



Newsletter

Autumn 2014

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Chairman's Notes

Winchester established its museum in 1847, one of the first in the country after the passing of the 1845 Museums Act, which permitted the raising of a halfpenny rate to finance a museum. On 1st November 2014 the city handed over the staff and the running of the museum to the new Hampshire Cultural Trust, which also took over the County Museums Service.

The Trust has financial support from both authorities and is now freer to explore other funding routes. The WARG Monday afternoon work parties at F2 will continue and our relationship with the former Winchester staff remains strong.

Tracy Matthews, who represents Winchester City Council on our committee, remains with the City, where she continues as Historic Environment Officer (Archaeology), responsible both for the Historic Environment Record (HER) and, as we discussed in the last issue, for providing archaeological input to the planning process.

We wish the new Trust good luck.

Meetings

We have, as usual, a wonderful program of meetings ahead. However as I explained in our covering note, there is a limit of 80 people in the Record Office Cinema, a limit that has to be observed by anyone using the room. This means that in future we can only have members at the talks, not even personal guests. We know that this means on some nights we may have empty seats that guests could have filled, but surely this is preferable to turning away our members?

Our annual party is on January 12th, please look at Julia's notes on page 28 for guidance on what to bring. I know that some of you don't come because the evening's entertainment is kept a secret until you arrive, but if you talk to the people who have attended you will find that they are always interesting, and the conversations afterwards are lively. Please do let Julia know if you are planning to attend so that we can get the right quantity of liquid refreshment in place.

Excavations

As Techer explains, below, during early October volunteers were once again at "a rural site near Cheriton". The summer dig at St Elizabeth's was, despite massive rain, a great success, and the archaeology team feel that there is little benefit in going further with the chapel. Currently the plan is to have a session of test pitting at

Easter to see if we can find the domestic and service buildings which were there at the time of demolition (the chaplains needed their beer and bread) but are proving more than a little elusive.

This means that we are looking for a possible site for summer excavations within Winchester District. Any suggestions to me, please.

Chairmanship

I am definitely stepping down in the spring, as I am from the Presidency of the Field Club. After ten years I feel it is time for some fresh blood, and also I want to get on with some historical research. If you think you know someone who would be a good chairman, please pass their names to Julia (email on the back cover).



A Romano-British Farmstead site near Cheriton

While we were finishing this issue of the Newsletter, some hardy volunteers were back for a second season at a “rural site near Cheriton”

Techer provides the background for this year’s activity for those who were not at the WARG meeting on 14th April.

Over 14 days between mid October and late December 2013, 38 WARG excavators dug at a rural site near Cheriton. The farmer had been picking up pot shards for some time and had a friend fly him over the site. The crop marks photographed during the flight showed a classic Romano-British farmstead pattern of ditches and enclosures. The farmer has asked that we keep the site location secret and so we are not even mentioning his name – but we are really grateful to him and his family for their patience and support.

David Ashby undertook resistivity. In January 2013, Don Bryan led a team putting in a couple of test pits. In October a JCB took off the top soil – oh what luxury – it was just like Time Team. We opened 5 trenches, each about 30m long, which revealed several of the ditch cuts we had identified through resistivity and the aerial photos. Excavation revealed a number of Iron Age ditches forming enclosures. Most were classic V-shaped ditch cuts about 1m deep. But others were probably of an earlier date and deeper. One ditch in particular was a Late Bronze Age pattern and included Late Bronze Age /Early Iron Age pottery as well as an enormous residue of burned flint and ash. Most of the ditch

cuts held a small number of fragments of Roman pot as well as a fair amount of animal bone.

One area, at the entrance to the main enclosure, was of black friable soil that was just stuffed with finds. This was clearly a rubbish dump – heaven for archaeologists! Time and availability of diggers meant that we only excavated a small portion of this area. It yielded handfuls of Roman pot, mostly greyware but some Oxford ware; a fibula brooch; a metal tool, boot studs and a coin of the time of Emperor Constantine (306AD onwards).

The west end of trench five had a number of post holes -possibly suggesting an Iron Age round house – as well as working scrapes. Other features included a 2m wide grain storage pit and various chalk quarries.

The star find was a Roman grain dryer. Despite being only about 15cm below topsoil level, it was remarkably preserved. It was cut into the natural chalk, but used an earlier V-shaped ditch cut as access. At the west end was a step down to a natural chalk floor. The stokehole area had single layer flint and mortar walls. It narrowed to a furnace area that had a (now collapsed) flint arch roof. The furnace fed under an area about 2m x 2m square which was tiled with clay tile. One of the two tiles intact had a maker's mark. The tiled area was the grain drying floor. At the west end of the drying area was a flue. Tracy Matthews, the City of Winchester archaeology officer, visited and was delighted with the dryer. In due course, it will be recorded appropriately on the Historic Environment Record.



Roman grain dryer.

These finds have yet to be washed and recorded....look out for a request for working parties.

The farmer was excited by this and welcomed us for a second excavation this autumn. The 13th April 2015 report will have some really exciting news.

It is wonderful that WARG can manage two excavations in one year at such different sites and I am so grateful to the diggers who worked at a very beautiful, but sometimes quite Spartan, site in the winter months.

Techer Jones

Winchester & the Arrival of the Railway – Mark Allen

When Dr. Mark Allen paid us a visit to discuss the effects of the coming of the railway on Winchester from 1830 to 1890 he was quick to point out that his interest lay in the people that the railways impacted and that there wasn't a locomotive in sight, except accidentally.

He began by quoting Conan Doyle's "Adventure of The Cooper Beeches" which, set in the early 1890's, described Winchester as a Hampshire idyll compared with the dirt and noise of Baker Street. So what impact did the coming of the railway have on this idyll?

In the first half of the nineteenth century Winchester was both the home of the fourth largest army presence in the country, but also had a civilian population of c. 6,000 and was itself dwarfed by nearby Southampton (and later Basingstoke). Did Winchester benefit economically from the railway line from London? Swindon and York had, but also places like Cambridge had suffered a population exodus as people were able to live in the outlying villages and "commute".

Well, censuses do show an increase in population but arguably successful pre-railway commerce was causing that to happen anyway: distribution of wines and spirits, clothes manufacture, administration and services relating to the College. Also the increase slows later in the century when the railways were established.

The industries and occupations vary little over time although there is a spatial variation with more well-to-do households living higher up



*We couldn't resist putting in some trains:
This is an LSWR 4-4-0 T3 locomotive
built in 1892.*

Image in the public domain

the hill from Jewry Street and High Street. While in the Brooks live less skilled people with brewing and clothes industries inhabiting more hurried built housing. This latter area was a result of infilling which continued up to the 1950's (such as the loss of allotment gardens) although the rateable value of properties starts to increase nearer to the river.

Perhaps the impact on the topography and layout of the city

was illustrated well by the location of the new (1838) Corn Exchange, very close to where the railway was being built – it also shows the potential for vested interests where shareholders in the railway companies also had a fair interest in the commerce done at the Corn Exchange. Diverse railway routes were being proposed during the 1830's with whichever was picked offering clear economic advantages to one party or another.

One route, aligned on Staple Gardens, would have been near retail outlets and require the demolition of poorer housing (thus less compensation). Another was planned to be alongside the gasworks, practical for coal delivery. Objections by the Pavement Commissioners, who wanted the route outside the city walls, finally led to the current L&SWR route which meant less demolition while being near enough to retail and industry to provide economic advantages for the city.

There was general support for the railway with shareholders from across the economic range, though most of the shareholders were expected to be in Southampton, which would get most advantage. In the event most of the investment came from London and Manchester (where the big investors were).

The London and Southampton Railway line (later London & South Western Railway) was built between 1834 and 1840 and done in stages with Winchester being connected to Southampton before the London link was completed two years afterwards at Basingstoke.

Mark was also able to show some of the opportunities the better communications offered by the railway network. The 1881 census shows a 10% move of population towards Middlesex and London and significant numbers moving to Lancashire and Yorkshire, perhaps not for directly railway-related reasons, but certainly facilitated by

the railway and its nation-wide connections.

It was fair to suggest that the coming of the railway did not massively alter the economic or commercial profile of Winchester, but it did make local, physical. And for some individuals, it probably made a big financial difference.

Chris Sellen



*LSWR Tri-composite Saloon:
Image by James Pett*

A walk to St Catherine's Hill.

A large group of WARG members met at the Park and Ride just outside Winchester on a cloudy evening following a blisteringly hot day.

Don welcomed us and outlined the route we would be taking, pointing out that Bar End Road was the Roman road going east out of Winchester. He explained that he had been involved with the dig on the site of the present M3, so he was able to tell us a lot about it. As we set off, he pointed out the van selling pizzas....but no-one felt the need to indulge!

Following the line of the Roman road we stopped by the memorial to the Donga tribe. We could see the Iron Age ditch from this side.



*St Catherines Hill from Twyford Down:
Copyright Joe Champion*

We crossed over the first donga....a hollow way. Donga is either a Swahili word or a Cornish one. Looking over the Iron Age farm system, Don told us about how the protesters set up camp to try to protect the ancient trackways. Sadly they were unsuccessful and so many of the ancient paths disappeared over the

course of one weekend.

During the dig at Twyford Down Cutting they had expected to find a lot, but in the event found very little. However, they did find a round barrow with 37 people buried in it.

Our next stop was by the Roman road to Owslebury which was a very busy thoroughfare in Roman times. Comprising 11 tracks altogether it was a big arterial road running out of Winchester. We tried to ignore the darkening sky, but it was around this point that we were very unlucky to be rained upon. As always, WARG members are made of stern stuff and we stoically followed Don to Plague Pit Valley. This is a natural combe formed during the Ice Age when ice and clay covered the chalk. The sarsen stones were brought in by the slurry and it was interesting to hear that Cheesefoot Head was carved out at the same time by melted ice.

We walked along the ditch of the Iron Age Hill Fort. The problem would have been getting water up there. It dates from 600BC to 400BC, but around then it was abandoned and the people went to Oram's Arbour. It was a very simple hill fort and was hardly ever occupied

because the people lived in the nearby fields and only went there for defence or to sell stock.

It was at this point that Don dropped a bombshell... There was to be a test!! Aaarrrgh!

We then heard some more information about St Catherine's Hill read by Carol, and Don pointed out that the land actually belongs to Winchester College. The hill itself was dug by CFC Hawkes when he was only 20 years old. He then went on to become a famous professor and archaeologist.

We passed the site of the only gate into the hill fort evidenced by post holes. Volume 11 of the Proceedings of the Hampshire Field Club is all about St Catherine's Hill. There would have been a stone Medieval walled gatehouse. Don showed us plans of the excavations so that we could understand the site better. Medieval enclosures surround the chapel. Trial pits were dug here and there was very careful recording of 12 trenches that were put here between 1925 and 1930. Professor Hawkes excavated the chapel.

Don then showed us the shape of the maze on the plan. Contrary to the popular story, it was NOT cut by a college boy using a penknife! There are 20 others similar to this and Breamore is another good example. On St Catherine's Hill it is opposite the Iron Age entrances, and indeed there may have been something similar here in the Iron Age. If you walked round it, you would walk 624m, which is about half a mile.

Ed read a piece about St. Catherine and Don told us about the church, which was a large cruciform church of the 12th century. There is no evidence of a church here before then, but large pieces of masonry have been found. A mound was built over these remains.

We then stopped to admire the view in the SUN!!

We could see St. Cross and the water meadows along with the hollow ways coming from Oliver's Battery. Gazing across to the viaduct we heard about the event that Julia had organized to unveil 2 plaques. Historically, the Viaduct is important. Some of the bricks came from Blanchards in Bishops Waltham. There was nothing to show that it had been a railway line, but it was very important in both World Wars. In WW2 the single line track was used for moving military hardware. In the 1940s railway-men worked 10 hour days and it was closed to passenger traffic in the run-up to D-Day.

The Friends of Hockley Viaduct found the stump of the original

signal, and put the signal back. Senior military representatives from 4 countries came to the unveiling ceremony.

In Plague Pit Valley we heard that the pits date from the 17th century and that there is another one underneath the Wessex Hotel. There was no room in the city because 7,000 people were lost in the 14th century. People are buried in 9 pits dug into the hill. They are buried several deep and hundreds have their final resting place here.

Don explained that Chilcomb used to be a very important village, and that a Saxon field boundary separated it from the village of Twyford.

The building of the M3 caused a huge controversy. As we stood in the centre of the old bypass we reflected that not so many years ago this had been a busy dual carriageway built in the 1930s. It was closed during WW2 and used as a car park for tanks.

We then came to the Itchen Navigation Canal which goes from Woodmill to Blackbridge with 15 locks. The canal was 3 feet deep and Don admitted that he swam in the lock when he was a boy. There was a saw mill here, and Val gave us some more detailed information about its history. By the 1920s it had been taken over by Travis Perkins who are still trading today.

Then we passed a barge-shaped stone monument, which commemorates a strange piece of history. The French Revolution began in 1789, but in 1792 the French wars began and by 1793 England was involved. The workers on the barges could well have been press-ganged into fighting the French, so they had to have certificates to prove that they were not sea-men but barge-men and thus exempt from being part of the Navy.

Nearing the end of our walk we passed a milepost which was part of the Didcot, Newbury and Southampton railway....26 miles from Newbury and 1 mile from Shawford. We were now back into warm sunshine, but Julia had to thank Don with a soggy envelope because of the earlier rain! We all learnt so much in a comparatively short time, and we didn't have a test at the end!! Phew!!

Edwina Cole

Archaeology on the Warwickshire/ Oxfordshire border

(Note: Ed Jackson, still a keen WARG member despite moving to Warwickshire, has sent in a report on a site that appears to go from Neolithic to Roman in a few hundred metres)

The Warmington Heritage Group is involved in the excavation of three sites just outside Warmington village, on the Warwickshire/Oxfordshire border. The sites lie at the very north-eastern extremity of the Cotswold Hills, on an elevated salient overlooking the Cherwell Valley. I'll tell you about Site 1 – a substantial Roman building complex – in another article in a future edition of the Newsletter (we should have completed excavation of it by then). This article is about Sites 2 and 3.

In 2008 a metal detectorist found an earthenware pot which had been revealed by ploughing. The pot contained a hoard of 1141 silver Roman denarii dating from 206 BC to 64 AD and covering periods from the Republic to Pompey, Mark Antony, Julius Caesar, through Augustus to Claudius and Nero. It was the largest Roman hoard found so far in the West Midlands. The find, but not its context, was excavated by Banbury Museum.

In 2012 the Warmington Heritage Group decided to investigate the context of the find and opened up a single trench on Site 2. The hoard turned out to have been buried just inside a circular or polygonal wall (about half of which had been ploughed out) which enclosed a space about 9 metres in diameter. Most of the wall was constructed from local stone rubble but one portion had been rebuilt of cut stone, reused from another building, on top of a 1 metre deep foundation. That stretch of wall was found to have been built on top of a 2-3 metre wide pit – it appears that the original wall had collapsed because of subsidence. Was this possibly a shrine containing a votive offering? If so, the building may have been in use throughout the Roman period because coins from up to and including the 4th century are to be found in the plough soil of the field in which the structure is situated. But geophysics revealed no sign of any other structure than this curved wall, and excavation found no evidence of an altar or pit in the centre, and no post holes or any other sign of an entrance, ambulatory or temenos. Rather than being a votive offering, it could be that the hoard was buried by the landowner during the early years of the Roman occupation due to the coins' very high silver content – the date of the latest coin would

correspond with the Empire reducing the amount of precious metal in their coinage in an effort to help their financial difficulties.

Excavation of the pit underlying the foundations was deferred to the 2013 season. Dug into the top of the fill of the pit was an early Bronze Age beaker (c.2200-1800 BC). It had already been broken when it was placed in the soil along with hot rocks, which had scorched the surrounding fill, and pieces of charcoal. (There was no evidence of actual firing having taken place within the deposit.) We await the results of carbon dating of the charcoal and lipid analysis to identify the contents of the pot.



Antler pick from Site 2

Further excavation of the fill of the pit revealed a fine Neolithic polished flint axe and an antler pick which appeared to date from the same period. At the bottom of the pit was a partial skeleton (which at present we are assuming also to be Neolithic) with its skull located directly under the Bronze Age pot. The bones

were in poor condition – too decayed to reveal any signs of trauma or disease – but were identified as those of a large adult man, aged between 25 and 35. Many of his bones were missing and those that were left were scattered in a way that suggested that he had been laid out, left to drop to pieces and then his bones disturbed, before the pit he was in was backfilled. The bones are now with specialists for stable isotope analysis which will, we hope, be able to tell us more about this individual, especially the date, his health, and whether he was local or came from elsewhere. Full excavation failed to reveal any evidence of a passage into the pit/chamber, so in that respect at least this burial is unlike other Neolithic burials found in the Cotswold/Severn valley area. This is, apparently, the first recorded Neolithic burial in Warwickshire.

Geophysics revealed a feature about 7 metres wide running approximately north-south across the site, some 30 or so metres west of Site 2. A trench known as Site 3, opened up across the feature in 2013, showed it to be a ditch about 3.5 metres deep which appeared at some stage to have been vertical-sided. There was a second ditch, about 1.5 metres wide and 1.5 metres deep running parallel to it, approximately midway between the large ditch and Trench 1, with a parallel bank roughly midway between the two ditches. Further excavation this year

has uncovered a row of large (400mm) post holes at the foot of the bank which are interpreted as probably being supports for wooden revetment of the west face of the bank. Though there were no artefacts in the postholes to be able to date them, several sherds of prehistoric pottery and a struck flint flake were found in the soil above them. Recent magnetometry has shown that both ditches extend at least 100 metres further south, into an area of woodland.

In the bottom 1.5 metres of the larger of the two ditches were large stones which may possibly have been the remains of a rampart. At the bottom of the ditch were pig bones which have been sent for Carbon 14 dating, and fragments of Iron Age pottery. This ditch appeared to have been kept fairly clean, leaving no Iron Age silts to analyse. Pollen analysis has revealed that in post-Iron Age times the site was scrub land with no evidence of grazing or ploughing until post-medieval periods. The easterly trench, by comparison, appeared to have been filled in in the Iron Age, with pollen analysis showing evidence of subsequent pasture and sparse woodland.

So what was going on here? How come the Bronze Age beaker was found directly over the skull of the Neolithic man, with the Roman coins just a metre or so away? Are we looking at continuity or coincidence?

It is possible that the skeleton is very late Neolithic and that the early Bronze Age beaker buried above him is contemporary – dating of the skeleton and the pieces of charcoal should clarify this. Celia Fiennes mentions that there were Bronze Age barrows along this ridge at the end of the 17th century, though none remain now. They would almost certainly have been visible from the valley below in Bronze and Iron Age times. Was there perhaps a barrow on this site? Was this possibly some sort of Celtic site dedicated to a local god, which then became a Roman shrine?

There are Iron Age hillforts nearby at Nadbury (about 3 km northwest on the Cotswold Edge) and at Burton Dassett (some 4 km north across the Cherwell Valley) but this site is not a hillfort. If the bank and ditch feature extends all the way across the promontory then perhaps it is demarcating a territorial division. The site lies at the boundaries of the Catuvellauni to the southeast, the Dobunni (based in Cirencester) to the southwest, and the Corieltavi (based in Leicester) to the north. (Those same boundaries were perpetuated in the Roman civitas, then later the Saxon kingdoms of Hwicce, Mercia and East Anglia, and still today the diocesan boundaries of Oxford, Coventry

and Peterborough.) Apparently Roman shrines are not uncommon at such territorial boundaries, to help the traveller to negotiate through this dangerous liminal zone. Is that what we have here?

Sites 2 and 3 have to be handed back to the tenant farmer at the end of this year, so they will have to be backfilled shortly, but maybe permission will be given for the excavation of nearby areas in future years, that might help us to answer some of these questions.

Ed Jackson



The Battle of the Solent and the sinking of the Mary Rose 1545:

Dominic Fontana, 10th November 2014

At Portsmouth in 1545 the English fleet of Henry VIII, including the MARY ROSE, was defending the country against a threatened invasion by France.

The talk was an account of the events of 19th July 1545 based on a synthesis of historical records, archaeology, contemporary topography and a key illustration. The illustration was a painting of the south shore of Portsmouth island and the Solent showing the deployment of the French and English fleets, the land forces and some of the key participants in the events of that day. It was commissioned because of Henry's interest in recording events in his reign and hung in Cowdray House, the grand Tudor residence of Sir Anthony Browne, master of the Kings Horse. Sir Anthony was present on that day along with the King. Although the painting was destroyed in a fire at Cowdray in 1793, by good fortune the Society of Antiquaries had commissioned an engraving of the painting by William Blake and James Basire, a work completed just before the painting was destroyed. It is now in the British Library.

The surviving engraving has turned out to be a very accurate record of the location and the events of that day. Topographically, it located buildings such as Southsea Castle, hurriedly built in 1544, the round tower at the harbour entrance and the medieval hospital of Maison Dieu, all of which survive today. It also depicted the sunken Mary Rose, visible only from topmasts and a fighting top, the accurate depiction of which was confirmed by a spare fighting top excavated from the vessel.

The excavation of the Mary Rose has produced much other evidence to help recreate the events depicted in the engraving. The very great care taken in the excavation and the amazing survival of so much that was on board the ship (even down to the nits in combs) have provided a wealth of background. Humble shoes, the pewter tableware of the privileged and peppercorns still giving off their distinctive odour are among the countless artefacts recovered.

Apart from the engraving and the archaeological treasure trove, other information has been researched to assemble the historical account. A 1545 map of Portsmouth, perhaps the first of an English town properly drawn to scale, along with later maps of 1552 and 1584 all supported the accuracy of the engraving. The Time Team excavation in 2009 supported the interpretation of the neighbourhood of the Maison Dieu hospital. A 1760 copy of the original picture by the Sherwin brothers, now located at the Spencer house at Althorp, also portrayed the scene consistent with other sources.

Along with the historical sources, computer mapping of the foreshore and the sea bed in the Solent has shown a remarkable consistency in the topography depicted in the early illustrations.

Synthesising all this data has enabled the creation of an account of the events of that day in July 1545. It opened with the French fleet located off the east end of the Isle of Wight and the English fleet, led by the Flagship, the Great Harry, along with the Mary Rose, at anchor just outside the entrance to Portsmouth Harbour. The French forces numbered 30,000 in over 200 ships, a significantly larger force than could be mustered by the English. They had only 12,000 men, many of them ill-trained militia with the main army still in France.

The French forces were seeking to land on the English mainland. Chichester harbour was too shallow for their vessels so they attacked Portsmouth as a preferred berth to disembark their troops. They had landed some forces at Bembridge on the Isle of Wight but their progress across the island was foiled by the local militia in the fort at Yarborough and the destruction of a key bridge needed for access.

The French naval assault was led by five galleys which, powered by convict rowers, could manoeuvre in the Solent without being dependent on the force and direction of the wind. These vessels had large cannons located in the bow which could fire directly forward and it seems that they advanced towards the English ships, firing their ordnance and then withdrawing to reload. It may have been a tactic

designed to draw the English fleet out of their anchorage so that the French fleet could engage them at close hand. Against them the English ships had no armament which could fire directly forward. Their main guns were intended for broadsides from parallel vessels.

The English ships were initially unable to respond due to the lack of wind and the flow of the tide. However, in the afternoon a sea breeze came up and enabled the English ships to leave their anchorage and engage the French with their broadside guns. It was at the point that the *Mary Rose*, her gun ports open, heeled over in a gust of wind whilst turning and, with the inflow of water through the gun ports, sank very rapidly. It is possible that damage from the French cannonade contributed to this and caused her to sit lower in the water than normal. When she sunk she was pointing towards a sand bank on which, six minutes later, she could have gone aground and saved herself from sinking.

It is not clear why the French forces did not attack more vigorously. It is possible that the French commander, judging that both monarchs were elderly and not likely to survive much longer, decided that invasion was an unnecessary risk to achieve their strategic objectives.

This account is neither complete nor certain. Further research is needed. Part of the *Mary Rose* is still on the sea bed and probably in fair condition. It also seems probable that there are the remains of a French galley still to be located. But England survived that day and would be able to apply some of the lessons learned to repel the Spanish Armada some decades later.

S C Taylor



Operation Nightingale: An important social experiment and archaeological excavation

Those of us who are also members of the Hampshire Field Club (and if not, why not?) may remember a stunningly hot summer visit to the excavation at Barrow Clump on Salisbury Plain. This dig is being run by the Army for those soldiers who return from war zones with either physical or emotional problems and are thus no longer suitable to remain in the Forces. This was the scheme's 3rd year and it's proved to be an amazing change of life for young men who've lost

legs as well as confidence, and has given several of them literally a new lease of life career-wise.

This excavation began when the farmer saw what was being thrown up by the large colony of badgers, who've lived there for centuries, and contacted archaeologists. English Heritage decided that this 5000 year old Bronze Age barrow should be fully excavated in order to save the contents before the badgers destroyed everything. Originally in this area there were at least 20 mounds but the others were all ploughed out so it seemed important to get to work on the remaining one straight away. Time Team moved in for one of their "3 day" tasters and then Wessex Archaeology took over to create a "proper" assessment of the site. Finally the Army set up the Defence Archaeology Group and Operation Nightingale to give some of their damaged soldiers the opportunity to discover an aspect of non-military work and so this amazing "experiment" began. The first military unit involved was The Rifles, a regiment with a long connection with Winchester and whose Regimental Headquarters and museum are in Peninsula Barracks.



Anglo Saxon Warrior from Barrow Clump

It turned out that the barrow, though constructed in the early Bronze Age, had also been used as an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, and this eventually produced over 70 graves of men, women and children, most of them with a range of personal possessions including shield bosses, spearheads, a sword with gilded belt fittings, much jewellery, a wrist guard, cosmetic items and a rare Saxon bucket made of yew and bronze-banded. Although this is a bucket, it was actually used as a somewhat manly drinking vessel! I found it very emotional to see a young man with no legs remove his prosthetic limbs in order to get into a space which his less incomplete companions couldn't access. The appeal of excavating soldiers from many centuries ago resonated with the modern-day soldiers since they could all identify with the experiences of those buried with their weapons.

There are several sites on the internet giving more and detailed information about this site and excavation, so if you're interested why not investigate some of them: it's an altogether different and interesting story.

Julia Sandison

A visit to the Hampshire Record Office

Although we meet several times a year in the Record Office, there are lots of members who don't actually know how such a place works, and I was amongst them! So, to try and dispel such ignorance, 20 of us met one of their archivists, David Rymill, at the Hampshire Record Office for an evening's enlightenment. He began by telling us about what is required of a building housing a county's archives and why Hampshire is so lucky to have a purpose-built home. Storage is always a problem and various cunning plans have been realised to maximise the space available, whilst acknowledging that the amount of space required will only ever increase since no records are ever got rid of. Even modern methods of digitisation don't create any further space but do mean that the researching public can handle more documents etc than they could previously. Micro-fiche isn't used so much now but photos and paperwork are copied and films put onto DVDs. The storage rooms are kept at a very level temperature, with very thick walls to help, and the research rooms are kept at more or less the same temperatures so that all the archives are kept as stable as possible.

David showed us these storage rooms, the various offices used by the archivists and the search assistants, as well as the large room where the two conservators do their magic on documents from across the centuries that have perhaps been kept in less than perfect conditions. They might work on archives damaged by fire, damp, mice, sundry insects, or just too much dust, and they use acid-free papers before storing anything fragile in acid-free clear pockets and folders – no sellotape, no pins, no metal or tight string, just a wide tape which will not cut into the document. The county's conservators are able not only to work on their own archives but can also do work for other counties, thus ensuring a little income for the county council.

We were given a mini-master class in how to use the Record Office's website for tracking down the documents we'd need for any kind of research, particularly family records. The types of archival records are wide-ranging and even include all the details of the county's car ownership prior to 1974 when the DVLA took over. David explained that records arrive at their destination in two ways – one as donations and the other as "deposits" – ie the owner wishes to keep the records but wants them properly looked after and perhaps used for research too. For instance, the Cathedral has recently passed over some of its own

archive but cannot give it to the Record Office, only lend or “deposit” it.

David had produced a display of documents from across the centuries which featured aspects of places or activities in which WARG had been involved. For instance there was a photo album and documents relating to St Cross Hospital and the Brothers, an early 14th century charter concerning the foundation of St Elizabeth’s, as well as photos of the Brooks dig in the late 1980s and early 90s – an excavation in which WARG members took part. One of the most interesting exhibits was the Courts ledger from between 1836 and 1848, detailing all the miscreants with their ages, crimes, and punishments – transported for life for stealing a lamb, for example, but only transported for 7 years for stealing 2 pigs. Solitary confinement for 2 weeks was the punishment for stealing some fabric whilst a couple of people were “whipped” as their punishment. Finally, we ended in the cinema to see a short film about various activities in Winchester city centre, again from the 80s and 90s.

This was a most fascinating and entertaining evening and David really gave us an amazing opportunity to see exactly how a Record Office works – I for one shall be ferreting through the on-line records to find out about my house and its previous owners.

Julia Sandison



A Visit to Chichester

For those of you unfortunate enough to miss our visit to Chichester, I hope this account will reflect not only what a good day we had, but also enable you to do a similar walk should you wish to do so.

28 of us gathered in the sun (arranged by Julia) in the Theatre car park. The outline of the day (arranged by Don) promised an interesting walk together with a few surprises!

The first surprise must have been for the member of the public who settled down to read an article about the Rolling Stones in a quiet corner of Priory Park. We all joined him and sat down to hear Don outline the early history of the city. This proved to be quite complicated and I am indebted to him for providing me with a written list of the names involved!

Verica was a British king in the 1st century BC. In AD 43 he may have landed with a Roman army at Dell Quay near Fishbourne. An early fort was constructed there and many villas have been discovered

in the area with early 1st century geometric black and white mosaics.

There was an anchorage at Dell Quay and Stane Street, the Roman road to London, starts near Fishbourne and passes through Chichester near St Pancras and The Hornet (now the A286) to the east of the city.

The Anglo Saxon Chronicle (AD 477) tells us that Aelle came to Britain with his 3 sons, Cymen, Wiensing and Cyssa landing at a place called Cymensora. Cymensora is Selsey. Wiensing is Lancing and Cyssa is Chichester. It became one of King Alfred's burghs in 871 and in the 7th century the Pagan Saxons were converted to Christianity with the first cathedral being built at Selsey. By 1075 Archbishop Lanfranc moved the See and Bishopric from Selsey to Chichester.

Armed with all this information we set off on our walk beginning in North Street opposite the Ship Hotel. This building is important because Eisenhower stayed there before D-Day in 1944. From there we continued down North Street, turning left into Guildhall Street which took us into Priory Park. The Franciscan Priory that can be seen here was built in 1282. The nave and other buildings were destroyed by Henry VIII's soldiers in 1538 and since then the building has been used as law courts and a Town hall, then as an armoury for the Sussex Rifle Volunteers, then as Chichester's first museum and currently as a corporate venue.

Walking out of the park, we turned right into Priory Road. Opposite the Park Tavern we turned left into St Martin's Square where another surprise awaited us. Tucked up in a corner is the entrance to St Mary's Hospital Almshouse. I have been visiting Chichester for many years, but I had no idea this was here, and nor do most people who live in Chichester apparently!

It was founded between 1158 and 1170 and removed to its current site in 1253. Its full title is the Hospital for the Blessed Virgin Mary and we were privileged to have access (despite the fact that the Surveyor to the fabric of the building got locked out!).

People live in the nave of the church and although extensive work was carried out between 2005 and 2007, the Trustees agreed to keep it as it was originally meant to be used. It boasts the largest peg tile roof in the country. It sustained damage in WW2 when bombs were dropped here on the way to Tangmere and the stained glass was lost.

The original 8 flats needed to be modernized, so now there are only 4 in the nave. There is no waiting list and residents are selected according to the following criteria:

They must have close links with Chichester.

They must be Christian.

They must be in need financially when a place becomes available.

They pay a peppercorn rent that is not compulsory and some even have a St Mary's pension. Commercial lettings fund the facilities.

Whilst digging on the site, one pot was found that was full of bones. Known as a witch's pot it was a good luck charm to keep the witches out! It's interesting because it is kept there, and not put in the museum. A good luck 17th century shoe was also found during the excavations in 2004. They are examples of pagan symbols in a Christian building. Moving into the chapel we saw the misericords that are particularly fine and are considered to be better than those in the Cathedral.

We then moved out to the new extension, opened by Prince Charles in 1997. Helen Sinclair made the bronze that was specially commissioned. It represents the ethos of the place and recalls the first 5 foundation members.

Leaving the Almshouse, we came out into St Martin's Square and turned left to find a tiny garden created in the space of a bombed-out church.

In this area, Georgian facades hide the Medieval buildings but you can still see the original roofs.

We passed the Hole in the Wall pub and Don told us that this was where food was passed to prisoners – through the hole in the wall! Passing into St Martin's Street we turned left into East Street. The Roman east gate was where the Sussex Camera Centre now stands opposite East Walls. Near here was the famous Shipphams meat and fish pastes factory, which evoked a lot of memories! Continuing to St Pancras church, Don said that Saxon burials had been found there and that the St Pancras street followed the line of Stane Street which was the Roman road that went from Dell Quay to London.

We walked round The Hornet (A286) and turned right into Whyke Lane. We walked down and turned left into the park, past the Christian Science Society. Here was the site of the Chichester Amphitheatre, which was much bigger than the one at Silchester. In WW2 a bomber crashed here. The crew baled out and the town was saved. This site has not been excavated.

Walking back over the car park, we returned to East Walls, passing the Girls Quaker Grammar School and the Chichester Quaker Meeting House. Passing into Little London we saw the site of a sack factory

and the house of Barton Hack who lived there from 1805 to 1827 and went on to found Adelaide in Australia. Then it was lunchtime!

We met back at the City Cross where open markets were held. Opposite the Cathedral was a row of cottages where they started to make the Shippams paste. It was (and is) a very busy road with many coaching inns along it. The new museum in Chichester, called the Novium museum, is near here together with the new Information Centre. Returning to the City Cross we walked onto North Street where we saw the new butter market, which was designed by John Nash. Opposite Crane street (on the left), is the Old Cross which was a Medieval pub dating back to the 16th century. From here we went to Lion Street and the Council House and Assembly Room where we met Anne who was a city councilor who had been Mayor 3 times. The charter given by King Stephen in 1135 makes Chichester City Council the oldest in the country.

We heard a history of the council chamber and had a tour of the pictures on the walls and other valuable works of art.

When we had finished, we walked along part of the City wall to reach the best part of the Roman wall, which led to the Bishops Palace Gardens. This was a good place to end our most comprehensive tour of this fascinating city. Thanks to all for a wonderful day!

Edwina Cole.



A Chichester miscellany: Val Pegg

Maps, maps and damned lies: Giles Darkes

As a user of maps, whether as a pilot, navigator, historian or lover of fine pen-work, or maybe the frustrated cartographer who spent many a happy hour at university drawing maps with a cartographic technical pen, I was fascinated by a talk by Giles Darkes, a cartographic consultant, who wanted to warn us of the danger of taking a map at face value.

He helped us don our thinking caps to conceive of a map as a depiction (a lie) of reality, designed for a purpose: a scale relevant to its use; a series of symbols instantly recognisable; texts and legend which tell an often limited story.

A map-maker's problem is generally what to leave out. The toolset is simply: points; lines; areas (e.g. a lake); and text, depicted on a flat surface (well that's a lie because the Earth isn't flat). But if you change the scale you generalise, a motorway junction changes from a complex of roads to a circle with a junction number as you move the scale out. Even modern Internet maps and aerial images lose detail and information as the scale increases.

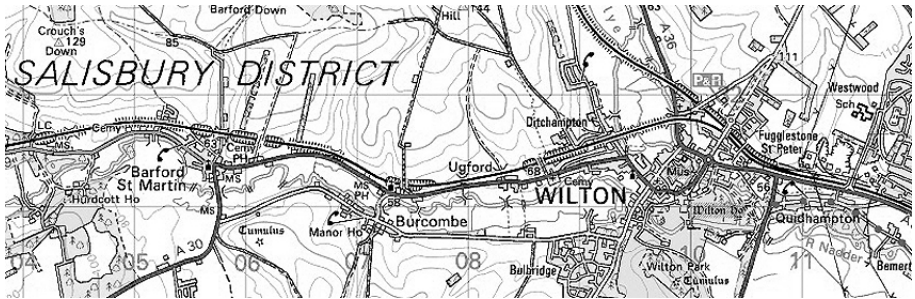
But what a rich vocabulary the map-maker has developed and allowed (required) us to learn. Take the symbol, a representation. When John Speed was producing his maps in the 17th century he used a mixture of what was then traditional pictorial representations of hills, but also shading, a development which unwittingly foresaw shadow graphics of today's fly-through computer images. The pictorial hill symbol was superseded in the 18th century by hachures (a vertical view). These give a relative, not absolute, view. Not until the contour line with a height above a known datum is clarity brought into topography – and even that can be generalised.

We also bring baggage with us when we look at a map. We are all very familiar with the OS Landranger 1:50,000 Series. How well would we get on with a French or Russian equivalent – equally as familiar to those countrymen as Landranger is to us, imbued in our culture.

So why can a map represent a lie? We expect to see something familiar and to be able to see the map as reality. First of all a map is a flat projection, not noticeable on Landranger but what about that familiar orange-peel view of the whole earth, or the Mercator projections? Such attempts to flatten the earth distort our view of it.

North. Why does north appear at the top? Why does this still

happen in Australia? Draw a map with south at the top and we are unsettled – familiarity disappears.



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How far can you trust a map-maker? Maps can be produced as a commission and designed to show a deliberate distortion. Back in the day errors or instructions to printers compound the issue – for instance the word “Quare” appears on a Speed map apparently referring to a village near Wilton. Latin for “query” the printer erroneously applied it rather than the accurate North Burcombe. Not a massive issue, until it also appears on competitors’ maps who had obviously plagiarised the original rather than do their own survey. Examples can be found where map-makers put in a deliberate lie, perhaps a street misaligned by 20°. If the “mistake” appears on others’ maps, skulduggery has been at play.

On one hand some maps can be useful in their literal untruthfulness, for instance in the way town sizes are represented by different size dots to show populations. On the other “let the reader beware”, a map is data, and data can be wrong, such as the removal from OS maps of prison layouts (now easily visible on Google Earth).

The simplifications of roads to coloured lines (blue motorways, green T-roads) is not reality but makes interpretation easier; the exaggeration of the stagger at a road junction to add clarity – all white lies. So is a lie/untruth something we should worry about? A map is a tool, not reality. The classic Tube map made by Harry Beck in the early thirties set a benchmark in clarity and design-for-purpose and has only been surpassed by its imitators (some comic). No way is it reality, in the distances between stations, for example.

Spatial accuracy can add value though. Dr John Snow used accurate street maps to establish the location of water pumps versus instances of cholera in the Soho 1854 epidemic. The outbreak was isolated to a single well and steps taken to control it. So far from lying

we should consider the benefits which can be derived in terms of spatial information, using the right map to answer the right question.

Just don't necessarily trust your Sat Nav, with its multi-source database, or as someone once remarked on being asked directions, "If I wanted to go there, I wouldn't start from here."



[*Note to Editor: It may be time to start adding a note, to wit, "The author's views are his own, and WARG cannot accept any responsibility etc. etc."*] **I agree, Ed.**

Chris Sellen

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A Sicilian adventure

An 11 day holiday at the beginning of May can only be a good time to go just about anywhere in the world, but to go to Sicily was a truly wonderful choice of ours. Although the forecast was for temperatures in the early to mid 60sF, they turned out in reality to be the mid to late 70sF, so my clothing was fairly inappropriate. I'd taken warmer things whilst what was actually needed was all the lightest stuff I own with a couple of lightweight shirts to cover shoulders and neck. However, none of that really mattered when we discovered that Sicily at that time of year is just one huge mass of wildflowers and consequently a riot of colour and green – perfection. On top of that, of course, we had the archaeology and again that can hardly be bettered. The Mediterranean area with its mostly lack of damp and its mostly full sunshine has provided us with places to go where we can soak up the past with the minimum of effort – well, the coach driver makes an effort, particularly driving to Taormina, but that's it really.

This island to the south of Italy has been inhabited by just about everyone over the millennia and they've all left some fantastic buildings and ruins for posterity. Ok, you CAN see too many shells of Greek temples – well, Dick can anyway – but since they're always on hill-tops the views are spectacular.

Starting in Palermo we visited Monreale, Segesta and Marsala – each with real goodies. Monreale is magnificent with its Norman cathedral and abbey dating from 1174 – the cloisters with the most amazing

columns, painted with gold leaf and inlaid with bright colourful mosaics, are gob-smacking (sorry about the technical vocabulary) and as the sun was shining, even more spectacular. To continue to be gob-smacked we visited the Cappella Palatina of Roger II (first king of Sicily 1130-54) which is breathtaking and has to be seen to be believed – no website or photos can possibly do it justice. Segesta probably dates back to the 12th c BC as the original settlement of the Elymni people and was an area famous for its medicinal sulphurous springs. The Phoenicians (later known as Carthaginians) came and went and the Romans duly took over – long history of centuries of wars and unpleasantness, of course. Palermo suffers from Italy's current problems where museums and other sites are "temporarily" closed due to lack of funds – more likely an excess of corruption – but there's still plenty to see and do in the area.

The Phoenicians established a colony on the island of Motya, in a shallow bay to the west of Sicily, at the end of the 8th c BC and as it was abandoned in around 397BC, following Dionysus of Syracuse's destruction of it, is still in good order archaeologically. Perhaps more interesting than that, though, is the fact that Motya was owned till recently by the English family of Whitakers, wealthy through their Marsala wine trade. Incidentally, don't turn down the offer of a glass of Marsala, particularly if you're sitting in the sun watching the shallow sea around you being harvested for the salt – someone has to drink the stuff.

Selinunte with its top-of-the-hill Greek temples (over half a dozen) overlooks a hilly landscape and also includes the ancient Cava di Cusa quarries where, since Sicily has no marble, the stone for its buildings originated and where one can still see the massive unfinished blocks needed for a temple's columns.

In case one wasn't yet fed up with hill-top Greek temples, we visited the Agrigento area. But FAR more important than that for me was the morning we spent at Villa Romana del Casale, a palatial Roman villa dating from the late 3rd c AD. The mosaics here are quite rightly considered to be some of the most fantastic in the world and have been kept in spectacular condition by a handy landslide many centuries ago. The modern walkways are about 12-15 foot above the floors and corridors of the villa and thus enable one to see well, with the opportunity to see the corridor – approx 60m long – in a couple of moves, providing of course that half of Germany and a third of Japan aren't there at the same time. These mosaics are some of the most beautiful artistic creations I've ever seen – the animals, birds

and insects are truly realistic and the detail is glorious – I could have spent an entire day there, always trying to keep my mouth shut! Not far from this palace we visited Morgantina, the remains of a town dating to the early Bronze Age with several re-inventings by Greeks and Romans, to name just two.

Our final port of call was Syracuse, or rather Ortygia, a small island to the south-east of Sicily and connected by a couple of old and narrow roads – ideal for keeping coaches and large lorries off the island! The museum at Syracuse was worth a whole day to itself – the finds are so numerous that after a while I found myself becoming very blasé about so much stuff, in excellent condition, from so many centuries ago. The nearby archaeological park had some goodies too – the inevitable temples to Apollo and Athena, an amphitheatre and a HUGE altar for public sacrifices to Zeus. We also drove a very long way to Taormina – doubtless a good place to visit if the Graeco-Roman temple were not being prepared for a concert in the evening and subsequently there being SO many people in the town that we never got to visit anywhere else there. However Pantalica, a prehistoric site, was a gem – a mountain hillside covered with more than 5,000 tombs cut into the limestone. Many of these astonishing tombs were / are completely inaccessible, and ropes and ladders would have been necessary to reach them. They've been dated as running from the 13th c BC to the 8th c BC, and are well worth the sometimes perilous climb to view them. Good footwear a requirement. Ortygia's cathedral was built on top of and around the remains of a Doric temple and it's really amusing to see the columns etc both inside and outside the cathedral! We stayed at a charming small hotel overlooking the beach and were lucky enough to have a fabulous firework display over the town for our last evening.

Basically, if you're in any way interested in archaeology, botany or Inspector Montalbano, DO visit Sicily – it's a gem of an island and of course there's the food – not quite Italian but distinctively Sicilian and VERY good!

Julia Sandison

While I believe you can have too many Greek temples in ten days, and didn't take part in the plant and flower spotting competition, I can only echo Julia's rave and just mention that the tour managers were Andante Travel.

Dick Selwood

New Year Party

We have managed to enjoy our greatly successful New Year's party with an excellent spread of food for many years and most of you know how it all works, but for new members here are some hopefully helpful notes! We provide drinks, glasses, plates, cutlery and napkins, and ask you to bring some food on a serving dish.

The vast majority of food consumed will be savoury – after Christmas and the New Year no-one seems to want too much pud or sweet things – and everything needs to be bite-sized pieces, pre-cut by their provider, please. Vol-au-vents, small sandwiches, cocktail sausages, tiny scotch eggs, small sausage rolls, bite-sized pizza and quiche, and chicken drumsticks are all popular, as are cheese chunks (any variety) and small pieces of fruit and vegetables. Sticks of carrot, celery and cucumber with cherry tomatoes and radishes are popular, with a few well-drained olives. A few grapes can round off a meal very nicely! Dips such as tzatziki and humous are NOT popular – too difficult to eat on a flat cardboard plate, and those and sweet things get routinely thrown away at the end of the evening. Small pieces of baquette go down well but not savoury biscuits – too dry, I think. Salads without lettuce are popular – so rice, pasta or bean-based as well as coleslaw and potato salad.

Some foods will need to be labelled. Please do NOT bring food for more than 2 people – virtually everyone brings something and there is usually masses to throw away at the end of the party.

Final reminder that we ask for £2 from everyone who attends to cover drinks etc. If you're planning on coming, please let Julia know at least a week in advance so that she'll have a rough idea of numbers and who's bringing what. The entertainment this year will be great fun, but as usual only Julia knows what it is to be! Her details are as ever on the back cover of this Newsletter.

Book Review

Paul Kingsnorth, **The Wake**

Published by Unbound ISBN 978-1-908717-86-3; 365 pages.

This is not the usual sort of book I review for WARG readers because it is a novel set in the Fens in the period immediately around 1066. The narrator – a socman – a free tenant farmer - has sons who are called up to fight in the fyrd against Tostig at the Battle of Stamford Bridge and then again at Hastings. The narrator despises the Normans and all that they stand for. He believes in ‘the old ways and religions’ and leads a rather half-hearted band of guerrilla fighters against the Normans. The novel is based on the fact that there were many such bands, the most noteworthy being that led by Hereward the Wake (hence the title).

It is written in Old English – well almost. The author acknowledges that to write in Old English would make his story inaccessible to most. So he has simplified the language using syntax and vocabulary that are primarily Old English, excluding ‘french’ words and excluding letters not used in Anglo-Saxon script – like k. For about the first ten pages I found this quite hard going, but suddenly the language clicks and only very rarely do you need to turn to the glossary to translate. You soon learn to read “the yfels of cyngs” as “the evils of kings”. The language helps create great empathy with a conquered race.

The novel works on many levels. At a historic level it brings out well how events of 1066 would have been learned through rumour and gossip in a rural backwater. It creates understanding, very vividly, of the rapid impact of the changes imposed on rural life by the Normans. The role of the church in change is fundamental and the novel brings out the lingering allegiance to the old Nordic gods versus the church of Christ, who is, of course, another foreigner like William the Bastard. On another level, it exposes graphically the personal impact of conquest that happened in 1066 England. I was very aware that the same events and resulting emotions are happening in the Middle East today. It exposes the raw emotion of something we now call history.

The novel was long-listed for the 2014 Man Booker Prize (but didn’t make the shortlist). It won’t be everyone’s cup of tea, but I could not put it down.

Techer Jones

Editor’s note: Unbound is a new publisher, and uses subscriptions to fund the publication. Their website is unbound.co.uk

Julia's Jottings

A good drink

Earlier this year excavating divers recovered a 200 year old flagon of liquid from a shipwreck off the Polish coast. The intact stoneware bottle appears to hold either a form of vodka or a genever gin and is actually considered to be still drinkable although "it does not smell particularly good". Let's hope no-one's desperate enough to try it!

A very productive well

An Etruscan well at the ancient site of Cetamura del Chianti in Italy's Tuscany has yielded up a "bonanza" of bronze, lead, silver and iron artefacts as well as preserved though waterlogged wood items and hundreds of grape seeds. The latter should increase our understanding of the history of wine over a period from 3rd c BC to 1st c BC. With these seeds were many objects relating to wine drinking, such as a wine bucket, a strainer and an amphora. The wood came from a variety of articles, such as buckets, spoons and spatulas, and some were highly decorated and carved. The well was cut out of the local sandstone but was not connected to a spring or other water source, depending on rainwater filtering through the sandstone itself. Apparently both DNA testing and Carbon 14 dating have been used on the grape pips and have revealed 3 different types of the fruit. It'll be interesting if the experts can ally these 3 types to any of the ones used in wine production today.

Another cache of coins

Even if you're getting a bit blasé about hoards of coins being found in our islands by metal detectorists, this time a collection of Roman and Iron Age coins have been discovered buried in a cave in Derbyshire's Peak District area of Dovedale. Declared as treasure, the collection of 26 coins included 3 Roman ones pre-dating their invasion of AD43. The Iron Age coins were both gold and silver and are believed to have belonged to the Corieltavi tribe. Apparently this is the first time that coins of the two civilisations have been found together. Just shows that *wherever* you go on your hols, you should be on a constant look-out for treasure, and it won't be at the bottom of your glass!

Goodies in Turkey

As someone who still hopes / plans to visit at least *some* of Turkey, I read with interest a long blog by Mary Beard about her recent time in Antalya. Apparently the Museum there is a real goodie with an enormous quantity of good Roman sculpture. But she thinks the best piece is a high quality sculpture from the cenotaph of Gaius, the would-be heir to Augustus, who died in Lycia, southern Turkey, after being wounded in Armenia.

I really must make an effort to go to Turkey...

http://timesonline.typepad.com/dons_life/2014/07/the-antalya-museum-and-the-memorial-to-gaius-caesar.html

Judge Jeffreys' passageway

The notorious judge had lodgings in Dorchester's High West Street with a tunnel underneath, wide enough for 3 to walk side by side, leading to the Oak Room tearooms. Sounds cosy, doesn't it, but the tearooms were built on the site of the dreaded man's brutal court. There's a whole network of tunnels which are believed to connect the Old Crown Court and its cells with Jeffreys' Bloody Assizes rooms in 1685. The tunnel, running under the strangely-named Antelope Walk, dates back to Roman times and was the site of the old Roman mint. It's hoped to redevelop this whole area so maybe in a year or two Dorchester would be a good place to visit.

Someone rather important was here.

It's easy to think that most of Greece's archaeological treasures are visible all over the land so it's rather a pleasant change to hear that an ancient tomb, dating to around 325-300BC, has been unearthed in the north eastern region of Macedonia. Believed to be the largest ancient tomb to be discovered so far, a 4.5m road with fresco-covered walls leads up to it ending at the entrance where 2 sphinxes stand guard. The whole is encircled with a 497m marble wall and the archaeological team believe a 5m tall lion sculpture topped the tomb itself. Wow, is all I can think to say!

Very old for the United States of America

Sometimes a really dreadful incident brings something good in its wake and that could be how one describes the discovery of the

remains of a boat on the site of the World Trade Centre. Possibly built in 1773 in a small shipyard near Philadelphia, the mangled wooden skeleton was created from white oak and hickory planks. Also found on the site, being excavated before the building of a security centre and parking complex, were animal bones, ceramic dishes, bottles and dozens of shoes. Strangely, only the ship's remains appear to have interested the archaeologists.

Carol's Courgette Cake

Carol Barnes was a great supporter of WARG and took part not just in our annual digs but also the weekly Monday afternoon workparties to help the Winchester Museum Service with some of their backlog. She was also an excellent cook and many of us have enjoyed her cakes over the years. This is a foolproof recipe for one of them – I made it to take on holiday and it was a great hit!

COURGETTE LOAF (makes 2 x 2 lb / 900 gr loaves)

3 eggs

9 fl oz / 275 ml sunflower oil

12 oz / 350 gr caster sugar

12 oz / 350 gr grated courgettes or small marrows

5½ oz / 165 gr plain flour

5½ oz / 165 gr buckwheat flour – if not available, use wholemeal plain flour

1 teaspoon baking powder

2 teaspoons of bicarbonate of soda

1 tablespoon ground cinnamon

6 oz / 175 gr raisins

5 oz / 150 gr chopped walnuts

Pre-heat the oven to 180C / Gas 4. Grease and base line 2 x 2 lb / 900 gr loaf tins with greased greaseproof paper.

Measure all the ingredients into a large bowl and mix well to make a thick batter.

Pour into the prepared tins.

Bake in the pre-heated oven for about an hour or until the loaves are firm and a fine skewer inserted into the centre comes out clean. Cool the cakes a little before turning out and leaving to cool completely on a wire rack.

Store in the fridge in a tin and use within 3 weeks.

Letter to the Editor: A plea for volunteers

Dear Dick,

It was a blow when you announced your wish to stand down as chair of WARG (but I know you will still remain involved in many ways). After ten years, we can understand why you need a break. I have now been 'quartermaster' for the excavations for some time as well. As we look for replacements it worries me that there is a thundering silence.

When you took over the chair, WARG was lucky to get two dozen members to a meeting and was friendly but drifting a bit. Now it has over 300 members and is active on many fronts. Much of this is down to the drive that you and Julia have brought to the society. And there are others who are always doers. Don's walks, Chris on IT, Mary on money, note takers at talks and others. But it is only a handful of doers. I know that many societies have this dilemma.

I would appeal to the 270+ out there in the membership who are less actively involved. It would be just great to have some new blood on our committees, some new doers to help with walks and talks and digs. Just to re-assure members, we committee members all get on really well and enjoy what we do, but some additional help would be appreciated and it would be nice to hand over some tasks.

If you want your society to remain as healthy and robust as it is at present, do consider putting your name forward.

Techer Jones

Dig Quartermaster

Techer has done a fantastic job, but now feels that the staggering amount of work he has undertaken might better be shared between several people:

someone to look after the digging equipment, ensure we have sufficient supplies, and get it to and from storage.

someone to keep track of finds, most are at F2 but some are with specialists for analysis or at the university.

someone to deal with paperwork post excavations, ensure records are completed, copied and distributed etc.

If you are interested in any of these roles, please get in touch with Techer, whose contact details are on the back page.

Technology Corner

Normally I get press releases about detailed technology, but earlier in the year this arrived and I thought I should share it with you.

Resurrected kings and queens tell about Denmark's World Heritage sites

A new prize-winning app provides an opportunity to explore three of the Danish UNESCO World Heritage sites: the legendary Kronborg Castle at Elsinore – immortalized in William Shakespeare's play Hamlet, Roskilde Cathedral – the first Gothic cathedral to be built of brick, and the Jelling Monuments – the massive carved rune stones from the 10th century, located at the Danish town of Jelling. The app can be used at Denmark's three World Heritage sites – Jelling, Kronborg, and Roskilde Cathedral – or at home on the sofa, where children and adults alike can experience the sites in a 3D map with 360-degree panoramas – in some cases, from angles that are not accessible to the public.

Among the many stories available with the app is that of Christian VII of Denmark. When you hold your iPad over the site where he is buried, he appears on the screen and talks about the dramatic break with his friend and physician Struense, who – it turned out – was having an affair with his wife, Queen Caroline Mathilde. At Jelling, King Harald in full armour rises up and tells about Denmark's first church and the German Emperor Otto, who did not care for Christian churches. At Kronborg, Queen Sofie tells how she was married as a 14-year-old to King Frederik II, even though he was really in love with Anne Hardenberg, the orphaned daughter of a nobleman.



The app can be downloaded free of charge at the App Store, but it will also be possible to borrow an iPad, free of charge, at the three sites.

Dick Selwood

2014/15 Calendar

- Dec 8th **Old School Ties: Educating for Empire & War** - Martin Parsons
- 2015**
- Jan 12th **Social Evening with Entertainment**
- Jan 30th **A Suffragette Evening**
You need to sign up for the chance to meet Christable Pankhurst: - leaflet with this newsletter
- Feb 9th **Roman Work at Durrington** - Andy Manning
- Feb 13th **June Lloyd Lecture: March, Women, March** - Lucinda Hawksley
At Winchester Guildhall , leaflet with this newsletter
- Mar 9th **Initial Results from Recent Archaeological Investigations into Saxon and Medieval Oxford** - Ben Ford
- Apr 13th **The update on 2014 excavations**
- Apr 20th **Day trip to Marlborough and Ludgershall**
Registration leaflet with this newsletter
- May 11th **Lost Monuments: Morn Hill Camp** - Phil Marter
- Jun 8th **Walk** tba
- Jul 13th **Visit** tba
- August **Summer Excavation**

Meetings are normally in the Hampshire Record Office cinema, starting at 7.30. As the cinema has a maximum capacity of 80, we are unable to allow in anyone who is not a member.



Warg members by the wall of the Bishop's Palace Gardens, Chichester

Growing the next generation



L to R: Gareth Hatt, Catherine Old, Stuart Watt

At St Elizabeth's this year, we had three diggers who started with us while at school, & have now graduated and are moving on to further study or work in archaeology.

Stuart Watt having completed an archaeology BA at Southampton was working on his Master's before looking for work as a field archaeologist.

Catherine Old is working for a year after a Bristol Archaeology BA and before a Master's in Osteoarchaeology at Bournemouth.

Gareth Hatt has a Winchester BA in Archaeological Practice and was looking for work in commercial archaeology.



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The WARG Newsletter provides reports on the activities of WARG, the society for Winchester archaeology and local history. It also carries other information of interest to the WARG membership.

For more information on WARG, and to join, call 01962 867490, e-mail membership@warg.org.uk or visit www.warg.org.uk