



Newsletter

Autumn 2015

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Stonehenge, from the Salisbury Museum collection, see page 6.

Chairman's notes

A new chair

It was with some trepidation that I stood up in front of assembled WARG members after Dick's last AGM report (his tenth). In it he'd spoken of the health and success of a group which had grown from 80 to more than 350 in ten short years.

While WARG is run by a team, your Committee, undoubtedly most of this success is due to the tireless efforts of Julia and Dick, and whoever Dick handed the reins to should carry on that effort. Well that person is me. Humbled by seeing so many hands up in the air during my election I can only offer to do my best for you, the members.

So who is he?

My only qualification for this elevated status is, like many of you, a layman's interest in history and archaeology, a willingness to learn from a great diversity of events (i.e. WARG's) and an inability to not volunteer. I have been seriously studying archaeology at Southampton University for over ten years but my career has been in IT (boo hiss) hence our website, which I hope you visit to keep up-to-date with events.

Local heritage

The interest in heritage and, dare I say, history-soaked cities like Winchester has never been greater. Lecture halls are full; people do care about their local history and see threats from both the economic climate and land-grabbing commercial enterprise. WARG's approach of low-key, well-informed discussion and lobbying is one which has so far made its voice heard, whether that be to steer local politicians or persuade a farmer that his field really does need to be excavated – by one of the best amateur teams in the land.

As you will see from this newsletter, we also continue to attract the most interesting and varied speakers and our visits of late have been so well-supported that we intend to resurrect our evening picnic event.

The forecast is good for the next ten years (rain gods take note).

Chris Sellen



Chris getting down to archaeology

Committee changes

As you will see from elsewhere in this newsletter, and from the list on the back page, the AGM voted a number of changes in your committee.

Firstly David Lloyd stood down. A founder member of WARG, he served in a number of roles, not least as treasurer. His experience will be greatly missed.

Dick Selwood stood down as chairman, and Chris Sellen was elected to take his place.

And David Spurling, who was co-opted to the committee during the year to fill one of the vacancies for representative members, had his place confirmed.

There is still a space for one more representative member. The task involves attending three meetings a year, so if you would like to help, please contact Chris Sellen for more information



Ed for the Cup

Our own Edwina Cole has been awarded the Avebury Cup by the British Society of Dowsers. This three year old award from their Archaeology section has been given to her for her skills in dowsing and passing on her knowledge to others, as well as her ability not just to identify buried structures but also to record them – a vital part of archaeological practice, as we all know. She has been that section's secretary for many years and, as we all also know, her laughter livens everything up a bit! Well done, Ed!

A Visit to Christchurch

We picked a rare warm and sunny day for our trip to Christchurch: Julia organized it specially!

We met her and Don in the car park and began our walk around this attractive town. Our first stop was Place Mill on the Town Quay where plenty of people were enjoying the sunshine, and we could admire the boats bobbing up and down. In earlier days this was where all sorts of goods were unloaded.



Climbing the Motte photo; Val Pegg

Walking past some wonderful new houses with enviable views of the water we walked by the river to come eventually to the castle perched high on the hill. This motte and bailey castle was built as a show of Norman dominance over their Saxon predecessors and was the scene of skirmishes during turbulent periods of history.

We admired the Constable's House built in the 12th century and saw the Town Bridge; a Medieval structure with five arches. Don told us about one ancient building that had been owned by the borough for nearly 600 years. It is a rather delightful tearoom now, but we didn't have time to linger.

Ducking stool

We went to look at the ducking stool hanging precariously over the millstream and then made our way to the George Inn, the oldest pub in town, where we heard about ghosts and secret tunnels. Of course we saw and heard about many other aspects of the town's history as we followed the Millennium Trail around the town. If you missed



Ducking Stool photo; Val Pegg

this day out, you can get a copy of the trail from the Tourist Information Centre in Christchurch and enjoy it for yourself.

After lunch we assembled outside the Priory where we were to have a guided tour. This imposing building dominates the skyline and we were interested to visit the two crypts and admire the building from the inside as well as the outside.



Town Bridge photo; Val Pegg



From there it was on to the Red House Museum, which used to be the Workhouse. We are told that all manner of folk were housed here, including the sick and infirm, orphans, tramps, 'lunatics', deserted wives and suchlike. There was no sign of any of these unfortunates on this bright September day!

The museum houses evidence of the town's Saxon history and displays of archaeological interest. In addition there was a huge collection of local photographs, which must be invaluable to those interested in researching the history of the area.

The gardens at the back of the Red House provided the perfect setting for cream teas and a much-appreciated sit down.

Thanks go to both Julia and Don who worked together to organize such a good day. Don, as usual, was in cracking form as our guide and Julia's organization ensured that everything went without a hitch.

Edwina Cole



A Day in the Life of a Curator

Jane Ellis-Schon is Curator of Archaeology and Collections Manager at Salisbury Museum. Her talk covered far more than a day, as she described her role as Project Curator creating the new Wessex Gallery which houses their archaeology collection.

In 1998 the archaeology collections at Salisbury Museum were designated as being of national importance but the old galleries were outdated, insecure and sometimes wrongly labelled, so it was time for a change. Achieving the correct balance was very important as the sites of Stonehenge and Old Sarum and treasures such as the Warminster Jewel and the Brixton Deverell Hoard (Roman saucepans and wine strainers made in Pompeii) had to be shown to their best advantage.

Back in time

In 2012 "Metaphor" were appointed as gallery designers with the concept of creating a timeline of history. Having just left the Cathedral Close, the public enter the new Wessex Gallery to a display featuring the Cathedral, turn left and go back in time to pre-history, turn right

and the story moves forward.

The first task involved many volunteers who “decanted” the old galleries, 3175 artefacts had to be recorded and packed, the Cathedral stone masons moved the Amesbury sarcophagus, whilst the wall-displayed, Downton mosaic was carefully removed then later reinstalled by Cliveden Conservation. As work commenced Jane had to liaise closely with many firms, the main contractor being Realm Projects, the display cases were made by Meyvaert in Belgium who had to consider security, glass thickness and environmental aspects. An excellent job was done by Plowden and Smith who mounted the artefacts so that they appear to be floating. Contractors were selected from a range of companies who tendered their ideas.

Telling stories

The final gallery design has a “Discovery Wall” round the outer edges and 19 theme-based cases such as settlement, technology or religion are situated internally. Large landscape photographs of the Wessex area “bring the outside in” whilst the stories of important antiquarians and archaeologists (e.g. Heywood Sumner) are told. Recent finds made by metal detectorists, at digs and by chance, are also included - such as the Wardour and Hinchon hoards.



The Warminster Jewel (Salisbury Museum)

Jane wanted to display artefacts from the old gallery, bring items out of storage, use finds from local archaeology groups and borrow key objects from other museums e.g. the Ashmolean, British Museum and Stonehenge Visitor Centre (Gneiss macehead), so display cases had to be approved for these high value artefacts. It was also important to

include interactive areas and object handling drawers where a “Hands on” label indicates that you may “play.” A “touch table” which incorporates people, places and periods is constantly being updated.

Everything had to be designed and planned in minute detail including where the artefacts fitted into the story and the size of a display case, so graphics were created, content matrices giving details of the 2500 objects were prepared and a flat layout was made prior to the items being mounted or placed on shelves. Jane said that the designers were not archaeologists but know considerably more now!!

Skeletons

She wanted to show burials and grave goods in the position in which they were found so the “People of the Past” section, which includes the Amesbury Archer in his sarcophagus, has 8 skeletons who were originally excavated from a chalk-lined pit. Now they are laid out on gravel, which had to be tested to ensure that it did not damage the bones. Incidentally aquarium gravel proved to be the best but unfortunately it was delivered to the museum wet and had to be dried out! All the time the work was progressing Jane kept the public informed, giving lectures and gallery tours which still form part of her role.

The Wessex gallery was opened on 1st May 2014 by the Earl and Countess of Wessex with only 2 objects actually on show, a skeleton and the Warminster Jewel manuscript pointer. Jane had spent the previous days and evenings adding the finishing touches and ensuring that everything was spotless! Professor Alice Roberts put the last object in place several months later!

Pitt-Rivers

Jane is now working on the Pitt-Rivers Collection, which was donated to the museum in 1975 in lieu of death duties and covers the last 20 years of his life. Volunteers are recording, photographing and repacking his collection of 10,000 objects and are now so skilled that they help out at other museums. His research is being collated and confirmed by today’s archaeologists and this will be added to the Pitt-Rivers Hub.

All this hard work is deserving of praise, “A commitment to an artefact-rich display, twinned with clarity of design and purpose, makes the Wessex Gallery a triumph,” was the excellent comment in *The Museums Journal*, October 2014. Next time I am in Salisbury I shall certainly visit the museum.

Valerie Pegg

Note: The Salisbury Museum is open:

10.00-17.00 Monday to Saturday,

12.00-17.00 Sunday (June to September only)

10.00-17.00 Bank Holidays

Admission: £8.00 Adults £4.00 children

Three West Midlands' Museums

It was February 2012 when Beth and I spent three days “on a deal” at a spa hotel near the village of Aldridge (shades of *The Archers*). This was our base for visiting three museums in the West Midlands.

The first morning we drove a few miles to Blake Street Station (near to Watford Gap), parked for free and caught a train to Birmingham for under £5 return each. Going this way we got a worm’s eye view of the M5/M6 interchange at Spaghetti Junction. Within 30 minutes we were at New Street Station, where Network Rail has recently completed a multi-million pound redevelopment.

A half mile walk brought us to Chamberlain Square with its imposing complex of civic buildings and the City Museum and Art Gallery, where we made a bee-line for the permanent exhibition of finds from the Saxon Hoard. Mind you, so did a large number of school children. It’s probably quieter in the school holidays. Discovered in a field in Staffordshire in 2009, this has been described as being not just the largest hoard of Saxon treasure ever found, but the only hoard of Saxon treasure found. The jewellery made from garnets held by narrow, entwined strands of gold wire is viewable under magnifying glasses to emphasise their sheer intricacy. We saw the lion’s share of the hoard, but during our visit many fine pieces were on tour in Washington D.C. Nowadays there are permanent exhibitions at other museums like the Potteries Museum at Stoke-on-Trent, Lichfield and Tamworth.

Leather Museum

The next day we drove to Walsall and spent the morning at the Leather Museum, which holds an extensive exhibition of saddlery and lorinery – the metal fittings which were essential when horse-power was paramount in agriculture, transport and for the army. Walsall specialised in this type of merchandise and it supported over 100,000 jobs when the trade was at its height. In World War I the army’s appetite for draft horses, artillery horses and the cavalry was voracious and they all needed fitting out – just think Warhorse multiplied hundreds of thousands of times. Once again lots of schoolchildren were there



as well and they were all British Asians, delighted to get out of the classroom for an hour or two and learn something about the history of their neighbourhood.

That afternoon we visited Lichfield Cathedral – the first time for me but not for Beth, who lived in Staffordshire until she was seven years old – though I’ve been there to rummage through the Bishops’ Transcripts of Parish Registers when researching my own Staffordshire ancestors.

Black Country Living Museum

Our final morning was spent at the Black Country Living Museum at Dudley. Here the emphasis is on industrial archaeology and preserving the social infrastructure that supported our industrial past. We parked there early enough to see a Model-T Ford pull up and disgorge its passengers who were all in 1920s attire – some of the 200 plus staff who are employed there, mainly as part-time re-enactors. We met more of them when we went into a hardware shop opposite a row of terraced houses (the shopkeeper asked us if we wanted to buy a tin bath) and when we went for a lunch-time drink in the pub (no sawdust on the floor, but no carpet either, just floorboards). We had fish and chips for lunch – fried in dripping, of course. The only disappointment was that they weren’t charging 1920s prices.

Nails and Chains

My Staffordshire ancestors were Nailors from Sedgley near Dudley, which specialised in nail-making from the late middle-ages and the commonest surname in its Parish Registers is Nailor/Naylor. So it was very interesting to see once more a preserved nail-makers cottage. Nail making was literally a cottage industry and it was not unknown for serious accidents to happen to toddlers when their mothers were busy bashing out nails near an open fire. Don’t mock Health and Safety legislation. Beth’s grandfather ran a chain-making business specialising in anchor chains at Cradley Heath, three miles south of Dudley, and the old Cradley Heath Working Men’s Institute had been dismantled and re-built as part of the museum. This building houses an exhibition about the women chain-makers’ strike of 1910. Their pay doubled... to 2½ d per hour for a 55 hour week. The oldest striker was 83.

In the afternoon we visited the Dudley Canal and Tunnel, which is next door to the museum. Started by the Earl of Dudley in 1775, the canal enabled him to exploit the mineral resources on his own estate (coal, iron and limestone). The tunnel linked the headwaters of the Severn and Trent basins, becoming the Spaghetti Junction of its day, helping make Birmingham “the workshop of the world”.



The author “legging” a boat through the Dudley Canal - photo Beth Sharratt.

Chris Sharratt



Wellington – From Ireland to Waterloo

WARG member, city guide and Wellington groupie, Geraldine Buchanan, gave a fascinating talk on the Iron Duke, in September. Arthur Wellesley was born around 1st May 1769 in Mornington House, Dublin into an impoverished Anglo-Irish family. He was the fourth child of Garrett Wesley, 2nd Earl of Mornington, and Anne, Countess of Mornington.

Little promise

The first-born child, Richard, grew into an able and politically ambitious man, overshadowing his shy younger brother. During the 1770’s the family moved to London taking up residence in fashionable Knightsbridge. Arthur’s education started there in Browns Academy, moving on to Eton in 1781. However, by 1784 he had been withdrawn from Eton for “showing too little promise”. That same year his mother moved to Brussels, largely to save money and Arthur joined her there soon afterwards.

In 1786 he moved from there to his first taste of army life in the military academy in Angers where he started to progress from

his unpromising start in life. Brother Richard then bought him an ensignship and he gained the post of aide-de-camp to the Lord Lieutenant of Dublin in 1788, a post he remained in until 1796.

This unspectacular progression continued as he also became MP for Trim where he could take care of his brother's estates. He started courting Kitty Pakenham but was twice rejected as a potential husband due to his lack of means. Again with the assistance of his brother a commission was secured as commander of the 33rd Foot and he campaigned with it in Holland in 1794, hostilities with the French having started the previous year. Certainly he learned a great deal in this initial encounter with war, including the need for patience before opening fire on advancing enemy troops.

India

Having returned to Dublin from Flanders his next posting in 1796, along with his brothers Richard and Henry was to India. Richard had been appointed Governor General. It was here that Arthur's ability as a leader of soldiers really started to grow and he successfully campaigned in Seringapatam against the army of the Sultan of Mysore, despite it containing many French officers. His focus on logistics and use of networks of spies were emerging characteristics of this time.



His subsequent appointment as Governor of Mysore also enhanced his reputation as a hard working, fair-minded administrator who respected both the religious and cultural beliefs of the populace.

A later campaign involving several battles resulted in the breaking of Maratha power and the capture of Poona in 1803. When he returned home two years later in possession of a £40,000 fortune, he was promoted to major general, knighted and succeeded in marrying Kitty Pakenham who bore him two sons relatively quickly. At this juncture he returned to politics, being elected MP for Rye and, in 1807, being appointed Irish Secretary.

Return to the Army

The backdrop to this phase of his life was the appearance of Napoleon as Emperor of France in 1804 and despite many victories on land, his naval defeat by Nelson at Trafalgar in 1805. This turbulence in Europe attracted Wellington back into the army where he was

appointed at the age of 39 as the youngest ever Lieutenant General. In 1807 he was released from parliamentary duties to go to Denmark where he defeated the Danes (French allies).

The next significant move was to Portugal, a posting that was to increase his prestige and popularity immensely. This country was the only Continental trading partner of Britain that was free of Napoleon's trade blockade and the British aided the Portuguese against the French in what became known as the Peninsular War. Initially he was subordinate to Sir John Moore but when this leader of the British forces was killed at Corruna, Wellington succeeded him as commander-in-chief in 1809.

A difficult campaign

His campaign was beset by difficulties. The French initially outnumbered him but rivalry among Napoleon's marshals hampered them from turning this advantage into a decisive victory. The Spanish troops, nominally fighting alongside the British and Portuguese, were undisciplined, poorly trained and uncooperative. Politicians at home were also divided in their strategic views, some wanting to settle with France. Despite these difficulties and the occasional military close runs, Wellington proved himself to be an outstanding campaign leader. Innovative tactics like the use of pontoons to transfer his army across the Douro, intelligent use of retreats when necessary, strategic defence works such as the lines of Torres Vedras and continued attention to detail such as treating local suppliers fairly and building good intelligence networks all contributed to ultimate success. The culmination of the long campaign was the battle of Salamanca in 1812 which marked the end of French domination of the Iberian Peninsula.

Napoleon's first defeat, his exile to Elba, escape and subsequent reappearance at the head of a French army led to Wellington's hasty recall from a political role at the Congress of Vienna. In the following decisive battle, following Blücher's defeat at Ligny, Wellington took up position at Waterloo and routed the French on 18th June 1815. Although far from being the end of his public life, this victory marked a high point in his evolution from the unpromising beginnings in Dublin.

Steve Taylor

Julia's Jottings

These bones are made for talking

If you're anything like me, only a few historical dates have stuck in your mind – 1066, 1087, 1492 (Columbus sailed the ocean blue) and 1666 (the Great Plague). Well yes, lots of other dates but they're all the 20th century. 1665/6 was the last major epidemic of bubonic plague in England, killing an estimated 100,000 people. So much rebuilding has been going on in London over the last few years, uncovering graveyards and cemeteries from across the centuries since Roman times. However the 17th century has not given up many of its dead until the recent start of excavating land for the Crossrail project. Now an estimated 3,000 skeletons, some over 400 years old, have been found at the Bethlem burial ground which was in continuous use between 1569 and the 1730s. Located under Liverpool Station it has of course been largely undisturbed till now.

Mike Henderson, senior human osteologist at the Museum of London, is certain that some of these remains are those of Great Plague victims (75,000 estimated in London itself), and he's keen to compare these skeletal remains with those from previous plagues, particularly from 300 years earlier. The theory that the plague, spread by infected rats, died out in 1666 due to the Great Fire of London doesn't of course account for it dying out in other areas of the country. Scrapings from teeth will be analysed to see how the bacteria mutated over the centuries. Other than that important research, the bones can give other information about the population of the time – gaps between 2 bottom row teeth indicate the new (and, at that time, upmarket) habit of tobacco smoking, and perhaps can also give an indication as to why a surprising number of the skeletons were teenagers and early twenties: possibly an indication that youngsters travelled from the country into London seeking work and succumbed to the "new" bugs.

A barbecue gone wrong?

Must Farm, part of the Flag Fen basin near Peterborough, has yielded wonderful Bronze Age treasures over the last few years: 4 years ago it yielded up 9 pristine log boats as well as decorated tiles made of lime tree bark. The Late Bronze Age site, located on the edge of a quarry on the bank of a river, was surrounded by a ring of wooden posts which caught fire, causing the whole dwelling to collapse over the edge into the water. Other finds include rare small pots, exotic glass

beads and the remains of a hastily-abandoned meal. First example of too much booze consumed by the chap with the barbecue?

Handy animals

My piece about the porcupines making life easy for archaeologists is almost trumped by the fact that a herd of pigs, required by a farmer in Scotland to clear some land of bracken, turned up stone tools left by Ice Age hunter-gatherers 12,000 years ago. These finds push the evidence of humans in that area back another 2,000 years. Also uncovered were the remains of a fireplace and animal bones. However on the final day of the excavation a level almost 3,000 years older came to light.

Seems that animals are more useful in excavating than we mostly thought.

Anyone but Archaeologists

Archaeologists in Israel don't appear to have to do much work to discover their ancient history since not only do they have porcupines excavating sites for them but also the general public appear to have a fair chance of uncovering historic sites under their own homes. A family in the outskirts of Jerusalem removed the living room floor prior to renewing it, only to find a 2000 year old staircase leading down to a large rock-carved ritual bath. The mikveh - 3.5m long, 2.4m wide and 1.8m deep – had been plastered in accordance with the halacha laws of purity and the staircase led to the bottom of the pool. Although carved stone is virtually impossible to date, pottery vessels found in the bath date to the 1st century AD and traces of fire might coincide with the destruction following the Jewish Revolt of 66-70 AD. Some stone vessel fragments were also found – stone being considered “purer” than pottery since stone cannot be contaminated. The neighbourhood of Ein Kerem was a sacred Christian site, being identified with “ a city of Judah” and where John the Baptist was supposed to have been born, and his mother Elizabeth, heavily pregnant, had met with the Virgin Mary.

A Roman Fresco

We're used to Roman mosaic floors being found all over that once great empire, but in Arles, France, a fresco, dating between 70 and 20 BC, has been discovered. Although it's currently in more than 12,000 fragments, it's believed to be complete and is one of only a few full murals to be found outside Italy. There are 11 images in the painting, including one of a young woman playing a harp, which uses

expensive Egyptian blue and red vermilion pigments. It's expected to take around 10 years to re-assemble the fresco so look out for my update in a decade's time!

Further News from Oxford

Back in March Ben Ford gave us a fascinating talk about the excavations he's been leading into Saxon and Medieval Oxford. His more recent digging in the Westgate shopping mall in Oxford has uncovered 50 medieval leather shoes, as well as timber posts and a wooden bowl. The shopping mall is on the site of the Greyfriars friary and in those days was outside the city walls. One wonders if these shoes are matched pairs or if the Franciscan order did a bit of shoe repair to aid them in their vow of poverty!

Ben is obviously directing some wonderfully productive excavations!

Great Storms

Many of us still remember the great storm of October 1987 which felled so many trees across the south of the country and in the Winchester area, but perhaps the next storm in January 1990 passed you by since it wasn't as fierce. Sadly the great yew tree in Selborne churchyard weathered the 1987 storm only to be felled by the 1990 one. The tree, written about by Gilbert White in 1789, was reputedly around 1000 years old and although a serious attempt was made to resurrect the tree, the trunk had split from top to bottom and so all attempts were unsuccessful. However good things happened as a result of the demise of this great tree – about 27 skeletons, or parts of, were brought to light, including coffin nails, traces of wood and a piece of green-glazed pottery dating to the 13th/14th century. They've all been reburied near the site of the tree.

Archaeology Blog

Hampshire Archaeology is a marvellous resource for those of us keen to learn more about our county. It sends out regular articles, with pictures, of specific sites and artefacts found within either the county or one of its Museums.

Register to receive this little jewel <https://hampshirearchaeology.wordpress.com/>



Albi: bricks and bollards

Cathar country in south-west France is a great area for a holiday. While the exact definition of what is Cathar country can vary according to which tourist office you are in, it is effectively the south of part of the Languedoc and is that area of France between the western end of the Pyrenees and the Massif Centrale, with towns like Toulouse, Beziers and Perpignan on the edges. What the Cathars actually believed has to be filtered through the reports of their trials, and this was most notably done by Emmanuel La Roy Ladurie in his ground breaking book, *Montaillou*. Whatever it was they did believe in, they were taken sufficiently seriously by the Pope that a crusade was launched against them as heretics, in the 13th century. In the years that this took place, the Cathars created a mass of castles on hill tops. Places like Montségur, Peyrepertuse, Queribus are still thrilling to visit as is, of course, Carcassonne, where a medieval town still lies inside the fortifications, themselves heavily restored in the 19th century. Since many Cathars lived around the town of Albi, and they were often called Albigensians in church literature, the crusade is often known as the Albigensian crusade. It was extremely unpleasant, even by the standards of the 13th century, with the most extreme example being the siege of Beziers in 1209, when Almaric, the abbot of Citeaux and the Pope's commander, is reported to have said, "Kill them all, God will sort his own."



Albi Cathedral

Over the years we have visited many of the sites, and this autumn we stayed north of Carcassonne near Lastours, where there are four castles along a ridge. We enjoyed showing Carcassonne to some friends, visited an extremely good Cathar museum at an otherwise unremarkable town called Mazamet. We also visited the beautifully restored abbey of Fontfroide, with its interesting gardens, plus a raft of other small interesting places. It helps that the area is covered in vines with Minervoise wine made everywhere and a small appellation, Cabardes between Lastours and Carcassonne. It is also the land of Cassoulet, with fierce argument between the supporters of Toulouse, Castelnaudary

and Carcassonne feuding over exactly what you cook in the beans.

After our week in Lastours we were heading north-east to stay with friends near Condom, and stopped at Albi on the way. The town itself is pleasant, but the jaw-dropper is the cathedral and the bishop's palace. Built from brick, made with clay from the river Tarn, they are both fortresses in appearance. This is in part because they were built by Bishop Bernard de Castanet, who in his thirty years in post managed to upset the local landowners, the towns-people and was accused of murder, pastoral neglect, simony and cruelty in the exercise of justice. He clearly needed strong walls around him.



The day of judgement in Albi Cathedral

But just as you have recovered your jaw at the outside of the cathedral, you lose it again on the inside. 15th and 16th century paintings are everywhere. The last judgement, part of which is shown here, is just a sample, and since we are not printing in colour, you can get just an impression. We didn't really have time to explore

Albi properly, and may well return

Oh, and bollards? Just leave it that they make vicious unprovoked assaults on hire cars driven by innocent Brits trying to avoid pedestrians and cyclists. (And are even worse for large French camping vans.)

Dick Selwood

Note: In looking for images I found this two hour film on YouTube Even if your French is rusty the pictures are wonderful!
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?list=PLBrXCdojHhJp633cv06UV7n7gSNfCrTC&v=ix21SPhGGI0>

WARG Calendar

2015

Dec 14th The Battle of Agincourt: where are the battle dead? - Anne Curry

2016

Jan 11th New Year Party

Feb 8th Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War - Steve Fisher

Mar 14th 1000 Years of Bell-ringing in Winchester - Colin Cook

Apr 11th Rediscovering Hyde Abbey: how stones have helped bring it back to life - David Spurling

Apr 18th Day Visit to Salisbury

May 9th Shot by their Own: a reappraisal of military executions on the Western Front in WW1 - Martin Parsons

June 13th Evening Walk in Twyford

July 11th Evening visit tba

Jul 30th - Aug 13th Big Dig (tbc)

Aug 7th Big Dig Open Day (tbc)

Aug 15th Annual Picnic

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.

An addition to the 2016 programme is the "Annual Picnic". This is derived from this summer's visit to Odiham Castle, which was intended to be a canal cruise, but due to a lack of water was turned into a picnic, with fizzy wine. (See the Summer 2015 Newsletter.) The event went so well, we are going to try again. Look for an announcement in the Spring 2016 Newsletter.

Books for Christmas

Julia has thoroughly updated the list of books for sale for WARG funds. Few of them cost more than £2 and nearly all of them are in “as new” condition – some even look as though they’ve never been read! Some of them would be ideal Christmas presents, so get in touch with Julia quickly, before someone else beats you to it.

Contact Julia by phone or email (details on the cover of the list) and either collect any books from a meeting or from her home. Bear in mind that if you need them to be posted, the UK’s postage system will always cost more than the book costs you!



WARG Committee Members

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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