

NEWSLetter



WINTER 2014-15

No 124

NEHHAS

North East Hampshire Historical & Archaeological Society

We are one of the few active archaeological amateur societies in Hampshire and are recognised 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 &
Website Manager:
Richard Hoyland

Treasurer &
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Information

The Society's e-mail address is:
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Greywell Survey 2014



As we go to press, the draft report on the Greywell Survey undertaken in June 2014 has been issued for validation/amendment by NEHHAS and others. The objectives of the surveys being to ascertain any evidence related to the location of both the remains and site of Greywell Manor House and a possible deserted medieval village.

The report details the approach and methodology taken over the 2-week period in June and goes into considerable depth in explaining the results of each of the resistivity, magnetometry and topographical surveys conducted in Beverton's Meadow.

Whilst most of the historical background was covered in the report on the 2012 BARG/NEHHAS survey in Walk Meadow some new evidence shown on early maps has been taken into account in the conclusions. Recommendation for further work is also included. It is hoped that the final report will be published in January when copies will be made available to members.

Tony Wright

Building Watch in Aldershot

During my walks around Aldershot I have become aware of a number of features and old buildings which I thought worthy of note. This industrial building near to Aldershot train station caught my eye some while back. With its elegant arched windows and doorway, it stands in contrast to the brutally "modern" edifice next door!

That such a building should still be in use in the 21st century is a



testament to its design and construction. I have yet to investigate its history and original purpose.

Other buildings that I have commented on previously include the farmhouse at the corner of North Lane and Eastern Road. This old building has now been refurbished and seems to be occupied. It has a new front wall with iron railings which allows it to be seen from the road.



The single-story extension to the ancient cottage at the corner of Newport Road and Lower Newport Road also seems complete except for replacing the tiles on the upper-story wall above the new roof.

RH

Other Items of News

Computer Migration

The removal of support for Microsoft Windows XP in April 2014 presented me with a problem in maintaining our society website plus the production of posters and newsletters. However it has been possible to migrate most this work onto Apple products which, it is hoped, will present fewer problems in the long term(?). This newsletter has been edited on an Apple Mac using their word-processor "Pages" while the website is currently being updated using an "app" on the iPad. It is hoped to identify a suitable program for website maintenance on the Mac in the near future as the iPad is not ideal for editing purposes! A better graphics program for the Mac is also on my "wish-list" as "iPhoto" has some limitations. If anyone has experience in Apple software and can advise me it would be much appreciated.

Richard Hoyland

Our Library Move.

The society's library has now been transferred from the Archaeology Centre, Bagshot to the Community Centre, Farnborough and as such will be altogether more accessible and therefore more fully used. The library comprises a collection of reference books, reports on excavations and local maps. Project evenings will enable members to tidy up the books but there is a need for a librarian to re-catalogue the collection. The photo shows the first of many car-loads leaving the Archaeology Centre, Bagshot.



Fleet Library Heritage Centre

The well used Heritage Centre on the 1st floor of Fleet Library has recently had a tidy up. More shelving space has been provided so as to hold a greater number of back issues of local society journals and newsletters. We have now contributed a range of back issues of NEHHAS newsletters and hopefully these will let readers know what we have been doing in the recent past and raise awareness in the society.

Review of Recent Talks:

September 26th - An Introduction to the Anglo-Saxon Charters - A presentation by Dr. Kate Wiles

With the help of a series of maps, Kate began with a short history of the establishment of the Anglo-Saxon Kingdom from the migration to Britain of the Angles, Jutes and Saxons; the consequent displacement of the native Britons and the eventual setting up of the Saxon Heptarchy.

The recording of the events of the time became the responsibility of the scribes – usually monks, but there were independent scribes. Their literacy was demonstrated with early examples of runic, latin and old English texts even combined in a single document. Subsequently, latin and old English were used together in short legal documents called charters and these formed agreements typically between King and church in the transfer of land. Kate showed a number of charters, translating the text and explaining the abbreviations and notations used by the writer and also showing amendments or additions to the text which were made later. Over time, the simple text-only document would become more elaborate with illustrations in colour, further demonstrating the scribe's skills.

Forgeries were apparently common and measures were needed to ensure validation, particularly at the termination of an agreement between say two parties – often by splitting the charter in half leaving remnants of text that could be matched up by each at some future date. In time, charters would be bound together in a volume or roll called a cartulary and these would often include title deeds to an estate.

Kate suggested that those wishing to see examples of charters relating to the local area should visit www.esawyer.org.uk and then go to “browse”, then “archives”, then to “Winchester Old Minster”. Typically, charter number S820 and dated AD 973, describes King Edgar granting 45 hides at Crondall to Old Minster, Winchester, which is written in a combination of latin and old English.

A scholarly presentation which generated many questions, particularly related to early boundaries where it was agreed further research is needed.

AW

October 24th - Illustrated talk by Diana White on “Reading Abbey”.

Founded by Henry I in 1121 the Abbey was visited by Henry II, Henry III and much later Edward IV. Henry I died in Normandy but his body was brought back to be buried in front of the alter at the Abbey. However in 1538 the Abbey was demolished during Henry VIII's Dissolution of the Monasteries. As a result Henry I's body is now thought to lie beneath the Victorian Reading Gaol! Much of the white Caen stone from which the abbey was built was re-used in bridge construction.

November 14th - An illustrated talk "**Down the Memory Line – Railways on Old Picture Postcards**" given by **John Hollands**.

John took us from London to the South Coast and to the West Country on named trains such as "Brighton Belle", "Atlantic Coast Express", "Devon Belle", "Ocean Liner Express" and others. We ventured briefly onto the continent and also to Egypt and North America. We even went into the realm of fantasy with Rowland Emmett's "Festival of Britain" trains in the Battersea Pleasure Gardens! All-in-all something to bring back memories for those of us who were around in the 1950's and 60's.

RH

December 12th - Members Talks

At the final meeting of 2014 members enjoyed a trio of short presentations followed by seasonal refreshments. The first presentation by **Les Lawrie** described his visit to **Cove Fort** in **Utah**, a Mormon site founded in 1867 on the instructions of Brigham Young. This was one of a string of 'Way' stations providing telegraph office and Pony Express stop on the Mormon Corridor.

The fort was square, 100 feet each side, with four feet thick walls made of volcanic rock. It was restored in 1989 after the Church of Latter-day Saints had decided it was no longer required, and re-opened as an historic site for visitors.

The second presentation by **Katrina Slocombe** was based on her participation during excavations in 2014 at **Woking Palace**, joining others from 'Friends of Woking Palace' and the 'Surrey County Archaeological Unit'. Katrina described with slides some of the work relating to the massive walls of the Tudor kitchen and a particularly interesting and well travelled 'Valencian' tile found near the moat.

The final talk given by **Richard Hoyland** recalled a stop-over in **Iceland** he made with his family en-route to Canada. In just a short time Richard squeezed in a number of sights in the capital **Reykjavik**, including the cathedral and even managed a dip in the 'Blue Lagoon' volcanically heated outdoor spa!

All in all an excellent finish to the year's programme, followed by drinks and mince pies.



Programme

Meetings on second and fourth Fridays of the month in Room 6 of the Farnborough Community Centre, Meudon Avenue, Farnborough. Meetings start 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)

January 2015 to June 2015

January 9th - Project Evening: Library re-organisation.

January 23rd - John Wall returns to give an illustrated talk entitled 'Turkey, Crossroads of the Continents'.

February 13th - Project Evening.

February 27th - The Romano-British Site at Flexford, a presentation by **David Calow** from Surrey Archaeological Society.

March 13th - Project Evening.

March 27th - A.G.M.

April 10th - Project Evening.

April 24th - "Joseph Bazalgette", a presentation by **Davena Lawrence** on the 19th century civil engineer.

May 8th - "The Emperor's New Nose - the story of Justinian II", a talk given by **Hugh Williams**.

May 22nd - Project Evening.

June 12th - T.B.A.

June 26th - Project Evening.

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