



Newsletter

Spring 2013

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Report on June Lloyd lecture

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The 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 or visit www.warg.org.uk

Chairman's notes

I hope that, by the time you read this, the very unpleasant weather has broken and that we are truly into Spring.

Since the last newsletter we have had the end of the exhibition at the Record Office, and the panels were then used at a lecture on *Winchester – 1871 and all that* at the Guildhall, organised by the Winchester Excavation Committee. They also appeared at the sell-out and highly successful June Lloyd lecture, where Julian Richards gave a great presentation. This has been very ably summarised by Steve Taylor in this issue.

St Cross

As many of you know, we organised a seminar at St Cross on December 8th. Despite the cold, the audience stayed to the end to hear me on our archaeology, John Crook on the history of the buildings, Denise Baker on the community of Sparkford and Simon Roffey on the Leper Hospital. The event raised around £600 for the Friends of St Cross, which we presented to them at an evening meeting in January. Meanwhile Steve Taylor gave the Friends' annual lecture on St Cross and the Ewelme almshouses and is leading a visit to Ewelme later this month. Finally our link with the St Cross community is further cemented by having a booth at the St Cross Fete on June 29th. Please come along to that - it is great fun.

This is all in the build up to our dig in the Bowling Green. We have slipped a week, so will begin the actual dig on August 29th for two weeks. We plan to have a well-publicised open day on Sunday September 1st.

CBA

WARG is a member of the Council for British Archaeology, and I went to their weekend conference on Societies in the 21st century. It was a very valuable session. All over the country societies are facing issues of falling membership, pressures from national and local government austerity measures, changing attitudes to the rights of developers and a host of things. By comparison, there were also representatives of a small number of societies who are growing, because they have an active programme of interesting things, including, in many cases, field work.

And that brings me back to WARG. We are still growing, now over 300 members, and for *our* active programme of interesting things, including talks, visits and fieldwork, just turn the page or look at the programme card.

2013 Calendar

- May 13th **The Professions in C19th Britain:** Michael Moss of the University of Glasgow chose Winchester as one of the towns for his research project on this subject.
- June 10th **Alresford evening walk:** Leader, Don Bryan. Application form in this Newsletter.
- June 29th **St Cross Fete:** WARG will have a stand at the fete to talk about we hope to find in this year's excavation.
- July 8th **Winchester City Mill:** Private tour and a special milling evening. Application form in this Newsletter.
- Aug 24th - Sept 7th **Big Dig:** At St Cross
- Sept 1st **Big Dig Open Day**
- Sept 9th **A Mesolithic Boatyard at Bouldner Cliff:** The long-continuing work on the Solent shore line by the Hampshire & Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology uncovered this boatyard.
- Sept 16th **Old Portsmouth & the Mary Rose Museum:** Leader, Don Bryan. Application form in the last Newsletter, or email Julia if you have lost it.
- Oct 14th **AGM followed by The Roman Army: Fact & Fiction:** John Smith, an educational archaeologist, has 20 years' experience in studying what a legionary wore and used.
- Nov 11th **The WW2 Evacuation from Belfast - a tale of intransigence and prevarication:** Martin Parsons (University of Reading) follows on from his previous talk about childhood evacuation.
- Dec 9th **Leprosy Evidence at St Mary Magdalene:** Dr Katie Tucker, of the University of Winchester, is a bone expert and worked at all the recent digs up the road at Henri de Blois' leper hospital.

Waterproof trousers

Did you leave a pair of waterproof trousers in the Record Office after our New Year party? If you did, get in touch with Julia (details on the back cover) – she feels that if 2013 is going to be anything like 2012 weather-wise, then these will be an essential part of someone's wardrobe!

Stonehenge – Whatever Next?

The fourth June Lloyd Lecture by Julian Richards: Winchester 22nd February 2013

This talk aimed to cover what we do know about Stonehenge and what we don't know based on past explorations and current thinking.

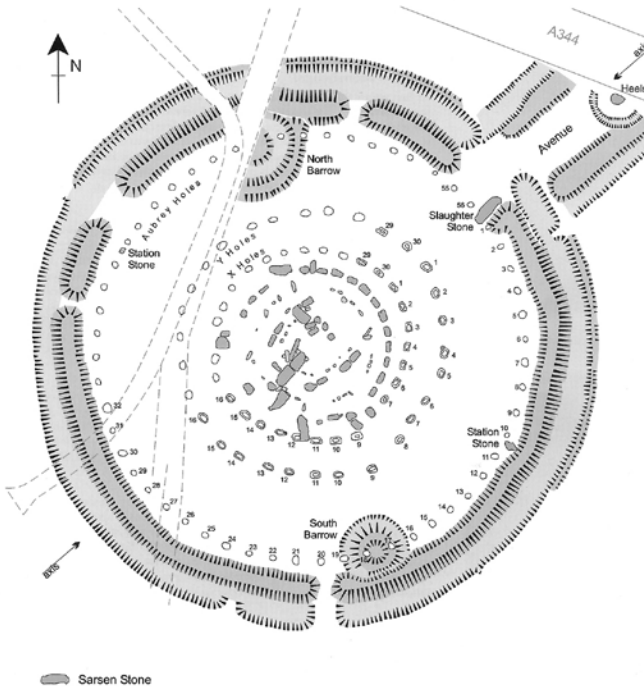
What is Stonehenge?

For some, Stonehenge is about the stones. A broader view will reveal

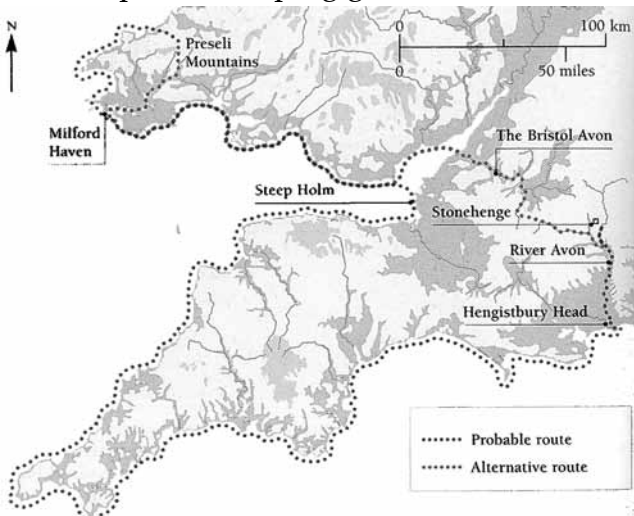
the earthworks of a circular ditch with an internal bank (therefore not technically a henge, which has the bank outside) with a main entrance to the northeast and a smaller entrance to the south. Inside the bank, but invisible today, are the 56 Aubrey holes, the contents of which remain in dispute. However, the focus is on the stones.

Approaching from the Avenue the

first stone encountered is the sarsen Heel Stone. It is unshaped and may be an erratic, i.e. perhaps it was not brought from the Marlborough Downs, as were all the other sarsens on the site, but was already located there. Within the enclosure stand an outer circle of sarsens and, just inside them, a circle of bluestones. Within these circles are two horseshoe configurations of stones with the open ends pointing to the northeast entrance. Again, the outer group are sarsens and the inner bluestones. No other prehistoric stone circles in the UK were built from material transported over such a distance as these, the sarsens coming from 25 miles away and the bluestones from southwest Wales 125 miles distant.



The outer circle is composed of uprights weighing between 25 and 30 tons linked by lintels weighing 8 tons. This assembly has some unique features, in particular the so-called “mortice and tenon” shaping of the top of the uprights and the underside of the lintels so that they work as location joints. The ends of the lintels are also shaped so that they align with a “tongue and groove” style joint. These shaped stone are sophisticated, structurally unnecessary and largely invisible. As further examples of the care that went into the construction, the lintels are curved to reflect the circle curvature and they are absolutely level despite the sloping ground.



Situated inside the sarsen circle is the unshaped bluestone circle, each stone weighing about 4 tons. Nobody knows how they were transported from the Preseli Mountains where they originated. Waterborne transport is likely to have been involved. Certainly they are not erratics brought by glacial action.

Within the two concentric circles are located the five sarsen trilithons. The uprights weigh some 40 tons and the lintels around 10 tons. Each is composed of one shaped upright and one rough one (perhaps symbolising female and male) built so that the height gradually increases towards the rear of the horseshoe. Another horseshoe of upright bluestones stand inside the sarsens, all being carefully shaped. At the centre lies a recumbent stone, lying under a fallen upright, which has never been completely examined. It is known as the altar stone and although of sandstone, it is not local but comes from an unknown Welsh source.

Who built Stonehenge?

In the 12th century it was claimed that Merlin built this monument and this belief held for a few centuries. When antiquaries became interested in the 17th century they advanced several theories as to its

origin, attributing it variously to both Danes and Romans. Inigo Jones in that same period also alleged it was of Roman origin and produced a detailed geometric design for it but he had to distort the evidence significantly to produce his design. In the 18th century the antiquarian William Stukeley became fascinated with Stonehenge. He agreed with earlier views that it was a temple but went further in asserting that it was built by the Druids. Although Druids were a historical reality they existed in the Iron Age some 1000 years after Stonehenge went out of use.

It was in the 19th century that Richard Colt Hoare, a wealthy aristocrat, became fascinated in ancient Wiltshire and, together with a local landowner, William Cunnington, who shared his interest, started a widespread investigation of its prehistoric monuments. They excavated hundreds of barrows, examined Stonehenge very closely and drew up a detailed map of the site but still declared it "Incomprehensible!" The first guide book appeared, written by a local man, Mr. H. Browne, who, being a believer in the Bible as a literal account, ascribed its survival from the Flood due to its robust construction. Others were attracted to Stonehenge for its picturesque qualities including such artists as Constable and Turner. The monument itself continued to deteriorate with suggestions for restoring it being stoutly resisted by the landowner of the site (thereby avoiding such potential disasters such as covering the entire site with asphalt).

By 1901 the evident deterioration in the monument, including one 40 ton trilithon upright clearly about to fall, prompted remedial work alongside archaeological investigation. Professor Gowland undertook this, paying close attention to the excavation and using techniques ahead of their time such as sieving the soil and using grid frames to excavate. The published results estimated a date of 1800 BC for the construction of the stone circle. This was later than it eventually proved to be but was a major step forward in dating versus what had been done before. After World War I the site was purchased by a local businessman and donated to the Nation. Further excavation was then undertaken by Colonel William Hawley who, despite excavating nearly half the site, added little to the understanding of the monument and published relatively little. Some advances were made in the 1920's with the identification of the source of the bluestones at Carn Menin in the Preseli Mountains of Pembrokeshire.

In 1953 a further programme of excavation was started by eminent archaeologists, Piggott, Atkinson and Stone. They were able to use

radiocarbon dating for the first time (although the accuracy of +/- 275 years, was rather wide by today's standards) and they found that one bluestone lintel had evidently been part of a small trilithon at one time. They also noted the first ancient carvings of axes and daggers amid the graffiti and re-erected the trilithon that had fallen in 1797. Regrettably, Atkinson did not publish his findings.

As Stonehenge continued to become better known it attracted many publications and theories, such as *Beyond Stonehenge* by Gerald Hawkins which claimed it was fundamentally a computer. A "Free Festival" held over several years left a significant mark on the surrounding landscape.

How was it built?

This question has attracted much discussion and experimentation without producing a conclusive answer. An experiment sponsored by the BBC using concrete blocks and 170 people hauling them was partially successful. Another approach, levering a 10 ton stone so that it could be "rowed" along, was found to work but not tried for a 40 ton stone. At the present time there is no clear-cut answer to the question of how over 1000 tons of sarsens were moved to the site. Various burials around Stonehenge have been suggested to be of people involved in its construction. Generally, they are too late, e.g. the Stonehenge Archer and the Bush Barrow inhumation.

What was it for?

The clear alignment of the monument to the mid-summer sunrise and the mid-winter sunset is powerful evidence for the theory that it is a seasonal clock. Particularly in the case of the mid-winter there are other monuments, Maes Howe in the Orkneys and New Grange in Ireland, which attest to the importance of this date for Neolithic peoples. Also evidence has been found at the nearby Durrington Walls henge that many pigs were slaughtered at mid-winter, emphasising the significance of the winter solstice. Recent analysis of cremated bones from the Aubrey holes showed that they were almost all adult males, consistent with the



Midwinter sunlight across Stonehenge

view that a priestly caste was in residence and underpinning the view of it as a temple. More recent theories postulate that Durrington Walls was a site for the living linked via avenues and the river to Stonehenge as a site for the dead. Another view is that the bluestones were credited with healing powers and that this might explain why many had been smashed by those seeking a piece of this magic. Combining the various elements of worship, healing and important burials produces a view of Stonehenge which is paralleled in later times by medieval cathedrals. This seems to have been a monument with several purposes.

Recent work scanning the stones has revealed more rock art and that the approach to them from the avenue shows the “best face” of the structures. It is still unclear whether or not the back of the monument was structurally ever completed. What can be said with some certainty is that the fundamental evolution of Stonehenge started with a circle and ditch around 3000 BC, the erection of the sarsens and bluestones in 2500 BC and the final arrangement put in place by 2200 BC. All the answers will never be known to the questions it poses but it seems certain that with the new visitor centre on the horizon there will be no shortage of visitors adding their own speculations.

Steve Taylor



Constantinople: Imperial Capital of the Byzantine Empire

Kay Ainsworth

Following on from her informative talk on Malta, Kay Ainsworth returned on a wet and cold evening in February to warm us with her talk about Constantinople. She told us that her interest in the Byzantine Empire sprang from looking at other sites such as Sutton Hoo where Byzantine objects were found as part of Anglo-Saxon burials.

Founded in the 4th century, the city was known as Constantinople for 1000 years after Constantine who founded it. Today, it is known as Istanbul, famed as a fascinating city, with a magical skyline, that is high on many travel itineraries.

Constantine became Emperor in 306. In 312 he had a dream in which Christ told him that he'd have support if he became a Christian.

In 313 the Edict of Milan was issued which proclaimed tolerance of all religions throughout the empire, resulting in the building of early churches. 315 saw the dedication of the Triumphal Arch in Rome that was constructed to commemorate Constantine's victory over Maxentius at the Battle of Milvian Bridge in 312. This is known as the Arch of Constantine. By 324 he had become sole Emperor and began construction of a great basilica over the tomb of St Peter. However, he began to think that Rome was unsatisfactory as his base, so he moved his capital to Constantinople in 330.

It was called New Rome and Constantine built the first great wall around the city and enlarged the Hippodrome to match the size of the one in Rome. It was the centre of the city's social life, and hosted chariot and horse races. Pictures of the life of Theodosius I adorned the base of some of the columns. The walls that still stand around the city were built in the early 5th century.

The lay-out of the city allowed for a great variety of palace buildings to exist, including the ceremonial suite called the Daphne Palace where an exhibition in the museum shows what the palaces used to look like. In the Mangana Palace the Emperor could be raised up and down! These buildings would have been beautiful with mosaics showing hunting scenes decorating them.

Constantinople was a great Christian city. In time it became the largest city in the Roman Empire with the wealth of the eastern Mediterranean and western Asia flowing into it. Theodosius had built his church in the 4th century and Justinian organised the building of Hagia Sofia in the 6th century. He built another church first (in about 520) because he wanted to work out how to support a dome. There were no minarets there at first, but Islamic roundels are there now. It was turned into a mosque. Visitors can see a mosaic, which shows the great Justinian who was married to Theodora.

Another very early church of the 6th century is Hagia Irene, which is where the early emperors were buried.

They were crowned in Hagia Sofia, and we were told that a crown from this time still survives in Hungary. Each week the Emperor and his entourage would process with the holy icon.

Constantinople was a city where great works of art were produced. The altar-piece of St Marks in Venice was made there, and the bronze horses that decorate that church were also taken from the city.

Justinian wanted to claim back parts of the Roman Empire and the

Byzantine church of San Vitale in Ravenna was built to celebrate his successes. Throughout the Byzantine era many churches were built, and Constantinople was flourishing with wheat and oil coming in to make it the centre of the world.

But by the 7th century, the empire was being attacked on all sides and the Byzantine world was under threat. From 730 to 860 Iconoclasm meant that images were destroyed, and icons were not allowed in the houses of the people. All mosaics and paintings were destroyed, and icons hidden. If they were found, people hiding them would be killed. In 860 the Empress Irene stood up to this and fought for the return of the icons and today many beautiful examples can be seen.

Constantinople was the major Christian city, second only to Jerusalem. Venice was jealous of it. In 1202 the 4th Crusade set off, but there was not enough money to finance it, and after 6 months the city was raided. Venice benefited, but it was a tragedy for Constantinople. Many of the works of art in St Marks belong to Constantinople. Indeed, even the icon that went into battle with them is in Venice. In 1261, following the Crusades, the Emperor reclaimed the city and it enjoyed a period of renaissance although it never quite regained its former glory.

Life for the Emperors went on in Mystras in Southern Greece where they led an idyllic existence. The palace of Despots was the second most important palace of the Empire after Constantinople, and in the Cathedral of Agios Demetrios the last Byzantine Emperor, Constantinos Paleologos, was crowned in 1449.

The Ottoman Turks eventually took over Constantinople in 1453. After a 57 day siege which began in April that year, Mehmed 11 (Sultan Mehmed the Conqueror) conquered Constantinople at the age of 21. He built the 2 forts that sit either side of the Bosphorus.....the Fort of Europe on one side, opposite the Fort of Asia (originally built by his grandfather) on the other, thus taking control of that important waterway. He declared the city to be the new capital of the Ottoman Empire.

Today it is Istanbul. Having been known by several names across the centuries, it was in 1930 that it became officially known by that name.

After such an informative presentation that left those of us who have been there wishing that we had known all of this before we went, there was little time for questions. However, the comment was made that monasteries and kings in England were aware of the value of Byzantine objects, and that may account for why they were prized and used as grave goods.

“That’s The Way To Do It”

The surprise entertainment at our 2013 New Year Party was a Punch and Judy Show, performed by Professor Geoffrey Gould, who first performed at a young age in 1958. Ever the showman, wearing bright harlequin-coloured tie and braces, he explained that on the 9th May 1662 Samuel Pepys observed a marionette show in Covent Garden, London being performed by an Italian called Pietro Gimonde a.k.a. Signor Bologna (Mr. Sausage). The play was a version of Noah’s Ark which included comic interludes featuring a clown called Pulcinella, the name was later changed to Punchinello, and the character evolved into Mr Punch.

In the 1800s Mr Punch gained a wife Judy (originally Joan) and a baby called Isaiah, because “one eye is higher than the other”! The Punch and Judy booth moved to the Victorian seaside, the place for entertainment and making money.

We were instructed to “let our inhibitions go”, sit back and enjoy the half hour show, which we all did, hardly able to believe that grown WARG members could so easily find their inner child!

Questions followed the most entertaining performance; Professor Gould made the booth, makes his own puppets and during the quiet months replaces the clothes as they become shabby. He adjusts the actions for individual audiences; when performing at a children’s party he does not use the stick to hit Judy - since the mothers do not approve! With very young children he omits the crocodile as the tiny tots are afraid. Modern references creep into the script, such as the policeman being named P.C. World, but the basic version of the traditional show remains unaltered.

Finally we learnt the secret of Mr Punch’s distinctive squawking voice; this gleeful cackle is achieved with the use of a “swazzle,” a lip-shaped silver object, covered with wet Irish linen which sits at the back of the showman’s throat just in front of his epiglottis and acts like a reed, distorting his voice. Showmen have been known to accidentally swallow the swazzle (this can be prevented with a length of string attached to the gadget and pinned to the jacket) so never put a swazzle in your mouth – you don’t know where it’s been!

The usual plentiful and delicious party food followed, washed down with a glass of “bubbly,” so a great evening was enjoyed by all.

Valerie Pegg

Amphitheatres in Roman Britain

Tony Wilmott, Senior Archaeologist English Heritage

Amphitheatres in Roman times were oval arenas (not to be confused with theatres which were semi-circular) used for gladiatorial combats and other entertainments, often involving animals. They used to be thought to be confined to the western Empire but recent discoveries have altered this view. The find of a gladiatorial cemetery at Ephesus has given vivid evidence of this both from the depictions on gravestones and signs of trauma on the skeletons. The absence of discovered amphitheatres may be explained by the use of other venues, such as race tracks, for these entertainments.

In Britain, the antiquarian Stukeley was the first to note and record a Roman Amphitheatre at Dorchester in 1723. Later that century, others were identified at Silchester and Richborough. The first excavations took place at Verulamium in 1849 uncovering what may be a unique “Gallic” amphitheatre, so-called because it also includes elements of a theatre with a stage incorporated in it. In the twentieth century excavations of an amphitheatre at Maumbury Rings (converted from a henge) were carried out by St. George Gray. He also confirmed the presence of a small one at Charterhouse in the Mendips. The only complete excavation of these structures was by Mortimer Wheeler at Caerleon in 1923 to 1927. Caerleon along with Chester, both legionary fortresses, are the only known stone structures. Logically, there should also be one at York as the other main legionary base but so far this has not been located. These amphitheatres, with their military antecedents in the north and west of Britain, contrast with the civilian constructions in the south and east. This latter group, including Silchester and London, have stonework in parts of the interior, usually the arena walls and the passageways, the remainder being earthworks or timber structures.

Most amphitheatres were built by excavating below ground level, using the soil to create an oval bank for spectators. Incorporated in these were access steps which for most spectators led up and over the rear of the banks. Dignitaries had separate access to raised podiums, often situated over animal pens. Wooden seating was built on the banks of the larger arenas, evidenced by the survival of mineralised wooden structures at Chester, but smaller amphitheatres seemed to have broader terraces more suitable for standing than seating.

Tony Wilmott was involved in the re-excavation of Chester

amphitheatre between 2001 and 2006. This revealed that there had been two phases in its construction. Both were stone-built structures, the second being significantly larger with capacity of around 20,000 spectators compared with 12,000 in the earlier one. Among the discoveries were snack facilities for spectators, souvenirs, a sword handle in the arena and specially imported yellow sand designed to highlight the goriness of the proceedings. Dating evidence was almost non-existent but from the surviving foundations and stonework fragments it appeared that the amphitheatre was an imposing structure with two tiers of seating and a very grand external facing composed of archways separated by pilaster columns.

All the evidence, both at Chester and Caerleon, is consistent with intensively used structures populated by soldiers, active and retired, in these legionary fortresses. They contrast sharply with most amphitheatres elsewhere. These seem to have been used less regularly, even (as at Silchester) being overgrown during periods of disuse, and built much more simply. At Dorchester, for instance, there was no stonework at all, and even in significant Roman sites such as Cirencester and Carmarthen, the use of stone was very restricted.

Compared to much of the Empire, the British evidence for use of these arenas is very sparse. Chester revealed a stone block in the centre of the arena almost certainly used for tethering animals involved in the bloody spectacles that took place there. One slate carving, now in the BM, shows a left-handed gladiator, probably a known and named individual, but such evidence is otherwise very hard to find. A graffito at Caerleon, a gladiator's helmet from Suffolk, a vase from Colchester (possibly of German origin) and two mosaics with gladiatorial beasts (Yorkshire) and cupids (Bignor) are among the rare fragments that make up this data. Verulamium produced the most spectacular evidence in the form of an inscribed plaque which mentions Lucius the Gladiator. However, even this may not be of UK origin.

In summary, British Amphitheatres, although reasonably common in Roman towns, were not intensively used except at the legionary bases of Chester and Caerleon. Elsewhere their use was spasmodic and, in some of the *civitas* capitals, their use may have been more for meeting places or execution sites than as venues for the traditional games that were widespread in the Roman Empire.

Steve Taylor

A History of Military Prisons

Ian Bailey, curator of the Adjutant General's Corps Museum

Ian Bailey began by stating that prisons reflect society, the conditions within, the number of inmates, the need to protect the public and to punish wrong-doers by depriving them of their liberty.

During the Napoleonic Wars The soldiers were considered to be "the scum of the earth." They were ill-disciplined and severe punishments were common and included; running the gauntlet, branding BC (bad conduct) on the chest, tongue boring and flogging with a cat-of-nine tails. In 1728 a soldier was sentenced to 12600 lashes for slaughtering the Commanding Officer's horses and selling the hides. The ultimate punishment was the death penalty, by firing squad or hanging, with a padre and officer present.

The Duke of Wellington, noting that his soldiers and camp followers were ill-disciplined, began a "hearts and minds" campaign to improve morale and keep the Portuguese onside. He used visual deterrents such as the hanging by the roadside of two soldiers, who were caught looting a church, and the miscreants were seen by the passing army. Another looter was hanged with his booty, a large gilt mirror, placed round his neck. In April 1812 after the Siege of Badajoz the British Army went on the rampage; raping, looting and pillaging. Wellington regained control of the situation by erecting gallows near the cathedral. Men were flogged but none were hanged. Towards the end of the campaign there were provost prisons in Lisbon while serious crimes were punished by transportation to Australia.

After Waterloo, with peace, within the army there was revulsion towards corporal punishment, so civilian prisons were used. In garrison towns the cells were full of soldiers - with hard core prisoners corrupting the army inmates. In 1836 a Committee of Investigation recommended that a separate place of confinement be established for soldiers. In 1847 a Royal Commission repeated the notion, suggesting solitary confinement and hard labour.

By 1850 **Military Prisons** were established at Parkhurst, Chatham, Southsea, Weedon, Devonport and Dover whilst the serving army abroad was incarcerated in Gibraltar, Quebec, Halifax- Nova Scotia, Barbados, Bermuda, Mauritius and Malta. Purpose-built Military Prisons were created at Gosport, Dublin and Aldershot whilst former

civilian prisons were commandeered by the army at Brixton, Chester, Lancaster, Cork and Stirling.

The new buildings housed a chapel and schoolroom and had primitive heating. Radiating out from a central tower each block had a large glass skylight, hence the term "glasshouse." The blocks consisted of three storeys of 24 high-windowed cells, each 11x7 feet, containing a trestle bed and locker.

Daily Routine in a Victorian Military Prison

06.00: Cell doors unlocked, retrieve clothes, wash, dress, clear night slops, unpicked oakum (tarred rope) weighed, clean out cell

07.45: Breakfast

08.40: Exercise: stone breaking and shot drill (carry cannon balls from one end of yard to other)

11.00: Chapel Service (ten minutes)

12.00: Lunch

12.00: Exercise – repeat of morning's activities

17.45: Supper

19.45: Bed - clothes off and placed outside cell

Prisoners had to work at a variety of tasks, turning a hand crank to change the air in the cells, on a treadmill separating flax, sewing sacks, laundry bags and prison uniforms, mattress making, making coir mats or breaking coal. A WARG member commented that "screws" are so called because prison officers could tighten the hand crank to make life harder for inmates!

From 1896 **Improvements** began to occur. Former Commanding Officers were to be appointed as Prison Governors, drill and gymnastics replaced shot drill and book lists were introduced. Those who would benefit received compulsory education and lights out was extended to 21.00.

A Lt Col Garsia, an inspector of Military Prisons, laid out the job description for prison staff in 1901. Staff had to be:

"... of good character, sober, temperate, a good disciplinarian, have a 2nd Class Education Certificate, be under 35, at least 5'7" tall and of active habit."

A new scheme in 1906 removed the stigma of prison, now called Detention Barracks, soldiers kept their own military uniforms and were a "soldier under sentence."

In World War I Military Provost Staff Corps went to France,

prisons were created on ships in Le Havre and Rouen and Field Punishment Centres gave a “short sharp shock” to wrong-doers. Another eleven additional prisons were established in the UK, misdemeanours intensified and punishments increased.

Between the Wars the army was stationed on the Rhine so there was a prison in Cologne. The creation of the Irish Free State meant that Irish prisons could be closed. By 1935 only Aldershot existed in the UK but there was a prison abroad wherever the army was stationed.

At the outbreak of **World War II** Shepton Mallet was commandeered, the USA adding a “hanging chamber” in 1942. The most common crimes were theft, AWOL, desertion and cowardice. More prison space was required so men were placed 3 to a cell, Victorian mills became prisons and many more were created. Field Punishment Centres were established, some made of tents, and these followed the campaigns throughout Europe and North Africa.

At the end of the War the troops came home, soldiers under sentence completed their punishment back in the UK, but riots ensued. In February 1946 three hundred prisoners mounted and smashed the glass roof of Aldershot Prison, demanding better food, conditions and remission.

Post World War II, the Nissan huts at Colchester that had housed German prisoners-of-war were now used for military British prisoners. Category A prisoners were deemed to be wasters and gangsters whilst category B consisted of soldiers on a lesser sentence who did their time, were retrained and returned to the army. The Nissan huts stood until 1983 when a Military Corrective Training Centre was built at Colchester barracks. Tri-service use incorporated all three services and female staff were employed. Fighting in Northern Ireland, The Gulf and Afghanistan required places to house soldiers under sentence.

Today soldiers committing serious crimes are tried in Civil Courts whilst military crimes involve a Court Martial and imprisonment at Colchester. The army has come a long way from those early days of severe, cruel punishments.

Thank you Ian for an extremely interesting talk and for a real insight into life in military prisons.

Valerie Pegg

The Other Egypt

Having visited the usual part of Egypt, ie the Nile and the Pyramids, about 3 years ago and told you how wonderful it all was, I decided to “do” some of the more unusual parts of this very diverse country and opted for 11 days in Alexandria and the Western desert. This is not as easy to arrange as to the other parts since all foreigners need special permission to cross the desert and the army checkpoints are many. The tour I chose was an archaeological one featuring Roman as well as Pharaonic and Ptolemaic remains with a bit of Christian thrown in for good measure.

Having flown to Cairo and transferred by coach to Alexandria – a journey of around 4 hours – my group of 20, which included our tour manager and tour guide (both English) and our wonderful Egyptian “fixer” Mohammed, arrived in the middle of the night in Egypt’s second city. Our hotel was the one stayed in by such august people as Churchill, Al Capone and Somerset Maugham, but I don’t think had been updated much since then. We arrived on the second day of Eid, an important 4 day celebration to mark the end of the annual hajj to Mecca. This saw the whole city celebrating their holiday with no break – ie the junketings went on all through the night with no quiet period! The streets were filled with sellers of everything imaginable including candy floss which was sold in different coloured plastic bags.

However we weren’t there for the festival, and so found ourselves virtually alone in the National Museum, the Catacombs of Mustafa Kamil, the Catacombs of Shatbi, and the Necropolis of Anfushi. The catacombs gave welcome shade and cool from the baking sun and allowed us to see how recycling is hardly new – the Romans re-used them all as necropolises (necropoli?), often completely removing the wall paintings of the original tombs – rather irritating of them actually. In several cases the faces of the gods and other figures had been removed or scratched away but in many places the vibrant colours quite took one’s breath away. The large Roman theatre at Kom al-Dikka is still used today and is a large site in excellent condition. The catacombs of Kom el-Shuggafa are 2nd century and formed the largest Greco-Roman necropolis in Egypt. Finally we visited Pompey’s Pillar – not actually anything to do with said Pompey, but erected to celebrate the Roman Emperor Diocletian’s victory over an Alexandrian

revolt – flanked by 2 gorgeous pink granite sphinxes (sphinx?).

From Alexandria we transferred to four 4x4s to start our long journey west and for me to discover that one of my 4 companions was sister-in-law to our own Ed Jackson – a small world indeed. We stopped off along the coast road at Al Mina, once the largest Byzantine church in Egypt. We also visited the British cemetery at El Alamein with the nearby Museum but I can add nothing to what has been written about the appalling sadness of this place so shall move swiftly on – only to say that in the Museum I addressed the statue of Rommel on the stupidity of taking on the British.

On our way to Mersa Matruh, the port where Cleopatra's fleet lay at anchor during her disagreements with Octavian, we passed mile upon mile of mostly unfinished seaside resorts (gated communities) of such profligate wealth compared to the dwellings of the Egyptian masses that it quite made my eyes water. The finance is mostly Saudi but they've halted building works until, I should imagine, the country's settled down a bit more – it's having difficulties still, not just after ousting Mubarak, but not all the population is keen on the current government either. Our one-night-only hotel on that part of the Mediterranean coast was a 5* hotel so sumptuous and gorgeous that I felt quite uneasy. The gardens and pools leading down to the private beach were beautiful and my late night walk along the sand under the stars to paddle in the warm sea was enchanting.

We then began the long drive south, parallel to the Libyan border, in the direction of the Siwa oasis. On the way we visited the remains of one of Rameses II - aka Rameses the Great – chain of fortified settlements built as a first line of defence against the western neighbours. Our day's 6 hours driving ended at a small "hotel" in the Shali district of the oasis and was a complete culture shock being at the other end of the spectrum to the 5* night before. Suffice to say that it was here where we were most attacked by mozzies and sand flies, both of whom failed to recognise the British-bought products which were liberally spread around to prevent their meal times. On arrival home I looked as though I had a bad case of measles with many small red mounds on my face, ankles and calves – my fault for going round in knee-length shorts and sandals, I suppose. Also Egyptian mozzies make no sound whatsoever like ours do – not really playing the game, I felt. The Mountain of the Dead in Siwa is actually a Roman necropolis featuring rock-cut tombs, most of which have long been robbed out.

The Temple of Amun where Alexander consulted the Oracle prior to continuing his Persian conquest still has quite a lot of remains and allows for some great views across the oasis in all directions. Away from the residential areas were many birds – herons, egrets, pied kingfishers and raptors of one sort or another.

The next day was the really testing one as we launched into a 9 1/2 hour drive eastwards across the western desert towards the oasis of Baharia. Various stops along the way confirmed that once even this area had been covered by sea and in places one walks not on sand but on literally millions of tiny shells. I found sea coral, shells and fossilised sea creatures such as anemones, and there is a huge *wadi* where some of the world's oldest prehistoric sea-life skeletons have been found – whales of strange shapes etc. Some are of a creature dating back 95 million years. It was in the beautiful Baharian oasis that we saw some of the most amazing sights of our trip – two underground tombs of a wealthy merchant and his son were so glorious that the difficult descent and tiny low entrance were more than made up for by the sumptuous coloured walls and ceilings, and the gasp factor was universal. Sadly in none of these tombs anywhere in Egypt can you take photos, and their business marketing for tourism has not yet extended to the production of books or even postcards, so a brilliant memory or a lot of time and money to track down publications in UK are the order of the day, but just to see those 2 tombs made the whole trip worthwhile. Our hotel was a small quite charming German-run hotel with a hot spring pool and about midway between the 5* and the Shali Lodge. However the mozzies and flies were just as bad! Here too we visited a new Museum built to house a collection of mummies with the most beautiful painted gold face masks. Amazing and all completely individual, leading one to realise that they were all portraits.

Our final long drive east towards the Nile was a 5 hour one taking us up to the area of Al-Fayoum. This is actually not an oasis since the water in the lakes and canals has all been channelled in from the Nile. Here the main “lake” is scarcely recognisable as such since it is the size of a sea and has white horses around its edges. This is an incredibly fertile area with many thousands of small fields growing figs, guavas, olives, grape vines, maize, cabbages, tomatoes and the inevitable dates. The whole area is literally littered with 3 types of egret, and our hotel (once King Farouk's hunting lodge) sported hoopoes and plovers in the grounds. A large ruined city, Karanis, was our final port of call and this time we were accompanied by armed soldiers – rather startling as,

although we'd occasionally had a Police escort along certain stretches of road, at no time did any of us feel in danger or threatened. However the soldiers were all young and on National Service so presumably something has to be found for them to do! Karanis was once home to Ptolemy II's mercenaries but the small Museum there has never been finished, let alone opened. There's also an area called Crocodilopolis, named for the fact that it was the centre of worship for the Egyptian crocodile god Sobek – my favourite – where the sacred crocodiles were kept in a special temple with a pool. Apparently they were frequently fed on honey and alcohol by the priests – the method used was to approach said beast, open its jaws and pour in the foodstuffs. This meant that the crocs were largely sedated and quiescent, though it was noted that after a force-feeding the croc would usually swim to the other side of the pool only to be force-fed more honey and booze. Sounds to me as though the poor things were trying hard to get away from their diet!

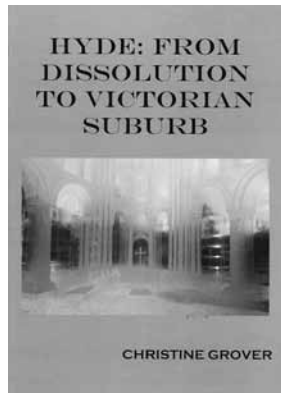
All in all we travelled around 1500 miles in our 11 days so it was fortunate that my 4x4 was a comfy one with working air conditioning – not all of the other 3 were so well endowed! The extremes of life around the Mediterranean and the desert are hard to come to terms with, but from a purely historical and archaeological view point the holiday was fascinating. Vastly different to the great temples along the Nile such as Edfu, Esna and Philae, nevertheless the tombs and city remains (which require quite a vivid imagination) have an interest and charm of their own, and I was fascinated to see how the Romans had continued to use the sites so many centuries later. Probably not an area which will become a huge tourist attraction and of course even back-packing is almost impossible – we would drive for hundreds of miles and see no other vehicles in either direction – but I'm glad that I went and feel that I've seen a wider picture of ancient civilisations than just what the Nile area has to offer.

Julia Sandison

Book Review

Hyde: from Dissolution to Victorian Suburb, by Dr Christine Grover published by Victorian Heritage Press. £25.00 ISBN 978-0-9564701-8-8 hardback 282 pages of which 38 are references and index. Available from the printers: Sarsen Press in Hyde Street.

The bottom line is I liked this but with occasional frustrations. Chris Grover takes Hyde from the dissolution of Hyde Abbey to 1912. Chapter one first gives a background to the Abbey, and then is fascinating on the property wheeling and dealing of Thomas Wriothesley at the time of the dissolution. In this, she uses a very good technique of using Hyde as an example and putting Hyde into the wider English context of what was happening at the time. She also does this in respect of the family wrangles of the various land owners and the aristocracy. Her explanations of types of land ownership, or changes in farming practise are very enlightening. So I really liked her contextualisation. Approximately half of the book is devoted to the built development of sites. If you think that the 2013 plans for development of Barton farm are a problem, you should reflect on the Barton Farm developments by William Simmonds, the farmer who sold much of the land between Andover Road and Hyde developing villas for the Victorian good and great of Winchester. *Plus ca change!* I must admit that I found the detail in this part of the book was sometimes overwhelming – more a catalogue of really detailed research than a ‘good read’. But the development story of brewing in this part of Winchester was fascinating. The frustrations: well, the indexing leaves something to be desired. Preparing to write this review I had an idea that the recently demolished laundry in Gordon Road was somehow connected with the Refuge for Fallen Women in North Walls, but laundry isn’t in the index. Similarly I wanted to know about the Hall family who were some of the last farmers at Barton, but – despite being in the text – they are not in the index. And a bit of robust editing might have helped. For example page 106 talks about “..potential annual revenues from the Winchester Turnpike”, but doesn’t say where this turnpike is to and from. Having re-read the page several times I am still not sure if it ran between Winchester and



Popham, or Winchester and Southampton. But, as in many examples in this book, Chris redeems by adding wider context and detailing the stagecoach fares in the early 1720's. I'll never complain again about the cost of SW Trains! So if you are a Winchester-historyphile you should almost certainly have this on your bookshelf. There are copious photos, tables and maps and the hardback is well produced by Sarsen Press.

Techer Jones



Pot Washers Party

The Monday afternoon workparties are always a sociable occasion. This Christmas the team treated Helen Rees, the City Council's Curator of Archaeology, to lunch at the Cathedral. As you can see, they also enjoyed themselves.



Julia's Jottings

Europe's Oldest Town?

The countries of Eastern Europe are beginning to compete over who's got the oldest this or that, and the excavations of towns are no exception to their endeavours to be earlier and bigger than anyone else. Apparently Europe's earliest known urban settlement is near Provadia, a town about 40km inland from Bulgaria's Black Sea coast, and was called Solnitsatsa. Archaeologists reckon that the town held around 300-350 people and dated to around BC 4,700 – 4,200. These people were living in 2-storey houses and making their income from mining salt. Salt wasn't just to put in your potatoes, but was one of the currencies in ancient times, being both valuable and prestigious. Graves in a necropolis indicate that the inhabitants were wealthy, with strange and complex ritual burial practices. Copper needles and pottery were found in these graves, but sometimes the corpses had been cut in half and only the body from the pelvis up had been buried. Wonder what they did with the left-over nether regions?

An Emperor's Residence

As if the area taken up by China's Terracotta Army wasn't enough, archaeologists have started to excavate the remains of an enormous Imperial Palace complex near the tomb of the Emperor Qin Shi Huang, who "owned" the Army. The Palace at an estimated 690m x 250m (2,264ft x 820ft) is the largest part so far discovered in the sprawling 56 sq-km (22 sq-mile) BC2 mausoleum, and consisted of 18 courtyard-style houses around one central building. Extraordinarily enough, this Palace is about a quarter the size of the Forbidden City in Beijing – quite large for "just" a palace!

The foundations so far uncovered are in good condition and the many finds include walls, gates, stone roads, brickwork and pottery. Incidentally the Terracotta Army is still slowly being uncovered – 2,000 soldiers have so far been revealed, 110 of those being in the summer last year.

As a footnote it's worth mentioning that the actual tomb of the Emperor is not being excavated due to ancient writings stating that it was sealed off by a vermilion stone wall, was surrounded by rivers of mercury and protected by booby traps. Not an Emperor who trusted his people then: he was noted as a ruthless ruler who burned books, buried opponents alive and castrated prisoners of war – nice.

Nut lovers!

Archaeologists have uncovered one of Britain's oldest homes near Edinburgh. Dated to around BC8240, this dwelling was found in the path of the new Forth Bridge and was an oval pit measuring nearly 7 metres (just under 23 foot to we oldies), studded with post holes which would have supported the walls and roof and probably been covered with turf. The inhabitants were hunter gatherers, and fragments of bone reveal that they dined on birds, fish, wild boar and deer. A particular favourite seems to have been hazelnuts since large quantities of charred shells were found. Also uncovered were more than 1,000 flint artefacts which included the tools used for their hunting and butchery.

Also found were several fireplace hearths which, since this was the period following the last Ice Age, must have been very necessary to help the people cope with the cold temperatures as well as to cook their prey. The animal skins would have been essential for warmth too. However the archaeologists found no evidence of cattle or any domesticated animals, a system believed not to have begun until the Neolithic Age, over 4,000 years after this Mesolithic establishment. The belief is that this house was not occupied all year round but possibly just during the winter months. There seems to me to be no reason why Mesolithic Man shouldn't have had a summer holiday home!

There's gold in them thar hills.....

It just goes to show that not all the finds by metal detectorists are up north – one man recently found 5 gold coins dating to the Iron Age on farmland in Upham, and a Tudor gold ring was found by a woman in a field in Hursley. The latter, apparently in "lovely condition" according to Hampshire's Finds Liaison Officer, is believed to be a pilgrim sign. Currently the Winchester Museum Service are considering the purchase of all these items, so who knows, some time soon we may be able to see them.

The Centre of Ancient Britain

With apologies to Julian Richards and all those who've been closely involved with Stonehenge over the decades, but many archaeologists now believe that the centre of ancient Britain was not that particular pile of stones but was in fact Orkney where Neolithic Man built a vast temple complex long before the Egyptians began the Pyramids. The various islands of Orkney all house their own spectacular ancient sites of one sort or another, but the Ness of Brodgar is possibly the heartland for

them all. The temple there covers more than 6 acres and is considered to be without parallel in western Europe. Its protecting outer walls are thought to have been more than 100m (328ft) long and possibly about 4m (13ft) high and to contain more than a dozen temples. One of these measured almost 25m (82ft) square and they were all connected to outhouses and kitchens by carefully-built stone pavements. Bones of sacrificed cattle, elegant pottery and painted ceramics scattered the site but the exact purpose of the complex is a mystery. Some parts of the complex were constructed over 5,000 years ago.

Neolithic people were Britain's first farmers, arriving on Orkney about 6,000 years ago by boats across the treacherous Pentland Firth from mainland Scotland, bringing their cattle, pigs and sheep with them, as well as the grain for planting. They quickly replaced the few hunter gatherers left on Orkney but probably still continued to hunt to provide the extra protein they needed. The usual bones – cattle, pigs, sheep and wild deer – have been uncovered alongside those of whales and seals, but analysis of the human bones has revealed that no-one lived much beyond 50, usually only into their 30s. They rapidly cultivated the land, building farmsteads, erecting stone circles and chambered communal tombs. They established a vibrant culture producing the first grooved pottery and the first henges, allowing their practices and ideas to filter down through the land mass to mainland Scotland and England.

Those of us who've visited Orkney will all tell you that there is nowhere else quite like it in our country, and the beauty of the landscape with its monuments is not to be missed.

Secrets of the Iron Age

The Romans loved the good life as we know and always made sure that wherever they laid their hats they had with them their favourite herbs and spices, as well as additional toothsome morsels such as rabbits and dormice. However Mike Fulford and his team at Silchester have discovered that, prior to the Roman invasion, our ancestors' diet would be quite familiar to us here in the 21st century. Those people ate shellfish, cows, sheep, pigs, chicken, geese, wild fowl, fruits such as apples, blackberries, cherries and plums, and also flavoured their food with poppy seeds, coriander, dill, fennel, onion and celery. Furthermore their food was washed down with wine, imported not in clay amphorae but in massive barrels. Oh, and they used olive oil too.

A single somewhat battered and charred olive stone was excavated from the depths of a well: the earliest to be found in Britain.

This is just one tiny item found at this ever-astonishing site and if you have any interest at all in field archaeology you'll want to learn more about all the amazing things that are being uncovered. Take the time to potter around the official website www.reading.as.uk/silchester/ and realise just how important this multi-layered excavation has become in furthering our knowledge of Hampshire's ancient past.

A prehistoric hare

Not all artefacts found during excavations relate to people and their usage. Last summer on the coast at Ter Heijde in Holland (across the North Sea from Ipswich) a piece of jawbone was dated at 31,000 years old and belonged to a hare. This means that this little mammal lived on what is now the seabed of the North Sea amongst the mammoths. This tiny creature was living amongst, and being dwarfed by, mammoths, bison, horses and rhinos – quite hazardous I should imagine for a small animal. This is the earliest known hare from the Ice Age and I expect it had a good thick fur coat!



Don Haynes 1942 - 2012



Coffee, anyone?

WARG has always offered refreshments after each talk, being either tea or coffee and biscuits. Some members even bring their own teabag to ensure they get what they want! However over the last year or so the number of people staying after the talks for these refreshments and a general chat with each other has dropped and the committee would like to know why.

Do you never stay to chat because you don't like a hot drink at that time of the evening or because you just want to get home to bed or because you just don't want to socialise!

Last month we experimented by moving refreshments down to the foyer and we think many people found this pleasanter and more spacious.

The social aspect of our society is an important one and if you could take the time to let Julia know your reasons she'd be really grateful. Her details are below – email, phone or write: all comments heartily welcomed!



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