

NEWSLETTER

Updating Hampshire's History

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VICTORIA
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Hampshire

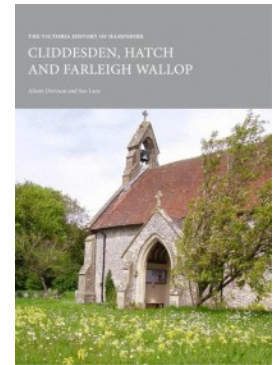
LAUNCH OF NEW BOOK



From Left: Sue Lane, the Countess of Portsmouth, Cllr Anna McNair Scott (Chair VCH) and Alison Deveson

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

Cliddesden Millennium village hall was full to capacity on 15 December 2018 for the launch of a book on the history of three parishes which from the 15th century shared a common ownership by the Wallop family (earls of Portsmouth from 1743). The book describes agricultural practices and innovations in the parishes, the conditions leading to the Swing Riots of 1830, the religious upheavals of the 17th century, a Methodist chapel moved from Basingstoke and rebuilt in Cliddesden and a detailed history of the school.



Copies can be purchased for £14 from the Willis Museum, Basingstoke, Hampshire Record Office, Winchester or by post from Sue Lane, Applegarth, Wonston Road, Sutton Scotney, Winchester SO21 3GX enclosing a cheque for £16 (including £2 postage and packing) made out to Hampshire Archives Trust (VCH project).



Other books in the series: *Mapledurwell*, *Steventon* and *Medieval Basingstoke*

CRIME and PUNISHMENT

Highwaymen

In 1724, having spotted which farmers were making most money at Basingstoke market, three highwaymen lay in wait 'in a narrow lane near IIsfield [Ellisfield]' where they attacked and robbed a number of farmers as they made their way home. The same gang also committed many robberies in the south of the county. In January 1725 they murdered Farmer Cluer, or Clewer, as he was returning from Bishops Waltham market. In November 1725 they visited Basingstoke market again. Unfortunately for them, one of the farmers they robbed near Ellisfield recognised them, and gathered a posse of people to secure them. The accounts of the overseers of the poor for 1725 show sums paid to various people for 'watching Highwaymen', for escorting them to Winchester Jail and for horse hire. Afterwards two of the three highwaymen were hanged and their bodies were hung in chains near the place where they murdered Farmer Cluer.



Before the main road to London was diverted across Hook Common in the 1780s, it passed through Newnham. Coaches and horses could only travel up the steep slope of Crown Lane at walking pace. This made it an ideal spot for highwaymen to ambush their victims. Early in the morning of 17 October 1728 three highwaymen robbed several coaches, including the Exeter coach, coming from the west at 'Newnham Hill'. In November 1747 a 'well-mounted highwayman' robbed a draper of four guineas 'on the Hills between Basingstoke and Newnham' as he was returning to London from Andover, and two highwaymen robbed a Quaker on 'Newnham-Hill' in November 1750. It is not known how many other robberies took place in that location that were never reported in the newspapers.

Bob Clarke

CRIME and PUNISHMENT

Medieval Crime in Penton Mewsey

The court records show quarrels and assaults to a surprising degree for a community of probably no more than 150. In 1431, Philip Dounce is reported to have assaulted Richard Pemmer, drawn his blood 'against the King's Peace' and to have disappeared. At the next court Thomas Flyngaunt is fined a penny for drawing a knife on Jacob Bayly 'and because the tithingman cannot produce the said knife, he and Thomas are fined 2d.' There are two similar incidents involving different men at the courts which follow and two of theft, one accusing a woman. At another, Isabel Davy was found to have insulted Margaret North, the miller's wife, and because she failed to appear, Isabel is fined 2d. More serious, a Penton husbandman, John Bolyn, 'at the suit of his brother John Rogers of Wynchelse', was declared an outlaw and his ten acres of villein held land, with its corn and barley and his other goods worth 11/-, were forfeited 'and the county of Southampton [Hampshire] is to recover 60 shillings from the said John by reason of his outlawry.' *John Isherwood*

Clergyman at Risk

Hants and Berks Gazette, 3 September 1881: 'The Rev Henry Yeates [Primitive Methodist minister] narrowly escaped a good drubbing from a man inflamed with drink on Wednesday evening last. The individual referred to invited the reverend gentleman to his cottage on the pretext of having some spiritual conversation, but not thinking the man was in a fit state of mind to "receive with meekness the ingrafted word" Mr Yeates declined but promised to call upon him on a future occasion. However, the man induced Mr Yeates to accompany him down Essex-road for the purpose of showing him the house in which he resided and eventually drew him inside. No sooner had he done so and closed the door than the individual placed himself in a fighting attitude. The position as may be imagined, was somewhat dangerous, but the wife came to the rescue and opened the door to Mr Yeates, who, in crossing the doorstep fell down. On rising he proceeded some few steps, when he again fell. At last he commenced to run down the road, followed by the infuriated man. Fortunately Mr Yeates took shelter in a neighbouring cottage, and escaped to the attic with cries of "Help" and "Murder." The man finding himself baffled, then turned upon Mr. Thomas Martin, who was hard by, and dealt him a few sharp blows on the face.'

Roger Ottewill



Local Villains, the Arletts, in the newspapers

Reading Mercury, 8 March 1773: A crime was committed against a member of the prosperous Chase family of Sheffield on Loddon. It was stated that, 'those two notorious villains William and Robert Arlett, who had for years been a terror to the neighbourhood where they lived,' had been found guilty and sentenced to death at Winchester for threatening death to Farmer Chase while robbing him of £27, a considerable sum in 1773.

General Evening Post, 22 March 1773: 'Eleven ... convicts who were condemned at the last assizes, are reprieved; ... one of the Arletts remains for execution.'

Lloyd's Evening Post, 20 March 1773: Winchester: 'at noon Robert Arlett, ... was executed here ... and died very penitent.' The article continued, giving some background into the Arlett family as a whole: 'His [Robert's] father and grandfather were both hanged here for offences of the like nature; his mother was transported; his brother [presumably William] is now here, under sentence of transportation; and he himself was tried at Reading, on four indictments, two years ago.'

Lesley Mason (with thanks to Bob Clarke)

The Treadmill

In the 19th century when the Basingstoke magistrates sentenced someone to spend a short period in jail, this was generally at the town jail in New Street. But when they sentenced someone to a period of hard labour, this was served at the County Bridewell in Winchester. Hard labour meant working the treadmill, otherwise known as the tread-wheel, to grind corn to make flour for the County Jail, Bridewell, County Hospital and Poor House. The treadmill was regulated to maintain 48 steps per minute, each step being nine inches apart.



Bob Clarke

Public Punishments

Samuel Attwood was a tailor in Basingstoke who kept a diary primarily to record his hours of work and earnings, but also noted events in the town. In April 1820, he served on the court petty jury and writes 'A boy whipped on Saturday for robbing Mr Purkis. Benjamin Pearce sent to jail for forgery on the Basingstoke Bank'. The following week, 'boy whipped in the market place for robbing Mr Loader of some wool, as was one privately in jail for the same offence last week'. Theft seems to have been the most common offence with public flogging or jail resulting.

Mary Oliver

Workhouse Punishment

Punishments in the workhouse system were notorious. However, in Basingstoke, there was only one documented instance of formal beating in 1842 (the master only stayed for a year), unlike Kingsclere workhouse where corporal punishment was regular. Punishment in Basingstoke was reduced rations and confinement. There is one instance where runaway boys were taken before the magistrate (who was W L Sclater, Chairman of the Board of Guardians) for constantly running away, and he returned them to the House unpunished. One boy was birched in 1899 for deliberately setting fire to a hayrick.



However, inmates were regularly sent to Winchester prison and hard labour on the treadmill for violence, theft and serious misbehaviour. In 1883, one woman lost her composure and destroyed her bedding, broke windows and was sent to Winchester for two months; Chairman: '[She] used language of a most horrible description, too detestable to use in a court. She is the most foul-mouthed woman I have ever heard in my life.'

Barbara Large

VCH Hampshire Work in Progress

The group is currently researching the history of Basingstoke and its surrounding parishes. As well as publishing four books, *Mapledurwell*, *Steventon*, *Medieval Basingstoke* and *Cliddesden, Hatch and Farleigh Wallop*, 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 sections and chapters. The **Explore** website, <http://www.victoriacountyhistory.ac.uk/explore>, is used to publish 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 histories of Baptists and Primitive Methodists in Basingstoke, the story of The Day the Vicar locked the Council out of the Parish Church, Dummer's Lost Windmills and Dummer's Milestones and Boundary Stones.

