

NEWSLETTER

Updating Hampshire's History

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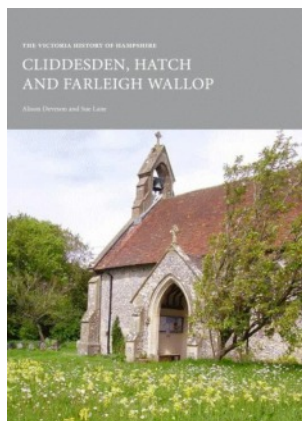
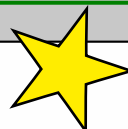
VICTORIA
COUNTY
HISTORY



Hampshire

PUBLICATION NEWS

Cliddesden, Hatch and Farleigh Wallop by Alison Deveson and Sue Lane



This book, to be published in December, traces the history of three small closely-linked parishes that lie to the south of Basingstoke on the edge of the chalk downlands. They have a common manorial descent from the 15th century onwards and were managed as components of a single estate under the lordship of the Wallop family (earls of Portsmouth from 1743) from their seat at Farleigh House. Whilst this volume considers the manorial owners and the development of the estate it includes much also about the lives and activities of ordinary people living and working in the several settlements. A rector ejected from his church, men caught up in the Swing Riots, an innovative dairy farmer and the founder of the *Hants and Berks Gazette* all feature in the book which also includes the history of Cliddesden school and the story of a rebuilt chapel.

Also available, **Mapledurwell, Steventon and Medieval Basingstoke**



FORTHCOMING BOOKS



Our next publication will be **Penton Mewsey** by John Isherwood. This will be the first volume to look beyond the Basingstoke area and covers a small village near Andover.

Two volumes are currently being worked upon (see Work in Progress overleaf): **Basingstoke in the 19th Century, c1800-c1925**, a complete history of the town during that crucial century. An ambitious project, research is well underway and several sections have been completed.

This will be followed by another book in the series on the combined parishes of **Newnham, Nately Scures and Up Nately**.

View of Basingstoke from the Holy Ghost Chapel and cemetery in the early 19th century

CHILDHOOD and ADOLESCENCE

Workhouse Children

From the beginning of the workhouse system in 1834, an unanticipated facet of workhouse population was that almost half were children (42,767 out of 97,510 in 1839). These destitute children were orphans, deserted, illegitimate, disabled or simply beyond the abilities of poor families to feed them. In the House they were separated from adults and boys from girls; in the early years many children received no education at all, with some guardians considering that it would give them aspiration, which was not required in the labouring classes at that time. However, in Basingstoke a teacher was employed from the outset in 1836, and industrial training was provided throughout, boys in agriculture and shoe making, girls in domestic and dairy work. By the end of the century, a complete change in national attitude towards workhouse children brought about a transformation, including the boarding out system, a precursor to modern foster care, and in Basingstoke considerable and often heroic efforts were made, particularly by lady guardians, to help these poor children move on with their lives.



Barbara Large

Children of the People

Between 1639 and 1641 five children were baptised in Basingstoke with '*filia populi*' or '*filius populi*' written in place of the parents' names: daughter or son of the people. The term was used to denote a child born out of wedlock. In each case no mother's name was given so the conclusion might be that the children were foundlings. Only one other case occurred in the 17th century and that was in 1660. The reasons for this cluster of foundlings (if that is what they were) might have been the dearth of corn in the preceding two or three years: not famine conditions but severe food shortages, with not enough to feed every child in the family.

Diane Kelly

CHILDHOOD and ADOLESCENCE

Apprentices

The Blue Coat School was established in Cross Street, Basingstoke in 1656 from money bequeathed by Sir Richard Aldworth for the 'education and bringing up of ten poore Male Children .. and for their Meate Drinke and Cloathing' and for them to follow an apprenticeship in an 'honest trade'. A statue of a boy stands on the site of the school today, erected by the Basingstoke Heritage Society in 1994.



Records held in the Hampshire Record Office list where some of the boys were apprenticed between 1688-1711. They include to a shearman in Greywell, shoemaker in Wootton St Lawrence, miller in Basing, shear grinder, hemp dresser, sack weaver and cordwainer all in Basingstoke and a tailor in Kingsclere. Some boys were given their coach fares to attend trials and others were found positions through newspaper advertisements. Boys started their apprenticeships at age 16 generally for a term of seven years. They were expected to behave well at all times, not haunt taverns or playhouses, play cards, dice, tables or other unlawful games. A particular proviso was included in the 1709 indenture for William Adams apprenticed to William Tovey, basketmaker of Alton, banning him from attending Quaker meetings.

Aldworth's Trust still makes awards to school children in 2018 for travel, visits, books, equipment and clothing. *Jennie Butler*

Sunday Schools



From Post card: 'Congregational SS - Overton, Aug 1907'

At the turn of the 20th century, it is likely that between 80 and 90 per cent of the children of Basingstoke would have belonged to a Sunday school. Although not all of them would have been regular attendees, for those who were, the Sunday school would have made a memorable contribution to their early lives. Now that elementary education was compulsory, Sunday schools had lost their role as primary educators in skills and knowledge and concentrated on the spiritual and moral development of their scholars. Thus for Basingstoke's churches, as elsewhere, Sunday schools were crucial in not only introducing children and young people to the basics of the Christian faith but also inculcating certain values, such as honesty and respect, which would enable them to become good citizens. With their anniversary celebrations, prize-givings, parades and outings, Sunday schools also offered scholars much to anticipate. Sunday school superintendents and teachers were often well-respected within their churches and the wider community. However, there were issues and challenges not least the failure to convert a majority of Sunday school scholars into life-long church members and the struggle to find sufficient teachers who were both competent and reliable.

Roger Ottewill

Boys' Garden Colony

An initiative of Henry Lannoy Cancellor (1862-1929), a Marlborough Street Police Court magistrate, the Boys' Garden Colony was established in Basingstoke in 1917. He wanted to find an alternative to prison for the adolescents who came before the court. Described as 'a settlement for lads of 15 or 16 years of age, who have been placed on probation' (*The Derbyshire Advertiser*, 29 April 1927), the aim was to equip them with gardening and horticultural skills which they could subsequently use to secure permanent employment. The boys were accommodated at South View House in Vyne Road and worked at various nursery gardens in the town. They also belonged to a cadet battalion of the Hampshire Regiment, attended church parades and were awarded prizes for their garden work and conduct. The Colony was managed by a committee comprising magistrates, probation officers and representatives of the London Police Court Mission. At celebrations to mark its twelfth anniversary it was reported that its fame had 'spread to many parts of the world' (*Hants and Berks Gazette*, 29 June 1929). It would seem that the Colony closed shortly after the end of WW2 although the exact date is not known.



Roger Ottewill

Well, Well! (or Boys will be Boys...)

In Down Street, Dummer there is a 360ft. deep well constructed in 1879 housed in a Grade II Listed wellhead. Water was raised by a bucket via a large hand driven treadwheel. Presumably a source of fascination, the well resulted in two small boys falling down the shaft. In 1887 Alfred Bowman, aged four, tripped but held on to the rope until he hit the water c.30ft. down. Local labourer, George Eales, climbed down the shaft and tried to ascend carrying the boy but was too exhausted. He managed to tie a rope around Alfred who was then hauled up. The rope was thrown down again to retrieve Mr Eales. The rector's wife recalled that she had hot blankets ready and took two hours to restore the boy's breathing. George Eales was awarded the Royal Humane Society silver medal for his courage.



Another undated report from the occupant of the cottage next to the well recalled her grandmother saving the life of another small boy who fell down the well. She managed to stop the wheel thus preventing the boy from being crushed by the bucket. The child survived to 87 and still lived in the village in 1971.

Jennie Butler

A Noteworthy Baptism in Basingstoke

On 16 August 1694 Edith Brown, daughter of Richard and Edith, was baptised, 'being the 17th child by Edith his wife'. This fact was considered sufficiently noteworthy to be written down and is the only baptism so recorded.

Diane Kelly

VCH Hampshire Work in Progress

The group is currently researching the history of Basingstoke and its surrounding parishes. As well as publishing three Shorts, *Mapledurwell*, *Steventon* and *Medieval Basingstoke*, with *Cliddesden*, *Hatch* and *Farleigh Wallop* due to be issued shortly, we have also placed material on the national **VCH** website and the **Explore** website.

The Hampshire section of the national **VCH** website, <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/counties/hampshire/work-in-progress>, has draft texts. We have recently added sections on the Basingstoke Canal, Education and Social Welfare in Dummer and a revised section on Public Health and Public Services in Basingstoke. The **Explore** website, <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore>, is used to publish short articles about interesting local people, places and themes and transcriptions of wills, inventories, censuses and other documents used for research. Recently added items to the **Explore** website include: Riots, Rough Music and Popular Disturbances in 19th Century Basingstoke; Dummer Water Supply; a transcription of the complete 1881 Basingstoke census; the Campaign for Women's Suffrage in Basingstoke; histories of the Countess of Huntingdon's Connexion church and the Thornycroft motor factory in Basingstoke; transcriptions of 17th century Basingstoke, Old Basing and Dummer wills and inventories.

