

# NEHHAS

North East Hampshire Historical and Archaeological Society

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## NEWSLetter

SPRING 2012 No.118

### NEHHAS

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#### 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  
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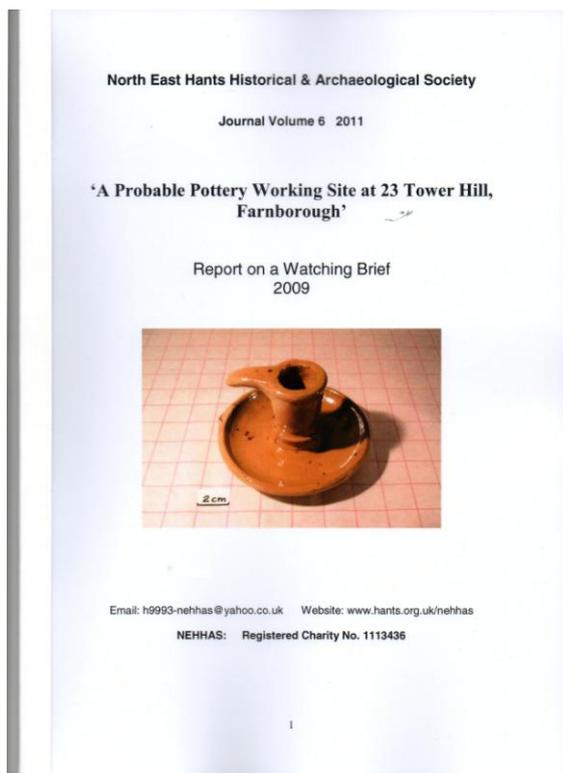
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Registered Charity No. 1113436



## ***23 Tower Hill, Cove – Report***

The report on the Watching Brief undertaken in 2009 at 23 Tower Hill, Cove, has now been published. The analysis of finds and the excavation results point to a probable pottery working site with two phases of activity, from 1370-1500 and 1550-1700 and the possibility that this extended into a later phase.

Guidance on the identification of sherds was kindly provided by Jacqui Pearce of MoLA, and Peter Tipton of the Yateley Society provided a comprehensive historical background relating both to the site and to Cove itself as an important pottery centre. Also, a big thank you to Don for providing the venue for the meetings with Jacqui and Peter and spending many hours in computer input for the data-base analysis.

The 77 page report, fully illustrated in black and white and with colour plates, costs £10 including p&p and is available from the Membership Secretary at the address on the cover. Cheques to be made payable to NEHHAS. ***Tony Wright***

## ***Subscriptions***

The annual subscription for membership of the Society remains at £15 for 2012 and became due on 1<sup>st</sup> January. Please send cheque, made payable to NEHHAS, to the Membership Secretary.

## ***Annual General Meeting***

Members are formally notified that the Annual General Meeting of the Society will be held on Friday March 23<sup>rd</sup> 2012 at the Farnborough Community Centre, Room 6, at 8.00pm. Nominations for membership of the committee can be made at the AGM but it would be helpful to have them in advance.

This is an opportunity to ask questions, make suggestions regarding the programme or any other aspect of the society, or volunteer to help in any way.

## ***Notes from an Exhibition – Images of Surrey by John and Edward Hassell***

As a member of the Domestic Buildings Research Group, I have become aware of a valuable source of information available to researchers in the local area, the watercolour paintings of notable buildings produced by a father and son team, John and Edward Hassell. An exhibition of some of the paintings was held recently at The Lightbox, an arts and culture venue in Woking and many of these paintings can be seen at the Surrey History Centre. Copies of some of the books published by John were also on display, explaining some of the painting techniques used to obtain the images and effects of his work.

John was born in 1767 and was active in the field by 1790, at a time when the predominant influence of the classical age was becoming modified by a Picturesque vision, and this is evident in many of his earlier works. The Picturesque was a peculiarly English phenomenon, promoted by Rev William Gilpin, which was later devolved into an influential school of garden design. The scenes are viewed

as if in a picture frame, with incidental greenery at strategic points around the edges. Most of his paintings in this exhibition were carried out between 1822 and 1824, just a year before his death in 1825, at the relatively young age of 58. It would seem that he travelled around Surrey with the aim of gaining commissions from as many patrons as possible.

Edward Hassell, born in 1811, carried on his father's trade, although it was clear he had had some architectural drawing training. His work is more detailed and includes some fine drawings of church interiors. The images are considered to be basically accurate and are used by researchers in this area. Browsing the internet I came upon the books published by John, the first of these was *A Tour of the Isle of Wight*, published at the height of popularity in the Picturesque. Available to read, it became clear Section I would prove interesting describing the places travelled through to get from London to Southampton, and mentioning several places – Bagshot, Farnham, Crooksbury Hill and Alton.

His journey from London led through Windsor Forest to Bagshot Heath, where he sees a villa with adjacent cascade (still visible from the road to-day); this draws his disapproval, he comments '*Art can never possibly rival nature, the regularity disgusts the Picturesque eye*' So much for the villa owner's artistic ambitions! Bagshot Heath lives up to its reputation, '*even to cross this heath is a very temptation to the many depredations committed on it. So dreary, the gloom is so horrid that even the lively month of June cannot erase the marks of terror, from Egham to Farnham is a most desolate scene*'. Farnham, however, lies in a picturesque, well watered, valley. He gives a short history of the castle, saying that it has become the summer residence of the bishops. The castle keep is given over to a fruit garden and allows extensive views across Sussex, Hampshire and Berkshire. His way from Farnham to Alton is more pleasing than the heath, he finds it '*an agreeable country – a notable range of woods, the property of Lord Stawell, form a pair of side-screens for a picture*', no higher praise can a Picturesque artist give. Interestingly, he comments that the old Roman Road that led from Winchester to London is still discernable as far as Alton. He then passes on to Winchester, out of our area, finally reaching his goal, the Isle of Wight, by Section VII.

Books such as these, describing tours suitable for the educated, and also designed to educate, were very popular in their time and still have a great interest for to-day's readers. How lucky we are to have access to such treasures through our many types of media to-day. **Pam Taylor**

References:

Images of Surrey, an exhibition at The Lightbox, Woking

Joan Percy, *In Pursuit of the Picturesque*, William Gilpin's *Surrey Excursion*, Surrey Garden's Trust

John Hassell, *A Tour of the Isle of Wight*

## ***Flint Knapping with Karl Lee***

Surrey Heath Archaeology & Heritage Trust hosted a workshop '*Flint Knapping for Beginners*' at the Archaeology Centre Bagshot on Sunday 6th November. Flint knapping expert, Karl Lee, demonstrated his skill in this ancient technique and encouraged 'hands on' experience from those present to fashion prehistoric flint tools. Everyone was soon chipping away at large pieces of flint with hammer stones, learning how to handle and strike the flint to remove flakes that could be shaped into tools such as arrowheads and scrapers.

Goggles were worn to protect eyes from any flying splinters as even the most minute of these are very sharp indeed. The strength of tiny flakes is very surprising considering their delicate appearance. Norfolk/Suffolk flint was used from the giant flint formations and flint circles that occur in these counties.



The methodology can be described as follows. The outer cortex is removed from very sizeable lumps of flint, using large hammer stones of quartzite, and broken into more manageable fragments. An understanding of how the flint breaks is necessary to remove any flakes that can be shaped into tools. Smaller stones and 'soft hammers' made from antler, are used for hand axes and other tools.



**Blades**

**Arrowhead**

**Finished Flint**

Flakes are not wasted as they can be used to make arrow heads and scrapers. However, waste material from demonstrations and workshops is collected and mixed with 'general hardcore' rubble at re-cycling centres – so as not to confuse future archaeologists! Karl concluded the workshop by demonstrating his personal skill in handcrafting an arrowhead and a spearhead. He makes antler bone and wood tools but these will have to wait until the workshop on advanced techniques. An excellent day well spent. Karl also uses his skills for bush-craft where flint tools are put to good use. For details of any of his workshops his website is: [www.primitive-technology.co.uk](http://www.primitive-technology.co.uk) It is well worth a visit. **Rosemary Rawcliffe**

### ***Vi Scregg – A Tribute***

We were sad to receive the news that Vi had passed away on November 15<sup>th</sup> 2011. We had not seen her at our meetings for about 18 months but her son wrote and said she had remained fairly active until a few weeks before her death.



She was a long-standing member of the society and took part in many digs particularly at Heckfield from 1990 to 2003. As recently as 2009 she was part of the team helping Sarah Fry excavating at 23 Tower Hill. Vi had a profound interest in archaeology both here and abroad and would always offer advice on site when needed. She was of course an expert with a trowel. The photograph shows Vi at Heckfield in 2001. **Virginia Wright**

## ***Review: 'Technology and Survival in the Iron Age'***

On the 27<sup>th</sup> January, Paul Goodenough gave another presentation on the Iron Age, presenting a broad brush account of how technology transformed the lives of the people then at a time of rapidly expanding population. Paul compared the Iron Age with the 18<sup>th</sup> century as another age of enlightenment and described the advances taking place in the various processes relating to iron-working, pottery, textiles and wood. Examples of where one could see some of the developments were given, such as Castle Henllys with early wood turning lathes and piles of sling shots at Liddington Castle.

Paul described the way in which round houses developed over time, with examples of re-building houses many times on the same spot, an example of which is shown from excavations at the Tongham Nursery site. Of particular interest and debate was the possible use of the space within the round houses and the juxtaposition of domestic activities, posited by Mike Parker Pearson and Francis Pryer – but, of course, little evidence remains to prove the concepts! Finally, Paul showed a calendar of events over the 12 months illustrating the agricultural and religious cycle of activities which took place. **Tony Wright**

## ***Greywell***

The late summer walk around Greywell by members stimulated some interest in the raised feature noticed in a field en route to the church. It became clear there were two conflicting references relating to this, firstly in the Greywell Conservation Area Character Appraisal, under Archaeology where it says: *The Mound in the field opposite Malt House and Southfields is said to be the site of the Higgins and Toll family mansion, destroyed in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.* Whilst Rupert Willoughby, in his booklet, 'Greywell – Church and Village' states *The Old Manor House stood at the opposite end of the meadow that adjoins the church, close to the village Street. It was pulled down in the late eighteenth century, but a raised ridge at the side of the house, known even in Victorian times as THE GARDEN TERRACE, can still be plainly seen.*

The Conservation Area Assessment also records the view that Greywell is a 'shrunken village' which never regained its earlier, medieval size and it has been further suggested that the bumps in the field on the south side of The Street are likely to be a remnant of this larger settlement and therefore early medieval in origin. In 1665, when the Hearth Tax Assessment was made, Sir Thomas Higgins was in residence as a lease-holder, and the Manor House or Mansion was recorded as having 22 taxable hearths. At that time the property was owned by James Zouche. A little later in 1696, Ashburton Toll was living in the Mansion, again as a lease-holder, and his family resided there until around 1772-4 when the last of the Toll family, Edmund, died. Sometime shortly after 1772 the Mansion was pulled down. So far as we know the site has not been surveyed and, given permission, a levelling exercise could be a summer project for the society to try and trace the extent of the mound and any other features associated with the Mansion or earlier village.

**Tony Wright**

## ***Local Studies Report***

Indexing the **Admissions Register** for Edward Greene's School is an on-going project and the list of names, with an analysis of the resulting data, will be made available in due course. Other projects include indexing Churchwardens Accounts, Church Rates, Poor Rates and Land Tax Assessments. All these go on apace and give insight into the way a parish was run and charts the development of a community.

**Churchwardens Accounts** contain details of how parochial finances were managed by senior parish officers. Their duties officially included those of the Overseer of the Poor but in practice

churchwardens and overseers kept separate records. The overseer managed casual poor relief (given on demand) and distributed pensions and charitable legacies. The overseers determined who received relief and who was turned away.

**Rates** were an assessment of an annual rental of a property and a rate was levied at a number of pence or shillings in the pound for every pound of rateable value. Rate books are long lists of householders entered in order of where their house was on the street noting the rateable value of the property and the amount paid. These lists provide valuable information on residents' status and landholding, property changing hands or being demolished. These make a useful addition to the

**Land Tax Assessments.** Church Rates covered the cost of presenting holy services and the maintenance of the fabric of the church.

The Highways Act 1555 placed the burden of upkeep of highways on the parish within parish boundaries and leading to market towns. The **Surveyor of Highways (Waywarden)** records can appear within the Churchwardens Accounts. Farmers and innkeepers usually held this office and were responsible for public highways and keeping highways in repair.

The **Churchwardens Accounts 1726-1827 & 1831-1867**, for Farnborough make references to road building and general administration. They also include lists of **Church Rates** paid by parishioners for the upkeep of the church. In the absence of any **Poor Rate** lists these give an indication of the distribution of local wealth.

It is hoped that a fine set of maps drawn up by long serving members, Pat and Jim Hix, will be added to the website as these will not only complement the indexes but will provide a visual display of any findings. **Rosemary Rawcliffe**

## *Snippets*

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY:** The CBA Festival of British Archaeology fortnight will run from 14<sup>th</sup> to 29<sup>th</sup> July, whilst the Heritage Week-end will take place from 6<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> September. As to the Festival, the Society will hold a small display in Fleet Library showing a variety of pottery found mainly in Cove and illustrating the importance of Cove as a major post-Medieval pottery centre.

Berkshire Archaeology Society are holding their annual Day School on Saturday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2012 at St Nicholas Hall, West Mills, Newbury, RG14 5HG, from 10.00am to 4.45pm. The cost is £10 payable at the door. The extensive programme can be seen on their web-site [www.berksarch.co.uk](http://www.berksarch.co.uk)

**'FINDING THE ROAD':** A compilation of the Roman Road Reports, which had previously been published in the newsletters, has now been written up and published under the title *'Finding the Road'*. It remains Journal Volume 3 and covers the survey and excavation work up to 2009 when the society terminated its involvement in the project. Copies can be purchased at £20 each, including post and packing, from the Membership Secretary.

**BACK TO SCHOOL:** Ginny and I were asked to give a presentation on archaeology to a class of 8 year olds at a Yateley School recently. One of our grand-daughters was in the class and her teacher, who took archaeology as a module at university, knew of our involvement. We took along a time-line of artefacts from Roman to Victorian and the children were genuinely interested. Items were handed around so they all could handle the pieces and many questions were asked. There were some humorous moments after an explanation, when none were able to identify a chamber-pot! And whether I had personally used the quill pen and ink jar!

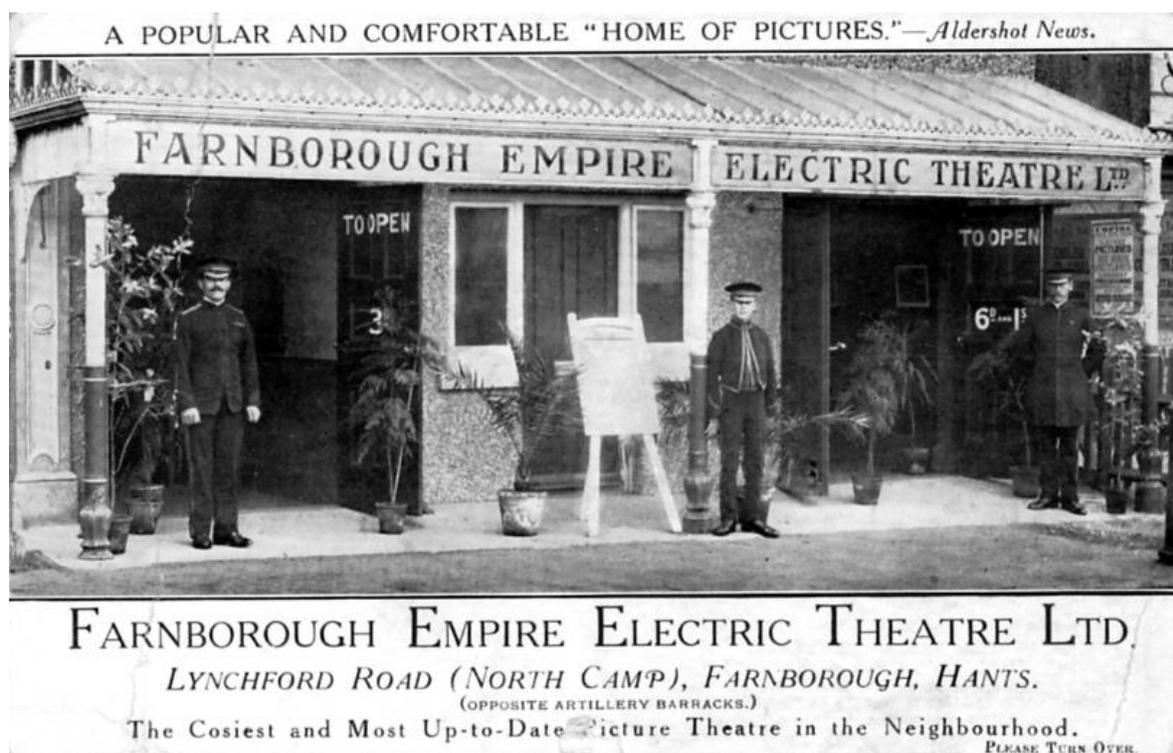
**HILL HOUSE POTTERY:** Some 9 trays of pot-sherds recovered from excavations during 1973 at Hill House, Tower Hill, Cove are to be examined on Project Evenings. Early analysis of the red-ware forms indicate a distinctive variety of designs as yet not matched to other sites in Cove. Hill House

Pottery ceased operations sometime between 1871 and 1881 and may well have begun producing wares during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.

This is the first of a series of analyses and studies of other pottery collections in the society's possession.

## ***The Local Electric Theatres***

Following the article in the last newsletter (NL 117) on the Avenue Electric Theatre, Jo Gosney has sent this photograph from her collection showing the Empire Electric Theatre in Lynchford Road, Farnborough, and the accompanying text.



In response to your article in the last newsletter about the Avenue Electric Cinema, I thought your readers might be interested in the results of my further research. Some while ago I was privileged to interview Mr Len Cook, the son of the manager, Mr Cook, mentioned in your article. He had many photographs of the theatre and of some of the stars of the films shown.

Mention in your article was made of the Empire Electric Theatre which was the first cinema in North Camp. The opening in 1910 was attended by the Chairman of the Council, Mr G Brook Knight, and the proceeds of the evening were donated to a local charity. The cinema boasted all the up to date technology including a powerful dynamo to generate electricity, staffed by expert electricians. Situated on Lynchford Road, opposite Artillery Barracks, its plush interior and variety of silent films accompanied by a pianist soon attracted soldiers and locals alike. The offer of free parking for cycles was useful for visitors from the nearby villages.

From the post card illustrated here, it is interesting to see the prices of the seats, the most expensive of which were in an area with plush carpeting and cordoned off by a thick fancy rope. The Aldershot News regularly announced the programme well into the 1930s but it had closed before the Second World War, leaving three other cinemas in the town, The Avenue Electric and the Scala in Camp Road and the Rex on the Farnborough Road. **Jo Gosney**

## *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)

### **Feb 2012 to August 2012**

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February 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>John Wall, Egyptologist</b> , will talk on <b>Sudan, Egypt's Southern Neighbour</b>
March 9 <sup>th</sup>	' <b>Ethiopia</b> ', an illustrated talk by Pam Taylor
March 23 <sup>rd</sup>	<b>AGM</b> followed by images of Dubrovnik by John Paddon
April 13 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Project Evening</b>
April 27 <sup>th</sup>	' <b>Roman Provence</b> ', an illustrated talk by Ginny & Tony Wright
May 11 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Project Evening</b>
May 25 <sup>th</sup>	<b>David Lee from the Wessex Film Archive</b> will present films depicting Past Farnborough and Winchester Heritage and the Cathedral
June 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Project Evening</b>
June 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>Alexine Crawford</b> will talk about her researches on the Civil War at Farnham and her book 'Comely Grace'
July	No indoor meeting at Farnborough Community Centre  <b>CBA Festival of British Archaeology Fortnight</b>
Saturday July 14 – 28 <sup>th</sup>	Exhibition of Local Post-Medieval Pottery at Fleet Library
Wednesday July 25 <sup>th</sup>	Farnham Castle and Bishop's Palace. Guided tour. Parking available at the Castle. Meet TBA
August	No meetings.

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