Oct. 1926, p.7.
26 *Congregational Mag. for Basingstoke Group Church & Fleet*, vol 23 n.s. 1, Jan. 1929, pp.9-11.
27 *London Street Deacons Minute Book 1930-45*, 27 Apr. 1931.
28 *London Street Deacons Minute Book 1930-45*, 28 July 1931.
29 HRO 15M84/E6/4/23, correspondence file relating to the purchase by Lord Lymington of Winslade chapel.

Chawton—St Lawrence, St Faith, and St Nicholas

Jane Hurst

While researching Chawton rectory, I came across some information about the ecclesiastical history of the parish of Chawton. Its church of St Nicholas stands on one side of the drive up to Chawton House, much of it having been rebuilt by Blomfield after a fire in March 1871.[1]

By the time of Domesday, the manor of Chawton had been granted to the de Port/de St John family. An inquisition *post mortem* of Robert de St John's estate in 1266 mentions the sum of 52*s*. payable to the 'chapel within the court of the manor'.[2] This was said to be the 'free chappel of St Laurence', which had been founded and endowed by Sir Robert.[3] Research done by Chris Currie suggests that this was not in the parish church but a chapel within the manor house complex.[4]

It seems that this chapel was probably situated within a very short distance of the parish church—so why was it built? One reason was given in the inquisition *post mortem* of John de St John dated 1302, when it was explained that the chapel was for the 'celebration of divine service there for the souls of himself [Robert de St John] and his ancestors for ever'.[5] Having a place of worship close at hand would also have been expected by the royal visitors who stopped there during this period. The calendars of patent rolls show that Henry III visited 22 times between 1229 and 1270, with Edward I and Edward II also stopping there. The village was about a day's ride from Winchester and a suitable place to break a journey.

Not much information has been found about the chapel, although the names of a couple of the chaplains are recorded. In 1322 Hugh Gille, 'chaplain of the

chapel of the lord John de St John of Chawton', was mentioned in a deed,[6] and 14 years later there was a 'grant for life to Geoffrey Gabrial, chaplain, of the free chapel of Chauton, in the king's gift by reason of his custody of the lands and heir of Hugh de Sancto Johanne, tenant-in-chief'. Shortly after this, a sum of money was assigned for 'making a certain chantry in the chapel built within the manor'.[7]

By 1458 Chawton had come into the hands of John Bonville, who held among other things the 'advowson of Chawton and the free chapel there'. No names of the priests were mentioned, although in 1535 Thomas Wemme was the rector as well as the 'chantry priest of the free chapel or chantry of Chawton'.[8] Chawton had changed, and instead of being host to nobles and royalty it was leased to the Knight family, who were local yeoman farmers. When they bought the house and manor in 1578 they began to alter and rebuild, after which all evidence of the 'chapel within the court of the manor' seems to have vanished.

As was seen above, Chawton also had a parish church and Hugh Gille/Gylle, who was the chantry priest in 1322, was admitted to the 'vacant church of *St Faith*, Chawton, at the presentation of the patron, John de St John, knight' in 1333.[9] This church does not seem to have had the right to bury in a burial ground there, although parishioners could for a fee be buried inside the church. Those who did not choose this were taken to Alton, the neighbouring market town, to be interred. Evidence for this comes from early Chawton wills, where people asked to be buried 'in the churche earth of Alton',[10] 'buryed in the church yorde of Alton',[11] and 'I wyll and do geve to be dystrybutyd a many the poore people in Aulton at my buryall 6*s*. 8*d*.',[12] or to be buried in the parish church of Chawton,[13] or within Chawton church.[14]

The first baptisms were recorded in the Chawton parish register in 1596, but the first burials, apart from twins baptised 1 Dec. 1598 and immediately after buried, were: 18 Apr. 1602, 'being a Sunday John Hickman dying of a consumption was buried at Alton', and 30 May 1602, 'Martha Knight the daughter of John Knight the salter was buried at Alton. She died suddenly in childbed'.

In the same year there was the consecration of church and burial ground at Chawton at the request of Nicholas Love, rector of Chawton, 'as the burial ground at Alton was one mile away'.[15] Was this the point at which the dedication of the church changed to St Nicholas? Was it just a coincidence that the new rector was Nicholas Love and/or the lord of the manor's late father had been Nicholas Knight?

And what happened to St Faith? Was this dedication thought not to be suitable for the new religion? The abbey at Conques in France was dedicated to her and crusaders and pilgrims going to the shrine of St James at Compostella invoked her intercession.

Notes

1 The earlier church is depicted in a painting at Chawton House and can be seen at *www.chawton.org/support/popups/mellichamp.html.*
2 J Coates, *St Nicholas Church, Chawton* (1995).
3 W A Leigh and M G Knight, *Chawton Manor and its Owners* (1911).
4 C Currie, *An Archaeological and Historical Survey of the Landscape of Chawton Estate near Alton, Hampshire to AD 1700* (1995): copy in HRO 94M95/1.
5 Leigh and Knight, *Chawton Manor*.
6 HRO 12M64/2.
7 Leigh and Knight, *Chawton Manor*.
8 Coates, *St Nicholas Church*.
9 R M Haines (ed.), *The Register of John de Stratford, Bishop of Winchester, 1323-1333* (Surrey Rec. Soc. 2010), I, no.1463.
10 HRO 1562 A28.
11 HRO 1584 A44.
12 HRO 1558 U7.
13 HRO 1561 A49.
14 HRO 1594 A76.
15 HRO 21M65/A1/29, register of Thomas Bilson, bishop of Winchester.

Archives and Local Studies News from Hampshire Record Office

David Rymill

Recent additions to the archives

Portchester and Whitchurch in maps

Enclosure maps and awards give us insights into landownership and farming patterns. We already hold a copy of the 1809 Portchester enclosure award, listing the allotments made to those with rights over the land being enclosed, but we did not have a copy of the map showing where they were located, so we were delighted when this was deposited, with a contemporary copy of the award (64M76/PD1/1-2).

A portfolio containing a set of coloured copies of maps of Whitchurch in 1730, 1839, 1897 and 1973 has been donated by Mr R A Smith, who has adjusted them to make each map the same scale, approximately 1 inch to 90 ft (38A11/1). Also included is information about owners, occupiers and/or premises from the 1730 map, a 1819 numerical survey of Whitchurch and a sale of freehold property in 1839. Enclosed in a pocket at the front is a set of copies of the maps on clear acetate, which can be overlaid on the other editions.

Celebrating the Jubilee at Longparish

A small notebook (154A10/1) recently deposited provides fascinating details about the way in which Longparish celebrated Queen Victoria's Golden Jubilee in 1887. It includes a list of subscribers, and those who made contributions in kind, among them Mr A A Snow who gave the labour of four horses and two men to fetch tents from Andover and Clatford, and Mr Gwyer who gave the same for their return after the celebrations.

Hospitals in Romsey and Aldershot

A newly-deposited set of records sheds light on the history of hospitals in Romsey (64A03/F). A public meeting held in Romsey on 5 April 1897 resolved to commemorate the 60th anniversary of Queen Victoria's reign. A committee was appointed to collect funds, and decided on the establishment and maintenance of nurses as being 'most conducive to confer lasting benefit to the poor of the town … most in harmony with the spirit and sentiment of the unique event'. A small nursing home was built and opened in January 1899.

The committee hoped 'in the future to extend the little Home into a Cottage Hospital'. This aim materialised, with additions to the building, and by 1930 it contained 16 beds. It was proving to be inadequate for the growing population, so it was decided a new hospital should be built on a new site at Winchester Hill, Romsey, which is still in existence. The records deposited principally date from the early years of the hospital, with the minutes of the Diamond Jubilee Committee 1897, and a minute book of subscribers to Romsey Nursing Institution 1898-9, but also include annual reports c.1930-48.

Aldershot Hospital opened on 13 August 1897 after local fundraising initiated by the Aldershot branch of the St John Ambulance. It began as a small cottage hospital with two wards, but various extensions were added over the years. The hospital closed in 1974. The records deposited (146A10) date from the initial fundraising in 1895, through to the formation of the NHS in 1948, and include minute books of the Committee of Management 1896-1915. There are also annual reports for the majority of years from 1898 to 1948, which give interesting details about the running of the hospital: the first one records that the first patient was admitted within 24 hours of the hospital opening.

How they voted in Andover

A recent addition to our collection of electoral registers is a list of voters in Andover Borough in November 1868 (74A07/4/4). This not only gives names and addresses, but also their occupations or their employers' names, and whether they voted for the Hon Dudley Francis Fortescue or Captain Henry Wellesley – this was just under four years before the secret ballot was introduced; those who did not vote are also listed. It is interesting to correlate the voters' choice of candidates and the identity of their employers. In some instances there is little connection: of 11 employees of B Hawkins who voted, four cast their votes for Wellesley and seven for Fortescue; in other cases the correlation is much stronger: most strikingly, the 28 employees of Gue and Son all voted for Fortescue (who was the winning candidate, by 377 to 307). We do not, of course, know whether any of these employers actively encouraged their staff to vote for a particular candidate, or if one candidate was more likely than another to support policies which would help particular trades.

To school in Hursley and Sherfield English

School log books dating from the 1860s to the 1990s have been deposited by John Keble Primary School, Hursley (2A11). Separate boys' and girls' schools were started in Hursley in the 1830s by the Heathcote family; in 1907 the two schools amalgamated into the extended boys' building. The school was renamed John Keble School when it moved into new premises in 1927.

Log books have also arrived covering the whole period of existence of Sherfield English C of E (Aided) School, formerly Melchet Court School, 1871-1988 (90M83/PJ14-PJ19). In September 1939 the numbers of the school were boosted by evacuees from Copnor, Portsmouth, and in 1940 also some from Grove Road School and Privett Senior School, Gosport. The school closed in 1988, owing to the small number of pupils. One interesting aspect of the log books is a section at the end of the second book, which is a log of a 'continuation school', or night class, from 1894 to 1903; subjects included vocal music, horticulture, measuring and physiology.

Scrapbooks and photographs

A series of scrapbooks recently received covers the history of Alton Town Football Club from 1958 to the 1960s, and was kept by Christoph Lentz of Bentley, who played left wing for the club, and died in 2000 (170A10). The collection also includes a number of photographs dating from the 1960s/70s.

We often receive records kept in less than ideal conditions, such as damp basements, but it was more unusual to receive a box of glass plate negatives from Yateley which had been kept in an outside privy for several years (15A11). The negatives appear mainly to show military groups, possibly dating from the Second World War. They have been cleaned by our conservation team and await more thorough preservation and digitisation.

At Townhill manor

Thanks to the Trust's Archive Rescue Fund, we were able to bid successfully for a court roll for Townhill manor, South Stoneham, 1605-26 (17A11/1; *Fig. 1*), reuniting it with Townhill material already in the Record Office. The jury's presentments range from a report in 1616 of Thomas Fry having cut furze growing on Shamblehurst Common to a notification that Richard Prowting had given a cow for the repair and maintenance of the road to Putbrooke Bridge, and the cow was still in the possession of John Cussens of Woodhouse.

Fig 1: The Townhill court roll.

Local studies

Some of the books recently added to the Local Studies collection in the Record Office relate to specific towns and villages of Hampshire; they include Dick Martin's *Liss: A Brief History* (Liss Area Historical Society, 2010) and *Hyde in Living Memory*, written and published by the Hyde900 Living History Group under the leadership of Madelaine Key (2010), both of which include numerous photographs. *Excavation of Prehistoric and Romano-British Sites at Marnel Park and Merton Rise (Popley), Basingstoke, 2004-8* by James Wright, Andrew B Powell and Alistair Barclay (Wessex Archaeology, 2009) details the findings from excavations at these sites on the northern outskirts of Basingstoke prior to housing development, including flints, roundhouses and Beaker pottery.

The Harding Family of Clear Place (now Clare Park, Crondall) by Tony Wright (Fleet and Crookham Local History Group, 2009) tells the story of the family that

built the present Clare Park House, beginning with William Harding, a merchant from Greenwich who acquired a share in a Barbados plantation through his marriage, and, the author suggests, is likely to have taken part in at least one Transatlantic slave-trading venture, perhaps a few years after buying the Clear Place estate. *Ashurst and Colbury at War, 1914-1951*, by Sally Arnold and others (published by John Cockram and Richard Williams, 2010) and *Minstead at War, 1914-1945* by John Cockram, Carole Standeven and Richard Williams (published by John Cockram, 2010) both include detailed information about people from the villages who served in the World Wars, and memories of life at home in these communities.

Conserving the archives

Conservation repair work has been undertaken on the first series of Winchester building control plans from the late 19th century, an important series for the study of Winchester buildings. These plans are in continual demand, but unfortunately most are drawn on fragile transparent oil paper which becomes very brittle with age. Repair has meant lining the most damaged plans onto a thin Japanese paper support and then flat storage in protective portfolios. So far 100 plans have been made available; last year we identified 327 of the 919 items in the series as requiring work, so there is still more to do.

Other recently-conserved items include a parish overseers' rate and account book for Winchester St Peter Chesil (3M82W/PO4). Covering the years 1782-99, the volume lists all those in the parish who paid rates as well as of those in receipt of disbursements from the parish. The volume also includes some vestry resolutions, mainly relating to the question of 'settlement', identifying the parish which had the legal obligation to maintain particular individuals.

The Showpeople of Hampshire

We are running an exciting new project to celebrate the lives of the people who own and run the fairgrounds of Hampshire. Showpeople (traditionally known as Showmen) are members of a community with deep roots in England's history. They are the direct descendants of families that have operated fairs across the country for centuries, yet they are a hidden population, often confused with Gypsies and travellers, about whom there is little written history. Supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, the project is working with the Showpeople to record, catalogue and conserve their memories and records, and also involving the wider community through outreach and a schools' project to develop awareness of the Showpeople's heritage (*Fig. 2*).

Fig 2: A Hampshire fair.

The project includes the conservation and cataloguing of 1,200 black and white photographs of Hampshire fairgrounds and equipment collected by Ken Wise, which will be stored permanently at the Record Office. The 18-month project, led by Project Officer Jo Ivey, will also result in an exhibition for use in schools, libraries and community buildings. A booklet and a DVD will be produced and made available to the Showpeople community and anyone with an interest in its history. An open evening, including talks on the project and the Showpeople of Hampshire, will be held at the Record Office in June 2012, and pages will be added to our website.

Living Links: community archives

The last few months of the Living Links community archives project, largely funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, were as busy as ever down to its completion at the end of March. In total we had contact with 182 groups of all shapes and sizes, from traditional local history societies to a yacht club and a steam railway group. Thanks to funding for the next three years from Hampshire Archives Trust, community archives work will continue, including further training sessions in the Archives Ambassadors scheme, providing advice about cataloguing, film and sound, preservation and digitisation, and additional sessions covering subjects which our feedback suggested would be the most useful in further developing community archives: publishing, exhibitions, funding and copyright.

Treloar 100+

The award-winning Treloar 100+ project, celebrating over 100 years of Treloar School and College in Alton, and mentioned last time, has now been completed. Having started a variety of activities back in May 2010, using the extensive Treloar archive held at the Record Office, the project has achieved many innovative results, resulting in an Archive Pace Setter Award. Artist-in-residence Janetka Platun ran many sessions with Treloar students, exploring the archive collection and developing artwork to express emotional responses to both the archive and what it means to be disabled and a student at Treloar's today.

We were also successful in a bid for further funding, this time from the Heritage Lottery Fund, to run storytelling workshops with local schoolchildren about disability in the last 100 years and to provide local schools with learning resource packs complementing the exhibition. Finally, our exhibition and storytelling workshops were awarded the prestigious Inspire mark, which demonstrates that these activities were well managed and genuinely inspired by the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games, a fitting tribute to this innovative partnership work.

Our opening hours

Members will be aware of the unprecedented challenges facing public services; diminishing budgets mean careful prioritisation to ensure the best use of available resources. At Hampshire Record Office we have had to consider how best to shape our service in these difficult times to ensure we remain able to balance meeting the needs of our ever-widening range of customers with caring for our growing collections. For many years we had the longest opening hours of any local government archive building in the country, but the numbers of those visiting our search room in the evenings steadily declined and in the current climate

this aspect of our service was no longer consistent with making the best use of our resources. We are now closing at **5pm** on Mondays-Wednesdays and Fridays. For a trial period we are offering a longer evening opening, until **8pm**, on one evening a week, and on the basis of a public consultation in February we decided to make this **Thursdays**. We hope this longer evening will prove useful to some members who may find it difficult to visit us during the day. We remain open 9am-4pm on Saturdays.

What were you be doing on 29 April?

Did your street or village celebrate the recent **royal wedding**? If you held a street party or a similar event in Hampshire, we'd love to receive a photograph, either by email to David Rymill – at archives.trust@hants.gov.uk – or by post. If you have any photographs of local celebrations of earlier royal weddings, such as those in 1947 and 1981, we'd be very interested in those as well.

Forthcoming events

Exhibitions, in the Record Office foyer unless otherwise indicated:

2 Jul-2 Sep: 'From Disabling to Enabling': a vision of Treloars – part of Treloar 100+, led by Hampshire County Council and working with students from Treloar College in a Legacy Trust UK project which aims to recognise the South East's role as the birthplace of the Paralympic movement at Stoke Mandeville and to foster public understanding of the story of disability creatively through local archives and museums.

Exhibitions planned for autumn 2011 and spring 2012 are intended to feature the buildings of Romsey Market Place, the history of Fleet and Crookham, and the centenary of Winchester Operatic Society.

In *Petersfield Museum*, 5 Sep-22 Oct, and in *Eastleigh Museum*, Nov-Dec: 'The Enchanted Country': the extraordinary world of Ursula Moray Williams, author of *Gobbolino the Witch's Cat* and *Adventures of the Little Wooden Horse*: celebrating the centenary of this local author and illustrator who was born in Petersfield and spent her later childhood and early adulthood at North Stoneham Park.

Lunchtime lectures: Last Thursday of each month (except Dec), 1.15-1.45pm, free, no need to book.

29 Sep: 'Mapping the modern age': printed maps of Hampshire from 1830 to the Second World War – by Gill Arnott, Hampshire Museums Service.

27 Oct: 'A happy progress in the right direction?' Elementary education in 19th-century Hampshire (celebrating the bicentenary of the National Society) – by Sarah Lewin.

24 Nov: 'A little *local* Festival of Britain 1951': films of regional events from Wessex Film & Sound Archive – presented by David Lee.

Beginners' evenings

Our beginners' evenings help you start family history research. Booking required, £10 each. 13 Sept, 11 Oct, 8 Nov, 6 Dec 2011 – please enquire for dates in 2012.

Contact

For more information about events, please ring 01962 846154 or visit the website.

Linda Champ

Many members will be aware of the very sad loss which the Record Office suffered on 1 February through the death of Linda Champ, who had been a member of staff for some 24 years, also playing an active role in the Field Club. As an Archives Assistant, and latterly Senior Archives and Local Studies Assistant, she was committed to helping all users of archives, and her interest in the collections led her to carry out research projects in her spare time, producing exhibitions on themes ranging from what our ancestors ate to the songs they sang. Her story is, and will remain, inextricably linked with the story of Hampshire Record Office, and she will be greatly missed.

Linda was a long-standing member of the Hampshire Field Club. She was Treasurer of the Local History Section from 1994, and also served as Programme Secretary for the Field Club.

Linda Champ

book reviews book reviews book reviews book reviews book reviews

Cheryl Butler (ed.), **The Book of Fines: The Annual Accounts of the Mayors of Southampton, Volume III, 1572-1594**, Southampton Record Series, 44, 2010; pp.liii+272, n.p.

This is the final volume of Cheryl Butler's edition of the book of payments made and received by the mayors of Southampton between 1488 and 1594. It is a rich source, offering insights into the town's changing economic fortunes and patterns of trade, its relationship with the poor and sick, merchants and mariners, and the local aristocracy, types of crime and culture, and the sheer diversity of 16th-century urban life. The volume introduction selects three themes for detailed consideration: charitable payments to the poor, acts of piracy and privateering, and the staging of plays, pageants, and other entertainments. The chief pleasure of the book for the general reader, however, is in dipping in and out and speculating on the stories that lie behind many of these payments.

Among those that caught my eye was the fine imposed on a boatman of Hythe who illicitly sold oysters at Millbrook Point, which was not permitted because it was not a licensed market place. Such unlicensed buying and selling must have been commonplace, as it had been in the Middle Ages, while the collecting of oysters, too, was probably a long-standing activity. Hythe and other settlements on the south side of Southampton Water were places where small-scale farming was combined with a peculiarly diverse range of by-employments, reflecting its location between the forest and the sea, and with its inhabitants benefiting from the demands of the nearby urban population.

Other payments offer evidence of the risks and challenges of living in a 16th-century town. A Frenchman living in Jasper's house was fined 2*s*. 6*d*. because his chimney caught fire at midnight, and this was far from being the only example of property damaged by accidental fires. In 1586-7 a shoemaker Thomas Ecton paid 15*d*. for causing bloodshed, while the miller Walter Thorne was fined 5*s*. for an affray at Nicholas Caplin's mill. The sources do not reveal whether such incidents were the result of personal quarrels or trade disputes, though both must have been common. Payments to the sick also leave much to the imagination, such as the 6*s*. 2*d*. given for keeping Mr Bullacker's nurse 'when she was frantic in her sickness'. The volume is fully indexed, enabling particular individuals and subjects to be pursued, and a glossary explains some of the more specialist terms.

Mark Page

Alton Papers, no. 14, 2010; pp.48, £3+50p p&p from Jane Hurst, 82 The Butts, Alton GU34 1RD.

The most substantial paper in the latest issue of this annual journal is Roger Ottewill's study of Alton's congregational church in the early 20th century. Under the dynamic and popular leadership of Humphrey Davies (pastor 1904-11) and Harry Lewis (1911-25), the church succeeded in maintaining its membership and in making a significant contribution to the life of the local community. John Batten discusses the emigration of Alton residents to New Zealand in the 1840s, including carpenters, farm labourers, sempstresses, and a skilled hop grower, who may have helped to introduce hop cultivation in Nelson province. Christine Weeks traces the descendants of the late 19th-century wheelwright John Hale, who lived on the Butts in Alton until the 1970s. Finally, Jane Hurst briefly notices the demolition of the tollhouse on the turnpike road at the Butts, and the town's tribute to King Edward VII following his death in 1910.

Mark Page

Jane Hurst, **Alton's Assembly Rooms and Crown Close**, privately published, 2010; pp.48, £3+50p p&p from Jane Hurst, 82 The Butts, Alton GU34 1RD.

In 1880 Alton's assembly rooms, cottage hospital, and museum were opened at Crown Close, following a generous gift by the Alton brewer and banker Henry Hall. Using contemporary newspaper reports and other records, Jane Hurst explores the uses to which the assembly rooms were put in the following decades. In the early 20th century, as well as hosting conventional art exhibitions and music concerts, more unusual events were also held, including a fancy dress masque for the town's roller-skaters (a photograph of the event is shown on p.20). A Red Cross hospital occupied the assembly rooms during the First World War, a school was briefly resident in 1920, and a poultry show was staged in 1923, though a request to keep pigeons in an upper room was refused. Many repairs and improvements were made to the building over the years, including in 1939 in preparation for the impending war. A repertory theatre performed in the hall in the late 1940s, and numerous groups and societies met in smaller committee rooms. The account concludes in 2000, when the assembly rooms were granted Grade II listed building status.

Mark Page

Historic Buildings

Editor: Edward Roberts, Grove House, Cheriton, SO24 0QQ
Email: edward.roberts15@btinternet.com

A Warning from West Meon

Edward Roberts

The road west from the beautiful village of East Meon winds along beside the infant River Meon and, after several miles, reaches the outskirts of the sister village

Fig 1

of West Meon. Here, the first buildings that come into view belong to Westbury Manor Farm and first among these is a thatched cartshed built about the year 1800 (Fig. 1). Its gable end presses against the verge and on it, written in clear, white letters, is a prominent warning. Any traveller on foot from East Meon cannot fail to see the words, "All Persons Found Begging in this Parish will be Apprehended" (Fig. 2).

Fig 2

The writing appears to be in an early-19th-century hand and may have been put there on the orders of the overseer of the poor who may also have been the farmer. Imagine the feelings of a poor vagrant approaching the village in the hope of finding a helping hand but who instead read this stern rebuke.

This is the only inscription of this kind that I know of, but I would be interested to hear of any similar examples.

The Leathern Bottle, 16 Amery Street, Alton

Jane Hurst

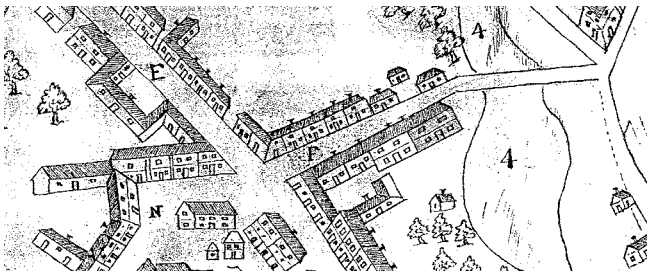
Amery Street in Alton is a hill which lies between the Market Place and that part of the Northern River Wey known as Cut Pound (between the source and Alton High Street). About half way down the street, on the right-hand side, is a low building which is now empty but was until recently a restaurant called 'Ye Olde Leathern Bottle'. The outside is rendered and could be of any age but the inside, like in so many properties, tells a different story.

The first mention of the building as the Leathern/ Leather Bottle that has been found so far is in the will of Moses Fielder which is dated 13 February 1839[1]. The building in which it traded is much older though and has had a fairly chequered life.

The original timber frame, from its style, dates from the late 1400s or early 1500s although it has been much altered with time[2]. The original layout would have been as an open hall in the centre with the private upper and lower rooms at one end and a service room with a chamber above at the other.

It has not been possible to identify this building in the Alton Westbrook manorial rentals for the early years for which they survive - 1499, c1550, 1622, 1639 or 1653[3]. What is clear on examining the structure though is that the frame seems to be in its original position but became derelict at some point leaving it open to the weather for a considerable time and causing damage to the timbers. It seems probable then that it was built soon after the 1499 rental but, that by the mid-1500s, the dwelling had been abandoned and the plot reverted to the lord of the manor.

The reason for this might be guessed at by looking at the 1666 map of Alton[4]. It will be seen that the River



Wey was much wider in this area than now so, at times of bad weather, the plot may have been flooded and the house uninhabitable. The river was later channelled

into a narrower and deeper course which would have kept the ground drier - though the land, being a flood plain, has problems even today.

The first mention of this property seems to be from 1660 when Richard Palmer paid rent for 4 luggs of waste ground near the river side at *Cut Pounde*[5]. There is no reference to a building so it was probably not seen as habitable and hence the land was described as waste ground.

It is not known at present who Richard Palmer was as there were several people of that name around. A *Richard Palmer son of Mr John Palmer of Neatly Scures minister of gods word* had married Elizabeth Russell in 1658 and he may have been investing in Alton although his father died in 1660/1 and left him an inn in Reading. Certainly, the only Richard Palmer who was listed in Alton in the 1665 Hearth Tax was on the other side of the river in Alton Eastbrook although a Widow Palmer (2 hearths not chargeable) and an Ann Palmer (1 hearth not chargeable) were both in Alton Westbrook. Perhaps the house here was occupied by Widow Palmer as the 1672 half-yearly manorial rental gives a quit rent of 9d for *heirs Richard Palmer for part of Cut Pound*[6].

A lot of work must have been done to make the derelict building into a home. A brick chimney was inserted enabling a floor to be put in over the central hall. This meant that only one set of stairs was now needed and there were more rooms on the first floor. One of these had a fireplace as did the hall below. There also seems to have been extra timber put in to try and make the frame stable.

A Westbrook rental for 1694 lists *Richard Palmer heir of for house and backside at Cut Pond in possession Thomas Sandam* with *Thomas Yalden* added later[7]. Now, if not before, the property was rented out. The ground that went with it was not enormous and Thomas Sandam/Sandham also rented more land on the other side of the river in the manor of Alton Eastbrook.

On 27 November 1701, an entry was made in an Alton Westbrook manorial court:-

> *Presented that Thomas Yalden, an infant, is next heir to a certain messuage and garden with meadow thereto belonging formerly of Richard Palmer deceased situate and lying near Cutpound in Alton Westbrooke held of the Lord of this Manor by rent 18d, fealty &c.*[8]

What the relationship was between Thomas Yalden and Richard Palmer has not been found yet but something is possibly known about Thomas. In 1695, a Thomas Yalden had been apprenticed to Michael Lamport, miller of Alton[9]. As an apprenticeship usually began at about the age of 14 and lasted for 7 years, he was probably the Thomas Yalden who was baptised in Alton on 16 October 1683.

The Poor Rates for Alton survive from 1700 and show that Thomas Sandom was still living in Thomas Yalden's property at that date[10]. Eight years later, the entry reads *Thomas Sandom & for other tenements*. This implies that the house had either been divided up or another built on the plot. Later information suggests that it was the latter arrangement with the additional building being an extension to the old dwelling on the end nearer the river.

Thomas Yalden does not seem to have lived in his property at Cut Pound as he acquired a more central home on the site of 8 High Street in June 1714 and had moved there by 1719[11]. At this time, Thomas was said to be a miller - the trade of his master, Michael Lamport of Alton Mill. Thomas was later described as a baker.

There is no evidence that Thomas married until he was quite old. In April 1741, a Mary Yalden was buried in Alton but she may have been Thomas' sister who could have been keeping house for him. Only 8 months later, a marriage settlement was drawn up for Thomas Yalden and Elizabeth Ashton, a widow, and they married on 26 December 1747 at nearby Shalden. Seven years later, Thomas went bankrupt[12]. He was then said to be a baker, mealman and chapman. An auction was held of Thomas' property and he was buried in Alton in 1768.

The next owner of the Amery Street house was John Curtis, a tanner[13]. A member of the Quaker family of doctors, John lived in Lenten Street and was the father of William Curtis the botanist. Again, the owner did not live here - which probably accounts for so much of the original structure surviving as people seldom spend money on rented property. The new occupier was Moses Fielder who bought the premises in about 1784[14]. The Poor Rate for 1798 shows that Moses also had a malthouse, a tenement and a garden here as well as his house - which was made up of the old building which became the Leathern Bottle and the adjacent one nearer the river[15].

In April 1803, Moses Fielder of Alton, baker and maltster, took out policy no. 199582 with Royal Exchange Assurance which included:-

> *a House in two tene'ts Brick & tiled near Ten'ts William Knight Cordwainer & John Littleworth Labourer [£]70.*[16]

Moses had just moved into a house in Market Street and his old home was occupied by William Knight, a cordwainer or shoemaker, with John Littleworth, a labourer, living in the newer part.[17]

On 26 July 1809, William Knight was buried, aged 69. The next occupant was William Finden who was also a shoemaker. He married Ann Cook in October of the same year and they had four children here - William (1811), John (1812), Arthur (1814) and Mary Anne (1816).

Moses Fielder was continually acquiring more premises in the Cut Pound area. His son, John, was a baker and maltster like himself and he and Moses seem to have gone into business as brewers on the site between the future Leathern Bottle and the river (now the site of Alton Community Centre).

John's son, Alfred, then took over the running of the brewery which also had a store at the end of the London and Southampton Railway at Nine Elms in Vauxhall. By this time, Moses was over 80 and he made his will in February 1839. In it he explained how he had acquired his property and gave descriptions of it all. He left most of his estate to his grandson, Alfred, including:-

> *'All That my messuage or Dwellinghouse being a Public House called The Leathern Bottle, Together also with the Woodhouse Garden and Appurtenances thereto belonging now in the occupation of William Finden situate in Cutpound Lane in Alton aforesaid being part of the Hereditaments which I purchased of John Curtis, Tanner, And also All That my newly erected Brewhouse, Millhouse or Grinding House, And also my Malthouse Maltkiln and Storerooms great part of which has lately been newly built with the House or Building lately occupied by John Littleworth but now thrown to and used with the said Malthouse, And also*

the Cellars, Stable, Carthouse, Outhouses Buildings Gardens Orchard Yard and Appurtenances to the said Malthouse and premises adjoining and belonging now in the occupation of my said Grandson Alfred Fielder situate in Cutpound Lane in Alton aforesaid comprising the remainder of the Hereditaments which I purchased of the said John Curtis.[18]

As can be seen, the adjoining house had been added to and turned into a malthouse, maltkiln and storerooms.

Moses did not die for another five years and so Alfred did not immediately inherit. In order to fund the business, Alfred took out a mortgage of £2000 with John Knight of Farnham, banker.[19] The Knights also had their own brewery in Farnham.

The 1841 census shows that throughout all these changes William Finden was still living in his house. With him were his wife, Ann, and daughter, Mary Anne. He said he was a shoemaker although it is clear from Moses Fielder's will that William and his family were also running a public house which was called the Leathern Bottle. The name was a very suitable choice. William would have been able to make a leather bottle which would then have been coated with tar or pitch and could be used by labourers to carry beer. The sign combined both of William's trades and it is likely that, now aged about 60, he may have needed to supplement his income if he was having trouble such as arthritis or poor eyesight.

The 1842 Tithe Map for Alton illustrates the large number of buildings that had grown up around William Finden's home covering just over half an acre.[20] The Alton Westbrook rental for 1844 has the entry:-

'Fielder Moses for the House and Garden by Cutpound late John Curtis's' with *'Brewery Yard Garden Malthouse & Leathern Bottle. Mr Moses Fielder died 30th December 1844'* added later.[21]

After Moses died, his grandson Alfred proved the will. Although he inherited most of Moses' property, there were bequests of £250 to four grandsons (Charles, William, Edwin and Henry Allan) and an annuity of £40 to Moses' daughter, Martha Allen. By April 1846, Alfred had borrowed £5600 on mortgage. Things did not go well and Alfred went bankrupt.

The *Hampshire Chronicle* of January 1847 advertised the auction of Alfred's property,

'being all household furniture, hops &c and a newly erected brewery fitted up in the first style and a malthouse adjacent capable of wetting 18 quarters. Also ***the Public House known as the Leathern Bottle*** *[*my emphasis*] and 5 freehold tenements adjoining, and the Queens Arms at Hawkley, and a newly erected Public house known by the sign of the Cricketers [in Butts Road], 8 acres of superior hop land, a newly erected dwelling house with convenient offices occupied by Mr Williams, and a shop and premises adjoining.'*

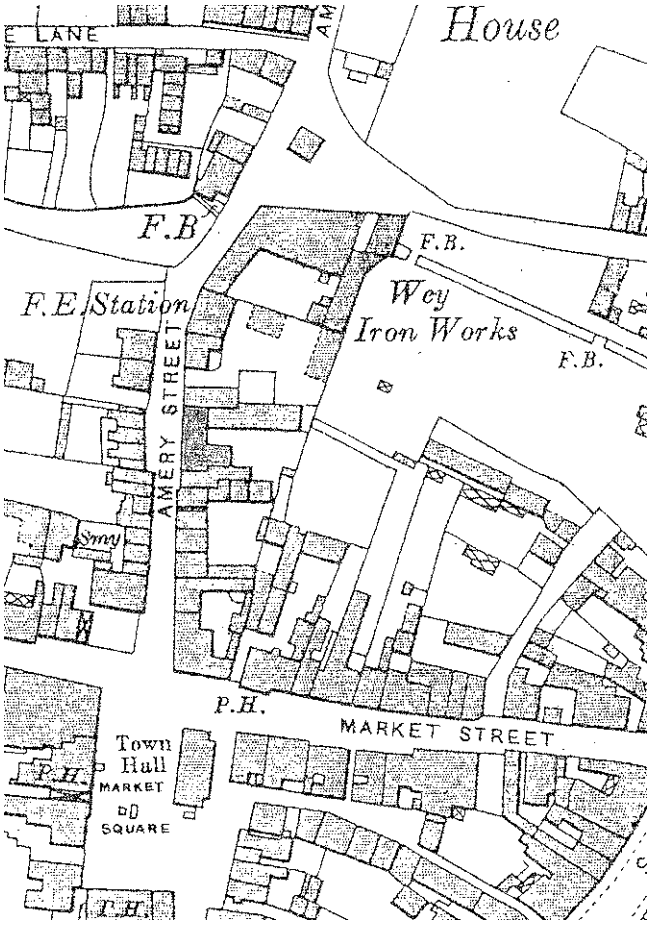
The sale was later postponed to March 23rd. William Terrell Gunner of Willhall Farm in Alton wrote in his diary - *Walked down to Fielders Sale. What a very nice brewery it is! Everything Fitted up so well*.[22]

The new owners of the brewery and the Leathern Bottle were J.& J.Knight of Farnham. William Finden stayed on in his home after the change and the 1851 census found him, a 70-year old widower, described as a *victualler & cordwainer*. With him were his daughter Mary Anne, his grandson William Finden and a lodger. William was buried in the new Alton Cemetery on Christmas Eve 1859.

The next occupier of the pub was George Corps and he was followed by George Wells. In 1861 James Cox from Ropley was the landlord and he stayed at the Leathern Bottle (called the Leather Bag in one directory!) for another ten years when he was said to be an agricultural labourer as well as a licensed victualler.

On 23 June 1891, The Farnham Brewery put up much of their property for sale. Lot 12 was:-

The Fully-licensed Freehold Public House, known as the Leathern Bottle, situate in Amery Street, Alton. It is Brick-built and slated, and contains - On Ground Floor, Bar and Bar Parlour, Parlour, Kitchen, Tap Room and Cellar; on First Floor, 5 bedrooms. There is a Brick-built and Slated Stable and Small Garden. It is let subject to 3 month's notice to quit. This Property is well situated for Trade.



Also for sale were the Bell in Alton and the Windmill Inn at Four Marks. The Leathern Bottle was acquired by Watney, Combe, Reid & Co.Ltd and the next occupier was James Marlow.[23] In January 1891, he was summoned for refusing to admit a police constable during prohibited hours. He was fined and had his licence endorsed.

The area around the Leathern Bottle was a busy one. The brewery premises had become a foundry for Hetheringtons and the Alton Fire Brigade had their station nearby. In the late 1800s, the Alton Local Board took one of the buildings below the Leathern Bottle and turned it into a hospital. The Farnham United Brewery wrote and complained that a ward for infectious diseases (diphtheria at the time) was next to the pub.

By census night 1901, Josiah Wakenell and his family had arrived at the pub (which was now given the address of 16 Amery Street). Josiah also kept a pig here as the sty was considered *injurious to health* by the

Local Board in 1905.[24]

On Thursday 3 May 1906, the County Licensing Committee of Quarter Sessions met and considered the renewal of licences held in respect of the following premises in Alton - the Leather Bottle (as it was now called), the Bell, the Rising Sun, the Star and the

Windmill. It was resolved that the Committee should proceed under the Licensing Act of 1904 (under which some public houses were to be closed) and get reports of their licenses. A year later, the compensation for the closure of the Leather Bottle was announced as £120 for the licensee and £660 for the brewery.[25]

The premises were then bought by Rev Charles Plomer Hopkins of Alton Abbey. In March 1908 he opened an establishment called the Workman's League here. Father Hopkins was well known for his Socialist ideas and had written a letter to the Urban District Council in 1906 about the *unemployed in our midst.* This project did not last long, possibly as Father Hopkins was increasingly away, and the property was put up for sale again in January 1912. It was described as the freehold premises formerly known as the Leather Bottle, with a frontage of about 60ft to Amery Street, and comprising of a dwelling house and stables, suitable for conversion into two tenements with gardens, and a private motor garage.

In March 1912, 16 Amery Street was transferred to J.R.D.Shaw of Fleet. The main building was empty but the stables were being used by William Cozens, a local shopkeeper. James Shaw set up in business in the old Leather Bottle premises as a *marine store dealer* or dealer in scrap materials. After WWI, Walter J Barney, a cycle repairer, moved into 16 Amery Street to be followed by Tom Lee, a haulage contractor. Some notes written by Mrs Childs in 1929-30 state:-

> *This was formerly an inn called 'The Leathern Bottle', but of recent years was taken by Mr Tom Lee a contractor for haulage and ultimately turned by him into a common lodging house. At the time he did this he revived the name of the old inn, as he thought, by hanging out a sign on which was written "The Old Leather and Bottle"! Since then the property has changed hands & now boasts a most elaborate sign with the inscription corrected![26]*

The property was never, of course, an inn - only a public house.[27]

Michael Reale had taken over the lodging house by 1931 although six years later the business had changed to that of coal merchant and their advertisement announced *Domestic Fuel Merchant to the Best Families.* The building later returned to its function of 150 years ago - somewhere where one can get a drink (and food) called 'Ye Olde Leathern Bottle' - but now is standing empty again.

1 H.R.O.1845 A36/1
2 Edward Roberts, pers.com.
3 B.L. Egerton Rolls no.2101 (1499), B.L. Add.Roll 27893 (c1550), B.L. Add.Roll 27889 (1622), B.L. Add.Roll 27892 (1639), H.R.O 63M48/669 (1653)
4 H.R.O. Copy/30/1
5 B.L. Add.Roll 27901
6 H.R.O. 63M48/670
7 H.R.O. 63M48/671
8 H.R.O. 4M51/50
9 H.R.O. 21M71/PO1
10 H.R.O. 21M71/PO1
11 H.R.O. 21M71/PO1
12 Copy of Warner Notes at Curtis Museum, Alton
13 H.R.O. 63M48/674
14 H.R.O. 63M48/675
15 H.R.O. 21M71/PO14
16 Guildhall Library, policy no. 199582, 7253/49
17 H.R.O. 21M71/PO15
18 H.R.O. 1845 A36/1
19 H.R.O. 79M78/E/T8
20 H.R.O. 21M65/F7/3/2
21 H.R.O. 4M51/67
22 H.R.O. 284M87/2
23 H.R.O. 12M75/PO6
24 H.R.O. 12M75/DDC2
25 H.R.O. 109M71/1
26 Copy of Childs and Warner Notes at Curtis Museum, Alton
27 Hurst, J, 'Alton's Inns' (2004) and 'Alton's Pubs' (2005).

Park Farmhouse, Little Somborne

Gordon Pearson

This note is a comment on an article by Lisa Jennings in the last Newsletter on the discovery of unusual linear graffiti in a cottage in Little Somborne. Ed.

The discovery of graffiti marks on the walls during the current repair of this property is of particular interest to me.

About twenty years ago, I examined a mid-seventeenth-century building (Eggar's School, Alton, I think) with beautiful wall panelling and I employed a contractor to remove a small section of it to give access to the electrical services. On the plastered wall behind was a replica of the panelling drawn in pencil. "Come and look at this", said the contractor, "the joiner marked it out so that his client could get an idea of what it would look like." A thought indeed! I have not examined Park farmhouse but the photograph of the graffiti there looks similar to what I recall at, I think, Alton Eggar's School.

Maybe it was usual for a salesman to sell his services in this way. After all, Humphrey Repton sold his landscape schemes to estate owners by means of his 'Red Books'.

A Grant to Date Buildings:
Buildings Investigated by the Hampshire Buildings Survey Group on behalf of the Historic Buildings Section of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society

Bill Fergie

In 2009 the Historic Buildings Section managed to secure a substantial grant from the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Community Fund to investigate and date a small number of key buildings in the north-east of the County. This is an area less well known than the central and southern parts in terms of the date ranges of different types of framed buildings. The investigation had been prompted in part by a study of Corner Cottage, Baughurst, Nr Tadley, which dated to 1580/81 and has a good claim to be the latest domestic building in Hampshire constructed with an open hall. It is interesting that one of the other buildings referred to in this report is the latest cruck built house so far identified in the County.

Of the five buildings investigated dates, or date ranges, were established for four. The buildings covered a wide social and chronological range, with dates from the 14th to the 17th centuries. The dates were obtained through the science of dendrochronology, which is based on an analysis of the annual growth rings of the structural timbers used in the building. This dating system is not guaranteed to provide a positive result in every case, and the southern cross-wing of Burghclere Manor unfortunately failed to date. The dendrochronology was commissioned by the Hampshire Buildings Survey Group on behalf of the Historic Buildings Section. The dates obtained make a significant contribution to our overall knowledge of timber framing in the County.

The buildings studied were:-

Roundhead Cottage, Old Basing.

This timber framed house proved to be one of the earlier fully floored houses in the county, with a date of 1551-2. Such a house marks the final stage in the evolution of the medieval open hall house into what we would now recognise as a "modern" house. It was very substantially built and would probably have been constructed for a relatively wealthy yeoman farmer.

Hatch Cottage, Tadley.

The timbers in this cruck framed house were shown to have a felling date range of 1496-1528. Cruck framed buildings relied upon a structural system in which large curved timbers provided support for both walls and roof. The origins of this uniquely British system of construction are not fully understood, but, with one late 13th century exception, it was employed in Hampshire between the early 14th century and the turn of the 15th/16th centuries. With the date range established by dendrochronology this modest but well built farmhouse is the last example of this method of construction so far recorded in the County.

Stables at Hartley Court, Hartley Wespall.

This brick built range of stables with hay storage and other accommodation above was built between 1610 and 1614. It exemplifies the gulf between the high quality of service buildings built by the wealthy and the relatively modest houses built by the less wealthy. At the time the stables were built many houses, including those of the reasonably well off, were still being built of timber, wattle and daub, and thatch. Bricks and tiles were not commonly in use for houses in the countryside until well into the 17th century. Clearly the wealthy could afford to keep their riding horses in the type of

building which most of the rest of the population could not afford for their residences.

Church of The Blessed Virgin Mary, Hartley Wespall.

The background to this rare timber framed church had been a bit of a mystery which our investigation has managed to throw some light on. The ornate style of carpentry employed is normally associated with the West Country rather than Hampshire. The date range of 1335-64 revealed by dendrochronology coincides with a period in the early 14th century when the Bishop of Bath and Wells held the lordship of the manor. It seems he must have employed a carpenter from the West Country rather than one from the locality.

Old Burghclere Manor, Old Burghclere.

The open hall of this former medieval rectory had previously been dated to 1328-9, but the date of the southern cross-wing, although clearly later and probably a replacement for the original, was not known. The timbers unfortunately failed to produce a date, but typologically the wing appears to belong to the middle or later part of the 15th century.

Tree-ring dating of the brethren's hall at St Cross, Winchester

John Hare

The brethren's hall is one of the most impressive buildings of St Cross Hospital at Winchester. But like so many historic buildings it is full of problems. When was it built? Was the timber roof contemporary with the stone walls of the building? In the spring of 2010, John Crook alerted us to the fact that scaffolding had been erected within it, allowing a rare and brief opportunity to tree-ring date the timbers and resolve some of the problems. The Hampshire Building Survey Group provided a bridging loan, and the Historic Buildings Section agreed to raise the money from the proceeds of a pair of fundraising lectures by Drs. John Crook and John Hare. On both occasions the event was oversubscribed and the cost of the dating has now been paid for. We are grateful for the support of the Master and Trustees, and to Dr Martin Bridge and the Oxford Dendrochronology Laboratory for fitting in this project at very short notice.

This project has resolved many of the dating issues associated with the hall. The likely felling date was 1434-1462 and the most likely date 1437-51. This makes it clear that we should associate the roof with the construction of the new grand buildings for Henry Beaufort's new foundation of his hospital of noble poverty, which he added to the existing de Blois foundation and which included the great entrance tower and the grand courtyard of individual chambers. Although there is no specific documentary dating for the hall, a combination of documentary evidence reinforces and qualifies the tree ring dating, suggesting that the hospital was built in the last decade of Beaufort's life (1437-47). Beaufort purchased land for the foundation in 1439, acquired a royal grant to alienate land in 1443, and by 1450 the new foundation had an income of over £200 and its full quota of brethren. The buildings were probably complete by the time of Beaufort's death in 1447. The hospital ran into serious financial difficulties after his death, and early completion is also suggested by the absence of any mention of the hospital in his will, despite recording gifts of £2000 to members of his household. There would be no need to put aside money if the buildings were now finished.

The building of the earlier hall itself is not documented but can clearly be ascribed on stylistic grounds to the 1350s or 1360s so it is now clear that what we are looking at is a major transformation in the 1440s. Beaufort remodelled the hall, adding a new porch, and new roof, and rebuilt parts of the undercroft. As in the entrance hall and the courtyard, he used the building to display his own grandeur and importance. His work at St Cross was part of a spate of building activities which Beaufort carried out from 1435 to 1447, and which included major projects at his residences of Bishop's Waltham, Marwell, Wolvesey and East Meon. This work also enables us to suggest the name of the otherwise anonymous carpenter of the new roof of the brethren's hall, since Beaufort was using John Lewys at the first three of these sites including building a new roof at the great hall at Wolvesey, and the chamber block at Bishop's Waltham (where there are evident similarities between its roof and those of the chambers at St Cross).

Fig. 1. The roof of the brethren's hall, St. Cross dendro-dated to 1437-51 (photo Bill Fergie).

For a full and up to date account of the buildings of St Cross including the development of the hall see John Crook's magnificent new book, *The Hospital of St Cross* (2011).

Landscape

Editor: George Campbell, 10 Church Lane, Highfield, Southampton, SO17 1SZ
e-mail: georgecampbell@supanet.com

Editorial

We have many local history and archaeological societies in the county, whose members are engaged in productive research and enquiry, which they report to their fellow members and sometimes publish. But most of this has a restricted local circulation. Rarely does news of this work surface elsewhere and reach a wider audience, perhaps because local projects reflect a local perspective which in turn tends to restrict any chance of their significance being re-assessed more widely. If a study shows originality in the methods of enquiry, or in the choice of subject matter, or appears to be a good example of its type, its wider publicity could benefit us all.

Two of our members who are also members of local societies have each suggested that a recent study known to them deserves to be reviewed in a wider setting.

A short while back, Diana Coldicott, Editor of the Andover History and Archaeological Society Journal, drew attention to an article in the September 2010 issue. This was 'Chalk, Chalk Pits and Lime Kilns' by Mervyn Grist; a well researched enquiry into the variety of ways 'chalk' has contributed to landscape features, natural and man-made. Although the primary focus was the Andover area, examples were drawn from further afield. For example,in his study of chalk's water-holding function as an aquifer, Mervyn quotes the vital spring that enabled Mottisfonte to exist, then extends his researches to embrace ponds along ancient trackways, and three millenia later, Southern Water's dependence on boreholes. His study continues, under appropriately defined sections: chalk as a building material and chalk blocks in particular, underlining the importance of the specially treated chalk blocks Lutyens employed in the building of Marsh Court, near Stockbridge. This is followed by: local sources of chalk, lime manufacture including surviving kilns and their location with detailed descriptions and photographs, and lime's agricultural and other uses. This is a model study of the influence of Hampshire's dominant rock, and opens doors to a wider appreciation and understanding of a common feature of our environment.

Derek Spruce of the Odiham Society has similarly recognised the wider significance of Mary Bennett's 'Odiham Common; a report on common rights, historic use and encroachments on the common'. This pioneer study comprises six thoroughly researched major sections covering the earliest evidence of common rights to the most recent encroachment: the M3. While it concentrates on the Odiham environment, the many well organised sub-sections, such as those in the main sections: 'Grazing Rights' and 'Encroachments', offer many leads for comparative studies. Mary is willing to be contacted via e-mail: marybennett9@ googlemail. com. Her report may be accessed direct via the Hart District Council website, by simply typing in 'Odiham Common Report' under 'search'.

Are there other studies we may have overlooked?

Bee gardens in the New Forest

Penelope Walker

Before the introduction of modern wooden beehives in the second half of the 19th century, hives in England were made from wicker and, later, coiled-straw (skeps). They stood on stools or benches and were covered with a straw 'hackle', an old pot or sacking to keep out the rain. One distinctive type of skep, the New Forest or Hampshire 'pot', was made with long sedges – 'bennets' – that grew in the area. Gypsies bound the bennets with bramble stems to make the skeps which they hawked round Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire (Vernon 1981: 9).

Bees were kept near flowers on which they foraged, and preferably in an area that was enclosed, to protect the hives from theft and from damage by animals, as well as providing some shelter. Many beekeepers had their hives within sight of the house, in a walled garden or yard (1). If the hives were kept in a separate or isolated spot, this apiary was generally enclosed by a wall, fence, earth bank and/or hedge. In the New Forest, beekeepers needed to protect their hives from animals such as cattle, ponies and pigs, as well as from hunting dogs and deer. Although it was illegal to enclose Crown land, making beekeeping enclosures was probably quite common over the centuries, and was largely

Fig 1 New Forest skep made from sedge by a gypsy (IBRA Collection B53/56)]

overlooked by the Forest officers. An exception was in the year 1635, and it has been suggested that Charles I needed some extra revenue then (Willis 1986). At the Swainmote (court) held in Lyndhurst in June and July of that year, 44 beekeepers were fined for having bees in enclosures, described as 'parcels [of land] … enclosed with a hedge' (Stagg 1983: 105); this is now interpreted as a bank and a hedge (2).

One case reported 'various parcels of the king's demesne containing four perches *anglice bee gardens*, and [the yeoman] had placed there thirty hives *anglice bee stalls*' (Stagg 1983: 108-9). The term 'bee garden' continued to be used; for example, in a 1786-7 survey of the New Forest, 'Cole's Bee Garden' was marked at the northern edge of Matley Wood (3). In 1980 and 1997, some earthworks known locally as 'bee gardens' were recorded slightly to the south of this site.

Archaeological and other evidence.

In 1910 the artist Heywood Sumner, who was then living in and exploring the north-west of the Forest, wrote: 'In Chibden Bottom, and on the side of Whitefield, there are banked up rings which mark the sites of "bee-gardens" – places where beehives were put out when the heather bloomed, and where the bees were looked after by some beekeeping commoner. This seems to have been customary on the northern side of the Forest.'(Sumner 1910: 14). Over the next few years, Sumner found more of these banked enclosures and talked to local people about them (Sumner 1917).

In the 1960s the New Forest Section of the Hampshire Field Club (NF HFC) started to record the earthworks described by Sumner, and other similar ones. In the following decades, much painstaking work was done by this group (now the New Forest History and Archaeology Group). It observed the controlled destruction of some sites in 1969 and 1975, and also excavated several sites on Holmsley Ridge before they were destroyed by gravel digging in the 1980s (HFC 1981, 1983); see photograph below. Since then the group has recorded numerous similar enclosures, and continues to do so.

In a few areas, bee-related names were known locally, some probably dating from the 17th century

Fig 2 Excavation of two enclosures, Holmsley Ridge, 1981 (A. Pasmore)

(4): 'Cole's Bee Garden' at Matley (mentioned above); 'Anthony's Bee Bottom' near Holmsley; 'Hive Gardens' and 'Hive Garn Bottom' near Godshill; 'Bee Bush' (or 'Bushes') near Minstead. Also, a plot on a 1797 map of the village of Hale is marked 'Bee Garden'. Banked enclosures were found at or near some of these sites, and the classification of numerous other earthworks as bee gardens is based on their similarity to them; various other possible origins and uses were considered and rejected. None of the earthworks could be dated, and no direct evidence of beekeeping was found for any of them, but their characteristics distinguished them from other types of earthworks described in the area, such as pig pounds, pillow mounds (rabbit warrens) and disturbance due to military exercises. One large banked enclosure (NGR: SU 2127 0929) known as 'King's Garden', on the south side of Milkham Bottom, was regarded as a possible – though rather large – bee garden, but documentary evidence indicates that it was originally an 'arbour', i.e. a tree clump surrounded by a bank (Reeves 2008: 168, 176). There is, however, a small bee garden nearby, at SU 2093 0889.

From the extensive work of the NF HFC, two main types of bee garden were identified. The first, the 'Holmsley Ridge' type, is found across the south of the Forest and beyond, towards Christchurch; there are probably several hundred recorded examples. They are usually rectangular or square and very occasionally circular; they have banks with internal ditches and no entrances. The size is very variable, but often up to 8 m diameter overall. Smith (1999) reports that the banks are generally no more than 0.2 m high and 1-2 m wide. Pasmore concludes that they may be largely from the seventeenth century, probably no later. Second, the 'Ibsley Common' type is found in the north-west of the Forest, mostly on Adjacent Commons, but fewer of this type have been found – probably about 20 in all. They are similar to the 'Holmsley Ridge' type except that they have external ditches. Many are likely to be from the nineteenth century, but one at least is much older.

The Royal Commission on Historical Monuments also did some fieldwork in the New Forest in the 1990s; and the collated records for many bee gardens are deposited with the National Monuments Record (now part of English Heritage); see also Smith (1999.).

Information on all bee gardens recorded in the Forest (Crown lands and Adjacent Commons) is in the NF archaeological database in the Christopher Tower Library, Lyndhurst, which also holds detailed reports on some sites (5). It is thought that there are probably other bee gardens, not yet recorded. Most of the surviving enclosures are situated on or next to heathland, either on a ridge, as at Holmsley Ridge, or lower down a slope. As the valley bottoms often contain mires, the enclosures in lowland sites are found adjacent to the edge of the mire, mostly on dry heathland (6).

The New Forest as a beekeeping area

The New Forest was a good area for beekeeping, but the unique conditions of the Forest made it necessary for beekeepers to make enclosures for their hives. Although the bee gardens were made and used in different periods, the total number recorded is impressive. Local beekeepers probably kept their bees in some of the bee gardens throughout the year, and the bees would have foraged in spring and summer on many flowering plants: trees such as willow, shrubs such as gorse, and a variety of wild flowers, especially heathers.

Frank Vernon regarded the village of Beaulieu as an average beekeeping area, and in the thirteenth century it had at least 300 hives of bees. In good years there might be twice as many, and similar numbers were probably kept in similar areas with ample bee forage (Vernon 1981: 6). At Ashley Heath, near

Ringwood, William Cutler had 200-300 colonies in the mid-nineteenth century. A newspaper published a description of the skeps being moved about 7 miles: it took 'the men three whole nights' and the costs included 'calico and string for wrappers in which to tie up the hives' and wagons to transport them (7).

Towards the end of summer, beekeepers from outside the Forest also brought in their bees to forage on *Erica* species. The late honey – and wax – would have been a good addition to the harvest. In 1976, a Forest Keeper said that his family had talked of skeps being brought to Row Down, in the south-east corner of the Forest, from Southampton by horse and cart, in about the 1850s (Crane 1983: 88-9). The tradition continues: beekeepers can still take their hives to certain sites in the New Forest between July and September, if they pay a fee to the Forestry Commission.

The large number of bee gardens found in the New Forest constitute an important beekeeping heritage and, as far as I know, hive enclosures have not been recorded in such a high density anywhere else. A survey of England (Walker 2011) found a few enclosures that had been used for bees in heather areas, including Yorkshire, Co. Durham and Surrey, and also a number on Sopley Common, near Hurn in Dorset, which are similar to the NF enclosures. Large walled enclosures for beehives were also built in parts of France and Spain, and examples were described by Crane (1983: 324-5) and by Walker and Crane (2004).

Acknowledgements

I am very grateful to Anthony Pasmore for providing information on the New Forest bee gardens. Thanks also to Richard Reeves at the Christopher Tower Library, Michael Grant, and Nicky Smith.

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Notes

1 A few beekeepers even made recesses for skeps in their garden walls. In Hampshire, 8 walls with bee boles have been recorded on the International Bee Research Association Register; see http://ibra.beeboles.org.uk.

2 Anthony Pasmore, Personal communications, Sept. 2009 & Jan. 2010.

3 'Survey of Ironshill, Denny and Ashurst Wake', 1787, map held by National Archives, Kew, PRO F17/270; however, the garden was not named in the published map: Richardson, T, King, W and Driver, A and W (1789) *A Plan of His Majesty's Forest* (Commissioners of the Land Revenue).

4 Except where references are cited, the information in this and the next paragraph was kindly provided by Anthony Pasmore, Personal communications, 2009, 2010.

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Balks and Furrows

George Watts

In 1954 C.S. and C.S. Orwin published a second edition of their classic study of *The Open Fields* (1). In it they took issue with their distinguished predecessor Frederic Seebohm on a number of issues, one of which was the way in which the strips in the open fields were divided. Seebohm had said that the strips were divided by 'green balks of unploughed turf'. The Orwins were strongly of the opinion that they were divided only by wide furrows, and they made some pointed comments: 'Seebohm's inference from the evidence is not justified'….'it is very difficult to follow Seebohm's conclusions' (2). The issue became the subject of lively debate in journals like Antiquity and the Agricultural History Review; among the participants were Maurice Beresford, Eric Kerridge and Hampshire historian J.S.Drew.

I began my postgraduate research in the autumn of 1954, on the Estates of Titchfield Abbey, and decided that one of my tasks should be to see what the evidence from the Abbey's manuscripts might contribute to the balks debate. After several years in the British Museum and elsewhere, I reluctantly concluded that this was one subject on which I would be unable to make a significant contribution. There were many and varied boundary disputes between the Abbot's tenants. Ditches had been dug without agreement; in two cases the manorial court decided that the boundary should be formed by water in the bottom of the ditch, and that any crops growing on the sides of the ditch belonged to the respective tenants (1318, 1340). Bushes and overhanging trees were cut down (1335); trees which had been planted were pulled up (1327); on one occasion a strip of 6 inches had been ploughed out, on another a strip of one foot (1314, 1315) (3). But it was nowhere possible to determine whether those boundaries were between strips in the open fields, or between closes and gardens. Not to be daunted I offered some guesswork: 'In the absence of any definite evidence it is possible that'.. [on the Titchfield estates there were].. 'comparatively wide strips divided by balks' – the kind of supposition on which a sympathetic examiner will gently comment (4).

That was over fifty years ago. Now at last a piece of definite evidence has come to light, though not from

the 14th century. Penny Daish of the Warsash Local History Society, has drawn my attention to a series of documents about the village of Hook in the Hampshire

Fig.1 Wolgar Common Field, Hook, in 1795

Record Office among the papers of the industrious Clement Walcott. Hook had an ancient field system in which land had been occupied by several manors, by 1756 by two. Walcott acting on behalf of the lord of the manor of Titchfield, the Duke of Portland, was trying to establish which pieces of land were held by tenants of Titchfield and which by tenants of Hook. He wrote to the Duke enclosing several sketch maps, in particular of a field called Wolgar Common Field (fig.1). Wolgar Field was still, in 1756, functioning like a 14th century furlong, with blocks of strips running north-south and east-west, which were in the process of being consolidated into larger units. On the north-east of the field the consolidation had taken the form of ploughing out some of the *ley banks* between the strips. Walcott wrote: 'The Ley banks had been plowed up by some of the tenants… they never regarded the Ley banks, but plowed them up to make the most of the land. The field is now wheat'. The field is shown in figure 1. On the eastern side the contested east-west strips and ley banks are numbered 1,2 and3. Mrs Cadogan and James Atneve are merging their strips. In the north-east corner William Osmond has already enclosed his strips. To the south-east several lifeholders have turned their strips into a four acre coppice. On the west side of the field the north-south strips are still intact, with the ley banks shown along the northern headland.

So here they were: Seebohm's balks, in a quiet corner of south Hampshire – in the 18th century.

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2. *Ibid*. p.44.
3. from B.L. Add 70509.
4 Watts D.G. The Estates of Titchfield Abbey 1245 – 1381, unpublished B.Litt. thesis, Oxford 1958 p.35.
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My thanks to Penny Daish.

Old Boundaries Never Die……

George Campbell

That old adage 'old soldiers never die ……' could equally be applied to old boundaries. In the countryside old boundaries have persisted in spite of the impact of prairie fields and deep ploughing. Obviously, major boundaries like Bokerley Dyke and the Froxfield Entrenchments are difficult to shift, but even the older small scale boundaries of Celtic fields are still clearly visible, and aerial photographs reveal other boundaries that are fading or invisible at ground level. Among the more prominent survivors are the boundaries of the cultivated strips and furlongs from medieval open fields, preserved as long curved boundaries, sometimes in a reversed-S form, in post-enclosure hedge lines. A good example are some field boundaries in the parish of Stratfield Saye revealed on the current 1:25000 map between Wigmore and Forelands Farms at SU68/62, and illustrated in the HCC/EH Hampshire Historic Landscape Assessment publication (1), (fig.1.) Another example that illustrates the transition of open field strips into 'ladder fields' within long curved furlong hedges is present on the tithe map of Martin (fig.2). But, a good example of the survival of former strips in outline is shown on the 1:25000 Pathfinder map of Broughton, where the parish boundary at SU326326, shows the zig-zag pattern of the ends of former strips and furlongs at the north end of Rooks Pit Field, one of a number of the parish's open fields enclosed in 1790 (2). This boundary evidence indicates that at one time the land was being ploughed to its territorial limits, perhaps because of the pressures of an expanding population or the demands of the Napoleonic Wars, either of which would have provided good grounds for enclosure, and thereby more efficient

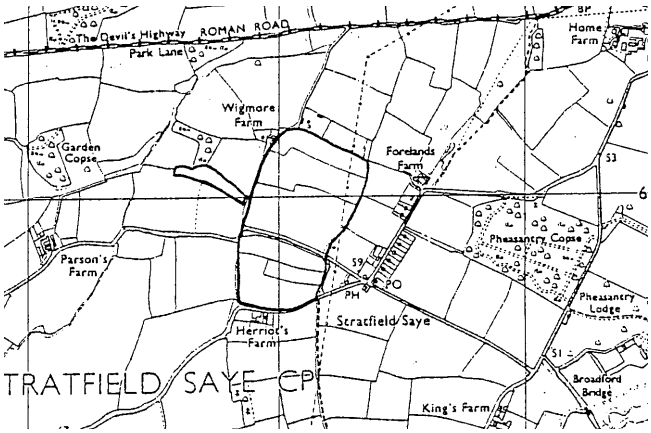

Fig.1 Enclosed strips and furlongs, Stratfield Saye

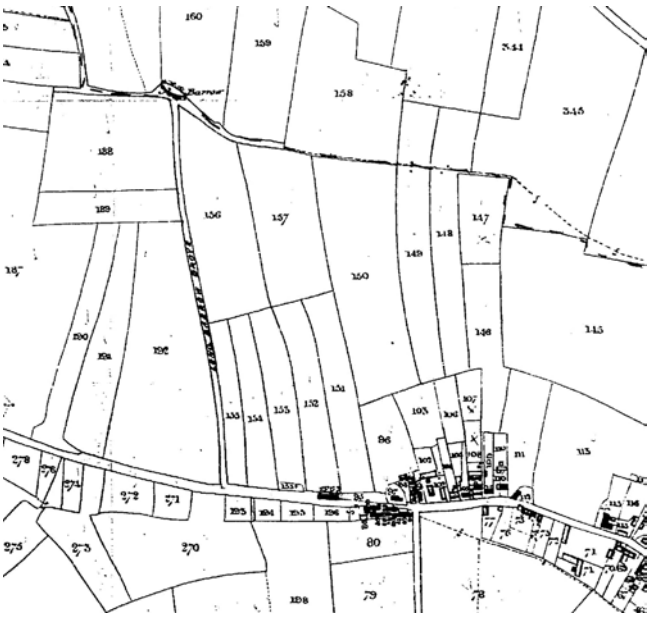

Fig.2 'Furlong' field boundaries, Martin, 1841.

farming and greater productivity. The corresponding zig-zag pattern is also seen on the western edge of Little Houghton Field, a former open field, in the adjoining Houghton parish, enclosed in 1795.

.The former dividing line between the open fields and the common is frequently preserved as a pathway or track. For example, in Candovers parish, an ancient long distance trackway, the Ox Drove, follows the boundary between Brown Candover's South Field and the Downs, the former common grazing, at SU585385. Today, all this land is cultivated, but the old boundary is still clearly marked. As the Ox Drove was a pre-historic throughway,

Fig.3 The boundary of Brown Candover's open fields and common grazing and the Ox-drove.

its route suggests that it was skirting a field boundary possibly before Saxon times, Iron Age or even earlier (3) (fig.3). Compton, south of Winchester, illustrates a similar feature. Here the fields were enclosed by agreement in 1741, where Hurdle Way Field's northern boundary was marked by an ancient east-west trackway, to the north of which is the scarp of the heavily wooded chalk downs descending steeply to the village. Today, a minor road, Hurdle Way (SU465253), flanked by large villas on its south side, follows the line of the trackway westwards until it gives way to a drove road, still following its original course (4)

Ponds are a meeting place of old boundaries. The availability of water, especially in chalk country, was invariably a convergent point for long distance trackways. Rushmoor Pond (SU648410) was undoubtedly a watering place from ancient times for migrants and their herds as well as for the locals. It is in dry upland chalk country; the shallow pond probably has been enlarged and bedded with clay from early times to help retain a sizeable pool. Old parish boundaries and long distance drove roads converge there. Now, in a wooded wilderness, the pool is hardly noticed, while the trackways bear the tread of walkers' boots rather than the heavier tread of thirsty cattle. Nearby, an earthwork, 'Hurst Castle' (SU645412), might in its time have maintained the pond and controlled access to it (fig.4).

Features of the former commons are also preserved

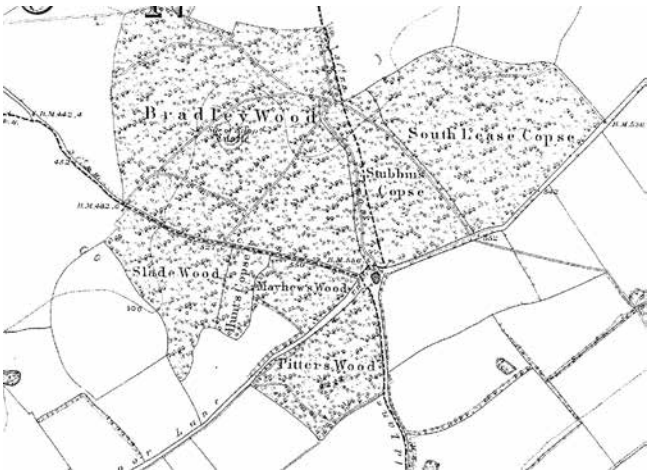

Fig.4 Rushmoor Pond, an ancient point of convergence of boundaries.

in the urban landscape although we may be unaware of them. One of the most unusual is the route of the drove road across Aldershot Common originally marked by a line of posts, but retained when the common was enclosed in 1853 to allow the building of the town and barracks. 'This old route led into Aldershot by way of an old track which exists today as the road between the Royal Pavilion and the Royal Garrison Church' (5).

Medieval common field boundaries may also survive in an urban setting. In market towns, for instance, curved or reversed-S boundary lines can sometimes be detected in the walls of old buildings, particularly those fronting the high street or market place. They are most commonly observed in the boundary walls of old inns at the entrance to the stable yard where they are clearly visible from the road (fig.5). But, it is the frequency of encounter that suggests a common origin of this unusual survival of a strip or furlong boundary from the common field. And, if this is the case, it follows that urban encroachment upon the open fields by the landowner, the lord, must

Fig.5 The entrance to the stable yard, White Horse Inn

have occurred on a large scale, and at a time when it was profitable to do so. This may have been in the 13th century when a prosperous economy encouraged the building of tenements on long burgage plots along a potentially busy high street or at a cross roads. Interestingly, Letters (6) has recorded the 13th century as the peak period for the granting of market charters.

One of the best documented market towns in respect of medieval building is Romsey. The detailed record of its medieval development is due largely to the far-reaching initiative of the wealthy Bishop of Winchester, William of Wykeham. In the commercial transactions of his great nephew, Sir Thomas Wykeham, who inherited the bishop's property in the town, much is revealed of the town's expansion in the early 14th century, through the deeds of the location and description of each of the tenements he later leased or sold. Some of them were shops, and one became an inn, the Swan (7). Most importantly, no fewer than 20 of his properties fronted on to the market place, one of which must have been the tenement that later became the White Horse Inn. Significantly, the curvature of the long west wall of the inn's stable yard that extends many metres back (fig.5) is repeated in the parallel walls of several adjoining properties to the west, suggesting a common origin, probably medieval (fig.6). If so, could they be the boundaries of a cluster of strips that abutted on to the market place? This feature also hints at the outer limits of some of the settlement's earlier buildings, which would have followed the founding of the Abbey, before the Conquest.

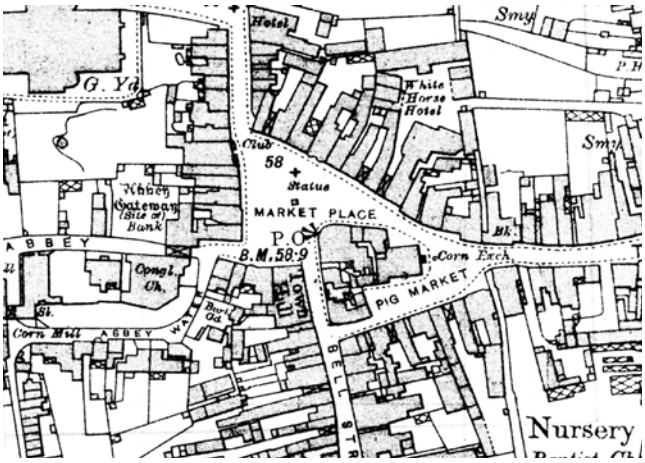

Fig.6 Romsey Market Place, showing boundaries of White Horse Inn yard and adjacent buildings.

It has been suggested that Romsey's early settlement and market place were planned by the Abbey (8), as the triangular form is repeated at abbey gates elsewhere, for example St. Albans and Battle (Sussex). As Beresford stated 'The monastery gate held the same power to attract traffic to it as the gate of a castle' (9). At Romsey the market place broadens out from Abbey Gate in its south-west corner. It is also probable that the 39 villagers recorded in Domesday were domiciled in this area, perhaps on sites later owned by Sir Thomas Wykeham (above). The presence of the 53 smallholders also recorded in Domesday may imply that an open field system had not yet been created. When it was, its fields would have extended immediately beyond the embryonic settlement and market place. As the settlement prospered and expanded in the 12th and 13th centuries, like many others in this period, the built up market place must have extended further eastwards, as did Church Street northwards from the market place (10). It is therefore significant that in the market place, west of the cluster of curved boundaries referred to above, there appear to be no curved boundary walls, raising the possibility that west of this line, open fields had never existed, because buildings were already there. The late medieval evidence of the Winchester College Muniments reveals that by 1300 an elaborate street plan already extended from the market place with a high density of housing in place for some time before that date. The tenement that later housed the Swan Inn, situated close to the Abbey, clearly dates from this pre-1300 period. The White Horse, a short distance to the east, apparently overriding 'strips', was built probably in a later period of expansion. The Muniments also quite specifically refer to building developments in the 1300s, eastwards into 'Bradbridge Without', that later became The Hundred; also northwards in Church Street, and Cherville Street (11).

Andover provides more evidence of urban medieval curved and 'reversed-S' boundaries. After the great fire that virtually destroyed the town in 1435, rebuilding occurred with the market focus no longer outside the parish church, which had survived the fire, but lower down the High Street where a new wide market place and a market hall were created (12). It is apparent from the evidence of the large scale maps (fig.7), that the lower High Street and adjoining streets had preserved many building plots that are undeniably former burgage sites, and that their boundaries retained the sinuous lines of the old open field strips or furlongs. The civic authorities did not attempt to re-plan the entire town layout, they simply built along the former streets. No doubt the plot owners were determined to hold on to their territorial rights: another good reason why old boundaries never die.

In Southampton, both the Star and Dolphin inns in the High Street display the remnants of curved boundaries in their walls (fig.8). In the late Saxon town, the forerunner of the Star, occupied a site next to what was St Lawrence's church, to serve the market created at the door of the church.

Such medieval boundaries have also been preserved on a large scale in some of the northern industrial towns; most having been obliged to expand over their open fields in the 19th century because of their rapid growth in population. Nottingham is a good example, where Hoskins commented: 'The pattern of roads and streets created after the enclosure

Fig.7 The curved boundaries of burgage sites, Andover.

of the open fields in 1845, was largely determined by their medieval footpaths and furlongs' (13). Leeds has a similar history (14). Today, such boundaries rarely survive in the big towns, where extensive deep level

Fig.8 Entrance to inn yard, The Dolphin, Southampton.

concrete building foundations have obliterated those vast areas of Victorian housing along with other evidence of archaeological value.

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3. Enclosure Map 1737, HRO 11M52/649.
4. Enclosure Map 1741, HRO Q23/2/29.
5. Cole, H.N. *The Story of Aldershot*, 1951 p.22.
6. Letters, Samantha, Ed., *Gazetteer of Markets and Fairs in England and Wales to 1516*, 2004 p.26.
7. *Winchester College Muniments* Vol. 7, entry 16330.
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13. Hoskins, W.G. *The Making of the English Landscape* 1955, p.222.
14. *Ibid*. 1988, p.225.

The Missing Link

Malcolm Walford

Introduction

A major feature of Hampshire's landscape in the 21st century, highly visible from the air, is the South Coast motorway. In the 1970s it could be seen to progress on its sinuous twelve miles course from Portsbridge westwards to Windhover. Then, there was a seven miles break before it reappeared at Chilworth where it continued for a further eleven miles to Cadnam. Routes either side of the gap were open to traffic by March 1976, but motorists had to wait another eight years for the " missing link " to be forged and for the long awaited route to the west to be opened.

The rise and rise of traffic before WWII

It is useful to have some background information regarding the necessity for a new route. This is demonstrated by traffic census information for first class roads usually held every three years. Records of traffic flows taken at various points on the A27 and A31, the main east-west routes from the Hampshire/West Sussex border via Romsey to the Hampshire/Dorset border, show remarkable increases over a ten year period (table 1).

Planning a new route

Hampshire's county surveyor (CS), Colonel A C Hughes, was pushing for a new route to avoid congestion and improve road safety; the substantial growth in traffic was occurring on roads little improved

Census point	1928	1938	%
5409 - 200yds west of Bedhampton level crossing	42,114	77,352	83.6
5410 - At Fareham UDC boundary	38,713	78,582	102.9
5413 – Chilworth, 600 yds SE of milestone, Romsey 3	9,492	16,544	74.2
5430 - Nr. Hunters Inn 400 yds from milestone, Romsey 2	14,037	29,193	107.9
5433 - County boundary at St. Leonards	21,286	44,433	108.7

Source: County Surveyor's Annual Reports 1932 and 1939.

since the age of turnpike roads, through small towns, like Emsworth, Havant and Fareham, which were not bypassed until many years after WWII, and which routes included level crossings and pinch points such as railway bridges and ribbon developments. (1)

There was an urgent need to identify and protect a new/east route from speculative developers. The passing of the 1935 Restriction of Ribbon Development Act enabled the county surveyor to sterilize a 120 feet wide route (2) for a new South Coast Road. The CS in another annual report emphasised

> *The most pressing problem is the provision of a coast road linking the county boroughs of Portsmouth,*

Southampton and Bournemouth and serving as an outlet for the southern terminal points of the London – Portsmouth and London – Basingstoke – Southampton trunk roads ...the problem is an urgent one apart from traffic considerations as the area through which the road must pass is rapidly being developed.(3).

The route he proposed between Chilworth and West End passed through heath and woodland, then between a high-class residential area known as the Romandene Estate, then through more heath and woods, before crossing playing fields south of the Southampton Municipal Airport, and running over the Itchen valley and then across mainly agricultural land.

A very contentious link

Significantly, a mile and a quarter of the link passed through the Borough of Southampton. A description of this link in 1939 stated:

From the West End the proposed road assumes a double character, that of the South Coast Road of Hampshire and also the outer ring road for Southampton, picking up the London – Southampton trunk road at the Bassett crossroads and the proposed Southampton Docks road at Nursling ...The Southampton ring road standard width plans are now awaiting the approval of the Ministry of Transport, but agreement has been reached with the County Borough of Southampton (BoS), while at Bassett a building estate has been modified to accommodate the new road. (4)

What the report failed to mention was that the route ran through land purchased by BoS in 1932, part of which became the Southampton airport; this was later to become a major issue.

In July 1939 BoS notified Hampshire County Council (HCC) that they were unwilling to contribute towards the cost of sterilizing the route or the construction of the road within their boundaries and that they had deleted the road from their Town Planning Scheme as sufficient provision for extra traffic was being made by widening existing roads (5). In the meantime Southampton City Council had received and approved preliminary plans for an aircraft factory to be erected on land they owned, at Southampton airport, for Cunliffe-Owen Ltd.(6). In October approval was given to the owners of the proposed factory to have access from Wide Lane to erect a factory, on condition that it (the factory) would be closed when the council gave a month's notice. In June 1939 the Works committee agreed to the purchase by Cunliffe-Owen of that part of Messrs. Juke's Sports Ground, adjoining Wide Lane, which was not required for the new road and to be used as a sports ground or for the purpose of extending their factory (7).

World War II brought the new road scheme to a sudden halt, but the HCC thought they had reached agreement on the line of the road around Southampton (8). During the war, Cunliffe-Owen repaired and overhauled aircraft for other companies but in 1947 they had to sell-out due to financial difficulties. The site was acquired by the Ford Motor Company in 1953.

Increasing pressures for a South Coast Road

The *Portsmouth Evening News* (15.4.1961) featured a report *Call for better South Coast roads*, delays of which were causing industry to be hindered because of lack of progress on the South Coast trunk road. The paper later reported (24.10.1961) that the latest traffic census at Bedhampton showed that east/west traffic volumes of 150 vehicles a minute, exceeding that of the A3 from Waterlooville, causing severe congestion on the Cosham roundabout. The several Local Authorities involved could not agree on the proposed route across southern Hampshire.

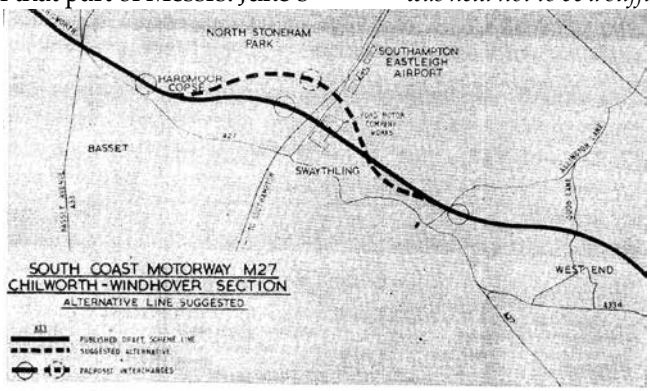
In 1966, Southampton's Town Clerk, commenting on the latest list of trunk road improvements, said that the proposed Portsbridge to Bassett section would be a great help in getting the main east/west traffic to by-pass Southampton and to relieve the congestion on Northam bridge (9).

In 1969 the proposed route for the M 27 was published.

Objections and Inquiries

Lack of space does not allow the author to detail the several public inquiries on the "missing link" route held between 1969, including the massive four month inquiry in 1976/77, and the publication of the Inspector's report to the Department of the Environment and Transport on 9 June 1980. However, two major areas of objection must be addressed.

On 10 February 1966 the *Daily Mail* had carried banner headlines *NEW ROAD DOOMS FACTORY* and reported that a factory employing 3000 workers producing the latest Ford trucks and vans stood to be demolished because it stood in the path of the proposed trunk road. The factory which had been built during WWII had been put up without planning permission. The Ministry of Transport had stated that the route had been fixed in 1951 and would go straight through the factory at ground level. A Ford official said that the Local Authority had told them that they had not been informed of the route. At the public enquiry (10) in 1969, the company said that, if the M 27 cut through the site, its present use might have to come to an end; it would take a tenth of the acreage and between a fifth and a sixth of total floor space, as well as part of a sports field, a potential site of expansion. The inquiry chairman pointed out that any northern route for a new road would affect the airport. But *The existence of the wartime legal agreement to protect the route for a new road was held not to be a sufficient justification for dissecting a motor vehicle production plant.*(11)



NEW ROAD ROUTE COULD AVOID FORD'S AND AIRPORT

Fig.1 Proposed New M 27 Route

In August 1970 the *Echo* published a Ministry of Transport draft map of a possible new route (fig.1). In January 1971, the paper published comments by the Operations Officer of the Aerodromes Directorate that the loss of 145 feet of runway would have a serious effect on the take-off weight of aircraft and 65 feet of emergency distance would also be lost. In July 1971, the revised route avoiding the Ford factory was agreed by the Secretary of State for the Environment. This alternative presented another,

locally, very sensitive issue; it ran through Southampton City Council's Garden of Remembrance, and whilst the Secretary of State very much regretted the distress caused, a new Garden would be created adjoining South Stoneham Cemetery, 100 yards away. (12)

In January 1976 the *Echo* reported on heated discussions, especially involving local residents from Bassett, concerning the Ministry's published route, and

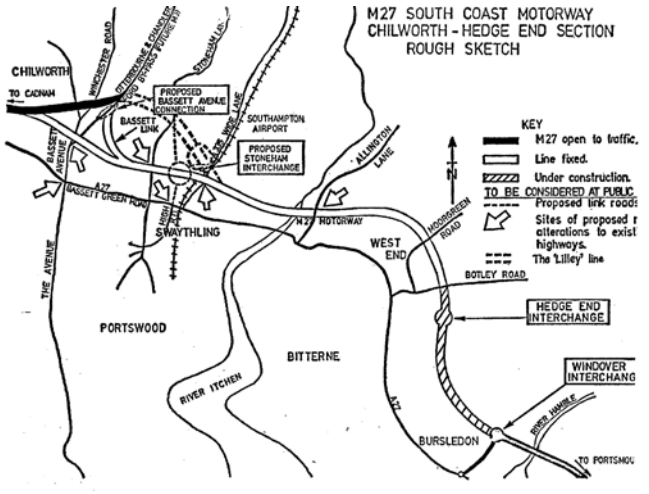


Fig. 2 The Missing Link

counter proposals submitted by Professor G. Lilley, Southampton University, for a more northward route from Wide Lane to link with the future M3 through Home Wood (Fig. 2). A marathon inquiry, lasting from October 1976 to February 1977, led to the government's rejection of this alternative, pleasing conservationists by preserving the green belt in the Chilworth district.

Finally, the Regional Director of the Dept. of the Environment and Transport issued a report on 19 June 1980. This published the results of the final inquiry held at Eastleigh between 17 and 24 July on the four M 27 acquisition of Land Orders. These included the compulsory purchase order for the Chilworth – Hedge End section. The Inspector had observed that almost everyone had expressed the opinion that the completion of the M 27 was required as a matter of urgency, and added that even people whose convenience and amenities were bound to suffer had opined that it must be built and built quickly. The route proposals were confirmed.

The "Missing Link" contract was built by Alfred McAlpine (Southern) Ltd in 1981 – 83 to a route largely designed by Mott, Hay and Anderson and valued at £20.2 million.(13) A faster, safer link opened in 1984 much to the relief of the long suffering motorists. The landscape had changed forever.

Acknowledgements

The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of his editor, George Campbell, and of John Ekins, former Hampshire county surveyor.

Notes

1 Unrestricted ribbon developments increased the number of exits on to already congested and narrow roads.
2 The 120ft included two 22 ft carriageways, 22ft central reservation, and cycle track and footways.
3 CS Report 1937/38 p.42.
4 CS Report 1938/39 p.65/66.
5 CS Report 1939/40 p.57 and Minutes of Works Committee 9 May 1938 p.842.
6 Works Committee Minutes 12 September 1938 p.1275.
7 Works Committee Minutes 12 June 1939 p.941.
8 The authors of *The Motorway Achievement* blamed the Southampton City Council's several changes of mind, especially about the links into the city, as the reason for several years' delay in the opening of M 27 (p.191).
9 *Southampton Evening Echo* 20 January 1966.
10 *Southampton Evening Echo* 18 October 1969.
11 *The Motorway Achievement* p.193.
12 *Southampton Evening Echo* 21 January 1971.
13 *The Motorway Achievement* p.196.

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The Changing Boundaries of East Dorset with West Hampshire.

George Campbell

This field research day, held on June 1st, was one of a regular bi-monthly series of meetings organised by the Dorset County Boundary Research Group, a section of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society. It was led by Danae Blank, Peter Hatherley and Andrew Morgan. This meeting marked part of the closing phase of a three year project of surveying the boundaries of the county from Saxon to modern times, which Katherine Barker, Chair of the Society, has directed. In her original introduction to the project, Katherine stated: 'The Dorset county boundary represents many miles of an unexplored linear landscape feature of considerable topographical, archaeological and botanical significance, on which as yet, no systematic work has been undertaken' (1).

Fig. 1 Matchams Viewpoint

Our task was to visit a number of widely separated sites along the Dorset-Hampshire boundary, previously researched, located and written up by Danae Blank, ranging from a marker on a Saxon charter to points on the 1974 boundary, marking the most recent changes. We were well equipped, having been provided with copies of Danae's research notes for each of the sites and large-scale maps of the route. Although eight sites had been targeted we aimed to visit four, which we achieved by car and on foot.

We assembled at Matchams Viewpoint (SU133020), a high point overlooking the Avon, with spectacular views to the north, west and south. Here, Peter Hatherley pointed out significant features, both far and near, including those relating to the boundary (fig.1). We then car shared and walked an ancient trackway to Watton's Ford (SU137018), an equally ancient river crossing of the Avon (fig.2). We were reminded that this was possibly where the Roman road between Stoney Cross and Lake Farm, west of Wimborne, crossed the river (2), and the probable starting point for the AD 961 Perambulation of Ringwood (3). Our next stop was by Ebblake Bridge, near Verwood (SU107079) to examine the point where the 961 AD Perambulation and the 1974 boundary coincide at a dark muddy pool, the Ebblake, and a nearby ancient

Fig. 2 The Avon at Watton's Ford

ford. Our fourth walk was to Potterne Bridge (SU 093074) on the R. Crane, which lower down joins the Moors River, both rivers ancient boundaries, and then to Moors Country Park, where the largest of a series of man-made lakes along the river is now a popular venue for holidaying families, as we discovered.

Ten of us from the Field Club accepted the invitation to share in our Dorset colleagues' task of 'beating the bounds' along our common boundary. We had a very warm welcome, and at the end, an invitation to have our names included on their data-base, as well as the promise to invite Field Club members to future events.

References:

1. Barker, Katherine, The Dorset County Boundary Survey, DNHAAS booklet, 2011.
2. Field, Norman, *'Dorset and the Second Legion'*, 1992.
3. Saxon Charter, 'The Perambulation of Ringwood'. Land grant by King Edgar. to the abbey of Abingdon, AD 961.

Archaeology

Editor: David Allen, c/o Museums & Archive Service, Chilcomb House, Bar End, Winchester, SO23 8RD
tel (01962) 826738; *email:* musmda@hants.gov.uk

Editorial

It was with great sadness that I heard of the death of David Johnston, particularly as the Sparsholt publication is not yet completed. It may well be that the Field Club will be able to bring it to some sort of resolution and provide a fitting epitaph for his archaeological work on Roman sites.

David Johnston

There were so many hidden sides to David. He was a bit of a flint knapper and before becoming embroiled with the Sparsholt excavation (1965-72) had dug a Wiltshire bell-barrow at Sutton Veny, perhaps that's where he became interested in flints. Jersey and other Channel Islands archaeology also interested him, as well as the 'flint horse' on Stockbridge Down and he gave a great deal of support to Butser Ancient Farm. Indeed, it was at a meeting with Dr Peter Reynolds at *Wistaria,* the Johnston home in Kings Worthy, that I first saw the mosaic panel which he had created in the porch. This was all done with a certain amount of subterfuge, apparently, as it was a surprise for Pamela. When it was completed and unveiled, they danced on it…a lovely image. Our thoughts go to Pamela at this difficult time.

There's little to relate from the institutional side of things except that Phase 1 of Museum reorganisation has run its course and Phase 2 will by now have begun. Volunteering is the name of the game and there are opportunities to be had at Alton and Rockbourne and of course Winchester, where a dedicated team of sorters and sifters meet every Thursday. It's not all like that, of course, and in this issue Russell Burdekin has brought together the information surrounding a significant group of finds from Holbury, in Fawley parish, which the Museum has looked after for forty years, to give them a context. Russell did some great detective work in tracking down RFM Wiltshire and his archaeological gleanings and we hope it will be the first of several such articles from the volunteer team.

We also have the definitive word on work in the Laundry Field at Cholderton from Cynthia Poole. We have heard from this direction before, in the guise of the Quarley Down Environs Project, but this is a fuller and more up to date account of the dig. There may well be opportunities to dig there this year if you wish.

Horned Head returns

We begin, however, by turning the clock back 50 or 60 or maybe more years ago when a boy staying at Oak View cottage, Portmore, Boldre found an interesting stone in an old quarry and pushed it home in a pram he found dumped there. The stone was in fact a 'Romano-British Cult Object', a horned head to be precise, and was reported in the *Proceedings* by Anne Ross (Vol 26, pp 57-59 (1969)). The stone is Bembridge limestone, which outcrops on the Isle of Wight, and the head weighs 29.3 kilos. Having flirted with the Museums Service (the article says it was delivered to Chilcomb House) the head returned to private hands (I can only imagine the Museum was unwilling to take it on loan). It then travelled with the owners on their remove to Nottinghamshire and only returned last year, when it was given to the University of Nottingham Museum with the instruction that it should be returned to the most appropriate place. Claire Woodhead of the Arts & Museums Service has now cleaned the head and we are considering where best to display it. It would obviously be at home among the Iron Age exhibits in Andover, or could take a turn at Lymington, St Barbe Museum, or Lyndhurst.

Horned head from Boldre, returned to Hampshire after 50 years.

There are not many new ideas about the cult of the horned head since Anne Ross's article but Prof Miranda Green suggests that heads (decapitated or fashioned) are associated with rituals involving boundaries and other liminal zones. 'Keep Out!' might well have been the message, but from who and to whom? The head is accessioned as A2010.83 and the image is a new photograph taken since it was cleaned.

DA

The Cholderton Estate, Amport, Hampshire

Cynthia Poole

Following the discovery of a hoard of three bronze palstaves and three looped-socketed axes in 2007 (Treasure case 2007/TO704), a small scale investigation was undertaken in the 'Laundry Field' at the request of landowner, Henry Edmunds, to try to establish the context of the finds. The site is situated on the Cholderton Estate at the west end of the parish of Amport, within 1 km of the county boundary with Wiltshire. It lies on the south-facing slope of a dry valley that runs from below Quarley hillfort on the east to the Bourne valley on the west and contains two groups of Bronze Age barrows, one of them forming a row along the southern edge of the Laundry Field. Part of a prehistoric field system has also been plotted from aerial photos, which forms part of a more extensive system running up to Quarley hillfort (Palmer 1984). The bedrock here is chalk, but the surface is disrupted by periglacial freeze-thaw features with a hint of a clay-with-flints capping, now ploughed out. The ploughsoil is silty clay containing a high density of flints and flint gravel.

Annual excavations have taken place since the winter of 2007/8, and the intention is to complete them this year. The initial trench (**1**) was intended to investigate the location where the hoard was found. At the same time, fieldwalking and geophysics (Brooks 2008) found evidence suggesting more intensive occupation immediately to the southwest. Subsequent trenches expanded in this direction to investigate this settlement and an area totalling 470 sq m has been excavated (Fig 1).

The geophysics survey suggested the presence of an oval enclosure with a discontinuous boundary and a number of anomalies within the interior, some of which were interpreted as a possible circular structure. In the light of the excavation there has been some reassessment of the shape of the enclosure and what is represented by the anomalies within.

The initial area of excavation (**1**) in 2007 revealed an area of tree root hollows and a large tree throw sealed by a layer of flint gravel, together with a few postholes and a pit concentrated in the southern area. A small trench (**2**) excavated to test the geophysics evidence revealed a line of small hollows, which were interpreted as tree root holes representing a hedge line enclosing the settlement. This theory has been revised following the opening of a larger area (**3** and **6**) which encompassed **2**.

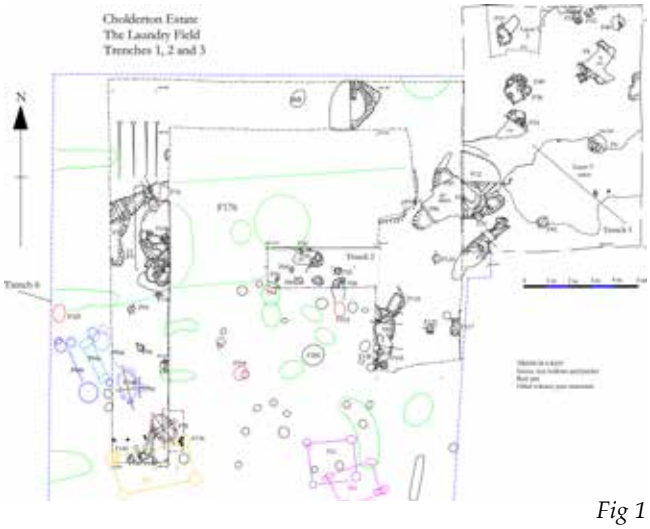

Fig 1

The pattern that became apparent was of a broad hollow **F176** (Fig 2) aligned WSW-ENE across the northern half of the trench with a slightly higher area to the north containing a couple of large tree throws but otherwise devoid of features. To the south was a concentration of pits and small postholes cutting through further tree root hollows. All features were sealed by layer of flint gravel (181), which had accumulated most thickly over F176.

The tree roots and F176 represent the earliest phase of activity. No artefactual or dating material was found

Fig 2

but the few relationships with postholes showed the tree root hollows were always earlier than the manmade features. The linear feature (F176) was c 4-5 m wide and has been provisionally interpreted as a field lynchet with the higher positive area to the north and the negative area to the south. In this hollow a continuous line of large tree throws and root hollows was exposed, with shallower areas of rooting in between. This would suggest that the lynchet had started to form before the trees grew, although it could be argued that the mature trees were left uncleared on the field boundary and the rooting was responsible for the hollow. The three main tree hollows / tree throws along this boundary are large covering areas 3-4 m wide with shallower rooting continuing in the intervening area.

Smaller tree root hollows were found to north and south with the greatest concentration on the eastern side of the excavated area, where they might represent colonisation of the field or field boundaries running at right angles to north and south of F176. Others, more scattered, occurred within the area of the settlement, but the trees must have been cut down and the roots rotted well before the occupation commenced, based on the pattern of fills and the lack of artefactual material.

The exact sequence is uncertain but a possible interpretation is that tree root hollows mainly represent the primary, prehistoric woodland cleared to make way for the Bronze Age field system, possibly leaving some trees along the field boundaries from which hedges developed. It could alternately be argued that the fields were laid out during the Bronze Age, the lynchet formed, and trees and shrubs recolonised the fields if

abandoned for arable agriculture in the LBA when the linear ditches radiating from Quarley were created. The root hollows could represent both primary woodland and recolonisation. It is hoped that molluscan samples taken from several of the root hollows may provide some evidence on their environment.

Whatever the exact sequence, the lynchet formed some sort of boundary and barrier when the later settlement was in use. Features and artefacts extended right up to it but not over or beyond it to the north. A thick substantial hedge is the most likely barrier in view of the absence of any man-made feature such as ditch or palisade.

The settlement appears to have utilised one of the earlier fields and dates from the Early - Middle Iron Age, based on preliminary analysis of the artefacts. The settlement area was represented mainly by postholes together with a scatter of small pits, most of which were shallow and heavily truncated. The post holes appeared to encircle a more open area that may have served as a yard. On the eastern side two successive four-post structures c.2.5 m sq could be discerned amidst the postholes. In the south-west corner were four large postholes that could form either part of a large six-post structure (if there were two more postholes beyond the area of excavation) or a pair of two- post structures. On the west side was a two-post structure, recut three or four times. In its first phase the postholes were elongated apparently each holding a double post setting and had a shallow slot running between, an arrangement typical of the door-setting of an Iron Age circular structure. In the later phases the postholes were packed with substantial flint nodules up to 400 mm in size, which had been pushed back into the holes following removal of the posts. This was a feature of many of the postholes on the site.

If this two post structure was indeed the door of a circular structure then most of the building would have lain outside the excavated area, to the west. However, doubts have arisen as the setting lies very close to the lynchet and any structure would have cut into it, which would be unlikely if this formed the boundary of the settlement. In addition, no evidence of a wall or other features such as an enclosing gully were found, though a stake-built wall is unlikely to have survived in view of the disturbance from ancient tree roots. An alternative suggestion is that it represents some form of gate setting, though there is nothing to suggest a boundary running south from it.

Seven pits were identified, rarely more than 0.1-0.15 m deep and between 0.4 and 1.0 m long. Only one, **F90**, was larger, measuring 1.0 x 1.4 m and 0.35 m deep. It contained a large quantity of pottery throughout its fill, possibly representing a number of smashed pots of Early or Middle Iron Age date. Another pit**, F202**, also produced large quantities of pottery, though in this case it was slabs from the body of a single large pot, possibly a storage jar, laid flat on the base of this heavily truncated feature. Unfortunately, neither the rim nor base of the pot survived. Two pits produced articulated animal remains: in **F148** was the complete skeleton of a piglet (less than 6 months old), and in **F320** were the partial remains of a sheep (Fig 3) consisting of the rear legs, a front leg and part of the vertebral column. It seems likely that the rest of the animal had been removed by ploughing. A small oval pit, **F212**, was packed full of burnt flint and sandstone blocks, though no in situ burning was present, nor any charcoal or ash in the fill. A dump of burnt flint was found also in **F35**, but in this case it was small shattered fragments, apparently the residue from quenching heated flints. Amongst this flint was a small bone with a line incised around each end. Finally pit **F194** produced a range of objects fitted into a small area: parts of two sarsen saddle querns, a sandstone hone, a tiny fragment of bronze and a clay spindle whorl, in addition to some large sherds of pottery.

In summary the excavations have shown a sequence starting with primary woodland, followed by the formation of a field system and arable agriculture during the Bronze Age. Between these episodes clearance of the woodland must have taken place and activity during the Neolithic and Bronze Age is attested by numerous struck flints. Also during this phase the ritual funerary landscape developed in the valley. In the late Bronze Age the bronze hoard was probably deposited, perhaps buried at the edge of a field as the fields fell into disuse or became pasture, at the time when the linear ditches were being constructed from Quarley. The small settlement was founded probably during the Early Iron Age making use of one of the old fields to define its limits. The size of the site and density of structures and occupation material suggest this was a small farmstead, probably representing a single, extended family. The recutting of features suggests it may have lasted a couple of generations and some of the pottery suggests it may have continued into the Middle Iron Age. Following abandonment of the settlement, the area was probably once more given over to arable agriculture, as the truncation of features must have occurred before a horizon of gravel formed over the site. This gravel layer, thickest over the field lynchet, but also covering many of the features though thinning to the south, must have formed as a result of earthworm sorting during a long period of pasture, possibly from the Late Iron Age or Roman period through to the 19th century when the local downland was broken up and given over to arable once again.

Fig 3

References

Brooks, I. 2008 *The Laundry, Cholderton Estate Geophysical Survey* EAS Client Report 2008/01 Unpub.

Palmer, R. 1984 *Danebury: an Iron Age hillfort in Hampshire An aerial photographic interpretation of its environs* RCHM (England) Supplementary Series 6

The Wiltshire Collection at the Hampshire County Museum

Russell Burdekin

R.F.M. Wiltshire was one of a number of enthusiastic amateurs whose efforts in the first half of the 20th century helped collect and appreciate aspects of Hampshire's archaeology before such work was taken up in earnest by universities, museum services and commercial companies. As he put it, "I am doing this work at my own expense in the interests of the Community because it comes outside the scope of the Office of Works grants"[1]. This brief article aims to give some background to his collection and to make it better known.

Ronald Francis Morey Wiltshire was born at South Stoneham in 1901 and died at Fair Oak in 1981. The family's roots were in Middlesex and Hampshire, Morey being the surname of his great, great grandfather[2]. Wiltshire moved into Holbury Manor farm, near Fawley, in 1951, having bought the manor house and some of the land and renting the remainder of the land[3]. He moved out to East Boldre in 1971. Primarily a farmer, he was involved in a range of other activities as well as archaeology, in particular, being a keen sweet pea grower with a variety, the Wiltshire Ripple, named after him.

Figure 1 - Alan Aberg (left), from Southampton Museums with Ronald Wiltshire inspecting finds at site 2 (see Figure 5).Photograph by Ronald Longman, Marchwood, 1958.(HRO 49M98W).

During his time at Holbury, Wiltshire carried out a series of field walks and digs in the area of the manor trying to uncover as much of its archaeology as possible before the land disappeared under a sea of housing. This has now been its fate, except for the area immediately west and southwest of where the manor house stood, which is now a public park (Figure 5 to the left of the red line). This land falls away across what is believed to be a Roman road to Stone Point, Lepe and down to what is now known as Park Lane[4]. Just before the lane is an area designated a Scheduled Ancient Monument[5]. It comprises an ancient pond system that supplied carp to Beaulieu monastery and a medieval moated site whose origin and history are unknown. Beyond the lane is a stream known as the Dark Water. To the right of the red line is now all housing, although in the 1950's it was still open land except for two fields at the bottom of the map, where building was in progress. When taken together with the existence of many flint objects, the site has clearly been in occupation, on and off, for many thousands of years and one can understand its interest for Mr. Wiltshire.

The manor site (most of the manor house having been destroyed by fire in 1972) and barns have been redeveloped for housing, although the look and footprint of the manor house have been retained in the replacement building, including the tall chimneys at each corner, three of which can be seen from a current view (Figure 2).

The archaeological work was started in 1956 with a dig supervised by John Wacher[6], then temporarily attached to Southampton museum, and possibly continued until Wiltshire left the manor, although the peak of activity seems to have been in the earlier years.

Figure 2 - View of the Holbury Manor site as it is today with the redeveloped barns and the roofline of the replacement for the manor house. The Roman road is believed to run across the field in the foreground.

Wiltshire's finds were initially housed in a museum in the barns on his property but, in 1971, when he moved from Holbury, he donated them to the Hampshire County Museum Service (HCMS: A.1971.452-511). Around that time also, there appears to have been some HCMS work[7] to rescue what they could ahead of another major tranche of house building. Since that time there has been a watching brief by Wessex Archaeology[8] prior to the development of the manor house site but it found nothing of significance. However, a watching brief by Archaeology South East, University College, London, during construction at Holbury Infants School[9] was much more fruitful with finds of Roman pottery, brick, tile and burnt material. The University of Southampton has initiated a wider look at the whole area with their Dark Water Valley Project[10] and produced an interim report on Holbury in 2007[11].

The Wiltshire collection falls into three: Prehistoric, Roman and medieval and post medieval, but unfortunately, though not unexpectedly, Wiltshire's recording methods fell somewhat short of modern standards, so that we cannot always be specific about the location of particular finds. Some of the finds are linked to the sites shown in Figure 5 but many are identified only as Holbury Manor.

Figure 3 – Mesolithic Tranchet axe.113 mm in length

The prehistoric finds (A1971 452-463) number over 400 worked flints, mainly scrapers, cores and flakes but including a few axes, arrowheads and blades from Paleolithic up to the Neolithic. J.J. Wymer[12], focusing only on the Mesolithic, reported a tranchet axe (Figure 3), 2 cores, 29 blades and flakes and 4 other worked pieces.

There is also a considerable quantity of debitage. Later pieces include scrapers and a triangular-section fabricator.

Mr. Wiltshire sent a short, hand written, report on his Roman excavations to the Hampshire Field Club in 1959 but it was not published and it is included below as an Appendix. It summarised primarily where the excavations had taken place, an area now, for the most part, built over. It drew few conclusions but does imply support for the existence of a Roman road through the area[13]. The finds (A1971.464-474) were largely pottery, worked stone and tile with, surprisingly, no evidence of coins. Summarising the position in 1972, David Devenish[14], Keeper of Archaeology at HCMS at the time, doubted "if Holbury was anything more than a peasant settlement in spite of the presence of tile" and, given the current situation on the ground, it is unlikely that we can move much beyond that verdict.

Holbury Manor can trace its origins back to the 12th century when land was granted to the "de Holburys".[15] The manor house and lands remained intact until 1928 when some of the land was offered for new housing, a process that continued at intervals until the late 1980's.

Figure 4 – Medieval floor tile possibly made for Beaulieu. 178mm each side

The medieval and post medieval finds (A1971.474-511) include tile (Figure 4 shows the most complete example), pottery, metal objects, including a lead cloth mark, and coins. Recently, Ben Jervis has written a detailed report on the pottery[16], a collection of around 1000 sherds spread over nearly 30 different types of ware, "a fairly typical range of wares … in a typical range of forms" and dating from the early medieval through to the 20th century but with the preponderance of items from the late 14th -17th centuries.

In view of the area's subsequent history and the limited work by professional archaeologists, we must be grateful to Mr. Wiltshire that he preserved so much of its past story. Although none of his collection is outstanding or unique in itself, together it bears strong testimony to the long history of the Holbury Manor area.

(Hampshire County Museum Service would be interested in any further information on Mr. Wiltshire. Please contact Dave Allen, musmda@hants.gov.uk).

The author would like to thank Dave Allen of HCMS for his help and advice and for the opportunity to work on the collection.

Appendix - Mr. Wiltshire's notes on his excavations

Holbury Manor : Notes on Romano-Celtic sites

Masonry Site A (The site designations refer to the map in Figure 5)

Traces of Roman cement in a sandstone wall found during drainage operations in 1952.

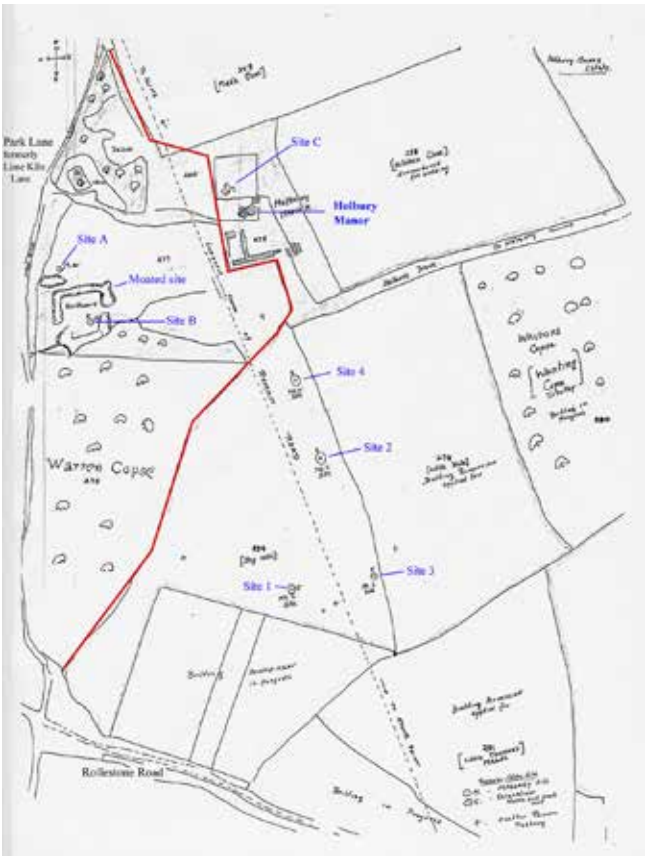

Figure 5 – Map traced by Mr. Wiltshire on which he noted the various excavation (sites 1,2,3,4) and masonry (sites A,B,C) sites. (Hampshire Record Office: 49M98W)

Masonry Site B

There is evidence from pottery found of continuous settlement up to the middle of the XIX cent AD (which makes excavation only possible for the expert professional). Sandstone and Bembridge stone have been used for building materials, the former possibly by the Romans, the latter by Medieval builders. Occupational settlement extends to a depth of four feet. The soil is gravely loam on a subsoil. Strata of green clay which overlays a sandy loam (typical of the kind used in Iron Moulding). Roman pottery (coarse wares), Medieval and Tudor pottery are among the surface finds.

Masonry Site C

There is a base of a wall built on sandstone on this site and fragments of Roman coarse pottery – soil: clayey loam – followed by a layer of coarse sand above gravel.

Excavation No. 1

(Wattle and daub hut near bomb crater.) Site located in 1956. Excavations carried out by Mr John Wacher (temp attached to Southampton Museums) and local help. Pottery from Iron Age C New Forest Ware and 4th century coarse wares were recognised. Two battered coins probably 4th century and two glass beads were found in the occupational debris. The occupational floor had been disturbed by Enemy Action, 1939-45 and the present position of the soil gave no clue as to the shape of the original floor.

Excavation No. 2 Located in 1956 - excavation started here in the Autumn of 1958 and is continuing. The site appeared to be part of, or adjoining, an ancient road made of gravel. Pottery found comprised Iron Age C and 4th century wares. An occupational site was disclosed and excavated. It was rectangular 7ft x 5ft. The length ran parallel to the course of the supposed Rd on the O.S. Map. The floor was 7 in. in depth, sides sloping 1 in 4. Pottery found in occupational deposit comprised fragments of decorated Samian, New Forest Wares, Coarse local wares 4th cent, imitation Brit. Samian Ware. No coins! Soil. Clayey loam on top of gravel, the loam extended to a depth of 2ft 6in.

Excavation No. 3 Located 1956 - a trench was dug across an area of 10 sq. feet. Although some pottery of 4th Cent AD was recovered no occupation floor was found. It would appear that the site (being on the headland) may have been ploughed out. In view of the location of other sites, further digging towards the line of the Roman Rd might be necessary.

Excavation No. 4 Located 1956 - a grid was taken out in 1957. Although some Roman coarse pottery was recovered and various pieces of iron, the result was indeterminate. The site was taken out to a depth of 21 in., which was the natural level of the gravel subsoil. There was a discoloured strata above the gravel which might possibly have been evidence of an ancient roadway (which had been dug out to the gravel level). The gravel layer deepened across the 8ft stretch of the grid (a possible camber) or here again there might be an occupational floor west of the existing site.

General Notes

The excavations have been carried out in an arable field which has been under cultivation for hundreds of years. There is therefore no trace of wells etc.. The field has been levelled out in the course of time. The only guide to settlement comes from pottery thrown up by moles in their heaps of subsoil!

The excavations have proved that pottery of the Roman period is widely dispersed over this field (OS 294) at a depth of 11in. The clayey loam soil varies in depth and tends to shelve out into gravel layers as altitude lowers. All iron objects have congealed into the soil and have become unrecognisable.

I would like to place on record my indebtedness to the late Dr. O.G.S. Crawford[17] for his advice with regard to this "very historical place" "Pick up everything you can find and record it". Secondly, to the help given me by Mr. Hugh Shortt, curator of the Blackmore and S.Wilts Museum[18] in identifying pottery. To Mr. John Wacher for his help and advice during the excavation in 1956 and to Mr. A.F. Aberg, assistant archaeologist Southampton Museum, for his helpful advice with regard to excavation this autumn at No. 2 site and also the kindness and enthusiasm of Mr. P. Storer Peberdy[19] of the Southampton Museum, which has done much to encourage me.

R.F.M. Wiltshire
Jan 13, 1959.

Notes

1 Covering letter to the report included in the Appendix. It was written to the secretary of the Archaeological Section of the Hampshire Field Club, January 14th, 1959 (Hampshire Record Office: 49M98W/B4/11).
2 Letter, January 1984, from Mr. A. Wiltshire giving some background to a gift of historic family documents by his father, Mr. R.F.M. Wiltshire, Hampshire Record Office: 127M71.
3 Communication from his son, Mr. Alan Wiltshire, July 11th , 2011.
4 Confusingly, Park Lane was known as Lime Kiln Lane in Wiltshire's day but that name has now been used for another road in Holbury.
5 http://list.english-heritage.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid= 1013073.
6 Best known later for works such as J. Wacher, T*he Roman World*, London: Routledge & Kegan Paul Ltd., 1987.
7 J.R. Dockerill, *Romano-British Site, Holbury Manor: SU430035,* Hampshire Archaeology and Local History Newsletter 2(1), Spring 1971, p.6. The finds are catalogued as A1973.139-140.
8 N. Thompson and C.J. Gingell, *Holbury Manor, Project 31742*, Wessex Archaeology, July 1987.
9 M. Collings et al, *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Holbury Infants School, Holbury, Southampton, Hampshire*, http://www.archaeologyse.co.uk/ReportLibrary/2008/2008058-2977-Holbury-Infants-School.pdf, June 2008.
10 M. Grahame, D. Glazier and Dominic Barker, *Dark Water Valley Project*, http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archaeology/ resources/ fieldwork_projects/dark_water_valley.html.
11 M. Grahame, S. Moyler, D. Glazier and D. Barker, *Interim Report of the Dark Water Valley Project, Holbury, 2007 Season,* http://www.southampton.ac.uk/archaeology/docs/ HolburyReport07.pdf.
12 J.J.Wymer, ed., *Gazetteer of Mesolithic sites in England and Wales*, The Council for British Archaeology, Research Report, No. 20, p. 114, 1977.
13 There have some doubts in the past about the road but these appear to have been settled by the detailed arguments in A. Clarke, *The Roman Road on the Eastern Fringe of the New Forest, from Shorn Hill to Lepe,* Hampshire Studies, Volume 58, 2003, pp.33-58.
14 D.C. Devenish, *Holbury*, Hampshire Archaeology and Local History Newsletter 2(3), Spring 1972, pp.8-9.
15 The details of the manor's history can be found in C. Murley and G. Parkes, *Fawley and the Southern Waterside, Hythe, Hampshire: Waterside Heritage, 2010*, chapter 12, pp.122-129.
16 B. Jervis, *Assessment of the Post Roman Pottery from Holbury Manor, Fawley, Hampshire,* Ben Jervis Archaeological Report 16, available at http://www.medievalpottery.co.uk/holbury.html.
17 He was the first archaeology officer of the Ordnance Survey and a past president of the Hampshire Field Club, 1946 -8.
18 Now part of the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum
19 Then at the Tudor House Museum.

Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

Newsletter

Programme of Events

July - December 2011

31st July - Sunday - Landscape Section
Morning visit to Kingsclere to look at medieval & post-medieval buildings.

7th September - Wednesday - Archaeology Section
Visit and tour of excavations at St Mary Magdalen Leper Hospital, Winchester commencing at 6.15 pm.

17th September - Saturday - Historic Buildings
Visit to Mottisfont

21st September - Wednesday - Historic Buildings
Lecture on 'Nonsuch Palace' by Martin Biddle at Peter Symonds College.

1st October - Saturday - Local History Section
Visit to Tadley and AGM.

15th October - Saturday - Landscape Section
Conference and AGM, venue to be confirmed; Theme: Comparisons between Hampshire & Dorset Landscapes

19th October -Wednesday - Archaeology Section
Lecture on Marden Henge Excavations by Jim Leary (English Heritage) at Peter Symonds College, Science Lecture Theatre, 7.30 pm.

19th November - Saturday - Archaeology Section
Conference and AGM, "A Body of Evidence", human remains from Prehistory to post-Medieval - Peter Symonds Science Lecture Theatre 10:00

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