

NEWSLETTER

Updating Hampshire's History

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VICTORIA
COUNTY
HISTORY



Hampshire



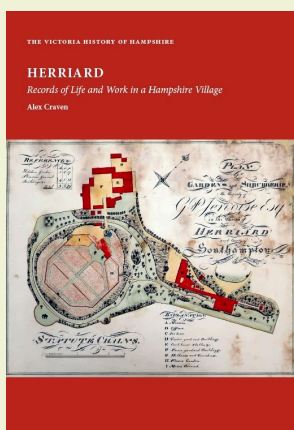
Celebrating Success



Special thanks to Sarah and John Jervoise for hosting the launch, on 1 March 2026 at Herriard House of:

Herriard, Records of Life and Work in a Hampshire Village

by Alex Craven



Our latest book is the seventh paperback in the **Victoria County History** of Hampshire series.

John Jervoise welcomed about 60 guests and spoke about his family history. Alex Craven (pictured) then gave a fascinating illustrated talk about writing the book. In particular he described the sources he found most interesting and informative in the Jervoise family archive in Hampshire Record Office (250,000 items). The family were assiduous record keepers and we are fortunate that these documents were never lost to fire, mould or rats. The revelations about rural life are unusually detailed and fascinating.

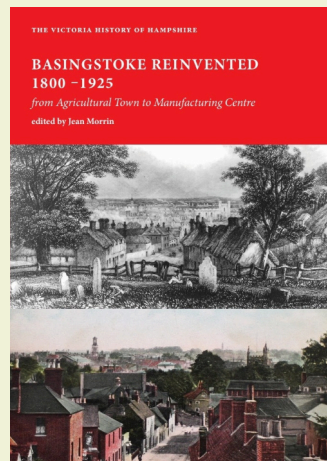
The book is for sale at £14.99 at the Willis Museum, Basingstoke, Hampshire Record Office, Winchester or directly from **VCHH** by contacting us at contact@vchhampshire.org

Basingstoke Reinvented 1800-1925: A review ...

Extract ... An impressive array of primary sources has been consulted across various record offices, museums, archives and libraries, including parliamentary papers, censuses, directories, newspapers and school and church records alongside much local secondary literature. As such there is real depth to the research. Much of the narrative is very engaging, especially for those familiar with the location. Given my research interests, I particularly enjoyed the sections on the impact of the First World War, the riots and disorder which occurred, and the chapter on religious history which drew out the substantial number of Nonconformist denominations which had a presence in the town.....

This wide-ranging and engaging book will be of immediate interest to historians of the town, the surrounding area and Hampshire in general. However, it also has the potential to contribute more generally to historical enquiry and deepens our understanding of religious, political, social and economic history as part of the broader processes of social change and industrial development in southern England. The late twentieth century physical development of this supposedly 'modern' town masks the roots of a history of a very different community....

Alistair Beecher, University of Oxford, in *The Local Historian*, February 2026, Volume 56 No.1



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Work in Progress

Education in a Small Hampshire Village: Tunworth

In around 1857 a Church of England school was built in Tunworth as an extension to a late 18C cottage that became the school mistress's house. The curriculum included reading, writing, needlework, scripture, nature studies, learning poems and songs, dictation and physical drill.

The school had a wide catchment area. The logbooks refer to children having to walk long distances to get to school and being unable to attend when there was heavy rain or deep snow or icy roads. There were certain days when no children attended school due to heavy snow or very wet weather.

Many pupils stayed at the school for only one year due to families moving in and out of the area after the Michaelmas hiring season. In October 1900 almost half of the children left the school due to their parents moving out of the area. In October 1908 the teacher wrote, "Received five new children during the week aged 9 to 13, two of the girls cannot write at all". It was "difficult to manage all the classes in such a small room". The schools Inspector reported that "difficulties are increased by the influx of new and very backward children".

Generally, in the weeks preceding the start of the harvest holidays at the end of July and after the school reopened in September, attendance was very poor. Many children were absent for several weeks in September because their families had not returned from the hop gardens. Some children were absent at other times of the year looking after younger siblings while their mothers were working in the fields.

In March 1896 all the children from Winslade were excluded because of an outbreak of scarlet fever in that village and were not allowed back until May. In June the school shut for a fortnight with an outbreak of measles and closed again for most of October with an outbreak of diphtheria. The logbook entry dated 13 November 1896 said, "Most of the children who had diphtheria returned, but they are unable to do their work as their eyes are so weak". The school closed for five weeks in 1909 owing to an outbreak of whooping cough, for a fortnight in February 1911 due to mumps, and for three weeks in June 1913 with an outbreak of measles. Because of an outbreak of scabies in January 1916 the school had to be closed for a fortnight to be cleaned and disinfected. The following year the school was closed and disinfected again, this time due to an outbreak of scarlet fever. The logbook also contained references to children being excluded for having "a very unclean head" or "skin disease" and books having to be destroyed to prevent infection.

In 1903 the County Surveyor reported that there was no proper lavatory accommodation. There were privies, some without light or ventilation. Water was drawn from a deep well, "This is strongly polluted water, quite unfit to drink" and the chimney was unsafe.

The school closed in May 1923.

Bob Clarke



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St Mary's Church, Upton Grey

St Mary's Church continues to play an important role in the life of the parish of Upton Grey. It has a thriving worshipping community, which includes young families, there is an adult choir, services are held on most Sundays, and a creche is provided. The Church runs a new visitor welcome scheme, a Neighbourhood Care Scheme, a weekly prayer group, and a monthly tea group for those of a certain age. A Safari Supper, Harvest Supper, and Garden Fete are annual events.

Dating from the 12C, the unusually shaped Grade 1 listed building contains some traces of an earlier Saxon building. The nave is Norman, and there is evidence of a south aisle which was later demolished. The original chancel is now the base of the tower, built in the 15C, and the present chancel is in the added Early English east end of the building. A north aisle, known as the Hoddington, was added in 1715 and further improvements and



alterations were carried out in the late 19C, funded by George Limbrey Sclater Booth (1826-1894), Lord Basing, and Admiral Sir William Fanshaw Martin (1801-1895), the lords of the manors of Hoddington and of Upton Grey. The work included removal of the gallery opening out of the old oak roof, replastering the walls, removing the old high square pews and providing new seating. The windows were reglazed and stained glass was inserted in the east window in memory of Lord Basing's father and mother. The old oak porch on the south side of the nave was restored, and several improvements were carried out in the nave. The roof is hipped and tiled, the main walls are rendered with stone dressings, the north aisle has red brickwork as does the upper part of the tower. The small south porch has a gabled tile roof and a timber frame fitted with stonework.

The Norman arch is the only visible part of the original Norman church. There is a piscina in the chancel, the font dates from c.1330 and is a plain design made of Caen stone with a late 17C lid. The church is rich in memorials, with several 18C wall tablets containing baroque ornament, many plainer smaller early 19C tablets, a good wall tablet of 1650 with a bust of Dorothy Eyre, and a number of 18C floor slabs. The west wall has three inscribed consecration crosses.

Albert Gallon

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John Madocks Home for Ailing Babies, Old Basing c.1916-1938

Avid readers of the June 1929 edition of *Britannia and Eve*, a monthly journal for men and women, would have seen an item about the so called 'Basing Bus', "a well-known sight in the village" of Old Basing. As shown in a photograph which accompanied the article, 'the bus' was a large pram capable of transporting about five

"little patients from the John Madocks Home ... [who were] off on one of their last rides before discharge – their cure completed. A very different picture greets Matron the day they arrive. Puny, weak, with deformities often threatening, some babies have been despaired of by the hospitals to which they have first been sent, but the secret of the success at Basing is the individual attention possible in a small institution, plus the untiring devotion of the Matron and her staff."



The Home had been founded by Rachel Madocks in memory of her husband who had been killed at the Battle of Loos on 25 September 1915. Sadly they had only been married for just over a year. Initially accommodated in Old Basing House, where she lived, she purchased an adjoining property, Springfield House, to serve as the Home. For much of its existence, and a major contributor to its success, was the matron, Olive Coleman. At the time of her premature death, aged 51, in 1937 she was praised for her "love and affection" and her "wonderful way with children". As well as "the 722 babies who had come under her care ... she was dearly loved by many of the children in the village." This was evidenced by "the many humble tributes" received and that she had been a godmother to a number of them. For reasons which have not yet been discovered the Home closed around Christmas time 1938, and a year later through Rachel's generosity the premises were placed at the disposal

of the headmistress of the Woolston Roman Catholic School in Southampton, the children and some teachers having been evacuated to Old Basing.

Roger Ottewill

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Upton Grey - Every Little Helps

Struggling to make ends meet is nothing new. 18C-19C agricultural labourers in particular depended on being employed and on there being good harvests. Any help was welcome. In 1783 David Brown, servant to Mr Stanley of Upton Grey received a prize of a hat, a pair of breeches and a round frock for his competent ploughing. During the 1830 depression in agriculture the vicar, Revd Mr Lightfoot, returned 20% of his tithe audit and 10% the following year.

In the 19C Friendly Societies started to appear nationally. Members could contribute a small amount of money monthly and receive a lump sum payment in times of need. The Upton Grey Friendly Society was established in 1838 by Albert Dent, head gardener at Hoddington House. This proved popular as the membership consisted of nearly all the labourers from the parish as well as from neighbouring South Warnborough, Weston Patrick, Herriard and Tunworth parishes. At the first annual meeting with principal farmers and landowners it was pointed out that such societies were common in towns but not in villages suggesting that Upton Grey was ahead of its time.



An unusual annual award was given by the North Hants Agricultural Society at their produce shows held in Basingstoke for men who had brought up the largest families with least parochial assistance. In 1842 William Waldron and John Instrall of Upton Grey were awarded £1 and £5 respectively. In today's money that equates to £146 and £730, not inconsiderable sums. At a meeting of the Royal Agricultural Benevolence Institution in 1885, George Deller, farmer at Bidden Farm in Upton Grey and subscriber to the society for 18 years, was awarded financial support following his poor health and a bad growing season.

The first meeting of the Upton Grey parish council in December 1888 detailed the Coal and Clothing Clubs. These were another way to save over the year to help with budgeting for specific costs. Payments were given voluntarily and were topped up with the occasional grant from the church offertories. In 1905 the 27 members of the Slate Club held their annual supper in the Hoddington Arms public house. Each received £1 2s 9d (c.£157). Two years later it was reported that £6 13s 4d (c.£936) had been paid out with £1 2s (c.£156) in hand.

Jennie Butler

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Sherfield-on-Loddon - Where There's a Will

Wills and inventories, lists of possessions following a death, are invaluable for the local historian. They provide a picture of the social and economic life of those in a parish long before the census returns of the 19C. Sherfield-on-Loddon has over 90 of these documents, transcribed by **VCHH** Wills Group, stretching from 1509 to 1735.

To give an example of one family, the 1650 will and inventory of Michael Parkhurst, rector of St Leonard's, Sherfield-on Loddon, depicts the life of a wealthy man. His house, probably on the site of the present Sherfield Court, had 13 rooms, including 5 chambers (bedrooms), 2 parlours, a study, hall, kitchen and 2 butteries. These were furnished with items deemed luxurious for the time. There were comfortable chairs, at least 10 tables, wainscot desks and inlaid bedsteads. There were books "of all sorts", valued at £40 (c.£6,000 in 2026), down pillows, window curtains, silver plate and much more.

Thirty years later the inventory of John, Michael's younger son, also rector of St Leonard's, gives a very different picture. The rooms listed show that it was the same house, but almost all the luxury items had gone. Most of the sparse furnishings and goods were described as old, even the 3 horses in the stable, though some books were left. In Michael's will John's older brother, James, was bequeathed his father's other house in Overton and his "household goods". It seems most likely that James had taken the lot. Family gatherings thereafter may have been somewhat fraught.

Lesley Mason

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Old Basing: Communal Life in the Inter-War Years

Between 1919 and 1939 Old Basing had a wide variety of secular organisations and societies to cater for the interests of villagers. These complemented the social activities provided by the churches, namely the parish church of St Mary's, the Methodist church and the Congregational church. With the formal opening of the Village Hall at the beginning of 1921 the community had a focal point for gatherings over the next few decades. It was constructed from two army huts "which were fortunately purchased at a time when such structures were much cheaper" than they became. The dimensions of the main hall were 80ft by 21ft. At the back of the Hall there was the Institute room with attached kitchen. The hall had a "good stage", which for the opening ceremony "was handsomely decorated with screens, palms and ferns". From the start it was used by a wide variety of organisations from the Women's Institute to the British Legion, from sports clubs to the Old Basing Lodge of the Royal Antediluvian Order of Buffalos. The most popular events were dances and whist drives. Apart from socialising and enjoyment the principal motive for these was fund raising. The Hall survived until the mid 1970s, with its replacement being opened in 1982.



Moving the Old Village Hall

Roger Ottewill

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William Paulet, 1st Marquess of Winchester



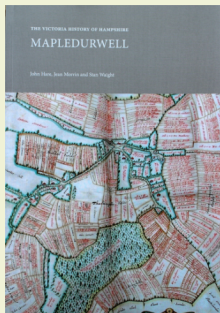
WILLIAM PAULET
1st MARQUESS OF WINCHESTER
From the ancient Painting in the College of Arms.

The distinguished career in royal service of William Paulet, noteworthy for its longevity in a period of particular turmoil, drew Basing into prominence. Paulet's rise was unremarkable at first, restricted as it was to administration within his native county. He served as sheriff of Hampshire in 1511, 1518 and 1522, and was first named to the county bench in 1514. He was Lord of the Manor of Basing from 1525. Paulet was a member of the Privy Council by February 1526. He served as MP for Hampshire between 1529 and 1536 and was appointed lord high treasurer of England in 1550. He was created earl of Wiltshire in 1550, and marquess of Winchester in the following year. He retained his office and position at court through the conflicting politics of the reigns of Edward, Mary and Elizabeth, only dying in 1572, reputedly at the age of 97.

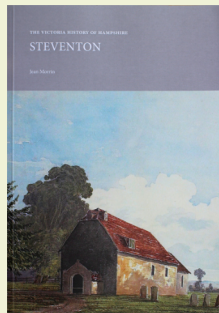
His striking career enabled the acquisition of a large landed estate, and established his family amongst the wealthiest and most prominent in England, with the family becoming a dominant element in Hampshire. Paulet demonstrated his new status by rebuilding his house from 1531. He rebuilt the old castle within the ringwork, and subsequently constructed a grand new house to the north-east. Combined, the old and new Basing Houses were reputedly the largest private residence in the country, and successive monarchs from Henry VIII to Charles I were entertained there.

Alex Craven

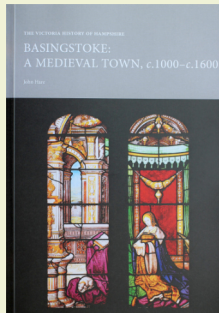
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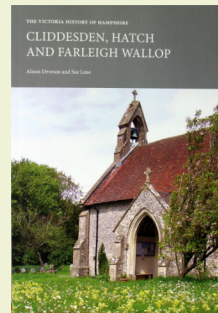
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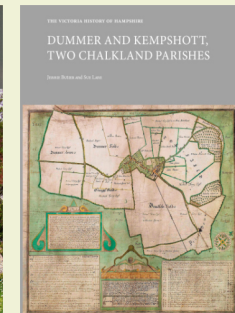
Steventon



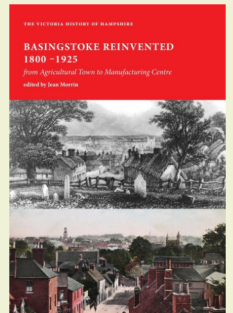
Basingstoke:
a Medieval
Town



Cliddesden,
Hatch and
Farleigh Wallop



Dummer and
Kempshott



Basingstoke
1800 - 1925

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