



# Newsletter

Summer 2018

✿ News ✿ Meeting ✿ Reports ✿ Diary Dates ✿

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

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

## Editorial

Every organisation has its ups and downs. While our membership is at its highest ever and dig people are busy preparing for the Barton Stacey dig, your committee has some serious problems. Firstly, we are without a chairman. Secondly Julia is stepping down as secretary at the AGM. So, we need more people for the committee, one person to be chairman and several people to take over from Julia – one to be secretary and others to organise meetings and events. None of these tasks is particularly onerous but if you want more information on what is involved, please contact me or Julia (email on back page).

### **AGM**

At the AGM in October (the formal notice is enclosed with this mailing) your committee will be putting forward two resolutions. The first will be to increase the annual subscription, the second is an administrative change to the constitution.

The increase to subscriptions is the first in ten years. Your committee is recommending that the subscription be increased to £15 for single membership, £27 for double and for triple, £37. This will give us a buffer against increasing costs and should mean that we may not need to increase the subscription again for quite a long time.

The change to the constitution is to increase the number of people who can sign cheques, as, at the moment, with the chair vacant we have only three authorised signatories. As any cheque over £100 needs two signatories, Mary, our treasurer, sometimes has a problem if Julia is not around, which will worsen when she steps down.

*Dick Selwood*

## Twenty Five Years a Scribe

With apologies to "Twelve Years a Slave."

I have been writing up the WARG excursions and lectures for twenty five years. Back in 1993, June Lloyd, the Chairman, asked /captured me and I started to report the Summer outings. My first account was in the month of June that year and was entitled "Nelson's Last Footsteps," as the group followed the Admiral's route through Portsmouth on his way to H.M.S. Victory in October 1805.

Later I began to write the summaries of our lectures which cover an eclectic range of subjects including "The Lepers on the Hill" which incidentally is no longer a PC title; a talk on "Flints" a subject that I never realised could be so interesting; the fishy tale of "Cornish Pilchards" and even a New Year Punch and Judy Show!

Those who sit near me will know that I take notes in pencil, changing pencils when they become blunt. I always note the quality of the talk by how many pencils I use! The lecture by Alex Lewis, entitled "The King's Highway" was a seven pencil write up, the best talk yet!!



Back in the day my finished account used to be handwritten, and then I progressed to putting them onto a floppy disc, now I just email the accounts to Dick Selwood. But finally my pencils are blunt, my pen is out of ink and it is time to be set free and stop, so come on you budding writers, it is not an arduous task - with the added advantage that having taken notes and written a report you certainly remember the content of the lecture!

*Valerie Pegg*

### **Editor's note**

If you feel a scribal urge coming on, please contact Chris Sellen, Scribal Co-ordinator [chris.sellen@ntlworld.com](mailto:chris.sellen@ntlworld.com)

## Work party update

When I re-started work parties with the then Winchester Museum Service in 2003 the service was still in Hyde House with the pot shed as our working area. The Finds Officer was Helen Rees and the amount of work to be addressed was enormous! Details of all the artefacts with WMS were still mostly recorded on index cards and there'd been no opportunity to link to the national database. Apart from that, there was much to process in all those forms such as washing, marking and recording, and the original four WARG members working on Monday afternoons from October through to July beavered away from 2 to 4.30 to try to lessen the apparently ever-increasing amounts awaiting attention. Friendships quickly formed and the Monday afternoons became not just a help to WMS but also a chance for people to handle different aspects of our area's history. I'd also started Sunday morning field walking sessions from about September / October till February / March (heavily dependent on the farmer's crops!) under the guidance of Dick Whinney, the city's archaeologist, and that also produced much to be added to the collection, and of course precipitated WARG's first excavation, known as the Big Dig, on a Roman site out near Owslebury.

Gradually over the years the list of things to do got shorter and we were dealing with newer finds rather than those of long ago. Finally, the index cards were binned and the collection began to look a lot more early 21st century! Most of the artefacts had been kept in plastic bags with either metal



*Marking bones from the Lankhills Cemeteries*

staples or paper clips, which over the years had rusted, not to mention the fact that old plastic bags sweat, so much repacking of everything was undertaken. Occasionally there were special important projects to undertake – WARG members were responsible for checking, re-sorting and re-packaging all the bones from the various digs in Lankhills Roman cemeteries so that the American academic Connie Stuckert could complete her research for the Winchester Studies volume 9 pt. 1 entitled “The People of Early Winchester”.

Over the years the number of work parties increased to eight, Hyde House was sold and WMS moved with its collection to the warehouse at Bar End. As storage space for all archaeological set-ups became a problem, the commercial companies such as Wessex Archaeology requested permission to return the finds from their excavations in our area to join Helen’s ever-expanding collection, thus providing gluts of work for WARG. A large collection gathered over many years was donated to the WMS and all the specialist processing of that was speedily dealt with on Monday afternoons.



A change occurred when the Hampshire County Museum Service amalgamated with WMS to produce the Hampshire

Cultural Trust. Helen Rees retired to a fairly remote Scottish island and a re-jigging of personnel gave us Robin Iles and Ross Turle to look after the collections and mastermind our work parties. Both Robin and Ross had been with WMS so had been known to WARG for many years – Robin having been Education Officer and Ross Curator of the modern collection, i.e. covering things such as the city’s wonderful collection of paintings and weapons. They’re now responsible for overseeing our work parties and are an important part of our trying to spread the work that we do by extending our remit from just archaeology to the whole collection. We’ve discussed the possibility of several different ways in which our team can help with the modern collection, bring databases up to date, as well as checking to see whether any of the collection need no longer be kept. For instance, when we were field walking we always found a great deal of burnt flint and excavations all over

our area have produced masses of Roman / Medieval roof tile. The modern method employed towards these artefacts has changed over the decades and now are weighed and recorded before being returned to the ground – there's just too much of them all! Important pieces are kept, as well as a representative number, but does the collection still hold too much and if so, is it possible to discard some, perhaps to Primary or Secondary schools?

As you can see, the work that WARG members undertake is of real importance and will continue for as long as there's work to be done, so if you feel that a couple of hours work would interest you – we now work at Bar End on Mondays between 1.30 and 4 o'clock – do get in touch with me. I'll be arranging the sessions from October to December during the first half of September and would be delighted to hear from anyone keen to join in – full training will be given! My details are on the back cover.

*Julia Sandison*



## Trip to Bradford on Avon, 23 April 2018

**B**radford on Avon proved to be a perfect destination, a delight to the eye and jam-packed with buildings of great historical importance. To crown it all, we were blessed with a dry, sunny, if slightly chilly spring day.

Expertly and amiably led by the excellent Don Bryan, we learned that the town was named for its ford across the river Avon – the “Great Broad Ford”. Until the 19<sup>th</sup> century it was known as Great Bradford.

We began our day with a walk along the Kennet and Avon canal. The idea of such a canal was first mooted in 1558 when it was feared that the Spanish fleet would gain control of the English Channel. A canal would have been a means of ensuring that supplies could reach either London or Bristol. It was not until 1794, however, that the first sod for the Kennet and Avon canal was dug at Bradford on Avon. The main cargo was coal from Somerset and stone from the Bradford quarries. The Great Western railway, opening its line from London to Bristol in 1841, triggered the demise of the canal as a commercial

venture and it rapidly fell into disuse; it silted up and the locks rotted away. During the 1960s groups of volunteers started to restore the canal and it fully reopened for navigation in 1990, affording blessed peace and quiet, and providing a haven for wildlife.



Our walk led us across Barton Bridge to the magnificent tithe barn, described by Don as “the best in southern England”. Shaftesbury Abbey, the richest nunnery in England at the time, acquired the land, known as Barton Grange around 1001 and retained ownership throughout the Middle Ages. Documentary evidence shows that the barn was in existence by 1367, replacing a smaller barn

erected in the late thirteenth century. There is also a house, probably used by the steward of the estate, the oldest part of which dates from 1400, and a granary of similar date. Barton Farm was still a working farm up until the 1970s. Extensive restoration of the complex was carried out early this century and was officially opened by Prince Charles in 2003.

We then made our way towards the Saxon Church, not recognised as such until 1857 when it was in use as a school, with the schoolmaster’s house built over the south porticus. The vicar, the Reverend W.H. Jones, who was instrumental in changing the town’s name to Bradford on Avon, had been looking down on the school from a hill to the north and it dawned upon him that it looked



like an early church. In 1854 repair work had uncovered carvings of two lovely stone angels over what we now know was the original chancel arch, but the penny did not drop at that point. Restoration began in the late 1870s, the upper floors were removed and doorways



blocked up. The removal of the school master's house almost caused the south wall to collapse. We were shown prints and drawings of the building just before the restoration work. The church dates from 1004 to 1008 and had an underground chamber and five altars. It had been proposed that the body of Edward the Martyr, who had been murdered at the age of 15, would be transferred from Shaftesbury, thus making Bradford on Avon an important place of pilgrimage, but nothing came of this plan.

Directly opposite the Saxon Church is the Victorian Church of Holy Trinity, built under the supervision of the all-powerful Reverend Jones on the site of a ruinous medieval church. William of Malmesbury recorded that there had been a 7<sup>th</sup> century Saxon Church on the site. The present church contains no Anglo-Saxon work but excavations have revealed burials with an early radiocarbon date, supporting the view that this site was a minster.

We stopped briefly in front of the magnificent Methodist Chapel, one of several nonconformist churches in the town. John Wesley is said to have visited this chapel at least 27 times and attracted large crowds, as many as 1,000 people, who had to relocate to the Market Place as the chapel was too small. Wesley's last visit was in 1789 when he was 86 years old. Later, however, the chapel was converted to a swimming pool, a rather surprising change of use.

Having admired agricultural and religious buildings, we transferred our attention to the secular and commercial aspects of the town. Admittedly the small square building on the town bridge in the centre of town had started life as a medieval chapel but it was demolished in the 18<sup>th</sup> century and a lock-up for law-breakers was erected on the foundations. The weather vane on the top is a small fish – a gudgeon, and it was said that those locked up were “under the fish and over the water”. Wrongdoers were also liable to be put in the stocks, which were located at the market house. Don described how in 1731 a



*Bradford on Avon Bridge with lock-up  
(CC licence my other account)*

wool carder called John Rogers was placed in the stocks for drinking at the White Hart tavern on the Sabbath. Benjamin Cooper, the landlord of the White Hart, was also charged for permitting it. These two men were supplied with food and drink by well wishers and numerous friends gathered around to protest noisily at their treatment. A small boy, beating a drum stood next to the stocks. Fearing a riot, the parish constable called for Rogers to be released and the boy, still beating his drum, accompanied him to the White Hart Inn, where presumably he carried on drinking.

During the seventeenth century the wool trade in Bradford on Avon had begun to flourish, stimulated by Flemish weavers who settled in the area known as Dutch Barton in 1659 and who were skilled in weaving cloth from Spanish fine wool. The town embarked on a period of prosperity and the fine stone mills were erected during that time. However, unrest occurred throughout the eighteenth century as mechanisation brought many former weavers and their families to the brink of starvation. In 1726 the Home Secretary was informed that 800 starving and desperate weavers were rioting in Bradford on Avon and the disorder spread to Trowbridge. Many rioters were shot. We stopped outside Westbury House, the home of a clothier called Joseph Phelps who in 1791 had installed a wool carding machine. A mob of about 500 assembled, demanding that Phelps should hand over the new machine. Stones were hurled, breaking all the windows. Phelps and his friends resorted to firearms, killing a woman and a boy and injuring others. This led to more violent riots and Phelps surrendered the machine which was dragged to the bridge and burned. The coroner decided that Phelps had committed "justifiable homicide" and he was awarded £250 for damage to his property. Outrageous!

The decline of the wool trade led to the abandonment of Kingston Mill and the adjacent Kingston House, together with nearby mills. In 1841 an American called Charles Goodyear discovered how to process rubber to improve its elasticity and resist perishing. Finding no interest in the US he asked his English friend Stephen Moulton to approach the



*Victorian Kingston Mill  
Bradford on Avon Museum*

Macintosh company in Glasgow. They obtained British patents in 1843, calling the process “vulcanisation”. In 1848 Moulton bought Kingston House and Mill, deciding that Bradford on Avon, with its deserted mills and clean running water offered him just what was needed. The venture was timely and went well from the start, helped by a contract to manufacture waterproof clothing for troops in the Crimean War. Eventually, Moulton and Co. became part of the much larger Avon Rubber Company, famous for its tyres but also manufacturing many other products. A small number of Moulton bicycles are still produced in Japan. On display near Kingston Mill is the Iron Duke, a machine for rolling rubber sheets to precise thicknesses. It worked for over a century until the factory was demolished in 1972.



*Fossilised sea anemones*

We paid a visit to the town museum situated above the library. This also displays reminders of the rubber industry, together with a wonderful assemblage of miscellaneous objects from shop signs and posters to a device for making different sizes of ice cream wafer fillings, just like local museums used to be. The fossil sea anemones dug out of clay soil near the river are exquisite.

Over a wall, we could see the roof and chimneys of The Hall, at one time home to Elizabeth Pierrepont, Duchess of Kingston Upon Hull, a lady with a very colourful marital career, who was pictured wearing a costume leaving very little to the imagination at a fancy dress ball. She was born Elizabeth Chudleigh in 1721. She first married Augustus Hervey, later 3<sup>rd</sup> Earl of Bristol in a secret ceremony at Lainston House near Winchester in 1744. Secrecy was needed for her to retain her post as a Maid of Honour at court. The marriage was unhappy and for four years the pair did not live together. When she wished to marry Evelyn Pierrepont, the Duke of Kingston Upon Hull, she denied that she had



*Elizabeth Pierrepont nee Chudleigh later Hervey, Duchess of Kingston as Iphigenia*  
(CC license)

ever been married, but was eventually tried and found guilty of bigamy. She fled the country, having retained her fortune, and formed a liaison with one Stephano Zannowich. They were accepted by the Russian court and settled in Estonia where she bought three properties on a vast estate overlooking the Baltic Sea which she incongruously called Chudleigh. She died in Paris in 1788 as the Duchess of Kingston and the Duchess of Hamilton. A life lived not wisely, perhaps, but to the full.

Bradford on Avon seems a quiet, uneventful little town, except for the large number of lorries that thunder through it, and I would never have guessed that it had such a huge amount to offer. There was so much to be learned and enjoyed, and Don was the perfect guide. Many thanks to him, and to Julia, who organised this very successful outing.

*Iris Gould*



## T E Lawrence – Before and After Arabia

Talk by Colin van Geffen, 14 May 2018

**I**n his introduction to the last WARG talk before the summer break, Colin van Geffen explained that, as Lawrence's period in Arabia has been so well documented, not least by the epic film, he had chosen to focus on Lawrence's action-packed life before and after that time.

The circumstances of his birth and childhood were in keeping with his cloak and dagger existence later in life. Even his name was assumed. His father was an Anglo-Irish landowner, Sir Thomas Chapman, who had left his wife Edith and four daughters in the mid 1880s to set up

home with the children's governess, Sarah Junner. The couple had five sons together, of which Thomas Edward (Ned) was the second, born on the 16 August, 1888 in Tremadog, North Wales. Sir Thomas was never divorced from Edith and the stigma surrounding living out of wedlock caused the family to move many times to escape detection. They finally settled in Oxford where Lawrence attended the City of Oxford High School, which he hated. There is an account, which has never been verified, that at the age of 16 he ran away to join the Royal Artillery. Colin believes that this escapade would be quite in keeping with Lawrence's character. However, he returned to school where he gained excellent results. He then read History at Jesus College, Oxford, joined the University's Officer Training School, and graduated with First Class Honours.

During the summer of 1909 in the long University vacation, Lawrence undertook a 1,000 mile walking tour of Syria to gather material for his thesis on Crusader Castles and quickly learned much about the customs and languages of the Arab people. After graduation, he spent four seasons working as an archaeologist on excavations in Syria, gaining a great deal of experience. Back in Oxford, he assisted in a survey with fellow archaeologist Leonard Woolley. Upon the outbreak of the First World War Lawrence joined the Army, commissioned as a Second Lieutenant, undertaking espionage work under Lord Kitchener. He was promoted to the rank of Lieutenant General.

In 1919 an American journalist, Lowell Thomas, delivered a series of talks praising Lawrence's wartime exploits to huge audiences in New York and London. These formed the basis of the legend of "Lawrence of Arabia". In that year, Lawrence attended the Paris Peace Conference which resulted in the Arabs being denied the freedom of the lands over which they had fought, a struggle in which Lawrence had played a major role. He also wrote the first draft of "Seven Pillars of Wisdom" which he lost at Reading Station. He spent the first weeks



*Lawrence of Arabia*  
(B.E. Leeson CC NPG)

of 1920 rewriting the book from memory, producing 400,000 words between January and March. Not content with this, he eventually went on to write a third draft.

Winston Churchill then approached Lawrence to become Adviser on Arab Affairs at the Colonial Office and in this role he attended a peace conference in Cairo and many meetings held in order to negotiate treaties to stabilise the region, resulting in the establishment of the map of the Middle East which largely remains to this day.

In August 1922 Lawrence applied to join the RAF under the assumed name of John Hume Ross. He was initially turned down on health grounds but was eventually accepted. He was recruited into the RAF Photographic Unit and very much enjoyed the work, saying that he felt underemployed doing anything else. After his real identity was revealed in the press in January 1922 Lawrence was dismissed from the RAF. He made several unsuccessful appeals to rejoin the service but in March 1922 he enlisted in the Army as a private soldier in the Tank Corps at Bovington, Dorset under yet another assumed name – Thomas Edward Shaw, his third alias. He was assigned to the Quartermaster's Stores, a very lowly role but during this time he established many important friendships, including that of Thomas Hardy, who lived nearby and he attended social events with Churchill, Lady Astor and the Archbishop of Canterbury.



*T.E. Lawrence*  
(by Flight Lieutenant Smetham  
CC NPG)

During 1922 Lawrence had completed his third draft of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom* and began his book *The Mint* which was so controversial that it was not made publicly available until 1955. It was in late 1922 that he acquired his first Brough Superior motorcycle. These bikes became a passion for Lawrence. In 1923 he took a lease on a semi-derelict cottage near Wareham called *Clouds Hill*, which became his refuge.

Lawrence fell into depression and was desperate to be readmitted to the RAF. After lobbying by his friends, including John Buchan, he was successful in 1925 and was posted to Cranwell RAF Cadet College as an aircraft handler, attending lectures on

Imperial Geography. He changed his name officially to Shaw. Although he settled well in the RAF and made new friends he still craved solitude and when the press began hounding him again he requested a foreign posting and served near the Afghan border where he began a translation of Homer's *Odyssey*. He also worked on a *Subscribers' Edition* of *Seven Pillars of Wisdom*, to be offered at the huge price of 30 guineas and on an abridged edition known as *Revolt in the Desert*.

Lawrence returned to England in 1929 and was stationed near Plymouth where he became involved in the development of high speed rescue boats and tested new power boats. These little boats eventually proliferated around the world and played a significant part in the Second World War. He took part in a rescue attempt in Plymouth Sound when an RAF flying boat crashed, leaving only two survivors. This had a profound effect on Lawrence who frequently suffered from poor health and financial problems. Despite these difficulties he kept extremely busy, in effect becoming a consultant to the RAF. He was allowed to ride his motor bike right to the end of Calshot Spit, a privilege not allowed to anyone else.



*Lawrence on his Brough Superior Motorcycle, before his fatal crash (Public Domain/Wiki Commons)*

Lawrence's final posting was in Bridlington and in February 1935 he cycled quietly away towards Clouds Hill. When he arrived, the Press were waiting for him so he carried on cycling all the way to London. In May of that year he crashed his motor bike near Clouds Hill and never regained consciousness. He was buried in the local churchyard without pomp or ceremony but with many notable people present, including Winston Churchill and Siegfried Sassoon. Winston Churchill wrote: "In Colonel Lawrence we have lost one of the greatest beings of our time. I fear that we shall not see his like again".

*Iris Gould*

## A Successful Return

My first visit to Tunisia was exactly 45 years ago in April 1973 and introduced me to a country which by and large no longer exists. I returned in April this year on an archaeological package holiday (Andante, since you ask) to re-establish my connection with the country and see just how much has changed. Well, a great deal, is all I can say! The main form of transport is now sundry vehicles whilst first time around it was the camel, donkey or horse. This time I saw just three camels – two at El Djem, a Roman town with a large amphitheatre, for tourist rides and photos - and one out in the countryside. Ploughing is now being done by machines though I did see one donkey and one horse working in two small fields. The agricultural fields incidentally are often huge ones rather than the small subsistence-type ones where a family or community graze their sheep and goats. No shortage of the latter! There are also cows, all tethered, but I saw no bulls. The donkeys are nearly always hobbled though the horses just tethered. However, the remains of Roman Tunisia have changed for the better – now restored and stabilised - and the Museums have good collections, particularly of mosaics: my particular passion.

Hardly surprisingly the tourist trade to Tunisia has plummeted, due to their starting the “Arab Spring”, and we were apparently the first UK group to visit the country for three years. We were treated royally with police escorts around Tunis and generally made to feel very welcome and special. However, we did see two Korean groups and a Japanese group, though they all took about half an hour to visit a site which took us three hours! We stayed in Tunis and Kairouan and so



*Temple of Pluto, Dougga*

I was able to see how much has changed since my first visit. In 1973 there were no excursions, just local buses and a limited train service between large towns. We'd made good use of those facilities even though the trains were often cancelled whilst you were sitting in them with your ticket!

But the main point of returning was for the archaeology and it did not





short-lived and abandoned during the first Punic war c. 250 BC. But for me the high-spots were the Bardo Museum, scene of the tourist massacre of 2015, with the most fabulous mosaics and the El Djem Museum as an excellent second with more glorious mosaics.

Tunisia was a French colony between 1881 and 1956 and French is still spoken widely by all ages and Tunis still has much evidence of its Belle Epoque past. Some lovely buildings and much so-obviously French street lighting remind one of its colonial past, and it did escape the appalling bloodshed that Algeria



experienced on its break up with France. I know that only three years ago the two massacres of foreign tourists took place – the Bardo Museum and at Sousse – but we visited both places and all is restored.



Sousse is a large flourishing seaside tourist area, much loved by the young for its nightclubs and restaurants – not my thing, so can't tell you about them! But I do suggest that if you're interested in the Roman world or mosaics then visit Tunisia – it has much to offer and the people are so pleased to see one!

*Julia Sandison*

## The Woad Song

In 1956 I passed my 11+ and went to Worcester Royal Grammar School. It was pretty grim. One of the few redeeming features was a very jolly young master who taught us music. He also led a school archaeology excavation. His name was Henry Sandon. He later went on to well-deserved fame as an expert in English porcelain and Henry still appears on the Antiques Roadshow. To teach us to sing in harmony, he used "The Woad Song" written in the 1920's by William Hope-Jones, a master at Eton (probably a marginally better school). It is sung to the tune of Men of Harlech.

Footnote for non-gardeners: Woad, *Isatis tinctoria*, is a herb whose root, when boiled, yields a deep blue dye. Footnote for the younger WARG members: shirt studs are little devices that allow you to attach your detachable starched shirt-collar onto your cotton shirt. Spats are.....I think there is a PhD thesis to be got out of this!

*Techer Jones*

What's the use of wearing braces,  
Vest and pants and shoes with laces,  
Hats and spats you buy in places  
                    Down in Brompton Road?  
What's the use of shirts with cotton,  
Studs that always get forgotten?  
These affairs are simply rotten –  
                    Better far is WOAD.  
WOAD's the stuff to show men,  
WOAD to fright your foemen  
                    Boil it to  
                    A brilliant blue  
And rub it on your back and your abdomen.  
                    Ancient Britons  
                    Never hit on  
Anything as fine as woad to fit on  
Necks or knees or where you sit on  
                    Tailors you'll be blown.

Romans came across the Channel  
All wrapped up in tin and flannel:  
Half a pint of WOAD per man'll  
    Dress us more than these.  
Saxons, you can waste your stitches  
Building beds for bugs in britches:  
We have WOAD to clothe us, which is  
    Not a nest for fleas.  
Romans, keep your armour,  
Saxons, your pyjamas,  
    Hairy coats  
    Were meant for goats,  
Gorillas, yaks, retriever dogs and llamas.  
    Tramp up Snowdon  
    with our woad on.  
Never mind if we get rained or blowed on.  
Never want a button sewed on –  
Go it, Ancients Bs.

## Editor's Note



*William Hope-Jones. author of  
the Woad song*

**I**ntrigued by Techer's memory (I sang the Woad song in 1958 as a boy scout and can still get most of it right) I researched the author. William Hope-Jones (W. H-J as he appears to have been universally known), while, superficially out of the standard Eton to Kings and back to Eton as, eventually, a housemaster, was a much more complex creature. An outstanding mathematician, he attended Theological College, but became a Quaker. He was, even by the standards of the time eccentric. A privately printed memoir is clear that boys either appreciated him or were baffled by him. I suspect that to be remembered mainly as the author of the Woad song would have appealed to him.

## Julia's Jottings

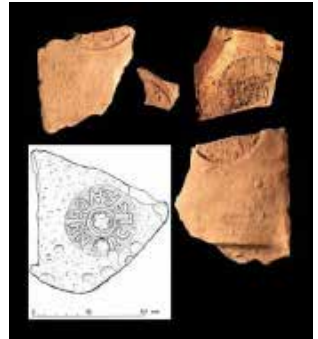
### Amazing Luxor

Luxor is SO big, SO stuffed with goodies, that it's hard to imagine there's space for any more tombs, but two previously unexplored tombs there have provided a mummy, figurines, wooden masks and wonderful richly coloured wall paintings. The mummy is believed to be a senior official from Egypt's New Kingdom, about 3500 years ago. The tombs are in the Draa Abul Naga necropolis, close to the Valley of the Kings. Discovered in the 1990s, they've been kept sealed till recently. The official is either Djehuty Mes, whose name is inscribed on a wall, or Maati, whose name is on the funerary cones. Last year the tomb of a royal goldsmith from the New Kingdom was also excavated.

Time for another visit, I think.

### An amazing site

Silchester is one of Britain's most astonishing sites, providing evidence of occupation over many centuries. Now a third Roman temple has been uncovered with tiles stamped with the name of Nero, the ghastly emperor from 54 to 68 AD. That man had a huge ego as we know and probably had the temples built as part of a massive "vanity" project. Only a handful of Nero tiles have been found in UK so this is a really exciting find for Mike Fulford. The three temples are the earliest known masonry constructions in Calleva and were aligned north to south at the eastern end of the Roman town.



*Nero tiles  
(University of Reading)*

Who knows, maybe the little man may even have visited our country!

### An Anglo-Saxon settlement revealed

A huge wind farm is being built off the coast near Ipswich and this has occasioned 50 excavation sites along its 23-mile length. These complex digs, employing 400 archaeologists, have uncovered "many layers of activity" including an Anglo-Saxon settlement with a bread oven and a corn drier. A broken millstone could indicate that the site was occupied by a miller.

## Blank walls are tempting!

Spanish cave walls tempted Neanderthals to start painting on them over 65,000 years ago, think archaeological scientists from various European universities. There will no doubt continue to be those who consider that Neanderthals were merely knuckle-dragging ape men, but since remains of them, their tools and decorative adornments have been found in Spain and Germany dating back around 120,000 years, we should seriously consider that they invented the art of spray-can graffiti. As far as I'm concerned, anyone who can leave traces which show such awareness of themselves and their environment can only be considered an early form of Mankind, but who knows –it's really mostly a matter of opinion!

## "Lost" Standing Stones in Devon

Two prehistoric standing stones on Isley Marsh near Barnstaple were "lost" when the Yelland Power Station was shut down in the 1980s. The subsequent changing water currents in the Taw estuary caused the silting over of the stones in the middle of the estuary but they were the only two remaining from an avenue of stones, 113 ft long and ft across, thought to have been erected around 3000 years ago in the late Neolithic period. Excavations in the 1930s showed at least nine pairs of stones as well as a scatter of flint tools and evidence of occupation from the Mesolithic period through to the Bronze Age. On an east-west axis, the stones appear to lead "from nothing to nothing" and it may have been the river itself that was their reason. The whole area is now a RSPB nature reserve and there are hopes that more stones could be lurking beneath the surface. Prior to the closure of the power station, photos showed the complete avenue but it doesn't appear to have been recorded whether or not this was altered in any way.



*The Yelland stone row on Isley Marsh in 1953.  
(English Heritage)*

## **Older than Stonehenge?**

An early Neolithic long barrow called Cat's Brain has been excavated by Reading University and considered likely to date from about 3800BC. It's in the Vale of Pewsey about midway between Stonehenge and Avebury. Always thought to be funerary monuments, current thought suggests that long barrows may in fact have been the very opposite i.e. houses for the living. The gloriously named Cat's Brain revealed no human remains but a timber hall almost 20m long and about 10m wide at the entrance. Built using beam slots and posts, some of the timbers were colossal with deep-cut foundations, giving the impression that this was an impressively monumental hall to hold a great number of people.

## **The busy coastline of Hampshire**

We had a most interesting talk in 2013 from Gary Momber about the Mesolithic boatyard off the coast at Bouldner Cliff so it's not altogether a surprise to learn that the remains of a longboat and a dug-out canoe were uncovered near Calshot by winter storms ripping away the shingle that had covered them. On closer inspection Gary found that the canoe had disappeared and the longboat was in fact the remains of a trackway thought to be up to 5,000 years old.

Apart from the discovery of this evidence of early man, it also teaches us something about the sea level rise over the centuries, which is not lessened by climate change.

## **The Origins of Hereford**

Three skeletons have been discovered at a depth of around 2m in the College Cloisters beside Hereford Cathedral. One was a middle-aged man who had suffered four or five blade injuries, two of which would have been fatal. Radiocarbon dating produces a date of between 680 and 780, around the time of Hereford's development. This was before Offa's Dyke had been constructed when the area was a vulnerable settlement between Mercia and the Welsh, and this poor chap probably died in battle. Welsh sources record a battle in Hereford in 760. The man probably died almost instantly since there is no evidence of healing.

## **Veni, vidi, vici**

Archaeologists think they've found evidence which suggests that Julius Caesar landed in 54BC at Pegwell Bay in Kent. This wide shallow bay has produced the remains of a defensive base covering

over 20 hectares and would have been ideally placed for the 800 ships that the Romans had to haul ashore following a storm after they arrived from France. The ships held at least 2,000 men and around 200 horses and would have covered more than a kilometre of beach. What a sight!

A deep defensive ditch there is similar to one at Alesia in France where there was a decisive battle in 52BC. Excavations have uncovered bones, damaged in fights, and a Roman javelin. Caesar had written a comprehensive account of his journey and landing but I guess he didn't know it was called Pegwell Bay!

### **Was Santa Claus real after all?**

**H**aving visited the ruins of the Church of St Nicholas in Myra, Antalya on my last visit to Turkey, I can assure you that every commercial effort is being made by the local authorities to “prove” that a skeleton found under the floor is that of St Nicholas aka Santa Claus. Since childhood we've all known the story of this saint although the British have always called him Father Christmas, but they are the same bod. The small town in Antalya is being completely transformed in order to provide facilities for the ever-hungry tourist trade – shops and houses have been demolished and replaced with ugly modern shops (each one selling more c... than its next-door neighbour), gardens are now coach parks and the entire area is being tarmacked. The church itself is small and has not been looked after by the local authorities till now. It's undoubtedly old – almost entirely now underground – and has one or two wall tombs left though they've only just been excavated. The belief has always been that skeletal remains believed to be those of the saint were taken to Bari in southern Italy in 1087. However, tests on the recently-discovered bones by an Oxford team have proved that they are from the right era as the saint and the local archaeologists want this skeleton to be that of the saint after all – and I can quite see why. The area around the little church is tacky beyond belief but the local ice creams and fresh fruit juices were wonderful!



*Julia Sandison*

## A Summer Evening at Bursledon Windmill

Our June evening visit this year was to the windmill, which is under the care of the Hampshire Cultural Trust. Normally only open on Saturdays and Sundays, it opened for our visit and provided not just 3 guides but also fantastic weather! Hot and sunny but with cool breezes which stirred the pond and made our visit most enjoyable. Our 3 guides were Andrea, Jeff and Stephen and they made us very welcome, introducing us to the whole site, which includes the barn and a granary. We split into 2 groups of 10 as the windmill itself is not exactly roomy and 10 is about the maximum that can fit into the 2 floors to which one can climb. We were given a good understanding of the windmill's history and shown 2 short films about this and the duties of the miller, currently Gavin Bowie, well known to Hampshire Field Club members. The mill was built in 1814 and continued working until the 1880s when it was bought, its sails removed and it was used by its owner as an excellent place to gather for drinking sessions with friends and to enjoy the great views across to the Solent, particularly during yacht races when there were no trees to obscure the view!



*Bursledon Windmill  
(HCT)*

It was then left to deteriorate until a Heritage Lottery grant enabled the Hampshire Buildings Preservation Trust to restore it between 1978 and its opening in 1991. The barn was brought from Chineham near Basingstoke and the granary from Hiltngbury. The pond was re-dug and is now full of the well known Cattail bulrush with much activity from dragonflies, water boatmen and pond skaters. There's also a trail through the woodland on the edge of the site, but not many of us had time to follow it.



*The Granary at Bursledon  
Windmill  
(HCT)*



There are also 2 outdoor wood-burning pizza ovens and apparently on a couple of days each summer, families take their pizzas along and eat them out on the grass near the pond – sounds a great way to entertain grandchildren! There is lots of information about various types of windmill and how they work, as well as wildlife notes which relate to grain and its associated creatures such as Harvest Mice. There's a small shop and an opportunity to try your hand at a couple of different methods of grain grinding – quite hard on the wrists!

Altogether a very pleasant evening and several people mentioned a desire to re-visit with grandchildren in tow!

*Julia Sandison*



## Saturday in Leipzig

Nearly 400 years ago, Johann Sebastian Bach, who was appointed Thomaskantor in Leipzig in 1723, composed five cycles of cantatas, around 300 in all, to be sung on Sundays and feast days in the Thomaskirche. The choir included boys of the Thomasschule, founded in 1212 (more than 500 years before Bach's appointment). Of the five cycles, two are lost, but the remainder are still in use, particularly on Saturday afternoons.

Every Saturday afternoon, except through the summer holidays, there is a service in the Thomaskirche, with musicians and the choir, which is still mainly boys from the Thomanerchor, and the highpoint is a Bach cantata. The service starts at 3.30. Doors open at 2.45 and by 3.15 the church is nearly full for the 3.30 start. The regulars take up their places in what would normally be the choir area of the church as the choir. As the musicians are in the west gallery you can see them from the choir by merely turning to one side, while those in the body of the church have to turn right round, unless you are under the gallery when you can't



*J S Bach*

see a thing. It is a normal Lutheran (protestant) church service (except that you pay €2 for a programme) and includes a sermon in German, but finishes with the cantata.



*St Thomas Church, (Thomaskirche )  
Leipzig*

For me this was a hair standing up on the back of the neck moment, hearing music that had been written to be sung in that place, by the same choir, and that has been sung regularly since the 1720s. The church has been rebuilt since Bach's time, deliberately in the 19<sup>th</sup> century and then again in several stages after Second World War damage. There was no rush to do more than patch when Leipzig was a part of the East German DDR, but a lot of money has been spent since re-unification, including re-erecting outside the 6 m high statue of Mendelssohn that was removed in 1936 by the Nazi party.

I was there in March, when there were few tourists, and yet the place was packed. It was a weird experience to go back out into the busy Saturday afternoon shopping streets. (Don't get me started on how German trains do or don't ignore snow. Two hours of confusion over arrivals and departures for what is normally a service every half hour to Dresden.) I am not certain that I would make Leipzig a major destination, but as a side trip for a couple of days, from Berlin for instance, as long as one of the days was a Saturday, I might well return.

*Dick Selwood*



*Felix Mendelssohn*

## WARG Calendar

**Aug 20<sup>th</sup>** **Annual picnic** at Danebury Hillfort

**Aug 19<sup>th</sup> - Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Big Dig** at Barton Stacey

**Aug 27<sup>th</sup>** **Big Dig** open afternoon

**Sept 10<sup>th</sup>** **Andy Russel:** 80 Years of Southampton's Archaeology

**Oct 8<sup>th</sup>** **AGM and Martin Parsons:** Closing the Circle

**Nov 12<sup>th</sup>** **Alan Turton:** Castles of Wessex

**Dec 10<sup>th</sup>** **Jane Potter:** Wilfred Owen

### Meetings

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

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## Anglo-Saxon Minsters

**O**ver the years WARG has provided a small but steady flow of financial support to The Winchester Excavations Committee, which is working to produce the volumes of Winchester Studies. These huge volumes bring together not just the results of Martin Biddle's massive excavations in the 1960s but also other excavation results of other early digs and archival and other written resources.

A subsidiary publication is a selection of wonderful reconstructions of the Saxon minsters, which preceded today's cathedral, drawn by Simon Hayfield, with a commentary and substantial other material by Martin Biddle. The Search for Winchester's Anglo-Saxon Minsters was launched earlier this year, and a flier for a discounted copy is in this mailing.

# Hyde Abbey Dig

Retired Conservation officer, Andrew Rutter, visited the Hyde dig and offered us his interpretation.



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