



Newsletter

Spring 2020

News 🧑🏫 Meetings 🧑🏫 Reports 🧑🏫
Diary Dates 🧑🏫 Travellers' Tales

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This newsletter provides reports on the activities of WARG, the Society for Winchester archaeology and local history. It also carries information of interest to the WARG membership.

For more information on WARG or to join, email membership@warg.org.uk or visit www.warg.org.uk

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Editorial

At the start of the new decade, WARG is set fair for an exciting year. As you will see Maureen has arranged some interesting talks, including the initiative of giving PhD students the opportunity to face a knowledgeable audience used to hearing established experts. We could be listening to people who will be world experts in years to come. We are also preparing to go digital with the newsletter, a decision made by the members at the 2019 AGM. However, if you still want a hard copy that option remains available. I like to keep mine in my handbag to dip into when I have a few spare minutes. We also need to print hard copies for events where we are hoping to attract new members.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION HERE. If you wish to continue to receive a HARD COPY, please let us know.

You can contact me at wargnews@gmail.com or at the postal address at the end of this newsletter.

Great news - Julia has kindly agreed to continue to jot for us, we shall also continue the write-ups of the talks for those who cannot attend meetings. But we would like to have at least one more scribe for backup, this year in particular, to write up the summer walks. Please let me know if you intend to go on a walk and would like to have a go at this. No previous experience required and I can accept written notes, or you could record your thoughts and write them up or send them later.

Starting with our first electronic newsletter I want to introduce you to the committee to give you an idea of why WARG is such a respected group. We shall start with Chairman Steve Old in the Summer issue. This issue has holiday notes, reports of the winter talks, conferences, important digs and book reviews. On which point – do you have a subject of interest or

expertise you could write about? Have you been to any events or read relevant books you could review? There are so many topics we have not covered. E.g. ancient music – could you enlighten the group with a contribution? Have you had an interesting holiday including archaeology or history? It does not have to be a dissertation, a couple of paragraphs would be fine. It would also be nice to have a few line drawings/cartoons if you are an artist.

So here's hoping this newsletter lives up to the high standard set by Dick, read and hopefully enjoy.

Janet.

Data Protection Regulations require us as follows:-

'If you collect email addresses, then you collect personal data. If you collect personal data from residents of the EU, Data Protection applies to you.'

As we are about to go digital, I shall be adding an unsubscribe button to the digital version. However, for this issue here is the equivalent. If you do not wish to receive mailing from WARG please let us know either by mailing membership@warg.org.uk or wargnews@gmail.com, or by writing to the newsletter editor at the address at the end of this issue.

But then – why would you not want to hear from us?



Chairman's report SPRING 2020

Welcome to the first newsletter of 2020. 2019 was an eventful year for WARG, we lost some very good committee members but also gained a whole bunch of new ones. We tried some new schemes and most of these turned out very well. We have laid plans for more changes in the coming year which we hope you will all approve of, including changes to the way we inform you of what's going on.

Have Your say

The committee and I would like to hear from any member that has any ideas about who we can get for future talks, where we can visit during the summer and how we can get members more fully involved. It is your society and we need to know how you want us to run it!

Outreach

This year we will hopefully have representation at the Salisbury and Winchester Festivals of Archaeology, St Cross Fair and Heritage Open Day and will continue with the outreach scheme with St Swithun's School and I will be seeking volunteers to help man these events. They are always fun events and there is usually time to have a good look round as well. We will publish the dates when they have been confirmed.

Annual Event

It was with regret that we had to cancel the New Year event, despite the reminders the eventual numbers committing to come were just not viable. We had hoped that the previous year's poor attendance was a blip, but it seems that this type of event is not what members want at this time of year. If anyone can come up with some alternatives we can consider, please contact me or Maureen O'Connor. We are open to any legitimate and viable suggestions.

On a personal note, 2020 has started in much the same fashion as 2019 ended. There have been many challenges, family wise, that have prevented me from being the fully involved chairman I want to be and these are set to continue. I will, however, continue to be your chairman, but I may not be as active as previously or as I would like. There will come a time when I will have to hand the reins over to someone else, so get your thinking caps on and try to come up with someone who can take on this role, hopefully seamlessly, when the time comes.

Steve Old



Not too late to visit..... Janet Backhouse

In celebration of the 100th anniversary of the discovery of the King's tomb, Egypt has sent 100 artefacts to Los Angeles, Paris and currently The Saatchi Gallery, prior to their rehousing in the new Grand Egyptian Museum in Cairo. Sadly, the magnificent Golden mask is deemed too fragile to travel so will not be on show. The exhibition is an interactive tour of the King's life and death. After 3200 years hidden under the sands of Egypt, the tomb yielded more than 5000 objects. These included a box of hair thought to have been of Tutankhamen and his wife/half-sister Ankhesenamun, the daughter of Nefertiti. We are indeed fortunate to have the benefit of the advance in DNA analysis which Carter and Carnarvon could only have dreamed of. The 'Ostrich Hunt fan' will be on display giving an insight into the King's activities as well as the everyday household objects he would need in the afterlife. The object of his afterlife was immortality which cannot be

denied after three millennia. The exhibition contains objects not previously seen outside of Egypt, including love letters, gloves and games as well as jewellery and underwear - yes really!

The exhibition opened on November 2nd 2019 and runs **until 3rd May 2020**. Admission Adult £28.50p peak time £24.50p off-peak. Senior concessions £26 peak time £22 off-peak.

As someone who queued at the BM in the summer of 1972, I would say this is well worth a visit, and in '72 I was lucky enough to see the stunning Golden Mask if not the King's Y- fronts.



Dick Selwood – Doyen of WARG – Julia Sandison

This is by way of a tribute and thank you to Dick for his dedication to WARG. Written by Julia and leaving me wondering whatever he did in his spare time!! (Ed.)

The older of 2 boys born just after the Second World War to a regular army man and his wife, Dick spent his school years in Germany and Cyprus. He was able to spend much time swimming and sailing in Cyprus and later in life taught his two sons these skills. A voracious reader, he qualified as a librarian in the 60s, living in London, and worked in commercial and industrial companies rather than in local libraries. From there he moved on to public relations, went to live in Bristol and began to build up his own library, of subjects ranging across the board from both fact and fiction. His collection of books now totals many hundreds! Taught by his mother who had been a cook in the forces during

the war, he continues his love of cooking though finds the washing up more testing!

In the mid-80s he moved to Winchester to work for an American company with responsibility for world-wide public relations and developed his strong interest in history and archaeology. He achieved both his BA and MA whilst still working full-time, this time having moved into technical journalism where he became European Editor for a couple of American companies and travelled around Europe and America for his job. He finally retired in 2018.

Joining WARG in the late 90s, he became part of a small group of people who met most months of the year for talks in the barn at Hyde House. When WARG was threatened with closure he took over the mantle of chairman and began the process of turning the society into a thriving group with members from all over the county. At that time WARG had no newsletter, just a sheet at the back of the Winchester Museum Service newsletter, and so, when WMS decided to discontinue this, Dick began WARG's newsletter which rapidly became the magnificent production that it is today. During his time as chairman WARG began its annual digs, held weekly field-walking in the winter, restarted the weekly work parties for the Museum Service, extended the number of monthly meetings, and rapidly increased the number of members from less than 100 to over 350. At this time he also became President of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society, as well as taking on the role of editor for various publications for that society, a role he still holds. He is a member of the Winchester Excavations Committee, the group set up to aid Martin Biddle in the publication of

all the results of that man's digs around Winchester in the 60s and 70s.



Meteor Rites - Iris Gould

Nine little beads, relics of a distant star
Hurled to earth were gathered up,
Heated, hammered, drilled with skill,
To deck Egyptian dead for their eternal night.

They lingered in that underworld
While emperors lost their majesty
And flesh dissolved around the bone
Until an excavator's spade held them up to living sight.

Little grey beads, not beautiful or bright
But what a journey they have made,
From space, to earthen tomb
Then into light.



Prehistoric Menorca: An unexpected find – Stephen Taylor

A chance mailing from a company who have provided good tours in the past advertising a trip to Menorca focussing on a tour of the prehistoric sites of the island was too good to miss. As many readers will know, Menorca is one of the three Spanish Balearic Islands

located in the centre of the Western Mediterranean. The much larger Majorca and the nightclub obsessed Ibiza are much the better-known islands, putting Menorca somewhat in the shade.

The astonishing fact about Menorca is that for its size (about twice that of the Isle of Wight) it has a huge number of prehistoric sites. The current estimate is more than 1500 sites in an area of 700 square kilometres. This density of remains is further enhanced by them being mostly located in the southern half of the island, a limestone area distinctive from the north which is geologically diverse. The sites are, in prehistoric terms, relatively recent. As far as is known, no prehistoric people settled there until about 4000 years ago, a point in time corresponding roughly to the start of our Bronze Age. There are other parallels with the UK, i.e. their Iron Age started at roughly the same time in 850 BC, but whereas the evidence for the Chalcolithic is sparse in the UK, in Menorca it lasted from the first evidence of occupation in 2100 BC to around 1600 BC. Their prehistoric period, like ours, ended with the arrival of the Romans, somewhat earlier than us in 123 BC.

Lacking much timber resource, but abundant and easily accessible stone, has undoubtedly contributed to the survival of burial chambers, houses, villages and other structures. (The Orkneys in the UK is probably a comparable place to cite this factor albeit 2000 years older in the Neolithic). Many of the surviving structures are relatively straightforward to interpret but there are two sorts which so far have defied a full explanation.



The most obvious of these are Talayots. They are simply described as towers built of large blocks of stone. Mostly circular, few of them have any internal structure being simply a mound of stone surmounted by a platform on which was occasionally built a recognizable room. What were they for? More recent farming inhabitants on the island viewed them as watchtowers or “talaies” from which the current name is derived. However, this interpretation leaves one struggling to explain why some settlements needed two or three of them close to each other. Suggestions that they have been built for defensive purposes is undermined by the frequent difficulty in gaining access to the top. Some consensus is emerging that perhaps as a secondary function they were involved in communication between settlements and control of territory. This still leaves the issue of their primary purpose unexplained.

It is surprising that according to a relatively recent guide by their foremost expert on prehistory (and fortunately our guide, Elena Sintes Olives) only one Talayot has been systematically excavated. Clearly more excavations are needed but the massive construction of these enigmatic structures makes this a formidable undertaking and gives one pause for thought as to what motivated early Iron Age people to put in the effort to build so many of them.

The other structures which have so far defied explanation are Taulas. Described simply, they are two blocks of stone, one placed on the other to form a T shape. They are imposing structures, the vertical stone sometimes weighing over ten tons. They are impressive pieces of construction, often with the vertical stone and the cross piece simply resting on the supporting surface. There are also some with some notches for the upright which stabilise the cross piece. But none of these is a major stabilising factor which explains why only seven of the thirty known Taulas are still intact. They are unique to Menorca, unlike Talayots which have similar but smaller counterparts in Majorca. These mysterious objects, sometimes found within large houses, are usually located within a precinct bounded by large upright stone panels. A stone-flagged floor is often horseshoe-shaped. Entrance to the precinct, typically up a short staircase, was usually through a gate composed of two uprights and a large stone lintel. Remains, largely of pottery, put the use of these areas to the late Iron Age, from 400 BC onwards. Lacking any other functional explanation, the current interpretation is that they served some religious purpose. Rituals seemed to involve eating and drinking of wine imported from Ibiza where a Punic colony had been established.



Less mysterious, but still with many unanswered questions, this late Iron Age period saw the appearance of monumental circular houses. Their design was standardised,

interpreted as a move to a more hierarchical society.

Here, as elsewhere, the local archaeologists are keen to find funds for further excavation. There is some hope for the future. The whole of the island is a candidate for becoming a World Heritage Site on account of the dense and unique nature of its prehistoric culture. For those with the energy, there is an excellent recently modernised Museum in Mahon, the largest town on the island. Apart from the prehistoric section there are informative sections on the Roman, Islamic, French and British occupations of the island.



Woof or Wolf? - Janet Backhouse

In December 2019, The New Scientist reported on an 18,000 year old 'puppy' found in the permafrost of Eastern Siberia , The puppy still has its nose, fur, teeth and whiskers, but what breed of puppy is it? Or is it a dog or perhaps a wolf? DNA analysis has been unable to determine which is the case but, if a dog, it may be the oldest ever found. Since its discovery in 2018, a joint venture between Stockholm University and the Swedish



Museum of Natural History, has been analysing a piece of the animal's rib bone. So far, they have determined he is male and estimated his age, at freezing, was two

months. He has been named Dogor, Yakutian for 'friend'. A researcher on the team, David Stanton, says it is normally easy to differentiate between dogs and

wolves but in this case it has not been possible, in spite of the data retrieved, which suggests that Dogor is from a population that was ancestral to both. It is thought, from research by the same team, that dogs and wolves diverged some 40,000 years ago.

<https://www.newscientist.com/article/dn27577-ancient-dna-suggests-dogs-split-from-wolves-40000-years-ago/>

but this does not tell us anything about when dogs became domesticated, or why. There is some evidence that the [ancestors of domestic dogs may have carried genetic variants that made them “hypersociable”](#), and therefore more willing to interact with humans.

Dogor was found near the city of Yakutsk, the capital city of the Sakha Republic, which is located just south of the arctic circle, and in winter records the coldest temperatures for any major city on earth; in January the average monthly temperature is -38.6°C, and it is not unusual to have days as cold as -50°C. The city is built on continuous permafrost, which means that it's so cold that the subsoil is permanently frozen; in winter all the lakes freeze over and are turned into roads, and when it is very cold, a thick mist descends that makes it hard to see more than a few metres ahead.



WARG Talks

11 November 2019 – Iris Gould

Trade and Tragedy in a West Country Seaport

This is the second talk that Alex Lewis has given WARG. The first was at a New Year party when she provided invaluable guidance on the difference between

pilchards, sardines and herrings according to her friend Julia, who introduced her on this November evening.

The seaport in question is Fowey in Cornwall, where Alex trained as a harbour guide and became fascinated by the rich history of the fishing trade in Fowey and other Cornish ports at the end of the 19th century. She has consulted a wealth of source material, in order to put together a complex history in which some achieved great prosperity from the fishing industry, while others lost their lives tragically in shipwrecks that could have been prevented. During her talk Alex described her main sources of information, starting with the **Harbour Board Book** which lists such details as: Dates; Names of vessels; Names of captains; Tonnage; Cargoes and Destinations. Alex entered these details on to an Excel spreadsheet for analysis and learned that in 1889 nearly 600 ships entered the harbour. Only 70% of these were sailing, the other 30% were “weather-bound” by adverse conditions. The aptly named “Diligent” was the most frequent visitor, arriving approximately once a fortnight. The incoming cargoes were principally coal but also manure, leather and flour; commodities needed and used by the local communities. Many ships arrived empty but the outgoing cargoes were almost exclusively made up of china clay, vital to the Cornish economy.

William Cookworthy, a Quaker who had been apprenticed to a chemist, had become fascinated by the beauty and delicacy of Chinese porcelain and had made it his life’s work to discover how to produce it. He found deposits of china clay, an essential component of porcelain, near Fowey and experimented until he had found a way of processing it. After the clay was extracted from the ground it was suspended in water to enable the unwanted minerals to sink to the bottom.

Warehouses installed under floor heating to dry off the china clay, ready for transportation by sea.



Clay ship at Fowey

The first port to be built for this purpose was Charlestown, built by Charles Rashley between 1791 and 1801. This is where Poldark was filmed. Next came Pentrewan, begun in 1821 and third was Par, a bigger harbour than the others (1828). Why did Fowey lag behind? Alex believes it was just more remote than the other locations but in 1869 things started to happen, stimulated no doubt by a new railway line from Lostwithiel.

The china clay was destined for Liverpool, Fleetwood and Runcorn, then on to the Potteries in Staffordshire. 25% was sent abroad, to Antwerp and the Baltic, also to the Mediterranean and further afield to the Americas. There was also a thriving link with Italy because the ships' masters knew the routes well from the long established trade in pilchards. However, the late 19th century was a period when steamships were gradually replacing sailing ships. In 1889 only 9% of trading visits were by steamships. By 1892 this number had increased to 23% and the number of steamships continued to rise

until steam had completely taken over the trade. Alex introduced a further source of information for her research: **Lloyds Register**. This document was intended to provide information to insurers and charterers of ships about the vessels they were underwriting. The names and occupations of the ship owners are listed in the Register. They were often tradesmen such as a butcher, sail maker, innkeeper, showing that the local community had a large stake in the shipping trade. As ships were a risky investment, people bought only a few shares in each ship.

Vivid impressions of the ships were provided by “**pier head paintings**”, produced quickly by jobbing artists to be sold as souvenirs for captains and crew to display in their homes. Alex showed us a print of a dramatic painting of the Koh-I-Noor in full sail, a magnificent sight.

Crew Lists also provide useful research material. They listed all the ships that each seaman sailed in. Most of these records are held in Newfoundland. It is difficult to establish the number of seafarers from each community but it was very high. The absence of so many men led to a very matriarchal society in this area of Cornwall. Alex gave us a description of John Stephens, ship builder and owner. He had been an ambitious young man who bought a boatyard and proceeded to produce a fleet of ships that all had “Little” in their names. His company was known as “The Company of Little Ships”. He prospered and became the owner of at least 11 ships. One of them, “Little Beauty” was lost at sea.

Alex researched what happened to the ships when they ended their useful lives. Some continued in use when

they were no longer seaworthy and were known as “coffin ships”, putting mariners’ lives in danger. The Member of Parliament for Plymouth was notorious for running a fleet of these unsafe vessels. A ship called the “Tower” was lost at sea between Fowey and Runcorn and the captain was drowned. His wife and children were plunged into poverty. The “Britannic” sailed out of Fowey and collided with a White Star line ship. This time the captain and a crew member died. The White Star line evaded compensation for the collision. A ship called the “Rachel Anne” was hit by another ship called the “Thistle” and went down in three minutes. The Court apportioned some blame to the “Rachel Anne” for not having sufficient crew members. Samuel Plimsoll was not, as is generally thought, the inventor of the Plimsoll line but he did campaign vigorously for a loading line and for greater safety measures.

Many thanks to Alex for sharing the results of her extensive research which gave us a vivid picture of a trade that brought both profit and tragedy to those living in and around Fowey near the close of the 19th century. The words “For those in peril on the sea” had real relevance but the economic importance of the china clay trade was great.



‘The Fascination of Green Men’ – Winchester Cathedral’s Contribution.’ – Edwina Cole

In October we were treated to a fascinating talk given by Julie Adams who is one of the guides in Winchester Cathedral. Who would have guessed that within those hallowed walls there are at least 60 green men lurking in the roof and the Quire? We were told that the term

'green men' was coined in 1939 and that before that they were known in England as foliate heads. No one really knows about their origin, and for hundreds of years they have remained an enigma. It is thought that they predate Christianity and that later they were adopted as a Christian symbol possibly associated with spring and the giving of new life.

The different styles of building within the cathedral influences whether we find green men or not. Both the Quire and the south nave aisle were built in the 1300s, which explains why so many of them are found there. Green men first appeared in England in the 12th century and were not generally used after the 15th century. There are four main styles of foliate head, and examples of all four can be found within the cathedral.

1. The hair is made of leaves.
2. The face is made completely of leaves.
3. Foliage is disgorged from the mouth.
4. Leaves surround the head.

Julie's talk was beautifully illustrated with her own photographs together with some from Simon Newman. She spoke about the different expressions that can be found on the faces. Some are benign and welcoming, whilst others are angry and menacing. Some even have their tongues sticking out, but it is not known why so many different expressions were used. Most are green men, but it is thought that there are three green women with features that appear softer than those of the men.

None of these figures are identical, but they often appear in pairs, and Winchester is fortunate in having a particularly good crop of them in the cathedral. Some of them are hard to see, so it's advisable to bring

binoculars if you are planning your own green manhunt!

Besides the green men, there are a number of green beasts, notably in the frieze in the Lady Chapel. There are others elsewhere in the cathedral, green lions on the feretory screen and one lion on a tile just outside the Guardian Angels chapel. One particularly famous green man is unique to Winchester cathedral. He is the Entire Green Man. He has a complete body and all his limbs, and carries a sword and a shield. It is unusual to show a full body, as most of them are heads only.

Julie finished her talk by highlighting some modern green men. Bleddyn Hughes carved one such, just behind the door to the crypt in 1993 when he was head stone mason. In the Mercure Wessex Hotel (built in the 1960s on land belonging to the cathedral) there is a stained glass panel featuring multi-coloured green men with foliage coming out of their mouths. This was designed by John Piper.

There is a pub on the corner of Southgate Street and St. Swithun Street called the Green Man. The current pub sign features a head surrounded by leaves. The latest green man in the cathedral features a senior verger who was used as a model. We know about the newer ones, but the original green men remain a mystery. In the Quire, the stalls were installed in the 1300s. One carver did most of the carving, and they are the most complete set of medieval choir stalls in the country.

The Quire screen features two green men and there are more at the pew ends. You can see others high in the vaulting above the choir stalls and several lurk in the base of the spandrels above. There are different sorts of foliage to be seen here, but we don't know why green

men were incorporated here. Seven misericords have green men, so this is a good place to start looking for them!!

I was fortunate to be able to meet Julie in the cathedral recently and she showed me a number of the carvings including the gentleman and lady on the Icon Screen and the Green Lion tile. Sadly the examples in The Lady Chapel were locked away. Many thanks to Julie for offering to share her lovely photographs. (Janet)



Entrance



Entrance desk



Pew End



Feretory Screen



Feretory



Quire Stall - Grin



Roof Boss



Leaves around head



Quire Screen



Langton Woman



The Amesbury Archer and Boscombe Bowman 15 years on..... Edwina Cole

For our December meeting, Andy Manning, Regional Manager of South Wessex Archaeology came to update us on recent discoveries at Amesbury. He began by admitting that it was a shock to think that it was 16 years since the site was first excavated! He reflected that it was a very important find, a site of huge significance that was excavated as the houses were being built. This large housing estate, measuring over 100 hectares, is in close proximity to the World Heritage Site of Stonehenge and is in an area packed with world famous archaeology. Boscombe Down is now known as Amesbury Down, and one of the first things to be built was the new school. Roman cemeteries were discovered with over 300 Roman burials, then another burial was discovered that was much earlier. Containing Beaker pottery, it was dated to the early Bronze Age, an early Beaker burial. Excavators found gold which had to be excavated immediately at night. It was a crouch burial, containing thin-walled fine vessels made especially for burials to make provision for the afterlife. The man, believed to be between 35-45 years old, was buried with 5 pots and over 100 objects making it the richest burial discovered. His left knee-cap was missing ... in fact it was never there as he was disabled, and left with a permanently stiff leg with the other leg compensating. On the right side of his skull was a really bad abscess that may have killed him, or he may have died from an infection. He was clearly a person of status, buried with arrow heads and a wonderful worked piece of stone, probably a wrist guard. He had rough flints with him –

blanks – so he could equip himself in the afterlife suggesting that he was comfortable with old and new technology. He became known as the Amesbury Archer.



Photo attributed to the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum.

There were wonderful knives and copper objects, the earliest found in Britain. This suggests knowledge of the new technology and was extremely rare. It was like this man had been buried with a treasure trove. At his back was a stone – a mini anvil suggesting that he was an early metal worker. It had copper and gold in it. Early metal workers were deemed to be magicians, and thus were held in high esteem. By his knees was gold, the earliest gold objects found in Britain, which came from Europe. In addition there was a belt ring and tusks that may have been used for smelting. But that was not all! There was another burial next to the first. It was another Beaker burial, but later than the Archer, and is believed to be a relative of the Amesbury Archer. So, where did they come from? Evidence has been found in their teeth. He came from the Alps and had travelled from Germany to Britain. He may have been drawn to Stonehenge, and there are links between the Amesbury Archer and Stonehenge. Later, further digging in Amesbury revealed 7 Beaker burials and 1 main burial

of a male aged between 30/40 years. Other burials took place over a period of about 30 years. Individuals were added piecemeal and buried very carefully suggesting that they were possibly family members. The main burial became known as the Boscombe Bowman, and he was also handicapped. Indeed, the first burial may have been made at the same sort of time as the Amesbury Archer. It appears that all these people had spent their early life in Wales and the Lake District, which suggests a link with the bluestones at Stonehenge. Might they have been part of a group that brought the bluestones to Stonehenge? We are able to track their movements through modern scientific methods. There are still many questions to answer. Why was the Amesbury Archer buried away from Stonehenge? He was buried by a pit circle, which was not a permanent structure, but a special place nevertheless. There are other Beaker burials near this monument. The site at Boscombe Down is a flat plateau, a quiet, sacred landscape. It is notable that there are lots of other burials in the same area. Amber was buried with some individuals, suggesting a possible link with the Mediterranean. Work is continuing in this important area. At Larkhill an early Neolithic causeway has been discovered. There are huge henge monuments at Bulford, which may suggest that Neolithic monuments have been reworked. New archaeology has been found with new developments in geophysics being employed. In 2016 work was started on the proposed Tunnel at Stonehenge. Trial trenching was carried out, revealing 2 new barrows. Between them was a later Neolithic feature with Beaker pottery in it with a suggested date of 2800 BC. The Big Thought at the moment is that the effects of major changes in society, coupled with new technologies led to the beginning of individual burials. But there are still many

questions left unanswered. How and why were the Beaker people moving? Was it trade? Was it ideas? We know that Beaker pottery originated in Spain and spread within Europe, eventually arriving in England. People were clearly travelling and sharing. Was that true for Britain? There is evidence of a dramatic change in the gene pool. 90% of Britain's gene pool was replaced within a few hundred years, but this is based on a very small sample, suggesting testing of the elite only. These people from the past are making a difference. Four and a half thousand years later the Amesbury Archer has a resonance with the local community. The housing estate is called Archer's Gate, and the school is called Amesbury Archer Primary School. The discoveries are still generating public interest and the school children are learning about the archaeology in their area. Work on isotopes can reveal the traces of a journey. Henge forms in the area are much smaller than henges and most are early Neolithic. They may be investigated in the future if funding becomes available. Andy's talk was followed by a number of detailed questions, revealing people's knowledge and close interest in this topic.



New Light on Old Britons - Judith Hankey

This was held in London at the Galton Institute (exploring human heredity) on 30th October and the occasion was to award Sir Barry Cunliffe with the Galton medal. Sir Barry's lecture was titled "The 'Celts' in Britain – a romantic fiction?" It was based on his Celtic from the West book including some of the findings from the new science of ancient DNA. This talk

was designed by the organisers to be the highlight of the day and indeed it was. The migrations from the Steppe across Europe to the west were shown, together with illustrations from the Celtic art and the language developments. Sir Barry put into context the development of Celtic understanding from the antiquarian hypothesis of the Celtic culture and language of Ireland, Wales, Brittany and Galicia being purely based on Iron Age Halstadt, when archaeology was the junior discipline to linguistics.

To put his afternoon talk into context the other talks started with the geology of ancient Britain over the last 1 million years and it was followed by the impact of migrations into Ireland. The human occupation of what became the British Isles depended on many Ice ages as first Neanderthal and later modern humans occupied for periods. There were not many windows when the temperature was warm enough for human occupation and people could also walk across from mainland Europe. Prof Nick Ashton showed us some beautiful twisted ovalate axes and explained that only in the UK is there a full pollen record to correlate and generate the weather and environment record.



Twisted Ovate Hand Axe



King Richard III

Prof Turi King told us about her work on the Richard III project in Leicester and how modern DNA was used to help to confirm the correct man was re-buried in the cathedral. Her lively talk kept us amused in the sleepy post lunch slot with several examples of how the tabloid press will distort anything to make a fun, attention grabbing headline.

The final paper was given by Dr Lara Cassidy of Dublin talking about her work on the Mesolithic, Neolithic, Bronze and Iron Age in Ireland. She highlighted gaps in her data points from the Hunter Gatherers through the Iron Age where cremation was used which destroys human DNA. If you want to look at podcasts of these talks they can be heard at

<http://www.galtoninstitute.org.uk/podcasts/>



Northern prehistory: Connected Communities – Judith Hankey

This talk was held in Carlyle at the Tullie House museum, on October 12th & 13th with 20+ speakers. The opening, keynote talk was given by Prof Richard Bradley and put into context how the Neolithic Cumbria was indeed well interconnected with other parts of UK and Europe. The obvious example included the 3 best remaining stone circles in Cumbria – Castlerigg, Swinside and Long Meg, and how they compared with other examples especially in Wales, England, Scotland and Ireland. He also illustrated the discovery of rock art in Cumbria which was unknown 20 years ago but he had found many examples in several areas such as Langdale. Another speaker went into more detail later. Langdale stone axes were also introduced and they are

now known not to be contemporary with the stone circles. The polished stone axes were widely distributed and these were talked about by several speakers too.



Neolithic sites in Cumbria



Rock Art

Dr Kate Sharp talked about the various styles of rock art, from the simple cup and ring style which has been now found to be widely distributed across Cumbria as well as the rest of the UK. She showed the example from the Eden valley (near Penrith) and Copt Howe (Langdale) can best be compared with the more complex style as seen in tombstones in the Boyne valley and Gavrinis in Brittany. She illustrated her talk with some beautiful photographs of rock art from Brian Kerr.

Langdale tuff was used to make a rough-out of a stone axe in a live demonstration by James Dilley of Ancient Craft. The stone came from a farmer in the Langdale valley who had had a drain dug out recently, but despite being much lower down the slope the stone matched the outcrop from the Stickle axe-mine. He took 45 minutes to create the right shape but said without demonstrating and talking about it he could do a rough-out in about 10 minutes. The polishing however would take about 50 hours. He told us to go to Fyfield Down near Avebury to find residual polishing marks on Neolithic stones (the exact position can be found on <https://www.megalithic.co.uk/article.php?sid=10054>



Julia's Jottings

Hampshire Strikes Again with more Beautiful Finds!

I'd hate you to think that the wonderful artefacts being discovered in so many areas of England are all found in areas other than our own, so shall tell you about a wonderful find at Hursley. In 2018, a metal detectorist found a 35mm long golden object believed to be a brooch in a ploughed field. This beautiful delicate-looking brooch was inscribed with the words believed to say something along the lines "May love and God protect me". Considered by experts to date from the 14th century, it's now being valued by the British Museum, having been declared as treasure by Winchester's senior coroner Grahame Short. You'll all know that Winchester's most famous early medieval son Henri de Blois built Merton Castle for himself around 1138 and that its remains border the Hursley estate. That estate continued in the ownership of the Bishops of Winchester until 1552 when it was surrendered to Edward VI. By the 16th century it was in a ruinous state so Edward granted the manor and park to Sir Philip Hoby. The detectorist wants it to go to a museum as it is, in his words, "*a cracking bit of kit*".

Last year a metal detectorist (how did you guess?) found a large Iron Age coin hoard in a field near Nursling. This was made up of hundreds of coins – well, 269 actually – and was declared to be treasure. Also fragments of a golden torc from the Bronze Age were found in a field near Swanmore – yes, again by a detectorist. It's believed that the Hampshire Cultural Trust is interested in purchasing these finds.



Closer to Home

Most of my jottings are about newly discovered glories but I sometimes think we forget that we're actually surrounded by the past in so many diverse ways. For instance, do we ever consider the Sarsens for which our area is well known? Apparently there are many of these wonderful ancient stones around the city and its villages but they're often hardly noticed any more and it could be that they're known about but people aren't altogether sure what they are! For instance there is, tellingly, a house in Mead Road actually called Sarsen House. I don't know if the Sarsen is still there. A recent article in the Hampshire Chronicle showed a photo of a large Sarsen in Shawford which appears to have disappeared. This makes one wonder HOW since the stone is huge and must have been very heavy. However there are still 2 in Twyford. I have a list of Sarsen around and about and think that perhaps in summer I'll get my stout footwear on and try to find most of those wonderful indications of our ancestors' past. Do get in touch with me if you're interested in the list or accompanying me! julia@ntcom.co.uk

A Spectacular Site

A couple of years ago Dick and I were staying in southern Suffolk and were keen to visit the Sutton Hoo site. Like most of you, I suspect, we'd many times seen

the treasures in the BM and marvelled at their beauty and craftsmanship. However, though I couldn't quite put my finger on it, I was really disappointed with the visit to the site itself. The house of Edith Pretty, the landowner who had the lumps and bumps on her land excavated in 1939, was interesting enough but the rest of the area left me very dissatisfied. The somewhat small visitor centre was aimed almost exclusively at small children, with various cloaks and weapons to try on, and the replica of the fabulous helmet was undeniably amazing, but overall it left me extremely underwhelmed. The site, inhabited by sheep and walked a great deal by locals with their dogs, failed to enthuse me and we left the area only satisfied by a rather good local ice cream.

However, the powers that be, the National Trust actually, headed by Mike Hopwood, have spent a few millions recently in an attempt to enable visitors to really connect with the place. Apparently the word "underwhelmed" had been used often in the visitors' comments' book and Hopwood thinks that the reason for this was because "there was a sense that no matter how much you read that this was a really important place, when you stood there at the site there wasn't enough to give a connection". They have now provided a new visitor centre with exhibitions and "immersive experiences" to try to get over the problem. A 27m long replica of the ship, dramatic audio-visual displays and new paths around the site, revealing the mounds of the royal burial grounds, are expected to bring the site more to life for visitors, and soon a 17m observation tower will open so that the overall "wow-ness" of the site can be appreciated. I'm hoping that Dick and I may be in that area again some time.

(Julia's comments are reflected in a recent letter to the Oldie Magazine)



Book Reviews – Steve Old

Digging Up Britain – Ten Discoveries, A Million Years of History by Mike Pitts 2019 ISBN 978-0-500-05190-0 Thames and Hudson

Concentrating on just ten key discoveries from the British Isles, this book shows the depth and breadth of British history using Archaeological data but is written in a clear and lucid style that informs but also fascinates. It shows how these ten discoveries helped shape our individual and national identity.

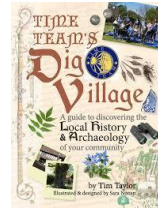


The book covers areas like Star Carr, Black Loch and Must Farm which have changed the way historians view Britain in pre-history as well as looking at the Staffordshire Hoard that changed the way we look at the time period previously known as “The Dark Ages”. It also looks at the current theories about Stonehenge, presenting all that we currently know in a cleverly written chapter that places Stonehenge into the wider picture of belief systems across Britain and northern Europe that were prevalent at the time. The information is presented in a factual but readable style and includes quite a few pictures and diagrams that aid understanding. It presents what can be considered as the consensus view of most academics of the interpretations of these sites and discoveries but does not dismiss other interpretations. This is a very well written and informative book that enlightens but does

not force its views on the reader. A book that should be a must to grace any budding historian or archaeologist.

Time Team's Dig Village – A Guide to Discovering the Local History & Archaeology of Your Community
By Tim Taylor with illustrations by Sara Nunan 2019
ISBN 978-1-9162788-0-6 Time Team Digital

This much anticipated book does not disappoint! Very well written, beautifully illustrated, this book is a marvel. Taking you through the basics right through to a fully organised community event, this book not only holds your hand, it gives you the background, the reasons and the expected outcome of each stage in the process. It doesn't give you the answers but it guides you to the places where the answers are most likely to be. There are many real-life examples of community dig events that have taken place over the years that are used to illustrate the processing, the pit falls and the outcomes. It draws on many of the successful events run by the late Professor Mick Aston of Bristol University who was seen as the main driver in getting archaeology and local history study into the community. This book is very easy to read and visually stunning being richly and beautifully illustrated with lots of photographs and colour drawings. It sets you things to do but backs this up with the reasons why you are doing it, the history behind what you are doing and the expected result. In my opinion, this book is one that is a must to own, if only for the beautiful way it is put together. It guides but does not cajole, it provides context as well as reasoning and is beautifully put together.



And Finally WARG Big Dig 2020

The dig committee has been hard at work assessing a new site for this year's dig. Currently we await confirmation from the land owner so the site is still a secret, but I can tell you it is only a hop and a skip outside of Winchester! The provisional date for the dig is August 15th – 30th, so please put that in your diary. More as soon as we have confirmation.



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2020 Meeting Talks Programme

Details on enclosed sheet

10th February Bob Marshall, Volunteer guide Bursledon Brickworks – the only surviving Victorian brickworks in the country.

9th March Dr James Cole, FRAI - University of Brighton - The Origins of Us: Latest developments in human Evolution

6th April Big Dig update Return to Barton Stacey – elusive buildings

11th May Charles Harris - Arts Society: Power by Design – How Hitler dictated his Brand.

June 14th –Visit to Bursledon Brickworks by Vintage Omnibus

6th or 13th July Visit to Winchester College Treasury

11th July Annual picnic and Walk in the New Forest

3rd or 10th August Walking Tour of Winchester's medieval religious houses

August 15th – 30th 2020 Big Dig

14th September Dr John Crook, FSA - Archaeological Consultant to Winchester Cathedral – Recent investigations at Winchester Cathedral.

12th October AGM and PhD candidate talks Tom Watson "Winchester's Anglo-Saxon Saints"; John Merriman "The impact of the Black Death (1348-49) on the clergy of the Winchester Diocese"

9th November Don Bryan, BA (Arch) - Director HADS – 60 years in Archaeology

14th December Marjoleine Butler, Trustee - CBA and Roland Smith, Chair - CBA Wessex - CBA at 75 and CBA Wessex at 60 – Celebrating Archaeology for All, past, present and future

