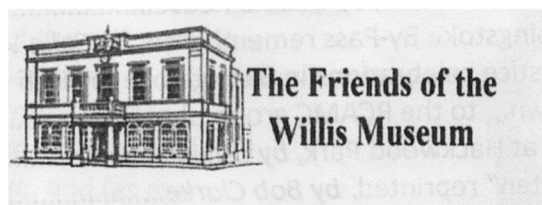


Friends of the Willis Museum Newsletter, January 2024



Musselwhite's Yard, by Diana Stanley. See "Your attention is drawn..." page 4

'The Friends' was founded in 1978 to "promote, support and improve the Willis Museum." Meetings are held on the third Thursday of the month for ten months of the year, and other events are arranged from time to time. Registered Charity no 280406.

Annual subscription £12. Visitor for one meeting £3

Your committee: Derek Anthony (Chairman), David Wickens (Deputy Chairman and Programme Secretary); Ian Scott (Treasurer); Isobel Archer (Minutes Secretary), Steve Crudge (Publicity) John Hollands (Publicity and Newsletter); Barbara Johnson (Membership Secretary); Stuart Parker; Jenny Stevens (Venue Manager, ex officio).

Contact us c/o the museum, or by email [at enquiries@friendsofthewillis.org.uk](mailto:at.enquiries@friendsofthewillis.org.uk)

Newsletter edited by John Hollands, printed by Jenny Stevens and proof read, distributed by Derek Anthony

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From the Chairman, Derek Anthony

A happy New Year to all our members and their families. Welcome to the first Newsletter of 2024.

Before anything else I would like to set out the important decisions which were made at the Annual General Meeting (AGM) held on 19th October 2023.

At that meeting your committee proposed that the annual subscription should be raised from £12 to £15, to take effect, for existing members, on 1st July 2024. This proposal was adopted unanimously by the meeting. The increase has been made necessary, mainly, by the rising cost of obtaining monthly speakers.

At the AGM we also welcomed a new member to the committee, Stuart Parker. The motion to elect Stuart was carried unanimously.

Your committee now consists of the following officers:-

Derek Anthony – Chairman

David Wickens – Vice-Chairman

Isobel Archer – Secretary

Ian Scott – Treasurer

Plus the following committee members – Steve Crudge, John Hollands, Barbara Johnson, Stuart Parker, David Wickens and Jenny Stevens (by reason of her role as Community Manager, Willis Museum and Sainsbury Gallery).

On 30th November the Museum together with the Friends hosted representatives of a number of other local Friends organisations at a British Association of Friends of Museums (BAfM) Regional Conference chaired by Regional Co-ordinator Tim Craven. You will find more about this in an article within the Newsletter.

Finally, I would like to draw your attention to the excellent programme of speakers coming to our monthly meetings over the next six months. The programme has been organised by our Programme Secretary, David Wickens, and hope that I will be able to welcome you to one or more of these meetings in the months to come.

Page 3 Stop press: Willis Museum NOT listed for closure, *by Derek Anthony*

Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT) has confirmed that five of its venues - four museums and one arts centre – are at risk of closure as a result of funding challenges.

The venues affected and the anticipated time scales for closure are:

Ashcroft Arts Centre, Fareham – Autumn 2024

Westbury Manor Museum, Fareham – January 2025

Eastleigh Museum – January 2025

Andover Museum and Museum of the Iron Age, 2026

Curtis Museum, Alton – 2026; but not the Allen Gallery, Alton

Hampshire County Council (HCC) is the Trust's largest funder, currently contributing £2.5 million per annum, but under HCC's current budget consultation, which opened to the public today, it is proposed that this funding will be cut by a total of £1.0 million.

Commenting on the proposed closures, HCT Chief Executive, Paul Sapwell, said, "Our position is that we do not want to close any of the venues we operate, but faced with substantially reduced local authority funding we have had no option but to make some very difficult decisions.

If you wish to know more about the closures and the reasons for them please go to the HCT website and search for "News" then "08 January 2024".

If you wish to contribute to the HCC consultation go to the County's website and search for "Future Services Consultation."

The Friends of the Willis Museum (FoWM) support the British Association of Friends of Museums (BAfM)

For many years now the FoWM has been a member of BAfM, the national body supporting local Friends organisations. During 2023 the FoWM played a rather more active part in BAfM than in recent years.



In September Chairman, Derek Anthony, represented the FoWM at the BAfM annual conference and AGM in Doncaster's magnificent Georgian Mansion House (left) The theme for this conference was "Regeneration: Growing the cultural offer and friends in changing times." The day included two very interesting talks by local experts – palaeontologist, Dr Dean Lomaz, who talked about his life as a dinosaur hunter, and Egyptologist, Professor Joann Fletcher, who talked about the links between ancient Egypt and the British Isles. These sessions were followed by case studies outlining developments at three local museums, the AGM, and a formal dinner in the evening.

Then in November the Willis Museum and the FoWM hosted the BAfM one day Regional Conference in the Archaeology Gallery. The conference was hosted by Regional Co-ordinator, Tim Craven, with practical support from Jenny Stevens, Derek Anthony, and David Wickens. Twelve delegates assembled to discuss mutual issues and concerns and to share experiences,

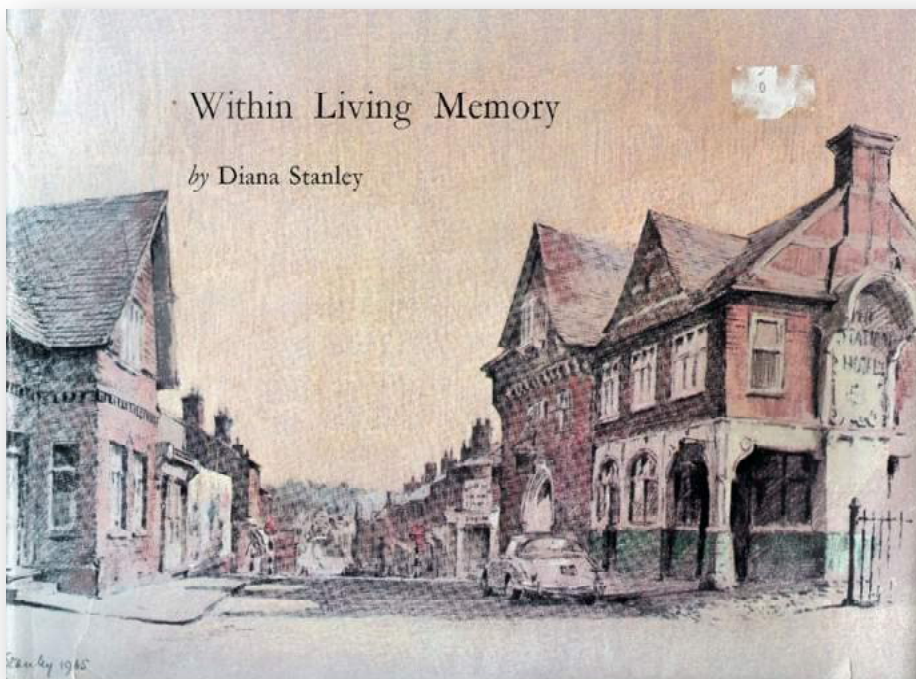
Page 4 some good, some not so good. A welcome from Jenny Stevens preceded the discussions which were followed by a sandwich lunch and tour of the Museum, led by Derek Anthony.

Our thanks to Jenny and to the staff of the Museum for their help in hosting this very successful conference.

Your attention is drawn to Diana Stanley's painting, "Musselwhite's Yard," by John Hollands

"Musselwhite's Yard," Diana Stanley's painting dating from the early 1960s is a reminder of a premier local building firm of the past. It is also a reminder of the debt of gratitude owed to this artist by everyone with a feeling for Basingstoke and its past. A highly accomplished artist with a body of work that included murals in London public buildings, illustrations for many children's books, and a manual, *Anatomy for Artists*, Diana Stanley (1909-1975) produced many drawings and paintings of Basingstoke shortly before Basingstoke became a London overspill town and the momentous changes that resulted. They were exhibited in the Town Hall (now our museum building) in 1966 as this upheaval was under way. Bequeathed to the National Trust and subsequently given by the Trust to the Basingstoke Library (Now the Discovery Centre) in whose keeping they now are except for this painting, they were exhibited there again in 1998, and in the Willis's newly created Sainsbury Gallery about 2009.

The Discovery Centre's collection is not currently on view, but you can access much of her best work in her book "Within living memory", printed and published by Charles Skipper and East Ltd, Basingstoke in 1969, in which she takes you on a series of illustrated virtual tours of old Basingstoke looking at the sights with a painterly eye and delving into their history and the people associated with them in a most engaging way.



In a preface the late Sir John Betjeman wrote:

Accuracy in her illustrations without pedantry and eye for detail and for the whole, a sense of texture, colour and landscape make her illustrations distinguished indeed... Basingstoke is lucky in having so sympathetic an artist and writer. This book makes me wish that there were Diana Stanleys to illustrate every market town in England.

If you don't know this book, do get to see a copy if you can. They come up second hand from time to time; a copy is advertised on Amazon Books as

I write, and I was lucky enough to find one in a local charity shop; hopefully the Discovery Centre has reference and loan copies, and the Willis has a reference copy you could ask to look at.

Page 5 The North Warnborough Football Club and me, by Lynn Martin.

Some information and photographs in this article are from a leaflet called 'A Tribute To North Warnborough Football Club' written by Anne Pitcher for fund raising purposes on behalf of North Warnborough FC following the destruction by fire of the club changing rooms in the 1980's. Unfortunately, all the minutes of the club, dating back to 1895, and many of the photographs, were destroyed in the fire. I do not know if the club is still playing now; at that time the Manager was Alan Duce of Upton Grey, supported by Bert Rogers. During the 1920's North Warnborough won the Basingstoke Junior League several times and in 1926 the club won the Colonel May Shield outright. They also won it again in the 1947 – 48 season. No-one knows what happened to that shield. The team won the North Hants Senior Cup in 1981 when my husband was still playing for them. I remember a lot of celebration afterwards and cooking industrial quantities of curry for the players.

My earliest memories of football in Basingstoke are of going to the Thornycroft football ground in Worting Road on a Saturday afternoon with my cousins. At that time the pitch was surrounded with chestnut trees and we used to collect the chestnuts to roast at home. My father ran the line for Blue Peter Retreads and my uncle, Tony Plaice, played for local teams. Another uncle, Maurice Taylor, was a qualified referee. I also used to be taken to the Sunday morning games at the Recreation Ground at Brookvale where the Rising Sun played. My father was a friend of Dickie Raynbird,



The North Warnborough team which won the North Hants Senior Cup in 1981.

Back row, left to right: Tony Phillips, Paul Turner, John Martin, Pat Hennessey, Ron Upton, Steve Baldwin and Alan Duce (Manager).

Front row, left to right: Malcolm Buckland, Paul Kerwood, Ken Miller, Mark Brown, Mike Rasheed and Owen Pearcey.

who was a long serving member of the Football Association organisation for Basingstoke.

My knowledge of North Warnborough football club began in September 1971 when my husband, John Martin, was recruited to play for the team by my cousin, Colin Woods, sadly both are no longer with us. My husband, also played and organised the matches for the Soldiers Return based at Whiteditch football pitch in Sherborne Road. This was through Kevin Haystaff who also played for North Warnborough at that time.

I can remember my first visit to watch the game at North Warnborough. We parked outside The Anchor pub, walked along a path in front of the cottages and then through to the back of the houses, where the pitch was situated. When I asked about the toilet facilities I was directed to a section surrounded with corrugated iron and came back horrified as I discovered it merely surrounded an area of grass. We WAGS (ha ha) made tea for half time in the changing rooms which was drunk along with a cigarette by those who smoked, which was most of them. No-one thought that odd at the time.

Page 6

I became interested in the history of the club through talking to Alan Duce when he showed me all the old photographs going back to the early 1900's. Unfortunately, as it turned out, these documents were all kept in a locker at the clubhouse. He then loaned me the minute books covering the history of the club from inception which I found fascinating. Minutes noted 'games cancelled due to collection of the harvest.' I am not sure how the team travelled to games against other villages before the motor car, presumably members walked or used horse drawn carts. Perhaps a Friends member may know? I told Arthur Attwood about these minute books and he was most interested. He visited my home and then wrote an article about the history of football in Basingstoke which was printed in the Hants & Berks Gazette on his Historical Basingstoke page.

I hope this article has reminded some members of their own happy memories of local football, the characters and players involved, successes and failures alike.

The Editor, John Hollands, hopes this article will stir up more memories about local football. Please think about sharing them with other Friends and send something to the Editor, John Hollands, for publication in the May newsletter.

Mr Littlefair's Home: Kite Hill, from notes taken at a talk to the Kempshott History Group by Christopher Ayland, reproduced by kind permission of this History Group.

Editor's note: This article has been reproduced as a sequel to A tale of two Heads, by Simon Downham in our May 2023 issue, and More memories of Mr Littlefair, by David Buckland in our September 2023 issue.



Kite Ifill is a triangular piece of land on the corner of Old Kempshott Lane and Pack Lane. The four-acre plot was covered by trees and resembled a small forest before it was built on.

It was an ideal plot for the building planned by John L. Littlefair who bought the land in about 1930. Mr Littlefair was, from 1947, the slightly eccentric headteacher of Fairfield's Senior Boys School in Council Road Basingstoke. He lived off Old Worting Road.

When Basingstoke schools were reorganised in 1960 he became headteacher of Charles Chute Secondary School. He is remembered as being a formidable figure by his former pupils, always carrying a cane which was used very quickly for the smallest misdemeanours. I have also been told that he never wore socks.

John Littlefair engaged a Mr Jacobs to build him his dream house on Kite Hill, a project that took twenty years.

The trees surrounding the plot were left as a boundary and those in the centre cleared for the house and gardens. Part of the plot was thought to have been a Roman burial ground; pottery, coins and a few bones were found and sent to the Willis Museum. (Bob Applin told of his neighbour digging up part of a skeleton in his garden which backs onto the Roman road and his storing it in his garage before it was taken by the county museum service.)

John Littlefair scoured the country for reclaimed building materials for his house. It was built in the baronial style; bare brick walls huge inglenook fireplaces and high ceilings. There were four bedrooms but no central heating. John Littlefair could not afford to finish his dream house, the roof was not constructed, but he moved some of his goods and furniture on a barrow from Worthing Road and used a narrow cupboard as his bedroom as this was watertight and warmer.

In 1952 John Littlefair realised that the house was too big and costly for him and sold it to Leslie Ayland.

John Littlefair put his possessions on his barrow again and trundled them back to Worthing Road.

Leslie Ayland was part owner of the car franchise and garage Wheeler and Ayland which occupied a prominent site at the bottom of Reading Road, near where the new John Lewis and Waitrose store is being built. Mr and Mrs Ayland had a roof put on the house, installed oil-fired central heating, built an extension and conservatory, and employed two gardeners to transform the former forest into beautiful gardens.

For nearly forty years the Aylands used their family home for entertaining fellow business people of Basingstoke and members of Basingstoke Golf Club. Mrs Ayland bred Persian cats.

Leslie Ayland died in 1985 and his widow in 1989. The house was sold to Peter Trussler and demolished to make way for redevelopment in 1991. The original driveway from Old Kempshott Lane remains as the drive to one of its successors.

Notes. 1) John, Janet R. Fairfields Schools Basingstoke (1888-1979) p.90

A Yorkshire childhood, by Isobel Archer

Unlike most of the 'Friends' I am not Basingstoke born and bred. This means I'm not in a position to write a fact-filled and witty piece about Basingstoke's history as you all know much more than I do. However, all places have history and I thought it would be nice to share some of my childhood memories with you, and a little of the history of the place I called home.

I was born, and spent my early years, in a market town called Beverley, in the East Riding of Yorkshire. It has history enough for even the keenest historian. The name is derived from the word 'Beoferlic', an Anglo-Saxon word which roughly translates as 'Beaver clearing in the wood.' This would most likely have been a reference to the beavers who lived on and around the banks of the river Hull, which passes through Beverley. Although the beavers have long since disappeared, the town's crest still contains a beaver on a blue background.

Beverley was founded in 700 AD by John of Beverley. He was the bishop of York, until he retired in 718 AD. He lived out the rest of his life in his monastery in Beverley, where, it was widely reputed, he performed miracles. As a result, as his fame spread, after his death he was canonised and became St John of Beverley. Subsequent churches were built on the site of the monastery, the first started in 720 AD, the year before John died. According to the Venerable Bede, John was buried here in the Chapel of St Peter.'



The town grew as it attracted pilgrims eager to visit the resting place of the saintly St John, and in 934 AD King Athelston granted it the Right of Sanctuary. John's church finally fell into disrepair, and was replaced by a stone-built Norman church which did not last long, being damaged by fire in 1188 AD.

1190 AD saw the beginning of the building of the present Minster, (photo on page 8) which was enlarged and added to over the next 200 years. It still stands proud over the town and plays a large part in my childhood memories.

I went to Minster Girls junior school, and my brother attended the corresponding Minster Boys school. The church stood sentinel between the two schools which were either side of the edifice. Heaven forbid that the girls and boys should mix.

Every Christmas the girls' school performed a nativity play, in the Minster, and against the backdrop of the high altar. It was always an impressive event, and when I was 9 years old, I was chosen to play the angel who appeared to the wise men. Of course, the angel needs to appear to be 'on high' so I had to climb up a steep spiral staircase behind the choir stalls, in my long white angel costume, to appear high up above the nave. It was a bit nerve-wracking, but I managed it. Health and Safety would have had a fit.

In my teen years, when we were bored during school holidays, my friends and I often headed to the Minster and having paid our 3d (pre decimal), we were allowed to climb, unsupervised, the 212 stone spiral steps up one of the towers, to reach the top and an amazing view over the whole town. That's no longer allowed either. Health and Safety again?

The other tower housed the clock, and the bells which pealed forth every 15 minutes. You had to try and time it, so you weren't right next to them as you climbed. Poor timing meant temporary deafness.

One of my earliest memories is going to watch a ship being launched. We lived on a very long road which ran from the station to the very edge of Beverley where the road crossed the river Hull. The shipyard was situated at this point and was ideally placed for the finished ships to travel down the river Hull to join the river Humber at Hull.

I was very young, and remember I was sitting on a small seat in front of my father, on his bicycle. My older brother rode his own bike next to us. As the finished ships needed to slide down the slipway into a river, they had to launch them sideways. This was so exciting, as we watched the wall of water rising up to drench those who had chosen to stand on the opposite bank. We of course, to our regret, had to stand on the 'sensible' side.



Grovehill
Shipyard,
Beverley

Page 9 Growing up in Beverley, we were surrounded by history that we just took for granted. There was a rather impressive gateway into the town, known as North Bar. It is the only remaining Bar, of the four that once stood guard over the town. However, it appears there were never any walls to go with them, so I'm not sure how effective they were as a means of defence. Originally there would have been a town ditch, and the four Bars were probably the only way into the medieval town. They were used to collect tolls.



The early town would have ended at the Bar. The records suggest that the original North Bar was built in the 12th century; however, it was rebuilt in 1409 at a cost of £97 and 11d (pre decimal). It was renovated in the 17th century.

As the town spread beyond the Bar, the road adopted the curious names of North Bar Within (the town side) and North Bar Without (beyond the town).

As teenagers, we happily walked from the town, and through this amazing piece of history, on our way to spending the day on the Westwood.

The Westwood is a vast area of open grassland, trees, bushes, and grazing cattle. It is one of four ancient pastures that were originally to be found outside the town, with Figham and Swinemoor to the East, and South, and Westwood and Hurn to the West. These last two have now merged and are just known as the Westwood. In the school holidays we would take a packed lunch and be gone all day. We could walk almost to Bishop Burton, a small village 3 miles from Beverley, and still be on the Westwood. There are cattle grids on the road, at each end, to stop the freely grazing cattle from coming into town or heading out on the road to York.

Sometimes we would walk to Black Mill, the only surviving one of the 6 mills that once stood (and worked) on the Westwood. After a fire in 1868, the working parts, and any timber was removed but the main body of the mill remained. It became a Grade II listed building in 1987. The Westwood has also been popular



Page 10 for Sport, with many cricket matches held there in Victorian times. Now the only sport is at the Golf Club and of course Beverley Racecourse, both of which can be found on the Westwood.

The area, especially around Black Mill and the grazing pasture, is still overseen by the Pasture Makers, and there is still a continuing right for the local people to graze cattle and sheep on the land, which goes back to 1380.

So, there we have it – a brief dip into my childhood home and memories. There is of course lots more, and I am in the process of writing it all down for my children and grandchildren to enjoy. We shouldn't let our history die, so come on folks – start writing down your memories for posterity.

Copyright for the Black Mill photo. Sally Gaden (found on the 'I'm from Yorkshire website')

"Last orders" at The Barge and The Goat: photos by the late Robert Brown, introduced by the Editor

In a local newspaper article that he wrote in August 1986 the late Robert Brown noted that no less than 21 Basingstoke pubs had been closed down because of or since the implementation of the Town Development



due to compulsory purchase prior to their demolition to make way for the new town centre. Two that disappeared this way were the Barge and the Goat. He himself took photos of both shortly before they were shut down and he also called in at each on its last day of opening to take more photos. These photos are now in the Robert Brown photographic archive that we have at the Willis Museum.



Above left is his photo of The Barge in Wote Street. Appropriately named it was just across the road from the canal wharf. Converted from a cottage into a tavern in 1784 it originally served the navvies constructing the Basingstoke Canal, and later the bargees and men employed on the wharf. Its enforced closure took place on



September 29, 1966 on which date Robert Brown took the photo above right of the landlord and landlady Mr and Mrs John Hopkins with some of their patrons. He also photographed a second group of regulars making the best of things outside the pub entrance (left)

Dating from 1729 *The Goat* in Goat Lane had suffered a similar enforced closure in January 1965 followed demolition in July the same year. Since 1962 it had been run by Mrs Mildred Jarvis, the widow of Mr Arthur Jarvis, landlord from 1929 to 1962. She died the following year.

Both *The Barge* and *The Goat* had been owned by May's Brewery at one time.

As with *The Barge*, Robert Brown was present to take photos on the last day of opening. Below are two in the Robert Brown

photographic archive, one of Mrs Jarvis with a group of seven (assumed to be family members and one with a larger group of family members plus regular customers.

Have YOU any memories of The Barge or The Goat., or of any of the other pubs that disappeared because of the Town Development scheme? Do you recognise any of the people in the photographs. If you do, please tell me, John Hollands, so that your recollections can be shared with other Friends in the next issue of this newsletter.

Reference: *Gone but not forgotten: the histories of Basingstoke's historic inns and pubs*, by Ken Smallbone. The Four Seasons, 2017



Now until 28 Jan, last few days: *"We think the world of you", by David Remfry, RA. People (including celebrities) and dogs drawn together (in two senses)* Sainsbury Gallery

20 Jan-18 Feb: *Enchantment, by Goyara. Works in oil on canvas exploring floral and abstract themes inspired by the indigenous flowers, birds, ornamentation and costumes of Brazil.* Basingstoke Community Gallery

28 Jan, 2 pm -3.30 pm: Sunday afternoon talk (followed by tea or coffee and cake) *The last five miles of the Basingstoke Canal, by Roger Cansdale. In this sequel to his previous talk, Roger will cover the former route of the canal from where navigation ends now to its one-time terminus in Basingstoke.* Archaeology Gallery. Admission £6, To book go on-line at www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum, call in or phone 01256 465902.

10 Feb- 28 Apr: *Silchester: a retrospective of the archaeological excavations carried out on the Roman town by the University of Reading. Curated by Prof. Mike Fulford.* Sainsbury Gallery

10-18 Feb: Half term family activities: (The museum will be open all week)

The Winklebury Roman: Fred's Friends Trail: *Our Winklebury Roman needs your help. Go round the museum to find his teddy buddies to spell the name of a leader who will one day command a rebellion. £2 per trail (includes a small goody bag).*

15 and 16 Feb, 11 am – 12 noon and 2-4 pm: *Make a mosaic coaster: Using coloured tiles design and make a Roman inspired mosaic coaster. All materials provided (including the grout to take home and finish once the glue has dried). Age 5+. £5 per child, including material for one coaster.*

Important: Children must be accompanied by an adult at all times, but the adult does not need to book a ticket unless they want to make a mosaic. *There are access issues with this workshop. Please ask for more information*

15 Feb, 7.30 pm: *Friends' meeting: Bramshill House, ghosts included, by Diana White. This 17th century house in North Hampshire is believed to have 14 ghosts!* Archaeology Gallery

24 Feb-24 Mar: *BCoT Annual Exhibition. A showcase for the work of Basingstoke College of Technology's talented students.* Basingstoke Community Gallery

25 Feb, 2 pm – 3;30 pm, Sunday afternoon talk (followed by tea or coffee and cake) *Silchester: recent discoveries and the results of recent research, by Prof. Mike Fulford. A presentation to enhance your understanding and appreciation of the Sainsbury Gallery Exhibition.* Archaeology Gallery £6. Booking as for 28 Jan.

21 Mar, 7.30pm: *Friends' meeting: Southampton boy evacuee and the WW2 blitz, by David Styles. David was that boy.* Archaeology Gallery.

24 Mar, 2 pm – 3.30 pm: Sunday afternoon talk (followed by tea or coffee and cake) *Timber framed buildings in and around Basingstoke, by Bill Fergie.* Archaeology Gallery £6. Book as for 28 Jan.

29 Mar-14 Apr: *Easter Activity Room: The Community Gallery becomes a room for all things Roman inspired by the Silchester Exhibition.*

18 Apr, 7.30 pm: *Friends' meeting: Gilbert White: his life and times, by Kimberley James.* Archaeology Gallery

Page 13 **28 Apr-2 Jun: Personal Journeys.** *Exhibition by a group of artists using multimedia to explore personal and contemporary issues.* Basingstoke Community Gallery

28 Apr, 2 pm-3.30 pm: Sunday afternoon talk (followed by tea or coffee and cake): Women in the police force, by Dr Clifford Williams. £6. Archaeology Gallery. Book as for 28 Jan.

9 May-14 July: Karl Blossfeldt: Art Forms in Nature, a Hayward Gallery Touring Exhibition. 40 photogravures from 1932 entitled "Wundergarten der Natur". Exemplary signature close-up images of plants and flora. Sainsbury Gallery

18 May 7.30 pm: Friends' meeting: "Lord" George Sanger: Britain's greatest showman, by David Wickens. Archaeology Gallery. Release of May newsletter

What's on elsewhere

Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society (BAHS) www.bahsoc.org.uk

Meetings will take place at Church Cottage starting at 7.30 pm. Admission is free for BAHS members. There is a £3 charge for non-members. For current position regarding Covid-19 please see BAHS website or phone Penny Martin, secretary on 01256 974212.

12 Feb: Touchstones of the past, by David Hopkins, *County Archaeologist, Hampshire County Council*
How the history of Basingstoke can be traced in its street patterns, the fabric of its buildings and surviving monuments

Page 13 **11 Mar: Cerne Abbas: new evidence from excavations at the Cerne Abbas Giant, Dorset, by Dr Mike Allen,** *Allen Environment Archaeology.* *Dr Allen is a leading authority on archaeological environmental analysis through the identification of molluscs.*

8 Apr: Hampshire and the Spitfire, by Paul Beaver, *aviation historian, broadcaster, and writer.* *Hampshire was the birthplace of this legendary aircraft. Even Basingstoke played a role.*

13 May: Shaw House: 400 years of history, by Sarah Somerville, *Visitor Services Officer, Shaw House, Newbury*

Basingstoke Heritage Society, Church Cottage www.bas-herit-soc.org

11 Apr, 7.30 pm (Brief) AGM, followed by **Basingstoke: a walk through time, by Debbie Reavell.** £2 admission charge for non-members.

Curtis Museum, High Street, Alton GU34 1BA, (open daily except Mondays 1000-1630) (and Allen Gallery, 10-12 Church Street, Alton GU34 2BW (open daily except Mondays, 1030-1600)) www.hampshireculture.org.uk/curtis-museum ; www.hampshireculture.org.uk/allen-gallery

Now until Jan 28, last few days: Alton Art Society Paintings Exhibition. Allen Gallery

Jan 20, 2-4 pm: Young creatives arts workshop for ages 12 to 18. Free but must be pre-booked. See website for more details and how to book

Jan 20: Film: Lunana, the yak in the classroom. 6.30 – 9 pm with pre-film drink and interval, Allen Gallery **£7.50/£6.00** *A gentle, Oscar-nominated film set in Northern Bhutan. See website for more and how to book,*

3-4 Mar Camilla Hannay, ceramic artist. *See the artist at work, taking inspiration from the museum's magnificent ceramics exhibition.* Allen Gallery

Page 14 **From Feb 10: Snowdrop Saturdays, 11 am -3 pm. Allen Gallery. See the magnificent garden display and meet the volunteer gardeners**

Feb 13: Museum by torchlight, 5.30 pm – 7.30 pm (last admissions, 7 pm) Curtis Museum for families with accompanied children, children £3, adults free. Take a torch and explore the museum by night.

Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery, Alton

Meeting 7.30 pm at the Allen Gallery, Alton. No charge for non-members but donations are welcome.

Further information: Jane Hurst, 01420 86701

Thu 8 Feb: Hampshire memorials, by Tony Cross

Thu 14 Mar: the Magaret MacFarlane legacy: the Allen Gallery collection/ceramics, by Jackie Breakspear

Thu 14 Apr: Bentworth poet George Wither – a lovable idiot? By Barrie Lees

Thu 9 May: AGM

Tadley and District History Society (TADS) www.tadshistory.com

Meeting on the second Monday of the month at Baughurst and Heath End Hall, Heath End Road RG26 5LU at 8.00 pm. Free to members. Non-members £3.00.

Feb 12: Railways in Victorian Berkshire, by Richard Marks

Mar 11: The Versailles Treaty – Failure or folly? by Colin Oakes

Apr 8: 500 years of The Vyne, by Claire Tilson

May 13: General Brock and the Marwand Lion, by Mike Cooper

Correction

Page 8 of the September issue states that Miss Peachey gave a talk to the Mothers' Union at St Peter's Church, Sout Ham in the early 1980s. Judy Melliush has told me that this statement is incorrect and that it was Miss Wood that gave the talk. My apologies for this error which was entirely due to my misreading of information supplied by Judy.

Tailpiece: the North Warnborough Football Club in 1906, photo supplied by Lynn Martin



NORTH WARNBOROUGH FOOTBALL CLUB, 1906

Back row, left to right: W. Trigg, E. Pither, F. Sherwood, W. Cook, A. Dennis and W. Crockford (Secretary).

Middle row, left to right: T. Phillips, B. Dennis and A. Ferguson.

Front row, left to right: W. Clinker, A. Nobes, W. Crumplin, G. Crumplin and S. Allen.