

# NEWSletter



WINTER 2012/13 No 120

## 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:  
Membership Secretary,  
1 Longmead, Fleet,  
GU52 7TR.

Information is regularly updated on the web site. 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

Website Manager: Richard Hoyland

Treasurer & Membership Secretary: Virginia Wright  
01252 614337

### Information

The Society's e-mail address is  
[h9993-nehhas@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:h9993-nehhas@yahoo.co.uk)

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Registered Charity No. 1113436

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## Welcome

Welcome to the 120th edition of our newsletter which, for the first time, is being published principally on the web! A hard-copy (printed) version will be made available for those without access to a web-connected computer or tablet.

If you are reading this in printed form then why not try our web site which is regularly updated with information on digs, recent events, current projects, archive pages and publications. Please check it out on: [www.hants.org.uk/nehhas](http://www.hants.org.uk/nehhas)

Currently the web site has a summary of a survey undertaken in Summer 2012 at Greywell, together with Berkshire Archaeology Research Group (BARG), and showing resistivity responses of a possible manor house.

Archive pages cover past presentations to members as well as data tables including Census Returns for Cove and Farnborough, and early maps.

## Latest News

### **Heritage Centre re-opens in Camberley.**

NEHHAS have recently contributed posters for the newly re-opened Heritage Centre in Camberley. One of our posters is shown here.

They cover firstly, the on-going cataloguing of the Society's Border-ware pottery collection and secondly, in collaboration with Berkshire Archaeology Research Group (BARG), posters on the geophysical and topographical surveys undertaken at Greywell last summer.

The Gallery can be found at 31 Obelisk Way, The Mall, Camberley.

Tony Wright

**North East Hampshire Historical & Archaeological Society - NEHHAS**  
[www.hants.org.uk/nehhas](http://www.hants.org.uk/nehhas) [www.nehhas.com](http://www.nehhas.com)

### **BORDERWARE**

*Medieval and post-medieval pottery was made in three clay fabrics from a number of pottery sites in Cove and Farnborough.*

*The kitchen and table-ware is known as 'Border-ware', manufactured on the Surrey - Hampshire border.*

*The earliest fabric is Coarse Border-ware (CBW), based on white firing clay with gritty texture and produced in the period 1370 - 1500. This type of clay was found in outcrops of Reading Beds which runs through Farnham and Tongham.*

*The next fabric is White Border-ware (BORD), again based on white firing clay but manufactured with a variety of glazes from the 16<sup>th</sup> century to the early 18<sup>th</sup> century.*

*The third fabric is Red Border-ware (RBOR), based on a red firing clay and made with a similar range of glazes as BORD but with production extending to the late 19<sup>th</sup> century.*

## Talk Reviews

### **Don't Ask How To Pronounce the Names! - The Archaeological Sites of Mexico.**

John Wall returned to NEHHAS on Friday 25th January to give a fascinating overview of the archaeological sites in Mexico. Starting with a chronology of Pre-Columbian Mesoamerica, John went on to describe slides on key Aztec and Mayan temple complexes. Most are World Heritage Sites and, not surprisingly, maintained in good order for the visitors.



Using images from Google Earth to introduce each site these vividly showed the layout and scale within the forest landscape. His view that probably only 10% of sites had been discovered was underscored when, having climbed to the top of the Uxmal temple, he saw other structures yet to be fully discovered poking through the tree canopy. Just as impressive as the temples were themselves was the fact that the sites had to be levelled first before building, and in the case of Monte Alban, effectively slicing off the top of a mountain.

### Talk reviews (continued)

The sites described were Teotihuacan (Aztec) dated 200/100BC – 600/700AD, Monte Alban (Aztec) dated 500BC – 900/1000AD, Palenque (Maya) dated 226BC – 1123AD and Chichen Itza (Maya) dated 600 -1200AD.

Many questions were raised about rituals, agriculture and of course comparisons with the Egyptian pyramids, given that the latter are tombs whereas those of Mexico are temples dedicated to various heavenly bodies e.g. sun, moon etc.

Altogether an excellent introduction for those wishing to visit Mexico.

Tony Wright

#### **Ginny Pringle's talk - Excavations at Holybourne Down.**

On Thursday 24th January, Ginny Pringle gave a very interesting talk to the Farnham and District Museum Society on her work on a little-known Iron Age hill fort at Holybourne Down, near Alton. As Ginny is a member of NEHHAS I thought it would be an opportunity to share some of her thoughts given at the talk. Ginny lives quite close to the site, which gave her an added interest in both the site itself and its position within the landscape.

The talk, which was extremely well illustrated, started with the evidence available from aerial photography, which clearly shows a D-shaped enclosure, but with few internal features. It straddles the crest of a hill, with a possible early trackway defining the straight boundary. There is clear visibility in each direction, but being on a ridge, it would be difficult to defend. The Roman road from Chichester to Silchester runs roughly North-South a little distance to the East.

The project was able to conduct a magnetometry survey, this showed clear evidence for the banks and ditches which had largely been lost on the surface by deep ploughing. In the future the land will be used for set-aside land, and will only be shallow ploughed. Ginny believes, from the evidence of a trench previously excavated, that the bank was no more than 2m high, so not on the scale of the well-known Danebury or Maiden Castle hill forts. There seem to have been areas of disturbance and activity inside the enclosure, but not on a large scale, and difficult to interpret from the evidence. Ginny had hoped to conduct a limited excavation during the summer of 2012, but the wet weather meant that the crop was late being harvested and the opportunity was lost.

Ginny was keen to put the enclosure in its historical setting and so a desktop search was made for known sites within a 5km radius; the ridge nearby was the setting for several Bronze Age burial mounds, and there is a nearby Banjo Enclosure clearly visible from aerial photography. Despite the Roman road there is little of Roman date in the area, the nearest being towards Farnham at Alice Holt and the ridge north of the Wey. As a result of her findings, Ginny has formed the conclusion that the enclosure was not defensive, nor lived in extensively, but was part of a system of stock management. The wetter, but more fertile Wey valley could be used for grazing of cattle, with the drier but poorer soil of the ridge being used for controlling and protecting the animals. A form of transhumance could have been practised over the year.

It is hoped that excavations can be carried out this summer, and Ginny concluded by mentioning that volunteers would be welcome. So, go along and help to solve the puzzles remaining.

Pam Taylor

## Talk reviews (continued)

### **Counterfeiting in Roman Britain A.D.43 – A.D.410** A talk by Hugh Williams

Although Hugh's talk concentrated on the period of the Roman occupation of Britain, he described how, with the emergence of coinage in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, the practice of counterfeiting quickly took off to become a profitable sideline and in his words the second oldest profession. This would continue two and a half thousand years later, and the problem still exists to-day with the substantial number of illegally produced one pound coins currently in circulation.

Throughout the talk Hugh showed a chronological progression of Roman coins, both official and counterfeit, and in comparing them demonstrated the skill of the copier. He explained the three reasons for copying, namely to create a coin at less cost than the face value, or to meet an acute shortage of official coin which would inhibit trade, and lastly, to perhaps produce tokens for local or religious purposes.

He described the methods of manufacture in counterfeiting, involving either striking base metals blanks with dies which would then be plated with gold or silver or, and a simpler method, of casting coins using the lost wax process.

It seemed that counterfeiting was especially prevalent in the northern extremity of the Empire and particularly in Britain. The Claudian invasion required large amounts of coinage to pay the soldiers, who required copper coinage to facilitate everyday purchases. These coins became the first victims of widespread copying in Britain. Progressively, the opening of new mints such as at Lyons would see more coins arriving with fewer counterfeit coins in circulation. However, further problems arose in money supply particularly in 258AD with Britain becoming part of the breakaway Gallic Empire with coin supply severely restricted. Inflation followed with an ever increasing need for more coins and so another epidemic of counterfeiting followed.

In illustrating a comparison between official and copied coins, Hugh drew attention to errors made by the forgers. On one Severus coin the copier had stamped 'CONSVL IV PAT P on the reverse but Severus had never taken a fourth consulship!

Counterfeiting after 363 became very limited and official coinage supply to Britain virtually ceased after 402 with the need for coinage in transactions seemingly disappearing after this time.

Hugh's talk raised many questions and discussion, and was much appreciated by the audience.  
Tony Wright

## Annual General Meeting

On 22nd March we are holding our Annual General Meeting at the Community Centre in Farnborough. Attendees will be given reports on the Society's activities and finances plus they have the opportunity to elect committee members. Please come along and let us have your comments and ideas. The AGM will be followed by a discussion on plans for future activities.

There are currently one or two vacancies on the committee. Nominations for the election of officers need to be made in writing to the committee at least 14 days before the meeting. The consent of the proposed nominee must first have been obtained and they must be a fully paid up member of the society. Nominations will be accepted from the floor at the AGM by the Chairman. Only fully paid up members of the society are entitled to vote.

## Borderware Pottery Analysis

Analysis of our Borderware pottery continues, based on work done by NEHHAS members on Projects Evenings. We expect to learn more about Borderware from attending the event: **Medieval Pottery & the Transition to Post-medieval Production** at **Surrey History Centre** on **11 May**. See our website [www.hants.org.uk/nehhas](http://www.hants.org.uk/nehhas) for details.

# 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).

## March 2013 to July 2013

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March 8 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Project Evening</b>
March 22 <sup>nd</sup>	<b>AGM</b>
April 12 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Project Evening</b>
April 26 <sup>th</sup>	<b>'Aspects of Greece'</b> , an illustrated talk by Pam Taylor
May 10 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Project Evening</b>
May 24 <sup>th</sup>	<b>A group Discussion on Odiham Castle</b> based on various notes and excavation reports available. Please bring along any information you may have to help. We shall be walking by the castle during the CBA Fortnight. (see below)
June 14 <sup>th</sup>	<b>'Archaeology in Hampshire and the HER'</b> , a talk by David Hopkins, County Archaeologist. It would be good to hear his views on the role of local societies such as ourselves.
June 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>Project Evening</b>

### **CBA ARCHAEOLOGY FORTNIGHT 13<sup>TH</sup> – 27<sup>TH</sup> JULY**

Two events are planned for members during this fortnight as follows:

July 17<sup>th</sup> Wednesday **Visit to Greywell Hill House, Greywell**, which is listed in the Historic Houses Association and is the home of the Earl of Malmsbury. Numbers are limited to 20 and the fee for the 2 hour tour including refreshments is £15 per person. Please note that bookings start from the 1<sup>st</sup> April when cheques, made payable to NEHHAS, and name details should be forwarded to Ginny Wright, Membership Secretary, at the address on the newsletter cover. Further details of time and meeting arrangements will be made available then.

July 27<sup>th</sup> Saturday **Walk around Greywell** taking in the Basingstoke Canal Swing Bridge, a view into the Greywell Tunnel and Odiham Castle. Meet at 2.00pm at the Fox and Goose Car Park. Allow up to 2 hours before returning to the pub for refreshments as required.

NOTE: Project evenings in the main cover our work on the Farnborough and Cove Pottery Collection in preparation of a journal by the Society. Some evenings may be devoted to local history research. The NEHHAS Library at the Archaeology Centre, Bagshot, may be accessed Tuesdays and Thursdays. Please let Virginia know if planning to go.

**For more information contact Virginia Wright on 01252 614337 or wuyeeli@gmail.com**