



# Andover History and Archaeological Society Newsletter

*A look at historical & archaeological issues in  
Andover*

*And the surrounding villages*

*2018 Number 2 May*

*[www.andover-history.org.uk](http://www.andover-history.org.uk)*

## **From the Chair May 2018**

So far this year we have enjoyed a very varied menu of talks embracing archaeology, taxes, emigration and aspects of rural social history, but behind the scenes your Committee has been busy with other facets of the Society's work.

At the AGM I spoke about work on the copyright issues that are delaying the next stage of the Edith Howard Project which would make the pictures available and enable work to find out more about their content. Also at that meeting, Phil Farlow spoke about another photographic project which will be arriving on the Committee's agenda in the next few months.

The Wessex Film & Sound Archive is the custodian of the Ron Morris film collection which contains unique moving images of Andover and district during the post war period from the late 1940's and well into the 1950's. The VHS and DVD format copies made a long time ago for viewing are poor. The project would get the original films cleaned, copied into digital format and organised into chronological order. Hampshire Archives & Local Studies are getting quotes for the work and then discussion will begin on how best to fund the project.

The other issue to exercise our minds recently has been to ensure compliance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which replaces the Data Protection Act on 25 May 2018. We have written out to every member explaining the personal data we hold, your rights in respect of that data and how we will use and secure it. I hope that you have given us the consents we must have to hold your personal data and use it to continue to send you information about the Society's activities.

That ability to communicate with you is especially important over the summer months when we have no evening meetings but we do have interesting activities on offer. The talk on ancient trees given 18 months ago by Ted Green and Jill Butler from the Woodland Trust generated great interest in learning more about these trees. We are very lucky that Hugh and Jane Flambert have ancient trees on their land and have offered to lead a visit to see them on 22 June. Let's hope for a lovely summer evening.

*Erica*

## **The members of the Committee are:**

Erica Tinsley	Chair	David Borrett (Lookback Editor)
June Harris	{Joint	Felicity Coldicott
Heather Needham	{Vice Chair	Lesley Hind
Christopher Coffin	Treasurer	Brenda Mole
Jane Flambert	Correspondence Secretary	Clifford Williams
Lois Allender	Membership Secretary	

## **Programme 2018**

All meetings will take place at 7.30 pm unless indicated otherwise

### **25th May 2018 at the Guildhall**

*Geraldine Beech*

#### **Tithe Maps**

### **22nd June 2018 7.00 pm**

*Hugh and Jane Flambert*

#### **Visit to Fyfield, to see ancient trees at Littleton Manor, SP11 8ES**

### **28 September 2018 at the Guildhall**

*Alan Turton*

#### **Jane Austen and the Military**

### **26 October 2018 at the Guildhall**

*Martin Gregory*

#### **Mills & Milling in Hampshire**

### **30 November 2018 at the Guildhall (*please note the date*)**

*David Swindell*

#### **In the Footsteps of Francis Frith**

### **14 December 2018, Christmas Party at the Guildhall**

*Greg Gregory*

#### **Blink and you missed it!**

*Phil Farlow*

#### **More music notes**

## **Members' Contributions**

### **Bryan Beggs 1936-2018**

We were all saddened to learn of the death of Bryan Beggs on 25<sup>th</sup> January. Bryan was a long-time member of the society and his contribution to *Lookback at Andover* 2012 with his article on the history of the Andover Charities Trustees, of which he was then chairman, won a British Association for Local History national prize that year. In fact, it was this author's pleasure to collect the award for Bryan who was unable to attend the presentation in London.

Bryan was not a native Andoverian but was born at Keston in Kent and first met his future wife Diana when evacuated to the Isle of Wight during the war. Bryan later joined the RAF, flying both Canberra bombers and Whirlwind helicopters. He married in 1958 and came to Andover on retirement from the RAF in 1967 with two young children – Duncan and Jacqueline. The family's first home was in then very modern Winterdyne Mews.

Bryan became a helicopter instructor for Bristow Helicopters at the Army Air Corps Centre at Middle Wallop and in 1972 stood for council. This was for the old Andover Borough Council to which he was elected as one of three councillors for Millway Ward. Within a year the much larger authority of Test Valley was created to combine the two rural district councils and the boroughs of Andover and Romsey. Bryan has written of the problems that were potentially endemic in the new arrangement but emphasised how the goodwill of everybody involved was able to conquer the difficulties.

Elected mayor of Test Valley in 1986, a major achievement of his year was the launch of the Lifeline scheme by which 150 remotely-operated emergency call telephones were installed in the homes of those most at risk across the Test Valley borough. After retirement from the council he continued to spearhead this initiative.

In later years, he became chairman of the Andover Charity Trustees, a role he held throughout the 1990s. The tragic death of his son Duncan in a flying accident at the end of that decade was awful for the whole family but a strong faith helped to soften the blow and today, in St Michael's and All Angels' Church, in Weyhill Road, a dramatic memorial window can be seen, designed by Bryan and Diana as a tribute to their son.

After a five-year break Bryan resumed his chairmanship of the Andover Charity trustees in 2005, continuing to try to improve the lot of others, an instinct that remained strong and undiminished throughout his life. His final campaign was to build a new complex of almshouses on the site of the 1869 houses and the present car park, just below the Common Acre. Regretfully, for this author, the necessary demolition of the present houses was something to be opposed and, in contacting Bryan (with some trepidation) to tell him that I was against it, he reassured me that in no way would it affect our relationship. Such generosity of spirit was the measure of the man and something to which we may all aspire.

Sincere sympathies from the Society go to Diana and of course to all Bryan's family. Local life will be all the much poorer by his passing.

*David Borrett*

### **New history of Basingstoke**

In April on behalf of AHAS Clifford Williams attended the launch of the most recent VCH Book-'Basingstoke: a Medieval Town, c 1000-1600' by John Hare. For details go to <https://www.sas.ac.uk/publication/victoria-history-hampshire-medieval-basingstoke-0>

### **Bronze Age Site Visit, Picket Twenty, Andover Cotswold Archaeology** **Wednesday 24 January 2018**

On a wild, wet, windy, winter afternoon, a group of hardy individuals from AHAS and BAHS (Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society) gathered in the car park at Picket Twenty, on the eastern edge of Andover, for a muddy but fascinating visit to a Bronze Age site being excavated by Cotswold Archaeology. Society members who visited yesterday had positively balmy conditions in comparison! We were welcomed by Emily Taylor, Heritage Consultant and Outreach Coordinator, and Oliver Good, Assistant Project Manager, before being escorted to the site. As is so often the case with prehistoric burial sites, this occupied a prominent position on rising ground, exposed to the prevailing winds. We all huddled cheerfully, backs to the blast, umbrellas in various stages of collapse, listening to an introduction by Oliver and Joe Whelan, Project Officer.

As the Picket Piece housing estates creep ever further eastwards, Cotswold Archaeology was called in November 2017 to carry out rescue archaeology ahead of further development. Aerial photography from the 1980s had revealed the circular outlines of what appeared to be Bronze Age round barrows, probably levelled at the end of the 18<sup>th</sup>/beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century, as far as the team can tell.

The sites of four Bronze Age burial mounds have so far been excavated, with interesting results. Though not all of the same size, they lie in a line roughly west-east, and have some points in common, as well as significant differences. Sections have been dug, by hand, through the ring ditches of each, showing clear stratigraphy, including a dark brown deposit from the Roman period. All of the circles contained dark patches indicating cremations, between which we picked our way daintily, careful not to slip, and conscious of the ever-increasing muddy accretions sticking to our boots. There is no evidence of cremation urns, so possibly they were in leather bags which have not survived. Hopefully post-excavation analysis of what little remains of the bones will reveal whether they were all, perhaps, members of the same extended family unit.

Here, the similarities between the barrows seem to end, however. One had masses of Roman pottery in the ring ditch, suggesting the proximity of a villa, whilst others had very little; another had a pre-Roman

inhumation thrown unceremoniously into the ditch, face down. The easterly burial mound is more oval in shape, perhaps of an earlier date than the others, and transitional between a Neolithic long barrow and Bronze Age round barrow. It also encloses an enigmatic horseshoe ditch, which the team thinks might be a late-Neolithic mortuary area. The site of the fifth barrow, yet to be dug, appears to be surrounded by evenly-spaced stake holes.

There are clearly plenty of questions still to be answered, and what a privilege it was to have a glimpse into this 4,000 year old landscape on our doorstep, going back to a time when a row of gleaming white barrows on the skyline would have told those passing in the valley below: “This is our land, and the land of our forefathers”. It is interesting to ask oneself if the modern homes springing up in their place will leave the same proud, indelible mark on the landscape. One suspects not!

Our grateful thanks to Emily, Oliver and Joe from Cotswold Archaeology for giving their time, and for such an enjoyable and informative afternoon.

*Annabel Stowe (Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society)*

Many thanks to Annabel for sharing this article with us.



Joe is explaining aspects of the excavation to a cold, wet but fascinated audience. Many thanks to Emily Taylor of Cotswold Archaeology for permission to use this picture.



A pile of cremated bone recently excavated from the hole to the right. The water in the trenches says it all about the weather! Many thanks to Felicity Coldicott for permission to use this picture.

### **Recent Meetings**

**Andrew Manning, Senior Project Manager for Wessex Archaeology** spoke at the meeting in Andover Guildhall on 26 January on ‘The Archaeological Approach: how the past is being brought back to life’.

He reviewed the history of archaeology in this country. Depending for 150 years on the enthusiasm of collectors, its development was uneven. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century brought new potential with aerial photography, but much was destroyed by wartime ploughing and extensive rebuilding of cities and housing development after World War 2. Recognizing that so much was being lost led to the appointment of County Archaeologists in the 1970s and the beginning of comprehensive lists of sites and finds, now Historic Environment Registers (HER). But archaeology really accelerated when the government established the principle of developer funding, and it was written into the planning process. Now there are 10,000 archaeologists supported by development: 200 archaeologists worked for 2 years at the site of Heathrow’s Terminal 5. Locally, archaeological surveys have revealed interesting features at Picket Twenty and MOD housing developments at Durrington and Bulford.

The process begins with desk-based scoping, then, if promising, field evaluation (cf. The Time Team), full excavation, post-excavation assessment, publication, and finally archiving of finds.

Andy explained new developments in non-intrusive surveying. LIDAR is a curtain of laser beams from a plane which can model terrain accurately to centimetres: flying over Savernake Forest it reveals the landscape features through the trees. LIDAR can also survey the surface of objects, for instance the many tiny Bronze Age daggers carved on Stonehenge. Geophysics is also becoming more powerful: Ground Penetrating Radar is capable of probing what is beneath stone-paved church floors. Field-walking and trial trenching can still be useful, though less so for very early Palaeolithic sites with scattered flints. A decision would then be taken whether to continue a watching brief, perform a full excavation, or preserve a very important site.

Andy went on to show the precision which can be achieved in assessing finds. New techniques have extended beyond radiocarbon dating, which can only measure the last 15,000 years: thermoluminescence has revealed the earliest human activity in northern Europe, 950,000 years ago, at Happisburgh, Norfolk. The technique can also date pieces of pottery and brick.

Human remains, even if cremated, can give considerable detail about their life. Analysis of the chemicals trapped in the teeth of the Amesbury archer determined that he came from Germany. Using DNA testing, so far 124 Australian soldiers in a mass grave of 250 casualties of the Battle of Fromelles in 1916, have been identified. Work which Andy himself had done pinpointed where early colonists in this country (9460-9280BC), arriving after the glacial age, sat knapping flints, and what they were hunting and eating. Andy concluding his fascinating talk by suggesting that their archaeology can give value to places.

*Martin Coppen*

**Phoebe Merrick, the Romsey historian**, spoke at the February meeting on ‘Wig Powder and Windows: some thoughts on taxation.’ Declaring an interest as an ex-Customs and Excise officer, she now spoke as an historian on a subject which affected everyone present.

Phoebe defined customs as ‘duties payable when goods cross a national frontier’, charged at a percentage of their value. Excise is a duty levied because the goods exist, charged by volume.

Government has to be paid for, but taxes only work if they are accepted by those taxed and collection is cost-effective. So, in a sense, taxes are voluntary, collectively, if not individually! The ‘Poll Tax’ was so unpopular that collection became too expensive. If tax on alcohol or tobacco is set too high, then avoidance is widespread with people bringing large quantities across the Channel. It is sensible to abolish duty on an item when no longer cost-effective to tax: it made no sense taxing wig-powder when wigs became unfashionable. Taxes should keep up with inflation: Community Tax on houses is based on out-of-date valuations but a revaluation would be political suicide. In the 1980s, under the headline of ‘reducing taxes’, there was a swing from direct (income tax etc.) to indirect taxation, but the overall amount collected now is the same, indirect taxes having increased.

Customs duties have been tenacious, as they were easy to collect in pre-industrial times. A tax on high quality woollen cloth lasted from the 14<sup>th</sup> until the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Excise duty became a main source of revenue from the time of James I. It was so unpopular that officers needed legal and military protection. Because taxable items could be concealed, Customs and Excise were given powers of entry and search. Initially, excise collection was sub-contracted, but in 1683 government took over, establishing a national civil service. The Excise administered the unpopular Hearth Tax, replaced in 1688 by the Window Tax which persisted until 1851. Innovations attract new taxes: stamp duty was imposed on railway passengers from 1842 until 1929. The recent air passenger duty has raised over £3,000m.

HM Customs and Excise was established in 1909 and in 2005 it was amalgamated into HM Revenue and Customs. Purchase tax, efficiently levied on wholesalers, was introduced in 1940. When it was replaced in 1973 by VAT, a turnover tax, many more traders were involved.

Alcohol, tobacco and hydrocarbon oils are the three products on which excise duty is now collected. Alcohol: beer was taxed from 1643 until 1830, then from 1880 until the present, relying on frequent visits to breweries by expert Excise officers. Tobacco: in the 1990s there were just six manufacturers in the UK and the duty was easily collected. Hydrocarbons: duty is based on specific gravity of different products. Alcohol and tobacco excise raise £20,000m, hydrocarbons £28,000m. What will the government do when we switch to electric cars?

Phoebe was warmly thanked for her authoritative, interesting and wryly humorous talk.

*Martin Coppen*

At the meeting on 23 March, **Jane Kennedy** described the adventurous life and exploits of Stephen Hopkins – Bermuda Castaway and Mayflower Pilgrim. For her, too, this had been a journey of discovery. It was at a concert in Hursley church that she first heard of Hopkins, who had spent his early life in Upper Clatford, where Jane lives.

Jane sketched out the history of British colonisation of America which gave Hopkins his opportunity. In the mid-1500s, his father, John Hopkins, farmed in Upper Clatford, where Stephen was born in 1581. The family moved to Winchester, where John died financially secure. Stephen is next heard of in Hursley in 1604, married and with a growing family. Hearing of the Virginia Company—perhaps through Lord Sandys, landowner in Clatford and the Company treasurer—he signed up as a minister’s clerk for seven years in 1609. Stephen sailed on the Sea Venture, which was wrecked by a hurricane on Bermuda, ‘Tempest Island’. The ship’s company settled there temporarily, where Stephen was accused of mutiny against the governor but pardoned. A graphic account of the hurricane and Stephen’s mutiny is thought to have been read by Shakespeare and

included in *The Tempest*, which includes a character named Stephano. Next year, the company sailed on to Jamestown, Virginia.

Life in Jamestown became unprofitable and failed to profit the Company's investors, so eventually Stephen returned home only to find that his wife had died. He married again in London and embarked with his family and two servants on the *Mayflower* at Rotherhithe in July 1620, though not as a Protestant Separatist. His son, Oceanus, was born on the voyage. The *Mayflower* landed at Cape Cod, the wintry weather stopping them sailing south to Virginia. After exploring the area, which proved inhospitable, they sailed north to what was later named Plymouth Harbour. Here they met Squanto, a member of the Patuxet tribe, best known as an ambassador between the native populations in Southern New England and the *Mayflower* Pilgrims. Stephen's youngest daughter, Damaris, died in the harsh first winter. When communal farming ended in 1623, land was shared out and Hopkins given six acres, which he farmed, diversifying into shop keeping, but was accused of overpricing his wine and allowing people to drink on the Sabbath. In 1632-3 he was appointed a Freeman, reckoned among the top 5% for wealth. Hopkins died as an established colonist and patriarch in 1644.

It is only recently that Stephen Hopkins has been definitely connected with Upper Clatford, through the work of the Society's eminent historian, Diana Coldicott. Although Hopkins lived around 400 years ago, Jane brought the family story up to date with a photograph of a 2017 celebratory visit from 12<sup>th</sup> generation American descendants of Stephen Hopkins to All Saints, Upper Clatford. She was very warmly thanked for a most interesting and wide-ranging talk.

*Martin Coppen*

In his engaging and lively **Dacre Lecture 2018, Dr Jeremy Burchardt**, associate professor in rural history at the University of Reading, spoke on 'Children and the Making of Rural Places and Spaces in 20th century England'. Introducing his lecture, he observed that Max Dacre (1910-1990), Andover's rescue archaeologist, had believed in the importance of engaging children in local history and archaeology. Jeremy himself had become interested in how children relate to local rural landscapes and how they sometimes give their own names to features. He identified different types of names used by children: make-believe names, an old hut in the village of Wolvercote was known by local children as 'the South Pole'; topographic names describe obvious features, for instance 'Five Ways'; children also draw on public names used by the adult community; finally, private names invented and used within a family, for instance Raindrop Lane for an often-used shortcut, first travelled in a downpour.

In children's fiction, Arthur Ransome's *Swallows and Amazons* (1930), applied exotic make-believe names to Lake District places: Rio, the River Amazon, Darien. Under Ransome's influence, *The Far-Distant Oxus* (1937) by Katharine Hull & Pamela Whitlock (aged 16 and 17 at the time) drew on literary and Persian names. Jeremy has studied children's memoirs and diaries. One of the most fruitful was by Jane Holmes, born in 1923 into a well-to-do farming family. Writing of holidaying in Bemerton near Salisbury in 1937-1950, she describes her wanderings in the water meadows. Among places she names are: Paradise, Gateway to Paradise, Arcadia, River of Life; Isle of Avalon, Merlin's bridge, Broken Bridges: Gypsy Land, Hunt's Down are adult public names. Many of her invented names have a literary or scriptural origin. These names show what fascinates children—the excitement of crossing a broken bridge, wildlife or the prominence of water in her imagination. She had a sense of enchantment—when she and her half-sister were free to do what they wanted. Cultural influences affected her choice: the family were serious church-goers; the magic and mystery of the Arthurian legend as well as classical mythology and pastoral literature gave her inspiration.

For their own purposes, children may need to name places ignored by adults; make-believe names give somewhere familiar and ordinary an exotic flavour. Names help children define their play territory.

Jeremy's conclusion is that children's naming of places shows deep-seated needs both for security and for exploration; it is the familiarity of these landscapes which enables children to discover also the exotic and the wild in them.

Questioners wondered whether children now might be less interested in naming places. One member recalled how a tree with a rope swinging from it was called Tarzan. Was the naming of places by children influenced by the growth of children's rural literature, 1850s-1940s?

Having stirred the childhood memories of his audience, Jeremy was very warmly thanked for his thought-provoking and unusual approach in taking children's imagination seriously as a focus of study.

*Martin Coppen*

*Thank you, Martin, for all the reports you have written for us over the years. (From now on the responsibility will lie with someone else.)*

## Events of Interest

### Andover Museum & Museum of the Iron Age

For current activities at Andover Museum please contact the museum Phone: 01264 366283

Website <https://www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/andover-museum>

### Archives and Local Studies news from Hampshire Record Office: Telephone 01962 846154

Website: <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives.htm>

These activities must be booked direct with Hampshire Record Office, phone number above, or booked and paid for at <https://www.hants.gov.uk/shop/home.php?cat=513>

### Other Events (for more details contact the website or phone number above)

#### Exhibitions

**January-March 2018** Pets in the archives as part of a project at Royal Holloway, University of London on 'Pets and Family Life in England and Wales, 1837-1939'.

**April-June 2018** The history of farming in East Meon presented by the East Meon History Society.

**July-September 2018** Recent research by the Barton Stacey History Group, including the great fire which took place in the village.

#### Workshops

**17 May 2018 2-4pm** Palaeography for beginners. Learn how to read old handwriting ... Cost: £20, advance booking required.

#### Archive Ambassadors

**12 July 2018 10am-3:30pm.** Join us on our unique training day and learn from the experts on how to preserve and catalogue your archival collections. How to digitise and make your collection accessible online, or create new archives through oral history. Cost: £30, advance booking required.

#### Talks and behind-the-scenes visits

Hampshire Archives and Local Studies and Wessex Film and Sound Archive offer an annual programme of talks, visits and film presentations for local groups in Hampshire.

Find out more here <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives/talks-hals.htm> or phone the number above

### Special Event at Archives and Local Studies, Hampshire Record Office:

#### **6:30pm Thursday 05 Jul 2018**

A special evening event to be held at Hampshire Record Office to celebrate 70 years of the NHS featuring a guest talk by Dr Andrew Oswell, Royal Hampshire County Hospital, entitled 'Plagues, pilgrims, and politics: a history of Royal Hampshire County Hospital.'

Cost: £12, early bird offer of £10 if booking before 21 June 2018. Drinks and nibbles included in the price. Advance booking essential by phoning 01962 846154 or by booking online.

#### Archive Film

Matthew Goodwin from Hampshire Record Office tells us: There is a lot of footage in the collection depicting the 1953 coronation celebrations. It is often really interesting to see the many ways that various communities celebrated the occasion. This film, shot in Andover, has lots of fascinating costumes, races and merrymaking!

Reference: AV6/M546 Andover Coronation Celebrations 1953

**AHAS Publications** These publications can be ordered via our 'Contact Us' page at [www.andover-history.org.uk](http://www.andover-history.org.uk), or by post from:

*Andover History & Archaeology Society,*  
*c/o 53 Borkum Close*  
*Andover SP10 4LE*

or purchased at our monthly meetings, from Andover Museum and from Waterstones

Andover's Norman Church

by Martin Coppen (2015) 58pp, 20pp of illustrations, mostly in colour, £7

The Archaeology of Andover, the Excavations of Andover Archaeological Society 1964-89

by Nick Stoodley (2013) 114 pp £20

A Second Andover Miscellany. This comprises four articles,

A Portrait of Robert Tasker, and Dr George Vivian Poore and his Crusade for Natural Sanitation both by David Borrett, Water and Sanitation in Andover by John Isherwood, and Booksellers and Printers in Andover, 1725-1855 by Diana Coldicott.

(2012) 114 pp £9.50

An Andover Miscellany

by David Borrett, Andrew Jackson and Harry Paris (2008) 130 pp £8.50

Andover. An Historic Portrait

by John Spaul (1977) 160 pp £5.00

Andover - Civil War & Interregnum

by Anthony Raper (1994) 85 pp £3.95

Andover Priory

by R Arnold Jones (n.d) 24 pp 50p

Andover's Wartime Years

by June Mary Harris (2000) 119 pp £6.00

Elizabethan Andover

by Diana Coldicott (2004) 212 pp £5

Members of Parliament for Andover 1295-1885

by R Arnold Jones (1996) 83 pp £4.95

Samuel Best & the Hampshire labourer

by Alastair Geddes (n.d.) £1.00

Something in the Water. The Anti-Fluoride Campaign in Andover 1955-1958

by David Borrett (2002) 104 pp £3

***Lookback at Andover*** is the title of the Society's journal which has been published annually since 1990.

**The 2017 edition is available now at the meetings, at Waterstones, Andover Museum and from the address above, cost £3.50.**

The journal for 2000 includes a cumulative index for the first ten issues and the 2010 journal contains an index for 2000-2009. Back numbers are available as follows:-

1995-1999 cost £2.00 each

2000-2007 cost £2.50 each

2008-2014 cost £3.00 each

2015-2017 cost £3.50 each

**And finally...** (*and thanks to Martin once again for these*)

**Some Puns for those with a slightly higher IQ (only slightly!)**

Those who jump off a bridge in Paris are in Seine.

Dijon vu - the same mustard as before.

A hangover is the wrath of grapes.

Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?

Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.

When two egotists meet, it's an I for an I.

A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.