



Newsletter

November 2010

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Update on 2011
June Lloyd Lecture

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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 a large issue of the Newsletter, covering a great deal of ground, both locally and further afield.

WARG is fast approaching its 40th birthday, and for much of that time it is fair to say that it has been at the centre of Winchester Archaeology, just as Winchester is one of the most archaeological cities in Europe. This centrality has been recognised by the calibre of the speakers we have attracted to the June Lloyd lectures. And June was herself responsible for much of the WARG inheritance. Next year's speaker may not be such a well known figure in the wider world, but his contribution to the understanding of towns and cities is unrivalled.

WARG's importance was recognised by the City of Winchester, when the Mayor presented certificates to the Monday workparty volunteers, (see page 19).

The same workparty team, particularly the bone markers, have received a personal thank you from Martin Biddle for WARG's work on the Lankhills and Cathedral Green bones. While the bones have been stored for many years, comparative work was difficult as individual bones of a skeleton were not marked, and for several years now volunteers have added the relevant information.

This long-awaited and much-needed work was rewarded when an American University colleague of Martin Biddle's could use the bones for her project and WARG members' work shortened the number of hours she had needed to spend with them by about 50%.

To receive a thank you from one of the great archaeologists shows how important WARG is considered to be by the Winchester Museum Service and others, so congratulations to those members involved!

Write-up

We are beginning to organise a formal report on the St Cross Big Digs. It will cover wider ground than the normal academic report, so we are looking for members who have special knowledge that can help make the report comprehensive. For example, we already have a report on oyster shells - there were lots of them in the landfill on the edge of the water feature.

If you think you can contribute, please contact Chris Sellen, who is pulling together the structure of the report. You can reach him on webmaster@warg.org.uk

Dick Selwood

St. Cross with Denise Baker

Resident of St. Cross and long-time WARG member Denise Baker gave the audience a thoroughly researched virtual “walk” around St. Cross village, aiming to give an impression of what was there in the mid 1700’s, around the time that the South Range of the St. Cross Hospital was demolished (remember Trench 9?).

But of course the village had a history before the hospital, from Roman then Saxon times and into the Medieval. It also had a more recent history with the advent of the railway and the disruption that will have caused.

The Roman activity was located in the south of the village which used to be Hillier’s gardens. In the 1950’s cremations were found as well as the enigmatic “dark earth” and Roman pottery. Anglo-Saxon evidence has been small scale but a loom weight dated a weaver’s hut and various artefacts can be found in Winchester Museum. Early (c.1225) tantalising documentary evidence of an early religious house on the site of St. Cross Hospital indicates something special was going on.



*Clay loomweight
found in Back Street.
(Winchester
Museums)*

Working Village

But importantly, St. Cross in Medieval times was a place of residence and work. The Buddlesgate Rolls list the assets and working animals of the local farms such as Sparkford and Drayton and show this to be a prosperous time in the 12th and 13th centuries. By the 1300’s, however, plague decimated the population, although these early patterns of farms and roads remained and continued through to the 18th century.

Our tour of St. Cross now took the form of a perambulation, strolling from street to street passing rows of houses; single dwellings; set back from the road and frontages opening straight on to the road, where wares will have been sold, and daily business done.

Many had complex histories evident in their design, build and alterations. All had an interesting story to tell, whether it was from the house built by a blacksmith in 1771 with a £180 mortgage, further documents showing house insurance of £200 with a contents cover of £100. The smith must have been doing well, with his business perched by the Southampton road with two London coaches passing daily.

Other houses demonstrate the complexity of financial and contractual dealings in the 18th century with many tenants sub-letting,

obviously a lucrative business.

The proximity of the Hospital of St. Cross had a major impact on building development, of course. The grand Landsdowne House was a Beaufort endowment (1445) and many houses have or appear to have parts of earlier buildings incorporated. Much study of local vernacular housing can be done in just this one small village.

Available entertainments to the good people of St. Cross appear to have centred around the 4 public houses and 4 or 5 malthouses. The latter will have been run by the farms as a diversification or 2nd job for the farmer. The pubs, bar the Bell which only became a pub in the 1800's though built in the 1700's, have all gone, sadly, and have found other uses.

Each and every house or building in Denise's talk and tour has a story to tell. They are too numerous to relate here and her talk probably scratched the surface of her research into the story of a very special, while at the same time, very ordinary, Hampshire village.

Chris Sellen



Publications for sale

Hampshire Field Club

Many of you will already know that Julia is the Publications Officer for the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society – the county equivalent of WARG. This means that if you want to buy any of the Field Club's many publications you can buy them at a well-discounted rate from her either at meetings or from her home.

Take a look at the HFC website www.fieldclub.hants.org.uk to browse through the lists of their extensive published material – there are good indices and a vast range of subjects. She also has a range of as-new second hand copies of the Studies series at only £1 each and old but good condition Newsletters at 20p each.

Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society

Julia also has a run of the *Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society*, from no: 41 / 1975 through to no: 66 / 2000 which are for sale. If anyone's interested, either in the lot or in single copies, she says prices will be reasonable – her floorboards need rescuing!

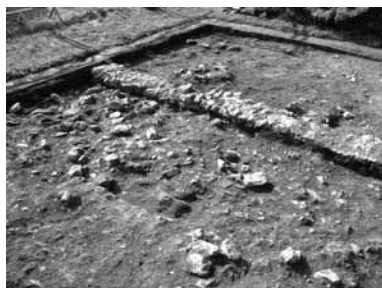
In both cases, please email her at membership@warg.org.uk or telephone 01962 867490 or talk to her at a meeting.

St. Cross Excavation 2009

The WARG AGM in April 2010 heard a report on the 2009 excavation at St Cross, here recorded by Chief Scribe, Chris Sellen. Catch up on the 2010 results at the next AGM on **Tuesday** April 5th.

Into the third excavation at St. Cross the story continued to build and promises to throw up more questions for the diggers to consider into 2010.

The strategy for 2009 was to extend previous trenches and reopen others. Opportunities were taken to consider new areas for excavation, including the "bowling green" which had had resistivity planning done and had shown possible foundation structures. This may be the earliest buildings on the site. Permission was granted for a small trial trench using a 3-day "between weddings" window. Frantic work in the trench revealed not



The Bowling Green revealed evidence of substantial walls.

Photo: Chris Sellen

only walls and a wall junction, but metalwork which is clearly part of a door or gate hinge. Everybody had been excited by this, of course, not least the consultant archaeologist to St. Cross, Dr John Crook, who pronounced himself well pleased with the find.

The trenches in the south of the park (3) appeared now to be rubble infill from the demolition of the south range with some late 19th century Butterfield rubble. This had been used to fill in some of the park or garden features, the nature of which was investigated in Giles' trench 4. Some nice pieces had been found including, in trench 3, a human mandible with facets in the teeth where a pipe had worn them down over the years.



Trench 10 cut into a deep ditch. Is this de Blois's western boundary?
Photo: Chris Sellen

The trench over de Blois' boundary ditch (5) was taken down much further this year and revealed curious circular pits of probable Saxon date – having revealed pre-1066 ceramics. Possible rubbish pits, one had a compacted "working" surface and could have been used for dyeing – a sample had been sent to UCL for analysis.

New trench 10 over the ditch to the

south exposed a seriously deeper ditch 2m deep with a V-section. Certainly a boundary, and containing pre-conquest ceramics.

Trench 9 examined the remains of the demolished south range and revealed a complex history of building and water management. The original sewer to the rear of the range was found by troglodyte Techer, with a mortared floor with a 1:100 slope. This effective (or perhaps not so effective) sewer was diverted when the range was demolished to feed into the park (perhaps the elusive water features). This itself was later realigned with a smaller bore tunnel which now carries the lockburn to its current outflow. A great training trench this, and the finds were many, and often amusing.



A culvert carrying the lockburn at the rear of the demolished south range. Photo: Chris Sellen

These finds were washed on site by our stalwart volunteers which allowed us to show much of our work to the mid-dig open-day visitors, and visits by the Hampshire Field Club and the City of Winchester Trust.

Chris Sellen

Psalm for the day

He made a pit, and digged it, and is fallen into the ditch which he made. (*Psalms 7 v.15*)

Success for the young!

WARG is pleased to announce that our youngest member, Stuart Watt from Fair Oak, has achieved the necessary good grades needed to start his degree course in Archaeology at Southampton University. As Stuart joined WARG in 2007 in order to experience an excavation, we should all feel a little thrill that we're helping and encouraging the next generation to spend their life in this wonderful subject. Well done, Stuart, and hope to see you again at the Big Dig next year!

Winchester's Leper Hospital : A talk by Dr. Simon Roffey

This report on the excavations at the site of the leper hospital of St. Mary Magdalen is one of work in progress. Further excavations are planned in 2011.

Before describing the excavation results to date, Dr Roffey outlined some of the historical context. St. Mary Magdalen was thought to have been founded in the twelfth century and potentially provides rare data of leper hospitals in that period. Documentary and archaeological evidence suggests that leprosy was a widespread disease between c.1080 and c.1250, possibly amounting to an epidemic. Over 200 leper hospitals are known to have been built after the Norman conquest, mostly in the twelfth century. After the thirteenth century there was a steep decline in leper hospital foundations and most of those remaining were converted to almshouses or other general hospitals. Causes of this decline are not certain and may include factors such as a reduction in the virulence of the disease, a change in the pattern of endowments and the impact of the Black Death, which could have affected lepers more aggressively.

Medieval changes

In the medieval period hospitals were focussed on caring, not on curing their patients. The same was true for leper hospitals which were largely located on town boundaries, emphasising their segregation from the rest of the population. Little is known of these leper hospitals, their layout, artefacts, status and inmate lifestyle. Located about one mile due east of Winchester, the site of St. Mary Magdalen was first documented in Winton Domesday in the twelfth century with a reference to "lepers on the hill". Several other references in that century point to the foundation being around 1148 by Henri de Blois. A later reference in 1336 speaks of it being "slenderly endowed" but this state of affairs was probably corrected with increased endowments in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries. The reforms then made may have been accompanied by a building programme and at the end of Wykeham's time c.1400 there is reference to a total of sixteen inmates, six in houses and ten living communally. Somewhere in the second half of the sixteenth century a brick-built almshouse was constructed with a master's house connecting it to the medieval chapel. Subsequently, it was a Royalist camp and a prison-of-war site for Dutch prisoners in the time of Charles II. Eventually it was demolished in 1788. In WWI

it was the site of one of the largest camps in Hampshire; more recently in 2001 “Time Team” did a slight excavation.

Among the surviving documents of St. Mary Magdalen are drawings made by Jacob Schnebberlie in 1789 commissioned by the Society of Antiquaries. Apart from showing several views of the surviving buildings and a site plan, he produced very detailed drawings of the interior of the chapel clearly showing the early medieval styling.



Jacob Schnebberlie's drawing of the chapel of St Mary Magdalen, made in 1789

Another drawing from 1773, by W. Cave, seems to show the correct layout but may owe more to St. Cross than St. Mary Magdalen in its depiction of the almshouse.

Excavation

Following a geophysical survey, excavation commenced in 2008. Working chronologically in reverse from the most recent finds, the results so far have provided evidence of the tents and a cinema of the WWI camp. Dating from around 1600, the almshouse, although almost completely robbed out, is clearly visible from the robber trenches and shows compact individual units each with its own fireplace at the rear of



A View of the Original State of Magdalen Hospital.

W. Cave's drawing of St Mary Magdalen, (1733) showing a St. Cross-like almshouse

the building thereby showing the inaccuracy of Cave's depiction. Forming a wing connecting the almshouse and chapel is the Master's lodge which makes use of earlier medieval walls in part of its construction. The Chapel is also robbed out but the remains conform well to Schnebberlie's drawings. On the south side of the chapel is a cemetery of at least three phases. Some of these burials are of lepers clearly evident from bone damage of the skeletons and are of high status, being carefully constructed, covered with slabs and very close to the chapel. It is possible they contain the remains of wealthy patrons from the fifteenth century.

Based on the known history of St. Mary Magdalen it was assumed

that it was post-conquest medieval foundation and that therefore the remains would date back to about 1150. Excavation showed a building parallel to but separate from the chapel which had been partly reused to construct the almshouse. It appeared that this was contemporary to the chapel, i.e. mid-twelfth century. Around the fourteenth century this building had an aisle added to it on the south side and it was, at least in part, divided by partitions. Also in this phase a side room with a hearth was added. Its function is presently unknown but it may be accommodation for the master or a kitchen.

Unexpected Anglo-Saxon graves

When in the 2010 excavation graves were discovered under the Master's lodge it was thought they also dated from this period. They seemed to be high status, i.e. not intercut as was usual and with evidence of carefully constructed covers. However, although orientated east-west they were not parallel to the chapel. Two of the skeletons were radiocarbon dated, one of them repeated to double-check the result, and gave dates of 930 to 1030 AD. Some showed evidence of leprosy, tuberculosis and one was an amputee. This was clear-cut and totally unexpected evidence for the presence of an Anglo-Saxon hospital, perhaps the earliest known one in England.

Nearby there is also a structure where further work is needed to elucidate its precise function but it underlays the twelfth century hall and therefore is also likely to be Anglo-Saxon in date. One possible interpretation is that it is the base of a tower. Further support for Anglo-Saxon dating comes from the chapel. There is clearly an earlier wall underlying it, parallel to the Anglo-Saxon graves and not shown in the Schnebberlie drawings which illustrate Norman work. Finally, an Anglo-Saxon date is consistent with the known Anglo-Saxon charter boundary for Easton which does not extend to the road but respects the boundary of St. Mary Magdalen. From documentation the late tenth century life of St. Oswald talks of a monastic foundation in Winchester. This has never been located. Is St. Mary Magdalen a candidate?

In conclusion, this exciting Anglo-Saxon evidence needs further work and these interim conclusions will be the subject of much close attention in the excavations next year.

Steve Taylor

Editor's note: WARG is among the very first to hear directly from Simon about this significant discovery, which has already made national and local press.

Archaeology and bird watching on the Hebrides

With another couple, Janet and I spent late September/early October on the Outer Hebrides off the northwest of Scotland. As a holiday, it was wonderful. As an archaeological expedition, it was slightly frustrating, but with highlights. The Hebridean islands are a long way away. It takes over five hours on the ferry from Oban to South Uist. We decided that including Barra was just too much, and spent 11 days driving northwards through South Uist, Benbecula, North Uist, Berneray, Harris and Lewis. This necessitates one more ferry journey from Berneray to Harris (40 minutes). We drove over 600 miles on the islands and almost 2,000 altogether.

The Hebrides obviously had a large population in the Neolithic which is evidenced by many standing stones. The tallest, Clach an Truiseil in North Lewis, is over 6m high and, like many, appears to mark a safe landing place for sea craft.

The Neolithic highlight is the stone circle at Calanais on Lewis. There is a central standing stone within the circle, and four rows of stones radiating out to the compass points. An added bonus is a small chambered cairn. There are a further 11 or more stone circles in the immediate vicinity. This site is sympathetically presented with modern non-intrusive and informative visitor centre and good story boards. Pobull Fhinn is the best preserved stone circle on North Uist.

Hard to find

The Neolithic chambered tomb of Reineabhal on South Uist typifies the problems of being an archaeology tourist on these islands. From photographs it looks extremely interesting. However it is down a track, surrounded by bog, almost a mile from a road. There is no signposting and although I had the local OS maps and I taught map reading for Duke of Edinburgh Awards, I simply could not find the site as the light was failing in driving rain. And I am afraid that this is the case for many of the sites listed in the books below. The dozen or so main sites are reasonably signposted, but after that, a good map, compass, possibly GPS and luck will all be necessary. I raised this with 'authority' when we reached the administrative capital – Stornaway.



I said how well Orkney made a feature of their archaeology, and signposted it clearly to encourage tourism; perhaps the Hebrides might do the same? The response was “Several people have said that”.

Barpa Langais, North Uist is well signposted and is an impressive chambered tomb. The Bronze Age almost by-passed the Hebrides in terms of metal work, but not in settlement sites. Cladh Hallan, South Uist is easy to find and is very representative.

Duns and brochs

By the Iron Age, climate change, spread of bog and peat and population increase had meant pressures on land use. This led to dozens of defended dwelling sites – duns and brochs. Over 50% of the Hebrides is fresh water lochs – which is what makes the light so stunning. A high proportion of the lochs have duns. These are artificial settlement islands, some dating from the Neolithic, but most from the Iron Age. Dun an Sticir, North Uist is a good example with the causeway going into the loch to one island, and then turning at right angles to a second island, which was settled. Clearly a defensive tactic. The best-preserved Iron Age broch is Dun Charlabhaigh (Carloway). This is like one of those cut



Broch at Carloway

away drawings that used to be in *The Eagle* in the 1950s. The collapse of part of the two-story building has left a section of wall 20m high enabling visitors to see the two-wall construction with a passage in between. One feature of settlement almost unique to the Hebrides is the Iron Age wheelhouse. This is a stone dwelling, significantly larger than a Hampshire round house, with spokes of stone wall radiating from the centre to create

different parts of the dwelling. The one at Grimsay was hard to find, but worth it. It is superbly preserved and in a beautiful location. One other late Iron Age site not to be missed is Bostadh on western Lewis. Here one of the settlement houses has been re-created in the most idyllic setting.

Of course, the Romans didn't mess up the Hebrides with their straight lines and centrally heated villas, and so the Iron Age went on until around 400AD and then drifted into a Pictish phase until 900AD. There are a few square Pictish burial sites and the easiest to find is right next to the ferry terminal on Bernerey. Between AD795 and 1266 the islands (along with Shetland and Orkney) were under Norwegian rule. There have been extensive excavations of Viking settlements. The

best known is probably at Bornais on South Uist. But frankly, there is little to see except a few humps and bumps in the sandy soil and a good storyboard.

Christian sites

All the islands are peppered with ancient Christian sites, many believed to go back to the 7th century with influence by Iona. Just two examples: Tobha Mor (Howmore) on South Uist has four ancient chapels in one walled cluster and is peacefully thought provoking. Taobh Tuath (Northton) on the south of Harris is a ruined early church constructed over a dun on a headland. It is a beautiful and easy three-mile return walk over sandy machair.

Dating from Norse times onward are the vertical water mills, still used until the 1930s. One has been beautifully preserved at Siabost. Like much of Scotland, the people of the Hebrides suffered from external landlords and clearances. Until the early 1970s, some still lived in blackhouses. These are stone single story dwellings with heather and turf roofing where the family lived at one end and the animals at the other. Your author remembers visiting one still in use in 1970 with the peat fire in the centre of a beaten earth floor. At Arnol, Lewis, the National Trust of Scotland has preserved a blackhouse. This is well worth a visit. At Gerrannan, a little to the south, a whole blackhouse village has been renovated to make holiday homes.



Blackhouses at Gerrannan

Welcoming

The people of the Hebrides are unfailingly welcoming. They are rightly proud of their heritage and we met several who were willing to drive us or walk us to sites that were difficult to find. Several localities have their own community museums – well worth visiting. The best were at Cille Donnain, South Uist and at Lochmaddy, North Uist. These small museums have good ranges of artefacts covering all periods, but are best in telling the stories of the kelp burning, herring fishing and crafting of the last 200 years. The ground floor of the excellent museum in Stornaway is dedicated to archaeology with a well-chosen selection of artefacts clearly displayed and covering all periods. The only downside is that each artefact has a number, but there is no key! If you ask at reception, they will give you a typed out key. Upstairs is devoted to

social anthropology of the islands and again is very well done.

The birdwatching was excellent: lots of Golden Eagles and two white-tailed Eagles and over seventy species in all. Scenically, the islands vary. Harris has its high mountains, South Uist the sandy machair on the west coast. East Lewis has miles of white sandy beach. The east coast of Harris is like nothing you have ever seen; thousands of rocky inlets and small lochs. Everywhere we ate fantastically (lots of fresh fish) and broadly good accommodation.

One other thing to note: the holiday season is short. By the end of September a lot of hotels and visitor centres were closed for the winter. As I have suggested, a large number of sites were difficult to find. Despite hours of web searching, I failed to find a decent guidebook until we had been on the islands for several days. If you are thinking of going, before you leave Winchester, DO arm yourself with the books listed below. They will make planning much easier. In summary, a wonderful holiday because of the friendly people, fantastic and varied scenery, and a blend of good company, good food, good bird watching, and good archaeology. But if you are a total archaeology nerd and don't want the rest, think long and hard: it's a long way and it ain't cheap. If anyone would like my detailed notes, do e-mail me at treasurer@warg.org.uk.

Further reading

The three books I recommend are in a series called 'Exploring the Archaeology of the Outer Hebrides' published 2007-2008 by The Hebrides Archaeological Interpretation Programme and available from the local authority in Stornaway (see Comhairle Nan Eilean Siar on the web) at £7.95 each. They each have a good background history followed by a gazetteer with general maps and quality photographs of almost all the sites recommended.

Ancient Uists Edited by Anna Badcock ISBN 978-0-9519490-1-6

Ancient Lewis & Harris by Christopher Burgess ISBN 978-0-9519490-2-3

Ancient Barra by Keith Branigan ISBN 978-0-9519490-0-9

An additional book that is helpful (especially if you are going via Kilmartin to Oban) is *Argyll and the Western Islands* by Graham Ritchie and Mary Harman published by the Royal Commission for Ancient and Historical Monuments of Scotland (RCAHMS) at £10.95.

Techer Jones

The Southampton Spa

This talk, by Andy Russel of the Southampton Archaeology Unit, had its origins in research on the three years Jane Austen spent in Southampton, between 1806 and 1809, when the town was well-known as a Spa.

The history of spas goes back thousands of years as is the case with the most famous spa in England at Bath. In the medieval period spas and wells became associated with Saints and their healing powers. As a consequence of the Reformation there was a downturn in their popularity. However they had remained popular in continental Europe where they were used by English travellers, a use which induced suspicion of them becoming centres of Catholic plots during the reign of Elizabeth I. By the early seventeenth century English spas revived in popularity for health rather than religious reasons. This upsurge in popularity was assisted by visits from monarchs which attracted members of the aristocracy and other wealthy visitors (although they were unaffordable for poor people).

Healthy Water

While the primary use of spa waters was for bathing, a fashion arose for drinking the waters for their supposed health benefits. Pump Rooms were created to cater for this demand, the first being built in Bath in 1705. They were usually classical in design and patronised by customers who were conveyed to and from their lodgings in sedan chairs. This popularity was threatened in the 1740's by Doctor Russell of Brighton who taught that sea bathing was healthier and who persuaded the Prince of Wales and others to take up this practice.

This proved to be a temporary set-back and Southampton, like many towns, was keen to develop its facilities as a spa. In this mid-eighteenth century period Southampton was a town largely confined within the medieval walls. Spa facilities were created on reclaimed land outside the wall on the western shore of the town where the "long room", an assembly room, was built. The first written reference is in a council note from 1747 protesting about the impact on the spa trade of prisoners-of-war housed in the town. Among early patrons to this well-appointed facility was Benjamin Franklin. Coffee shops and bookshops sprung up around the High Street to cater for visitors to the spa.

By the middle of the nineteenth century the spa facility had moved to a site just north of the town wall. Named "The Royal Victoria

Assembly Rooms” this was well placed to tap the spring waters that emerged from the western cliff nearby. Customers of the new spa rooms continued to be predominantly the wealthy with the cost of “taking the waters” set at 5 guineas a week. Some time later poor people were admitted with written permission from the Mayor but they had to be out of the premises by 8.00 am. The first guide to the old town was published in 1801 in response to visitors’ growing interest in the medieval walls and other monuments. Other entertainments included dancing in the assembly rooms, an early example of this novel public entertainment. A “strangers guide” was published which contained rules and regulations on acceptable dress. For instance, ladies were not permitted to wear black gloves on Wednesdays and gentlemen had to deposit their swords before entry. A theatre was established in French Street, run by Mr Collins with a troupe of travelling actors. As the popularity of the spa grew there was a demand for street lights, paved thoroughfares and disposal of the sewage. Despite predictable opposition from the rate payers who had to fund these improvements they were duly introduced following an Act of Parliament to approve them.

Popular entertainment

Jane Austen and her family certainly attended the spa and possibly enjoyed other facilities such as the increasing number of bookshops which predominantly catered for women. Libraries were also founded charging sixpence for hire of a book. Horse racing was also a popular diversion although it was mainly viewed as a social event, rather than an opportunity to place bets on the horses. Other diversions permitted for women included archery and walking. Jane Austen certainly participated in the latter, describing them in 1809. The town continued to prosper in this period of the mid nineteenth century. All Saints church was built, albeit in the style of a Greek temple disapproved of by Nonconformists. The Marquis of Lansdowne rebuilt the castle as a short-lived folly. Inevitably, the thriving spa town attracted a range of strange characters. A skilled fencer of indeterminate gender, D’Eon de Beaumont, and the Rabbit Woman of Godalming who allegedly gave birth to rabbits, along with actors and other self-publicists created a colourful mix in the spa town.

The Assembly Rooms were demolished in 1880 and little else survives from that period, which remains a distinctive episode in the history of Southampton.

Steve Taylor

Bishop's Waltham Walk 2010

With a theatrical flourish, WARG members' guide for our summer visit to Bishop's Waltham began by comparing the weather with that of our last visit, in 1998. In the event, this evening's guided walk with Don Bryan was mercifully rain-less, bar some drops felt in the gardens of Palace House, of which more later.

Beginning in St. George's Square with its Millennium Clock on the spot of the first town hall and lock-up, dating from Edward I: the unprepossessing bus stop was the site of the original gate to the town and route to the palace.

Beyond this lay the ponds and various water management features associated with the early ponds, where fish were farmed, with an outflow stream (still visible in Southfields Close) running down the eastern boundary of the palace. We encountered, in this close, the David Lewington Memorial Garden, being tended for the upcoming Hampshire in Bloom competition running that very week.

Supermarket site

We paused by the old level crossing gate (on the disused line to Botley) to consider the relatively new roundabout (the site of 1998's Little Chef!) on the site of the old station. Despite a well kept path (Pilgrim's Trail), this rather downbeat part of the town is the potential site of another new supermarket, close up to the Palace, where one of the town's two mills still stands.

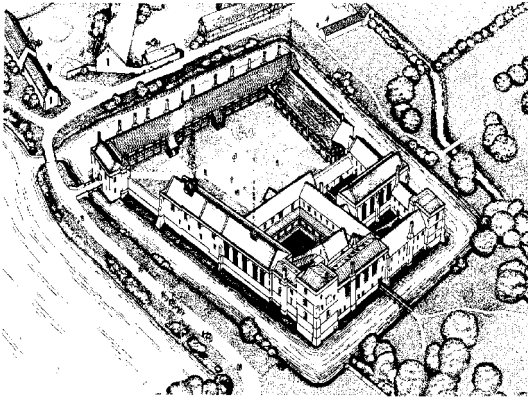


The old level Crossing in Bishops Waltham © Ben Brooksbank

Our walk was to take us up to the grounds of Palace House, a beautiful 17th Century property to the south of the Palace ruin, as a good place to consider the ruins themselves. In the event, the house's current "guardian", Alan Lovell, who is just about to take up office as High Sheriff of Hampshire, was not only in residence, but keen to give us a short guided tour of the Palace (through a secret gate) and also of Palace House's delightful gardens, explaining the pattern of drainage channels and streams running through and around the Palace.

In the Palace

For many the evening's highlight was this exclusive walk around the ruins in the evening light with Alan's and Don's eloquent



Bishops Waltham palace at its zenith

histories. From Henry de Blois's founding in 1136 with its ponds and nearby hunting chase; the ruins of what are mainly William of Wykeham with later additions by his successor Henry Beaufort. Throughout these and later bishops' time, the Palace hosted many royal visitors until its demise and "slighting" by Cromwell in 1645. These included Henry VIII who met the Holy Roman

Emperor, Charles V, here while "negotiating" his release from Catherine of Aragon; and sundry other Henries and Edwards.

Sacred and profane

Leaving the grand, historical pile that is the Palace precinct, we explored the town, parts both sacred and profane. Bishop's Waltham was a town of many pubs, such as the Crown Inn, King's Head and The Barleycorn, many of which had seen service as coaching inns from the 16th century. A stroll up Basingwell Street presents a number of medieval frontages to mainly residential houses, many of which still have medieval timber framing within. The old Victorian fire station is now a stylish residence and as we approached the highest point of the town, at Bank Street, the bank buildings associated with the highly successful Gunner Bank were visible, the Gunners being a key Bishop's Waltham family.

That Baden-Powell stayed once in the White Hart pub is shown by its old name of the Mafeking Hero – indeed this part of the town boasted two breweries, while St. Peter's Street, leading up to St. Peter's Parish Church, completed the patchwork with a number of private schools.

Breweries

In lower Bank Street we returned to the trading connection, with more breweries. This was also the site of a grammar school which also had evidence



*Don Bryan in full flow
(but no rain.
Photo: Chris Sellen*

of Saxon tiles. The town's history takes it from Saxon times, with a large Domesday population of 450: evidence of a Saxon fort or possibly priory has been found close by St. Peter's Church.

This was obviously a major centre from early Medieval times, and its ecclesiastical and indeed royal patronage continued until the Civil War. Into modern times Bishop's Waltham continued to be important in the local rural landscape with fulling and milling a major activity, local involvement with and profits from the brickmaking industry funding the Oddfellows' Hall and its ornate 1895 terracotta façade.

Another cracking WARG walk, complementing the talk by Peter Watkins in September, and providing one of those all-encompassing views of an historical landscape we all strive to comprehend. The ale in the Bunch of Grape (St. Peter's Street) afterwards added to the clarity.

Officially certified



On Monday 25th October 18 WARG members were presented with certificates by Mayor Richard Izard to acknowledge all the work they've done for the Museum Service since we re-started workparties in 2005. Sadly a further 14 were unable to attend the buffet lunch and ceremony at Abbey House, but they still got their certificates! The workparties, which take place on Monday afternoons for 9 months of the year, provide a wide range of tasks for members to get stuck into, and they not only cement WARG's special relationship with the Museum Service – in this instance, mainly Helen Rees – but also provide lots of laughs and a happy 2 ½ / 3 hours on Monday afternoons!

If you wish to join the chosen few, give Julia a call – details as ever on the back cover of this Newsletter.

Madeira

Are there any members of WARG who cannot now hear in their mind the sound of Flanders and Swann singing their 1960 song "Have some Madeira, M' Dear"? The song with much quoted examples of syllepsis and for which song the duo received a request from a wine merchant asking them not to continue with the line about Port as it was affecting their trade. It is not known if there was any compensating increase in their sales of Madeira Wine. Those who have been to school in this country are probably aware that there has been a link between this country and Portugal for many years. It became particularly strong with the Treaty of Windsor signed in May 1386 but dates from the recapture of Lisbon in 1147 when some crusaders, en route to the Holy Land, sheltering in Portugal from bad weather decided that a local crusade against the Moors had some appeal. Gilbert of Hastings became Bishop of the liberated See of Lisbon.

Readers of Patrick O'Brien's Aubrey adventures will know Madeira, so I am told, as The Island. It is 600 miles south west of Lisbon and about 300 miles north of the Canary Islands. The Island's climate has much to commend it. Weather can vary depending upon time of day, altitude and location. The northern part of the island is more tropical but the south sees more sun. Between July and September it can be a bit humid and between November and April it will probably be too chilly to eat outside. The landscape is volcanic, so no sand apart from a couple of beaches where sand has been imported 375 miles from Morocco. Volcanic peaks are a feature, with the highest perhaps 5,900ft. Travelling around the island is easier these days now that there are over 150 tunnels allowing better access between the towns and villages. At 33 miles by 14 it is larger than the Isle of Wight which is 23 by 13.

There are plenty of things to do and we managed to see more than half of the Ten Best Places to see as listed in the AA's Essential Madeira guide*: the Cabo Girao sea cliff, 1902ft high; the covered market in Funchal, fruit, flowers and fish; the Monte Toboggan Ride (not that fast to my mind); the Sacred Art Museum; Funchal's Cathedral, completed in 1514; the Old Town, with more shoe shops than you could imagine; and a wine lodge or two with the tastings which you would expect.

Those wishing to visit other parts of the island may be better off by joining an organised tour or by using the local buses, rather than hiring a car was the advice of a friend who during his professional life could easily drive 100,000 miles a year within the United Kingdom.

Most days a cruise ship or two dock in the harbour and from autumn this year some cruises will start and finish on the island, with passengers being flown in from their home country. The peak time for many cruise ships arriving together is for the fireworks display on New Year's Eve.

The Portuguese sailor João Gonçalves Zarco claimed the island for Portugal in 1419 although it had been known to sailors for many years. An English merchant, Robert Machin, and Anne of Hereford had been shipwrecked there some 50 years before but died within days of each other. They were buried by the crew who made a raft and escaped from the island.

Madeira is an island with a great variety and quantity of flowers helped by its climate. The 22,000 hectare Laurisilva Forest was classified in 1999 as a world heritage site by UNESCO. Walkers may enjoy following the paths by the side of these water channels which link the villages and whose origins are in the heart of the island. It is something we did not sample so cannot speak with any great knowledge.

In February 2010 catastrophe struck when double the monthly average rainfall fell on the morning of the 20th. The capital city of Funchal was badly damaged by mudslides and flooding, as were other towns in the south of the island. Within hours, reconstruction and cleaning had started and according to people we met and who were there at the time, the city was back in operation in a month. A mud bank, created by the spoil cleared from the streets and roads, perhaps 350 yards long by 60 wide now forms a bank between the town and the edge of the harbour in Funchal. A local guide drily observed "we were not going to take it back up the mountain". In August there was another catastrophe when there were severe forest fires in the area mentioned above. Both catastrophes led to cancellation in bookings despite assurances from the local travel trade that the island was open for business. Having spent a more than pleasant fortnight there we can confirm that this is the case.

* ISBN : 978-0-7495-6127-7 and priced at £5.99

<http://www.visitportugal.com/NR/exeres/13263F3A-D544-4B92-9229-B1D6D5F29E38,frameless.htm>

http://www.madeiraislands.travel/pls/madeira/wsmwhom0.home?p_lingua=en&p_sub=1

<http://www.ft.com/cms/s/2/31ce6bfe-595b-11df-99ba-00144feab49a.html>

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Have_Some_Madeira_M%27Dear

<http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Syllepsis#Syllepsis>

Michael Fielding

2010/2011 Meeting Programme

- Dec 13: **Members Miscellany**
Members give short talks on subjects that interest them
- 2011**
- Jan 10: **New Year party**
With unexpected entertainment. - If you plan to come, and you should, please read Julia's note opposite.
- Feb 14: **The Archaeology of Malta**
Kay Ainsworth
- Feb 25: **Symbolic Landscapes in Medieval Winchester**
Derek Keene gives the Third June Lloyd Lecture at Winchester Guildhall. Application form enclosed.
- Mar 14: **Exploration of a Downland Landscape: the Archaeology of Bow Hill in West Sussex**
Mark Roberts (UCL)
- Apr 5: **Big Dig Round-up (and AGM)**
(NOTE This meeting is on a TUESDAY)
- May 9: **British Submarine History**
David Ottley (Gosport Museum of Submarines)
- June 13: **Winchester Cathedral Precincts, an Evening Walk:**
guided by John Croke
- July 11: Event to be announced

All meetings, except the evening walk and the June Lloyd lecture are in the Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College, Berewecke Rd.

New Year Party

We have enjoyed our greatly successful New Year's party with an excellent spread of food for many years and most of you know how it all works, but for new members here are some hopefully helpful hints! We provide drinks (both wine and soft drinks), glasses, plates, cutlery and napkins, and ask you to bring the food on a serving dish.

The vast majority of food consumed will be savoury – after Christmas and the New Year no-one seems to want puds and sweet things – and everything needs to be bite-sized pieces, pre-cut by their provider, please. Vol-au-vents, small sandwiches, cocktail sausages, tiny scotch eggs, small sausage rolls, bite-sized pizza and quiche are

all popular, as are cheese chunks (any variety) and small pieces of fruit and vegetables. Sticks of carrot, celery and cucumber with cherry tomatoes and radishes are popular, with a few well-drained olives. A few grapes can round off a meal very nicely! Dips such as tzatziki and humous are not popular – too difficult to eat on a flat cardboard plate, and those and sweet things get routinely thrown away at the end of the evening. Small pieces of baguette go down well but not savoury biscuits – too dry, I think. Salads without lettuce are popular – so rice, pasta or bean-based as well as coleslaw and potato salad. Some foods will need to be labelled. Please do NOT bring food for more than 2 people – virtually everyone brings something and there is usually masses to throw away at the end of the party.

Final reminder that we ask for £2 from everyone who attends to cover overheads etc. If you're planning on coming, please let Julia know so that she'll have a rough idea of numbers and who's bringing what.

The entertainment this year will be the spectacular event that we had to cancel last year because of the snow and ice and Peter Symonds' being closed, so prepare for a lot of fun!

Julia's details are as ever on the back cover.

Wessex Centre for History and Archaeology

2 Dec, Julie Gammon (University of Southampton) **Sodomy and Dishonour in 18th-Century Hampshire**, HRO

3 Feb, Andrew Reynolds (UCL) **The Mystery of Wansdyke**, M16

17 Feb, Philip Vernon, **Dissenters in 18th-Century Southampton**, HRO

3 Mar, Robert Smith (University of Southampton), **Trussell's Benefactors of Winchester** HRO

17 March 2011, Alex Langlands (University of Winchester), held jointly with the University of Winchester Enterprise Lecture Series, **The Victorian Farm**. Reserve places for this lecture in the New Year at enterprise.lectures@winchester.ac.uk or telephone 01962 827578

Saturday 16 April 2011, **Rural Landlords and Landscapes**: a day conference, at Wiltshire Museum, Salisbury (contact Michael.Hicks@winchester.ac.uk for further details)

All meetings at 5.30pm in the Hampshire Record Office (HRO) or in Room 16 of Medecroft at Winchester University (M16)

More from Dr. Ryan Lavelle Ryan.Lavelle@winchester.ac.uk

Book Review

Feeding a Roman Town: Environmental evidence from excavations in Winchester 1972-1985. By Mark Maltby. Published by Winchester Museums jointly with English Heritage in 2010. Total 405 pages. ISBN 978-0-86135-019-3. Price £16.50.

This is the latest in a series of publications by Winchester Museums in conjunction with English Heritage. It has specialist contributions from several people known and loved by WARG members including Helen Rees, Graham Scobie, Ken Qualmann and John Crook.

There is no escaping it: this is a serious academic tome. It is not light bedtime reading. The book is in four main sections (1) an introduction and outline of methodologies – 27 pages; (2) an analysis of faunal remains from the northern suburb and city defences – 276 pages; (3) analysis of environmental evidence from the western suburb – 22 pages; and 14 pages on analysis of plant remains from Roman Winchester. (Why were there unusual peas but no more-usual beans?) There are a further 78 pages of appendices, bibliography and index. The sites covered include; Victoria Road; Hyde Abbey; the Crown Hotel in Jewry Street; 27 Jewry Street; Henly's Garage and many others where the younger WARG members should pay due respect to the 'more senior' WARG members who scraped and dug in the 1970s and 80s.

As you might expect, there is a ton of data. If I have one small criticism, it is that I would have liked the 'conclusion' and 'discussion' sections of the text to jump out at me a little more. For example, after 14 pages of data on butchery marks, a small heading says 'discussion'. After nearly another 100 pages of data there is ten pages of excellent discussion on what has been described. Quite frankly, only the most dedicated researchers are going to plough through all the information in this book. A lot more of us will want to read the discussions, debates, arguments and interpretations. They are there and they are well written, but you have to excavate them out. The book is also instructive. For example, at random I turned to page 143 which explains in good simple language what methodologies can be used to date cattle teeth.

Like the preceding volumes in this series, the layout and tables are clear. Photographs are well reproduced and the volume is well indexed.

Mark and all the team associated with Winchester Museum are to be congratulated in yet another high quality publication. It is over a quarter of a century since some of these sites were dug. Over the past

two years we have seen three outstanding publications, which, at last, allow the world to know more about these sites bringing understanding to the heritage of Winchester and wider Britain. Let us hope that local authority budget cuts do not restrict any more work in the pipeline. It is all very well having school children dress up as Vikings (or whatever), but having undertaken the amazing excavation work that was done in Winchester in the 1970s and 1980s, Winchester City has a public duty to continue to publish the findings at this high academic level and before those who carried out the work are too old to contribute.

Techer Jones

Food, Craft and Status in Medieval Winchester: The plant and animal remains from the suburbs and city defences, ed D Serjeantson and H Rees. 405pp, 381 photographic plates and figures, £16.50 .

Artefacts and Society in Roman and Medieval Winchester: Small finds from the suburbs and defences, 1971-1986, H Rees, N Crummy and P J Ottaway, 433 pages, 215 figures and plates £41.00 (incl p & p)

These, plus a range of others, are available at the City Museum in The Square, Winchester or on-line from <http://www.winchester.gov.uk/LeisureAndCulture/MuseumsAndGalleries/Publications/>

A recent book from Hertfordshire University Press (www.herts.ac.uk/uhpess) uses the pipe rolls of the Winchester bishopric to analyse the medieval peasant land market. Medieval peasant families are closely identified with the land to which they had a hereditary right, especially in periods of land scarcity. By contrast, historians in recent decades have become increasingly interested in the growing facility with which even servile tenants could exchange land, especially from the thirteenth century onwards. This book concerns the tension between these contrasting trends in the study of village life, showing how they were affected by changes over time and place. This study uses computerised technology to analyse 66,000 transactions across over 50 different manors ranging from Somerset to Surrey, and from Oxfordshire to Hampshire, providing unparalleled opportunities for comparing local and regional differences of experience

John Mullan and Richard Britnell, **Land and Family:** Trends and local variations in the peasant land market on the Winchester bishopric estates, 1263–1415 Hardback £35.00, ISBN 978-1-902806-94-5, Paperback £18.99 ISBN 978-1-902806-95-2

The Evacuation of Children in World War Two: "I'll take that one" - the true story of Operation Pied Piper

Martin Parsons from the University of Reading was our September 2010 speaker. Having researched his subject for twenty years he talked passionately as he held the audience enthralled with his personal views, although some WARG members may not have agreed with all his opinions.

Early Evacuation and Propaganda

The very first evacuation occurred in 1804, when responding to a threat from France, children were moved away from the south coast of Dorset and South Shields. 30,000 children were moved out of London in 1938 during the early panic about Hitler, 1939 saw Operation Pied Piper, in June 1940, after Dunkirk and in March 1944, with the danger from V1 and V2 bombers, more movements took place.

Back in 1939 society was not nearly so mobile as today, many families all lived in one street with the corner shop and local schools nearby, so moving was unusual. The propaganda for evacuation was brilliant, making it out to be absolutely fine and even today many believe that it was a good thing. A photograph showing a mother crying was never published as this would have undermined morale. However, for many evacuees it was a negative experience with one grandfather today, whose house was obliterated in the Blitz, stating "I'm still waiting to go home!" in spite of having moved and lived in many houses since.

During World War Two 3.5 million people were evacuated from towns, cities and coastal areas. 826,959 children were moved under the care of their schools with 103,000 teachers and their helpers. 524,210 mothers with babies, 12,705 expectant mothers and 7,057 infirm were also relocated. The system was flawed, mothers who were teachers accompanied their pupils but their own offspring might be sent to a different location with their own school! Expectant mothers were not welcome as they put pressure on the receiving hospitals, some babies were separated from their mothers at too young an age and "the infirm" added a burden to cottage hospitals and specialist schools.

The Anderson Committee

Established in September 1938 and led by John Anderson, of shelter design, this group was in charge of Operation Pied Piper (1st to 4th September 1939). It was an exercise in moving numbers, not human

beings, and seemed to lack any humanity. The Government would meet initial costs and evacuation was not compulsory. The main concerns were to keep vital industries active, move 3 to 4 million people from London in 72 hours and implement the plans as quickly as possible. The committee were worried that the working class in London might lose their nerve and stream out of the city: it was felt that evacuation would control this possible panic.

Three zones were established, target areas from which people should leave, reception areas to which they could go (billeting was compulsory here) and neutral zones where there would be no movement in or out. Plymouth and Bristol were initially designated as neutral areas! The headquarters of the west country evacuation scheme was in Reading, which was not really feasible, and local authorities in the reception areas ordered men to carry out a housing survey to determine how many evacuees could be accommodated, they reckoned a four bedroom house could take 10 to 12 children! No checks were ever made on the suitability of householders to look after children, this is in the time before CRB checks, but it is hard to define abuse in the war years compared with our different values now. The Chief Billeting Officer would receive requests from the upper classes, who knew how to play the system, that they be given fewer children whilst it was the labouring and agricultural workers who took in the highest numbers. Lady Denham and Lady Reading, leaders of the WVS and the WI were appointed as "experts" in childcare, in fact they created more problems than they solved as they certainly were not the experts of the time.

Transport Arrangements

The order to begin came at 11.07am on the 31st August 1939, children went to school the next day with a suitcase and were labelled with their name, school and a number. They were taken to an overground station and set off, in many cases parents did not know and there was certainly no opportunity to wave goodbye to their offspring. The underground was not used as there was danger from a gas attack and the ventilation system would not cope, flooding might occur in a raid and a direct hit on the system would bring it to a standstill.

Teddy bears were often confiscated, the post card written home to reassure parents of their safe arrival was usually dictated by teachers on the train. Journeys were very long, most travelled in 3rd class carriages without access to toilets, drinks were given to the children, who then either wet themselves or had to pee out of the window!

Temporary toilet buckets were placed on the platforms en route, these were screened on three sides but not the side actually facing the train! Some children were taken from Ealing to Maidenhead, from where they could subsequently see London burning!

The actual number of children that arrived at a destination was much higher than expected (usually double) and conversations about billeting were carried out in front of the youngsters, consequently they knew that they were unwanted.

Conditions

Evacuees were given a bag of rations to pass to their hosts to supplement their food for the first 48 hours. These contained tins of condensed milk and corned beef, biscuits and chocolate. Teachers sometimes took the chocolate to look after, some of the rest was eaten on the train but the carriages were hot, children wore multi-layers of clothing and consequently many youngsters were sick themselves, or got covered with sick from others. It is not surprising that evacuees were labelled as “dirty” upon their arrival.

“All evacuees wet the bed” is often quoted but with the trauma of the move this could well be expected. Host families were paid to take in children (10/6 for the first child and 8/6 each for any more) but those who found themselves with bed wetters could claim an extra 2/6 per child per week along with a rubber sheet, so it was advantageous to make such a claim.

On their return home many evacuees felt that they had missed out on events and family life, elder siblings were jealous “ it was alright for you enjoying yourself in the country”, whilst some of course had lost homes and even their parents.

Initial posters asked hosts to take in an evacuee, claiming that it equalled National Service. Later posters stated that children were safer in the countryside and to leave them there. A signed certificate from King George VI was presented to children whilst hosts were later given a certificate from our present queen. Bodyguard toilet soap (now Lifeguard) and the Bisto kids appeared on posters promoting the benefits of evacuation .

In hindsight it is easy to criticise evacuation, but at the time England was preparing for war and no-one knew what would happen, however there is no doubt that the greatest family and social upheaval ever known in this country took place with Operation Pied Piper and its repercussions are still being felt today.

Valerie Pegg

Helping the Police with an enquiry?

Clifford Williams, a Chief Inspector with the Hampshire Constabulary is researching the history of the Winchester City Police (up to amalgamation in 1943). He would like to hear from members who have photos or other information about the old City Force. In particular he is trying to track down a picture of one of the Winchester Police Boxes that were put up in the 1930s at:

St Giles Hill in East Hill

Hyde St. /Worthy Rd.

Station Hill box Stockbridge Rd.

Fulfood box Stockbridge Rd.

West Hill box Romsey Rd.

St Cross junc. Kingsgate Rd.

High St (in front of Westminster Bank)

Airlie Rd.

St Cross Police House

He says that the Watch Committee minutes of Sept 25th 1928 has the cost of erecting these boxes as £33 each. There is a copy of an agreement between the landowner, Lilian Carter of 108 Colebrook St, and the Head Constable for the St Cross Rd box which has a land rent of £1. It also says that the uses of the box were to be:

Telephoning the police station

Writing reports

Keeping official instructions therein

As places for the taking of refreshment during the permitted time.

On no account would a member of the public be allowed in!

Once he has finished his research we hope to hear the results at an evening meeting. So if you do have any useful information, please contact Clifford Williams at clifford.williams@hampshire.pnn.police.uk.

Editors Note: The Winchester City Police Force was established in 1832, (the first in Hampshire) with seven constables and an inspector. It continued as a separate force until April 1943, when it merged with Hampshire Constabulary. Until the 1950s, when they moved to North Walls, both the police station and fire station were on the Broadway. The first building, was on the site of the Pitcher and Piano) and in 1893 it moved to the ground floor of the Guildhall, on the east side of the building where the blocked-in doors can still be seen.

News bites

Yet another house with decking

Yorkshire more than comes up with archaeological goodies – this time a house with what is considered by the experts to be the earliest carpentry in Europe. A detached lakeside property has been unearthed complete with fireplace, decking and easy access to the continent.

The latter is particularly interesting since the date of the house – it's about 10,500 years old – is before Britain's land mass became separated from Europe. The site near Scarborough is in peaty soil, helping to preserve this amazing find of a circular structure about 11½ feet in diameter, and has also managed to preserve a boat paddle, beads, arrow tips and the tops of red deer skulls – possibly masks or head-dresses? The most wonderful aspect of this discovery is that it challenges our previous assumptions that the people of that time were nomadic – this suggests that they had already formed attachments to particular areas and liked a good view as well.

More early house remains

Although it cannot hope to compete with the Scarborough property, the discovery of a 4,500 year old house at Marden, midway between Avebury and Durrington Walls, is just a part of the secrets being yielded up on this “superhenge” being excavated by English Heritage. Marden covers about 40 acres and is considered to be one of 4 huge banked enclosures located in the Vale of Pewsey. This site promises to equal Stonehenge in archaeological importance (not in tourist terms, though!) although little now remains above ground. This is too complicated a site for there to be enough room to do it justice in our Newsletter so if you want to know more, check out the website - www.english-heritage.org.uk/professional/research/archaeology/marden-henge It's well worth the read.

Somerset hoard

Honestly, buried hoards of treasure are like London buses – they come along together in groups for company. Yet another haul of Roman coins, the largest ever found in Britain in a single container, has been unearthed in Somerset. The thing about this one that's different to all the other recent finds is that experts at the British Museum reckon the pot was placed in the ground first and THEN filled with the coins.

The haul numbers around 52,500 coins dating from several rulers but about 760 are from the reign of one Emperor Carausius, a rogue

Roman general who broke away from the rest of the empire and set up on his own in Britain and Northern Gaul. Apparently he was a somewhat bull-necked bearded man whose reign came to an end when he was assassinated by his finance minister Allectus. His reign lasted about 7 years from 286AD and is considered by historians like Guy de la Bedoyere to have been an attempt to restore some of the old Roman principles to an empire.



The hoard is equivalent to about 4 years' pay for a Roman legionary and its discovery challenges conventional wisdom about WHY large amounts were buried. The usual explanation has always been that people hid their valuables during times of unrest until the dangers were past, but some experts are now considering that they might have been buried as offerings to the gods – consider this in relationship to our own Winchester Hoard and see what you think. Put *Carausius* into your search engine and see what goodies come up about this most interesting part of our Island's history.

The finder was yet another user of a second-hand metal detector and his booty is probably worth around £400,000; this hoard counts as treasure so he'll share half of the value with the land owner. I know what I want for Christmas, please.

International Dorset

Isotopic analysis of teeth is enabling archaeologists to discover a great deal of new information about skeletons. A burial pit at Ridgeway Hill in Dorset containing 51 skeletons has provided evidence that all the decapitated men therein were Vikings, not Anglo-Saxons. This turns on its head our beliefs that it was the Vikings who did all the raping and pillaging etc since the analysis shows that the men came from all over Scandinavia – one even from north of the Arctic Circle. Carbon-14 dating provides the time to be from 910 to 1030, when Vikings were invading our island, thus challenging another belief that these remains were of Iron Age people slaughtered by the Romans.

The men had all suffered cuts and blows to the chest, stomach, pelvis, head and spine as well as the more defensive injuries to the hands. This would thus appear to have been an execution. Chemical archaeology is enhancing much of our knowledge about our ancestors and is proving

invaluable in correcting previous interpretations of our history.

Royal Etruscan tomb

Archaeologists are excavating what they consider to be a Queen's tomb in the necropolis at Tarquinia. Dating to the mid-7th century BC and the oldest so far found on the site, the underground entrance was reached by an imposing open air staircase and its walls were covered with a plaster much used at that time in Cyprus, Egypt and Syria but previously unknown in Etruria in central Italy. Traces of paintings similar to those in Greece can still be seen, including one of a black and red animal thought to represent the Underworld. The Etruscans and their culture were systematically wiped out by the Romans so this find is another small nugget of information about these people.

Cyprus

Following the piece on Cyprus in the last newsletter, WARG member Christopher Gordon got in touch with a link to a report he produced a few years ago for the Council of Europe on the (fairly) recent culture/heritage policy of the Republic of Cyprus (he 'did' Italy in 1994/95 for them). http://www.coe.int/t/dg4/cultureheritage/culture/reviews/CDCULT2004-7Cyprus_EN.PDF

It is an interesting read.

Julia Sandison

Odd news

Taking WARG to schools

Julia was asked to talk to the children in Years 1 and 2 at Oliver's Battery Primary School about archaeology. She took along artefacts, photos and documents and despite her knocking knees (it was the first time she has talked to school children, let alone 50 five and six year olds) she had an interesting time and maybe in a few years time some the seeds she has tried to plant will come to bear fruit. She was particularly grateful for the help of Helen Rees and Robin Iles of Winchester Museums, who dug out relevant and interesting material for her to use.

St Cross Fete

Each year there is a fete in the grounds of the Hospital of St Cross, and this year WARG had a presence there. Julia, Techer and Dick spent a busy day in the sun talking about the archaeology that had taken place and was due to take place a few weeks later. Despite competition

from a silver band and the ice cream band, a lot more people, many local to the area, now know more about the history of the hospital and the park.

Clay tobacco pipes

Did you leave behind at this year's Big Dig your booklet on the Pipes of the Portsmouth Harbour Region? If so, Julia has it safely at home, so contact her to arrange for its handover!

We need your views

Days Out

It's been a couple of years since WARG arranged a day out by coach and the reason is that we found only a handful of members (and their guests) were interested in taking part, although the cost was always very competitive.

We're now wondering whether perhaps a full day is too much for people and they'd prefer just a half day trip out on a weekday. We could also perhaps arrange 2 pick up places to make it easier for reaching the coach without having to use a car.

If this appeals to you, please either email or phone Julia or fill in the form inside this issue of the Newsletter and on the WARG web site.

Training

If there is enough interest, we plan to run some training sessions in Spring 2011. One will be on using the resistivity equipment and another on setting up and using the Total Station. There will be a small charge to cover the trainer's fee and the use of the equipment, probably around £5.00. If you are interested, please complete the form in this mailing. If you have mislaid it, there will be a form on the WARG web site (warg.org.uk) for you to download and complete.

Both for the day out and the training sessions we are not asking for a full commitment, just an indication of the likely level of interest.

Big Dig 2011

We are taking a holiday from St. Cross in 2011 and hope to be announcing a new excavation site soon. As soon as we have finalised the details we will be in touch with all members.

June Lloyd Lecture, 2011: **Symbolic landscapes in early medieval Winchester**

Friday 25th February 2011, 7.30 at Winchester Guildhall,

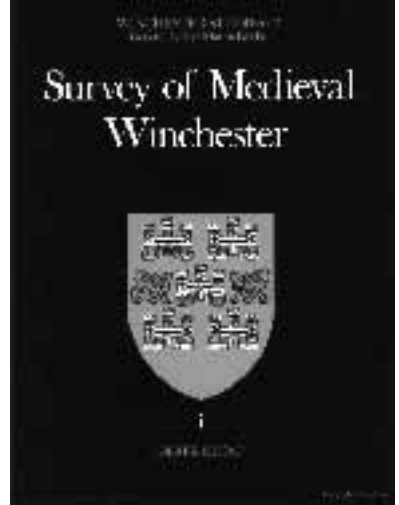
As we announced in the last newsletter, we have been very fortunate in securing Professor Derek Keene to give the 3rd June Lloyd lecture. His topic, '*Symbolic landscapes in medieval Winchester*' may sound a touch esoteric, but he will be looking at several aspects of Winchester between the ninth and the twelfth century, exploring how the landscape is more than just a practical solution to laying out and expanding a town but is, instead, a reflection of contemporary ideas, particularly on the nature of the universe and on heavenly and earthly power.

This is the same thinking that made the early builders of churches create not just a space for worship but something that was a physical reflection of the crucifixion (the aisle and the transepts), a metaphorical representation of the human journey through life, (from the font at the door to mark the entry into the spiritual life to the glory of the High Altar and the life after death), and frequently, in the ratios of the dimensions of the church, reflected the Trinity and other aspects of the spiritual world.

Street plan

Professor Keene will start from the street plan as laid out in the reign of King Alfred, and look on the lesser churches associated with the royal palace and monastic precincts at the heart of the tenth-century city, and on churches established in the suburbs between the tenth and the twelfth century.

These are not the only symbolic elements identifiable in the evidence for



Winchester's topography during this period, but they touch on major themes, alluding to its standing as a city associated with ideas of empire and as a City of God.

In asking Professor Keene we are continuing the tradition of inviting speakers who have been intimately involved with Winchester: his work with Winchester Research Unit produced the massive gazetteer of medieval Winchester, the *Survey of Medieval Winchester* in the Winchester Studies as well as involvement in other volumes of the massive study.

After leaving the Winchester Research Unit, he became, in 1988, the founding director of the Centre for Metropolitan History and also became Leverhulme Professor of Comparative Metropolitan History at the Institute of Historical Research in London, where he worked until he retired in 2008 and where he is Honorary Senior Research Fellow.

His work has focused on towns and their regional setting in Europe, from the seventh to the nineteenth century. He is particularly concerned to incorporate the evidence of artefacts, material environment and spatial forms in thinking about the economic, social, cultural and political history of towns and their wider setting.

Interview


If you want to know more about Derek Keene's life so far and have a sample of his style as a speaker, there is a wonderful interview, available both as audio and as a transcript, at www.history.ac.uk/makinghistory/resources/interviews/Keene_Derek.html

Tickets for the lecture are priced at £12.50, but WARG members can buy them for £9.00 - if you pay in advance. At the door they will, sadly, only be available at full price. An application form for the lecture is enclosed, please complete it and return it as soon as possible.

June Lloyd

June was a founder of WARG and served the society in many roles. The lectures were established in 2007 to recognise her contribution to WARG, Winchester and the Winchester Studies. In fact June typed large quantities of the Winchester studies, including the *Survey of Medieval Winchester*.





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