

# NEHHAS

North East Hampshire Historical and Archaeological Society

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## NEWSLetter

AUTUMN 2012 No.119

### 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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## *Display at Fleet Library*

A small exhibition of medieval/post-medieval pottery from the NEHHAS Reserve Collection was held at Fleet Library from 16<sup>th</sup> July to 3<sup>rd</sup> August, which included the CBA Festival of Archaeology fortnight.

The exhibits covered a variety of forms in coarse border-ware (CBW) and white and red border-ware from a number of pottery sites in Cove and Farnborough, including Tower Hill, Ship Lane and Outsheet Farm.

Accompanying text explained the history of the local industry, the time-span of manufacturing and the domestic use of some of the less familiar vessels.

***Tony Wright***

## *Wessex Film Archive*

In May, David Lee from the Wessex Film Archive gave a film presentation. He began by explaining the role of the archive as a visual record of the heritage of the region. The archive started in 1988 and has film records going back to 1897, and amongst the sound recordings is the voice of Florence Nightingale taken in 1890.

The first film, entitled 'ABC Farnborough' was a 5 minute presentation made by BBC South taken between 1962 and 1965 showing views of the town. This was one of a series of films about towns and villages in the south of England narrated by John Arlott. Shots of 1960's houses, shops and streets proved both familiar and unfamiliar.

This was followed by two films on Winchester, 'Winchester Heritage' and 'Cathedral – a Portrait of Winchester Cathedral', both showing much of the 900 years of architectural heritage of the city. The next presentation was a BBC TV South film taken in 1982 of the Farnborough Air Show – its 25<sup>th</sup> at Farnborough. Footage included earlier shows including the inter-war RAF pageant at Hendon and the first show at Farnborough in 1948. The 1982 show had a number of now famous aeroplanes – Comet, Brabazon and the bombers, Valiant, Vulcan and Victor.

Graphic footage was also shown of the 1952 tragedy of the break-up of the prototype super-sonic fighter, the DH110 resulting in 27 fatalities.

The final short film traced the history of British Armed Forces ballooning and included the ascent of the last hot air balloon at Aldershot in 1963 before its demolition – with some amusing shots of people trying to get safely into and out of the basket.



## *Greywell Survey*

An article in the last newsletter described the possibility of a survey at Greywell to examine a platform feature in the meadow alongside The Street. The platform is thought to relate to the garden of a Manor House or Mansion which was demolished in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century.

Further documentary research and aerial photographs confirmed that a survey was worth doing and permission was granted by the landowner for levelling and geophysics to take

place in July.

Contact was made with the Berkshire Archaeology Research Group (BARG) who agreed to undertake the geophysics, both magnetometry and resistivity, whilst NEHHAS members would



cover the levelling. A co-ordinated work programme was agreed so that all part of the survey could be undertaken simultaneously. Because the field was used for pasture, the time-frame was limited to a maximum of 2 weeks and there was to be no excavation. Despite the mixed weather the work was completed in one week. The villagers have expressed interest and offered information and the local pub, Fox and Goose, was most hospitable and provided some excellent lunches.

The results of each of the surveys are currently under review and further historical references are being followed up at Hampshire Record Office and Surrey History Centre. A report will follow in due course. **Tony Wright**

## *Roman Provence*

Tony and Ginny Wright described their trip to Provence last May, the programme covering the most well known Roman locations such as Nimes, Arles, Orange and the Pont du Gard, but they also showed slides of two less visited sites at Glanum and Barbegal.

Glanum or Glanon is situated at the north end of a gorge in a plateau in the northern foothills of the Alpilles, close to a permanent spring and occupied since Neolithic times. A shrine was dedicated to a water god Glanis and his companions the 'Glanic Mothers' – mother goddesses. Its position on the only easy route through the Alpilles made this site an important trading post and by the second century BC, Greeks from Marseille exerted considerable influence here. And indeed when there was local unrest the Greeks appealed to the Romans for help which they duly gave and of course stayed and eventually dominated the area.



The development of the town Glanum included Greek style houses with temple, agora, bouleterion (meeting house of officials) and probably a theatre. A semi circular area was seen suggesting a theatre, yet to be excavated. The accompanying guide on the trip, Professor Tony King, said he found the site hard to understand and certainly some stones had been incorrectly replaced after excavation – very confusing for later archaeologists and visitors.

The extensive site, which meandered down the valley, included a Roman forum, baths, residential area and open air swimming pool, together with the early Sacred spring and the 6<sup>th</sup> century Domos Well.

Of course, local springs at Glanum and elsewhere were never going to be sufficient to meet the wider requirements of an increasing population in the province. And so aqueducts such as the Pont du Gard were going to be needed. One of the interesting and more remote sites we visited was at Barbegal, situated south of our base at St Remy de Provence, where there are the remains of two aqueducts positioned to run side by side with each other.

The first aqueduct started to the north at Eygalieres 35 km away to the north of the Alpilles, then passes just north of St Remy and ultimately served Arles to the south, whilst the second and parallel aqueduct from Caperon 9 km away in the Southern Alpilles served a series of flour mills – plunging water 20 metres down in only 60 metres allowing room for two rows of eight water wheels. It was estimated that the daily production of flour was 2 – 3 tons, enough to feed 10,000 people. (NOTE: A feature on the Barbegal aqueducts and water-mills is included in the August/September issue of World Archaeology magazine, No 54)

## *Snippets*

The most recent Parish News for Odiham and North Warnborough has an article on recent activities by metal detectorists. Apparently, over the past few years some 600 Roman coins have been found south of Greywell and, although recorded by the Portable Antiquities Scheme, most were not given an accurate fix on the locations by the finders. The article then goes on to refer to other metal detectorists known to be active there who don't report their finds and makes the plea for them to come forward, and it also asks that the land-owners take a more active role in contacting the Finds Liaison Officers.

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Most of you will know that Rosemary Rawcliffe has given a number of presentations over the past few years on the Farnborough Workhouse entitled '*Living on the Breadline*'. Her talk to members of the Yateley Society in April was well covered in an almost half page story with photographs in the Yateley News & Mail.

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On Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May, Richard Hoyland and Ginny Wright joined members of Surrey Heath Archaeology Trust in a joint field-walking exercise in the grounds of Farnborough Abbey. The objective was to determine the presence of unusual topographical features which might then lead to a magnetometry survey. The walk was initiated following a report to the Abbey by Sybil Wade, Landscape Consultant, of observed ridge and furrow, plus other indications of prior agricultural activity. The outcome is still under consideration

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The processing of the Hill House pottery has now been completed and the intention is that, other than finds held for the Reserve Collection, sherds will be transferred to the Chilcomb Stores, Winchester. Pottery from the Outsheets Farm (M3) dig has also been processed and Guildford Museum has been asked to accept these to join the bulk of the finds held by them from the Haslam excavations. However, the stated policy of Guildford Museum of only wishing to hold Surrey-related artefacts is delaying their decision. Other material from the 1970's digs continues to be analysed on Project Evenings.

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A Working Party is needed to check and sort the society's tools and equipment at Badshot Lea before the winter months.

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## *Visit to Farnham Castle*

As part of our contribution to the CBA Fortnight in July, we planned a visit to Farnham Castle and the Bishops' Palace. This was well supported (26) by our members, those of other societies and some visitors. It was a beautiful day and the perfect setting for our tour initially led by our secretary Pam.



**Farnham Castle and Bishops' Palace**

We began with a general view of the lawned gardens of the Bishops' Palace and the brick built four-storey entrance tower built by Bishop Waynflete (1470/1475) and modified by Bishop Fox (1501/1528). Back tracking a little, we entered the Stable Block which houses an exhibition entitled '900 years of Living History' – a unique display produced by the University of Creative Arts in Farnham. It explained the development of the castle by the wealthy medieval Bishops of Winchester and for hundreds of years it served as an administrative centre, fortress and accommodation providing a convenient stopping place between London and Winchester. After 1660 the Palace became the Bishops' principal residence.

From its earliest days the basic shape of the castle has remained the same – an outer bank and ditch, a fortified keep and a triangular inner courtyard sheltering domestic buildings. We turned into the inner courtyard and climbed the steps of the gatehouse to the stone shell keep – 1138 is the generally accepted date for the beginning of the building. The centre of the stone shell keep houses the remains of a tower and well, with the original motte enclosing the lower levels of the tower. In the 13<sup>th</sup> century the shell keep contained only the essentials for a small garrison, soldiers' lodgings and rooms for weapons and stores. During the 14<sup>th</sup> century building activity greatly increased and almost every one of the buildings in the Bishops' Palace had its counterpart in the keep.

We enjoyed a picnic lunch and then went down to the Palace for a conducted tour - the second part of our visit. This encompassed designs, styles and architecture through the centuries from the 12<sup>th</sup> century Norman, medieval to Tudor, Stuart and Victorian. The Norman Chapel with Romanesque style windows, door and thick walls has a barrel vault roof. Amazingly, this original Norman roof construction has been preserved by later roofing timbers above it. It can be seen to-day through an opening in a corridor at higher level. After the Chapel there is access to the old kitchen and stone hall which once formed part of the Great Hall and was a domestic area for the preparation of food. We were taken to the Bishop's Camera or private room and saw a model of another roofing technique - a rare scissor braced roof designed to span large spaces – of course hidden from view to-day. The 17<sup>th</sup> century Bishop's Chapel was in stark contrast with the Norman one, with its cool wooden painted panels and wooden tiled floor.



**Bishop's Chapel**

This is just a glimpse of some of the features to be enjoyed at Farnham Castle – visits are available on Wednesdays by arrangement but the keep is open daily. We finished our tour with welcome drinks and excellent cookies! **Virginia Wright**

## *Review – ‘Comely Grace’*

On Friday June 22nd our evening talk was given by Alexine Crawford on how she went about writing her historical novel ‘*Comely Grace*’. Set in Farnham in the 1640’s it gives an insight into how the Civil War might have been experienced in a small provincial town. Alexine needed to carry out a lot of research in order to give the story an authentic feel. Not only did the historical details need to be correct but also she had to familiarize herself with a number of crafts and occupations that have now largely disappeared.

As well as showing pictures and maps on the screen, Alexine read a couple of extracts from her book which immediately gripped the audience. The very humanity of the principal characters and the quality of the writing encouraged a number of us to purchase copies afterwards!

This well illustrated and presented talk attracted much interest and proved to be a splendid end to our season of Friday evening meetings. It also fitted in rather well with our summer outing which this year was to Farnham Castle.

The 345 page book was published in 2011 by Wrayworks, Farnham and the price is £7.99.  
**Richard Hoyland**

## *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)

### September 2012 to December 2012

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|---------------|---|
| Sept 14th     | <b>Members Evening</b> with news on the Greywell Geophysics Survey and contributions from members   |
| Sept 28th     | <b>Project Evening</b> – Continuing with Cove & Farnborough Pottery identification, analysis and recording. Training given.                                   |
| Oct 12th      | <b>'The Development of Timber-framed Buildings using dendrochronology, through the work of the Hampshire Buildings Research Group'</b> A talk by Bill Fergie. |
| Oct 26th      | <b>Project Evening</b>  |
| Nov 9th       | <b>'Boudica's Revolt and the Wanborough Hoard'</b> , an illustrated talk by Richard Hoyland,  |
| November 23rd | Dr Ben Jervis, Post-Roman Pottery Specialist will give an illustrated talk on <b>'Using and Moving Pottery in Medieval Hampshire, including a case study'</b> |
| December 14th | <b>Project Evening</b> followed by seasonal refreshments.   |

The NEHHAS Library at the Archaeology Centre, Bagshot, may be accessed Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please let Virginia know if planning to go.

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**Hampshire Field Club & Archaeology Society** have two events which may be of interest, firstly a lecture by Richard Harris of Singleton fame on *'How to take a house down'*, 26<sup>th</sup> September 2012, and a Jubilee Conference entitled *'The Changing face of Kingship in Early Medieval England'* 24<sup>th</sup> November 2012. Details from their web-site.

**For more information contact Virginia Wright on 01252 614337 or [tonywright10@btinternet.com](mailto:tonywright10@btinternet.com)**