



Andover History and Archeology Society Newsletter



2019 Number 2 May

www.andover-history.org.uk

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THE SUMMER is nearly upon us and I need to draw your attention to a change we have made in our programme. The village walk on Friday 28 June will be around Abbots Ann and our guide for the evening will be village archivist Tim Tayer. The route Tim has planned for us is a level, easy walk with frequent stops at points of interest including the church. I am sure you will enjoy the evening and, fingers crossed, the sun will shine. Details of the start venue are given later in this newsletter and on our website.

Today, websites give us so much information that it is hard to remember how we managed without them. I have only recently come across the interesting blogs and tweets on the Hampshire Archives and Local Studies website.

A new website going live at the end of May is that of the Hampshire Archives Trust. Our society is a corporate member of HAT, a charity that supports the preservation and conservation of Hampshire related archives, and encourages people to use them. Until recently, HAT was under the umbrella of the Hampshire Record Office but it is now totally independent and is run by volunteers.

I have had a preview of the new website which will not only have details of the Trust's activities

and articles about Hampshire's past, but also information about relevant societies across the county. I think this will be very helpful because we gain a lot from our links with other local organisations and history societies.

I am already working on our programme for 2020. If there is a speaker you would like to hear or a topic you would like covered, or if you would like to offer a talk yourself, do please let me know.

Erica Tinsley

AHAS Upcoming events 21019

- | | |
|--------------|--|
| May 24 | King Alfred and his war against the Great Heathen Army
Stephen Whelan |
| June 28 | Village walk in Abbots Ann (see para below)
Tim Tayer
7p.m. start from The Eagle, Abbots Ann |
| September 27 | The Pentons
John Isherwood |
| October 25 | Water in Hampshire
Jill Hind |
| November 22 | Red Rice
Dianne Rawlings |
| December 13 | Members' talks
N.B. This meeting will be on the 2nd Friday of the month |

Regular meetings are held in the Andover Guildhall, and visitors are always welcome. The Chantry Centre carpark is now open until 11p.m. - so no worries about getting locked in if you like to park there.

Village walk

THE WALK will start at 7p.m. from The Eagle, Duck Street, Abbots Ann, SP11 7BG and finish at St Mary's Church.

It is on roads and good paths. If you want the stats...it is 1.24 miles, including walking up the church path. It took 23.5 minutes and I burned 103 calories!! (according to my iPhone map app! Ed.) There are two opportunities to take paths up to the church - a micro walk and a mini walk - for anyone who does not feel like doing the whole circuit. There will be eight stops on the way round the village to listen to Tim's talk. Whole outing - two hours, including half an hour at St Mary's Church.

The Eagle does home cooked, locally sourced pub food, i.e. stuff you eat, not take photos of!. Fridays it does fish and chips but you would need to pre-order (01264 710339) as it sells out quickly; otherwise there's a selection of things like curry, salmon fish cakes, salads etc. It serves a selection of Real Ales and has a CAMRA award for its beer.

Is it treasure?

Dave Walton, a member of Wherwell History Group and a metal detectorist with more than 43 years' experience, returned by popular demand to address the January meeting of the Society. Having talked previously about his coin finds, this talk covered an A-Z of other finds.

Dave paid tribute to the work of the national Portable Antiquities Scheme run by the British Museum. He brought a selection of the 121 items he had registered in their database for members to handle, along with the two-page report sent back on each, by the scheme administrators.

Dave showed a selection of the badges, buckles, buttons, commemorative medals, crotal bells, foreign coins, harness mounts, hoards, hooked tags, jettons, 'junk' jewellery, keys, lead soldiers and toys, lead tokens, 'love token' coins, munitions, musket balls and pistol balls, rings, roman Colchester fibulae, seal matrices, sword belt hangers, talismans/pendants/charms, thimbles, toy canon barrels, watch winders, weights for scales, and finally 'weird' finds - four 1901 farthings soldered together to make a mourning brooch for the death of Queen Victoria, and a siege piece only used for four months in 1579 during the Dutch War of Independence. He finished with his illustrated poem of the finds around Wherwell through more than 2500 years.

Many questions were asked, including; what makes a "treasure"? How do you mark a find spot? Do you work alone or with a group? Who actually does the digging? The range of questions showed the members' engagement with Dave's excellent and wide-ranging talk, and he was very warmly thanked for a most interesting presentation.

THE AGM IN MARCH brought a few changes to the AHAS committee. We were sorry to say farewell to both Jane Flambert and Chris Coffin who had served as secretary, and treasurer for too many years even for the treasurer to add up! Clifford Williams & Lesley Hind also stood down.

A big thank you to you all.

The new committee:

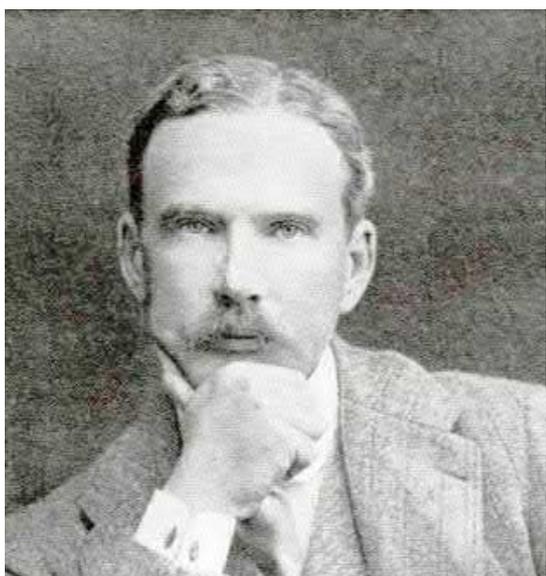
Erica Tinsley - Chair	David Borrett - Lookback Editor
June Harris - Joint Vice-Chair	Felicity Coldicott
Heather Needham - Joint Vice-chair	Brenda Mole - book sales
Andrew Hobley - Treasurer	Robin Ardley
Lois Allender - Membership Secretary	Sue McPartlan - Correspondence Secretary

The first action of the new committee was to invite Chris and Jane to be Honorary Life Members of AHAS

Encore or more musical notes

PHIL FARLOW'S TALK in December 2018, was well received by members, so we are taking the opportunity, in this newsletter, to expand on, and clarify some of the things covered at our Christmas meeting.

Central to the talk was Harry Plunket Greene, the internationally famous concert baritone singer who lived in Hurstbourne Priors. He was born in County Wicklow in 1865, educated at Clifton College and intended for the Bar. But music took a hold and after studying singing in Europe, he made his professional début in London in 1888 at The People's Palace, Stepney. Early highlights in his career were singing the title role in the premiere of Hubert Parry's *Job* in 1892 and appearing in Elgar's first performance of *The Dream of Gerontius* in 1900. Vocal works of Handel, Gounod and Mozart were also in his repertoire as were smaller vocal works by Schumann and particularly Stanford.



In 1899 he married composer, teacher and historian Sir Hubert Parry's daughter, Gwendolen Maud Parry, and in 1902 they moved to Hurstbourne Priors. He enjoyed a long and very successful musical life, travelling the world singing, teaching and writing about music. For a man who had performed professionally for so many years he maintained very good breath-control into his senior years as was proved on some examples of recorded works demonstrated during the presentation.

His early recordings were made for the Gramophone Company (HMV) and in his talk Phil played an excerpt from his 1905 acoustic recording of *The Gentle Maiden*. His later electric recordings in the 1930s were made for Columbia and we heard excerpts from *Trottin' to the Fair*, and *The Garden where the Praties Grow* either side of *The Hurdy Gurdy Man*, a quite moving English translation from *Schubert's* song cycle *'Die Winterreise'* played in its entirety. A curio demonstrating Greene's teaching skills was an excerpt entitled *The Art of Singing* played from an instructional set of records where his Irish accent was unmistakable.

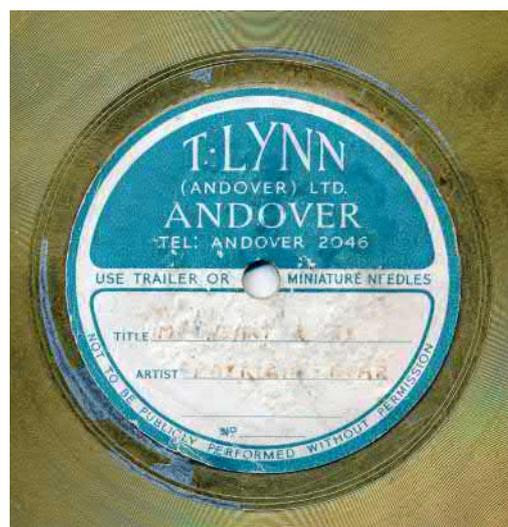
Although music was the main preoccupation of his life, Plunket Greene was also a passionate fisherman, and that could well have been influential in his choice of where he decided to live. In 1924 he published a book *Where the Bright Waters Meet* about the delights of fishing on the River Bourne and this has become a great angling classic reprinted many times.

He would no doubt have also been familiar with life in Andover including the local music shops of his time, firstly E. Price, then later Teague and King, situated then in the appropriately named Handel House - the old picturesque Poore's Brewery buildings that became known later as Scott's Corner at 51 then 53 High Street.

He died in 1936 and is buried in the churchyard at Hurstbourne Priors.

By the 1940s portable disc recorders had been developed which enabled people to make an instantaneous disc of themselves, or their children, singing, talking, playing a musical instrument etc. Although quite hefty, the machines could be taken to venues to record things like stage musical presentations and concerts. These machines used acetate discs which were made of aluminium coated with a nitro-cellulose lacquer. The recordings were "cut" onto the previously blank disc as a one-off which, using special needles, could be instantaneously played on any basic or more sophisticated domestic gramophone equipment.

In Andover from about the middle 1940's George Lynn of T Lynn (Andover) the Ironmongers and Hardware shop had one of these machines installed. This was in a little recording studio on the top floor of their Bridge Street premises and offered a private recording service. Phil played a mobile recording made on a T Lynn acetate of two excerpts from Edward German's comic opera *Merrie England* thought to have been cut in 1953. Reference was made as to the rather grand presentation of the (so far anonymous) soloists, chorus and orchestra and it was speculated that the recording could have been from a production that took place at the Grammar School.



Being made of a soft lacquer and only intended for a certain number of plays, acetate discs generally do not survive very well. This particular disc, discovered in the British Library Sound Archive, had survived better because for some reason it had been processed, becoming like a more durable commercial pressing, indicating that perhaps the recording was required by several involved in the production.

In his presentation Phil referred to another piece of local audio history predating the practical use of mobile recording - namely the broadcasting of the Prince of Wales visit to Enham Alamein in June 1926 (pictured below) to formally open the Village Centre.



Although there was no *recording* of the speech he made, about 30 minutes of the event, including the speech, was *broadcast* nationally by the fledgling

BBC from its London transmitter 2LO and was probably the very first national broadcast from this area. Upon careful scrutiny of surviving photographs one can just possibly make out the presence of BBC microphones installed to capture the event. Mention was made of what a feat this was for the time, involving adapted telephone circuits to get the audio up to the original Savoy Hill studios in London and onward to the transmitters.

Phil's talk, an entirely audio presentation, was peppered for the Christmas season with several other sound archive amusements. Near the end of his talk, harking back to the Andover of the 1940s he played excerpts of several popular music artists of around 70 years ago including American entertainer Phil Harris' nod to all would be genealogists 'He's his own Grandpa'

The False Messiah of Overton - A talk by Bob Clarke

THE MID 17TH CENTURY was a turbulent time in Britain. Civil War shook everything up and the old order was often challenged. Into this time of great change and uncertainty new movements and leaders sprung up. William Franklin, The False Messiah of Overton was one of these leaders.

William Franklin was born circa 1610 in Overton. He moved to London where he lived with his wife and children, earning his living as a rope maker and was known as a godly and zealous man. In 1646 William claimed he was God but “recovered” from his madness and was accepted back into his congregation. Later he fell in with a group of Ranters and he began speaking in tongues. He abandoned his wife after sixteen years of marriage and took up home with Mary Gadbury. Mary saw William as the new messiah. William claimed his old wife and children were of a previous life, and that Mary Gadbury had been chosen to be his new woman.

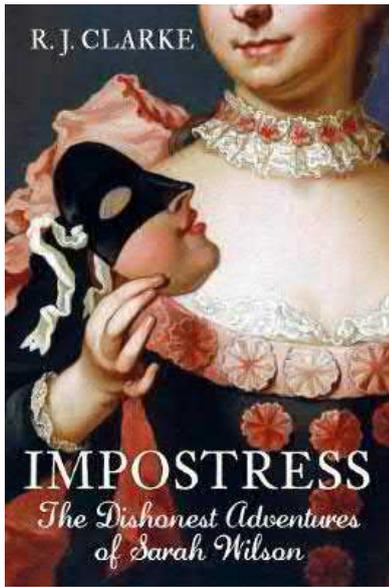
In 1649 Mary had a vision to go to hill country and the couple set off in Hunt's wagon to Hampshire. They stopped in Andover at the Star (now the White Hart). People flocked to Andover to hear this man claiming he was the new messiah. They also came to hear Mary, who often exhibited birth pangs stating that followers were being spiritually reborn when this occurred. The couple were thrown out of the Star after it was known that William had deserted his wife. They went to Crux Easton and were accepted by the Rector, William Woodward.

Other followers gathered around the new messiah. The local clergy became alarmed and warrants were issued by JPs for William and disciples, Henry Dixon, Edward Spradbury and William Woodward, to appear at Winchester court. At the hearing on 28 January 1650, all the disciples testified to the court that William was the son of God. Mary Gadbury, Mrs Woodward and Goody Waterman also testified. The justices took William aside and told him about the nasty things that would happen to him if he didn't recant. He did recant, causing his followers to be angry with him as they felt deceived.

William and Mary were held in prison for bigamy. But at the Quarter Sessions in March 1650 Judge Rolle dropped the bigamy charge as the couple had not gone through a marriage ceremony and there was no admitted sexual relations between them. Both were kept in custody, William until he could find bonds to secure his release, and Mary was finally released on 22 April 1650 and returned to London. William was still in jail when Humphrey Ellis published account of William Franklin as 'Pseudochristus' in late May 1650.

William Woodward the Crux Easton Rector later became a rector in Kent where astonishingly he repeatedly claimed his belief in Franklin. No one knows just how many followers William Franklin had at the height of his messianic activity, but one contemporary source put the figure at 400 or so.

Impostress: The Dishonest Adventures of Sarah Wilson



Beginning in her late teens, Sarah Wilson travelled alone all over England, living on her wits, inventing new identities, and embroidering stories to fool her victims into providing money and fine clothes. When her crimes eventually caught up with her, she was transported to America - where she reinvented herself in the guise of the Queen's sister and began a new set of adventures at the onset of the American War of Independence. Using original research, newspaper reports and court records, this is the story of 'the greatest Impostress of the present Age': a real-life Moll Flanders who created a remarkable series of lives for herself on both sides of the Atlantic.

A new book by Bob Clarke

Everyone who enjoyed the talk Bob gave to AHAS in March, will be interested in his new book published this month. Available in bookshops and online £12.99.

AHAS Publications

These publications can be ordered at www.andover-history.org.uk /contact us or by post from:

Andover History & Archaeology Society c/o14 Upper Drove, Andover, Hampshire SP10 3NB or purchased at our monthly meetings, or in Andover Museum, and in Waterstones.

- Andover's Norman Church by Martin Coppen (2015) 58pp, £7
- The Archaeology of Andover, the Excavations of Andover Archaeological Society 1964-89 by Nick Stoodley (2013) £20
- A Second Andover Miscellany. This comprises four articles,
- A Portrait of Robert Tasker, 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) £9.50
- An Andover Miscellany by David Borrett, Andrew Jackson and Harry Paris (2008) £8.50
- Andover. An Historic Portrait by John Spaul (1977) £5
- Andover - Civil War & Interregnum by Anthony Raper (1994) £3.95
- Andover Priory by R Arnold Jones and Martin Coppen £10
- Andover's Wartime Years by June Mary Harris (2000) £6
- Elizabethan Andover by Diana Coldicott (2004) £5
- Members of Parliament for Andover 1295-1885 by R Arnold Jones (1996) £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) £3
- Lookback at Andover has been published annually since 1990. The 2018 edition is available at meetings, Waterstones, Andover Museum and from the address above, price £4.50
- 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, 2000-2007 cost £2.50, 2008-2014 cost £3.00, 2015-2017 cost £3.50

As you like it

WHEN AHAS MEMBER Martin Coppen began his talk “An Evening in the Studio with Edith Howard” and spoke of a team processing some 3000 glass plate photographic negatives of her work, some members and visitors thought they might be in for a very long evening!

However, Martin, who had guided the project, had very cleverly selected digitised frames to illustrate Shakespeare's seven ages of man from the As you Like it “All the World's a stage...” monologue - infant, schoolboy, lover, soldier, justice, Pantalone, and old age, keeping the well attended meeting totally engaged.

Twenty members, had processed the negatives which had been stored in the basement of Andover museum. The plates came from the High Street shop where Howard's photographers were based. This built on some initial cataloguing work by Greg Gregory. The negatives have all been digitalised into positive images, revealing a wealth of local life, mostly from the period 1929-36.

Very few of the photographs have good identification. Sometimes a family name is all that is recorded: 213 portraits have no name. Hampshire Genealogy Society members is viewing the images to try and identify some of the people and places.

Howard's had a purpose built studio at 74 High Street, and Martin showed a copy of the 1932 building plans which are held in the Hampshire Record Office (29M75/ BP1366). A photo of the building in progress and images of in the new studio were screened. The studio shop is now Top Slots, but the frontage retains many of its pre-war features, including stained glass window panels.

Edith was one of ten children. By 1911 she was assisting her father in the family business which she took over when her father died in 1921. Edith retired to Bournemouth about 1947. As member of the Professional Photographers' Association, her work was acclaimed by the Royal Institute Galleries in London.

The presentation included from the “mewling and puking” infant, the 'whining schoolboy with his satchel' - probably the Mayor's son; Eric Sheldon Shrimpton (born 1922). (Sadly Eric was killed in action during WWII), to the old man “sans teeth, sans eyes, sans taste, sans everything” who will be nameless! The “Deverall” and “Pigot Moodie” families were well photographed, with 62 Deverall photos in the collection.

Some fractured glass plates were pieced together, i.e. Enham Place (demolished 1936). Photos still exist of Enham Industries' products, used in sales catalogues.

Perhaps if your family lived in Andover pre-war, their photo may be amongst the ones yet to be identified. Known subjects are listed in a catalogue which can be found on our website - www.andover-history.org.uk

The Dacre Lecture

A WEALTH OF SPECTACULAR archaeology was revealed on Salisbury Plain, just outside the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge, when research was done to enable future housing development in the area.

“At the Fringes of Stonehenge World Heritage Site”, presented by Andy Manning, MA, CMIfA, Regional Manager (South), Wessex Archaeology, was the subject of this year’s Dacre Lecture held at the Weyhill Fairground Hall. Andy explained that the latest finds on the plain provide a greater understanding of the Stonehenge landscape.

Evidence of a Mesolithic settlement which pre dates the Neolithic period, is considered to be of huge importance in understanding the landscape.

The Army basing programme to resettle some 4000 personnel in the area provided opportunities to investigate archaeology at Boscombe Down, Larkhill, Bulford and Tidworth.

Andy gave detailed information about finds at all of the sites and intimated that there is a lot more to come, as there are continuing investigations, yet to be put in the public domain.

The meeting was talked through the Mesolithic Age, the Neolithic age, Roman and Anglo-Saxon times as Andy highlighted significant finds.

In the more recent past, the plain was used for training both British and Australian WWI troops before they were sent to France. At Larkhill there is a huge trench system which these recruits were responsible for digging, and an immense amount of WW1 material, including quantities of ordnance, was uncovered.

Military, who are recovering after service in Afghanistan, have been helping with archaeology at Larkhill. They have revealed more than 300 instances of graffiti, including names and dates, meaning details about the writers war records often can be traced. For instance from 1916, Laurence Weather VC, who was decorated for penetrating a German trench and capturing 180 prisoners. Within six weeks he was dead, just before the Armistice was signed, and he never actually received his VC.

Andy touched on the huge benefits of modern technology to archaeologists, such as using **LIDAR** (light detection and ranging) for surveying purposes. **Isotope Analysis** is being used to examine the teeth of the skeletons found in burial sites. Information found in this way can pin-point the place where a person was born and brought up.

It has been established that some people buried at Stonehenge came from Iberia and the Amesbury Archer came from Germany. The metal worker buried at Boscombe Down came from Uzbekistan. These people may have been transported into Europe then made their way over the Channel to this country.

Results from the **DNA** profile published last April indicate that the Neolithic and Beaker people had reduced by 90% within a few hundred years. This reduction could not have been caused by military activities because there is no sign of bodies being buried at random all over all the sites. Perhaps burials at Stonehenge were for people who came from abroad. This question is still being answered.

There is still a huge amount of archaeology in the area, and continuing investigations will involve biologists and scientists. When further burials are investigated the skeletons may not have DNA from abroad.

Andy Manning ended his talk with “Thank you” or as our generic Uzbek relatives would say “Hayril Tun”

He, in his turn, was thanked by Andrew Hopley for a most interesting and entertaining lecture.

Footnotes

i. The Dacre Lecture is held annually in memory of the late Max Dacre, a local amateur archaeologist, who did so much to promote the subject in this area. The society was pleased to welcome his two daughters and grandson to the lecture.

ii. Wessex Archaeology Ltd has an excellent website. There are maps of the area referred to in the talk as well as photographs of people, places and artefacts. Go to www.wessexarch.co.uk where the “Army Basing Project” is well documented.

iii. The Mesolithic settlement at Blick Mead and its significance can be studied at www.buckingham.ac.uk/research/hri/blickmead

Out of town dates for your diary 2019

The following talks, events and exhibitions may interest members:

- November 9 Sunrise Over the Stones: Recent Research into Neolithic & Chalcolithic Wessex.
This is the Council for British Archaeology (CBA) Wessex Annual Conference, to be held at Bournemouth University. Tickets cost from £20; **book by June 30 to take advantage of the early bird discount offer.**
See www.cba-wessex.org.uk for full details.
- June 24 -30 Chalk Valley History Festival. A week long festival with lots to see and do and a wide range of talks and discussions.
See more at - www.cvhf.org.uk
- July 13-14 Festival of Archaeology Salisbury Museum. Talks and events for families and history buffs alike. For more info visit: www.salisburymuseum.org.uk
- *New* Permanent exhibition Winchester Cathedral,
Kings and Scribes: Birth of a Nation, exploring the historic site's stories and treasures.

Quotable quotes

Question: Who said?

An archaeologist is the best husband a woman can have. The older she gets the more interested he is in her!?

Answer: Agatha Christie

Thanks

Sincere thanks to all who have contributed to this newsletter, especially Erica Tinsley, Phil Farlow, Clifford Williams, Martin Coppen and June Harris.

Editor: Sue McPartlan