



# Newsletter

Spring 2017

❁ News ❁ Meeting Reports ❁ Diary Dates ❁  
❁ Travellers Tales ❁

# Contents

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Chairman's Notes.....   | 3  |
| A Fishy Tale, the New Year Entertainment 2017 .....               | 4  |
| The Remount Service and Romsey .....                              | 7  |
| Cage Chancies in Wessex. ....                                     | 10 |
| An Amazing trip to the Red Centre of Australia .....              | 12 |
| A good Spring Clean!.....   | 14 |
| Silchester: The Iron Age and Roman Town - a 500 year history. ... | 18 |
| Book Reviews .....  | 20 |
| Julia's Jottings.....   | 23 |
| WARG Calendar .....   | 27 |
| Books and mags .....  | 28 |
| Volunteers needed.....  | 28 |
| WARG Committee Members.....                                       | 28 |



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

## Chairman's Notes



It never ceases to amaze me how you can suddenly come across snippets of information or opinion which set you off on a different direction. Sometimes that's life-changing, more often enhancing your knowledge and view of the world. Derek Spruce's recent talk about the Hampshire houses that Jane Austen knew was one such. Not only did I learn about an area I was essentially ignorant about (despite flying low level over it most weeks), that of Steventon, Overton and Deane, but it created a picture in my mind to go along with Jane's wonderful prose. I always imagined rolling Hampshire downs in her novels - I was right.

At WARG we don't restrain our geographical range, of course. Our visit to Abingdon in April, though not by chaise, is fully booked and promises another edifying slant on this ancient town. And as summer approaches we look forward to getting ourselves out and about and seeing what new sights and histories our city and county have to offer.

In April we will be helping the Hyde900 group with their continuing exploration of Hyde Abbey. The main effort will be a further community dig event from April 27 to 30, where we will be providing the equipment and archaeological supervision of the dig and finds processing. Some members are also signed up as diggers and processors. Committee member David Ashby of the University of Winchester is to be advisor to the dig.

We were involved in a special day with St Bede's School, which featured in the Hampshire Chronicle of March 31<sup>st</sup> and is on the web site at <http://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/15190491>. Medieval\_mark\_found\_at\_Hyde\_Abbey/

As I write we are preparing our plans for returning to Warnford in the first two weeks of August (starting on July 29<sup>th</sup>) to continue to tell the story of the buildings in Warnford Park by digging more holes and finding more questions and quandaries to exercise the practical archaeologists amongst us. (Ed note: For the archaeologists among you digging more holes is a translation of "We plan to extend the scope of our discoveries by opening at least four new trenches over different types of target, giving scope for telling a bigger story of the development of the buildings in Warnford Park.") Find out more at

our meeting on April 10<sup>th</sup>.

That evening will be part-hosted by Techer Jones who, you will know, has been so active on both the committee and also the organisation of the excavations we have done over the last ten (yes, 10) years. It is very largely his effort, commitment and energy that has enabled the society to undertake a major annual excavation and help rewrite the history of the Winchester area. As he takes more of a back seat we can only hope we can maintain his high standards.

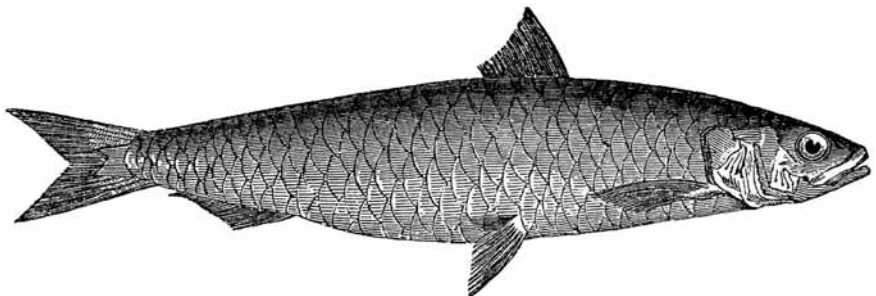
*Chris Sellen*

## A Fishy Tale, the New Year Entertainment 2017

Alex Lewis, WARG member, ex-solicitor and retired County Rights of Way Officer, has homes in both Hampshire and Fowey in Cornwall. Whilst driving along the A303 Alex decided to investigate the Cornish pilchard industry, the subject of her amusing and informative surprise talk.

Fowey has a rich maritime history involving export and import, sea defences against the Spanish, piracy, smuggling and the china clay industry. In Fowey estuary there were ten fish cellars, a salt store, a Seine fishery and a fish factory, so what was going on?

The pilchard, *sardina pilchardus*, is a member of the sardine family, which includes sprats and herrings. Pilchards have a lifespan of fifteen years, grow to twenty seven centimetres long, eat plankton and travel in shoals of nine million. At St Ives fourteen million were caught in one afternoon so the scene of Ross Poldark with six pilchards just does not ring true! (Actors do not like fish!) Being an oily fish they are beneficial for weight loss, bones, the heart, lowering cholesterol and reducing the risk of strokes. Man has consumed pilchards for hundreds of years but improved fishing methods increased the catch and led to a lucrative



industry, especially in Catholic England with the requirement to eat fish on Fridays and “fast” days.

Massive shoals of pilchards migrated eastwards in the summer months, first appearing off Lands End then splitting round north and south Cornwall. Their coming was eagerly anticipated; Newquay Huers watched for their arrival, shouted “Hevva, hevva” and blew a horn, thus alerting the crew who would row out to sea. Originally caught by pilchard driving (drift fishing), where the fish would be landed into the boats but then quickly begin to spoil, the more efficient *Seine* method closer to the coast developed. The huer could see the shoal and using semaphore flags would direct the positioning of several boats towing a semi-circular net. Once the shoal was surrounded it was hauled to shore but remained in the water, “tuck boats” were rowed into the shoal and only took what was needed, the rest of the catch staying fresh. Percy Robert Craft painted these fishing scenes.



Once ashore the catch would be processed by women in a fish cellar. Fish would be gutted then placed in huge piles (baulks) with alternative layers of salt and left for a month for curing. Once baulked, fish would keep for at least a year without further processing. For export the fish would next be placed in layers in wooden hogshead barrels (about 3000 fish to a barrel) and then pressed. Originally pressing was by beam and stone weights then screw presses were introduced, the resulting surplus but valuable oil was used for lamp lighting. Huge quantities of salt were used in the curing process, consequently Parliament raised the Salt Tax (introduced in 1693) from 1s. to 15s per bushel during the eighteenth century whilst imports of foreign salt, French being the best, incurred double the rate of tax. Clever Cornish fishermen found ways round this tax, which was repealed in 1825.

The hogshead barrels were exported to Spain and Italy, the continentals being fonder of pilchards than the British and consuming them in a wide variety of sauces. From 1600 to 1800 sending any cargo by sea was fraught with danger. Storms, war, pirates, privateers, ransom demands and human failing were all to blame. An example of the latter occurred in 1713 at the start of the pilchard season. The

vessel the "Racehorse Galley," moored on the Thames, was chartered to sail to Mounts Bay, load the hogsheads and then sail to Italy. Being a time of war and having twenty one guns, Captain John Wall was instructed not to wait for a convoy. He set sail, stopped on the Isle of Wight for six weeks, tarried in Cornwall, chased a foreign vessel, spent two weeks in Lisbon and arrived three months late in Leghorn, Italy, by which time the price of pilchards had dropped considerably!

Via a "fun quiz" we learned that in 1662 the penalty for illegally assembling Seine fishing kit was five hours in the stocks or a 5/- fine; in 1828 drift fishing for pilchards within three leagues of the coast was punished by a fine equivalent to the value of the net plus a month in prison. In 1830 a prisoner spent two months in Bodmin Jail (with hard labour) for the theft of 500 dead pilchards whilst in 1819 for stealing 1500 fresh pilchards, 1500 salted fish and 1500 *fumadoes* the thief was transported to the colonies for seven years.

Through serendipity, archive documents from the 1700s were rescued. These included details from the Rashleigh family, who owned pilchard fisheries in Polkerris and Fowey. An inventory for March 11th 1765 valued the items in a fish cellar at £383.11s.0d. Other documents were crew agreements, profit and loss balance sheets and the names of cellar *wiming* (women) employed in 1770, Oner and Jennifer being popular names of the time. A Bill of Lading for 1780 at Fowey showed that in order to load the cargo of hogsheads £9.14s.11d had to be paid for porters, loaders, a linguist and an Officers' bill for drinks and meals in the local pub! One member of the Rashleigh family had a Dispensation allowing him to eat meat on fast days on the grounds that fish was injurious to his health! He was obviously not supporting the family business.

By 1870 pilchard fishing in Fowey and throughout Cornwall had ceased, the shoals were diminishing and tastes were changing. Now we are only able to obtain Glenryck pilchards (in tomato sauce or olive oil) or expensive tins from the Cornish Sardine Company. Alex performed a taste test on her family and friend's cats, all preferring Glenryck to the other brand. I must say I fancy the idea of *fumadoes* (pilchards in lemon sauce or garlic) only available abroad. Today the smaller Atlantic catch is processed in Indonesia (think food miles) but a ceramic pilchard was recently exhibited in an Art Gallery so there may yet be a revival!

Although fewer WARG members were present than usual, the party food after the talk was as delicious as ever, and not a pilchard in sight! Thank you Alex and Julia.

Valerie Pegg

## The Remount Service and Romsey

Since 2014 at least one lecture per year has been associated with the First World War, as we reflect on events 100 years ago. The February 2017 talk was given by Phoebe Merrick, Chair of Romsey Local History Society. Phoebe explained that she would cover the provision of horses for World War One but not what happened once they arrived in France. This would prove to be the last war in which horses played a major role in the British Army. It was the cusp of a change from animals to mechanised transportation. Similarly in civilian life horses were playing a lesser role, by 1914 light draught horses were being replaced with vans and lorries.

The Army Remount Service was established in 1887 to provide horses and mules for all ranks, except officers, operating up to the 1940s. Three depots were set up at Woolwich (HQ), Arborfield and Melton Mowbray, initially providing 1,600 mounts per annum, however in the 2nd Boer War (1899-1902) the Service was supplying half a million animals. Many mistakes were made in this war and lessons were learnt which would be deployed in WW1; frequent veterinary inspections during transit with isolation of sick animals, rest periods during and after long periods of travel thus reducing animal wastage. In anticipation of WW1 a "census" scheme was introduced which earmarked particular animals for immediate purchase; this enabled 140,000 horses to be bought within 12 days of the start of war. A classification system based on height and build was used by District Purchasing Officers, stables and railway stations were nominated and suitable vets were listed. (There was also a blacklist of unsuitable vets!) The start of WW1 triggered a number of additional depots to be established, the first being Romsey.

In the case of Romsey horses initially came from the UK but as war progressed the Army turned to America. In a mid-west US sale-rings the horses were walked, trotted, checked by a vet, purchased and branded, then 300-600 horses would travel by train to the east coast for shipping. Regulations limited the time on a train to a maximum of 36 hours, so they were unloaded and rested at regularly spaced centres, given food and water, had their temperature taken (being set aside if sick), the journey taking 7 weeks. After a period of recovery, with their horseshoes removed, the stock was loaded onto ships, tethered and shipped across the Atlantic, the journey lasting 20 days. With 1200 horses onboard conditions below deck were grim, the livestock was on a restricted diet but the stench of ammonia mixed with disinfectant

was quite overpowering, unfortunately about 2% of the animals were lost in transit from illness and U- Boat attacks.

Contingents of men from Romsey Remount Depot (RRD) went to their local ports; Bristol, Plymouth and Southampton, to collect their allocated horses, which categories of animals they would receive having been decided elsewhere. Finally, a train journey transported the livestock to Romsey railway station; as the station is to the north of the town and the camp was to the south, horses were herded through the middle of Romsey. First stop was the large isolation corral complex on Ryedown Lane, where on reduced rations horses were free to lie down, roll around and recover. Being exposed on top of Pouncefoot Hill the corral fences were lined with sacking, which was fine until the mules ate it! Altogether from purchase to start of military training about 4 months would elapse.

Once rested the horses went to the Depot (situated on Granvilles Farm, Ridge Lane on the other side of the main road) where they were stabled, reshod and dipped against disease. Land for the new camp had been commandeered from the Broadlands Estate, and the camp took 11 days to construct at a cost of £150,000. The buildings and tents housed the Commandant's Headquarters, Veterinary Hospital, Medical Centre, service areas and horse stabling/troops' barracks, the latter being co-located. For much of the war the Commandant was Colonel Herbert Jessel, supported by a Major, Captain, Lieutenants, 8 Sergeants, doctor, dentist, the vet, 9 farriers and 3 saddlers and over 2000 troops organised into 10 squadrons. Another well-known officer was Captain Lionel Edwards, a renowned equine artist, who painted many scenes of war horses. He remained in the Army until 1920, overseeing the sale of these animals.

A recruitment poster for the Remount Service stated that the pay was 1/5 to 1/8 a day but 3/- a day whilst abroad and "only men accustomed to horses required." The work was hard, commencing with reveille at 5:30am and lights out at 10:15pm for enlisted men. The horses were fed 5 times a day, trained and exercised, often in the narrow lanes around Wellow and neighbouring villages. Each man on the camp usually looked after 3 horses and injuries to the men were not uncommon, hence the medical centre. Recreation included sporting activities, concert parties, silent movies, vegetable growing whilst the YMCA and Romsey Baptist Church had a presence on the camp.

After training the horses were sent via Southampton to Rouen, Le Havre and Dieppe; originally an assembly depot was used at



Swaythling (dispatching 11000 a week) but eventually horses went straight from Romsey to the docks. Typically a man would ride one horse and lead a second. The horses were rested on arrival at the docks and checked by vet Captain Alexander Burnfield. If a mare was in foal she was sent to his farm near Stockbridge. The livestock was led up the brows (gangplank) and tethered, the unarmed ships sailing at night and mucked out on the return journey! Once in France another period of rest ensued. A staggering 1.1 million horses and mules were provided by the entire Remount Service.



*War Horse and Trooper by Amy Goodman (photo Valerie Pegg)*

statue of “War Horse and Trooper”, sculpted by Amy Goodman, was unveiled by the Princess Royal. Also attending the ceremony was Nancy Sandars (daughter of the last Commandant, then aged 101 but only 4 when her father was appointed) and the National Theatre’s war-horse puppet, which proved popular with school children.

Our thanks to Phoebe Merrick for a fascinating talk, and Phoebe is to be commended for her hard work in unearthing the story and tirelessly campaigning for the horse statue, now a much-loved feature of Romsey Park.

Colonel Sandars was appointed Commandant at Romsey prior to the end of the war, which then saw RRD being used as a Demob Centre. The camp was demolished, compensation given to the farmer to reinstate his land and much of the equipment was sold. The original Romsey Old Comrades hut came from the camp, part of Minstead Hall utilises another of the huts, whilst the extensive amounts of hardcore and tarmac dug up at the end of WW1 raised the level of the newly created Romsey War Memorial Park above surrounding water.

The War Memorial was unveiled by the Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire in 1921 but in 2015, after fundraising, a full size bronze-resin

*Valerie Pegg*

## Cage Chuntries in Wessex.

In November, Dr Cindy Wood came to talk to us about Wessex as the home of the cage chantry. A chantry (or obiit) was a form of trust fund established during the pre-Reformation Medieval era in England. Its purpose was to employ one or more priests to sing a stipulated number of masses for the benefit of the soul of a specified deceased person.

A chantry chapel is a building on private land or in a dedicated area within a parish church or cathedral, set aside or specially built for the performance of chantry duties by the priest.

Dr Cindy Wood opened her presentation by explaining that cage chantry chapels are uniquely English and then explored what is meant by purgatory. This is the time between the death of a person and the day of Final Judgement. The Roman Catholic practice of saying masses to benefit the soul of a deceased person can be traced back to the 8<sup>th</sup> century. It is believed that the more prayers that are offered, the better to relieve the pains of purgatory. The idea is that the living can intercede for the dead to relieve their suffering. Doom paintings (such as the one in St Thomas' Church in Salisbury) are visual reminders to the living to pray for the dead. As an aside, it was interesting to note the mixture of people going to hell.....bishops and princes included!!

It was believed that the soul could be helped by doing good for the poor. Chuntries were about the number of masses offered and could be temporary (mentioned in a will) or perpetual (backed by money and land). The fear of being forgotten once dead was very strong, so these were important places. Cage chuntries are miniature chapels set within a mother church. Uniquely English, there are none in Wales and Scotland and none on the continent. They survive mainly in larger churches and



*Waynflete's chantry tomb in Winchester Cathedral by Ealdgyth (CC BY-SA 3.0)*

cathedrals and are found in both secular and monastic churches.

Of the 55 that remain in England, 19 are to be found in Wessex and the earliest (Bishop Edington 1366) and the latest (Stephen Gardiner 1555) can both be found in Winchester Cathedral. The others are:

|                            |   |                             |   |
|----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|---|
| <i>Bath Abbey</i>          | 1 | <i>Wells Cathedral</i>      | 3 |
| <i>Boxgrove Priory</i>     | 1 | <i>Winchester Cathedral</i> | 6 |
| <i>Christchurch Priory</i> | 3 | <i>Arundel</i>              | 2 |
| <i>Salisbury Cathedral</i> | 2 | <i>Boxgrove</i>             | 1 |

The chantries were dissolved in 1547, so Gardiner's shouldn't have been built. The founders were mostly bishops, there are no royal foundations.

The cage chantry in Worcester Cathedral for Prince Arthur is a beautiful chapel. Cage chantries allowed an effective use of space and were not expensive monuments. One interesting example is the Berkeley Chapel in Christchurch Priory. It was founded by William Berkeley (MP) for his parents in 1486.

The majority of cage chantries were linked to building schemes such as Bishop Audley in Salisbury Cathedral and Wykeham's chantry in the nave of Winchester Cathedral. He died in 1404 and is in the middle of his own building work which is not in a religiously significant location. This demonstrates an impressive use of space.

Cardinal Beaufort, who died in 1447, is in the retrochoir of Winchester Cathedral. He left money to build a new shrine for St Swithun. Beaufort and Wayneflete are close to the shrine of St Swithun, whilst others are close to the High Altar which is a place of religious significance. The iconography on Richard Fox's chantry chapel in Winchester Cathedral is pure Gothic. It boasts lots of pelicans, which were his own religious emblems.

Of the 55 chantry chapels in England, 9 of them are located in the same spear location. (If one takes the altar to be the Head of Christ crucified, and the church as his body, these chapels are located where the spear would have punctured his side.) These chantry chapels are vertically impressive and are often highly decorated with heraldic devices.

So, why are so many of them found in Wessex? The answer may be because there are more major churches in this area.

Dr Wood's talk prompted several interesting questions and she finished with the following observation:

Henry V's priest could say the Mass in 20 minutes and he could understand every word of it!

*Edwina Cole*

# An Amazing trip to the Red Centre of Australia

I have seven first cousins and a large number of delightful first cousins once removed to visit in Australia so I was pleased to plan a seven-week trip in early 2017. The highlight for me was the visit to Uluru-Kata Tjuta National Park (Ayers Rock and the Olgas). I went on an organised five days camping trip starting from Alice Springs. We travelled in a four wheel drive sixteen seater coach with a driver guide. I would recommend this way as the distances are huge, it is 450 km from Alice to either Uluru or Kings Canyon. Other possible tours are flying into the Uluru Resort park and going on organised trips from there or hiring a four by four and doing it yourself.



*Uluru Rock*

There are many places to go and if you can do it yourself you can spend longer amounts of time at each place. These are some of the highlights

- Sleeping under the stars and seeing a real night sky
- Uluru Rock
- Kata Tjuta at dawn and dusk
- The cultural centre describing the stories and ideas of the aborigines
- Walking in gorges and beside dried river beds
- Helicopters, camel walking with a guide or ranger



*Aboriginal art on Ayers Rock*

The most important part of the visit for me was the visit to Uluru. I had wanted to go and been interested in Aboriginal culture since I was 8 years old. Having respect for the artwork, artefacts and people is all that the ancient owners ask. Therefore, I did not plan to climb the rock but when I

saw it close up I was completely overawed by the folds in it reflecting colour, light and mystery. It is the top part of a large 600-million-year-old rock most of which is buried. The erosion has made the top flat but

more interestingly the holes, shapes and bumps of the rock are used by the aborigines to illustrate their Dream Time creation stories. The python snake is said to have laid her eggs on the side of the rock. She is seen slithering over it.

The art work of the aborigines also illustrate the Dream Time stories but is also used to describe journeys and events of significance as well as the crafting of beautiful objects for everyday use. In the picture that I bought from the artist the 'U' shape of dots represents the women walking on paths to collect bush food. They are seen from above as if they were couched with bent knees. The short row is her stick used to dig for grubs and roots. There are many tribes and many languages all of which reflect vastly different cultures and traditions. One group may not speak or even understand their neighbours. The rock art was amazing to see. It is overlaid over hundreds of centuries to keep ideas and traditions intact.



*My Picture with the artist in Alice*

The flint tools which we have are familiar to the archaeologists of the Red Centre. There was a display which seemed so close to the South Downs but of course the rock was of a different type. I was able to handle some artefacts long ago given to a member of my family and they fitted easily into the hand so that the various uses were evident. (Spear ends, cutting, scraping and grinding). An interesting artefact I saw was the woomera or throwing stick which is used to launch a spear. It has a hook and slide which add force to the throw.

There are excellent museums in Australia where the artefacts and art can be seen in great detail. I went to the Melbourne art gallery and to the Canberra museum. The woven fish nets, baskets and masks have an energy and excitement which bring this ancient culture into our present world. There is a reviving sense of pride and celebration typified by the display of burial tubes in the entrance to the Canberra museum.



*Weapons*



*Flooded River*

My trip to the 'Red Centre' was atypical as it had become a 'Green Centre' I encountered floods closed roads stranded tourists including my group and massive rain and lightning storms. Rivers which are usually dry for years on end were flash flooded and held up my tour so that I missed Kings Canyon. Really just an excuse to go back.

*Diane Smith*



## A good Spring Clean!

A bit of luck came my way towards the end of March, so I shall share it with you all! The City Museum has been closed for a while for "Refurbishment" as the Museum bosses decided to remove 2 of the shops on the ground floor and put Roger Brown's wonderful model of 1870 Winchester in their place. Since the Museum has pillars on its ground floor, following the refreshment of the model, the conservation team have had to cut a couple of holes in it to enable them to fit it into the ground floor space – cleverly cutting into the water meadows rather than the streetscape. The electrical supply has had to be re-jigged in order that the model can show its street and house lighting, plus swish new information "computers" (you can tell I'm up to the minute with technology) have been placed around the model.

Anyhow, the powers-that-be decided that this was the time to completely overhaul and clean the Museum, so Helen Rees asked me if WARG's sturdy team of work partiers could spare any time to help. I had Wednesday and Thursday afternoons free so tottered down to the Museum to offer my finely-honed cleaning skills to the team. I was given the job of cleaning the Saxon and early Medieval stones plus the encaustic tiles. Much to my surprise they were all really dusty and even dirty. Last time the Museum walls were re-plastered and painted not much clearing up was carried out afterwards, I think, and also the old window frames probably don't keep the outside entirely outside. With a much reduced Museums workforce it's not easy to

find the time or opportunity to do any dusting.

Having proved my suitability for the job, I was asked to clean the life-sized stone angel and then the lead coffin which is in a “pit” on the top floor. I suspect Robin Iles asked me to clean the coffin as I was the only one small enough to get down into the pit! Fortunately I lost quite a bit of weight recently so was able to slide alongside it whilst trying hard not to disturb the fragile lead in any way. Globes of dust proved testing for the tiny hand-held vacuum cleaner but my socks did a brilliant “dust the floor” job.

The lovely thing about taking part in the Spring Clean was the opportunity to see the artefacts so closely and I fell in love with a dragon which appears to have a braided mane, not to mention the wicked wolf who ate a human every night until honey was smeared around the human’s mouth so that he could bite out the wolf’s tongue and kill him while the wolf licked the sweet honey - what imaginations the old peoples had! Helen spent all her time cleaning the delicate artefacts in the locked cases – rather her than me – and talking to herself whilst I talked to dragons, wolves and angels. What fun!

*Julia Sandison*

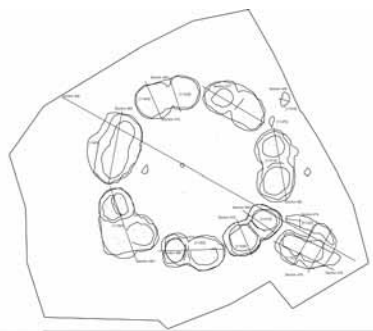


## Barton Farm Winchester: Excavations 2015 & 2016

Paul McCulloch of Pre-Construct Archaeology Ltd is leading the archaeological research at Barton Farm. The site is spread over 70 hectares located on the boundary of urban Winchester on its north-west side. Earmarked for a contentious housing development for many years, it was clear that any such change of use from agricultural land would need close examination for any archaeological remains. Despite having nearly 25 years notice of this potential development, once planning permission was granted and the archaeology got under way, it was evident that there had not been sufficient prior evaluation. Apart from documentary evidence, the data was confined to that gained by a geophysical survey, aerial photography and trial trenching.

The excavation planning has been driven largely by the choice of where to start construction on the site. Phase 1 of this development is located on two blocks of land at the north and south of the land, these blocks being linked by a north-south spine road parallel to the Andover Road on the western boundary of the land. Thus other archaeological

potential would remain unexplored until such time as further phases of the development were approved. (Detailed maps are required to gain a full understanding of the archaeology involved. It is not possible to reproduce these legibly in this account because of the fine detail and colour coding used. Interested readers are referred to Hampshire Field Club Newsletter No.64 Autumn 2105, where a detailed map can be found.)



*Plan of the pit circle at Barton Farm. © PCA*

The earliest known chronology for any excavation at Barton Farm is to be found at the northwest of the site on a plot where large quantities of the chalk subsoil were to be removed for infill elsewhere on the site. This "Borrow Pit", once the topsoil had been removed, revealed a ring formed by pairs of pits, each pair separated from its neighbour. Excavation, initially done by segmenting each pit and later with complete removal of the fill, found just one flint axe and many fragments of antler, some used as picks. Although radiocarbon dating results are not yet available, this feature is believed to be Neolithic in date, i.e. 4000 to 2300 B.C. It is "hengiform" in shape, i.e. is similar to henge monuments which are rare in Hampshire but more common in Wiltshire and Dorset. Full evaluation awaits completion of the analytical work.

Also at the northern end of the site short ditches forming three sides of a roughly circular enclosure were found with an inhumation in the middle. (A fourth ditch completing the circle may have been removed by ploughing).

Detailed excavation of the skeleton showed it to be a crouched burial. An associated Beaker showed it to be an early Bronze Age burial, c.2300 B.C.

Nearby was located a large trapezoidal enclosure with a Roman cemetery in the corner containing about 15 inhumations. It seems to have been dated from the late Roman period judging by the 4th Century Roman coin found in one grave. It posed an obvious question. Why was a small Roman cemetery located out so far from the city when the large Lankhills cemetery was just five minutes' walk away outside the Roman

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*A section of one of the pits in the Barton Farm pit circle showing an antler pick at the base of the pit (bottom left). © PCA*



city wall? The answer is not clear but conjecturally may be because the people buried there were regarded as country dwellers rather than belonging to the city. Certainly there are ancient paths between the two cemeteries dating back to Anglo-Saxon (and possibly Roman) times which may be related to such urban/rural divide boundaries.

To the east of the site, below the railway embankment, a mysterious linear ditch was located. Good detective work showed that it was close to the suggested line of the Winchester aqueduct. This was first identified in the 1970's as part of the M3 archaeological work. Its contour line was also compatible with this earlier data at 50 metre O.D. This explanation for the origin of the ditch was confirmed by a more recent excavation at Itchen Abbas. This, also on the line of the aqueduct, revealed a ditch of almost exactly identical shape in section. These pieces of archaeology seem to confirm the existence of the aqueduct, which supplied water from a tributary spring of the river Itchen at Itchen Stoke and then wound for some 27 kilometres along a contour ending at the north gate of the city to supply residents who lived too far from the river to make use of it.

The most recent dates for archaeology on the site are from the 18th century. There was good documentary evidence for the existence of camps where mercenary soldiers from Hesse in Germany were resident in the winter of 1756/7. These mercenaries arrived in England at the end of the seven years war with France. Initially dispersed around Hampshire, by the onset of winter they had been grouped at Barton Farm where a contemporary drawing showed a line of nine regimental camps across the site. Each regiment was shown as having identical layouts of tents and cooking facilities. Excavation on the line of the planned spine road showed the remains of some of these camps. Square enclosures corresponded to the sites of the field kitchens and the artefacts (pottery, pipes, bottles, etc.) provided abundant dating evidence to support the conclusion that for one winter a large body of German troops were camped just north of the city. Officers were billeted in the old Palace of Charles II leaving the other ranks to survive in the fields which they did in some cases by creating large dug-outs, complete with access steps and fireplaces, to find some degree of comfort.

This interim report provided an early insight into what will become a major piece of archaeological evidence about the northwest hinterland of Winchester in future years.

*Steve Taylor*

# Silchester: The Iron Age and Roman Town - a 500 year history.

## The June Lloyd Lecture 2017

At the beginning of the evening we were reminded that this series of lectures commemorates June Lloyd, a keen amateur archaeologist and a founder of WARG in 1972, when it was the Winchester Archaeological Rescue Group. WARG holds a biennial lecture in her memory, and this, by Professor Mike Fulford, was the 6th in the series.

Professor Fulford began by remembering that Winchester was where he cut his archaeological teeth...his first dig was in the city. But this lecture was all about the work he has done at Silchester, with the project now in its 20th year. He remarked that the field work is only the beginning, and that much is learned in the years following a dig. He has been involved in the publication of material relating to Silchester since 2014.

Silchester is the best known and organized street grid in Roman Britain. It was never threatened by developments in the 19th century, and in the 1860s excavations were begun by the Rev. J.C. Joyce, who was rector of nearby Stratfield Saye. Darwin became interested in it, as did the Society of Antiquities in London who excavated the site from 1890 to 1909. People wanted to know what a Roman town was like, so for over 20 years it was investigated. Many buildings were uncovered which was a remarkable achievement for the time. The project ended in 1909, but they admitted they couldn't write a history of the site over time. The finds were eventually sold to Reading Museum in the 1980s, as in the 1970s the site at Wroxeter was deemed to have more potential.

In order to gain an insight into change over time it was decided to select a particular block to study (Insula IX), which is less than 1% of the area within the walls. In 1997 the Department of Archaeology, led by Professor Fulford and Amanda Clarke began to excavate. The effort put in over 18 summers was enormous, and Professor Fulford paid tribute to Amanda Clarke who was Director of the Silchester Field School. The University of Reading only provided some of the finance - the rest had to be found elsewhere. In all, 55,063 finds were recorded with 7,666 designated small finds.

From the excavation of Insula IX much has been discovered. In the Iron Age, Silchester boasted a major thoroughfare. The people were very

keen on eating meat, and the evidence for this is to be found in the fat in the pottery. It is not easy to discern exactly when the Romans actually arrived there. After close inspection of the finds, lots of questions were raised about the people that lived in the town. The footings of a huge timber hall have been found, together with small rectangular buildings, but no round houses were found...so what happened in AD 43? There is evidence of the Roman military, although no trace of formal Roman buildings that one might have expected. During the late Iron Age/ Early Roman time, life continued, but within 10 years there were some changes. Round houses appear after AD 43 and by the middle of the 1st century there is plenty of evidence supporting the idea that animals were living amongst the buildings.

By the late 1st century AD new building was taking place. A Roman town house was built made of wood and the Iron Age street line was reasserted. The Roman town proper begins in the later 1st century. Things didn't change much in the 2nd century and the Iron Age orientation was maintained. From the mid 3rd century we have evidence of Roman masonry and timber buildings. The next major phase of building was late Roman with buildings that relate to the Roman grid system. These were timber-framed buildings keeping their occupants secure. They were not so open as in earlier times showing that the character of the town had changed.

A huge amount of work has been done on plants and seeds with the first evidence appearing for specific foods being eaten in Britain such as mulberries, figs, cherries and lentils. All mineralized seeds have been recovered from soil samples and reveal exotic imports such as cucumbers from Southern Spain together with figs and apples.

Insects provide evidence for the urban environment and many people would have had whipworm. There is also evidence that they smelted iron and forged it on a household scale. Iron working and making happened across the site. Dogs were a vibrant part of life in Roman times: they were even skinned for clothes etc. The town was probably a bit shabby and a curious collection of things point to possible strange practices...a knife, dog bones and a raven pose questions relating to superstitions.

Pots with holes have been found at the bottom of wells. Was this to make sure the water flowed well? There was also the deliberate placing of special items in the foundations of buildings such as a human mandible, the foot of a deer, a Neolithic axe and remains of

sacrificial sheep and infants. There are also remains of infants found close to the houses from the 4th/5th centuries.

Amongst other things, a tiny silver coin has been found, together with fragments of high quality metal work, some fabulous glass – early 1st century AD from Italy, a gladiator cup and beautifully carved gem stones. Over the last 4 years, archaeologists have also looked at Insula III.

In conclusion, Silchester is probably important because it is near the confluence of the Kennet and the Thames and lies at the end of Watling Street. The population was probably quite small, but they knew how to survive, despite life in general being quite unhealthy. After such a wealth of information to take in, there were still a number of questions from the audience and Professor Fulford finished by answering them. There is further excellent information about the dig at Silchester to be found on line, together with artifacts on display in the museum at Reading.

*Edwina Cole*



## Book Reviews

A round-up of some recent publications of interest.

**S**ussex Past, (The Sussex Archaeological Society) has recently published two wonderful books. The first, *Churches and Chapels of the South Downs National Park* by David Parsons and Robin Milner-Gulland is much more than a gazetteer but is, instead, a concise introduction to a much wider series of topics. Following a brief introduction, the authors look at:

What is a church?

Christianity in East Hampshire and Sussex.

The church fabric.

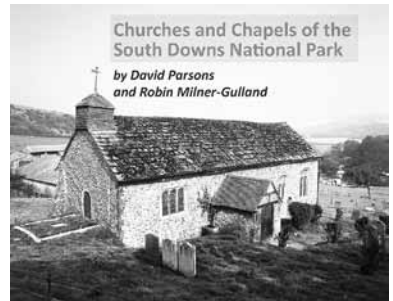
Church architecture.

Furnishings and fittings.

Wall paintings.

Monuments and memorials.

and finally a list of selected churches.



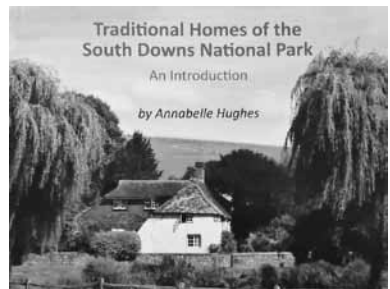
Each of these sections is copiously illustrated with colour photographs of churches and chapels in the Park. These range from the characteristic small downland churches to large Victorian cathedrals, like that at Arundel. It also looks at non conformists chapels and meeting houses. So the entry in the gazetteer for Petworth includes the Roman Catholic Sacred Heart, the parish church of St Mary and a mention of a former Unitarian chapel.

Selected churches in Hampshire include Warnford; St Andrew's, Chilcomb, and at the other end of the historical spectrum St Mary's Itchen Stoke, a Victorian replica of Sainte Chappelle in Paris.

A few hours spent reading the first sections will make you look with a much more informed eye when you visit some of the gems in the lists.

*Traditional Homes of the South Downs National Park: an Introduction*, by Annabelle Hughes takes a different approach. To quote from the publisher's description:

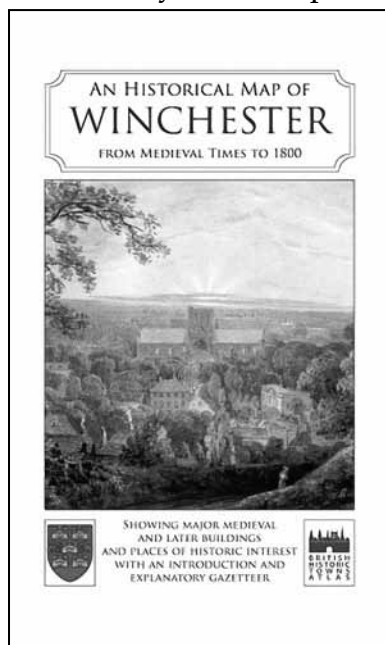
"This guide aims to provide the tools for any visitor to become their own 'House Detective', through understanding how these buildings were constructed, how they have altered over the centuries, how earlier owners might have used them, and by looking at the differences between town and countryside." It does this through a range of different approaches and, as demonstrated in the three case studies, these include the use of archival records.



Given the area covered by the Park, there is an emphasis on Wealden Houses, and the Weald and Downland Museum at Singleton provides example of these and other building types, in addition once again to many strong photographs from across the Park. You could do worse than use this as a tutorial on traditional buildings before attempting the magnificent new edition of Edward Roberts' *Hampshire Houses 1250-1700: Their dating and development*. This has 40 more pages than the previous edition and discusses 95 more buildings.

Winchester Excavation Committee is still working to support the publication of Winchester Studies – the huge blue books based on, but going way beyond, Martin Biddle's work in the 1970s. The latest volume *The People of Early Winchester* by Connie Stuckert, has special relevance to WARG as the volunteers working in the City

Archaeological archive made it possible for Connie to carry out the amazing work on the skeletal remains from Lankhills and elsewhere. This is very much a specialists' book at a shocking £120.00.



A more accessible, both in subject matter and pricing, publication is the new edition of the *Historical map of Winchester c. 1800*. This uses a variety of sources to reconstruct the Winchester of Jane Austen's time. In addition to a history of the City written by Martin, there is a gazetteer, with colour illustrations from early prints and paintings.

And finally Katie Hinds, the Hampshire Finds Liaison Officer has edited *50 Finds From Hampshire: Objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme*. This is again copiously illustrated and the finds range from flint arrow heads to a George V silver florin from between 1911 and 1919, which was in the process of being turned into a finger ring. Apparently this was a wide-spread way of making a ring, as

for two shillings (10p for decimalised people) you could have a very attractive piece of jewellery.

Parsons, David and Milner-Gulland, Robin, *Churches and Chapels of the South Downs National Park*, Sussex Archaeological Society, £9.50 (+ £2.80 p&p).

Hughes, Annabelle, *Traditional Homes of the South Downs National Park: an Introduction*, Sussex Archaeological Society, £9.50 (+ £2.80 p&p).

Robert, Edward, *Hampshire Houses 1250-1700: Their dating and development*, Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust, £22.00

Stuckert, Caroline, *The People of Early Winchester*, Oxford University Press £120.00

Winchester Excavation Committee: *Historical map of Winchester c. 1800* £8.99 from local book sellers

Hinds, Katie, *50 Finds From Hampshire: Objects from the Portable Antiquities Scheme*, Amberley, £14.99

Dick Selwood

# Julia's Jottings

## King Arthur's Kingdom

As we house King Arthur's Round Table here in Winchester it's hard to persuade some people that he actually is fiction rather than fact, but it's not made any easier by the fact that archaeologists have discovered his birthplace at Tintagel! Walls around 3 ft thick have been unearthed and are believed to be part of the seat of rulers of the Medieval kingdom of Dumnonia.



Tintagel (Wikicommons)

Please note the date of this Newsletter – it's not quite April 1<sup>st</sup> though you might be forgiven for thinking this is all one big joke!

## The most beautiful woman in the world?



Mrs Schliemann modelling "Helen of Troy's" gold jewellery .

It was always said that the world's most beautiful woman in centuries past was Helen of Troy – beautiful enough for a war to be fought over her, anyway. But when Schliemann excavated Troy and found the most glorious and delicate gold jewellery, it quickly became known as having belonged to Helen: at any rate the periods were much the same! When the Russians were in Berlin during the Second World War they took, amongst other goodies, the fabulous jewellery but never admitted it so no-one was really sure where it was. However quite recently the Pushkin Museum in Moscow has put it on display, along with some plaster casts of Roman plaques. Sadly on my visit to Moscow last year we didn't visit the Pushkin but had I known then that Schliemann's gold treasure was there, I would have done everything possible to have visited it.

## **The human side of Vikings**

If you know anything about the Vikings and also watched *The Last Kingdom*, recently on TV, you'd be forgiven for thinking that they were a merciless lot for whom pleasure was restricted to killing and mutilating. However we know from their jewellery that they had a fantastic artistic side and now we've discovered that their children did manage to have a bloodlust-free life. A small farmstead on what was once Norway's coast had a well which has recently been excavated and been the hiding place of a child's small wooden boat. Nice to know that sometimes children were allowed to play as well as having to work in the homes and fields.

## **Size isn't everything**

Well, the Egyptians didn't think that – they were adept at creating enormous statues of their pharaohs and gods (see the massive arm and hand in the BM). However on the whole one would imagine that such huge statues were not easy to lose or hide, except that a Cairo slum has just given up a 26 ft statue, believed to be Ramses the Great, aka Ozymandias, submerged in water just below the surface of a mud street in the suburb of Matariya. Made of quartzite, the statue probably commemorates Pharaoh Ramses II who ruled Egypt for 66 years from around 1279 BC to 1213 BC. Known mainly for expanding his kingdom from Syria down to Nubia, he was accompanied in 21<sup>st</sup> century life by the upper part of a life-size statue of Seti II, his grandson. However Seti wasn't as important as Ramses so his statue was only made of limestone!

## **Bronze Age weaponry**

Whilst clearing land at Carnoustie in north eastern Scotland ready to provide 2 football pitches, a spearhead dating back to the Bronze Age was found alongside a sword and scabbard. The unusual thing about the spearhead is that it's decorated with gold and was wrapped in fur skin – extremely rare for textile remains to last so many centuries underground. Obviously some really important warrior group lived in the area between 1,000 and 800 BC.

## **Britain's earliest monastery?**

Excavators near Glastonbury are making this claim since radiocarbon dating of bodies in a monastic cemetery has produced dates of the 5th or early 6th century AD, well before Somerset was conquered by Wessex's Saxon kings in the 7th century. This site was first excavated in the 1880s and then in the 1960s and it was the



latter which uncovered the cemetery of around 50 bodies, almost all adult males, thus indicating that it was a monastic graveyard. The three exceptions were two male juveniles (possibly novices) and a woman, who might have been either a visiting nun or a patron. The burials continued to the early 9th century, possibly ending when the site was attacked by the Viking armies trying to add Wessex to the rest of their holdings in Britain.



*Glastonbury (Wikicommons)*

### **Another fantastic find**

I know I said it before about needing to get a metal detector but really I feel maybe it's not just a joke. Detectorists in Staffordshire uncovered a superb haul of Iron Age gold jewellery, 20 years after they'd failed to find anything in the field. The four torcs, all different designs, are believed to have been made in Germany or France in around the 3rd or 4th century BC. Their burial in a field, with no trace of a settlement or grave nearby, is the same as the circumstances of the Winchester Treasure.

### **Another deserted Hampshire village**

Those of us at Derek Spruce's recent talk on the Hampshire houses visited by Jane Austen will have heard about two of those houses whose owners had cleared the too-close villages in order to have a decent view. Another village, Foxcotte near Andover, was extensively excavated between 1979 and 1981 and some of its buildings were found to date back to the 13th and 14th centuries. Many foundations were uncovered as well as a goodly number of finds – for more information visit the Hampshire Cultural Trust's archive A1984.40

### **Ancient oak trees**

A recent extensive survey of oak trees in England has revealed that we have more ancient oak trees in our country than the rest of Europe put together. Twelve hundred previously unknown medieval or Tudor trees have pushed the country's total to 3,400, whilst Europe can only scrape up 2,000. I find it somewhat bemusing that 1,200 trees have somehow



*Ancient oak (Wikicommons)*

remained “hidden” and in any case the previously perceived wisdom was that the Tudors decimated our forests in order to build ships and houses. How wonderful to know that they didn’t manage to remove all the oaks!

“Ancient Oaks in the English Landscape” by Aljos Farjon is due out on May 1 and can be pre-ordered on Amazon. In the meantime, you can visit the website Aljos created from his research at <http://herbaria.plants.ox.ac.uk/bol/ancientoaksofengland>

### **A Saxon workshop sees the light of day**

Alongside a large Norman building, a Saxon workshop complete with keys and a jug has emerged at an undisclosed location in the Mendips. Black ashy soil with crucible fragments and artefacts indicate that possibly glass manufacture or recycling were carried out here, but only in small quantities. The site was excavated by a local community archaeology group following geophys of a field by the curious owner. So, any land you own with interesting-looking lumps and bumps? Call in WARG!

### **Land worth buying**

A 22 year old recent archaeology graduate was so convinced that a field close to the Welsh – English border between Chepstow and Monmouth housed something special that he bought the land from the farmer. He’d noticed that moles had thrown up fragments of what he thought were medieval pottery so decided that it was worth trying to uncover the field’s secrets. For 15 years he and a group of volunteers have worked on the site and are convinced that it’s part of a sprawling medieval city - the lost city of Trellech. Quite why a city’s position should be unknown is a puzzle but archaeologists had been searching for it a few miles away in Wales itself. Apart from many buildings, the site has revealed a manor house and a well, producing many interesting artefacts. A flint knapping kit believed to date from Neolithic times also came to light, so this site could continue to produce multi-period finds for a long time.

Stuart has a website at <http://www.lostcityoftrillech.org/>



*Find at Trellech  
(LostcityofTrellech.org)*

# WARG Calendar

2017

Apr 10<sup>th</sup> **Big Dig 2016 Update**

Apr 24<sup>th</sup> **Day visit to Abingdon**

May 8<sup>th</sup> **Colin Van Geffen: The Flying Boats of Southampton**

June 12<sup>th</sup> **Evening walk round Stockbridge**

July 10<sup>th</sup> **Evening visit to Winchester College Treasury**

July 29<sup>th</sup> - **August 13<sup>th</sup> Big Dig at Warnford Park**

Aug 21<sup>st</sup> **Annual Picnic at Rockbourne Villa**

Sept 11<sup>th</sup> **Martin Parsons: Kindertransport & its Associated Affects**

Sept **Day visit to Hungerford and Littlecote – date tba**

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> **AGM followed by**

**Alistair Dougall: “Blood & Misery in this Sad Tragedie”  
& “Deceived People! Deluded Countreyemen” - the nature  
& impact of the Civil War in Hampshire**

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> **Tony King: Meonstoke Roman site – Villa or Temple?**

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> **Biance Taubert: “Les Tomettes” – Women Soldiers of the  
British Expeditionary Force 1917 – 21**

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.



*Rockbourne Villa*

## Books and mags

The latest, and last, catalogue of books for sale for WARG funds is included in this mailing, Get in touch with Julia - her details are below -if you want anything from the catalogue.



## Volunteers needed

The Royal Green Jacket Museum in Peninsula Barracks, Winchester are looking for volunteers to man the small shop. The hours are only 9.45 to 4.30, one day a week, and with free parking. The volunteers need no military knowledge and it would appeal equally to women and men who would like an interesting occupation amongst friendly museum staff. Weekdays are the most needed at the moment but if someone particularly wanted to do a weekend slot, that would fine.

Would anyone interested in finding out more about this, please email Christine Pullen: [curator@rgjmuseum.co.uk](mailto:curator@rgjmuseum.co.uk).



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