



Newsletter

Autumn 2021

News  Meetings  Reports 
Diary Dates  Travellers' Tales

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This newsletter provides reports on the activities of WARG, the Society for Winchester archaeology and local history. It also carries information of interest to the WARG membership.

For more information on WARG or to join, email membership@warg.org.uk or visit www.warg.org.uk

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Editorial

Well autumn seems to have arrived at last and today was a truly golden autumn day. Jermyns Lane at Ampfield was a riot of colour, palest yellow, through red to deep gold, drifting from the trees like a shower of gold coins. When reaching the Stockbridge Road, I was reminded Christmas approaches, where a stand of nearly bare trees sport huge balls of mistletoe.

For WARG, in October we were able to have the AGM in the HCC cinema again, with a live speaker and the chance to vote in Kim Batten as the new secretary. Welcome Kim.

A number of people have commented that the Zoom meetings during the last year have enabled them to attend, regardless of the weather, their location and problems related to night driving. The committee has discussed this and it was decided to deliver the next programme of talks in a mixture of actual and virtual. They will, of course, thanks to our wonderful scribes, continue to be written up in the newsletter so that everyone will have the chance to share in the imparted knowledge. Also, a limited time access to YouTube will continue, thanks to Chris who records them, with the speaker's permission.

With the weather smiling on us in August, a very successful 'safe' dig was enjoyed at Hursley House, and WARG members also joined in the Hyde900 dig, so lots going on.

Articles for the newsletter continue to be welcomed, so hasten to your preferred writing implement and tell us about your area of archaeological/historical interest. I am also looking for a scribe for the June Lloyd lecture on February 25th. If you would be interested in taking this on a free ticket is available to you. It should be an interesting talk about the role of women in Anglo Saxon Wessex, a time when women such as Æthelburg (born circa 673) the wife of King Ine lived. She was a warrior queen and in 722, burned

down the city of Taunton – probably not on her own, but she would likely have led a male army.

In the meantime, I hope you enjoy this bumper edition of the newsletter.

Janet.



Chairman's report

After another year of disruption due to the Covid 19 pandemic, it was great to be out in the field again at our Big Dig. I was very impressed with the organisation and also with the results which were better than we had ever hoped, in fact it looks like we may have stumbled upon another site of great importance, watch this space. Although I could not dig this year, I did help in the setting up and taking off the turf. I was very pleased indeed to have found our first find of the dig, whilst cleaning an area of top soil, a cast iron bracket, possibly from the time that Hursley Park was used as a First World War Hospital, and the lawn area was used for recreation, it seems to belong to a lawn tennis set from that era.



The recent AGM saw our return to a face-to-face meeting format, and it was relatively well attended considering the current situation. I am happy that I have been elected as Chair for another year and I am looking forward to

getting back to doing the things WARG does best, promoting history, archaeology and Winchester's part in both.

As you are all probably aware by now next year, 2022, marks the 50th anniversary of WARG and we are hoping the situation is such that we can really celebrate this milestone. The anniversary book is well on the way to being completed but I would really like more contributions as this book is as much about you, the members, as it is about WARG as an entity. I, so far, have some really interesting memories but I feel there are a lot more out there, so please give it some thought. A piece about 300-500 words would be great but I can find room for any length if it is suitable.

The coming year is already packed with planned talks and the June Lloyd Lecture, which was postponed from last year, you will be getting more about that in the new year but it does look very interesting and very relevant to Winchester. On a talk and walk note, we are still short of an events organiser. We really need one who can take some of the strain off the rest of the officers and committee as we want to make our talks, and other events, as well organised as possible. Currently this is down to me and I am finding time very pressed due to my caring commitments.

Sadly, it seems that we will have to cancel next year's New Year party again as the current situation with Covid 19 and the lack of an organiser makes it highly unlikely we could pull it off successfully, we will keep reviewing this.

I know it may be a bit early but as there are already decorations in the shops, trees and lights being put up in town centres, I may as well join in so a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all WARG members.

Steve Old, Chair



HMS Victory: 'Good luck' farthing coin found under ship's mast – Janet Backhouse

Well, it is not all bad news on the BBC. This very positive piece of reporting was on BBC online on 21st October, Trafalgar Day.

Like many ancient traditions, which some of us continue, good luck is hopefully woven into all new ventures.

A 127-year-old farthing has been discovered under the mast of Lord Nelson's flagship, HMS Victory. This small coin dates to 1894, the year the rotten masts were replaced and a new set installed on Nelson's famous ship.

The conserved coin © P A Media



On 7th May 1765 HMS Victory sailed from the Old Single Dock in Chatham's Royal Dockyard, commissioned for service in the American War of Independence. Over her long service, she led fleets in that war, the French Revolutionary War and the Napoleonic War. In 1805 she achieved her greatest fame as the flagship of Vice-Admiral Horatio Nelson when the French and Spanish fleets were defeated at the Battle of Trafalgar, and Nelson lost his life. A plaque on the quarter deck records where Nelson fell. He

was claimed as a hero, having made enormous sacrifices during his naval service, losing the sight in an eye at the battle of Calvi, an arm at the Battle of Santa Cruz de Tenerife and ultimately, his life, by the musket ball of a French sniper at the Battle of Trafalgar.

Over a period of 34 years, during her commission and between 1778 and 1812, HMS Victory took part in five naval battles. Trafalgar is not only the most famous of these but also the last. During the French revolutionary War, she was Admiral Jervis' flagship at the Battle of Cape St Vincent. When war broke out against Napoleon's armies in 1803, Victory was given a refit and became Nelson's flagship, culminating in the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805.

'HMS Victory's principal heritage adviser Rosemary Thornber called the coin "invaluable".'

As many of us will remember it would have been worth a



quarter of a pre-decimal penny. It was particularly popular for the 'Jenny Wren' on the obverse, a wren, placed the smallest British bird on the smallest British coin. The farthing was so called from Old English *fēorðing*, from *fēorða*, a fourth (of a penny).

©Wikipedia online 21/10/21

The now-corroded coin once showed Queen Victoria's head on one side and Britannia on the other, with a lighthouse in the background. The tradition of placing coins under ships' masts dates back to Roman times and continues even today. A 1952 minting would be worth as much as £169 today.



© P A Media

Diana Davis, head of conservation at the National Museum of the Royal Navy (NMRN) who found the coin said, "I

removed as much of the corrosion as possible without damaging the patinated copper alloy surface.....the impact of the mast with upwards of 21 tonnes resting on it caused damage" but she said she was able to clean it enough to uncover the lighthouse on its surface. She added, "It's been one of the more unusual projects I've worked on - being the first person to see the coin in over 120 years."

When conservation started there was speculation as to the possible presence of a coin, which would have followed the naval tradition, and the conservation team was sworn to secrecy until the coin was ready for public display.

The coin is now on display to mark Trafalgar Day at the NMRN, next to Victory's dry dock at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.

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Acknowledgment to BBC news online 21/10/2021



From Log Boats to Roman Fort - 30 years of extraordinary finds in the Cambridgeshire Fenslands presentation by Grahame Appleby - Chris Sellen

Grahame Appleby has been the City Archaeologist at Leicester City Council, within their planning department,

for the last 6 years. Following a career in local government he changed tack and after a degree and masters in archaeology at Cambridge, joined the Cambridge Archaeology Unit as a research officer. His wealth of knowledge and experience was well-demonstrated to us in his exposition of some of the exciting discoveries in the Cambridgeshire Fenlands over the last 30 years.

As with most distinct regions in the British Isles, the Fenlands present a unique and individual landscape and history. This talk gave selected highlights, a gallop through some 'wow' sites, and all of them interesting. The Fenlands is characterised by big skies and boggy land, and prior to the draining and management of Fenlands for farming, scrub vegetation and flooded land. Nowadays flood management is achieved by drainage dykes but its drainage history goes back to Anglo-Saxon and even Roman times, though on a more local level. Since the 17th century proper investment encouraged Dutch engineering expertise and large-scale land improvement (the adventurers).

Fenlands is geographically the area south of The Wash to Cambridge, and from Peterborough to King's Lynn. It is flat and most early archaeology such as Iron Age and Roman exists around +2 m OD, anything else is likely to be covered in peat deposit which has to be peeled off before archaeology can be found.

An early 20th century (1930s) interpretation of Bronze Age archaeology would have seen shore-based settlements with water-borne transport important. This is because, after the last glaciations and isostatic adjustments, the Fenlands areas south of The Wash became areas where rivers drained into, creating a ponded landscape of sluggish water, exacerbated by the drowning of Doggerland, so by Neolithic times you get 2 different types of Fenlands: salt marsh near The Wash;

freshwater from the rivers draining in from the west and East Anglia – tidal and seasonal with rapid change, perhaps over a couple of generations. Nowadays if Fenlands drainage channels are not cleared regularly, the land quickly reverts to wetland.

It was clear from surveys in the 1960s (Phillipson) to 1980s that archaeology was emerging out of the fen. Subtle changes in the landscape indicate palaeo-features. Humps and depressions in roadways show where old rivers were, their palaeo-channels often showing clearly from the air.

All prehistoric periods are represented in the Fenlands: Mesolithic, with flint scatters associated with the proximity of Doggerland and its continental connection; by the Neolithic more specific areas of permanent activity through to BA and IA usage of the shoreside communities. Over this period of time, as illustrated at Flag Fen, parts of the landscape change dramatically as the River Nene (in this case) increases in extent, a more island-based landscape is created. These 'islands' are often connected by raised walkways, **Must Farm** and **Flag Fen** are both centred on shorelines connected by wooden walkway structures. The environment is very dynamic although with weak flows there are siltings-up and lateral change of the channels which leads to realignments and renewal.

The anaerobic silts are great preservers and both these sites have organic remains of items like Bronze Age hedges, which used techniques which are still recognisable today. This is indicative of stock management to keep animals such as sheep and cows in (rather than keeping aurochs out). Fossilised animal drinking areas show where the shore-edge has been stabilised to allow animals to drink and show the direction they were being driven by the direction of their hooves. Being shore-side, artefacts such as weirs, fish traps

and decorated log boats were found (9 of them). Metalwork was also found such as swords and spears (including the 'stick bit'). All this was found in about 150 m of channel.

Must Farm revealed posts from some form of Bronze Age structure, in advance of more gravel extraction. Realising the potential of *in situ* timbers, the site was covered prior to excavation. The excavation was effectively done by hand – what was revealed was woodwork sticking up, a palisade and five Bronze Age roundhouses and a square structure. The structures had been destroyed by fire, and the debris had dropped into the silt of the channel they had been built over. The roundhouses had wall timbers, roof timbers, flooring and support posts that had drifted downstream thus showing the direction of the channel current. The clay had kept the timbers perfectly preserved – dated to the Bronze Age and it was even possible to see when the timbers were cut (spring). Interestingly there were few midden deposits, so it is thought this was fairly new construction.

Must Farm



©Cambridgeshire Archaeological Unit

As well as being likely dwellings, the roundhouses were clearly used for textiles and metalworking, especially in the SE corners of the buildings. Spearheads and sword blanks and possibly even a smith's hoard of metal for re-use. Turfs were found which would have been placed on top of the roof thatch, possibly for directing fire smoke.

Carbonised organics, pottery and even pottery with food residue were found and this was evidence for the rapid



abandonment. Hafted bronze axes with the wood carbonised again point to nothing being recovered as the abandonment took place. A second hafted axe, uncarbonised but waterlogged, demonstrated a second method of hafting. A single human cranium was found which was not a result of the disaster, but had been carefully curated under one of the roundhouses.

Hafted Axes ©Cambridgeshire Archaeological Unit

A further site, near Ely, **Wardy Hill** a complex multi-ditched 4th millennium Neolithic enclosure around the 2m OD mark

has been excavated and revealed and includes internal building structures.

Colne and **Over** were large areas threatened by gravel extraction. Lidar views clearly show the ridges and depressions of periglacial activity which both give rise to the valuable deposits but also provide drier 'land' for settlement and in this case, a barrow cemetery. Due to the size of these ridge features, various sampling techniques were used to maximise the area excavated and a statistical approach taken to the recording of artefactual evidence. The result was the discernment of a huge amount of archaeological activity from the Mesolithic all the way to Roman, with the various periods represented in different areas.

Some of the Over barrows had beaker burials (EBA) and some were used multi-period. One early burial had a hold drilled in an ulna which could indicate the curation and manipulation of body parts *post mortem*, something beginning to be seen in other parts of the country. Geophysics was even able to show the various burials within the barrows. One burial appears to have been 'poured into' a posthole post-cremation which is unique and could be either the commemoration of an individual in a special way, or just the ritual at the time. Other special finds included more metalwork and an Iron Age curated cranium with holes drilled into it and obvious burnishing signs of many hands touching it.

Near Earith, the **Upper Delphs** produced a site where an initial causewayed enclosure was also associated with an Iron Age shrine which was later replaced with a Roman shrine.

The well-known IA site of **Stonea** is close by. Excavated in the 1960s it was thought to have become an imperial centre,

with building structures thought to be for tax collection and other administration. However there seems to be a preponderance of temple and ritual sites coming to the fore, perhaps associated with remote rural Iron Age centres, which in their turn were associated with earlier, water-focused ritual areas.

At **Colne**, the topography allows the ancient coastline to be traced. This is important because as we move from prehistoric sites to Roman and then medieval, the importance, of fishing and trade in fish products from the coast back inland, is clear. Port features such as slipways are evident. The landscape also shows field systems throughout these periods, with rich artefacts showing the wealth of the area, loom weights being characteristic of textile production, for instance. Sites such as **Langdale Hale** show this multi-period industrial development very clearly. Masses of butchered bone indicate skinning and tanning, due to the type of skeletal remains found – not the parts usually associated with food consumption.



Shore side Roman village © Cambridgeshire Archaeological Unit

The '**Camp Ground**' at Colne shows a massive multi-phase development. Though ploughed flat during the Second World War, sufficient geophysical data exists to piece together the phasing of this mainly Roman formal town. Here, skeletal evidence is for marrow extraction and food smoking, indicating this area to be more associated with occupation. At Langdale Hale there are huge millstones, whereas at Camp Ground they are small and probably worked by hand. The large stones come from particular parts of the site which were for large scale production.

Finally, the coinage evidence points to a military-type economy for these sites, supplying the state with grain, textiles and pottery. This is backed up by the fact that they are weighing produce with lead weights.

Coming off the Fenlands work done at northwest Cambridge prior to further development, evidence of regularised Roman landscape on earlier IA activity. Much industrial activity here too, and you get the feeling that despite late Roman dates, the military is still in evidence, at least passing through. Structures such as wells and roundhouse foundations, artefacts such as wrist guards and shoes, with Roman coins and ballista bolts together with tesserae and local Roman-age pottery are in evidence. Fully interred bodies show the longevity of the site.

South Cambridge is also the target for development and evaluation showed again dense occupation, being on the fen edge. Three specific areas all show dense, regularised Roman occupation imprinted on earlier Iron Age evidence. Good preservation due to waterlogging provided shoe leather, and metalwork, altar stones and ritual effigies. Well off the fen, on chalk, continuity is well illustrated as early structures are superseded by the more regular Roman layouts of occupation.



Fenlands preservation

©Cambridgeshire
Archaeological
Unit

Villas are found in the landscape such as **Fen Drayton** and **St Ives**, and aerial photography

continues to show more sites, whether at risk through development or serendipity. What is very clear in this part of eastern England, is that the history in the ground is widespread, and, because of the multi-period nature of the intense occupation of these parts, excavation is the only way of picking apart the story. Remote methods would never have given the clues about the rich finds at Must Farm. Another reason why maintaining a strong source of archaeological expertise coming through the education system is absolutely vital.



What I did in the Summer or A Brief History of the 2021 Dig - Andy King

During August 2021 Winchester Archaeology and Local History Group (WARG) undertook a two-week excavation to investigate the suspected remains of a Tudor building beneath the lawn of the 18th century house at Hursley Park, which is currently owned by IBM. Detailed historical documentation of the Tudor building was provided by David Key, IBM volunteer historian. This indicated that the house had been built c.1550 and remained in use until it was thoroughly demolished in c.1720 to make way for the

current house. Parch marks in dry summers had demonstrated the position of the Tudor building and this was confirmed by a geophysical survey prior to the excavation (Resistivity and GPR), with the assistance of the University of Winchester.

Three trenches were opened. Trench 1 was sited over the north east corner of the building to take in a high resistance anomaly plus a number of internal walls. Demolition material was removed to reveal a stairwell leading down to lower ground floor service rooms/cellars, including one which originally had a vaulted ceiling. The brick foundations of the walls indicate two phases of construction, with earlier walls strengthened and enlarged in the second phase.

Trench 1 ©Jane King



south west corner and similar evidence for a second phase of building was found. Fireplaces and a suspected base for a copper provide evidence that this was a service quarter, possibly related to kitchens and laundry .

Trench 2 ©Jane King

Trench 2 explored the



Trench 3 was sited over a potential portico at the front of the building. This corroborated the two phases of building

and indicates a grand entrance to the upper ground floor together with evidence that the 'cellars' extended to the front of the building. An unexpected discovery was that an earlier chalk and flint foundation underlay part of the Tudor house suggesting that an earlier chalk and flint foundation underlay part of the Tudor house suggesting that a Medieval house may have stood on the site. Finds such as brick moldings, painted tiles, limestone paving and glazed floor tiles have added to architectural detail. Work is continuing to analyse the other artefacts recovered from the excavation.

Trench 3 ©Jane King



'Finding Crusoe' presentation by Steve Old September 13th - Clemency Fisher

On the 11th September WARG's own Steve Old gave a brilliant talk on the origin of the story of Daniel Defoe's 'Robinson Crusoe'. He recounted the adventures of Alexander Selkirk, a sailor who was marooned on a

deserted island for over 4 years, and the ships that returned him to England.

Steve set the scene with important commentary on the treacherous nature of the 18th century waters. Ships would have to take all resources with them, such as food, medicine, water, including arms and repair kits in case of bumping into pirates. With no longitudinal navigation system sailors relied on the natural landmarks and compasses to guide the way. 17th century communication created another problem —no country knew who their allies and enemies were at any one time. Peace or war may have been declared but the news would not reach those at sea until many months later.

But - before the story is told the cast must be assembled. Captain Woodes Rogers was born in Lymington c.1679 and grew up in Poole. In 1701 he moved to Queens Square, Bristol to begin an apprenticeship. In Bristol his neighbour was Sarah Whetstone, daughter of Rear Admiral Sir William Whetstone, Steve's 13-time Great-Grandfather. The two were soon married and Woodes Rogers secured a large dowery and the new title of a freeman. In 1707 Woodes Rogers inherited the family sailing business and his ambition to hit the waters and earn some money led him to William Dampier. Dampier (b. 1651) was an ex-navy officer, experienced privateer and a skilled mapper. By 1707 he had circumnavigated the world twice and was one of the first people to explore and map Australia (his presence there immortalised by the Dampier region of Australia).

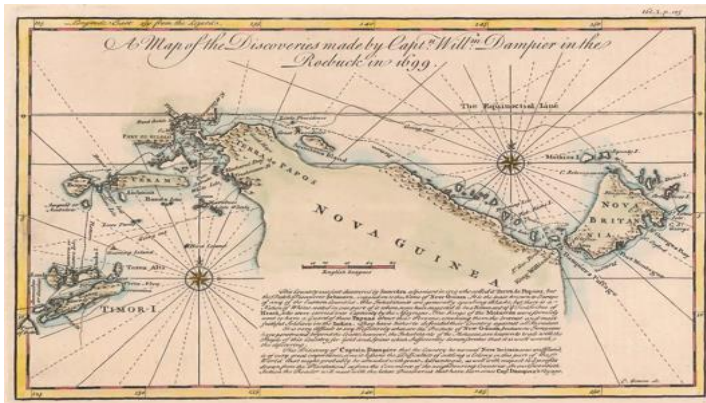
In 1707, Dampier and Woodes Rogers began planning a trip to South America to plunder heavy laden treasure ships. They secured the backing and investment of Bristol merchants, and gained possession of the fast and seaworthy



frigates
'The Duke'
and 'The
Dutchess'
(Steve
assures that
this was a
17th
Century
spelling not
a
PowerPoint
typo).

Woodes Rogers with his son and daughter

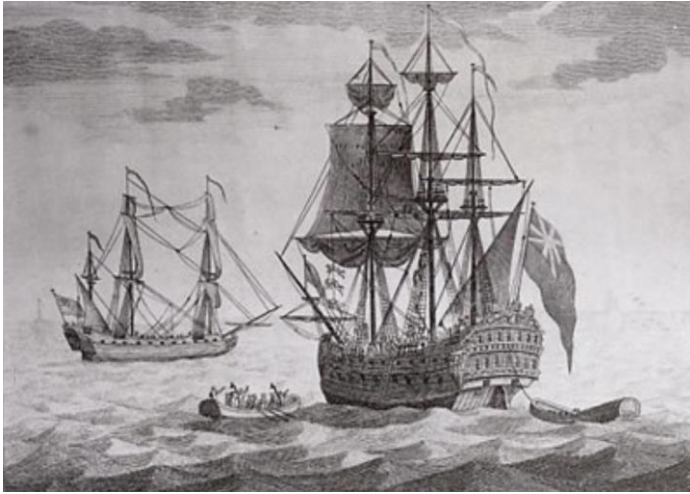
Two boats were frequently used for trips such as these to cope with the large capacity needed. In this case, 'The Duke' was the main boat, captained by Dampier, while 'The



Dutchess', under Captain Thomas Dover, carried the many supplies.

The ships were ready in 1708 and they set sail in late August in convoy with 4 galleys, a frigate and a sloop. When they

reached Cork, they met a larger convoy of 20 ships alongside the HMS Hastings in preparation for the transatlantic trip.



The Duke and Dutchess

The journey was uneventful and few monetary prizes were taken — mainly food restocks. The ships stopped off at the safe Isle de Grande, near Rio, for the last restock of food — mainly salted pork and cod (Steve notes that he has tried the latter and sympathises with the men on board, very salty, not very tasty). The next destination was the Juan Fernández islands, 6000 miles away. The frigates made good time and they arrived in the Falklands by Christmas Day and rounded Cape Horn on the 15th January. However, it wasn't all plain sailing — with the unpleasant food and implication of rationing, there was a high risk of mutiny. Fortunately, though, the experienced crew kept themselves in line and Dampier and Dover didn't need to do much to enforce.

On the 31st January the ships reached the Juan Fernandez archipelago, well ahead of schedule. The islands were a safe place to stop off, and the boats sat comfortably in the bay to

carry out repairs. On arrival Dampier sent out a pinnace with a couple of men aboard. They saw night lights which concerned them so they quickly came back. On the second day the pinnace was sent out again and this time they returned home with the unexpected luggage of a boat brimmed with crayfish and a man dressed in goatskin. The man aboard was the marooned Alexander Selkirk, and his arrival marked his first friendly contact with civilization in over 4 years.

Selkirk had set off to South America as the sailing master of the ship the Cinque Ports in 1703. Selkirk was an experienced sailor and as the ship arrived into Juan Fernandez, he informed the Captain, Thomas Standing, that there was an impending storm, and that the ship would need to carry out repairs before sailing into the inclement weather.



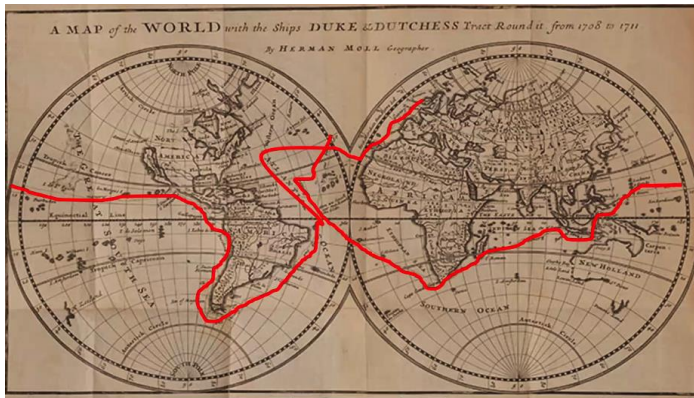
Selkirk in Goatskin

The stubborn Captain was unimpressed by Selkirk's confrontation and gave him the choice to stay aboard and set off on schedule, or to remain on the island. Selkirk decided to take his chances alone on Juan Fernandez.

Armed only with bedding, hatchets, a knife, tobacco, a bible, mathematical instruments and a collection of books, Selkirk set about life on the island. The Juan Fernandez islands were

littered with goats, left by Spanish sailors for future food restocks. Selkirk's father was a shoemaker, so he was familiar with tanning goatskin and using it to make clothes. In the first 8 months on the island Selkirk had built two huts — one for storing food and one with bedding. Over his 4 years on the island, he caught 500 goats (no mean feat with only a rusting knife and a few compasses as weapons), and survived off of a very unvaried diet of goat meat and crayfish. He was confronted with a French crew who chased him over a cliff and left him for dead, but the crew of the Duke and Dutchess were much more friendly, they recognized his skills as a map reader and took him on in the role of the boat's pilot. Selkirk soon learnt that the entire crew of the Cinque Ports and its accompanying ship had been lost at sea during a storm.

Outline of the journey



After gaining Selkirk, the ship carried on in search of a more lucrative prize. They sailed down the West coast of South America and took a bountiful loot from demanding ransom money in the village of Guayaquil, Ecuador with no casualties. Their big prize came in the form of the Nuestra Señora de la Encarnación y Desengaño, a Spanish treasure

ship lined with gold. The struggle here was not so easy, and Woodes Rogers lost his brother and cheek to stray musket balls. After taking a couple of smaller prizes (Ascension, Maria Y Jose & Havre de Grace) the ship set sail home and returned to Bristol on 14th October 1711. On arrival, investors received a 200% return. Alexander Selkirk's pockets were lined after the trip but Woodes Rogers's estate had fallen into debt while he was away, so he went into bankruptcy. Dampier too was in debt and sadly died a few years after the return.

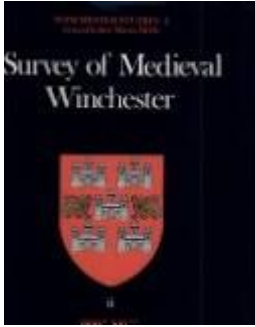
With his new-found wealth Selkirk spent the rest of his days going at pubs recounting his tale. In 1718, Woodes Rogers introduced him to Daniel Defoe at the LLandoger Trow in Bristol. Defoe was gripped by Selkirk's story and wrote extensive notes on the events described by Selkirk. In 1719, after 6 months of dedicated writing, Defoe published 'Robinson Crusoe', an account of a man lost at sea who was later saved by a passing ship. Defoe never revealed the inspiration behind the novel, however the story bears a uncanny familiarity to the tales of Selkirk and Woodes Rogers.



The Will of Thomas Ferroure transcribed by Carol Dougherty

Carol is a member of a group transcribing medieval wills from PCC Register Milles. The project is led and managed by historian Dr Heather Falvey.

For those who know Winchester 'Brokstrete' is also known as Water Lane, sometimes Blue Boar Hill. This may not be the modern Brook Street of which there are three, Upper Middle and Lower. Water Lane is next to the river so could be called 'in the Soke'. When the weather improves, I shall be going in search of Thomas' grave at St. Bartholomew's.



St. Bartholomew's church is some distance from Brokestret, but was reputed to be the reinterment site of King Alfred which may have some relevance. A mention of Thomas, who sounds to have been a caring man and a considerate husband, and who left his wife his best and second-best bed, can be found in the Survey of Medieval Winchester by Keene and Rumble, pub OUP. This is a valuable addition to the rich history of our city.

Test[amentu]m Thome Ferrour

In dei nomi[n]e Amen I Thomas Ferror the Elder being in
hoole mynde make make (sic) my testament in this wise
First I bequeth my soule unto Almyghty god and to his most
glorious moder and virgine marie / And if it be so that I
discease w[i]t[h]in Wynchestr[e] or ny by I bequeth my
body tobe buriede in the Cimatorie of saint Bartilmew.
It[e]m

I bequeth to the high Awlter of saint Swithine xx d Also I
bequeth to the high Aulter of my parish church xx d It[e]m
I bequeth to oure Lady light¹ w[i]t[h]in the same church xij
d It[e]m I bequeth to the Awlter of saint Barnaby w[i]t[h]in
the Abbey church xij d.

It[e]m

I will that there be kept an obite of x s a yerr[e] during fro
the date of this p[rese]nt writing xvj yere w[i]t[h] vj prest[es]
in the grey fryers solempnye by note and solempnye masse
by note upon the morow w[i]t[h] the said vj prestes and that
they say v low masses be side high masse and everich of the

¹ Towards a candle kept burning on an altar dedicated to Our Lady.
(The light and the altar are mentioned near the end of the will.)

prestes shall have iiij d for his labo[ur] and if the warden say the high masse he shall have viij d for his labor. and I to allow to the said obite a lb wex. It[e]m the Residue of the said x s I wyll it be yevon among poure people in almes peny mele that ys to say to every poure man and woman j d and that this obite be kept w[i]t[h] the rent of my two tenement[es] lying in Brokestrete in saint Johonys parish in the soke of Wynchestre

It[e]m

I will that after the said xvj yere aforesaid be fyneshyd that my [0699] wif during the terme of xx^{ti} yere if she live so long to kepe an obite of v^s in the church of saint Bartilmew and during the said xx^{ti} yere that she geve every yere to oure Lady is [i.e. oure Lady's] light xx^d And if Almyghty god so ordeine that my wif discease w[i]t[h]in the said xx^{ti} yere there I will that the Wardenes of oure Lady light² entre in to the said ij tenement[es] for the said xx^{ti} yere keping the said obite of v^s a yere for my soule/ Anne and Marion and John Sand³ soule and all oure frendes soules and to mayntene the said ij tenement[es] tenauntable during the said yeris and the Residue of this afore said I will that it shall helpe the reparacion of oure Lady awlter and of the light. And if any of thes thing[es] afore said be not kept acording to my will there I will that myn heires entre the said tenement[es] w[i]t[h] the charges and after the said yeris to theme self forevermor[e] Amen

In Witnesse of the which I have to my seale T Ferro[ur]⁴
Writen the xxv day of octobre in the yere of oure lord god

² i.e., parishioners appointed to ensure that the light burned continually on the altar of Our Lady.

They would have bought wax using funds raised.

³ Or perhaps Sired

⁴ Suggesting that he signed the original as well as sealed it.

Mⁱ CCCClxxxix [1489] The residue of all my goodes Moveable and unmoveable I geve and bequeth to the disposition of Anne my wif at here pleasur[e] the which I make and ordeigne my Executrice &c

The abovesaid testament was proved in the presence of the lord at Lambeth on 5 February in the year abovesaid [5 February 1490/1 – the previous will was proved on 27 April 1491] on the oath of Master John Botery notary public, procurator &c and approved &c And administration of all the goods &c was committed to Anne, relict of the same deceased, in the person of the aforesaid John her procurator to well &c; & to render a full inventory &c before the feast of the Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary next &c And indeed to produce an honest account &c



The Celtic Calendar – Janet Backhouse

I was recently reading a novel by Joanna Courtney entitled ‘Iron Queen’. It is a telling of an alternative version of King Lear, focusing on his daughters and particularly on Cordelia – a good read. One thing that engaged my attention away from the story was mention of the Celtic Calendar, particularly the Coligny Calendar, so I went in search of more information.

The Coligny calendar is the oldest known solar – lunar ritual calendar, originally found at Coligny in France, and can be seen in Le Palais des Arts Gallo-Roman museum, in Lyon. The calendar dates from the second century CE at the time when the Julian Calendar was imposed on Roman Gaul, and follows a lunisolar, five-year cycle of 62 months. It has been used to reconstruct the ancient Celtic calendar. The lettering on the calendar is Latin and the language is Gaulish, an ancient language spoken in parts of Continental Europe around the time of the Roman Empire.

Like the Gregorian calendar, the Coligny Calendar attempts to reconcile the cycles of the moon and sun. It considers the phases of the moon to be important, each month beginning with the same moon phase. A mathematical arrangement maintains a 12-month calendar in synchrony with the moon, and synchronises the whole system by adding an intercalary month every $2\frac{1}{2}$ years. It registers a five-year cycle of 62 lunar months, each month further divided into a "bright" and a "dark" fortnight, or half a moon cycle. It is thought months began on the new moon, and a 13th intercalary month was added to align the lunation with the solar year.

The date of origination is not known, but correspondences of Insular Celtic such as the Irish and Continental Celtic calendars suggest that some early form may date to Proto-Celtic times, roughly 800 B.C. It points to a considerable degree of intellectual sophistication at that time.

'Weeks' consist of 5 days, 'Months' of six weeks and either 29 or 30 days. There are twelve such months (354 days) in a year. A calendar cycle consisting of five years had sixty regular months plus two intercalary months.

For the calendar to remain in synch with the lunar phases, the five-year cycle must have been 1,831 days long. According to Pliny the Elder each Celtic month started on the sixth day of the lunar cycle which would have created a drift out of synch with seasons by approximately a day each year.

Engraved on a bronze tablet, of which 73 fragments are preserved, it would have been 1.48 m (4 ft. 10 in) wide by 0.9 m (2 ft 11 in) tall.



The Coligny Calendar - Wikipedia

A similar calendar was found nearby at Villards d'Heria preserved in only eight small fragments. This can now be seen in the Musée d'Archéologie du Jura at Lons-le-Saunier.

The names of the twelve regular months are recorded as *Samonios*, *Dumannios*, *Rivros*, *Anagantios*, *Ogronios*, *Cutios*, *Giamonios*, *Simiuisonnios*, *Equos*, *Elembivios*, *Edrinios* and *Cantlos*. There were two intercalary months *Quimonios* which appeared in the first year of the five-year calendar cycle, and *Sonnocingos*, which appeared in the third year.

Month names are repeated five times so can be reconstructed with some certainty, with the two intercalary months occurring only once each, the first intercalary month happens on year one of five between *Cantlos* and *Sonnocingos* with 29 days. The second intercalary moon happens on year three of five and contains 30 days between *Cantlos* and *Giamonios*.

Xavier Delamarre a scholar of Medieval language has proposed designations for each month based on the names.

Quimonios was a 30-day intercalary month for year one, of unknown meaning.



Overview of part of the tablet and a drawing of the fragment by Seymour de Ricci (1926) Wikipedia.



Samonios refers to summer, *Giamonios* to winter. The meanings of the other names are less clear. The Celtic year was divided into halves: "summer" from May 1 to October 31, and "winter" from November 1 to April 30. The months are interpreted by Xavier Delamarre¹:-

***Samonios* – May 30 days.** Celtic summer started on May 1. There was a three-night festival beginning on 17 Samonios, according to the calendar. This festival may be equivalent to a 10-night festival of Apollo.

Dumannios - June 29 days. Delamarre suggests Compare to Latin *fūmus*, "month of fumigations."

Riueros - July 30 days. Delamarre suggests compare to Old Irish *remor* (stout, thick, fat) and Welsh *rhef* (thick, stout, great, large), "fat month."

Anagantio - August 29 days Delamarre suggests "month of ritual ablutions." The first day of autumn was August 1.

Ogronnios - September 30 days Delamarre suggests a month of cold or winter.

Cantlos - October 30 days Delamarre suggests a month of invocations or chanting.

Sonnocingos - November 30 days possibly march of the sun. Intercalary for year three.

Giamonios - 29 days November. This name is derived from *giamos*, the Gaulish word for winter. Celtic winter started on November 1. *gam* is Old Irish for November, according to *Cormac's Glossary*ⁱⁱ, so this month can be identified with greater confidence than others on this calendar.ⁱⁱⁱ

Simivisonnios - 30 days December. *Simi* could mean half, so "half the course of the sun."

Equos - 29- or 30-days January. Possibly a month of horses or livestock.

Elembivios - 29 days February. Month of the stag. The first day of spring was February 1.

Edrinios - 30 days March. Delamarre suggests compare with Old Irish *áed* (fire, heat).

Cantlos - 29 days April. Delamarre suggests 'month of chanting'.



Detail of *Samonios* (year 1), with *Quimon*- visible at the top. Wikipedia

The months were divided into two halves, the beginning of the second half marked with the term *atenoux* or "renewal". The basic unit of the Celtic calendar was thus the

fortnight or half-month, as is also suggested in traces in Celtic folklore. The first half was always 15 days, the second half either 14 or 15 days on alternate months. This is similar to Hindu calendars.

Months of 30 days were marked *MAT*, months of 29 days were marked *ANM(AT)*. This has been read as "lucky" and "unlucky", respectively, based on comparison with Middle Welsh *mad* and *anfad*, but the meaning could here also be merely descriptive, "complete" and "incomplete". There is no indication of any religious or ritual content.

The Coligny calendar as reconstructed consisted of 16 columns and 4 rows, with two intercalary months given half a column, intercalary months are marked in yellow.

In 2019, blogger Tegos Skribbatous offered a modern reconstruction of the Coligny calendar under a Creative Commons licence. This version is being used in an

experimental use of the calendar, beginning in 2020, by the French ethnologist Emmanuel Larrouturou, taking as a starting point the full moon of June 5, 2020 and marking the dates of the eclipses over a period of 5 years.

Q u i 1.	R i u 4 .	G i a 8 .	A e d 1 2.	R i u 1 6 .	G i a 2 0 .	A e d 2 4.	R i u 2 8 .	R a n 3 2 .	E q u 3 5 .	S a m 3 9.	O g r 4 3 .	E q u 4 7 .	S a m 5 1.	O g r 5 5 .	E q u 5 9 .
	A n a 5 .	S i m 9 .	C a n 1 3.	A n a 1 7 .	S i m 2 1 .	C a n 2 5.	A n a 2 9 .		E l e 3 6 .	D u m 4 0.	Q u t 4 4 .	E l e 4 8 .	D u m 5 2.	Q u t 5 6 .	E l e 6 0 .
S a m 2.	O g r 6 .	E q u 1 0 .	S a m 1 4.	O g r 1 8 .	E q u 2 2 .	S a m 2 6.	O g r 3 0 .	G i a 3 3 .	A e d 3 7 .	R i u 4 1.	G i a 4 5 .	A e d 4 9 .	R i u 5 3.	G i a 5 7 .	A e d 6 1 .
D u m 3.	Q u t 7 .	E l e 1 1 .	D u m 1 5.	Q u t 1 9 .	E l e 2 3 .	D u m 2 7.	Q u t 3 1 .	S i m 3 4 .	C a n 3 8 .	A n a 4 2.	S i m 4 6 .	C a n 5 0 .	A n a 5 4.	S i m 5 8 .	C a n 6 2 .

ⁱ Delamarre, Xavier (2003). *La langue gauloise*. Paris, Editions Errance. 2nd edition. ISBN 2-87772-224-4. Chapter 9 is titled "Un calendrier gaulois".

ⁱⁱ Cormac's Glossary - an early Irish glossary containing etymologies and explanations of over 1,400 Irish words, many of which are difficult or outdated.



Presentation on October 11th, by Dr John Merriman: Impact of the Black Death (1348-9) on the Clergy of the Winchester Diocese – Clemency Fisher

Dr Merriman gave an incredibly informative talk on his PhD – ‘The effects of the 14th Century outbreak of the Black Death, specifically on the clergy of the Winchester Diocese’.

The nature of the Black Death:

In the 14th Century the cause of the Black Death was completely unknown. The only thing that was obvious were the horrible symptoms which would progress as follows: On Day 1 ‘Buboes’ appear (enlarged infected lymph nodes), Day 2 consisted of Nausea and Vomiting, on Day 3 you would present black bleeding under your skin (hence the name). Day 4 caused the entire body to break out into spasm and by Day 5 the bleak itinerary would end with the subsequent death of the victim. Unfortunately, the understanding of the disease lay far behind the course of its main outbreaks. The belief in miasmatic medicine (that clean air and smells prevent illness) established by Galen and Hippocrates, left a persistent influence on science, and it wasn’t until 1894 that Al Yurtzin linked disease to microbes. The plague’s connection to fleas was only discovered in 1898 by French physician Paul-Louis Simond.



Miasmatic medicine in action – herbs in the strange beak to cleanse the air.

There has been a small debate over whether the bubonic plague was the disease that caused the Black Death. Naturally, archaeology proved the doubters wrong and in 2014 the exhumation of 25 bodies of from a 1349 London cemetery presented positive

results for the bubonic plague.

Secondary evidence found in France from pulped up teeth confirmed this to be the case across the continent. While this proves that the 14th century outbreak was indeed one of the bubonic plague, other manifestations of the disease did exist such as the pneumonic plague (the subject matter of ring - a ring - a roses) and the septicaemic plague.

Arrival & Spread:

The disease began its life in China and travelled along trade routes into Europe. It's believed to have entered England in October 1348 in Melcombe, just North of Weymouth harbour. Established wine routes between Bristol Southampton and London accelerated the spread and the estimated speed of infection was around 16 km/month - Fairly quick considering the nature of 14th century travel. It reached Hampshire in October 1348, with the first reported death in Witchcombe, North of Farnham. By 1st of January

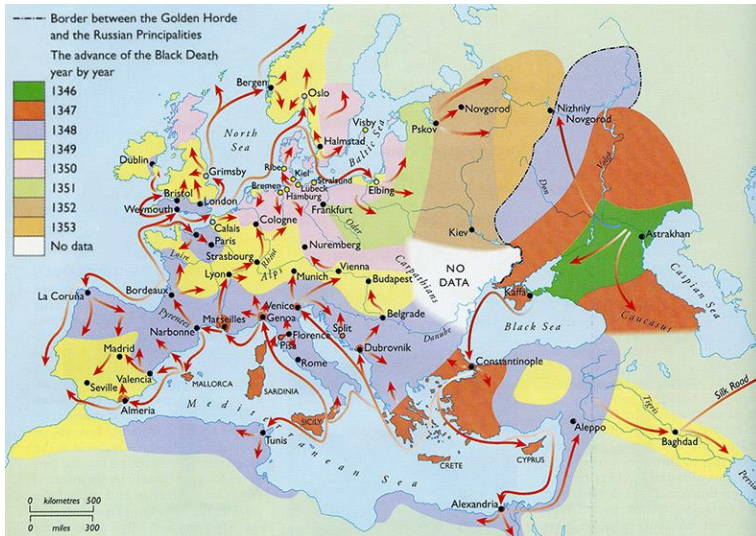
1349 the first member of the Winchester clergy died. By May 1349 the disease had spread across the whole of England.



Dismal plaque in Melcombe

Winchester Diocese:

The Winchester diocese was one of the largest in the United Kingdom in the 14th Century. The ample Bishopric of Winchester included Wolsey Palace and Fareham Manor which made it one of the more desirable positions within the church. In 1346 William Edington's previous achievements were recognised by Edward III and he was appointed as bishop. Edington quickly became the forefront of tackling the epidemic when it arrived a few years into his tenure.



The Spread across Europe

Importance of the Clergy:

Naturally the church held a key position in the lives of the 14th century English population. The three most important events in a person's life — baptism, marriage and burial were all overseen by the church and Merriman estimates that 99.9% of the population were believers. Furthermore, the church was responsible for carrying out public services such as education, charity and healthcare (important in an epidemic!).

Clergy and mortality evidence:

The clergy were hard hit by the 1348 outbreak. Considering the public nature of their roles, urban outposts and workplace proximity (e.g. Monasteries) it is no surprise that Merriman deduced that 46.6% of the national clergy perished. However, his overall conclusion was that in the Winchester area (which includes Hampshire, Surrey and

some of the River Avon) the clergy mortality rate lay at around 49.2%. The situation became so dire that Bishop Ralph of Shrewsbury suggested that in the absence of a priest or a man, a final confession could be made 'even to a woman'. Merriman also noted that in rural areas the death rate was around 40% whereas in urban ones it lay at about 60%, a national population loss of around 45%. In comparison with the global population, which fell from 80-30 mil (65% decline) Britain wasn't so badly affected. Dr. Merriman explained that these conclusions were somewhat difficult to reach due to the fact that the public records do not name the cause of death or church vacancies.

Impact on the church:

Edward III compensated for the sudden vacancies by employing a disproportionate number of new clergies. In 1348 there were 207 priests, yet in 1349, at the national height of the outbreak, 542 were employed. While this solved the problem of vacancies, the standard of the clergy fell. There were examples of priests who couldn't understand the order or even read. The foundation of Trinity Hall and New College in Cambridge and Oxford were created following the change, to reduce future intellectual poverty. It also greatly increased the speed of religious promotions as it would usually take 17 years to become a priest. Andrew de Bokensfield waited only 8 months after becoming an acolyte. A positive effect was that mass employment broke down some of the class barriers to entering the church, and the new clergy were arguably more in touch with the average man than the previous set.

Another problem created was the rapidly increasing demand for graves. In January 1339 the Winchester cemetery began to encroach upon the market place, for

which the townspeople were taken to court by Edington when new boundary lines were drawn.



Bishop
Edington's
Grave
Winchester
Cathedral

Conclusions:

Merriman concluded that the overall effects of the black death on Winchester were a mixture of both change and continuity in the church. While the clergy replenishment altered the make-up of the church moving forward, and improved access to scholarship, in many ways the church became more exclusive as the disease simultaneously limited reform due to financial strain — money needed to be channelled into rebuilding the church, rather than alms, education and charity.



Julia's Jottings

More Anglo-Saxon Goodies

King's College, Cambridge has more than living "treasures" as has been discovered during the demolition of student accommodation. A cemetery containing more than 60 graves produced around 200 items such as bronze brooches, bead necklaces, swords, short blades, pottery and glass

flasks. Most of the items date from the early Anglo-Saxon period i.e., c 400-650AD although evidence of Iron Age structures and Roman earthworks have also been uncovered. Because the soil is alkaline, the bones have not decomposed, so archaeologists are expecting to be able to establish DNA and family relationships, as well as diet and analysis of migration.

A late Roman Flask found at the site. ©Albion Archaeology



The cemetery should provide good evidence of how the Cambridge population lived following the withdrawal of the Romans.

Strong and Safe if Chilly

We know there must have been many different tribes in prehistoric Britain but the Votadini are new to me. Archaeologists have discovered that the top of Arthur's Seat in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh was once a bustling prehistoric walled hill fort, enjoying views over the Firth of Forth and many surrounding miles. Apparently the Votadini ruled South East Scotland about 3000 years ago. Since the archaeologists found lugging all their equipment up the hill was a challenge, we can only imagine the work involved in creating the hill fort in the beginning. However, we must remember that the Votadini would have had a far better diet than ours and no sugar to add the overweight! Apparently, this powerful tribe had several impressive settlements in the area, including Traprain Law in East Lothian. The Arthur's Seat site shows evidence of farming

and protected itself with walls at least 5.4m thick and up to 1.2m high with only one entry point.

Successful Metal Detecting Again

A large lead ingot or “pig” was discovered by a metal detectorist near Rossett in Wales. About half a metre long and weighing around 63 kilograms, this cast Roman ingot is about 2000 years old. Of course, one of the main reasons for the Romans’ presence in Britain was all the natural resources such as tin and lead ore. Less than 100 lead ingots such as this one are known from Roman mines, so this is an important find.

Roman Lead ‘Pig’ discovered in a field near Rossett Wales. (Source Wrexham Council)



Its inscription mentions Marcus Trebellius Maximus, the governor of Britannia under Emperor Nero between AD 63 and 69. If this ingot is genuine, it represents the only inscription of this man’s name in the UK and one of very few throughout the whole empire. Trebellius was partly responsible for bringing stability to Britannia following Boudicca’s revolt in AD 60/1, but was forced out by mutinous Roman soldiers who were dissatisfied with his lack of military activity. Can’t please everyone.

The Good Side of Global Climate Change

We’re all aware of the many bad aspects of climate change but archaeologists appear to be reaping the good aspects quite a lot these days. Retreating ice patches in Norway’s central mountainous area have been offering up their goodies for a few years now. A woollen tunic dated from the

3rd/4th c was one of the first things to come to light in 2011.



Since then, a positive wardrobe has been uncovered: knitted mittens, leather shoes and also arrows with their feathers still attached.

Woollen tunic BBC news online 29/8/13

Although the pass was in use by farmers and travellers for a thousand years, from between 200/300 to the time of the Black Death in the 14th c, the bulk of the artefacts date to the Viking era about 1000, when trade and mobility in this region were at their highest. The extreme cold of the ice has preserved everything in perfect condition, even down to the glue holding the feathers to the arrow shafts. The hundreds of finds include stone-built cairns and small shelters, as well as dairy products, fodder, and reindeer pelts and antlers. One of the most fantastic finds is a snowshoe for a horse! The most important aspect of all these finds is what it tells us about the peoples of the times – their ways of life, their movements, their clothing and their food. It's what our past is all about.

Time to weed the garden!

A New Forest family dug up a cache of late 16th c gold coins when weeding their garden. Thought to have been buried around 1540, the hoard consisted of 63 gold coins and one silver coin. The collection included several coins from Henry VIII's reign, and unusually featured the initials of 3 of his wives: Catherine of Aragon, Anne Boleyn and Jane Seymour. Valued today at around £14,000, the hoard far exceeds the average annual wage in Tudor England and

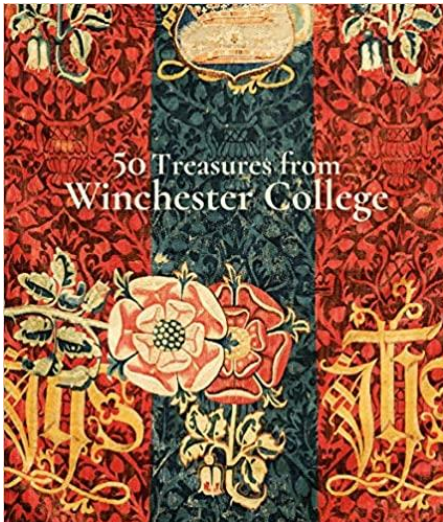
could have belonged to a trader or someone connected to the monasteries at the time of the Dissolution.

Tudor England was a dangerous place for many people, not just Henry's wives! **Hoard of Gold Coins found in a New Forest garden** Daily Echo 9/12/20



Book Reviews

50 Treasures from Winchester College Edited by Richard Foster 2019 Scala Art and Heritage Publishers Ltd ISBN 978-1-78551-220-9 rrp £20.00 - Steve Old



Many WARG members would have been to the Treasury at Winchester College to see their wonderful collection of art and historical artifacts, collected by the college over the years since it was founded in 1382. This book is a selection of just fifty items from that collection, but it is more, for it gives the

reader a greater in-depth knowledge about the item being reviewed.

I am sure there are some items that people have seen in the Treasury that do not appear in this book, we all have our favourites, but I think the editor has done a good job balancing artifact type and age to achieve a wide and diverse spread that gives you a flavour of the holdings that Winchester College have on offer. There are, as you are probably aware, many items in the collection that date from way before the founding of the college and many like the “Drayton Charter” of 1019 are both rare and important.

The book is in full colour with some pictures being full page. The book size is 23.2cm by 27cm and contains 136 pages which includes a list of contributors and other acknowledgements but the book does not contain an index. The book starts with a potted history of Winchester College and some stunning pictures of the college’s architecture.

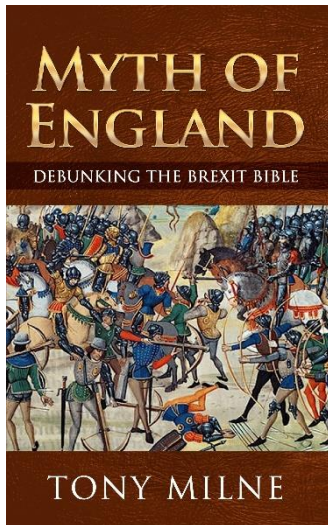
The book is well researched and well written and is a visual feast, well worth a look at if you are at all interested in history and/or art. If you shop around, you could get this impressive book for less than the recommended retail price.



Myth of England – Debunking the Brexit Bible – Post Brexit Edition. Tony Milne 2020 pub Handmaid Books ISBN-13:9798608243073 – Janet Backhouse

I met the author during a course on Human Evolution earlier this year, and was impressed by the depth of his contributions to the Forums and Blogs, where thoughts and opinions on multiple subjects were shared. It was therefore a pleasant surprise when he contacted me with a copy of this book. I am not in the habit of defacing books but I found so

much I wished to revisit in this volume that it is littered with pink highlighting.



Whilst history has always been written by the victors, this is the story of a period of 500 years when Monarchs, mainly not English, inflicted swingeing taxation on the populace. At school, I was taught a great deal about the glories of Monarchs and battles won, but never about the infrastructure which supported these – often tyrants – and how they demanded money to fund their exploits, subsequently, often deliberately ruining their creditors to avoid honouring repayment agreements. With the Domesday Book auditing taxation and the Bayeux Tapestry (actually an embroidery probably worked in Canterbury) showing justification for taxation, the lower classes were in for a rough time. William saw himself as the First King of England, *Rex dei gratia*, not by election.

We know of William 'The Conqueror' defeating King Harold but, not of the apparent enigma. Did you know he never insulted Harold's memory, hailing him for his bravery? He also banned slavery and capital punishment in England, although castration was permitted, and slaves did not pay taxes anyway!! All this whilst taking from the poor English and giving to the rich Normans, creating an organized system of taxation.

William must also have seen the many advantages of keeping Winchester as the seat of government, building a Castle and Cathedral church. Meanwhile, the Bishop of Winchester levied taxation on merchants by locking the city gates, where he stationed his tax collectors during the sixteen days of St. Giles Fair, and also legislating that no private sales of goods were to be made within seven leagues of the city during that time.

Henry II decided the amount of an amercement (fine) not on the merit of the 'crime' but dependent on how much money he needed at the time. A.A. Milne tells us that *'King John was not a good man – he had his little ways'*, and his brother, Richard (The Lionheart) was not the movie hero depicted, but so aggressive and disliked, to the extent his brother offered a ransom, not to have him released from captivity, but to keep him there!

It was not until 1362, when the Statute of Pleading made English the official language for Parliament, that all nobles and the king were required to speak English well enough to conduct official business. It is thought that Henry IV (1367-1413) reigning from 1399, 333 years after the battle of Hastings, was the first English king to speak English as his first language.

Had I more space I would happily continue to add snippets of little known information, such as the precipitation of a supply chain crisis by Edward III, in requisitioning all ships, but I recommend you read it for yourselves.



Walks and Talks Programme

Monday 3 December 2021 'Recent Work at Clarendon Palace and Park' by Dr. Amanda Richardson, Chichester University

Monday 10 January 2022 Potentially Via Zoom dependent on the weather 'Winchester Cathedral Library Connections' by Rosey Smith, Winchester Cathedral guide

Monday 14 February 2022 Via Zoom regardless of the weather 'The Winchester Pageant of 1908' by Brian Hague – WARG Member

Friday 25 February 2022– please note change of day The June Lloyd Lecture Tickets Members £8 'The Role of Women in Anglo-Saxon Wessex during the Conversion period' by Dr. Helen Hamerow, Oxford University

Monday 14 March 2022 'Recent Archaeological work at Winchester Cathedral' by Dr. John Crook FSA, Archaeological Historian

Monday 11 April 2022 'The Hursley Dig 2021 David Ashby, Researcher University of Winchester and Stuart Rippon WARG Dig Committee

Monday 9 May 2022 'A Review of recent archaeological investigations in Southampton' by Dr. Andy Russell, Southampton City Council Archaeological Unit



WARG Committee 2020

Steve Old (Chairman) 27, Ashley Gardens, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 2JH email: chair@warg.org.uk

Kim Batten (Secretary) email: secretary@warg.org.uk

Andy King (Hon. Treasurer) 1, Wheatland Close,
Winchester, SO22 4QL email: treasurer@warg.org.uk

Stuart Rippon (Membership Sec.)
email: membership@warg.org.uk

Janet Backhouse (Publications & Newsletter Editor)
email: wargnews@gmail.com

David Ashby (University of Winchester)
email: david.ashby@winchester.ac.uk

Tracy Matthews (WCC)
email: tmattthews@winchester.gov.uk

Maisie Marshall email: maisiemarshall@hotmail.com

David Spurling email: david@pekingparismorgan.com

Kate Robinson; Tracey Pontin;

Web Master Chris Sellen

Amanuenses for talks: Edwina Cole; Chris Sellen; Steve
Taylor; Clemency Fisher

Proof Readers: Sue Adams, Tessa Smith.

**Our thanks go to Rick Sharp for his contribution to the
committee from which other commitments have
occasioned his resignation.**

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Cheriton, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 0NH. Text 07876 597795 or email
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And just to make you smile - a bit of natural history.

Meet 'Doug' the 17 lb potato



Colin and Donna Craig-Brown were weeding their garden near Hamilton, New Zealand, when they found something unusual beneath the soil's surface. As the couple began excavating the object, they were surprised by its size. When Colin tasted a piece, he realized it was a giant potato.

Colin said, "It's fair to say our veggie garden can sometimes get a bit feral. There are some parts of the garden you need to pack a lunch and advise your next of kin before heading in to," "It's a mystery to me," he said. "It's one of nature's little pleasant surprises."

Colin, who is an amateur brewer, hopes to give Doug a second life as a delicious potato vodka.

Article by Corryn Wetzel, Daily correspondent, Smithsonian Museum Magazine 9/11/21

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to jot ideas for your article.**
