



Newsletter

Spring 2016

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Chairman's Notes

Julia's surprise talk at our January meeting before we all tucked into our annual indoor picnic was a fascinating insight into the early development of tourism in the Isle of Wight.

With February's talk on the archaeology of forgotten wrecks of the First World War and March's exposé of the bell-ringer's art in Winchester, we've kicked off 2016 in our usual eclectic style.

There are also a couple of events about to happen in the City with which WARG is involved, albeit in a supporting role. These include helping St. Cross raise funds through showcasing some of our excavations of previous years, and helping the Hyde900 community group unearth some of their back gardens, using our accumulated wealth of excavation equipment.

With luck we'll get to exercise that equipment this year at our proposed excavation at Warnford. Your committee is working to achieve that.

And finally, though it seems a way away, August 15th will see our evening visit to Basing House. This will be a picnic, not just a visit. So get it in your diaries – the flyer for bookings will be in the next newsletter.

All-in-all it's quite a feast really.

Last year we received a generous anonymous donation - cash in an envelope. Anonymous person, if you are reading this, very many thanks from WARG.

Chris Sellen



We do Like to be Beside the Seaside

The New Year entertainment for 2016 was provided by Richard Smout, Heritage and Tourism Officer for the Isle of Wight.

In Tudor times the island was our front line of defence and going on holiday was not an option.

An interest in landscape, nature and the picturesque developed from 1760 onwards as the upper classes gained some leisure time. Worsley produced prints of the Isle of Wight showing houses in a scenic background whilst the Reverend William Gilpin was invited there with the sole purpose of extolling its virtues, instead he slated the island even stating that "the chalk cliffs were the wrong colour."

The island provided an escape from Portsmouth, many a Sea Admiral set up home at Ryde, Freshwater or The Undercliff, thus avoiding the “drunken mariners.” War on the continent caused the cessation of the Grand Tour so the island gradually became a holiday destination. From Regency times onwards the health benefits of sea air and sea bathing contributed to its popularity along with the rise in yachting. Finally the opening of the railway to Gosport in 1840 clinched it, with Queen Victoria and Albert purchasing Osborne House in 1841, the Queen following the fashion of going to the seaside and others then copying.



Isle of Wight from the International Space Station By NASA/Chris Hadfield

The island gradually “opened up.” Celia Fiennes visited Newport, Carisbrooke Castle and Ryde in the 1690s. In the 1770s Newport, Yarmouth, Appledurcombe, Steeple and Shanklin Chine were on the list. Twenty years later no tour was complete without visiting the Workhouse to view the inmates! The Needles were included on the itinerary by 1798. During the 19th century tourism was based on individuals, Tennyson complained of the “rabble of Cockneys” who came to admire his house. Victorians visited the “Virtuous Poor” such as Little Jane’s Cottage (Jane Squibb) and her grave in Brading. The grave of Elizabeth Wallbridge, the dairyman’s daughter, who died in 1801 and was buried at Arriton Church, was also a popular Victorian destination. “Posh” headstones were added for the benefit of the tourists.

Without a bridge, a painting pre-1812 shows people disembarking, some wading ashore, others having a piggy-back whilst the rich are riding in a horse-drawn barge. In 1812 the Ryde pier was constructed thus providing a dry way to get ashore. Winchester Council set the cost and even back then it proved to be a very expensive stretch of water to cross! The whole point of a pier is to get tourists into your resort and then stop them going anywhere else to spend their money. Yarmouth built its pier in 1876; after a ferry accident the Pier Master apologised to the ferry company for his “pier being in the way of the ship” as he did not wish to alienate the ferry service. The cost to go to the mainland by boat was 1d per person or dog, 2d per bicycle, 3d per tricycle, 4d for a perambulator and 3/- for a corpse! Once on

the island there was a distinct lack of transport and very poor roads. Chairs were strapped to an open cart, and there were 50 gates between Yarmouth and Newport each manned by an urchin wanting a tip! In 1903 a notice warned motorists that the roads were very narrow, winding and dangerous and not suitable for speed. A 1952 photograph depicts thousands of Bank Holiday tourists on Ryde Pier queuing for the return ferry.

Some advertisements, paintings or prints failed to depict the true nature of the place so people were disappointed, walks proved to be tedious and longer than described. In 1870 Shanklin Chine's waterfall was described as a "cascade" whilst an American visitor said it was a "dirty driplet." One advert used the imperative verb stating "You WILL be happy." Early photographs show visitors on the beach in their "Sunday best," long fancy dresses, three piece suits and sailor suits for children. You were improperly dressed without a hat of some sort, be it top hat, boater, cap or bonnet. Entertainment was provided: Ryde had new beach deckchairs and endless wireless announcements, there were Regattas and firework displays, confetti fights, air shows and the ubiquitous Punch and Judy man.

No holiday was complete without a souvenir such as a plate, Alum Bay sand in a lighthouse, sand picture or a Ryde china turtle. Breakable china tourist-tat was piled high and overpriced whilst short-changing was commonplace. There existed a love/hate relationship between the locals and the Summer incomers. Visitors complained of having to pay to bathe on a private beach whilst locals moaned about the "undesirable tourists." A 1910 editorial complained of the visiting, under-dressed females and the drivers who thought they owned the road. Maybe the locals were getting their revenge when a whale was shot off Seaview and landed for financial gain. Tourists had to pay 2d to "see the whale" but in the warm weather an evil odour came from the carcass and nearby lodging houses lost business. The whale skeleton was eventually displayed in a souvenir shop.

Tourism still plays an important role in the island's economy, so do not be put off by this historic account. Just be prepared, in my opinion, when visiting the Isle of Wight to go back 50 years in time when things were simpler, the sun always shone and ice creams only cost 6d.

Valerie Pegg

Trip To Tuscany

This region is known for its Medieval and Renaissance history: there is little archaeology to be seen.

We were staying in Montecatini-Terme, in the centre of a rich agricultural area. Vineyards and olive trees spread around green hills topped with sandy-coloured little hamlets, clustered around their churches, survivals from Medieval times. Although the way of life seems to have continued unchanged through the generations, spanking new factories nearby give the lie to this idyll.

As its name suggests, Montecatini-Terme is a spa town. There are several springs, most of which are now closed, but the largest Spring, Tettuccio, is still very much in use. Apart from the normal spa activities, the majestic building, with its mock marble columns and mosaic ceilings, hosts musical events. Although the facade is peeling in places, this does not detract from the wonderful atmosphere. There is little evidence remaining of Roman occupation, although it is certainly known that they used the spas.

There are wonderful views from Montecatini Alto which overlooks the Spa town from the neighbouring hill, served by a funicular. The hamlet comprises a few remaining medieval castle walls, a couple of churches and some houses. Among the many attractions of Montecatini are the delicious ice creams and confectionery. In the evening, the town comes to life with local families strolling around the central square, shopping and chatting.

Back to the culture: Florence gets congested with tourists. There can be long queues for the Uffizi Gallery if you have not pre-booked. It contains some very famous paintings and sculptures, arranged in smallish groups, which makes the experience less overwhelming for the viewer. Based in Florence, the Medici family virtually ruled Tuscany during the Medieval and Renaissance periods. Many of the buildings date from that era. The Medicis' Mausoleum, commissioned by Cosimo Medici in 1604, with sculptures by Michaelangelo, is in the Capelle Medicee.

The Duomo, or Cathedral, among the largest in Europe, was built in 1436. The facade was added in the nineteenth century. The dazzling exterior is covered



Florence Cathedral

in marble panels and sculptures, although the interior is plainer and relatively bare. The Museo dell'Opera del Duomo houses original artwork from the Cathedral, Campanile and Baptistry, including works by Donatello and Michelangelo. The Campanile was finished in 1359. It is possible to climb the 414 steps for a magnificent view over the City. The



Ponte Vecchio, Florence

Battistero, or Baptistry, thought to have been built in the 6th or seventh centuries, possibly on the site of a Roman temple, is where all Florentine children were baptised. Lost or abandoned children were exhibited in the fourteenth century Loggia del Bigallo, where they could be claimed before being admitted to an orphanage. The Ponte Vecchio (old bridge) is lined with buildings, and crosses the Arno, linking Florence to its suburb on the other bank where the extensive Boboli Gardens, opened to the public in 1766, are situated. There is much more to see in Florence: almost every piazza contains something picturesque or interesting.

Much of the small fourteenth century town of San Gimignano remains: the original walls, the Medieval churches, palazzas and the alleys. Again, this picturesque town is a popular tourist destination.

The Leaning Tower of Pisa is in the Campo dei Miracoli, with the Battistero, the majestic Duomo and the Camposanto. All three buildings are covered with intricate carvings – a magnificent sight.



L - R Battistero, Duomo and Leaning Tower, Pisa

Lucca is an attractive little medieval city, tucked into its city walls. Olive oil and silk weaving are still important local industries. The perpendicular arrangement of the main streets is a reminder of the original Roman Camp, and the site of the Amphitheatre is reflected in the Piazza Anfiteatro, popular with

locals and tourists. There is a pleasant walk around the City walls. Well worth visiting.

My favourite city was Siena. Sitting on ridges of red clay and compact within its gates, the atmosphere is pure Tuscany. Fine



Carved doorway in Siena

Gothic buildings overlook narrow lanes and beautiful piazzas – especially Il Campo where I enjoyed watching the antics of the pigeons as they tried to drink from the fountains. The City's good state of preservation is a result of its swift economic decline and economic deprivation by the Medicis.

The Duomo is considered to be one

of the most beautiful cathedrals in Italy, more lavish than that in Florence. The spectacle of the interior is breathtaking. Into the marble floor are set marble panels, worked by 40-odd different artists in the period 1369 to 1547. Carved heads of 172 popes look down from the ornate ceiling. Equally lavish is the Liberia Piccolomini, built in 1495, where ancient hymnals and gospels are on view. Detailed frescoes cover the walls and the ceiling



Inside the Duomo, Siena

is a feast of rich, mosaic patterns.

Vinci, the birthplace of Leonardo, is a picturesque hilltop village in the Florentine District. The Medieval Castle houses a museum devoted to the life, engineering works and inventions of Leonardo. We enjoyed a peaceful stroll around the village.



Books in the Liberia, Siena

Tuscan olive oil producers promote their product as being purer than any other. Acres of vineyards produce excellent wines, including Chianti. Leather-working is also a speciality. Visitors are welcomed to the mills, wineries and factories.

To sum up, Tuscany is well worth a visit, whether you mingle with the crowds in the hotspots or wander around the back streets, visiting those little hidden gems of medieval churches and piazzas.



Old oil press near Vinci

Pat Fenwick

1000 years of bell ringing in Winchester's Cathedrals

It is probably reasonably safe to assume that most people's knowledge of bell ringing is fairly limited. However, all that changed in March when Colin Cook came to talk to us about bell ringing in Winchester, and all WARG members who were fortunate enough to hear him will now be much better informed.

We heard that the bells in Winchester have played a significant role in the city, being heard there for over 1000 years, but the history of bell ringing goes back much further than that!

Pre-Christian origins can be traced back in the cultures of the Chinese, Indian, Assyrian, Japanese and Roman peoples. There are even two bells at Fishbourne Roman palace near Chichester.

The origin of bells used in Christian worship can be found within the Coptic Church. The Benedictine monks in Montecassino used them, and the name of a nearby region in Italy, Campania, is the root of the word campanology, which comes from Late Latin and means the study of bells. We know that Celtic missionaries in Ireland used them, and that the Saxon Minster in Winchester probably also had a bell. The New Minster had bells to aid worship and the importance of them is set out in the Regularis Concordia.

King Canute is recorded as having given 2 bells to the Old Minster in 1035. Teodric, the Bell Founder, was a Saxon craftsman and may have brought the bells with him.

We were then told that copper and tin were used to make the bells and that they were cast with the name of a saint. The Normans made some changes and moved the bells to the central tower.

So, how were they rung? Bell ringers would pedal on planks and the main purpose was for time keeping. They were rung when the Host was offered and to mark the curfew. (The curfew bell still rings in Winchester at 8.00pm to remind everyone to cover their fires until morning to prevent another fire. It makes a distinctive sound.)

Manuscript notes of 1632 and 1642 show that there were 7 bells in Winchester at that time, and the singing of the Te Deum and the ringing of bells marked special occasions.

We were surprised to hear that bell ringers got £2.00 a year and that they still do!

In the 17th and 18th centuries there were 2 groups of ringers and

the bells were used to mark celebrations. In 1734 a new ring of bells and repairs to the frame were ordered, and as far as is known, it is from this date that full-circle ringing began at Winchester Cathedral. In 1798 in June, the Hampshire Chronicle recorded that a peal was rung for the King's birthday.

Victories and campaigns were celebrated with bell ringing and in 1897 there was a special peal for Queen Victoria's Diamond Jubilee. The bells were also rung in 1912, to celebrate the Royal Visit to Winchester by the King and Queen. By this time there were 14 bells in the Cathedral.

The Great War took its toll, however, and many ringers were lost. 55 were lost in WW1, and 17 in WW2. When HMS Hampshire sank, the bells were muffled and the death of Lord Kitchener was similarly marked.

A Friends of the Cathedral bell was presented in 1992 and a board marking the Millennium names the ringers for that occasion.

A peal was rung for the Olympics on 27th July 2012, and we were able to hear what that sounded like and watch a video of it taking place.

It is nice to think that we have the metal from Canute's bell in the current bells as they are re-struck.

This fascinating talk prompted several questions and we were encouraged to read the leaflet "A Brief History of the Bells" that was available afterwards. In there, we learn that normal Sunday ringing is from 9.00 – 9.55am and 2.30 – 3.25pm. There are special rings at 7.00am on the Queen's Official Birthday, Ascension Day and Saint Swithun's Day, and visitors are always welcome.

The sound of the bells in Winchester is always lovely. To know more about them can only add to the pleasure of hearing them.

Edwina Cole

Hampshire Record Office: Treasures, Sources and Services.

In November, David Rymill came to talk about the Hampshire Record Office. Many of our members had used it over the years, but nevertheless, as Archivist he was able to lift the lid on it and tell us lots of things we probably didn't know!

As holder of archives and local studies, he described the record office as a countywide service that focused on preservation and access. It holds official records, ecclesiastical records as well as less formal records of local families. These come in various forms such as paper, parchment, photographs, carbon copies, video and more recently, digital files.

The record office opened in 1947 in small premises at the top of the High Street and moved to its purpose-built premises in 1993. The foyer is used as an exhibition space where publications are for sale. One of the recent exhibitions was 'Magna Carta in Hampshire'.

The search room is where people look for the documents they are interested in. Everyone has to sign in, and a reader's ticket is valid for 4 years. The help desk is where staff will help people access what they need and the catalogue is on line at www.hants.gov.uk/archives.

David explained that some people found the idea of looking for documents intimidating, but reassured the audience that asking the staff was the best thing to do because that is what they are there for.

He went on to explain that collections are held together, and that things from the same source remain together.

You can search for photographs as well as documents and you can order things in person or by phone.

Most of the documents held are originals, and therefore valuable, but they must also be accessible, and with gentle humour he drew the following analogy. Documents in a museum are like stuffed animals, but documents in an archive are different. You can go on safari and interact with them!

Newspapers are held on microfilm and the large map table makes consulting maps much easier.

He then took us on a look behind the scenes. Records come in on a daily basis, but some are damaged when they are received as they have been kept in poor conditions. Some had even been rescued from a skip!

Two conservators work on documents that are very fragile and quite a lot can be done to preserve them. Wax seals are particularly susceptible to breaking, but they can be repaired.

There is also a collection of documents relating to Hampshire and Hampshire families who may have interests elsewhere in the world.

In 1988 the Wessex Film and Sound Archive was established as a regional service. The oldest sound recording they hold is that of the voice of Florence Nightingale, and the oldest picture recording is of troops returning from the Boer war.

David also mentioned that he had spent 2 days at Highclere Castle working on the archive there.

Amongst the documents held in the record office are several treasures and David ended his interesting talk by highlighting some of them. I have listed them here because I am sure that this talk will have inspired so many of us 'to go on safari' and enjoy what the record office has to offer.

- Winchester land tax assessment 1812
- Charter of Elizabeth 1 granting a new constitution to Winchester on 23rd January 1588
- East elevation of the Corn Exchange 1836
- Photo of Police Sergeant George Kemish 1895
- Diocese of Winchester...Medieval list of bishops 1400
- A list of bishops as estate owners 1336-7. The Bishop of Winchester's pipe roll.
- Parish registers – entry of burial at St Cross 1790
- St Cross parish baptism register 1815
- Records of Winchester Cathedral: photo taken before the under pinning.
- Seal of Hyde Abbey 1449
- Grant of Henry VIII dissolution of Hyde Abbey
- Southwick Priory Great Seal 1258
- Records of Methodist churches
- St Cross Hospital account for gin puddings being provided
- Census for Chilcomb 1841
- 1911 census
- Will of John Frost of Upton Grey 1613 together with an inventory
- Log book of St Faith's School 1880
- Family records of the Knight family of Chawton
- Letter written by Florence Nightingale as a child 1828
- Family household bills
- Letter written by George Marston during Shackleton's expedition 1915
- The odd begging letter!
- O/S map of Winchester City Centre 1910
- Kings Worthy Tithe Map 1840
- King's Royal Rifle Corps photographs.

Edwina Cole

The Battle of Agincourt: where are the battle dead?

A talk by Professor Anne Curry of the University of Southampton

The study of medieval battles is a topic that poses many difficulties for the enquirer. Earliest sources are chronicles written by people not present at the battle and their accounts are usually very politicised. Generally missing is any mention of what happened to those killed in the conflict.

An exception to this is found in a history of the Battle of Agincourt which took place in October 1415. An account of this written in 1440 by De Monstrelet related that “the Abbot of Ruisseauville ... dug three ditches 25ft square and two men deep in which 5800 men were buried.” This led to a Calvaire memorial being set up in 1859 on the alleged site of the encounter. More recent investigations of this site by non-invasive archaeological techniques have produced no trace.



The Calvaire at Azincourt
© University of Southampton

The search for battle sites in recent centuries has produced some significant mis-attributions such as the nomination of Wayland’s Smithy in the Cotswolds (in reality a Neolithic long barrow) as the site of a battle between King Alfred and the Danes in 871 AD. This antiquarian pursuit was not always so inaccurate but even when the site was located finds were usually few and were poorly recorded as at the Battles of Towton and Crecy both investigated in 19th Century. Often the problem was that the location of the battle was poorly defined and even where it was accurately located the bodies were not buried on the site of the conflict. At Bosworth (1511) weapon debris located the battle site; bodies were found elsewhere.

There are a few sites where the graves have been located and yielded good evidence about the conflict. Wisby in Denmark (1361) is

one such, where a series of excavations in the early part of the twentieth century have so far uncovered 1185 bodies. Unusually many of these bodies were found still in their armour, an unexpected outcome which might be explained by the need to bury in haste in a hot summer. A more ordered burial site is the ossuary pit at the Battle of Aljubarrota in Portugal (1385) where the bones of around 400 bodies were excavated. Results of such discoveries often do not match expectations as with the relatively few remains located at the site of the Battle of Towton (1461) despite its reputation as “Britain’s bloodiest battle”.

When researching the sites of medieval battles there is evidence of how underlying religious beliefs affected the treatment of those killed. The notion of a “good death” included a strong desire to see bodies promptly buried in consecrated ground. For people of higher status in society this could include provision for burial at a nominated spot within a church. The bodies were treated with respect, being washed, clothed (criminals being the exception, being buried naked) and interred where possible within three days of death. At Crecy Edward III allowed three days to recover bodies from the battlefield. Once recovered most bodies were interred locally, the exceptions being the bodies of the slain nobility. After Agincourt, Antoine, duc de Brabant, was moved via Tournai to Hals in Brussels, a distance of 173km. To preserve the body during this journey it was sealed in a lead coffin. On other occasions, when the body was being taken some distance to its burial place, this option was not available and the body was either eviscerated and mummified or dismembered and excarnated by boiling until only the bones remained.

For the bulk of those killed in battle such treatment of their bodies was not sought, probably on grounds of cost. If graves were not constructed nearby one option was to move them to local churches. Examples of this are found after the Battle of Poitiers (1356) where 50 French dead were taken to the convent of the Jacobins and another 100 were interred at the Chateau de Cordeliers both located in Poitiers.

This haste and care for those slain in conflict was partly driven by distaste for what might happen to the corpses if they were left unburied. Despoliation by wild animals was a particular fear and great efforts were made to avoid this outcome. If, for any reason, removal and burial were not options, the bodies could be burned on-site, as after Agincourt where a funeral pyre was built at the behest of Louis de Luxembourg for the dead of both sides. This was generally the last

option because of the unpopularity of cremation as a disposal route.

Among the distortions of history that accumulated over subsequent periods, the numbers involved in the battles seem to have been regularly exaggerated. Agincourt, for example, was supposed to have had 10,000 French dead but this figure is not supported by the few documentary sources where accounts of pay to soldiers indicate many fewer killed. A figure of 2,000 is probably a much more accurate estimate.

In summary, the topic of the battlefield dead in medieval times remains a challenging one. The notion of war memorials to record the facts is a 19th century idea so modern historians and archaeologist often have to start with little assured data to lead their researches. All that can be said is that the dead were always given, wherever practical, a good Christian burial. The other uncertainties will continue give researchers much to pursue.

Steve Taylor



Archaeology in Orkney

This summer I was fortunate enough to visit Orkney to see for myself the magnificent archaeology that is to be found there. At the heart of Mainland Orkney lies one of the richest Neolithic monument complexes in Europe.

The Heart of Neolithic Orkney World Heritage Site comprises Skara Brae, Maeshowe, Ring of Brodgar, the Stones of Stenness, the Watchstone and the Barnhouse Stone. World Heritage status was conferred on the area in 1999, and the Ness of Brodgar, which has been the centre of attention since 2003, lies slap bang in the middle of it! From the site you can see the Ring of Brodgar, the Stones of Stenness, Maeshowe, the Watchstone and the Barnhouse Stone, so it's not unreasonable to think that the Ness is a once in a lifetime discovery that revolutionizes our understanding of the Neolithic.

The Ring of Brodgar stands on the narrow bridge of Brodgar between the lochs of Stenness and Harray. It is a classic henge site with a ditch surrounding the platform and an outer bank. 27 stones still stand, but it is thought that there were 60 originally.



The Ring of Brodgar

It has never been fully excavated or scientifically dated, so it remains shrouded in mystery and myth. It was known in earlier times as the Temple of the Sun, whilst the Stones of Stenness were the Temple of the Moon. It seems that Brodgar was part of an enormous prehistoric ritual complex and in the

1960's Alexander Thom concluded "The Brodgar site is the most perfect example of a megalithic lunar observatory we have left in Britain'.

Whatever the purpose for the Ring of Brodgar and the surrounding sites, it is true that it is in an ideal position for measuring the passage of time, looking at the position of the stars and their relation to the growing seasons.

It is the third largest circle in the British Isles after Avebury and Stanton Drew and was restored in 1906. Many fallen stones were re-erected at that time, and in preceding centuries so it's hard to interpret the relation of the site to the surrounding hills. All the surviving uprights have a characteristically angled top however, so it is likely that the ring would have been carefully sited in relation to the horizon.

It is not uncommon to find faces in the stones of the megaliths: this has been reported at Stonehenge and Avebury, as well as at Brodgar.

The addition of such stones appears to be deliberate and would have been a powerful and evocative inspiration to our prehistoric ancestors.



The Stones of Stenness

Such stones personify the megaliths, giving them a 'spirit', which adds to the sacredness of the site.

The Ness of Brodgar contains Neolithic structures that are unique. Theories about this site are constantly being reviewed and refined as new discoveries are made, and the significance of the site becomes clearer each year.

Digging this year (2015) was hampered by poor weather, but it is clear that this was a place of pivotal importance to the Neolithic people who lived there. It was a place of meeting and for celebrating important events that defined the complex and vibrant society of the time.



Uncovering structures at The Ness

Who knows what else we will find here? Many more structures remain to be excavated, and the dates for next year's dig (6th July – 24th August 2016) are already published.

This, together with new discoveries at Stonehenge and Durrington Walls, is helping us to form a clearer picture of the lives our ancestors lived.

Go there if you can. Soak up the atmosphere for yourself, and enter the world of these amazing people.

Edwina Cole



Turkish Delights

Turkey is by no means the largest country in the world – it's beaten by Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia and, I needly hardly say, China, but my visit late last year to a very small part of the country still meant that in a mere week we only travelled 1200 miles. This means a lot of time is spent sitting on a coach, but the countryside is so spectacular that it doesn't really matter. Wherever you go you can nearly always see a mountain range but not a lot else. Turkey is large and largely uninhabited. It has its cities of course – Istanbul, Antalya, Izmir and Ankara probably being the only ones most of us have heard of – and several seaside resorts like Bodrum but they're not what I travel for! I should tell you that I fell in love in an instant with Istanbul and have every intention of returning for longer than a day, taking Dick with me this time. There is a huge amount to see in this busy city: the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace (that takes *at least* 2 days!) and an essential boat trip round the Bosphorous, not to mention the markets and other Mosques etc etc. The waterfront of the western part of the city is a wonder of beautiful old buildings and pretty small mosques, whilst the eastern side is nearly all homes and boatyards. That boat trip is a perfect way to get a good overview of the city and see quite a few of the old ramparts too.

But my holiday was a historical one and few countries have more

of that than Turkey. We drove down the Gallipoli peninsula to break my heart in Anzac Cove and two other Allied cemeteries (I'd have liked to visit a Turkish one as well though) where the unbelievably cretinous decision to land the Allied troops was made by Churchill – massive slaughter of the multi-national troops ensued. From there we crossed the Dardanelles Straits to Troy – somewhere I've wanted to visit since a very small girl! There's not a lot I can tell you about Troy since you all know the stories of its long ancient history and how Schliemann discovered gold jewellery which he determined had belonged to King Priam – there's nothing like a good dose of imagination to catch everyone's interest! The ruins are extensive, covering the many phases of this city's life over the 3½ thousand years of its existence, but the visitors are extensive too!

From there we travelled to Ephesus – a city to take one's breath away. Fifteen centuries of living produced a typical Greek city, later taken over by the Romans. The also-extensive ruins – a dry climate does help – are fabulous with a large amphitheatre, a basilica, an odeon, fountains, temples, terrace houses with wonderful mosaics and wall paintings, baths, a gymnasium and the façade of a library which I found uncannily like the Treasury at Petra. Carvings everywhere are both Greek and Roman with the two alphabets used cheek by jowl.

From there we drove to Hierapolis / Pammukale. This city was built, around the early second century BC, on the side of a mountain because of the adjacent hot springs. Used mainly as a spa city, the large necropolis shows how popular it was in its heyday, and most of its modern day visitors are still more interested in paddling or sitting in the hot springs than in walking its ruins. Because it was a popular city for visitors it had the usual temples, theatres, gates, pools and baths, one of which you can still swim in providing you've got your cossie with you. A small museum nearby has much in the way of statuary and other artefacts, but most of it from sites other than Hierapolis.

Next we visited the hippodrome at Perga – in astonishingly good condition although somewhat overgrown today. It's outside the ancient city of Perga and doesn't seem to be visited much by tourists. I could have spent ages there – we had 10 mins – just imagining the races and all the shops around the site which would have teemed with punters buying all sorts of food and, no doubt, tat. Well, what we call important belongings from times past! Our next stop was Antalya itself – a modern city with a massive buzz to it - a typical overcrowded

port with Hadrian's Gate still welcoming one to its old city area. I'm happy to be able to tell you that either side of this 3-arch gate are two towers, the southern one being called the *Julia Sancta* Tower: doesn't that mean Holy Julia? 'Nuff said. Antalya is the only place I've ever visited where the river running through the city at an enormous rate drops as a waterfall into the sea about 40 / 50 feet below – amazing!

Sadly, tourism in this amazing country has been damaged by the recent bomb attack on tourists in Istanbul and all the refugee problems, but if / should things quieten down, PLEASE make an effort to visit Turkey if you haven't already done so. There's a huge amount still left for me anyhow in this fantastic country.

Julia Sandison



The lost city of Trellech

Each summer for six years I spent a week or two digging at Vindolanda Roman Fort, a mile south of Hadrian's wall. For 2015 all the places were booked in eight minutes and I missed out, as did three other diggers I'd met there, so we decided to try somewhere else instead and found out about a dig at Trellech in Monmouthshire. Trellech is a small village two to three miles west of the River Wye and Offa's Dyke with a medieval Anglican church, a pub and a village hall. Nowadays it has a few hundred inhabitants but 700 years ago Trellech was one of the most populace places in Wales and a focus of England's strategy to subjugate Wales.

The historical record

The oldest signs of man's handiwork in Trellech are three Neolithic standing stones. (Trellech means Three Stones in Welsh.) They probably acquired their current name of Harold's Stones nearly a thousand years ago, when Harold Godwinson, then Earl of Hereford, led a punitive expedition against the Welsh. He occupied Trellech in 1062 and wintered there. In 1063 he moved northwards, defeating and killing Gruffydd ap Llewelyn of Gwynedd, King of Wales. Within three years Harold was killed at Hastings and so it was the Norman kings who reaped the benefit of Harold's victory.

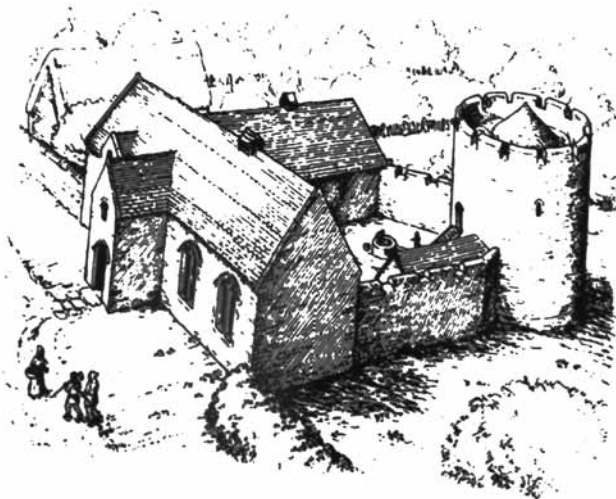
Norman and later kings gave large grants of land in England and south Wales to Norman families, including the de Clares. By the end

of the 13th century the de Clares held a chain of castles across south Wales, but the place they coveted most was Chepstow. This would have linked their holdings in south Wales to the Severn valley in England, but Edward I decided to keep Chepstow in royal hands. So the de Clares looked for a location further inland which they could strengthen to forge an alternative link with their Welsh possessions. The place they decided to enlarge was the town of Trellech and developments elsewhere helped them.

The de Clares saw Trellech's potential both as a market town where goods could be traded into central Wales and as a military base for an English advance into central Wales. By coincidence, this was also the role which Vindolanda played on Hadrian's Wall a thousand years earlier. Both of Trellech's roles created a demand for iron and steel goods. Iron ore and coal were mined less than 10 miles away in the Forest of Dean. Royal policy there was to prioritise hunting at the expense of iron smelting so Trellech provided a valuable outlet for these minerals. Additionally, Trellech is just 5 miles from Tintern Abbey, a Cistercian house which was founded by Walter de Clare, Lord of Chepstow, in 1131. The Cistercians' priority was grazing sheep at the expense of arable farm workers, who were gradually obliged to find a living elsewhere. Trellech is only 3 miles from Tintern Grange and originally a "grange" was a large building from which an abbey's outlying farm holdings were managed: an isolated cross nearby probably marked the

boundary of the abbey's lands. So people who were displaced from Tintern Abbey's lands provided a ready source of labour for Trellech.

But whilst Trellech flourished the Welsh were not slow to see the danger which it posed. They attacked it several times and in 1296 most of the town was burned down. The de Clares responded by



How the fortified house may have looked

rebuilding the town and fortifying the largest buildings. At one point there were 389 taxable buildings in Trellech – more than Cardiff had at that time. Later on Trellech went into a decline, not because the conquest of Wales failed but because eventually it succeeded. Like other centres Trellech suffered from pestilences and economic downturns but unlike them it had also lost its *raison d'être*. It continued to flourish into the 17th century, when a fine road-side market cross was erected. This can still be seen in an otherwise empty field.

Archaeological discoveries

At the end of the 20th century archaeologists from the University of Wales, Newport set out to rediscover mediaeval Trellech. Understandably they started at the church, the mediaeval core of any town, and moved outwards. But they could not find a town of the size indicated in the historical record. They decided to abandon their search, but members of the local Monmouth Archaeological Society argued that the search needed to be extended further southwards, past the existing village and past the still-standing market cross to the fields beyond.

Stuart Wilson lived locally and studied archaeology at York University. He pointed out that these fields' boundaries bore no resemblance to their current use and probably dated back to mediaeval times. In particular, the road south of the market cross is bounded by narrow fields either side of the road and they themselves back onto some much larger fields. These larger fields seem typical of a mediaeval village's communal fields' crop rotation system, whilst the roadside fields seem typical of the ribbon development found in towns. Had they held house plots whose gardens would have backed onto the larger fields? Moreover, a 19th century map showed that the road south of the market cross had a narrow pinch point with another much further south, as if previously there had been toll points for goods entering that thoroughfare.

The opportunity to put this theory to the test arose in 2005 when the narrow field east of that thoroughfare came onto the market and Stuart Wilson was able to buy it and start to excavate it. In the past ten years he has steadily exposed the heart of the lost city of Trellech, built in stone to a master plan with the largest town house facing the thoroughfare and its courtyard fortified with a thick-walled round tower giving a vantage point to keep an eye on the Welsh.

He excavates for four weeks each summer, helped by archaeology

students who camp in his field and post-graduate students who supervise the work and record and analyse the finds. We older diggers stayed in comfort in Chepstow and dug for a week in the kitchen of the main building, which is probably why we were credited with 80% of the small finds for that week.

The site is littered with lots of iron slag. So much was produced that it was used as a building material and as hard-core for the thoroughfare running through the town centre. But there is also plenty of evidence of the wealth of Trellech in the form of green-glazed roof finials and the only mediaeval flower pots to be found in Wales. My most interesting find was a piece of green-glazed ridge tile which seemed to be identical to ones I found when WARG excavated the Bowling Green at St Cross Hospital in 2013, where we found the original almshouse was located. That building pre-dated Cardinal Beaufort's 15th century almshouse and may be contemporaneous with Trellech. The ridge tile I found at Trellech was also underneath a kitchen floor, which is explained by the fact that rebuilding took place after a Welsh attack.



"...been there, done that, got the T-shirt."

Archaeological Society for a great week in Wales and to Lawrence Sherrington who found this dig for us and booked our B&B but who was sadly too indisposed to join us.

The 2015 dig at Trellech was featured in a recent series of "Digging for Britain" on BBC4.

You can find out more about Trellech by visiting www.lostcityoftrellech.co.uk

Chris Sharratt

Forgotten Wrecks of World War I

Stephen Fisher is a project researcher for the Maritime Archaeological Trust (MAT) which, under the original name of the Hampshire and IOW Maritime Archaeological Trust, centred its researches on the Solent – its influence and remit have changed to be the rest of the world!

His specific project interest is currently an HLF-funded project, Forgotten Wrecks of WWI which, in partnership with the IWM, seeks to discover, record and understand the status of shipwrecks, especially around Britain's coast.

The War at Sea

Warfare at sea in WWI is not so historically recognised as WW2, but U-boats were far more of a menace, and twice as many ships were sunk in the earlier war. Motor torpedo boats and depth charges were WWI inventions and aircraft carriers were first used in WWI. Arguably it was the war at sea that turned WWI into a global conflict.

In 1914 the government turned the North Sea into a war zone to prevent shipping supplying Germany by sea. This blockade led directly to the offensive use of U-boats, especially after the inconclusive Battle of Jutland. As a result there were major losses in the merchant fleet leading to the adoption of the use of convoys. Recorded on the Tower Hill and Southampton's Hollybrook memorials are the names of some of the 57,000 men who died or were lost at sea as a result of the war.

The Evidence

Around the coast of Britain there are 3000-odd wrecks, with the potential for 2,000 more. In the MAT's current study area, there are 620 known wrecks with 510 of them not yet identified. Also 30 post-war wrecks were caused by scuttling, such as the example of UB81 which was taken in tow by MTB P32. While German, it is still of historic interest, of course.

The project was created to coincide with the 100th anniversaries, but also because protection of wrecks is sketchy. The 100-year milestone means that wrecks are now protected by UNESCO. Before this the Protection of Military Remains Act only protected 4 sites in the English Channel. This means there is now a mandate to identify and record wrecks more thoroughly.

Stephen explored some of the specific examples which are coming out of the research, such as the SS Indian City. This ship was cornered by U-29. The U-boat captain gave the crew 20 minutes to abandon



Photo of U-29 from SS Headland

the ship before torpedoing her. He then towed the lifeboats to the Scilly Isle and provided them with charts. Later that same day the SS Headland was attacked. Her crew was given five minutes to evacuate. A third attack gave that ship's crew just 2 minutes. In its report the Admiralty gave the captain grudging respect in a situation where he could have sailed by. That U-boat was later rammed

by HMS Dreadnought off the coast of Scotland.

Some of the infrastructure in support of the naval effort comes in for examination, such as the Dover Barrage, designed to stop U-boats getting through to the harbour. An oddity was HMS Zubian, born of the still intact parts of HMS Nubian and HMS Zulu. No throwaway culture then.

How the Project Works

The MAT is a volunteer- and member-based organisation. Research starts at the National Archive at Kew. Many hundreds of bound reports from captains and civil servants help piece together the history of a wreck and its crew. Interestingly the concept of a captain's written report gave way to a standard questionnaire as the losses mounted. The desk-based research leads to potential dives at a wreck site. The evidence, and methods of data collection, lend themselves to presentation via modern IT methods, which help the funding requirement of communication and outreach to schools and the public, as well the MAT's own exhibition bus.

3D imaging and video presentation on the Internet is augmented by map-based discovery – have a look at www.forgottenwrecks.org.uk. Just make sure your computer is powerful enough for some of the graphics!

The output from Stephen's project certainly powerfully brings home the scale of the evidence and the story behind the First World War at sea.

Chris Sellen

Editor's Note: MAT has recently re-discovered two German destroyers in tidal mudflats near Whale Island in the eastern part of Portsmouth Harbour. They had been run aground there in the early 1920s and though looted and then legally used as a source of scrap the bulk of their hulls is still there.

Julia's Jottings

The poetic decorator.

My favourite ever decorator's invoice survives from Telscombe in Sussex from post-reformation times. It states "To renovating heaven and adjusting the stars, washing servant of the High Priest and putting carmine on his cheeks, and brightening up the flames of hell, putting a new tail on the Devil, and doing odd jobs for the damned, and correcting the Ten Commandments."

What a wonderful thing – to correct the Ten Commandments!

The enigmatic Basque people.

Dick and I have Basque friends so have often wondered why their language, Euskera, is unrelated to any other spoken language in the world. DNA from ancient remains may have solved the puzzle of this most enigmatic race, inhabiting southern France and northern Spain. It's now believed that they descended from early farmers mixing with local hunters and then became isolated for millennia. Analysis of genomes from eight Stone Age skeletons from northern Spain show that these people, living between 3500 and 5500 years ago, are the closest ancestors to present day Basques.

It's believed that around 7000 years ago, farmer migrants from the Near East swept across Europe to usher in the Neolithic period. These farmers inter-bred with local hunter-gatherers, the descendants of Europeans from the last Ice Age. They then became isolated from surrounding groups, perhaps due to a combination of geography and culture. Apparently the Basque region was very hard to conquer so the area was largely unaffected by subsequent migrations that shaped genetic patterns elsewhere in Europe.

Still surprises at Stonehenge.

Nearly 100 Stone monoliths measuring up to 15ft in length have been discovered under 3ft of earth at the Durrington Walls "superhenge", part of the Stonehenge complex. It's believed that they were part of a Neolithic ritual site – what else? – and were in a row, appearing to have been deliberately toppled over the south eastern edge of the circular enclosure bank. Experts feel the site may have surrounded traces of springs and a dry valley leading into the River Avon.

One can be completely certain that there's still a huge amount to be discovered about the whole Stonehenge complex so it's to be hoped that expected changes to the rather disastrous nearby A303 will be sympathetic to the whole area.

Nothing new under the sun.

Austrian archaeologists have recently excavated a wooden human foot dated from the sixth century. Found in a grave in Hemmaberg, this prosthetic foot is believed to have been “owned” by a high-ranking man from a Germanic tribe. It is a left foot and seems to have been joined to the leg by an iron ring and leather. It also appears that the man lived a further two years or so following his implant.



Missing left foot, iron ring and pieces of wood

Eat your heart out, modern man, you’ve invented very little really.

Never give up hope!

Archaeologists working on finds from Roman Silchester have been astonished to find that two fragments of an inscribed building sign, discovered more than a century apart, are in fact from the same piece of Purbeck marble. The first piece was excavated in 1891 and the other in 2013. Professor Mike Fulford (all things Silchester) admitted “Archaeology never ceases to amaze”!

Keeping one’s eyes peeled.

During WWII RAF pilot Tom Walls, stationed at Middle Wallop and with a keen interest in the Stone Age, sought out gravel pits from the air where he subsequently found and recorded in detailed notes many Paleolithic tools. Although most of these pits were in Surrey, he also “worked” two Hampshire ones: Goodwilley’s Pit at Kings Somborne and Marshall’s Pit in Harewood Forest. The tools vary in shape and size and were used for cutting, scraping and hammering, and have been dated from at least 500,000 years ago.

They are now in the care of the Hampshire Cultural Trust.

How diet was formed.

I’ve always wondered how and when humans first started to eat other species. We know that back in early times they were hunting and eating large mammals such as mammoths and sabre toothed tigers, but what of smaller species? In Maresha, a city in Israel dating back to 400-200BC, quantities of chicken bones have been discovered. It’s known that humans kept chickens in South East Asia and China thousands of years ago but they were raised for cock-fighting and special ceremonies, not as a food item. Butchering marks cover the

recently discovered bones, the majority of which were from female birds. So when and why did the reason for keeping chickens change? Certainly around a century later the Romans were spreading the chicken-eating habit across their empire, and one theory is that the dry climate of the Mediterranean made it easier to raise the creatures and thus the birds evolved physically and perhaps became more attractive as a food source. Anyhow where would KFC be without this addition to peoples' diets!

Hidden depths

How did we ever find anything before metal detectorists began to crawl all over our country? They've been responsible for finding several hoards of goodies, not to mention anything else connected with those hoards. And now they've uncovered an Anglo-Saxon island in Lincolnshire. A detectorist found a silver stylus from the 8th c in a ploughed field which led to the uncovering of a huge number of other artefacts, more styluses (styli?), dress pins, coins and a small lead tablet bearing the female name Cudberg. He recorded their locations with a GPS and contacted the University of Sheffield. Their team excavated the area and found large quantities of Middle Saxon pottery and butchered animal bones. Subsequent work by the team shows that the site rose high above its surroundings, hence being called an island as it was surrounded by water. It's thought that this site might have been a monastic or trading centre and it was clearly high-status, but there was also evidence of industrial working so a great deal more work and research is needed by the Sheffield team.

Healthy occupations.

Not only is walking good for you but it's good for archaeology too. A Norwegian man, walking an ancient route in a high mountain plateau known as a fishing and hunting area west of Oslo, stopped for a rest on a large boulder. Lying under it he found a somewhat rusty Viking sword, dating back 1250 years to approx 750AD. Found without a handle, the 30in long weapon of wrought iron were usually status symbols and it probably belonged to a wealthy individual. This has probably only now come to light due to global climate change but apparently many archaeological remains are found alongside these mountain paths.



Hordaland County Council

Cave lions discovered in Siberia.

Scientists in Yakutsk, up near the Arctic Circle, have discovered the remains of two cave lion cubs in a permafrost cave – fur, whiskers and all. The almost complete remains of this extinct species (including all internal organs and most of their fur) show that the cubs probably died just a few weeks after their birth, their eyes still not fully open, possibly



as a result of a landslide which sealed off the cave and enabled such perfect preservation. This species became extinct some 12,000 years ago, living through the Middle and Late Pleistocene eras, but had ranged across Eurasia from Britain to the extreme east of Russia, as well as Alaska and north-western Canada.

It's thought that dwindling prey may have been the cause of their demise.

Cappadocian city uncovered.

Although I didn't get to Cappadocia in my visit to Turkey last year, (see pp nn-nn) it's an area of great archaeological interest. One of the most recent discoveries in the area is a massive underground city dating back 5,000 years. The city consists of about 3½ miles of tunnels with churches and "escape" galleries. Why was it unknown? Because the Nevsehir fortress had been built over it and only recently has demolition of that structure and the digging required for housing brought the city to light. The Nevsehir region is famous for its underground towns and villages but it's possible that this one is the largest so far discovered.

Better ways to build?

Following all the rain and appalling flooding in several areas of our country this winter, perhaps our Bronze Age ancestors were ahead of the game and considerably more sensible than we are now. Archaeologists in a quarry in Cambridgeshire recently uncovered circular wooden houses dating back to 1000-800BC. Why is this of interest to me *vis a vis* the weather? Because the houses were built on stilts! OK, that's a long time ago and in Britain at any rate we gave up such building methods a very long time ago, but in the Netherlands houses on stilts were a more recent building style.

Should we be considering building properties on stilts again?

Possibly not wooden ones, though!

Another Mary Rose?

A historian spotted the wreck of a large ship from an aerial photograph and following reports from divers believes it may be the Holigost (Holy Ghost), one of four “great” ships built for Henry V’s fleet. It rests in the mud of the River Hamble in an area described as a medieval breaker’s yard, and close to the place where Henry’s flagship Grace Dieu was found in the 1930s. His fleet was created for use in the Hundred Years War and the Holigost was important in the Battle of Harfleur in 1416 and fighting off the Ched de Caux in 1417. She was the re-building of a Spanish ship, Santa Clara, captured in either late 1413 or early 1414 and acquired by the English Crown.

The remains will most likely be treated in the same way as the Mary Rose has been but this may take some time, so don’t expect me to arrange a visit there yet!



Lockburn Tour and Tea

St Cross is giving two guided walks of the Lockburn.

The walks start at the Cathedral and follow the cleverly engineered course of the medieval waterway. Along the way there will be explanations of its role at the Cathedral Priory, at Winchester College and finally its function below the toilets of St Cross.

At St Cross there will be tea/ coffee and WARG heroes will be explaining what we found when we were digging in the park.

The walks start at 2pm on Thursday 19th May and 6pm on Friday 20th May. Tickets from the Porter’s Lodge at St Cross (01962 851375) cost £10 and the profits will go towards new, mains-connected loos at St Cross.



Making Judgements

There was world-wide shock when Daesh was reported as destroying all the antiquities in Palmyra, and relief when it was found that the damage, while severe, was not as bad as feared.

But before the western and Christian worlds attack the vandalism, it might be worth stepping back and thinking a little. Christians have committed similar acts since at least the 6th century when the Emperor of Byzantium encouraged the destruction of icons and created the word iconoclast. In England, during the reign of Edward VI, the newly established Church of England energetically “stripped the altars”, removing church furnishings and clergy robes, destroying rood screens and white washing the painted walls. Under the Commonwealth this was repeated - just look at the Cathedral’s west window. And then we have the 19th century and the church restorers. Some of the churches that required restoring were more robust than anticipated, so in Andover gun powder was needed to demolish the Norman tower of St Mary’s.

After the revolution in France there was massive destruction of churches and their fixtures, many being turned into Temples of Reason. The same occurred in Russia after its revolution. Republican Spain in the 1930s was another time of church destruction.

Missionaries and colonists have systematically destroyed non-Christian religions around the world. Spain looted and demolished in central and south America. Allied forces looted across China during the Boxer Rebellion of 1900.

None of this is an excuse for destroying things from the past that are different from your belief today, but it is worth remembering.

Dick Selwood

WARG Calendar

2016

May 9th **Shot by their Own: a reappraisal of military executions on the Western Front in WW1 - Martin Parsons**

June 13th **Evening Walk in Twyford**

July 11th **Evening visit to King John's House, Romsey**

July 30th- Aug 13th **Big Dig (tbc)**

Aug 7th **Big Dig Open Day (tbc)**

Aug 15th **Annual Picnic at Basing House**

Sept 12th **Ryan Lavelle: 1066 – Whose Kingdom?**

Sept 19th **Day visit to Malmesbury**

Oct 10th **AGM / Edwina Cole: Easter Island**

Nov 14th **Cindy Wood: Cage Chantries in Wessex**

Dec 12th **Paul McCulloch: Recent Excavations at Barton Farm**

Meetings are normally in the Hampshire Record Office cinema, starting at 7.30. As the cinema has a maximum capacity of 80, we are unable to allow in anyone who is not a member.

Can you `ear me, Muvver?

Just a quick note to let you all know that we asked the Record Office to have the loop system in the cinema serviced and now it's much better than it had been. The staff there suggest that if you have difficulties hearing at our lectures then you should try to sit at the end of a row since the system runs through the walls. We've also made sure that we have a lapel mike too so things should be much improved.

Julia Needs Help!

For over a decade Julia has organised all WARG's talks and outings, ensuring that members have had a diverse range of subjects and a wonderful variety of speakers. However *tempus fugit* and she'd really like to have a few other people to help with this rather pleasant task! It doesn't require any particular talent, just an enthusiasm for archaeology and history and all the many aspects of those two subjects which are the basis of our society, and a talent for organisation. Julia has lots of contacts and information on how to find out about good speakers and their subjects, and members often come up with speakers and subjects too. It doesn't actually take up a great deal of time – most speakers when approached are more than happy to give a talk to our lively and engaged audiences! So, if you think you'd like to participate in this side of our great society, do get in touch with Julia - see below

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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