



# Newsletter

Spring 2018

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**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)

## Editorial

We are still looking for a chairman. If you know where we can find one, please let us know.

There has been a great deal of comment and speculation about changes at the Hampshire Cultural Trust. The background is that the Trust was formed in 2014 to manage the museums, venues and collections of Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council. The agreement was that funding from the local authorities would reduce over time, 2% a year for three years and 10% in year 4, with income from activities, plus grants from sources like the Heritage Lottery Fund to more than replace this. The Trust has not attracted the funding it required. At the same time, it began to look at how to best structure itself to work with different groups and organisations. These include the local authorities including the districts, potential visitors and users, and funding bodies. The new structure has four “work streams”: Winchester, Basingstoke (Basing House and Milestones etc.), Cultural Hubs and Community, with a central support team. The teams, which are close to being appointed, are not being given detailed briefs but from a set of objectives will develop their own way of working

The central support team, includes a collection manager, curation liaison manager, conservators, exhibitions and technical support and will be the point of contact for scholars etc requiring access to the collections. Again, at the time of writing it is not possible to say how this team will operate. But they will be expected to continue to develop links with the universities and other interested groups, including the existing volunteer teams. And they will be looking at ways that the work parties can function even in the absence of their normal contact point.

One could argue that comments from the Trust about “ill-informed criticism” and statements that the Hampshire Chronicle called “Gobbledegook” would have been less necessary if the Trust had talked to the bodies with whom it hopes to co-operate, rather than springing this on the world. However, Janet Owen, the CEO of the Trust has agreed to meet with a group of academics, members of societies and others at about the same time as you receive this newsletter. By then she hopes that most of the posts will have been filled and she will be in a position to talk fully.

## This year's Hyde900 community dig!

The Hyde900 community dig is back for 2018! The dates are April 27<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>. We hope you will come along and take part.

Last year's community archaeological dig, searching for the walls of Hyde's medieval abbey cloisters, was hugely successful and enjoyable, uncovering exciting finds that turned out to be of international importance. Have a look at the Hyde900 website to see the section of the cloister arch that was discovered in one of the trenches.

This year we have been invited back to excavate more sites in the area of the abbey cloisters – we're very optimistic that we will find more walls and, hopefully, further stonework to help us piece together the layout and architecture of the ancient abbey, which is Alfred the Great's last known resting place.

It is hoped that WARG members will again take a prominent part in the dig. WARG will once more be providing archaeological supervision and equipment for the dig, and David Ashby of the University of Winchester has again kindly agreed to be advisor for the event.

It is open to all ages and abilities. Participants can take part in digging, sieving, cleaning finds and various processing activities, and training will be provided by the supervising archaeologists on site. We are keen to involve young people, to give them a taste of hands-on archaeology and how it brings the past to life. Please do book your children in to come along with you and participate.

We are grateful to be sponsored again for this year's dig by Belgarum Estate Agents, and have just heard that we are going to receive a £1000 grant from the Aviva Community Fund.

The dig will be filmed, courtesy of Solent Moviemakers, and you will be able to follow all the action as it unfolds with regular blog posts on the website.

Registration is open for this year's dig on the Hyde900 website now. Go to the website to sign up and be the first to get booking information and updates – or just to find out more information about this year's dig. Bookings for specific time slots is now possible.

<https://www.hyde900.org.uk/>

*David Spurling*

## Les Tommettes:

### Women soldiers of the British Expeditionary Force 1917 – 1921

December's talk to WARG was given by Bianca Taubert who is Assistant Curator at the Adjutant General's Corps Museum in Winchester. Her subject was the role that some women played before, during and after the First World War.

It began in 1909 with the foundation of the Voluntary Aid Detachment (VAD), which was a voluntary unit of civilians providing nursing care for military personnel.

By 1915 women doing men's work was becoming more acceptable and the terrible casualties on the Somme in 1916 prompted the powers that be to ask how women could be more involved in the war effort. Helen Gwynne-Vaughan was a formidable leader and inspirational speaker. She laid the foundations and set the standards for all women's air services. During the war it was she who was

invited by the War Office (along with Mrs. Chalmers Watson) to help form the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps (WAAC). As Chief Controller, stationed in France, she was instrumental in creating a respected and disciplined force. The women were not in the Army, so they didn't hold any army ranks. Instead, they were divided into Officials and Members. They had rank badges and uniforms that were a feminized version of a man's uniform. They were paid comparatively well, had some training and had to be 20 years of age before they could go abroad.

They worked on the notion that "Every fit woman can release



*Helen Gwynne-Vaughan (Imperial War  
Museum Non Commercial Licence)*

a fit man.”

They first arrived in France at the end of March 1917. The French called them Les Tommettes, and by early 1918 there were 6,000 of them.

They lived in camps, with the WAAC camps placed in the centre, surrounded by the men’s camps. It was described as a fantastic opportunity for working class women who got the chance to work and enjoy more food than they would have got at home!

The main camp was at Abbeville where the women did army duties, but they weren’t officially in the Army. Their tasks consisted of cooking, carrying out office work and helping to maintain the vehicles used in army work. 57,000 women were enrolled to serve in the WAAC, with a large detachment working for the American Expeditionary Force. This was an independent body under their own Chief controller.

They were popular and valued by the men they worked beside. One rhyme at the time goes:

*Give Tommy his choice  
And what would it be?  
A stripe on his arm  
Or a WAAC on his knee!*

Towards the end of the war, during the German Spring Offensive in May 1918 there was a direct hit on Abbeville. Just before that, in April 1918 they became known as the Queen Mary’s Army Auxiliary Corps, and demobilization came on September 27th 1921.

The women received War and Victory medals in recognition of the contribution they had made to the war effort, but their work had a greater effect than that. Many continued to work and also to campaign for extending the vote for all women as a result of their new-found confidence in society.

The service records of the WAACs were held at the Army Record Centre that burnt down in an air raid fire in 1940. The records of 7,000 of the 57,000 who served, survived the fire. They are held in the National Archives WO398 collection and can be searched and downloaded from the Discovery part of the National Archives website for a small fee.

*Edwina Cole*

## My Grandfather's Battle: Langemarck August 1917.

After he returned from the Battle of Passchendaele in September 1917 my Grandfather was suffering from pyrexia or fever. Once rehabilitated he was able to marry his sweetheart. My Grandmother was affectionately called Blossom all her life. Her name

was Lillian Trevor Lewis and my Grandfather was Larry (Clarence). Very soon my aunt Elizabeth (Betty) Langemarck was born closely followed by Noel Langemarck, Pauline Langemarck (my mother) and Rosemary Langemarck.

My grandfather seemed to be ill all of his life. When I knew him in the 50s and early 60s he was rarely animated but was self-obsessed and



*Larry (Clarence) and Lillian Trevor Lewis.*

generally gloomy. The only thing he told his girls was that he was the only one that survived. I am sure that now he would have been diagnosed with Post Traumatic Stress.

My cousin and I resolved to try to visit Langemarck after our mothers' deaths and try to find out what happened. Langemarck is a Belgian village close to Ypres. I had been able to do some research at Kew and we know that he had been trained as a gunner with the Royal Field Artillery (RFA). He ended his army career as second Lieutenant but was found unfit to be recruited for WW2. This did not help the gloom and sense of loss that he seemed to feel. My cousin's husband in Australia worked hard to build on the scant information. The following was found as a possible link:

Extract from history of the 56<sup>th</sup> Division Infantry (to which Grandpa Lewis' artillery battery was attached), concerning the Battle of Langemarck:

"On the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> of August [1917] the 56<sup>th</sup> Divisional Artillery relieved the 8th Divisional Artillery in the taking over their



*Field Gun and mud!*

gun positions near Hooge [south of Langemarck]. The artillery then experienced what I think was their worst time during the war. All the battery positions were shelled day and night, more in the nature of harassing fire with occasional counter-battery shoots. The ground was so wet that digging was impossible, and the men

lived in holes in the ground covered with corrugated iron. The early dawn was the only time it was safe to get supplies and ammunition if casualties were to be avoided, and with all precautions most batteries lost 100 per cent of their gun line strength in killed and wounded. The artillery supported operations on the 10<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 25<sup>th</sup> August, and answered S.O.S. calls on most days; also, a very heavy day on the 24<sup>th</sup> of August, when the enemy counter-attacked in force. On the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> the whole of the guns of D/280 (Grandpa Lewis' probable battery) were put out of action; enemy shell fire and exploding ammunition practically blew them to pieces, and except for the actual tubes of the three howitzers, nothing was found worth saving. On the 31<sup>st</sup> August, the artillery came out of the line, and entrained south on the 1<sup>st</sup> September to re-join the 56<sup>th</sup> Division, and all ranks hoped they had seen the last of the Ypres salient.

We can only add to this that the selection of gun positions was a matter of finding a place where the guns would not disappear in the mud and which was not already



*Harry Patch memorial with Langemarck church on the horizon.*





*Dee Smith (right) and cousin.*

occupied by another battery.”

We found that Langemarck was a quiet village with a history of much action, terror and destruction during the whole 1914 to 1918 period. As we walked around the area we discovered the Harry Patch memorial, with Langemarck church in the background. Harry Patch was a British soldier, the last surviving veteran to have served in the trenches of the Western Front; he organised this in 2008, and died in 2009 aged 111. Words on the memorial are: “Here at dawn on 16 August 1917, [his battalion] crossed the Steenbeek [River] prior to their successful assault on the village of Langemarck ... Private and

Lewis Gunner\* Harry Patch ...”. He too had found this area a haunting and extremely important place of memory.

Our family has concluded that our grandfather’s four girls were named after the Battle of Langemarck in August 1917. During this month, my thoughts are with all those who lost their lives in these quiet villages so close and so far.

*Dee Smith*

\*A Lewis Gun was a light machine gun

## The Nature and Impact of the English Civil War in Hampshire

After a prolonged AGM, Alistair Dougall, Head of History at Godolphin School in Salisbury, delivered his talk about the impact of the Civil War.

The Civil War was a consequence of the increasing independence of Parliament, the growth of democracy, divisions over religion and flaws in the character of Charles I. Becoming King in 1625 he added to existing tensions by misuse of his Royal prerogative, dissolving Parliament several times, raising taxes, introducing Catholic practices to a Protestant country, and marrying Henrietta Maria, a French Catholic princess. When Charles needed money to quell the Scottish and Irish uprisings of 1640 Parliament rebelled, revoking the ship money taxes and reversing many of Charles' ideas. Matters came to a head in 1642 when Charles raised his standard at Nottingham and the first pitched battle of the Civil War followed at Edgehill, Warwickshire in October of that year.

Our area was directly affected by the Basing House sieges of 1642-1645, the siege of Portsmouth in 1642, the besieging of Winchester in 1642 and again in 1644 plus the Battle of Cheriton in 1644. But this conflict was traumatic in many other ways, dividing families and communities and causing the death of 3.6% of the population. Hampshire, a very English county, which had enjoyed peace for many years, found its inhabitants embroiled in a bloody conflict. The men were pressed into fighting; initially joining up aged 18-50, this was extended to 16-60, prison being the consequence of resistance. Their womenfolk were left abandoned and impoverished, unable to pay the rent. Some women suffered sexual abuse or were raped by the opposite side. Mercenary Scots, Irish, French and Walloons came



*Oliver Cromwell*  
National Portrait Gallery  
(CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)

into central Hampshire and were viewed as “foreigners” as they had never been seen before. They were harsh, demanding and brutal.

The billeting of soldiers caused hardship and often left houses uninhabitable. The Parliamentary Army, led by William Waller, took over Alresford and Alton whilst Royalists controlled Odiham and Andover. In Lymington 16s 2d was paid for the quartering of the army for a day and night. The owner of Wherwell Abbey reported he had suffered “considerable loss” when housing soldiers whilst it cost 2/6 to clean Upham Church after soldiers had used it as stables. Churches were also used to house prisoners. The Royalist Rector of Havant complained that he had to house Parliamentarians! In these crowded, insanitary conditions the soldiers, prisoners and horses brought disease to communities.

The plunder of livestock and goods by both armies also caused deprivation. Romsey supported the King and suffered under a Parliamentary skirmish. The Royalist Colonel Goring reported that

“Corn, meal, flour, bacon, eggs, cheese, bread, beer, ducks, sheep and even bedding was stolen from the townsfolk.” In 1643 the Rector of Weyhill buried his money and valuables. Barns of grain and water mills were destroyed, thus restricting food supplies. Twenty five houses were burnt down in Gosport. Redbridge and Greatbridge were demolished interrupting travel. In 1642, on a highway near Andover, soldiers killed both horses belonging to travellers, captured their wagons and robbed them of all their goods.

Parliamentarians were iconoclastic, targeting places of worship and mocking religion. Romsey Abbey was damaged, so in 1642 the city of Winchester offered £2000 to be “spared,” nevertheless William Waller rode on horseback into Winchester Cathedral. His soldiers fired muskets at the roof bosses, the



*King Charles I*  
National Portrait Gallery  
(CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)



*Sr. William Waller burning Popish books, Images and Reliques NPG (CC BY-NC-ND 3.0)*

altar rails were pulled down, the vestry was ransacked, hymn books and prayer books were burnt, stained glass windows smashed, monuments defaced, statues decapitated and the Mortuary chests were taken down and their contents strewn around. The troopers then rode through the streets of Winchester with their “trophies” looting the city and destroying houses. It was absolute vandalism using religion as an excuse. Furthermore, during a service at Odiham in 1644 soldiers entered the church firing their pistols, wounding or killing the worshippers.

Local Government was disrupted, not meeting for four years, justice was abandoned, Parish Records and burial records were neglected, rents went uncollected and taxation (levied by both sides) was very high. If a Parish did not pay these taxes the ordinary people were imprisoned.

At the end of the Civil War people faced hardship and ruin, applying for compensation the Royalists received nothing whilst Parliamentary supporters got some if they were lucky. A caricature of a looting soldier was published in a pamphlet of the times.

This unprecedented violence and damage came at enormous monetary cost to both landowners and the ordinary people. Commentators noted that “All Hampshire is so eaten up,” “the world is turned upside down,” and “there is blood and misery in this sad tragedie.” As well as the practical problems the psychological scars were to prove deep and lasting. “Deceived people! Deluded countrey men.”

What was achieved? Cromwell ruled as a king and in 1660 the Monarchy was restored!!

*Valerie Pegg*

## Meonstoke: Roman Villa or Temple?

An exciting Roman site has been uncovered recently in the Meon valley near the village of Meonstoke. Excavations over the last two years led by Professor Tony King of the University of Winchester have revealed the foundations of a hexagonal building with a set of rectangular structures alongside. The context for these discoveries is a five-year excavation in the 1980's, also led by Tony King, on a site adjacent to the recent dig.

These earlier excavations, on the other side of the road from the more recent ones, became nationally known because they uncovered the gable end wall of a large building which had collapsed in one piece thereby preserving the detail of its structure, albeit as a horizontal layer. Its survival was due in part to the coincidence of a medieval boundary crossing the site which protected the fallen wall from ploughing damage. Remains of this sort which show the structures of upstanding walls are extremely rare in Roman archaeology in the UK and this discovery was viewed as sufficiently important to engage the British Museum. They were involved both in the excavation and the subsequent lifting of a large part of the wall. This section, having been restored, is now on display in the BM. This preserved façade covered a coin dated to AD360 which was consistent with its attributed date of 4<sup>th</sup> century, a rebuilt extension of a 3<sup>rd</sup> century building. It was a substantial building, measuring some 40 Roman feet high and 50 wide. The decoration was quite elaborate with three upper blind arcades and three lower arcaded openings of similar width. It was certainly an aisled building and wooden structures of this form are known to have existed in Hampshire in the later centuries of the Roman era. It is comparable in size to that found by Barry Cunliffe at Dunkirt Barn south of Andover. In appearance, it is not dissimilar to a church of the same era located in the German city of Metz but this function is viewed as very unlikely.



*Fallen gable end in the British Museum (CC BY-NC-SA 4.0)*

This gable wall was the east end of a building which today is partially covered by the A32 road. The west end lies in the field where the 2016/7 excavations took place but is inaccessible because it is covered by a preserved badger sett. However, it is clear that the recent discoveries and the earlier building were part of the same Roman complex.

The more recent excavations are still in progress and another season of excavation is planned for 2018. So far, this latest work has revealed the base of a hexagonal structure which was located on the

bank of the old course of the river Meon. It is linked by a boundary wall to what is almost certainly a bath house as evidenced by hypocaust tiles. The hexagonal structure was adorned with elaborately painted plaster on which further work is needed but which is evidently high quality 4<sup>th</sup> century



work. Structured deposits of pottery and animal bone have been found alongside it. Roman hexagonal structures, generally interpreted as temples, are known elsewhere both in the UK and in continental Europe although octagonal examples are more common. British examples may be found at Canterbury (in a cemetery), Northamptonshire and, in Hampshire, at Dunkirt Barn. Among many examples abroad, Trajan's harbour near Rome and the entrance to Baalbek in Lebanon, also by the same Emperor, are notable.

Temples are often found as part of estates such as Lydney in Gloucestershire. Other Roman sites, initially interpreted as villas, such as Chedworth in the same county, may now be seen as temple complexes with the large buildings serving as hostels for visitors.

Back at Meonstoke, although most what has so far been uncovered is late Roman there is clear evidence of an early Roman presence (in the shape of Samian ware) and late Iron Age occupation. The most vivid

of the Iron Age evidence is in the form of coins, one of which shows Epaticus, from a north Thames dynasty and an enemy of Verica the local king, whose pleas to Rome may have triggered the 1<sup>st</sup> century Roman invasion. The word “Meon” can be interpreted as pre-Roman and the evidence of settlement over many centuries is mounting.

Another intriguing find nearby is a very rare early 4<sup>th</sup> century gold coin of Constantine II. This all hints at the possibility of significant archaeological potential for Roman discoveries in the area and continuing geophysical surveys are supporting this view. The lecture was emphatically an interim report on a fascinating and continuing area of archaeology.

*Steve Taylor*



## Feet, Hooves and Wheels: A History of the King’s Highway

Alex Lewis, our speaker, started “the best job in the world” with Hampshire County Council as a Rights of Way Officer in 1994. Delighted to be working in Winchester (instead of Southampton), she researched in the Record Office, used her knowledge of the law (Alex was a Lawyer) and walked in the countryside. Fresh air, History and the Law - a dream combination.

### **Myth Busting**

Trespassing is not a criminal offence but doing damage is. However, there are exceptions e.g. the Channel Tunnel and airport land - where it is an offence to trespass.

Highways include roads, footpaths, bridleways, restricted byways and byways open to all traffic (boat.) Use it or lose it – not true – once a right of way, always a right of way.

### **Routes**

A straight line is the easiest route from A to B but ancient tracks had to skirt forests, cross rivers at the lowest fording point, avoid bogs yet keep to the valleys. Over time the topography changed; woodland was felled, bridges were built, obstacles cleared, marshland drained and grazed. A slightly different route was created but the “ghost route”

could still be seen in the landscape. In the 1700s large estates were built with the owner moving the highway in order to keep the ordinary folk away e.g. at Highclere Castle a *Writ of Ad Quod Damnum* removed the road completely! The Parliamentary Inclosure Acts (1773 onwards) prohibited open grazing, parcelled out the land and straightened roads e.g. the Straight Mile at Romsey. With the coming of the Victorian railways it was easier to build a bridge at right angles to the track so again roads were altered e.g. Kings Worthy Rail Bridge.

All these changes provided Alex with her role; sorting out disputes, managing the creation of new routes or applying new laws, which required referring to old records, documents and maps. A claim regarding the existence of an old route from Southampton to Andover arose (in the area around Up Somborne). Using the *Crawley Inclosure Award of 1794*, the *Hursley Inclosure map of 1812* and the *1844 map of the road to Hursley* Alex proved that this road had existed but as the council have to manage a situation, this route was deemed unsuitable for modern traffic and restrictions were enacted.

## **Rights**

The public highway is based on Saxon foundations crystallised in the 1500s. Sir Edward Coke (1552-1634) classified Highways as i) a footway ii) a footway and a horseway iii) the previous two plus a cart. The 1555 statute required a Parish to appoint an unpaid Surveyor of the Highway to ensure parishioners maintained the local roads, the surveyor being fined if the roads were poor. With the arrival of larger, heavier wagons and stage coaches Parliament passed regulations based on weight and wheel circumference. The Turnpike roads of the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries charged tolls which covered the cost of building and repairing the road. Thomas Telford and John McAdam, using different construction methods and surfaces, took the approach in the 1820s to make the road suitable for traffic rather than the other way round.

In 1893 the Public Right over an owner's land was established as being *to pass and repass* but do nothing else either lawful or unlawful as that would constitute trespass. Traffic that is *usual and accustomed* over time defines the scope of public rights, e.g. a perambulator or a dog may use a road but not an alpaca!

Conundrums arose with the invention of the hobby horse by Karl von Drais in 1819 and the penny-farthing bicycle in the 1870s. Was a



bicycle associated with a horse or a carriage? A court case began in 1879, taking until 1888 to decide that a bicycle is a vehicle and even women were riding them by the 1900s! Not until 1968 were bikes finally allowed to use bridleways, a bill having to be passed because a bicycle is a carriage by law and cycle tracks were recognised. A Radio 4 poll recently voted the bicycle as the best invention since 1800. Incidentally cars are carriages confined to roads.

## **Revolution**

From 1932 to 2015 thirteen Acts of Parliament have been passed regarding Rights of Way. To highlight the fact that walkers in England and Wales were denied access to areas of open country on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1932, the mass trespass on Kinder Scout occurred. During the *Dig for Victory* campaign of World War II land had been put to the plough and many tracks had been utilised for agriculture. These had to be restored lest lost forever so Parish Councils were required to research and declare footpaths, bridleways and such in order to protect and preserve access. As a result of these two events the very important National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act of 1949 was passed.

A more recent problem - is a muddy track a carriageway, may owners of 4 wheeled-drive vehicles use them for "off-roading"? The anti-vehicular lobby became involved leading to the clarification that a restricted byway may be used on foot, on horseback or by a non-mechanical vehicle (e.g. bike) but not by a motor vehicle. Once a highway always a highway; when purchasing land or property the buyer's solicitor investigates any existing of rights of way with potential complications to the transaction. The Public Right of Way Act of 2000 stated that if a route is not on the definitive map by January 2026 then the route is considered defunct. This leads to the question of town centre alleyways and paths which are not usually shown on a map - what will happen in 2026? Parliament says they will sort it after Brexit!!

In conclusion Alex posed the thought - is it necessary to have all these statutes and acts just for us to enjoy the countryside? When we are next walking in our favourite wood we must ask ourselves "Are we walking along an old route that has existed since Saxon times and just be glad that we no longer have to blow a horn or call out as our ancestors once did?"

## **Q&A Session**

There was a lively Q and A session at the end of the talk - points

covered included:

Q. Where can we view the Definitive Map?

A. Online or in the Hampshire County Council Offices. It is the same as an Ordnance Survey map.

Q. Why are there few Rights of Way in the New Forest?

A. It is Crown Land.

Q. Is the Right to Roam Act still law?

A. Yes, maps show the useable routes.

Q. Who owns the land where there are footpaths or roads?

A. In 1929 County Councils became responsible for roads, the Local Authority owning the top two spade spits, which constitutes the King's Highway, whilst the landowner owns the subsoil. This is not the case for motorways and some trunk roads, where the Crown bought the land.

Q. Does habitual use create a new right of way?

A. Count backwards from the date in question, if you can prove it has been used as a route for twenty years it may become a Right of Way.

This was an excellent talk, Alex knew her facts delivering the lecture clearly, succinctly, using relevant illustrations and with just the right touches of humour. Many WARG members left the room stating that it had been "one of the best talks ever"! Many thanks, Alex, note to Julia - please invite her back.

*Valerie Pegg*

*Ed Note: Julia has already booked Alex to talk in 2020*



## Book Review

**Vicki Cummings, The Neolithic of Britain and Ireland**, London Routledge 2017 ISBN 978-1-138-85718-6 Publishers price £29.99 but shop around you can find it cheaper

**L**et me get my major grump out of the way immediately. The typeface used is Helvetica Neue probably in 9 point. In my view, this makes



prolonged reading particularly difficult on the eye.

Why did I buy this? Because my studies of the Neolithic at Southampton were undertaken in the late 1990s and early 2000s and much has happened since then. For example, the Stonehenge Riverside project and the discoveries at Ness of Brodgar. Like all of you, I read diligently my various magazines, attend lectures and watch the TV programmes, however, I thought an up-to-date text book might help re-ground my Neolithic knowledge.

Cummings is a reader in archaeology at the University of Central Lancashire. She specialises in the Mesolithic-Neolithic transition and has a seriously good academic and lecturing pedigree. And this shines through. Furthermore, perhaps because of her location in Lancashire, the book benefits from not being overly biased towards any one geographic area. She deals equally comfortably with Wessex as with Western Ireland and with Orkney.

The book starts with the late Mesolithic and ends with the Beaker period, which Cummings treats as a transition between the Neolithic and the Bronze Age. She prefers “Beaker Period” to “Chalcolithic” or “Copper Age” and, having read her arguments, I side with her. Her final short chapter is a summary, but primarily a wish-list of where future Neolithic research could be focussed.

The writing is very structured. Each chapter starts with an introduction ... “in the last chapter we covered x, now we are going to look at y and it will focus on...” For example, chapter four relating to the Early Neolithic focuses on three main topics: material culture, diet and subsistence, and settlement. Each of these main topics has sub topics, for example the sub-sections relating to settlement cover an overview, timber halls, the Irish house horizon, other known houses, Orcadian and Shetland settlement evidence, timber trackways, and lithic scatters, middens and pits. Then there is a conclusion, and finally a suggested further-reading list. This type of chapter structure is constant throughout the book.

A major upside is that Cummings does not focus only on the major sites. Yes, Avebury, Skara Brae and so on all get full justice. But she makes a point of bringing in new sites, many discovered through

developer-led archaeology. This adds new perspective. One of the areas she highlighted for me was the areas of absence – the vast stretches of the British Isles where there are no stone circles, passage graves, chambered tombs or whatever. One of the major changes since my classroom days is the ability to much more accurately date many locations and artefacts through the Bayesian modelling. This brings a whole new focus on when Neolithic ‘things’ arrived where. Another is the view that Neolithic people were not static farmers. Yes, they had some crops in some areas, but the evidence often shows extremely low use of the newly introduced wheat and barley, and suggests that the Neolithic people were primarily peripatetic pastoralists.

Cummings is good at emphasising that it didn’t all happen at once. No Neolithic big bang. A diagram (figure 3.6) shows the spread of dates of the arrival of cereals, sheep, plain bowl ceramics, leaf-shaped arrowheads and so on in different locations. There are many explanations of how development in one area could have been/or is unlikely to have been influenced by development in another. She really does create a British Isles of the Regions.

Apart from the typeface, did I have any other downsides? Yes, two. One is that she refers occasionally to continental Europe, but there is very very little detail of how a site in Britain relates to similar sites in continental Europe. For example, Carnac is not mentioned. Secondly, I wanted more. Over and again I was reading a section and realised that if I wanted to go deeper, then I had to refer to another book (her referencing is faultless and clear – with almost all references being to recent publications). I still have my 1975 edition of Cunliffe’s “Iron Age Communities in Britain” which runs to just over 300 pages. My latest Cunliffe (the 4<sup>th</sup> edition) is well over 700 pages. The Cummings turns in at 269 pages plus a detailed bibliography and good indexing. I would have preferred 500 pages – or 700. There are many (and all relevant) diagrams, tables and mostly well-produced photographs.

Yes, this is a text book. But for those of us who learned our Neolithic some years ago, it will be a massive awakening. It is well and clearly written. And it will leave you wanting to delve deeper.

*Techer Jones*

## Toys: New Year Party 2018

The “surprise” speaker at the New Year Party was Bill White. Southampton born and bred, evacuated to live with an aunt in Dorset, later qualifying as a bricklayer (building the Hampshire Record Office, and parts of Portsmouth and Southampton Universities), he is currently President of HIAS (Hampshire Industrial Archaeology Society) and has an eclectic range of interests.

His lifelong interest in toys, both playing with and collecting, began during his boyhood in the 1930s and this was the subject of his talk.

Bill posed the question “When did toys begin?” I turned to Wikipedia to learn about Neolithic mud balls, wooden dolls found in Egyptian tombs from the 21<sup>st</sup> century BC, a 4000 year-old doll’s head excavated in Italy and the conclusion of the National Toy Museum that the oldest toy is probably a stick!

Our speaker illustrated his talk with photographs from his personal toy collection. Early playthings include clockwork toys, made from Welsh tin, manufactured in Nuremberg in the 1800s. From 1890 Nuremberg factories were making working models such as a brewery, windmills, an armoured cruiser as well as cars and buses. The marble from a Codd bottle (patented by Hiram Codd in 1872) was extracted by smashing the glass; wooden toys and lead soldiers have been around for a long time. Tin plate and metal toys were superseded by plastic, which was first made in 1869 and known as celluloid and Bakelite. Soft toys came in all shapes and sizes and dolls are another subject altogether. The Victorian middle-class family would play with a Noah’s Ark on a Sunday, as this story is in the Bible.

Next Bill covered famous toy makers. Bachmann Company, established in 1833, came from the USA to Coalville and produced train sets. George and Joseph Lines were the Lines Brothers, building wooden rocking horses in London during the 1870s. Joseph bought out George, and then employed his four sons in the factory almost as slave labour. After the First World War three of the sons, William, Walter and Arthur branched out on their own, their logo used the three “lines” of their surname, establishing Tri-ang in 1920. Minic, part of the Tri-ang group, used painted, pressed metal to produce clockwork toys which were sold in sets from 1935 such as the Hunting Set, Transport Set or

the Fire Station Set.

Cigarette cards started in the US in 1875; Wills put them in packs of cigarettes in 1887 followed by Players in 1893. Virtually every subject was covered in these collectable sets, which were swapped in school playgrounds and carefully mounted into albums.

In 1880 Margarete Steiff, a victim of polio, designed her first soft toy and the family business never looked back!

Bassett Lowke (established in Northampton in 1898) made railways, ships and boats to order and had a shop in Holborn. Also in Holborn was Gamages Store, with its large toy department. My father worked in Chancery Lane and took me to this famous store.

Frank Hornby made the original Meccano set in 1901 for his children; this was followed by train sets from 1920 onwards. Hornby produced three levels of boxed train sets, cheap, middle priced and expensive, all of which could be added to over time.

Paya, a Spanish company started in 1902, made tin plate clockwork aeroplanes and cars. The original moulds were rediscovered and the models recreated in 1985, Bill was lucky to buy the sea-plane from Poundland for £1.00 instead of paying the Paya catalogue price of £119.00!

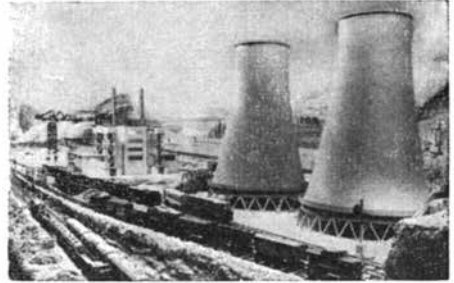
Chad Valley based in Chad Brook valley, Birmingham were another pre-First World War company producing train sets and soft toys.

Many well-known toy companies started in the early 1900s, as some people began to have money and leisure time, but these manufacturers all changed from toys to products for the war effort during both World Wars. After World War II American toy cars became popular over here as did non-violent toys like zoos, farms and gardens.

Wooden forts, boats and dolls houses have always been popular.

## **GAMAGES MAMMOTH MODEL RAILWAY**

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*Gamages Mammoth Model Railway,  
advert, 1958*



*Queen Mary's doll's house*  
Rob Sangster (CC BY-SA 2.0)

Queen Mary's Dolls' House was manufactured from 1921-1924. The architect was Sir Edwin Lutyens whilst Gertrude Jekyll designed the garden. The Dolls House is on display in Windsor Castle.

Mamod, a British company based in Birmingham, started in 1937 making steam models that utilised real steam and actually worked. Their range included steam engines, road rollers, traction engines and steam wagons. In 1939 Airfix produced their kits for model planes and cars, Kitmaster sets started in 1956.

When times were hard Boy Scouts were asked to repair toys for those less fortunate than themselves and Bill even talked of a book entitled *Toy Making*, published during the war years, that encouraged you to make your own toys utilising old packaging and tins – he had even had a go himself.

Advertisements began to appear on the side of toy lorries and vans such as Pickfords, Rowntrees or Bentalls. This cleverly made the vehicle more realistic whilst simultaneously promoting the product.

Sindy dolls began in 1963, I never possessed a Sindy but my sister, being 6 years younger, had several of which I was extremely jealous.

A catalogue from a Portswood Toy Shop, giving prices in pre-decimal amounts - so prior to 1971 -gave us the cost of toys from 50 years ago! You could purchase a Pullman Train Set £4.19s.6d, Sindy Doll 24s.11d, wind-up cars from 1s.6d. or a Scalextric 30" Set £3.15s.0d. Scalextric started in the late 1950s. Today old toys are highly collectable, fetching high prices at auction, especially if in good condition and still in their original box. A Dinky car sold recently for £12,000.

All of Bill's comments and examples were illustrated using his vast toy collection, which is housed in his boarded and shelved attic. This was a very apt subject for the time of year, which brought back many childhood memories for us all. We were then able to view some of Bill's collectables before enjoying our delicious party food.

*Valerie Pegg*

## Uzbekistan

***“Sweet to ride forth at evening from the wells  
When shadows pass gigantic in the sand  
And softly through the silence beat the bells  
Along the Golden Road to Samarkand.”***

***James Elroy Flecker***

Uzbekistan has always captured my imagination. Flecker’s poem, written in 1913, describes in detail wonderful cities, shadows on the sand and the silent air of the desert. I wanted to experience this for myself and this year I got my chance.

Uzbekistan lies in Central Asia, bordered by five other ‘stans’ including Afghanistan. Three of the greatest Silk Road cities, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva all fall on Uzbek soil and the people, goods and ideas that travelled from east to west and back again have left indelible marks.

The country has been continually inhabited since Neanderthal times, and also boasts a rich fossil record of plants and dinosaurs. Hominid remains were discovered south of Samarkand in 1938 when scientists were able to confirm that much of the genetic material helped to prove that Neanderthal man stretched far further east than had previously been expected.

It is a country with a rich, fascinating past and a long settled history and more and more companies are now making it possible for us to visit. Our tour began and ended in Tashkent – the capital city of Uzbekistan and the largest city in Central Asia. It is often overlooked in favour of the more famous Silk Road cities, but the remarkable Khast-Imam complex did not disappoint. This is the historical spiritual heart of Tashkent and gave us a glimpse of what the city must have been like before the 1966 earthquake or Soviet intervention. The Muyi Muborak Library is the most important site here, holding rare manuscripts, including the world’s oldest Qu’ran stained with the blood of Caliph Uthman who was reading it when





he was assassinated in AD 656.

The next day saw us flying across the country to Nukus, described in the Bradt guide as ‘a grim and impoverished city of Soviet concrete and desperation, visited by few foreigners.’ So why were we here? This city holds the world’s finest collection of early 20th century Russian avant-garde art: The Igor Savitsky Museum. As well as the art, it holds an impressive collection entitled Archaeology and Ancient Khorezm, which includes some of the most significant archaeological finds from various excavations.

The following day we travelled through the desert towards Khiva, visiting Chilpyk Kala, the ‘Tower of Silence’ and the ancient settlement of Tuprak Kala (4<sup>th</sup> century BC) on the way. One highlight was a stop at Ayzakala for lunch in a traditional yurt camp. Then we were on the outskirts of Khiva, one of the greatest cities on the Silk Road with impressive walls built from mud bricks. The oldest sections of the wall date from the 5<sup>th</sup> century, although much was reconstructed later in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. Archaeological digs in the Itchan Kala (the medieval walled citadel) during the 1980s and early 90s uncovered material as much as 7m below the modern ground level. Earliest finds suggest that people first lived here between the 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> centuries, but legend has it that Shem, son of Noah, is said to have first marked out the city walls.

Today it is the most intact and remote of Central Asia’s Silk Road cities, boasting a labyrinth of madrasahs and mosques, minarets and trading domes.... a wonderfully atmospheric place to wander through when the crowds have gone. It was declared an open-air museum by the government in 1967 and the Itchan Kala was recognized by UNESCO as a World Heritage Site in December 1990.

Leaving Khiva behind us, we crossed the Red Sand Desert along the route once taken by the Silk Road caravan traders towards the fabled city of Bukhara.



*Samarkand is the beauty of the earth,  
but Bukhara is the beauty of the spirit  
(Trad.)*

For many travellers Bukhara is the jewel in the crown that is Uzbekistan. Writers and historians describe it as holy and noble, the Dome of Islam, the most interesting city in the world. Its location is the key to its growth, being on the crossroads to Merv, Gurganj, Herat, Kabul and Samarkand. In early times, the Persians took it in the 6<sup>th</sup> century BC, and Alexander the Great in 329 BC.

Today, its range of sites would take at least 2/3 days to do the city justice and many people spend their time wandering the streets of the Old Town, savouring the sights, sounds and smells of this incredible place. There are so many wonderful buildings here, but the Ismael Samani Mausoleum is mesmerizing. It is the oldest, best-preserved and most breathtakingly original building in Bukhara. It features a 35ft cube with 4 identical facades all of which slope slightly inward. On top sits a hemispherical cupola ringed with 4 domelets. It is rich in symbolism with the cube referring back to the sacred Kaaba stone at Mecca. This, together with the earth, and the heavens creates a metaphor of the universe. It is covered in basket woven brickwork set in a series of complex patterns. This 1,000 year old tomb is a sacred site for locals and a must-see on any traveller's itinerary.



Also in Bukhara are the Ulug Beg and Abdul Aziz Madrasahs. A madrasah is a religious college run under state sponsorship that conforms to a set pattern. Twin flanking mosque and lecture rooms lead into a square courtyard lined by cells. The Ulug Beg madrasah was built in 1417 with star motifs that reflect Ulug's fascination with

astronomy. Facing it is the Abdul Aziz Madrasah (1652) which glitters in unrestored glory. The building is sumptuously decorated with mosaics in riotous colours with one side of the courtyard unfinished and unadorned. It all looks like an image from the 'Arabian Nights'!

Reluctantly we left Bukhara, but we were on our way to the glorious city of Samarkand. No caravans this time, but the Shark Train, which was to whisk us along to the capital of a great empire ruled by the legendary warlord Tamerlane (Amir Timur). It is one of the most important cities

along the Silk Road and is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

Today, it is a dynamic modern city of well over half a million people. Masterpieces of Timurid architecture soar above the Old Town and there's as much archaeological history underfoot as above ground. Amir Timur (Tamerlane) is Uzbekistan's national hero and one of the most accomplished warriors, rulers and patrons the world has ever seen. In 1370 he made Samarkand his capital, plundering cities such as Damascus, Baghdad, Isfahan and Delhi over a 35-year period to beautify it.

In 1379 he wrote: *"Let he who doubts Our power and munificence look upon Our buildings"*.

And it is those buildings which take our breath away today. Indeed, we can imagine medieval merchants marveling at every sight from the exotic goods on sale to the astonishing number of madrasahs, mosques and mausoleums.

The Registan, Samarkand's central square is both beautiful and mesmerizing, being described in 1899 as the *'noblest public square in the world'*. The domes, gateways and high walls are all decorated with mosaics in blue and turquoise together with intricate calligraphy. Restored to its original splendour it ranks as amongst the greatest of all the magnificent works of the Islamic world.

The Gur-i-Amir Mausoleum is the elaborate tomb of Tamerlane. It was originally built for his grandson Muhammad Sultan in 1404. Heartbroken at his loss – he had appointed him as his successor – he himself was buried there when he died a year later.



The Shah-i-Zinda is the holiest site in Samarkand, a celebration of ceramic art unrivalled in Central Asia. It is a necropolis of mausoleums and the sapphire blue tombs are part of the necropolis built for Timur's female relatives.

All too soon we were on our last day in Samarkand, and we visited the Ulug Beg Observatory. He was the grandson of Amir Timur, and it was he who took astronomy into the modern age by building a vast

observatory containing a sextant 11m long with a radius of 40.4m. It had to be kept underground to protect it from earthquakes. He built a huge madrasah on the Registan Square and invited numerous astronomers and mathematicians to study there.

Finally we visited the Afrosiyab Museum, which is full of well laid out excavation plans, photos, and archaeological finds. These include pre-Islamic ritual goods, ceramics, weapons and coins. The Silk Road legacy is reflected in jewellery, cosmetics, coins and wall paintings. 7<sup>th</sup> century murals were found in 1965 and are on display here. There was no guidebook, disappointingly, but I was able to buy a collection of postcards, which provide information about some of the highlights in the museum.

We enjoyed meeting the Uzbek people, hearing about their history and admiring the beauty of their buildings. Enjoying independence since 1991 Uzbekistan is still a young nation, but its ancient foundations have served it well. Nationalism is replacing communism and the old heroes of the past are returning as symbols of national pride. It is a fascinating part of the world and well worth a visit!

*Edwina Cole*



## Hampshire Field Club publications

WARG has been a member of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society (HFC), our county equivalent, since 1972 and thus holds a full set of both HFC's Studies series and its Newsletters. Both these publications hold most of the archaeological and historical research into our county, and as such are constantly of interest to both professional and amateur historians.

WARG's archive is currently held at Julia's house and is beginning to weigh heavily on her floorboards so since they are never accessed they are to be disposed of, either as a full collection or as single issues if they can't be kept in one collection.

The cost will be negligible and subject to negotiation so if you're interested please contact Julia – her details are on the back cover of this Newsletter.

## Julia's Jottings

### **Blast that cat!**

We know that cats and dogs were kept as pets very early on in homo sapiens earliest days and no doubt many of you have read the Just So Stories telling of the terms and conditions of the cat before he moved in with Man on a permanent basis. However it's left to our own imaginations to consider what human language may have been uttered at the cat which left its paw print in a newly moulded



Roman roof tile in about 100AD. Dug up in Gloucester in 1969, the print has only just been noticed though it's quite a deep and perfect one. It was found on the site of a Roman military building and makes one wonder whether Romans were keen on cats as pets or just for their rodent-catching abilities! Apparently more tiles in Britain have cat prints on them than anywhere else in the Roman Empire.

### **Keep digging!**

A chap in a 15th c vicarage near Chippenham thought he might find a few interesting local bits and bobs in his garden so started digging it. Imagine his surprise when he uncovered a Roman site, just 4ft down and only 20ft from his back door. Local archaeologists rushed to assist him and found various pieces of pottery including a Samian ware bowl made in France with images of a gladiator and a lion on it. Experts think that the site is the edge of a massive Roman cemetery, dating back a couple of thousand years. So, keep digging!

### **A huge reservoir**

Archaeologists have discovered an enormous water reservoir in the heart of Rome in the Lateran Basilica area. Measuring 115 x 230 feet, it is calculated to have held over 1m gallons of water. It was lined with hydraulic plaster and is now 65 foot below the current land surface, having been demolished and buried at the end of the 1st century AD. It was part of a large farm and had been fitted with water wheels to lift and distribute the water across the neighbouring fields. Found with it

were various agricultural implements such as a 3pronged pitchfork and the remains of storage baskets made from braided willow branches. It also used recycled jars as conduits and all the canals were lined with tiles with the owner's initials on – TL.

### **Another wonderful mosaic**

A well-preserved Roman mosaic has been uncovered in Berkshire – the “most exciting” discovery in decades, apparently. Dating from around the 4th c, this stunning mosaic depicts Bellerophon, a Greek hero, riding the winged Pegasus and attacking the fire-breathing monster Chimera. The Chimera, a fearsome creature, had a lion's head, a goat's body and a serpent's tail! Another scene shows Hercules killing a centaur, possibly Nessus, whose revenge was that his poisoned blood finally killed Hercules. Other finds on this site near Boxford include the foundations of a villa and bath house, plus a farm building.



*Volunteers excavating the Boxford Roman mosaic (CC BY-SA 4.0)*

### **A little Pompeii**

French archaeologists have uncovered an entire Roman neighbourhood on the banks of the Rhone on the outskirts of Vienne, south of Lyon. Vienne, already famous for its Roman theatre and temple, was an important hub on the route from northern Gaul to the south, and recent excavations prior to the building of a new housing complex have excited archaeologists as one of the most important finds of recent years. A series of fires caused the area to be abandoned in the 4th century, leaving behind the remains of luxury homes and public buildings. A virtually perfect mosaic floor has been revealed, as well as marble tiling, expansive gardens and a water supply system – all in one dwelling. Another house has produced an equally beautiful mosaic depicting a bare-bottomed Thalia, muse and patron of comedy, being kidnapped by a lustful Pan! A large public building, thought

to have been a philosophy school, had a fountain adorned by a statue of Hercules. It's hoped to put much of the finds on show in the Gallo-Romano Museum in Vienne in 2019, so I'll probably see you there!

### **The point of a good walk**

We know that walking is good for us so some of us have dogs in order to facilitate this activity. In Somerset a woman and her dog found a skull on the banks of the River Soway last year, and in excellent condition too. It turned out to be the skull of a late Iron Age woman aged around 45 near some timber posts, believed to be part of a causeway. Archaeologists believe that her head had been severed either at or shortly after her death and it's possible that it had been placed there as some part of a ritual, though placement of skulls in wetland near a wooden structure is very rare. The poor woman had suffered gum disease and tooth loss and had severe osteoarthritis in the joint of her right jaw.

### **The White Horse of the Sun**

The article about the Uffington white horse is too long for me to precis so here's the web address

<https://www.archaeology.org/issues/269-1709/from-the-trenches/5830-trenches-england-prehistoric-uffington-white-horse>

I know it'll take ages to type it out but the article's worth it!



## **A wooden fish trap**

A timber fish trap found on the shore of Southampton Water has been identified as Saxon, built between 680 and 896. The structure, around 500ft long and close to the Fawley oil refinery, was gradually covered by advancing saltmarsh which subsequently retreated due to rising sea levels and is now at extreme risk of eroding away completely. However this has highlighted the constant changes in coastal regions over the centuries and also shows how dynamic this has been over a long period.

## **Ancient statue sees the light of day**

I know that some WARG members have visited the Angkor

complex in Cambodia but they'll have been too early to see one of the latest finds – a 2 metre tall statue, thought to be one of the guardians of the site's ancient hospital and probably from the late 12th c to the early 13th c. Although a large area of the Angkor Archaeological Park has been excavated there's still plenty more to be discovered and



this statue, made of sandstone and with a beautiful “helmet / hat”, is an indication that there's plenty more awaiting discovery.

## **An ill-named ship!**

Marine archaeologists are excavating the historic warship *Invincible*, a French 74gun ship built in 1744 but captured by the British 5 years later and used by the Royal Navy until it hit a sandbank in the Solent in 1758 and sank. It stayed upright for 3 days thus ensuring that no lives were lost though no-one seems sure about whether any contents were rowed to safety too. Not discovered until 1979 due to shifting sands, this hulk will fill in huge gaps in our knowledge of 18th c shipbuilding and will eventually be on display in Portsmouth close to her more famous sister the *Mary Rose*.

## **A buried street**

Just to let you know that Bristol's railway company decided, when building the section at Lawrence Hill in 1879, that it was easier to simply bury a whole row of Victorian shops by raising the road level thus burying whole buildings and all the shop fronts. They're



still there, complete with windows, horse troughs and the old support beams that still bear the Great Western Railway's initials. Over them all now is the Packhorse Pub!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/av/uk-england-bristol-42601750/secret-victorian-street-buried-under-the-packhorse-in-bristol>

### **A Greek Pyramid reveals all**

We tend to think of pyramids as being only Egyptian or South American – at least I do: sorry if you're better informed than me! But obviously this shape has always been important to mankind since his very early days. On the Greek island of Keros a naturally pyramid-shaped promontory was shaped into terraces and covered with gleaming white stone, brought over from Naxos, a mere 10 kilometres away, to look like a huge step-pyramid. However the most interesting fact is that inside the pyramid the archaeologists have found a complex of drainage tunnels as well as traces of sophisticated metal-working. The reason for this? They believe that about 4,500 years ago the promontory was a densely populated settlement where everything such as food plus the stone and ore would have had to be imported, so if you can't grow anything you have to create instead, hence the metal-working. Incidentally this structure would have been visible in the blazing sun from many miles around and must have looked quite amazing.

### **From the Hants & Berks Gazette March 12 1887**

In committing a vagrant to gaol last Friday, Mr Lodwidge JP was reported to have told him that he was one of those "merry merry men" who preferred begging to hard work. Mr Lodwidge wishes us to say that phrase he made use of was "very many men" NOT "merry merry men"

### **Spoiler alert!**

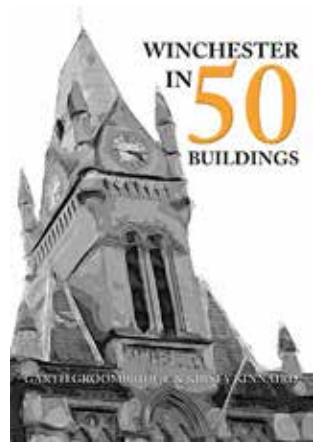
Rigorous DNA analysis of Yeti samples – aka the Abominable Snowman – including teeth, skin, bone, hair and fecal remains, have proved to be from a dog, in one case, and Asian black bears, and Himalayan and Tibetan brown bears. Sad, really – I've always loved the idea of there being some unrecognised humanoids living their own life happily in remote areas of our planet.

*Julia Sandison*

## Book Review

Garth Groombridge & Kirsty Kinnaird: **Winchester in 50 Buildings**. Amberley Publishing, The Hill, Merrywalks, Stroud, Glos GL5 4EP. 01453 847823. publicity@amberley-books.com 2018. £14.99. 96 pages.

Whilst there are several predominantly picture books about the buildings of Winchester city, this new book brings one major difference which makes it good to own: it has a short potted history about each building. For those of us for whom to just look at a building is not enough, that makes this little paperback book useful to carry round in one's pocket. Its size is between A4 and A5 so a largish pocket – or a handbag – is necessary. The illustrations are all recent colour photos and give one an excellent view of each subject. The buildings chosen are a mixture of shops, private houses, restaurants, pubs, churches, local authority ones etc, all of which means that several of them are not open to the general public.



As someone occasionally being asked about the history of various buildings, this has recently saved me from having to spend much of my time in front of the computer – something I cherish! – and for that reason alone I'm happy to have a copy on my bookshelf. However as a one-time proof-reader and copy editor, the several errors jarred with me. Everyone should have their work checked over by a third party before publication and this little book wasn't. For instance it uses the American spelling of "offences" and when twice using the name of a well-known local architecture firm, it manages to get it correct only once. Also it spells someone else's surname incorrectly, calls the jeweller Jeremy French when his name is Jeremy France and in the bibliography it gives a friend of mine an incorrect initial.

However these are minor matters and should not in any way decrease your enjoyment of this excellent little book.

*Julia Sandison*

## WARG Calendar

- Apr 9<sup>th</sup> **Big Dig 2017** Update
- Apr 23<sup>rd</sup> **Day visit** to Bradford-on-Avon
- May 14<sup>th</sup> **Colin Van Geffen:** Lawrence of Arabia
- June 18<sup>th</sup> **Evening walk** in Otterbourne
- July 9<sup>th</sup> **Evening visit** to Bursledon Windmill
- Aug 13<sup>th</sup> - Sept 1<sup>st</sup> **Big Dig**
- Aug 20<sup>th</sup> **Annual picnic** at Danebury Hillfort
- Sept 10<sup>th</sup> **Andy Russel:** 80 Years of Southampton's Archaeology
- Sept 24<sup>th</sup> **Day visit** to Dorchester, Dorset
- Oct 8<sup>th</sup> **Martin Parsons:** Closing the Circle
- Nov 12<sup>th</sup> **Alan Turton:** Castles of Wessex
- Dec 10<sup>th</sup> **Jane Potter:** Wilfred Owen

### Meetings

**M**eetings 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.

### Outings

Fliers, with the details of walks, visits and the picnic are enclosed in this issue.

### Big Dig 2018

We will be sending out an email with details of this year's Big Dig in a few weeks' time, and you will be able to download application forms from the website.

### Email

We use email to contact you: for example in November we asked you to support Hyde900's bid for funding for the 2018 community dig (see above, p4). We never send many - one a month is the most, but some people may not have seen them. If you have email and didn't get the Hyde mailer, please check your spam filter and if it isn't there, please get in touch with [treasurer@warg.org.uk](mailto:treasurer@warg.org.uk)



*A re-construction of part of a cloister arch at Hyde Abbey, using material found in last year's dig and material already in the church*



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