

NEWSLETTER

Updating Hampshire's History

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VICTORIA
COUNTY
HISTORY



Hampshire

GENERAL NEWS



Sue Lane - VCH Outstanding Contributions Award, May 2023



Sue has been a volunteer on the Hampshire team for over 10 years. She turned to history and VCH after a career in social work and became an excellent historian with the skills, enthusiasm and determination to resolve problems and produce very readable and interesting text. She is co-author of two of our five shorts:

Cliddesden, Hatch and Farleigh Wallop by Alison Deveson and Sue Lane (2018)
Dummer and Kempshott, Two Chalkland Parishes by Jennie Butler and Sue Lane (2022)

She has also been very generous to the project to encourage more research. Sue has given lectures to publicise the project and helped with exhibitions. She is the sort of person

xxHampshire VCH depends on for its work.

Jean Morrin

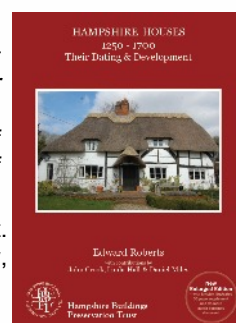


Edward Roberts, FSA, 1937-2023

Edward Roberts took early retirement from King Alfred's College to devote himself to recording historic vernacular buildings in Hampshire. He was a co-author of the 1988 publication *Medieval Hall Houses of the Winchester Area* and produced his own *Hampshire Houses 1250-1700* (2003) which received local and national fame and was followed by *Hampshire Barns c1300-1675* (2015). With Bill Fergie, he published an enlarged edition of *Hampshire Houses* (2016) and *Traditional Houses of the Worthy Villages* (2020). He was a founder member of the Historic Buildings Section of the Hampshire Field Club.

From its beginning the VCH team has profited from Edward's expertise on buildings and very generous support. With Bill Fergie, Edward advised on the buildings of many parishes including Mapledurwell, Upton Grey, Cliddesden and Farleigh Wallop, Dummer and Kempshott. Hampshire and the VCH have lost a major historian and friend.

Bill Fergie



BASINGSTOKE GROUP OUTING



The Group outside Goldings



Cross Street



United Reformed Church



St Michael's Church



Deane's Alms Houses

Historic Basingstoke walk, 7 July 2023

In early July Bill Fergie led a VCH walk around the old lower and upper town centres to view the historic buildings which survived the 1960s town redevelopment. We started at St Michael's Church and Chute House, one of the earliest of a series of large houses built in the town centre from the 18C. We noted that all housing, commercial and religious properties, including the Methodist Church, north of Potters Lane and east of Church Street had been demolished for town redevelopment. We walked along New Street, built in the late 18C to add to the two existing links (Church Street and Wote Street) between the lower and upper town. The Mechanics' Institute and Mares' factory were sited there.

In the Upper Town, we saw Winton House and Manor House. Further east along Winchester Street was Burberry's Emporium built after the 1905 fire. We saw the town crest on the 1894 Basingstoke bank, now the Maidenhead.

We progressed to Market Place, where the Town Hall (1832) is now the Willis Museum, with the Haymarket and Lesser Market behind it.

On London Street we admired the United Reformed Church, extended c1860 and the Gabardine Bar, formerly Burberry's, before moving on to London Road to Goldings and Eastlands, two large gentry houses built c1800 which became council offices in the early 20C.

A very enjoyable lunch in Côte Brasserie followed.

RETAIL and SHOPPING

Thomas John Edney: from House Furnisher to Market Gardener

During the late 19C and early 20C one of Basingstoke's most prominent shopkeepers was Thomas John Edney. Initially a 'house furnisher and upholsterer', in the 1911 census return his occupation is described as that of 'nurseryman, seedsman and market gardener.' In addition to his retail activities, Edney played a prominent part in the political and religious life of the town. A council member for nearly twenty years and Mayor for the municipal year 1891/2, he personified what has sometimes been termed a 'shopocracy'. He was also a leading member of London Street Congregational Church. Although he got into financial difficulties in 1905/6, by the time of his death in 1919 he was held in such high esteem that the flag on the Town Hall was flown at half mast.

Roger Ottewill



An 18C Grocer

Oliver Herne was a grocer with a shop in Market Place. His inventory, dated 1747, gives us an idea of what a grocer was selling in the middle of the 18C. The list of the items in his shop runs to several pages, and covers a very



wide range of goods, including candles, tapers, soap, wash balls, salt, vinegar, sugar, ginger, rice, tobacco, 13 lb of snuff at 1s 4d per pound, glassware, cups and saucers, bowls and dishes, chamber pots (12 small at 3d each and 16 large at 5d each), hour glasses, quills, writing paper, bibles, prayer books, horn books, slate pencils, thread, silk, cotton, Holland tape, laces, pins, dust brushes, paint brushes, mops, hand baskets, fish hooks, spectacle cases, and violin strings.



Bob Clarke

Early Markets in Basingstoke

Basingstoke is one of the very few towns in Hampshire which had a market recorded in Domesday, and the position of the market place, on the busy main east-west road through the town, is indicative of the importance of the market to the growth of the town. Since 1214, market day has been Wednesday. The medieval court rolls show how tightly the statutes for maintaining standards were kept, with breaches of weights and quantities punishable by fines. There were also many references to keeping the market place clean. These efforts were to protect the rights of the ordinary townsfolk, both their safety and the standard and value of goods.

Examples: 1510, the market overflowed into 'Oststrete whereby children and many others standeth in great jeopardy'.

In 1521, sellers of fresh fish, called Rypyers (Rippers) were selling all their fish to the innkeepers, who then sold on at a greater price. The bailiffs insisted that fish was displayed on a stall before being sold to anyone, as had been the custom.

There were many instances of traders being accused of overpricing, so Basingstoke shoppers in the past were just as keen on a good deal as those of today.

Mary Oliver



Basingstoke Shopping Week

In the 1920s Basingstoke hosted an annual Shopping Week with various displays and competitions. The 'Official Handbook of the Basingstoke Shopping Week' in 1920 stated, "No matter how varied your needs may be, how limited the capacity of your purse, or how critical your taste, you will find that the Shops of Basingstoke will meet your every requirement ... We ask that the motto of every single person in Basingstoke will be 'Basingstoke Shops for Basingstoke People'".

Bob Clarke



First chapter of Ellisfield parish history

Gabrielle Storey has written the chapter on Ellisfield land ownership. This is the first chapter on Ellisfield to be written.

Read the complicated story of the lords of the manor of Ellisfield from Domesday to the present day. It is published on the Hampshire section (Work in Progress) of the VCH national website:

<https://www.history.ac.uk/research/victoria-county-history/county-histories-progress/hampshire/hampshire-new-series-vol-ii-old-basing-steventon-and-environs>

More chapters to follow

Mapledurwell 2012
Steventon 2016



Medieval Basingstoke 2017
Cliddesden, Hatch and Farleigh Wallop 2018
Dummer and Kempshott 2022

BOOKS AVAILABLE FROM: The Willis Museum, Basingstoke, the Basingstoke Discovery Centre and the Hampshire Record Office Winchester.