A GUIDE TO SOURCES OF INFORMATION ON BASINGSTOKE’S HISTORY

Compiled by

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01/04/16 Update
Text updated to reflect local government changes and additional publications added.
Alphabetical list split into subject matter groups.

15/05/16 Update
Minor text corrections.
HRO reference for Tithe Award and Map added.

08/10/16 Update
*Basingstoke Workhouse* published 09/16
Holy Ghost Cemetery War Graves Article reference added
Note of John Hares forthcoming *Mediaeval Basingstoke* (Spring/Summer 2017)
Minor text corrections.

12/11/16 Update
Note added at page 21 giving details of the digitisation of *Hampshire Studies* for on-line access.
Two articles on local milestones cited,

01/01/17 Update Additional references for Eli Lilly and North Hampshire Hospital cited.

30/01/17 Update Reference to revised Pesvner added to Architecture section

01/04/2017 Update A Brief History of The Basingstoke Irish Society (clubs and societies section) and a comprehensive history of Basingstoke Inn and Pubs (buildings section) referenced.
Minor text amendments
Abbreviations

BAHS Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society
HA&LS Hampshire Archives & Local Studies
HBG Hants & Berks Gazette, later The Basingstoke Gazette and now the Gazette
HCC Hampshire County Council
HCMAS Hampshire County Museums and Archives Service. From 2015 The Hampshire Cultural Trust.
HCT Hampshire Cultural Trust
HER Hampshire Historic Environmental Record
HFC Hampshire Field Club
HRO Hampshire Archives and Local Studies at the Hampshire Record Office
J Journal
L&SWR London & South-Western Railway
TMoB The Making of Basingstoke
VCH Victoria County History

Introduction

This bibliography of publications on Basingstoke’s history and guide to other sources of information arose out of the late Barbara Applin and my editing of Eric Stokes’s The Making of Basingstoke (TMoB), published by BAHS in 2008. That book traces the history and development of Basingstoke from prehistory to the recent past (2008), and is recommended to anyone interested in Basingstoke’s history.

The bibliography is an extensive, but not totally comprehensive, list of books, reports and other documents in the public domain on local topics of historical and related relevance. Some minor booklets in the Local Studies collection of Basingstoke Discovery Centre, that do not add additional information to that contained in the references cited, have been omitted. It has been created to extend the usefulness of TMoB to anyone interested in Basingstoke’s history. Deliberately, no references to the Civil War sieges at Basing House have been included (other than Godwin) – we could trace nothing that refers to the effect on Basingstoke. An earlier compendium of references by Margaret Willoughy, Bibliography of Basingstoke, 1973, contains 162 references, including 25 to Basing House; a copy is in the Local Studies section of the Discovery Centre.

We have deliberately not extended the guide to sources to include national sources, for example The National Archives on-line catalogue, as we feel anyone researching to that degree of detail will already be fully aware of their potential.

A .pdf version of this document is available on request. I would be pleased to receive notice of omissions, corrections, suggestions for additions etc for future updates. Please contact me at bandbapplin@btinternet.com

This document will be updated as further publications are noted or information gathered. The most up-to-date version will be published on the BAHS web-site www.bahsoc.org.uk

Sources of Information

The Local Studies Section of Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

The Local Studies Section has an extensive collection of local documents, maps, books and booklets, including most of those referenced below. The Local Studies catalogue is available on-line at www3.hants.gov.uk/library - click on the on-line catalogue link and search using ‘Basingstoke’ (over 600 entries will be produced).
The Hants & Berks Gazette (fore-runner of the Gazette) and the Gazette are available on microfilm in the Centre. For many years, until his death in 2002, the local amateur historian Arthur Attwood contributed a weekly article to the Gazette. Since then Robert Brown did the same until 2009. The Monday edition of the paper (discontinued 2014) had a regular feature by Richard Garfield, Memories on Monday (discontinued 2013). Recently (March 2016) the Gazette introduced a ‘Heritage Section’ which features occasional articles on Basingstoke’s past.

The Discovery Centre also holds copies of the Basingstoke Review published between 1958 and 1966 and Expanding Basingstoke bulletins 1967 – 1974 (also available in the Resources Room at the Willis Museum). A short-lived Basingstoke Mail was published between 1973 & 1976. Hampshire - The County Magazine, Hampshire Life and The Hampshire Chronicle have occasional articles on Basingstoke and its surrounding area; the Discovery Centre displays the current issues of these journals. The Basingstoke Observer published as a free-sheet and the short-lived (2007/8) Basingstoke Independent are noted here for completeness.

Other newspapers

Prior to the establishment of The Hants & Berks Gazette in 1878, the main newspapers covering local news were The Hampshire Chronicle (Winchester) and The Reading Mercury (Reading); microfilm copies are available for consultation in the respective town libraries. Other newspapers that covered Basingstoke before 1878 were the Hampshire Advertiser (Southampton) and the Berkshire Chronicle (Reading). Scanned copies of the Hampshire Advertiser for certain dates between 1830 and 1907, the Berkshire Chronicle for certain dates between 1825 and 1877, the Hampshire Chronicle for certain dates between 1772 and 1870 and 1881 to 1890, and the Reading Mercury for certain dates between 1770 and 1939 are available at the British Newspaper Archive. Holders of a Hampshire Libraries card can access this archive through www3.hants.gov.uk/library/libraries-borrow/eresources.htm. A short-lived Basingstoke Standard was published in competition to the Hants & Berks Gazette in the 1880s; copies from issue no.30 (January 6, 1882) are held in the British Library’s newspaper collection. Another competitor was the Hampshire Observer & Basingstoke News(1903-15); copies are held at HRO ref: 26M70.

The Resources Room at The Willis Museum and the Hampshire Cultural Trust headquarters at Chilcomb House Winchester

The Resources Room has an extensive collection of Basingstoke documents, including an unpublished manuscript copy of a history of Eastrop parish (which contains errors) and transcripts of diaries, notes and scrap books of Samuel Attwood, George Woodman, George Willis and others, as well as maps and a large collection of photographs; a catalogue is available for consultation. It also has several notes on the derivation of Basingstoke street names. Contact the Willis Museum for the current opening times of the Resources Room (Tel 01256 465902). A more extensive collection of photographs which includes many Basingstoke items and a collection of 19th century Basingstoke traders’ billheads are held at the Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) headquarters at Chilcomb House, Winchester. HCT also has a fine collection of maps of Hampshire, many of which may be viewed at www.geog.port.ac.uk/webmap/hantsmap/hantsmap/hantsmap.htm the Portsmouth University web-site. HCT can be contacted at www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk and follow the links. Normally an appointment should be made to visit Chilcomb House.

Hampshire Archives and Local Studies (HA&LS) at the Hampshire Record Office (HRO) in Winchester

HRO holds the originals of many of the Borough and Church records from the earlier centuries, as well as documents relevant to Basingstoke from private sources, including estate and other maps. Many of the documents were transcribed (and in some cases translated from the Latin) by Baigent & Millard in the late 19th century for their A History of the Ancient Town and Manor of Basingstoke (copies held in Basingstoke Discovery Centre and the Willis Museum and a facsimile edition is
available from Amazon). Serious students are recommended to consult this book, which was one of the major sources of information for *TMoB* used by Eric Stokes, particularly for some of his early chapters. The HRO’s catalogue can be accessed on-line at [http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives). A search using ‘Basingstoke’ will produce over 16,300 references, whilst, for example, ‘Basingstoke Corporation’ will refine this to 346 references. The documents referenced under the Finding codes 8M62, 10M57, 23M72, 46M74 and 148M71, in particular the last reference, contain a wealth of information. HRO has many of Terry Hunt’s photographs which are included in the Hampshire Photographic Project compilation HRO HPP38. Terry Hunt was a Basingstoke photographer who was active c1910 – 1940.

Each of these collections (Discovery Centre, Museum and HRO) should be searched thoroughly as they are the major sources of information and are continually updated. For example, the HRO has the collection of documents that Arthur Attwood had gathered over many years which he used as the basis of his weekly *Basingstoke Gazette* articles mentioned above: HRO 50A07.

**Other searchable sources**

The Newsletters of BAHS [www.bahsoc.org.uk](http://www.bahsoc.org.uk), the Friends of the Willis Museum [www.friendsofthewillis.org.uk](http://www.friendsofthewillis.org.uk), and the Basingstoke Heritage Society [www.bas-herit-soc.org.uk](http://www.bas-herit-soc.org.uk) regularly contain articles on Basingstoke topics. An index to the Friends of the Willis Museum’s newsletter is available in the Resources Room at the Willis Museum. The Kempshott History Group website [www.kempshotthistorygroup.org.uk](http://www.kempshotthistorygroup.org.uk) has articles on topics relevant to the history of Kempshott and its surrounding area. The South View Conservation Group’s website [www.holyghostcemetery-basingstoke.org.uk](http://www.holyghostcemetery-basingstoke.org.uk) has the results of their work on the graves in the original Basingstoke cemetery.

The Hampshire Field Club journal, *Hampshire Studies* (until 1994 The Proceedings of The Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society: Proc HFC) and The HFC Newsletter carry occasional articles on the archaeology and history of the Basingstoke area. A complete run of Proc HFC and Hampshire Studies is held by Southampton University’s Hartley Library. See King, Anthony in the alphabetical listing for cumulative indices of volumes 21 to 70 (1958 - 2015). HCT headquarters at Chilcomb House, Winchester also holds a set with an index to volumes 1-20. The major reports on Basingstoke topics are referenced individually in the bibliography. See page 21 for details of the HFC digitisation programme for on-line access to Hampshire Studies.

All developments with archaeological implications have to have a Heritage Statement to accompany the planning application. The County Archaeologist advises the local planning authorities on where these might be required, their content and what archaeological works might be needed, including evaluation, excavation and watching briefs. Reports of the results are deposited with the Historic Environment Record (HER), and more notable results are published in *Hampshire Studies* or other archaeological journals. The HER can be consulted at [historic.environment@hants.gov.uk](http://historic.environment@hants.gov.uk). The HER has been used to produce a series of forty distribution maps of their records of Hampshire archaeological sites from the Mesolithic to the end of the Roman occupation. These may be viewed at [http://www3.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment/historic-buildings-register/historic-atlas.htm](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/landscape-and-heritage/historic-environment/historic-buildings-register/historic-atlas.htm)

The Museum of English Rural Life at the University of Reading has the Wallis & Steevens archive and some information on other Basingstoke companies associated with agriculture.

The Thornycroft Basingstoke factory technical archive is held by HCT at its Chilcomb House headquarters at Winchester; there are no staff records in this archive but Wessex Film & Sound Archive at HRO has taped interviews with former Thornycroft workers. The Thornycroft Society also holds records of the Basingstoke factory’s activities.
The Lansing Bagnall photographic archive to the mid 1960s is held in digital form at HCT Chilcomb. The more recent company archive is at Churchill College, Cambridge.

The Basingstoke entry in Hampshire Treasures, noted in the alphabetical list, published in 1979, contains, amongst other data, a comprehensive listing of the then-known archaeological sites and reported finds and a list of ‘Buildings, Monuments and Engineering Works’ that were considered worthy of recording. Each entry gives an Ordnance Survey Grid Reference, where known, and a brief description of the subject.

The Victoria County History, Hampshire, vol IV, 1911, (available in the Discovery Centre) has a major section on Basingstoke in the chapter for the Basingstoke Hundred; it draws heavily on the information in Baigent & Millard’s A History of the Ancient Town and Manor of Basingstoke and provides an authoritative summary of the history of Basingstoke as understood in the first decade of the 20th century. It is currently being revised. During the revision, the input documents and data will be placed on the VCH web site, www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk as they become available. Currently (April 2017) there are over 100 articles on Basingstoke and some of the nearby villages posted on the website www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore

A website at www.hantsphere.org.uk, run by Hants Library and Information Service, gives sources of Hampshire information and photographs. A search using ‘Basingstoke’ will produce over 200 images and over 900 text entries – many not on Basingstoke itself, but on the surrounding area and many not of relevance to a student of the history of Basingstoke. It is nevertheless a worthwhile source to interrogate.

The website, www.visionofbritain.org.uk has information on Basingstoke between 1801 and 2001, including maps, historical description and statistical trends from the censuses; however it is a commercial site and some information has to be paid for.

The Basingstoke Talking History project (a joint BAHS and Willis Museum project) is recording recollections of residents, covering the inter-war period to the recent past. A particularly important series of interviews with medical professionals covers the evolution of medical practice before and since the introduction of the NHS up to modern times (2005). This ongoing collection, with synopses and transcriptions of the interviews, is available for consultation in the Willis Museum’s Resources Room. The master recordings are deposited with the Wessex Film and Sound Archive at HRO.

An internet search using “Basingstoke history” will produce, apart from various societies’ and official sites, sites posted by individuals containing summaries of Basingstoke’s history. The information carried by these personal sites is often copied from the Wikipedia site, http://wikipedia.org.uk/wiki/basingstoke#history The detail and quality of these extracts is variable and the information should be verified for accuracy before being repeated.

The input data for the 1841 to 1911 National censuses are available on-line from the commercial sources, Ancestry and Findmypast which allow a restricted amount of free use. Copies of these censuses may be consulted at HRO and may be copied for a per page fee. The Basingstoke and Deane Borough Council’s web-site www.basingstoke.gov.uk has a detailed analysis of the 2011 census for the Borough, broken down by electoral ward.

Portsmouth University has digitised the majority of the early maps of Hampshire from the late 16th century onwards. Basingstoke is shown, not always accurately, in relation the surrounding towns. The maps can be viewed at www.geog.port.ac.uk/webmap/hantsmap/hantsmap/hantsmap.htm

I am pleased to acknowledge the assistance of Derek and Wendy Spruce; Barry Meehan (ex Hants Library Service), Joy Needham (ex Hants Library Service), Malcolm Parker (ex Willis Museum), John Hollands (Willis Museum Resources Room Volunteer), Bob Clarke (newspapers), David
Hopkins (County Archaeologist), Debbie Reavell (B/stoke Heritage Soc.) and Robert Brown in the preparation of this bibliography.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Where a publication is undated but the year of publication is known from other sources, this is noted in brackets (----). A * preceding an entry indicates a document referred to in the text of *TMoB*. A few of these references do not apply to Basingstoke directly but have been retained in this version of the bibliography for completeness. For this edition of the bibliography the entries have been split into categories. A small number of entries are in more than one category. This has been done to make searching easier.

(Ed) indicates that the entry is an edited collection of work.

**I make no claims for the quality or accuracy of the material cited.**

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* The St Michael’s Parish Magazine, 1865, 1867, HRO 46M74/PZ1-87 (Bound copies 1865-1939).


* Vestry Minutes HRO 46M74A/PV1 (1797-1841).


Various early County directories and Railway guides have entries for Basingstoke that give a brief description of the town at the time of publication (they were not always thoroughly revised between editions). The County directories list the Borough officers, leading citizens, and traders. These are very useful for studying the changing pattern of trading. See Basingstoke Directory Entries 1784 – 1935, noted above. The following list may duplicate some of the entries in that document.


Guide to the L&SWR, L&SWR, 1845.

Directory of Basingstoke and neighbourhood, Kelly’s Directories, Numerous editions to 1974.
Measom, George The Official Guide to the London and South-Western Railway, Griffin (1864).

Murray, John (Publisher) A Handbook for Travellers in Surrey, Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Various editions from 1858.


Railway Directory, 1839.


* White's Directory & Gazetteer, 1859, 1878.


HCMS has a print of the Basingstoke (Whistler’s) windmill at Norn Hill. A photocopy is reproduced in Hampshire Windmills, HCC, undated. Library ref RH621.453094227.

Video, DVD and photographic

* The story of Basingstoke from earliest times to 1964, The Regional Centre, Queen Mary’s College. A video copy of a slide/tape show produced by Derek Wren and narrated by John Arlott. This was revised and updated in October 2008 in DVD format. Available at the Willis Museum, or on loan at Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

* Beneath Basingstoke, BAHS, 1994. A chronological history of the archaeology of Basingstoke and its immediate surrounding area from prehistory to the Saxon period, particularly highlighting the discoveries unearthed during the 1960s to 1980s housing developments. This video was transferred to DVD during 2008. Available from BAHS or on loan at Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

A Day in Tudor Basingstoke, BAHS, 2002. A video (no DVD) of the live performance of a historical entertainment in Church Cottage based on Basingstoke’s 16th century archives. Available from BAHS or on loan at Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

The Wessex Film and Sound Archive at the HRO has compiled a collection of films dealing with Basingstoke topics; this is available on DVD on loan at Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

The HRO’s Hampshire Photographic Project has digitised over 10,000 Hampshire photographs, including many from the Basingstoke area; these are available for viewing on the internet.

On-line catalogues to both of the above are at http://www3.hants.gov.uk/archives/catalog.htm

Robert Brown has extensive collections of photographs of Basingstoke and Basingstoke events taken over the last 50+ years and of information used as source material for his books and articles. He has had articles published in The Basingstoke Standard (March 1984 – July 1987), Hampshire - The County Magazine, The Gazette (1998-2009), The Reading Evening Post (1977 - 1978), The Southern Evening Echo (1961 – 1985). He has contributed photographs and articles to nine books since 1963 in addition to his books noted in the bibliography. He can be contacted at 43 Doswell Way, Basingstoke, RG21 5HH.

Acts of Parliament

An Act for making a navigable canal from the town of Basingstoke to communicate with the River Wey in the parish of Chertsey, County of Surrey, and to the south-west side of the turnpike road in the parish of Turgiss, County of Southampton. 18 Geo.III, 15.5.1778. HRO 8M72/134.

An Act for Dividing, Allotting and Inclosing, the Open and Common Fields, Common Downs, Common Pastures, Common Meadows, Wastelands and other Commonable Places within the Parish of Basingstoke in the County of Southampton, 26 Geo.III, 1786. HRO 148M71/1/4/6.
An Act for paving the footpaths and crosspaths, and lighting, watching, cleansing, widening and otherwise improving the streets, lanes and other public passages and places in the Town of Basingstoke in the County of Southampton, 55 Geo.III, 23.3.1815. HRO 63M83/C1/1

An Act for enlarging the Market Place in the Town of Basingstoke, 10 Geo. IV, 14.5.1829. HRO 148M71/1/5/3

CHARTERS
Charter, Henry III, 1256. (Documents arising from, HRO 148M71/1/1/1).
Charter, King John.
Charter, Richard II.
Charter of James I, 1622. HRO 148M71/1/1/2a.
Charter of Charles I, 1641. HRO 148M71/1/1/3a.
Charter of Charles II, HRO 148M71/1/1/4. (Record notes ‘Permanently withdrawn’)

REPORTS


Borough Information Digest – A yearly compendium of information compiled by Basingstoke & Deane Borough Council. Copies held by Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

Companies in Basingstoke & Deane, 1986, B&DBC. Not comprehensive


Proceedings of the Society of Antiquaries, 22, 1907.

Records of Basingstoke courts are held at HRO. HRO 148M71/1/2.


Royal Commission on Municipal Corporations, 1835.

Basingstoke Disturbances. Return containing copies of the correspondence which passed between the Home Office and the Local Authorities of Basingstoke, or other places, with reference to the Suppression of Disturbances. Ordered to be printed by the House of Commons, 27 March 1882.

Other Items
The Friends of the Willis Museum have published a revised (to 2013) Visitor’s Guide to Old Basingstoke, available at the Willis Museum (£1, 2017)

The South View Conservation Group has published a series of five leaflets on the Holy Ghost Cemetery:

The Chapel Ruins – A short stroll into Tudor Times
War Graves – Remembering Our War Dead A link to a 52 article expanding on the leaflet is within www.holyghostcemetry-basingstoke.org.uk/?page_id=22
Basingstoke Entrepreneurs – Discover some of our famous folk
Decoding the landscape – A trail of meaning and memories
Interesting Memorials – Exploring symbols of life and death

These are currently (April 2017) available at the Willis Museum or may be consulted in the Basingstoke Discovery Centre and viewed on the website www.holyghostcemetery-basingstoke.org.uk/?page_id=22

For those with access to Facebook there are basingstokehistory and Memories-of-Basingstoke pages which have many old and not so old photos.

Hampshire Studies
On-line (11/2016)

The Hampshire Field Club & Archaeological Society has announced that back issues of Hampshire Studies (Proceedings) are available online. The webpage with the links to the volumes, for the years 2000-2009, is at:


You will be able to download articles and/or read them on screen. Further back volumes will be added when the work of digitisation and preparation for web-publication has been completed.

This initiative is being carried out in conjunction with making available future volumes of Hampshire Studies online – as they are published. For three years volumes will be in a restricted area, for which access to the online version will be free to HFC members who pay the appropriate membership fee; non-members will be able to access either the whole volume or individual articles on payment of a set fee. After three years volumes will be moved to the Field Club website, for totally free access.