



# Look Around

*A look at historical & archaeological issues in  
Andover*

*and the surrounding villages.*

*2014 Number 3, September*

*“Look Around” is the newsletter of the  
ANDOVER HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY*

[www.andover-history.org.uk](http://www.andover-history.org.uk)

## Note from the Chair

This year we have all enjoyed the long, fine summer but there has been sadness too as we have remembered the start of the First World War one hundred years ago.

Everywhere communities were touched by the horrors of that war as their men were killed or returned badly injured from the fighting, and our members have been involved in commemorative events both in Andover and in its surrounding villages. One event in Andover was a public Service of Commemoration on the lawns in front of Andover War Memorial Hospitable and the Society was pleased to contribute to that event an exhibition about the history of the hospital and its ongoing service to the community.

Adding to our enjoyment of the summer was our very interesting ‘behind the scenes’ visit to the Hampshire Record Office and our walk around Hurstbourne Tarrant. Mike Nash, our guide for that walk, is Chairman of Hurstbourne Tarrant Historical Society and the links we have with other societies in our area are very important for us.

For many years Phoebe Merrick, founder and current chair of the Lower Test Valley Archaeological Study Group in Romsey, has arranged an annual gathering of all the societies in the Test valley with an interest the past. It provides us all with an opportunity to meet each other and to share the work we are doing. On 25<sup>th</sup> October our Society will be hosting this year’s event in Andover Museum and I know your committee would appreciate your help to ensure the morning is a success.

I am now looking forward to our autumn programme which starts on 26 September with Martin Coppen’s talk on The Order of St John of Jerusalem in England, a subject of particular interest to me as many of the great and the good locally in the late 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> century were associated with the Order.

That meeting will be in Andover Guildhall which, with the exception of November, is now our regular venue. Please remember to bring £3 with you because the latest edition of Lookback will be on sale. I have seen an advance copy and can tell you that, once again, it is full of good things.

*Erica, August 2014*

### **The members of the Committee are:**

Erica Tinsley	Chair	Felicity Chauncy	(Programme Secretary)
June Harris	{Joint	Martin Coppen	(Webmaster)
Heather Needham	{Vice-chair	David Borrett	(Lookback Editor)
Christopher Coffin	Treasurer	Brenda Mole	
Jane Flambert	Correspondence Secretary	Tony Raper	

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Editor Jane Flambert

## **AHAS Programme**

### **26th September: Venue Andover Guildhall**

*Martin Coppen*

#### **The Order of St John of Jerusalem in England**

The stirring 900 year story of the Knight Hospitallers of the Order of St John from Rhodes to Redbridge Drive (Andover) and Woodcote, and from Jerusalem, via Clerkenwell to Love Lane.

### **24th October: Venue: Andover Guildhall**

*Kay Ainsworth*

**The Art of the Anglo-Saxons:** Exquisite Gold jewellery illuminated manuscripts & sculptures of the so-called 'Dark Ages'

With the discovery of the Staffordshire Hoard in 2009 there has been a greater public awareness of the magnificence of Anglo Saxon craftsmanship.

This talk looks at the hoard & other exquisite metalwork, the illuminated manuscripts, sculpture, and ivories of the so called 'Dark Ages'. The influences on Anglo-Saxon art can be traced from the Celtic regions, Classical Greece, Rome and the Byzantine world; all played their part informing the incredibly beautiful and intricate decoration seen on many Anglo-Saxon artefacts. Later, following the Viking invasions in the C9th King Alfred the Great started a Renaissance of Learning, this became the foundation for the 'Winchester style of art', that was to fully develop in the later C 10th and became known as the 'Golden Age'.



*The Alton Buckle*

### **28th November: Venue: Andover Museum**

*Major Roger Coleman MBE*

#### **Hampshire in the Great War**

*Major Coleman writes:*

I was born in Bournemouth and joined The Royal Hampshire Regiment in 1954 as a Private soldier. I served with the Regiment in many places around the world including Germany, West Indies, Malta, Hong Kong, and Northern Ireland. I was an instructor at the RMA Sandhurst and later became the Regimental Sergeant Major of the 1<sup>st</sup> Battalion. I was commissioned and finally left the Army as a Major (Quartermaster) in 1981. I served a further six years with 1<sup>st</sup> Bn Wessex Regiment, a Territorial Army unit. My civilian career led me first into local government, then the waste industry and finally I ran my own consultancy business. I am now retired. My interests include the Great War, family history, helping in our regimental museum and talking the hind leg off a donkey!!

### **12th December: Venue: Andover Guildhall**

Christmas Party with talks by **Phil Farlow (an American in Andover)** and **Jenny Stevens (the Danebury Meteorite)**

### **23rd January 2015: Venue: Andover Guildhall**

*Chris Sellen*

#### **Recent Excavations at St. Cross & Winchester College**

WARG is Winchester's local archaeological and historical society, and over the last few years has undertaken community excavations at St. Cross Hospital including Henry of Blois' original buildings and a 14<sup>th</sup> Century

chantry chapel in the grounds of Winchester College. In an illustrated talk Chris will describe the running of the digs, and how the interpretation of the results have added to the corpus of knowledge of Medieval Winchester.

**27th February 2015: Venue: Andover Guildhall**

*Phoebe Merrick*

**World War 1 Remount Service**

Phoebe Merrick will be giving the talk on the Remount Service. The Remount Depot was an establishment that prepared horses for work at the Front in World War I. Phoebe will give a talk accompanied by a Power Point presentation on the work of the Remount Service with particular reference to the Remount Depot in Romsey.

**27th March 2015: To be arranged**

**24th April 2015 Dacre Lecture Venue: Fairground Hall, Weyhill**

*Ryan Lavelle*

Law, Death and Peacemaking in the 'Second Viking Age'

Ryan Lavelle, Senior Lecturer in Medieval History at the University of Winchester will give a talk entitled "Some Thoughts on the 'Treaty of Andover'." In it he will consider the peace treaty between Aethelred the Unready and the Vikings. It will be based on a chapter of his forthcoming book which he is co-editing with Simon Roffey called "Danes in Wessex").

**Recent Meetings**

**Visit to Hampshire Record Office June 2014-08-15**

A visit to **Hampshire Record Office** in Winchester was the Society's event for June.

Heather Needham, a Principal Archivist at the record office and one of our committee members, showed us behind the scenes including some conservation work in progress and a quick glimpse at the storage facilities for the many important and fragile documents which are held by the record office. Heather had prepared a display of some of the records held and it was fascinating to be able to handle and read the old documents.

There was also an opportunity for some who had used the record office before to explain how particular documents had enhanced their research.

Many thanks to Heather for organising this visit.

**Village Walk 2014**

A sunny, warm evening welcomed members for the Village Walk at **Hurstbourne Tarrant** on 25<sup>th</sup> July – a village described by Pevsner as 'one of the most picturesque in Hampshire', with its 92 listed buildings. Mike Nash hosted the tour on behalf of the Hurstbourne Tarrant Historical Society, on his premise that, 'History began five minutes ago and reaches back to the big bang.' At 13th-century St Peter's church, he particularly drew attention to the wall paintings of the Three Living and the Three Dead and the signs carved into some of the older stonework. The best example of the latter was the 'day's eye' (symbol of the sun, 'daisy') on the south door lintel. Walking back along Church Street, we were encouraged to appreciate the variety and quality of buildings – cottages, converted coaching inns, substantial houses for the gentry –, and to observe different building techniques and materials – from vernacular brick and flint and the wooden barn of Parsonage Farm to stately Georgian brick facades. Though delightfully surrounded on two sides by the river, the early 18<sup>th</sup> century Murrle Cottage had remained dry inside through the recent wet winter.

North of the crossroad, Ibthorpe Road offered similar variety, thatched cottages neighbouring modern social housing with solar water heating built-in, the unfinished Primitive Methodist chapel conversion and the closed Church Hall of 1909 and the Marley corrugated hall of the Royal British Legion Club – each in its way contributing to village history.

The walk continued around Ibthorpe's Horseshoe Lane, with its substantial farmhouses mixed in with the labourer's cottages for the three farms once there. Small cottages had been extended and greatly improved, new houses built, and some eccentric small buildings and decorative touches retained, enhancing the visitors'

interest. The walk finished on a high literary note with reference to Jane Austen's many visits to her friends the Lloyds at Ibthorpe House. When she lived at Steventon she would often visit Ibthorpe, travelling sometimes on her own via Andover. With gratitude to Mike Nash and members of the Hurstbourne Tarrant Historical Society and local walking club.



Setting off from the Royal British Legion Club



The 'Day's Eye' at the church



Murrele Cottage

*Photos and description by Martin Coppen*



Ibthorpe House

## **Events of Interest**

### **News from The Museum**

[www.hants.gov.uk/andover-museum](http://www.hants.gov.uk/andover-museum).

### **On-going Exhibitions:**

#### **The Games We Played @ Andover Museum**

10:00am Saturday 28 Jun 2014 to Saturday 13 Sep 2014

A nostalgic exhibition exploring some of the most popular (and some less well-known) board and card games from the 1920s through to the 1970s. This exhibition will stir some childhood memories in older visitors, and introduce some of the classic games of the 20th century to our younger visitors. See a 1940s 'Totopoly' horse racing game, games based on popular TV shows from the 1950s and 1960s, plus plenty of games for you to have a go with yourself.

Cost: Free Admission  
Venue: Andover Museum  
Telephone: 0845 603 5635

Soldiers' Journey at Andover Museum

10:00am Saturday 11 Oct 2014 to Sunday 11 Jan 2015

Soldiers Journey is a unique exhibition that portrays Hampshire's critical role throughout the First World War. Between 1914 and 1918 over 8 million troops from all over the British Empire entered Hampshire to train, prepare and wait for their departure from the Southampton ports towards the various theatres of war around the world. A steady flow of refugees, prisoners of war and over 1 million wounded came back to England via Southampton through Hampshire. Hampshire had a huge impact on the war, and the war had a huge impact on Hampshire. From a quiet, Edwardian county Hampshire suddenly became an international assembly point with a rapid and enormous increase of population. Production of food, munitions and armaments reached higher levels than ever before, Auxiliary Hospitals opened across the County to treat the wounded returning from the front and large military camps were set up all over Hampshire. Everyone, male and female, had to decide if and how to contribute to the war. The exhibition Soldiers Journey tells about Hampshire contributions of military and civilian soldiers throughout the Great War. While narrating true individual journeys, six broader topics are presented: the arrival and departure of troops, animals and goods; the presence of troops within Hampshire, the economic impact of the war; the impact of the war on personal lives and international encounters happening on Hampshire ground.

The exhibition can be viewed at 9 other locations, contact Andover Museum for other venues.

Venue: Andover Museum  
Telephone: 0845 603 5635

**Archives and Local Studies news from Hampshire Record Office (HRO)**

[www.hants.gov.uk/archives](http://www.hants.gov.uk/archives) Telephone: (01962) 846154;

**Forthcoming events**

**Exhibitions, at the Record Office unless otherwise indicated:**

**19 Jul-16 Oct** (except 22-26 Aug): In Search of Alfred the Great *and* Reuniting the Stones of Hyde Abbey (two exhibitions presented by the Hyde900 group)

**27 Oct-31 Dec:** To Honour a Promise: the First World War camps at Morn Hill, Winchester (presented by the 'To Honour a Promise' project group) An exhibition featuring material held at HRO relating to the First World War will be touring Romsey, Ringwood and Stubbington libraries this autumn, whilst from January 2015 we hope to host in the HRO foyer an exhibition 'Waiting in the Wings of War', containing art by 2D3D South Contemporary Art group members inspired by civilian life in and around Winchester in the months before the outbreak of the First World War.

**Lunchtime lectures: last Thursday of each month (except Dec), 1.15-1.45pm, no need to book. Free, donations welcomed.**

**25 Sep:** In Search of Alfred the Great – by the Hyde900 Group

**30 Oct:** To Honour a Promise: the First World War camps at Morn Hill, Winchester – by Councillor Jackie Porter

**27 Nov:** Audley Lempriere and the Crimean War – by Dr Holly Furneaux

## Courses and Workshops:

### **Family history for beginners. £12, booking essential: 01962 846154**

Practical advice and help in starting your family history research: discover the main sources available and how to use them; access material on microfiche/film with staff on hand to answer any questions. All you need to know to begin researching your family tree. 18 Sep, 23 Oct, 20 Nov, 2-4pm; 4 Sep, 2 Oct, 6 Nov, 7-9pm (you only need to attend one session).

### **Tracing army ancestors**

27 Sep, 10am-12 noon, at *Basingstoke Discovery Centre*: This workshop will reveal the many types of record which throw light on the careers of soldier ancestors, including those held by The National Archives, Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, and regimental archives. It is aimed at beginners and those who may have done a little research. You will have the chance to see copies of sample documents from 19th and 20th centuries. £10, advance booking essential, on 01256 478670 or in person at Basingstoke Discovery Centre.

### **Title deeds for local and family history**

20 Oct, 10.30am-1pm: Can you tell a conveyance from a lease, and a mortgage from an abstract of title? Find out how title deeds can help your research, and how to recognise different types of deed and find the key pieces of information you need in them amongst the legal phraseology. Booking essential, £12 (01962 846154)

### **The Archive Ambassador training scheme**

Sign up today and help us preserve Hampshire's heritage. Wednesdays 10 Sep and 19 Nov (you only need to attend one session), 10am-3.30pm. Training in archive preservation/conservation, cataloguing, digitisation and film and sound archives. £18, booking essential (01962 846154).

For more information about events, please visit [www.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro](http://www.hants.gov.uk/whatson-hro) or ring 01962 846154. To receive our monthly e-newsletter, which provides regular updates about events, activities and archive news, please go to [www.hants.gov.uk/rh/maillinglist](http://www.hants.gov.uk/rh/maillinglist) – then enter your details and select 'Archives' from the pick-list.

## **Recent additions to the holdings:**

Our catalogue database includes descriptions of more than one million items: charters, deeds, registers, court rolls, letters, diaries, accounts, minute books, drawings, photographs, postcards, drawings, films, sound recordings and digital images. Here are a few of the latest additions.

### **The Red Cross in Hampshire**

Towards the end of 2012 we received a substantial archive from the Hampshire Branch of the Red Cross (173A12). It had been held in the Balfour Museum of Red Cross History, which closed earlier that year in advance of the relocation of the local Red Cross office from Winchester. The archive includes papers about the activities of the Hampshire Branch and of a number of divisions and detachments across Hampshire. A report detailing the immense contribution made during the First World War, especially in running auxiliary hospitals, by detachments of the Red Cross and the Order of St John of Jerusalem, has proved so popular in the last few months that we have made a digital copy available in the search room to save wear and tear on the original (173A12/A1/2/1). It contains a report for the **Andover Division**, formed in 1910, comprising Hants 80, Hants 82 and Hants 118 Detachments, and includes interior and exterior photographs of the Rothesay Hospital, in use from November 1914 to December 1918.

There are also files relating to many of the activities undertaken by the Hampshire Branch in the years since 1945, including work with refugees, hospital libraries, the hospital picture library, beauty care for hospital patients, and art therapy. The Balfour Museum's team of volunteers produced two series of compilation albums containing original and copy photographs, newscuttings and other material. Both series are now at HRO: one is arranged by place (173A12/C1) while the other is arranged thematically, covering auxiliary hospitals, refugees, community work and so on (173A12/C2). These are now listed on the online catalogue, and thus the work of Betty Balfour OBE, Branch Director from 1946 to 1991, and the staff and volunteers of the Balfour Museum, in

recording the amazingly varied ways in which Hampshire Red Cross members have helped people from near and far, continues to be preserved and to be made available for research. The reference for the album covering Andover (together with Whitchurch, Kingsclere and Stockbridge) is 173A12/C1/3.

### **Romsey and Andover week by week**

Two bound volumes of the *Romsey Register* newspaper, covering 9 Dec 1858-24 Dec 1868 and 6 Feb 1879-18 Dec 1884 (108M97/C1-C2), generally contain a single broadsheet page for each week, with local news and advertisements on the front and national news on the back. For instance, the edition of 17 February 1859 includes a report of the opening of the Abbey [Congregational] Chapel's new school and lecture hall, an obituary of John Perry who had been a churchwarden of Romsey Abbey for much of the preceding 20 years, and a report of a lecture given to the Romsey Reading Society by the Revd and Hon C A Harris; readers could also peruse advertisements for an 'educational home for young ladies' at Harrage House, music lessons given by Mr Churchill (the Abbey's newly-appointed organist), and W H Slater's 'Test Sauce', described as imparting 'a piquant richness of flavour' to 'every species of fish, game, wild fowl, poultry, cold meats &c' and being of general utility for soups, gravies and hashed dishes. A C Blackwell announced that he had taken over the Mottisfont brick yards from John Bradby, and A Skeats of the Cornmarket advertised a consignment of stereoscopes and musical boxes from London. We have also received microfilm copies of the *Romsey Advertiser*, 1901-51 (MRA), and for the *Andover Advertiser*, 1896-1901, the latter covering years for which the original volumes are particularly fragile (MAA).

### **Andover school registers**

We have recently received, as part of the Greg Gregory Collection relating to Andover Grammar School, admission registers for the Grammar School for 1902-25 (89A13/A1/1-2), together with a register for Andover Central School for Girls, from 1916 until 1925 when it merged with the Grammar School. Pupils listed in the earlier Grammar School register include Alfred Thompson Denning, later Lord Denning, who was admitted on 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 1909

### **North-west Hants photographs**

Five recently-received photographs of **Vernham Dean** and **Facombe** appear to be linked to the Heath family of Facombe Manor (180A12/C1). One shows two ladies and a gentleman with bicycles in front of a glasshouse, labelled 'Ruth Emily and Hugh, Facombe, Dec 10th '95' and thus may perhaps show Hugh Heath and his sister Emily; several of the others show 'Eve' in a pony and trap outside the George Inn at Vernham Dean; she may be a relation or friend, and any information about her identity would be welcomed.

### **Title deeds from Vernham Dean**

Title deeds can give useful clues to family relationships, and the places where our ancestors spent their lives. A recently-received bundle of deeds relating to Dykes Farm, Little Down, Vernham Dean, beginning in 1718 (27A14/1), includes the names of numerous individuals who had an interest in part or all of the property, including John Bower of Vernham Dean (1718), Thomas Sheppard of Appleshaw, Robert Scullard, and John Bright and his son Lawrence (all 1730), Nassan Jervoise Coleman of Winchester (1771), Mary Rogers, widow of John Rogers of Vernham Dean (1780), William Dench (1763), and William Dyke, his brother Michael Thomas Dyke, his brother and Michael's wife Charlotte, Thomas Dench Dyke and his wife, Ann, and Richard Steele (1812-33).

### **Town TV**

Among recent additions to the audio-visual holdings of Wessex Film and Sound Archive available for viewing in the search room are 19 programmes from Town TV, a community television station based in **Andover**, but also covering much of mid Hampshire (AV1492).

This is just a selection of recent additions to the holdings: you can discover many more at [www.hants.gov.uk/archives/catalog](http://www.hants.gov.uk/archives/catalog)

## Local Studies Collection: some new books and pamphlets

The local studies books and pamphlets held at Hampshire Record Office, as well as those held in library branches, are all catalogued on the online catalogue of Hampshire Libraries and Information Service (not on the archive catalogue, except for books received within archive collections): follow the 'Library Catalogue' link from [www3.hants.gov.uk/library](http://www3.hants.gov.uk/library)

Here are a few recent additions to the collection:

*The Female Line: researching your female ancestors*, by Margaret Ward

*It Runs in the Family: understanding more about your ancestors*, by Ruth A Symes

*Examples of Handwriting 1550-1650*, by W S B Buck (you may find this useful for checking letter forms in original documents)

*Family Secrets: living with shame from the Victorians to the present day*, by Deborah Cohen (with chapters including The Nabob's Secrets, Revelation in the Divorce Court and Bachelor Uncles)

*Tracing your Labour Movement Ancestors: a guide for family historians*, by Mark Crail

*Tracing your Shipbuilding Ancestors: a guide for family historians*, by Anthony Burton

*Migration Records: a guide for family historians*, by Roger Kershaw

*Census: the expert guide*, by Peter Christian and David Annal

*Birth and Baptism Records for Family Historians*, by Stuart A Raymond

*War Memorials in Britain*, by Jim Corke

*How Heavy, How Much and How Long: weights, money and other measures used by our ancestors*, by Colin R Chapman

*A Child for Keeps: the history of adoption in England, 1918-1945*, by Jenny Keating

*David Rymill.*

Contact details: Hampshire Record Office,  
Sussex Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 8TH  
Telephone: (01962) 846154; Fax: (01962) 878681  
Email: [archives.enquiries@hants.gov.uk](mailto:archives.enquiries@hants.gov.uk)  
[www.hants.gov.uk/archives](http://www.hants.gov.uk/archives)

(You might like to follow HRO on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/HampshireArchives](http://www.facebook.com/HampshireArchives) and [www.facebook.com/wessexarchive](http://www.facebook.com/wessexarchive) or on Twitter at <https://twitter.com/HantsArchives> and <https://twitter.com/WessexFilm>)

**Don't forget to visit our own website:** [www.andover-history.org.uk](http://www.andover-history.org.uk)

Martin Coppen who looks after our website writes:

“The AHAS website is our public face and it offers the opportunity for those who view it from anywhere around the world to ask about some aspect of our local history in which they are interested. This generates on average three enquiries a month covering a wide range of topics, as will be seen from this summary of some recent questions. The responses sent to the enquirers usually come from the pool of knowledge of the committee. You may wish to exercise your own local knowledge as you consider them:–

Do you have information about the Turner and Buckthought families c.1910?

Where do the names of these Andover side streets come from: Union Street, Shaw's Walk, George Yard, Black Swan Yard, Waterloo Court, Globe Yard and King's Yard?

Any information about Cold Harbour House, Andover c.1932?

Do you hold any information about changes in Andover since the London overspill of the 1960s?



*Days at the Races-A History of the Stockbridge Racecourse  
(& the Day & Cannon families that ran it)*

by Antony Raper (2006) 76pp £7.50

*Elizabethan Andover*

by Diana Coldicott (2004) 212pp £5

*Members of Parliament for Andover 1295-1885*

by R Arnold Jones (1996) 83pp £4.95

*Saint Mary's Church, Andover*

(2005) 20pp £2.00

*Samuel Best & the Hampshire labourer*

by Alastair Geddes (n.d.) £1.00

*Something in the Water. The Anti-Fluoride Campaign in Andover 1955-1958*

by David Borrett (2002) 104pp £3

*Lookback at Andover* is the title of the Society's journal which has been published annually since 1990. The journal for 2000 includes a cumulative index for the first ten issues and the 2010 journal contains an index for 2000-2009. Back numbers are available as follows:-

1995-1999 cost £2.00 each

2000-2007 cost £2.50 each

2008-2013 cost £3.00 each

All of these publications may be ordered from the Society c/o Mill Pound Cottage, Monxton, Andover. SP11 8AW or purchased at our monthly meetings, from the Museum and from Waterstone's

**The new, 2014 edition of *Lookback*** will be available at the 26th September meeting and thereafter as above.

Articles this year:

*Village Friendly Societies around Andover*

John Isherwood

*Olaf Tryggvason – A Viling in Andover*

Felicity Chauncy

*The History of St John's House*

Martin Coppen

*The Airship that Docked in Anna Valley*

Clifford Williams

*The Final Turnpike Road from Andover*

Diana Coldicott

**And finally:**

The rain it raineth on the just

And also on the unjust fella:

But chiefly on the just, because

The unjust steals the just's umbrella.

Lord Bowen, (1835–1894)

**ADDENDUM - Report of Meeting held on 24 May - National Service -- speaker Greg Gregory**

The May meeting took place in Andover Guildhall, a venue that has recently been used, owing to the increased numbers attending the society's meetings at the museum. Some meetings will still need to be held at the museum however, and it is advisable to check the society's website for details.

The speaker this month was popular member Greg Gregory who chose to talk about National Service and his own experiences of that period. Indeed, National Service is something that is gradually disappearing from memory because the youngest national serviceman is now coming up to 75. In the years 1947-60 every young man reaching the age of 18 became liable for 'call up' to spend 18 months, later two years, in the armed services.

For each of these young men, the experience of doing National Service was different. Some spent their time in the UK while others served overseas in places such as Germany, Austria, Jamaica, British Honduras, Nigeria, Aden, Jordan, Gibraltar, Malta, Iraq, Christmas Island or Hong Kong. Many more were called to fight in the conflicts of those years – in Palestine, Korea, Malaya, Egypt, Kenya, Cyprus and in the Suez Crisis.

The first intimation of ‘call up’ was an announcement in the newspaper specifying the age group that was required to register, and in Andover registration was done at the Labour Exchange. That was followed by a medical and an interview at Salisbury for young men from Andover or at Reading for those from Whitchurch. Some weeks later, an official brown letter came through the letter box with details of where to report, how to get there and a postal order for one day’s pay.

Then started the experience all national servicemen shared – basic training. The military discipline and the physical demands of this intense period of training made it hell for many of the teenage conscripts but within a few weeks they were transformed and given their postings.

At this time, Britain was strengthening its presence in the Suez Canal Zone where trouble had erupted, sanctioned and encouraged by the nationalist Egyptian government. Greg was posted on active service to RAF Ismailia, one of the many camps along the canal. Illustrating his talk with photographs taken at the time and with his own colourful sketches, Greg spoke about what living conditions and daily life were

like for the young men serving there, and how they contrived to make the best of things. On a personal level, his National Service had been done in the company of a great bunch of lads and, although he had not always thought so at the time, he was pleased to have had the experience.

*David Borrett*