

# NEHHAS

North East Hampshire Historical and Archaeological Society

---

## NEWS Letter

WINTER 2011 No.117

### NEHHAS

---

#### North East Hampshire Historical & Archaeological Society

We are one of the few active archaeological amateur societies in Hampshire and are recognized as such at county level.

NEHHAS is an affiliate member of the Council for British Archaeology and Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society.

Membership: £15 per person per annum covers Society activities and insurance, newsletters and access to our library. All enquiries should be addressed to the Membership Secretary, 1 Longmead, Fleet, GU52 7TR.

We publish 3 or 4 newsletters to members annually and articles and letters are welcome. Journals are published from time to time on the Society's activities.

**Opinions expressed are those of the authors and contributors and not necessarily those of NEHHAS**

**Reminder!** *Subscriptions are due from 1<sup>st</sup> January and cheques for £15 should be sent to the Treasurer and made out to NEHHAS. Subscriptions cover insurance whilst on NEHHAS approved excavations.*

#### Who's Who

President: Geoff Hoare

Chair: John Paddon

Vice-chair: Rosemary Rawcliffe

Secretary: Pam Taylor

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Virginia Wright  
01252 614337

Newsletter Editor: Tony Wright

#### Information

nehhas@hantsweb.org.uk  
www.hants.org.uk/nehhas  
tonywright10@btinternet.com

Photo: Greywell Church



#### CONTENTS

A Walk Around Greywell

Display at Princes Mead, Farnborough

Visit to Bramshill House

Fancy Going to the Electric To-night?

Snippets/ Book Review

St Peter's Church, Farnborough

Registered Charity No. 1113436

## ***CBA FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY – A WALK AROUND GREYWELL – 22<sup>ND</sup> JULY 2011***

The first of two events organized for the Festival was a guided tour of Greywell. The village is the smallest of the parishes within Hart and just about right for an early evening stroll in late July. Starting at the Fox and Goose, a group of members and friends, heard something of the history of the village. A reference from 1167 has the name Graiwella – the Well derived from the source of the River Whitewater and deep springs nearby, and the Grey from the greys or badgers that frequented the area – resulting in the term Grewell or even Gruell. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century apparently, as a condition of the tenure of the manor by the Earl of Pembroke, it became the duty of the inhabitants of Greywell to guard, every third night, the prisoners at Odiham Castle.

On the way to the church, our first stopping point, the party progressed along the Street with fields to the left and an eclectic mix of properties on the right, most notably Cedar Tree House, with its allegedly 250 year old cedar tree opposite and the equally interesting 16thC Malt House, wrapped in an old wisteria creeper. Attention was drawn to a raised grassy platform in the field next to the street which apparently was a garden terrace and is all that remains of the Old Manor House or Mansion which was destroyed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

By the lychgate leading to the church is Church Cottage, formally two cottages and a good example of 17<sup>th</sup> century timber frame structure with brick infilling. The church itself is dedicated to St Mary (see photo on the cover) and has a Norman north door with dog-tooth ornament, an early 16thC rood screen, a 15thC font and one of only two rood lofts in North Hampshire. A path leads round to the rear of the church and through watercress beds to the River Whitewater. With the river to our left we continued on raised board-walk above the water meadow eventually reaching Greywell Mill. The 17thC mill, originally called Cutmill, was said to have produced flour up to 1919. The breast wheel still exists though in a dilapidated state. The path then continued alongside the mill pond and would eventually lead to Bidden Water, the source of the Whitewater. However, we turned left through ancient coppice woods the path then entering the clearing of Greywell Moors.

Our route took us back over the Whitewater via a small bridge, locally known as 'Toll's Bridge', and named after an early tenant of the Old Manor House or Mansion. Safely negotiating a herd of cattle we finally reached The Street and the Fox and Goose for well-earned refreshments. **AW**



## ***CBA FESTIVAL OF ARCHAEOLOGY – DISPLAY AT PRINCES MEAD FARNBOROUGH***

The second event, held on Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> July, was a display by the Society at the Princes Mead Shopping Centre in Farnborough. The principle aim was to illustrate current projects underway but also to encourage visitors to take an interest in the

archaeology and the history of the area, come along to future meetings and, as a result, join the Society.

The display focused on two themes, firstly the work being undertaken following the Watching Brief at 23 Tower Hill with a demonstration of pottery sherd identification and recording, and secondly the research undertaken by Rosemary Rawcliffe into the history of the Farnborough Workhouse and land ownership in Cove and Farnborough.

In the weeks preceding the event a door-to-door distribution of leaflets was made to households in the Tower Hill and Ship Lane areas of Cove and Farnborough advertising the display and asking residents that if they found artifacts in their gardens to bring them along. As a result, we had a steady stream of visitors, some bringing objects to identify and date, as well as a relative of the last owner of 23 Tower Hill come along to tell us something about the property.

The management of Princes Mead could not have been more helpful and although the display was planned for only the Saturday, we were asked to leave it there for the rest of the week. **AW**

## ***HERITAGE DAY VISIT TO BRAMSHILL HOUSE***

Heritage Open Day was on Sunday 12<sup>th</sup> September and Bramshill House near Hartley Wintney was open to the public. The 400-year old Grade 1 listed mansion and 300 acre estate was purchased by the Home Office in 1953 and since then has been a working police college, now housing the NPIA, the National Policing Improvement Agency.

Not only was the house open, but a display of police cars from past years drew interest and an area was set aside to show the equipment used by the Red Cross and St John's Ambulance Brigade during the two World Wars. A film presentation was provided explaining the work undertaken over the years to train overseas police officers in best policing practice. The many mementos of the trainees reflected the wide geographic coverage of those attending the courses.

A significant amount of the college work is now done in other buildings, so the house retains much of the decorations and ambience of when it was a family home. We were only allowed to peek into the long gallery, but nevertheless saw one of the grandest in England, which now houses the British National Police Library. Some of the rooms still retain the Jacobean strap style ceilings, particularly in the Chapel Drawing Room, and many also have beautiful Belgian tapestries on display (shown in the photograph either side of the grand Jacobean fireplace).



A good deal of external restoration has taken place in recent years and the influence of the Grand Tour of Europe undertaken by Lord Zouche after he took over the house in the early 17<sup>th</sup>C can be seen.

Tours were available to see the Italianate gardens laid out by Lord Zouche and also to glimpse the herd of white Fallow Deer. Alas, we didn't see any of the alleged 17 spirits which are said to haunt the house!!

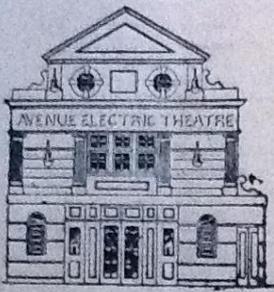
***Virginia Wright***

## Fancy Going to the Electric To-night?

A lady whose mother went to school in Farnborough recently sent me a receipt book belonging to the Empire Electric Theatre in Lynchford Road, North Camp. Though undated, it almost certainly dates from 1910 or 1911 and at that time the manager was F Mancy. A small amount of research revealed that there had been two Electric Theatres in North Camp, the other one being the Avenue Electric Theatre in Camp Road. The reason for the dating is that theatres in Farnborough and Aldershot advertised in The Fleet News and although the Avenue Theatre is evident, no theatre bills are shown for the Empire from 1912 onwards. The probability is that the Avenue simply replaced the nearby Empire sometime after its opening in 1910.

In the early years of silent movies there were a number of serious fires in premises where films were being shown. This led to the passing of the Cinematograph Act in 1909 which stipulated that projection equipment should be housed in a separate area from the audience. As a result, cinemas as we know them to-day sprang up over the country and the Associated Electric Theatres Limited of London probably ran most of them. It would seem that the term 'electric' had the same resonance then as 'digital' has to-day.

In a January 1912 news item, it stated that W J Johns took over the running of the Avenue Theatre from Frank Dean – Johns had already successfully opened 200 theatres for Associated Theatres – which suggested that it probably hadn't been open long. The accompanying advertisement reported that the following week's film would be 'A Roman Tyrant', illustrating the infamous behaviour meted out to the people by a Roman Emperor. Clearly, soldiers from the nearby camps were the main customers and in June that year a new manager, W T Fitch, halved the price of the best seats for those in uniform. Fitch went on to introduce electric fans to make it 'the coolest place in Farnborough'.

<p>available. for sale; let on Sale, from £200, money can remain. ence, two good bath, etc.; large tion; rent £30, or oomed Detached e acre of garden; ent, £30. and Stores to let. and scullery, 3s. NE 222 ONAL. PHYSICAL VOICE PRO ES ATTENDED ARDSON SE, FLEET. oston Two-Step, ointment. anged. RICARDSON. roduction. RICHARDSON. f Dr. Weekes. GIATE of Education). ALDERSHOT.</p>	<p>Comedy— "THE BELLE OF NEW YORK." Full Company and Chorus. <b>AVENUE ELECTRIC THEATRE,</b> CAMP ROAD, FARNBOROUGH. Proprietors: Associated Electric Theatres, Ltd., London.</p>  <p>TO-DAY. TO-DAY. TO-DAY. TO-DAY. Afternoon and Evening. Afternoon and Evening.</p> <p>TO-DAY'S NEWS IN PICTURES. Refined Comedy. Stirring Dramas. Travel, Sport, Adventure, and Scientific. Ideal Comfort, Safety, and Ventilation.</p> <p>USUAL POPULAR PRICES. 3d., 6d., 1s., 1s. 6d. (Grand Circle numbered and reserved). Children, 2d., 3d., 6d., and 9d. Open Daily 2.50 to 5, and 6.15 to 10.30 p.m. Doors Open Early.</p> <p>AN EXCELLENT PROGRAMME ALWAYS. THE ELECTRIC STRING ORCHESTRA.</p> <p>Resident Manager: <b>MR. FRANK DEAN.</b> Telephone: 60 North Camp. ALDERSHOT PARISH</p>	<p>FARNE Important 2 Furn JUNIOR BEG to ann instructi P. Barnes, Es Mrs. Gay, to hall, where th ON FRIDA At A large FURNITU BRUSSEL KIDDEE hearth rugs, b coal boxes 2 6ft. ME brass and iron scriptions, ma and satir 3 USEFU Full Compass Angelus piano bury lounge e occasional and CAPITAL Sets e Which will b now in prepar of the Anctory Aldershot, an On view the PUBI</p>
--	---	--

By late 1913, F French had been made General Manager and at that time prices were as follows: Orchestra Stalls 1/- (early doors 1/3d), Circle 9d (early doors 1/-), Stalls 6d (early doors 9d), Pit 3d (early doors 6d) – so get there early for best seats!! In August, French set out a film programme for the benefit of Mrs S F Cody (widow of Col Cody) and it was stated that he hoped many local people would attend. Later that year in November it was reported that a Fred Cook had taken over and it seemed he was just as enterprising as the previous managers, introducing regular 'Go As You Please' competitions from early 1914. A succession of morale boosting films would follow.

By the middle of the First World War in 1916, many of his staff had been called up and attendances probably fell as the camps emptied. But full programmes were still provided and the theatre was open Sunday afternoons and there were childrens' matinees on Saturday afternoons, when admission was 6d, 4d and 3d with War Tax in addition. When Cook was eventually called

up his wife took over and by 1917 the name Avenue Electric Theatre had changed to the Avenue Palace. It closed in the 1930's.

The Empire Electric Theatre had been situated in Lynchford Road almost opposite Queens Road, and stood on the site now occupied by Motorcycle City. (If anyone has further information or photographs of the Empire please let Ed. Know). The positive influence these theatres had at that time was considerable, allowing patrons to escape momentarily the horrors of war. **Tony Wright**

#### References

1. Fleet News 1912, 1913, 1914, 1916, 1917
2. Christine Woodward. *Farnborough. A Photographic History of Your Town.*
3. Advertisement from 1912 Fleet News

## **Snippets**

### **GUILDFORD MUSEUM**

The Museum has informed us that an exhibition entitled '*From this Earth*' is to be held from November 2011 to March 2012. Based largely on the pottery finds from Farnborough Hill Convent, its aims are to celebrate the early Tudor ceramics industry and the ongoing importance of the area as a centre for the creation of contemporary ceramic art.

Guildford Museum will feature the Farnborough Hill excavations from Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2011 to Saturday 10<sup>th</sup> March 2012. The Guildford House Gallery will showcase the history of ceramics in the area as well as work created by students and staff from the University of the Creative Arts, Farnham. Dates are Saturday 19<sup>th</sup> November 2011 to Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012. A programme of lectures and activities will accompany the exhibition including opportunities for young people to try their hands at making clay pots with artist Lucy Burley.

### **IFA DECISION**

The Institute of Field Archaeologists (IFA) has written to NEHHAS stating that Richard Whaley, a previous Director of the society, has been found in breach of their by-laws. Specifically, he was in breach of clause 1.1, bringing archaeology into disrepute; 1.8, dishonesty, fraud etc and 5.2 disregard for health and safety legislation. We understand he has been issued with a formal reprimand. Dr Whaley is no longer a member of NEHHAS, but continues to use the acronym on his web site without our permission.

### **TOWER HILL PROGRESS**

Work on the analysis of finds and the report on the watching brief undertaken at 23 Tower Hill progresses. Help on the historical background to the site is being provided by Peter Tipton of the Yateley Society and the expertise of Jacqui Pearce of the Museum of London and authority on border-ware ceramics is being sought. It is hoped to complete the report by early December.

### **SEPTEMBER MEMBERS EVENING**

Three short presentations were made at the first meeting following the summer break. Firstly, a talk on Croydon Airport by Mike Peace, secondly Richard Hoyland showed slides on his visit to Pompeii and lastly Tony Wright described the work of the Agrimensur, the Roman land surveyor.

Mike traced the history of the airport from its beginnings as a Royal Flying Corp aerodrome before the First World War. It was known as Beddington & Waddon Aerodrome up to 1920, where just a

year earlier on the 1<sup>st</sup> of May 1919, civil flights began on the London to Manchester route. Mike's slides showed the variety of aircraft in operation and the poor levels of comfort by to-days standards. Passengers having to hire warm clothes for the journey, chalk boards used for departure notices and step-ladders to access planes says it all! With the emergence of British European Airways and Heathrow, Croydon saw its last commercial flight in September 1959.

Richard visited Pompeii for a half day as a result of a cruise calling at Naples. He remarked how many of the statues were not original but located in Naples Museum. Slides of the baths, villas and 'fast food' shops with serving counters were described and gave those who perhaps had not been to the site a good visual insight of what to see. But, as Richard conceded, one needed at least a full day to do it justice.

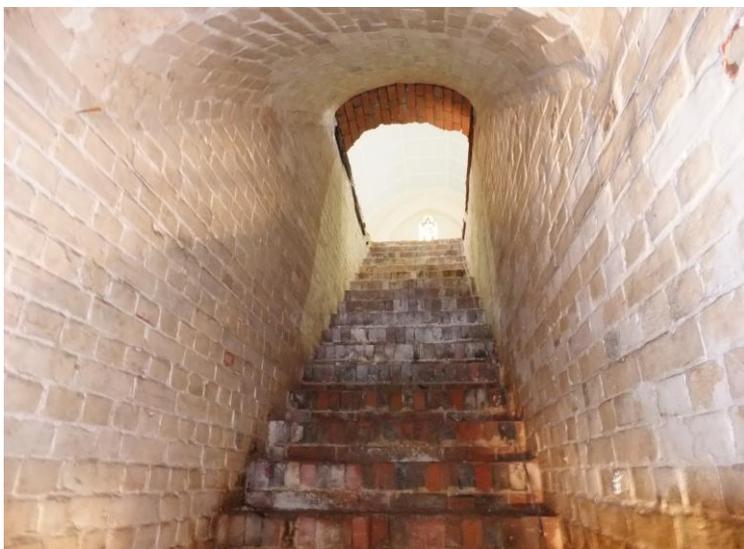
Tony began by introducing the concept of *centuriation* – the regular division of land previously taken over by the Romans and then given to retired or laid-off soldiers and later used as a basis for taxation. Agrimensurs were the land surveyors, initially part of the army but ultimately becoming a civilian role. The most well documented areas of centuriation are in the Po Valley, Italy, in Tunisia and in the land around Orange in Provence. Slides were shown of the extent of the land division and also of a large scale marble survey map housed in Orange Museum. The subject has some resonance with the work done on the Guildford to Winchester Roman Road Project, the summary report of which is soon to be published.

As this is the last issue in 2011...

***We Wish Our Readers a Merry Christmas and a Prosperous New Year***

## ***Two hundred and fifty years of history beneath St Peter's Church, Farnborough.***

Some of our members were recently invited to view the crypt at St Peter's Church. Descending the steps (see photograph below) we entered into a 250 year chapter of our local history which was sealed off in 1875. At the foot of the steps we entered into an architectural gem of a beautiful elliptical arched brick vault with twenty burial chambers constructed along the walls. Thirteen chambers housed lead lined coffins of the family of Henry Wilmot, Lord of the Manor in the mid 1700s, as well as the coffins of George Morant, Lord of the Manor from 1838 until his death in 1875, and his wife Mary.



Above one of the chambers was some 19<sup>th</sup> Century graffiti written around 1824 by William Etherington. George Morant's coffin had been sealed inside its chamber, all the other chambers remaining open. The lead linings were still intact, but any coverings on the coffins had disintegrated. Some of the handles and metal inscriptions had become detached and were either loose or had fallen to one side.

It was evident that all the coffins had been adorned with ornate metalwork, particularly that of Henry Wilmot himself, a London solicitor of some considerable



wealth. It is believed that it was Henry who had the crypt constructed, leaving us all to wonder over the whereabouts of the Annesleys, previous Lords of the Manor. (Two of their coffins have since been discovered above the crypt). The dozens of photographs taken and the animated discussion over the construction techniques of the crypt will now be consigned to history as the crypt has been resealed.

**Jo Gosney**

Coffin within its niche

## ***Review: Semi-detached London, by Alan A. Jackson.***

2<sup>nd</sup> Edition, revised and enlarged, 1991 by Wild Swan, Oxford; ISBN 1 87410311

The period 1900-1939 is intensively covered, with earlier developments included, to give the historical basis of the *crops* of houses replacing fields, market gardens and mansions and with the *roots* being the development of suburban railways, tramways and the demand for affordable housing aided by the land owners and builders need for money, and the railway companies seeking to increase their revenue.

There are many reasons why you should read this. It is the story of your youth, raised in the products of this boom, a warning on the financing of housing, the slumps come at 10 to 20 year intervals and Northern Rock and its ilk had similar disasters to those of the start of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Had the management of those lenders read and been capable of appreciating the brief but clearly inserted information in this book, their and our troubles would be less. It is well written, introducing you to the techniques of development and its consequences, the introduction of guarantees for build quality. Very few of developers could achieve the standard which the LCC got at St Helier, but the best are still with us. I recall being told by my neighbour of the standards imposed over this massive site by the clerk of works when ill in hospital in 1955, and the estate still looks good today!

Alan Jackson does miss one feature of the growth of estates, in the paying off of contractors with houses (this happens when the builder is short of cash). The bibliography is a mine of sources for research in other areas and for other times, apart that is from those areas of outer London which are not extensively covered. His technique is to fully survey some areas in detail and determine specific difference from the others examined. The politics of transport is a dominant feature and is possibly why this book has been neglected and also uncited by some authors who one suspects have used it, but others would have done better to have studied it. The publisher belongs to the transport rather than academic category, and those who have not made use of this volume in their studies have missed the chance of producing a great book.

This is a book, which can be enjoyed at many levels and will start you looking at the style and age of houses in streets and the differences between them and set you wondering why, the gap?, the change in style?, the downstairs bathroom?, etc. **John Paddon**  
(No price has been quoted but it is in Hampshire Library collection so order it up!)

# Programme

Meetings on second and fourth Fridays of the month in Room 6 of the Farnborough Community Centre, Meudon Avenue, Farnborough. Meeting start at 7.30pm unless otherwise stated. Members and visitors are asked to make a contribution of £1.50 towards room expenses. (tea/coffee/biscuits included)

**May 2011 to December 2011**

---

November 11<sup>th</sup>            **‘A Dip into the Archives of the Willis Museum, Basingstoke’** a talk by John Hollands, based on historical records held at the Museum.

November 25<sup>th</sup>            **Project Evening**

December 9<sup>th</sup>            **‘The History of the Vyne’**, an illustrated talk by John Jenkins

NOTE: There will be no meeting on the 23<sup>rd</sup> December 2011.

## **2012**

January 13<sup>th</sup>            **Project Evening**

January 27<sup>th</sup>            **‘Technology & Living in Berkshire in the Iron Age’**, by Paul Goodenough

February 10<sup>th</sup>           **Project Evening**

February 24<sup>th</sup>           **John Wall, Egyptologist, will talk on Egypt and/or the Sudan**

March 9<sup>th</sup>                **‘Ethiopia’**, an illustrated talk by Pam Taylor

March 23<sup>rd</sup>              **AGM** followed by images of Dubrovnik by John Paddon

April 13<sup>th</sup>              **Project Evening**

April 27<sup>th</sup>              **‘Roman Provence’**, an illustrated talk by Ginny & Tony Wright

***For more information contact Virginia Wright on 01252 614337 or  
tonywright10@btinternet.com***