



WARG

Newsletter

June 2012

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✿ Travellers Tales

The 40th anniversary summer
programme of extra walks, visits
and even a picnic

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The WARG Newsletter provides reports on the activities of WARG, the society for Winchester archaeology and local history. It also carries other information of interest to the WARG membership.

For more information on WARG, and to join, call 01962 867490, e-mail membership@warg.org.uk or visit www.warg.org.uk

Chairman's notes

This is an action packed summer for WARG: visits, walks, an excavation (see p. 7) and, in the autumn, an exhibition at the Record Office (please see Julia's request for more material on p. 14) and a lecture in the Record Office in the last Thursday series. Still, it is not every year that we achieve a 40th birthday. And not many organisations that are 40 still have some of their founder members. In this newsletter you will find (p. 24) a report on the first event, a tour, led by Don Bryan, of the Uffington White Horse, Burford and the Rollrights. And accompanying this newsletter is a flier for the last event, a visit to Lacock in October.

June Lloyd lecture

Next year's June Lloyd lecture will be on Friday February 22nd, and the lecturer will be Julian Richards. Mark your diary now and look for more details in the autumn newsletter.

Friends of St Cross

Your committee decided last year that WARG should become a founder member of the Friends of St Cross Hospital. We are now inscribed in a book of founders, in beautiful calligraphy. More importantly I, on your behalf, get invited to various events organised by the Friends.

John Crook gave the Friends a lecture on the history of the site, in which he said firmly that WARG had discovered the Henry of Blois buildings under the bowling green. Later I was given the privilege of giving a talk on our archaeology at the Friends' AGM. I concluded by saying that we had found interesting things under the bowling green, which John was convinced were the Henry of Blois buildings, but as a cautious historian I felt that they needed further investigation. This created some interest. For more on the Friends, visit their website at www.friendsofstcross.com

Logo

You may remember that the WARG logo is derived from a tile fragment that was found on the first dig at St Cross. John Crook identified the tile as one made by William the Tyler of Otterbourne, and confirmed that it is still present in St Cross Chapel and in the Cathedral. I have since discovered, in an article in the Hampshire Field Club proceedings, (Vol 31, 1974) that the same tile is also known at Winchester College, where it is recorded as having been bought from "William Tylere of Otterbourne" in 1395/6, neatly tying together our two digs.

Dick Selwood

St. Elizabeth's College Excavation 2011

The WARG AGM has become the traditional spot to update all members on the progress of our various excavations the previous summer. It's an appropriate juncture as it follows on from our Chairman's normally erudite and entertaining appraisal of where we have been and where we are going, allows diggers and processors to see the results of their efforts, and generates an anticipation of what is to come in the near future.

The presentation in 2012 by the dig stalwarts Techer and Chris was ably augmented by James Cassis, one of the young men of Winchester College, whose interest, knowledge, and sheer energy were to help make our dig at St. Elizabeth's College such an enjoyable event.

The History

James explained the documented history of the Ecclesiastical College, a form of chantry chapel dedicated to the Saints Elizabeth of Hungary, Stephen, Lawrence, Edmund and Thomas. The chapel was founded by Bishop Pontoise in 1301, and had three high altars and a specific and onerous list of prayers, masses, collects and duties

for the seven chaplains to perform. As Wykeham founded Winchester College in 1382 the chapel and its activities were there long before.

For nearly 250 years the chapel carried on its sacred duties until the Dissolution, when in 1536 Henry VIII gifted the buildings to Thomas Wriothesly. In 1544 he sold it on to Winchester College under the condition that it was either used as a grammar school or pulled down by

1547. The latter was the obvious result and much of the robbed stone can be seen in buildings around Winchester including the wall of The Meads cricket ground in Winchester College itself.

Importantly for us archaeologists the documents describing the sale spoke of a church with belfry and cemetery with 4½ acres, with the estate also containing houses, barns, granaries, dovecots, kitchen gardens and orchards. Even in the 15th century, documents had described a cloister, bake house, brew house and chambers. Where



Trench showing very solid foundations

are they and would we be able to find the evidence?

Digging the Trenches

Our brief was simple: over two weeks to establish the extent of the chapel, record any structures within to corroborate the known history, and record the site using the expertise and experience for which WARG is becoming increasingly renowned.

As usual we started off with a geophysics plot following work done by Southampton University students. This clearly showed the outline of the chapel's foundations. Five trenches were started to locate the internal corners of the chapel and the wall profile where a modern(ish) sewage pipe had cut it – so giving us a potential wall section. We were helped in this endeavour by the sole surviving plan from Wilmott's excavations in 1964, otherwise poorly documented which, with its artistic licence, helped us visualise the size of the chapel and, importantly, the scale of the west end which already showed as a major feature.



Buckle or book clasp?

These initial trenches soon showed the extent of the building, the thickness and construction of the walls and, as we went deeper, began to show how the foundations had been built up on a raft of packed chalk above the alluvium of the Itchen flood plain. Also the demolition of the building appeared to have happened down to a similar level across the site, more to the point the foundations had a definite base level, above which more decorative stone and flint will have been used – although there was evidence of dressed stone being used on corner or buttress junctions, for strength and aesthetic reasons.

The two trenches over the western corners were extended and joined up to show the whole of the west end of the chapel, and there had clearly been two massive towers either side of a double doorway whose porch had flagstones with a stepped entrance. Tantalisingly the porch cut a grave-like feature which could indicate some undocumented multi-phasing in the construction.

A number of other trenches were opened, notably to the east, to establish whether there was a roadway, running close to the chapel, that may have serviced other buildings or fields. Evidence for this was slight, but sufficient to indicate the potential for further work in this

eastern part of the site.

We were disappointed not to have found evidence of the three altars in the body of the chapel, although a niche in the eastern foundation may have held a structural beam, but a trench put into the very centre of the chapel floor revealed tile debris (no whole tiles) and another, lined, grave cut. As this trench was dug late into the dig, some potential targets for the next excavation were starting to present themselves.

St Elizabeth's College is a demolition site. It has been systematically cleared of stone and building materials, much of which can be seen in the fabric of Winchester College, including tiles in the cloister of the current College chapel. Our finds were therefore sparse and fragmentary. However our finds processors were kept busy with buckles and book-clasps. Many therefore indicate the Ecclesiastical nature of the site, but many show the more secular, such as fragments of costrels, coins and key. A number of animal motifs were found, pointing towards the presence of the medieval pilgrim.



Reused tile?

The Future

Winchester College have been thoroughly supportive of our venture and it has generated much interest amongst the staff and scholars. Taking advantage of this we will return to the site this year, exploring some known areas, such as the centre of chapel with the exposed grave. Are there other graves? Also WARG members have done some new geophysics which shows more clearly some of the features outside the main chapel building. Are these ancillary buildings, perhaps the barn, brew house or chambers from the original site, or are there other features from later periods.

Whatever there is and whenever it is dated, the 2012 dig is set to be as exciting and enjoyable as 2011. With a ban on radios for safety purposes, diggers will be able to get stuck in within an Olympic-free zone.

The 2012 dig runs from Saturday 28th July to Sunday 12th August, see opposite for more details.

A full length report can be seen on the website at www.warg.org.uk. Click on the Big Dig 2011 link.

Chris Sellen

Summer 2012 Excavation at St Elizabeth's Mead

Following our very successful dig last year, Winchester College have very kindly invited us back to continue to help understand St Elizabeth's College and its relationship to Winchester College. We are pleased that Dick Whinney has again agreed to be overseeing archaeologist and that Peter Cramer and students from Winchester College will again be joining the WARG team.

A few weeks ago several WARG members working with David Ashby of the University of Winchester undertook new resistivity work on the site. The new resistivity shows some outbuildings to the west of the chapel and other features to the east. Our targets will be to get a better understanding of the west front of the chapel; to put a north-south section through the centre of the chapel to understand how the central cist or possible grave links with the whole; and to explore some of the outbuildings.

The dig will run from Saturday 28th July and end on Sunday 12th August. If you want to avoid the Olympics you could sign on for the whole fortnight! We have a public open day on Sunday 5th August and visits by various groups on the evenings of 1st, 7th and 8th August.

Those who have dug before will know that one of the hardest times is over the last few days of the dig when we shall undoubtedly be keen to finish 'that interesting feature' and also back-filling the trenches and tidying up the site. So, to incentivise people to help with the back-filling, anyone signing up for that task on the final Thursday, Friday, Saturday or Sunday will get a free day digging on the rest of the dig. It will also be helpful to have one or two volunteers to help set up the site on Thursday 26th and Friday 27th July. And if you think you could volunteer to help with the open day on Sunday, or the visitors on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday evenings of week two, let Techer know.

The registration forms are enclosed with this newsletter and also are available on the website.



Come and join us at St Elizabeth's

Heigh-ho, Stink o!

The Winchester Players were the “surprise” entertainment at the New Year Party. They brilliantly re-enacted, by reading extracts from related correspondence, the deliberations of the Mayor of Winchester and his council and eminent people in society into the feasibility of providing mains sewerage for the city during the period 1840 to 1879.

The Problem

Winchester relied on natural drainage for the removal of its sewage, water from the high ground to the east and west drained into the lower parts of the city, through which flowed open water channels and the river. The high water table meant that the many cesspools in this area became saturated, seepage from cesspools found its way into domestic wells, cellars, yards and under floorboards of houses. Unsanitary living conditions were created with frequent outbreaks of endemic diseases such as malaria, cholera and typhus. The Brooks and the River Itchen provided domestic water yet were receptacles of filth from slaughterhouses , tanneries and the Parchment Street hospital. The noxious effluvia emitted an horrific stench from human and animal waste and excrement .

An early Public Act laid down the responsibility for “removal of nuisances and prevention of diseases ” whilst the Pavement Commission were responsible for removing night soil by cart.

The Solution

In 1848, after an outbreak of cholera, the Pavement Commission suggested the laying of a main sewer, with connecting side branches, which would drain the whole city downhill and eventually discharge into the old barge canal.

Two Rival Factions

Over the years attitudes towards main drainage divided the city into two rival camps, the Muckabites and the Anti-Muckabites. Those against the sewerage of the city , the Muckabites, triumphed in local elections year after year and believed it unnecessary, fearing the effect it would have on the rates. The Anti-Muckabites consisted of the medical establishment who saw at first hand the ravages of disease and they were joined by the residents of the Cathedral, Close, College and original Barracks, who were greatly affected by the lack of drainage but also exempt from paying rates!

In 1840 local Doctors wrote to the council linking the dreadful living conditions with disease but since the Mayor and council were

concerned about the cost implications nothing was done.

The 1848 cholera outbreak, in which all 34 deaths occurred in the lower city, led to the formation of a special committee, yet nothing was achieved. Over one hundred letters written to the council requested a Public meeting, a resolution was passed for immediate action, but this was opposed by the Muckabites. In 1859 a Dr Le Croix made a speech linking filth and disease, there was another cholera outbreak, the Sanitary Inspector gave a lecture, yet after ten years of planning still the council procrastinated.

In 1861 a riotous Public Meeting took place in St John's House where it was estimated that it would cost £12,000 to lay sewers in Winchester, increasing the rates by 4d in the £.

The Winchester Players continued with their drama, as this saga carried on for years. Winchester fell way behind other towns and cities, the council prevaricated and wasted time with petitions, letters and reports passing back and forth. In the period 1850 to 1860 life expectancy in clean, well-drained houses in other parts of England was 58 years of age, whilst in Winchester it was 50, with a life expectancy of under 42 years in the St John's and Chesil areas. In 1874 a young college student died because of the fetid conditions.

The Result

It was not until 1876, when central government passed national legislation and threatened to impose sewerage on the city, that it looked as if something would be achieved. However, more time was wasted as land prices rose, once the sewer route was known, and rights of way were disputed. After 38 years plans were agreed, land was purchased and the work started, with the laying of the Foundation stone for the Garnier Road pumping station .

In 1878 the Hampshire Chronicle reported, without any enthusiasm, an insignificant article about the sewers, yet the council put "spin" on the story, stating that the delay had not been unproductive!!

Conclusion

So Winchester finally got its sewerage system. I wonder, how many deaths could have been prevented if it had been laid 1840? Such is politics!

We must thank the Winchester Players for their most enlightening entertainment and in spite of all the references to "unsavoury items" the WARG members greatly enjoyed their party food and drink afterwards.

Valerie Pegg

Strawberry History

There was not a spare seat in the house for the talk by George Watts, and this enthusiasm was well rewarded, for George held us all spellbound. He is a very active local historian, an expert on the history of Titchfield, and he has written a book on the subject.

George began with the history of the strawberry as a particularly prized fruit, which in the Middle Ages was grown, like most other plants, as a herbal crop. One claim made for it was that it could “dissolve tartarous incrustations of the teeth”. Cheaper than the dental hygienist, I suppose.

On a more spiritual note, there are depictions of the Virgin Mary surrounded by strawberries as an emblem of heavenly love. However, strawberries were also associated with the exact opposite, carnal desire, as illustrated in Shakespeare’s “Othello”. with Iago claiming to have seen Cassio wiping his beard with Desdemona’s handkerchief, spotted with strawberries.

By the 16th Century strawberries were being grown in the Low Countries as an agricultural crop. A painting of Breughel’s in 1565 shows them being tended. It took a further century before there is evidence of strawberries being grown in England. There is a record of four acres near the highway from London to Ware being set aside for strawberry growing in 1636. The first market garden in Hampshire was not established until the early 18th Century. There is an image from about that time of a young woman with two conical woven baskets, known as “pottles” in her hand. Subsequently, market gardens sprang up all around the outskirts of London.

Jane Austen very amusingly describes a strawberry picking excursion to Mr Knightley’s garden in *Emma*, published in 1816. This incorporates a list of several different varieties, showing Jane Austen’s familiarity with the crop, and her interest in it.

The commercial strawberry industry really took off after the Enclosure Acts in the early 19th Century, when most of the common lands were parcelled up. Before this, large parts of South Hampshire would have resembled the New Forest. Enclosure was particularly hard on the labouring poor, who had relied on the commons for grazing and subsistence crops so about 200 small allotments were created to keep them from the workhouse. If strawberries were grown they could be sold at a profit, enabling allotment holders to buy staple foods such as potatoes. Attempts were made to deter them from this practice,

but they persisted. The more enterprising growers consolidated their holdings and became full-time market gardeners.

George showed us a photograph of such a smallholder and his family, revealing their investment in a specially designed cart to transport the 'chips' of strawberries without damaging them. The whole family participated, keeping costs low by avoiding expenditure on paid labour, except when the crops were harvested.

The other major factor in the growth of the strawberry industry was the development of the railways. The railway lines passed through the enclosed land and facilitated the transport of strawberries to the rapidly growing conurbations of Southampton and Portsmouth. Titchfield Common, Botley and Hedge End became the main centres for strawberry growing. Hampshire strawberries were distributed all over the British Isles, as far north as Inverness. It was a very efficient business. Special trains were used for the strawberries, travelling through the night, to arrive at their destination early in the morning. George showed some wonderful photographs, particularly of a loading gang, wearing a remarkable assortment of headgear, and also of the carts lining up outside a station, laden with strawberry punnets.

One result of this growth was that between 1847 and 1875 there was an enormous increase in the number of greengrocers in Portsmouth and Southampton. Buying and selling fruit and vegetables became an important feature of 19th Century urban life. Mrs Beeton published a recipe for strawberries and cream, and it is still traditional to eat them at Wimbledon: they epitomise the English summer.

The solid brick houses built at that time from the proceeds of strawberry growing can still be found scattered among modern housing estates in the area.

George said it is quite difficult to trace the later fortunes of the strawberry industry. Before the First World War there were about 1,000 acres under cultivation and after the Second World War demand rose again. Probably, an even greater tonnage is grown now, but this is difficult to quantify. Greater mechanisation is used, refrigeration has changed the way the strawberries are handled, and the farms are much larger, but they are still run by descendants of the original families.

George's talk was informed by first hand knowledge, as he comes from a strawberry growing family himself. He ended with a photograph of his father hoeing a strawberry bed, proving that growing this delicious fruit is not "all strawberries and cream"!

Alex Langlands – The Making of the “Farm” Series

WARG members were entertained and informed at our May 2012 talk by the TV personality Alex Langlands (formerly Medievalist with MOLAS, Oxford Archaeology, English Heritage and Winchester University, and put-upon contributor to *Time Team*). The subject was his experiences with the other television series which had made his name if not household, then certainly respected amongst the documentary glitterati.

17th Century

After spending the more youthful parts of his career in the mud and bullets of medieval cesspits (most enjoyable) Alex was approached by Lion Television to contribute to *Tales from the Green Valley*, a 12-part series which would follow the life of a 17th century Welsh farm through a year – they needed a waterproof archaeologist.



Alex and friend
© A Langlands

This gave him the opportunity of being immersed in the archaeology, rather than just examining its artefacts, and understanding the start and middle of an artefact’s life, not just its end.

The first major task that he and his colleague Peter Ginn had to achieve was to build a byre for the Welsh Mountain black cows, needing to develop the skills in turning the raw materials of stone, thatch and wattle & daub into a permanent, strong building. The very process of mixing wattle enabled Alex to examine what was left on the ground – a pile of clean clay, a pile of dung (phosphate) and a mixing area in between with daub debris.

This and the need to create your own facilities (the wooden privy), dry stone walls, roofs and fencing, and working with stock and crops fuelled his passion for living the rural life and understanding the past.

When the series was aired it



The 17th century byre
© A Langlands

attracted some 2.7 million viewers, figures that would leave producers wanting more.

The Victorian Farm

Alex suggested a working farm of around 120 years ago. A suitable farm was found at Acton Scott in Shropshire, which is an historic working farm now open to the public, and the 12 episode *Victorian Farm* was born. Here the first task was to build a pig sty. After sourcing stone from a local quarry, a double sty was built – which looked remarkably like the building we found in Trench 19 at St. Cross!

New experiences included working with Clumper the Percheron draft horse, and applying the lesson of his owner of “Don’t let him stop, don’t let him go.” An incident with the horse-towed muck-spreader underlined the need not to be too complacent.

Working with sheep was greatly helped by volunteers who showed just how much rural knowledge was still out there. Owen Jones did wonderful things with green wood and a highpoint of the year was the farrowing of 14 piglets. All these things helped the programme achieve a massive viewing peak of 6 million.

Edwardian Farm

The latest venture of Lion Productions was the *Edwardian Farm*. Although close in time to the *Victorian Farm*, there were significant differences between techniques and economy which the series explored, such as improved communications, population pressure and mass markets. The coming of the internal combustion engine would mark the biggest change, as farming became more mechanised and regimented. The making of the programme was similarly more pressured, as the series was 12 full hour episodes and after a full day’s filming, the work on the farm still had to be done.



Clumper the Percheron Draft Horse
© A Langlands

Set in rural Devon close to the River Tamar the series again saw Alex and co. exploring the techniques and hardships of rural life, such as the heated egg incubator that reared no chicks but proved a fire hazard to the barn, or the creation of lobster pots from local materials.

The Edwardian era was a time of immense change, and the abandonment of traditional industries. Economics had led to a massive



The Victorian pig-sty
© A Langlands

decline in the local mining industry. He demonstrated the back-breaking task of the manual miner with the help of Rick the Pick and Phil the Drill but made little impact on a rock face even after a couple of hours – all caught on camera.

With the decline of mining came a heyday of market gardening, with the improved communications brought about by the railways allowing produce to reach London via Devonport in a matter of hours. Because of the climate many crops fruited a month earlier than further east and strawberries from Devon for the table were keenly sought. Once the rest of the country began to fruit, the picking would go over to the making of jam. This industry has, in its turn, declined.

Alex's talk was liberally sprinkled with anecdotes, such as the game of football played to Edwardian rules against the Plymouth Argyle reserves, and the fact that they were not allowed to eat the food they produced (totally organically, including the use of horses not tractors) because of traces of arsenic – a common problem in areas of metamorphic geology – health and safety rules no doubt applied by the film company to protect their star archaeologist.

Chris Sellen



Call for exhibits and memories

Elsewhere in this Newsletter you'll see that we're having an exhibition at the Hampshire Record Office between September and November as part of our 40th anniversary celebrations. This is a wonderful opportunity to show Hampshire just how much important work and fun members have had over this time. In order to help Julia get some good varied material for this, please scour your homes for old photos and assorted paperwork that show your involvement. Everything can be scanned and returned!

Julia would also like to talk to you about your memories: not just of 40 years ago, but of events and happenings since. Were you on the Brooks dig, for example?

Stonehenge – so many books!

When 50 WARG members visited Stonehenge on 20th May, several in my group asked what books I had read to swot up. I promised a list. I looked on one website and it had over 13,000 Stonehenge books for sale, admittedly with many listed several times. So I concentrated on the core books that I have at home.

The Stonehenge Riverside Project, a project involving several universities as well as English Heritage and the National Trust between 2003-2010 has made every book out of date. The Project has undoubtedly changed perceptions of the landscape setting of Stonehenge and its findings are not yet fully published. There are two main competing theories: Darvill and Wainwright who interpret Stonehenge as a place of healing driven by the qualities and origins of the blue stones; and Parker Pearson, Pollard et al, who interpret Durrington Walls timber circles to represent the land of the living and Stonehenge's stone to represent the land of the dead. This is a gross oversimplification and there is a great deal of common understanding between the two camps. I believe Parker Pearson is publishing a major opus on the subject later this year. But until then, all books are out of date to some extent.

The official English Heritage guidebook was updated in 2011 and so is the most up-to-date of the books. Don't underestimate it by thinking that 48 pages –many with large photographs – cannot be a serious work. This guide is written by Julian Richards and I wish I had his skills in conveying and interpreting complex information so clearly and succinctly.

The *Stonehenge Environs Project* (1990) also by Julian Richards is a very detailed report of a project undertaken between 1980 and 1984. It analyses in great depth excavations at a limited number of sites such as Coneybury; the Lesser Cursus; and a round barrow on Durrington Down. It also has very specialised analysis of lithics, pottery, plant and mollusk remains and so on over the wider Stonehenge environment. This is a very serious and wonderful academic work, but not light reading and probably only for the Stonehenge nerd (I have two copies!).

The bookshop at Stonehenge stocks two official English Heritage large glossies one by David Souden (1997) the other by Julian Richards (2007). 'Large glossies' suggests that these are just picture books. That is unfair, both do have wonderful photography and good graphics, but they are both serious archaeological studies well written. Souden is a

historian and media journalist and this shows in his book, taking time to discuss some wider context. Richard's 'The Story So Far' is scant on wider Neolithic or Bronze Age background but has the benefit of knowledge of early findings in the Riverside Project.

Don't waste your money on Aronson. It is a picture postcard book focusing on Mike Parker Pearson and the Riverside Project for the American market. You'll get the same pictures and much better commentary by researching back copies of *British Archaeology* and *Current Archaeology*.

The book I couldn't get on with is Chippendale's. It is printed on glossy paper and so physically heavy. The writing is heavy as well. About 80% of the book relates to early interpretation and there is little emphasis on the wider landscape or setting. If, however, you do want a seriously well-researched book looking at the history of perceptions, interpretations and fashions of Stonehenge, turn to Hill. She covers the classicists, romantics, druids, jingoism and much more in an extremely readable way. Her book amplifies beautifully the Jacquetta Hawkes dictum that "every age has the Stonehenge it deserves – or desires."

You may not take too seriously all this stuff about alignments with sun rises and sunsets and the phases of the moon. But a book that explains it all in wonderfully simple terms and with great graphics is the Hawkins and Allen.

Finally to two seriously academic works by Darvill and by Lawson. Both spend their first 70 or so pages in the broad Neolithic background. Both have about 50 pages talking about the period after the Romans including early interpreters. The main difference is that Darvill focuses principally on Stonehenge and the immediate environs, whilst Lawson – drawing on his long time running Wessex Archaeology – goes geographically wider within Wessex.

So what should you read? Well everyone really should have the official guidebook – it is seriously good. To go into more depth, if I had to choose it would be Richards rather than Souden. Richard's archaeological background shines through. Hill and Hawkins will both broaden your Stonehenge horizons, and in the academic field I'd choose Lawson over Darvill. But if you've got that far, you will want both.

Aronson, Marc (2010) *If Stones Could Speak: Unlocking the Secrets of Stonehenge*, National Geographic Society, Washington DC USA; ISBN 978 1 4263 0599 3. (64 p) £10.99.

Chippendale, Christopher (2004) *Stonehenge Complete*, Thames & Hudson, London ISBN 0 500 28467 9. (312 p) £15.45

- Darvill, Timothy** (2006) *Stonehenge: The Biography of a Landscape*, Tempus Publishing, Stroud ISBN 978 07524 4342 3. (320 p) £19.99.
- Hawkins, Gerald & Allen, Hubert** (2004) *Stonehenge: Earth & Sky*, Wessex Books, Salisbury ISBN 978 1903035 24 4. (48 p) £5.99
- Hill, Rosemary** (2008) *Stonehenge*, Profile Books Exmouth ISBN 978 1 86197 865 3. (242 p) £15.99
- Lawson, Andrew** (2007) *Chalkland: An Archaeology of Stonehenge & its Region*, Hobnob Press, Salisbury ISBN 978 0 946418 70 1. (416 p) £17.95
- Richards, Julian** (1990) *The Stonehenge Environment Project*, English Heritage, Swindon ISBN 1 850074 269 3. (298 p) £36.00
- Richards, Julian** (2007) *Stonehenge: The Story So Far* English Heritage, Swindon ISBN 978 1 905624 00 3. (256 p) £20.00
- Richards, Julian** (2011) *Stonehenge Official Guidebook*, English Heritage, London ISBN 1 85074 933 7. (48 p) £5.99
- Souden, David** (1997) *Stonehenge: Mysteries of Stones and Landscape*, Collins & Brown, London and English Heritage ISBN 1 85585 291 8 (hardback). (160 p) £20.00

Prices are the cover prices. Search on abebooks.co.uk (which is great for archaeology books) and you will find cheaper copies and some paperback alternatives.

Techer Jones

Editor's note

Bournemouth University has created a virtual Stonehenge. The website says:

Seeing Beneath Stonehenge uses Google Earth to transport you around the virtual landscape of this magnificent monument. You can interact with the exciting discoveries of the Stonehenge Riverside Project and learn more about the archaeology of this internationally important site. Once you have downloaded the Google Earth layers you can:

- Take a virtual guided tour of the Stonehenge landscape
- Visit the Neolithic village of Durrington Walls, including taking a trip inside a prehistoric house
- See reconstructions of Bluestonehenge & the Southern Circle, showing how these monuments may have looked in prehistory

More information at: <http://newsletters.bournemouth.ac.uk/8TY-TAQC-6NQ3CA-BFV2G-1/c.aspx>

2012 - 2013 Calendar

2012

- July 2nd **Hengistbury Head**, an afternoon visit (meet 2.00 p.m.)
Leader - Don Bryan (Fully booked)
- July 9th **Stockbridge Down**, an evening walk (meet 6.30 pm)
Leader - Don Bryan (Fully booked)
- July 28th - Aug. 12th **Big Dig** see p. 7 and form in this Newsletter
- Aug 5th **Big Dig Open Day** 10.00 am to 4.00pm
- Aug 27th **Merdon Castle**, evening picnic from 6.30 pm
Leader - Don Bryan
- Sept 5th - Nov 29th **WARG at the HRO** - an exhibition celebrating 40 years of WARG in Winchester
- Sept 10th **The History of Military Prisons:** Ian Bailey
- Sept 17th **Old Sarum**, an afternoon visit (meet 2.30 p.m.)
Leader - Don Bryan (Fully booked)
- Oct 8th **BBC and Children's Hour:** Martin Parsons
- Oct 22nd **Lacock**, a day trip. Flier in this Newsletter
- Oct 25th **Forty years of WARG:** lunchtime lecture at HRO (13.15)
- Nov 12th **Bathing Houses and Plunge Pools:** Vivien Rolf
- Dec 10th **Exploration of a Downland Landscape** – the archaeology of Bow Hill in West Sussex: Mark Roberts:

2013

- Jan 14th **New Year annual party**
- Feb 11th **The History of Malta** (part 2): Kay Ainsworth
- Feb 22nd **June Lloyd lecture:** Julian Richards, Guildhall, 7.30 pm
- March 11th **Amphitheatres in Britain:** Tony Wilmott
- April 8th **Big Dig 2012 Update**
- May 13th **The Professions in 19th century Britain:** Simon Dixon

Unless otherwise stated, all events are evening lectures at the Hampshire Record Office, starting at 7.30pm, promptly. Last minute changes will be posted on the web site www.warg.org.uk.



Hampshire Record Office:

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Discovering Armenia

Last September we decided to visit Armenia. When we mentioned this to our friends, the immediate response was “Where exactly IS Armenia?” If you travel to the far eastern end of Turkey, south of Georgia, north of Iran and west of Azerbaijan, you will find what is left after centuries of invasion by many armies and despots, and that’s Armenia.



As we wanted to be independent, we booked an English-speaking tour guide and a driver with a 4 wheel drive Toyota with plenty of room for our luggage for 15 days.

The modern capital city of Yerevan has an outstanding National Museum which houses some of the finest pre-historic and ancient artefacts we have ever seen, including 2 re-constructed wooden chariots in superb condition and the oldest intact shoe in the world, carbon-dated at Oxford to 3000 BC.

Another “must” in Yerevan is the Genocide Memorial Park and Museum commemorating the 1915 genocide by Turkey of more than a million Armenians, still unacknowledged by the Turkish nation. The magnificent Mt Ararat rising to 5156m, now in Turkey, stands as a constant reminder of this terrible episode in more recent times and of the losses suffered by Armenians.

Once outside the capital, the mountainous country with small towns and remote villages is full of interest. The bird life in Armenia is exceptional – more raptors than we have ever seen before, including many types of eagle and vulture.

Every village has an orchard full of superb apricot and plum trees, and peaches were just at their best. We found the food to be very varied and well-presented, and everything was freshly prepared. Perhaps the main reason tourists visit Armenia lies in the wealth of ancient churches and monasteries, many of which are very well preserved despite frequent severe earthquakes





in the region. Although Armenia was the first nation to adopt Christianity in 301AD and religion is an important part of daily life, there are no resident monks or nuns in any of the religious buildings we visited across the country, which was quite strange!

We found Armenia to be a wonderful country with much to explore, but be warned: very few Armenians speak English and Russian is still the second language, so tourism has yet to take off. However the upside of this is that Armenia is still a beautiful and unspoilt country.

Veronica Gibbes



Of mice and men.....

I wouldn't want any of you to think that archaeology is dull and boring, so this piece should set your minds at rest on the matter. A team from Sweden's Uppsala University pored over mouse DNA samples from the c10th and c12th and compared them to genetic samples from mice today. The research showed that the mtDNA of house mice in the north Atlantic region remarkably reflects that of human settlement history.

Apparently the spreading of a particular type of Norwegian mouse via the longboats of the Vikings, accompanying the horse and sheep, into Iceland, Scotland and Ireland meant that the Viking mice "married" the local breeds and mixed their genes with the locals. Like humans, today's Icelandic mice retain an unusual genetic purity due to that island's isolated gene pool and the researchers discovered that the Icelandic mice have retained the DNA signature of their ancestral founders, whilst in Scotland and Ireland the genes were well mixed. It's believed that these adventurous rodents may have travelled as far away as Newfoundland and Greenland, but became extinct and left no trace in the mouse gene pool.

To date no miniscule Viking helmets with ear holes have been discovered, but then there's more than one way to skin a cat.

Julia Sandison

Easter Island

Who hasn't seen the iconic images of the Easter Island statues that stare silently across the landscape, and thought how wonderful it would be to gaze upon them for real?

The isolation of the island, lying in the south-eastern part of the Pacific Ocean, 2086 km away from its nearest inhabited neighbour Pitcairn Island, and the mystery surrounding those statues add to our fascination with it.

The length of the journey alone seems to deter so many, but I am one of the lucky ones. I've been there, I've seen them, and I've looked into those sightless eyes pondering the questions that hang over them.

Easter Island is a small, hilly territory, triangular in shape and of volcanic origin. It is a remote and lonely outpost of Polynesia: indeed it has now been proven that the first humans to reach its shores came from another Polynesian island sometime between 600 and 900AD.



Those first settlers would have found paradise; palm trees, edible plants and an abundance of seabirds and fish.

The first Europeans did not discover the island until 1722. The Dutch explorer Jacob Roggeveen named it Paaschen Eyland (Easter Island in Dutch) to commemorate the day he first saw it.

Today, the island belongs to Chile (since 1888) and is known as Rapa Nui. The islanders have adopted this Polynesian name for the island, the people and their language and they rarely refer to it as Isla de Pascua – its official name in Spanish.

An archaeologist's paradise, the island boasts over 2000 archaeological sites, which are fiercely protected, and cover nearly the whole of the island. We were fortunate enough to have as our personal guide the son of the Director of the National Park. His knowledge of the island and infectious enthusiasm for telling us about it and answering our questions was incredible.

In 1996 the Rapa Nui National Park, which makes up nearly half the island, was declared a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The archaeology on the island consists of large numbers of stone statues called *moai*. In addition there are platform type structures known as *ahu*. Some of these are *ahu moai*, which were intended as plinths for

supporting the statues. We noticed early on that some statues have top-knots or *pukao*, which were all carved from soft volcanic rock with a high iron ore content which made it relatively easy to carve and gave it its distinct red colour. They are not considered to be hats, but probably represented the hairstyle of the time.

The island is rich in petroglyphs, particularly at Orongo, where over 1700 have been counted at this site alone. They have suffered at the hands of both the elements and some visitors, to the point where the World Monuments Fund put Orongo on the list of 100 Most Threatened Sites for several years until the current path system was laid and access limited.

In several areas one can still see the layout of original Rapanui villages with the distinct elliptical shape of the houses known as hare paenga. Each house had its own cooking area that can also be identified.



The first archaeological survey to be carried out on the island was the 'Mana Expedition' of 1914. This was organized and paid for by Katherine Routledge and her husband William Scoresby who planned much of it from their riverside cottage called Ewers in Bursledon, a village on the river Hamble. Much of the information that now exists is due to the painstaking work that was done at that time. More famously, perhaps, Thor Heyerdahl made an expedition there in 1955 in an attempt to prove some of his theories about links with South American cultures and Easter Island.

Whilst his theories were ultimately proved to be wrong, the questions about Easter Island remain, and every new visitor to its shores must wonder about the people who lived there.

Some things we do know. The statues represented chiefs or sacred ancestors and were symbols of power. They were quarried from Rano Raraku, but production of them stopped very suddenly and over 350 of them still lie in the walls of the volcanic crater.

It is thought that the all-out obsession with carving larger and larger moai finally led to the depletion of the island's resources such as timber.

The Moai all face inwards, not outwards towards the sea. It is believed that their function was to provide power and protection for the clan.



When the island was first discovered, the statues were all standing. By the time James Cook visited in 1774 several had been toppled. By 1804 only 20 were still erect and later all had fallen. It is thought that some fell because of earthquakes and the rest were thrown down in inter-clan warfare. Archaeologists have restored the statues that stand today, with Thor

Heyerdahl raising Ahu Ature Huki near Anakena in 1955.

Easter Island is a special place of mystical significance. There is still so much that we do not understand. The Rongo Rongo script that might help us, is as yet undecipherable, so some of the mystery that surrounds this tiny dot of land in the middle of the Pacific Ocean remains.

Edwina Cole



A mammoth discovery



An extraordinarily well-preserved young mammoth, probably around 3 or 4 years old and named Yuka by his finders, has been uncovered in northern Siberia by tusk hunters. His hide, covered with long thick strawberry-blond hair, and his somewhat crusty foot-pads are in perfect condition and apart from being “empty” inside, his whole carcass is in the most beautiful state of preservation. Professor Alice Roberts, known to many of us from TV programmes such as Time Team, travelled to see Yuka and was greatly impressed with his “exquisite” condition.

More at www.bbc.co.uk/nature/17589385

Julia Sandison

Rein, Reign and More Rain: An Ancient Monuments Visit

The first of our special events to celebrate forty years of WARG saw 36 members gather on St George's Day 2012 for a guided tour, led by Don Bryan, of the Uffington White Horse, Burford and the Rollrights.

Uffington White Horse

The oldest white horse in England and yet the most abstract and modern-looking, being my personal favourite, was our first destination.

Using optical stimulated luminescence (don't ask !) the Bronze Age White Horse has been dated back to 1200-800 BC, when soil and chalk were excavated to a depth of one metre, then chalk was tightly packed back into the trench. (Just think about the work this entailed, using bronze tools and antler picks, with no possibility of an aerial viewpoint). In 1159 BC an Icelandic volcano erupted, causing the return of a mini-ice age, and Don has a theory that the horse was cut as an offering to the gods. The horse was scoured every seven years as part of a local fair, including cheese rolling and other activities.

Legends surround the area; the natural coomb below the horse, produced by glacial action, is known as the Manger with the horse going there to eat at night. Nearby Dragon Hill is a natural chalk hill with an artificial flat top, where grass will not grow because of the blood of the dragon slain by St George. If couples wanting a son make love on the horse's eye, during a full moon, they will achieve their wish or be arrested!

Hillfort

The most significant nearby feature is the Iron Age hillfort, situated on higher ground above the White Horse. This hillfort comprises an area of about 3 hectares enclosed by a single well-preserved bank and ditch, original ramparts contained sarsen stones, which had been brought to the area by melting glaciers. The interior was not occupied continuously, farming occurred outside whilst trade took place inside, as the fort is located on the east/west arterial Ridgeway, running from Avebury to The Wash. Nettles growing inside indicate the presence of buildings. The Romans also used the site, altering the gateways and constructing a temple, which was excavated in the late 19th century.

Tumuli

Nearby tumuli contained Bronze Age cremations, an enormous cremation urn and 40 decapitated skeletons, with Roman coins in their mouths. (To pay the ferryman across The Styx).

Wayland's Smithy

Less than 2 kilometres to the west is Wayland's Smithy, a Neolithic long barrow constructed c3500 BC in the shape of a hand axe, tapered to the north. Within the 3 chambers were 11 males, 2 females and a child burial. Originally a stone and timber-box mortuary, this was enlarged to an oval mound with chalk and earth spoil when the forecourt to the south and surrounding bank and ditch were created. Legend states that a giant, who was a blacksmith, lived and was buried here. If a traveller left a coin in the entrance, on his return his horse would have been shod.

Burford

Lunch time saw us in Burford, a pretty Cotswold town, where we all "did our own thing." I managed to quickly walk the Town Trail looking at 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th century buildings, inns, the old school, almshouses and weavers' cottages.

The Rollright Stones

A group of Neolithic megalithic monuments built on The Ridgeway where east meets west, from large natural boulders found within about 500m of the site. The legend states that a king and his army were marching over the Cotswolds when they met a witch who stated that "Seven long strides thou shalt take, and if Long Compton thou canst see, King of England shalt thou be." The King strode forward, but on his seventh stride the ground rose up obscuring his view, the witch turned him into stone, with his army standing in a circle nearby and five knights whispering treachery further off.

The King's Men Stone Circle

Built c2500BC, originally there were 105 stones forming a larger circle, which has been reduced in size to 70 something stones (which are uncountable.) The circle has a diameter of 30m, with a narrow entrance opposite the tallest stone. Don then gave a dowsing demonstration, finding the "earth forces" and other features.

The King Stone

A large single standing stone erected c1800BC to mark a Bronze Age cemetery. The ditch around and entrance to a nearby long barrow were discovered by Don's dowsing and he pointed out other burial mounds and the site of a large Iron Age settlement. A witch, made from

twisted and gnarled branches and twigs, was standing in a prominent position, arms reaching out, casting her spell over the King.

The Whispering Knights

The remains of a portal dolmen burial chamber built in Neolithic times, c3500BC, long before the stone circle. The 4 uprights and fallen capstone are limestone, carried here by glaciers and this chamber is similar to ones in Cornwall, Wales and Ireland.

Conclusion

As to the title, well the horse has no reins, the King never reigned and it certainly did rain!! But a huge thanks to Julia for her excellent organisation and to Don for adding his wonderful take on the ancient monuments; many of us have said that we are going to revisit the sites, preferably when the sun is shining!

Valerie Pegg



Painting Kits.

The oldest known painting kits have been discovered in a cave on the Indian Ocean shore of South Africa. They consist of 2 sets of implements for preparing red and yellow ochres to either decorate the body or paint directly onto cave walls. Created from stone and bone for crushing, mixing and applying the pigments, the tools were accompanied by the shells of giant sea snails, probably for use as mixing dishes. The bones came from animals such as seals and wolves and it's thought that the marrow fat might have been heated and rendered down for use as a paint fixative. Charcoal was also found as well as evidence that urine or water was added to the pigments to make it more fluid and easier to use.

The date put by scientists on these discoveries suggest that Homo Sapiens, who inhabited this cave from at least 140,000 years ago, had capabilities and rituals about which we know little. Gathering their materials from sites about 20 miles from the cave, these early artists used small quartzite cobbles to hammer and grind the ochres into powder, then mixed them with the charcoal, burnt and broken bone, and the liquids. They also appear to have used the end of a bone as a paintbrush. The entrance to the cave was blocked by sand 70,000 years ago, hence the safe hiding place of these artefacts.

Julia Sandison

Julia's Jottings

BAHS Summer Excavation

The Basingstoke society is having another dig in July and the enclosed flier tells you most of the info. However apparently there's a pub, the Golden Pot, and a garden centre in Avenue Road with cafeteria and facilities as well as BAHS provided Portaloos. The site is about 5 miles north of the eastern end of the Alton bypass, so not difficult to reach.

Ancient goldmine

Not all of my jottings are about finds and interesting happenings in UK and occasionally I find a piece about something abroad which directly relates to UK, and the following is an example.

A British archaeologist and former BM curator headed an excavation in northern Ethiopia in the area considered to have once been ancient Sheba. A 20ft carved stone stele led the team to discover the ancient goldmines of the great Queen of Sheba, although an ancient human skull and many boulders block the shaft's entrance which is 4ft down in a hill. Nearby a mound revealed parts of columns and finely carved stone pieces from a buried temple dedicated to the moon god, the main deity of Sheba, the c8 BC civilisation that lasted a thousand years. This site also revealed human bones from a nearby battle. Sheba's queen famously travelled to Jerusalem to ply Solomon with vast quantities of gold and spices in order to test his renowned wisdom and both the Bible and the Qur'an speak of her fabulously wealthy retinue. Legend also says that Solomon wooed her and that their son Menelik gave birth to the descendants who became the kings of Abyssinia.

Apparently local people in this area of Ethiopia still pan for gold but were blissfully unaware of the existence of the mine – it has not yet been revealed whether or not gold still exists deep underground, so don't book your holiday there quite yet.

Diamond Jubilee

I've received this from the Hampshire Record Office in the hopes that WARG members may be able to help them in collecting material relating to local celebrations for the Diamond Jubilee.

You may already have found leaflets for Jubilee celebrations arriving

on your doormat. They are hoping to collect material of this sort, and would be very pleased to receive anything that comes your way, such as leaflets, posters, programmes for events, menus, street party notices and the like. If you attend a street party or other celebration in Hampshire, they would also be very grateful for some photographs of the occasion.

All contributions will be gratefully received - I hope that between us all we should be able to cover quite a representative selection of places in the county.



Posters and the like should ideally be sent as hard-copy items to David Rymill at Hampshire Record Office, Sussex Street, Winchester, Hants SO23 8TH. In the case of photographs, it may preferable if you send them to him as digital images by email to archives.trust@hants.gov.uk or by post on a CD, so that they can keep them digitally which provides the best long-term storage, although prints would also be fine. It is best if digital photographs are sent to them as jpgs or tiffs; it is not so easy for them to deal with photographs uploaded via websites. They can also accept items as pdfs or Word documents, as appropriate. If you

are sending digital items, it would be helpful if you could let David know whether you are happy for him to make more than one backup (this is recommended for archival storage but under copyright law it appears they have to ask you) and if you would be happy for them to make them available online if circumstances one day permit this. They would also be interested in film and sound recordings.

Most of us have over our lifetimes enjoyed looking at films and photos of our national events and we should do all we can to provide such treats for the generations to come!

Rare medieval finds in Cumbria.

During emergency repairs to stabilise the foundations of the Cistercian monastery Furness Abbey, one of the most powerful and influential monastic houses in England in medieval times, Oxford Archaeology uncovered a "full uninterrupted" grave containing an

abbot with his gilded crozier, jewelled ring and even some fragments of textile. This rare find should enable carbon 14 dating to pinpoint to within 25 years the abbot's dates and thus reveal who he actually was. As abbot, something of a feudal overlord, he would have had control of estates across the Furness peninsula into Lancashire and Yorkshire as well as Cumbria itself. The belief is that he probably dates from the c12th. His skeleton has already yielded many facts such as he suffered from arthritis and late-onset diabetes, suggesting that he lived well and wasn't hugely active. He was probably somewhat portly but would have spent much time on his knees praying.



The very rare crozier is made of gilded copper and decorated with gilded silver medallions showing the Archangel Michael killing a dragon, whilst the crozier's crook is decorated with a serpent's head. The ring, a sure sign of status, is of gilded copper alloy with a point on the underside which would have dug into the finger on his right hand and reminded him to be pious! He was around 5ft 7in and between 40 and 50 years old. I don't suppose he ever expected to generate so much interest over 800 years later!

Jubilee Celebrations!

Given that we're in the midst of celebrating the 60th anniversary of Elizabeth's ascent to the throne, I thought that a couple of Hampshire memories of her Coronation and a previous Jubilee might be suitable. These are drawn from the Hampshire Federation of Women's Institutes' "Hampshire: within living memory".

"I remember being marched to the Walled Meadow at Andover for George V's Jubilee in 1935. We sang patriotic songs, then marched back through the town to the Drill Hall, where we were all given tea and a commemoration mug to take home."

"Twyford's celebrations for the coronation started with a service in the church. The vicar then led a procession, headed by the choir, down to the crossroads in the middle of the village. Here the oldest man in the village and a young woman who shared a birthday with the Queen planted a commemorative cherry tree on the bank overlooking the crossroads. Later in the day a grand carnival parade processed

round the village, led by the Twyford village band and a procession of floats. Most of these were mounted on the backs of lorries from the Allbrook Gravel Works. Every organisation in the village, including Girl Guides and the Mothers Union, decorated their float and rode on it in full costume. Everyone was in fancy dress. Two village men dressed up as tramps and wheeled a gramophone along on a pushchair. Also in the parade was a table top fixed over a child's pram, covered by a decorated cloth bearing a splendid Coronation cake, iced and decorated. It was pushed along by Mrs Bull, imposing in a white dress and tall chef's hat and surrounded by four young lads dressed as pages in tabards decorated with the royal arms. The parade finished in a field along the Hazeley Road where there were sports and races for everyone and a splendid tea when the cake was cut and eaten."

Even more buried treasure

We've all read with great envy of the various caches of ancient treasure buried in sundry places around Britain, and here is yet another one. However this one isn't Roman, it's a hoard of Viking treasure, found in a village near the coast of north Lancashire. The hoard was buried in a lead box and its contents of 201 silver pieces includes 10 arm rings which would have been worn by Viking warriors (SO much more stylish than a modern soldier), coins, finger rings and ingots. The hoard has been dated to AD900 and one coin naming Airdeconut (thought to be the Anglo-Saxon attempt at Harthacnut) reveals that within a generation of the Vikings' colonising of Britain in the 870s, their kings had allied themselves to the Christian god and placed DNS on the coin: standing for Dominus Rex, arranged as a cross.

Amongst the coins were several minted for Alwaldus, nephew of Alfred the Great, who, following an unsuccessful claim to the throne, defected to the Vikings in Northumbria. Other coins include Frankish and Islamic ones, which had been tested by clipping and bending. The hoard was worth a lot at the time of its burial, and one arm ring alone was worth the price of an ox.

Interestingly this hoard was buried in the next parish to a Viking hoard found in the 1990s and within 60 miles of the famous Cuerdale hoard consisting of 8,600 pieces of silver. Sadly, since the hoard was never reclaimed by its owner, he must have met an untimely end.

Egyptian Comment

WARG Member, Val Sangwine, writes:

I meant to tell you that we had an absolutely wonderful time in Egypt. Our cruise down the Nile was most interesting - as you say, little has changed - and Cairo was a real eye-opener. At the airport my husband and I were met by a representative of the company with which we were travelling, and he introduced us to a young Moslem woman who was to be our guide throughout our stay. We also had at our disposal a driver with a minibus - no Westerner should ever chance his life behind the wheel in Cairo! Before we knew it, the four of us were hurtling at a rate of knots towards the centre of the city through traffic that was five lanes wide and consisted of donkeys, horses, mopeds, cars and trucks, all bumper to bumper - and they don't pay any attention at all to lane markings! Our first stop was Tahrir Square, and I was interested to note that the only evidence of trouble was a burned out skyscraper that was apparently once used by Mubarek's people, left as a reminder of the previous regime. In the square we visited the museum, where for several hours we marvelled at the richness and variety of treasures taken from Tutenkamen's tomb.....

It was interesting to see how the country is faring after what they call "the Revolution". There is no doubt that they are having a hard time of it at the moment - unemployment is high, tourism is said to be down 60%, and the amount of poverty is absolutely staggering. But everyone we met was very positive about the future. We were frequently greeted with "You English? Welcome, welcome. Thank you for coming." And they would shake our hands. We were told that the Russians were the first to arrive after the troubles. "But the Russians are not interested in Egyptian culture. They only want to lie in the sun. And they do not stay in 5-star hotels, like the English. They stay in 3rd class hotels, and they do not spend any money." Interesting.....

At last Monday afternoon's workparty, it was something of a comedown to handle relics from the Roman era in Britain after seeing what Egypt has to offer!



French Leave



Many of our longer-standing members and those who dug at St Cross will know Ken Qualmann, now-retired Winchester City Archaeologist. He and his wife Jackie have a *longere* (a Breton long-house) in the north of Brittany near Combourg and you may recall my Newsletter piece last year about the week Dick and I spent there in order to visit Carnac and some of the many megaliths and tombs in Brittany. The house is very new and fresh, well-thought out and with everything one needs for a perfect holiday, even walnut, chestnut, apple and pear trees in the immediate area for one to gather from and cook with etc! Apart from the ancient side of that part of France, one can visit Mont St Michel – many steps! – and Cancale for fresh fish restaurants. The countryside is beautiful and there are castles aplenty with the usual excellent French road network for reaching all that north western section of *la belle France*.

Their web address is thequalmanns.wordpress.com or email Ken on kenqualmann@gmail.com

Julia Sandison



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