



Newsletter

Autumn 2019

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Newsletter Editor's Farewell

This is my last edition as editor of the WARG Newsletter. From now on Janet Backhouse will be Publications Officer. Please send all your news and articles to her at newsletter@warg.org.uk.

I have enjoyed producing and evolving the Newsletter and have learned a lot from your contributions. I must pay a special tribute to the scribes who produce the reports of meetings and visits that allow those who aren't able to be present to share the events.

Good luck to you all.

Dick Selwood



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

Chairman's notes



This year has been a very busy one with the WARG roadshow attending the St Cross Fete, Salisbury Festival of Archaeology, Winchester Festival of Archaeology and the St Cross Heritage Open Day. Thank you to all the members who volunteered to help at these events. There will be more details of these events in a later article.

Also, a great big "Thank You" goes out to all those members who responded to our call to

arms. We were very close to not having enough committee members or officers to keep WARG going, so close it gave me sleepless nights wondering if we would pull through. I am happy to announce that not only have we some really superb new committee members but we have also had some members step up to the plate and take on officer roles. Everything is looking set fair for the foreseeable future.

A big thank you goes to our retiring committee members and officers for their fantastic service over the years. There is no doubt in my mind that you have made WARG the successful society it is today.

On to other matters, we have had our "Big Dig" this year and we returned to Barton Stacey to answer the questions thrown up after last year's dig. Firstly, is that the end wall of a manor house I see? Without stealing the dig committee's thunder, it appears not! However, it is the end wall of a chapel that would have been associated with the manor house site. Further details on this will appear later once all the analysis has been done.

The dig this year was again well patronised, with the addition of about eight University of Winchester students being supervised by Dave Ashby as part of their course. It is hoped this relationship between WARG and the University will become stronger over the next few years.

The summer visits were also very successful, with the visits to Butser Farm and Fort Cumberland, and the Winchester Lockburn walk with afternoon tea being well attended and I think well appreciated by all. If you have any ideas for local places to visit next year, please drop us an email, letter or phone call.

AGM and New Committee

On 14th October we held our AGM at the Hampshire Record Office and it was fairly well attended. After reports from the Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary that showed the society is in a healthy financial condition but there are some large sums to be spent over the next few years on publishing the dig results we have in hand, we went on to elect your committee.

Over the last few months there had been several resignations/retirements from the committee, namely Mary Parker, Dick Selwood and Stephen Taylor. This left the committee in an untenable position which meant WARG could have folded, however, after talking to some members and sending out a plea, we have managed to get the committee up to a very healthy strength.

At the AGM these new members were voted into post without any opposition and these are now in post. So, your new committee is as follows.

Steve Old – Chair – St Cross Liaison - Outreach

Maureen O'Connor – Secretary

Andy King – Treasurer

Stuart Rippon – Membership Secretary

Janet Backhouse – Committee - Publications Officer

Tracey Matthews – Committee - Winchester City Archaeology

David Ashby – Committee - Winchester University

David Spurling – Committee – Hyde900

Maisie Marshall – Committee – Dig Committee Chair

Rick Sharp – Committee

Kim Batten – Committee

Kate Robinson – Committee

Tracey Pontin – Committee

*Steve Old
Chairman*

Butser Ancient Farm Visit Monday 10th June 2019

This was my first visit to Butser Ancient Farm and I arrived with a completely open mind as to what I would find. The weather was certainly not what any of us thought it would be for our beautiful drive through the Meon Valley on a June evening; near torrential rain.

We were welcomed by the lead archaeologist who guided us first to a Neolithic rectangular hall originating from Anglesey. The reconstruction plan was minimal, consisting merely of a rectangular pattern of post holes, some 3-4 inches across, forming the outside, with other similar sized post holes on the inside. Approximately 30 ft by 15 ft and constructed of wattle and daub using cow dung; apparently the best additive according to the recent on-site experiments; the building had just one entrance with a thatched roof and flattened earth floor.

A much smaller building from the same site, of unknown purpose, had an unusual snail shell like entrance which 'curled' into a round room, the aerial view of which would give the appearance of a comma.

We then entered a section containing a series of Iron Age round houses. The two we viewed were based on the post hole and wood shadows as those found at the much excavated Danebury Iron Age hill fort near Stockbridge. The internal circle of large trunks was surrounded by an outer 6 ft deep ring of a 1 ft high wooden ledge against the wattle and daub wall topped with a thatched roof. The chalk floor made a very stable underfoot surface. Above the central fire place were many blackened beams and the 50 ft diameter gave the room a spacious



Roman Villa
© Butser Ancient Farm Ltd

feeling with the east facing door aligned to catch the morning sun. Thereafter the designated areas, such as spinning, cooking, leisure and sleeping, were positioned to benefit from the clockwise movement of the sun. The walls of the second house were made of oak planks. Otherwise both buildings were in all aspects similar.

We moved into the Roman era with a reconstruction of the Sparsholt Roman Villa; a white building with terracotta roof. The original roof was made with various coloured tiles; however, this was not allowed due to local planning restrictions! The villa contained two public rooms and two family rooms. A hypocaust, based on the original design, heated another room at the end of the building. When tried out last year, this hypocaust took 2 days to warm up to 17°C and there was little transfer of heat to the other rooms. Last year a copy of the mosaic flooring, the original of which is now in Winchester museum, was laid in the central main meeting room. This had taken the site staff many patient hours.



Saxon Farmhouse
© Butser Ancient Farm Ltd

Coming into Saxon times, a thatch roofed Saxon farmhouse, with wattle and daub walls between wooden uprights, was erected based on the floor plan of an early Saxon dwelling previously situated on a nearby hill. The tongue and groove joints were firmly held in place with wooden pins while the only nails used were in the floorboards. This had a familiar and homely feel.

Although the wet weather hampered much further discussion about what happens externally, we learnt that the site also trials different plants and cereals. This helps increase knowledge in areas such nutrition, diet, clothing, utensils, and construction tools. As an example, the cereals grown would have had much longer stems than today, in order to be more economic and effective for thatched roofing.

The site is a continuing experiment and relies on skilful, determined and imaginative archaeologists and other talented staff who often work with minimal plans, information and facts. Understandably this is trial and error and failures occur from time to time. The whole experience offers a very worthwhile and different view on archaeology and brings life and reality to our past. May it inspire generations to come.

Graham Inskip

WARG Roadshow 2019 Report

The WARG team once again hit the road this summer with our travelling display, highlighting our work, encouraging people to get involved and generally delivering fun and interest to the public both in Winchester and further afield.

St Cross Summer Fete



Our first outing was to the St Cross Summer Fete. It was a really hot day but this did not deter the visitors who flocked in. Our gazebo was located near to the church and also close to the ice cream van! We had a lot of interest in our display about the St Cross digs we undertook and especially the one on the bowling green. Our finds handling was also very popular with people of

all ages. We even managed to “photo-bomb” and get a great picture of our stand in the Hampshire Chronicle.

Salisbury Festival of Archaeology

Our next event was the Salisbury Festival of Archaeology, this being the fourth year we had been invited. This event was over two days and again it was extremely hot. We had the great fortune to be given a spot near the back door of Salisbury Museum which was in the shadow of the building for part of the day, making it a little bit cooler. This event was the first time



we used our new table covers with the WARG logo and we had lots of comments about how “professional” it looked.

The stand was briefly visited by Alex Langlands and Mary-Anne Ochota, Mary-Anne using our stand for part of her streaming

video presentation to her fan group. We had a steady stream of very interested visitors and we spoke to people from all over the UK and beyond, telling our story and encouraging people to get involved in local history and archaeology. It was another successful day. Salisbury Museum were very happy with our presence once again.

Winchester Festival of Archaeology

A week later we were at the inaugural Winchester Festival of Archaeology, an event held at the Winchester Discovery Centre, with the focus on “beneath our feet”. This event was put together with a great deal of input from our very own Dick Selwood and involved talks, stands and geophysics at Oram’s Arbour. It was another hot day and the room was very busy for most of the day. Overall the day was a great success and we are looking forward to this becoming a fixture in the calendar.

Hospital of St Cross Hospital Heritage Open Day

The final event of the summer was the Hospital of St Cross Heritage Open Day where we were once again given the run of the



of Brethren’s Hall for our display of St Cross archaeology and helped answer questions about the St Cross Hospital buildings and history. Once again, we had a very busy day, spoke to many people, and passed on our enthusiasm for the history and archaeology of the Winchester area.



We are keen to keep

spreading the word and look forward to another season of road shows next year. We cannot do it without the volunteers who help set up, take down, speak to the public and generally get involved. Many thanks to all of you who volunteered this year, I hope you enjoyed it too.

Hyde900 Heritage Open Day launch event

While not a WARG roadshow, WARG was invited by Hyde900 along with other groups and individuals to the Winchester Museum for an evening event on the 18th September to launch this year's Heritage Open Days in Winchester but also to thank individuals and groups who have helped in the Hyde900 community digs over the years.

It was a good opportunity to meet with the Hyde householders and to look at the finds uncovered in their gardens. WARG has, over the years, supplied equipment, expertise and supervisors to the Hyde900 group in return for a donation to our funds, however, it has also been a great experience for WARG members to get involved in. WARG was thanked for their part in making these community digs such a success.

Steve Old



The Execution Cemetery at the Aldi Site, Weyhill, Andover

Jeremy Clutterbuck is an osteoarchaeologist and a Project Officer for Cotswold Archaeology. He was also, for 14 years, lead singer with a group called Rock of Ages. Yes, really. Jeremy said that presenting helps him toward a deeper insight into his field of study so he welcomed the opportunity to deliver this talk to WARG. on 9th September 2019.

Cotswold Archaeology's excavation of the site was funded by the supermarket Aldi, in accordance with the requirement for commercial archaeology to be funded by the developer. It had not previously been known that the cemetery existed. Jeremy said that, as an osteoarchaeologist, he was very excited at the discovery of a graveyard containing over 124 bodies but he was determined to stay calm. Time was short as the developer was eager to proceed with the building of the store.

According to Andrew Reynolds, an authority on execution sites,

the location of the graveyard exhibits the key characteristics of an execution cemetery:-

- A confluence of different boundaries, straddling the route of the Roman Road from Silchester to Old Sarum, bisected by the ancient Harroway ridgeway and lying on the boundary of both the Hundred – the Anglo-Saxon administrative unit – and the Parish. The site overlooks the river Anton.
- Evidence of a long history of occupation in the area.
- It is thought that Weyhill may have been the location of a pre-Christian worship site, an important place to visit, in a prominent position.
- Historically, kings had come with their entire retinues to meet at Andover and it is possible that justice was carried out during those visits.

In modern times only ploughed fields could be seen but latterly a garage was built on the site. Amazingly, said Jeremy, “the best stuff survived”.



Skeletal remains at Weyhill
© Cotswold Archaeology

The skeletal remains in the graveyard were carefully analysed and the group was found to be “very unusual indeed”. Where sex could be determined, all the individuals were adult males and were under thirty-five when they died. This is not what would be expected of a ‘typical’ cemetery but is consistent with the profile of an execution cemetery. Further evidence for the nature of the site came from the injuries sustained

by many of the individuals which strongly suggested that they had been executed. Several had cut marks on their necks or had been decapitated, with the skull placed separately within the grave. One man had his hands cut off at the wrist and placed underneath his body, whilst others had their hands tied together and fractures suggesting death by hanging. Some graves were too small for the skeletons placed within them, and they were crammed into the space. A skeleton was found with a sheep placed above it.

A programme of radiocarbon dating suggests that the cemetery was in use for an unusually long period of time. Most of the individuals were buried between the 9th and 12th centuries AD and one burial appears to have been as late as the 13th or 14th centuries. Andover is the only execution graveyard site where such longevity exists and it has the largest number of executions so far known. This argues for a stability which enabled such continuity to exist. Even during times of upheaval, the judicial process continued, overseen by shire-reeves, or sheriffs. Jeremy revealed that the reigning monarchs ranged from Egbert (802 – 839) to Edward III (1327 – 1377). Isotopic analysis shows that the bodies were all of local people, except one who may have been of Nordic origin. Early Anglo-Saxon deviant burial sites formed part of larger graveyards but by the time of the Weyhill burials they were kept separate.

Evidence of gallows has been found and there are local references to a “Hangman’s Field” Very few artefacts were recovered from the cemetery. A few buckles were found and a silver coin of Aethelred II (Aethelred the Unready) was clutched in the hand of one skeleton which had been buried lying face down, apparently tossed into the grave.

The discovery of this site is the beginning of a search for documentary evidence to shed light on the judicial system that gave rise to this disturbing cemetery. There is a similar site at Stockbridge Down and it is hoped to carry out further excavations there. A monograph is to be published in February 2020 and a programme about the Weyhill site is to be aired on Channel 4.

Whilst the subject matter was extremely grim, Jeremy’s clear and well-informed delivery made this an extremely interesting talk.

Iris Gould



*A silver coin of Aethelred II (Aethelred the Unready)
© Cotswold Archaeology*

Castles and Chips

Anyone who has travelled through the Welsh Marches and Black Country will know they are as different as chalk and cheese. It was with the intention to visit some old places and some not so old places that we set off on a short tour of this diverse area.

We travelled in a meandering way up country heading towards Ironbridge in Shropshire, this was our base for a few days but not our main focus, we “did” this area last year. On our way we went through Avebury and stopped for lunch among the stones. Before reaching our hotel, we had time to visit Buildwas Abbey, which is located on the Much Wenlock road out of Ironbridge/Coalbrookdale.



*Buildwas Abbey
(Steve Old)*

The Abbey is an unmanned and free to enter site run by English Heritage. Although you have access to the majority of the standing walls and buildings on the site, there are some parts which lie on an adjacent site owned privately where there is no right of access, in fact access is distinctly discouraged by the land owner. The remains of this Cistercian abbey are quite well

preserved and there are crypts and tiled floors to explore that give a hint as to how it looked in better days. The quiet setting and lost grandeur of the buildings creates a reflective atmosphere, it is just a pleasant experience to sit quietly amongst the ruins.

On returning to Ironbridge we walked through the village to the bridge, something we felt we needed to do as last year it was shrouded in scaffolding and plastic sheets. Seeing this marvel of Georgian technology now once more revealed was awe inspiring.

Next day we set off early to get to Dudley and the Black Country living museum, we had been last year but there were parts we missed, were closed for refurbishment or needed to experience again. We headed straight for the coal mine which we missed last year as it was closed due to flooding. This was quite an experience as the tour is

carried out using hand held lights with the power of one candle, shared between three people, just as the miners would have experienced.

The whole site is a great recreation of a town through various ages using real buildings moved to the site from all over the Black Country. We were drawn to one in particular, the Bottle & Glass Inn. This part of the site had been used recently in the film "Stan & Ollie" starring Steve Coogan and it was great to see that when seen on screen it is the same as in real life, no additions or masking.



*Bottle & Glass Inn
(Steve Old)*

The one thing that draws people in to the Black Country Living Museum is the 1920's fish and chip shop, using methods and equipment that date from that period and cooking all the fish and chips in beef dripping. There is always a very long queue to buy from here, from mid-morning to mid-afternoon. The fish is fantastic and the chips are equal to it, all in all an historic experience worth the trip.

The next day we wended our way back home, but did so via Stokesay Castle in Shropshire. This English Heritage site is a weird mixture of buildings and styles, not conforming to any other site I have visited in shape or layout. It is really a moated manor house, the moat is now drained, that has had a north and south tower bolted on for

defensive purposes at different times, by different builders in different materials.



*Stokesay Castle
(Steve Old)*

The gatehouse is fully of a half-timbered construction and painted a stunning yellow, the domestic quarters are also of half-timbered construction but built on and over the stone curtain wall in places, creating a typically Tudor overshoot, over the moat! If you cannot manage stairs this

is not the place for you, there are lots of them and many are in quite worn condition. The view from the roof of the South Tower is amazing.

One thing more to mention about the Stokesay Castle site is the newly refurbished café which is located on the approach to the Castle. The food was excellent and it was beautifully decorated. As with most National Trust and English Heritage sites, you do pay just a little more for your food and drink, however, in surroundings like this you don't mind.

That ended our little tour other than a quick visit to Cricklade on the way back for refreshments and a quick tour of this Saxon town. The town itself, like many others of a similar size, looked a bit down at heel with several empty shops and closed down eateries but you could see through this to the town's Saxon layout and the importance this defensive and offensive "Burh" was to the Saxons, especially for Alfred in his fight against the Vikings.

Now just time to unpack.

Steve Old



In Search of the Lockburn

Our two groups embarking on this walk were ably led by Winchester Tourist Guides and WARG members Clare Dixon and Karen Dagwell and I take my hat off to them for succeeding so well in steering us along the course of this complicated and elusive stream, with its long history and its habit of disappearing underground and popping up unexpectedly, sometimes under another name. It felt more like a quest than a guided walk. We were lucky that the weather had been so dry as it could have been quite a muddy experience.

The question posed was, were we in search of one Lockburn or three? The first Lockburn we investigated was created as a drainage channel and water supply for the monastic buildings of the Cathedral Close. In medieval times, this linked to a stream serving a similar purpose for the buildings of Winchester College. A third Lockburn

served the alms-houses which Cardinal Beaufort founded in the 15th century at the Hospital of St Cross where our walk finished. Today the water for the St Cross stream is taken off at Garnier Road, but this Lockburn may once have been linked to the other two.

My group set off from the west end of the Cathedral, where Karen explained that the Itchen, with its subsidiary channels, originally flowed across a wide and boggy flood plain until the Romans carried out the drainage works which created the present course of the river in Winchester. The Cathedral itself, and its predecessors, the Old and New Minsters, were built on a tufa island situated on the flood plain between two channels, 100m above sea level and an appropriate site for these substantial building projects.

King Alfred also undertook extensive drainage works, creating open channels flowing along the Brooks which converged at roughly the location of Patisserie Valerie near the bottom of the High Street.

From the west end of the Cathedral we proceeded east, under the flying buttresses and halted on the path near the Bishops' graveyard where there is the first set of sluices or hatches. Through the drain we could see the water flowing beneath us and hear the sound of it rushing along.

Bishop Athelwold, who introduced the Benedictine monks to Winchester, was described as having brought to the Old Minster "sweet streams of fishful water". This may have been a predecessor of the Lockburn. He had been described as "the maker of conduits as well as a lover of music". The side walls of the Lockburn, as it runs through the Cathedral Close, were built using blocks of Quarr stone which the Normans used to build the Cathedral. But there is evidence that Quarr stone from the Isle of Wight was also used in late Saxon times. So, did the Normans divert the Lockburn from its original Anglo-Saxon route to align it to the Norman monastic buildings?

The Lockburn is a corruption of the word Lortebourne meaning, "dirty stream" and most of its route is underground. One of the first mentions was in the monastic accounts of Nicholas Hayward in 1337, which referred to boards purchased to 'mend the Lockburn'.

We then made our way to the grassy site of the old Chapter House with its large Norman and Roman pillars adjoining Dean Garnier's garden. One channel of the Lockburn went south from here through

an arch in the wall and flowed in a rectangle around the reredorter or latrines, for the monks, and from there it flowed eastwards joining Abbey Mill Stream. A '46 holer toilet for 60 monks' had been excavated in 1859!

The main Lockburn then flowed west underneath the grass, from which it crosses the Inner Close, formerly known as the Cloister Garth. Karen believes part of it may have been open water at this point. She observed that studying the course of the Lockburn gives a useful indication of where monastic buildings were located as there are few other visible clues.

Our next stop was at Dome Alley and then outside the Judges' Lodgings. The Lockburn flowed through this area but the gradient was not steep enough to enable a healthy flow and the water became extremely filthy. Foul water continued to be a problem until the 19th century when new drainage was built between the reredorter and the entrance to Pilgrims' School.

At Winchester College, there are documents which refer to two Lockburns, an eastern one which is the continuation of the mill stream from Abbey Gardens and a western one which is the stream we had followed round the Cathedral. William of Wykeham's decision to site his new College on a field called 'Dummersmead', meant that the proximity of the two Lockburns would provide water. The College has its own specialised form of language known as Notions, and their word for the eastern branch of the Lockburn stream is Logie. We stopped along College Street for a glimpse of the western stream. The flint wall of the College on the opposite side of the street shows clear signs of repair following subsidence caused by the water flowing underneath. William of Wykeham demanded that the monastery provide an iron grating to be placed over the stream where it came out of the Cathedral Close to prevent the deposits of waste reaching his newly established College.

We then set off for St Cross. The St Cross Lockburn is separate from the Cathedral and College Lockburns. I told you it was complicated. In 1283 the first mention was made of the Lockburn at St Cross, associated with the monastic farmstead at Priors Barton, which provided food for the monks. At Garnier Road there were two mills, one was originally a grain mill which later became a fulling mill as the cloth trade prospered. Just above the mills, water is still taken off for the St Cross Lockburn and for another stream called St Michael's Brook.

At this point we followed St Michael's Brook into Clausentum Fen

and were shown around the Fen by Jonathan Sleath, Co-chair of the Clausentum Fen Conservation Group. A remnant of Priors Barton still survives, off Garnier Road. In the 20th century, when it was a private residence, the owners acquired land for a garden of exotic plants and trees which was abandoned after the Second World War and this now forms the northern part of the Fen. Further in, the conservation group have cleared scrub and opened up new wetland areas for wildlife.

After that we continued along the Lockburn towards St Cross.

In 1658 the first reference was made to the management of the water meadows. We saw the sluices which are still workable and prove very useful to control the water levels during heavy rainfall.

Upon arriving at St Cross, we were lucky enough to be allowed access to the garden behind the Brethren's quarters where we could again see the open Lockburn stream and the site of the old latrines which used to feed into it. Thanks to Marcus Swalwell, previous chair of the Conservation Group, we were also able to look at the many archaeological finds from the Fen.

It is a beautiful and peaceful place, and our pleasure was enhanced by the delightful tea and cakes we all enjoyed in the Hundred Men's Hall.

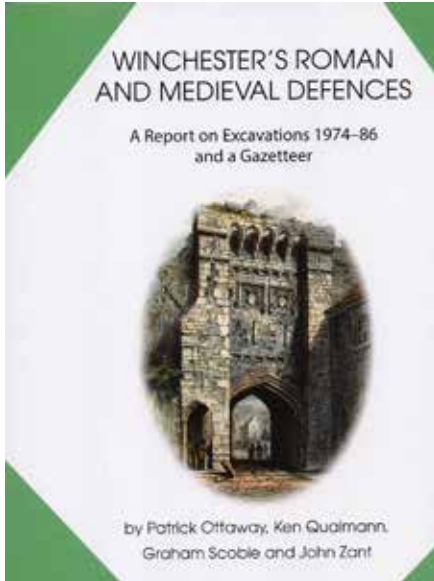
Thanks to Clare and Karen and for the massive amount of research carried out to make our walk so interesting and enlightening. I will never walk around the Cathedral, Winchester College or St Cross again without thinking of the Lockburn, so integral to the history of Winchester, and listening for the sound of rushing water.

Iris Gould



A welcome tea in hundred men's Hall

Winchester's Roman & Medieval Defences: a new book



The Hampshire Cultural Trust has picked up the publishing programme of archaeological reports begun by the Winchester Museums Service, reporting on work since the conclusion of Martin Biddle's massive digs. The latest of these volumes, *Winchester's Roman & Medieval Defences* was launched in October

In summary, this volume is a report on excavations undertaken on and adjacent to the Roman town and medieval city defences between 1971 and 1986. They produced evidence tracing their character and development from their foundations around AD 70 to the 19th century.

Apart from any military function, the evidence suggests that the defences defined spaces and shaped use within the liminal zone of the city including periods of providing space for open access, habitation, refuse disposal and service functions. The defences remained a major feature of the local landscape until the 19th century, when Winchester's built-up area pushed beyond the line of the walls.

At the launch, Ken Qualmann, former City Archaeologist, was interesting on how, as discussed above, walls were not just defences but also influenced thinking and behaviour of those within and without them. He also gave a complimentary mention of WARG, which is mentioned in the introduction to the volume.

The complete list is now

- **Winchester's Roman & Medieval Defences**, Patrick Ottaway, Ken Qualmann, Graham Scobie & John Zant, 2019
- **Artefacts and Society in Roman and Medieval Winchester; Small finds from the suburbs and defences, 1971-1986**, Nina Crummy, Helen Rees, Gillian Dunn & Patrick J Ottaway, 2008
- **Feeding a Roman Town; Environmental evidence from excavations in Winchester 1972-85**, Dale Serjeantson, Helen

- Rees, Patrick J Ottaway & Mark J M Maltby, 2010
- **Food, craft, and status in medieval Winchester; The plant and animal remains from the suburbs and city defences**, Dale Serjeantson & Helen Rees, 2009
 - **Oram's Arbour; The Iron Age Enclosure at Winchester Volume 1: Investigations 1950-1999**, Graham Scobie, Helen Rees, Richard Whinney & Kenneth E Qualmann, 2004
 - **The Roman Cemeteries and Suburbs of Winchester; Excavations 1971-86**, Patrick J Ottaway, Kenneth E Qualmann, Helen Rees, Graham Scobie & Patrick J Ottaway, 2012
 - **Winchester's Anglo-Saxon, Medieval and Later Suburbs; Excavations 1971-86**, Kenneth E Qualmann, & Patrick J Ottaway, 2018

These are all available from City Museum, The Square, Winchester, SO23 9ES



WARG New Year Party

You are cordially invited to the 2020 New Year Party on Monday, 13th January at the Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester from 7.30 to 9.00 pm.

We're trying something a little different this year to see if it meets with members approval by catering the event rather than the usual 'bring a plate' format. To cover this cost a charge of £10 per person will apply with wine and soft drinks available courtesy of WARG.

The Sound Ensemble, a small a capella group, will treat us to a Musical Journey through the Ages during part of the evening, with the first floor acting as a minstrels' gallery.

To book your place please send a cheque made payable to WARG Secretary, WARG, 58 Harewood Close, Eastleigh, SO50 4NZ advising of any special dietary requirements. Alternatively let me have cash payments at the November or December meetings. Payments needs to be made by 3rd January latest. Looking forward to a lovely evening with good friends, good food, good music.

*Maureen O'Connor,
Secretary WARG (07867 935583)*

Julia's Jottings

A Decent Pressie

I've so often seen tee-shirts saying "my parents visited insert name of famous place and all they bought me was this lousy tee-shirt". So I find it wonderfully wry that excavations in the City of London have uncovered a stylus dating from around AD70 with "I have come from the city. I

bring you a welcome gift with a sharp point that you may remember me. I ask, if fortune allowed, that I might be able to give as generously as the way is long and as my purse is empty" inscribed on it.

Plus ça change, then.

An Unusual Limb

An extremely rare 2,000 year old wooden arm has been found at the bottom of a Roman well in Northamptonshire. Finely carved, the limb survived in the water-logged well as it had been filled in at the top, thus preventing deterioration due to lack of oxygen. This slender piece, carved from a single branch, used the natural curve of the arm to form the elbow. However, archaeologists think it may have been part of a sculpture and not used by a human to replace a lost limb! Carbon dating reveals a date of between 86 and 240AD, corresponding with Roman pottery also found in the well.



Stylus
MOLA



Model Arm
Oxford Archaeology

A Major Surprise

A 2,300 year old shield made of tree bark has been found in Leicestershire. The only known example in Europe, it was made between 395 and 250BC. Much more rare than gold, this artefact has until now been considered too flimsy for use in battle but experimenting with alder and willow have shown that this shield was both light and tough. Made of green bark stiffened with internal wooden laths, it was surrounded with a rim of hazel and had a twisted willow boss. As the green wood dried it would have tightened, giving the shield its strength and forming it into a slightly “waisted” shape, like a subtle figure of eight. This is significant as it’s the same shape as the metal Battersea shield dating from the same period. Not considered to be unique, it has survived in water-logged soil and may have been deposited in a water-filled pit.



*Bark Shield
University of Leicester*

Closer to Home

There’s lots of seriously good archaeology going on in UK at present, not the least being the excavation on the site of the old Bargate shopping centre in Southampton. Development of this plum 400,000 square foot city-centre site has been held up whilst the diggers retrieve fragments of the Medieval history of this particular area of the city. Finds include a 14th C stone cannonball, a 15th C jar used to hold liquid mercury, and a 17th C plate with a bare-breasted woman on it. Long-standing friend of WARG, Dr Andy Russel of Southampton’s archaeological unit, reminds us that Southampton was the first English town to defend itself with guns, and the cannonball is made of flint

which would have shattered on impact and burst into hundreds of lethal little razor-sharp fragments. Roman pottery has also been found and the chances are that much more of Southampton's busy history will be revealed before development work can commence.

There is an exhibition of the finds at the Tudor House and Garden until 23 February 2020.

Demolishing a Shopping Arcade is Revealing!

A shopping arcade in Exeter has been demolished, revealing new evidence of the Roman fortress and barracks which occupied the area of the riverside city. This Roman town, named Isca Dumnoniorum, has already revealed the home of a wealthy family – under Quintana Gate – and the shopping arcade has been found to have covered a rare large oval sunken lime kiln. This was to provide mortar for buildings and is only the second such kiln to be found in our island. Other finds are more recent, being the contents of a large rubbish pit used by a local pub from about 1700. Numerous pieces of ceramic tankards, fragments of glass wine goblets and a complete two-handled drinking cup known as a tyg, probably came from a nearby pub called the Coachmaker's Arms – known to have been in existence before 1765.

History Beneath Our Feet

As a result of this country's desperate attempts to provide housing for its ever-growing population, more and more of our land is revealing our varied past. In Cambridgeshire Iron Age roundhouses, Roman burials and Saxon pottery have been discovered in a hitherto unknown settlement. On land that reverted to agricultural usage sometime after the 7th C, early Saxon occupation mingled with the latest Roman remains. Three crouched human burials, Saxon pottery, beads, worked antler and metalworking residues are evidence of the transition from Roman to Saxon in this area of England. This 10 acre site revealed evidence of Roman rural industry, including a 15 ft corn dryer and kilns. Other finds include human cremations, cattle skulls and a mainly intact Roman horse skeleton, which the archaeologists think may have been an offering to the gods.

Man's Early Diet

Apparently mankind has been eating rhizomes and tubers for over 120,000 years. They've been roasting these starch-providers in their caves and on their hearths for about 100,000 years longer than

the experts thought. Traces of charred starch plant tissue have been found in small ashy undisturbed cave hearths in the South African area of Klasies River. The starches were of plants like ginger and potatoes, and were used by early Man to balance their diet of protein and fats from fish and mammals.

More Discoveries in Bath

No-one needs to be reminded of Bath's glorious past – particularly that of the Roman period, but restoration has been needed in the Abbey itself to reinforce the floor so that hundreds of slabs wouldn't give way under the thousands of visitors' feet. Apparently not all the 17th C and 18th C visitors hoping for healing in the city's curative waters received a cure and thousands of unlucky ones were buried under the Abbey, thus eventually destabilising the floor. The remains have been transferred to the Abbey cemetery on the outskirts of the city and the floor is now more stable, whilst the hot springs nearby are being used to provide underwater heating! Seven intact lead coffins, under the floor, were going to be re-buried there but slightly lower down, and this revealed the vividly coloured tiles of a 13th C floor. They now remain in place, 2m down, but covered with a protective membrane and sand.



*Bare-breasted woman
Southampton Archaeology*

All this is just the east wing of the Abbey, and the north and south floors are still to be lifted and restored, so who knows what other wonders will be revealed!

Rare AND Beautiful!

So much of the life of we humans over the centuries has been mundane and lacking in charm, but much of the past reminds us that beauty has always been important in our lives, going way back over the millennia. A reminder of this is a small shard of glass, recently uncovered at Chedworth Roman Villa in the Cotswolds. Basically

green glass covered with different coloured patterns, it is now considered to have been part of a perfume bottle made in an area around the Black Sea, in what we call Ukraine. The only piece of its kind to have been found in the UK, it came from a long oval bottle with a sharp tapered end. The closest similar artefact is a restored fish-shaped bottle now in New York's Corning Museum of Glass, and the only other similar example came from a burial in 2AD at Chersonesus in the Crimea.



Chedworth glass
National Trust/ Rod Kirkpatrick/ F Stop Press

This little beauty reinforces the fact that Chedworth was not just a wealthy home but also important in its time, and the occupants must have been in touch with the furthest regions of the Roman empire and wanting to show off their influence and wealth. Lucky us to have such a small treasure as a reminder of our past and its artistic abilities.

Julia Sandison



WARG Calendar

2019

Dec. 9th

The Amesbury Archer and Boscombe Bowmen: 15 years on. An update on recent discoveries at Amesbury

Andy Manning MA, Wessex Archaeology Regional Manager South
It is 17 years since the discovery of the richest Beaker burial found in Western Europe – the Amesbury Archer. Within a year another project had found a new, significant Beaker burial group nearby - the Boscombe Bowmen. These individuals are now known to have travelled long distances and may be

associated with the later phase of Stonehenge, so why are the burials not there but at Amesbury? Subsequent years' major excavations at Amesbury continue to reveal important Neolithic and Beaker activity and new evidence has come to light which again reinforces the wide links with the continent and perhaps explains why the burials were placed where they were and the dramatic changes these people lived through.

2020

Jan. 13th

A Musical Journey through Time with *The Sound Ensemble*: New Year Party

This year we are trying out a catered party to see how it works and will charge £10 per person. More details on page 19.

Feb. 10th

Bursledon Brickworks – the only surviving Victorian brickworks in the country.

Bob Marshall, Volunteer guide

A brief introduction to the history of bricks and brickmaking before the industrial revolution in order to place the factory at Bursledon in context. This will be followed with details of the families involved and why the brickworks were built at Lower Swanwick. The story then follows the journey of a lump of clay as it becomes a fully fired brick ready for the market. Stories of the employees and their lives is included along the way. The last part of the talk covers why the factory closed and what happened next.

Mar. 9th

The Origins of Us – Latest developments in human evolution

Dr James Cole, FRAI, University of Brighton

Our understanding of human evolution continues to develop at an astonishing rate. This talk will focus on the origin of our species (*homo sapiens*) from around 300 thousand years ago, and how we have interacted with our closest human ancestors such as the Neanderthals and the Denisovans. The talk will give

the latest knowledge from the human fossil, the archaeological and the palaeogenetic records and show that the movement of our species across the globe, and our biological and cultural encounters with other human species, have helped to define who we are in the modern world.

Apr. 6th

Return to Barton Stacey – elusive buildings: Big Dig update

May. 11th

Power by Design – How Hitler dictated his Brand

Charles Harris, Arts Society lecturer

In the hands of the master propagandists of the Third Reich, posters became weapons of evil. Focussed on the years 1933 to 1939 the lecture covers techniques that demonized the Jews, the disabled and those of the wrong genetic background. Posters and image consultants hijacked honest patriotism to gain power and grip society. The 1936 Berlin Olympic, autobahns, shiny Volkswagens, free radios and youth programmes all papered Hitler with glory.

Sept. 14th

Recent Archaeological Discoveries at Winchester Cathedral

Dr John Crook, FSA, Archaeological Consultant to Winchester Cathedral

Dr Crook will give an illustrated presentation about the many historical and archaeological discoveries made during the National Heritage Lottery funded works between 2013 and 2019. Below ground archaeology included the excavation of a deep lift pit, which provided new insights into the way the Norman cathedral was constructed, and a foul water drain right across the inner Close, which has allowed the monastic plan of the Priory of St Swithun to be refined. Above ground, the opening up of historic fabric required to form the new *Kings and Scribes* exhibits and the conservation work undertaken to the presbytery roof and vault have provided new insights into the cathedral's history.

Oct. 12th

AGM

followed by **two PhD candidate talks**

Tom Watson *Winchester's Anglo- Saxon Saints*

John Merriman *The impact of the Black Death (1348-49) on the clergy of the Winchester Diocese*

Nov. 9th

60 years in Archaeology

Don Bryan, BA(Arch), Director HADS

As Don marks this milestone he will share with us its beginning and his long interest in archaeology from excavations at Old Otterbourne church. Along the way he'll talk about the Pendragon Society's search for King Arthur at Tintagel, Glastonbury and South Cadbury and some early excavations in Winchester, the Gower Peninsula and Roman sites across Somerset before joining SHARG (South Hampshire Archaeology Rescue Group) 1982 when attention shifted to the Victoria Road cemetery site as well as the new M27 and M3 routes. The Brooks excavations were important for WARG as was the search for another king, King Alfred this time, at Hyde Abbey. Gaining his degree as a mature student at Southampton then, having retired from BT, Don went on to teach O level and A level archaeology at Eastleigh College, Barton Peveril and Fareham College whilst teaching at the same time local history at Henry Beaufort College. And yes, there is more but let's leave something for the night.

Dec. 14th

CBA at 75 and CBA Wessex at 60 – Celebrating Archaeology for All, past, present and future

Marjoleine Butler, Trustee, CBA and Roland Smith, Chair, CBA Wessex

Changes and updates to the programme will be published on the WARG website. Meetings are normally in the Hampshire Record Office cinema, starting at 7.30.

Cled Jenkins

Those members who enjoyed the hospitality of the tearoom at St Cross during our digs, will be sorry to hear that Cled Jenkins has died. Cled and his wife Doreen were the leading spirits behind the volunteers who ran the tea room.

Cled, a retired GP, also served as a Trustee of St Cross, representing the Parish of St Faiths. His memorial service on November 3rd, filled the Chapel and later, the Brethren's Hall.



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