

NEWSLetter



WINTER 2015/16 No 126

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:
Hon. Treasurer,

Virginia Wright,
1 Longmead, Fleet,
GU52 7TR.

Information is regularly updated on the website. 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 Membership Secretary or to the Treasurer made out to 'NEHHAS'. Subscriptions cover insurance whilst on NEHHAS approved excavations.

Who's Who

President: Geoff Hoare

Chair: John Paddon

Secretary: Pam Taylor

Hon. Treasurer:
Virginia Wright
01252 614337

Membership Secretary:
Charlie Fraser-Fleming
07714 322352

Newsletter Editor &
Website Manager:
Richard Hoyland

Information

The Society's e-mail address is:

info@nehhas.com

Contents

Visit To Guildford Museum Stores.

A 'New' Pottery Kiln at the 17th Century Village, Gosport.

NEHHAS Neatham Excavations (1971). Initial Analysis Of Bones

CBA South-East Conference - Life in the Mesolithic, etc.

Other news - Badshot Lea Storage and NEHHAS Committee Changes

Programme of events from January to March 2016.

Registered Charity No. 1113436

Visit To Guildford Museum Stores.

An arrangement was made to visit the above stores through Catriona Smellie, the Collections Officer for Guildford Borough Council Heritage Services. The objective was to compare finds from 53 Brookside Park, Hawley, which are in NEHHAS possession, with sherds held at the museum stores from the Old Malt House in Chapel Lane. Brookside Park is sited close to the rear of the Old Malt House garden.



Photograph courtesy of Guildford Museum Stores

At the stores Andrew Longworth located some 10 boxes of sherds for examination which were probably 25-30% of their collection from the Old Malt House. Some sherds in the sample seen were marked and bagged but for the most part, little identification had taken place. Their collection had some red sherds but mainly white border ware, no coarse ware and no transitional ware which compares broadly with our finds. Glaze colours were similar and some forms were represented in both collections, namely money box, porringers, tripod pipkins with both ledge and everted rims, and chamber pots. Other than 'pie crust' rim decoration there seemed little similarity in plate rim decoration with our sherds in terms of applied slip and wavy incision designs. In fact, some of the decorated rims had not been seen in any of the NEHHAS collection. (see photo)

On balance it was not conclusive that our sherds came entirely from the Old Malt House and since the site was known to be a dump before the mobile homes were established there, it is possible the finds originated from more than one kiln or domestic waste location.

A cursory look around the stores revealed that they hold material from the Farnborough Convent site (Ship Lane), Oriel Cottage, Outsheat Farm (Minley Road) site and Rectory Road Farnborough.

TW

A 'New' Pottery Kiln at the 17th Century Village, Gosport

On Friday 7th August 2015 a visit was made to Little Woodham 17th Century Village near Gosport in Hampshire. This followed an announcement in the Basingstoke Historical & Archaeological Society newsletter that a replica 17th C kiln was to be fired up that week. The museum is usually open at week-ends in the summer and for a whole week in August.

Little Woodham is a re-created hamlet set in the year 1642, just before the outbreak of the English Civil War. It consists of a few houses and workshops built and peopled by members of the Gosport Living History Society. Their website can be found at: www.littlewoodham.org.uk



On the day of our visit there were several 'Villagers' in period costume, these were:

Seamstress - who told us about folk remedies and superstitions.

Wheelwright - who was involved in building a wall!

Blacksmith - the forge was not in use that day.

Ale-house - the patron showed us foods and drinks common at that time.

Weaving Shop - an operating loom & display of the common dye colours.

Bodger - who was turning chair-legs, etc. on a Pole Lathe in the woods.

Pottery workshop - producing pottery thrown on a kick wheel and fired in the recently completed Replica Kiln.



The kiln had been fired with pots for the first time on Sunday, 2nd August and was opened a few days later. The resultant pots (unglazed) were on display in the Pottery Workshop. The potter at Little Woodham is Roger Harris, who I had previously contacted by email. He had told me about the design process which started with a replica C17th kiln built in the USA at a historic open-air museum. He said:

"I must point out that I am not a professional potter. Having spent some time reconstructing excavated pottery, I thought that I should find out how it was made. So I went off to evening classes to learn the basics. When I was given the go ahead to build a pottery, complete with a replica kiln at Little Woodham I started to panic, because as you know, there is often nothing surviving of the kiln structure above the lowest course or two of bricks or rubble stone, if you are lucky.

My research took me to the website of the 'Plimoth Plantation' historic village in the USA where they had a working replica pottery kiln of the mid seventeenth century. I contacted the conservator there, saying that I was planning to build a kiln like theirs and asking for any information on the structure. In reply she sent me the name and address of the man who built theirs and he is David Dawson, an English archaeologist living in Taunton, Somerset.

In the meantime I had found my way to Barnstaple Museum, in North Devon, where they have on show a large portion of a mid C17th kiln which was lifted and moved into the museum. It is now displayed with the missing sections reconstructed.

On returning home from Barnstaple I sent an email to David Dawson, explaining that I wanted to build a working replica kiln like the one he constructed in America, and that I would be grateful for any information at all on the structure of the thing. Within a couple of days I received an email with a few photographs and scans of the relevant pages of his notebook, showing sketch plans, elevations and sections of the kiln, plus all the coursing data.

David Dawson, and his collaborator Oliver Kent are both obsessed with kilns, Oliver is also a potter and the two of them set up an organisation called the 'Bickley Project', based on a farm just outside the village of Bickley, which I think is in Gloucestershire. This started about thirty years ago, and whenever they excavated a pottery kiln they would go to the field in Bickley and build a kiln based on the excavated remains, they would then fire pottery in it. If the firing didn't work, they would modify the conjectural parts of the kiln and try again. I think the total number of kilns that they have built is in excess of forty, ranging from prehistoric to the seventeenth century. David Dawson is also a leading light in the Medieval Pottery Research Group.

Shortly after we started the pottery project at Little Woodham, we were visited by five delegates from a group called Exarc, which is based in the Netherlands. Exarc is an umbrella organisation for experimental archaeologists in Europe, and having heard of our aim to eventually produce seventeenth century ceramics using the technology of the day, they thought that we would be worth a visit. They have agreed to help us in any way possible, and may even fund a write up of the project.

It has taken me some time to get this far, the first problem was finding an early kick wheel to replicate, but eventually my wife and I stumbled across one in a museum in Germany; in fact there are a number of 'oldish' wheels in Germany, Austria and Eastern France, and I think I have seen most of them. Then came the kiln, but the 'Plimoth Plantation' staff helped out there, and now there is the question of glazes. Some of my pottery is for use in Little Woodham village, and the remainder is to be sold in the shop to visitors, and so a true lead glaze on these vessels is ruled out. I have made a very small number of lead glazed pots, but my ambition is to fire an entire kiln full of true lead glazed ware. But first I must learn to use the kiln!

If you would like more information about the pottery or the kiln firing, please contact me at rogerharris@pumpcottage.me.uk ”.





Photos: Jan and Richard Hoyland, Text: Richard Hoyland and Roger Harris.

NEHHAS Neatham Excavations (1971). Initial Analysis Of Bones

The report on these excavations, written in 1987, followed the publication of the Excavation Report 1969-1971 in 1986 by Martin Millet and David Graham of the Surrey Archaeology Society (NEHHAS Library Reference RE88). SAS reported on their work on an area north of the NEHHAS site at Neatham. Both sites being part of a Romano-British small town, thought to be *Vindomi* as mentioned in the Antonine Itinerary.

The NEHHAS report stated that ‘several hundred bone fragments were found in the two trenches excavated (NV36/A and NV36/B) including large pieces of ox, pig, sheep, horse, goat and worked antler – clinker – and a large number of oyster shells’. It continued that ‘these finds are to be analysed by layer’. In contrast, the Millet/Graham report stated that, on their SAS site, some 2,000 pieces of well preserved bone had been examined. The species recognised were ox, sheep/goat, pig, dog, cat, red deer, hare, rabbit, domestic fowl, goose, duck and almost all were found in pits.

The recent clearance of Neatham material from the Badshot Lea stores revealed significantly fewer bones and no written analysis was found. An initial examination by members, undertaken during Project Evenings, has now been made recording possible species, bone type and any evidence of butchery or other intervention by layer in each trench. The type of intervention found included:

Sheep, Metacarpal	-	Ends broken off, possibly to remove marrow
Deer, Femur	-	Worked, cut marks
Ox, Humerous	-	Cut/saw marks
Horse, Metacarpal	-	Cut marks, butchery
Pig, Tusk	-	Worn, possible use as tool
Small Mammal	-	Butchery

Ox, Metacarpal	-	Chewed ends
Limb bones	-	Burnt
Ox, Metacarpal	-	Burnt
Deer, Antler	-	Butchery
Deer, Antler	-	Burnt ends, possibly from raking fires
Ox, Bone	-	Butchery

TABLE 1 and TABLE 2

The majority of large bones was found in the lower levels i.e. 6-9 for Trench A (depth 2.20 – 2.45 metres) and layers 6-10 in Trench B , these are considered to relate to the late Roman period as established from the coin finds.

TABLE 1

NEHHAS NEATHAM EXCAVATIONS 1971 BONE ANALYSIS TRENCH A

	LEVELS											
	?	1	1-2	3	4	5	4-5- 6	6	6-7	7	8	9
PIG	2W					3W	1	11	2	3		
SHEEP	1	1W				8		6				
BIRD		3										
MAMMAL			3W					4W				2
OX					2W	7W		2B	2	6	8	
COW					3						1	2W
HORSE							1				3	
DEER										1W		
BEAVER										1		
BOAR												1
UNKNOWN						70		6	2	9	1	
TOTAL	3	4	3		5	88*	1	9	25	19	16	5

*Contains small fragments

W - worked, B - burnt

Late
Roman
Period

TABLE 2

	NEHHAS NEATHAM EXCAVATIONS 1971										BONE ANALYSIS		TRENCH B	
	LEVELS													
	?	1	2	3	4	5	5-6	6	7	7-8	8	9	9-10	
PIG	2					1		3	1	1	6	2		
SHEEP				2W					4		4	2		
BIRD														
MAMMAL														
OX/COW	1		2					2W	5		13	1	1W	
DOG							1W							
HORSE						1			10		1	3W		
DEER							1W		12					
CHICKEN									1					
CALF/PONY												1		
UNKNOWN				1					21		8			
TOTAL	3			5		2	2	5	54	1	32	9	1	

W - worked, B - burnt

Late Roman
Period

Tony Wright

Report on the CBA South-East Conference - 'Life in the Mesolithic and New Perspectives on the Mesolithic/Neolithic Transition'

Some 100 delegates attended the Conference on Saturday 14th November 2015, held at the Surrey History Centre, Woking. The programme of eight speakers with each looking at different aspects of the above topic.

The keynote speaker was Professor Martin Bell of Reading University who was introduced as the 'doyen of the Mesolithic'. He described the Mesolithic as a neglected area in past research (a theme that was covered in the last session). His wide ranging presentation covered sites in the Kennet Valley, dated from 9300 to 7000 BC; the Severn Estuary, 6000 to 4700 BC and the Somerset Levels from the early Mesolithic to the Neolithic. He showed illustrations of footprint sites – many from children - from his current work at Goldcliff in

South Wales, which showed the directions of the paths taken from individual footprints which is not often studied.

Phil Jones described the long running excavations at North Park Farm, Bletchingley undertaken by Surrey County Archaeological Unit, with flints found on greensand from very early deposits beginning at the end of the Paleolithic. Many types of microliths were recorded but because it appeared to be a persistently used site over time (where people returned to repeatedly) it was difficult to fully date phases of individual factory activity. A number of hearths and fire sites were revealed in the sand.

The third presentation was given by Gary Momber from Hampshire and Isle of Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology who spoke of their work at Bouldnor Cliff - a presentation he gave to NEHHAS a few years ago. This submerged Mesolithic site in the Western Solent produced flints similar in type to those found in continental Europe. Some worked timber pieces found may, he suggested, relate to possible trackways and other evidence of burning on the wood indicated perhaps boat-building. Further research is on-going to match cut marks found on large timbers using the Trust's own worked flints.

Mike Donnelly of Oxford University spoke about work done on a Mesolithic site at Bexley, East Sussex, which ended in 2014. This was a massive site and apparently used over a long period - 8500-4400 BC was suggested. The scale of the excavations was demonstrated by the level of on-site work with some 7000 buckets of material collected per week, to be sieved. Analysis of the flints suggested a division of labour was evident with knappers as a separate group to hunter gatherers. Evidence from poor or unfinished work may indicate that perhaps children were being taught to flint knap on the site. No base camp was found and he suggested that small family groups were probably living in the open landscape.

Connectivity was the theme from Dr Fraser Sturt of Southampton University, who described similar types of flint found in UK sites, particularly the Scilly's and Scotland, with those found in France, whilst Jodie Lewis's paper addressed finds in caves and near springs. Dr Rick Schulting of Oxford University spoke of the low record of violence in the Mesolithic compared with the Neolithic because of the very few British sites. Slides of both the incidence of depressions, fractures and trepanning in skulls from the Neolithic, and the finds of arrow heads in humans but not in wild animals showed, in his opinion, that violence was endemic in society then.

The final presentation by Don Henson of York University looked at the historically low incidence of references to the Mesolithic in past publication of all varieties – learned and popular - compared to other phases of human activity. The UK's presentation of the Mesolithic in museums is poor, he said, compared to say, Scandinavia but he believed there was a resurgence in the Mesolithic period now in British archaeology citing some of the previous speakers research.

A well put together conference with a mix of papers from both academics and practitioners.
Ginny and Tony Wright

Other News - NEHHAS Storage at Badshot Lea (BL) and Farnborough Community Centre

Following a drive to reduce our dependence on third-party storage we have brought much of the finds from previous excavations to the Farnborough Community Centre (where we hold our twice-monthly meetings). Currently all the Borderware Reserve Collection (other than a display collection) is held in the FCC loft in numbered boxes by site. In addition, 6 labelled trays and 1 carton of material (Roman) from Neatham has been transferred from BL to the FCC loft. Further trays of Roman material have also been transferred relating to Alice Holt, Well, East Anton, Rockbourne Long Sutton, Barley Pound and Dippenhall Farm.

All the above join originally held artefacts from the Roman Road project from Old Down Wood, Isington and Roe Down Wood. This leaves mainly Heckfield material (Iron-Age and post-medieval) at BL together with 3 trays of finds from Odiham by-pass held in Pam's garage. Effectively, the loft is now at capacity in terms of accessibility and floor loading. Action is required to clear out a number of boxes of old journals/copy reports to provide further space and the eventual move of all artefacts out of BL.

NEHHAS Committee Changes.

Rosemary Rawcliffe who has been with us for a number of years and held the post of Vice Chair on the Committee, has decided not to renew her subscription this year. She is moving to the South Coast to be nearer to the majority of her family, once her hip operation is healed. She carried out a great deal of research into the Farnborough Workhouse leading to a series of presentations made to other societies which increased the profile of NEHHAS and brought in funds. She also worked on the history of local schools and the church rates but found the physical difficulty in accessing the reference collections at Kew, Woking and Winchester to be a great frustration. We thank her and wish her well, hoping for speedy recovery and renewed enthusiasm following her operation.

Charlie Fraser-Fleming is taking over the position of Membership Secretary from Virginia Wright.

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)

January 2016 to March 2016

January 22 nd	The Portable Antiquities Scheme – an update to be given by Katie Hinds , the Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer .
February 12 th	Project Evening – continuing analysis of the societies finds.
February 26 th	Julian the Apostate – a presentation and return visit by Hugh Williams , who discusses the last pagan ruler of the Roman Empire.
March 11 th	AGM

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