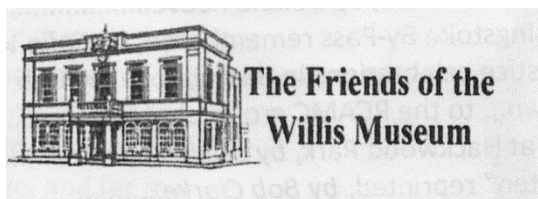


Friends of the Willis Museum Newsletter, September 2026



Friends' Visit to the Gliding Heritage Centre, Lasham, August 5. Thanks to a bequest from enthusiast Chris Wills, its Memorial Hangar was opened in 2012. A second hangar was added in 2018, and more recently a modern workshop for restorations and routine maintenance. The Centre houses the largest collection of historic gliders in the UK and possibly the world.(photo David Wickens)

'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.houses the largest

Annual subscription £15. Visitor for one meeting £3Your committee: Derek Anthony (Chairman), David Wickens (Deputy Chairman and Programme Secretary); Ian Scott (Treasurer); Steve Crudge (Publicity and Minutes); John Hollands (Publicity and Newsletter); Barbara Johnson (Membership Secretary); Lynn Martin; Stuart Parker (Assistant programme secretary); Sophie McClean (General Manager, ex officio).

This issue compiled and edited by John Hollands, proof read and distributed by Derek Anthony

Contact us via the museum or on enquiries@friendsofthewillis.org.uk

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From the Chairman, Derek Anthony

Welcome to the Autumn 2026 issue of our newsletter. I do hope that you managed to keep cool in the sort of Summer I couldn't possibly have predicted when I wrote my last Chairman's introduction back at the end of April.

Firstly I would like to thank everyone who has renewed their membership for another 12 months. For anyone who has not yet renewed, it is not too late. Send your form and subscription to Barbara Johnson, Membership Secretary, before the end of September and she will be delighted to add your name to the list of this year's members. Barbara's contact details are as follows:-

3 Hillstead Court, Cliddesden Road, Basingstoke, RG21 3PT, Phone 01256 326191. Email edandbarbjohnson@gmail.com

Once again this year our Programmes Team, David Wickens and Stuart Parker, has arranged a varied and very interesting programme of talks; subjects still to come include Thomas Burberry, Bramley's Hidden Military Railway and Women in Science.

Please be sure to put the date of this year's Annual General Meeting into your diary – Thursday October 15th – at 7.30pm in the Willis Museum. All the relevant documents will be sent to you ahead of the meeting. The AGM is an important opportunity for us to look back over the past 12 months and into the future. Because last year's sampling of Regency Food and Drink was such a success, this year we plan to follow the formal AGM with a chance to try some favourites from the Victorian kitchen.

We are always looking to add new blood and to strengthen our committee. If you think that you might be able to help please do contact me and I will be happy to explain what is involved. My phone number is 01256 322073 and my email address is derekganthony@btinternet.com

From the General Manager, Sophie McClean

Dear Friends,

I am writing this message to you all in the first week of the schools reopening, and what a busy six weeks we have had! During the school holidays, we welcomed a total of 5011 visitors through our door. This has had much to do with our excellent *I Grew Up in the 90s* exhibition, which has brought in lots of visitors. We have also had a phenomenal response to our *Basingstoke in the 90s* exhibition in the Basingstoke Gallery on the 1st floor. This exhibition was put together by Alice Hatton, who alongside some help from Chelsey Lewington created an amazing, nostalgic exhibition which has been a real treat for visitors who wanted to

page 3 reminisce. In the week beginning August 17, we welcomed 1218 people through the doors – pretty impressive when you consider that we only had just over 1500 in the whole of May!

The front of house team also worked hard running workshop Wednesdays, where families could make 90s themed accessories and decorations. This proved really successful, and we are going to run a few more of these sessions during the October half term. They really have worked hard, so my thanks go to the staff and volunteers who have kept things ticking over this summer.

All in all, it has been a very successful summer holiday for us here at the Willis. As ever, thank you, Friends of the Willis Museum for your continued support, and I look forward to seeing you at some of your evening meetings during this autumn.

Visit to the Gliding Heritage Centre (GHC), by Derek Anthony (photos Chris Vickers and David Wickens)

On Wednesday 5th August a group of 24 “Friends” and guests visited the GHC on Lasham airfield, to the South of Basingstoke. The Group was hosted by Roger Marson and two other volunteers at the GHC.

The two-and-a-half hour visit started with a convoy of cars driving around the airfield perimeter road to the GHC from the Lasham Gliding Society (LGS) clubhouse and cafe for an illustrated talk about the history of gliding and, specifically, gliding at Lasham. The talk took place in the Centre’s lecture theatre. After this the “Friends” were split into three groups which toured the 2 hangers filled with vintage gliders as well as the very modern workshop.

The glider collection covers the period from the Edwardian era to the 1970s and includes a replica of a pre-First World War glider and another (*right*) of the famous glider which was built in the prisoner-of-war camp in Colditz Castle but never flown.

As many as possible of the vintage gliders are maintained in an airworthy condition and flown from time-to-time.

Our grateful thank go to Roger and his team of volunteers for a very informative and enjoyable visit. Thanks to everyone for contributing £10 each to a £240 donation to the Museum in recognition of the time its volunteers took showing us around. We wish them every success with the future development of this fascinating Museum.



Anyone wishing to visit the Museum can do so by simply turning up at the Lasham Gliding Society clubhouse and café on Avenue Road on any Sunday afternoon in time for a 2.00pm start, no booking necessary. Further details can be found on the LGS website – www.lashamgliding.com.

There is also a very informative GHC website that includes an eight minute video. www.glidingheritage.org.uk



Above left: Note the swastika on the tail. In 1919



The Treaty of Versailles (later repudiated by the Nazi regime) forbade Germany to have an air force but allowed the construction and flying of gliders. Thus many Luftwaffe pilots initially learned to fly in gliders. *Above right:* State of the art workshops for restorations and maintenance

Postscript: The missing Lasham photo found, by David Wickens

I mentioned during my Talk on 21 that I had been up in a glider at Lasham but couldn't locate a photo - I've now found it!

The photo was taken in the early 1990s of my son Neil getting ready to take off and me with my head in my hands complete with parachute thinking what have I gotten myself into! It was a great day and very enjoyable.'



The “Your attention is drawn” feature in the May highlighted the museum’s display of Dinky Toy Cars made by Meccano Limited and asked if anyone had any memories of these models and their prototypes. This got me thinking and I looked out two of my four surviving Dinky Toys. These two, because of their size are both

classified as “Dinky Supertoys”, and both with strong associations with Basingstoke.

The first was a Thornycroft Mighty Antar Tank transporter Model Number 660 (manufactured 1956-1964), together with Centurion Tank Model Number 651. The first Mighty Antar was built in 1949. It was developed initially for the Iraq



Petroleum Co, for hauling sections of pipe on a semi-trailer in 60ton loads over the 560 mile pipeline route from Kirkuk to the Port of Baniyas on the Mediterranean Coast. Later a contract for Esso in Libya led to the introduction of the Antar Sandmaster with large wheels and tyres for the soft sand conditions.

The military version of the Antar was built in the early 1950s, about the time of the Korean War. Unfortunately, the 11ft 6inch width did cause a few problems in the UK. Another version of the Antar was used for the Snowy Mountain Hydro Electric project in New South Wales, Australia. At this time Thornycroft products could be found in many parts of the world. On one occasion a Diamond T Tank Transporter jack-knifed whilst going down Church Street near the Hop Leaf making recovery difficult. Then someone amongst the on-lookers called out for an Antar. A phone call was made and an Antar sent by the works arrived on the scene and recovery was completed.

On a personal note, my Mother’s family came from Bembridge Isle of Wight, (home of the Thornycroft family), to Basingstoke where her Father gained employment at the Thornycroft Worting Road factory as a driver/tester just prior to the First World War. As a young boy, at my Grandmother’s house in Worting Road, I would watch the lorries with their test weights going out on test including the massive large-wheeled Sandmasters.

The other Dinky Supertoy is a Commer Fire Engine Model 955 (manufactured 1952-1970). The connection with Basingstoke is that one of the two fire engines stationed at Brook Street Fire Station was a Commer. KOT 761. It was new to Basingstoke in 1952 and was then transferred to the New Station at



West Ham in 1966. The only difference between the model and the Basingstoke Fire Engine was that instead of the 35ft ladder on the model, it carried a 50ft wheeled escape ladder. It sat alongside the other Fire Engine

page 6 in Bay 1 of Brook Street Station, while the extension housed the Auxiliary Fire Service Bedford (Green Goddess). As a pupil at St John's School, if we were in the playground and the siren went off, we would race to the boundary railings and watch the Firemen on bicycles and on foot racing to catch the fire engine and then the subsequent turn- out.

My hobby: board games, by Chris Vickers

My name is Chris Vickers and I am one of the FOTW's newest members. I am grateful to all that have made me feel very welcome and to all on the committee that made my joining so seamless. It feels only natural for me to repay that kindness by answering the call for an article for the newsletter about hobbies and interests. I have many including virtually every sport, history, cooking and travel but my main passion is Board Games and Card Games.

Like many of the people reading this I have memories of playing mainstream games such as Monopoly, Scrabble, Cribbage and Ludo. The list goes on but one common theme was a member of the family throwing the board or cards across the room when they lost! My various jobs had a running theme of games played

during social occasions or the odd bit of downtime, but it was not until 2003 that the real passion for games took over. My eldest brother, Ian, was already a keen gamer and as we played more and more obscure games I became hooked. I now proudly own a collection of 1400 Board Games and Card Games, sadly 500 or so were inherited when Ian passed away from Covid in 2020.

The pictures with this article show two of my prized possessions. The Monopoly set has 10 playing pieces and a drawer in which to keep the money, Chance cards, Community Chest Cards and the silver houses with the gold hotels. The property cards are kept in a nice portfolio.



The chess set was bought in Lyme Regis, Dorset. I had seen a similar set in a shop window for £300 but the



one in the photo was on sale for £20! I was honest enough to tell the shopkeeper about the possible value but they were still happy to accept the £20 they were asking for! The pieces represent the Napoleonic French Army on the left and the Duke of Wellington's British army on the right.

It is not all about playing the game but the general moment with others as they find the joy in the game. Ian and I read an article in a magazine when we were in Essen in Germany at a games convention and it mentioned people like us and called us Games Evangelists! We liked the title and made it our mission to get as many friends and family as possible to play games and spread the word that winning wasn't everything. This was never truer than when I used to demonstrate games for one of the, if not the biggest, importers of games in the UK. I had always been ultra-competitive but the job meant losing every now and then! Alien to me then but although I do still play to win I have learned to take defeat graciously and find joy that makes everyone a winner!

I am often asked what my favourite game is but the answer always depends on my mood and the people I am playing against. Some games like 'Tutto' rely on luck whilst others like 'Ticket to Ride' mean making timely decisions. Some of the old games like 'Cluedo' and 'Scrabble' still make an appearance, and I have often played against others that still want to cheat where possible. My advice to them is fine but hold your hands up if you get caught and don't ruin the game for everyone else. The people you play against can be just as important as the game itself. I have a group of 8 friends that I play against regularly and I help run 2 games groups in the local u3a, one at St Andrew's Church and the other at The Tavern Dice Cafe at the top of town. The location allows for different games and the most recent meeting saw 2 player games such as Backgammon and 12 player games such as 'Dixit Odyssey' or 'Herd Mentality'.

I also have a PlayStation and enjoy the difficulty computer games can bring but Board Games and Card Games are a great leveller if you have people of different ages and abilities as you can tweak the rules if needed. As long as you are all playing by the same rules, carry on. Another great aside to playing the game is the chat that goes on between the players. I have learned a great deal of useless as well as useful information whilst also learning about the friends and family I am playing against. Information and stories that would not ordinarily come to the fore during everyday conversation often appear and delight me as well as the other person. It is great to see a massive increase in the number of Board Game Cafes appearing around

page 8 the country and some excellent games shops. The Tavern Games Cafe in Basingstoke has a great choice of games as does the Gaming Den just along the road at the top of town. I continually play games that are new to me and find games much easier to understand.

I don't think I am a 'Geek' but I suppose I must be to some degree. Having said that, aren't we all 'Geeks' when we come to talk about our passions, our hobbies and interests. I hope you have found this interesting and I hope it has made you think about dusting off that old board game or pack of cards. Chris Vickers

Henry V and the Southampton Plot, by Martin Frost

I took the opportunity recently to take a walking tour within the ancient City walls of Southampton to find out about a Plot to assassinate Henry V. I knew little about Henry V other than his famous defeat of the French at the Battle of Agincourt. The tour was organised by Sarah Siddons Fan Club and called "Harry's Hamptun". It was very informative and took about two hours walking in a group of about 20 people starting at the Medieval Merchants House and stopping at several locations including the Bargate, Holyrood Church and St. Julien's Chapel where the talk continued.

Henry V had his own Castle in Southampton, but this is now long gone as it in fell into disrepair and was demolished. It has been said that Queen Elizabeth I once stayed there and complained about the quality of

her accommodation! Henry was staying in Southampton in 1415 and organising his plans to invade France to reclaim land which at that time rightly belonged to England. His rights to the throne of England at that time were

Left: The Bargate on a 1930s postcard, courtesy Alastair Blair

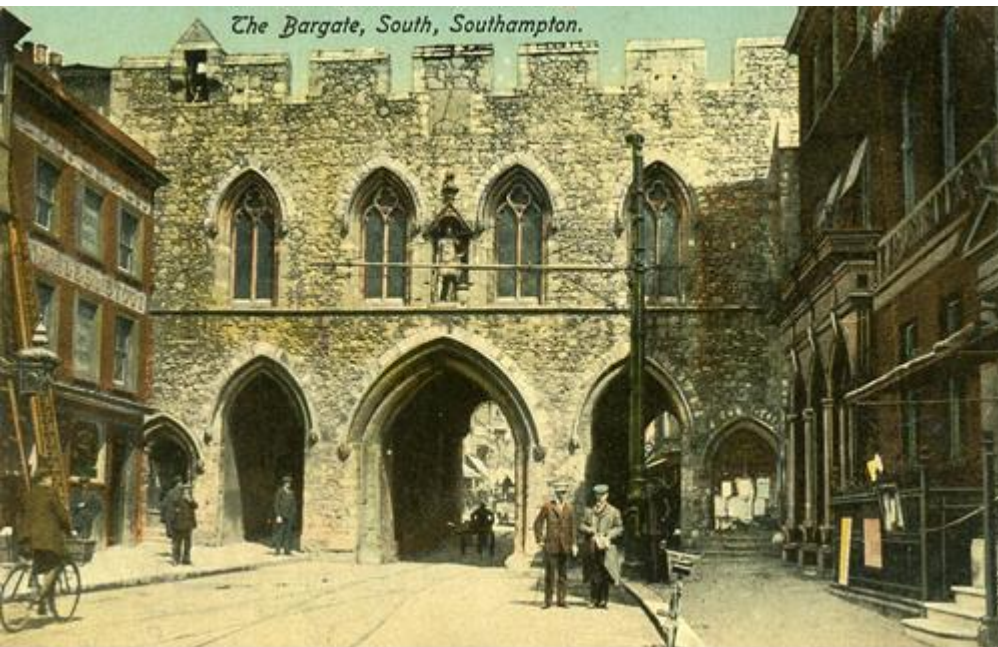
strongly contested by others with a claim to the throne. These were unstable times in our Monarchy and



country

Four senior aristocrats conspired against him in Southampton. One of them, the Earl of Marsh, decided to extricate himself from the conspiracy and confessed to the King. The three other conspirators were arrested and brought before Henry in his Southampton Castle where they were tried and found guilty. Two of them were without delay hanged drawn and quartered publicly at the Bargate. Their heads were decapitated and displayed on poles as a warning to further conspirators.

Aware of the dangers of conspiracy to his throne in his absence in France, when Henry recruited his army from the aristocracy he ensured that the senior aristocrats would accompany their troops into battle in France, thus minimising the possibility of rebellion at home. It also gave him the opportunity should he need to, to put them in the front line in battle where they might well not survive!



As a young man Henry had successful senior roles in the army and was well trained to lead his army to war. At the famed Battle of Agincourt the French army outnumbered the English, but they made the mistake of advancing their knights in heavy armour over marshy ground and became bogged down. Henry took advantage, and with his longbow archers rained arrows down upon them and defeated them.

South side of Bargate on an old postcard, courtesy Alastair Blair.

If you would like to take part in future walks and talks in

Southampton contact Sarah Siddons Fan Club website <https://sarahsiddonsfanclub.org.uk/>

For a detailed analysis of the Southampton Plot against Henry V get a copy of T. B. Pugh's book "Henry V And The Southampton Plot of 1415". It is available through Southampton Records Series. Our group were fortunate in being donated a limited number of copies during our talk, gratefully received!

Taking Toll, by Colin Williams, former member

Nationwide, as is well recorded, from the late 1700s until the late 1800s roads were improved by the activities of Turnpike Trusts in constructing and keeping maintained turnpikes with works being financed by tolls on users.



Locally, Basingstoke was both on the routes of long-distance turnpikes and a start point for others. Two turnpikes originating in Basingstoke were those of the 1795 Basingstoke, Preston Candover and Alton Turnpike Trust. From the town turnpikes for Preston Candover and for Alton commenced at the site of the former Lamb Inn with that for Alton taking Hackwood Road and

that for Preston Candover Cliddesden Road. A single tollhouse demolished in 1929 guarded the two turngates [pikes]; this was situated on the left-hand side of Hackwood Road shortly before the roads divided. In the 1920s Terry Hunt postcard (courtesy Alastair Blair) it is seen on the left next to the then new and unexpanded Kiosk.

Page 10 From Alton a tollhouse guarded access on Basingstoke Road [now Flood Meadows Cottage on Lenten St.]; from 1840 this was replaced by a new tollhouse at the junction with the re-aligned turnpike from Odiham [demolished 1968].

Right: The 1840 Alton tollhouse on an old picture postcard. Obscured by a hedge the Basingstoke road runs from side to side near the bottom edge of the photo.
Courtesy Jane Hurst.



With provision for collection of tolls at both ends of the Alton turnpike and at the Basingstoke end of the Preston Candover turnpike a tollhouse at Preston Candover might be expected but, seemingly, none ever existed. Nothing is shown on maps; nothing is known to the Parish Council; and nothing is recorded by the 1969 all-Hants survey of historic road architecture. Also, when collection of tolls was "auctioned", [i.e. out-sourced!] mention is made only of the Basingstoke and Alton gates. So where were the tolls from Preston Candover collected?

Sources, etc.

Alton Papers 12 and 13 [Curtis Museum]

Auctions Hampshire Chronicle e.g. Sept 3 1859

Basingstoke tollhouse Robert Brown 'Old Picture Cards'

1969 Survey by the University Southampton Industrial Archaeology Society

Road names: modern usage;

Your attention is drawn to the Old Contemptibles plaque, by Derek Anthony

When I was growing up in the 1950s memories of the First World War were still very much alive. Grandfathers, teachers, broadcasters and Members of Parliament had fought in the trenches. "TOC-H", "Woodbine Willie" and "the Old Contemptibles" meant something to our parents and would pop up in their conversations.



Today thousands of people who visit the Willis Museum pass by the wooden plaque memorialising the Old Contemptibles without a second glance. It is attached to the wall at the foot of the stairs leading to the 2nd floor of the Museum.

So, who were the Old Contemptibles? They were all members of the professional British Expeditionary Force, officers and men, sent to France in the early months of the First World War to stand with our French and Belgian allies against the invading German army. To be an Old Contemptible you had to have been a member of the British army fighting in France or Belgium *between* August 5th and November 22nd, 1914. That is before reinforcements began to arrive on 23rd November.

Page 11 How did they get their name? It was given to them by Kaiser Wilhelm 2nd, who called them a “Contemptible Little Army”. The name stuck and was adopted as a badge of honour.

In 1925 the Old Contemptibles Association was established “to maintain social bonds, assist needy members and preserve the memory of the regular professional army” which fought in those early months of the First World War.

The Old Contemptibles Association held the annual act of remembrance at the Cenotaph in Whitehall every November 11th until 1993, after which the Western Front Association took over as the original veterans passed away. Surviving records show that the Basingstoke branch was in existence by 1959 and that it lasted until at least 1978.

A memorial plaque commemorating the Old Contemptibles can be seen in Westminster Abbey.

Editor’s note: Have you known an “Old Contemptible”? If so, please tell us for the newsletter.

The British Association of Friends of Museums, by David Wickens and John Hollands

Not every Friend may know that the FOWM belongs to the British Association of Friends of Museums (BAFM). Established in 1973, this exists to assist, encourage and celebrate the many groups that support museums

and heritage for the benefit of all their users, now and in the future.

BAFM helps Friends’ groups to set up and run their organisations, acts as a lobbying group for Friends’ Associations and the museums they represent, and as a clearing house for common problems and their solutions, and it keeps its member groups informed about matters of interest via a journal, a website, emails and regional and national conferences. An occasional email from BAFM is forwarded to our “Plus” email group.

One form of encouragement is to present annual awards in categories such as the Friends Association of the Year, newsletter of the year, individual volunteer of the year, and young professional of the year. BAFM is particularly keen to get young people to use and volunteer for museums and has a Youth Ambassador.

If you would like to see a copy of the twice-yearly journal, please contact the editor or ask a member of your committee at a meeting. Well-produced and copiously illustrated, it will tell you much about activities and

initiatives among other Friends’ groups. We also suggest that you acquaint yourselves with BAFM’s website, www.bafm.co.uk where you can sign up for a free quarterly e-newsletter.

This year’s annual conference (October 2-4) which you can read about on the website and in the latest journal is to be held at Southampton City Art Gallery, where its former curator, Tim Craven will take a prominent part as our region’s BAFM area representative. You may know Tim as a speaker at our meetings and the Sunday afternoon tea and talks.

Your Chairman, Derek, and deputy Chairman, David will be at the conference on the Saturday and look forward to meeting other groups in our area and exchanging experiences and ideas for our mutual benefit. Derek will write a report on the conference for our January newsletter.



What's on at the Willis.

Now until 1 Nov: I Grew up Nineties. Sainsbury Gallery. *More than 200 objects and artworks take you back to the decade of Britpop, Cool Britannia, Pokémon, Power Rangers and dial-up internet. The Nineties are back to life - as if! Curated by cultural historian Matt Fox*

Now until 4 Oct: Art for Wellbeing – Projects developed with the Arts Society Basingstoke. Basingstoke Community Gallery. *Artwork produced by schools working with textile artist Vanessa Rolf and the Arts Society Basingstoke: 1. Printing Like William Morris - St Bede's Catholic School. 2. Soft Sculptures – Winklebury Junior School. 3. Sewing – Winklebury Junior School. 4. Art @ The Station from schools and colleges that have exhibited work in the waiting rooms and subway at Basingstoke Railway station over the last three years*

Sep 27: 2 pm – 3.30 pm, Sunday tea and talk: Hinton Ampner and Ralph Dutton, by John Holden.

Archaeology Gallery £7, (£6 to Friends) (includes tea/coffee/cake). To book please go on-line at www.hampshireculture.org.uk/willis-museum-and-sainsbury-gallery or if unable call in. **To claim the discount for Friends put FOWMTT1 in the code box– or call in, and tell the team member you are a Friend.**

Oct 10 – Nov 15: Edge of the world: a Basingstoke Art Club Exhibition. Basingstoke Community Gallery. *Pictures of creatures in their natural environment, taking you on a journey from mysterious ocean depths to soaring in the skies.*

Oct 15, 7.30 pm Friends' AGM followed by Victorian refreshments. Archaeology Gallery. **Please make every effort to attend this important meeting.**

Oct 25: Sunday tea and talk 2 pm – 3.30 pm: Pottage and peacocks: Medieval and Tudor food, by Jenny Stevens. Archaeology Gallery *Book as for Sep 27.*

Oct 26: Closing date for entries for the Wonders of the night exhibition, see Nov 16 below

Nov 16 – Mar 7 : Wonders of the night: Sainsbury Gallery

Night related curiosities from the Hampshire cultural Trust's collection such as an antique celestial globe, an eighteenth century painting of astronomers and an Anglo-Saxon brooch etched with crescent moons, combined with a wide ranging open exhibition on this theme for local artists working in any media. Entries, £3 per piece (juniors free) to be submitted by October 26. Artwork can be sold on commission. An opportunity for YOU and for younger family members to exhibit and sell your own artwork.

Nov 19, 7.30 pm, Friends' meeting: Thomas Burberry, by Chelsey Lewington, Archaeology Gallery

Nov 21 – Jan 3: Making a mark. Basingstoke Community Gallery. *Showcasing a diverse range of work by three local artists, Neal Whelan, Rachel Davis and Jacky Purtill*

Nov 29, 2 pm – 3.30 pm Sunday tea and talk : Claws, hooves, paws and hands: the role of the royal Army Veterinary Corps in the care of animals, by David Wiggins. Archaeology Gallery. *Book as for Sep 27*

Dec 13, 2 pm – 3.30 pm Sunday tea and talk: Made in St Ives: an artist's colony, by Tim Craven.

Archaeology Gallery. *Book as for Sep 27*

21 Jan, 7.30 pm, Friends' meeting: Bramley's hidden military railway, by David Wickens. Archaeology Gallery. *The British Army's ordnance depot and training camp at Bramley had an amazing little-known railway system that operated from World War 1 until the late 1980s. January news letter to be issued.*

What's on elsewhere

Curtis Museum, High Street, Alton GU34 1BA 01420 82802. www.hampshireculture.org.uk/ curtis-museum Open Tue-Sat 10 am – 5 pm

Saturdays, Sep 26-Oct 24, 10.30 am-12.30 pm : Stepping stones: multi-craft activities for 10-16 year olds.

Until Nov 28: Dotty the Dodo's autumn fact trail, *drop in family activity*

Autumn term time: Ancient Romans vs Ancient Britons, *free fun interactive trail for all the family*

Nov 14, 10.30 am – 3 pm: Allen Gallery stoneware study day, with Nigel Jeffries, Museum of London Archaeology. *A fascinating day exploring the history, production and archaeology of stoneware. £23 including tea/coffee, soft drinks and light lunch*

Oct 24- Oct 31: Medieval Monster hunt, family activity. £2.75 per hunt pack with a reward on completion.

Oct 29 and during Hampshire School holidays, 11 am -3pm: Thursday Craft Club. *An opportunity for young artists to explore a different craft each time. £2 per child*

Oct 31, 4.30 – 7 pm: Museum by torchlight presents... **THE GHASTLY FUNFAIR!** *Free admission with tokens to purchase and exchange for spooktacular games. A prize every time.*

Dec 1 – Feb 27: Dotty the Dodo's winter fact trail, *free drop-in family activity*

Friends of the Curtis Museum and Allen Gallery, Alton. Meeting 7.30 pm at The Alton Community Centre, room 7, Amery Street, Alton GU34 1HN No charge for non-members but donations are welcome. Further information from Caroline Taylor, carolinetaylor@hotmail.co.uk

8 Oct: Fire safety in the home, *by Josh Grant, Watch Manager, Alton Fire Station*

Nov 12: The importance of medieval women, part 2, *by Caroline Stapleton M.Ed.*

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

Meeting at Church Cottage starting at 7.30 pm. Admission free for BAHS members., £3 for non-members. No need to pre-book. Secretary Penny Martin, 01256 974212, bahsecretary@outlook.com

Oct 5: Winchester to Bolton: the progress of the Paulets, *by David Whiter, Historian*

Nov 2: "Made with humility and skill: the origins of the Verwood-type pottery industry, *by Dr Dan Carter, Archaeologist*

Dec 7: Children of the Basingstoke Workhouse, *by Barbara Large, Historian and author*

Jan 11, ON-LINE PRESENTATION ONLY: The Melsonby hoard, *by Dr Sophia Adams, British Museum*

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.

Oct 12: Shaw House – 400 years of history, *by Sarah Someville*

Nov 9: Pamber Priory – 900 years, *by the TADS Project Group*

Jan 11: (TBC) The Kennet and Avon Canal, *by Richard Marks*

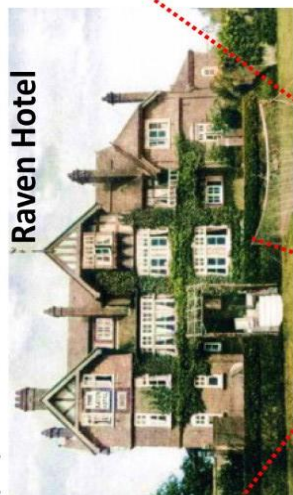
Correction, by John Hollands

On page 8 of the May issue, I stated that the illustrator George Roller became a business partner to Thomas Burberry and the manager of the London shop. This was incorrect. I apologise for the error. The manager of the London shop was Mr RW Rolls who trained in Basingstoke.

Hook's Heritage

Around the station in 1911

The expansion of the railway from two to four lines was the catalyst for the building of the Raven Hotel in 1901 whose opening prompted the closure of the Old Raven Inn on the London Road.



Raven Hotel



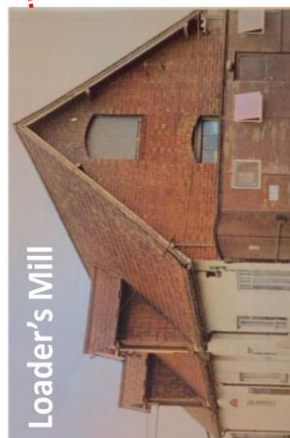
Fairholme

The family which lived at the home known as Fairholme in 1911 owned the "Woodlands" shop in Knightsbridge and financed the building of a second block of shops in 1905 in the London Road. In the 1960s Fairholme was demolished to make way for the Fairholme Parade of shops.



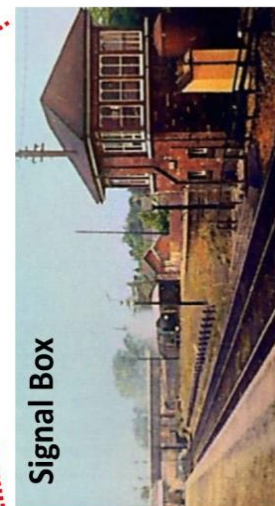
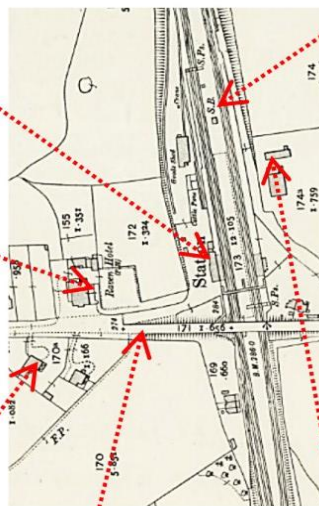
Station Road

Station Road originally formed part of the Reading to Gosport coaching road which was an important turnpike road in the 18th century. There still exist some milestones along the side of the road



Loader's Mill

This shows the stable block of what was originally part of Loader's Mill established in 1904. Sidney Loader died in 1911 and the mill was taken over by Smith Brothers. In 1959 W G Spice & Co converted it to make cocoa which it continued to do for the next 30 years.



Signal Box

The Hook signal box came into operation in 1883 just before the station was opened. It was demolished many years ago; there is nothing now to show where it was originally built.



Hook Station

The railway line through Hook was operational from June 1839 but it was another 44 years before Hook had a station of its own. Initially there were only two lines – it was a further 20 years before two additional lines were created causing the 'down line' platform buildings to be re-sited.



Hook station was much bigger than today with a signal box and goods yard. In 1912 the station need to be manned by a dozen or so railway personnel. The staff comprised a station master, 2 booking clerks, a parcel porter, a goods foreman, 3 porters, 3 signalmen and 2 lamp boys.



As a result of the opening of the railway during the 1840s horse racing started to be held regularly at Odham racecourse on Bartley Heath, some eighty years after meetings had first been initiated. There was a prolonged period of racing beginning in 1848 and lasting almost continuously until 1879. The course encircled what is now junction 5 of the M3.