

NEWSLetter



SUMMER 2014

No 123

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:

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

Subscriptions are due from 1st 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

Newsletter Editor &
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Registered Charity No. 1113436

From Hunting Lodge to Folly de Grandeur

Not a 100 metres from the Basingstoke Canal near Wilks Water, and partly hidden from direct view lies a distinctive ornate facade of a building fronted by a small formal garden. Often described as King Henry's Hunting Lodge it has a pseudo-Jacobean frontage under three Dutch gables and was originally sited on the Dogmersfield Estate. This frontage, which suggests three stories because of filled in top windows, hides a 2-storey cottage, which had commonly been used as a gamekeepers lodge.

A brief history of the area begins with the establishment of a palace for the Bishop of Bath & Wells in the 13th century at Dogmersfield, the foundations of which were said to have been discovered in 1800, not far from the present Dogmersfield House. In 1570, a house and dovecote were built by the son of Thomas, Lord Wriothesley and then subsequently inherited by the Mildmay family in 1712. In 1727/8 this property was replaced by the present Dogmersfield House and in the following years formal gardens were installed as part of the estate. In the period 1739-47 further work was done with much ornamentation of the estate which included structures which have not survived, however the Hunting Lodge is thought to date from this period (though other references give 1770 as the build date).

Few details have been found as to its use, but in the 1840's the lodge was occupied by the gamekeeper James Fullbrook and a hundred years later by Alfred Porter, another gamekeeper, when the estate was owned by the Charrington family. In 1944, Brig. Charrington sold the lodge to Mrs Elspeth Fox Pitt and later in 1947 John Fowler, a partner in the firm Colefax and Fowler, purchased and improved it as his home. John died in 1977 and left the lodge to the National Trust. The NT then leased the property, now listed Grade 2, to Nicholas Haslam, the interior designer, who has made the cottage his country house and the subject of a recently published book '*Folly de Grandeur*'. It would be Haslam who theorized that the property had originally been a Tudor Hunting Lodge within the Royal Forest and consequently labelled his home 'King Henry's Hunting Lodge'.

Tony Wright.

References:

Bennett, Mary. *Odiham Common: A Report on Common rights, historic use and encroachments on the Common Hart DC*, 2009

Meirion-Jones, G I, *Dogmersfield and Hartley Mauditt: Two Deserted Villages*

www.parkandgardens.org

Haslam, Nicholas, *Folly de Grandeur; Romance and revival in an English country house*, Jacqui Small, 2013



Location: SU7550 5200

The Viking Exhibition at the British Museum (Personal musings by Pam Taylor)

During my childhood, tales of the deeds of “The Vikings” sent many a delicious shiver down the backs of the nation’s children. Their blood-thirsty ways were relayed through versions of their sagas, their strangely-named gods egging them on to victory and Valhalla. However, this image has been somewhat diluted in more recent years, their thirst for adventure and new lands rather overshadowing the more gory aspects. This exhibition set out to examine this. After all, the North and West of Britain have plenty of evidence of the pillage exacted during the Viking’s swift and largely successful raids.

The British Museum has in the last years provided a series of block buster exhibitions, the series describing the eras of four famous rulers, being particularly effective. Set in the rather confined space of the Reading Room, the exhibitions wound their way, using differing media to tell their story. Does the present exhibition have the same effect? The space available is now the large but rectangular area on the ground floor of the newly-completed research and conservation block. To break up this space temporary walls are used and the first areas that the visitor encounters are quite small, leading to queuing to see the rather small objects on display. Not a good or relaxing start to a visit. This problem eases through the exhibition, but it is one that must be addressed for subsequent shows.



But what of the exhibits themselves? They certainly expand the story as usually told from a British perspective, placing the Vikings in their world, which spans from the Black Sea and the western parts of Asia to the New World of the Americas. I was especially interested to learn of the links through the river systems of Eastern Europe down the river Dnieper to the vibrant markets of Constantinople and beyond. The Viking hoards that are found in this country often contain more Islamic dirhams than any other coins, showing the international trade and plunder that went on. Coincidentally, I have been reading Tim Severin’s book *King’s Man*, which deals with just such a scenario. The story builds through the first rooms, culminating in the amazing visual display of the Viking ship in the final room; here one felt free to look at and linger over the associated objects, which were also shown with a greater sense of imagination and freedom. Many people have stressed the fragmentary remains of the ship, contrasting with those on display in Scandinavia, but the whole effect is stunning in its evocation of a Viking adventurer. After all, what percentage of the Minoan frescoes remains, how much has been inferred and recreated? To sum up, not 10 out of 10, but a fascinating reappraisal of “The Vikings”, which sets them in their rightful place on the world stage. I look forward to future exhibitions in this new addition to the British Museum.

Pam Taylor

Current Archaeology Live! 2014 - 28th February/1st March

Tony and I attended the **CA Live!** Conference organised by Current Archaeology. Despite being an early subscriber to the magazine (No. 44!), this was the first time at this event, although we only attended the presentations on Friday evening and the following day’s sessions. The main motivation for going was to hear a presentation given by Matt Leonard, my niece’s husband; his topic on conflict archaeology being the first of three in the Saturday morning session ‘Archaeology of World War One’

On the previous evening, during refreshments, awards were presented by Julian Richards with some of the great and the good of the archaeology world there. We spoke to the winner of the research project of the year, Chantel Conneller, who excavated at the Mesolithic site at Star Carr and who knows Tim Shadla Hall from his own work there (Tim was at one time keeper of archaeology for Hampshire). Following the presentations we joined delegates at the nearby Spaghetti House at the invitation of Andrew Selkirk, Editor-in-Chief.

The later sessions on Saturday started with, 'Back to the Beginning' – three presentations on early man; then three papers on 'Early Medieval England – with topics covering Sutton Hoo, Spong Hill and the Vikings at Torksey, Lincolnshire. Finally, to close the conference, 'Time Team and Geophysics', a presentation given by John Gater largely explained how geophysics in particular developed over the past 20 years. John's talk was peppered by humorous recollections of his colleagues at Time Team.

A most rewarding conference and perhaps next time we will attend both days.

Ginny Wright

SHERDS Report Published



The publication of our **SHERDS Report** made the local newspapers in Farnborough during April. The **Star-Courier** included a short piece in an inside column while the **News & Mail** featured a large article with photos as shown here >>

A number of copies of the report (all 126 pages, many in full colour!) have been printed thanks to a grant from **Rushmoor Borough Council**. A limited number of these can be purchased for **£20 plus £2 postage**. Alternatively, a **PDF version** is available, **free to members** or **£6 to non-members**.



Contact Tony Wright wuyeeeli@gmail.com

OTHER NEWS:

Further joint NEHHAS/BARG Geophysical Survey at Greywell

From 19th to 28th June we will again be jointly surveying pasture land adjacent to The Street in Greywell. This field is closer to the church than the one we surveyed in 2012. We will again be using leveling instruments and training for this has been the subject of two recent Project Evenings.

Building Watch

On my travels around Aldershot I have noted a few old buildings undergoing extension and/or refurbishment. One of these is the farmhouse at the corner of North Lane and Eastern Road. This has for years been hidden behind wooden hoardings but recently work has started on re-furbishment which, according to the plans on the Council's website, is also to include two other dwellings in the grounds.



Directory of Local History & Archaeology.

As part of on-going improvements to our website, it has been agreed that an on-line index of local sites and organizations would be of benefit to our members plus others interested in our area. This is proving to be quite a large project but a start has been made and the results so far can be seen at: www.nehhas.com/table1.html

University of Reading "Town Life" Project at Silchester

This summer's dig at the Roman/Iron Age town at Silchester is taking place from 7th July to 16th August. The University of Reading has been carrying out the summer school dig for many years now and this is rumoured to be their last. The Open Days are on Saturday 26th July and Saturday 9th August. For more information go to:

www.reading.ac.uk/silchester/Excavations/sil-excavations.aspx

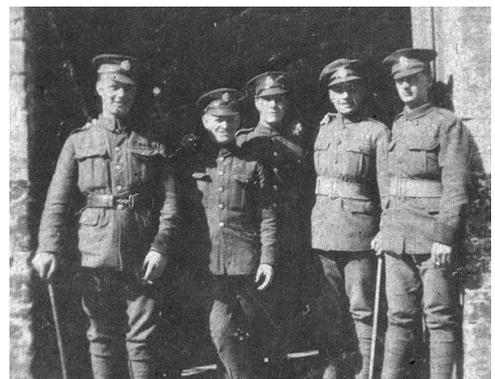
Basing House excavation (coinciding with the 2014 CBA Festival).

The University of Southampton, the University of York and Hampshire Museums Services are conducting a dig at Basing House following last year's geophysical survey. The dig will take place from 21st July to 16th August and a request has been made for volunteers. For more information go to:

basinghouseproject.org/2014/02/11/volunteer-for-2014.

Lives of the First World War.

Recently launched on the web is "Lives of the First World War", a project to establish a digital memorial to the 8 million people involved in "The Great War", many of whose names are known but little else. It is a collaboration between the Imperial War Museum (IWM) and DC Thomson Family History who run genealogical websites "findmypast" and "genesreunited". I've got involved as I had an uncle who survived and left a few photos and other items from the conflict. He also kept diaries but, unfortunately, after his death in 1977 his widow destroyed them!



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I also had a great-uncle who was in the Royal Navy but he was killed at the Battle of Jutland in 1916. At present only the army records are on-line but they plan to include RN, other services and civilian names known to the IWM.

The website "livesofthefirstworldwar.org" is free to use to search for a named individual but if you want to add details or photographs, or link information from the 1901 or 1911 census or the registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages, then you will need to subscribe. This will cost you £6 per month or £50 per annum. I found the procedure for linking and adding details a little cumbersome but that may be because I'm working from an iPad tablet rather than a laptop or desktop computer! There is also the possibility of building "communities" of people involved in the war from one town or village. A start could be made by looking at the names recorded on plaques in churches or on war memorials. For those already interested in genealogy this is a way of adding to the core of knowledge about the First World War during this centenary year.

Richard Hoyland

Review of Recent Talks:

Egypt – Off and On the Beaten Path!

Its not often one gets an 'overture' to a talk, but in keeping with the subject matter John Wall ran a short video of Wilson, Keppel and, Betty doing their Egyptian sand dance. As is usual with John we get good value with his presentations, and *Egypt – Off and On the Beaten Path* was no exception. Because many of the sites visited and described have far less dramatic structures than for example at Karnak, John used slides from Google Earth to good effect, showing clear outlines of the temples and tombs, which were otherwise less clear on the ground. As a result a full selection of sites was chosen to reflect Egyptian history up to and including the Ptolemaic period.

John particularly drew attention to the early transition in construction from mud-brick to stone, showing the tentative initial building of stone columns set into walls and only later having the confidence to build independent columns. From Fayum in the north to Philae in the south, John highlighted the less clear or just difficult to reach parts of Egypt. Typically, the mud-brick funerary enclosure at Abydos of Khasekhemwy the last Abydene ruler, the less visited temple of Ptolemy IV at the rear of the tomb-builder workers village at Deir el Medina, the vividly painted ceiling in the temple to Hathor at Dendera and the graffiti drawn on the stones in the Greywache quarries at Wadi Hammamat in the eastern desert. Throughout the talk, John's slides illustrated the progressive improvement in the quality of the relief's up to the Ptolemaic period, particularly at Kom Ombo.

An excellent presentation well appreciated by a good attendance.

Tony Wright

Travels in the Balkans

On 25th April, Pam gave an illustrated talk on her holiday in the Balkans in 2013. Starting in Sofia in Bulgaria with its many fine buildings, they travelled south-west into Macedonia. Passing through Kriva Palanka then Skopje, the capital of Macedonia, we were treated to views of spectacular mountain scenery and lakes plus many superb buildings, often brilliantly decorated inside with frescos and mosaics. Moving further south, via Lake Ohrid on the border with Albania, Pam entered northern Greece passing through several historic towns including Thessaloniki. After taking a boat trip around Mount Athos the tour travelled north via Kavala and Bansko to end back in Sofia.

Programme

Meetings on second and fourth Fridays of the month in Room 6 of the Farnborough Community Centre, Meudon Avenue, Farnborough. Meetings at 7.30pm for 7.45pm unless otherwise stated. Members and visitors are asked to make a contribution of £1.50 towards room hire. (tea/coffee/biscuits free)

September 2014 to December 2014

- September 12th** **Project Evening - Greywell Survey Report** and /or library re-organisation
- September 26th** **An Introduction to the Anglo-Saxon Charters** - a presentation by **Dr. Kate Wiles**
- October 10th** **Project Evening;** - Continuing with **Greywell Survey Report** and/or library re-organisation
- October 24th** **A History around Reading Abbey** an illustrated presentation by **Diana and Peter White**
- November 14th** **Down the Memory Line – Railways on Old Picture Postcards**
A programme given by **John Hollands** that draws on a mainly Edwardian card collection
- November 28th** **Project Evening**
- December 12th** **Members Evening:** Holiday & General Interest presentations followed by Seasonal Refreshments

Please note that the **NEHHAS library** has now moved to **Farnborough Community Centre**. Library access will generally be at our regular Friday evening meetings.

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