



Newsletter

SPRING 2019

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

For more information on WARG, and to join, call 07867 935583, e-mail membership@warg.org.uk or visit www.warg.org.uk

Chairman's notes

Welcome to the Spring WARG newsletter

This year looks like it will be busy and eventful and I am looking forward to seeing more members at our talks and other events.

Focus Forum

The committee would like to set up a Member Focus Forum, who would meet and discuss what they want the WARG committee to do. Like, what sorts of speakers should we book, what subjects would you be interested in hearing about and what walks or other events you would like us to arrange. If you are interested, please contact me or any other committee member.

New Year Party

This was a great evening, Tim Lowe putting on his alternate persona of Lt Col Augustus Lane Fox Pitt Rivers in an amusing discussion on the archaeology of Cranborne Chase with modern day archaeologist David Ashby of the University of Winchester, it was fun and informative. The food and drink went well and everyone who attended made some pleasing comments on leaving. I was hoping for more members attending, if you want to tweak the format, join the Member Focus Forum mentioned above!

The Big Dig

We have got permission from the landowner at Barton Stacey to return again this year for our big dig. The intention is to open up one large excavation extending last year's trench where the hall evidence was found. We also intend to get a more complete Geophysics survey done in the area.

Newsletter Stories

Could I please ask for contributions to the newsletter, we rely on just a few people at present. If you have been on holiday to a place of interest, been to a museum, heard a talk, do a quick write up and send it in, see your work in print!

2019 Events

It is our intention to attend several events this year and will need to ask for volunteers to man the stand; so far we have the Salisbury Festival of Archaeology, Heritage Open Day at St Cross and the Michaelmas fair at St Cross, more details will be available later.

Steve Old

A Roman site at Wickham

During late 2018 and January 2019 Cotswold Archaeology has been excavating a large Roman site at Wickham in the south of the district ahead of the development of new housing. Battling some awful weather and site conditions, the results are proving amazing, with Mesolithic flints, Bronze Age cremations and substantial remains of ditched enclosures, masses of pits, and deep shafts / wells in addition to a number of structures evidenced by massive flint filled post pits. The alignment of the Roman road from Chichester has also been confirmed and there is some tentative evidence for a possible earlier phase to this route. The majority of the finds have been of pottery and CBM (Ceramic Building Material - masses!) whilst animal bone and metalwork has been scarce, likely due to soil preservation conditions.

Cotswold Archaeology specialists are considering whether the site forms part of a road side 'service station' - certainly the number



The Cotswold Archaeology team in a sea of mud.

of wells suggests a need for huge amounts of water (brewing?). Late on in the project, one of the wells revealed a lining of substantial timbers, with fragments of Roman leather shoes being recovered from the deep waterlogged well fills.

Following the completion of the excavation, work on the finds and site records will continue into the autumn when an assessment report will be produced, setting out

a programme of further analysis and publication proposals.

Engaging with the public is an important part of archaeological projects of this nature and both Cotswold Archaeology and their client Croudace Homes have fully taken this on board. A planned open day unfortunately had to be cancelled due to the poor weather and awful site conditions, however you can gain a flavour of the site via a vlog (video blog) and a 3D model of the timber well which Cotswold Archaeology have produced here <http://cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/wickham-archaeological-investigations/>

Cotswold Archaeology have already attended a meeting of the Wickham History Society to give an initial update on the excavation findings and will return to give another talk in the autumn and they have also recently undertaken workshops with children from Wickham Primary School.

Tracy Matthews

Lucy Houston. Talk by Colin van Geffen

Who was Lucy Houston? A show of hands at the beginning of Colin van Geffen's intriguing talk showed that very few people in the audience had heard of her, although she has been described as "the woman who saved the nation", and undoubtedly experienced an extremely eventful and colourful life.



© National Portrait Gallery: Bassano Ltd Dame Fanny Lucy Houston circa 1909

Lucy Houston was born in 1857; she changed her age whenever it suited her to do so. She was the seventh child of a seventh child. This is reputed to bring good fortune and certainly, she became fabulously rich. Her father was a business man and her mother ran her own clothing business. The family was relatively prosperous and Lucy had a good education but at the age of 15 was working as a dancer in a chorus line. Clothes were very important to Lucy and before she went out to dine, she insisted on knowing the décor so that she could co-ordinate her outfit accordingly. She was renowned for her beauty.

Whilst still in her teens, she eloped with Frederick Gretton, the love of her life, a 34 year-old who owned a string of racehorses. He died of a heart attack in 1882, leaving Lucy, at the age of 25, very rich. She then married another rich man, Lt. Col. Theodore Brinckman, but this was not a marriage made in heaven and ended after 12 years in an amicable divorce.

In 1901 Lucy married George Gordon, 9th Lord Byron who had been declared bankrupt in 1899 and was in need of a rich wife. Lucy gave her age as 36 at the time of her marriage, but was actually 44. Her youthful beauty allowed her to lie convincingly about her age. In 1909 the couple settled in Hampstead, where Lucy occupied the best rooms in the house, overlooking the Heath, whilst her husband shared his quarters with the servants at the back.

During this time, Lucy became a supporter of women's suffrage. She was a suffragist, not a suffragette, as she eschewed the use of violence. However, she contributed generously to a benefit fund for Emmeline Pankhurst. It has been reported that she bought 615 parrots and taught them all to shriek "Votes for Women!" She also took to dressing up in old clothes and carrying a handbag full of £5 notes which she would distribute to tramps after engaging them in conversation, with the advice "Try not to spend it all on drink."

During the First World War Lucy bought a large house known as Bluebird House and equipped it as a rest home for nurses to help them recover from their intensely hard work. She was also an advocate for the role of women in the police force. In August 1917 Lucy was made a Dame for her services in the war. Her husband, Lord Byron, died in that same year.

After the fall of the Romanovs in Russia Lucy began a campaign to stop the spread of Communism, to which she was passionately opposed. She also disapproved of industrial action and when, in 1920, a miners' strike was threatened, Lucy encouraged the wives to stop their husbands striking. As a means of disseminating her increasingly right-wing views, Lucy bought a weekly magazine, *The Saturday Review*, and increased its readership from 3,000 to 60,000.

Lucy then turned her attention to Sir Robert Houston, also known as Black Bob the Robber Baron, a wealthy Liverpool ship owner, a man who believed that "women who have opinions should keep them to



© National Portrait Gallery, Sir Leslie Ward - Sir Robert Paterson Houston, 1st Bt ("Our Celebrities. "The Britisher's Friend.") published in Vanity Fair 14 June 1911

themselves", an unlikely match for someone as opinionated as Lucy. He owned the steam yacht "Liberty", the largest in the world. They married in 1924 but two years later he died, and Lucy was bequeathed four-fifths of his fortune, some £6m to £7m, making her the wealthiest woman in Britain. She moved to Jersey to avoid income tax but did hand Winston Churchill, Chancellor of the Exchequer, a personal gift of one and a half million pounds. He later described her as "the greatest gentleman adventurer alive".

Lucy deplored Britain's lack of investment in aircraft. She offered Ramsay MacDonald £200,000 to develop aircraft that could defend London against enemy attacks. When he turned her down because of the strings she had attached, she installed a six foot high electric sign on the yacht Liberty which read "TO HELL WITH RAMSAY

MACDONALD" as it cruised along the Thames. She then sent a later Chancellor of the Exchequer, Neville Chamberlain, a cheque for £200,000 to buy fighter planes to defend London.

As further proof of her belief in the need for highly effective aircraft, she financed Britain's entry to the competition for the Schneider Trophy in 1931, which involved seaplanes competing over water.



Steam Yacht Liberty In its time the largest in the world



Supermarine S6B, over the Solent. This is clearly the fore-runner of the Spitfire fighter aircraft that was so important in the Battle of Britain

This was an important competition which spurred development of high speed aircraft in preparation for World War II. The other two competing countries, France and Italy, had to withdraw because of technical problems so Britain took part alone. The Supermarine S6B, clearly the fore-runner of the Spitfire, was watched by 500,000 spectators, and the Schneider Trophy became Britain's

in perpetuity. We were shown tantalisingly brief film footage of Lucy at Calshot. She also financed Lord Clydesdale's flight over Mt. Everest in 1933, to great fanfare. This flight helped in the development of engines that could fly at high altitudes - again an important factor in World War II. Lucy was awarded a medal, along with the participants in the flight. Without Lucy's involvement, the Spitfire and other iconic planes that proved so superior to those of the Germans and won the Battle of Britain, might never have been developed. Her lavish investment and deep conviction won her the titles "Fairy Godmother of the RAF" and "The Woman Who Won the War".

Lucy had been growing increasingly frail and now spent most of her time in bed but she still took a keen interest in politics and made huge donations to her favourite causes, such as saving the ship "Discovery" for the nation. She died in 1936 so was never able to enjoy the fruits of the huge part she had played in Britain's victory over Germany in the War. On her death, Churchill described her as "Implacable in her hatreds, insatiable in her kindnesses". Truly a force of nature and I for one was grateful to Colin for bringing to life this

difficult but remarkable woman. We have great cause to be grateful to her and her story deserves to be much better known.

Iris Gould

Editors note:

The film *The First of the Few*, about Supermarine and its design genius, R. J. Mitchell, starring Leslie Howard and David Niven, is on YouTube (with French subtitles) at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f3Dd24SzAkc>. Lucy Houston, played by Tonie Edgar Bruce, makes an entrance at 56 mins and 57 seconds, and while her role in the film is over by about 66 minutes, it is made clear that without her the Schneider Trophy work could not have taken place.

Confessions of an osteology student

Osteology : *The part of anatomy that deals with bones and the skeleton* (Chambers 13th ed).

After several years of Monday afternoon volunteering in the Winchester museums' (Hampshire Cultural Trust) warehouse at Bar End, much of which was spent on marking and repacking bones from various sites, I felt that I really should know a bit more about what I was actually dealing with. Doing a bit of study into human bones would also give Garrard a bit of a rest from my barrage of questions. So, after some enquiries, I found out (somewhat surprisingly) that a 2.2 in civil engineering awarded forty five years ago passed the current academic criteria for entry to the human osteology MSc at the University of Winchester. Cost isn't prohibitive as fees for the whole course are just over half the cost of a single year of an undergraduate degree. So I signed up, and now I'm halfway through my two year course as a part time (very) mature student. It's a small group, with four younger people, and two of us older ones.

So, what have I learnt? First, there are hundreds of strange new words relating to human anatomy to learn. All the names of the bones and their different features. Difficult. Much to my wife's disgust, I bought



Skull from the St Mary Magdalen Leper Hospital showing wastage from bone from nasal area and around roots of upper teeth.

a full size plastic skeleton and spent hours amusing myself by trying to put it together in roughly the right order. She's happier now that I'm past that stage and it's been put in a cupboard. I got strange looks walking down the road reciting names of wrist bones to myself, as I tried to memorize them, and guaranteed a table to myself on the train one day by trying to assemble a disarticulated hand on the way to London.

Once you know their names and where each bone goes, then you can assemble a real skeleton from one of the collections, and start to learn a bit more about the person whose remains you are looking at. Simple visual inspection, some easy measurements and relatively easy calculations can tell you the sex, age, and height of the person.

Most of us know with some certainty what sex we are, but it's not quite so easy when looking at skeletal remains. With live people we get most clues from outward appearances, body shape, clothes, hair (or lack of it), make up, etc. With skeletons we have to make judgements based on bone shape and dimensions, with subjective judgements based on the skill of the observer. This means that osteologists work with five sex categories rather than the traditional two. There are women with slim hips, wide shoulders, and more neanderthal-like heads, and men with narrow shoulders and delicate shaped skulls which confuse the picture. The most useful bones for sex determination are the skull and the pelvis areas. Some skeletons have some traits that are obviously female and others traits that are equally obviously male, and some seem to have a mixture of both. So we end up with the two traditional sexes, plus probable female, probable male, and unknown.

Age can be tricky. Teeth are a good indicator. Up till adulthood there are defined stages of growth and eruption through the bone which can be seen. Then as people get older their teeth get ground down, decay can set in and some teeth can be lost. Infants and young

people can be aged quite accurately, as up till the early twenties their bones are still growing. Another age indicator comes from studying the ends of growing bones, which are separate from the main parts and only fuse on to them at defined times, which are different for different bones. It's well-known that babies are born with the bones in their skulls separate, and with some gaps between. This also applies to their vertebrae, which each separate out into several tiny pieces after death.



Foot bones from a St Mary Magdalen skeleton showing the loss of most bones from the right foot and the ends of the toes from the left foot, caused by leprosy.

This makes it difficult to assemble bones from small babies. In older people, there are often changes related to osteo-arthritis which cause the formation of extra bits on the edges of bones.

Height or stature is usually calculated using a range of fairly straightforward equations based on the length of the long bones in the arms and legs. This means that you don't need to assemble the whole skeleton to estimate stature, and it can be done reasonably accurately from just one femur (thigh bone).

Pathology. This covers trying to spot evidence of disease and trauma from changes to the bones. For disease to be apparent it needs to be a chronic condition, as it needs time to have an effect on appearance or condition of the bone. This is a tricky area which I have yet to get to grips with. The signs can be hard to see, and some of the obvious effects can be due to several different diseases.

The course at Winchester isn't just osteology, but also includes funerary studies. This isn't as morbid as it sounds as it includes things like mummies, bog bodies, and tomb architecture (think of Mycenae, pyramids, etc). There are no exams, and assessment is by essays, reports, presentations, and some practical tests in the bone lab. For me that's what helps with the learning – given a defined output with a deadline date gets me looking things up that get remembered. It's much better than if I just read a book or sit in a lecture, when knowledge

retention and recall gets close to zero.

One of the assessments last year involved the detailed examination of two complete skeletons from the university's collection, and the writing of a report. My two were both men of around the same age, that had come from the same burial site, but one of them seemed to have much heavier bones than the other. The heavy bloke also had some mishaped lower lumbar vertebrae, one of which had been articulating on the top edge of the sacrum below it – so a twisted lower back. Heavy bones can indicate a lifestyle of intense exercise, or obesity. So, using an archaeologist's license for imaginative solutions, this must have been someone with a deformed lower back which prevented heavy exercise – so must have been a very overweight person. This then gave me the inspiration for my dissertation – which I've just started on – could weighing bones be used as an indicator of health conditions or any other characteristics of the original person? So now I have many hours of endless fun to look forward to over the next nine months – weighing and measuring bones.

Kim Batten

Wilfred Owen's Lasting Legacy

Dr Jane Potter is based at the Oxford International Centre for Publishing Studies at Oxford Brookes University. Her research and teaching focuses on many aspects of war literature, with a special emphasis on the poetry of Wilfred Owen which, she believes, is supremely important to our perceptions of the First World War.

Owen died at the very end of the War, a time that encouraged hope for the safe return of soldiers from the Front. This hope was tragically shattered for Owen's devoted mother when she received the telegram informing her of his death at the age of 25 on the 4th November 1918. It has been truly



*Commemorative stamp
issued in 2018*

stated that "Peace could not bring back the dead; the end of war was not the end of grief".

Owen was born at Oswestry in Shropshire in 1893, the eldest of the four children of Thomas and Susan Owen. At the time of his birth the family lived in the house of Owen's maternal grandfather, Edward Shaw, but after Edward's death they lived a peripatetic life before settling in Shrewsbury, where Thomas was a railway stationmaster.

In 1907 Wilfred Owen entered Shrewsbury College, developing a serious interest in archaeology. He had also begun to write poetry, influenced by his admiration of the Romantic poets, especially Coleridge and Keats. He visited the



© NPG. John Gunston - Wilfred Owen bromide print, 1916

home of Coleridge's grand-daughter Christabel and wrote a poem about his impressions of Keats's house at Teignmouth.

Owen had been raised as a devout Anglican like his mother Susan, to whom he was very close. In 1911 he began work as a lay assistant to the Vicar of Dunsden, near Reading. He worked diligently in the parish and delighted in the company of children. The double funeral

of a mother and child inspired the poem “Deep in the Turfy Grass”, an early demonstration of his empathy.

From 1913 he worked as a private tutor teaching English and French at the Berlitz School of Languages in Bordeaux, and later with a family. The outbreak of war in 1914 affected him very little at first but by June 1915 he informed his mother that he intensely wanted to fight and joined the Artists’ Rifles. He recalled that “we were let down gently into the real thing – mud”. His letters to his mother demonstrated the development of



Craiglockhart. Now part of Edinburgh Napier University it was built as a hydropathic institute and became a military psychiatric hospital for shell-shocked officers between 1916 and 1919. (Public Domain by Brideshead)



Owen’s grave in Ors Communal Cemetery, in northern France. where the local school is named after him.

his literary genius, offering vivid descriptions of the horror of war. They formed the material that was subsequently incorporated into his most memorable poems.

In 1916 Owen was diagnosed with neurasthenia or shellshock, and was admitted to hospital where he became friends with the poet Siegfried Sassoon, an encounter that was to change Owen’s life. Sassoon’s example and encouragement had a powerful influence on Owen. During his convalescence Owen wrote and revised the poems that became his literary legacy and gained considerable satisfaction from the feeling that he had gained the status of a poet.

Jane described Owen’s poems as transcending his historical period which, she believes, is why they still resonate today. Their technique and form make his poems memorable to the ear and eye. They testify to the harsh reality of war but also depict



"Symmetry" by Paul de Monchaux is outside Shrewsbury Abbey. It commemorates the life and work of Wilfred Owen. "I am the enemy you killed", engraved on one side, is from "Strange Meeting". The design echoes the symmetries in Owen's poem as well as the trenches of 1917 and the Sambre-Oise canal in 1918. © The Wilfred Owen Association

the humanity and compassion Owen witnessed.

Upon his return to the Front, Owen took part in the capture of a German machine gun, taking scores of prisoners, which led to his being posthumously awarded the Military Cross for conspicuous gallantry.

On the 31st October 1918 Owen wrote his final letter to his mother, in which he described his comrades tenderly and praised them warmly. He was killed a few days later, a week before the Armistice.

His fellow poets, particularly Sassoon, quickly recognised the genius of his poetry and ensured that it was published widely. In 1920 Edith Sitwell edited his Collected Poems. A new and fuller edition of his poems, edited by Edmund Blunden, was published in 1931 and Owen's reputation grew steadily. Britten's War Requiem, drawing heavily on Owen's poetry, added to his growing fame.

Owen's letters, particularly those to his mother, form a fine legacy in their own right. Jane said that even if Owen had written no poems, he would be remembered as one of the world's great letter writers although the letters were chaotically kept by his mother and heavily censored by his brother Harold, who later tried to restore the excised material. The letters now reside in the University Library at Austin, Texas.

Jane's interest in the poetry of the First World War was kindled by learning of the experiences of her own family members. For her, "poetry is important in illuminating the human condition" and she feels that Owen's lasting legacy has a purpose in influencing us "to do better by that remembrance".

Owen famously wrote that he was only concerned with war, and the pity of war. "The poetry is in the pity". What a marvellous legacy he left us!

Iris Gould

The Tale of the Work Parties

Since its founding in 1972, WARG has helped the local archaeology collections and their curators by working on the artefacts. It all began with help on the actual excavation sites and the subsequent processing of finds, and continued for many years. Lovely stories of how involved WARG members were with this part of our local history are many, but my favourite is how David and the late June Lloyd used to take any skeletons home at night to ensure that they were properly and safely cared for. One wonders what the Police would have said had they needed to stop the Lloyds' car at any time! WARG's premises in those early days was the old chocolate factory in Little Minster Street – newer members may not know that it was originally Bendicks of Winchester, as the products were manufactured there until the premises were moved in 1967 to Moorside Road. In 1988 Bendicks was sold to a German company and left Winchester.

These essential work parties continued on Monday evenings for many a long year but began to dwindle as excavations eased off and gradually the professional excavation companies such as Wessex Archaeology and Oxford Archaeology took over. WARG was always a small society, with membership numbers peaking at around 100, but as the practical work gradually declined it was down to just 7 monthly talks per year with the occasional pub visit or BBQ evening arranged – the latter sometimes at Don Bryan's house! A couple of senior committee members wanted to end WARG with its membership of only 83, but back in 2003 Dick Selwood and I decided, with June Lloyd's invaluable advice, to increase the remit of WARG and add, amongst other things, history to its menu. I started to arrange field walking sessions on Sunday mornings on, mainly, farms in the area and also revived the weekly work parties. At that time the Winchester Museum Service, holder of the local archaeological collection, was at Hyde House in Winchester and the pot shed was where we worked. Monday was very much WARG day so every Monday afternoon between October and July up to 8 of us worked for the curator Helen Rees. At that time all the information concerning the collection was on index cards, so brave souls began to load the information on to the computer for final input to a national database. All finds from digs

arriving at Hyde House had to be washed / cleaned and marked with the essential information which revealed what site and exactly where every item hailed from. The collection is important by world standards, holding the UK's largest collection of Anglo-Saxon human skeletons – mainly from Cathedral Green in the 1960s – and a huge collection of Roman skeletons from the Lankhills area. WARG's work has included ensuring that bone collections were in perfect order before an American academic, Connie Stuckert, came to use them for her volume of the Winchester Studies entitled "The People of Early Winchester". As a result WARG's excellent contribution is acknowledged in the volume.

Over the last few years the Winchester Museum Service has joined with the Hampshire County Museum Service to create the Hampshire Cultural Trust. But the collections of the county and the city are still held in separate buildings. The city collection, which includes a social collection as well as an archaeological one, is at Bar End in Winchester and it's there that up to 8 people gather every Monday afternoon between October and July to help the now curator Ross Turle with the thousand and one jobs that still clamour for attention. Helen Rees retired when the 2 museum services joined together and Ross, who had been the curator for the social collection, bravely took over as curator for the Cultural Trust. Also his remit includes ALL the collections, such as the natural sciences, ceramics, costume and textiles, firearms, photographs and vehicles etc, and each section has its own loving devotees amongst Hampshire's population!

The work that WARG members are currently undertaking is a complete audit of everything held at Bar End – a mammoth task involving teetering on step ladders, getting very dusty hands, and putting the information on to the computer. WARG members are unfailingly enthusiastic and will do almost anything asked of them! Refreshments are provided and I took down mince pies at Christmas! Everyone works to a pre-arranged schedule thus ensuring that everyone works with everyone else at some point or another. It's all great fun and of immeasurable value to the Cultural Trust team. If you want to join in – you can do as few slots or as many as you like – do contact me on 01962 867490 or email me on julia@ntcom.co.uk

Julia Sandison

Castles of Wessex

Alan Turton is a military historian with a special interest in the English Civil War. He has been fascinated by castles since childhood and we were privileged to have the benefit of his passion and knowledge in an enlightening account of the evolution of Wessex Castles at our November 2018 meeting.

Alan began with Barbury Castle in Wiltshire which was strictly speaking an Iron Age fortification for communal use, not a true castle.

The Romans developed a system of prefabricated structures imported into Britain. IKEA flat packs come to mind. This system enabled fast construction and overcame the difficulty of sourcing suitable materials locally. They have left very little trace in the landscape and historians are mainly aware of them through written records.

The Saxons had to contend with Viking raids and in the 9th century set up a system of fortified burghs throughout Wessex so that no one in the region was far from a place of safety. Some were new constructions, others were situated on the sites of Iron Age hill forts or Roman forts and utilised materials from the original fortifications.

Before 1066 there are no records of any castles in Wessex, just two along the Welsh Marches, but as soon as William arrived after the Conquest to establish his kingdom he began to set up a network of castles. The first in England was predictably at Hastings, possibly a flat pack castle brought from Normandy. There's nothing new under the sun.

The first castle in Wessex was built at Basing. It is a very early example of a Norman motte and bailey castle, and may also have been of flat pack construction, mainly comprising earth and timber.



Basing House, showing the ring works and ditches of the early Norman Castle

There are very few illustrations of the earliest Norman castles so little is known of their exact appearance.

Old Sarum was built by 1070 on the site of an ancient circular hill fort. The materials for this had been transported from quite a long distance away. Winchester Castle occupied the site of the old Saxon town defences, probably using



Corfe castle

Saxon workmen. Corfe Castle was built on the site of a Saxon hunting lodge, most likely also using Saxon builders, judging by the method of construction. Carisbrooke Castle, on the Isle of Wight, had originally been a Saxon burgh. It is evident that the Normans opportunistically built their castles on sites that already had an established history, using available materials.

Henry I seized the throne following the murder of William Rufus in 1100 and carried out a programme of strengthening existing fortifications to consolidate his position. Southampton Castle had been an earth and timber structure but was rebuilt with stone arches. Corfe Castle was refaced, and would have been gleaming white. A dramatic square keep was built at Portchester.

Some of the bishops were also great builders. Bishop Roger, a close ally of Henry I, refurbished Old Sarum. Bishop Henry de Blois, brother of King Stephen, built Wolvesey Castle on a grand scale, including an enormous warehouse for wool. Even now the ruins are very impressive. He also built the Palace at Bishops Waltham.

Henry I left only one successor, his daughter Matilda. Stephen opposed her, leading to war between them. Further fortifications were built during this period of conflict, among them Reading Castle, to control that part of the Thames. Stephen besieged Corfe Castle and a siege base was added to it. Eventually the war ended with Matilda's son, Henry II succeeding to the throne. He ordered all temporary fortifications to be demolished.

King John spent a great deal of his exchequer on updating castles and also built four new ones, including Odiham, chosen for its position between Winchester and Windsor. He spent the night there before going to Runnymede to sign Magna Carta, and returned to issue the vernacular, that is Anglo Norman French, version of the Latin text.



A reconstruction drawing showing how Wolvesey Palace may have looked in about 1170, by which time its buildings, arranged around an inner courtyard, were surrounded by a moat © Historic England (illustration by Liam Wales)

Henry III also spent much money on buildings. He replaced the square towers of Winchester Castle with round ones and built the Great Hall with splendid apartments behind it. Henry was also responsible for Ludgershall which was adorned with decorative paintings.

Developments in weaponry led to adaptations to some castles. Various projectile machines were utilised, like giant catapults, an innovation brought back from the early Crusades. Dead horses were aimed at enemies, a primitive form of germ warfare.

By the 14th century gunpowder began to be used. The shape of castle windows was altered to accommodate handguns. Knights returning from the 100 Years War began to build French-influenced fortifications, paid for by French ransoms. Wardour Castle is one such building. Great feasts were held inside the halls. There was very little privacy.

Mod cons were installed in some castles. Christchurch Castle had one of the earliest chimneys. Wells were incorporated, too, probably using water diviners to locate the water source. Sewage was collected in large pits: Wolvesey had quite sophisticated latrines. During Tudor times many castles were abandoned but Henry VIII ordered coastal fortifications to be built to guard against invasion.

1642 spelt the death knell for many castles with the outbreak of the Civil War, during which they were either blown up or pulled down. Large quantities of materials were carried away for private use. What struck me during this fascinating account was how much recycling of building materials took place and the degree of continuity as new fortifications were erected on the site of existing ones and older castles were updated.

A few castles had a brief period of utility in the 18th century when they were used to house prisoners of war and now they are part of the heritage industry, providing a good day out for tourists and a reminder of more turbulent times.

Iris Gould

WARG's Dream Team.

From a corner table in a café in Winchester came the sound of much laughter and the clink of coffee cups. Julia Sandison and Don Bryan were remembering times past when the weather impacted on WARG members as they stoically enjoyed yet another soggy day out!

It seems an appropriate time to reflect on WARG, its activities and the contribution made by these two particular individuals as they step down from their posts. For newer members such as myself, the early history of WARG may lie in the mists of time, and it's difficult for some current members to fully appreciate how important WARG has been in the past and how important it could be in the future.

Today, it is a thriving local group, mainly due to the inspiration and hard work of many people down the years, and latterly both Don and Julia have been instrumental in providing a rich and varied programme for members to enjoy. Whilst in no way attempting to be a definitive history of WARG, some detail may help to put this article in context.

WARG stands for the Winchester Archaeological Rescue Group. It was formed in 1972 when Martin Biddle appealed for volunteers to help with the excavations taking place in Winchester at that time. The first excavation on which WARG members helped was at Hyde Abbey Barn, and the first outing was to Danebury Hillfort when 50 people attended. In the early days volunteers helped on work evenings (Mondays and Wednesdays), excavations and in the office. The main activity in the 60s and 70s was excavating. A lot of digging was available, so summer lectures and outings went by the board as members preferred to take the opportunity to get their hands dirty. You could call it a golden age for archaeology in the city, and WARG's contribution was incredibly important because members did a lot of the hard work and were trained on site.

'No one excavation had a greater impact on archaeology in Britain in the later twentieth century than Martin Biddle's project in Winchester in the 1960s' Professor John Collis in "Great Excavations."

Of course, Winchester continued to be of interest throughout the 70s, 80s and 90s when digging continued in the city and surrounding areas. Don was beavering away archaeologically during this time, digging with WARG for the first time in 1982 and joining the committee in the mid 80s.

In 1987 excavation on The Brooks began and work evenings were centred there where members were either digging or washing pottery. A Roman evening was held and field walking began at South Wonston. Sadly, the end of the 80s marked a troubled time for WARG as excavations on The Brooks ended and the need for diggers diminished.



Don in the Brookes

In 1990 Don qualified as a Winchester Guide, ensuring that the walks continued in earnest. A glance at the list held in the WARG archive reveals the huge number of walks and days out that were led by

him. These always involved a lot of research, organization and at least one visit prior to taking the group. He began to get a reputation as a 'rain god' possibly dating from 1992 when he led a group to Cheriton. Notes from *The History of the First 25 Years of WARG* tell the story:

"Having climbed to the top of the hill, torrential rain engulfed everyone; but undeterred the Group carried on and did not call it a day until two people's umbrellas had been struck by lightning."

Over the next few years he became qualified to guide in the Hamble Valley (1992), Southampton (1994) and regionally as a Blue Badge Guide in 1995, adding greatly to the range of walks available. In 1998 Don gained his degree in archaeology which "undoubtedly became a major asset to WARG" in the words of John Bradfield one of the early members. Don was also teaching his 'History of Winchester' course which introduced a number of people to WARG, many of whom went on to become City Guides or Cathedral Guides.

Some excavation was undertaken in the 90s, but only a little pot washing was available. Julia joined WARG and Don conducted a walk round Hyde and was described as 'indefatigable'.

The stage was set for the 'dream team' to come together.

WARG was still operating as a successful local group, but it was not particularly well advertised and its early role was changing. It is true to say that WARG's role changed as the archaeological climate changed, and by 2003 its very existence was compromised. This

couldn't be allowed to happen: after all, without WARG "*There would have been little or no archaeology in Winchester*". (History of the First 25 years 1972-1997)

So, up stepped Julia and Dick Selwood to save the day. Dick became Chairman and Julia took on the role of Secretary. She worked hard to restart the work parties and asked advice about how to resuscitate WARG to become the success it had been formerly. An element of history was added to the archaeology, meetings were increased and Don was asked if he had any ideas for a day out. He did, and the walks and days out increased. A rough estimate suggests that over the last 27 years he has led at least 45 walks and days out with all the work that entails.

Originally, trips involved going by coach, but they became more expensive. Julia wanted to lower costs so that more people could take part. This was the beginning of the car-sharing idea that is still in place now with costs of petrol and car parking being shared. The principles of a day out remain the same: under 70 miles away and a minimum of three places to see. It isn't always easy to organize, but Julia is one determined lady!! It is just as well she has plenty of energy because her tasks as Secretary included organizing meetings, taking minutes, booking venues, arranging speakers, and organizing other events including the New Year Party and the June Lloyd Lecture. In addition to all this, she had to meet Don, drink coffee and persuade him to do the next walk or day out!!! This list may not take long to write, but the amount of work it represents should never be underestimated. Add to this all the other things that Julia has done to ensure the successful



Julia and Don, January 2019

running of this society and its relationships with other local groups, and you come up with a workload that many would baulk at. No wonder she had to do some 'bullying' along the way!!!

The essence of a good society is shown

in the people who attend events come rain or shine. WARG members are incredibly supportive and resilient, thus showing respect for those who work to provide an interesting programme. The work parties continue to come into their own, demonstrating the cooperation between WARG and museum staff behind the scenes.

Back in the café the memories came thick and fast. We remembered Julia getting lost at Hengistbury Head in appalling weather. She reminded us of the time the sole of someone's shoe came off and had to be tied on with a spare shoelace. Lots of fun, laughter and enjoyment were shared over the years providing memories of a successful society. May it continue to be so, and in thanking all who have contributed so far, including the current committee, let's hear it for Julia and Don, truly a dream team!

Edwina Cole

Our Very Own Rain God

After 27 years of organising the outings Don Bryan is stepping down. Retiring from BT at the age of 55 Don went on to study and obtain an Archaeology Degree and then became a Wessex Tour Guide. With his extensive knowledge of the area he developed his very own role of being WARG's resident guide.

Almost every April and September saw Don arranging a full day trip to a place of interest somewhere in Wessex, which included his own guided tour, suggestions for lunch with a continuation in the afternoon. Sometimes Don would source a local guide who added their own knowledge about a museum or historic building. During his reconnoitre visit Don has frequently spotted a private cottage or Manor House, cheekily knocking on the door, introducing himself, discovering the facts and arranging a private visit on the day of the WARG tour!! Only Don could get away with this! These longer days have included Guildford, Avebury Stone Circle and Manor House, Ludgershall and Marlborough, Chichester, Christchurch and Bradford on Avon, all of which I revisited with either my sister or husband where I tried to remember just a few of Don's snippets of information –usually the gory bits!

In the summer months of June and July, with the light evenings, Don has also led WARG members on more local walkabouts, covering various aspects of Winchester's history such as its links with royalty;

for example Alfred the Great and Stephen and Matilda. He also led tours of the St John's and Chesil area, the poet John Keats' link with the city and ghostly Winchester. On other evening visits he imparted facts about local small towns or villages of which we were never aware. Alresford, with the story of the spy Harry Houghton using the public toilets as a "pigeon hole," Otterbourne, where the hill was lowered to help horses pull stage coaches, Wickham, the village on the move, Bishops Waltham and the heaviest church bell in England, Odiham, Cheriton, and Bell Street in Romsey, where the body of William Rufus was carried on the way to Winchester. These are just a few of the vast realm of Don's local tales.

Ably assisted by Julia Sandison, who coordinated all the admin side of the excursions Don would state that he wanted no more than 30 members in the group, Julia always sneaked in 40 people as Don's tours were so popular! However, the pair of them made a good team.

In 2012 WARG celebrated 40 years in existence which saw Don and Julia excel themselves in organisation. I was lucky enough to write up all these visits; Don guided us at the Uffington White Horse, Burford and the Rollrights, Southampton and its links with the Titanic, Hengistbury Head, Stockbridge Down, Merdon Castle (for an anniversary picnic) and Old Sarum.

So why the Rain God title? On many of the trips led by Don it has been showery, rained, poured and much worse - we even had a thunderstorm at the Civil War Battlefield tour of Cheriton - where one WARG member had a metal tipped umbrella! At Hengistbury Head the rain was coming sideways, Julia lost us and when we all reached the cafe for drinks of hot chocolate some ladies had to dry themselves with the hand driers in the toilets!! He built up this reputation over the years but I must state that latterly we have enjoyed good weather, warmth and even sunshine!

Don has been a stalwart of WARG and I have enjoyed all the trips out with him immensely. A hard act to follow but I am sure whoever takes up the role will do just as well in their own way. Enjoy your "second retirement", Don.

Valerie Pegg

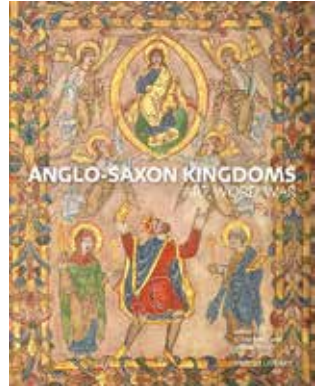
Editors Note:

It is unusual to run two articles on the same subject but I could see no way of merging them!

Book Reviews

Anglo-Saxon Kingdoms: Art, Word, War Claire Bray + Joanna Story (Editors) British Library, 2018
424 pp., ISBN978 0 7123 5207 9, £25.00

Many of you will know that I am a birdwatcher. Nothing is worse than turning up somewhere remote to see a special bird and your fellow twitchers greeting you “It flew off ten minutes ago”. Well, the exhibition at the British Library that inspired this book ended on 19th February. You’ve missed it. The exhibition was a once-in-a-lifetime chance to see almost every important document and some key artefacts created in these islands (and some beyond) between the end of the Roman period and the writing of the Domesday books of 1086. It was so good that I went twice.



However, the exhibition will live on in this book. This is far far far more than an exhibition catalogue. There is a full-page colour picture of every item that was in the exhibition. Opposite every picture is an essay explaining the item pictured, putting the document or artefact into context, describing the process of writing or manufacture, and telling the history of the item.

The essays, written by a raft of experts, are themselves worth the price of the book. An example. The law code of King Eathelberht of Kent (*d.616*) is both the first English law code and also the first datable work composed in English. The essay explains its derivation from Roman laws and its impact on Norman laws. The essay accompanying King Edgar’s charter for the New Minster in Winchester (*966*) explains the monastic reforms driven by Edgar as well as the iconographic importance of the positioning of the king, angels and so on in the document itself. Essays relating to artefacts such as The Alfred Jewel or the Fuller Brooch are equally wide-ranging and informative.

The photographs and essays form the bulk of the book pages 65-398. But before that around 50 pages contain deeper papers on subjects such as the development of the English language, or the monastic links with Ireland.

The book ends with four pages of maps; 15 pages of bibliography, and two indices – one of exhibits, the other of personal and place names. At 11 x 8.5 inches (in old money) this is a coffee table special. The photography and colour reproduction is top notch. There are very worthy books on the Saxon and Viking period. The difference is that, with this volume, because of its short essay and quality picture format, you can dip in and out in bite-sized chunks. As you read, you will accumulate wonderful pictures and knowledge of a period that was completely the opposite of the Dark Age. Here are vivid coloured bibles, here is amazing interaction and exchange between kings and churchmen throughout Europe. Here is the foundation of our nation.

When the kids say, “Mum, you are so difficult. What do you want for your birthday?” Direct them to the British Library website. You won’t be disappointed.

Techer Jonen

Tamed: Ten Species That Changed Our World, Prof. Alice Roberts

Windmill Books/Penguin, 2017
340pp ISBN 9781786090010 £9.99

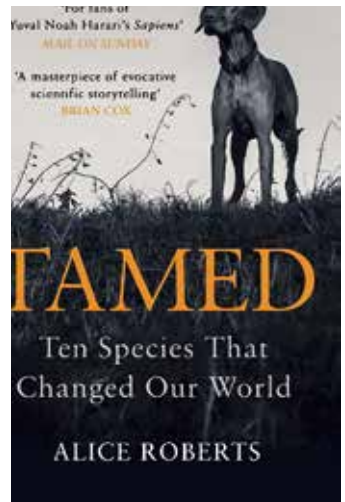
Two people have contributed reviews of this book, with slightly different views on science.

Firstly Techer Jones’ review

I was manning the Hampshire Field Club stand at the CBA Wessex conference at the University of Southampton in November and Alice Roberts’ ‘signing books’ table was the next table. I brought her coffee and lent her my pen, and bought her book.

In ten chapters, it tracks the development of ten species that have changed our world: dogs, wheat, cattle, maize, potatoes, and chickens. rice, horses, apples and humans.

The book is written in a very accessible style. There are lots of anecdotal episodes, which are what you might expect from her television work. The author leads you in to



quite complex topics sometimes with a fairy story style “In 1999, a lobster living on the sea bed, close to Bouldner...had been digging in its burrow”. Or simply remarkable facts “chickens outnumber humans in the world by three to one”.

A sort of pattern in each chapter is that there is a very good story about how a species were discovered (why eat grass, why ride a horse, why not ride a cow?). How species developed, were crossed and sometimes improved. The history is an easy read until.....

Until the science creeps in. It starts at a reasonably simple level with sentences like “...pernicious threat comes from pathogens so small that they are invisible to the human eye: the viruses, bacteria and fungi.” This goes on to explain that Irish dependence on one type of potato cultivar -and that cultivar being unable to resist a pathogen – was the cause of the Irish potato famine. But by the 1950s the technical language becomes serious. And in the 2010s when we get to DNA and so on, the science gets really serious. Perhaps this is me. In the 1950s I got thrown out of chemistry and physics and biology and went to the arts! I have to admit that there were times – despite clear writing – that I couldn’t follow some of the modern science.

The chapter on the development of the chicken is just mind-blowing. It is here that Alice Roberts made me seriously start to re-think my attitudes towards genetically modified crops or species. The final pages are a treatise asking questions about how we will feed 10 million people on this planet?

You could read this book on two levels. You could ignore all the science and read 90% of the book as a really good explanation of how these animals and plants developed and their influences on the world as we now know it. She tells a good story. Or you could read 100% of the book and be motivated to consider deep issues about the future of farming, the environment and our race. I enjoyed it (and I got the pen back).

Techer Jones

And secondly Steve Old’s take on the book:

Alice Roberts chose ten key species that have had a profound effect on the world we live in and how we as a species have developed due to their influence. It is not just animals she discusses, but plants as well, as these have also enabled the world to grow to where we are today.

Alice starts with Dogs, our hunting companion and friend and moves onto Wheat, Cattle, Maize, Potatoes, Chickens, Rice, Horses, Apples and finally Humans. Alice states that Humans tamed them all and use them to their advantage, though I am not sure how tame Humans are!

For hundreds of thousands of years, our ancestors depended on wild plants and animals to stay alive – until they began to tame them.

This book is a masterpiece of evocative scientific storytelling that gives you the facts, the history, discusses the reasoning and produces a compelling reasoning behind the taming of each species and what this has meant to the growth and development of Homo Sapiens. It uses archaeology and cutting-edge genetics to reveal the fascinating origins of the ten species.

In a world creaking under the strain of human activity, Alice Roberts urges us to look again at our relationship with the natural world and our huge influence upon it.

Steve Old

Julia's Jottings

Closer to Home

It's not often I get a chance to write about archaeological finds close to home so the announcement that underneath the now-demolished Bargate centre in Southampton lovely finds have included a 14th century flint cannonball, a 15th century jar which once held liquid mercury and part of a charming 17th century plate with bare-breasted women on. WARG's long-time friend, Dr Andy Russel, says the excavation site will be about 2,000 square metres and is a multi-period treasure trove, having given up Roman pottery too. The point of the flint cannonball is that on impact it would shatter and burst, thus sending hundreds of razor-sharp splinters around.



Flint cannon ball

The excavation is due to continue till

mid-April but I don't know if it'll be possible to see anything. Still, it might be worth a visit to Southampton just in case! There are some more pictures on the Daily Echo's web site <https://www.dailyecho.co.uk/news/17462172.archaeological-finds-will-delay-completion-of-bargate-centre-by-months/>

Lost Amazon Villages

I, probably like most people, have always thought of the Amazon as a mostly uninhabited rainforest before Europeans turned up but that would appear to be totally wrong. Research has revealed more than 81 sites in the previously uncharted area of the Amazon's upper Tapajos Basin, with settlements ranging from small villages only about 30m wide to a large site covering 19 hectares. These sites have been brought to light due to the de-forestation of the forests, and include fortification, sunken roads and earth platforms for the houses. Finds included ceramic fragments, polished stone axes, and a type of fertile dark earth which indicates long-term human habitation. The settlements were found near small streams or springs and a conservative guess has been mooted that populations would have been in the area of between half and one million inhabitants. Dating has been tentatively put at between 1250 and 1500.

An aerial photo shows a huge clearing with a round enclosure, looking surprisingly like an Iron Age enclosure in Britain!

The Secret of Some Cremated Bones

Our knowledge of Stonehenge continues to be uncovered by teams of dedicated archaeologists, not all of whom agree on the interpretation of what they find! However human bones, cremated around 5,000 years ago, have given up some of their secrets: the remains of at least ten individuals reveal that they did not spend their lives on the Wessex chalk downland but hailed from more than 100 miles away, an area that includes west Wales from where the bluestones from the Preseli hills originated. Scientists cannot say that the people actually built the henge but the time factor is "tantalisingly" close to the arrival of the bluestones in Wiltshire. The research was carried out on skulls, discovered in the "Aubrey holes" in the 1920s but re-buried until they came to light again in 2008. Something else for the various archaeologists to disagree on, no doubt!

Important Legal Papers

Lincoln has a large collection of royal charters and other important papers dating back 400 years to the reigns of Kings John, Richard II and Henry V as well as over 20 other monarchs. This collection is now being inspected and conserved by a team at the University of Lincoln, including students, and it's the first work to be done on them since 1788 when one of the city's Town Clerks, Samuel Lyon, carried out some on a few of them. The charters and others have rarely been on public display although they were placed in the county archives in 1904. Lincoln was the capital of England's largest diocese in medieval times and thus the city enjoyed various trading grants and privileges.

An Ancient Harbour

Poor Iraq has suffered much horrendous damage to its infrastructure, both ancient and modern, over the last few years but apparently can still offer up some unexpected treasures. Archaeologists working on a 4,000 year old Sumerian port near Abraham's homeland of Ur, southern Iraq, have uncovered a huge man-made harbour, proving that apart from their creation of one of the world's farming-based civilisations the Sumerians were obviously also skilled seafarers with trading connections in distant lands including the Indian sub-continent. This one time seaside area is now land-locked in the midst of a desert plain and the workers, when peering into a fox's earth, discovered clay bricks. These bricks turned out to be part of the massive ramparts surrounding the docks and an artificial basin which was connected by a canal to the town. Finds have included many fish bones, both sea and fresh water species, alabaster vases, not a Mesopotamian stone, and parts of a necklace in the style of the Indus Valley civilisation, also flourishing at that time.

This structure, at Abu Tbeirah, is the oldest harbour yet found in Iraq and the area would have been surrounded by marshland and a mixture of natural and man-made canals. Satellite imaging can show all these features.



*Archaeologists' friend
a fennec fox*

More surprises from Otzi the Iceman

Many of you will remember the finding of frozen Otzi in the eastern Alps back in 1991 but have thought, like me, that by now we knew everything about his hunting trip and subsequent death. However all these years later researchers have finally been able to tell us what he ate before ascending to such chilly heights with not a lot of clothes on. Apparently they couldn't find his stomach for ages until finally they found it lurking high up under his ribcage near his shrunken lungs. He'd eaten a probably not very tasty meal of fat from a wild goat, the Alpine ibex, but was obviously aware that fat provided the high-energy source he needed to survive the high altitude. Well, I know he didn't actually survive but he was obviously on the right track diet-wise, though his woven grass coat, leggings and leather shoes didn't help as much as he'd hoped. But hang on, maybe it wasn't the cold that did for him – researchers found multiple traces of toxic bracken in his gut and think he'd probably eaten it to rid himself of whipworm parasites, also found in his gut. However there's also a possibility that he wrapped his dried meat in bracken and thus ate traces of the poisonous plant. Oh but hang on again – neither his diet nor the cold killed him. The thinking still is that he bled badly from the arrowhead wound in his shoulder and that was what killed him. I suspect that weakening by cold and with poisons in his system all contributed to his demise but then what do I know!



Up to the Minute Romans

All of us, I suspect, would love to own a hot tub – not a bath: I think we've all got one of them – but a luxurious hot tub with beautiful tiles and enough income to keep it going all year round like one wealthy Roman family in Chichester's Priory Park. The income would have been necessary not just to build the tub in the first place but to provide staggering quantities of charcoal for the furnace, as well as connection to a mains water supply – only accorded to a seriously wealthy family. This feature was part of three Roman houses excavated under the park and which only survived because the area was never subsequently built upon. Lucky family!

Amazing Paris!

Honestly, humanity never ceases to amaze in so many different ways and I fell in love with the story that in 1900 for the World Fair in Paris a moving pavement stretching two and a quarter miles around the fair's area and with a top speed of 6 miles per hour, was created and moved continuously through the day. The pavement was up aloft at about 30 feet above the ground,



thus providing unusual views of the buildings that it passed. Ten entry points to this non-stop wonder along the Champ de Mars and near Invalides allowed easy access to step on and off, even in the long voluminous clothing worn by women of the time. It doesn't appear to have lasted long after the World Fair ended but from many photos and a short film it seems that just about everyone had a go on it at some time or another. It reminds me of the moving walkways at Heathrow and Gatwick but considerably more fun and with better views! (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjpCVQgKZsc>)

Easter Island Revelations

Many of you will recall the brilliant and comprehensive talk by our own Edwina Cole 3 years ago on her trip to Easter Island. Her photos showed us that although mostly we can see only the heads and shoulders of the massive "face" statues, the statues actually continue under the ground to include bodies as part of the one piece carvings. Researchers have now analysed the locations of the wondrous megalithic platforms or ahu on which the heads stand and found that they're all close to sources of fresh water. Easter Island, or Rapa Nui as the inhabitants call it, has more than 300 of these platforms, dating from around the 13th century. Researchers were trying to find out where the inhabitants get their drinking water from and discovered that, though the island has no permanent streams, fresh water passes through underground aquifers seeping into caves and emerging around the coast. It was noticed that horses would drink from the ocean and looked further into why. Finally the researchers decided that the statues were placed near the sources of fresh water in order

to impress different local groups of islanders – you know, “my Dad’s bigger than your Dad”.

More Discoveries!

HS2 is uncovering a huge amount of information about past times in our country along its designated route, but one of the most surprising must surely be the discovery of a prehistoric sub-tropical coastline in Ruislip, west London dating back around 56m years. The area appears to have been a wooded marsh and wellies would have been the order of the day for a Sunday stroll. Samples indicate that the area was swampy and close to the sea in the late Paleocene epoch, the period after the demise of the dinosaurs. The samples have been retrieved from around 30 odd metres under the surface of Ruislip and consist of a black clay with bits of vegetation in, but also evidence of extreme weathering of what would have been sand and gravel there before.

Picture trees, animals (some in the trees), marshes, swamps and a nearby sea – call me prejudiced but it sounds nicer than Ruislip!

An Unusual Find

As far as Britain is concerned, probably our most continually important historical site is that of Hadrian’s Wall which never fails to disappoint with whatever it gives up. Recently a couple of leather bands has been uncovered and are thought to be Roman boxing gloves from around AD120. They’re in excellent condition and still bear the impression of the wearer’s knuckles! Well, presumably you had to find something to do in the long chilly days in Vindolanda!

Another Cornish Bronze Age Barrow

Cornwall is home to several fine Bronze Age barrows and many of them on Bodmin Moor, but a new barrow on a hill has recently been discovered by the curious farmer working the land. A circular ditch around 15m across with a single entrance facing south east had several pits in the interior. Ancient barrows were frequently burial sites but not all of the Cornish ones are. At the time of reading the article about this exciting new find the excavation had not begun, so it’s possible that there’ll be more news for you in the future. The barrow’s been around quite a while so a little bit longer to find out can’t be too hard!

WARG Calendar

2019

April 8th **Big Dig Update**

May 13th **Dick Selwood:** A muddle of parsons - Winchester in 1810 (this replaces **Charles Harris:** Power by Design which will be given in 2020)

June 10th **Evening visit:** Butser Ancient Farm.

July 1st **Afternoon visit:** Fort Cumberland

Aug. 5th **Afternoon walk:** The route of the Lockburn

Aug. 17th-31st **Big Dig:** Return to Barton Stacy

Sept. 9th **Jeremy Clutterbuck:** The Aldi Site near Andover

Oct. 14th **AGM**

Julie Adams: Green Men in Winchester Cathedral

Nov. 11th **Alex Lewis:** 1889 – Trade & Tragedy in a West Country seaport

Dec. 9th **Andy Manning:** The Amesbury Archer & the Boscombe Bowmen

Meetings

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.

Fort Cumberland



Aerial view of Fort Cumberland in Portsmouth. © Historic England.

Fort Cumberland – where WARG is being given a privileged tour on July 1st. is described by Pevsner as *Perhaps the most impressive piece of eighteenth-century defensive architecture in England*. It is also the site for Historic England’s research establishment covering archaeology, archaeological science and archaeological archives.

Butser Ancient Farm



Reconstruction of a Saxon house

Butser Ancient Farm, the venue for WARG's visit in June, is a unique experimental archaeology site nestled into the rolling countryside of the South Downs National Park. The farm features archaeological reconstructions of ancient buildings from the Stone Age, Iron Age, Roman Britain and the Anglo-Saxon period. The buildings are internationally famous and appear frequently in documentaries and feature films. It

also grows crops from prehistory and keeps rare breeds of animals, such as goats and sheep.



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