



# News

## Autumn 2022

News 🚶🚶 Meetings 🚶🚶 Reports 🚶🚶 Diary  
Dates 🚶🚶 Travellers' Tales

## Contents

Editorial.....	3
Chairman’s Notes .....	4
Farewell to a friend and colleague .....	5
AGM talk Hyde900 community digs.....	7
Congratulations to Dr. David .....	15
Winchester Cathedral’s The Great West Window .....	16
Don’t categorise skeletons.....	21
Summary of the Big Dig 2022 .....	23
Butser Ancient Farm .....	27
AD 878.....	38
Money, Money, Money.....	40
Book Reviews.....	44
Talks Programme .....	48
WARG Committee.....	49
A map to go with the book review.....	50

As you will, see the publication has had a small rebranding.  
I think we have outgrown the title of newsletter.



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](mailto:membership@warg.org.uk) or visit [www.warg.org.uk](http://www.warg.org.uk)

© 2020 WARG, The Society for Winchester archaeology and local history

Printed by The Sarsen Press, Winchester

## Editorial

How strange are the times in which we live. As we travel through our lives, we make future history by telling our personal stories. The words 'history' and 'story' often overlap and stem from the Classical Greek ιστορία. Although we know the general trajectory of our lives, inevitable events still seem to take us by surprise. Change is the only constant.

What we have celebrated as the Platinum Jubilee year has been no different. We are living through one of the most amazing and disturbing periods of our history, and each one of us should be a living archive for future generations, to ensure they will have direct knowledge and understanding of this era of their history. How many of us remember King George VI and the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth 2nd of England, Wales, and Ireland and 1st of Scotland?

As I approach the anniversary of my mother's death, many years ago, apart from the memories I have of her as a mother, I only have glimpses of the free-spirited little girl and the woman who held enormous pride in her war work, assembling Spitfires. I am truly grateful that I badgered her to write down her memories of her life, but I have no perspective of how her family saw her.

When children are small, they tend to love to hear stories of when their parents and grandparents were young, but this is rarely recorded and as they develop their independent lives, few have more than vague remembrances. How often have we all rued the lost opportunity to learn more about those lives, and said *'I wish I had asked'*.

Even if you do not have future generations, you are still part of a huge generation, having lived through amazing times, and I would urge you to record your memories, on paper or recording – so your voice can form a record of its own. After

all, this is what WARG is all about, finding the history of the lives of our ancestors through archaeology and written records.

Two particularly apposite quotations seem to address leaving the imprint of our individual existence, of course The Bard summed up memory - *This is a gift that I have, simple, simple; a foolish extravagant spirit full of forms, figures, shapes, objects, ideas, apprehensions, motions, revolutions; these are begot in the ventricle of memory, nourished in the womb of pia mater, and delivered upon the mellowing of occasion.* (Loves Labour' s Lost: Act 4, Scene 2.)

And - *'Each day of our lives we make deposits in the memory banks of our children.'* Charles Swindoll.

What better gift could an archaeologist or historian leave for the future?

Janet.



### **Chairman's report – Steve Old**

Firstly, I am really sorry that I have not been able to attend meetings in person this talks season. My care responsibilities mean I cannot leave my wife and I have been unable to find someone to stand in. I must also announce my intention to step down as Chair as soon as a replacement has been found. With increasing personal commitments, I can no longer find the time necessary to fulfil the responsibilities of the Chair. I will, however, stay on as a committee member until this proves untenable.

The past year has seen some return to normality, though not yet to its previous level. WARG has taken to the outreach trail again and we have had some very busy and successful events including open events at the dig in Hursley, St Cross Fair, Alresford Show and The Heritage Open Day at St Cross. We have launched our Anniversary Book (£10.00) and have a few Anniversary items available to purchase (Bookmark 20p/Aluminium Coaster £2.50). The book has had praise from those that have bought and read it. Thank you to all the contributors who have made this book a reality.

We have, of course, had another successful dig at Hursley Park where I think we achieved our goals and created a whole new set of goals for a possible dig next year. News of the dig has spread far and wide and we hosted open events for Hampshire Field Club and The Cromwell Association, with some of their members coming from some distance away to attend. We also had the very successful public open day which was very well attended.

The coming year looks as if it could also be a busy one. We now have a programme of talks in place, after a lot of time and effort, that provides you, our members, with a wide variety of topics. We are still looking for a volunteer to step into the role of Events Coordinator, a key role in the running of a successful society like ours.

Thank you all for the support you have given to WARG over the past year, here is to another successful year in 2022-23.



**In Memory of Eric Wadham 1927 – 2022**

**Eric Wadham**

**1927 – 2022**

After service in the Army. Eric took a degree in Physics, working in that field until his retirement in 1987, which gave him more time to follow his enthusiasms of tinkering with cars, decorating and gardening. It also opened a new hobby, archaeology, when he and Pam joined the Winchester



Archaeological Rescue Group (WARG). Eric joined WARG in the 1980s. In those days WARG provided help for the City Archaeologist by having work evenings on a Monday for pot-washing, marking of finds, and similar activities. Eric and his wife Pam were regular attendees at these meetings. One Monday a month was a talk instead of a work evening, and we had speakers such as Kathleen

Kenyon, Margaret Rule and Julian Richards. At that time, too, WARG used to have regular coach outings

### **Cutting the cake on WARG's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary**

to places of interest such as the British Museum and the National Maritime Museum as well as going to archaeological sites such as Littlecote. Eric and Pam were nearly always to be seen on these outings.

Eric joined the WARG committee and in the early 1996 became the group's 4<sup>th</sup> chairman. The 1990s were a difficult time for WARG. Rescue archaeology, digging before a site was developed, had been a gesture from developers but the government made it possible for local authorities to make

archaeology a planning requirement, which led to the growth of commercial archaeological units.

At the same time the city gave its archaeological team significantly more support, only, a few years later, to cut back on activities. This removed much of its traditional role from WARG and created a heavy load for its chair. On a happier note, Eric cut the cake at WARG's 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary party in 1997. He also unveiled a bench dedicated to the memory of Amicia Carroll, our 1<sup>st</sup> chairman. Eric continued as chairman for 9 years, handing the reins to Dick Selwood in 2005. He was then made an honorary life member of WARG.

He and Pam continued to support WARG events until Pam's health became a problem and Eric devoted himself to her care.

Our sincere condolences go to Eric's family.



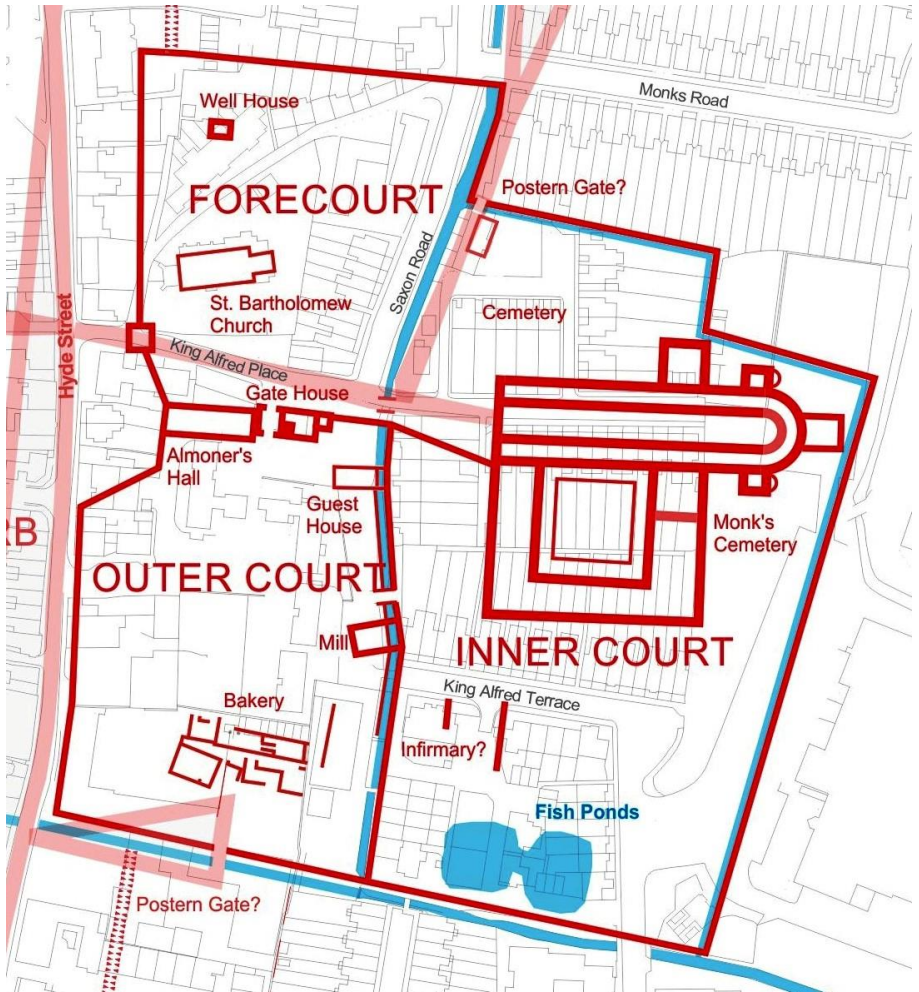
## Annual General Meeting Talk

**Hyde900 Community Digs 2021-2022 -A Talk by David Spurling - Edwina Cole** *All photographs © Hyde900*

*Highly recommended – a visit to the Hyde900 web site for full information on the search <https://www.hyde900.org.uk/>*

Following the conclusion of the WARG AGM, David Spurling was able to bring us all up to date with the work of bringing Hyde Abbey back to life. He emphasized the importance of the link between heritage and community and thanked all those who had participated.

He began by outlining the history of the Abbey. Founded by Edward the Elder it was large and well endowed, but was destroyed in the Dissolution and lay in ruins for many years.





The only major building left is the 15<sup>th</sup> century gatehouse.

The ruins provided a source of stone for the locality and in 1788 the Bridewell-a prison-was built on top of it.

As part of the research project, the moulded stone in the area was recorded. An example of a ball and lozenge voussoir helped with the visualization of the Abbey, and the Cathedral Master Mason was able to produce some wonderful drawings, which further enhance our understanding of what it must have looked like.

The local community became very involved with the research project and set about tracking down any re-used stone.

Some was found in local properties and householders offered to dig up their gardens! It was thought that any encouragement to do this might not have been popular with the City Archaeologist, so with the project gaining publicity the City Archaeologist stepped in and the Hyde Community Digs Project was born in 2016. Its aim was to involve the local community in rediscovering the Abbey through archaeology.

The area covering the church and the cloisters is not scheduled and the foundations of several walls and the cloister were soon found.

One problem was that one of the walls was out of line. This was odd, and not commensurate with a prestigious Abbey building. This puzzle was to be solved later.



*Voussoirs forming part of a cloistral arch 2017/18*

As work continued, the young were found to be particularly enthusiastic with digging and sieving. In 2017 some wonderful, very finely carved stonework was uncovered. The existence of a Medieval wall was confirmed and 100 volunteers took part. The community digs continued, uncovering 12<sup>th</sup> century carved stone, and establishing the line of the refectory.

Trenches were dug in 4 gardens in 2020, and the work continued despite the rain, gales, and the pandemic!

*David explaining a 'find' to a young volunteer in 2020*



Bringing us up to date David explained what had been achieved in the 2021 and 2022 digs.

In 2021 the action was based around King Alfred Place and King Alfred Terrace involving 5 gardens. 18 King Alfred Place may have been the site of one of the towers likely to have flanked the west end of the church. This was also the site of a

massive stone foundation structure.

5 King Alfred Terrace was where a portion of the floor from the original abbey at the west end of the abbey cloisters was found. 19/20 King Alfred Terrace gave diggers the opportunity to explore what was possibly the south range of transept and other buildings adjacent to the abbey church.

The project had many visitors including the mayor who was photographed in one of the trenches, and the editor of "Current Archaeology."



*In 2021 the Bridewell floor, built on top of the Abbey site at the end of C18th sees light under the garden of 7 King Alfred Terrace for the first time since C19th.*

The project was less ambitious in 2022, but it produced

some remarkable archaeology. In April, a test pit was dug just north of those dug in 2020. The aim was to find the north wall of the abbey church.

A 12<sup>th</sup> century beak head was uncovered – probably a fragment of a voussoir in the west doorway of the church. This is about to go on display in the city museum.

At the bottom of the trench, they found the north wall. This enabled the plan to be redrawn so that there was no longer a wall that was out of line.



*C12th 'beak head', possibly a griffon, thought to be one of a pair.  
2022*

By mid-2022 the project received early photos of the find of a cache of Medieval glass discovered in 2021. This is now the subject of a PhD by Bronwen Stone and will feature in a talk at the King Alfred Weekend in October.

The August 2022 community dig concentrated on 3 gardens in the SW area of the cloisters and adjoining gardens. Again, it produced some significant archaeology including the foundation of a Medieval wall, probably from the refectory, and part of a 2-tile pair showing a bishop in the act of blessing. A large hearth was also uncovered in what was probably the Abbot's lodging.

In one garden, at the western end of King Alfred Terrace, the southernmost trench proposed by Dr. Dave Stewart, Hyde900 expert cartographer, had to be moved because it was too near the mill stream. This proved to be a blessing in disguise for the new location produced the find of the entire dig...an original, intact 12<sup>th</sup> century culvert. Verified by Dr David Ashby, Dr John Crook crawled into it and took some brilliant photos.





*C12th culvert 2022*

Subsequently surveyed by Dr Ashby, and beautifully constructed, it was interpreted as a culvert to take water from the mill down to flush out the latrines of the abbey. It is located just outside the SW corner of the cloister buildings.



***Dr. Crook down another culvert (See St. Cross)!***

So far, the Hyde Community Digs Project has dug 39 trenches in 15 gardens. The plan of the abbey has been redrawn twice over and 950 people have enjoyed the archaeology. This is a huge

achievement, and paves the way to rediscovering Hyde Abbey in all its glory. Some questions remain, of course, and whilst plans have yet to be made for 2023, the location of the west end of the church is still waiting to be discovered.

In thanking David for his interesting presentation, members of WARG will be looking forward to further developments.



### **Congratulations Dr. David**

It is with great pleasure the committee is able to congratulate David Ashby on the award of his Doctorate.

Many of you will know David as a long-standing member of the WARG committee and our archaeological advisor on the excavations. He has led WARG's very successful digs as well as those for Hyde900. He currently works at University of Winchester as Laboratory Manager in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences & the Faculty of Law, Crime and Justice.

David at work ©University of Winchester



Digging the Dirt with Hyde 900 2022 ©Hyde900

In his own words, David has a diverse range of activities in his role, not only in fieldwork, but staff and student support, laboratory and equipment



maintenance and health and safety. He also has responsibility as the Radiological Protection Supervisor for the University.

In addition, he lectures and demonstrates within the School of History and Archaeology on excavation skills, geophysics, site health and safety and research skills. To add to this, he works on Geoarchaeological and environmental archaeological work for the University's archaeological consultancy arm, ARCA.

In 2008 he formed the *Stanford in the Vale Archaeological Research Project*, examining the formation and development of the Oxfordshire village of Stanford in the Vale. He continues as its director and it was on this project he based his thesis, titled, *Stanford in the Vale in Context: A Multi-Disciplinary Approach to Rural Settlement Development in Oxfordshire*.

With a number of other publications to his name, one wonders how he has the time to continue to support WARG and Hyde900, but we are very grateful that he does.

To read more about David's work you can find this at <https://www.winchester.ac.uk/about-us/leadership-and-governance/staff-directory/staff-profiles/ashby.php>



## **The Great West Winchester Window – Janet Backhouse**

Winchester cathedral is undoubtedly one of the prime examples of medieval design and construction. Built around 1079, it has many of its original features. However, as with



any investigation into the cathedral, one is led into other important aspects of history.

All is not as it was designed for the original building and, where one would expect to see depictions of religious stories, the Great West Window resembles more a 20<sup>th</sup> century psychedelic design.



*The Great West Window from the Nave*  
©Margo@curiousrambler.com

This is the result of the English Civil War (1642–1651) which was in fact a series of three civil wars and political machinations between Parliamentarians and Royalists. The wars were also known as the War of the Three Kingdoms.

The first (1642–1646) and second (1648–1649) wars pitted the supporters of King Charles I, against the supporters of the Long Parliament, while the third (1649–1651) saw fighting between supporters of King Charles II and

supporters of the Rump Parliament. The wars also involved the Scottish Covenanters and Irish Confederates, and ended with a Parliamentary victory at the Battle of Worcester on 3 September 1651.

The causes of the wars were complex but at the centre of them were disagreements about religion, discontent over the king's use of power and his economic policies.

The trouble began in the 1625, when Charles 1 acceded the throne, with the firm belief he ruled by the Divine Right of Kings, and answered only to his God. When he raised taxes and parliament objected, he simply ignored them and sent them home.

As history tells us this was not a wise move and caused a schism, which, ultimately, in 1649, led to Charles literally losing his head and the monarchy fleeing the country. This initiated the only period of Republican rule in British history, also known as the Interregnum which lasted for eleven years. The cost of the wars was devastating in terms of human life. It amounted to approx. 4.5% of the population (200,000 souls), and was proportionate to the loss of life in the First Great War of 1914-18.

**However, to return to the window, the important time for this was in 1642.**

The country had split into Monarchists or Cavaliers, literally gentlemen trained in horsemanship, although not all of Charles' followers were from the nobility, and they mainly worshipped in the High Anglican tradition. The other faction, the Roundheads, Puritans and members or followers of the parliamentary part, led by Oliver Cromwell, and so named for their short hair.

Geographically, Winchester occupied a strategic site on major roadways and was a prime site to control, and in 1642 the Roundheads captured the city. To this day we retain memories of the occupations in names such as Oliver's Battery in Winchester and Hopton's Retreat in Kilmeston.

As happens in military conflict, the troops were looking for a fight and took their frustration out on an outstanding example of their religious dispute.

On December 12<sup>th</sup> 1642, they wreaked havoc in the city centre, and proceeded to ride their horses into the cathedral itself.

Looking for plunder they opened the mortuary chests and having only found the bones of former monarchs, not the riches they had anticipated being buried with them, scattered the bones, throwing some at the windows, after which they used the stained-glass windows for target practice.

©current archaeology



Once the troops had left, the townspeople retrieved the bones and glass, which they hid in the hope they could eventually restore the damage. This they were able to start to do after Cromwell died in 1658. The monarchy was eventually restored in May 1660, after eleven years of Republican rule.

The Cathedral's huge west window is made up of fragments of medieval glass, randomly reconstructed, in the, probably accidental, form known as **pique assiette mosaic work**. This is a method similar to mosaic which, of necessity, used non-uniform fragments to create the 'design'.

Obviously, in those days, to recreate the beautiful Biblical scenes was beyond possible, and some windows were replaced with clear glass.

What they could do was to restore the bones to their resting places, although without DNA science the bodies were rather jumbled. The hip bones were connected to the thigh bones, but not necessarily in the right order. But they apologised to the deceased and prayed for the repose of the people who they had been.

Even then the West Window was special, and with all the pieces of broken glass assembled, a stunning new window was created.

Whilst it no longer conveys the stories from the Bible, it does tell the story of the townsfolk of Winchester. They showed how no matter damaged something might be, and even if it is not possible to restore it to its original state, it can still be put back together to make something really worth having.



©Tony Higsett

Ref:

<https://hampshirearchivesandlocalstudies.wordpress.com/2021/10/09/a-time-of-great-troubles-by-reason-of-the-warres-some-hampshire-sources-for-the-english-civil-wars/>

<https://curiousrambler.com/a-window-a-war-and-a-metaphor-in-winchester-cathedral/>

<https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/learn/histories/the-english-civil-wars-history-and-stories/#:~:text=The%20English%20Civil%20Wars%20comp,ised,of%20the%20wars%20was%20devastating.>



## **Don't give skeletons a gender or categorise their race, woke activists demand - Sam Merriman for The Mail on Sunday online 24/07/2022**

*I firmly believe that people should be treated equitably and be allowed to live as who they are, and I make no apology for reproducing, in full, this article in the news in July. I know this is a controversial subject but could not do it justice by providing a precis. I thought I was accustomed to the rewriting of history and will forebear to make a personal comment on this, save to say – I may not be able to follow this logic regarding research, my degree in psychology taught we should not impose our psychology on past generations, but, if I choose to be buried, I shall request the words 'WHITE (AGE) FEMALE' be engraved on my skull prior to burial! A message on the urn will be sufficient for a cremation, and that says nothing about anyone other than myself, but will allow the archaeologists to categorise me without a problem. (Ed)*

Gender activists want scientists to stop categorising ancient human remains as either male or female – because they cannot be sure how the deceased identified themselves

when they were alive. Woke warriors have also insisted that archaeologists no longer categorise the race of remains as this 'contributes to white supremacy'.

Critics said last night that such demands would lead to a rewriting of history and imposing current ideology 'where it doesn't belong'. Traditionally, when human remains are excavated, archaeologists determine traits such as age, gender and race using proven scientific methods such as bone structure and DNA analysis.

Woke campaigners argued human remains found by archaeologists should not be given a gender because it could not be known how a person identified in life. This allows anthropologists and historians to learn more about the person and expand academic research.



© *Provided by Daily Mail (File Photo)*

However ancient skeletons are increasingly being labelled as 'non-binary' or 'gender neutral' by trendy academics.

The Black Trowel Collective of American archaeologists says, '*archaeologists must centre the fluidity of gender in*



*their archaeological practice'. The group's manifesto on 'trans liberation' states: 'It is clear from archaeological, historical, and ethnographic accounts that human gender is highly variable and that human beings have historically been comfortable with a range of genders beyond modern "masculine" and "feminine" binaries.'*

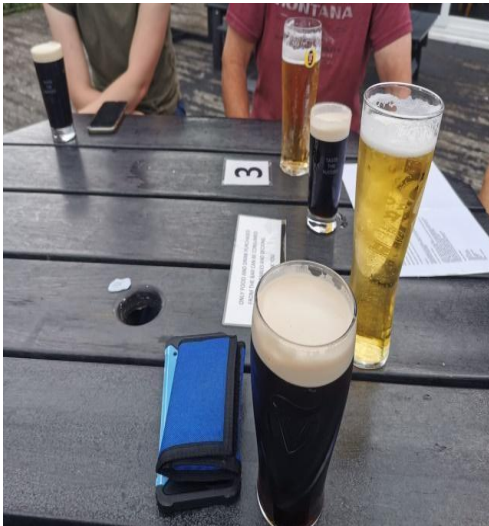
If only they had been able to write their perspectives for our enlightenment and their dignity.



## Summary of the 2022 Big Dig – Stuart Rippon

Photographs ©Miriam Moss

*(We don't want to give away too much about this year's amazing dig, as*



*the full diary is soon to be published on the web site, and we have a talk coming up, in April, which will have more detail about the post excavation work. But here is a taster and suffice it to say that this is a very tiny sample of what may have been one of the epic WARG digs. Ed.)*

The current house was built about 1722 as the owner did not think that the roof of the old house "the one we are digging" would survive the winter. So, the old house was demolished and what could be recovered was used in foundations and servants' quarters - so the records tell us.

2021 exceeded our expectations of uncovering the Tudor mansion and underneath this we found tantalising glimpses of a potential earlier building. What was a surprise was the Stuart building that appeared to have been built on top of the Tudor foundations – this is what we are exploring further in 2022.

*The dig dressed in number one uniform for inspection by guests at the IBM evening Event – also of course to prevent anyone falling in!*



glass pieces.

The weather was predominantly HOT and digger care had to be taken to avoid casualties.

One lovely find uncovered by Ben in Trench 6 were these





Mike, who looked after trench 4, and was not supposed to be abseiling, removed a few flints and a VOID opened. Luckily, we only lost him up to his thigh. Making this safe had to be a priority and three of our top team had to be side-lined to address the issue.



We had a visit from IBM along with a structural engineer to look at the well and advise on the approach to making it safe. We now know what we must do to backfill in a manner that allows IBM to cap the well safely. We were concerned that the amount of material needed to backfill the well would impact our ability to backfill all the trenches to the level of the grass but the plan proposed addresses that.



The Big Dig  
Open Day  
and 50<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary  
Celebration  
picnic day 19  
June 15<sup>th</sup>



Trench 5 turned out to be our most complex. We have more than 120 separate contexts in this trench.

Sorting out what relates to what has been a real challenge and we have been drawing and measuring for days.

The help Winchester University have given, with the loan of the total station, really speeded this up with accurate measurements of height and location available in seconds.

In practical terms - 120 contexts need 120 Tyvek labels (those plastic 'paper' tags), then two in every finds tray and one to

four trays per context, so that is 600 – 1300 tags in trench 5 alone... Add in the other trenches, and I'll be buying more boxes for the next dig.

The drawings are complex and it looks like every brick in the wall has been drawn - difficult when they are covered with mortar.

And this is how we left the lawn. We are incredibly thankful to IBM for their support and cooperation in the preparation and completion of the dig.



I'd like to offer my personal thanks, and I'm sure the whole dig committee offers theirs's as well, to everyone who took part this year. Plus - of course our thanks go to IBM for allowing us to dig up the lawn, and the welcome IBM management and the site staff gave us.

To our regular diggers/processors and returners, thank you for coming back again, your experience and skill was much appreciated and it's so nice to meet old friends again.

To the Students – thank you for joining us and being part of the team, we hoped you enjoyed the dig and that we may

see some of you again next year. Good luck on your courses and thank you for working so hard on this dig. We hope you had a good time.

To those who came for the first time this year - we hope we have given you the taste of archaeology you were looking for. We welcome people new to archaeology because we hope you will come back and join us and become part of the WARG family.

Finally, to those who have now been bitten by the archaeology bug. We hope you will come back and book time next year to come and dig again – it will probably be in June “I think” but that will depend on IBM and WARG schedules.

If you are new to archaeology and looking for more experience this summer then there is another opportunity to dig in Winchester with the team at Hyde <https://www.hyde900.org.uk/>



If you fancy helping WARG next year with our Big Dig, just email [membership@warg.org.uk](mailto:membership@warg.org.uk)

**Stuart in his multi-coloured dig coat.**





## **Butser Ancient Farm - Therese Kearns Experimental Archaeologist – 14<sup>th</sup> November 2022 - Steve Taylor**

*We were very fortunate to have been able to listen to this presentation in the auditorium at IBM Hursley House. The ginormous screen was perfect for reading plans and seeing the details of the excellent interpretation of the ancient buildings. All photographs ©Butser ancient farm. ed.)*



*Butser  
Ancient  
farm in  
the  
South  
Downs*

This year is the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the setting up of the Butser Ancient Farm, a project in experimental archaeology founded by Peter Reynolds in 1972. Located at Little Butser, high on the Downs south of Petersfield, it set out to produce better insights into farming life in the Iron Age, by recreating the buildings and agricultural processes used over two thousand years ago. These experiments have always been based on evidence from excavations carried out in the south of England. The project has moved its location a short distance since it was started and sadly, Peter Reynolds died prematurely in 2001; his vision continues in the work still being done today.

It now operates as a not-for-profit company directed by Maureen Page and Simon Jay, focussed on education and

research. It has been visited by over 35,000 pupils. Much of the experimental work on buildings is based on a set pattern, whereby structures are built based on completed excavations, then allowed to decay, monitored, the data shared and, using this insight, reconstructed. Originally just an Iron Age focus, the project has now broadened to cover the Stone Age, Bronze Age, Roman and Saxon periods. An example of their work is found in their recreation of Neolithic dwellings based on excavations carried out by Wessex Archaeology at Horton Quarry in Berkshire.

Four houses were found at this site alongside Beaker Burials. In the UK only twenty houses from this period have been excavated so this was a rare opportunity to test some hypotheses about Neolithic dwellings. Although the excavated house was a good size, only six postholes were identified. The experimental reconstruction used authentic tools wherever possible and, lacking information on the make-up of the walls, used two separate approaches for the gable structures. One was wattle and daub; the other was upright planks. The finished building was covered in over 5 tons of thatch and used 2.7 km of twine to secure the roof battens to the timbers. 950 metres of rope was also used.

*Horton House exterior - person not original*



## *Horton house interior*



A later period building, again involving Wessex Archaeology, was the Bronze Age building excavated at Dunch Hill on Salisbury Plain.

Unusually for circular houses of this period, there was a central posthole. However, there was little evidence of the materials used in the wall so the Butser reconstruction used a variety of materials all lined with wattle panels. Cob, earth banks and turf were all used, sometimes with daub, sometimes without. One material used was *clunch*, involving a mix of chalk blocks, crushed chalk, and straw. It proved to be surprisingly durable once set.

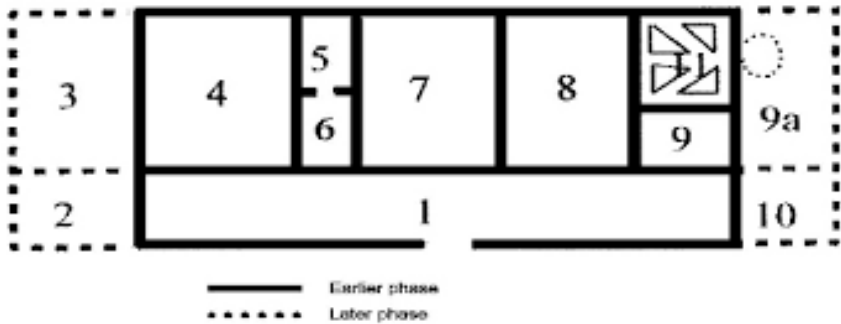


*Earth bank at Dunch – the mice loved it.*

This particular experiment was carried out with significant involvement from Operation Nightingale, a scheme

which uses archaeology in the rehabilitation of military veterans. It drew awards both from the CBA and the MOD in 2021 for its work in engagement and outreach. The opening ceremony for the completed reconstruction was attended by Phil Harding of Time Team fame and Professor Alice Roberts.

One of the earlier Butser Projects was the reconstruction of a Roman Villa based on the excavation at Sparsholt, west of Winchester. It only made limited progress in the time of Peter Reynolds but was restarted in 2002. Still standing at Butser, it will celebrate its 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2023. Apart from the building, a more recent activity has been the recreation of a mosaic found at Sparsholt (now located in Winchester Museum) which involved more than 1000 hours of work and was completed in 2017. Further experimental work based on Roman archaeology is the replication of a hypocaust which it is hoped will be fired up for the first time early next year.



*Plan of the Sparsholt Villa*



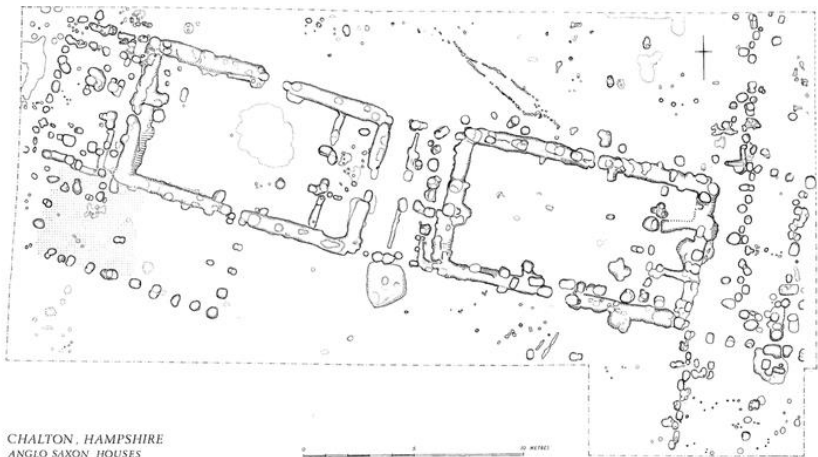
*Reconstruction of mosaic from Sparsholt*

Much of the work based on Anglo Saxon archaeology has been based on a site close to Butser at Church Down, Chalton. First identified by Barry Cunliffe in the 1960s, who with the local farmer field-



walked the area, it was excavated by Peter Addyman in 1970/72. Tim Champion continued this work between 1972 and 1974. Several rectangular timber buildings were identified and two of them, adjacent to each other at their gable ends, were reconstructed at Butser. They appeared to be of several phases and use different construction methods. This mix was reflected at Butser's replicas with a mix of post holes and trenches, the latter being probably the remains of plank walls. They are available to visit at Butser.

### *Excavation drawing at Chalton*



CHALTON, HAMPSHIRE  
ANGLO SAXON HOUSES

FIG. 9  
PLAN OF THE EXCAVATION AT CHURCH DOWN, CHALTON, HANTS (p. 16)  
showing post-in-trench buildings (A1 and A2, pp. 17, 18 f.), post-and-trench building (A3, p. 20), fences  
(A4 and A5, p. 20), and various post-hole structures (B1-4 and C1, p. 21 f.)  
For interpretation of this composite plan, compare the outlines of the individual buildings in FIG. 12.

[over page 16]



### *The reimagined house*

To mark the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the project it was decided to erect a standing stone and an appropriately sized piece of Purbeck limestone, weighing some three and a half tons was selected. This was about the same size as the bluestones at Stonehenge, which had been moved over 100 miles from southwest Wales. Rather more modestly, Butser aimed to move it some 30 metres by hauling it on rolling pieces of timber. To assist them in this task, thirty naval ratings from the aircraft carrier HMS Queen Elizabeth were recruited for a day. After a number of setbacks, the stone was successfully erected and is now a permanent feature of the Museum



*Romancing the stone to move with sledge and rollers*



*Heave Ho me hearties - erecting the standing stone*

Butser encourage much involvement with the community. Volunteers have made a garden at the Saxon houses planted with species from that period. Students have built a pottery kiln in Romano-British style, based on one excavated on the Medway, and have successfully fired a range of different size pots. Attempts have been made (without success so far) to replicate the process used to make brass based on some remains from Roman Fishbourne. Projects currently under way include a Danebury building from 300 BCE which, when excavated, showed a circular structure some 8 metres in diameter, formed of 114 upright posts. Work so far seems to suggest that whatever this structure was used for it was not one that could support a roof. The investigation continues!

Another recent venture has been to try and replicate a Neolithic circular structure (coincidentally also about 8 metre diameter) located in an excavation on Martin Green's farm on Cranborne Chase. This structure had four large posts providing the main support. It contained a hearth and among the recovered structural evidence was plaster showing the clear impression of a wattle wall or fence.



*Operation 'Fix the Loo' 2022 - The Iron Age 'loo with a view' before and after.*

Butser welcomes visitors. Once the Museum has reopened next Easter it will be accessible both to students and the public, though at different times. Apart from the reconstructed ancient buildings the Museum also hosts a variety of events such as the Wicker man Beltane festival and other seasonal items.





The Wicker Man

at Beltane

*– I do hope someone checked inside before lighting the fire.*

As part of their 50-year celebration they are compiling a record of memories from anybody who want so share some experience or contact over that period. WARG members would be very welcome to contribute.



Entitled “Memories” details can be found at: [www.butserplus.com](http://www.butserplus.com) and visit details can be found at:

[www.butserancientfarm.co.uk](http://www.butserancientfarm.co.uk)

For more information about the brilliant military veterans and archaeology, visit <https://www.wessexarch.co.uk/our-work/operation-nightingale>



## 878 AD inspired by Assassin's Creed Valhalla opening in Winchester- from the Hampshire Chronicle online 10/11/2022

You may have seen this on BBC South Today news or read it in the Hampshire Chronicle, that Hampshire Cultural Trust has collaborated with Ubisoft and Sugar Creative to develop a new type of video game based on the history of Winchester if 878CE.

This opened on November 12<sup>th</sup> in The Brooks and features the victory over the Vikings at the battle of Edington in May of that year. Those of you who are 'Gamers' will know of *Assassin's Creed Valhalla* which uses the sights and sounds of Winchester at that time.



### ©Hampshire chronicle

The experience is made up of two parts. Reenactors in The Brooks will act typical scenes from that time, and, for the tech savvy, there is an app to download showing key moments from Winchester's past.

### ©Hampshire Chronicle

*The chief executive of Hampshire Cultural Trust, said: "It has been a project since 2020. We have been working with Ubisoft in*



*collaboration to put the experience together. We have long wanted to move into immersive technology to interpret the story of Winchester. The project has really developed in scope and excitement. We felt that Winchester was crying out for another attraction which brings the story to a wider audience. The Assassin's Creed collaboration really gives us something special. I think the people of Winchester will be excited to see something as forward-thinking and as immersive as this come to the city. I think it will bring footfall into the centre of the city and to The Brooks Centre. Through the immersive app, folks who know the city well will get something out of it, seeing it through a different light."*

Having lost the archaeological site of The Brooks, this hopefully will provide some compensation.

Thierry Noel, senior inspirational content manager at Ubisoft, said: *"This experience is pretty unique, it is a nice way to bring together all the research we do for the games. I love the idea that we can do this kind of thing."*

Ryan Lavelle, professor of early medieval history at the University of Winchester, said: *"I have been involved right from the beginning as a historical advisor. It gave us a chance to explore what people might feel and the sort of pressures around at the time of 878. I also had involvement in how the little dramas involving the actors would play out. Winchester is a city with a lot of history to it, a lot of things happened here. On the streets of Winchester, it's not always easy to perceive the past. Hopefully this helps to bring that alive and inspire people to learn more about that period."*

HCT is hoping to expand on this experience to highlight more of Winchester's history.

The experience is open 10 am – 5 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 11 am – 5 pm on Sunday. Pre booking is advised. All information about your visit is available online.

If you have been searching for holiday visits with the children or grandchildren, this looks to fit the bill for the whole family.

For more details, visit <https://878ad.co.uk>



## Money Money Money – Janet Backhouse

A quarter noble, hailed as the oldest English coin ever found in Newfoundland, was struck in London between the years 1422 and 1427. Its value was one shilling and eight pence,



approx. 8 pence in today's money. The coin predates the arrival of Europeans on the island by 70 years. This begs the question of how it got there. Research on the coin is continuing and further work on the site where it was found may be

conducted in the future.



*Quarter Noble coin*



*The coin as found©  
Government of  
Newfoundland  
and  
Labrador.*

Minted in  
London  
between 1422

and 1427, the 600-year-old coin predates the first documented European contact with North America since the Vikings. Paul Berry, a former curator of the Bank of Canada's Currency Museum, says that the coin was likely out of circulation when it was lost, there is much speculation about exactly how the gold quarter noble coin made its way to Newfoundland and Labrador.

**A Penny or two for your thoughts – Scotland's largest medieval coin hoard in 200 years unearthed by detectorists.**

Last year, more than 8,407 coins from Scotland, England, Ireland and Continental Europe – dating back to the 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> centuries - were unearthed in Dumfriesshire. The hoard is thought to be worth hundreds of thousands of pounds on the antiquities market. The treasure trove was discovered last year near the village of Dunscore, and the majority of coins are Edward I and II pennies. Work is underway to catalogue the find.

## DIY pays off

When undertaking a new home renovation project, a couple from Ellerby in North Yorkshire, England, hit the jackpot after they found a cup filled with 264 gold coins underneath their kitchen floor. They thought that they had come across an electrical cord six inches under their floorboards, but on investigation, it actually turned out to be a cup the size of a drinks can filled with coins dating from between 1610 to 1727. One Charles II guinea, even had a mint error on it — instead of “CAROLVS,” it was accidentally spelled “CRAOLVS.” Another coin was a rare Scottish issue.

The coins were traced back to a family nearly 300 years ago. It would appear that the gold coins belonged to the Fernley-Maisters, a wealthy family from Hull, England, who were well-known merchants who also served as Whig members of Parliament in the early 1700s.

The coins were found in July 2019. The recent auction sale was in excess of £700000.

## And worth its weight in gold.

*A 135-year-old message in a bottle was found under floorboards in a Scottish home.*

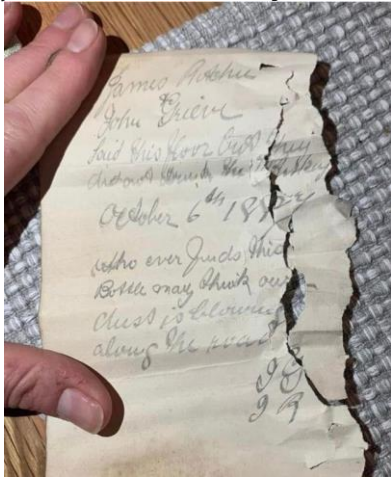


©Peter  
Allan

Peter Allan, a plumber, discovered a Victorian time capsule when he opened the floor where a whisky bottle had been left.

He was replacing a radiator when he cut the floorboards to find the pipework and found the bottle. The note, left by the workers who laid the original floor, was under what would have been a maid's room when the house was first built.

The house owner tried to get the note out with tweezers and pliers, but it started to rip so she got a hammer and smashed the bottle. It was signed and dated by two male workers and read: "*James Ritchie and John Grieve laid this floor, but they did not drink the whisky. October 6th 1887. Who ever finds this bottle may think our dust is blowing along the road.*"



The house owner said: "*I feel absolutely terrible breaking a 135-year-old bottle but it was the only way to reach the note. I've kept all the pieces in a Tupperware tub.*"

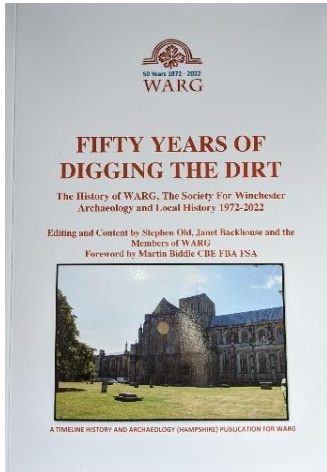
Since the find a family friend looked on the 1881 census and found the men's names living just a few miles away in the Newington area of Edinburgh. A curator at the National Library of Scotland has since recommended to the family that they preserve the note in an acid-free pocket.

Some pockets have been ordered and it is planned to frame the note with a piece of the bottle such as the neck, with a new note from the family along with a transcription of the note, and place it back into the hole before it is covered over.



## Book Reviews – Techer Jones

### **Fifty Years of Digging the Dirt: The history of WARG 1972-2022 – Techer Jones**



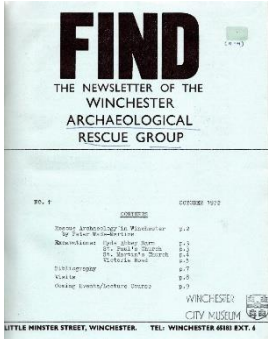
Janet asked me to write a review of WARG's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary publication. I felt I should be disqualified as I wrote a few of the contributions: but you all know how insistent our publications secretary is. As well as yours truly, there are contributions from Martin Biddle, Steve Old, Janet Backhouse, Julia Sandison, John Stott, David Spurling, Chris

Sellen, Geoff Buss, Dick Selwood, Don Bryan, Edwina Cole, Ken Qualmann, and I am sure I missed a few.

Stephen Old and Janet Backhouse have done a marvellous job of weaving the contributions together to make the book read smoothly. Steve has also added some short pieces that fill some of the gaps between individual contributions.

After a typically gracious forward by Martin Biddle, the book starts with an overview and a brief history by Janet. Chapter two gives a summary of the post 2006 excavation programme with some surprises. Teaser- who remembers the 2010 Kings Somborne excavation? As well as outlining the excavations, there are some lovely personal insights and memories here. Chapters three and four talk about the Hyde 900 work and about the F2 and other working parties. Not sure that some of the hairier participants in work parties would answer to "Process Pixies" but we are a broad church in WARG.

Chapter 5 goes through events – walks and talks and the biannual June Lloyd lecture. Inevitably, Don Bryan remains designated as the WARG ‘rain-maker’ but this section has write-ups and anecdotes galore and just emphasises how lucky WARG has been to have Don and Julia. There are also brief summaries of every June Lloyd lecture.



Chapter six highlights newsletters with selected excerpts. For me, one of the most amazing parts of this whole publication is the reproduction of a few of the very early 1972 era typewritten newsletters. I have been involved with WARG since the late 1990s, but I never realised exactly how active, how innovative, and

how determined those early WARG pioneers were. Buy the book for this alone.

Almost at the end, there are series of short essays on memories and activities from the point of view of many members. For me one of the gems is the reminiscences of Dick Selwood. I know I am not the only member to hold this view: but if Dick and Julia had not gripped WARG by the scruff of its neck in 2003, we wouldn’t have a WARG now.

Then a few pages of photos that bring back memories. Finally, a few words about the future. There are photos throughout (well reproduced by Sarsen Press) and scattered throughout are several interesting lists of people and activities.

Steve and Janet have done an outstanding job in weaving this together. I am sure some will say “there was too much on X” or “why didn’t they mention Y?” But the answer was in your hands – you could have written a contribution.



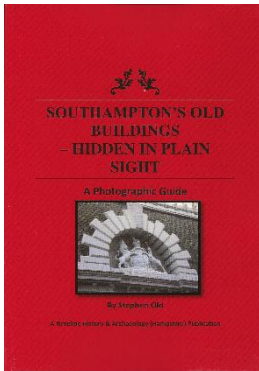
The duo has given a good broad picture of WARG, its members, characters, activities and more over 50 years. Steve, as Chair, is particularly to be thanked for driving this 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration forward. The book is a fitting tribute and at about 4p a page (price £10 for all 230+ pages) you should be ashamed if you do not buy at least one copy. I have bought an additional copy for my wife to explain where I have been every August for the past 20 odd years.

*(I promise no arms were twisted to obtain this very nice review of the work and the tribute to WARG members Ed.)*

*Available from Steve or Janet £10 + £2 p&p.*

## **Southampton's Old Buildings – Hidden in Plain Sight – A photographic Guide -Stephen Old**

**ISBN 978-1-8381838-8-2 Pub Timeline History – Janet Backhouse**



As I read my way through this book, I realized just how often I had walked past many of the buildings and failed to see just how architecturally beautiful they are. I have heard it said before, and can only agree with the author's admonition to 'Look up'.

A theme appears of simple low buildings and elegant larger structures, many 'listed', and it is heartening to read that, rather than succumbing to planning applications for demolition, many have been sympathetically converted to dwellings, retaining their graceful exteriors.

From the very old, such as the Tudor House 1180s; the Duke of Wellington Inn 1220s; Merchant's House in French St, 13<sup>th</sup> century; God's House Tower 13<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup> century and The Lion Inn 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> century, to the elegant 19<sup>th</sup> century 'Grandes Dames' such as The Corn Exchange and City Court Building, both 1852, the architecture displays their venerable ages. This includes the Medieval Town Walls and Gates – Southampton was not a city until 1964.

All of the buildings reflect the rich heritage of Southampton, mainly in the old trading Town. Many were originally purposed for trading, such as Merchant's dwellings, commercial warehousing, coaching inns and banks. Did you know that at one time there were no fewer than thirteen different banking companies in Southampton? The impressive, ornate National Provincial on the High St even contained a two-story apartment for the manager. Somewhat different from 2022 when banks' traditional managers no longer exist, and one has to undertake a long journey to find a physical building. Such is progress?

One of the most impressive buildings is in the French Renaissance style, the South Western Hotel, (1872), which once provided accommodation for first class passengers, pre-embarkation on White Star line, including Titanic. The hotel had an integral railway station. Later it became a naval planning 'ship' *HMS Shrapnel*, and subsequently offices for Cunard and then BBC South.

It is impossible to name a favourite, but the Royal Southern Yacht Club building comes close. Each building is accompanied by a photograph, some of which have been invaded by the recent manifestation of Hampshire Hares.

The book is not confined to buildings, but includes some important other features including the Mayflower Memorial to the Pilgrim Fathers - and No they did not leave

from Plymouth, it was Southampton, Plymouth was only a port of call for repairs.

This book triggered three very specific memories of my childhood. I used to love visiting the Schneider Trophy Plane which was housed on the Pier and imagine it zooming down Southampton Water.

Did anyone else enjoy walking along the low, curved top walls around the Civic Centre trying not to fall off? There was also an island with Rose Garden and Fountain in the road outside of the South front, between the Civic Centre and the Grand Theatre. It was lit at night and changed colour. Sadly, the Rose Garden became a victim of the motor vehicle in 1980, which seems a piece of mistaken planning to me, and the fountain has been moved to the precinct outside of the Central Library.



*Rose garden  
and fountain  
JimChampion*

There is also a memorial to the Titanic Engineers where

Andrews Park fronts Above Bar St. I used to walk past the memorial, visit the Aviary, and wander through the meandering path between the rock gardens, on my way to my Grandparent's house. I remember the larger birds would take coins proffered through the caging. We did not realize the cruelty of caging wild birds in those days,

although the sparrows did sneak through the wire and steal the parrot food.

I would recommend this enjoyable read especially if you accompany the reading with a map of Old Southampton.



Available from Steve £15 + £2:50 p&p



## **Talks Programme**

12/12/22 Aerial Archaeology – Chris Sellen

9/01/23 The HART volunteers and archaeology at NT Hinton Ampner - Geoff Buss

13/02/23 The Iron Duke and his Winchester Connections – Geraldine Buchanan

13/03/23 Shining a light on 9.5mm: Hidden treasures of the film archive. Local History Archives

10/04/23 Easter – so subject to change of date - Update on The Big Dig 2022 at Hursley Park – The WARG Dig Committee

8/05/23 The Mortuary Chest Project at Winchester Cathedral – Heidi Dawson Hobbis



## WARG Committee 2022

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

**Kim Batten (Secretary)** email: [secretary@warg.org.uk](mailto:secretary@warg.org.uk)

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

**Stuart Rippon** (Membership Sec.)

email: [membership@warg.org.uk](mailto:membership@warg.org.uk)

**Janet Backhouse** (Publications & Newsletter Editor)

email: [wargnews@gmail.com](mailto:wargnews@gmail.com)

**David Ashby** (University of Winchester)

email: [david.ashby@winchester.ac.uk](mailto:david.ashby@winchester.ac.uk)

**Tracy Matthews** (WCC)

email: [tmattthews@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:tmattthews@winchester.gov.uk)

**Maisie Marshall** email: [maisiemarshall@hotmail.com](mailto:maisiemarshall@hotmail.com)

**David Spurling** email: [david@pekingparismorgan.com](mailto:david@pekingparismorgan.com)

**Chris Sellen Kate Robinson Tracey Pontin**

**Amanuenses** for talks: Edwina Cole; Chris Sellen; Steve Taylor

**Proof Readers:** Sue Adams, Tessa Smith,

Please reply to Newsletter Editor, Donkeydown, 16, Petersfield Rd, Cheriton, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 0NH. Text 07876 597795 or email [wargnews@gmail.com](mailto:wargnews@gmail.com)



## Data Protection Regulations compliance

If you do not wish to receive mailings from WARG please let us know either by mailing

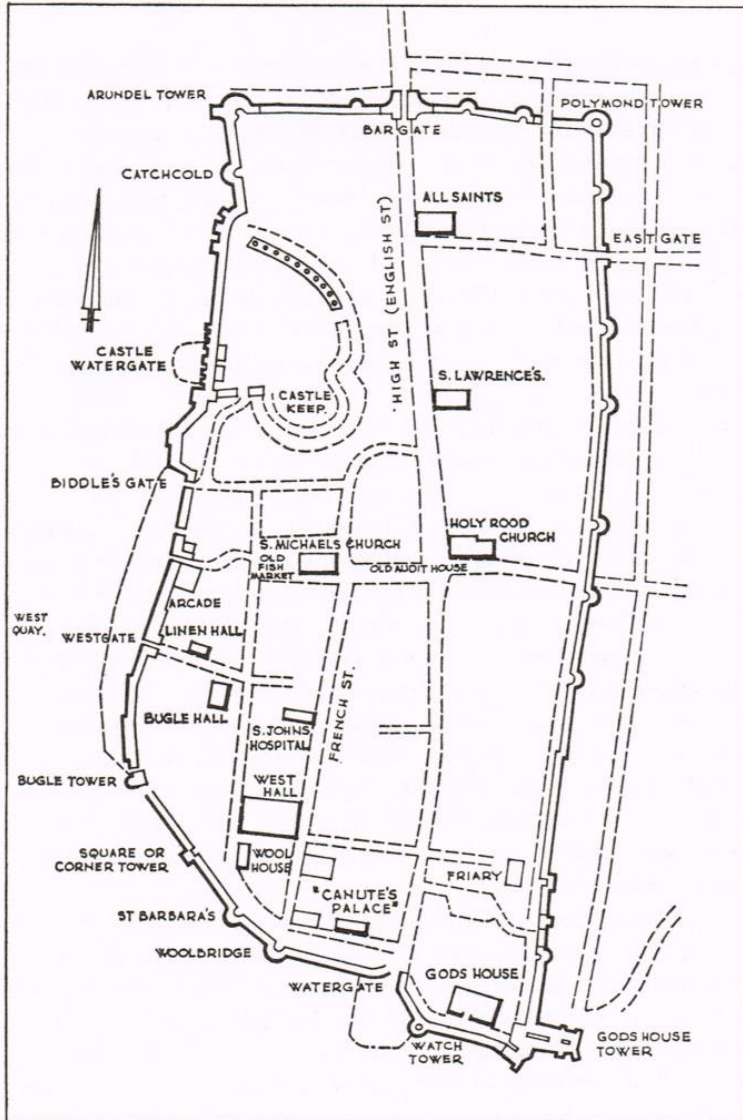
[membership@warg.org.uk](mailto:membership@warg.org.uk) or [wargnews@gmail.com](mailto:wargnews@gmail.com), or by

writing to the newsletter editor at Donkeydown, 16, Petersfield Rd, Cheriton, Alresford, Hampshire SO24 0NH. Text 07876 597795





Medieval Southampton



<https://www.wilcuma.org.uk/the-hampshire-domesday-ii/the-towns-of-medieval-hampshire/>