



Newsletter

Autumn 2018

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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 07867 935583, e-mail membership@warg.org.uk or visit www.warg.org.uk

Chairman's notes

Your new chair person

Stepping into a role that is well outside your comfort zone and taking on the mantle so well worn by all the former owners is something really scary, so with this in mind I took the bold step and volunteered! I hope I can live up to the demands of the role and do your society justice. It is all change at the top of the committee with Julia standing down as well, but we have a willing and capable replacement in Maureen O'Connor. A society is run by the committee and not just its officers and we have a very keen and able collection of people who step up to formulate the future path for WARG and its members.

Who am I?

I have been a WARG member for 10 years and a committee member for 3 years. I was trained as a teacher at Culham College, Oxford, however, I spent most of my career in Telecommunications until early retirement and now teach Archaeology part time at Eastleigh College. I am a keen Historian, Local Historian and amateur Archaeologist.

This summer

WARG has had a really good summer with a successful dig at Barton Stacey and teams of volunteers attending some key events. The dig was well organised and very well attended and had a successful outcome, eventually. Thanks go to the Dig Committee. The Salisbury Festival of Archaeology and The Heritage Open Day at St Cross Hospital were manned by WARG volunteers and showcased what WARG can do, thanks to all those who volunteered. Finally, at a book launch held at Winchester Guildhall, both Prof Martin Biddle and Ken Qualmann mentioned the work done by WARG as being a key element of Winchester's heritage preservation success, this is something I am keen to continue.

Your new secretary

Maureen O'Connor, writes. Having moved to Hampshire less than a year ago and a rather new member of WARG becoming Secretary has been a bit of a whirlwind, but then a chat over coffee with Julia can lead to surprising outcomes.

As a Project Manager in the textile industry for much of my working life I was fortunate to spend a number of years in both South

Africa and Australia. I returned to the UK to establish a European distribution centre for the Sheridan bedlinen brand leaving when the company was bought by a US operation.

Archaeology, particularly prehistoric, has been a primary pastime for many years and I undertook a HNC in Archaeology and Heritage Management at Somerset College, Taunton with a career path change in mind. This led to a period as a conservation cleaner at Dunster Castle where I also volunteered with National Trust. After moving to Portishead, I joined Clevedon Archaeological Society and over the next 15 years served as Treasurer and then Secretary. Additionally, I studied part-time at Bristol University completing their Diploma in Archaeology in 2010.

I look forward to getting to know you all in time and being a useful member of the society.



Making an exhibition of ourselves

Salisbury Festival of Archaeology, Salisbury Museum 21st and 22nd July 2018

For the second year running WARG was invited to have a presence at this festival which highlights and showcases all that is happening in the Wiltshire/West Hampshire area with regard to archaeology and local history and over the two days they put on a wide variety of talks and events.

The fact that Dr Phil Harding was doing an exhibition dig near to the café on the close side of the museum seemed to be quite an attraction.

The weather was hot and sunny and the drive to Salisbury uneventful, no sign of any novichoks! Setting up the gazebo was a little bit difficult as the ground was extremely hard, we had a position in the rear garden of the museum, on a walkway to the lecture room. We had the bits and bobs set up and ready for business by 9.00 am so Stuart Rippon and I took it in turns to spy out the other stands.

Our collection of photos from previous digs, finds, games and details of the upcoming dig at Barton Stacey went down very well and



we had a constant stream of very interested visitors. Stuart and I were helped throughout the day by the presence of some welcome volunteers, Georgina Slaven and Michael Blake, as well as the museum volunteers with plenty of water, squash, tea and coffee to

keep us hydrated! We packed up the gazebo at five o'clock and headed home for a rest.

Next morning dawned dry and bright, and even hotter, on arrival we opened up the stand and made some adjustments to try and make it cooler, mainly taking down the walls! We were again a very popular attraction and had visitors young and old throughout the day. At five o'clock we packed everything away, took down the gazebo, packed it all in the cars and were off site by about twenty past five!

Overall there were not as many exhibitors as last year but this was probably due to recent events in Salisbury, however, we gave a good show which was appreciated by the museum and the visiting public.

Heritage Open Day St Cross Hospital Winchester 13th September 2018

For the third year running we were invited by The Trustees of St Cross Hospital to set up in the Brethren's Hall with a display showing our works and especially those relating to St Cross Park and The Bowling Green. As we were inside we also set up a projector and screen with a looped presentation displaying our digs, work parties, talks and walks.

As we had completed the dig at Barton Stacey we managed to get some of the finds and the initial results of our digging and presented this to any interested visitors which was very much appreciated and started many an animated conversation

I also showcased an information leaflet about the history of St Cross and WARG's digs there, which was produced by myself and given to visitors for a small donation to charity. This was very popular,

especially with the Brothers and has now been given to The Trustees of St Cross for them to sell in their gift shop.

Stuart Rippon and myself again set up the display and opened to the public but were joined during the day by our welcome volunteers, Janet Backhouse and Kim Batten, who provided cover for lunch and breaks.

The day was again a great success with a constant stream of interested visitors. The success took St Cross a bit by surprise as they intended to limit visitors by not opening the overflow car park, but the situation soon demanded that they did this and a lot of congestion around the gatehouse was avoided!

The Brothers and staff of St Cross Hospital were very appreciative of our presence at this important event and thanked WARG for our attendance and input into a very successful day.

Steve Old



Brethren's Hall in the 19th Century



Book Reviews

Reich, David, *Who we are and how we got here. Ancient DNA and the new science of the human past.* Oxford University Press 2018.

David Reich is Professor of Genetics at Harvard University and a Howard Hughes Institute Investigator. In 2017 he was awarded the Dan David Prize for the computational discovery of intermixing between Neanderthals and modern humans. His team's research shows more than this, as using DNA they have uncovered the Ghost populations from which we descend and which no longer exist. They have proved our links with Denisovians, the 'Hobbits' of Flores Island, the explorers of the Pacific and early settlers on the west coast of the Americas. For example, there is a small population in the upper Amazon basin which must have arrived before the last Ice Age as they are not related to any of the original Americans. And no Neanderthal DNA in early populations from Africa south of the Sahara.

We read this book as we are interested in genetics, but the links to

archaeology are vital. Often a Ghost population will be proved by an archaeological dig in, say, Siberia. The maps and charts are fascinating and so we photocopied some of them for easy reference as we read. David Reich is American and most of the sentences in the text are too long. There does not seem to have been a British editor to add a comma or colon!!

To quote Barry Cunliffe “The breakthrough that all archaeologists have been waiting for: a truly exciting account of the way in which ancient DNA is making us rethink pre-history. Essential reading for everyone interested in the past.”

Eleanor Yates

Biddle, Martin, & Hayfield, Simon, *The Search for Winchester's Anglo-Saxon Minsters*, Archeopress Publishing Ltd/Winchester Excavations Committee, 2018 ISBN 978-1-78491-857-6

This latest instalment of the history of excavations in the City of Winchester is probably the most readable so far, focussing on the Anglo-Saxon minsters but also looking at their relationships with other contemporary buildings like the Royal Palace and Nunnaminster. Martin Biddle, ably assisted by editor in chief Clare Chapman and illustrated by Simon Hayfield, tells the story of Winchester's minsters and the work undertaken to rediscover and understand their story and this is very clearly explained. The book also contains a large number of



*The Anglo-Saxon Old Minster in its final form, completed 992-4 with the New Minster in the background
Simon Hayfield*

photographs, sections and drawings that further tells of the processes involved and the results. For historians and archaeologists alike, this book covers the subject deep enough to fully understand the Minsters story, but readable enough to appeal to those new to the area.

Steve Old

80 Years of Archaeology in Southampton: 1935 – 2015

Long-time friend of WARG and head of Southampton City Council's Archaeology Unit, Dr Andy Russel delivered the opening talk of our 2018-19 season. A key theme was that there were three precursors to modern Southampton: Roman Clausentum at the side of the River Itchen now the suburb of Bitterne; Saxon Hamwic in what is now the St Mary's area; and the medieval walled town. The beauty of this for modern archaeology is that – unlike Winchester – there isn't one period confusing another when excavating.

Perhaps unsurprisingly, antiquarians and archaeologists focused on Clausentum with an early publication around 1800 by Sir H C Englefield. The first serious excavations were by Col Rivers-Moore and Dudley Waterman in the early 1930s using schoolboy labour from King Edward School. Lettice MagNaghten, scion of one of the families who had built the modern docks, inherited Bitterne Manor and she continued excavations throughout the 1930s. Waterman's skill as an archaeologist found him in the Royal Engineers in WW2. He was renowned for drawing archaeological sections in the craters created by bombing in Southampton during the war.

Andy estimates 117 excavations in the Clausentum area. He postulates that, although listed in the 2nd century AD Roman Empire Book of the Road, it would have been the smallest defended town in Britain, and was more likely to have been a Roman Saxon shore fort like Porchester.

There were brief investigations into Saxon Hamwic by Edmund Kell in 1856. But the first modern excavations were by Dudley Waterman and M R Maitland-Muller in 1946-51. Further serious works was undertaken by Peter Addyman and David Hill of the recently founded University of Southampton from 1968 onwards. Many of us were astonished to see the excavations related to the St Mary's football stadium were dated 1999. Blimey, we thought that the move from The Dell was only a couple of years ago. Despite over 270 excavations in the area (of course mostly related to building development, not full research), Andy says there remain many questions to answer about Hamwic. When did it start? Was there a Jutish settlement before

the Saxon? Did it become a Viking settlement at the time of Cnut?

Andy's slide that drew the most reaction was a view of Southampton High Street showing extensive WW2 bomb damage. Looking beyond the horrors of war, this revealed so clearly the medieval burgh plot plan of the medieval walled city. It was Colin Platt, again from the university, in his excavations of 1962-69 who first started matching written records with the archaeological data. Excavations (using donated paint tins as find trays) yielded high status Saintonge type pottery from France, the Low Lands, Germany which proved the wealth and status of Southampton's medieval merchants. Excavations within the city walls have a 70% chance of yielding such finds, outside the city walls a 30% chance, and in Winchester a 5% chance, said Andy. Importantly, these excavations pre-dated many excavations in continental Europe and in 1975 enabled Platt to publish a chronology of pottery types which is still used today. It was these excavations and the related research by Platt that built the foundation for medieval studies – an area previously overlooked.



O G S Crawford's photo of the bombed Southampton High Street showing clearly the medieval tenement plots

Andy showed many pictures of past excavations revealing what was below modern department stores and road systems. The excavations are far too many to list, but one shot of the tidal drainage system for the 25 seater privy block next to the banqueting hall at Southampton Castle proved amusing.



How to drain a 25 seat privy

Southampton City Council appointed Alan Aberg as possibly the first local-authority funded archaeologist in 1958. Andy's fascinating, light-hearted but extremely informative talk illustrated that Aberg's inheritance is in wonderful hands.

Techer Jones

“Almost Closing The Circle”

Professor Martin Parsons Phd FRHistS.

In October, Professor Parsons concluded his series of talks to WARG with possibly his most impassioned and affecting presentation to date.

He explained that in this last talk to us he was going to highlight the present-day impact of 35 years of research. Reflecting on the fact that the evacuation of children from war zones was still happening, he now has the rare opportunity to look at how much research can impact on issues. He is also able to bring his research up to date so he can see how it can make a difference.

It's important because:

“When you are displaced, you always think about where you came from. It's a question that people who have not been displaced never have to ask.”

He then outlined the scope of the work he has done focusing on the following:

- British evacuees of WW2
- German children
- Finnish Sotalapsi (war child) Finnish children evacuated to other Nordic countries during the Russo-Finnish war (1939-40).
- Children of Dutch collaborators
- Service children – separation issues
- Advisor to NATO Chiefs of Staff
- Children in present war zones – Iraq, Afghanistan, Kashmir
- Syrian migrant children in Italy, Spain and Romania.

All this work has come at a personal cost to Professor Parsons because dealing with the vast numbers involved is comparatively easy – but when brought down to individuals it all becomes very real and disturbing.

In the silence that followed we saw details of individuals caught up in leaving current war zones – children aged from their early teens to 5 years, 3 years, 2 years, 10 months, 9 months and 5 weeks. A truly heart-breaking list, that many could not bear to watch.

The background to this was “The Cry” a requiem for a lost child by Adrian Snell. When this is played, there is the Naming – when the names of 20 children are read out.

The issues of migrant children need to be understood if we are to make a real difference to their lives. A group of five people were given EU funding to look at the present situation and decide how countries could help them when they came to their shores. Five reports were written, but authorities failed to listen when the group reported back.

Children affected by Migration (CAM) have a number of problems: some have experienced bereavement; some continue to experience loneliness, isolation (no language), hunger, visual trauma, uncertainty, homelessness and despair.

So, what is required? The main thing is to make sure that professionals in the front line have the necessary tools to work effectively.

- They should see these children as individuals, not just as “Migrant Children” in SEN settings. (They often are placed in Special Education Needs groups because they don’t have local language skills.)
- They must use their names.
- They should provide support and counseling. Many of these children have triggers that set off memories etc. – so they don’t deserve to be put out of classrooms.
- They should help them overcome distrust.
- They should let the children explain their journey in whatever way they can – visually etc.
- They must ensure that these children do not miss out on a childhood – they need to play.
- They should fulfill the child’s right to education – let them understand their rights in their own language.
- They should recognize the effects of trauma and provide a safe environment.
- They should provide psychological support where necessary – this is now happening in Iraq – but there is a problem in Italy where children are made to be victims.

There is no care without self-care. This is demanding work and no-one should underestimate the toll it can take on individuals.

Professor Parsons concluded his presentation by telling us about “Beyond Conflict” which is a mental health charity for conflict zones set up by a world class team of 5 professionals – setting out to conquer the crisis we can’t see with the aim of breaking the cycle of all the

problems.

Work was begun in Iraq and Afghanistan in 2018 and will continue in Kashmir and Nigeria in 2019. It is hoped that all countries become self-supporting within 3 years of the initial input.

Finally: The annual War Child Remembrance Service will take place on November 20th 2018 in Westminster Abbey.

Not surprisingly, some discussion followed this presentation.

1. **How many people are needed to make a difference?** We need nurses, teachers, psychologists etc. They need to understand the issues. There is no room for good amateurs – we need professional help.
2. **What about the visa difficulties for delivering the training?** There is Skype training in Iraq. Corruption in these countries is a problem.
3. **Have we got sufficient numbers of migrant children in the UK?** Probably not. We have no knowledge of the children we have here. Some came legally, others illegally. Some are given illegal documentation. Spain and Italy take more than us.
4. **Thank you. I can see and understand the impact it has had on a member of my family who was a Kenyan-Asian migrant.**
5. **I couldn't see much hope in this work.** The resilience in these children is amazing. We should use the skills they bring with them.

This was a hard-hitting, important presentation that gave us all much to think about and maybe to act upon.

Edwina Cole



Readers are encouraged to find out more by logging onto:
<https://beyond-conflict.co.uk>.

The Aqueduct & Tunnel of Eupalinus: Samos

Samian ware has nothing to do with the Greek Island of Samos but their story on the island is that Pythagoras had lived and taught there and in fact there is a town named after him with a splendid statue of him incorporating a right angle triangle 6 m high. The island is also famous for the ancient temple of Hera and the Mole or harbour. There is also a tunnel about one kilometre long which was constructed to bring water from an inland spring through the mountain behind to the city to enable the people to survive in times of invasion. Apart from the Catacombs in Jerusalem there were no earlier tunnels so the one in Samos is the first



Map of the Eupalinus tunnel



The Eupalinus tunnel (Public Domain)

real engineered one. The setting out of the tunnel had to be carried out to a high level of accuracy in both direction and level. It is suggested that a sighting tower was erected on the top of the mountain so that the line of the proposed tunnel could be determined using sight lines beyond its extent.

The achievement of ensuring that the levels would be the same at each end was by triangulating around the side of the mountain using probably a water level sight and pillars built up as necessary. The tunnel was constructed level but there was a graded channel along the eastern side for the water about 3m below floor dropping to 9m at the outlet. The tunnel became blocked and almost forgotten but Heroditus mentioned it in his writings and in 1853 searchers for the spring found the beginning of the water channel. In 1882 attempts to clear the channel were abandoned as being too difficult. However in 1884 a further investigation was enough to stir international interest.

When we were in Samos considerable work was going on to make the tunnel open to the public.

Brian Ward

Roaming in Ireland

We set out for a tour of Southern Ireland armed with a “Rough Guide to Ireland” and a detailed itinerary which we had drawn up to include sites of historic and prehistoric interest. The itinerary soon proved to be too limited because many more unpublicised sites of interest awaited us along almost every road or lane. We frequently had to turn back to investigate the brown signs which gave us no notice when indicating yet another abbey, castle, dolmen, museum etc.

An outstanding example of this was the huge boulder indicating the Celtic and Prehistoric Museum on the R559 near Dingle. It looks like a cluster of pink cottages by the roadside. Inside it is stuffed to the rafters with flint tools, bones, pottery, metalwork etc, and pride of place is accorded to Ireland’s only intact Woolly Mammoth skull. The Museum is built around a collection donated by a widely-travelled American who amassed specimens from all over the world.

In Dublin there are all sorts of museums. For example Leprechauns, Guinness, Heraldry, Natural History, as well as the outstanding National Archaeological Museum and the Book of Kells Exhibition in Trinity College, to name a few. Our stamina gave out after the National Museum and the Kells Exhibition but there is so much more to see in the city, for example the architecture, two cathedrals, churches, parks and the home of George Bernard Shaw.



Famine ship Dunbrody

Waterford is an interesting city, originally a Viking settlement. Its history is superbly depicted in the Waterford Treasures Museum. The Famine of course features large in Irish history. Nearby, the *Dunbrody*, moored at New Ross, is a reconstruction of the original ship which took thousands of immigrants to America, in appalling conditions, as depicted by the display on board.

Kilkenny town is worth a visit for its castle and the medieval buildings, including Rothe House. Following a vague trail of brown signs in the area, we also found the substantial ruins of Kells Priory (not

relating to the Kells Gospels). In fact, we 'came upon' many ruined abbeys, friaries and monasteries in this way. Of particular interest is Glendalough monastery in the Wicklow Mountains. It was founded by St Kevin and developed in the medieval period into a "monastic city", despite earlier attacks by Vikings. We also visited Clonmacnois, a major monastic complex in Offaly, the burial place of Irish royalty. In our travels we came across St. Mangan's Shrine in St. Mangan's Church, Boher. It is the largest Medieval reliquary in Ireland, uniquely



St. Mangan's Shrine

decorated.

Irish history features constant attacks by the Vikings, the English and by neighbouring Irish clans. Hence the many castles dotted around the country. Including Cahir Castle, Ross Castle and Trim Castle, one of the largest.



Ross Castle

The countryside is littered with prehistoric sites, such as standing stones, hut circles and burial mounds.

Newgrange and Knowth burial mounds, situated in an important prehistoric landscape near Dublin, are stunning! There is a Visitor Centre which presents an informative background to the site. The Neolithic landscape at Ceide Fields in County Mayo is largely covered in bog, but the excellent Visitor Centre provides guided tours around the field systems which have been uncovered. It was interesting to



Passage tomb at Newgrange



Beehive huts

population, which struggled to exist by farming and fishing. To attend church involved travelling by boat to the mainland. They were isolated during bad weather. The Blasket Heritage Centre has displays illustrating their way of life and biographies of some of the inhabitants.

We visited several stately homes mostly dating to the 18th Century, and were particularly impressed by Russborough House, Wicklow, and Malahide, near Dublin, both surrounded by beautifully laid out estates.

We drove through some beautiful and varied countryside: the Killarney Lakes, Wicklow Hills and the coast of County Mayo. The roads are in excellent condition and traffic light, apart from Dublin. All the road signage – in fact all written matter - is in Gaelic as well as English. The facilities everywhere we went were first-class, and the natives were friendly and helpful. We bought a Heritage Ticket at the beginning of our tour and this allowed us free entry into the places run by Irish Heritage. Our accommodation was booked by an Irish Travel Agency and was consistently good.

We returned home at the end of two weeks, feeling exhausted, and aware that we had only scratched the surface of Ireland's rich heritage.

Pat Fenwick

see peat-cutting still being carried out today, although using modern methods.

The Dingle Peninsula, in the west, is rich in Celtic remains - ring forts, beehive huts, oratories and stone crosses. The coastline is ruggedly beautiful.

Off the Dingle coast are the Blasket Islands inhabited, until 1953/54, by a fluctuating



Brownshill Dolmen, Near Carlow

Julia's Jottings

Unexpected Find

Of all the things archaeologists might find, ancient food is not normally one of them. However crumbs from a flatbread thought to be 14,400 years old have been found in Jordan's Black Desert. Even if that wasn't amazing enough the fact that this date is about 4000 earlier than the believed beginnings of agriculture is fairly stunning. Bearing in mind that bread-making is very labour intensive – gathering the corn, de-husking it, grinding it, kneading the dough etc etc – it's always been believed that bread didn't really exist till the time of settled Neolithic societies but these crumbs are the products of the Natufian hunter-gatherers who lived in Jordan and Israel much earlier.

According to the New Testament – well, Matthew 4.4 actually - Man may not live by bread alone, but it would appear that prehistoric Man was keen on a bit of bread to go with his meat and veg.

A Migrant Story

A most apposite study, given all the insecurities surrounding Brexit, on the DNA taken from the skeletal remains of the Beaker people show that around 4,500 years ago a wave of these immigrants changed Britain forever by introducing their new customs, new burial practices and of course their distinctive bell-shaped pottery. Until fairly recent times the very existence of these people, who hailed from central Europe and as far East as the Steppes, has been questioned and archaeologists have been unable to agree whether their beautiful and obviously very treasured pottery was a fashion spread by trade and imitation or a culture diffused by migration. Samples from more than 400 skeletons from all across Europe have shown that the Beaker people almost totally replaced earlier populations, including in Britain. Apparently the British samples of 155 remains of people living between 3000 and 6000 years ago show that



The fireplace where the bread was found is in the middle.

Photo: Alexis Pantos



Amesbury Archer
Wessex Archaeology

their DNA was completely different to people from earlier periods.

Perhaps our most famous Beaker bod is the Amesbury Archer from around 2300BC, buried with no fewer than 5 beakers, gold hair ornaments, an archery wrist guard and a dagger. Isotopes in his teeth show he came from near Switzerland. However it remains a puzzle as to what happened to the pre-Beaker peoples, who were capable of the most amazing communal projects such as the building of Stonehenge and Silbury Hill. Theories abound as to whether they declined in population due to climate change or an imported epidemic.

We may never know!

The Real Wolf Hall

I can't think of any of us who didn't thoroughly enjoy the recent TV adaptation of Hilary Mantel's *Wolf Hall*, partially filmed here in Winchester, so I think the discovery of the remains of the real *Wolf Hall* in Burbage, Wiltshire might provoke some interest. The Tudor home of the Seymours has seen the light of day 500 years after it was razed to the ground, having become derelict only 40 years after it was built. The intervening years have meant that the site was lost and hidden till a historian researching the Savernake Forest approached the family whose grounds enclose the site to attempt to find the original Hall. Known to have been a grand house where Henry VIII visited with Anne Boleyn and subsequently met Jane Seymour there, an extensive set of tunnels pointed to the position of the site. Walk-through brick-built sewers were unknown till Henry's time so the 140 yards of them indicated a very special building. Other features discovered are the foundations of 2 hexagonal towers, several large rooms and ornate tiles that must have felt Henry's heavy tread.

The house was built in the early 1530s with a loan from Henry of about £2400 – say £1m today – and brokered by Thomas Cromwell. It was built rapidly to accommodate Henry and Anne in 1535 and it was probably then that Henry's roving eye was noticed by Cromwell and the Seymours.

Jane's father Sir John Seymour was warden of the royal

hunting forest of Savernake, hence the hasty building of the Hall to accommodate the King and his current wife. The derelict house was finally demolished in 1723 and there are no known pictures of how it looked.

Tread Carefully

I suggest you tread carefully next summer when you're swimming



in a lake, possibly in Sweden, and don't cut your feet to ribbons.

Jonkoping County Museum

An 8 year old girl found a sword, dated at about 1500 years old, when she was playing in a lake close to her family's holiday home in Jonkoping County. The local museum is now housing the sword which is apparently extremely well-preserved. Further feet and no doubt hands were used to find a 3rd century brooch and there are hopes of further finds to come.

A Message in a Bottle

Whilst throwing rubbish into the sea – or anywhere, come to that – is not to be encouraged, a gin bottle was thrown overboard from the German sailing ship *Paula* in 1886 as it crossed the Indian Ocean and has been recovered on a Western Australia beach. Apparently in 1886 the German naval authorities were conducting experiments involving thousands of bottles to track ocean currents. The experiments lasted nearly 70 years and every bottle contained a slip of paper with the date, the name of the ship and its coordinates. The maritime records show that on June 12 a bottle was thrown from the ship and has patiently awaited discovery since then. Over 660 bottles with similar messages have been found over the years but the one before this was found in 1934 so it's possible there might be more awaiting a curious beachcomber!

Underwater discoveries

These days there seems to be a lot of new goodies being found under water – an excellent place for stone to stay unaffected for many centuries. One of the most recent is the remains of Corinth's ancient harbour at Lechaion, showing yet again how beautiful Roman engineering and building were. Lechaion was the port which

connected the ancient city of Corinth to the Mediterranean with all its trade networks. However the Romans destroyed the city in 146BC only to rebuild it under Julius Caesar in 44BC. Some of the massive stone blocks used to create the harbour basins weigh in at around 5 tons each and as you'd expect are perfect in shape as well as showing an impressive engineering ability. Wood posts have been preserved in the silt as well as seeds, bones, anchors, fish hooks and part of a wooden pulley. Other finds include ceramics originating from Italy, Turkey and Tunisia.

Possibly even more amazing has been the uncovering of a 23 metre shipwreck found in the Black Sea – it's thought to be more than 2,400 years old and has been kept in excellent condition by the lack of oxygen at such a deep level. The ship is an almost exact copy of the ships only previously seen on ancient Greek pottery and appears to be very similar to the one that Odysseus sailed around and about in. The shipwreck will remain at the bottom of the Black Sea but visit the British Museum to view the Siren Vase if you want to know what it looks like!



*Black Sea Maritime
Archaeological Project*

UK's Biggest Excavation Ever!

Whatever one might think of the HS2 rail link currently being prepared for forcing its way through our countryside from London northwards, it has provided a wonderful excuse for archaeological investigations throughout that huge area. More than 60 separate digs cover the 150 mile route and have so far revealed a pre-historic hunter-gatherer site on London's outskirts, a War of the Roses battlefield in Northamptonshire, a Romano-British town near Aylesbury and an Iron Age settlement in Staffordshire. The finds on these sites are a mixture of stuff from Man's earliest days till Victorian times with 2 time capsules containing newspapers, calling cards and leaflets promoting temperance!

Over 1000 archaeologists, bone specialists, scientists and conservators will be doing their thing until 2020, making this not just UK's largest dig but possibly also Europe's. LiDAR and ground-penetrating geophysics carried out on land about the size of 14,000 footie pitches have helped uncover evidence of herds of horses and reindeer

during the early Mesolithic period (from 11,000 – 8,000 BC) and of the humans who occupied the area from that period until the Medieval era.

This is a story which will keep us fully interested for the next 2 years so keep an eye out for further revelations and I'll try to update things in the next Newsletter.

A Massive Success

One of the reasons I find archaeology so thrilling and gratifying is that it gives us all a chance to connect with our past in all its diversity and beauty. No man can live truly without knowing from where he comes, the influences and happenings that have created his landscape



One of three votive cones being returned to Iraq. They are inscribed in ancient cuneiform script which helped British Museum experts identify them as originating from the site at Tello.

and his history. So I feel a huge sense of pleasure to know that the British Museum managed to trace the provenance of a collection of 5,000 year old artefacts seized by the police from a London dealer. The 8 small pieces had no indication as to where they'd come from but the experts could read the cuneiform inscriptions and identify their original site as Tello, ancient Girsu, in southern Iraq. This earliest form of true written language named the Sumerian king who'd had them made and for which god and which temple. The pieces included a tiny marble amulet of a bull as well as carved seal stones and have been officially presented to the Iraqi ambassador for return to their country. Iraq has had an appalling few decades and much of its museums and sites were systematically looted, so this small story is warming and welcome.

More on Lawrence of Arabia

Our talk from Colin Van Geffen back in May gave us a good portrait of this enigmatic and extraordinary man but spent little time dwelling on the fact that Lawrence had been a very competent archaeologist in the Middle East prior to WW1 and that that experience

had helped shape him for his later military and political roles in the area. His interests had primarily been the Crusaders and the Hittites and his researches were contributable to the resolution of several important issues in Biblical archaeology.

A fascinating and comprehensive account of Lawrence's life is to be found here:

<https://www.biblicalarchaeology.org/daily/archaeology-today/archaeologists-biblical-scholars-works/lawrence-of-arabia-as-archaeologist/>

More wonders of the Great Pyramid at Giza

As someone who's been lucky enough to visit Giza and walk up into one of its lower internal "rooms", I'm fascinated to hear that a massive cavity of around 30m in length lying above the grand gallery has been discovered by scientists using sensors that detect particles called muons. All too technical for me so if you're keen to know what they are you'll have to Google the word! However the research indicates that the cavity may be similar in height and width to the grand gallery ie nearly 8m high and 1m wide.

Of course the Pyramids have long ago been robbed out but they still fascinate us with their amazing size and the way they were built, and give us much to wonder about the abilities of those people so many millennia ago.

Even More Exciting News from Windsor

This town has featured rather heavily in our news this year but to me the most important news to come from this Berkshire area is the



*Neolithic causewayed enclosure
Wessex Archaeology*

discovery of a complete Neolithic causewayed enclosure. Less than 2 miles from the royal castle, this monument dates from 5500 years ago and is one of the earliest known examples of monument-building in our country. The ceremonial gathering place is composed of a series of encircling ditches

and artificial boundaries with gap entrances. Large quantities of animal bone, decorated pottery sherds, stone axes, fine leaf-shaped flint arrowheads, serrated blades and grinding stones are among the extensive finds. The site is near a Datchet sand and gravel quarry and as a result Wessex Archaeology will be able to excavate virtually the whole site. The monument is most likely oval in shape with a perimeter of about 500 metres (1649 ft to you and me) and it's possible that it was only seasonally occupied, probably used for ceremonial feasting, social obligations and the exchange of goods. The wide variety of animal bones – not just the sheep and pigs but also red and roe deer and fox – suggests the changeover from hunter-gathering to farming and pottery-making. It's believed that this site has been used by humans for gatherings since the last ice age ie around 12,000 years.

Results of a very hot summer

Whether or not one enjoys the extremely long hot dry period we had back in the summer, starting in April, it's excellent news for helping us to find evidence of our early history by the cropmarks it reveals. Wales has been particularly well revealed, with the footprint of prehistoric



Parchmarks of Roman buildings showing at Caerhun Roman fort in the Conwy Valley (Crown Copyright RCAHMW)

farms, and Roman forts and villas amongst other sites being brought to the archaeologists' notice. Of course whether or not it's decided to excavate any of these sites remains to be seen but it adds to our knowledge overall. County Meath in Ireland has revealed a henge in a field close to other known Neolithic features so that this area near the River Boyne has revealed 7 sites over a one mile stretch, making it the most dense concentration of these monuments anywhere in the world.

Doubtless the same thing will have been happening here in England and, who knows, perhaps our own Chris Sellen will have discovered something previously unknown when he was flying over our area! But on the whole it's the modern use of drones that's mostly responsible for discoveries.

Two new Winchester Books.

These are not reviews but just announcements of publications that are of Winchester interest.

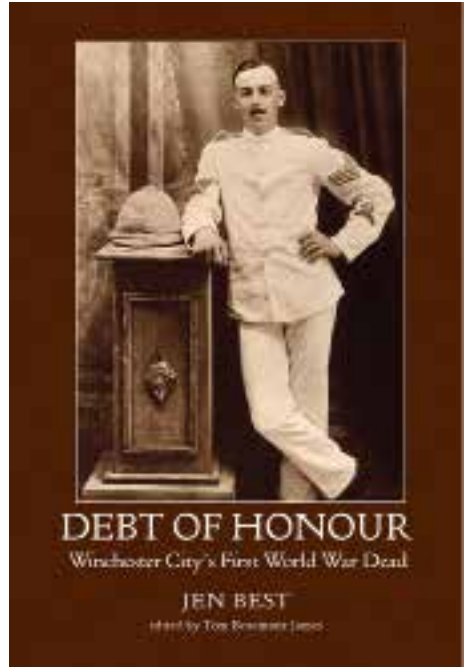
Best, Jen. *Debt of Honour: Winchester City's First World War Dead*, Hob Nob Press, 2018

Winchester city men served and died in all three services and in all theatres of war in the Great War. They joined a wide range of units from home and the colonies. However, they have no engraved memorial of their names, unlike those from other towns and villages in Hampshire. Why? Through a brief introduction and reconstructed biographies under their names and their Winchester addresses this book commemorates their sacrifice, repaying a 'Debt of Honour' to these forgotten men a century on. The memorial biographies are accompanied by a reprint of the War Service Register for the city of Winchester which was a record published by the city in 1921 and believed to be a full record of those who served and died.

It is available from P and G Wells in College Street and in the Winchester University Bookshop, also on Amazon.

Martin, Judith *Thomas Micklam 1847 – 1898: Architect, Surveyor, Drainage Engineer, Councillor - "Not quite a gentleman"?*, Hampshire Field Club, 2018, (Hampshire Papers, Series 2 No 4.)

Architect, surveyor, latterly drainage engineer, even auctioneer, with no evidence of any official training in any of these, between about 1878 and 1893 Thomas Micklam built an astonishing number and range



of buildings in Winchester, most of which survive and are mainly low-key but nicely detailed ‘mechanics’ houses across the whole of the city, as well as several small-scale industrial buildings, a handful of villas and a few extensions to earlier gentry houses. Despite this, he remains almost entirely unknown.

From the building plans and other documents in the Hampshire Record Office, Judith Martin has assembled a fascinating story. If you live in: Canon Street, Christchurch Road, Clifton House, Colebrook Street, Compton Road, Elm Road, Garfield Terrace, Garnett Terrace, Garnett Villas, Greenhill Road,

Hamilton Terrace, Hyde Abbey Road, Lower Brook Street, Lower Stockbridge Road, Middle Brook Street, North View, St John Street, Wales Street , Water Lane , Waverley Terrace or Western Road, your house may have been designed by Micklam and may be discussed in

this volume.

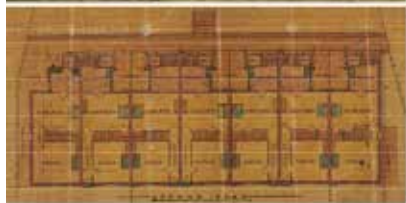
Available from Publication Sales at the Hampshire Field Club. (publications@hantsfieldclub.org.uk) for £8 plus £2p&p.

HAMPSHIRE PAPERS (SERIES 2)

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Thomas Micklam 1847 - 1898. Architect, Surveyor, Drainage Engineer, Councillor - "Not quite a gentleman?"

Judith Martin



Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society



June Lloyd Lecture 2019:

Round mounds and mega-monuments

The 2019 June Lloyd lecturer is at 7.30pm on Friday February 22nd at the Winchester Guildhall. The lecturer is Dr Jim Leary. Jim completed a BA in Archaeology at the University of Cardiff in 1998 and the same year joined Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd in London. In 2005 he moved across to the Research Department at what was then English Heritage as 'Archaeologist (Prehistory)', conducting major excavations into Silbury Hill in 2007 and 2008, as well as in Pewsey Vale. Alongside this, between 2007 and 2013 he undertook a part-time PhD at Manchester, which looked at



perceptions of and responses to sea-level rise in the Mesolithic. In 2012 Jim took a sabbatical to be the 'Field Archaeologist in Residence' at the McDonald Institute, University of Cambridge, and then left in 2013 to join the University of Reading as the Director of the Archaeology Field School, conducting major excavations in Wiltshire. He joined the University of York as Lecturer in Field Archaeology in 2018.

His lecture will give an overview of the Leverhulme Trust-funded project Extending Histories: From Medieval Mottes to Prehistoric Round Mounds, which aimed to discover the history of monumental mounds in the English landscape. The lecture will bring together evidence from detailed analytical earthwork survey, geoarchaeological techniques and a comprehensive dating programme to determine the date of construction, sequence of development and environmental context of 20 castle mottes from across England.

As part of the project it was discovered that a number of Norman Castle Mottes were reusing prehistoric mounds.

An application form is enclosed in this newsletter.

WARG Calendar

2018

Dec 10th **Jane Potter:** Wilfred Owen

2019

Jan. 14th **New Year Party**

Feb. 11th **Colin Van Geffen:** Lucy Houston

Feb. 22nd **June Lloyd Lecture: Jim Leary:** Round mounds and mega-monuments

Mar. 11th **Tony King:** Leptis Magna, Cyrene & the Roman cities of Libya

April 8th **Big Dig Update**

May 13th **Charles Harris:** Power by Design – how Hitler dictated the brand

Sept. 9th **Jeremy Clutterbuck:** The Aldi Site near Andover

Oct. 14th **AGM**

Julie Adams: Green Men in Winchester Cathedral

Nov. 11th **Alex Lewis:** 1889 – Trade & Tragedy in a West Country seaport

Dec. 9th **Andy Manning:** The Amesbury Archer & the Boscombe Bowmen



Meetings

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.

New Year Party

It's that time of year again when we think about our wonderful new year's party, this is being held on 14th January 2019 at Hampshire Record Office at 7.30.

There will be the usual surprise guest speaker(s) and the usual spread of food and drink. The drink, crockery, cutlery and serviettes will be supplied by the committee but we ask that you bring enough food to feed no more than two people. The usual suggestions apply, popular are bite size savouries like mini pizza, pork pie, quiche, sausage rolls, sausages, crisps, cheese chunks, sandwiches, mini scotch eggs, small tomatoes and vegetable crudités. NO DIPS PLEASE, these are always left and cause issues when trying to dispose of them! Some sweet items like grapes, mini cakes and biscuits are welcome but not too many as most people appear to have had enough by this time. If you are supplying food with possible allergens, or aimed at a specific diet, could you please supply a label, if bought then the original label will do.

The cost this year will be £3.00 per head to cover the extra room hire. If you are planning on coming please let WARG secretary Maureen (secretary@warg.org.uk or 07867 935583) know about a week in advance so we can get a rough idea of numbers for drinks and who is bringing what.

Steve Old



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