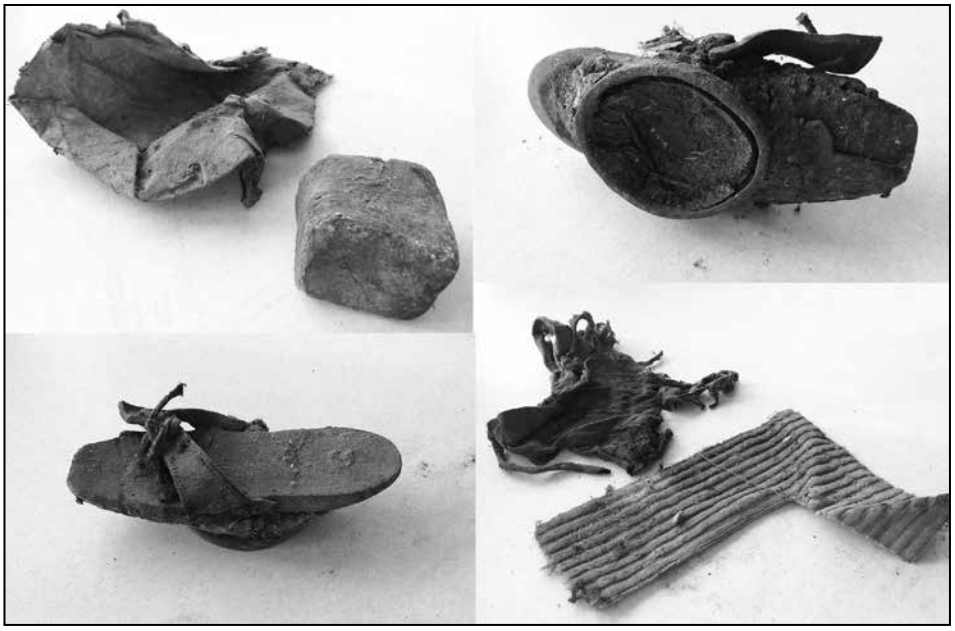
Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

# Newsletter

No 64, Autumn 2015



Early 17th century 'spiritual middens' from Abbots Rest, Chilbolton.

Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

Newsletter

## *Contents* Autumn 2015

*General editor, Dick Selwood*



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# *From the President*

Chris Elmer
*Email:* president@fieldclub.hants.org.uk

Many if not all of you will know Dick Selwood, who until recently most ably performed the duty of Hampshire Field Club President. Few of you will have heard of Chris Elmer, yours truly, who has now taken on the Presidential role. I hope that as my term in office progresses at least some of you will feel you have managed to meet me and feel also that you are most welcome to offer your views and opinions about the role of our Field Club as well as the Council and how we serve our members.

Dick, at the last AGM, reminded us of the distinguished and notable history of the Hampshire Field Club and recounted over 150 years of research, publication and education which have informed the mission of the Field Club, whether focused on historic buildings, landscape, local history or archaeology. The roll call of past Presidents, Secretaries, Council members and the mass of ordinary Field Club members provides a glimpse into a world where the desire to connect with our local natural and historic environment galvanized many interested individuals to undertake significant, and often literally groundbreaking, research and publication. Many of these individuals, including past Secretaries and Presidents, have themselves become historic figures of note and as Dick pointed out in his talk, provide a hard act to follow.

Indeed Dick has left a legacy as President which is equally challenging to live up to; prompting the Council and members to consider new ways of operating, including exploring digital developments and opportunities for new approaches to publication and communication. At a wider level Dick has also provoked a debate about what the Field Club's ambition should be. Should we seek to broaden our membership base? Are we content to continue providing the varied Section driven talks, trips, research projects and publications or should we also offer some other means of engaging with our natural and historic heritage? Do we need to invite a younger demographic into our meetings and if so how can we remain relevant to all our members? What role does local natural and historic heritage play in our lives?

Council for British Archaeology Wessex

*Chris is responsible for Public Engagement at CBA Wessex*

The latter question has continually perplexed me in my career in heritage education, whether as a History teacher in the 1980's, as a museum professional over the last two decades, or most recently as a Doctoral candidate at the University of Southampton researching public engagement with Archaeology. The move from Hampshire County Council Arts and Museums service (now Hampshire Cultural Trust) to University has allowed me to view heritage through a different lens but has also reinforced my view that the local heritage scene is massively interconnected but often fails to build on this connectivity. Part of the solution may simply lie in talking to each other. I hope you will all feel able to offer your thoughts about the Field Club, even if you feel it is already in the best place to provide a varied programme of activities and offers more than sufficient opportunity to participate. The Field Club Council and the Section Committees provide the oversight and administration but you as members provide the essential purpose.

*Chris (with spade) is an active field archaeologist, and is a co-director of the Basing House Project.*

Having served on the Council for two years as an ordinary member I have to acknowledge the hard work and dedication shown by Council and Section Committee members. As a relatively young addition to the Council I have to admit I felt a measure of anxiety about my expertise and ability to offer meaningful input to the meetings. I discovered a supportive, thoughtful and also engagingly motivated team of people who, for better or worse, encouraged me to take over from Dick. I hope I can offer something of worth during my tenure as President and that I may at least ensure the Field Club continues to provide fascinating and fulfilling experiences for all.

*Public engagement in action: Chris introduces a family activity session at Basing House*

# *Archaeology*

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## Editorial

David Allen

July and August are busy months for the county's archaeology. The 25th Festival of Archaeology promises an amazing range of activities and we hope to be able to report on some of them in due course. Excavations will take place at Basing House, Chilton Candover and Warnford Park and these too will be featured in the next newsletter. We can satisfy our immediate appetite for discoveries however, by looking at the results of the first phase of work at Bartons Farm, in the company of Paul McCulloch, and by turning the clock back half a century to see what was going on at the time in West Wood , and over ninety years to savour typical excavation dress on Worthy Down.

Fifty years ago this month the Vietnam War was still in full sway and Civil Rights issues dominated US politics. Here at home Harold Wilson occupied No.10 and Edward Heath had just assumed leadership of the Conservative Party. The film The War Game, documenting the aftermath of a nuclear attack, had been controversially pulled by the BBC and cigarette advertising had just been banned from the 'other channel'. In the less contentious world of musical entertainment the Beatles were releasing 'Help' and the Rolling Stones '(Can't Get No) Satisfaction'. Bob Dylan, however, was being booed for using electric guitars in his new release 'Like A Rolling Stone'.

Meanwhile, in a woodland clearing northwest of Winchester, a dedicated band of archaeological diggers were about to make a dramatic discovery. Robin Iles takes up the story, below.

## Unearthing the spectacular at Sparsholt.

Robin Iles

It is 50 years since David E Johnston and his team discovered the Sparsholt Roman mosaic that now forms the centrepiece of the Venta Gallery in the Winchester City Museum.

Back in August 1965, David led a team of four paid labourers and a dozen volunteers who carried out an evaluation of the Roman villa in West Wood, Sparsholt, for the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works. The investigation was initiated by tree-root damage and the proposed bulldozing of a ride through an adjacent area by the Forestry Commission. At the time David Johnston, aged 31, was a teacher of Classics at Raynes Park Grammar School, and excavating was for him a part-time hobby.

A series of trial trenches were dug on the site, which had been cleared by the Forestry Commission but was hidden in a tangle of honeysuckle, bramble and wild strawberry. These first excavations brought to light a large courtyard villa with buildings ranged on three sides of a rectangular walled farmyard. The most spectacular find, however, was the almost intact mosaic discovered in the central room of the main house.

*Fig 2 The Sparsholt mosaic has been a feature of the City Museum since 1970.*

The fine mosaic is seen here in situ as it was revealed in August 1965. A square border has bands of alternately orientated L-shaped blocks and four-strand guilloche. Inside are circular bands of simple guilloche, swastika-meander and wave pattern, and at the centre an eight-petalled flower. Between the border and the circle the corner spaces are filled alternately with two fan motifs and two calyx urns. The mosaic was later dated to the first quarter of the 4th century and was ascribed by David Johnston to the 'Central Southern Group' of mosaic craftsmen.

David Johnston went on to direct a further seven seasons of excavations on the site (1966-72). A 200 page report of his work at the Sparsholt Roman Villa was published last year as Hampshire Field Club

*Fig 1. Unearthing the spectacular - 1965.*

Monograph 11, in co-operation with English Heritage, and copies are still available from Julia Sandison, the Field Club's Publications Officer at £25 (£20 for members) plus postage.

The Sparsholt mosaic was eventually lifted in 1969 with funds raised in a public appeal organised by the Field Club, along with a grant from the Ministry of Public Buildings and Works (later English Heritage). The work of dismantling, cleaning and reassembling it was undertaken by a specialist London firm under the direction of Mr Gino Narduzzo, and in March 1970 the mosaic was unveiled on display in the City Museum by the Bishop of Winchester, the Rt Revd Falkner Allison. Since then, a mosaic originally made for a single wealthy Romano-British family has been seen, and enjoyed, by hundreds of thousands of museum visitors.

# Excavations at Barton Farm, January – May 2015

Paul McCulloch - Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd

Last January PCA began archaeological investigations at Barton Farm, Winchester, ahead of the large housing development which will cover an area of 80 hectares between Andover Road, Wellhouse Lane and the Winchester-Basingstoke railway line. This triangular area of chalk downland west of the River Itchen, between Weeke and Headbourne Worthy, has survived as a wedge of open land flanked by Winchester's suburbs. Long-considered to hold archaeological potential, the site lies adjacent to a known Iron Age settlement south of Henry Beaufort School, is flanked by the line of the Roman road from Winchester to Cirencester (Andover Road), is crossed by a footpath following the historic Winchester City boundary and was the location of two 18th century militia camps.

In the first phase of development, eight areas were chosen for excavation, four to the north and four to the south of the footpath (Fig 1, over the page), each targeting features identified by geophysical survey, including enclosures and linear features as well as discrete features that might represent pits or structures. The results of the investigations have been very interesting and it is hoped that future investigations will add further to what has been recovered.

**A funerary landscape emerges.**

Work began in January on a large area in the northern part of the site (Area A1). Geophysical survey suggested the presence of two large, roughly rectangular, enclosures, one containing a smaller enclosure, and numerous discrete features. The area was mechanically stripped and before long it was clear that the pattern of archaeological features followed, almost precisely, what was visible on the geophysical survey.

One of the earliest features was an Early Bronze Age 'Beaker' burial located within the northern edge of the area. The grave lay within a segmented enclosure and was roughly circular. It was also shallow and its excavation quickly revealed the skeleton of a typical crouched inhumation burial with a 'Beaker' vessel placed near the folded legs. This burial, for which there are several comparisons around Winchester, appears to be isolated and occupied a slightly elevated position between two dry valleys.

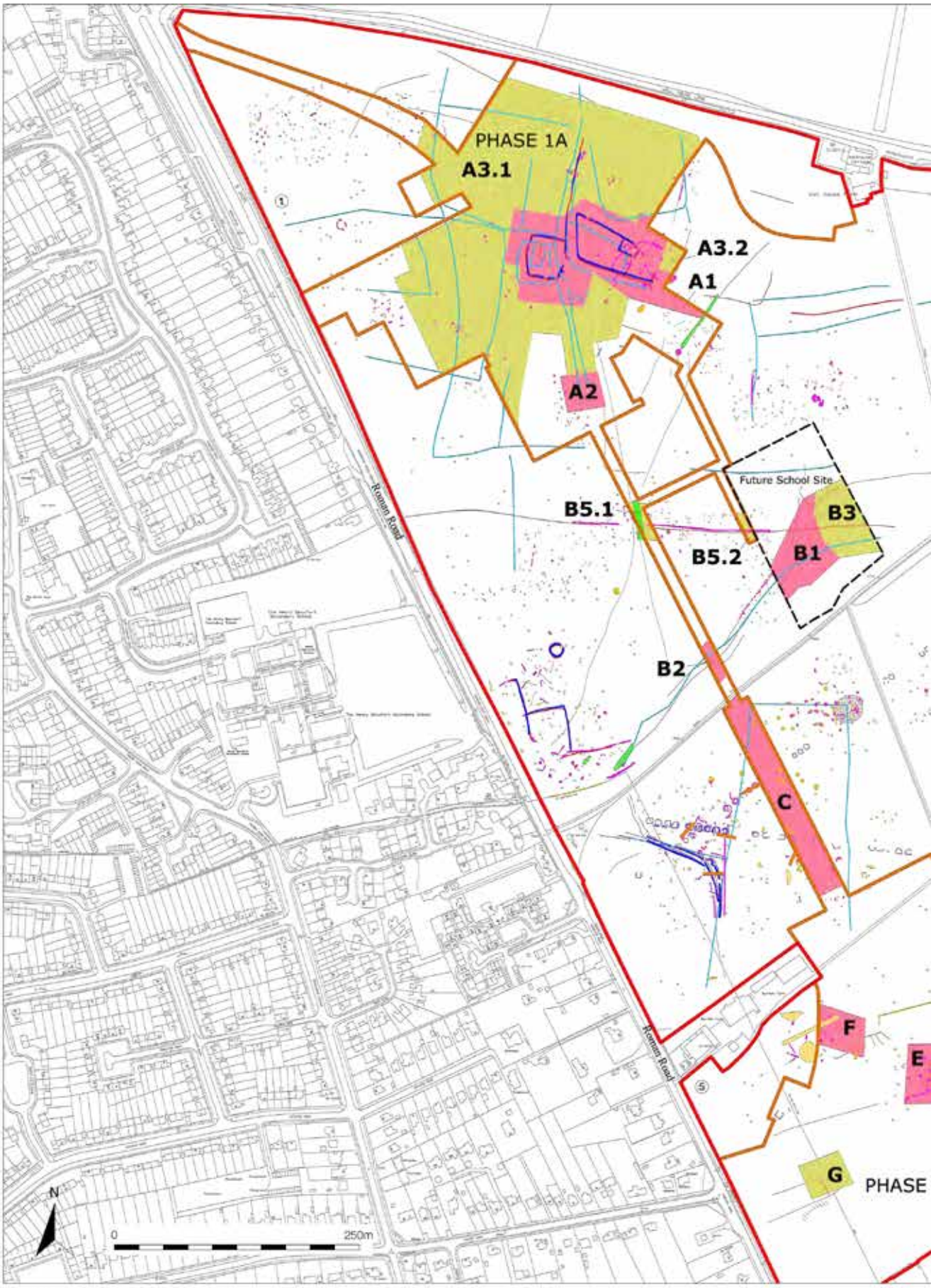
Other prehistoric evidence included a pit of possible Neolithic date, a roundhouse represented by a circle of double post-holes and a south-east facing porch and a few small pits, from which Late Iron Age or Early Romano-British pottery was recovered

It is unclear whether the Beaker monument survived as a mound and acted as a marker, but the

*Fig 2. A Roman funerary enclosure with 'family plot' top right.*
*© Richard Hall*

two large enclosures to the south were revealed to be Romano-British funerary enclosures. The larger, eastern example (Fig 2) contained a square ditch with an opening on its east side. Located within was a group of approximately 15 inhumation burials all aligned east-west, with heads to the west. The earliest burials were poorly preserved, having been dug-through by the later graves, which were generally larger and deeper. There were few associated objects; one or two burials had groups of hobnails at their feet and one had a coin, of probably 4th century date. Analysis may establish whether they are related in any way, i.e. does this represent a family group, tightly packed into an enclosure they owned? Apart from this group, the interior of the larger enclosure contained a scatter of other inhumation burials. Two more had been dug into the enclosure ditch. There was evidence that the enclosure ditches had also received cremated material, possibly pyre debris.

The funerary enclosures lay some 200m from the Winchester-Cirencester Roman road (Andover Road). They appear to be unrelated to any obvious rural settlement or villa, although evidence of both is known

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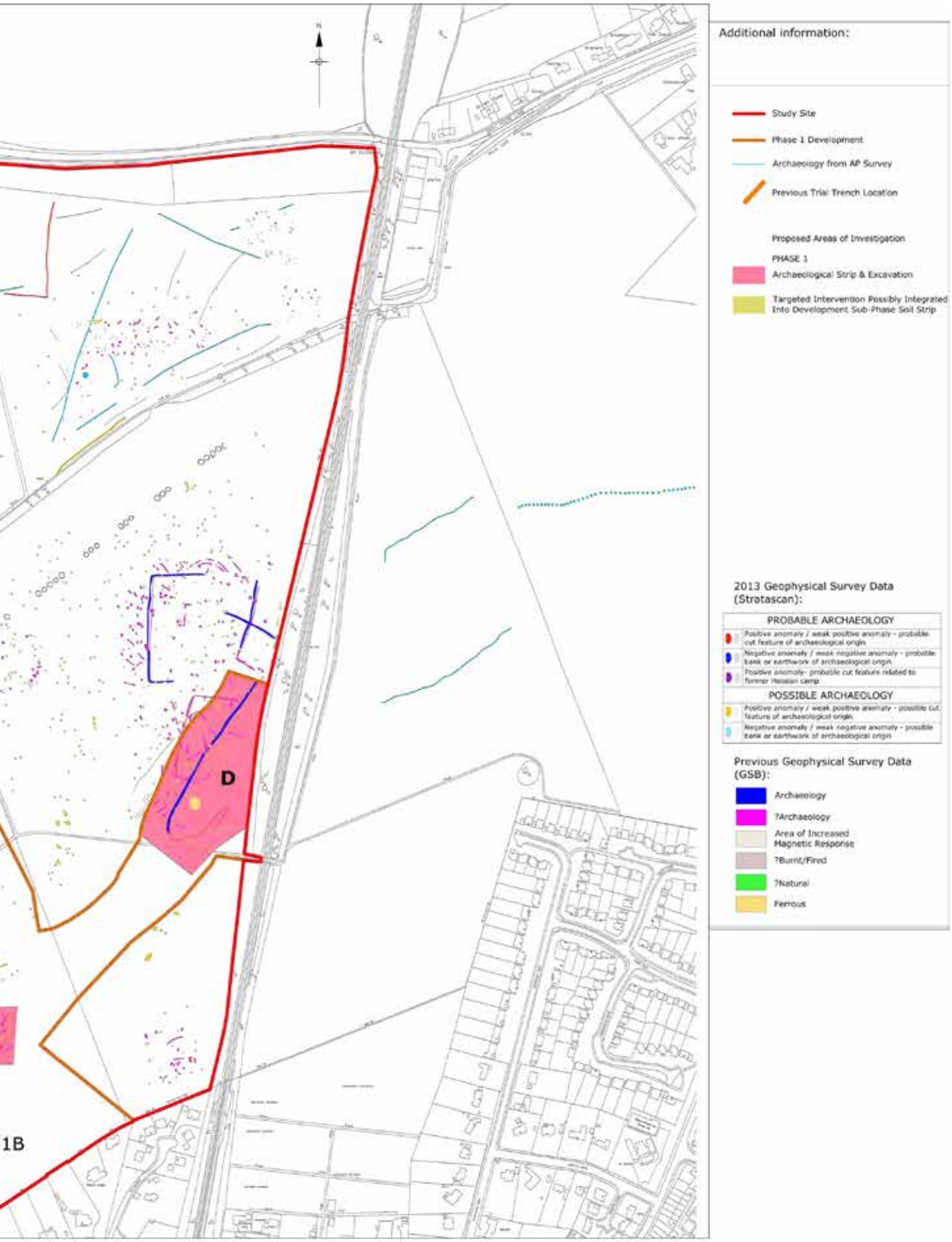


*Fig 1. Plan of Barton Farm and Archaeological areas A1, A2, B1, B2, C, D, E & F investigated January-May 2015. © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd*

to the north of Winchester. They also lay some 1.5km from the northern cemetery of the Roman town at Winchester and appear to represent a place of burial for people who lived beyond the town. The question arises, at what point were people considered to be 'beyond' the town and its cemeteries? Perhaps the answer lies in the antiquity of the boundary followed by the footpath crossing Barton Farm; could this ancient boundary go as far back as the Romano-British period and represent the boundary of the suburbs of Venta Belgarum?

**A section of Roman aqueduct.**

South of the public footpath, one of the areas investigated (D), aimed to uncover a long linear feature identified by geophysical survey running along the base of a dry valley. Once the area was stripped, two parallel, linear features were uncovered, each a ditch of similar width. One of these extended across the area for over 200m. Neither looked like a field boundary and both were slightly meandering. Sections were dug through both and revealed the features had gently sloping upper sides breaking into vertical-sided, 80cm


*Fig 3. The Roman 'aqueduct' in Area D. © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd*

deep flat-based ditches, and on the base of the ditch was a band of fine, laminated silt (Fig 3).

This profile is the same as that recorded in a section of ditch uncovered in the 1970s on the line of the M3 motorway, which was interpreted as an aqueduct serving Venta Belgarum (Fasham & Whinney, 1991); it was suggested at the time that the aqueduct followed the 50m contour from close to Itchen Stoke all the way to a point on the north side of the Roman town; its course was projected to have passed through Barton Farm in a dry valley. The ditch in area D appears to correspond with this course and occurs almost precisely on the 50m contour.

**18th Century militia camps**

In preparation for the Seven Years War with France, and in the absence of a standing army, the British government recruited, not for the first time, a militia from the German region of Hesse. The Hessian militia arrived in England in the spring of 1756 and were initially dispersed across Hampshire and in Salisbury. Later that year the Hessians, perhaps numbering 6,000 men, were assembled at one place, Winchester, on land that is now Barton Farm. The following year the Hessians moved on and were sent to campaign on the Continent.

The archaeological investigation provided the first ever opportunity to examine the site of the Hessian militia camp. Depicted by William Godson in a detailed drawing dated 16th July 1756, the camp extended from Andover Road to Worthy Lane, a distance of some 1km, divided into eight named regiments and a corps of artillery. Amongst all the detail on the plan, Godson identified the lines of field kitchens 'Cutt in the ground' and showed eight per regiment. Geophysical surveys revealed a line of square features extending across the fields south of the public footpath and a second line of similar features, although these appeared to be circular. Trial trenching appeared to show that the

*Fig 4. Three Hessian field kitchens Area C. © Richard Hall*

square features were charcoal filled. These, identified as the Hessian field kitchens, and other features were investigated in Area C (Fig 4).

Area C was opened on the line of the proposed new spine road. It revealed four of the field kitchens, square enclosures formed of a shallow, flat-based ditch. Hearths, or fire pits, were located along the inner edge of the ditch. To the south a row of rectangular dug-outs were found and excavated, revealing them to be around 1.5m deep, with steps at one end and a fireplace at the other (Fig 5). The dug-outs measured some 4 x 3m and presumably provided accommodation for several men.

Contemporary newspaper reports suggest that the Hessian officers wintered in the Royal Palace in Winchester, while their troops stayed at Barton Farm, sleeping, it is said, in circular 'booths'. South of area C, in areas E and F, several large circular features were found each approximately 6m in diameter and 1m deep, each with a burnt area at the centre; it seems reasonable to believe that these were the 'booths' referred to in the newspaper reports.

The field kitchens, dug-outs and circular 'booths' contained a range of artefacts including earthenware

*Fig 5. A Hessian 'dug-out' in Area C. © Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd*

plates, fine china, glass bottles (plenty of those!) and clay pipes, as well as animal bone and oyster shell. These finds, all presumably deposited during the life of the camp, help provide a snapshot of camp life and provisions obtained from the town.

Apart from evidence for the Hessian camp, a number of other features in Area C, differently aligned, appear to represent evidence for another militia camp known to have been established at Barton Farm in 1861. This is thought to have been a Hampshire regiment and included in its number one Edward Gibbon, later the author of 'Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire'.

Once work on the development gets underway, PCA will be monitoring areas around those that have now been investigated in detail. At a later stage there is likely to be further archaeological investigation ahead of development.

**Reference**

Fasham, P.J. & Whinney, R. J. B, 1991, 'Archaeology and the M3', HFC Monograph 7.

**Acknowledgements**

PCA is grateful to Cala Homes for supporting the archaeological investigations.

PCA would like to thank Richard Hall, 5 King Alfred Place, Winchester, for trialling his drone camera at Barton Farm and providing the resulting aerial images for this article – Fig 2 and 4.

# Reginald Hooley and Worthy Down

David Allen

A small exhibition currently doing the rounds with the Hampshire Cultural Trust (you'll be able to catch it at Aldershot Military Museum from 29 August – 1 November) is 'The Collectors'. It features the collecting habits and mini-histories of five Hampshire worthies – William Curtis of Alton, Edward Hart, taxidermist, of Christchurch, Reginald Hooley of Winchester, Herbert Druitt, also of Christchurch and George Willis of Basingstoke. They span, in total, the years 1803 to 1970, but their main period of activity occupied the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

The spur to the exhibition is Hooley, best remembered as a 'dinosaur discoverer' (the Trust is in the middle of its Dinofest programme) but he was a long-term member of the Field Club and an Honorary Curator of Winchester Museum. It was this role that brought him into contact with real archaeology. He acquitted himself well and it was a pity that he was unable to do more. But before we head for Worthy Down we can take a look at his other achievements.

Reginald W Hooley (1866-1923) was a wine merchant from Winchester with a passion for fossil collecting. He was born in Southampton and began his paleontological career by searching out specimens on the Isle of Wight. In 1889 he found part of a dinosaur skeleton in Brighstone Bay, Iguanodon bernissartensis, but his real success came in 1914, when he found a new species of Iguanodon which he named Iguanodon atherfieldensis.

In 1913 he was elected to Winchester City Council and took an interest in libraries and museums. From 1918 until his death he was Honorary Curator of the Winchester Museum and added to their collection with some of his own fossils. When he sold the main part of his collections to the Natural History Museum, they described him as 'an excellent example of the type of amateur geologist and paleontologist who has done so much for science in this country'. Despite his disposing of some his material outside the county, the Hampshire Cultural Trust still looks after more 1000 items from his collection.

Hooley collected from various sites around Hampshire and wrote papers on the geology of the area. He was a member of the Field Club by 1895, led field excursions and corresponded with George Willis. The latter called upon him to comment on what remained of bones found in the Loddon valley gravels by labourers who considered them to be from animals that must have existed 'before the world was drownded'. One bone had been employed, for several years, to bridge a small stream! Hooley's opinion was that it was from an elephant, probably a mammoth.

The Worthy Down story began with the levelling

of a large area for two aircraft hangers in 1919. A number of iron objects were found and cast aside, but 18 months later one of the workmen, a Mr Blenkinsop, saw similar items in the British Museum, labelled 'Currency Bars'. He returned to the site, found they were still there, and took them to the City Museum, where Reginald Hooley was Honorary Curator.

*The Hooley case in the 'Collectors' exhibition; Dinosaur bones, currency bars and more besides.*

*Reginald Hooley (third from left, back row) and his team on Worthy Down in 1921.*

Hooley and Blenkinsop dug an exploratory trench and were soon finding more currency bars, 'pot boilers', charcoal, a human cranium and several animal bones. Encouraged by these discoveries, Hooley returned on a number of occasions, adding a triangular loom weight and pottery to his spoils and defining the edge of a sizeable pit. Excavation continued until the floor of the feature was reached, at a depth of 6' 8" (2m). The fruits of these labours were described to the Society of Antiquaries at their meeting in London on 17 February, 1921.

O G S Crawford encouraged Hooley to take a broader look and suggested 'tapping the surface of the Down with an iron ram'. This method, employed in May 1921, revealed the location of several ditches and the dry weather meant that some could actually be seen by surface indications. Hooley covered 17 acres in this way! An appeal for excavation volunteers through the newspaper met with a good response and the work eventually encompassed five pits and included 14 ditch sections.

It is not the purpose of this paper to recount the wide range of Iron Age and Roman finds made during the digging, this is well covered in an article in Volume 10 of the Proceedings, but rather to savour the photograph of the excavation team out on the Down. They are drawn from Messrs G Weeks, C Small, S Ware, W Clarke, H Payne, L Powell, A Brown, R Miller, I Cox, H Blackwell, G Blackwell, E Moody, F Macey, F Ray, W Davey and the Rev Tanner. There is no caption to the photo but we have deduced, from other photographic evidence, that Reginald Hooley is third from the left in the back row, holding a roll of plans. It is a particularly poignant photo in that Hooley fell ill in 1923 and went to London for an operation. There were complications and he died as a result. There was general shock and dismay at this sudden and unexpected turn of events. He was 57.

The site report, Vol 10 pp 178-192 (1929) is credited to Reginald Hooley, and was prepared for publication by M L Tildesley. Prof Sir Arthur Keith added a short report on the two skeletons found at the site, which were presented to the Royal College of Surgeons. The main archive resides with the Hampshire Cultural Trust (Winchester City Museum).

# *Landscape*

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## Editorial

George Campbell

Our last conference, reported below, presented 'The Bigger Picture' in which our four speakers presented their complementary perspectives on medieval Hampshire in its regional setting. This year, our conference considers a smaller picture, as four speakers concentrate on a much smaller area: Petersfield and its neighbouring countryside. The speakers are all well qualified to do so, in that they are members of the Petersfield Area Local History Society, which by its title indicates that it recognises 'the bigger picture' incorporating what lies beyond the urban boundary. The Society has also published several well-researched studies of the area. Conference themes will be linked with a series of planned excursions next year to explore the town and its surrounding country.

## The Bigger Picture: Medieval Hampshire in its Regional setting

Mike Broderick and George Campbell

*This is the full report of last year's annual conference held on 8th November 2014*

About 100 members attended what was planned as an exploration of the Hampshire landscape in a wider, regional setting. All four contributors spoke with authority on this 'bigger picture' drawing upon recent research, much of it their own. Presentations were therefore authoritative, well illustrated, convincingly argued, and enjoyed by all present. However, like all good research reports, our speakers invariably found that solving problems merely led to the exposure of new ones. They generously left us with questions to ponder……..

**David Hinton: The Anglo-Saxon Landscape and the Influence of the Church**

David Hinton provided a comprehensive survey of the landscape from the Post-Roman to the Late Medieval period, and a detailed examination of its main features based on the latest researches.

Opening with the study of sea level changes, he found that the evidence suggests that they were a minor factor until the end of the 5th century. The evidence from Langstone Harbour is that the rise in sea level in that area was minimal. The discovery of the remains of a log boat in Langstone Harbour, however, indicates that some rivers were navigable.

With regard to population, estimates are difficult to determine, but it is now thought that population density in the Roman period is higher than formerly thought, possibly 3 to 4 millions, but which dropped to about one million in the 5th century, for reasons that are still unclear. At Domesday, the population was estimated to be between 1.5 and 3 millions. An important factor influencing population density is the 'carrying capacity' of the land; the extent to which the land and its immediate environment can sustain the population there, which with all the influences of soil quality, climate, relief, and variable human factors, is difficult to calculate. Broadly, the Domesday Hampshire picture was one of cattle grazing in the Hampshire Basin and sheep grazing on the downs.

With regard to landscape features, on the west Wiltshire Downs, the evidence of the remaining Celtic fields seems to indicate their adoption by the Romans. In spite of the absence of similar features in Hampshire, perhaps we can assume similar practices here. The study of Roman estates suggests that while the lands seemed to have continued to be utilised, the villas themselves were not, and fell into ruin. More sites in continuous use than were formerly recognised are emerging; for example, Shavards Farm, Meonstoke. It is also possible that the boundary of the Rockbourne estate may have continued in use into the Saxon period, with the site recognised as a central point by neighbouring dependent groups. Breamore was possibly part of the Rockbourne estate

The evidence for Post-Roman settlement has been preserved more on hilltops and ridges. However, evidence of mixed farming at Abbotts Worthy on a valley bottom site raises the possibility of a wider settlement distribution, although the detail is slight.

As for changes in the Anglo-Saxon period, one of the most prominent centred on whether, when and why, the proportion of land under the plough increased or decreased. There seems to have been an increase in the proportion of cereal bread wheat grown, which was less labour intensive, and probably more palatable. There was also a reduction in arable farming and an increase in cattle grazing but much in a wood pasture setting. Communities had grazing rights. There was also an abundance of managed woodland used as a source of timber for buildings, house posts, etc.

Many small fields came to be replaced by open fields divided into long strips. There seems to be no remaining evidence of ridge and furrow in Hampshire, because of the paucity of the heavier clay that would have preserved it. As for the open fields, it is still unclear when they were introduced. Settlement form was usually long and linear, along valley bottoms, rather than nucleated, and determined by relief and geology. Land clearance and exploitation continued with new estates founded, although smaller in size.

Although the church's influence was developing, it is difficult to tie down the nature and extent of its power during this period, although Domesday Book reveals its land-ownership.

**Simon Roffey: Medieval Leprosy Hospitals and the Landscape**

Medieval leprosy hospitals were located outside main settlements, presenting an interface between the two worlds of town and country; urban and rural. Although they were deliberately excluded from towns, English and French revisionist historians believe there is increasing evidence that their rejection was not total. In fact, the opposite: that there appear to have been attempts to treat them as normal human beings and allow them to be cared for, nearer to centres of population.

In medieval England there were more than 300 institutions created for leprosy sufferers. The number of foundations of leprosaria increased from the time of the Norman Conquest to a peak of 78 in the 13th century. It is likely that the Crusades were a catalyst for the spread of the disease. The building of new hospitals slowed after the Black Death, with only eight in the 15th century and two in the 16th century. The Hospital of St Mary Magdalen, Winchester, was one, founded c.1070 on a hill, outside the town. Similarly, Hambledown Hospital, outside Canterbury, was also built on a hill. The possibility is being considered that a site in open country particularly on an exposed spot in fresh air could benefit the lepers' health. Similarly, their location in open country would certainly have included land to cultivate and grazing for animals. All such provisions could have contributed to an improved quality of life for the lepers.

So, new interpretations are being considered of some of the features of their location and treatment. Were they boundary markers, as many were located at the gateway to towns, for example at Norwich, which had a leprosarium (leprosy hospital) at each of its five entry gates? This may have been a humanitarian gesture, recognising the need for these institutions to collect alms. For those located further from towns their proximity to main roads may have been for the same reason, e.g. Old Sarum. Similarly, their existence close to bridges where traffic was heavier, may also have been to assist the collection of alms, in addition to being close to a water supply, e.g. Oxford, Wallingford and Leicester.

There is also evidence that leper hospitals provided a caring environment for the individual, and a dignified burial. This is illustrated by the detailed study of the Hospital of St Mary Magdalen, Winchester, as evidence has emerged over several years of excavation. Firstly, the cemetery has disclosed that it was primarily a leper hospital, as 85% of the skeletons were leprosy sufferers. Secondly, from the time of the hospital's foundation there is evidence of improved buildings and a greater variety of facilities, indicating provision for the bodily and spiritual needs of the lepers. Some skeletons showed evidence of medical treatment. All the bodies had been buried with care; one evidently a pilgrim, had been buried with his pilgrim's scallop shell badge. The stone hospital first built in the mid 12th century, had by the 15th century incorporated an infirmary and a chapel.

**John Hare: Settlements and Landscape in the Chalklands of Wessex 1100 to 1500**

John Hare's talk was concerned with Wiltshire and Hampshire. Both counties are dominated by chalklands, but there are variations between the chalk and other areas. The chalklands are further divided into valley landscapes and the plateaux which have no rivers; and these two areas were contrasted with the claylands. He considered the impact of:

- demographic and commercial growth in the 12th and 13th Centuries
- demographic decline and the economic changes, including the Black Death, in the 14th, 15th and early 16th Centuries.

In Hampshire, the landscape of the Hampshire basin, as between Winchester and Southampton, was dominated by cattle, within a mixed farming system. This was illustrated by Titchfield Abbey, which had 80% of the cattle of the much larger estate of Winchester Cathedral Priory. By contrast, in the chalklands between Stockbridge and Winchester, 'corn' was the main product as part of the open field system of farming, but with sheep being very important on the estates. Some flocks were as large as 2,000, with Winchester Cathedral Priory having around 20,000 sheep in total. These flocks needed care, and remnants of the resultant features, such as the enclosure for winter housing on Gander Down, remain in the landscape.

River valley parishes were long and narrow, extending up the down side to embrace a variety of products from mixed farming, cereals and sheep grazing. The settlements lay along the valley bottom by the river or stream.

*Population change between 1100 and 1550:*

There was growth from the 11th/12th centuries with a peak in the mid-14th Century. The Black Death led to a collapse, and numbers remained low thereafter.

Evidence of growing demand can be seen in medieval strip lynchets which allowed cultivation on what would otherwise have been too steep slopes, e.g. at Shawford, behind the station. The expansion of settlements, like Bishopstone and Downton , to the south of Salisbury, and the establishment of the Bishop of Winchester's new towns, such as Overton, were further testament to population and commercial growth.

The Black Death led to a great decline in the population, and numbers stayed low (about 2.25 million) until about 1500. Those who survived had opportunities to acquire land, more choice about where they lived and for whom they would work, and an increased surplus to spend. Also, as a result, the poorer, marginal land went out of cultivation. The decline in numbers led to some shrunken or deserted villages. It is still difficult to answer the many 'when' and 'why' questions.

Changes in landscape use resulted from the reduced arable acreage, with oats being particularly reduced. On some of the poorer downland pastures, rabbits were increasingly kept, with as many as 5,000 per year coming from the largest warrens, which could amount to between 1/3 and 1/2 of revenues in the 15th Century. At Downton, the layout of the bishop's holdings had been changed; and the bishops now invested over £100 in moving the farm buildings..

The presentation finished with a consideration of settlement characteristics in North East Hampshire, in the area to the east and south of Basingstoke, now being studied as part of the rewriting of the Victoria County History of Hampshire. Here, land varied between clay and chalk, respectively. Farming was mostly mixed,

but with different emphases depending on the geology and natural resources of the area. It was also noted that settlement patterns, e.g. around Mapledurwell, were affected by tenurial factors and the break up of some of the larger estates. Textiles manufacturing flourished in the period of population decline particularly in the 15th and early 16th centuries, both in Basingstoke and in the surrounding parishes. This was reflected in the growth of fulling mills, which provided a focus for industrial production.

**Mark Page: Hampshire's Medieval Landscape in Context**

Mark Page gave the alternative title of 'A View from the Midlands' as his extensive researches during the Whittlewood Project while at the University of Leicester, and on the VCH in Oxfordshire and Northamptonshire have enabled him to contrast the Midlands with Hampshire. This experience has been further enhanced by a wider debate on the development of rural landscapes from the post-Roman period to the 1500s. He cited a number of key texts:

2006 S Oosthuizen, *Landscapes Decoded: The Origins and Development of Cambridgeshire's Medieval Fields*

2007 C Gerrard and M Aston, *Shapwick Project Somerset: A Rural Landscape Explored*

2008 S Rippon, *Beyond the Medieval Village: The Diversification of Landscape Character in Southern Britain*

2009 M Audouy and A Chapman, *Raunds: The Origins and Growth of a Midlands Village AD 450—1500*

2012 S Wrathmell, *A History of Wharram Percy and its Neighbours*

2013 T Williamson, R Liddiard and T Partida, *Champion: The Making and Unmaking of the English Midland Landscape*

He then explained how these views could be related to Hampshire.

He noted that there were four key 'agents of change in the medieval English landscape':

- Environment
- Lordship
- Economy
- Time

**Environment**. Examples were given of authors supporting particular elements; Williamson argues that the environment – geology, water supply etc – are critical in the development of the rural landscape; this was contrasted with Christopher Taylor who emphasises the importance of the human elements, first set out in his 'Village and Farmstead', 1983.

Within Hampshire, with its diverse geological elements, the influence of the chalk is most clearly seen as an example of the way in which landscape is affected by the environment. The example of the villages following the river Test was cited as evidence of this. In the clay vales, to the north of the chalk, there is a more diverse and fragmented settlement pattern and it can be more difficult to directly link the landscape development to the environment. However, it is argued, by those who support the direct influence of environment, that more detailed fieldwork may clarify the environmental factors that led to the current patterns.

**Lordship**, as discussed by P D A Harvey, and the related topic of planning, considered by John Blair, are factors which have led to change in Hampshire. The large ecclesiastical land holdings in Hampshire would have played a part in altering the landscape. The developments, in and around Alresford, ordered by the Bishop of Winchester were noted. Royal influence too could play a part, as at the settlement of Fifield, north of Thruxton, which was carved out of a large estate when land was granted by King Edgar to one of his thegns.

**Economy:** the rising population prior to the Black Death meant increasing numbers to be fed, with a consequent increase in demand for crops. These pressures can be traced in the ecclesiastical records; at Durford Priory, near Petersfield, where the carving of land from the 'moors' was recorded. This fitted well with the views of Postan and Titow, in the 1960s, who considered that crop yields were low, and as they could not be increased, farming would extend onto marginal land. However, recent research suggests that, where yields were low, they were kept low to reduce inputs and costs in order to make a profit. Peasant farmers, for whom records are very scarce, would have been much keener to increase yields and would have been sufficiently resourceful and adaptable to reduce the effects of famines.

Increased commercialisation and the desire to get goods to the markets led to the establishment of new towns, like Alresford and Overton, and the network of markets affected the cultivation of land on large estates. There was an intensification of land use, where woods were more coppiced, and the wood was sold on to locals to be processed. The rising price of wool also led to greater investment in sheep farming.

**Time.** After the Black Death, when the population fell, there was shrinkage and desertion of settlements; land was enclosed and one or two farms might have replaced a village or hamlet. This 'classic' picture has been challenged as it can be difficult to date the desertions and the reasons; and sometimes the settlement was only partly deserted. It was noted that villages around Basingstoke, e.g. Worting, were able to recover as they could take advantage of rising demands. It is likely that settlement patterns were in a constant flux and there would be decline and recovery throughout the medieval period.

*Summary*

Looking at the agents:

- Environment – Geology is very important and there are diverse landscapes as a result; this can be contrasted with a more uniform geology in the Midlands.
- Lordship – The dominance of ecclesiastical landlords was a factor in Hampshire, which can be contrasted with the lay landlords in the Midlands. In the latter location, where the landlords were resident, they would have played a much greater role in the landscape; but where they were non-resident, the community would have been more able to make decisions that affected their locality.
- Economy – Farming in Hampshire was as extensive but was not as intensive as in the Midlands; yields were lower over wider areas. After the Black Death, sheep farming grew and affected settlement, but not as severely as it did in the Midlands.

# Speculations on the Early Saxon Church at Titchfield

George Watts

In his useful article on "The Religious Houses of Medieval Hampshire" (Newsletter 63), David Freemantle introduced us to a number of early 'quasi-monastic groups at Winchester, Nursling, Twynam, and Eling'. A less well-known example can be found at the early Saxon church at Titchfield.

The foundation of St. Peter's, the parish church of Titchfield, can be dated to the activities of Bishop Wilfrid and his Northumbrian missionaries in the late 7th century, which were described by Bede about 50 years later. The South Saxon king Wulfhere had given Wilfrid

> *'two provinces, the Isle of Wight and the province of the Meonwara in the territory of the West Saxons … the bishop baptised the leading thegns and soldiers of the province. The remainder of the people were baptised …by the priests Eoppa, Padda, Burghelm and Oiddi'*(1).

Having built a monastery at Selsey, ruled by Eoppa, Wilfrid remained active in the area for another five years (2). Some years later, Bede tells us ' the province became dependent on the Bishop of the Gewissae, that is the West Saxons, whose see is at Winchester'(3). These events can be dated to 680AD to 686AD and the years following (4).

The relationship of the surviving Saxon parts of the fabric of St. Peter's Church to the events described by Bede were clearly established by Michael Hare's meticulous work published between 1973 and 1992 (5). Hare, who described Titchfield Church as a 'Minster', identified a number of features of the church as of Northumbrian character (6). Two years later, drawing on Hare, P.H.Hase described Titchfield as one of his 'mother churches' in an 'ancient parochia'(7).

Wilfrid had established a community at Selsey with an endowment of land. At some point a community was established at Twynam (Christchurch) with an endowment: in 1086 of ' five hides and one virgate in the village itself' and one hide on the Isle of Wight(8). What had happened at Titchfield?

Michael Hare took up this issue in his contribution to *Titchfield: A History 1982* and in *Proc HFC* 1992 (9). The evidence is from a charter of King Ethelred of 982 quoting an earlier charter of King Eadred (946-955) which had been witnessed by (among others) 'the community of Titchfield' ('hina on Ticcefelda') (10). Ethelred's charter also referred to an estate on the north shore of the Isle of Wight, the boundaries of which were bordered by the land of 'the members of the community of Titchfield' ('hina mearce to ticcafelde').

It seems reasonable to conclude, following Hare, that the 'community' was a group of priests established by Wilfrid and his missionaries, who (like the community at Twynam) had been given an estate on the north shore of the Island, perhaps as a source of stone for the construction of St. Peter's.

Eighty years after the Anglo-Saxon charters, the Domesday Book's sketchy account of Titchfield is at first sight unpromising evidence for the continued existence of a 'community' there: the large ancient stone church is not mentioned (11). A second look suggests an explanation. The 'sixteen villagers and thirteen smallholders with nine ploughs' listed are not enough for a big royal estate with a large mill and one of the few markets in the Hampshire Domesday. There seem to be six hides missing. And who were the 'they' of the phrase 'two hides but they do not pay tax'?

It looks very much as though the intention was that the church and its Titchfield land were to be listed in Domesday separately from the royal manor, just as Twynam and the other religious houses were listed, and indeed some smaller churches like Bashley, which was held from the king by Alfsi the priest with one hide and three virgates (12): but the Domesday clerks lost their notes.

The land of the church at Titchfield remained as a separate unit until the 13th century and beyond. It was to become the Rectory Barton, one of the large agricultural units by which Titchfield Abbey managed its estates. It formed a significant part of the Abbey's land being worth 23% of the Titchfield demesne lands in 1381 (13). Its residue survives today as Fernhill Farm.

The issue of the transition of Titchfield Church from community to monastery was taken up by Hare in 1992 (14). In particular he referred to W.J. Blair's suggestion that, in the 12th century, houses of regular Augustinian canons were frequently founded on old minster sites. That at least a tradition of such a 'community' surviving in Titchfield is suggested by the events there in 1231-2.

In August 1231 King Henry III gave to Peter des Roches, Bishop of Winchester, the church of Titchfield, with its lands and properties, for the foundation of a house of religion by the canons of St. Augustine. The grant was only of the church and its land, not of the manor. A few days later, another royal document repeated this grant, now to the Augustinians who had been brought to *refound* a religious house at Titchfield. So that the Augustinians (seemingly from Bristol) had arrived, taking possession of the church though not of the manor – but had not stayed. For, just two months later, in October 1231, the situation had changed. Yet another royal document now granted to the bishop not only the church and its land, but the manor itself, a larger and more valuable acquisition. After a year's consideration, in September 1232, the king again granted the manor to the bishop, this time specifically for the foundation of an abbey of canons of the Premonstratensian Order (15). The word *refound*, then, tells us that the existence of Bishop Wilfrid's community had survived as a tradition for five hundred years.

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**Acknowledgement**

I should like to thank Penny Daish for her assistance with this article.

# 'Simnel Street always had an evil look'

George Campbell

This was the view expressed by a former HFC member writing just over a century ago, in the 1907 'Proceedings' (1). The member was R Macdonald Lucas, a practising architect of high standing (FRIBA), well respected in the city, with chambers in the Bargate. His article, 'Recent Street Changes in Southampton', described and commented on the nature of recent improvements to housing in one of the poorest districts, set against the broader background of the gradual outwards extension of the western shoreline to provide more building land. However, Mr Lucas' article confined itself to the built-up area of this ancient south-western district, and in particular to Simnel Street and Blue Anchor Lane.

His 1895 illustrations (figs.1 and 2) reveal two winding terraces of predominantly jettied houses, leaving one in no doubt of their medieval origins. However, his assessment of their nature, in particular, the evil nature of Simnel Street, requires some interpretation.

The earliest maps of the city and the medieval records reveal Simnel Street and Blue Anchor Lane as two busy thoroughfares crowded with pilgrims, seafarers, fishermen and traders, as both lanes led down to the busy quays that lined the west side of the peninsula (2). In the other direction they both led directly to the St. Lawrence market by way of the St. Michael's Fish Market, and the Butcher Market (figs. 3 and 4). So, the smells of these markets as animals were slaughtered in the street, and from the dumps of fish innards, must have been an unpleasant feature of life in those two streets, particularly in summer, and in spite of the existence of byelaws to limit such practices. In addition, there was the daily dumping of refuse in the streets by the residents. In the later middle ages, the pace may have slackened in the period following the transfer of the St. Lawrence Market to a new location outside Holy Rood church. Later periods saw the traffic slacken further, as trading vessels moved to the deeper harbours at the southern end of the peninsula. By the 18th century, the realisation that

*Fig.1 Simnel Street, 1895.*

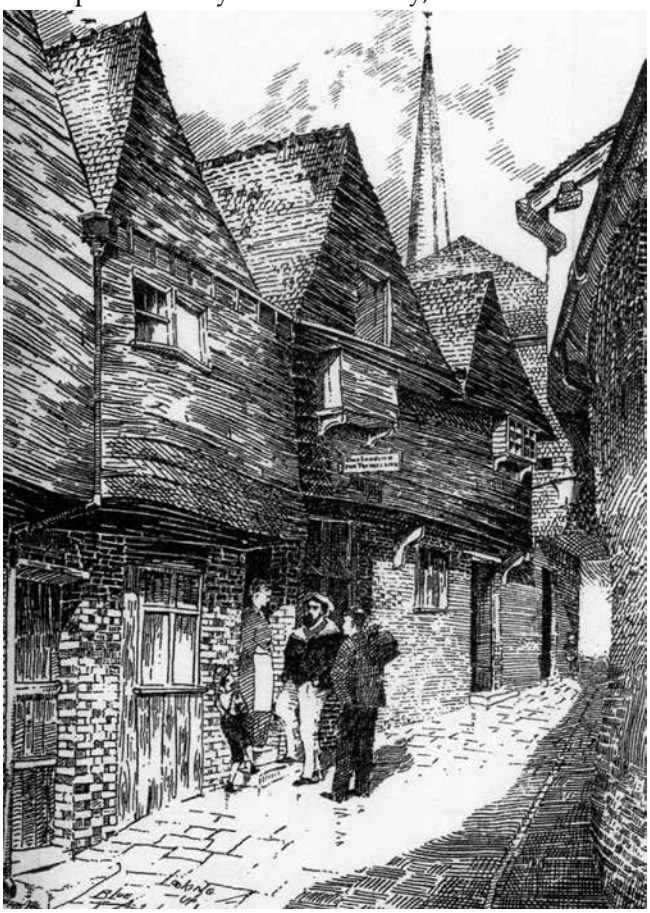

*Fig. 2 Blue Anchor Lane, 1894.*

'medicinal salt springs' existed near the end of Simnel Street attracted a wealthier clientele who arrived in large numbers to 'take the waters' (fig.5). The 19th century was a period of expansion for the town, particularly on the north side where new suburbs were created, while the south-west area which incorporated Simnel Street and Blue Anchor Lane declined, and the houses, neglected, became the homes of the poorest. About 1900, Mr Lucas reported that several blocks of squalid but picturesque tenements were cleared away to the north and west of St Michael's Square, and new buildings erected. In this clearance Anchor Lane and Simnel Street were almost completely destroyed (3), but in the 'model houses' built in Simnel Street, Mr Lucas seemed to find nothing to lift his spirits. 'Simnel Street always had an evil look, and though it has been almost entirely rebuilt, something of the same character clings to it still. Perhaps it is the height of the gloomy 'dwellings' on one side and the insignificance of the 'models' on the other; but it has not a wholesome aspect' (4).

In the search for evidence to understand his feelings, the census returns and directories for 1891 and 1902 (5) are very revealing. In 1891, Simnel Street had four lodging houses, one, the Sailors' Home, with fourteen occupants. There were also several family homes with lodgers, two pubs, a general shop and a grocer. At the lower entry to the street, the Young Man's Mission Hall on the south side, was opposed on the north side by a pub, the Queen Charlotte,

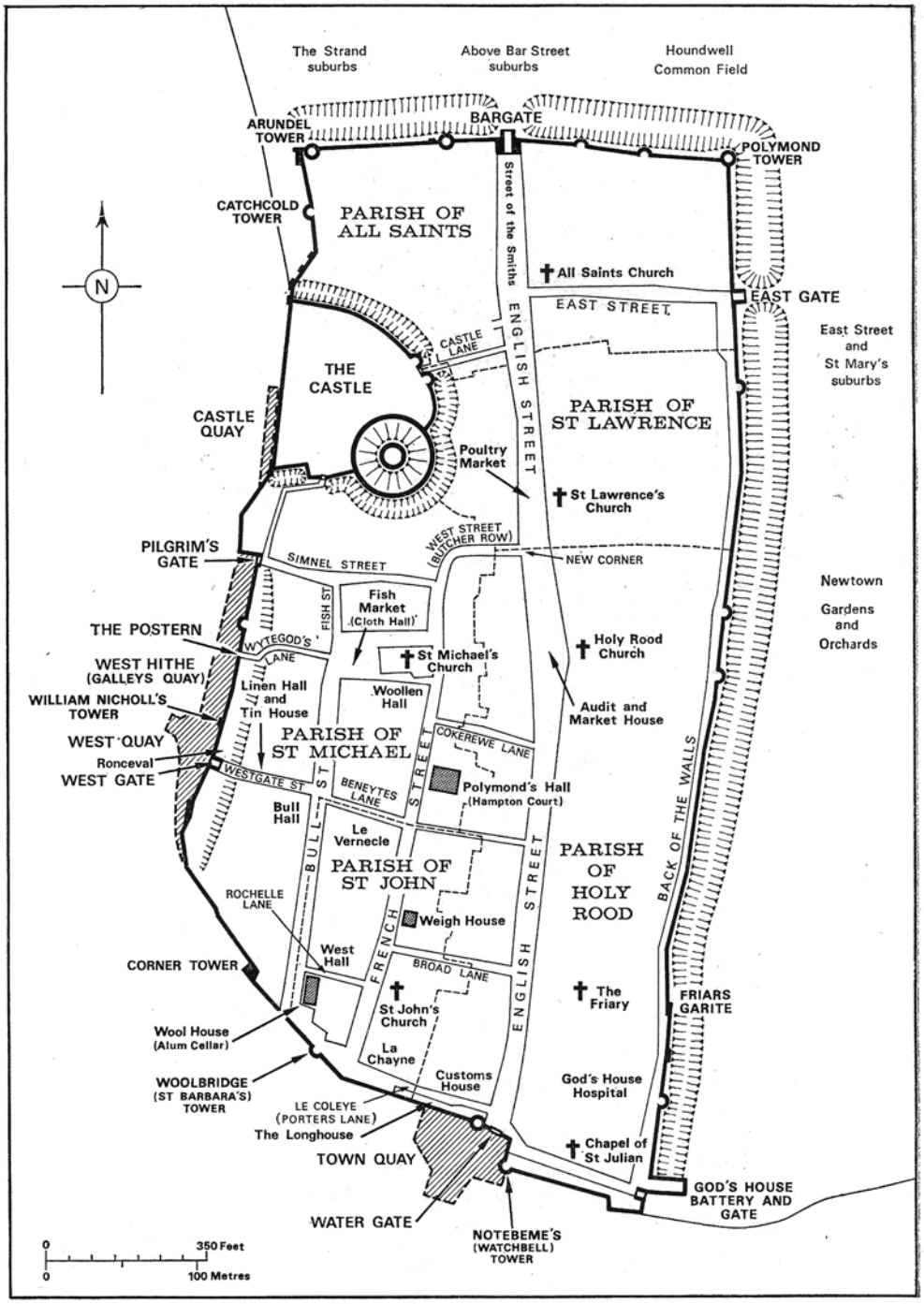


*Fig. 3 Late Medieval Southampton.*


*. Fig.4 Site of the Butcher Market, and beyond, St. Lawrence Market*

and a beer seller, Sylvanus Grant. This 'confrontation' reflects the strenuous attempts of the Victorians to safeguard vulnerable members of the public against the dangers of alcohol (6). Two vacant properties, probably uninhabitable, were noted. The squalor of the area is clear from the 1895 sketch (fig.1). Perhaps the wrought iron bracket illustrated, held a former inn sign of the Queen Charlotte pub, possibly a survivor of the George III period.

The census data for Simnel Street ten years later in 1901, on the eve of the rebuilding, revealed houses even more densely packed with lodgers. Of the seven habitable houses listed, five were lodging houses, each with an average of fourteen occupants. Of the two remaining houses, one was shared by three families, the other by a family with lodgers. The mission hall and the beer seller were still active. But there were two

*Fig.5 'Taking the Waters', from a mural in Simnel Street.*

fewer houses inhabited than in 1891. Overall, for Mr Lucas perhaps, an even more depressing picture.

Behind these scenes, the Southampton Police Courts reported a high degree of petty crime specifically associated with the residents of Simnel Street. Reports from the period 1890 to 1900 identified no fewer than 216 incidents dealt with by the Police Courts (7). A further 82 more serious offences, including murder, that were committed in that ten year period, were dealt with by the criminal courts. The frequency of violence and the description of the associated domestic circumstances, indicate that overcrowding was probably a major factor.

So, having had a glimpse of Simnel Street at the turn of the 19th century, can we now begin to perceive it as Mr Lucas did? Certainly, the promoters of the St. Mary's Temperance Society (8) would have agreed with him, and as a prominent member of the community along with the sensitivities of an architect, confronted by an overcrowded physically decaying neighbourhood, where the only refuges after a heavy day of manual work were the beer house or the pub, or on the other side of the street, the mission hall and cocoa.

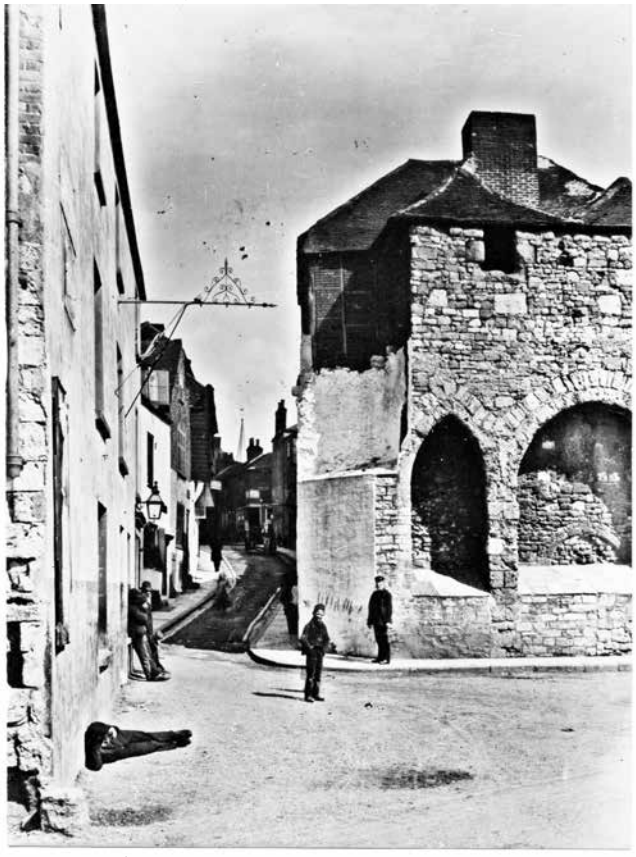

*Fig. 6 Simnel Street, c.1895.*

*Fig. 7 Simnel Street, 2015*

Another perspective is provided by the Victorian photographer, Thomas Hibberd James (9), whose observations are preserved along with his photograph of Simnel Street.

> *Some working men idling away their Sunday morning agreed to pose for me, so that I could compare the honest but poor character of this locality and its inhabitants. When I took this photograph (10 and fig.6) change was in the air. The Corporation had become conscious of the squalor of the many crowded courts and alleys. There were plans to demolish much of this area and construct new model artisans cottages and a model lodging house to replace the many common lodging houses. This was a far-sighted and proper plan.*

Although his spirits seemed only a little uplifted by the new 'model houses', could Mr Lucas ever have imagined that the Simnel Street landscape could be so magically transformed as it has been in the more recent post-war years (figs.7 and 8). At the top end of the street, however, one pub tenaciously still holds its ground.

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*Fig.8 Simnel Street Community Garden, 2015.*

# *Historic Buildings*

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## Editorial

John Hare

Taking on the newsletter as a result of the editor's ill health, caused me to reflect on this year's activities. The section's visits have travelled through the centuries but with an unplanned focus on the seventeenth century. Last autumn, we spent a day looking at the fragmentary remains of a medieval church with magnificent seventeenth century tombs, a lost country house but surviving farm buildings (West Dean) together with a later seventeenth century church and alms-house (Farley). This was followed by a day conference on Victorian Basingstoke. Since then we have added the spectacular Elizabethan mansion at Longford Castle with its superb collection of paintings, now appropriately looked after by the National Gallery and a successful day visiting a group of barns at Old Basing, one dating from the heyday of Basing House and the others built in the aftermath of its destruction. Finally we turn to the early twentieth century and the waterworks at Twyford.

In an earlier visit in 2012, which focused on wall paintings in the Test valley, we looked at a small country church at Timsbury whose unprepossessing exterior concealed some spectacular wall paintings, showing a group of medieval houses. Sadly as recorded below, the church has been severely damaged by fire. This edition also includes a piece on folk practices in rural houses, and on a lost major residence of the bishopric of Winchester at Bishop's Sutton. The next edition will return to the capable hands of Bill Fergie.

## St Andrew's Church, Timsbury: Fire, Conservation and Research.

Edward Roberts

In the summer of 2012 the Historic Buildings Section of the Field Club arranged a visit to the Test valley. One of the highlights was the remarkable wall painting of late-medieval timber-framed buildings that could be seen on the south wall of the nave of St. Andrew's church. Such a painted scene is extremely rare and makes this church one of national importance. Fortunately Roger Harris was with us on the day and shortly afterward wrote an illustrated account of the painting for the Newsletter which illustrated the street scene.[1] Then in March 2014, less than two years after our visit, the church suffered a disastrous fire.[2] The timber-framed bell tower was severely damaged and the west part of the nave roof was badly charred (Fig. 1). The wall painting on the south wall may have survived intact although it is still discoloured with soot.

*Fig. 1. St Andrew's church, Timsbury after the fire of March 2014 (photo TVBC).*

Since then, conservation officers from Test Valley Borough Council have ensured that as much architectural information as possible has been gleaned before the inevitable removal of timbers which have been irretrievably fire-damaged. Gary Seymour of Seymour and Bainbridge architects has been appointed to oversee the restoration and has made detailed drawings of the nave roof and the tower timbers before their removal and has set aside those timbers that might be suitable for dendrochronology (Fig. 2). Dr Martin Bridge of the Oxford Dendrochronological Laboratory has recently sampled a number of timbers and, although many were too fast-grown to be usable, we are still hopeful that some may date (Fig. 3). Generally speaking, about 60 tree-rings at least are needed for a secure date to be achieved. However, a large tree on good soil may have fewer rings than a smaller tree on poor soil. Martin's report was still awaited at the time of going to press.

As scaffolding is still in place, there has been an opportunity for a close examination of the crown-post roof over the nave and of the unusual way in which the nave rafters are jointed to the wall plates. A particular thrill was the discovery of a fragment of painting on the north wall opposite the church door. This seems to represent foliage, perhaps the heads of reeds or rushes growing in a river (Fig. 4). If so, this feature would be consistent with a St Christopher painting and comparable to another

*Fig. 2. Timbers from the fire set aside for possible dendrochronology (photo Margaret Bennett).*

*Fig. 3. Dr Martin Bridge coring timbers (photo Margaret Bennett).*

St Christopher fragment opposite the south door of St Michael's church, Great Washbourne (Gloucestershire) which also shows reeds or rushes. A wall opposite the south door of a church was a traditional place for a painting of St Christopher, the patron saint of travellers, who is supposed to have carried the infant Christ over a river. Neither Gary Seymour, Dr John Glasspool (a church warden at Timsbury) or Roger Harris can recall seeing this painting before the fire.Unfortunately another fragmentary mural may not have fared so well. Uncovered in 1999, a painting beside the bell tower and quite high up on the west wall seemed to portray two indistinct figures (Fig. 5). At the time, this was lime-washed over for protection. The fire of March 2014 was, however, at its fiercest around the bell tower and it is feared that this fragment may have been badly damaged.[3]

*Fig. 4. A fragment of wall painting rediscovered opposite the south door of the church (photo Margaret Bennett).*

*Fig. 5. A fragmentary wall painting on the west wall (photo Gary Seymour).*

**Acknowledgements:**

Margaret Bennett, Michael Bullen, Phil Cox, Roger Harris and Gary Seymour are thanked for their help in compiling this note.

**Notes.**

1. Roger Harris 'A Wall Painting at the Church of St Andrew, Timsbury, Hampshire', *Hampshire Field Club Newsletter* **58**, Autumn 2012, 11-12.
2. *Daily Echo* 9 March 2014.
3. Gary Seymour *pers. comm.*

# 'Spiritual middens' at Abbots Rest, Chilbolton

Victoria Ramsay

Not long after we arrived at Abbots Rest, Chilbolton, in 1988, we decided to get rid of a 1960s fitment and expose our inglenook fireplace. We were intrigued to find some little household treasures concealed in the chimney: a child's wooden shoe (Fig 1), known as a patten, complete with an iron ring on the underside

*Fig 1 Child's patten*

to raise it above the mud (Fig 2); a small piece of tallow wrapped in hide; something that looked like a little butter pat (Fig 3) and a small piece of corduroy from a garment and a piece of hose (Fig 4). We've known for a long time that these were probably placed in the chimney as good luck charms, to ward off witches and

*Fig 2 Child's patten, with the iron ring on the underside*

to keep the inhabitants safe.

Just recently, I have done a bit more research into this practice and find that hiding such items, or 'spiritual middens', was relatively common in the early 17th century, at the height of a 'witch craze'. Our house is thought to have been built as an open hall in the 16th century, with the central bay ceiling and chimney inserted in the early 17th century (Fig 5). The items were probably deposited at this time to safeguard the house. It was widely believed that a witch or their animal familiar could enter a house through the windows, doorways or the hearth. The open chimney was thought to be particularly vulnerable so 'caches' or groups of items were hidden there to protect the household. Even though belief in Christianity was strong at the time, people weren't taking any chances!

There are several reports of caches in our local area – at Hursley and Nether Wallop, for example, which you can read about on the website of an ongoing research project - The Deliberately Concealed Garments Project – which was set up in 1998 at The Textile Conservation Centre (read about the project at www.concealedgarments.org). The project is supported by the Arts and Humanities Research Board (AHRB) and Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) and aims to develop a better understanding of this folk practice.

Meanwhile, the Abbots Rest cache stays safely where it has been for over four hundred years – tucked in the chimney, safeguarding the house.

*Fig 3 Tallow and hide*

*Fig 4 Corduroy and hose*

*Fig 5 Abbots Rest, Chilbolton. The house was probably built in the late-16th century with a central hall heated by a smoke bay or timber chimney (seen on the left-hand side of the house in this picture). In the early-17th century a brick chimney was inserted within the smoke bay and the 'spiritual midden' was found in this chimney.*

# Bishop's Sutton: A Forgotten Residence of the Bishops of Winchester

John Hare

The bishops of Winchester were the richest in the country, and possessed an estate ranging from Taunton in the west to Southwark (opposite London), in the east, and from the Isle of Wight to Adderbury in North Oxfordshire. Bishop's Sutton was just one of over 20 residences able to house the bishop's household, scattered throughout the estate but with a concentration in Hampshire. Some of the latter, such as Wolvesey, Bishop's Waltham and East Meon still retain substantial remains. Others such as Bishop's Sutton offer nothing above ground, although much can be established from the surviving documentation.

Bishop's Sutton had been acquired through an exchange of land with king Stephen by Bishop Henry of Blois in 1136 (2). Very soon an important residence had been built, as reflected in the construction of the great fishpond of Alresford pond, probably during Henry's episcopate. There was also a park and accommodation for the bishop's pack of dogs (3).

Bishop's Sutton served as a stopping point on the way to London, but was clearly more important, as a country house, fit to accommodate the bishop and his household. It possessed a clerks' chamber in 1209, and in 1209 and 1211, wine was imported directly from the port, whether from Southampton or London. During the episcopate of Peter des Roches, it was one of the more commonly used houses, his presence being recorded on eight different occasions (4). Bishops continued to invest in it the fourteenth century with £395 being spent there in the four years 1355-8 (5). It then had a chapel and a lord's study, and the emphasis given to a new chamber, opposite the hall, with glazed windows and fireplace, as well as improving the arrangements at the service end around the bakehouse, brewhouse and kitchen, and a chimney in the steward's chamber confirms that this remained an important residence for bishop and household and was much more than just a temporary stopping off point on the road to London. In addition, at other times the documents show the presence of other buildings necessary for visiting households, such as a monk's chamber and a clerks' chamber. The house lay in the river valley, with two bridges to the entrance, a watergate and a palisade next to the churchyard.

Gradually the bishop reduced the number of the residences that he used and Bishop's Sutton probably was one of those whose use declined. Thus slates could be taken from Bishop's Sutton to Bishop's Waltham in 1427. It became little used by the bishops. The manor was lost to the bishopric at the accession of Bishop John Ponet in 1551, when it was granted to one of Edward VI's ministers, Sir John Gate. Under Queen Mary, it was restored to the bishopric in 1558. It remained in bishopric hands until 1647 when it was included in a sale of bishopric lands to Sir John Evelyn of West Dean, the site of whose house we visited earlier in the year. Bishop's Sutton was again returned to the bishop at the Restoration (6). Later it fell into decline. Considerable ruins with walls 'of great thickness and composed of flints and mortar' survived until the second half of the eighteenth century (7), but now nothing is left above ground (8).

The Pipe Rolls tell us something about the building materials of its buildings. Imported stone was brought from Botley and more local stone from Langrish, Oakhanger and Wykewode. Early on the roofs were covered with shingles and slates, but by the mid fourteenth century clay tiles were being used for new buildin, having been manufactured at Petersfield, Oakhanger, Flexham and Candover.

**Notes**

1. This is an offshoot of forthcoming articles on the residences of the bishopric of Winchester.
2. VCH Hants, III, (1908), 42
3. See the various articles by Edward Roberts, 'Alresford Pond, a Medieval Canal Reservoir: a tradition assessed', *Proceedings,* 41 (1985), 127-38; ' The bishop of Winchester's fishponds , 1159-1400: their development, function and management,' *Proceedings,* 42 (1986), 125-38; The bishop of Winchester's deer parks in Hampshire, 1200-1400, *Proceedings,* 44, (1988), 67-86
4. H. Hall, *The Pipe Roll for the bishopric of Winchester 1208-9*, 42; Holt, *The Pipe Roll of the bishopric of Winchester,* 1210-1, 139-44; N. Vincent, *English Ecclesiastical Acta, ix, Winchester 1205-38* (1994) 144-62;
   N. Vincent, Peter des Roches (1996).
5. HRO 11M59/B1/107-110.
6. VCH, *Hants*, III, 43
7. J. Duthy, *Sketches of Hampshire* (1839, reprinted 1972), 116. The delayed publication of this book occurred in 1839, and the survival of the ruins was 'within the memory of many now being'.
8. A drawing of 'Winchester House' has been suggested as being of Bishops Sutton, but there would seem to be other possible alternatives. N. Riall, A 'lost' palace of the bishops of Winchester. www Medieval.archaeology.co.uk/index.php/projects/a–lost-palace-of-the-bishops-of-Winchester

# *Local History*

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## 'That most difficult of all social questions': the Carlisle Memorial Refuge, Winchester 1868-81, Part 1

Pat Thompson

*The first part of this article discusses the establishment of a refuge for convicted women prisoners in Winchester, its staff and inmates. The focus of the second part (to be printed in the next Newsletter) is on the refuge's regime, finances, results, and closure.*

The Carlisle Memorial Refuge, sited at the corner of Romsey Road and St James Lane in Winchester, was a locus for the rehabilitation of female convicts during the years 1868-81. It was recognized that, because of the very restricted range of employment open to women in the 19th century, the chances of a female released from prison finding work was much lower than for a man and explained the much higher rate of recidivism among the former. The idea for a fruitful transition between imprisonment and liberty that this Refuge represented had several roots. Elizabeth Fry's well-known labours among women prisoners at Newgate led, after her death in 1845, to the founding of the British Ladies' Society for the Reformation of Female Prisoners. Believed to be the first nationwide women's organization, this Society set up temporary shelters for newly discharged female prisoners. This was part of the great Victorian impetus to protect or rescue vulnerable members of society, including women and children fallen, or liable to fall, into a life of crime and prostitution. Much of this drive manifested itself in providing training for an honest life of employment within small institutions with regimes of varying severity, such as Dr Barnado's Homes, Charles Dickens' Urania House, and Mary Carpenter's reformatories for young offenders. In Winchester there were several institutions of informal and local nature such as the Refuge for Penitent Women in North Walls that in 1867 sheltered 13 women while training them in laundry work.

The crisis in English prison administration that led to government involvement in the rehabilitation of female convicts came in the 1850s with the end of transportation to Australia. This necessitated the building of convict prisons for those men and women, who with their criminal past and possible criminal future, would formerly have been shipped safely out of sight. Now, it was widely believed, convicts were released prematurely within Britain without evidence of reformation or adequate supervision upon release. It was this unease that led to an examination of the ideals of Sir Walter Crofton (1815-97), one-time resident of Winchester. The system of prison discipline that was developed in Ireland between 1854 and 1862 by Crofton following his appointment as Chairman of the Irish Board of Directors of Convict Prisons was very highly regarded by many late Victorian penal reformers. He was influenced by Alexander Maconochie, the captain who had been in charge of the Australia convict punishment colony at Norfolk Island, earlier a byword for brutality, degradation and despair. Instead Maconochie's 'mark system' that rewarded convicts' hard work and 'moral progress' led to the granting of amenities and early release and had proved successful in the reformation process.

Crofton devised a system that was both punitive and reformative. As in England, convicts were required to pass through three stages: the deterrent first stage where female convicts spent four months in isolation, passing the time in the tedious and unpleasant task of picking oakum. In the later stages of the sentence the women could become more in control of their own lives, firstly by working communally in a sewing room, and being visited by philanthropic 'ladies' and earning gratuities and privileges by evincing industry and self-discipline. The third stage was the most publicized. Here convicts transferred to 'intermediate prisons' where small groups of convict women lived in 'houses of refuge' which tested their self-control, integrated them more closely into the wider community, and increased their chances of employment upon release. These were in the housework domain where a constant demand for domestic servants offered some chance of success, particularly for trained women. Given the very basic conditions of working class homes and the limited diets, middle class women spent much time training their servants in elementary domestic requirements and cookery skills.

During the 1860s and 1870s Discharged Prisoners Aid Societies set up and managed a great number of voluntary and locally administered refuges almost exclusively for women and, against the background of increasing vocal public concern about the entire system of penal servitude, the baton of change was also picked up by the prestigious National Association for the Promotion of Social Science at whose conferences Crofton was a frequent contributor. At the congress in 1863 and under the aegis of the Reformatory and Refuge Union (RRU) a committee was formed to exert pressure on the Home Secretary to adopt Crofton's principles, as being the best way of effectively dealing with 'that most difficult of all social questions, the reformation of our female convicts'. It volunteered to establish pre-discharge refuges in England under the supervision of 'competent ladies' if the government would authorize the sending of convict women to undergo the same regime as in Ireland and make the payment of 7s. per head per week (1).

The Directors of Convict Prisons (DCP) in England calculated that 7s. would suffice if the inmates in the refuge remained there one month but the expense would increase proportionately if an inmate's stay was longer. They consoled themselves that, if reconvictions were reduced as a result of the experiment, the expense

would be recouped; the increase of reconvictions inclined the Directors to view the RRU's suggestion favourably. With this assurance the RRU were prepared in January 1865 to guarantee suitable refuges capable of accommodating 100 female convicts altogether and agreed that these refuges should be under government inspection and certification. The following August the DCP was able to tell the Home Secretary that premises in London with staff would be ready the next week for occupation by female convicts (2).

The Carlisle Memorial Refuge (named after an earl of Carlisle) was situated at Queens Square Bloomsbury, with a lady superintendent and three matrons: one for the supervision of laundry, another to oversee needlework, and a third for stores and general work. It could accommodate 50 Protestant women convicts drawn from prisons at Millbank, Brixton, and Fulham. Three years later it was decided to move the location to Winchester, being and remaining the only Refuge outside London. This decision was based on the fact that, although it had originally been thought that an experimental venture was better located in London, Walter Crofton's purchase of premises in Winchester removed the threat of removal by a landlord (landlords were reluctant to let out their properties for such unsavoury purposes) and the nearby railway station afforded ease of communication. Moreover, its proximity to the home of Walter Crofton gave an assurance of his 'personal attention' (3).

**Staff**

A 31-year old woman, Eliza Pumphrey, was appointed as lady supervisor at the Winchester Refuge's inception in 1868 and probably always was aided by three 'matrons', their names in 1871 being Isabella Harding, a spinster of 25, L Walter, also a spinster aged 28, and E Brook, a widow of 30. By 1881 Miss Pumphrey's three staff had changed and in addition a laundress was employed, but she had also gained the services of her niece Caroline Pumphrey, noted in the census as a 'teacher matron'. The cooking was always done by one of the convict women. Although young, Miss Pumphrey must have been a woman used to command and to be obeyed, as one would expect of a 'lady', for the majority of the 45 convict women were older than she. The youngest inmate was 22, the oldest 56. That she was regarded as possessing both sufficient status and experience is indicated by her appearance as a witness before the Royal Commission of Enquiry into the Working of the Penal Servitude Act in July 1878.

Not only was the Refuge in close proximity to Walter Crofton's home, he residing at The Close and Egmont House in St James Lane, he was actually sleeping at the Refuge on the night of the 1881 Census, though his wife had overall supervision. The doctor and the chaplain, who initially had given their services free, were by 1878 receiving a salary of £30 p.a. and £50 p.a. respectively. For this the chaplain performed a daily service in the room set aside as a chapel, the doctor saw the prisoners once a week, and visited any who were sick two or three times a day, providing much medicine from his salary (4).

**Inmates**

The women convicts who passed through Eliza Pumphrey's hands were not locally born. Of the 45 women living in Carlisle Refuge on Census night 1871, 30 had their birthplaces recorded and over half were from London, the other half from around England and Ireland. Ten years later, only 4 were from London, the greater proportion being from the northern counties. The employment of the women when at liberty was typical of Victorian working class women. Of the 23 females sent there from Woking Female Prison in 1878, 6 were noted as being married, thus obviating them in the Victorian mind from having an occupation; only 11 had an occupation recorded, employment such as domestic service and the making of clothes being well represented. A similar pattern prevailed among the 19 women sent two years later including 'lace dresser' and 'shoe binder'. The age composition of the women changed slightly over the decade between the censuses. In 1881 there was a 50 per cent increase in the 20-29 age group but a noticeable drop in the 30-39 age group.

The crimes for which the women had originally been sentenced were also typical of those of Victorian female criminals with theft in various forms predominant and currency offences also appearing. Four of the 23 women in 1878 had not been sentenced before, including a 'jealous' woman who had received a sentence of 14 years for threatening to poison her 'immoral' husband. Only a single case of no previous convictions was sent from Woking Prison in 1880, that of a 50-year old woman who claimed that her son had been made drunk before committing arson and that she declared the offence to be hers in order to save him. Her case, with others, was included in a return compiled by the Woking chaplain, which itemizes a number of facts about each woman and her character. Thus we have such snapshots as '33-year old charwoman, 10 previous convictions and 3 sentences of penal servitude; in prison at 12, imprisoned for stealing, convicted at 15, lost parents at 7 years of age; prostitution and drunk; hardened', and a '24-year old dressmaker, theft of 2s. 6d. and cotton dress from a child, no previous convictions; cruel husband, her prosecutrix the woman with whom he lived and had a child; asserts innocence; a very sad case; hopeful', or more succintly 'a 25-year old with 2 previous convictions, charwoman, drunk, doubtful', and '22-year old needlewoman, guilty of forgery with a previous conviction of a similar offence attributed to her love of dress and gaiety'.

According to the lady superintendent in 1878, a great many were factory hands together with Welsh women from the mines as well as a great many hawkers and lots of London thieves and pickpockets. These last always 'puts up to be a lady; she is very grand', dressed smartly and generally wanted to appear better than they were. However, she went on to say, while most of the women were not married, they were faithful to the men whom they called their husbands and very few were prostitutes. Many had been led into crimes by their men, particularly in cases of robbery with violence, and it was not uncommon for their men, once themselves released from prison, to seek out their women who had entered service and reintroduce them to a life of crime. Of the 23 women who entered the Carlisle Refuge from Woking prison in 1878, the outlook, in the opinion of the chaplain, for one was 'hopeful and encouraging', for 7 was 'hopeful', 4 had 'doubtful' recorded, and 11 were 'hardened and unimpressed'. In 1880 the prognosis for 8 women was 'hopeful', doubtful for 6, with 10 being hardened and unimpressive. If the original idea had been that the most responsive women should be sent

to refuges, those who had never been to a refuge before and who had obtained the requisite number of marks for good conduct and with no adverse reports for the previous three or four months, it seems that the high standard for selection had been modified and, indeed, it can be inferred that medical grounds were the only reason for ineligibility (5).

**References**

1 The National Archives (TNA) HO 45/93/18/16208, memorial from RRU Committee to Sir George Grey, Home Secretary, undated; Hampshire Record Office TOP 343/3/8334, *Reformatory and Refuge Journal* (*RRJ*) 1867/69, p.201.
2 TNA HO 45/93/18/16208/10, DCP to Home Office 3Aug. 1865; in fact it opened on 24 Aug., Parliamentary Papers (PP) 1866 vol. xxxviii (DCP report).
3 TNA HO 45/93/18/16208/20, letter from Crofton 17 Apr. 1868. Known also as Carlisle Home and Battery House.
4 *Census* 1871-81; *RRJ* 1867/9.
5 DCP reports in PP 1867 vol. xxxvi, pp.12-15; 1878 vol. xxxvii, p.607; 1878 vol. xlii, Appendix, pp.534-5, 540-1; *Census* 1881.

# Malchus: An Emblem of The Passion in the Renaissance Frieze at St Cross

Nicholas Riall

A programme of cleaning and re-ordering of the Renaissance stalls in the church of the Hospital of St Cross, Winchester, was undertaken between September 2013 and April 2014. This allowed unprecedented access to this exquisite suite of work, permitting the carved detail to be examined and recorded in considerable detail, in a manner not previously possible. This minutely comprehensive examination, alongside a reappraisal of previous work on the Renaissance frieze, produced a number of surprises. Amongst them recognition that one of the carvings perhaps refers obliquely to Malchus, whose ear was cut off by Peter in the Garden of Gethsemane during the arrest of Christ. However, to find this motif requires particularly close examination of the carvings– for it is very small (Figs 1 & 2).

*Figs 1 & 2: detail of the St Cross frieze showing an emblem possibly referring to Malchus*

The St Cross frieze is dominated by open-work panels, many of which have medallions that feature profile portraits of men and women, set in a series of two tiers above and below a central rail. The frieze itself was affixed to the front of canopied benches. Less noticeable and difficult to make out in poor light are the carvings that festoon the framework that holds these carved panels. The framing of the frieze is somewhat unusual insomuch as it has neither a top nor a bottom frame, just a series of posts that project either side of a central rail. Nineteen of these posts survive, each made to a largely standard pattern. At the top is a Classical style column capital, underneath which are a pair of rectangular-shaped pilasters separated by the centrally placed rail. The ensemble is completed by a corbel figurine that is suspended from the base of the post. We now know that the posts are in fact pairs, upper and lower, that were jointed into the central rail by pegged tenons, and that the face of the rail is covered by an applied architrave that covers some of the joint detail.

A peculiar feature of this work is the diversity of the carved detail, so much so that no two posts are quite alike; additionally, most of the capitals also differ one from the next. This is quite unlike carved detail in earlier Gothic choir stalls that are usually characterized by repetitive decorative schemes with little or no variation. When looked at from afar, the St Cross frieze offers what appears to be a generally symmetrical arrangement but close examination reveals this is an illusion, and that none of the pilasters is quite the same. The 19 posts between them have 37 pilaster panels (one of the lower posts is missing from the ensemble), which feature some 127 motifs. These are arranged vertically and are strung on a central string that is termed a candelabra. This is a borrowing from Classical architecture, although no Roman carver would have created such a diverse scheme such as is found at St Cross. The candelabra is 'suspended' from a hook or fixing placed at the top of the pilaster. These also differ considerably, with none exactly the same as another, and 14 identifiable as being different. The individual carvings beneath also offer a range of different motifs that encompass leaves, fruits, ribbons, beads, tassels and other motifs, amongst which are a few examples of military weapons.

The motif that can be interpreted as being a

*Fig 3 Carving featuring the Passion of Malchus in Winchester cathedral*

reference to Malchus appears only once, on post South 2, that is to say the second post of the south frieze reading from the left (or east). The emblem features a rounded shape that can be identified as a buckler (a type of small shield) which overlies a pair of crossed objects–a cresset (a type of torch formed by an iron basket attached to a pole) and a sword. This weapon is of a very specific shape and form that can be identified as a falchion because of the shape of its blade. In depictions of religious iconography this type of sword is generally associated with the incident in the Garden of Gethsemane.

The Passion emblem featuring the falchion and Malchus' ear can also be found in Winchester cathedral, where it appears amongst two works closely associated with bishop Richard Fox (1501-28). It appears amongst an extensive series of symbols of the Passion in the presbytery vault, in the bays above the high altar and feretory at the east end (1), and secondly as an armorial on the outer face of the screen on the north side of the presbytery (Figs 3 & 4). The presence of a falchion crossed with a cresset makes sense of the moment in the dark hours of the night when Christ was arrested, making it very likely that the motif at St Cross is indeed a reference to the incident.

The incident in the Garden is mentioned by all four of the disciples: Matthew 26:51, Mark 14:47, Luke 22:50-1, and John 18:10-11. The scene is set in Gethsemane and culminates in the arrest of Christ. Matthew tells us, 'Behold, one of them which were with Jesus stretched out his hand and drew his sword, and struck a servant of the high priest's, and smote off his ear'. Mark's account is closely similar. Luke adds

*Fig 4 Carving featuring the Passion of Malchus in Winchester cathedral*

that Christ reached out 'and touched his ear and healed him'. It is John who identified both Peter, as the man who wielded the sword, and Malchus as the victim, adding, 'then said Jesus, "Put up thy sword into the sheath: the cup which my father hath given me, shall I not drink it?"'

The motif is the only one that can reasonably be identified as having a particular meaning amongst the pilaster carvings at St Cross. That said, it is possible the leaves and fruits seen amongst these motifs, whilst deeply ambiguous, might well represent the Eucharistic wine. There is no vine trail amongst the work in the St Cross frieze, although there might perhaps have been one on the putative screen that would have accompanied the setting, closing off its western aspect. Nevertheless, the presence of many leaves that are of an indeterminate nature, as well as similarly vague fruits, may well have been an intentional inclusion that was supposed to be readily understood as an oblique reference to the act of communion. It may be that further work on the pilaster carvings may reveal further iconographical references.

The oblique reference to Malchus, and by extension to St Peter, may however be seen in a somewhat different light when we consider that the arms of the Winchester diocese comprise a sword crossed with a pair of keys. As the founder of the church, it was the keys that came to be regarded as St Peter's attribute, but he also has the sword for 'if a man hear not the church then his ear must be spiritually smitten off by Peter' (2). As bishop of Winchester the heraldic arms of Richard Fox conjoined the diocesan symbols of St Peter and his personal badge of a vulning pelican. All three forms of heraldic display were presented in the frieze at St Cross: the badge of the diocese, Fox's personal badge, and the arms conjoined. It is then perhaps not entirely surprising that the symbol for Malchus should also appear here.

**References**

1 A Smith, *Roof Bosses of Winchester Cathedral* (1996).
2 M D Anderson, *History and Images in British Churches* (1955), 117-18.

# William Curtis the Botanist—When Was He Born? or Researchers Beware!

Jane Hurst

One of the most important rules in historical research is not to accept what is already in print, either in books or on the web, and to go back to original documents whenever possible. A good example of the mistakes which can be made (and repeated again and again) has just come to light.

I am a volunteer at the Curtis Museum in Alton and have been among those who are setting up a Local Studies Area there. One recent query was about William Curtis the botanist, not to be confused with William Curtis (Jane Austen's apothecary), William Curtis (after whom the museum is named), William Curtis (who wrote a history of Alton), or William Hugh Curtis (who was an honorary curator and left us the Allen Gallery building).

Deciding that I did not know enough about the town's important son, various websites were consulted including the Oxford Dictionary of National Biography. The Curtis family were Quakers in the 1700s and something did not match notes that had been made some time ago from the films of the registers of the Alton Monthly Meeting (TNA RG6/1029). The next source was 'William Curtis 1746-1799, Botanist and Entomologist' by William Hugh Curtis published in 1941. This begins:

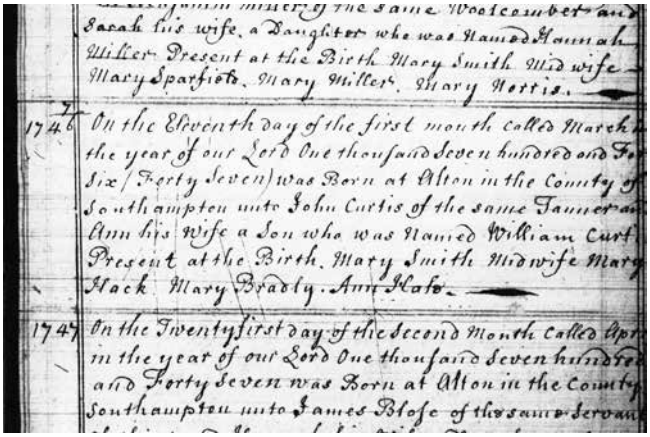


*Fig.1: Society of Friends' Register, TNA RG6/1029]*

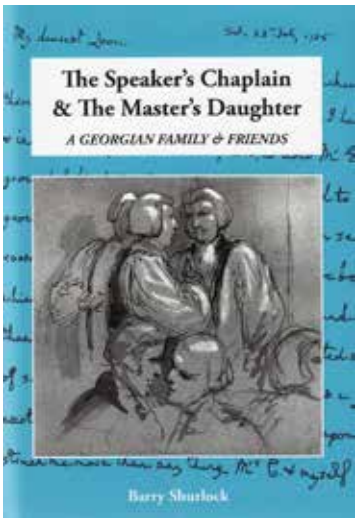
'William Curtis was born on January 11, 1746', a date repeated in every reference to William found so far. Presumably authors have just copied William Hugh's statement. But if you look at the original birth entry (Quakers recorded births), you will see it says: 'On the Eleventh day of the first month … in the year of our Lord One thousand Seven hundred and Forty Six (Forty Seven) was Born at Alton in the County of Southampton unto John Curtis of the same Tanner and Ann his Wife a Son who was named William Curtis. Present at the Birth, Mary Smith Midwife, Mary Hack, Mary Bradly, Ann Hale.'

Unfortunately no one has stopped to think that this was before the change in the calendar and that the family were Quakers! Hence the first few words have been translated as 11 January 1746, but at that time the year began on 25 March and so the first month could have been March or April (the first whole month of the year). In fact, for Quakers, March was their first month and the register actually helps us with 'the Eleventh day of the first month called March in the year of our Lord'. So William Curtis the botanist was born on 11 March 1746/7.

Now all that remains is to try and get all the incorrect dates put right.

## *book reviews book reviews book reviews book reviews*

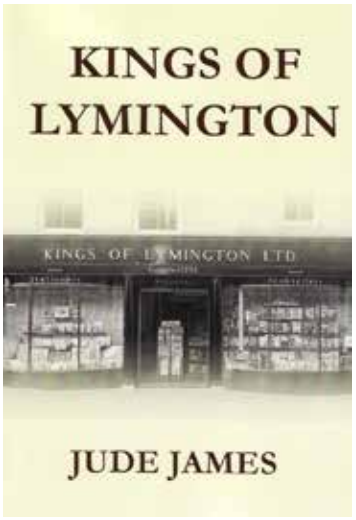
Barry Shurlock, **The Speaker's Chaplain & The Master's Daughter: A Georgian Family & Friends**, Scholarly Sources: Winchester, 2015; pp.xviii+350, £25.




The subjects of this entertaining book are Philip Williams (1742-1830) and his wife Sarah (1757-87). He was an Anglican clergyman, a fellow of Winchester College, and from 1784 to 1789 chaplain to the Speaker of the House of Commons. She was the daughter of a master at Winchester College, and following their marriage in 1779 Philip and Sarah engaged in a lengthy correspondence, their letters providing a fascinating insight into well-to-do society in late 18th-century Winchester. According to Barry Shurlock's eloquent summary, Philip comes across as disinterested in his parish at Compton, hopelessly out of his depth buying presents for his children, less than understanding of the challenges faced by his young wife, fond of the good life in London, prone to go off to stay with old school friends, and unhelpful in running errands (p.110). Sarah, meanwhile, seemed to struggle with something close to manic depression. One chapter discusses the couple's experiences as the parents of four children born between 1780 and 1784, another concerns the running of their house in Winchester, and a third their social life in Hampshire and elsewhere. Sarah disliked being apart from her husband, and many of her letters complained about their separation, but it was Philip who was bereaved when his wife died in childbirth at the age of 30. As Shurlock makes clear, the Williamses were members of the 'mildly struggling middling sort' (p.289), socially comfortable among the landed gentry but far from wealthy themselves, and his book very successfully illuminates the hazards and rewards for those of relatively modest means seeking the road to betterment in Georgian England.

*Mark Page*

Jude James, **Kings of Lymington**, Natula Publications: Christchurch, 2015; pp.104, £15.




The King family, originally from Yeovil in Somerset, ran a successful booksellers, stationers and printers' business in Lymington from the early 19th to the late 20th century. This book, based on the family's privately held archive, traces the development of the business and the personal lives of its owners over six generations. One of the most significant figures was Richard King (1796-1877), who set up in competition to his uncle Charles, establishing a reputation for selling good quality remaindered books at low prices. He also wrote a guide book to Lymington, which he printed himself in premises behind the bookshop. The business passed in the direct male line to Richard's great-grandson, Edward King (1893-1974), who assumed control following his demobilisation from the army in 1919 and oversaw a major refurbishment of the shop in 1922. The family's papers shed light not only on their business affairs, but also on their political, religious and social activities in the town, and their interest in local history, Edward publishing *A Walk Through Lymington* in 1972. Under his daughter Anita Mary (1928-1987) the printers' closed, and after her death the shop too was sold, eventually becoming a branch of Waterstones. The story of the Kings, combining business, family and local history, is well told and offers an interesting supplement to the author's wide-ranging history of Lymington (2007, reviewed in *Newsletter* 49).

*Mark Page*

# Archives and Local Studies News from Hampshire Record Office

Mark Pitchforth

**Recent additions to the holdings**

Historic hospital records form an important part of the county archives. For Hampshire these include Knowle Hospital (48M94), Park Prewett (279M87), and the Royal Hampshire County Hospital, Winchester (5M63). Recent additions have included Andover War Memorial Hospital records (99A14). Complementing the official records are papers generated by the 'Save the Hospital Services Campaign' group (100A14), concerning a community campaign to protect services at the hospital.

Another cornerstone of the county records is the material generated by Hampshire's district and borough councils, some dating back to the medieval period. The latest, and perhaps one of the largest to have been deposited in recent years, comes from Gosport Borough Council (123M96). The records of the Town Trustees, predecessors to the Borough Council, were deposited back in 1996. The latest deposit includes early committee minutes.

Personal records continue to provide us with touching reminders of the loss suffered by many in the wars of the 20th century. A small bundle of papers, found in the lining of a trunk acquired by a Midhurst family, was brought to the Record Office in October (110A14). The letters and papers relate to Pte Albert Ellender of the 1st Scots Guards, on active service in France during the First World War, and comprised mainly letters and cards from Ellender to Elsie Butler, his fiancée in Farnborough.

Photographs are a continual source of information and fascination for family and local historians alike. Recent photographic additions have included a set of small glass plate negatives taken in and around Thornhill Isolation Hospital, Aldershot, by Frank Leonard Ramshaw (c.1888-1946) during the First World War (116A14). Another unusual photographic collection comprises a set of large card-mounted sepia photos showing trees on the Lockerley Hall estate at around the turn of the 20th century (120A14).

Maps and plans received in recent months have included the parish copy of the Odiham tithe map, c.1840 (47M81/PD10).

Deeds, also relating to Odiham, have been received via Wiltshire and Swindon History Centre (129A14). The bundle comprises a mixture of unrelated items collected by Henry Swayne and C R Straton of Wilton, Wiltshire, in the late 19th century. Another separate deposit of deeds includes items concerning 36 Normandy Street, Alton, part of a larger property which was made up of two earlier houses, with deeds dating back to the early 18th century (132A14).

Business records received recently will be of interest to those researching Hampshire's pubs and publicans, off-licences and hotels. Crowley's Brewery, Alton dates back to 1821, when the Crowley family bought the brewing business of James Baverstock in Turk Street, Alton (57A00d5).

Sporting records also feature in another Alton collection received in November. The Alton Football League was founded in 1921, and the minute books (130A14) give a vivid insight into grass-roots football between the wars.

**New catalogues**

Recently catalogued material includes records of Hartley Wintney Methodists, 58M77add, among which are minutes of trustees meetings, 1875-6 and 1898-9, and minutes of leaders meetings, 1909-95.

121A13—material transferred to HRO from the New Forest Museum—already catalogued by the Museum, have now been transferred to CALM. The records include minutes and papers of Clark's Ringwood Charity, which provided almshouses and also apprenticeships, 1843-1913; additional Ringwood parish records including settlement papers from the

early 19th century; Lymington items, including deeds and parish records from the 18th and 19th century, and also a series of billet slips for French troops stationed in Lymington in the 1790s; various deeds from the 16th to 20th centuries for Burley, Sway, Boldre, Milford and Thorney Hill.

**Local Studies Collection: some new books and pamphlets**

*National Taxation and Local Rates in Southampton in the Second Half of the 16th Century* by Elizabeth Anne Rothery, Southampton Records Series 46, includes a memoir of the author, a much-missed regular HALS visitor.

More local publications with a WW1 centenary theme include *Somborne Remembers: the parish and its servicemen of World War One* by Jo Finch and others, *The New Forest and the Great War* by Clare Church and others, *A Torch in Flame: the story of a county cricket club at war following five Hampshire cricketers during the First World War* by Peter Jones, *Romsey and the Remount Service* by Phoebe Merrick, *Echoes that Remain: a history of the New Zealand Field Engineers during the Great War at Gallipoli, France and the Hampshire town of Christchurch* by Clement Wareham.

Among other recent publications are *The Theatre Royal Winchester: the first 100 years 1914-2014*, Winchester Theatre Trust, *Mountbatten: apprentice warlord* by Adrian Smith, *The Opinions of William Cobbett* edited by James Grande, and *Basingstoke Races* by Jean Dale.

**Forthcoming events**

*Exhibitions, at the Record Office unless otherwise indicated:*

Until 30 Sept *Magna Carta and Hampshire*: exhibition to mark 800 years of Magna Carta produced by The Odiham Society in conjunction with Hampshire Record Office.

Oct-Dec (downstairs in foyer) *Hampshire Commemorates*: exhibition which was launched in the Great Hall last year on the centenary of Britain entering the First World War.

Oct-Dec (top floor landing) exhibition marking the 175th anniversary of the foundation of the Diocesan Training College, now the University of Winchester.

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

27 Aug: *Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War* by Stephen Fisher.

24 Sept: *A Huguenot Hero: Henri Portal*, talk and film show by Mark Pitchforth.

29 Oct: *Their name liveth evermore*: war memorials by Heather Needham.

26 Nov: *Alice in Lyndhurst* by Angela Trend.

*Family history for beginners. £13, booking essential: 01962 846154*

Practical advice and help in starting your family history research: discover the main sources available and how to use them; access material on microfiche/film with staff on hand to answer any questions. All you need to know to begin researching your family tree. 3 Sept, 1 Oct, 5 Nov 2-4pm, 22 Sept, 27 Oct, 24 Nov 6-8pm (you only need to attend one session).

*Reading old handwriting workshops. £13, booking essential: 01962 846154*

Beginners – 10 Sept, 2-4pm.

Next steps – 17 Sept, 2-4pm.

*Was your ancestor a soldier? £13, booking essential: 01962 846154*

Workshop on tracing army ancestors. 25 Sept, 1 Dec 2-4pm (you only need to attend one session).

*Latin for beginners. £13, booking essential: 01962 846154*

Carpe Diem! Seize the day and sign up to this workshop to learn to read Latin in old documents. 8 Oct, 2-4pm.

*Uncover the history of your house. £13, booking essential: 01962 846154*

Discover the stories housed in the collection of bricks and mortar you call home. When was it built? What was it used for? Who lived there? Find out how to use archive sources to answer these questions and more. 22 Oct, 2-4pm.

*Using school archives for historical research. £13, booking essential: 01962 846154*

How to use school records, such as log books, admission registers etc for your historical research. 3 Nov, 2-4pm.

*Interpreting title deeds as a source for local and family history workshop. £13, booking essential: 01962 846154*

19 Nov, 10.30am-1pm.

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

Sign up today and help us preserve Hampshire's heritage. 26 Aug and 11 Nov, 10am-3.30pm (you only need to attend one session). Training in archive preservation/conservation, cataloguing, digitisation and oral history recording.

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

# *In the back*

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## Stan Waight – An Appreciation

*Members will be sad to hear that Stan Waight died on 30th May, aged 86. Mike Broderick has prepared this appreciation.*

Before I got to know Stan through the Landscape Section Committee, he worked with a number of current and former committee members as part of the Fareham Landscape Archaeology Group (FLAG). Gordon Ford, Marion Gray (current members) and Stephen Gray (former member) have put together these thoughts:

"Stan joined the Fareham Landscape Archaeological Group in the early 1980s through his interest in history and the outdoors. During this time he completed the Diploma in Local History Studies at Portsmouth University, during which course he embarked on research into the landholdings in Hampshire of Corpus Christi College, Oxford. This research has had considerable input into the understanding of Hampshire's history and his research papers are lodged with Hampshire Records Office and Corpus Christi College. He was also involved in the Fareham Group's research of Anglo-Saxon boundaries associated with the Parishes of the Meon Valley and took part in the Group's input into the excavation of an Anglo-Saxon site at Shavards Farm, Meonstoke.

His wide interests are exemplified by his family history research which led to further studies that resulted in a web site that listed Trinity House Lighthouse keepers and their staffs and families, and then early Customs and Excise officers operating initially from the Isle of Wight and later, nationally."

**Landscape Section:**

The first mention I found of Stan was in the minutes of the Section's Committee Meeting on 19/10/90 under the item AGM: "The name of Stan Waight was put forward as a new, willing member." He was duly elected to the Committee at that year's conference, 17/11/90, attending his first meeting on 15/2/91. Thereafter, until his recent spell of ill health, he rarely missed a meeting.

Stan carried out 10 years as Treasurer, resigning at the 18th October 2007 meeting:

> *"Stan Waight said that he intended to relinquish the Treasurer's post at the end of the year on completion of ten years in the post. He said that it was not an arduous position, but that it did get busy after the postings had been circulated. Mike Broderick thanked Stan for his service and the accurate, timely and well presented accounts."*

He changed one aspect of organisation in relation to field visits and conferences. Previously, bookings had come to the Programme Secretary who then passed on cheques to the Treasurer. Thenceforward, Stan received and managed bookings for all events. He also attended most visits and all conferences to record attendance.

He also participated in Landscape Section events. Two examples are:

- 2004 – A talk on 'Corpus Christi College Estates' as part of the programme for 'The Landed Estate in the Landscapes of Hampshire'
- 2011 – A field visit to Mapledurwell where he shared some of the knowledge he had built up as part of his work on the New Victoria History of Hampshire project (see below).

**Publications:**

He also found time to publish articles in both the Newsletter and Proceedings (now Hampshire Studies) as the list, in table 1, taken from the website, shows:

George Campbell, current Newsletter Editor, comments on his contribution to our knowledge of Hampshire:

"For many years Stan wrote extensively and with great enthusiasm on what became a major project for him: Bishop Fox's Hampshire Estates. Having first secured the co-operation of the Oxford Corpus Christi College Archivist, many years ago, he was able to draw upon their vast resources of the Bishop's foundation, which included the celebrated Langdon maps, to inform his researches and writings. On one occasion, when I was underlining the privilege of the unfettered access he had, he replied, amusingly, that it was not all one way, because he had in fact assisted the College by his discoveries of quite a number of important details of properties of which they were unaware. His researches and reports in 'Proceedings' and 'Newsletter' were invariably of a high order, but he remained an unassuming man, content to make, what he described

**Table 1**
**Stan Waight's Field Club papers**

**Medieval Period** –
Waight, S 1990 Bere in Upwarnford, **News** 13, 20-22
----- 1991 Bere Farm, Warnford, **News** 16, 7-8
----- 1998 Marwell Woodlock: the creation of the manor and its descent, c. 1300-1920, **Proc** 53, 201-17

**Post Medieval** –
Waight, S 1990 Bere Farm, Warnford, **News** 14, 22-3
----- 1996 The Hampshire lands of Corpus Christi College, Oxford, and their management 1500-1650, **Proc** 51, 167-85
---- 2001 Composite freehold estates of the postmedieval period in Hampshire, **Proc** 56, 229-45
----- 2007 Some elements of the history of Shelley Farm in Eling, Hampshire, **Proc** 62, 168-80
----- 2009 The Dean Farm estate in Kilmeston, **Proc** 64, 172-81
----- & Watts, G 1998 Peverells, Stonyfield and the livestock trade, **News** 30, 10-11

as his modest contributions, to the Landscape Section's work. A great colleague."

**New Victoria History of Hampshire project**

As the comments, below, from Dr. Jean Morrin show, Stan was an early and enthusiastic volunteer for this project:

"Stan Waight's love of Hampshire history led him to volunteer for the New Victoria History of Hampshire project in its very early days. He has made a huge contribution. In 2008 when the volunteer project began, Stan had already been researching the estates held by Corpus Christi College, Oxford in Hampshire for about ten years. He delved into the College's excellent archive and in particular the wonderful Langdon maps drawn about 1616. Stan also shared his enthusiasm for landscape history and timber framed buildings especially in Mapledurwell. Stan's substantial research there led to the selection of Mapledurwell as our first new published parish (John Hare, Jean Morrin and Stan Waight, Mapledurwell The Victoria History of Hampshire, London 2012)- see Newsletter 61, p 25.

Stan was a meticulous researcher, that and his great enthusiasm for history inspired others to help with the project and made him a great colleague. Stan successfully encouraged local residents of Mapledurwell to join in with the research, adding their knowledge to information drawn from the archives. Stan was very happy to talk about his research and what inspired him to get involved both informally and in public. His speech, from the viewpoint of a volunteer, at the launch of Mapledurwell was designed to inspire others to follow in his footsteps.

Once Mapledurwell was completed Stan researched and wrote up chapters of the parish histories of Newnham and Up Nately which have been published as work in progress on the Victoria County History website http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/hampshire/work-in-progress. More chapters will be completed building on the sections which he had already written. Stan mastered the technology of drawing maps not only to illustrate his own work but to help others including me to prepare parishes for publication. He was always very generous with his time and skills.

Stan loved walking the countryside and led many walks in Mapledurwell explaining features of the landscape to other volunteers. Only last year he led the volunteer visit to Newnham and enjoyed passing on his knowledge and enthusiasm to the group.

Stan was always cheerful, friendly, helpful, very well-informed and enthusiastic. Nothing was too much trouble. He was always keen to be involved and keen to share his knowledge. It was great to know him and work with him. He is greatly missed but his name will live on in VCH works, published and forthcoming."

# Notes and News

Dick Selwood

**Electronic Publishing**

Those of you who regularly use libraries will be aware of the transition from printed journals to electronic publication, and know that many libraries are ceasing to subscribe to printed publications. The advantages to the library are that they can free up shelf space and reduce the huge amount of effort that managing a periodicals service requires. The advantage to the reader is much easier searching - with the search being on the actual text rather than just titles or keywords - and the ability to download and store articles on a personal computer.

This is the background to a study that the Editorial Board has undertaken over the last couple of years, and which will begin to be implemented with the next issue of Hampshire Studies. For at least the next few issues Studies will be published both electronically and in printed form. Three years of the electronic format will be available on the Internet, with a charge for public access, although members of the Field Club whose subscription includes Studies will have free access. After that Studies will be freely accessible to everyone. There is also a programme to upload back numbers of Studies. This pattern is the same as that already in use by many other societies.

Members will be able to choose to continue to receive the printed version or merely subscribe to the electronic version, from the 2016 issue. There are no immediate plans to publish an electronic Newsletter.

**Roger Brown and the Winchester model**

Roger Brown, the former County Planning Officer for Hampshire, died on 14 April, aged 90. The reason for mentioning this is that in his retirement he built the magnificent model of Winchester as it was in 1870. He said that he chose to represent the City early on a Sunday morning, so that there were no people around. The model has been displayed several times, and at the time of writing is on display at the Great Hall until August 24th. If you haven't seen it, do make the effort as, appallingly, it still has to find a permanent home, and every time it is packed away and then unpacked it suffers.

*Roger Brown's Model of Winchester in 1870*

# How is the HFC organised?

Dick Selwood

With a new President, it seems like a good time to remind you all of how the Field Club is structured. The work of the HFC is mainly through its four sections, Archaeology, Historic Buildings, Landscape and Local History. Each section is responsible for setting up visits, lectures and day conferences. All members can attend events organise by any section, and vote at section AGMs..
Publishing is a primary objective of the Society and is managed by an Editorial Board. Today publications include this Newsletter (twice a year), an annual learned journal, *Hampshire Studies*, and monographs on specific topics.
Coordinating these activities is a Council, whose membership is described in table 1.

**Archaeology**

Some of the earliest work by the Field Club was archaeological. And Hampshire and HFC members have had a tremendous impact on the way in which British and international archaeology has developed. While the section no longer organises digs (although the HFC does provide some funding to other organisations) it arranges visits to active archaeological sites. Evening lectures and a day conference report the work of these and other digs and also provide a forum to bring together the results from different sites across Britain usually through a specific theme.

**Historic buildings**

While archaeology is concerned mainly with objects below the ground, Historic Buildings looks at things above ground. Modern techniques such as dendro-technology (or dating timber by its tree rings) have caused a revolution in how we can date buildings and has meant that the age of many buildings has been re-assessed; often giving real proof that they are far earlier than they might appear from the outside. Hampshire, through the work of the members of the Historic Buildings section, has been at the forefront of that revolution. The section organises visits to old buildings, ranging from the imposing to agricultural buildings like barns. Conferences and lectures discuss the research and record the changes that have taken place over the centuries in buildings in Hampshire and across Britain.

**Landscape**

Landscape may be seen as fitting between the archaeology and the buildings. Today's rural landscape is as much a man-made creation as that of a town. Studying how it has been created and re-created, through the different activities including industry and agriculture, provides another way of approaching our past. The Landscape Section conducts walks in the landscape and through settlements, and at lectures and a conference brings together experts in different types of landscape at different points in time to provide a deeper understanding of the development of Hampshire.

**Local History**

Hampshire, perhaps more than many counties, has been at the heart of national history since at least the time of King Alfred. But alongside the national story has been a multitude of people and organisations, from monasteries, guilds, and later commercial companies, living in different towns, villages and farms. It is their story that makes up the local history of Hampshire. The Local History section organises visits, walks and lectures. It has an annual day conference that moves around the county to tap in to the local knowledge of different communities to help build up a more complete picture of our past.

# Council Members 2015-2016

| | | |
|---|---|---|
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✳ indicates a member of the Executive Committee

Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society

Newsletter

# Programme of Events

September - November 2015

**2015**

| | |
|---|---|
| 10th Sept | Tuesday (evening) - Archaeology Section<br>**Visit:** Winchester University excavations at Magdalen Hill, Winchester |
| 29th Sept | Tuesday - Historic Buildings Section<br>**AGM & Lecture:** Housing the medieval bishops of Winchester, John Hare, Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College |
| 3rd Oct | Saturday- Local History Section<br>**AGM** |
| 7th Nov | Saturday - Landscape Section<br>**Annual Conference & AGM:** 'Petersfield: Development of a Market Town and its Surroundings' Science, Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College |
| 21st Nov | Saturday - Archaeology Section<br>**Annual Conference & AGM:** 'Turning the Tide: the coming of Canute' (Provisional Title) |

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