

WARG 1972-2012



Working parties

Every Monday afternoon, from October to July, members work on the Winchester Museum's collection in the store at Bar End. Tasks include cleaning and cataloguing finds, from WARG's own excavations and elsewhere, assisting in cataloguing the back collection into the database, and marking bones from the skeletons excavated at the Lankhills site and elsewhere.



Newsletter

Three times a year all members receive a newsletter. This is a combination of; reports of meetings, visits and other events; "Travellers Tales" – members' reports of holidays and personal visits with a historical or archaeological twist; snippets of news from the world of history and archaeology; book reviews and information on other organisations' activities.

WARG today

WARG today is a very active organisation, with a growing membership. Something is happening every month of the year, and there are often multiple activities. At the same time it is still a continuation of the original small society, and one of the founder members, David Lloyd, still serves as a member of the WARG committee.

Lectures

Every month from September to May, there is a lecture on an archaeological or historical topic. Recent topics have covered the Winchester Police Force, the Leper Hospital at St Catherine's Hill, the wartime evacuation of children, strawberry growing and the pre-history of Malta. For January the lecture is replaced by a party with entertainment. This has included the Winchester Festival Players' presentation on the great sewerage saga of Winchester, featuring the Muckabytes' song, a magic lantern show and folk songs collected around Winchester in the early twentieth century.

Excavation

For many members the highlight of the year is the summer excavation. For seven years now we have dug at, successively, a Roman dwelling site, St Cross Hospital and the Chapel of St Elizabeth, in Winchester College's grounds. Information on these digs is on neighbouring panels. The digs last for two weeks, and, as well as digging, members also take part in the valuable site recording and finds processing (and take part in the administration!).



Walks and visits

In the summer months instead of a lecture members go on visits or guided walks. For the fortieth birthday summer these have included Uffington, Burford and the Rollrights, Stonehenge within the fence, Wickham, Southampton and the Titanic, Hengistbury Head and Stockbridge Down. Normal summers see a lower level of visits but to equally interesting places.



Even bad weather doesn't put WARG members off when they are in the field - here at Wayland's Smithy.

June Lloyd lecture



June Lloyd was one of the founder members of WARG in 1972, and served in a variety of roles until her early death in 2005. Every two years since then WARG has had a lecture, named after her but also as part of recognising our long heritage. Previous speakers have been Martin Biddle, Sir Barry Cunliffe and Derek Keene – all of whom have spent time in Winchester. For 2013 Julian Richards – again with strong Winchester connections – will be discussing "Stonebenge - whatever next?"

Training

As well as training at the work parties and during the excavation, there are occasional training sessions on, for example, the use of geo-physical surveying equipment, like resistivity and the use of a Total Station.



WARG's Logo

One of the first finds at St Cross in 2007 was a fragment of tile (above left). This was made by William Tyler of Otterbourne in the late fourteenth century, and complete versions of this tile are in St Cross Chapel and in the Cathedral (above right.) WARG used this as the basis for the logo. The excavation at St Elizabeth's College also found tile fragments from William Tyler. He had also supplied tiles to Winchester College and many St Elizabeth's tiles were removed and used in College at the demolition, including examples of the WARG logo tile: a neat continuity.

Joining

If you are interested in Winchester's history and archaeology, then you should be a member of WARG. Pick up a membership form here or download one from our website – www.warg.org.uk