

# Abingdon Area Archaeological and Historical Society

[www.AAAHS.org.uk](http://www.AAAHS.org.uk)



## NEWSLETTER – AUTUMN 2012

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### Meetings Programme:

All at the Northcourt Centre starting at 7.45pm. Members free. Visitors welcome (£3.00 entry)

September 20th: **AGM** and “**Neanderthals Among Mammoths: Excavations at Lynford Quarry, Norfolk**” (Bill Boismier)

October 18th: “**Apples - Myth and Mystery of England’s Fruit**” (Tim Healey).

November 15th: “**Petticoats and Partlets: the clothes of an ordinary woman in the early 17<sup>th</sup> century**” (Barbara Allison).

December 13th: “**The Serpent that tempted Eve**” (Andy Lamb from the Bate Collection, with musical demonstrations).

January 17th: “**Coats of Arms and Colourful Folk – the seventeenth century decorations of the Duke Humphrey Library and the New Schools in Oxford**” (John Ashdown).

February 21st: “**The East Oxford Project**” (Jane Harrison).

### Chairman’s Report

By the time you read this, the Jubilee celebrations may be just a distant memory, the Olympics will be over and we may be enjoying an Indian summer (well, one can but hope). What is certain, though, is that we will be at the start of a new Society year – indeed, I hope that many of you will have picked up your copy of this newsletter at our AGM on 20<sup>th</sup> September.

2011/12 was a good year for the Society. We had a varied programme of lectures, an excellent Christmas Social (the Wychurst Project, accurately recreating a large Saxon timber hall in a wood in Kent) and we concluded the year with a very enjoyable Open Evening in June at which a number of members gave talks about their research or displayed items of interest. We also had three excellent evening outings, arranged by Liz Drury (to Steventon, Radley College and Longworth). Reports on these are elsewhere in this newsletter.

The Local History Group has continued to thrive, and the digging team has carried out some further work, notably under John Gibbs’ direction at Kiln Copse in Marcham. Progress on writing up past fieldwork has not, however, been as rapid as

would have been desirable, and this remains an important task which really does need to be tackled.

The Committee (led by Stuart Hughes) has submitted comments to the Vale of White Horse Council on a number of planning applications which appeared to have archaeological implications. Given changes to the planning system, the weak economy and cut-backs in local authority staffing, it is increasingly important that societies like ours 'wave the flag' for archaeology and heritage with our local councils, so that councillors and officers realise that local people care about their past, and will be vigilant to see that it is cared for.

One of the most important things to have happened in Abingdon archaeology and local history for a long time occurred on Saturday 7 July – the reopening of Abingdon Museum in the fully refurbished County Hall. Both the building and the new displays are very fine. A number of Society members provided advice, information and objects for the displays; there is also space in the galleries for temporary exhibitions, so we may have the chance to show more of our work in the future. Jane Bowen (the Curator), her predecessor Lauren Gilmour and their team of helpers deserve warm congratulations for all their extremely hard work. It has given Abingdon a museum which we can be really proud of.

Looking ahead, our lecture programme for 2012/13 is now finalised, and is printed above. Once again, we have a programme which is full of interest. Our other activities will also continue through the year, and I hope that you will be able to take full advantage of everything which the Society has to offer during the year ahead.

*Roger Thomas, Chairman*

### **Membership Secretary's Report**

Total membership numbers this year are once again slightly down on last year. This year there are the same number of family subscriptions as 2010/11, 16, but individual subscriptions have decreased from 56 to 46. Concessionary members have increased from 30 last year to 34 this and distant from 1 to 2. I am pleased to say that we had 10 new members joining this year which was the same number as last year (and also 2 more who were too late to join this year but have joined for 2012/13) but the number of members who didn't renew their subscription this year increased from 8 to 18. I don't know if this means the Society is not providing what these members want or is just a reflection of increasing age and infirmity or a lack of time or money. Probably it is a mixture of all of these.

Our thanks go to those who have opted to receive the newsletters via e mail thus saving paper and postage and also to those members who paid for an individual subscription when they could have had a concessionary one or included a donation with their subscription. In the words of a well-known supermarket "every little helps"! I hope that you will all rejoin for 2012/13 and will encourage all your friends to join too! A subscription form is included at the end of the newsletter so please either fill it in and post it to me at the address shown or bring it along to the AGM or any other meeting. If you are unable to print it out there will be spare copies at the AGM.

Please make sure you include your correct e mail address and tell me if it changes. Thank you. I look forward to seeing you all at the AGM with your cheque books and cash.

*Sally Ainslie, AAAHS Membership Secretary*

## AAAHS Outings 2012



We had an interesting programme of walks again this “Summer”. Thanks to all the walk leaders and to Elizabeth Drury for organising them. Ideas for outings for next year to Elizabeth (01235 553636).

Left: Radley College; Below left: Steventon, below right: Longworth



### Walk around Steventon - Tuesday 8<sup>th</sup> May

**Q** Where within a half mile radius can you find:

- a Priory which was not a priory
- a length of Brunel’s broad gauge railway line being used as fence posts
- a real ale pub with no beer pumps
- good examples of saltire timber framing?

**A** The Causeway, Steventon

The first outing of the 2012 season saw 15 Members on a tour of Steventon Causeway under the expert direction of **Dr David Clark** of the Oxfordshire Building Record, on the cool evening of 8 May. The twin delights of Steventon are its wealth of well-preserved Mediaeval timber-framed buildings and its long surviving documentary history owned by Westminster Abbey.

The tour started with a visit to Priory Cottage where we viewed a Mediaeval hall with an even older wing lovingly restored by the National Trust, and delighted at the artistic timber framing of the Elizabethan front façade, with traditional lime-wash. Then followed a tour of 107 Causeway, a delightful property with a C16 hall and C14 wing, where we speculated as to whether the hall's first floor was original or a later modification. At Looker House we noted Steventon's long educational heritage, as this was a highly successful early C19 school with some 60 boarders. A feast of Mediaeval cottages proceeded down the Causeway, interrupted only by the passage of high speed trains, until we reached the earliest property dating from 1299 and confusingly named Tudor House. Here we get a glimpse into the transfer of the property to the Boseley family through the records of the Fire Insurance certificate.

The traditional North Star Inn was then noted, although sadly not visited. It is a pub with no bar but a proper tap room. Finally we arrived at a cruck-framed cottage with a most imposing saltire framed wing, and the by now familiar quandary as to which was the original and which the extension. Returning to St Michael's Church via the causeway and the current school designed by local architect, Street, in the 1860s, we proceeded to its predecessor Church School commissioned by the then Vicar.

The tour ended in the churchyard with a family history of the Langfords, the Somerset coal merchants who made a big impact on Victorian Steventon, and even left their name on an elegant shopfront in Abingdon's Stert Street. Members thanked Dr Clark for sharing his expertise on what had been a highly educational and enjoyable tour.

*John Rawling*

### **Visit to Radley College - Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> June**

We were met in the visitors' car park by **Mr David Anderson**, the Estates Bursar, who led us on a guided tour of the most historic buildings on the site. The prominent building on the site was built as Radley Hall for Sir John Stonhouse whose ancestor, George Stonhouse, purchased the estate from the Crown in 1560. The construction of the Hall commenced in 1721 and it replaced a previous C16 house. The architects of the Hall were William Townesend and Bartholomew Peisley, of Oxford, who also designed Kingston Bagpuize House to which it bears some similarities. In 1771 Capability Brown was commissioned to redesign the grounds.

Radley Hall was eventually acquired by Sir William Bowyer, whose wife had inherited the estate. In 1795 it was inherited by his son, Admiral Sir George Bowyer (1739-1800), and subsequently by his son, also Sir George Bowyer. The latter found himself in financial difficulties after an unprofitable investment in a mining and canal scheme and so he decided to let the building to be used as a school, from 1810 to 1847. That school was eventually closed as it was not successful. The building was then taken over by the two founders of Radley College, William Sewell and Robert Singleton, in 1847.

Originally the school and boarding rooms were in the Hall and there were a further 136 acres of land attached to the school. The site was rented from the Bowyer family, but the two founders put their own money into the early development of the site and

started the first of four phases of architectural development of the site. Within a few years of the founding of the College a new boarding house was built, a chapel (demolished 1889) and a bell tower (1848). The bell tower, which still exists today, was converted into a clock tower some 20 years later. An interesting feature of the tower is that it apparently is supported by wide buttresses however these were decorative rather than structural and were actually used for playing the game of "fives".

A long covered passage was built in 1859, with boarding rooms above, leading to more boarding houses, including the Octagon building. A timber-framed barn on the site was relocated to adjoin the passage and now forms part of the main library. It was not until 1889 that the College gained ownership of the site. The Bowyer family sold the buildings and grounds to Mrs Docker-Drysdale of Wick Hall who then sold the estate to the College for £13,000. During the 1930s the College acquired Peachcroft Farm and its land, part of which is now the Peachcroft housing estate. There are some further smaller sites such as the Boat House and the Radley farm which houses the College's beagle pack, making a total of 960 acres.

The architect Thomas Jackson was notable for designing a number of Oxford buildings: Brasenose, Trinity and Hertford Colleges, and the Examination Schools. In 1890 Radley College commissioned him to design a number of buildings: a corridor joining the main house to the 1859 passage, the Chapel (1894), the Dining Hall (1910), and new boarding houses (1895). He also designed the war memorial arch, which was inscribed with the names of former pupils who perished while fighting in the First World War.

During the tour we saw the ground floor rooms of the Hall which had been refurbished after being damaged by a fire in 1996. These rooms are now only occasionally used for some special functions. Mr Anderson guided us through the corridors to view the Chapel and Dining Hall. The pews on either side of the Chapel aisle face each other and in 1994 the rake was modified to accommodate extra rows. Beyond the altar there is a 15th century reredos which came from Antwerp. The walls of the Dining Hall bear hundreds of heraldic crests from the families of the pupils who have attended the College over the last 150 years or so.

Boarding houses at the College are known as 'Socials' and a new block, "A" Social, was designed by Arthur Tennyson. It was opened in 1903 by the Archbishop of Canterbury and blessed by the Bishop of Oxford. Tennyson also designed the cricket pavilion. Further Socials and a Music School were constructed from 1920 to 1935. These adjoin A Social as a west wing and were designed by ex-pupils Merriman and Fisher.

Many more buildings have been constructed in more recent times. From the 1990s David Wellbourne designed the theatre, Queens Court, the modern languages building and two further boarding houses.

Currently there are about 130 teachers at the College, which also provides employment for some 250 other local staff, including 100 cleaners. There are approximately 690 boys at the College, all boarders, who are lodged in 10 boarding houses. The older houses have been improved to modern boarding standards. Mr

Anderson explained that the current challenge is to refurbish the old buildings to increase insulation and reduce heating costs. The group thanked him for his very interesting and informative tour, which contained much more detail than could be included in this short report.

*Stuart Hughes*

### **Longworth Village - Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> July**

Our previous two evening gatherings having been fine weather, inevitably – this rainy summer – we met with a wet one on July 4<sup>th</sup> 2012 for the walk around Longworth. But even a heavy and prolonged shower did not dampen our speakers' enthusiasm (**Peter and Janet Keene**) or our interest in the history of and changes to the village.

We began with an explanation of the reasoning behind the making of the booklet (which we would be given to take away) "Longworth a sense of place". It would serve well as a guide around the village and contained much oral history that has been recorded. We then proceeded to St. Mary's (Grade I Listed) churchyard to look at layout, ground levels, the beauty of the headstones and hear about two families in particular, the Halls and the Blackmores. The church was not open but would be worth a visit another time.

We moved on to Longworth Manor, on which spot there has been a manor since the Norman conquest. The present manor has a C17 core with last additions in 1910. A former owner, Sir Henry Marten, was a signee to the death warrant of Charles I, and he died in Chepstow prison in 1680. A later owner was a good friend to Baden-Powell who often visited - camping of course! Moving along Church Lane we saw the former Sunday school cottage (now a private dwelling) that later became a day school (with 60 children at one point) and learned about the 3 chapels that also were built in the middle of the C19.

Before WWI the village was virtually self-sufficient with 4-5 bakeries, 3 pubs, a small school, sweet shop, P.O., store, supply store, blacksmith, haircutter, pig killer and conjuror! Now of course all these things are gone and village life is very different with just one pub and a school, and people using their cars to travel elsewhere to obtain what they need.

Down Tucks Lane to the edge of the village, we gazed out over Harrowdown Hill towards the Thames and were invited to think of a wharf there and coal arriving which was brought up to the village by horses who then had a drink at the pond, as did the men at the Blue Boar pub. We were informed of the favoured position of the parish on the Golden Ridge, a corallian ridge of limestone that, combined with some Oxford clay, resulted in shallow wells and good farmland.

From tin tabernacles to Anabaptists, from tongue-in-cheek Marble Arch to College Square, from church and manor to tiny dwellings, from Lorna Doone to Lux Mundi ,it was a fascinating glimpse into Longworth village, past and present.

*Mary Storrs*

## **Local History Group**

### **Local History Group Meeting, 15 May 2012**

The meeting was unusually well attended, thanks to a large contingent from the Radley History Group attracted by the subject of the main presentation. I reported on my work on the aftermath of the dissolution of Abingdon Abbey as it affected the riverside lands upstream of the town, and what this tells us about the origin of the Monks' Map and of its companion map in the Verney archive at Claydon. The Monks' Map seems to have been made by or for Roger Amyce as part of his survey preliminary to the grant of the 1556 charter, and was probably used in a lawsuit in or before 1553 as well as in later ones. The wording on the Verney map is of 1604 at the earliest, and I suggested that its making was most probably connected with negotiations for the charter revision of 1610.

We then moved on to discuss group projects, following the suggestions and challenges made in the February meeting. Ruth Weinberg demonstrated an interactive computer program which may offer a model for the output from such projects, including her own current work on historic buildings. Some members are willing to undertake a small pilot study to start later in the year. Anne Berkeley proposed re-starting the programme to provide tourist information boards, and believes funding may be available; she will organise a meeting with interested members. Judy White raised the question of Mieneke Cox's archive. This ought to be preserved in some way, which will need a lot of donkey work at the keyboard. The suggestion was to develop a detailed plan on which to base a lottery grant application to pay labour costs. This will need further consideration.

*Manfred Brod*

### **New group project in Abingdon local history**

Following the May meeting of the Local History Group and Ruth Weinberg's presentation, a new sub-group has been formed. The aim is to gather together knowledge about Abingdon's historic buildings and make it accessible via an attractive website to interested but non-expert people. The idea is that it will expand beyond buildings to the people who lived in them, the businesses carried on there, and Abingdon history in general. This is obviously a long-term project, with a number of challenges to be met. I am chairing the group at least for the moment, and Ruth is secretary. Anyone interested please contact Ruth or me.

*Manfred Brod*

## **News from Sutton Courtenay**

In April the Time Team archaeologists excavated the site of the Roman villa in a field on the outskirts of the village for several days. It was first discovered by a local farmer when ploughing in the 1960s. A more detailed investigation was carried out this time and a group from the Sutton Courtenay Local History Society were invited to visit the site to witness the work involved, guided by the site historian. The excavation was being filmed by Channel 4 for a programme which may be shown early next year.

In June a Blue Plaque was unveiled on the house called "The Wharf" where the Liberal Prime Minister H H Asquith (later Earl of Oxford & Asquith) lived with his large family from 1912 until his death in 1928. His family also owned the Mill House, now owned by his great granddaughter, Helena Bonham Carter, who was among some of his descendants who attended the ceremony. Asquith, his second wife Margot and his family were a familiar sight in the village and he is buried in the churchyard together with other family members.

The Sutton Courtenay Local History Society was formed about 5 years ago and we welcome visitors to our meetings.

Mary Thompson

### Try These!

If you heard Amanda Clarke speak at our January meeting then you can find out more about the Silchester excavation at

<http://www.reading.ac.uk/silchester/> or <http://www.silchester.rdg.ac.uk/>

Some recent reports in the ADS grey literature library of local interest- Old Gaol – [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-988-1/dissemination/pdf/johnmoor1-48882\\_2.pdf](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-988-1/dissemination/pdf/johnmoor1-48882_2.pdf) and [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-988-1/dissemination/pdf/johnmoor1-48882\\_1.pdf](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-988-1/dissemination/pdf/johnmoor1-48882_1.pdf)

Northcourt – [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-483-1/dissemination/pdf/thamesva1-109647\\_1.pdf](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-483-1/dissemination/pdf/thamesva1-109647_1.pdf)

Fitzharris - [http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-426-1/dissemination/pdf/foundati1-108335\\_1.pdf](http://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/catalogue/adsdata/arch-426-1/dissemination/pdf/foundati1-108335_1.pdf)

#### **Editor's Notes**

Thanks to all members for their contributions and feedback – all gratefully received. The Newsletter is published in March and September each year – deadline is the end of the first week of the previous month. Any suggestions for outings, speakers or newsletter items are most welcome. Please note that the views contained in the articles are those of the contributors rather than the society itself, and contributions may be edited for content.

*The newsletter is sent to members at the time of publication and posted on the website after 6 months.*

*Tim Barnett, Newsletter Editor*

### Dates for Your Diary:

**Oxford Open Doors** – 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> September: Many interesting buildings and spaces open to the public. Details: <http://www.oxfordopendoors.org.uk/>

**Radley History Club, Radley Primary School, Church Road, Radley at 7.30**  
Mon 10<sup>th</sup> September: AGM followed by talk 'From Astrolabes to Einstein - 1,000 years of scientific history in Oxford's Ashmolean building' (Tony Gillman)



Mon 8<sup>th</sup> October: *"19th Century emigration from North Berkshire"* (Shaun Morley)  
Mon 12<sup>th</sup> November: *"Victorian Cowley to the Second World War"* (Rosanne Butler)  
Mon 14<sup>th</sup> January: *"The night time haven of the wandering poor: lodging houses in Oxford"* (Liz Woolley)

### **Wallingford Historical & Archaeological Society Wallingford Town Hall**

Fri 12<sup>th</sup> October: *"Tales from the Bawdy Courts: Medieval Church Courts in Oxfordshire"*. Mark Priddey. from the Oxford Record Office  
Fri 9<sup>th</sup> November: *"Blue Plaques: People and Places in Oxfordshire"* (Eda Forbes)

### **Sutton Courtenay History Society – 7.30pm in Village Hall**

Tues 25<sup>th</sup> September: *"Tales from the church and churchyard"* (Revd Helen Kendrick & Mary Thompson)  
Tues 13<sup>th</sup> November: *"The Black Death: Its nature and effects on society."* (Prof. Greg Stores).

### **Marcham Society**

Tues 11<sup>th</sup> September at 7.45pm: *AGM and "Servant Life in Victorian and Edwardian England"* (Pamela Horn)

## **Cumnor Hurst - Trials of getting a site sorted out**

The Society carried out fieldwalking on a field adjoining Cumnor Hurst in the mid 1980's. It was done when Jeff Wallis had seen that recent ploughing was bringing up sherds of Iron Age pottery and flints.

This was all done properly with it being walked in 10 metre grids and finds collected and bagged. As more came up the following year it was walked a second time. An item was put in South Midlands Archaeology and the finds kept. The acid soil there meant that there were no bones and there were no other finds requiring specialist conservation, with the possible exception of a blank live .303 bullet.

Now, 30 or so years later we still have 2 boxes of finds and one of papers clagging up our house. In the meantime computers have been made available to the public and Photoshop has been invented which has enabled me to do a write up about the site based on the earlier work in which I was assisted by Rachel Everett and other members of the Society. My wife I have also done magnetometry and resistivity surveys of the area which has been made possible by recent advances in equipment and data logging.

So, what next?

Getting the stuff into the County Councils museums store. Here they will not accept things unless they are in the correct boxes and right sort of polythene bags. They will not supply or sell these to us but give the names of suppliers who usually deal with large archaeological organisations and will only supply boxes at a reasonable price if we buy 50 or so. Then the County want £25 per box for their time in dealing with the data entry for accessioning them. They have refused our offer to do this ourselves as they say it would take them too long to teach us how to do it.

Getting it published. The report is currently 26 pages long. The Archaeology Data Service people have been helpful. Despite their service not really being for old sites they think they can find a way to allow it to be on their grey literature system so all one does is spend 2 hours electronically form filling and send them an email with the report. They may even be able to wangle getting the data into their system so others can use it. The geophysics data looks like being fairly easy to do but the question is whether one should put all the other data onto Excel spreadsheets so others can use it. This will take a few days – can I be bothered? Will anyone else do it?

Should it go into Oxoniensia? It would be good to have it in the local journal particularly as it is freely available online after a delay of 5 years, (to give the OAHS members some benefit for their subscriptions). It may also be more long lived than the ADS' largely government funded arrangements. It will take about 2 years before it can come out as they work at least a year in advance and it should not go into the ADS system before it appears in Oxoniensia. The OA&HS look for a contribution of £40 per page for reports from developer funded archaeology but we could get ours in for less if it was more academic and said more about the expected compared with actual fieldwalking results. This involves learning about the antics of theoretical archaeology and could make the bibliography a significant proportion of the article. Again, do I really want to – will anyone else do it?

Some other things which may be relevant. The Society currently has more than 60 boxes of finds which need publication and getting into the museum store. The cost of a single radiocarbon date is approximately £350 whilst the Society's annual subscription income is some £1000.

I suspect that a publication group may be useful once we have established whether the problems are insurmountable.

*Roger Ainslie*

## **27 March 1547: A day in the life of Roger Amyce**

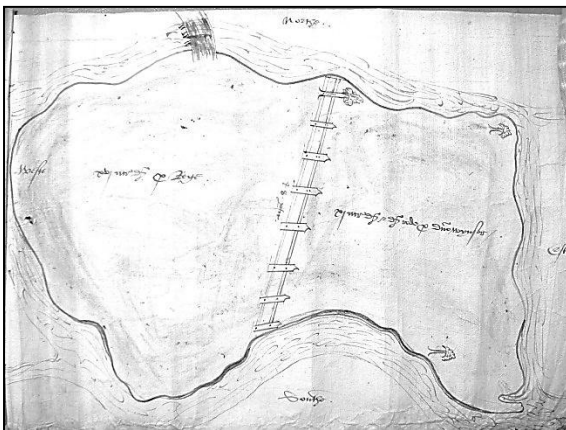
We tend to think of Roger Amyce as a great benefactor of Abingdon. This is correct, so far as it goes. He produced the elaborate survey that was an indispensable preliminary to the town's first charter in 1556, and has an arguable claim to being the principal founder of Christ's Hospital. But his main historical interest is as a representative of a class that, if not wholly new in his time, was just then expanding rapidly both in numbers and in functions. He was an early example of a career civil servant, not particularly well-born, but well educated, competent, and hard working.

His training was as a surveyor, which at that time encompassed a wider set of skills than it would today. He was heavily involved in the absorption by the crown of the estates of Reading and Glastonbury abbeys, taken over for the alleged treason of their abbots. After a reorganisation at the beginning of 1547, he found himself transferred to the Court of Augmentations in the newly-created post of 'particular surveyor' for Berkshire. He would be a kind of superior estate manager – he

preferred the term 'supervisor' – for properties belonging to the crown anywhere in the county.

A special assignment he was given soon after joining Augmentations gave him the opportunity of proving his abilities. It shows that bureaucratic bungling and heavy handed cover-ups are not a modern phenomenon, and it ended with a very early example of a scaled map being prepared to illustrate a tricky land apportionment.

The instructions were given in a formal memo of 26 March, although they must have been discussed earlier. The document carries various signatures: first is 'Your Friend



Amyce's map of Le Warde, 27 March 1547  
The annotations say '16½ acres for the King' and '11½ acres and ½ a rood for Lord Wynsor'. The fence is 48 perches in length.

Reproduced by permission of TNA from E 314/18/22

Edward North', who was the chancellor or head of the court, far above Amyce in status; then the formidable Walter Mildmay, North's deputy, and the court's two top lawyers, Goodrych and Gosnald.

We cannot know the full circumstances, but this high level involvement suggests that Amyce was being put to the test in an operation that had the potential of going badly awry.

The wording is careful and legalistic, but cannot conceal that there had been a regrettable administrative error. John Rowland, a household functionary of the recently deceased Henry VIII, looking for a

redundancy payment, had been given a lease to sixteen and a half acres of meadow in an island in the Thames near Eton called Le Warde. Unfortunately, it turned out that this was not crown property at all, but part of the ancestral lands of a local nobleman, Lord Windsor. Mistakes like this could not be admitted to. Lord Windsor had been challenged to provide documentary evidence of ownership, which, of course, he could not do. Amyce had the ticklish job of measuring off exactly sixteen and a half acres of the island and seeing Rowland installed.

The very next day, he was on site, together with a clerk from his base at Windsor Castle. They met, no doubt by appointment, a half dozen local people, to whom they formally read out the memo and explained what was going on. The reaction of these men to being told that they were tenants of the king and not of Lord Windsor, and that they would henceforth be subject to a new and unknown landlord, is not recorded. Amyce must have been suitably diplomatic, for they seem to have acquiesced, and presumably helped in the land measuring that followed. Lord Windsor's representatives did not appear, which must have been to everyone's relief, but he had already shown his displeasure by destroying the wagon bridge that

connected the island with the northern bank of the river. The island was divided into two unequal parts and the boundary marked with a fence running straight across. Its trace can still be seen today by a line of trees.

Amyce's report includes a map in ink and colour wash to a scale of one inch to ten perches, or near enough 1:2000. This was showing off, for scaled maps at this time were used mostly for military purposes to show the layout of fortifications and fields of fire. Sketch maps used in lawsuits were normally slapdash productions, showing no more than the relative position of properties. Amyce's map is accurate to within a few percent.

If it was a test, Amyce had passed it. His surveying career in Berkshire would last until the abolition of the Court of Augmentations in 1554, by which time he would have completed his listing of all the crown properties in the county. This fills a folio volume of some 450 double pages in the National Archives and includes detailed surveys of Reading and Wallingford as well as of Abingdon. Afterwards, he would remain active as an alderman and MP in Windsor, and as a governor and master of Christ's Hospital in Abingdon. About 1560, he retired to an estate he had bought in Essex although his contacts in Berkshire continued. His son Israel would become a noted surveyor and cartographer in his turn.

*Manfred Brod*

### AAHS Membership form 2012/13

Membership type (please tick)	Individual	£12
	Family	£18
	Senior/unwaged/student	£8.50
	Distant	£4
Full name & address		
Telephone no(s)		
E mail address		
Newsletter. Please tick preferred option(s): by e mail <input type="checkbox"/> paper copy <input type="checkbox"/>		

Please send completed form with cheque payable to AAHS to  
**Membership Sec, AAHS, 4 Sutton Close, Abingdon, Oxon, OX14 1ER**  
 or fill out a form and bring cheque/cash to any lecture meeting. Thank you