

NEWSLetter



WINTER 2016/17

No 128

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:

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Charlie Fraser-Fleming
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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

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Clay Tobacco Pipes – ‘The Grove’, Heckfield.

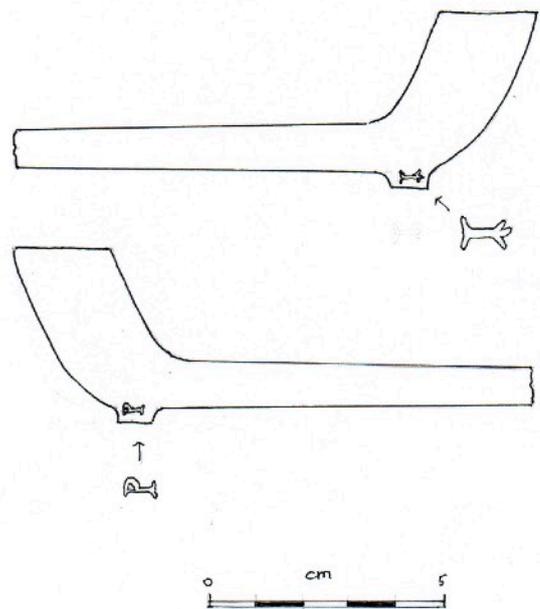
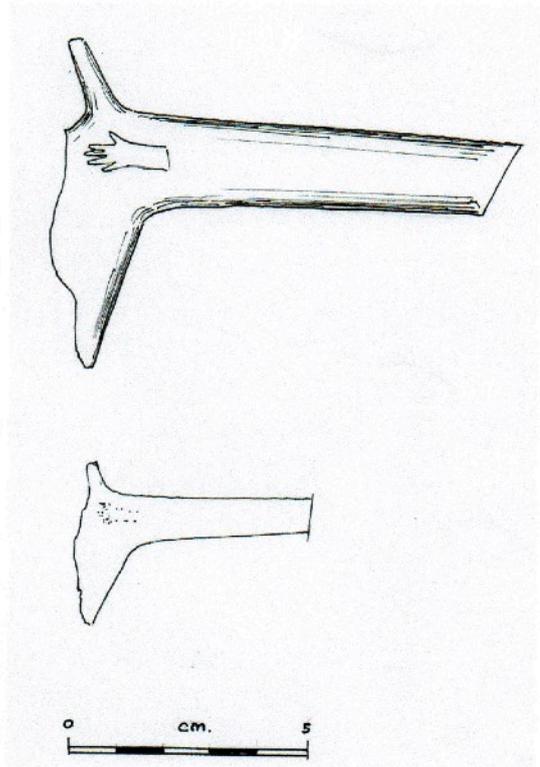
Although there is much more analysis and research to do on the finds from Heckfield it is worth commenting on a specific group of items recently identified.

A modest number of clay tobacco pipe stems have been found but only a very few pipe bowls. Three of these bowls are of particular interest having moulded initials and motif on them related to their makers.

Figure 1 shows a drawing of a bowl with the motif of a hand or gauntlet on either side of the spur which is itself particularly fine. The bowl form is typical of central southern England styles and is similar to London Type 26 and probably dates from 1720 – 1760. The mark or motif derives from 17thC heel stamps used by the Gauntlett family of Amesbury who were high quality pipe makers. They apparently had trouble with people copying their mark which was a gauntlet. This mark continued in use by other pipe makers well into the 18thC across southern England. Similar examples have been found from Reading but with a slightly earlier bowl – but our pipe would certainly have been from a local maker.

Figure 2 shows a pipe with the letter ‘P’ and ‘I’ on the sides of the spur. Convention has it that the makers Christian name initial is usually on the left side with the pipe in the mouth but this was not always maintained. The bowl form is a London Type 25 which was the most common bowl type in London and the south east from 1700 – 1770. It has been suggested that the initials read ‘I P’ with the ‘I’ representing in this case ‘J’. Large numbers have turned up in Reading (notably from the Oracle shopping centre site during excavations there) and with the ‘I’ having the distinctive curled serif as depicted on our bowl. It is likely that the maker given the bowl date is John Paty of Reading.

The third bowl has ‘W’ on both sides of the heel on an incomplete bowl and is a commonly found mark of a maker with the initials ‘W W’. Enough evidence of the shape, London Type 27, suggests a date of 1780 to



1820, the latter year close to the demolition of 'The Grove'. There were many pipe makers with the double W initials but almost all were operating in years not matching with the bowl date, however William Watson of London was active as a pipe maker in 1809 – 1811.

Reading is notable in that it had a thriving pipe making industry as early as the 17thC and records list over 40 makers in the town operating at some stage between 1633 and 1881. With their proximity to Reading the occupants of 'The Grove' would have had ready access to this source of tobacco pipes.

It will be interesting to see the results from an analysis of stem bore diameters – another source of dating pipes - but the dating of the bowls is consistent with the known occupation of 'The Grove'.

References:

Atkinson & Oswald, *London Clay Tobacco Pipes* 1969

Higgins, David Dr. Society of Clay Pipe Research

Surrey Heath Archaeology Trust Pipe Collection (courtesy of Phil Stevens)

Tony Wright

Report on Heckfield Excavations.

Tony is currently preparing notes on the excavations at 'The Grove' Heckfield which took place annually from 1990 right up to 2003. He is basing his text on the notes given in NEHHAS Newsletters of the period and using subsequent drawings and photos. Les Lawrie is also involved in exploring the history of the Jacobean mansion house from manuscripts and other historical sources. Recent project evenings have been used to categorise and document many of the finds from that excavation, the analysis of which will also form part of the final report. A few of the finds are shown here:



Richard Hoyland

Planned Visit by Meudon's Historical Society.

We were contacted by the Twinning Association of Rushmoor, who manage the links between local organisations and those in our twin towns. In September this year, a group of about 12 persons from Meudon's historical society will be visiting Farnborough. They have expressed an interest in meeting up with members of NEHHAS. They arrive on the evening of Friday 29th September and are leaving for London in the morning of Sunday 1st October. On the Saturday they will be visiting Farnborough Air Sciences Trust (FAST) and later that afternoon they hope to go to St Michael's Abbey. It has been suggested that we meet them during Saturday lunchtime.

Our committee is liaising with FAST about joining with them and having a small display stand at their museum in Trenchard House on the Farnborough Road. We could display items from our Borderware collection, plus photos and drawings, etc., to illustrate the various archaeological and historical work we have carried out over the years.

Meudon, on the outskirts of Paris, was originally Farnborough's twin town. A twinning charter was signed between the two in 1972, even before Britain entered the European Economic Community (later EU). It became Rushmoor's twin town when Farnborough Urban District Council and Aldershot Borough Council merged in 1974. Both areas have aviation industries, the original contact being made through the aviation businesses. Meudon has other similarities, such as most people work in service and high technology industries and both have an observatory.



Meudon's observatory is somewhat larger than Rushmoor's! In addition they have ONERA, a national aerospace research institute with a wind tunnel. From 1921 to 1981 an Air Museum was located here until it moved to Le Bourget Airport.

Meudon has other historical buildings including 'Hangar Y' which was built in 1880 for the construction of balloons and airships. The building is 70 m (230 ft) long, 24 m (79 ft) wide and around 26 m (85 ft) high. The airship 'La France', designed by military engineer Captain Charles Renard and Arthur Krebs, was built in Hangar Y in 1884 and was the first airship which was controllable during flight and which could return to its starting point.

Meudon's most famous resident was the sculptor Auguste Rodin.

Dig Basing! 2016-17

A number of NEHHAS members took part in 'Dig Basing!' 2016, which was organised by the Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society (BAHS). The eagerly anticipated presentation by BAHS on the finds from the test pits has been postponed until after the completion of 'Dig Basing!' 2017 later this year. 'Dig Basing!' dates have been set for the weekends of 24/25 June and 23/24 September 2017. Again, NEHHAS members will be offered the chance to take part.

This year's digs will be the last planned excavations at Old Basing but digs at another village near Basingstoke are being organised for 2018 and beyond.

Industrial Archaeology

Interest in Industrial Archaeology has, over the past 50 years, become extremely popular. It was suggested that we should endeavour to have an IA theme for our 2017/2018 programme of talks. Following on from our AGM on the 10 March 2017, we are planning a series of presentations on a range of IA topics. These will look at industrial sites and the impact of industrialisation both nationally and within Hampshire. We hope to have speakers exploring specific areas, such as the role and development of Mills, the effect of industry on Society and other aspects. If you have any suggestions that you feel ought to be included, please contact Charlie Fraser-Fleming.



Other News:

Crossrail Archaeology Exhibition.

An exhibition on the archaeology conducted during the construction of Crossrail is currently being held at the Museum of London Docklands.

The finds from the excavation reflect what was discovered within each of a number of sections of the route from east to west and of course covers material from the prehistoric to the Victorian era.

Roman finds included a variety of coins from different emperors, hippo-sandals, styli and many leather shoes – in fact there were shoes from different periods. There was glassware, clay pipes, ceramics on display – and yes, with examples of border ware on display.

Of course, there were many examples of human bones and, with follow up work, researchers discovered the plague pathogen.

The exhibition was interspersed with dramatic videos and clips of different aspects of the construction phases – particularly showing the massive boring machines in action. Sustainability was demonstrated with millions of tons of recovered material being used to build a wetland reserve in Essex for the RSPB.

The exhibition runs until the first week in September 2017, is free, and the Museum is an eight minute walk from the Canary Wharf Tube Station.

Tony Wright

Three Roman Houses Discovered in Chichester.

The foundations of three large Roman houses have been discovered in Priory Park in Chichester. James Kenny, an archaeologist at Chichester district council, believes that when fully excavated they will prove to be some of the best Roman houses found in a city centre in Britain. The foundations were identified through ground-penetrating radar tests in Priory Park, just inside the north-east corner of the Roman walls. The houses were identified through tests by David Stavely, a computer programmer by day and expert on geophysics, who took holidays from work to carry out the survey. A small test dig has confirmed extensive masonry foundations, as well as some tesserae from mosaic floors. The houses, built around central courtyards, would have been for the wealthy, on the edge of the Roman city away from the noise and smells of the central market and workshops. One has an unusual rounded end, which could indicate part of a bath house.

Kenny hopes to raise money through a Heritage Lottery Fund bid for a community archaeology project, with local amateur archaeologists and members of the public joining in the work. He believes the houses were originally set on a Roman street, which was largely destroyed when a reservoir was built in the park in the second world war as an emergency water supply. The park also holds the 13th-century guildhall – originally the chancel of a Franciscan friary – and the mound of a Norman castle: the builders of both probably used above-ground Roman remains as a handy source of cut stone.

Chichester, known in Roman times as Noviomagus Reginorum, developed from a military fort into a thriving town and still has some remains of its Roman walls. Roman fragments have been discovered in the city centre, including carved columns and handsome mosaics – one is displayed through a glass panel under the cathedral – and a 2nd-century AD bath house found in the 1970s, now displayed in the Novium museum.

Extract from the Guardian, 26 Jan. 2017.

Accounts of two Recent Talks at Farnborough.

October 2016 - The Country Houses Of North East Hampshire.

On Friday 14th Derek Spruce, who recently became President of the Odiham Society, gave a broad-brush description of a selected number of local country houses.

He began by illustrating the disparity in land ownership in Hampshire, when approximately 50% was held by as few as 146 landowners, whilst some 21,000 cottagers owned less than one acre each, equivalent to half of one percent of the land.

Using examples, Derek drew a comparison in local property held by each of three levels of social hierarchy. In the case of South Warnborough, the minor lord or squire would have held the small manor house and parkland of 6,000 acres, which over time was typically let out. In 1861, the owner/occupier had 8 servants there which by 1881 had reduced to 6. Here there was no lodge to the property.

In a second example of the social ladder, in 1787 Baron Dorchester bought Greywell Hill House surrounded by parkland and woods. This in turn would be held by the Earls of

Malmesbury and progressively expanded. Here one lodge sits alongside the drive to the house. In 1881 there was a staff of 8 servants which in 1911 remained the same.

In the third and higher ranking example Derek chose Dogmersfield Park, the original seat of the Paulet St John Mildmays; the park land of which ran to 1,000 acres. Here the status of ownership is demonstrated by the property having 4 lodges and many more servants were employed. In 1881 there were as many as 19 servants but by 1911 the number had fallen to 7 reflecting a changing economic climate.

Derek showed a distribution of country houses across north-east Hampshire and described a number of them including Stratfield Saye House, Elvetham Hall, The Vyne and Herriard House. Using graphs he showed the variance in income from agricultural estates, some of which extended to 35,000 acres in Hampshire with others having less than 500 acres. Typically not all income was from the land as with Lord Calthorpe at Elvetham, whose agricultural land was small but property at Edgebaston, Birmingham brought him considerable rental income.



In conclusion, Derek described how many of the houses ceased to remain as solely family homes, when, over time, they were re-configured to become schools, hotels, retirement homes or visitor attractions. **AW**

November 2016 - Recollections of a Deportee to Germany During WW2.

Our talk on Friday 25th was given by Mike Martel, who as a toddler was living with his parents on the Channel Island of Guernsey at the time of the Nazi invasion of 1940. Just prior to the invasion, the Channel Islanders were given the opportunity to escape to Britain but, due to poor communication, Mike's family quite literally 'missed the boat'!

Mike's own recollections are limited by his young age at the time, but his mother kept diaries which provided much of the information. At first, daily life carried on fairly normally except a curfew and other limitations were imposed on the remaining civilians. After a few months, however, Hitler had all the British passport holding civilians on the Channel Islands removed to France and from there taken, by train, to Germany. This was in retaliation for the Allied troops having arrested German civilians living in North Africa.

Conditions were grim initially, sleeping on straw-filled mattresses in old barracks. However these camps for civilians were mainly run by veteran soldiers. One commander had been a prisoner of the British in the First World War and had been well treated so he resolved to treat his prisoners well too. Mike's father was a shoe-maker which was a very useful occupation much needed in the camp. It turned out that one British lady was, in fact, Jewish but this was kept secret and she stayed safe throughout the imprisonment. Over the months they were moved a number of times before ending up in Southern Germany, in

what used to be a home run by nuns for disabled people. Mike expressed concern for what had happened to the original inmates.

Here they enjoyed reasonable accommodation with electric power, albeit limited by time-sharing as the generating capacity was not really adequate! A bartering economy prevailed with items made from the packaging of Red Cross parcels, etc. There were home-made toys for the children at Christmas and walks into the town with German soldiers. Cameras and film were somehow acquired and Mike has a number of family photos taken at this time. The efficiency of the German postal system also allowed easy communication by letter, albeit censored, to friends and relatives left on the Channel Islands. A major concern later in the war, however, were the Allied air-raids from which they escaped unscathed.

On the 28th April 1945 strange noises could be heard from the camp, it proved to be an armoured column of American troops approaching. One of the men from the camp went out to meet the Americans and told them of the prisoners. This was fortunate as the troops were contemplating shelling the buildings! Following liberation Mike's family went to England then returned to Guernsey some time after.

It transpired that Mike, his parents and the others had had a better time during the later months of the war than the people left on Guernsey. Following the start of the allied invasion of France in June 1944, the Channel Islands were cut-off from Europe resulting in a lack of food and essential supplies. This led eventually to a ship, the Vega, being chartered from Portugal by the Red Cross with supplies to relieve the islander's suffering.



This was a very interesting talk with illustrations plus objects to be viewed afterwards. His account revealed some aspects of the Second World War not previously seen.

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)

January to July 2017

Jan. 13th - Project Evening.

Jan. 27th - Project Evening.

Feb. 10th - Talk by John Wall 'Sudan Update'.

Feb. 24th - Talk by Bill Fergie 'History of the Hampshire Building Preservation Trust' .

Mar. 10th - AGM.

Mar. 24th - Talk by Charlie Fraser-Fleming 'The Industrial Revolution'.

Apr. 14th - No meeting on Good Friday.

Apr. 28th - Talk by Jo Gosney 'Local History Detective'.

May 12th - Project Evening.

May 26th - Talk TBC.

Jun. 9th - Project Evening.

Jun. 23rd - Talk by Roger Cansdale 'The Basingstoke Canal'.

July 15th to 30th - "Festival of British Archaeology".

During Project Evenings members may be given the opportunity to access our library.