Newsletter

Autumn 2016

News Meeting Reports Diary Dates Travellers Tales

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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

Chairman's Notes

In the first week of November I was lucky enough to attend CBA-Wessex's annual conference on "Wessex Women in Archaeology". Not only did WARG have a table there illustrating some of the activities its members get up to and some of the talks they attend, but I received a cheque from them which had helped us fund aspects of our annual dig at Warnford (and a round of applause).

We had also been helped by a grant from the Hampshire Field Club. Together these enabled us to purchase the time of a mechanical digger and driver to help us remove topsoil, get initial overburden off the site and (thankfully) back-fill - saving both time and back-ache. Such joint effort is a great example of local organisations, most of whom rely on voluntary effort, pooling their resources for the good of historical discovery.

We do our bit too. At our October committee we agreed to again help the Hyde900 group in their efforts to explore some of the extant remains of Hyde Abbey and the history of its environs. So in April we will supply the hardware and some of the expertise to enable them to excavate more of Winchester's gardens.

Warnford excavation in full flow (Chris Sellen)

If you add these examples to the joint events we ran with St. Cross this year and the lectures our members have given to other history groups in Hampshire and Wiltshire, then I'm happy to say the spirit of co-operation is alive and well in this part of the world. And so is our programme of events for the winter, which as you will see from this newsletter, offers you our usual eclectic mix.

Stay warm.

Chris Sellen

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.

Picnic at Basing House

It was the perfect evening for a picnic, and 40 members of WARG met in the Great Barn at Basing House to enjoy it. Sadly, some were prevented from joining us by gridlocked traffic around Winchester, so we hope they may be able to get there on another occasion.

Our guide for the evening was Alan Turton who knows just about all there is to know about Basing House and its history. His easy style of sharing his knowledge, together with tiny details and references to recent excavations, brought it all alive as we walked across the huge site.

We began in the entrance hall by looking at a model of the site to put it all into context before setting out to explore it whilst letting its history unfold.

As the warm sun dipped, we made our way back to the Great Barn. Outside, Julia and Dick made sure that everyone had a glass of bubbly to toast Alan in thanks for his time, detailed knowledge and boundless enthusiasm. We then toasted Julia who had made it all possible before tucking in to our picnics, and reflecting on all we had heard and seen.

Basing House Great Barn
Edwina Cole

The history of Basing House

Hampshire's most exciting historic ruin was once the country's largest private house, the palace of the powerful courtier William Paulet, first Marquis of Winchester. Paulet worked for Cardinal Wolsey then Henry VIII. After Henry's death he was guardian to the young Edward VI, he crowned Lady Jane Grey and then served under Mary I. Later in his long life he had a position of prominence at the court of Elizabeth I. As the monarchs succeeded to the throne, so the predominant religion of the country changed. Paulet switched from Protestant to Catholic and back to Protestant in order to keep his powerful position at court. He was immensely wealthy and used his riches to create two wonderful Tudor mansions, not being satisfied with the first he went on to build a second. Royal visitors included Henry VIII, Mary I with Phillip II of Spain who honeymooned there in 1554 after their wedding in Winchester Cathedral, Elizabeth I and James I.

Basing House ruins
Edwina Cole

The "old" and "new" houses covered about ten acres and were the last of a succession of castles built on the site. In fact, the massive earthwork banks and ditches of the castle built by the de Port family in the 1100s still dominate the scene. Paulet's Tudor mansion, which had 360 rooms, was built in 1535 and can be imagined by the layout of the walls, cellars, kitchens, buttery, wells and Great Hall.

The spectacular 16th century Great Barn, also dating from 1535, was used for gathering the harvest, threshing and winnowing. If the barn belonging to Basing House was this wonderful then one can only speculate as to the magnificence of the "old" and "new" mansions when they were in their heyday. A riverside walk by the Loddon passes the former manor fish ponds.

The wealth and power of the Paulet family, their loyalty to the Crown and their nearness to London brought disaster to Basing in the Civil War. John Paulet was now the fifth Marquis of Winchester, he fled to his country estate in order to escape the infighting but he was a Royalist and the Parliamentarians saw the value of his property and its geographical position. After long and stirring sieges, heavy bombardment and fierce fighting between the two great armies, the house fell to Oliver Cromwell in person. The final battle occurred on October 13th and 14th 1643 with heavy use of artillery, gunshot, and a burning building leading to final humiliation.

In the grounds the dove cotes provided pigeon eggs and meat whilst the re-created Tudor/Jacobean garden uses box hedging in the centre to depict the motto of the Paulet family "Aymez Loyaulte" which translated from Norman French means "Love Loyalty." The Paulet family were indeed loyal to the Crown but this was their downfall.

Valerie Pegg and Edwina Cole

An evening walk in Twyford

You may think, like me, that Twyford is the village you whizz through on the way to Winchester! But, as a large group of WARG members discovered in June it is far more than that!

Meeting at the parish church of St Mary the Virgin, they discovered a large, mostly Victorian church. Locals believe that there was an ancient sarsen stone circle here, but there is scant evidence of that. What has been found is a Saxon coffin lid, which is now embedded into the NW buttress by the door, which proves that a Saxon church once stood here.

St Mary the Virgin, Twyford
Edwina Cole

Alfred Waterhouse was a Victorian architect who rebuilt the church in 1878 from what he found here. He was best known for designing the Natural History Museum in London. He gutted everything except the arches that can still be seen today. Inside, there are pictures of what the church looked like in earlier times, together with a unique seating plan. The west window is modern and very attractive; whilst the inside doors and stall panels are superbly carved.

Leaving the church, we cut through the graveyard to the ford. On the way we saw two sarsen stones that are mentioned in Anglo-Saxon charters as boundary stones. Chris Corcoran was able to give details of Twyford's long history and began by explaining that Twyford is the place of two fords, although there are actually three fording places on the Twyford sde where the main channel of the Itchen runs. From the church, the paths are on causeways across the valley, and it is likely that Twyford was probably the principle fording point in the Bronze and Iron Age before the rise of Winchester.

The village itself has its origins in the land between two fords. It retains the distinction between North and South Twyford, with the latter already established by the time of Domesday Book and centred on Queen Street.

We crossed into Berry Meadow (meadow being an Anglo-Saxon word meaning to cut), which was turned into water meadows in the 1600's.

There were 5 mills of which Shawford is the only one in its original

position and Chris pointed out the location of the mill of South Twyford in Segars Lane, which was probably abandoned after the Black Death.

We stopped by the important junction by Mildmay House that was formerly the Vicarage. Further on was the Old Rectory. Twyford was allowed to have two priest's lodgings. The owner can drive a laden mule through the churchyard if he/she desires!

South of the modern road is the church and the manor, and we followed the footpath past the Old Rectory looking right towards the Itchen river. The Bishop of Winchester owned Twyford from the time of King Edgar or earlier. It was always a valuable manor and has the exceptional resource of the Bishops Pipe Rolls from 1207 to about 1550 and the Mildmay's accounts thereafter to prove it.

We passed the row of trees, which marks the boundary between North and South Twyford and then looked across to Elms House where several church fetes and garden parties took place. Coming out at the end of Churchfields, we came to Finches Lane and crossed over to continue up the footpath.

Looking at the terrace of houses on the left, Don pointed out the architecture and asked people to look carefully to see if they noticed anything. He hoped they would spot that all the dressed stone came from the church, so they must all have been built after 1878.

We then passed Twyford St. Mary's C of E primary school, which is still very popular with the locals. The first school in Twyford was in Hazeley Road and was founded in 1834. The current building was built in 1861 at a cost of £1,000. One teacher was Mr Gilbert who taught there for 47 years before and during WW1. He was church organist, choirmaster, leader of the village band and cycling club as well as a keen painter……a man of many talents!!

We turned left into Queen Street from School Road and came to the main road opposite ClockWorks. The oldest house in Twyford is on the right as you look across the road, and is dated as mid 14th century. There is a sarsen stone by the forge, which can be identified by the horseshoes on the door.

Walking back down Queen Street, a recognizable medieval

road, we found some of the oldest buildings in Twyford, all dated between 14th and 15th centuries. The Volunteer Inn got its name from the volunteers that served in the 1745 rebellion, but some of the interior walls are much older and made of wattle and daub, so may well also be medieval.

The Volunteer Inn, Twyford
Edwina Cole

Turning left, we entered Segars Lane. Mr Segar's house used to stand on the corner, and his name was number 1 on the seating plan in the church. In 1696 his house became a school for Roman Catholic boys, which it remained until 1745. The school buildings at Segars were important because the poet Pope was sent there in 1696 aged 8. He was expelled for writing uncomplimentary verses about one of the tutors, and the house itself was later demolished. Today, modern buildings can be seen in the place where the house once stood.

Passing the back of Twyford Manor, and going along The Drove, we went past the Methodist Chapel, which is still in use, to cross the road to go on down the path. To the left, the land belonged to the manor. At the end of the path, we took a left turn and walked to the main road (Manor Farm Green to High Street),

The Bugle Inn was a famous coaching inn and we followed Park Lane (the ancient path to Owslebury) until we came to Roman Villa on Roman Road. Roman ruins were found here in 1891. In 1958 permission was sought to build two bungalows on the land. Martin Biddle carried out a rescue excavation and dated the villa to 2nd century AD.

We then walked back to the church up the footpath that runs alongside the main road on the left. We met Julia there who thanked all who had contributed to such an enlightening evening - Chris Pope and Keith Woodward who told us about the church, Chris Corcoran who focused on three aspects of Twyford's long history and Don Bryan who led the walk. Perhaps those of you who missed it may be tempted to do the walk and enjoy Twyford for yourselves.

Edwina Cole

Stonehenge Hidden Landscape Project

At first sight the excavation appears rather dull. A rectangular cut about 1 metre deep into the chalk with just two circular pits in the bottom would not normally attract much attention. However, on 7th August this year the excavation was lined with a fascinated audience addressed by Professor Mike Parker Pearson of UCL Institute of Archaeology.

The site was the Henge at Durrington Walls about four miles from Stonehenge. Henges are late Neolithic structures consisting of a circular ditch with a bank outside it, commonly with two entrances on opposite sides of the feature. Although henges are commonplace in this era (c. 2500 to 2300 BC) Durrington along with a handful of others in southern England are notable for their enormous size.

Durrington is 440 metres in diameter; its ditch is 4.5 metres deep and 10 metres wide. Excavations within it in 1967 revealed two additional wooden structures of similar design. Just outside is the site of Woodhenge, an array of wooden posts set in concentric circles.

More recently, Parker Pearson has been exploring the southeast entrance, closest to the adjacent river Avon, and discovered under the bank of the henge the remains of the largest group of Neolithic houses in southern England. He also found evidence of seasonal gatherings where large numbers of pigs were consumed. This work along with work at other sites in Stonehenge itself, at the end of the causeway linking that monument with the river Avon and a nearby Mesolithic site at Blick Mead, have all drawn a lot of attention to this world famous monument and its environs.

In 2014 a further initiative was started. The Ludwig Boltzann Institute in Vienna specialists in "Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology" together with eight partners including two British Universities announced the Stonehenge Hidden Landscape project. This uses Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR) which can provide underground topographical detail of unprecedented accuracy. Up to 2 metres deep below the ground it can profile features to an accuracy of 2 cm. So far this prospection has covered around 16 square kilometres and is expected to be at least 20 when the project finishes, later this year. It covers all the landscape which is in the view of the monuments. The complementary technique of electromagnetic

surveying has been used alongside GPR to provide additional data.

A highlight of this work has been the discovering of a series of post holes around the edge of Durrington Walls located where the bank of the henge was later situated. These were totally unknown before this survey. Having found these pits using GPR it was decided to excavate some of them and compare the excavated results with those gained from radar scans. It was this topic that brought together the attentive audience on the rim of the excavation. To assist the comparison, the excavation was being recorded in fine detail at every stage using 3D photography and high-resolution laser scans.

This work, although not yet fully developed, offers a revolutionary breakthrough in archaeological prospection. It offers a non-invasive, non-destructive method of detecting under-soil features at a fraction of the cost of physical excavation. As such, it opens up archaeological research horizons which could not have been contemplated until now.

For the archaeological community working on Stonehenge and its surroundings the results of the GPR survey so far are providing many new insights into the history of the monuments. At Durrington Walls the two excavated post holes lay around the edge of the henge being among 120 directly observed using GPR. (Early reports suggested they were stone slots but it is now clear that they located large wooden posts). Some sections of the ring have been destroyed where a military hospital was built and subsequently demolished. It is likely that the total number of posts numbered at least 200.

It seems that the posts marked the perimeter of the monuments. Shortly after they were erected, the construction of the henge started. The up fill from the henge ditch covered the posts although the informed guess is that the posts protruded above the bank therefore still being visible when the monument was completed. Were the posts set up to mark the construction line of the henge? If so, was this done at other major henges? Nobody has looked but there is a record of such posts marking the perimeter of Stonehenge before the Sarsens were put in place. As elsewhere in Durrington Walls there is clear evidence of Neolithic dwellings and one such, complete with decayed chalk plaster and a hearth, lies right alongside one of the post holes excavated.

Parker Pearson described this new GPR capability as "an archaeological Rosetta Stone" and when the full survey is published by early 2018 it is sure to generate a huge interest in re-examining many monuments across the UK.

Steve Taylor

Tichborne Dole

Every Lady Day (March 25th), which this year fell on Good Friday, the inhabitants of the parishes of Tichborne, Cheriton and Lane End assemble at the front of Tichborne House for the annual distribution of the Dole.

As the people gather it gets quite noisy as neighbours chat and old friends meet up but silence descends as the house doors open and the priest and his acolytes appear, flanked by members of the family currently in residence.

The flour, in a large open 'manger' on legs, is then blessed by the priest and sprinkled with Holy Water and Incense. The priest then leads the prayers for Lady Mabella Tichborne, after which the Master of Ceremonies calls out the names of the senior householder of each family in alphabetical order, followed by the amount of Dole to which they are entitled.

The Prayers and the Blessing of the flour. D Gollins.

The people then go up to the 'manger' with their various receptacles – buckets, pillow cases, plastic bags, etc. – and collect their entitlement, which is 'doled' out by the members of the family currently in residence. Each adult member receives one gallon of flour and each child receives half-a-gallon. There is a maximum of four gallons per family.

The villagers then slowly disperse.

The Tichborne Legend, taken from the handout supplied at the ceremony, is as follows:

In the reign of Henry II of England (1132-1189), Roger de Tichborne, son of Walter de Tichborne, the direct male line ancestor of The Tichbornes of Tichborne, married Mabella, daughter and heir of Ralph de Lymerston.

According to the legend which has been handed down from generation to generation, the Lady Mabella de Tichborne, when on her death bed, requested that the value of a small portion of the estates of Tichborne should be given to the poor of the district annually in the nature of a Dole.

Her husband, Roger de Tichborne, apparently a rough and ready soldier, was not very disposed towards charity. He answered his aged wife's request by intimating that he would give annually the value of as much land as she was able to encompass while holding a flaming torch in her hand.

The lady, who was almost a cripple, so runs the legend, succeeded in circumventing twenty-three acres of land crawling most of the way on all fours. When she had accomplished this task she charged her husband and his heirs forever to give annually of the value of that land to the poor. She stipulated that should they fail in her request then would seven sons be born to the house followed immediately by a generation of seven daughters when the name would die out, and the ancient house fall down. There is a field at Tichborne known today as 'The Crawls'.

The distribution of the Dole as the names are called. D.Gollins

The custom of distributing the Dole in the form of bread continued apparently without a break until 1794, when owing to the abuse it was subjected to from vagabonds and gypsies from all over England, it was stopped by order of the magistrates. Sir Henry Tichborne, who was then living at Tichborne, had at that time seven sons, Henry, Benjamin, Edward, James, John, George and Roger Tichborne.

In 1802, eight years after the Dole ceased, George the sixth son died, aged thirteen, and the same year the old house at Tichborne partly fell and was partly pulled down. In 1806, four years later, John the fifth son died unmarried in the East Indies; four years after that in 1810 Benjamin, the second son died, unmarried, in China. Roger, the seventh son died some years later having married but never having had a son or daughter. Meanwhile, Henry the eldest son had married and had become the father of seven daughters but had no son. Edward, the third son, changed his name to Doughty in 1826. Edward Doughty had one son, Henry, who died in 1835 aged six. Immediately after his only son's death, Edward Doughty reinstated the ceremony of the Dole, which has been continued ever since.

Meanwhile, James, the fourth son, had married in 1827 and had

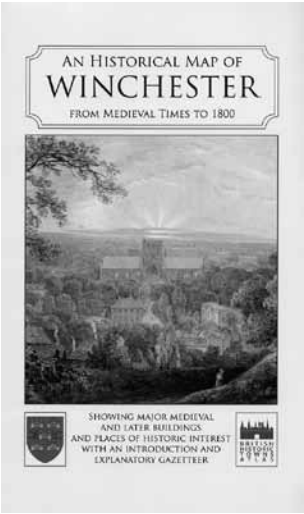
Villagers beginning to disperse as they have collected their allowance.
D Gollins

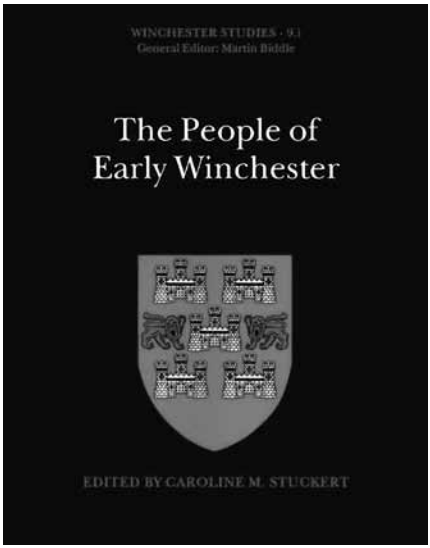
one son, Roger Charles Tichborne, who was born before the restoration of the Dole, and another son, Alfred Joseph, who was born after the restoration of the Dole. The son who was born before the restoration was lost at sea in 1845 and was impersonated twenty years later by an unsuccessful claimant to the title and estates, the rightful heirs of which were compelled to spend £100,000 in defending their possessions. Alfred Joseph, the younger of the two sons, who was born after the restoration of the Dole, was the only one to survive and was the great grand-father of the late Sir Anthony Doughty Tichborne who was the fourteenth baronet.

David Gollins

Winchester Studies

I think everyone is aware that, under Martin Biddle as director of the Winchester Excavations Committee (WEC), there were massive archaeological investigations in Winchester in the 1960s. WEC is still in existence and is, after a hiatus, beginning to roll out more of the big blue books of Winchester Studies, published by Oxford University Press. Alongside these, and in conjunction with the Historic Towns Trust WEC is creating an Historic Town Atlas. Due to be published next year, this is a magnificent portfolio of A3 maps of the City at different dates. The cartographer is Giles Darkes who a couple of years ago gave us a fascinating talk *Lies, Damned Lies & Maps*. As a spin-off from the work on the Atlas WEC has also re-published *An Historical Map of Winchester*. This is a revised version of the one published a year or so





ago and includes a gazetteer and some amazing water colours recently found in the library at Winchester College. It is £8.99, but you might find a better price on-line. For the right person it makes a good Christmas card.

Also to be published next year is the next big blue book, The People of Early Winchester, edited by Connie Stuckert. Much of the research on this was made possible by the work of the WARG Monday work parties, who marked bones and filed them away after they were examined.

You can find out more about the work of WEC at Winchesterstudies.org.uk, where you can also find information on how to become a friend.

The work of the Monday work parties continues to support the research of WEC, as Katherine Barclay, the Assistant Director explains below.

WARG work parties and Winchester Studies

Katherine Barclay, the Assistant Director of the Winchester Excavation Committee has provided this tribute to the hard work of the Monday afternoon work party teams.

WARG members have continued with their behind-the-scenes work in ordering material in the collections in the Hampshire Cultural Trust's store at F2 under the direction of the Trust's Curator of Archaeology, Helen Rees. Recently, they've been able to make a significant contribution to the progress of research for ***Winchester Studies*** by helping the Research Unit with particular projects. Earlier this year experts Prof. Jenny Price and Dr Sally Cottam were to spend some time at the archive, looking at the Roman vessel glass. WARG members played a big part in preparing for their review, by finding the several hundred pieces needed from among the thousands of numbered finds, and then afterwards helping to put them away. Jenny began her work in the 1980s, and the review has enabled the authors to bring their contribution up to date, ready for publication in the WS volume on prehistoric and Roman material. Working with Prof Biddle, Francis Morris is co-editor of this volume (some of you

may remember his father Mike Morris who was City Archaeologist in the 1980s?).

Francis and Katherine Barclay have recently prepared another large 'viewing', this time of ceramics from the early phases of the Oram's Arbour enclosure, in a reconsideration of the chronology of Iron Age Winchester. Prof. John Collis has already spent a day reviewing the material, with some surprising results, and in early December, other specialists will visit to confer. We very much hope that WARGS will assist with the time-consuming task of putting the thousands of sherds away again.

Francis and Katherine are immensely grateful for the help given, and in the knowledge that WARG members understand the need for accuracy and attention to detail and can be trusted with these painstaking tasks.

As a gesture of thanks from the Excavations Committee (of which the Mayor of Winchester is President), the Mayor, Mrs Jane Smith, has kindly offered to hold a tea party at Abbey House. In due course, Julia, the stalwart work party organiser, will advise of time and date.

Red Square? Been There!

Television has a lot to answer for – well, Lucy Worsley anyway. I watched her BBC4 3 part series on the Romanovs and was so smitten by the recently decorated and generally tarted up buildings in Moscow and St Petersburg that I just had to visit them! However what occurred to me on arrival was how infrequently humans update or change their hard-held opinions. I had assumed that most of the two cities would be utilitarian, sombre and dull, but not a bit of it. Moscow was more or less created by that appalling dictator Stalin, but he obviously had style and vision. He had the centre of the city almost completely destroyed – not the Kremlin though! – and then rebuilt it with wide open streets so that the overwhelming impression is of light and air. He insisted that the materials used for building the huge apartment blocks with shops and offices on the lower floors were marbles, coloured stones and coloured paints with a huge amount of attractive detailing and statues on the facades, and he was heavily influenced by western

From Red Square Moscow
Markus Bernet Creative Commons

European architecture – particularly Haussmann – but wanted everything to be larger, grander and more costly. This actually was carrying on the desires of Peter the Great and his daughter Elizabeth, who both had unlimited wealth and cheap labour at their disposal.

The Kremlin is a wonderful and very large area with several cathedrals and churches, not to mention GUM, the wonderful long double shopping arcade with glass roofs. This building is colourful and bright and the first and second floors have connecting bridges across, where one sits under umbrellas (to shade one from the sun) to enjoy a sandwich (just one slice of bread!) or a drink. Despite the fact that everywhere is heavily security conscious and one spends a lot of time going through detector barriers, the Kremlin and the city are positively heaving with people and yet not a single scrap of litter is to be seen anywhere – not even a ciggie butt. This could be pride or it could be fear but whatever it is, we need some of it in the UK. The Russians like everything to be bigger and better than anything similar elsewhere in the world so the Anna bell is over 20ft high and has a diameter of 22 ft – far too heavy of course ever to be raised into a bell tower so it sits, truly larger than life, on a stone pedestal on the ground. The Arsenal is now the Museum housing stuff which belonged to the various czars and czarinas, such as coronation robes, sundry crowns and various sized coaches. To be honest much of all that is, to my mind, spectacularly vulgar but then I don't go for headgear made purely of gold and a thousand diamonds.

However as far as I was concerned one of the most important and interesting places to visit in Moscow was the Metro – ordered in 1935 by Stalin, each station is a wonder of lighting (chandeliers, uplighters, downlighters) with the most wonderful mosaic floors and wall pictures

with statues everywhere too. Need I add that all the five we visited were spotlessly clean?

Arbatskaya Station, Moscow Metro
Tim Adams, Creative Commons

St Petersburg is said to have over 600 palaces, several of them now restored, such as the Hermitage. This palace must surely be amongst the top ten buildings of the world and would probably take a week to see properly. We had a couple of hours guided by our lovely local guide, also Julia, so that we saw the most important artefacts. To be honest this city is completely obsessed with gold leaf and in the two cities we must have seen several tonnes of gold leaf, and I'm really not exaggerating. The summer palace of Peterhof, about 30km outside St Petersburg on the Baltic Sea coast, was built by Peter the Great and extended by Elizabeth to put Versailles in the shade and indeed it does in some respects. Not as many fountains or statues as the latter but in a less formal parkland and none the less impressive for that. When German troops occupied the palace for over 2 years in WW2 they couldn't manage the bitterly long cold winters and cut down all the hundreds of trees, bar about four, as fuel. When they left in 1944 they smashed most of the fountains and statuary and placed several bombs in the basement of the palace which almost completely destroyed it. However the Russian people are nothing if not resilient and it has of course been completely rebuilt and gilded beyond belief, plus all the trees have been replaced – fortunate that photography was able to help that restoration.

The Hermitage St Petersburg
Andrew Shiva. Creative Commons

For me, the most interesting – and less gilded – palace in St P was the Yusupov Palace. Owned by an exceedingly wealthy family who

bankrolled the czars, it is smaller and more like a home, several of its rooms showing the influence of the Wedgwoods – very pretty. It also has a charming full-sized theatre built for one of the daughters who longed to be on the stage but due to her family's position in St P's life was not allowed to be. However its main claim to fame is because it was here in the basement that Prince Felix and a couple of his friends murdered Rasputin. Not an easy man to do away with, he was poisoned, shot four times in the body and head, but finally drowned.

Yusupov Palace
Ninaras, Creative commons

This was just a quick holiday, being two days in Moscow, three in Petersburg and the 4 hour long train journey between the two. My overall impression is that Russia is exceedingly wealthy and spending its money almost exclusively with an eye to the tourist industry so no-one who visits could possibly be disappointed if they like sumptuous and extravagant opulence to view. However food is cheap and good and I'd recommend a trip there if you're keen on architecture. The two cities certainly put the Russian Revolution into perspective too.

Julia Sandison

Easter Island

Following the October 2016 AGM Edwina Cole, a much travelled WARG member, gave a talk about her 2012 visit to Easter Island, describing it as remote, exotic and full of archaeology.

Easter Island is situated in the south-east Pacific Ocean, 2086km away from its nearest inhabited neighbour, Pitcairn Island. It belongs to Chile and boasts over 2000 archaeological sites, it is four times the size of the Isle of Wight with a population of 6000. The island was formed by three volcanic eruptions, giving it a distinctive triangular shape but all volcanoes are now extinct. During the Cold War in 1966 a USA spying station was created to watch over Russian naval movements.

Katherine Routledge the archaeologist from Ewers House in Bursledon, along with her husband William Scoresby, paid for and

conducted the first archaeological survey of Easter Island, They set sail in 1914 on the Manna Expedition with the aim of answering four questions: - Who were the original inhabitants? From where and when did they come? What do the statues mean? How are the statues linked to the present inhabitants? She chose this name for her expedition as the word *mana* is common throughout the Southern Seas and freely translated means "good luck" but it also conveys spiritual or magical power.

The first humans here came from other Polynesians islands between 600 and 900 AD calling it Rapa Nui (from the Polynesian word for "Big Rapa" as it looked like a larger version of Rapa Island). The first European visitor was Jacob Roggeveen the Dutch explorer who spent one day on the island on 5th April 1722 naming it Paaschen Eyland (Dutch for Easter Island). He was sponsored by the Dutch West India Company and was searching for *Terra Australis.* A Spanish expedition arrived in 1770 to claim the island for Spain staying six days and never returning! In 1774 Captain James Cook arrived in Hanga Roa bay desperate for fresh water and supplies, coming ashore briefly, finding neither, he left.

An early watercolour from Cook's expedition makes a serious error in depicting the famous statues as facing out to sea when they in fact face inland. Also artistic licence is employed as a variety of island landscapes are shown in the one painting. The statues on Easter Island are called *moai,* there is one in the British Museum of *Hoa Hakananai'a*, carved from black basalt and removed as a present for Queen Victoria in 1869 by the Commander of HMS Topaze. There is still resentment that this *moai* is no longer on the island. There were very few early visitors to the island but the arrival of galleons with their masts and sails must have made an impression on the indigenous tribes as someone carved an image of a galleon on one of the *moai.*

The Europeans were the cause of the statues being knocked down or destroyed.

More recent historical events document the tragedy of Easter Island. In the 1850s Peru abolished slavery, 2000 Rapanui were forcibly removed as cheap labour but only 15 returned - bringing smallpox and other diseases with them. By 1862 the Rapa Nui culture had ended as slave raids and disapproving Catholic missionaries finished it off. The 1877 census showed that there were 111 islanders left out of an original population peak of 14,000. Chile annexed the Island in 1888 then from 1903 to 1953 the Easter Island Exploitation Company moved the natives to one area and the remainder of the land became a sheep farm damaging both its ecology and archaeology, this was documented by Katherine Routledge. 1966 saw the Rapa Nui National Park declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Today islanders use Rapanui when they refer to the people and Rapa Nui for the island and its language. Unfortunately no-one is able to read *rongo rongo* (the old language) as the literate men were taken in the slave raids and did not return. *Kohau rongorongo* are stone tablets with carved symbols, of which there are 27 such boards spread in museums across the world, which nobody has yet deciphered. Some other useful Rapa Nui words include *moai* –statue, *pukao* –red cylinder made from volcanic scoria stone balanced on the heads of some of the *moai* and representing hair not a hat, *ahu*- ceremonial platform and *mana*-source of magical power.

Edwina visited many of the archaeological sites, at Anakena restored *moai* are of a high quality and this is the location of the first *moai* raised by Thor Heyerdahl in 1956. The *moai* at Ahu Akivi stand on an *ahu* (platform) and overlook a ruined village and the sea beyond. In Rapa Nui National Park visitors must keep to the path or face a large fine, and not touch the *moai* , which have bodies and the tops of arms. In 989 there were 4,000 visitors but by 2009 this had risen to 50,000.

At the quarry of Rano Raraku all stages of *moai* production may be seen with 400 still here. This volcanic crater, composed of lapilli ash or tuff, a relatively soft material, was used to produce 95% of the nearly 1000 known *moai.* Other *moai* were made from basalt (such as

the example in London). It took a year to carve a *moai* using stone hand tools, broken *moai* were abandoned because their *mana* had gone. From 1000AD the quarry was the heart of this megalithic society but the obsession with carving led to the depletion of the island's resources. The crater lake of Rano Kau is over 1km in diameter and the principal source of fresh water. Ahu Tongariki is opposite the quarry and consists of the largest ceremonial platform in Polynesia. Here 15 *moai* were restored between 1992-1996, by the University of Chile together with the Japanese following the earthquake in 1960 (9.5 on Richter Scale) when the tsunami waves reached 11m. The *moai* face inland towards the quarry where they were made. Some of the restored *moai* have eyes made from white coral with a pupil of red scoria, it is thought that the eye added at the very end of construction gave the statue *mana* or life.

Petroglyphs of a "birdman" (like a frigate bird) with a head, prominent beak, large circular eye and human body may be observed carved into rocks around the island, this same image appears in the 100 year old church at Hanga Roa, a mix of Christian and Rapa Nui symbolism. It is believed that *Make-Make* was the creator god of Easter Island and a religious cult, related to fertility, spring and migratory seabirds, developed at the end of the 16th century. At the restored village of Orongo there are 1700 petroglyphs (rock art). The village has 54 unique stone slab dwellings based on the design of boat-houses and is situated above 1000 foot cliffs which fall vertically to the Pacific Ocean. Too inhospitable for permanent occupation the site was used seasonally for ceremonies and initiations.

Here the annual *Tangata-manu* (Birdman Competition) took place. The tribes competed to obtain the first egg of the Sooty Tern, which arrived every spring to nest on Motu Nui (an offshore islet). Participants went down the sheer cliff, swam to Motu Nui to wait until the first egg was laid, the finder carefully carried the egg back in his headdress to the village. The winner was proclaimed Birdman, considered *tapu* or sacred and lived in ceremonial seclusion for the next year. The last competition took place in 1867 but the modern Easter Island Triathlon, during the Tapati Festival, is based on this tradition. Only Rapanui men may partake, they canoe across a lake, swim with a *pora* (reed float) then run a circuit of the lake holding two large banana clusters. Stamina is required but not necessarily the wearing of clothes!

In conclusion Edwina felt that the collision between Easter Island and Europeans was a devastating cultural shock, bringing diseases and a conflict of beliefs. The indigenous tribes did not stand a chance against the impact of the western world. Visitors view Rapa Nui as a sacred site and the *maoi* invoke a sense of wonder and security. Many questions will never be answered and there is more work to be done, but if you get the chance to visit - then go!

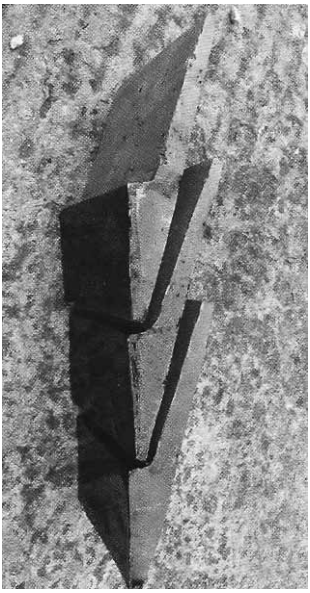
Valerie Pegg

Bricks, Tiles, Brick Tax and Brick-tiles

Those who were at Warnford Park in August will remember the wide variety of bricks, tiles and pieces of both that were dug up during the annual Big Dig. Trying to interpret the different building phases on the site from the different sizes and shapes of bricks is difficult, as building materials from early developments are often reused in later ones. Brick sizes have changed through time, with periodic attempts at standardisation and regulation.

Rye, Garden Room at Lamb House. (Lloyd)

Some of the more recent bricks found at Warnford were identifiable as being from relatively recent periods as they bore maker's stamps. The Newton bricks which had been used for a very rough hearth in the north-west corner came from a brickworks at Newton Longville in Aylesbury which produced bricks from 1847-1990. As they were an imperial size they were probably made prior to brick metrication in 1969. The bricks stamped with the name Davidson were also an imperial size and probably came from the Davidson brickworks at Gateshead which operated from 1867.



Brick-tiles (Historic England).

Tudor bricks generally are thinner and longer than later ones, but despite many attempts at standardisation and regulation of sizes, there have always been non-standard bricks available for people who want to pay for them. The imposition of the Brick Tax in 1784 led to some producers making oversize bricks such as Leicestershire's Wilkes Gobs (1784 -1803) which were double the standard size. The Brick Tax was initially 4s per thousand, and was increased several times until, in 1850, when it was repealed, it stood at 5s 10p per thousand. In 1756 place bricks were selling for 14s per thousand and grey stocks at 20s per thousand, so the tax represented a substantial increase in cost for people using bricks to build their houses.

One strategy to avoid the Brick Tax led to the construction of weather boarded cottages, mainly in the south-east, where most of them were built in the later 18th century and the first half of the 19th. Another widely believed dodge to avoid this tax was the increase in use of brick-tiles, also known in the south and south-east as mathematical tiles. There were a few of these dug up at Warnford, and, as these can almost certainly be dated to the period of the Brick Tax, would have been part of the 18th century building. Brick-tiles were only used in very few buildings prior to the Brick Tax, and although many of the standard text books linked this to tax saving, a number of papers published by the British Brick society in the late 80's and early 90's provided evidence that brick- tiles were also subject to the same tax as bricks.. The earliest brick-tile usage recorded, dated 1724, comes from the Malthouse at Westcott in Surrey.Another early brick-tile building was the Garden Room at Henry James' Lamb House (National Trust) in Rye, which was built in 1743 with brick-tiles above the cellar walls and with wooden quoins at the corners. Unfortunately it was destroyed by a bomb in 1940.

So what are brick-tiles? They are designed to be difficult to distinguish from bricks, and the facing part looks like a brick header (brick end) or stretcher (brick side). Attached to the back at a slight angle is a flange with hole near the top to enable nailing on to vertical surface. It is thought that they were originally designed to encase timber framed houses, for

fire proofing and to improve appearance. They were nailed to boards or studding on the side of the timber frame, sometimes bedded in mortar. Sometimes they were applied to walls that were weathering badly or were made of rough stone, cobbles or flint. The south and south-east are the areas where they were mainly used. In Brighton there are number of buildings which had black glazed brick-tiles added on in the early 19th century.

Salisbury, 15 Oatmeal Row

Probably the most well-known building to use brick-tiles is the Spencer family seat at Althorp. This grand house was originally built in red brick and stone in the years following 1688, but in 1788 a layer of much lighter coloured brick-tiles was brought from Ipswich and attached to the existing structure to change the appearance to what we see today. This was extensively refurbished in the 1970's as the wooden battens that the tiles were attached to had decayed. The Foreign Secretary's official country residence at Chevening in Kent was also clad in brick-tiles for a long time. Built in the 1620's, to a design that may have been by Inigo Jones, it was substantially altered by the 3rd Lord Stanhope in the 1780's, encasing most of the walls in brick-tiles, nailed to the existing brick walls with iron pins, reputedly to improve fire proofing. This had a negative effect on its appearance, and the rusting pins caused considerable damage to the underlying brickwork. When in 1970 ownership passed to a trust preserving it for Government use, the building's original appearance was restored by removing the brick-tiles completely.

The cost of brick-tiles is unlikely to have been much less than the cost of bricks. Although using much less clay than the equivalent brick, they are a more intricate and fragile shape and so would have taken considerably longer to make. Michelmersh Brickworks still produces hand moulded bricks today, using the same techniques as 300 years ago, and a skilled brick maker is expected to produce around 1300 bricks per day – about one every 20 seconds – a production rate that

Winchester, Quaker House

would be impossible to achieve with brick-tiles. The thinness and shape would also cause greater losses due to breakage and distortion during the drying and firing process.Brick-tiles are still available. Aldershaw's, near Battle in Sussex, supply hand-made brick-tiles using wooden moulds to order for restoration projects. They have also supplied them for use with timber framed contemporary housing.

Salisbury has a number of examples of buildings faced with brick-tiles. The building with Game shop at ground level, on the corner of the Market Square by the Poultry Cross, although mainly clad with conventional overlapping tiles, has brick-tiled walls on 2 faces of the northern half of the building. In the photo, the left hand gable is faced with brick-tiles, while the right hand one is conventionally tile hung.

Brick-tiles can also be seen in Winchester in several places. A good example is at the Quaker House. Here they are indistinguishable from conventional bricks except that the tile edges are visible in the window recesses, where it can be seen that they have been mortared onto an existing brick wall.

Returning to Warnford again, as with many of the things uncovered there, the finding of brick-tiles raises more questions rather than answering them. What were they doing there? Were they used to disguise a part of the earlier Tudor building that was incorporated into the 18th century one? Were they extensively used in the newer building or just in a small a part of it (for example, the stable block?). The numbers found during our excavations were small. Does this indicate that even in 1958 they may have had salvage value for re-use on other similarly built houses in need of refurbishment, and so were recovered during the demolition for resale?

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Kim Batten

A Visit to Malmesbury

About 30 members of WARG met in the car park in Malmesbury – a very picturesque place with the river running nearby. Don began the tour by pointing out the Abbey high on the cliff above us. The town is set high on a hill encircled by 2 rivers, the Ingleburn and the Avon.

Originally an Iron Age fort, it is England's oldest borough and a fascinating town which boasts a history of over 1000 years. It was never a Roman town, but it has always been a walled town and our first job was to climb the steps leading to the centre, reading highlights of the town's history as recorded on plaques set into the steps as we went.

At the top we stopped by the Abbey. This was an important defended site and the name Malmesbury comes from Maldulph who was a Celtic monk who founded a hermit's cell here in 600. He was

a teacher of some renown and one of his most famous students was Aldhelm who was a Saxon son of the Royal family. He became Abbot here after Maldulph's death. King Alfred made the town one of his Burghs – a fortified town – adding weight to its importance. What we see of the Abbey today is only half of what it was originally, and its spire would have rivalled that of Salisbury's cathedral. One of the greatest kings in Saxon history - Athelstan - is buried somewhere in the Abbey Gardens, and it was to Abbey House and Gardens that we went next.

Home to the famous Naked Gardeners, we were greeted by a fully clothed Barbara, owner of the house and our enthusiastic guide. We were especially privileged to have this tour as the house is not normally open to the public. Barbara was an entertaining and informative guide, showing us 3 rooms in this half H 16th century house. She pointed out its proximity to the Abbey, which we could see from the windows, and the many changes that had been made to the house.

The second room we were taken to made everyone gasp! It is a double space room, which may have been half of the Great Hall originally. One feature in the wall may be a bath. Dowsers had sensed a place of healing there and the spiral staircase may have been a private route to the Chapter House.

Barbara explained that there is a tradition of building over water sources and that the healing qualities of water have long been appreciated. This may suggest that the origins of this space may be very ancient. Indeed, a door has been discovered with well-worn steps leading from it that has led some people to believe that many people may have gathered here. Various art works are evident on the walls, in the rooms and in the gardens. In this particular space, 'The Heart of the Matter' emphasizes healing.

The third and largest room we entered had been changed significantly. As the house is a Grade 1 listed building, the owners were allowed to return it to the one room it had been originally. It is now the atmospheric venue for weddings, musical evenings and talks. Described as 'old in the stones and old in the bones', Barbara emphasized that Malmesbury not only has ancient buildings, but that local families have lived here for generations. We were to see evidence of that on our walk through the town. Finishing our tour of the house, we were then free to explore the wonderful Abbey Gardens and the town itself.

Reconvening after lunch, we were given time to look at the museum before embarking on our walk around the town. The information centre issues a leaflet called *A Walker's Guide to Malmesbury*, which is helpful if you missed this tour and want to go there at a later date.

Don pointed out that there are plaques on some of the buildings that can boast a history going back 1000 years, and in the museum it said that 200 people living in the town now are direct descendants of those earlier inhabitants. We passed the Market Cross which dates to around 1490. John Leyland described it as 'Curiously vaulted for poore marketfolk to stand dry when the rayne cometh'. Fortunately for us, the rain had come and gone by this point, but on our way back the seating it provided was very welcome!

Passing the Abbey we noted a grave with fresh flowers which tells of an unfortunate maid, Hannah Twynnoy, who was mauled to death by a circus tiger in 1703. Looking back to the Abbey, we noted the musket ball holes from the Civil War before we passed the Old Bell Hotel where the castle used to be. It now boasts it is "England's oldest hotel".

Walking up the road we came to Horsehair which records where the horse fair used to be. They were illegal, so the business was conducted in a quiet part of town where they could avoid paying tax!

Remnants of an old Saxon church form part of one old house here, clearly showing the long/short work that identifies it. Continuing across the meadow we came to Daniel's Well. He was Bishop of Winchester from 705-744 and was friends with Aldhelm, Bede and Boniface. Looking down to the water we noticed the steps and heard how Daniel bathed here to 'cleanse his naughty thoughts'! Further along we passed the Tower House, which is one big white medieval house. It was owned by William Stump, and Henry VIII was entertained there.

Walking to Market Place, we learned that a market was held there until the 1940's, but it was the scene of a daring incident in 1881. In that year, the town's MP, Walter Powell, took off from there in a hot air balloon. Unfortunately he disappeared over Bridport and was never seen again! From Black Hill we crossed the Medieval Goose Bridge, and through the archway saw the old courthouse where the Old Corporation has met since 1616.

The nearby St John's Almshouses date from 1664 and were built on the site of St John's hospital, which dates to the 12th century. The arched doorway that survives is particularly fine, and stands opposite St John's Bridge where St Aldhelm is said to have carried out his baptisms.

The Old Silk Mills here were built in 1724, and were originally woollen mills. When the cloth industry was abandoned, silk production took over. We finished our walk at St Aldhelm's Mead where a fair was held in his honour for hundreds of years after his death. Going back up the steps to the Market Place, we thanked both Don and Julia for bringing us to such an interesting place.

Edwina Cole

St Corbinian's Bear

As part of my exploration of Munich's hinterland (The Munich environs project?) I recently spent time in Freising. This is about 25 miles to the north of Munich and close to the new Munich airport. It could be argued that just as it should be Eastleigh rather than Southampton airport we should be travelling to Freising airport rather than Munich. It is particularly galling for the inhabitants of Freising as the city was an active Christian centre well before Munich.

I was travelling to some extent in the footsteps of the Saxon missionary, Wynfreth, who spent time at Nhutscelle (Nursling), where he became head of the monastic school and ordained as priest. In 719 he travelled to Rome where the Pope renamed him Boniface and sent him off to preach to the pagans in what we now call Germany. He eventually became an Archbishop, and in 739 reorganised the church in Bavaria, including designating Freising as the centre of a diocese, and creating a cathedral in the monastery, on top of a hill above the river Isar.

St Corbinian was an early bishop of Freising. Once, when he was crossing the Alps on the way to Rome a bear ate one of his packhorses. Corbinian made the bear carry his luggage to Rome and then released him. The bear carrying luggage is now one of the symbols of the City.

The other thing that many Bavarians know is that Freising is the home of the world's oldest continuous brewery. There was a second monastery in Freising, set on a second hill (Weihenstephan).

Two Freising symbols in one - Corbinian's bear caries the barrels of the world's oldesr brewery

While there is evidence that from around 768 hops were tithed to the monastery, the first evidence of brewing is from 1040 when a licence from the City of Freising permitted the monastery to brew and sell beer. Even with fires, wars and plagues, brewing has continued on the site ever since. It is now called the Bayerische Staatsbrauerei Weihenstephan (Bavarian State brewery Weihenstephan) and is owned by the Bavarian government. The monastic buildings around the brewery itself are now part of the Technical University of Munich,

Builder bear outside an architect's office

including the Department of Brewing and Beverage Technology. Purely in the interests of my readership I climbed the steep hill and visited the beer garden attached to the brewery and tasted the beer. I can report it is excellent, especially with homemade sausages and potato salad.

The city itself is small and neat, with museums for the town and the cathedral. (While many people know of the Dom in Munich, the Archdiocese is Munich and Freising). Pope Benedict XVI, now Pope Emeritus, was trained and ordained in Freising and later became Archbishop. His coat of arms includes Corbinian's bear.

And bears are everywhere. Outside the brewery is a bear carrying barrels, and there is a granite bear in the Hauptstrasse. But, like the Zebras Marwell Zoo scattered around Southampton this summer, there are many more bears in the town. Some are clearly sponsored by the nearest business, and are painted to match.

A stroll round the streets, particularly spending time in the main square, Marienplatz, where you can sample beer from Freising's other brewery, the Hobrauhaus, is enjoyable enough, but occasionally you get stopped in your tracks (literally) by reminders of dark pages of Freising's history: outside some houses are brass plates in the pavements with the names of the Jewish occupants who were transported and died in the death camps.

Pavement memorial to the Holzz family, most of whom died in Theresienstadt

Freising was, unlike Munich and Augsburg, only bombed once and many of the main buildings were untouched, so your stroll is though a time capsule. If for some reason you have time to spare at Munich airport the 635 bus runs every 20 minutes or so and takes twenty minutes to Freising station (of which 15 minutes are spent roaming parts of the airport complex). It is worth a detour.

Dick Selwood

Julia's Jottings

Don's the top!

It comes as no surprise to us that our very own Don Bryan has been awarded the 2016 Avebury Cup by the British Society of Dowsers for "inspirational leadership of Archaeological Dowsing within the BSD. Don's leadership of workshops and field trips and his development and teaching of courses have raised the standard and status of archaeological dowsing within the society. His practical work has also done much to gain credibility for dowsing in the wider world of archaeology."

Well done, Don – another winning WARG member!

Technology amazes again

As someone who's not completely *au fait* with technology, I was amazed to read that scientists and their computers have managed to decipher a burnt Hebrew Dead Sea scroll – the most ancient known – following the destruction by fire of the town synagogue which housed it. The fire occurred some 1500 years ago and destroyed the ages-old Jewish community that had thrived on the western shore of the Dead Sea for many centuries.

The Ein Gedi scroll has been roughly dated to the first or second century AD and its script is from the Book of Leviticus. Amusingly the start of this Book announces God's instructions for burnt offerings – how apposite!

Standing Stones

Britain has many standing stones – both as singles and as circles – the best known being of course Stonehenge and Avebury. But it's the nothern part of our islands that hold the largest number of circles and the Orkney Islands are pretty much at the top of the list. Stenness in Orkney and Callanish on the Isle of Lewis were both constructed about 5000 years ago and it has now been confirmed that they deliberately align with the orbits of the sun and moon. Both these circles pre-date Stonehenge by around 500 years.

Rock Art

Dick and I have spent several happy hours over the years searching for rock art, both in this country and on the Continent. Northumberland was one of the first places we searched and both France and Portugal have yielded their secrets to us, some outdoors and others in caves. I've also seen rock art in Egypt and Jordan. Now an amateur archaeologist

has tracked down hundreds of these prehistoric rock engravings in Scotland, bringing the total number known in Britain to over 6,000. The majority of them are the cup and ring variety and are considered to date from between 4000 and 2000BC.

Pompeii Reveals More Secrets

If like me you've visited Pompeii, you'll know how poignant the skeletons of both humans and animals are. Recent excavations have now unearthed a shop on the edge of the town with 4 more skeletons plus some gold coins and a necklace pendant. The skeletons are of young people who appeared to have tried to hide at the back of the shop in AD79 but were obviously not able to avoid the raging torrent that engulfed the town and its immediate area. It appears that after the earthquake looters entered the shop but they missed the coins and the gold-leaf-foil pendant, which was flower-shaped. There was an oven in the shop which may well have been used for the production of bronze objects.

This is a site which will continue to yield up its secrets over the years to come, each find proving just how devastating the earthquake was to the region.

Piltdown Man Hoaxer Revealed!

Some of us will recall the to-do when it was announced in the 1950s that the Piltdown Man skull, apparently discovered in UK in 1912, was in fact a hoax, being the cranium of a human paired with the jaw and teeth of an orangutan. Originally back in the 50s it was thought that the scam was the work of a group of naturalists / fossil hunters, but now paleoanthropologist Isabelle de Groote has announced that it was most likely an amateur geologist called Charles Dawson who was the trickster working on his own. Apparently he was desperate to join the Royal Society but they wouldn't entertain the idea of him as one of their number so he "created" the skull to impress them as to his abilities. Interestingly this wasn't his only forgery – he seemed to have had a habit of producing fakes but sadly for him he was never invited to join the Royal Society!

Meon Valley's Roman Past

The dig at Meon Valley, just before our own dig at Warnford, uncovered the foundations of a rare hexagonal Roman building. This was exciting as there's only one other Roman building of this shape known in Britain. Director of the excavation, Winchester University's own Tony King, said the building was part of the complex that he

excavated back in the 1980s, producing a sizeable building whose façade is in the British Museum. He hopes to continue digging in the Meon Valley next year.

Martin Parsons' website

As a society we've had Martin Parsons travel from Reading to speak to us on 6 occasions, so you might like to know that he has produced a website www.war-child-archive.com with much detail about his subject.

Life on the Ancient Silk Road

For nearly 1500 years the trade routes known as the Silk Road connected east and west China with India, the Middle East, Europe and parts of Africa. Naturally over such a long period these routes developed their own culture, uniting empires and connecting the different civilisations through books, textiles, precious substances and foods. However recent analysis of 2000 year old toilet wipes – small sticks wrapped in rags – shows that some of the main trading items were disease and parasites. Apparently the latter's eggs can survive for thousands of years.

TMI, I know, but it is a bit different!

Canal Barge Sees the Light of Day

Archaeologists have uncovered remnants of a canal barge and tramway line around 200 years old in the Ventiford Basin of the Stover Canal near Newton Abbot in Devon. This canal opened in 1794 primarily to transport ball clay down to Teignmouth and granite from the Haytor Quarries on Dartmoor to Ventiford via George Templer's granite tramroad between 1820 and the 1840s. Barge traffic finally ceased in the 1930s although Ventiford had probably been abandoned in the 1880s, so the barge may have been abandoned then.

Also uncovered has been an 80m section of the Haytor granite tramroad alongside the canal quay. This track was built of elongated granite blocks with flanges along the rails to guide the truck wheels – a completely different method to the more usual iron rails with flanged wheels on the trucks.

Archaeology can be such fun!

There are many wonderful and lighter sides to archaeology and one which springs to mind is the discovery of a 1st century Roman tile imprinted with a cat's paw print in Nottinghamshire. One of the most charming of all the glorious mosaics from Pompeii and Herculanium is the one of a tabby cat which has just caught a large bird. There are

also many papyri showing cats being used in wildfowl hunting.

Historians believe that the cat first became "domesticated" around 10,000 years ago in the Near East, and early traces of felis catus can be seen in a human context in China, Cyprus and of course Egypt. The latter country revered this animal as sacred and adorned and petted them too. However there is evidence from Roman sites in UK and other countries that cats were kept for pest control, although possibly not living in the house but in stables or outbuildings. The tile with the paw print also brings to mind Rudyard Kipling's tale of The Cat Who Walked By Himself – always one of my favourites when I was a child!

Julia Sandison

WARG Calendar

2016

Dec 12th **Paul McCulloch:** Recent Excavations at Barton Farm

2017

Jan 9th **New Year party**

Feb 10th **June Lloyd Lecture: Professor Mike Fulford:** Silchester: the Iron Age & Roman Town – a 500 year history

Feb 13th **Phoebe Merrick:** Horses for the Great War

Mar 13th **Derek Spruce:** Jane Austen's Houses

Apr 10th **Big Dig 2016 Update**

Apr 24th **Day visit to Abingdon**

May 8th **Colin Van Geffen:** The Flying Boats of Southampton

June 12th **Evening walk round Stockbridge**

July 10th **Evening visit tba**

Aug 21st **Annual Picnic**

Sept 11th **Martin Parsons:** Kindertransport & its Associated Affects

Sept **Day visit tba**

Oct 9th **tba**

Nov 13th **Michael Goode:** The Lengthening War

Dec 11th **tba**

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.

Books and mags

The latest catalogue of books for sale for WARG funds is included in this mailing, just in time for Christmas presents. In addition one of WARG's members has most generously given us lots of the BBC History magazine to do with what we will! If you'd like to buy some – 10p each – either let Julia know what period you're interested in or whether you just want any of the mags, irrespective of what the subject matter is.

Julia's details are below.

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