



Golden
Anniversary
Newsletter
Summer 2022

News 🚶 Meetings 🚶 Reports 🚶 Diary
Dates 🚶 Travellers' Tales

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

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

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Editorial

When Martin Biddle put out the call for people to start a group to help Peter Wade-Martins, the newly appointed City Rescue Archaeologist, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth 2nd had already been on the throne for 20 years. Who could have predicted that WARG would have been celebrating its Golden Anniversary in the year the Queen celebrated her Platinum Jubilee? (or as my spell checker has just decided – her Jollibee), what an appropriate error.

Life was so different then. TV was on just a few hours a day, closing at bedtime with the little white dot slowly fading from the screen. How many of us remember Andy Pandy and The Woodentop Family? No recording, no pausing or rewinding, you got just what you could see whilst sitting in front of the set. I remember seeing a very ‘snowy’ coronation procession on a set requiring frequent horizontal and vertical hold adjustments. How different from watching the Trooping of the Colour on my split computer screen whilst answering emails.

Such, similarly, was archaeology. You researched and dug in the dirt, relying on skill and knowledge to be in the right place to get the sought-after information and hopefully artefacts, to support your hypotheses. It was muddy knees and dirty fingernails. A far cry from Google Earth, Lidar, GPR, Soil analysis, genetic analysis, the use of drones, and the ever-increasing forms of technology backing up the skill and knowledge of the archaeologist. Who could have imagined we could find a King under a car park?

It leads me to wonder how my successors might be delivering WARG News in 50 years’ time – surely archaeology will still be of significant interest as it becomes more accessible to the public in general. In this Golden

Anniversary year, we have moved largely from paper to electronic delivery. As someone who loves nothing better than to sit with a 'real' book, although I also love to be read to and always have an audio book at hand as well, I speculate if WARG could, maybe, be putting out the newsletter as a podcast, which would also be inclusive of people who are unable to read for various reasons. Food for thought alongside the Jubilee Trifle.

So, here's to the future for WARG, and make sure you leave a few artefacts behind you for the next generations of archaeologists to find. Not forgetting written records for future generations who will inevitably wish they had talked to us about our lives when we were around.

I hope you enjoy this specially packed newsletter.

Janet.



Chairman's report – Steve Old

I hope you all enjoyed the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in your own way. We are now well into our 50th anniversary year and by now I hope the special book on the history of WARG, the first 50 years is either published or close to being so. It has taken longer than anticipated as we want to make sure it is a quality book which reflects WARG's history and the memories of its members.

We are starting to open up the outreach again and will be attending several events over the coming months, hopefully we would already have been in attendance at the Big Dig Open day and The St Cross Fair, we will let you know where we hope to be when we have the bookings confirmed but the St Cross Heritage Open day is one that we are very keen to attend this year.

In the world of archaeology, we are seeing some quite remarkable discoveries recently. One of the most fascinating is the emergence of a lost ancient city from a river Tigris reservoir as the water levels drop due to a local drought, giving us the opportunity to learn more about ancient civilizations and cultures. There was also the discovery of a bed burial in northern Greece where the bronze bed posts were decorated with images of mermaids, dated to the 5th century BCE. It goes to show that there are many more things to discover in this world and we still have an incomplete picture of ancient cultures.

This year, so far, we have experienced many key anniversaries, including the Platinum Jubilee of Her Majesty The Queen, so our little celebration pales into insignificance in comparison. However, in order to mark our little milestone, several special items are being sourced and prepared which members might like to get their hands on. More of this when we have more details, but the key one is the book and this special edition of the Newsletter. Some of the items will be available at our outreach events.

I continue to act as chair but the pressures of my unpaid care roles are starting to take more time and more of a toll. I am hoping to be able to get together a programme of events and talks for the coming season but to date this has not been possible. If you can help or know of anyone with the skills (determination and organization) to help out, please come forward. There might come a time shortly when someone else will need to step up as chair and they will be writing these notes (and probably doing a better job!).



The Winchester National Pageant of 1908 - Brian Hague -Janet Backhouse

All illustrations are taken from Brian's presentation

Key facts

Over 2000 citizens were involved in raising money for the Winchester Cathedral Restoration Fund (estimated amount required £30000). The pageant theme was 'The making of England 16 centuries of local notables from the Roman invasion to the 1900s.'

The pageants were initiated in Edwardian times and on June 12-17th 1905 in Sherborne Dorset Henry Hudson, an art master at Sherborne school, produced a publicity postcard and a former school master Louis Napoleon Parker wrote the script.

In Warwick in 1906 Parker was engaged as the Pageant Master for another pageant and 300 women of the Ladies Committee produced 1400 costumes.

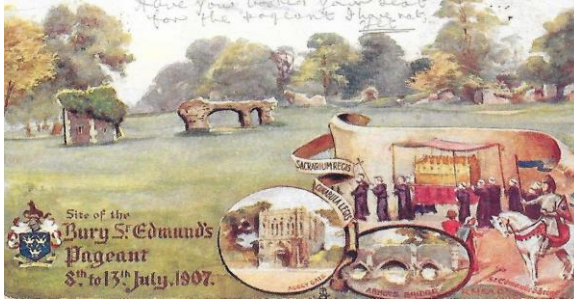
A scene from Warwick pageant 1906

In 1907 there were four pageants including Bury St Edmunds where Parker was again engaged as Pageant Master, with 1800 performers, 1/8th of the town's population. It was staged 11 times in July lasting at least 3 hours, becoming an artistic and financial success.



Warwick Pageant:
Queen Elizabeth and the boy Shakespeare.
From a Water Colour Painting
by J. H. Baker.

Bury St. Edmund's poster



St. Albans poster

In the grounds of Magdalen College Oxford, under the lead of Frank Stevens who later became the actor Frank Lascelles, there was a pageant with 6 performances from 27th June to 2nd July. Stevens himself had been a leading light in OUDS. (Oxford University Dramatic Society)

Romsey marked the millenary of the Abbey in 907 and the tercentenary of James 1 granting the Borough Charter. 300 performers grew to 1200. The population of the town at that time was 5597.



Romsey pageant King Charles grants the Charter

Possibly in response to Romsey's success
Winchester

devised its own pageant with a committee headed by the

Marquis of Winchester, Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire. The pageant raised funds for the preservation of Winchester Cathedral. Frank Benson who had been at Winchester College and had local connections was appointed as Pageant Master and the episodes decided on were :-

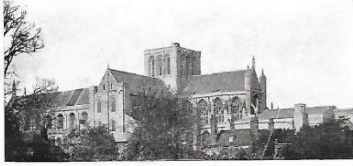
Introduction AD 43- 827; Episode I: King Alfred 862 -900; Episode II: King Canute & Queen Emma; Episode III: William the Conqueror and Trial of Earl Waltheof; Interlude: St Giles Fair 1102; Episode IV: Henry de Blois 1141 -1153; Episode V: William of Wykeham 1394; Episode VI Part 1: Resignation of Bishop Foxe; Episode VI Part 2: Reception of Emperor Charles V by King Henry VIII 1522; Episode VII: Marriage Festivities of Queen Mary and Philip of Spain 1554; Episode VIII: Sir Walter Raleigh on the Way to Execution 1603; Episode IX: Charles II (The Merrie Monarch) 1683.

The Episodes were authored by:

Amélie Claire Leroy wrote with the pseudonym of Esmè Stuart. Her best-known series is the Harum Scarum stories about a wild Australian schoolgirl Antonia. Leroy lived for a while with another novelist, Anna Rachel Bramston who started the Winchester High School, a boarding school for girls; the foundation of the school now known as St Swithuns School.

Arthur Quiller-Couch was a writer who published using the pseudonym Q, best remembered these days for his 'Oxford Book of English Verse 1250 – 1900'. In 1911 he wrote "Brother Copas" loosely based on his experiences of the Winchester Pageant; the city being renamed Merchester.





South View of Cathedral.

Programme of Arrangements.

**Winchester
National Pageant**

DEPICTING SCENES ILLUSTRATING THE

Making of England,

To be held in the Historic Grounds of
Wolvesey Castle, Winchester,

June 25, 26, 27, 29, 30, July 1, 1908.

At 2.30 p.m.



President:
THE MOST HONBLE. THE MARQUESS OF WINCHESTER,
Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire.

Master of the Pageant:
MR. F. R. BENSON.

The Book of the Words and Music will shortly be issued. Orders can now be booked on receipt of 2/6, together with 4d. postage.

Rev. Canon J H Skrine a clergyman and hymn-writer. Vicar of Itchen Stoke. **Alfred Zimmern**, classical scholar, historian, and political scientist. Educated at Winchester College and, a Fellow and Tutor and Lecturer in Ancient History, at New College, Oxford.

Henry Newbolt poet, novelist and historian. Chiefly remembered for his poem "Vitai

Lampada" written in 1892. Better known for its refrain 'Play up! play up! and play the game!'

Edmund Morshead, a classicist and schoolmaster. Also educated at Winchester College and at New College, Oxford. He returned to Winchester as Classics teacher and one of the two College Houses is named after him.

The Programme of Arrangements

A Programme of Arrangements was published by Warren and Son, with timings fitted into the time table of special trains run by GWR from Paddington to Winchester. e.g. June 25 – July 1 1908, 11:10am – arriving 1pm - 3 mins walk

from Chesil station to Wolvesey castle. Postcards were produced by WT Green (Greenland).

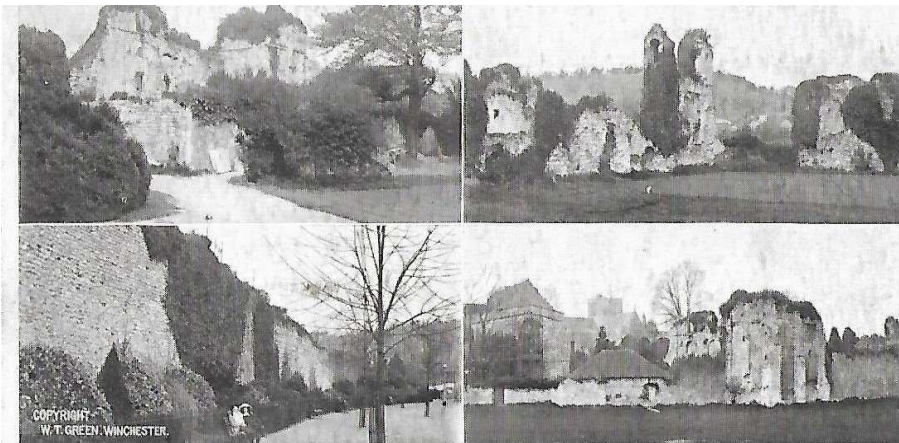
There was a grandstand for seating, seats priced, on the first day, as 800 @ 2/6; 100 @ 5/0; 2000 @10/6; 1200 @ £1/1/0 (a guinea); 200 at £2/2/0 (2 guineas).

There were also Ticketed seats for the service in the cathedral on June 25th.

A ticket for a 'Lady' to attend the Cathedral service



Postcards of Wolvesey Castle



Wolvesey, Site of the Pageant, June, 1908.

CHIEF HISTORIC EVENTS.—A.D. 829, Council of Egbert.—Wolvesey the birthplace of Angle-land.

A.D. 890, Compilation of the Chronicle by Alfred.—Wolvesey the birthplace of literary English.

The existing views are portions of Bishop Henry de Blois' castle (12th century) destroyed by Cromwell A.D. 1646.

There was a Royal Box and it was anticipated the following dignitaries would attend.

THURSDAY, JUNE 25th.

Visit of T.R.H. Prince Christian and
Princess Victoria of Schleswig Holstein.

Visit of the British, Colonial, and American Bishops.

FRIDAY, JUNE 26th.

Visit of H.R.H Princess Louise Duchess of Argyle, and
The Duke of Argyle.

SATURDAY, JUNE 27th.

Visit of H.R.H. Princess Henry of Battenberg, Governor
of the Isle of Wight.

Visit of The Lord Chancellor of Great Britain,
The Speaker of the House of Commons, and
Distinguished Members of the Houses of Parliament.

MONDAY, JUNE 29th.

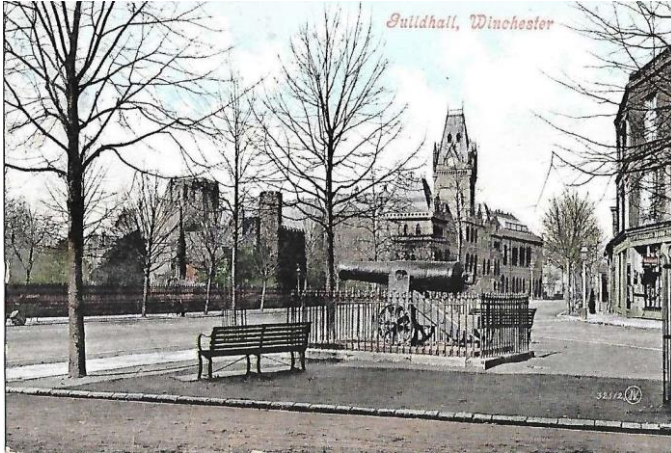
Visit of The Lord Mayor and Sheriffs of London, and
The Mayors of Wessex.

TUESDAY, JUNE 30th.

Visit of T.R.H. The Duke and Duchess of Connaught,
Distinguished Representatives of the Navy and Army,
and the Freemen of the City of Winchester.

On 25-26 May, a Russian cannon, captured at Sebastopol, had been given to the city and was sited at Broadway and East St, now Eastgate Street (approx. on the current site of King Alfred's statue), surrounded by railings. Enraged townspeople and a mob of several thousand paraded through Winchester Pageant ground. The ground was broken into and props thrown in the river, the gun was thrown off its carriage. The Mayor promised the railings would be replaced (Winchester gun riot).

The Sebastopol Cannon



The



WINCHESTER PAGEANT : Alfred the Great and his Queen.

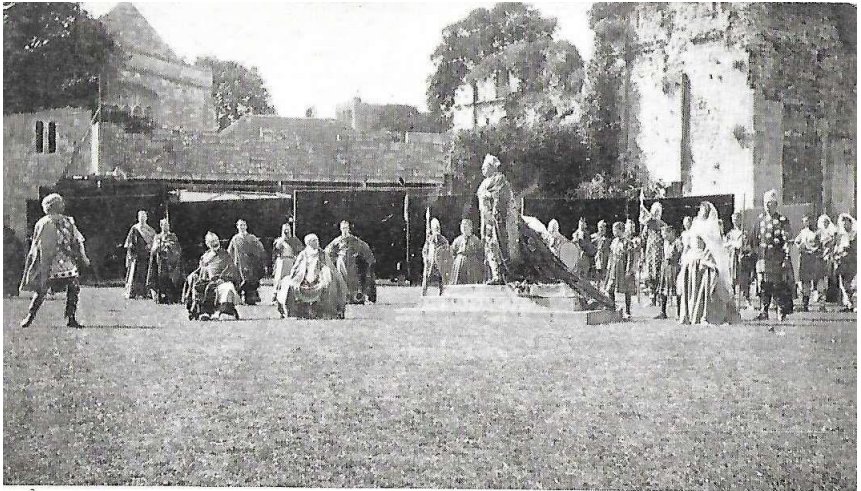
The Wykeham Series. No. B

Pageant's introductory episode AD 43-827, was written by Leroy and Benson, covered 750 years and Brian says in spite of all the history available, the authors saw fit to add some "facts" of their own invention. The sacrifice of a Druid's daughter is avoided by his declared vision of a 'forest of grey stone' i.e., the cathedral. Dates were incorrectly printed and the Roman occupation was only mentioned in two brief scenes. Unfortunately, a postcard of King Egbert was incorrectly attributed as King Edred. King Alfred ad 862-900

was perhaps surprisingly portrayed as a boy by a girl Miss Rosalee Chamberlayne.

1020 Canute and Emma was written by Q, with long speeches, centre stage for a male, and not much action. Alfred's Queen was named Aelswitha but in the cast list for the Pageant her name is given as Aenswitha. This part was played by Miss Violet Oldham who did not appear to have had an onerous task as she had no lines to speak.

Waltheof Earl of Northumbria was tried and convicted of treason on Christmas day 1075 and then executed on St.



WINCHESTER PAGEANT: The Trial of Waltheof. William the Conqueror pronouncing the Death Sentence. The Wykeham Series, No. D

Giles' Hill. This episode written by Skrine.

St. Giles' Fair began in 1102 when William Rufus granted a charter for an annual market around the feast day of St Giles. Again, history gets in the way of a good story and prophecies are made regarding the King's son who was not born until August of the following year.

The war of succession between King Stephen and Empress Mathilda (Lady of the English) dragged on for 15 years but the pageant resolved it rapidly.

William of Wykeham 28th March 1394. Zimmer covered the admission of 70 scholars to Winchester College. The resignation of Bishop Foxe as Lord Privy Seal 1516 was written by Newbolt, and Q wrote six pages on AD 1522, when Henry V111 chose Winchester for a state visit of the Holy Roman Emperor Charles V. Henry showed off the 'Round Table', repainted in his likeness as King Arthur. A little strangely this chapter included the Trojan Horse, stuffed with cupids rather than 'Greeks'!

Newbolt wrote the Marriage of Mary 1 to Philip of Spain 1554, in Winchester Cathedral, and Morshead the trial for treason of Walter Raleigh against James 1 held in Winchester Great Hall in 1602. As the judges refused to allow testament against him, Raleigh was released and, in 1617, sent to find El Dorado, the failure of this enterprise resulted in his execution in 1618.

In 1683 Charles 11 visit Winchester to inspect progress on new palace, was written by Leroy. The palace was never finished as money ran out and Winchester's role in the national history diminished.

Of the 2,250 performers only 200 men, 50 women and 3 children are named. However, the pageant was only made possible by the many women in particular, who made the costumes and the probably mainly men who made the props.

Receipts were £11,127 9s 4d. (£10,354 15s 0d of Tickets Sales and £569 11s 8d for sale of books and music.) After expenses, the surplus £2,572 14s 2d was donated to the fund to save the cathedral.

National pageant words and music by Warren & Son 2/6 still available on eBay.

Web site www.historicalpageants.ac.uk1240 W N P The Redress of the Past



Furnished Burials in 7th century England and the Role of Women during the Conversion Period - Dr Helena Hamerow – Mary Harris

During the Conversion period women briefly took centre stage, often being the first in their families to convert to Christianity. The richly furnished female burials of the 7th century suggest that this was not just the royal women mentioned in the literary sources but many women and young girls of middling social status. This happened at a time when male burials were becoming quite simple.

Examples of these rich female burials:



- Trumpington, Cambridgeshire. Burial on a bed with special jewellery and objects. The woman was wearing a tunic or shroud on which was sewn an equal armed cross of gold and garnets.

Gold and Garnet pins from the burial- Wikipedia



Pectoral cross found sewn onto her garment

- Lower Brook Street, Winchester.
Well-furnished female with necklace and gold and garnet jewellery

Study by Hines and Bayliss 'Anglo Saxon Graves and Grave Goods' 2013

This revealed an upsurge in well-furnished female burials from circa 630 to 680-90 with new artefact types often of precious metals. They recorded six times as many female richly furnished burials as male. The few male burials with weapons which have been found are only in trading centres like Ipswich and Hamwic.

This happens at the same time as the rich princely male burials e.g. Prittlewell, Taplow, Sutton Hoo of the 580s-620s end. Hines suggested that it had become culturally

unacceptable for men to be buried with weapons.



Reconstruction of the burial chamber at Prittlewell

Helena Hamerow proposes a new explanation - that there

was a new investment in women conferring supernatural legitimacy on family status and land holdings.



One of Two small gold foil crosses which are thought to have been placed over the 'Prince's' eyes © MOLA

There were changes in burial rites in the 7th century. 580s-630 there was a marked decline in number of grave goods. By 630s most grave goods were in female graves and the type of artefacts change away from brooches, buckles, and bead strings to shorter necklaces, objects in containers, and Frankish and Byzantine styles. Moreover, regional diversity was replaced by more uniform practice across all the kingdoms. A new feature was that the burials of female children became furnished in the same way as adult females while burials of boys remained unfurnished.

A particular new fashion was the inclusion of necklaces with pendants of the Byzantine style shown in the mosaic of Theodora at St Vitale, Ravenna. A comment by Bede HE iv 23 associates necklaces with religious women.

Amulets like a beaver tooth and cowrie shells also become more common. Many of these had been in circulation for a long time before burial. Some items of jewellery were broken or repaired e.g. Cruciform pendant from Lechlade and the Harford Farm disc brooch which was not only patched but inscribed in runes on the back "Luda repaired the brooch".

The Harford Farm Disc Brooch



Reverse of brooch showing

inscription

©[Photo:geni,https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=46542441](https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=46542441)

Bed burials, e.g. Trumpington, are new in England in 7th century, 12 certain ones have been found and several possibles, all but one is of females. In a saint's life there is a story of Begga, the mother of Pepin of Herstal who, when she entered a convent, was sent relics and books which had belonged to her sister, St Gertrude, and the bed on which she died. These gifts seem to have been regarded as both commemorative and sacred.

Containers are mostly organic e.g. Maplewood casket from Grave 15 Bloodmoor Hill, Carlton Colville, Suffolk. Of 43 examples 40 found in female graves, most have locks and some contain pieces of fine textile, possibly veils, spindle whorls, amulets, jewellery and combs. Often these items were old when buried. One example is a composite disc brooch from Grave 93 Boss Hall, Ipswich.

Work boxes - these are cylindrical with decorated lids made of copper alloy sheet and suspended on a chain for wearing from a belt. The lids often have cruciform designs. These often appear to be empty but sometimes scraps of fabric or plant remains have been found. It has been thought that



these were associated with healing but the fabric appears to be fragments of clothing and they were possibly secondary relics. At Chelles, a double monastery near Paris where the sister of Hild of Whitby was Abbess, a great many relics were gathered.

Chatelaine and a finely decorated workbox found in a female grave near Tidworth Hampshire
©Wessex Archaeology

H. Williams suggests that the process of locking these items away in special containers was a statement of consignment and dedication to God. It is possible that they were votive offerings to the dead like intercessory prayer. The burial of a female ancestor was possibly seen as a way of harnessing sacred power to reinforce family authority and possession of land.

In the Frankish area women and girls were especially associated with the sacred.

Location of the well-furnished female graves, both 630-650 and later, concentrated on E Kent, E York whereas the well-furnished male weapon burials have a very different distribution. The female burials were not in monastic cemeteries but in the areas where double monasteries existed (except at Caister and Ely) These double monasteries, headed by an abbess were in areas with Frankish connections e.g. Northumbria and Kent. Double houses seem to have originated in Gaul, with female governors and male relatives as defenders of their assets.

Were these rich burials a way of dealing with the wealth which was accumulated in female hands and preventing it being gained by other families?

At this time there seem to have been women who led religious lives but not in formal monasteries. Bede HE iv 23 gives the examples of Hild living with a small group of likeminded followers before entering a formal monastery.

Another innovation of this period is the burial of young female children with adult grave goods in richly furnished graves. It seems that even young girls were regarded as particularly associated with the sacred. Many of the 7th century female burials may originally have been marked by barrows and could have been prominent in the landscape.

The cemetery at Street House Loftus, E Yorks is not closely dated but shows a very distinctive layout with a bed burial in the centre, and the remains of a barrow burial, the whole surrounded by a regular pattern of graves. It is possible that the bed burial is of a Deiran princess since the cemetery is not far from Whitby.

Thus, it seems likely that these richly furnished female graves were used to link the family to the sacred and reinforce the family rights to the local lands and resources through their closeness to God.

Ref: <https://ora.ox.ac.uk/objects/uuid:88409417-0291-408a-8a8f->

<https://archaeology.co.uk/articles/features/new-secrets-from-prittlewell-reconstructing-a-burial-chamber-fit-for-a-prince.htm>

https://doi.org/10.1163/9789004421899_013



Recent Archaeology at Winchester Cathedral - Dr John Crook – Steve Taylor

Several archaeological discoveries were revealed when recent work took place in the Cathedral, particularly on the Kings and Scribes exhibition. The talk was a distillation of a detailed 530-page document which covered the Archaeology, Art History, buildings archaeology and graffiti uncovered in the course of the work.

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Archaeology, Art History, buildings archaeology and graffiti uncovered in the course of the work.



Unfinished Historiated Capital Ecclesiastes folio 268© Dr. Andreas Petzold, The Morgan Leaf from The Winchester Bible," in Smarthistory, February 7, 2019, accessed May 19, 2022

One of the main reasons for designing the new exhibition was that the 12th century Winchester Bible, a treasure of the Cathedral, was not well displayed.

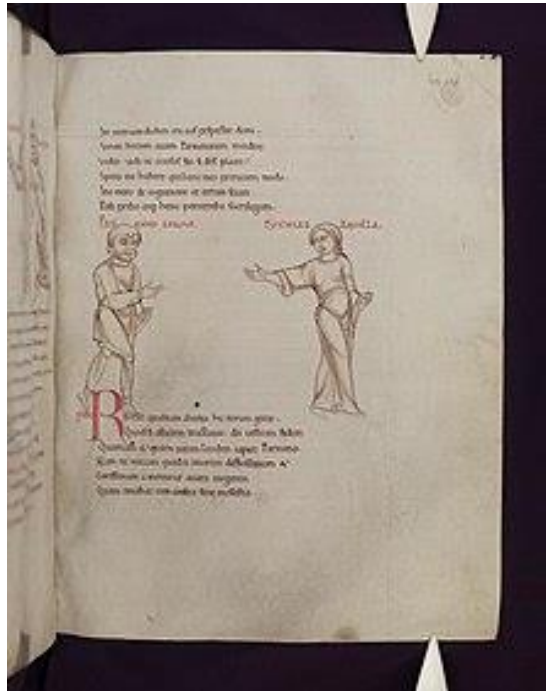


The Winchester Bible
©National
Manuscripts
Conservation Trust
courtesy of Dean and
Chapter Winchester
Cathedral

Access was poor and there was only limited space to show the Bible. Other artefacts were

badly presented and some could not be shown due to the lack of space. The Dean and Chapter settled on the South Transept as a suitable location for this new exhibition. It offered good space with a first-floor gallery and platform from which there were fine views of the cathedral interior. No archaeological recording of the transepts had taken place before.

Comedies of Terence - An incomplete page of the Winchester Bible
©Bodleian Digital 2020



The Bible on display in the South Transept gallery © Peter Cook View Pictures Ltd.



In planning this work it was decided to leave the Morley Library, unchanged from the 1670s, as it was. However, the 17th century staircase providing difficult access to the first floor would need replacing. The Winchester Bible

had been displayed in a cramped space alongside the Library.

In the 1980s the first floor Gallery had been used to store a variety of artefacts such as old sculptures and architectural fragments (including the altar stone from the old minster and a two-thirds scale model of St Swithun's shrine destroyed by Henry VIII), as well as archives containing Saxon and later history. The documents were transferred to



*The
Morley
Library
© Peter
Cook
View
Pictures
Ltd*

the Hampshire Record Office for conservation and safe storage. By 1988 much of this space was occupied by a permanent exhibition, which would be replaced by the planned “Kings and Scribes” installation.

A completely modern lift was installed in the south transept. This could be done with relatively little disturbance to the cathedral structure, excepting the need to excavate a substantial hole to contain the lift piston mechanism. The excavation revealed a well-defined surface cut through by a foundation block, which was the base of a pillar supporting the first-floor platform. Once this block was installed in the 11th century, early in the construction phase of the cathedral, it was backfilled with material which contained fragments of human bones but lacking bits of any skulls or femurs. It seemed that this surface was the same phase as the floor of the crypt. The picture this presented was of a flat space cleared of all Saxon burials from the old Minster, with a level floor of chalk in yellow mortar onto which the foundation blocks of the cathedral, slightly recessed into the surface, were laid. Underneath these blocks, oak piles were first driven in to the peat and gravel subsurface of the cathedral. Thus, the superstructure of the cathedral was built on a lattice of these blocks.

In the work of clearance, the skulls and femurs were reburied at the west end of the cathedral (the charnel pit of Martin Biddle’s excavation). The small bones were not carefully collected which explains why they turn up in the backfill around the lattice of foundation walls.

At higher levels the 11th century vault was revealed, much repaired and with voussoirs missing.

Various structures had been inserted at ground level in the transept over the years including three altars on both east

and west walls to accommodate the number of monastic priests who wanted to say Mass.

There were aisles on both east and west sides of the transept which were later blocked up in 12th century creating rooms for various functions. One became the verger's vestry.

The walls had not been well treated but on some of the



surviving plaster there was wall painting from the 13th century, possibly depicting St Benedict. Other features of this space included medieval floor tiles, re-sited from elsewhere in the Cathedral and traces of one room that might be interpreted from its secure access and decorative details as the remains of the former treasury of Bishop Henry of Blois.

Staircase and lift to the gallery exhibition space from the calefactory © architects journal.co.uk



Exposed 11th century Vaulting ©Dr. John Crook



Painting discovered on the East wall ©Dr. John Crook in Stone Specialist 02/21

Once the remains of these various structure had been cleared the ground floor space was opened up to form a much better display of the Winchester Bible, now split into four volumes to improve its viewing. The refurbished middle floor told the story of the Monks scriptorium and the main first floor displayed historic artefacts.

Outside the Cathedral it is still possible to locate fragments of Monastic buildings from pre-Reformation times. Although much had been obliterated by works such as the 1805 carriageway and the never-ending succession of drains, ducts and maintenance, it has still been possible to identify remains of structures such as the Little Cloister which lay to the south of the Great Cloister. This cloister was at a lower level than its larger neighbour and, unlike the Great Cloister, may have had a vaulted walkway.

Within the Cathedral work on the roof has identified the work done early in the sixteenth century (dendrochronology dating of 1507/8) to raise the vault over the choir. This timber vault (painted to appear like stone) has many elaborately carved and painted bosses depicting Henry VII, Henry VIII, his wife Catherine of Aragon and Bishop Fox. Behind these visible bosses can be found the inscribed records of various people who had worked on these structures at various times as well as time capsules. The most recent of these time capsules was inserted in 1945 and is not to be opened until 2050!

Roof bosses in Winchester Cathedral © Dr. John Crook 10/10/2015



Ref:<https://www.architecture.com/awards-and-competitions-landing-page/awards/riba-regional-awards/riba-south-award-winners/2021/winchester-cathedral-south-transept-exhibition-spaces>

<https://www.historytoday.com/witness-high>

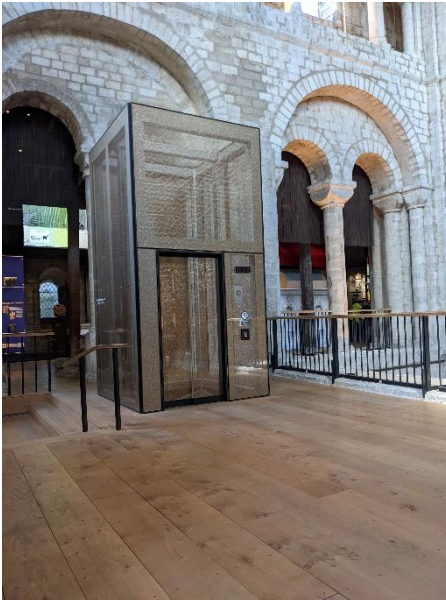


Post Script – Kings and Scribes - Janet Backhouse

Whenever I visit a fascinating building such as a cathedral, stately home or palace, being inquisitive (some might use a different word, but how else does one learn?), I am often more interested in what is behind the doors rather than what is on display - the Passaggi Segreti in the Doges' Palace, the servants' stairways and passages in the walls of large houses, and I have always wondered what the view would be from the upper galleries in our beautiful cathedrals.

Being less than spritely, following a back injury, such areas are generally no longer accessible for me, so I was particularly delighted to hear Dr. Crook talk about the lift installation in Winchester. Accordingly, I took myself off with Rollie, my trusted Rollator to visit the Kings and Scribes exhibition.

Whilst I am still able to negotiate staircases, Rollie is less adaptable, having Dalek's disability, (cannot climb stairs),



so I had ample excuse to try out the lift. I understand the Vergers' accident book contains a number of stair related incidents. I wonder how many religious' managed to trip on their robes whilst negotiating the narrow stairways.

*arriving on the
Trifolium © janet
backhouse*

So - off we glided, slowly and silently, heaven ward to the Triforium, where I was advised to start the tour. This top floor provides an awesome, if vertiginous, view down into the South transept.

Straight ahead and One begins with a 'masterpiece' model of the Old Minster and a time line of the Kings of Wessex. This was of particular interest for me as it placed King Edgar, whom I am currently embroidering for the village history, as he donated land which founded the village where I live.

Look away now if you do not enjoy heights © janet backhouse



Exploration of this floor is accompanied by quiet classical music.

Moving on there is one of the exquisite mortuary chests in its full decorated glory, alongside the sad bones of a lady, thought to be Queen Emma, Consort of two kings, Ethelred and Cnut (Canute) and mother of Edward the Confessor.



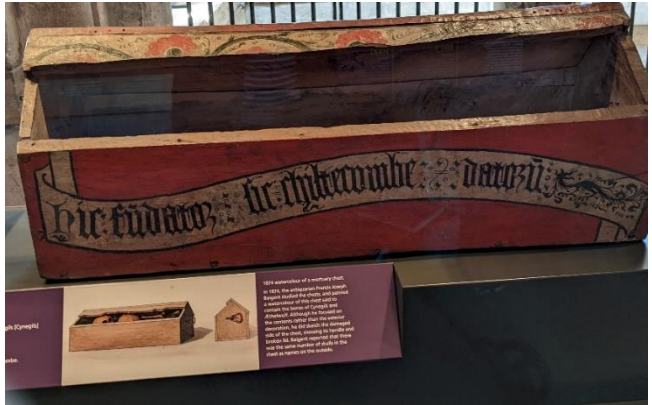
Mortuary chest said to be the resting place of Kings Egbert and Cynewulf© Janet Backhouse

At the end of this gallery, beyond the artistic interpretation of the head of an approx. 14 years old boy, whose bones were also found in one of the mortuary chests, (with a 3D print out of his skull), one can sit and watch a video of the removal and archaeological recording of one of the mortuary chests, and its subsequent replacement on top of Bishop Fox’s screen, near the High Altar.

Cenwealh the son of Cyneglis is credited with the construction of the Old Minster in the 640s. The bones of Cyneglis are thought to be interred with those of Aethelwulf.

Mortuary chest of Kings Cyneglis and Aethelwulf ©janet backhouse

Moving on to the opposite side of the trifolium, the emphasis is on the stone artwork. There are also two further exquisitely

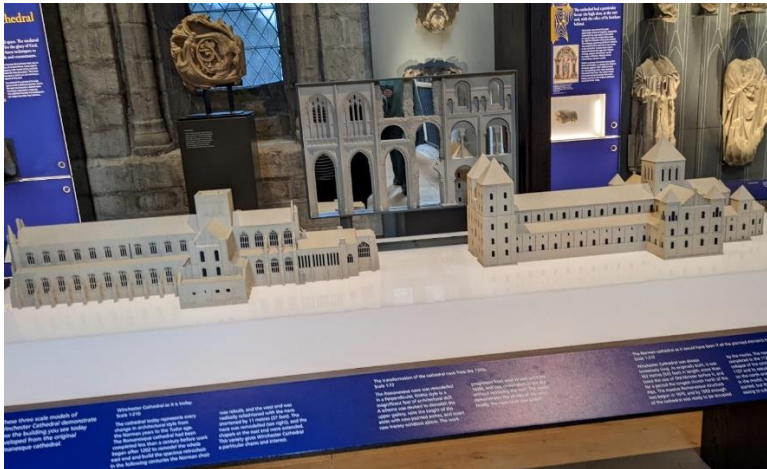


executed models of the cathedral, the Norman vision, as it was originally conceived, and as it is today.



The chest opened for archaeological investigation and recording © janet backhouse

The remains of the kings, queens and prelates were removed from their original burial place, the crypt in the Old Minster and placed in lead lined coffins in the new Norman cathedral. In about 1525, the remains were moved once more and placed in the specially constructed mortuary chests we see today and placed high up on top of Bishop Fox's stone screens on each side of the presbytery. Originally there were eight chests but these were not the first chests, when opened for examination in Victorian times, earlier boxes were found inside. In 1661, an inscription was added to one of the boxes, explaining that the bones of princes and prelates had been promiscuously laid together after being scattered by sacrilegious barbarism in 1642. One wonders how this desecration fitted with the religious convictions of Cromwell's New Model Army.



Winchester Cathedral - on the right, the Norman cathedral as it was originally conceived, on the left, as it is today© janet backhouse.



A pristine reconstruction of the shrine of St. Swithun has a tiny window at one end, through which one may observe the monks, nuns and pilgrims coming to pray to the saint. The one below particularly struck a familiar chord.

Reconstruction of St. Swithun's shrine and a pilgrim going to pray to the Saint. © Janet Backhouse.



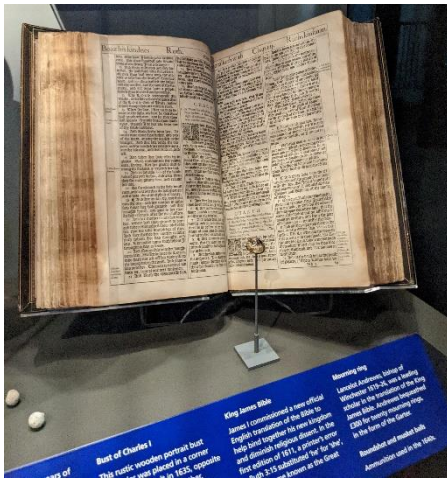
Shrine masonry and roof scaffolding poles © Janet Backhouse



By these fragments of the original shrine – which were holes through which pilgrims could put their hands nearer to the saint, can be seen the

remains of 15th century scaffolding. Given it might have

taken the tree 50 years to reach the required size, these scaffolding 'poles' could be well over 600 years old.



A copy of the King James Bible with an error in the book of Ruth. This was written during the same period Shakespeare was writing©janet backhouse

Back to the lift and a glide down one floor, where there is a feast for any readers of Medieval Latin, with the domestic details of

life in the Priory. All accompanied by plain song, which was sung during the daily offices, and provides an evocation of how the monks lived.

The Refectorer's accounts and details of the food supplies to the Priory are on display. There is also a display of where the food was sourced.

The monks were urged to Ore et Labora (Pray and Work), a motto which can still be seen on the courtyard side of the entrance to the old Queen Elizabeth Court at the top of the hill. An exhortation to the employees of the County Council maybe?

Back down to the ground floor and the level of the Morley Library where the Winchester Bible was formerly displayed. In 382CE Pope Damasus the First, asked Jerome of Stridon, a priest and scholar, to revise the Vetus Latina gospels, used by the 'roman' church to create the Vulgate Bible (in the speech of the common people). He eventually extended this

work of revision and translation to include most of the books of the Bible. By the 13th century it had taken over from the former version the designation *versio vulgata* (the "version commonly used") The Winchester Bible has often been the subject of theft but is, however, relatively intact.

The first 'room' contains an interactive display on which the Bible can be explored. On the wall are cases containing the colour chemical used in the scribing and drawing, and another having the instruments used to scribe the work. A video loop shows the preparation of the sheep vellum to create the pages and the delicate scribing. Analysis of the work indicates it is the work of a single, young, man, working over a period of four years, leaving spaces and notes for the insertion of the capitals by possibly eight itinerant skilled artists. Sadly, the Winchester Bible was not completed, probably for pragmatic reasons of availability of artists and payment for their skilled work.



The pigments used to create the script and illuminations
©janet backhouse

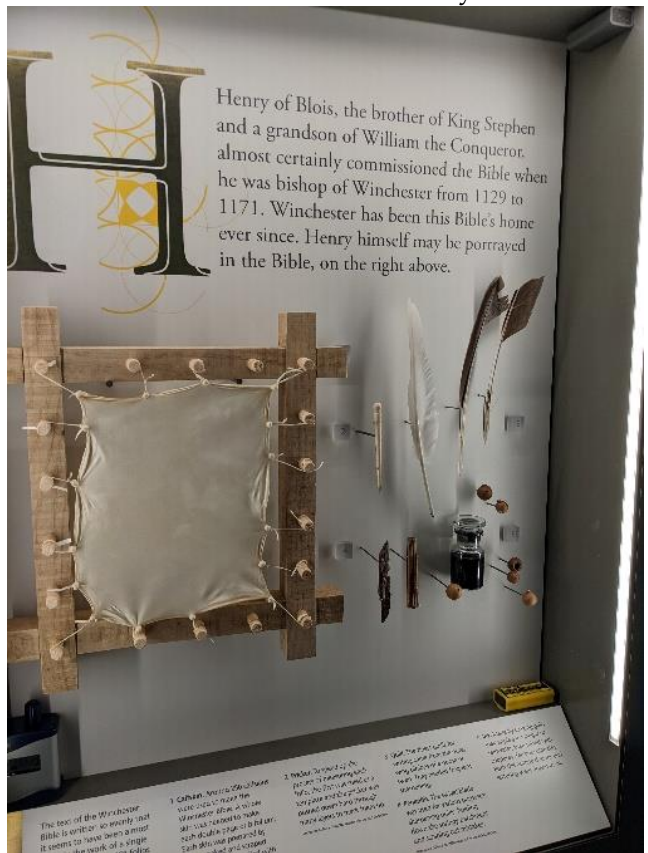
The volunteer guides are both knowledgeable and helpful and

it was really interesting to hear that the Scribe, skilled though he was, still made mistakes. If you look closely, you will see a darker area of script where the mistakes were scraped out and rewritten, with the ink sinking deeper into the fabric – thus appearing to be darker.

Finally, and for obvious reasons photography is not permitted in the subdued lighting of the Bible room where one can see the four display cases which contain the latest binding of the Bible itself. The challenge for the Bodleian libraries conservators was to work with 250 12th century calfskins

weighing around 32 kgs. They were relearning and using some techniques that haven't been carried out for 800 years.

Unusually, the size meant the work was often a job for two people. As part of the conservation project each leaf of the manuscript has also been fully digitized.



Preparation of the vellum with the scribing implements © Janet Backhouse



The Bible in
the gallery ©
Peter Cook
View
Pictures Ltd.

If you have
not already
done so I
would
highly
recommend
a visit. The
exhibition
has won a
UK Heritage
Award, the
judges
saying "*This
has been a
long-term
project
which now*

*allows visitors to explore over 1,000 years of English
history. This inspiring and educational experience offers
visitors the opportunity to learn all about the significance
of this historic building within the wider story of English
history."*

Ref: [Secrets of Winchester's Mortuary Chests - Hampshire History
\(hampshire-history.com\)](http://hampshire-history.com)



Excavations at Hursley Park 2021 - David Ashby – Andy King

David Ashby presented his thoughts on the results of the excavations by WARG at Hursley Park in August 2021. The site, currently owned by IBM, is on the outskirts of the village of Hursley, at the centre of the medieval deer park, the remains of which include extensive stretches of the park pale and fishponds, together with the remains of Merdon Castle which was itself built on the site of an iron age settlement.



Trench 1 and the Georgian House ©Jane King

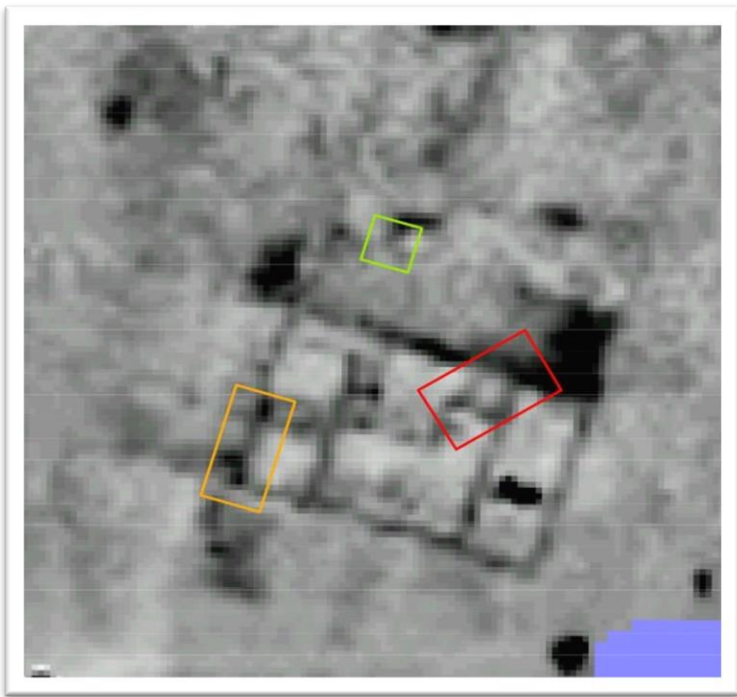
Objectives

Six objectives for the excavation were set out. These included understanding the nature of the surviving archaeology and its level of preservation; confirming whether indeed it was the Tudor house known from documentary sources and the relationship between the archaeological and historical records; determining the size and layout of the building, and assessing its function and

significance; and finally clarifying any links between the Tudor house and its Georgian successor which stands just to the north of the site.

Pre-excavation

The site was known from parch marks visible on aerial photographs, which also gave an indication of the location of walls. A contemporary map depicts a substantial building on the site although with what degree of accuracy is not known. To enhance this information, soil resistivity and ground-penetrating radar surveys were undertaken and David gave a clear summary of how these geophysical techniques operate.



Geophysics showing trench positions ©WARG

On the basis of this information three trenches were opened. Trench 1 to examine one of the main walls of the building together with subsidiary walls, and to investigate a high-resistance signature in the north-east corner of the building; Trench 2 to explore the south-west corner of the building including some high-resistance features tentatively identified as fireplaces, and to determine the nature and function of this wing of the house; Trench 3 to confirm the presence of the front wall which was unclear from the geophysics, and to examine a square feature which may represent a portico.

Excavation

In all of the trenches the turf was removed to reveal a very clean, inclusion-free topsoil, below which was a layer of gravel, presumably for levelling and drainage. This gravel contained a quantity of worked flint including blades and scrapers, probably of neolithic date. The position of these prehistoric flints above the 18th century demolition shows that the gravel had been imported and redeposited, and that a neolithic site had been destroyed in the process! In most areas the gravel was underlain by a demolition deposit of varying depth. The relatively small quantity of demolition material supports the documentary evidence that much of the fabric of the demolished house was reused in the Georgian building.

Trench 3

Trench 3 revealed the front wall of the house, the foundations of a portico and a cobbled surface. The foundations of the portico were stepped, and comprised an inner and outer wall probably representing two phases of construction, with the first phase wall having been demolished and then the second phase wall built.

The front wall of the house showed a single phase of construction which appears to be unusual on the site, and a sondage behind it showed that the cellars/lower ground floor found in Trench 1 continued to the western end of the house.



Trench showing portico on the front of the house ©WARG

To the west of the portico was a cobbled surface, and in the main wall at this point a reused piece of masonry had been set as a sill for a window or door – most probably a window giving light into the lower ground floor.

Trench 1

This trench was cut by a modern service trench which necessitated the leaving of a baulk.

As with trench 3, there appeared to be two phases of brick construction with secondary walls being built inside existing ones, and in at least one case the gap between them being filled with mortar and rubble. The rear wall of the north range was revealed to be massive compared to all the

other walls on the site and appeared to have been interrupted for the entrance to the cellars.



Vaulted cellar in trench 1 ©WARG

There may also be two phases of cellars/lower ground floor rooms. At the east of the building was a vaulted cellar of brick which had been plastered and whitewashed. A wall forming a corridor at the entrance to this cellar abuts this plaster and must be later. The arrangement of the rest of this floor of the building were that from an entrance the passage divides into two: the first led to the vaulted cellar was furnished with a door evidenced by the partly rendered slots for the door jambs; the second led round a corner with a curved face to another large room. All the walls had been rendered and plastered. The cellars were not bottomed due to the loose nature of their fill, but they were excavated to a depth of 0.5m and probing revealed that the floor surface was 0.9m below that. This would give a total depth of 1.4m which would not be enough to stand up in. This and the remaining curve on the vault show that the main floor of the dwelling was above the current ground surface.

Two small flimsy walls, together with two of the external walls, formed a small square area which must have housed a staircase for access to the cellars.



*Stairwell
and
entrance
to the
cellars*
©WARG

Other features in trench 1 included a large posthole, chalk surfaces and a mortared flint platform which was bonded in to one of the walls. The function of these remains unclear.

Trench 2

The dominant feature in this trench was the western and southern external wall of this part of the house. A dump of

oyster shell and bone beside this wall may represent some of the food consumed while it was being built.

The room uncovered had a floor of packed clay and the level of this and the fireplaces show that there must have been steps up to the main rooms in the north range.

There were two fireplaces separated by an internal dividing wall which also presumably supported a chimney. The more northerly was brick-built and had a covering of sand as protection from the extreme heat, and next to this was a small circular feature which may have been the base for a small copper or oven. The other fireplace, constructed of tile on end, was also covered with sand, and next to it was a very small room with a worn brick threshold – the broom cupboard!



Trench 2 Fire place and 'broom cupboard' ©WARG



Trench 2 'strong box' ©WARG

A small square building butted against the outer wall of the building, which contained a circular brick feature interpreted as the base of a large copper for laundry or cooking. The evidence is clear that this part of the building was a domestic range.

Also outside the building was a brick yard surface which was covered in a demolition layer, through which were cut two brick pillars which must represent something very late in the life of the building or a garden feature of the Georgian house.

Beneath the packed clay floor in the room was a feature of packed chalk faced with flint and stone which may be a wall from an earlier, possibly medieval building. Two flimsier flint and stone walls abutted it and may represent

a division into two rooms.



Earlier walls in trench 2 ©WARG

A number of stone mouldings have been found on the site which may have come from Merdon Castle or possibly from a medieval building on the site.

Finds

The finds include pottery both domestic and imported, fragments of polychrome tile which may also be imported, clay pipes, and metalwork including a buckle and a gilt lead star.



*Polychrome
decorated tile
©WARG*

Author's note – Analysis of the stratigraphic data and the finds are still ongoing. It is intended that a more detailed interim report will be published in the newsletter of the Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society and on the WARG website – please look out for these.



A Day in the Life – Janet Backhouse

The Winchester Old Minster, originally a secular establishment was, in 964CE, established as the heart of a Benedictine monastery dedicated to The Holy Trinity and Saints Peter and Paul. This then became the cathedral priory. The priory controlled a Sister Hospital at Winchester, and maintained a school.

The ideal number of monks at which all the large Benedictine houses were supposed to aim was seventy, but this was seldom achieved. In 1325, the roll reached to sixty-four, but the priory never recovered from the staggering blow of the Black Death. The Monastery was dissolved on 15th November 1539, with the passing of the Act of Supremacy which defined the right of Henry VIII to be supreme head on earth of the Church of England, thereby severing ecclesiastical links with Rome.

Life was not cosy, in September, 1243, the monks of St. Swithun obtained papal sanction to wear caps in quire on account of the cold, as long as they observed due reverence at the gospel and the elevation of the Blessed Sacrament during the celebration of the Eucharist.



The Cross of St. Benedict ©the online guide to St. Benedict

Neither was it quiet, as on 4 May, 1264, the citizens of Winchester rose against the monks and burnt the priory gateway at Kingsgate, the upper part of the church of St. Swithun, and all the houses near the wall that belonged to the convent. However, no reason for this has been established.

The prior was bound to provide the frater/refectory with bread, beer, wine, salt, cheese and butter; also, with the necessary rush-woven mats and with straw litter for the floor. Cheese was to be served daily at dinner and supper from Quinquagesima Sunday to Easter Day, (the period extending from the Sunday before Lent to Easter Sunday) and butter on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 1 May to 14 September. New mats were to be furnished on the vigil of All Saints, and fresh straw seven times a year. It may have been a bit smelly and a haven for rodents among the straw!

The gardener was to provide apples on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays in Advent and Lent. A curious entry in the records notes that the cellarer was to have the care of all the animals acquired by different brethren. Pet animals were frequently found in religious houses. I wonder if they kept Church Mice! It was the porter's duty to clean out the frater after Easter, and to make the fire on the hearth in snowy weather.

The daily life of these Benedictine monks can be traced from point to point in the large number of Obedientiary Rolls. Their primary duty at St. Swithun's was hospitality; the priory was situated in the capital – since 871CE, and on one of the most important highways of England. It was their deserved boast to keep open house for all comers.

With no weekends or holidays the monks were also required to maintain a rigid observation of the Holy offices, work and rest.

The daily programme was of Ore et Labora

Midnight – rise for matins and Lauds combined.	12:30 pm – Prandium (first meal of the day) They must have worked up an appetite by then not having had a sustaining breakfast. How did Friar Tuck become so tubby?
1:15 am Off to the Dortoir (Dormitory) for a sleep.	After Prandium there was a short trip to the reredorter for a comfort break with 60 other members of the community.
6 am – Prime – Mass of the virgin Mary.	1 pm – Work.
8 am – A quick wash and brush up most likely in cold water – Summer and Winter.	3 pm – Nones (Ninth office of the day).
8:15 am – Mass - chants, readings, prayers, and other ceremonies used in the celebration of the Eucharist.	6pm – Vespers (Evening/sunset prayers, commemorating the taking down of Christ from the Cross).
8:30 am Chapter meeting to conduct the business of the Priory.	6:30 pm – Cena (second meal of the day) Benedictine monks were not <i>quite</i> vegetarian by modern standards, though. Eating meat from four-legged animals was prohibited, but they could eat meat from birds and fish. However, the Almoner’s rolls at Winchester

	do include Geese, milk, cream and butter.
9 am – Tierce- third office of the day after Matins and Prime, approx. three hourly. 9:15 am – High Mass.	7 pm – Contemplation – maybe on tired limbs and the approach of bedtime.
10 am – Work.	9 pm – Compline – commemorating the burial of Christ, the Final Judgment.
12 midday – Sext – sixth office of the day.	9:30 – Off to bed.

Ref: "Houses of Benedictine monks: Priory of St Swithun, Winchester." A History of the County of Hampshire: Volume 2. Eds. H Arthur Doubleday, and William Page. London: Victoria County History, 1903. 108-115. British History Online. Web. 29 May 2022.

*<http://www.british-history.ac.uk/vch/hants/vol2/pp108-115>.
online 29/5/22*



The Man who Saved the Cathedral – Janet Backhouse

How could we write about Winchester Cathedral without mentioning the man who was significantly responsible for saving it from tumbling down.

In 1887 William Walker trained as a diver in Portsmouth dockyard, and 19 years later he was commissioned to help save Winchester cathedral. Initially working with two other divers, they resigned after a month as they found the working conditions unsustainable.

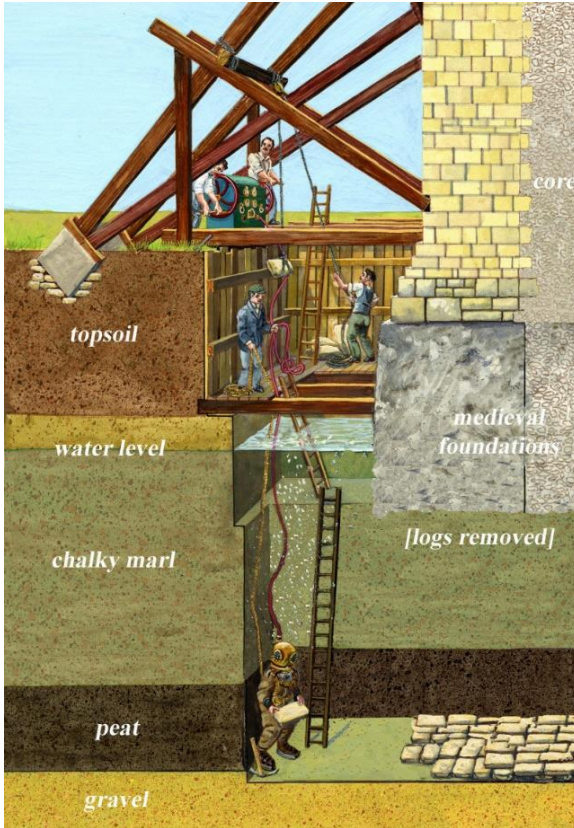


Portrait photograph of William Walker.

© John Crook in Society of architectural historian

He worked in a 200 lb diving suit, in water up to twenty feet deep under the building, between 1906 and 1911. He used more than 25,800 bags of concrete, 114,900 concrete blocks, and 900,000 bricks to shore up the Cathedral foundations. The East end of Winchester is underpinned by many 'brooks', as seen in the street names. Additionally, being at the bottom of a steep hill it receives the thousands of gallons of rainwater that create rivers in the upper city when it rains. Consequently, the cathedral had been in imminent danger of collapse as it sank slowly into the peaty ground. To have removed the groundwater would have hastened the collapse of the building. To give temporary support to the foundation walls, some 235 pits were dug along the southern and eastern sides of the building, each about six metres deep.

Diagram showing the details of how William Walker worked in the almost six years at the depths beneath the cathedral walls.© <https://www.sah.org/publications-and-research/sah-blog/sah-blog/2017/10/13/winchester-s-william-walker>



Walker worked six hours a day, in complete darkness, because the sediment in the water was impenetrable to light. After he finished his work, the groundwater was pumped out and the concrete he had placed bore the foundation

walls. Bricklayers were then able to do their work in the usual way and restore the damaged walls. Walker said about his work, *"It was not difficult. It was straightforward work, but had to be carefully done"*. He went on to say that Mr. Jackson had told him that he was very pleased with the work and that he had done what no other man had done—that he had laid the foundation of a whole cathedral. Walker said *"I am proud of the honour"*.

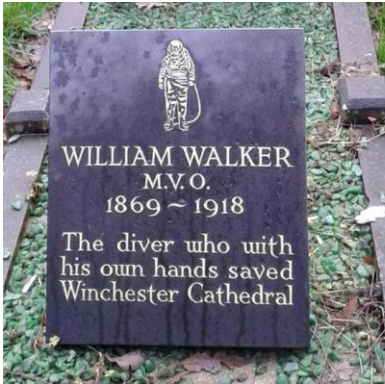


Replica of William Walker's dive helmet© janet backhouse



Bust of William Walker in the grounds of Winchester cathedral ©Colin Smith

Grave memorial at Beckenham and Descending beneath the cathedral ©john Hickman



Sadly, after he died aged 49, in 1918, a victim of Spanish 'flu, he was buried at Beckenham Cemetery in south east London, where his grave lay unattended until it was rediscovered by John Hickman, of the Croydon Natural History and Scientific Society. The grave was restored and a fund was raised to add a plaque to his astounding achievement.



Julia's Jottings

Another 'Mary Rose'

The discovery of the warship Gloucester – lost 28 miles off the Norfolk coast on May 6th 1682 and nearly seeing the demise of the future King James 11 - has been kept a secret, for security reasons to protect it in International waters, since it was discovered in 2007. Had the then Duke of York been lost, along with hundreds of others, English history would have been changed significantly. James and the future Duke of Marlborough along with approx. 330 others were rescued and up to 250 souls were lost.

Prof Jowitt, an authority on maritime cultural history at Norwich's University of East Anglia (UEA), said: *"The discovery promises to fundamentally change understanding of 17th Century social, maritime and political history."*

The five divers say that during their long search, they had no idea of the significance of the find.



The ship's bell, made in 1681 proved vital in the Receiver of Wreck and the MoD successfully identifying the vessel. ©UEA

A major exhibition is being planned to run from February to July 2023 at Norwich Castle Museum.

An accompanying research project will also examine the circumstances of the tragedy and conspiracy theories.

The Gloucester was not a slave-trader but many people from diverse cultural backgrounds lost their lives and historians will make sure their stories are told, the UEA said.

Launched in 1654 with 54 guns and 280 crew, The Gloucester is the only surviving third-rate Cromwellian warship, joining the royal Navy in 1660.

To date no human remains have been found. Samuel Pepys recorded the event from another ship.

Had James died, King Charles II's illegitimate son, James Scott, the Duke of Monmouth, may have inherited the throne. James' reign was marked by political and religious turmoil and he was eventually deposed in the Glorious Revolution of 1688, which may not have happened had he died at sea. Alternatively, there may have been civil war between supporters of the Duke of Monmouth and the Duke of York's legitimate daughter, Mary and her Dutch husband, William of Orange.

Such are the momentous consequences of some lives.

Entertaining the Iron Age Baby

Domestic archaeology may have been one of the least regarded aspects of our history as it is generally held within the realms of the women and children of the past. History has always been more about Kings than the Queens who were the power behind the thrones. However, this is a major area of knowledge about how the ancestors lived and survived, and, with developments in technology, is rightly coming to find its important place in research.

Archaeologists found traces of animal fats inside ancient clay vessels, used to feed Bronze and Iron Age infants. This suggests milk was given to supplement breast feeding and could have contributed to a baby boom.

We cannot be sure what species of animal donated, but, as in the 21st century, goats or cows are likely suspects.

As the hunter gatherer lifestyle vanished, people grew crops and domesticated animals. They began consuming dairy products about 6,000 years ago, but very little is known about the diet of ancient infants.

Dr Julie Dunne of the University of Bristol, names this as the first direct evidence for how prehistoric infants were fed, and suggests this practice could have boosted fertility by decreasing the period between pregnancies, and leading to a population increase. Past evidence has suggested prehistoric infants were likely given some sort of baby food in addition to breast milk after six months, but their diet was unknown.

Archaeologists tested the contents of three of the small vessels buried alongside infants in graves between 1,200 and 450 BCE. Molecular fingerprints revealed fats from animal products, including fresh milk.

However, this is not totally positive news for the infants as the hard-to-clean bottles could have exposed babies to infection. However, identification of the cause of death of the children may shed light on the efficacy of artificial feeding.

Earthenware pots were a game changer, Dunne says, and people invented them multiple times in different places. Ceramic vessels helped change what people ate—they could boil meat for stews, for example, or cook tubers long enough to destroy toxins. Boiling meat releases globules of melted fat that easily seep into the walls of pots



Small, spouted vessels found in Bronze and Iron Age graves of infants in Bavaria ©*Enver-Hirsch/Wien Museum*



Modern-day baby feeding from

reconstructed infant feeding vessel © *Helena Seidl da Fonseca/University of Bristol/PA*

Ref: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-49813039> @ 25/09/2021

Lipid residues couldn't be analysed before the 1950s and the advent of gas chromatography, a method to detangle molecular mixtures.

Coupling that technique with mass spectrometry, which helps identify molecules based on their mass, allowed researchers to detect and identify ages-old food remains.

In 2014, researchers reported milk proteins preserved in the dental tartar of roughly 5,000-year-old teeth. “It’s plaque, which becomes hard,” just like the build-up on teeth that dental hygienists scrape away.

When Hazan and his colleagues got to thinking about how to brew a beer out of the history books, they recalled the yeast that lived and wondered whether yeasts could survive way longer—for 3,000 years. “And we were probably very drunk at the time,” Hazan says, “because we said, ‘Yeah, for sure they will do that.’”

Four out of six extracted yeasts were able to make alcoholic beverages and produce the aromatic compounds that make them taste good. The yeasts’ DNA revealed how they were related to other known brewing microbes. The team reasoned that the yeasts plucked from the vessels were descendants of the yeasts seeded thousands of years ago when the beer was brewed.



Samples from Philistine beer jugs dated to 850 B.C. generated viable microbes that researchers could grow in a lab. **Tell es-Safi/Gath Archaeological Project**



Book Reviews

You may remember a previous review of this book about Winchester, but on rereading I see we have selected

different items of interest so I thought that this could be a good place to revisit more about the city.

Secret Winchester – Anne-Louise Barton and Elizabeth Hill- Goulding ISBN 978-1- 4456-7185- 7 pub. Amberley books - Janet Backhouse

This 93-page book is packed with information about Winchester, set out in 10 easy to read sections. For Wintonians there is much to recognise, which will also be familiar to other ‘Hampshire Hogs.’

Did you know

- 13 foreign coins of the 3rd and 2nd centuries, including Egyptian currency, were found in Winchester? This shows how important the Itchen has been to commerce through the centuries, especially around Wharf Hill – a bit of a give-away, where the Black faced- literally- crews came onshore from the coal barges. Hence the name of the hostelry.
- In 1845 the Archaeological Institute of Great Britain held its annual meeting in St. John’s rooms.
- Jewry Street has had four different names, Scowertenestret; Yerustret, Vicus Judeorum and Jewerystret. It ‘gained’ in status from shoemakers to money lenders. A suggestion to rename it yet again as Northgate Street was, I am pleased to report, rejected by Wintonians.
- Monarchs have lived, given birth, been crowned and commemorated in Winchester, not to mention being mythologised, an example being the famous Round Table

- There were beheadings on Gallows Hill (Stockbridge Road) and riots around the Butter Cross. The riots can be held firmly at the fists of the boys of Winchester College.
- There was a Gas Destructor Lamp in Great Minster Street, which worked from the sewer gases – recycling is not a new concept.
- The Garnier Road pumping station, named after Dean Thomas Garnier, ended the 'Muckabite' rebellion
- Magdalen Hill has always been the 'isolated' end of Winchester, from Mediaeval Magdalen Hospital Lazarette, to Victoria Isolation Hospital to Leigh House psychiatric hospital, with an Army Camp mixed in.

My personal favourite memory is of Chesil Station. I remember coming home from Oxford, either via Winchester to Southampton Central or via Winchester Chesil to Southampton Terminus, which I much preferred.

This is both an interesting little book and a good read, either in short sections or as an afternoon's reminiscence.

William Walker the Diver who saved Winchester Cathedral– Frederick Bussby and John Patton. Pub. Friends of Winchester Cathedral. reprinted 1994 ISBN 0903346168 - Janet Backhouse

I discovered this slim volume whilst browsing in the Cathedral shop.

Not only does it paint a pen portrait of William as a person, but also documents his extraordinary feat in the saving of

Winchester Cathedral from collapse, after – as it says – having ‘broken its back’.

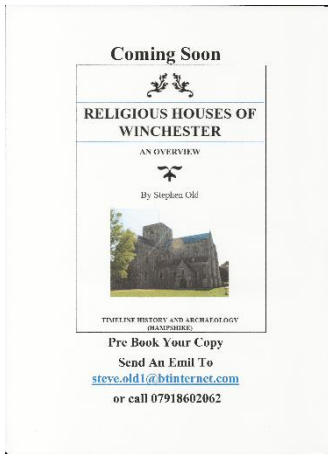
Of course, he did not do this on his own and the book also pays tribute to the architect and employees of Messrs John Thompson of Peterborough, without whom Walker’s work would have been pointless.

The sharp eyes of Mr. J.B. Colson, Architect to the Dean and Chapter in 1905 who identified the danger. Mr. T.G. Jackson who was commissioned to give further advice on how this should be managed and who recognised the need for greater skill. Mr. Francis Fox, descendant of Bishop Fox who had knowledge of underwater building. Both Mr. Jackson and Mr. Edwin Long, his Clerk of Works, kept notes and illustrations of the progress of the work, which are a valuable addition to the Cathedral records. Assisting William Walker, and specifically looking after his pipe which Walker smoked after every dive, which he regarded as ‘a sovereign remedy ‘against all ills, – was William West a local man.

The Winchester pageant, seen earlier in this edition, raised some £2500 towards the Preservation Trust; they too should be thanked for their efforts.

Whilst the names of the artisans and labourers on site are not recorded, there are some photographs of them. They are all to be commended for their work in saving this iconic building.





Coming Soon

The History of WARG over 50 glorious years.

How and Why, WARG was formed and where it is today.

Publication imminent and price to be announced.



Walks and Talks Programme

It is yet to be decided if these will be Zoom or Hybrid events. Now we are able to meet up again, we appreciate that many people remain vulnerable, and the virus is not yet under firm control. We should, therefore like to know if you would attend a real time event or if you would continue with Zoom.

There are a number of interesting talks already in the pipeline, but dates have not yet been announced. A flyer will be sent as soon as these have been confirmed.

If there is any specific subject you would like discussed please contact wargnews@gmail.com. Members are welcome to share their expertise, via Zoom or in person.

We remain desperately in need of an events organizer to share out the committee work.



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Cheers for 70 years



Cheers for 50 years