



# Look Around

*A look at historical & archaeological issues in  
Andover*

*and the surrounding villages.*

*2016 Number 2, May*

*“Look Around” is the newsletter of the  
ANDOVER HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY*

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

## **From the Chair May 2016**

You will remember that we inherited from The Friends of Andover Museum monies that were to be used for the support of Andover Museum. I am very pleased to pass on the news that with those funds we have purchased for the museum a display case for temporary exhibitions costing £2,028.

Last month, via our friends in Wherwell History Group, we were all invited to the 70<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations of Wherwell Home Guard Club. I went along and spent a very enjoyable morning meeting members of the club and looking at an excellent exhibition about its history.

On display were some early photographs of the club's activities and an invitation to identify some of the unknown faces. Visitors had already added quite a number of names and it brought home to me just how valuable our project on Edith Howard's photographs could be.

Just a few weeks ago, I was delighted to be sending out Martin Coppen's flyer about the start of work on the project and I hope you have it firmly in your diary to go along to one of the demonstrations. One of those demonstrations is at the Enham Trust and we are all very pleased to have their collaboration with us.

We gain a lot from our links with other local organisations and history societies, and also from the gathering Phoebe Merrick arranges each year for all the societies in the Test Valley with an interest in records. We will be hosting that gathering later in the year and I will send out the date when it is finalised. I do hope you will come along and it would be good to have in advance your thoughts on what you would like to hear.

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

Erica Tinsley	Chair	Martin Coppen (Webmaster)
June Harris	{Joint	David Borrett (Lookback Editor)
Heather Needham	{Vice-chair	Brenda Mole
Christopher Coffin	Treasurer	Clifford Williams
Jane Flambert	Correspondence Secretary	
Felicity Chauncy	(Programme Secretary)	

## **AHAS Programme**

**27 May 2016 Venue: Andover Guildhall**

**Paul Stickler**

The Hunt for Percy Toplis

**24 June 2016 Venue: Appleshaw (Time to be arranged)**

**Jane Tarrant**

Village Walk in Appleshaw

**23 September 2016 Venue: Andover Guildhall**

**Alison Deveson**

Looking for Lost Chapels - the Dissenters of the Bourne Valley

**28 September 2016 Venue: Andover Guildhall**

**Martin Coppen**

Two Local Victorian Clergymen

**25 November 2016 Venue: Andover Museum (Please note the venue)**

**Ted Green and Jill Butler**

Historic Trees

**16 December 2016 Christmas Party Venue: Andover Guildhall**

**Greg Gregory**

More about Andover Grammar School

**June Harris**

Andover in the 1930s

### **Award**

You may remember Martin Coppen's article *The History of St Mary Magdalene Hospital (The Spittal)* in the latest edition of our journal *Lookback*.

We are pleased to tell you that this article has been awarded a third prize by the British Association for Local History and our congratulations go to Martin for his achievement.

This is the third time in recent years that one of our members has been rewarded by the association, the others being Bryan Beggs in 2014 (*The History of the Andover Charity Trustees*) and David Borrett in 2000 (*The Andover Riots of 1914*).

### **Recent Meetings**

**The subject of the Society's first meeting of 2016, held at The Guildhall on 22 January, was 'The Longbow at Agincourt, 25 October 1415'. Speaker Stephen Whelan** brought together his love of teaching history and his collection of longbows and arrows to illustrate the famous victory. Reviewing previous longbow battles in France where English archers were deployed, he described the tactics of the battle, where a depleted English army of 5,000 beat a force of at least 30,000 French. The English army lost 450 men, the French 4,500.

Stephen explained how the use of the longbow contributed to the victory at Agincourt. During the Hundred Years' War (1337-1453) the English effectively created a longbow and arrow making industry. The yew was ideal for the longbow with its heart-wood resisting compression, and sap-wood stretching. Ironically, the best bows came from the south of France, Spain and Italy, where the yew was suppler. Merchants importing goods from these regions were required also to bring yew wood with them if they wished to trade. For example, wine merchants from Lombardy had to bring four bow staves for each wine cask. In England, men had to practice using the longbow. Local men would go around their towns or villages shooting at targets. They became very accurate, and developed an immense upper-body strength: Agincourt bows had a draw strength of 100lb. A longbow-man could shoot at around ten arrows per minute, creating an arrow-storm.

There were a number of other factors which helped gain the victory at Agincourt. The English chose the battle ground, on a slight slope in a field, not far from the River Somme. This was ideal for archers, who were formed on the flanks. On a narrow field the larger French force was hampered by their numbers. King Henry V was a man's man, hardened by battle experience. There was no French King at the battle and their army lost cohesion.

In the days leading up to the battle there was very heavy rain. The French made the mistake of exercising their horses on the field of battle which turned the ground into a quagmire.

The English King paid each group of men of arms under contract, in contrast to the feudal French, who raised a volunteer army around the standard. The chivalry and courage of the French actually contributed to their defeat. The English depended not so much on their knights, but on their bowmen who were primarily yeomen, of lower rank than the knightly classes. The French feared arming their peasantry in case of insurrection. At Agincourt, the French refused to believe that the English yeomen would dare attack their knights against the rules of chivalry.

Eventually the longbow gave way to more modern technologies. However, the last recorded use of the longbow in battle by the English was as recently as 1940 when 'Mad Jack' Churchill, a champion archer, killed a German officer with an arrow at Dunkirk.

*(Martin Coppen)*

**At the meeting on 26th February on Stuart Isbister, a railwayman for 45 years, spoke on 'Aspects of the London & South Western Railway' (LSWR).** Stuart presented his talk as two rail journeys, London to Salisbury and Andover Junction to Romsey.

The LSWR was mooted at a meeting in April 1831. It was farsighted with Southampton at the time being an overgrown fishing port and Winchester a tiny city. The 76 3/4 mile line required an investment of £1.5m, but the work started in July 1834 with only £1m raised and a loan of £300k. In the event, under the capable management of Joseph Locke, construction costs were lower than Midlands railways, land prices being less in the south. The 2 1/4 mile extension from the original terminus at Nine Elms to Waterloo cost £2m. The new terminus started with four lines: the company then owned only five locomotives.

Stuart showed early photographs of stations on the first route. Basingstoke's second station was built in 1849, and the third completed in 1904. There was a picture of the station-master with 37 staff! The network continued growing: 1847 Salisbury to Eastleigh; 1865 Andover to Fullerton. During the 1880s the LSWR expanded, now in a successful financial position. By 1885 there were four tracks with automatic signalling.

The train's next stops were: Oakley, population 996, for its agricultural produce; Overton, known more for its sheep fairs before Portal's Mill opened in 1919; Whitchurch station, in a cutting; Hurstbourne [Priors], which in the mid-1950s had just 2 workers and closed in April 1964. Andover grew into a busy junction, partly to service the military on the Ludgershall-Amesbury line joining at Redpost Junction. This line, with its signal box, closed in 1963. Grateley had one of the first pneumatic signal boxes, in the project starting in 1901. It was too costly to maintain and in 1921 mechanical signalling was installed. There was a station at Porton, and so on to Salisbury.

The second railway journey conducted by Stuart was from Andover to Romsey. The line ran mainly on the bed of the old Andover-Redbridge canal (1706-1859). LSWR took over the company in 1863, constructing 20 1/2 miles of track for just £60k. We stopped at Clatford Station (closed 1961); then at Fullerton Junction (closed 1957) within sight of The Seven Stars (now The Mayfly). The Stockbridge area hosted many army units during WW1. Elephants were occasionally seen in Stockbridge High Street, on their way from the station to Chipperfield's winter quarters outside the town. The train continued through Horsebridge and Mottisfont to Romsey.

Significant achievements of the LSWR were electrification and the development of Southampton Docks, the early Dockers being employed by the company.

Stuart's knowledgeable and enthusiastic presentation stimulated many rich local memories, and he was warmly applauded.

*(Martin Coppen)*

**As part of the Annual General Meeting of the Society on 18th March, Jenny Stevens, curator of Andover Museum spoke on Iron Age round houses.**

Roundhouses were built from the Bronze Age, through the Iron Age and in some places into the Roman period. Ground-plans show they had a strong and sophisticated basic design but within that there was a wide variation in the detail of their construction and the materials used, the latter often related to local conditions or materials. There are also some clear types, for example some have ring-banks and some ring ditches. There is some thought that differences may be related to differences in the use of the buildings.

Experimental archaeology has added to our understanding. For example, smoke from the central fire would not have escaped through a hole in the roof because the strong updraft created would have sent embers up to ignite the thatch. Instead, smoke slowly seeped out through the thatch.

The Bronze Age houses currently being excavated at Must farm in Cambridgeshire are giving a lot of new detail because the posts supporting the roof were destroyed by fire causing the structures to fall into water where silt has preserved the roof timbers as well as the contents, including pots with meals still inside them.

*(Erica Tinsley)*

**On 22nd April** Erica Tinsley, chair of the Society, helped members overcome the disappointment of the cancellation of this year's prestigious Dacre Lecture, through offering a presentation of 'Dacre' quality about the Hampshire connection

of French Emperor Napoleon III and Empress Eugénie. Erica began with a picture of the imposing Farnborough Hill, now an independent Catholic day school, on the eastern edge of the town (near M3 junction 4). Empress Eugénie resided there for 39 years from 1881. She lived in Hampshire longer than anywhere.

Louis-Napoleon Bonaparte (1808-73), nephew and heir of Napoleon, nurtured Napoleonic ambitions. His childhood was greatly disrupted by the fortunes of his uncle, and finally the family's exile from France. They settled at Arenenberg, an estate on Lake Constance, Switzerland. When Louis-Napoleon was fifteen, they moved to Rome. Romantic and revolutionary ideas filled his mind and he and his brother fought against the Austrians in northern Italy. In 1831, Louis-Napoleon became the heir of the dynasty and the leader of the Bonaparte cause. His sense of destiny led him to attempt a coup in France. When it failed he sought refuge in London, living in 1 Carlton Gardens (now the residence of the Foreign Secretary). From there he organised a second fiasco of a coup, which led to his imprisonment for six years in the fortress of Ham, near the Somme. In 1846 he escaped to England.

After France's 1848 revolution, Louis was elected to the National Assembly, then the Presidency, eventually declaring himself Emperor Napoleon III. He implemented a number of social reforms. The need for a consort and heir pressed and in 1853 he married Eugénie de Montijo, a Spanish countess (though her grandfather was Scottish). They oversaw a period of industrial progress and major infrastructure projects, including the monumental reconstruction of Paris. Amid the glittering imperial pomp, Eugénie pursued her own concerns of improving education and opportunities for women. The Emperor and Empress were received warmly by Queen Victoria. In the 1860s, Napoleon suffered foreign policy disasters and, with the rise of Prussian power, was out-manoeuvred by Bismarck. In the subsequent war, France was defeated and Paris rioted. On 1 March 1870, the Emperor was deposed and exiled.

Napoleon, now in poor health, Eugénie and their son settled at Camden Place, a country house in Chislehurst. He died in 1872, and was buried at St Mary, Chislehurst. Eugénie bought Farnborough Hill in 1881. On a hilltop opposite the house she founded an abbey and chantry for her late husband and son (†1879). The abbey church was completed in 1888 and their bodies moved there to be buried in red granite sarcophagi presented by Queen Victoria. During World War 1, Eugénie gave use of part of Farnborough Hill for a hospital. The Empress was buried in the abbey crypt in 1920, having died in Madrid.

Every Saturday afternoon Farnborough Abbey church is open to the public to marvel at the extraordinary lives of those it commemorates.

*(Martin Coppen)*

## **Book Reviews**

### ***History, Aerial Photography & Archaeology***

As AHAS members you will be interested in at least two of the three subjects in the headline. So I thought you may be interested in a book of that title written by **Martyn Barber** and published by English Heritage in 2011 (ISBN 978-1-848020-36-8).

The story begins with aerial views of the age before cameras covering early myths and the 16th to 18th Centuries. It progresses to the 19th Century with daguerreotype cameras and the invention of the wet-plate process cameras carried aloft in hydrogen fuelled balloons. It highlighted the perils of developing the photographic plates within the basket suspended below the balloon!

Into the 20th Century the development of the camera enabled better use and improvements to be made from higher flying aircraft. The science of photographic interpretation including the use of stereo interpretation to decipher military matters in the two world wars and archaeological sites before, during and after the conflicts.

The story, which includes many references to Stonehenge and its environs, comes to an end in first decade of the 21st Century with the use of satellite imagery and Lidar (light detection and ranging) to continue and improve the aerial mapping of the country.

*(John Barrell)*

**Tom Hughes, *Clerical Errors: A Victorian Series Volume 1***, Amazon Kindle Edition eBook 2016, 120 pages, £3.86

Tom Hughes tells the stories of five clergy involved in celebrated Victorian court cases for their 'clerical errors' — moral scandals which fascinated the public of the time, in this volume sexual misdemeanours. The second chapter is about the young Andover curate of 1876-8, Revd Arthur Girdlestone Fryer, and therefore contributes to our local history. Mr Fryer became engaged to Miss Kate Lamb, some ten years his senior, sister of prominent Andover lawyer, Thomas Lamb, on the understanding that they would not marry while he remained a curate. Unfortunately for him, and more so for her, there was little immediate prospect of his obtaining an incumbency, and he left to take up another curacy at Leamington Spa, where they maintained an assiduous correspondence of 900 letters. With distance, the relationship cooled and Mr Fryer was sued for breach of promise to marry, a selection of their love letters being read, enjoyed and reported on in the hearings.

The author tells the story with pace and humour, maintaining the reader's interest, dealing ably with the large amount of detail. It gives some insight into the Lamb family and their place in Victorian Andover, as well as the vulnerabilities of being a curate at that time.

*(Martin Coppen)*

## **Help Please!**

**Hugh's Settlement** was a collection of chalk houses built in the early/mid twentieth century between Grateley and Cholderton. Two of the leading people involved were Brinsley (Beano) Nixon and Dorothy Reynolds (from Fyfield). If anyone has any memories or stories about Hugh's Settlement, Hugh and I would be very interested to hear. Please contact me at [jane.flambert@btconnect.com](mailto:jane.flambert@btconnect.com).

*(Jane Flambert)*

## **Events of Interest**

### **News from Andover Museum & Museum of the Iron Age**

Andover Museum is now run by the Hampshire Cultural Trust. Read the new Strategic Plan which can be found at <http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/content/transforming-culture-hampshire>

**Activities, all at Andover Museum and more will be added as the weeks go by! Contact the museum :**

telephone: 01264 366283, website: [hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/andover-museum](http://hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/andover-museum).

#### **Heads and Tales Exhibition**

**7th May - 9th July**

The Iron Age Kings fought amongst themselves, but Ethelred the Unready bought off Olaf the Viking with thousands of pounds of silver. Visitors can explore the past 2000 years of English Royalty through objects, interactives and our special Royal Bloop family trail that highlights the strange and horrible history of kings and queens. The show tells key stories from each royal reign, including tales of resolution and revolution, dignity and despair. Visitors can delve deeper into their local history at this Andover Museum exhibition, where they can discover the full story of Ethelred and his payment of silver as the price for peace.

#### **Family Natural Plant Dyeing Workshop**

**1st June**

**11am - 1pm, 2pm - 4pm**

Did you know that people have been using plants to change the colour of fabrics for centuries? Join us for this hands-on workshop to use plants you might find in any English garden to colour your own pieces of cotton.

Suitable for ages 5+.

Pre-booking essential. Phone 01264 366283

**Cost: 5.00 per child, accompanying adults go free.**

### **Hampshire Record Office**

**<http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives.htm>, Telephone 01962 846154**

**Archives and Local Studies news from Hampshire Record Office**

#### **Forthcoming events**

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

**Until 28 Jun** *Governor Arthur Phillip and Lyndhurst*: display by The New Forest Centre on the first Governor of New South Wales who lived and farmed in Lyndhurst and later went on to command the First Fleet carrying convicts to Australia in 1787, establishing what was to become Sydney.

**30 Jun - 29 Sep** *Capability Brown in Hampshire*: Exhibition produced by Hampshire Gardens Trust marking the 300th birthday of landscape architect and gardener Lancelot 'Capability' Brown.

Capability Brown is remembered as the last of the great English 18th century artists to be accorded his due, and England's greatest gardener. He designed over 170 parks and gardens, several of which can be found in Hampshire.

**30 Jun- 30 Sep** *Olympics in Hampshire*: exhibition produced by Hampshire Archives and Local Studies highlighting Olympians and Paralympians with Hampshire connections, venues and locations in Hampshire used for the 1908 and 1948 London Games and the Olympic torch route through Hampshire in 1948

**3 Oct-6 Jan** *Discovering the county's past: the New Victoria History of Hampshire*, exhibition produced by the Victoria County History Project

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

**25 May:** *The Queen and Hampshire* by David Rymill

**30 Jun:** *Capability Brown in Hampshire*: marking the 300th birthday of the landscape architect and gardener by Sally Miller, Hampshire Gardens Trust

**28 Jul:** *St Mark's Churchyard, Gosport*: Roy Harris and Toby Streatfield-James of The Friends of St Mark's Churchyard on research into those buried in the churchyard and also restoration work

**25 Aug:** *George Marston: Shackleton's Antarctic Artist*, by Stephen Locke

**29 Sep:** *Kathakali: classical dance drama of Kerala, India*, Barbara Vijayakumar

**27 Oct:** *Hampshire and the Olympic Games* by Martin Polley

**24 Nov:** *Discovering the County's Past: The New Victoria History of Hampshire* by Jean Morrin

### **Workshops**

*Maps as sources for local history* £14, booking essential: 01962 846154

Workshop **Wed 21 Sept** 2-4pm

*Tracing Your Army Ancestors* £14, booking essential: 01962 846154

Workshop **Tue 27 Sept** 2-4pm.

*The Archive Ambassador training scheme*. £30, booking essential: 01962 846154

Sign up today and help us preserve Hampshire's heritage. **Friday 16 September**, 10am-3.30pm. Training in archive preservation/conservation, cataloguing, digitisation and oral history recording.

*Battle of the Somme film* **Friday 1 July** 6-7.30pm, Free, no booking required, cinema capacity 80 people. For more information, please ring 01962 846154

2016 marks the centenary of one of the most notorious battles of the First World War, the Battle of the Somme. As a Centenary Partner of the Imperial War Museum we have been provided with a copy of this ground-breaking archive film which, when it was first released in 1916, was seen by over 20 million people. Includes a contemporary orchestral soundtrack composed by Laura Rossi.

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

**Don't forget to visit our own website: [www.andover-history.org.uk](http://www.andover-history.org.uk)**

**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 14 Upper Drove,  
Andover, Hampshire  
SP10 3NB*

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

Saint Mary's Church, Andover

(2005) 20 pp £2.00

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 2015 edition is available at the AHAS meetings, and 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 cost £3.50**