

# NEWSLetter



SUMMER 2016

No 127

## 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 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,  
Charlie Fraser-Fleming  
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or phone: 07714 322352

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 1<sup>st</sup> 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:

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## Information

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## Contents

**Obituary - Geoffrey Stanley Hoare**

**Dig Basing!**

**Silchester Excavations – 1997-2015**

**Emperor Napoléon III**

**Programme of events from September to December 2016.**

## Obituary - Geoffrey Stanley Hoare

Geoff Hoare, Honorary President of NEHHAS, died on the 13th May 2016 at the age of 89. He had been suffering from Parkinson's disease in recent years.



Geoff joined NEHHAS in the late 1970's following retirement from a career in engineering with British Airways. In due course he became Chairman, Director of Archaeology and then from 2000, Honorary President.

Always with the constant support and participation of his wife Maisie, he ran numerous excavations for NEHHAS and worked with other organisations notably at St Alban's Abbey with Martin Biddle in 1978, at Wortley Roman Villa with the University of Keele in the 1980's and, again with Martin & Berthe Biddle, at Repton Church on the Viking Cemetery there between 1980 and 1986. During these periods Geoff achieved the Advanced Certificate of Archaeology at Reading and Oxford Universities.

For NEHHAS he ran the excavations at Yateley Manor and St Peter's Church, Yateley – local to his home - and at The Grove, Heckfield from 1991 to 2000 where for many of these summer digs he undertook the training of archaeology students. The above photo was taken at Heckfield with Geoff transporting his kit to the excavation site on an old pram chassis.

Geoff will be remembered by all those who met him as a patient, methodical and good humoured archaeologist. His funeral was held at Easthampstead Crematorium, Wokingham, on 1st June.

## Dig Basing!

The first of two week-end excavations in Old Basing took place on the 18th and 19th June. Organised by the Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society this was I believe the third season of digs at properties in the village and the first in which members of NEHHAS were invited to participate. Ginny and I, Katrina Slocombe, Marija Currell and Ian Simpson took part – each was allocated a garden location and accompanied by a member of BAHS. Metre square plots had previously been marked out and so over the two days we progressively trowelled down either to natural or a level conducive with safety. Some of us did more than one trench as in the case of Ian and Marija's drain – see photograph – where this had to be back-filled and other trenches worked on.



The weather was good and members enjoyed participating; the property owners were very willing and interested hosts - but from our perspective very little in the way of significant finds were uncovered. Hopefully we will get a report on the success or otherwise of the week-end from Ian Waite.

The second week-end event is planned for 17th/18th September and I will be contacting members again to confirm their interest in taking part.

Tony Wright

### **Silchester Excavations – 1997-2015 Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> March**



There was a good attendance at Church Hall, Basingstoke, for the Barbara Applin Memorial Lecture given by Professor Michael Fulford of Reading University and hosted by Basingstoke Archaeological Society. He gave a broad-brush resume of the eighteen years of excavations at Silchester, beginning by describing the vast scale of activity this involved – thousands of contexts, samples and finds – not to mention the two million hours of student time on the digs!!

He spoke of the reasons for originally selecting Insular IX out of the many Insulars excavated in the Victorian era – essentially because of the alignment of the main building being at odds with the overlaying Roman road grid system and also significant open space where there may be hidden structures. He went on to describe the peeling away of phases of Roman occupation which took place within the Insular and the successive finds over the years, in particular the increasing variety of foods which progressively became available, as well as the range of artefacts.

There were some notable finds over the years and some mysteries. In particular the Ogham stone with its runic text – he explained that Silchester was the most easterly location in the UK for these stones, and are principally found in Ireland. Also two other finds, an Iron Age coin of Verica who ruled Calleva in the first half of the first century AD, and a folding knife with mating dogs carved in ivory – a unique find not seen elsewhere. A most notable mystery, which raised a number of questions, was the discovery of deliberately holed vessels buried deep in pits?

Though physical work on Insular IX has now finished further excavations are to continue within Insular III but Professor Fulford was reluctant to go into detail on this. He did say that report writing was well underway and he hoped to have the first volume, covering the Iron Age, finished by the end of this year.

In closing remarks he thanked all those who had taken part in the digs over the years.

## Emperor Napoléon III

Ever since arriving in Farnborough in 1998, it has puzzled me as to why we have an ex-Emperor of France interred in our midst! Also, if he is Napoléon III, what happened to Napoléon II? So I set out to discover something of the Bonaparte family history since the Battle of Waterloo.

'Our' Napoléon was born in 1808 in Paris as Louis-Napoléon Bonaparte, nephew of Napoléon I. He was sent into exile with the rest of the family in 1815 following the defeat of his uncle. He grew up in Switzerland with his mother, who instilled in him a longing for France and an admiration for his uncle. When he was a young man, Louis-Napoléon moved to Italy where he became interested in history and ideas of national liberty. He and his elder brother joined the Carbonari, a revolutionary group fighting against Austrian control over Northern Italy. When troops cracked down on their activities in 1831, the brothers fled. Already suffering from measles, Louis-Napoléon's elder brother died during the escape.

A further early death in the family, that of Louis-Napoléon's cousin, the Duke of Reichstadt (Napoléon I's only son), made him next in line after his father, for the French throne. Louis-Napoléon completed his military training and studied economic and social issues in preparation for this role. He returned to France in 1836 in an attempt to initiate a Bonapartist coup at Strasbourg. He called on the local garrison to help him restore the Napoléonic Empire but instead of joining him, the local troops arrested him. King Louis-Philippe exiled Louis-Napoléon to the United States, but he was recalled to Switzerland early in 1837 due to his mother's fatal illness. Expelled from Switzerland the following year, he settled in England.

Louis-Napoleon's next attempt to gain power was in 1840 when, with 50 hired soldiers, he sailed to Boulogne. Again the town's garrison would not join in and he was arrested. This time, however, he was not exiled but brought to trial and sentenced to confinement in a castle in the town of Ham. He escaped in 1846 and fled to England where he waited for another chance to seize power. Just two months later his father died, officially making Louis-Napoléon the heir to the Bonaparte legacy.

In 1848 a revolution occurred in France and the monarchy was overthrown establishing the Second Republic. After considerable effort Louis-Napoléon managed to get himself elected as President. Returning to Paris after years of exile he did not like what he found. The French capital was overcrowded, dingy, dirty and riddled with disease. The population had increased to more than a million despite regular outbreaks of cholera and typhoid. Paris desperately needed modernisation with more light, fresh air, clean water and good sanitation.



Toward the end of his term of office as President, in 1851 Louis-Napoléon seized dictatorial powers, claiming the right to do so as a referendum on his universal popularity.

He then dissolved the Assembly and declared a new constitution which was soon approved by a plebiscite. He held another plebiscite in November 1852 and was confirmed as emperor, becoming Napoléon III, and thereby officially ending the Second Republic and ushering in the Second French Empire.

Having declared himself Emperor, he set to work modernising France, promoting the construction of railways and other means of furthering industry and agriculture. He was also an ardent supporter of French inventors and the emerging art group which became known as the *Impressionists*. He took a personal interest in the rebuilding of modern Paris and gave the job of Prefect of the Seine to Georges-Eugène Haussmann with the task to transform the city.

The centre of the city was a cradle of discontent and revolution, wagons, carriages and carts could barely move through the streets. Between 1830 and 1848, seven armed uprisings and revolts had broken out in the centre of Paris. The residents of these neighbourhoods took up the paving stones and blocked the narrow streets with barricades, which had to be removed by the army. One of these revolts was described by Victor Hugo in his novel *Les Misérables*.



Internationally, Haussmann is celebrated for all that is now admired about the French capital; notably the wide avenues flanked by imposing buildings of neatly dressed stone with intricate wrought iron balconies. Also beneath Paris, Haussmann oversaw the installation of the city's complex sewage network. He commissioned reservoirs and aqueducts to bring clean drinking water to the city. On his orders, gas lamps were installed along the widened cobbled streets. This 1898 painting is by Camille Pissarro.

The Crimean War (1854-56) offered Napoléon III a chance to form a long-sought alliance with Britain, culminating with a successful effort in stopping Russian expansion toward the Mediterranean. More important in the end, the defeat of Russia and the alliance with Britain gave France increased influence in Europe. The Paris Peace Conference of 1856 represented a high-water mark for the emperor in foreign affairs.

In addition to his liaisons with many women over the years, in 1853 Napoléon III married the Spanish beauty Eugénie de Montijo. In 1856 she bore him a son, thus providing for the succession.

Napoléon III's second war was fought in 1859 for the Italian nationalist cause. He planned the liberation of Italy and the creation of a federation of four states under the presidency of the pope. Although French battles against Austria were successful, Napoléon III was

unable to control the Italian nationalist movement. France was then threatened on the Rhine by Prussia and Napoléon lost internal support but managed to gain Nice and Savoy.

Napoléon III then got involved in an attempt to establish a friendly, pro-Catholic regime in Mexico under the Austrian prince Maximilian. Mexican resistance proved stronger than expected and when the United States Civil War ended there was pressure on Napoléon to withdraw. This he did in 1867 resulting in powerful criticism in France, intensified by the subsequent execution of Maximilian in Mexico. The *Impressionist* artist, Édouard Manet depicted the firing squad in one of his paintings, one soldier bearing a strong resemblance to Napoléon!

Napoléon had also given support to the French/Egyptian construction of the Suez Canal which was finally opened in 1869 by the Empress Eugénie. Britain was initially hostile toward the venture but soon saw the advantage in terms of the travelling time to India.

However the Second Empire and Napoléon III continued to be despised by republicans and Haussmann was hated in particular for his destruction of the old Paris. Victor Hugo accused Haussmann of destroying the city's medieval charm! Napoléon, who was by now aware of his declining popularity, tried to get Haussmann to resign but eventually had to fire him. Napoléon also gave many liberal concessions including freedom of coalition, freedom of assembly, liberalisation of the press, etc. in order to support his position. He had seen France's dominance in Europe eroded by Prussia and in 1870, when goaded by the actions of Prussian leader Otto von Bismarck, Napoléon began the Franco-Prussian War.

The war was a disaster for France and for Napoléon III personally, and it was instrumental in the creation of the German Empire which would become the major land power of the European continent. During the Battle of Sedan in July, Napoléon, already suffering badly from bladder stones, was captured. He was deposed two days later as Emperor of France and the Third Republic was declared.



The Empress Eugénie fled to England with her son and settled initially in Chislehurst, Kent. Released by Bismarck in 1871, Napoléon III moved to England to be with his family. Less than three years later he underwent surgery to extract bladder stones and died shortly afterwards.

Six years after the death of her husband, Eugénie suffered the further loss of her son. He was serving with British forces in South Africa during the Zulu War and was killed when the group he was with were ambushed. His body was returned to England where he was laid to rest alongside his father in the Catholic Church at Chislehurst. Looking for a new home with more land on which to build a memorial chapel, Eugénie came to Farnborough Hill the former home of the Longman family. Thomas Longman had been a successful London publisher before his death in 1879.

Following her move, Eugénie set about building the church and mausoleum on land just across the railway from her new home. This was completed, together with a monastery for the monks, in 1887. It was named St. Michael's Abbey and it then became possible to bring the remains of Emperor Napoléon III and their son to the new mausoleum. The Empress joined them there in 1920 following her death while on a visit to the continent.

### Bibliography

*Farnborough Past*, Jo Gosney, Phillimore 2001, Chichester, West Sussex

Web sources: [www.biography.com](http://www.biography.com) and [www.encyclopedia.com](http://www.encyclopedia.com)

Pictures: Wikipedia Commons

Richard Hoyland

## *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 to December 2016

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Sep. 9th - Projects/Library Evening.

WEEKEND Sept. 17th/18th. Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society - Dig Basing!

Sep. 23rd - Talk: Searching the Past in the Mediterranean - a talk by Pam Taylor.

Oct. 14th - Talk: The Country Houses of North East Hampshire – a talk by Derek Spruce of the Odiham Society.

Oct. 28th - Project/Library Evening.

Nov. 11th - Project/Library Evening.

Nov. 25th - Talk: Recollections of a Deportee to Germany During WW2 a presentation by Mike Martel.

Dec. 9th - Quiz Evening followed by Xmas Fayre.

During Project Evenings members may wish to assist in the re-organisation of the library.

For more information contact Virginia Wright on 01252 614337 or [wuyeeli@gmail.com](mailto:wuyeeli@gmail.com)