



# Newsletter

Summer 2016

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

For more information on WARG, and to join, call 01962 867490, e-mail [membership@warg.org.uk](mailto:membership@warg.org.uk) or visit [www.warg.org.uk](http://www.warg.org.uk)

# Chairman's Notes



We've had a busy spring here at WARG. Our usual eclectic mix of talks: bell-ringing in Winchester, the whereabouts of the stones used to build Hyde Abbey, and a thought-provoking exposé of the execution of deserters and others in WW1, were well attended and received.

You may also have been involved with, visited, or just read in local papers about the excavation carried out in April by the Hyde900 group, a local community organisation which organises social and cultural events and supports research into the history of the Hyde area. WARG supported the group with excavation equipment and expertise as they searched for evidence of Hyde Abbey in a local garden.

Summer, of course, is our season for visits. Salisbury and Twyford have already had the pleasure, and King John's House in Romsey in July and a day visit to Malmesbury in September will complete a busy summer. Don't forget our annual picnic, this year at Basing House.

The excavators amongst us will be getting their hands dirty at Warnford Park in the Meon valley, as we search for evidence of a Tudor mansion under later Regency buildings. If you want to volunteer as a digger or finds processor then download an application form from our website, otherwise please come and visit the excavations during our Open Day on Sunday 7th August.

Enjoy your summer.

*Chris Sellen*

# Rediscovering Hyde Abbey

This story started back in 1969 when David Spurling and his wife bought an ancient timber framed cottage in Headbourne Worthy. Although the cottage had been modernised by an earlier owner in 1952 (including the insertion of inappropriate windows) this venerable building needed much attention to remove some of the covering up of period features typical of the 1950's. In the course of this work several pieces of carved stone were revealed which were clearly re-used to build the chimney. Further blocks of dressed stonework were uncovered in a rockery in the garden. Much of this was used in the construction of a bridge nearby although one more decorated piece was used in the cottage extension.

Encountering such stonework in an unexpected context triggered questions on its source and how it came to be used in the cottage construction. The site of Hyde Abbey just a mile or so down the road towards Winchester was an obvious place to start looking. Could this Abbey, shut down and largely demolished during the sixteenth century Reformation, be the source of this carved stone? When David started enquiring with the Hyde 900 heritage project he rapidly found himself as recipient of an invitation to join the committee as the "stone project leader". Thus started the work which continues today to identify the whereabouts of the stone used in the construction of the Abbey and its dispersal following the dissolution. 1538 marked the closure of the monastery under the direction of Thomas Wriothesley, Earl of Southampton, an aristocrat much involved in the organisation of the dissolution of the religious houses in the area.

Given that much of the demolished stonework was limestone and therefore probably burned to manufacture lime used in agriculture and construction, it was not clear how much had survived. Of the Abbey itself only the gatehouse has survived to provide some clues as to the original appearance of the church and the other monastic buildings. However, if successful, the location of other surviving material would provide additional evidence to help recreate the likely structures of the Abbey. Although curiously overlooked in many accounts of the dissolution, Hyde Abbey was a major foundation, perhaps the fourth richest in England and with a church building on the scale of the Cathedral. Such a massive structure is calculated to have generated some 50,000 tons of material, an enormous quantity to disperse.

Because building stone was so scarce in central Hampshire (flint being the most abundant but unsuitable for carved surfaces) post-reformation structures around Hyde were an obvious place to look for surviving masonry being re-used. Written sources proved to be helpful with architectural historians such as Pevsner and Milner providing clues along with Hampshire Record Office and the Victorian County History.

It seemed probable that early owners of the remaining Abbey buildings and the site might also provide hints on the eventual location of some of the stonework. This proved to be somewhat complicated due to a series of transactions and attendant lawsuits in the years following the dissolution. Briefly, Wriothesley sold it to Richard Bethell, an MP and ex mayor of Winchester. Richard Bethell died before completing his project and his son William inherited the estate. However he ran short of funds and borrowed £2000 from a wealthy London leather merchant, John Ward. Ward had to go to court to get repayment and successfully got the loan repaid along with part of the damages he was awarded.

Little remains of Bethell's buildings apart from the servants' quarters. The site of the church was subsequently used as the location of the early Winchester prison, the Brideswell. This in turn was demolished and the site is now occupied by housing. However, keen eyes can detect much carved masonry in the buildings and walls around Hyde. Ross Lovett, previously head mason at Winchester Cathedral, has been invaluable in turning these remaining stone fragments into structural components of the Abbey and providing a growing database of evidence as to the architecture of the original. Surviving stonework has not been the only source of evidence. Beams in the tower of St. Bartholomew's, the parish church opposite the Abbey gatehouse, have been shown by dendrochronology to be mostly from 1591 and this is likely to be the date for the tower construction. Other examples of re-used timber from the thirteenth century have been identified from surviving Bethell building and the style of roof structure has parallels found in the roof of St. John's Church, Winchester, and King John's House, Romsey. Further material evidence has been found from tiles located in excavations and as stray finds. Much of this data is still being researched.

To complement the growing archive of building artefacts, a programme has started to try and clarify the ground plan of the Abbey church and its attendant monastic buildings. With the cooperation (and often enthusiasm) of house owners across the Abbey site, a

series of test pits are planned to try and locate foundation walls and robbed-out trenches. The first of these is planned for late April. WARG will be assisting by providing supervision on both the archaeology excavation and finds processing. Hopefully, this will prove to be the first of many such excavations which offer the hope that Hyde Abbey can be recreated, at least on paper, to give some insight into its former medieval magnificence.

For David, he has the added encouragement of knowing that because of recent work in his cottage, he has an even larger proportion of the old Abbey incorporated in his home than was first revealed nearly fifty years ago.

*Steve Taylor*



## WARG walk to Salisbury

It is possible to visit a city many times and believe that you know it well. Then you go on a WARG walk and discover all the things you didn't know! So it was with our trip to Salisbury in April, and with Don as our guide we explored its fascinating history.

Five rivers meet in Salisbury, but only one flows out. Water even flows under the spire of the Cathedral so it wasn't surprising that Don told us about the bridges. Fisherton Bridge is the oldest, built in the 12<sup>th</sup> century. The pilgrim badges are a reminder that there were more pilgrims in Salisbury than in Winchester at this time. Bishop Bingham built Crane Bridge and Harnham Bridge from 1264.

Walking along Crane Street we learned that the Diocesan Office is perhaps one of the oldest buildings in Salisbury, and that the Bishops Palace became a school. Here also is the oldest house in Salisbury marked by a plaque. Richard Poore had temporary lodging here whilst overseeing the building of the Cathedral.

Continuing along High Street we saw the Poultry Cross and learned of the markets held here every Tuesday and Saturday. Butchers Row, Goose Row and Ox Row indicate the old market area together with the Haunch of Venison pub. The animal market was held in the market square. Farmers brought their animals to market and the money made went down their gaiters! In the 1920s they were still driving cattle from Shaftesbury to Salisbury market.

The Bishop had his own Guildhall, so Lord Radnor gave money for the new Guildhall that stands here.

The Duke of Buckingham was executed here.

There is a statue to Henry Fawcett who was a very important man for Salisbury and the nation. He supported women's rights and introduced the penny post, telegrams, the pillar-box and taps!

Next on our agenda was St Thomas Church, which is the Parish Church for the city. It was probably built of wood around 1220, but the building we see today is mainly 15<sup>th</sup> century. It is famous for the doom painting which was painted around 1475 as a thanks offering. At the Reformation it was whitewashed over and remained forgotten until the 19<sup>th</sup> century when it was rediscovered and restored. There are nearly 250 angels on the roofs, walls and pillars of the church.



*Detail from the "doom" painting over the chancel arch showing the Last Judgement in St Thomas, Salisbury (Wiltshire Historic Churches Trust)*

Entering the Cathedral Close, we heard that by the end of the 14<sup>th</sup> century Old Sarum was no longer the important place it once had been, so the Bishop was allowed to take stone from there to use in the Close. There are a number of important buildings in the Close including the College of Matrons founded in 1682 by Bishop Seth. Sir Christopher Wren had a hand in its design and the Coat of Arms is that of Charles II.

Mompesson House was built in 1701 on the site of an earlier Tudor house. For years it was the property of the church authorities until it was purchased by Mr Denis Martineau in 1952 and given to the National Trust.

Hemingsley no.56 was named after the first Canon who lived there in 1334. All the tiles came from Old Sarum as did the stones forming the Chapel and part of the walls.

Wren Hall was built in 1714, but there is no evidence of Wren's involvement in the design.

The Rifles Berkshire and Wiltshire Museum occupies The Wardrobe. This was first built in 1254, but in the 14<sup>th</sup> century the Bishop took possession and used it to store his clothes – hence its name. The Regiment acquired it in 1979 and extensive restoration began. There is a good tea-room inside!

Arundells was the home of Edward Heath who was Prime Minister from 1970 – 1974. It has recently been re-opened to the public.

Passing the West Front of the Cathedral, we heard that it was founded in 1220 and took 7 years to build. It has been flooded 5 times.

On leaving the Close we passed Sarum College, which was a teacher training college and is now a B&B. St Anne's Gate is the site of the Bell Tower, and the 13<sup>th</sup> century Bishop's Palace is now a school.....one of 5 in the Cathedral Close.



68 The Close, Myles Place  
(© Copyright Mike Searle, licensed for reuse under a Creative Commons Licence)

A visit to Salisbury's Museum occupied most of the afternoon.

There were several more buildings to see in the Close.

Myles Place number 68 was a 16<sup>th</sup> century prebend's residence. It was rebuilt in 1718 and 6 generations of the Jacob family lived here from 1786-1968.

The Walton Canonry was connected to Isaak Walton's son who lived here. (Izaak Walton of 'The Compleat Angler' fame.)

Leadenhall number 70 was originally built in 1232. The present house was built in 1717. John Fisher lived here in 1820 when a frequent visitor was the artist John Constable. During his visits he painted several scenes of Salisbury, Old Sarum and Stonehenge.

De Vaux College was founded in 1262 for 20 poor scholars to study theology.

Our final destination was Harnham Mill, so we walked past the Rose and Crown hotel, which is a Medieval building. It is a pleasant walk across the fields to the Mill, which is mentioned in the Domesday Book. This 12<sup>th</sup> century hidden gem in Salisbury marked the end of our fascinating tour.

Thanks, as always, are due to Julia and Don. These walks do not happen by magic, and we are all indebted to them for the effort they make before and during the day itself. This one had its own frustrations, but what a joy it turned out to be!!

*Edwina Cole*



# Turkish Delights

Turkey is by no means the largest country in the world – it's beaten by Iran, Saudi Arabia, Russia and, I needly hardly say, China, but my visit late last year to a very small part of the country still meant that in a mere week we only travelled 1200 miles. This means a lot of time is spent sitting on a coach, but the countryside is so spectacular that it doesn't really matter. Wherever you go you can nearly always see a mountain range but not a lot else. Turkey is large and largely uninhabited. It has its cities of course – Istanbul, Antalya, Izmir and Ankara probably being the only ones most of us have heard of – and several seaside resorts like Bodrum but they're not what I travel for! I should tell you that I fell in love in an instant with Istanbul and have every intention of returning for longer than a day, taking Dick with me this time. There is a huge amount to see in this busy city: the Blue Mosque, Hagia Sophia, Topkapi Palace (that takes *at least* 2 days!) and an essential boat trip round the Bosphorous, not to mention the markets and other Mosques etc etc... The waterfront of the western part of the city is a wonder of beautiful old buildings and pretty small mosques, whilst the eastern side is nearly all homes and boatyards. That boat trip is a perfect way to get a good overview of the city and see quite a few of the old ramparts too.



*The Bosphorous*

But my holiday was a historical one and few countries have more of that than Turkey. We drove down the Gallipoli peninsula to break my heart in Anzac Cove and two other Allied cemeteries (I'd have liked to visit a Turkish one as well though) where the unbelievably cretinous decision to land the Allied troops was made by Churchill – massive slaughter of the multi-national troops ensued. From there we crossed the Dardanelles Straits to Troy – somewhere I've wanted to visit since a very small girl! There's not a lot I can tell you about Troy since you all know the stories of its long ancient history and how Schliemann discovered gold jewellery which he determined had belonged to

King Priam – there’s nothing like a good dose of imagination to catch everyone’s interest! The ruins are extensive, covering the many phases of this city’s life over the 3½ thousand years of its existence, but the visitors are extensive too!

From there we travelled to Ephesus – a city to take one’s breath away. Fifteen centuries of living produced a typical Greek city, later taken over by the Romans. The also-extensive ruins – a dry climate does help – are fabulous with a large amphitheatre, a basilica, an odeon, fountains, temples, terrace houses with wonderful mosaics and wall paintings, baths, a gymnasium and the façade of a library which I found uncannily like the Treasury at Petra. Carvings everywhere are both Greek and Roman with the two alphabets used cheek by jowl.

From there we drove to Hierapolis / Pammukale. This city was built, around the early second century BC, on the side of a mountain because of the adjacent hot springs. Used mainly as a spa city, the large necropolis shows how popular it was in its heyday, and most of its modern day visitors are still more interested in paddling or sitting in the hot springs than in walking its ruins. Because it was a popular city for visitors it had the usual temples, theatres, gates, pools and baths, one of which you can still swim in providing you’ve got your cossie with you. A small museum nearby has much in the way of statuary and other artefacts, but most of it from sites other than Hierapolis.

Next we visited the hippodrome at Perga – in astonishingly good condition although somewhat overgrown today. It’s outside the ancient city of Perga and doesn’t seem to be visited much by tourists. I could have spent ages there – we had 10 mins – just imagining the races and all the shops around the site which would have teemed with punters buying all sorts of food and, no doubt, tat. Well, what we call important belongings from times past! Our next stop was Antalya itself – a modern city with a massive buzz to it - a typical overcrowded



*Antalya's 40 / 50 feet river waterfall into the sea*

port with Hadrian's Gate still welcoming one to its old city area. I'm happy to be able to tell you that either side of this 3-arch gate are two towers, the southern one being called the *Julia Sancta* Tower: doesn't that mean Holy Julia? 'Nuff said. Antalya is the only place I've ever visited where the river running through the city at an enormous rate drops as a waterfall into the sea about 40 / 50 feet below – amazing!

Sadly, tourism in this amazing country has been damaged by the recent bomb attack on tourists in Istanbul and all the refugee problems, but if / should things quieten down, PLEASE make an effort to visit Turkey if you haven't already done so. There's a huge amount still left for me anyhow in this fantastic country.

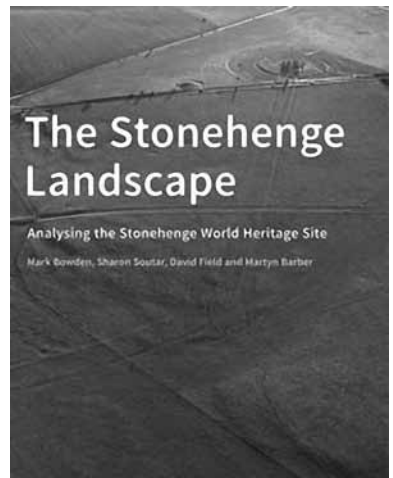
*Julia Sandison*



## Book Review

Mark Bowden, et al **The Stonehenge Landscape**, Historic England 156 pages pbk £ 30 ISBN 97884802 116 7

Who needs yet another Stonehenge book? There has been so much new thinking in recent years that anything published pre 2014 risks being out of date. This is up to date. As you would expect from Historic England, this book is as factual as it is possible to be about not only the stones but also the wider landscape. It does not ignore the recent theories put forward by Parker-Pearson, Darvill and others. It sets them out and leaves you to explore them elsewhere (i.e./ buy *their* books). Rather it focuses on fact: this is located at X, this is who discovered it, this is how it was discovered and excavated, these are its attributes, this is where it is recorded. The book does not ignore interpretation, and it links interpretation to the perspective of the relative time. Factually it is amazing. For example, did you know that there are actually 16 henge



sites in the World Heritage Area? This book tells you where.

It starts at Mesolithic. By half way at page 75, pre-history is almost finished. After that a little about the Iron Age, Roman and medieval periods, then chapters on “The Landscape of Improvement” – 19 pages which could relate to most counties (turnpikes, enclosure, gentrification and parks etc.). Then “Stonehenge in the 20<sup>th</sup> century” and finally 7 pages of “Review and Prospect”.

The references and further reading section (10 pages) really do tell you where to dig deeper (no pun intended). As you would expect, the layout, maps, diagrams, indexing and photography are of the highest standard. In the summer 2012 newsletter, after WARG’s 40<sup>th</sup> birthday trip to Stonehenge, I reviewed most of the then current serious Stonehenge books. The guide book (by Julian Richards) remains a compulsory read. In 2012, I said go for Julian Richards *The Story So Far* (2007) and Andrew Lawson’s *Chalkland* (2007). With this publication, you can save buying those and instead purchase Bowden *et al.* . But it will make you want to dig deeper. Buy another bookshelf!

*Techer Jones*

### **Editor’s note**

**S**tonehenge enthusiasts may be interested in a Gresham College Lecture “*The Cradle of Stonehenge*”? *Blick Mead – a Mesolithic Site in the Stonehenge Landscape* by Professor David Jacques FSA. at the Museum of London on 21<sup>st</sup> September.

*The discovery of a spring and a Mesolithic land surface at Blick Mead about 2 km from Stonehenge, that has well preserved and substantial Mesolithic deposits, potentially transforms our understanding of the Mesolithic use of the pre-Stonehenge landscape, and the establishment of its later ritual landscape. This talk outlines the newly discovered local landscape history of the Vespasian’s Camp area, the field interventions, and concludes with a review of the site and its wider significance and context for the later development of the Stonehenge ritual landscape.*

Read more at <http://www.gresham.ac.uk/lectures-and-events/the-cradle-of-stonehenge-blick-mead-a-mesolithic-site-in-the-stonehenge-landscape>

## Another *fresco* holiday!

Sometimes one needs to return to an area to see stuff one had missed before, hence our return to northern Italy to explore Venice a bit more. It's important to point out that whatever month of the year you visit, this city'll be crowded with tourists from the many cruise liners as well as those staying in the Lido. I'm not keen on crowds and so this wasn't the pleasantest of returns for me but the important person whom I accompanied wasn't as bothered and we managed to visit places with fewer visitors than the San Marco area. We travelled everywhere on the water buses so always had really great views of the lagoon and the other islands. Deciding to give Murano a miss, we visited San Michele, the cemetery island, where we found Igor Stravinsky and Diaghilev but failed to find Ezra Pound. Diaghilev's large exuberant tomb is hung with ballet shoes! We potted up to the Jewish ghetto area with the tall buildings considered suitable for such inhabitants, ie not the large area palazzo-style houses that cover the main island but with much lower ceilings and smaller rooms, allowing for one extra floor and still not higher than the important buildings. Once off the main tourist area, ie around San Marco and the Doge's Palace, one finds streets with the ordinary little shops and restaurants that support the life of the Venetian people, as well as many iron bridges which were put there by the British.

The city I really wanted to visit was Vicenza and what a worthwhile choice that was! A city occupied by just about every important race since its founding in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> centuries BC, Romans, Ostrogoths, Byzantines and the Lombards all left their mark though little remains of most of them now. The main point for me of visiting this thriving city was to see the Palladian *palazzi* which fill the centre of the place. Well, gawp is probably a more accurate word for my reaction! Andrea Palladio was born in Padua but moved to Vicenza when 16 where he joined the guild of stonemasons and bricklayers



*Diaghilev's grave*



Vicenza: Basilica Palladiaa in the Piazza dei Signori  
(Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.0 Italy)

and took employment with a local workshop to produce monuments and decorative sculptures. A wealthy sponsor sent him to Rome to study ancient architecture and thus our man went on to build wonderful palaces all around the town as well as smaller villas and utilitarian buildings in the surrounding area. His style of building impressed the British

when on their Grand Tours and his influence can be seen at Blenheim Palace and Chiswick House, to name just two.

Not wishing to visit just the grand cities of the area, we travelled by train up into the Dolomites to visit Belluno and Vittorio Veneto. Belluno is in a simply stunning area, with the foothills of the Alps close by, and like so many other towns in the north was ruled by the Romans, the Lombards and the Carolingians at one time or another. Between 1797 and 1866 it was actually an Austrian possession but annexed to Napoleon's Kingdom of Italy at the later date. Despite an earthquake in 1873 which destroyed much of its infrastructure, we still managed to find a Roman entrance gate and see some spectacular views and a few lovely buildings.

Vittorio Veneto also sits amongst spectacular scenery and also had its fair share of Romans, Ostrogoths, Franks, Byzantines and Lombards before being incorporated into Napoleon's Kingdom of Italy. Originally two separate towns, they were joined into one in 1866 and named Vittorio after King Vittorio Emanuele – he of the outrageously massive tomb in Rome – the Veneto being added in 1923. Were we walkers, then this mountainous part of northern Italy would have been the area to really explore – rivers, streams, woodland and always fantastic views everywhere. A train ride has a great deal to recommend it!

I'm fairly certain that if we were ever to return to this part of Italy we'd find everywhere we went to be to our liking, both from an architectural point of view and, I need hardly add, from a food and drink one too!

*Julia Sandison*

# Shot by their Own

**M**artin Parsons has carried out extensive research in a reappraisal of military executions on the Western front during World War I. He shared his views with WARG in May.

During the First World War 200,000 men from the British Army, Army Air Corps and Commonwealth troops were court-martialled for committing offences which carried the death penalty. Of these, 3,000 received the death penalty and 346 men were actually shot. This is a much higher figure than military executions carried out by our allies or enemies and is considerably higher than the 63 civilian executions during the war years.

Military crimes carrying the death penalty in the Summer of 1914 included mutiny, cowardice, self-inflicted wounds, disobeying a lawful order, desertion or attempted desertion, being asleep or drunk on duty, striking a superior officer, abandoning a post, treacherously communicating with the enemy and abandoning arms in the presence of the enemy.

Having committed such an offence the accused underwent a court martial. However, the legality of the court comes into question as the accused had no access to a legal representative, some had a "prisoner's friend" but legally every court martial should have had a Judge Advocate on the panel. After sentence the soldier had the right to petition the King for clemency but he was never told this fact. No medical excuses were accepted. Finally, after the court martial, Field Marshall Sir Douglas Haig confirmed sentence on the same evening. Martin questions how this was achieved given the difficulties of communication at this time. The executions were quickly performed after sentence leaving no time for appeal.

Lieutenants and officers found guilty of such crimes were not executed, 15 did receive the death sentence but were pardoned. Privates were much more likely to be shot. However if a soldier was on leave, went home to the UK and failed to return to the front he was not executed.

No medical excuses were accepted but from Summer 1916 onwards officers were pardoned if they had "neurasthenia" an ill-defined medical condition characterised by lassitude, fatigue, headaches, irritability and emotional disturbance. These are the same symptoms as shell shock but given a "posh" name!

The executions were carried out at dawn by a firing squad. After having had the company of a chaplain during the previous night, the prisoner, who had often been given morphine or alcohol, (eg James Crosier from Belfast had been given so much rum that he had to be carried semi-conscious to the site) was tied to a stake, a white cloth placed over his heart, a priest said prayers, the 6 or 12 men in a line (all their guns being loaded with live ammunition) were given the order to fire. The firing squad comprised of soldiers back at base recovering from wounds and some were even under the age of 18, having lied about their age when joining the army. They did not want the task, they suffered from the guilt of having to kill their comrades but could not disobey the order or they would be next. If the prisoner was still alive the officer in charge shot him in the head with a revolver.

In 1917 ninety men deserted, the highest figure of the war years. By this year conditions in the trenches meant that the troops were tired, cold, hungry, thirsty, suffering from a continuous barrage of noise, battle weary, physically and mentally exhausted, frightened and of course had no idea that the end was in sight. Soldiers should not have been sent back to the front again and again when they were so obviously sick. Yet, the senior officers saw executions as serving a dual purpose; to punish deserters and to deter others.

The Ancient Greeks knew about "war exhaustion" and shell shock was recognised in 1915.

1930 saw the end of the military death penalty so no troops were executed in the Second World War. Dr Petra Boynton, a psychologist, believes that even 90 years ago there was no excuse for killing soldiers who were under extreme duress. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder makes soldiers behave erratically, hysterically and unable to remember their actions later. (eg Private Abe Bevistein, age 16, was found in a barn with no recollection as to why he was there yet he was executed.)

A soldier was presumed guilty unless found innocent, this statute was reversed on 13 January 1915 yet still the executions continued.

In the period 1914-1918 the British army identified 80,000 men suffering from shell shock so why execute them, why not treat them?

The injustices were later acknowledged. On November 8<sup>th</sup> 2006 the Armed Forces Act pardoned 306 men in the British and Commonwealth





*The Shot at Dawn Memorial*  
(Harry Mitchell under Creative Commons Attribution  
2.0 License)

forces (those who had committed murder or mutiny were not pardoned). This removed the stain of dishonour but did not cancel out their sentences. Despite the pardon some still have not had their names added to War Memorials; hopefully this will be rectified as the Majors, who object, pass away.

The "Shot at Dawn" memorial in the National Arboretum was modelled on Private Herbert Burden who was executed age 17 having lied about his age in order to enlist. The stakes in the semi-circle behind his statue bear the names of all those executed in World War I.

In conclusion Martin believes that the British Army has nothing of which to be proud regarding the execution of soldiers in the First World War. He then updated us on his current projects working with the children of serving soldiers and Syrian refugee children. A lively discussion followed where differing opinions were shared.

*Valerie Pegg*

# Julia's Jottings

## **A fragment of a tablet**

Most of my snippets to tempt you are about physical finds from around the world but this one's a bit different. The fragment is made of wood, dated to around AD65, and inscribed on it is, amongst others, the word *Londinio* - the first known written reference to London. One tablet of a batch of over 85 found in the City of London, this writing tablet like the others reveals much about the emerging Romanisation of southern England and they are mainly financial documents showing how the city recovered after its destruction by Boudicca and her Iceni tribe in AD60/61.

## **A good thing about airports**

Okay, so airports enable us (certainly me) to go on exotic holidays with ease and very little time wasted on arriving at one's destination, but on the whole the pollution that they create and the usually green field sites that they take up make me very uneasy. Increasing the size of these monster facilities is a much discussed and often vituperative matter. However in Norway pre-construction work for an extension to Orland airport has uncovered a large wealthy Viking farming community. I don't know about you but I don't really associate the Vikings with farming, more just rape, pillage and conquering, so it's rather nice to know that more sedate occupations took place amongst these people. Part of the uncovered area included rubbish pits filled, hardly surprisingly, with the remains of fishes and seabirds – obviously favourite foods. But also in the pits were pieces of jewellery and glass, most likely from the Rhine valley, showing that peaceable trade also took place with these somewhat ferocious people.

## **A lost palace**

A 10-room palace has been discovered about 10 miles from Sparta and has revealed wonderful artefacts as well as clay tablets in a lost script. Bronze swords, ornate murals, a bull's head-shaped cup and many other articles lie amidst the ruins of the building which burned down in the 15<sup>th</sup> or early 14<sup>th</sup> century BC.

## **A mystery solved?**

Most of you will know that the mortuary chests from the chancel of Winchester Cathedral were removed from their high resting place a couple of years ago for restoration and research to be carried out on the enclosed bones to help establish their age and the possible identification

of the inhabitants. These bones are said to belong to some of England's earliest royalty, such as Alfred's father and Cnut's wife Emma. However in 1642 whilst desecrating the Cathedral, Parliamentary troops smashed these chests and cast the bones around.

Now the University of Oxford experts have dated these bones to the Anglo Saxon and early Norman periods. Many of us never doubted that fact but we must still speculate on the owners of these important bones!

### **A really rare find!**

Over the last decade the amount of hoards from various periods found by metal detectorists has been phenomenal and as a result has given us ever greater insight into how our long-ago ancestors lived and the detail of their lives. However, as you know, I'm beginning to find the frequent discoveries of coin hoards rather boring! But a recent find is much more interesting and intriguing – Gloucester has offered up a small extremely rare Roman bronze wing. Only about 5½ inches long, it was found near where the city's wall was and it's probably part of a statue either to Victoria, the Roman goddess of victory, or Jupiter, or possibly Mercury, the messenger of the gods.

Bronze Roman sculpture is very rare in Britain and speculation as to who owned this little statue could keep one amused for hours!

### **An early arcade**

Colchester was an exceedingly important Roman city but the site of much of the Roman area has been covered by modern buildings for a long time. Recent demolition of an office block has uncovered evidence of a covered walkway from the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> century AD which was part of the Temple of Claudius. Destroyed by Boudicca during her rebellion, the huge building was similar in design to the arcade and columns in Bath's Roman baths., and is considered to confirm the grandeur and richness of Roman culture.

### **Byzantine goodies**

Having so recently visited Istanbul and having quite lost my heart to it, I was interested to read that the Turks are creating a tunnel under the Bosphorus to connect the European and Asian sides of the city. The authorities were fairly confident that work would not be delayed as they could not envisage anything being found deep under water. However to their astonishment they found a large number of Byzantine shipwrecks dating from the 5<sup>th</sup> to the 11<sup>th</sup> century, as well as a tiny Byzantine church under some demolished apartment blocks

at the edge of the water. As if that wasn't exciting enough they also discovered the remains of a Neolithic dwelling dating from about 6000BC. This yielded up graves, huts, cultivated farmland, wooden tools and around 2000 human footprints preserved in silt-covered mud. Obviously the sea levels were a great deal lower than they are now but is it possible that once Mankind could walk from Anatolia to Europe?

### **It's always worth digging!**

A student recently found a piece of Roman crystal – a rare find in this country – whilst digging on the site of Maryport on Hadrian's Wall. This small piece of rock crystal has the head of a bearded man carved into the back and filled with a white substance thought to be enamel. It's believed to have been the centrepiece of an expensive ring. Backing the crystal was a bronze disc which would probably have shone through the crystal making it look like gold – crafty, huh! This site has also produced many Roman altarpieces, a subject touched on by our talk from Tony Wilmott, the site director, when he spoke to us a couple of years ago. Settlements on the Wall continue to give us a really detailed view of how the Roman armies lived in a conquered country and we can see from these sites that they were in it for the long term.

### **LiDAR comes up trumps again**

Most of us know how brilliant LiDAR has been in places like the New Forest, "discovering" hundreds of sites from pre-history to WWII, but it's now being used by archaeologists all over the world to great effect. Combining this technology with the use of aerial drones, the footprint of a large building at Petra in Jordan has been revealed from around 2,500 years ago. Also using these combined technologies, ancient abandoned cities have been discovered beneath fast-growing forests near Angkor in Cambodia. It has long been known that many cities lie hidden by woodland in several South American countries, but as we can imagine, hacking a way through such growth takes a great deal of time and money. At least Petra doesn't suffer from that problem!

### **New light on Neanderthals**

I've always had rather a soft spot for these early humans but mostly they are considered a bit, well, thick! However 178,000 years ago they were building circles out of stalagmites. These rings are deep inside a cave in Aveyron, south western France, and the largest is about 7m wide and 40cm high, all showing fire marks. Were they to live in, to

keep freshly slaughtered kill in, or some sort of cultural structure?  
Lots to keep you guessing this summer!



## Everything you need to know about various types of stone used for building in Winchester

Those WARG members who are also Friends of Winchester Cathedral will be familiar with *The Record* - an annual magazine containing several articles of interest to historians and archaeologists. Not least, there is always an article by our good friend Dr John Crook addressing some archaeological aspect of the cathedral. A couple of years ago, the editor decided that there was simply too much material to publish in print and so an on-line Record Extra was created. Simply click onto [www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk](http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk) then click on *Friends* then click on *Record Extra*.



This note is prompted by an article in the current Record Extra by Dr John Parker. In 53 pages he answers dozens of those questions we have posed when excavating. A lifelong professional geologist, he tells us in very readable terms the differences between Quarr limestone and Caen Limestone. There is much more. He goes beyond the cathedral and details the stone used in many landmark buildings in Winchester. It is a goldmine of information with excellent photos and diagrams. Well worth a download.

The same edition also has an article by Pat Wagstaff with two very helpful appendices outlining frequent phrases used in church Latin, and a guide to understanding dates expressed in Latin. For those of us who got thrown out of Latin and told instead to do woodwork, this is a very helpful document.

Both downloads are free, but if your conscience pricks you – do join the Friends to help support a wonderful building – you don't need to be a Christian to be a Friend.

*Techer Jones*

## Augsburg and the Fuggers

I have been to Munich many times, but it wasn't until earlier this year that I visited Augsburg, only 50 miles away but in no sense a suburb. It claims to be the third oldest city in Germany, being a Roman foundation, after Neuss and Trier. For much of the Middle Ages and the early modern period it was an important trading centre, sitting at the intersection of a number of important trade routes. Like Durham it became the possession of a Prince-Bishop, but on March 9 1276 (precise people, Germans) it was given the status of an Imperial City – that is one which was run by its citizens and directly answerable to the Holy Roman Emperor. (The Bishop and the town were often at loggerheads from then on.) With the end of the Holy Roman Empire in 1807 it became a part of Bavaria which, in turn, at the end of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century became a Kingdom within the German Empire, and then a free state within the Weimar Republic, and now is a Länder within the Federal Republic.

Augsburg's glory days were in the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries when, as well as being a trading centre, it was a weaving centre and the base for two banking families, the Welsers and the Fuggers. Both families had links across Europe, financed Kings and Emperors and themselves became fantastically rich, and still have vast holdings. Historians of the early modern period love the Fugger letters, a compilation of news letters passed between different branches of the Fugger network, and from other traders. While they are mostly full of trade data – the prices of commodities etc - they also include commentaries on current affairs in their immediate area and are a treasure trove of sidelights outside the conventional historical narrative.

In Augsburg itself the Fuggers are remembered in part for the big Fuggerhäuser in the centre of the town, but mainly for the Fuggerei, the world's oldest social housing still in use. Founded in 1514, it has 142 dwellings and a church in a walled enclave of narrow streets. The tenants are poor protestant Augsburgers, and the rent is still one Rheinischer Gulden per year (equivalent to 0.88 Euros) plus praying daily for the Fuggers' souls. (The public pays four Euros to view the place.)

Elsewhere in Augsburg are many churches, including one where Martin Luther stayed, the cathedral, a Synagogue, now a Judaic museum, many reconstructed medieval buildings (Augsburg was heavily bombed

in February 1944) Roman remains, a lively food market, many trams, and several breweries, with their attendant beer gardens. In the town centre there are many statues, ancient and modern (some of dubious quality) and fountains.

One guidebook is called *A Day in Augsburg*, and if you are tight for time it is certainly possible to see a lot in a day trip from Munich. (It takes about 40-50 minutes on either the high speed ICE or the Fugger-Express). If you can afford a little longer, there is time to sit in the Rathausplatz and drink a local beer while listening to the carillon from St Peter's Church, and later spend the evening in a beer garden, drinking more local beer and eating hearty Schwabian food.

P.S. Augsburg has its own public holiday, the Augsburger Hohes Friedenfest – the Augsburg Peace Festival – normally on August 6<sup>th</sup> – giving it one more public holiday than anywhere else in Germany!

*Dick Selwood*



## WARG Committee Members

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# WARG Calendar

2016

July 30<sup>th</sup>- Aug 13<sup>th</sup> Big Dig

Aug 7<sup>th</sup> Big Dig Open Day

Aug 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Picnic at Basing House

Sept 12<sup>th</sup> Ryan Lavelle: 1066 – Whose Kingdom?

Sept 19<sup>th</sup> Day visit to Malmesbury

Oct 10<sup>th</sup> AGM / Edwina Cole: Easter Island

Nov 14<sup>th</sup> Cindy Wood: Cage Chantries in Wessex

Dec 12<sup>th</sup> Paul McCulloch: Recent Excavations at Barton Farm

2017

Jan 9<sup>th</sup> New Year party

Feb 10<sup>th</sup> June Lloyd Lecture:  
Professor Mike Fulford: Silchester: the Iron Age &  
Roman Town – a 500 year history

Feb 13<sup>th</sup> Phoebe Merrick:

Mar 13<sup>th</sup> tba

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

Apr Day visit tba

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

June 12<sup>th</sup> Evening walk tba

July 10<sup>th</sup> Evening visit tba

Aug 21<sup>st</sup> Annual Picnic

Sept 11<sup>th</sup> Martin Parsons

Sept Day visit tba

Oct 9<sup>th</sup> tba

Nov 13<sup>th</sup> Michael Goode: The Lengthening War

Dec 11<sup>th</sup> tba

Meetings are normally in the Hampshire Record Office cinema, starting at 7.30. As the cinema has a maximum capacity of 80, we are unable to allow in anyone who is not a member.