



Newsletter

Spring 2021

News 槓 Meetings 槓 Reports 槓 Diary
Dates 槓 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

Hello everyone. Here we are again, a New Year and hopefully better times. Most of us will have had our vaccinations, with you youngsters being invited to partake a lot sooner than we expected. I have to say, I have been very impressed by the organization of the roll out where I live, and I am not easily impressed! I was one of the people on the giving end of the syringe in the last epidemic, but it was nothing like the scale of this one, I take my hat off to the scientists, staff and volunteers who have made this possible, I know just how much they are giving to keep us as safe as possible, and have you seen that beautiful 'Banksy' in Southampton hospital? It is quite exquisite and hopefully the auction will raise a huge amount.

I wonder what future archaeology and the history books will say about the world of 2020.

Well, as you will have seen, WARG is back in business thanks to Zoom and some great speakers. Excitingly, we have the write-ups of our talks again, so anyone without IT will not miss out, and you will not be hearing quite so much from me in the newsletters – I hear the sighs of relief there.

I know it is going to be great to meet up again to listen to the speakers, but I have to admit to being very happy not having to drive in the dark winter evenings, and to be able to sit in my comfy desk chair and my slippers, with a suitably charged mug or wine glass, whilst listening to the excellent presenters. We have had large audiences, consistently greater than the Records Cinema numbers, and no one admitted to being in their PJs below the screen - I did ask! I have also learned to manipulate Zoom to look as if I am sitting on the beach. Maureen has done sterling work organizing the talks as not everyone is comfortable talking

on camera, but we shall continue until it is safe to leave the house again. If you have something you could talk to us about, do contact Maureen at moconnor.warg@gmail.com . With April's and May's talks planned I will be letting you know when the spring into summer programme is ready.

This edition contains an important message from Andy, our treasurer. If you are not an Honorary Member, please do check your details are correct for your annual subscription. It has taken us some time to get all correct email addresses into our management system. It is important to let us know if you make changes so that we do not lose you down a rabbit hole. Also keep up the feedback, which is great to receive and helpful in planning our programmes.

Until then, take care and stay safe.

Janet.

WARG Chairman's Report Spring 2021

Well, what a year 2020 was, in many ways one to forget. 2021 seems to have started on a very similar vein, but we do now have the prospect of things returning to some sort of normal in the coming months. One success that started in 2020 and has carried on into this year are our zoom meetings which have been going from strength to strength, despite my rather amateurish hosting, I promise I will improve! We have seen numbers grow steadily and some very searching questions being asked, however, I for one cannot wait to return to face to face meetings.

Over the last year there have been many key reports and findings in the world of archaeology and local history research. Of those that have been released recently I was very interested in these two, but for very different reasons.

Firstly, the iron age settlement that has been uncovered at the base of Wittenham Clumps in South Oxfordshire. When I was at Teacher Training College at Culham, my room window looked right across the Thames flood plain to Wittenham Clumps which was to the south east of the college and I spent many hours, deep in thought, staring at the trees that now adorn this hillfort and thinking of who else had, over the past millennia looked out at this scene. Secondly, the Stonehenge report that basically labelled it as pre-owned, by Mike Parker-Pearson. This impressed me by the sheer determination that Mike and his team showed to prove his theory. Mike Parker-Pearson is a very good archaeologist and I have found him to be a very nice guy, in all the dealings I have had with him in the past, which haven't been that many, unfortunately. Both of these findings have changed the way we view these sites and have expanded our knowledge of how our ancestors lived and thought and the processes they went through to achieve their own goals. This also reinforces the fact that the world of archaeology and history does not stand still, new evidence is uncovered and the story changes.

I am hoping that as the year unfolds, we can return to doing our outreach events, return to having our Big Dig and return to running the days out that I know so many of you enjoy. As a society we have weathered the storm and invented new ways of coping, but I do miss the face to face interactions!

I must extend an enormous thank you to the committee and my fellow officers, especially Maureen and Janet for their hard work and forbearance during these difficult times.

Stay Safe, all the best, Steve Old Chair WARG



SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

Dear Members,

During this past, very difficult year, your committee has worked hard to ensure that you received value for money in relation to your subscription to WARG. The Zoom lectures have been very well attended and the extra newsletters well received.

During the coming year there is every indication that the constraints on our activities will be eased, and it will once more be possible to visit sites of interest and take part in field work.

Please remember that subscriptions are due on April 1st. The current rates are single £15; double £27 (two members of the same household).

If you already have a standing order or direct payment set up with your bank, thank you! If not and you are able to set up a direct regular payment, that would be helpful (please ask for the bank details from the treasurer). Cheques should be sent to:

A King

Hon. Treasurer WARG 1 Wheatland Close Winchester
SO22 4QL

Many thanks

Andy King treasurer@warg.org.uk



WARG AGM

The 2020 AGM was our first attempt at Zoom and was very successful. If you would like to read about the meeting in full, Chris Sellen did a sterling job at transcribing the entire meeting and for those who were unable to attend this can be accessed on the WARG web site via this link

www.warg.org.uk/home_files/WARG_AGM_2020_Transcript.pdf

On the website you can also access details of the books available, one of which is the subject of our April talk. We also now host the Barton Stacey History Group book list.



From Cricket to Cookery: A Regimental Archive for all Occasions - by Heather Needham, Principal Archivist, Hampshire Archives and Local Studies – Clemency Fisher. November 2020

In November, Heather Needham, Principal Archivist for Hampshire Archives and Local Studies, gave a brilliant talk on her favourite collection, that of the Royal Green Jackets regiment. Inspired by the more personal items of the collection, she shone a light on the everyday activities of the regiment. This light is certainly



metaphorical — Heather explained that the 300 boxes of regimental archives spent the talk seated in a dark, fire-proof, water-tight room, no-where near a zoom screen. The collection, containing records from the Royal Green Jackets Regiment and antecedent regiments (The King's Royal Rifle Corps and The Rifle Brigade), arrived at the Hampshire Record office in December 2012, and were quickly placed into Heather's care. They sit in the high company of 38,000 items of cine-recording, sound and image archives of the Wessex Film and Sound Archive, nearby an extremely old cine-record of a military torpedo test, dating back to 1897. The Royal Green Jackets collection contains a

whopping 36,000 audio and visual records ranging from the 18th to 21st centuries.

Heather moved through the regiment's involvement in cricket, cookery and everything in between.

Cricket has held continual close ties to the Royal Green Jackets, and one of their members, Major Lord Lionel Tennyson (grandson of Alfred), captained the Hampshire and England team during the 1920s. Over the 19th-20th centuries, the regiment was encouraged by the British army to occupy the troops with sport whilst abroad, and cricket was quickly adopted as the favoured game. Scorecards of the Green Jackets Cricket Club at St Cross, dating back to 1885, document some of the earliest records of regimental cricket. The sport brought some novelty to the long campaigns, yet in a particularly special photo of troops playing on the RMS Kinfauns Castle (in 1902) it seems that the reverse is also true. The ship was equipped with netting to accommodate for the floating pitch. Heather detailed a few football archives as well, and noted that it too had a long history in the army — the Army FA Challenging Cup is one of the oldest football tournaments in England, established in 1888. Football remains as popular as ever and a more recent record, from Gibraltar 1990, is titled 'Surprisingly happy officers mess after being beaten by the Sergeants in the annual cricket match'. It shows the games continued play, a century after the competitions such as the Challenging Cup were started.

Beyond sport, the collection documents the regiment's dramatic and musical endeavours. An 1864 picture taken from a production at the Peshawar Theatre (India), features 2nd Lt. T. L. Mitchell Innes as the leading lady for a pantomime production. Musical recordings include that of the Kings Royal Rifle Corps marching to Garibaldi's

regimental march, and Heather interestingly commented that the Royal Green Jackets marched to a faster beat than other army regiments, (at 140 paces per minute rather than 120). Other musical archives include the score of the aptly named 'Wreck of the Warren Hastings' by Sergeant, F Tyler. This piece was inspired by the sinking of the RIMS Warren Hastings in 1897. The ship was believed to be unsinkable, with 33 watertight compartments, but in shallow waters from the coast of Réunion, the curse of the adjective 'unsinkable' struck Warren Hastings and it was torn apart and grounded on the rocks. Fortunately, the occupants used ropes and lines to evacuate the troops, and there were only two casualties from the disaster.



**The Wreck of
RIMS Warren
Hastings
14 January 1897
©Royal Green
Jackets (rifle)
Museum**

An army needs to eat, so food is a big part of the collection. One archive is of Sergeant Barker's notebook for his cookery course at the Aldershot Barracks, which detailed the extreme quantities of food needed for army catering - tea for 100 men required 4 pounds of sugar. Barker's book also included immaculate watercolour sketches of the meals and was stamped with a 95% award by the chief inspector. Food supplies were also put to less obvious uses.

A highlight of the collection, Heather's favourite piece, is a 1942 map of the Stalag Camps in Poland. The map is written with Chivers jelly, from red crust pastries, and ground up indelible pencil. Similar DIY work was used in Corporal D

Stacey's creation of a Regimental crest, cast in a soap mould, and made from melted silver paper.



Right - A Map marking out the Stalag camps. The red lines were made with the jelly, and the darker ones with pencil

Left - The Royal Green Jackets' crest, made by Corporal D Stacey from melted silver paper

Heather picked out some records that showed the extent of the RGJ's wide influence around the globe. A particularly interesting document was a 1799 letter from M Lewis, War Officer to Colonel Brownrigg, agreeing to the infantry records in Jamaica having black pioneers. On the other side of the globe, beautiful watercolours of the Nile Expedition (1884-5) by Lt. Colonel Willoughby Verner, the official regimental historian, capture the incredible colours of Egypt. The regiment's influence even infiltrated Hollywood, and a portrait of Peter Ustinov filming 'The Way Ahead', with the regiment's troops in North Africa is among Heather's favourite pictures from the collection.

Another notable picture is a photo from an Anneka Rice fill-in a sequence for 'Treasure Hunt' in 1987. In the photo the

troops hold rifles with Blank Firing Attachments on them - shoot has a double meaning on a military set.

Although not a celebrity, General Walter Norris Congreve is certainly a celebrated figure of the Green Jackets. He held a post-humous Victoria Cross along with his son, William La Touche Congreve and the two were one of only three father-son Victoria Cross holders, the only pair to come from the same regiment. The collection contains a fascinating map of the coastline of France, with an 'x' marking the spot where his body was committed to the deep following his death.

It was brilliant that Heather was able to speak about military archives that weren't even in the room and more information on the archives can be reached via The Hampshire Record's Online catalogue

<https://calm.hants.gov.uk/advanced.aspx?src=CalmView.Catalog> found if you search for 170A12W in the finding number field.

The Green Jackets website also offers details on a few records: <http://rgjmuseum.co.uk>

End note – As you may remember this regiment holds a very impressive number of awards for bravery throughout its history and into the 21st century. This includes an escapee from Colditz Castle. The web site photographs are to be recommended.



Archaeology course at Eastleigh College moves online – Steve Old

The leisure course, part of Eastleigh College's Adult and Continued Learning offering, on archaeology (with a fair bit

of history as well) which is held on Wednesday evenings from 19.00 to 21.00 has successfully been moved to online delivery using Microsoft Teams video calling.

The course is for either 9 or ten weeks and is delivered by Steve Old, WARG Chair. The course looks at a different subject each term with previous subjects being Maritime Archaeology, Conflict Archaeology, Osteoarchaeology, the origins of man, Anglo-Saxon sites in Britain etc. Each week there is also a quite extensive news section bringing students the up-to-date news items from the world of archaeology and Local History.

Check out the Eastleigh College website at www.eastleigh.ac.uk



**75 Years of the Council of British Archaeology (CBA)
- Neil Redfern, National Director of the CBA &
Roland Smith, President of CBA Wessex Region –
CBA and CBA Wessex – Chris Sellen.
December 2020**

In December we were delighted to welcome online not only Roland Smith, the chair of CBA Wessex, but also Neil Redfern, Director of the national CBA - Council for British Archaeology – to celebrate 60 and 75 years respectively of the societies.

Created in 1944, the CBA was formed as an independent champion of archaeology and British heritage, given the potential risks and pressures of post-war development. The stated aim was to bring together the academic and antiquarian approaches, with a view to safeguarding the great range of archaeological material; by strengthening existing measures for the care of ancient buildings,

monuments and antiquities. Underpinning this was the thread of improving education at all levels.

From early publications such as 'History from the Ground' which encouraged public involvement (a precursor to PAS) and abstracts which sought to pull together published work, CBA was instrumental in bridging the gap between government policies (such as the Town & Country Planning Act 1968) and practical application.



Early areas of involvement were in the definition of 'historic urban areas', and the establishment of Industrial Archaeology, Nautical Archaeology and Church committees which would be the precursors to both specific branches of study, and frameworks for future policy and its application. Although we often quote PPG16 in the early nineties as being the sea change in rescue archaeology, in the late seventies CBA had a major input to archaeological protection through the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act of 1979.

I was surprised to learn that the Young Archaeologists Club had been founded in 1972 and has been going from strength to strength ever since. This will have been a key catalyst for university courses and the later commercial companies. No wonder the producers of *Time Team* had a receptive audience. The Institute for Archaeology (IfA) and the Archaeological Data Service (ADS) were all the result of CBA input and lobbying by CBA was key in the 1996 Treasure Act. The range of projects and involvements is great. CBA is also one of the statutory advisers to the Listed Building Casebook.

Public engagement has steadily increased over the years since initially opening its membership to individuals as well as institutes and organisations. As early as 1990, the 'Day of Archaeology' was the forerunner of the annual UK-wide Festival of Archaeology. Key themed projects included the Defence of Britain in 2002, which led to the 2014 Home Front Legacy; in 2010 a CBA report leads directly to the HLF funding of community training bursaries.

The national body, as well as engaging with a regional audience through its sub-groups like CBA Wessex, is a keen user and advocate of technology through the Internet and social media, as recognised by its strapline 'Archaeology for All' and through the 'Festival', Dig School and Archaeological Resources Hub. The evergreen publication *British Archaeology*, edited by Mike Pitts, is the CBA's front door for the more traditional supporter.

For a society such as WARG, more local engagement in the form of lectures, walks, and conferences is our usual fare. In our area this is satisfied by CBA Wessex, the regional section of the CBA formed in 1958. The regional sections were originally the ears and eyes of the CBA on (or in) the ground but are now also the route to engage with the experts in our local area, and get the latest regional news.

Wessex, of course, was the area where many of the fathers of archaeology did much of their pioneering work. The likes of William and Maud Cunnington, Richard Colt-Hoare, Pitt-Rivers, OGS Crawford, Mortimer Wheeler and Stuart Piggott all made their mark with work in Wessex, which you might loosely define as Wiltshire, Berkshire, Dorset and Hampshire. CBA Wessex also specifically encompasses the Isle-of-Wight and the Channel Isles.

Although facilitated by professionals, the bedrock of CBA Wessex membership (currently over 450) was always the

enthusiastic amateur and volunteer, and although its membership was swelled in the 1990s by the professional commercial archaeologists, its ranks include all: professors to students; avid lecture-goers to Wessex Archaeology excavators; retired to children.

More recently public interest in archaeology as a subject and a way of understanding your local area has blossomed. Excavation as a public spectacle, the finding of objects which tell a local story as well as having intrinsic value, and the reporting of findings either through publication or public lecture are all forms in which CBA Wessex thrives.



The society actively keeps its membership informed through its monthly e-newsletter, and a twice-yearly printed 'Wessex News'. An annual themed conference is always fully-

subscribed and attracts some of the key names in the world of academic and commercial archaeology. (Incidentally CBA Wessex always ensures its conference does not clash with the HFC Archaeology conference!)

Walks and workshops allow amateurs and enthusiasts to improve their skills and knowledge on practical subjects and talk to the experts.

Avebury walk



Flint class



Finally, in keeping with its original role, CBA Wessex continues to provide advocacy on such subjects as planning law and controls, and the impact of individual projects such as the A303 tunnel. Always with a local concern, CBA Wessex brings the highest levels of expertise to issues which threaten our countryside and heritage. An organisation well worth supporting.

For more information go to: www.cba-wessex.org.uk



Invoice for work to be undertaken on constructing a new henge - discovered in the company archives by Steve Old

Preseli Bluestone Henges Ltd



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One pre-owned standing circle of

Preseli Bluestone,	54 sheep
Transportation to site, Wiltshire	88 sheep
Henge Tax	26 sheep
Total	<u>268 sheep</u>

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60 years in Archaeology: A reminiscence by Don Bryan – Edwina Cole & Steve Taylor. January 2021

We were promised a light-hearted history from the 1960s to the present day, but when Don Bryan embarked on his talk about 60 years in archaeology, he took us on a roller coaster ride that left us gasping for breath!

Born in Eastleigh in July 1945 with a trowel in his hand (according to his mother), Don recalled going to bed with candles for illumination. His curiosity, captured in the nicknames of “Badger” (always digging) and “Hawkeye” (always picking things up) prefigured an interest in the world around him. Not much has changed really...as those of us privileged to be taught by him and work alongside him can testify.

Fascinated by stories of King Arthur and visiting Stonehenge, as a birthday treat, secured his lifelong interest in history and archaeology. So, when Mrs Jess Foster asked him, at 15, if he wanted to help find King Arthur, the reply was a resounding ‘YES’ and his quest began. He joined the Pendragon Society, which alongside the Camelot Research Council was interested in finding Camelot. Under the chairmanship of Mortimer Wheeler, the group included Raleigh Radford the archaeologist, Geoffrey Ashe the historian and historical authors such as Anya Seton and Rosemary Sutcliffe. Alongside such luminaries, the young Don was introduced to the world of archaeology through excavations at Tintagel, Glastonbury and Cadbury Castle.

Another early encounter with the world of excavations was the Winchester excavations run by Martin Biddle. He didn’t get off to a very sparkling start as Martin Biddle yelled at him for being ‘one lad who always trod on ‘skulls’.



Cathedral Green Winchester

©<https://winchesterstudies.org.uk/excavations/>

However, he learnt the lesson, and was undeterred and in 1962, at the age of 17, made his first visit to Glastonbury Tor where he assisted with a dig that found evidence of a small timber church and Dark Age graves, which revealed this as a significant site from the early Saxon period.

He took part in a trip to Tintagel lead by the historian Geoffrey Ashe, which later excavations revealed to be a significant site from the “Dark Ages” of early Saxon times. Artefacts from the Mediterranean attested to its importance in that sixth century period. Don was actively involved in an excavation of that same period at Glastonbury Tor in 1964. This excavation by Philip Rahtz also underlined the extensive trading contacts of this period with its discovery of imported pottery.



**South
Cadbury
hill Fort**

✿Adrianhawleyschoolofenglish.com

Don’s fascination with this period of English history and the search for “Camelot” was also a factor in his links to South Cadbury. First visited in 1962 with the Pendragon Society he returned in 1966 to take part in the excavation led by Leslie Alcock of Cardiff University. For five years this team of archaeologists, although uncovering just one sixth of the site, revealed a Dark Age hall and an early Anglo-Saxon

cruciform church. He also got involved with Raleigh Radford's dig at Glastonbury Abbey when he was working on the grave of Arthur and Guinevere. Later, in 1966, he dug on the site of the High Altar. South Cadbury Iron Age Hill Fort was excavated from 1966-1970 under the directorship of Leslie Alcock. Don was there too, and despite the fact that only one sixth of the site was dug, they did find evidence of a massive feasting hall.

From 1970-1972 the Pendragon Society went on to work at Cattle Hill, Yarlinton. This turned out to be a large complex site with much Samian pottery and many coins. It was here that Lord Hobhouse dug through a mosaic, and Don found the "find of his life" Hidden in an undistinguished lump of soil were two solid gold rings and a gold bracelet, all now safely deposited in Taunton Museum.

He then went on to dig at Llanelen on the Gower Peninsula, where a local landowner's hunt for an early Celtic church was an opportunity for Don to do some digging a bit further away. As it happened, a church was discovered at Llanelan and excavated, but as a 12th century building it was rather later than the one being sought. But - important work was also being done nearer to home.

The South Hampshire Archaeology Rescue Group (SHARG) was working locally on the route of the M27, Manor Farm, Portsdown Hill as well as Corfe Castle. At Chalton Saxon village, which was excavated by Peter Addyman, they found post hole structures, beam slot structures and most importantly, a Saxon spear.

From 1973 Don served on the M3 committee when 94 different sites were discovered. During this time, the public enquiry into the Twyford Down Cutting was taking place over a 20-year period, the longest such enquiry in Britain.

He became Treasurer to the M3 Archaeological Committee and was put in charge of one of the five sections set up to administer the excavations. Significant work was done by Peter Fasham and his team on Easton Lane and Micheldever Woods, both heavily focussed on Bronze Age and Iron Age remains.



The notorious Hockley Lights, junction of the A33 and the A333 Winchester Road. The junction remained broadly like this until the 1990s, when it was finally eaten by M3

©<https://motorwayservicesonline.co.uk/roads/oldphotos/m3-a33/>

Then came WARG! Founded in 1972.

From this point in the tale Winchester and district archaeology would dominate Don's activities as far as this discipline was concerned. He became a committee member of WARG, at that time a relatively new organisation, and took part in a variety of local excavations.

A Roman cemetery in Victoria Road (1982) and the foundation of the Roman road to Silchester at the SCATS site (1984) were among the locations worked on. A high point of his career was when he worked on The Brooks site in 1987. This was the largest open-air excavation in Britain and a number of WARG members were involved (1987-89).

Although there was an attempt to segregate the Roman archaeology from the medieval phase, this proved to be very difficult due to the destruction of the earlier period by pits, wells and other intrusions from the later one.



Digging at The Brooks © Chris Sellen



Copper alloy brooch. © Hampshire Cultural Trust

Some Roman remains, including a hypocaust, were identified, but the excavation was distinguished by the well-preserved foundation of the grand medieval house of John de Tytynge with its fullers' tank and wine cellar.

A few years later Don had a close encounter with a chilling sensation when he found himself alone, excavating in the cathedral crypt – his colleagues had gone to the pub - he felt a sudden drop in temperature. He didn't see anything, but felt the need to leave..... quickly!



Winchester
Cathedral Crypt
1912 © Francis
Firth Collection

Further
opportunities
to indulge his
passion came

at the community digs at Hyde Abbey church (1995-9) and Orams Arbour in 2001 where Iron Age ring ditches were identified as the location of huts.

Later excavations included the Upper Barracks (1988-9) where the remains of the castle were explored ahead of redevelopment. Permission was given only for relatively shallow sections but among the features identified were the Royal apartments, the chapel of Eleanor of Aquitaine and the Roman wall later reinforced and broadened by Henry III.

In 1995, at the age of 50, Don had the opportunity to retire from his work as a Post Office engineer. He took that opportunity, which was why he was able to accept the next challenge in his life. He found himself on the remote island of St Kilda, an island at the edge of the world. He was one of 20 out of 200 applicants who applied to take part in the excavations there. He must have made an impression, because someone suggested that he should do a degree in Field Archaeology. On his return, he did just that, qualifying 3 years later. Having completed his degree, he began to teach history and archaeology, alongside embarking on his career as a Blue Badge Guide. I'm sure, that many others, like me, have cause to be grateful to have been taught by someone with his experience and passion for archaeology.

Alongside the guiding and the teaching, the digging continued. With WARG he was involved in the Roman site at Blackdown Farm (2006) (frustratingly terminated after revealing tantalising evidence of a significant site) and the rewarding digs at St Cross from 2008 to 2013 culminating in the identification of Henri de Blois' hospital. Also, with WARG, he took part in the digs at the Chapel of St Elizabeth close to Winchester College, the Overs Romano-British site with its well-preserved corn dryer, Warnford Park (with far too many drains), and latterly Hyde Abbey in conjunction with Hyde 900.

He also dug with the Kent Archaeological Field School (KAFS). Over 3 years in 2010, 2011 and 2012 he dug on Stone Chapel in Faversham, Bax Farm where an unusual Bath House was discovered, and another Roman site in the same area.

By now, in his own words, he was doing a lot more looking and a lot less digging! It has to be said, though, that digging remains his first love and he gets down and dirty on every possible occasion! What follows is a list of more recent excavations he has been involved with.

2013 St Cross bowling green

2013 Overs Field Beauworth

2016 Hyde Abbey Garden where he located a cloister wall

2016 Warnford Park

2018/19/20 Exton Roman Temple

2020 Hyde 900 Community Dig trenches at nos 3 & 13 King Alfred Terrace

In addition to his archaeological activities, he is a life-long dowser and has used these skills on many an archaeological site. He dowsed at St Elizabeth's College, St Cross, IBM Hursley Park and Warnford Park, always adding to the information gleaned by digging alone. Hampshire Archaeological Dowsers (HADS), of which he is the Archaeological Director, also conducted a dig of their own at Bishops Sutton near Alresford. Finding clear evidence of the Bishop's Palace there, we proved that information gained through dowsing can be verified by digging.

By this time, we were astonished at the wealth of experiences that Don has had. He closed by saying that he now points the way for others, so that they can taste a little of the joy he has experienced in archaeology. Those who have dug with him have heard pleas to 'straighten the edges' and 'time to brush up'! He thanked all those who had dug with him.

Don 'brushing up'

© <https://www.hyde900.org.uk/>

Don was warmly thanked by Steve Old for an absorbing and fascinating story. Remote applause was much in evidence.

Note: I too remember being told off by Don for walking over a trowelled site, but I did not tread on any skulls! Editor



Answers to the crossword in the Autumn Newsletter

Across

3. Hospital
4. Abbey
7. Alfred
10. University
12. Carmelite
14. Hog
16. Great
17. Austin
18. Cathedral
19. Archaeology

Down

1. College
2. Chapel
5. Artifact
6. Minster
8. Wykeham
9. Prehistory
11. Bishop
13. Excavation
15. Guildhall



Cruck Buildings of England and Wales - Dr Nat Alcock – Steve Taylor. February 2021

Much of the ‘surviving’ vernacular architecture of medieval times in England and Wales is in the form of timber frame buildings. Dr Alcock’s talk focussed on one particular form, the Cruck building. Cruck buildings are those which use two inclined posts, joined at the apex to form an “A frame” shape. These posts, known as “Cruck blades” are of two main types, the *base-cruck*, where two posts rest on the ground, and *jointed crucks* formed of two connected posts, one vertical and one inclined. A variety of techniques are used to connect the pieces at the top of the frame, where they generally support a ridge piece.



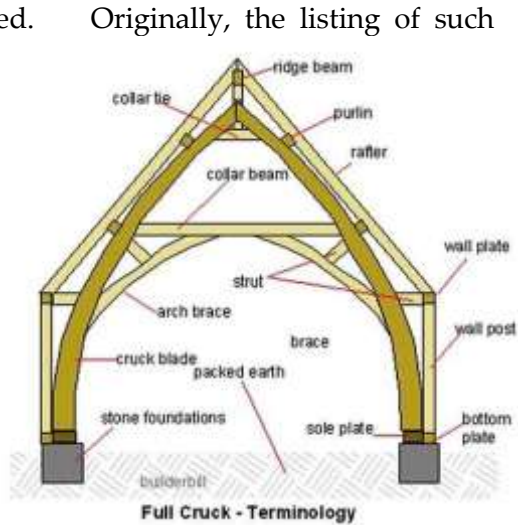
**Cruck
Cottage
in Wick**

© Philip
Halling

Apart from their structure, the other distinctive characteristic of cruck buildings is their localised distribution. These types of building are found extensively in the West Country, the Midlands and Wales. By contrast, almost none are known in East Anglia, Kent, Sussex and Lincolnshire. Beyond England and Wales, a few are found in Ireland and Scotland and they are rare in mainland Europe.

Although this cruck structure is not always apparent from the outside, detailed examination of buildings has resulted in an inventory of some four and a half thousand examples. Most of these are houses, around a quarter being barns. demolished. Regrettably, over 500 known cruck buildings

have been demolished. Originally, the listing of such buildings was unsupported by detailed dating evidence. With the growth in dendrochronology techniques, there is now a fairly comprehensive understanding of their historical evolution. They certainly go back to 13th century and



Full Cruck construction © treehugger.com

were still being built as late as the 17th century; mostly they were constructed between 1400 and 1600.

Looking beyond the broad categories of cruck structure presents a rather complex picture with the details changing from area to area and period to period. For instance, walling materials are timber for Wales and the Midlands but stone (including chalk) in the southwest. Jointed crucks are short, i.e., posts not sitting on the ground, in Devon, Dorset and Somerset, but are long elsewhere. Areas where base crucks rise to the levels of tie beams and purlins are common until around 1400, when they largely disappear. Faced with this bewildering variety it is difficult to isolate patterns linked to geography or chronology in any clear-cut fashion. Sometimes, as in Wales, the chronology can be related to local politics. There are no known cruck buildings earlier than 1400 in that country which can be interpreted as due to the rebellion by Owain Glyndwr against the English from

1400 to 1415 with its associated destruction. The earliest known cruck house is dated to 1402 at Hafodygarreg in Powys. Later in 15th century there are several examples of large halls built using cruck construction such as Genty Hall in Breconshire (1411/12) and Bryndrynaenog in Radnorshire (1435). By the 16th century cruck framing has been largely replaced by timber box-frames and jetties in Wales.

In the West Country there are over 1000 known cruck buildings. They are tightly grouped so that Cornwall has only 2, with Devon (341), Dorset (162) and Somerset (446) being the main locations. Although as elsewhere these buildings are built across a long expanse of time (1279 to 1678) there are changes across the period. True crucks (floor grounded) decrease in number whereas jointed crucks predominate later.

Although not as numerous as other counties further west, Hampshire has around 70 cruck buildings, largely of agricultural origin. The earliest known is the Manor Barn at Rockbourne, dated to 1282-4 and there are others located in Ashley (1456-83), Tichborne (1336-66) and Hannington (1360). In common with other areas the Hampshire cruck buildings became less common over time perhaps due to the desire for buildings with floored upper stories, which, with the constricted upper space of the "A" frames, were problematic.

The origin of the term "cruck" is uncertain. In 13th century documents there are Latin references to "Furca" or "Furcae" translated as "forks". These are now understood to be the earlier references to crucks in the written records in England. The earliest such reference dates to 1232 and relates to a building in Little Rackington, Warks., which has six crucks, i.e., three pairs. Hampshire has among the best written record of that century largely due to the extensive

manorial accounts contained in the Pipe Rolls of the Bishops of Winchester.



By User: Simon Webb - Own work by the original uploader, Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=50728427>

How far back can crucks be traced? There is no archaeological or other evidence to support a date prior to the 10th century. A later date based on the theory that crucks were an early attempt to copy gothic stonework seems disproved by their emergence before the gothic style emerged. The general consensus is therefore that use of cruck beams started in the period between the 10th and 12th centuries. There are firm dates supporting the later part of this period and it may be that in the earlier cruck structures the timber posts were not resting on padstone bases which would have affected their durability. Later on, the use of stone bases or the appearance of raised crucks with their bases set in the walls, would have overcome this problem.

This complex and fascinating topic can be further researched by use of the publication which Dr Alcock co-authored “Cruck Buildings, a survey” (2019) with P.S. Bamwell and M. Cherry. Closer to home there are two

publications which although not exclusively on cruck building contain much useful information among broader medieval surveys. "Medieval Hall Houses of the Winchester Area" by E. Lewis, E. Roberts and K. Roberts, Winchester City Museums, 1988, and "Hampshire Houses, 1250-1700" by E. Roberts. Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust, 2010.

On behalf of the Society, Stephen Old thanked Dr. Alcock for a very interesting overview of the subject.



Julia's Jottings

Invisible Heritage

We're hearing a great deal about Stonehenge at present due to recent decisions concerning the A303, but we must remember that we have other stone circles which are just as important. Also, we must remember that other countries than the UK have them as well, and one in particular that was revealed by the drought in 2019 is on the edge of the Valdecanas Reservoir in the Extramadura area of Spain.



The emergence of the dolmen from the reservoir

©Miguel Angel

Marcos

Before this drought a dolmen had occasionally been seen just above the water line but this 7000-year-old structure had been excavated in the mid-1920s and then eventually sunk beneath the reservoir in 1963 and forgotten. It's believed that many archaeological and historical treasures are submerged

under Spain's man-made lakes – what an excellent method of protection!

Metal Detectorists Rule OK!

Not so many years ago the new-fangled metal detectors were nearly all wielded by unprincipled owners who worked unauthorised on farmland to find and artefacts, and either kept or sold their findings i.e., our history. So, I am greatly heartened to know that during 2019 over 1300 items were handed in to the authorities. Due to our damp climate our country's older history has always been beneath our feet - with a few exceptions like Hadrian's Wall – but now much of our very diverse history is being brought to light and to the public eye. Important finds last year included a very rare and striking 1100-year-old brooch from Norfolk. Our own Headbourne Worthy gave up a coin known as a radiate from the time of Carausias' reign between AD 286-293, and Cumbria offered up a gold arm ring weighing 300g and dated to the 8th c. Kent's offerings included a hoard of Iron Age drinking vessels, wonderfully decorated with hippocamps: the creature with a horse's head and a fish's tail. It's wonderful to know that our knowledge of our long-ago ancestors and their ways are gradually being revealed to us.

News worth waiting for

It never ceases to amaze me that we are still finding evidence of so many large man-made structures in our country. In Caister St Edmund near Norwich the foundations of a large 2nd c temple have been excavated. The archaeologists say it was built by the Iceni tribe – noted for their feisty leader Boudicca – and was a large building of around 65 sq. ft. This site has actually been known about

since the late 1950s but apparently its true scale and significance has only now been appreciated with the completion of the post-excavation process.

(Don't tell me that archaeologists are in a hurry to get their findings published!)

Photo J Press Caistor Roan Project in BBC news 13/9/2020



Although the historians don't know to whom this large temple was dedicated, it was one of the largest in Roman Britain, thus indicating not just the importance of the building but also shows that the Iceni had the resources and ability to build such a structure. Caister was the smallest of the Roman regional capitals in Britain and it's believed that the corresponding smallness of the temple is a sign of the Iceni's impoverishment following Boudicca's unsuccessful revolt against the Romans in AD61.

Not a Metal Detector in Sight!

A great proportion of our history now being uncovered is because of metal detectorists, i.e. the finds are usually a metal of some sort such as coins or jewellery. Lovely though these undoubtedly are, they don't actually tell us much

about their period or provenance that's not already known. However, a recent discovery of great importance is NOT metal but human bones. There are many ancient bones in our country but due to the high cost of carbon dating we often have little idea of whom, what or when. However, a lead coffin filled with roughly half a skeleton was uncovered in 1885 in a church in Kent and has recently revealed its secret.

An archaeologist removes the remains from the alcove at St Mary and St Eanswythe's. ©Mark Hourahane/Diocese of Canterbury/PA



Actually, the clue lay in the name of the church of St Mary and St Eanswythe near Folkestone where the coffin had been hidden in an alcove. Dating has confirmed that the bones

are those of a woman, aged between 17 and 20, and from around 665. No signs of malnutrition suggest she was of high status and all this points to the skeleton being that of Eanswythe, who was granddaughter to Ethelbert, a saint in her own right, and who had founded one of the first monastic communities in England. A second clue as to the identity is that this young saint is the patron saint of Folkestone.

Oh Yes, It Is – Oh No It Isn't....

It may upset a few people but there is a strong belief amongst many archaeologists and historians that Orkney was far more important than Stonehenge, and given the sheer number of above ground remains of the early peoples, this is easy to understand. One of the most recent discoveries in the northern islands is a waterway connecting

the North Atlantic with Scapa Flow, crossing the Scottish archipelago's mainland. A number of Old Norse place names connected to the sea and boats around the island sparked the interest of researchers who started to look into it. Geophysical mapping and sediment samples have revealed a series of ancient canals connecting the area. This was the homeland of the Norse earls known as Jarls, hailing originally from modern day Scandinavia, between the 9th and the 12th centuries. These waterways would have enabled easy access to their stronghold on the Brough of Birsay for transport of the rents and taxes payable by the rich local farms and estates. Similar waterways have been found in Skye.

Standing Room Only!

In the grounds to the north side of Westminster Abbey archaeologists are excavating a medieval sacristy in the sandy soil. Henry III had this sacristy built in the 1250s as part of his reconstruction of the abbey, which had been built by Edward the Confessor. This was where the monks kept their vestments and other sacred items used in their masses. However long before the sacristy the site had been the monks' burial ground and it's believed that hundreds if not thousands of burials lie hidden there.



An 11th-century grave with skeleton, likely to be that of a monk.

© 2021 Dean and Chapter of Westminster

The site has a rich and varied history, the sacristy then being used as a domestic dwelling, demolished in 1740, but later uncovered and recorded by the famous architect George Gilbert Scott in 1869. The site is now required by the abbey authorities for a new building to be used for ticketing, welcoming and security for the abbey, to allow visitors to enter the building by the Great West Door – the entrance used by monarchs and royal brides. Apart from human remains, finds include a stoup dating back to the Confessor, lead water piping, many fragments of red, black and white painted wall plaster, and a great deal of stuff from the 18th c such as china, glassware, and combs and brushes. An impressive medieval sarcophagus raised hopes that it might contain the bones of some of the men involved in the execution of Charles I – their bodies had been thrown in a pit by order of Charles II, but sadly the sarcophagus had been emptied of human remains and used as part of the drainage system!



Book Review

Wearing the Blue-Grey and Khaki – The War story of LAC Arthur L Old – Steve Old ISBN 978-1-8381838-5-1, Pub. Timeline History & Archaeology (Hampshire)

£9.00 plus post and packing £1.50 available from Steve Old
27, Ashley Gardens, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh SO53 2JH –
Janet Backhouse

Written in in the words of Leonard Old, with explanatory interjections by his son, this story tells of a 16 year old leaving school for his first job as an office boy, and the shattering of his peaceful routine life, as war broke over the continent of Europe.

He recalls the devastating 'blitz' on Portsmouth, which is very much as I have also been told by a friend who was there as a small child. But he also recalls the great 'bulldog' spirit of the population in the face of unimaginable threats and losses.

Initially he remembers his pride in being able to join the RAF, and his disappointment at being found out to have 'advanced' his age. However, he made it on the second attempt, at the legal age, and found he had fun, in spite of the living conditions during his training to become a member of the RAF Construction Unit.

This is the story of a man whose experiences led him to the wearing of two recognisably proud uniforms, the Blue-Grey of the RAF and the Khaki of the British Army to which for a long period, he was seconded. Sadly, after demobilisation, he found himself left with two distinctive social 'hats', one, the 'fellow well met', which he wore with his public face, the other, the deeply troubled one of a young man who has seen too much of the horrors and evils no one should experience.

During Operation Overlord - the D Day Landings, he was doing a vital job of clearing the way for the building of airfields, enabling the designated 'fighting troops' to advance, during which time his group lived and slept wherever was available, in squalid and very dangerous conditions. No one could say they were not themselves 'fighting troops'.

Later he experienced the horror of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen concentration camp, where it is unimaginable to envision the tasks he had to undertake. It is little wonder this left him with what is probably what we now term as post-traumatic stress disorder, with the consequences for both himself and his family.

This was a life, at times mundane, at times filled with horror. A time that has remained largely locked in thousands of memories over the past 80 years.

This was a brave and stoic generation who deserved so much more from life.



Walks and Talks Programme

The transcript of David Ashby's March talk on Stanford in the Vale, will appear in the next newsletter. Special thanks to the wonderful scribes who produce the talk transcripts for the newsletter.

April 12th 2021 A True Blue Victorian Company – Steve Old, Chair of WARG

May 10th 2021 Medieval Buildings Myths - James Wright, FSA, Archaeological Consultant, Triskele Heritage



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**"I notice you always wash your hands after we play.
Frankly, I find that offensive."**