



Alresford Historical & Literary Society



1966- 2016

Newsletter July -Aug 2016

Our Summer Visit is to

# Old Basing House

Wed 20<sup>th</sup> July 2016

Meet at the Entrance .Details below:

## Visit to Old Basing House Barton's Lane, Old Basing, Basingstoke

This will be a Guided Visit It will be essential to have a tour guide who will be able to interpret the site, because as you know, it falls in the category of the 'Ruins that Cromwell Knocked about'.

We have arranged for a Guide in advance and ordered tea and cakes.

We have 20 members on the list at the moment and we can go up to 25 but I need to finalise numbers before the 5<sup>th</sup> July.

We will make our own way there meeting at the Entrance at 1:30 (They close at 4:00) Charges will be £5 (subsidised) for members and £10 for visitors including guide, tea and cake.

<http://www.hampshireculturaltrust.org.uk/content/visit-us-5>

Hon Sec will issue maps and instructions to those who need them. Otherwise follow the Brown signs to Barton's Lane. You cannot park in the street. The best approach may be via the new Basingstoke centre and up the old Basing road to avoid the busy M3 roundabouts.

## Visit to The Grange at Northington Wed 17<sup>th</sup> August



Please let the Secretary know if you would like to come along. I understand that there will be no formal charges but we may be asked to make a donation to English Heritage

More details in a few weeks on timings. I hope to arrange an afternoon visit and am looking into the possibilities of afternoon tea somewhere nearby.

This will be a guided visit by English Heritage to both the outside and inside of this former stately home. Previously the residence of the Baring family it was rescued from demolition by Michael Heseltine in 1975 after a public campaign. It is still unoccupied but in use as an Opera venue. . PTO for more information.

**Newsletter.** Latest copy date for the August Newsletter is July 28<sup>th</sup>  
Robert Fowler 01962 734125. [Mail: secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk](mailto:secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk)

**June Talk by Brian Tippett:**

**“Season of mists and mellow fruitfulness”  
— John Keats in Winchester, 1819**



In brilliant personal letters written during his stay in Winchester in lodgings near the Cathedral during August and September 1819 Keats pictured a quiet, leafy city surrounded by beautiful trout-streams and downs where the air is ‘worth sixpence a pint’.

A favourite walk through the meadows to St Cross may have inspired Keats’s great ode ‘To Autumn’, but scholars have recently argued convincingly that the view from St Giles Hill supplied Keats with crucial ideas and images for the poem.

Keats was certainly alert to national unrest but their second point, that ‘To Autumn’ carries a covert political message is much less plausible. At this point in his life Keats may be seen as a wonderfully talented young man writing with feverish energy to fulfil his poetical ambitions before the onset of TB, his family’s nemesis. In this frame of mind he was stirred by autumn’s rich sense of fulfilment but also by its intimations of closure.

Within a year Keats became seriously ill and having sought relief in Italy died there at the age of 26

**Executive Committee to April 2017**

Chair: Glenn Gilbertson	732726
Secretary & Membership:	
Robert Fowler	734125
Treasurer:	
Vic Prior	733380
Newsletter Editor:	
Robert Fowler	734125
Speakers Secretary:	
Trish Ferris:	732054

**Ex Officio Committee Members:**

Brian Davies  
Nancy Webb  
Brian Tippett  
Brian Rothwell -Co-opted member

**50 years Celebration Steering Group**

Brian Rothwell  
Nancy Webb  
Alan Greenwood  
Volunteers required

The Society has now been  
in existence for 50 years

**Grange Visit Continued:**

Please wear sensible walking shoes as the condition of the interior floors may be uneven.

We will make our own way there. Please be aware that the gravel road leading from the Alresford Road is full of pot holes and car drivers need to be very careful to avoid damage to their suspension. There is plenty of car parking space,

**Recommended follow up reading:**

John Keats, Selected Letters Edited by Robert Gittings and revised by Jon Mee.

Oxford World’s Classics. (Available in paperback; similar editions from the Library.)