



# Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association



## Newsletter

**December 2006**

Contents:

- Letter from the Chairman
- Dates for your diary
- Visit to churches in the Meon and Itchen Valleys
- The Snowdrop Walk, Warnford Park
- Tourist Information Centre Update
- The Statuettes on Bishop Fox's Chantry Chapel
- St Peter's Chesil – and its link to the City of Winchester Trust Logo
- The Clarendon Palace Walk
- Technology corner – email attachments
- Some experiences (Good and Bad!) with foreign Guides
- Editors' postscript

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Disclaimer

The items in this newsletter have been written by Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association (WATGA) members. They represent the views of the members themselves and not necessarily those of the Association.

## **Letter from the Chairman (Sue Coles)**

Dear All,

My first Chairman's letter has turned out to be more of a Secretary's letter because Angela is away in sunny climes and so I am combining the two.

It was good to see so many guides at Peter Moll's memorial service. It was a very moving service and I am sure that the presence of guides was much appreciated by Lis.

**Coach Training:** The support for the Meon and Itchen Valley coach training has been excellent and in addition to the 4 lectures, there are 2 coach-based training sessions and the 3<sup>rd</sup> coach session will be the exam. As part of the training, Chris Maxse has also agreed to do a car-based training session visiting churches in the two valleys plus a repeat of his Snowdrop Walk in Warnford Park. See below for full details and booking.

As most of you know, the cost of the course is being mainly funded by a grant to Winchester City Council from the South Downs Sustainable Development Fund. WATGA has also applied to WCC's Community Chest fund for a grant to cover a portable microphone system and the coach cost not covered by the South Downs funding.

**Committee:** The new Committee has held its first meeting and despite my best intentions, we did not finish on time. Note to self – must do better! However, we did allocate the following responsibilities:  
Kate Colwill is Vice Chairman and will represent the Association when I cannot.  
Pam Boyes is Training Officer, Guild representative and member of the Tours sub-committee.  
Geraldine Buchanan is Marketing Officer and a member of the Tours sub-committee.  
David Sutcliffe will help with marketing and the newsletter.  
Not forgetting of course John Flood looking after our finances and Angela George our Secretary.

### **Tours:**

The Halloween tours were very well supported and the Ghost Group is looking at ways to make them even better in 2007. Thanks to all guides involved in them. The Tours sub-committee (including its 3<sup>rd</sup> member Clare Dixon) is working hard on the Tours Programme for 2007. We need to look carefully at the number of special tours as we may be approaching saturation point and we also have limited resources to market them. As you know WCC will not produce our guide leaflet this year and so we have to fund almost all marketing ourselves.

**Drama Tours:** We did these many years ago and I should like to resurrect them. This would probably not be until 2008 but we might do a pilot in 2007.

**Rota 2007:** Stuart has started work on the rota for 2007 and he will send it out as soon as it is available. Please be patient!

**CPD:** All bar two of the CPD forms are now in and I will provide an update on this at the next General Meeting. Almost all are excellent and show that guides take training very seriously.

**Website:** The website is due to go live in December and we will circulate the address shortly. In future, I should like the website to have a "guides only" section (not accessible to the general public) where we can post training documents, etc.

**Liaison meeting with WCC:** Angela, Kate and I met Alison and Stuart recently for a liaison meeting. If guides have matters of general concern, please let me know and I will raise them at the next meeting or immediately if more urgent action is required.

Finally, Dale and I have already started to think about our Summer Walk. It is likely to be in the Bentworth/Wield area.

I hope to see as many of you as possible at the next General Meeting on 5<sup>th</sup> December and, if I don't see you then, I wish you and your family an excellent Christmas.

### **Dates for your diary (Sue Coles)**

Tue 5 <sup>th</sup> Dec (7.00)	General Meeting	Guildhall
Wed 13 <sup>th</sup> Dec (7:30)	"Bowls, Burials and Beowulf..." Lecture by Barbara Yorke	Guildhall
Tue 19 <sup>th</sup> Dec (2.30)	"A Taste of Christmas" walk (contact Colin Cook – 01962-866702 for details)	TIC
Thurs 21 <sup>st</sup> Dec (2:30)	"A Taste of Christmas" walk (contact Colin Cook – 01962-866702 for details)	TIC
Fri 19 <sup>th</sup> Jan	New Year's Party (booking form to be circulated shortly)	St. Lawrence's Hall
Fri 26 <sup>th</sup> Jan	Coach course - Familiarisation trip for Meon/Itchen Valley	
Wed 31 <sup>st</sup> Jan	Visit to churches in Meon/Itchen Valleys (see below)	
Fri 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb	Coach course - Techniques	
Fri 9 <sup>th</sup> Feb	Coach course - Exam	
Sun 11 Feb	Snowdrop Walk, Warnford (see below)	
Sat 24 <sup>th</sup> Feb	International Day of the Tourist Guide	
Wed 14 <sup>th</sup> Mar	The King's House -lecture by Simon Thurley	Guildhall

### **Visit to churches in Meon and Itchen Valleys (Chris Maxse)**

Date:	Wednesday 31 <sup>st</sup> January 2007
Time/Meet point:	9.30 am, Central Car Park, Bishops' Waltham (parking is free for 30 minutes)
Leader:	Chris Maxse
OS Map:	OS 185 1:50 000 Winchester and Basingstoke

During the day, we will visit the most interesting villages and churches in the two valleys, concentrating particularly on those passed on the coach tour.

The visit is open to all guides, not just those doing the coach course.  
Lunch will be at a pub on route.  
There is no charge for the tour but donations are requested at the churches visited.  
In addition, we will share petrol costs.

We need to coordinate transport – both for cost reasons and also to minimise the number of cars using the narrow lanes.

If you want to come, please let ANGELA GEORGE know as soon as possible, indicating also whether you can provide a car.

Email: [angela.george@onetel.net](mailto:angela.george@onetel.net) Tel: 01962 843281

Address: 16 Wheatland Close, Winchester, SO22 4QL

### **Snowdrop Walk, Warnford Park (Chris Maxse)**

Date: Sunday 11<sup>th</sup> February 2007  
Time/meet point: 3 pm Warnford Park car park  
(entrance to park is on the A32 just south of village)  
Leader: Chris Maxse  
OS Map: OS 185 1:50 000 Winchester and Basingstoke  
Visit is open to all guides and their partners.  
Sturdy footwear is required if wet!

The snowdrop collection has a national reputation and is only open on 4 Sundays in February. In addition to the snowdrops and the church, the Park also contains the ruins of St. John's House and in the 18<sup>th</sup> century the estate was landscaped by Capability Brown.

Entrance to the park is free but donations are requested for the church. Teas will be available in the church. If there is time, we will also a visit West Meon church and the tomb of Thomas Lord.

Chris would like to have some idea of numbers. If you would like to attend please let Chris know. Email: [chris.maxse@btinternet.com](mailto:chris.maxse@btinternet.com)  
Address: Kings Paddock, Meonstoke, Southampton, SO32 3NH.  
Please also include a contact telephone number if case Chris needs to telephone you at short notice.

### **Tourist Information Centre (TIC) Update (Alison Wood)**

#### **“Bowls, Burials and Beowulf – the Oliver’s Battery warrior burial, and his place in the early Anglo-Saxon world”**

- is the title of a talk by Professor Barbara Yorke of the University of Winchester about the 7th century Anglo-Saxon warrior burial, discovered in Oliver’s Battery in 1930. An expert in this field, by using the latest research and information Professor Yorke will outline the significance of the burial and grave goods and place them into their wider political and social context.

The talk will take place on Wednesday 13 December in the Conference Chamber of Winchester Guildhall at 7.30pm. Tickets priced at £5 for adults and £4 for concessions are available from the tourist information centre.

#### **New shopping leaflet highlights Winchester’s hidden gems**

- The city council’s cultural services division have just launched a brand new leaflet, **Speciality Shopping in Winchester**, which directs shoppers to the great retail opportunities to be found in the city’s secret streets such as The Square, Great and Little Ministers Streets, St Thomas Street and Parchment Street.

If you'd like to keep a copy handy, just in case anyone asks on your tours where the best shopping streets are, please collect a copy from the tourist information centre.

The Cathedral is set to launch its first ever **Christmas Market** this year in the Inner Close. The market, similar to that of a traditional German Christmas market, will be made up of 40 chalets selling a wide range of unique gifts, foods and crafts. The market will be open from 1 to 10 December from 11am to 9pm every day (except Sunday 10 December when it will be open until 6pm).

We are also pleased to announce that the Cathedral Inner Close will also be the memorable setting for an **outdoor ice skating rink** from 1 December 2006 to 7 January 2007. Guides and their families are encouraged to get their skates on this Christmas! Tickets can be purchased from the Cathedral Box Office located in the Cathedral Visitors' Centre which can be contacted on 01962 857 276 or by email at [icerink@winchester-cathedral.org.uk](mailto:icerink@winchester-cathedral.org.uk)

### **TIC Christmas and New Year Opening Times**

Saturday 23 December 10am to 4pm

Christmas Eve 24 December CLOSED

Christmas Day 25 December CLOSED

Boxing Day 26 December CLOSED

Wednesday 27 December 10am to 5pm

Thursday 28 December 10am to 5pm

Friday 29 December 10am to 5pm

Saturday 30 December 10am to 4pm

New Year's Eve 31 December CLOSED

New Year's Day 1 January CLOSED

From Tuesday 2 January the TIC will resume its usual winter opening times which are Monday to Saturday 10am to 5pm.

### **Staff news old and new**

You may have already read in Tourism Times that Information Assistant Julie Berry will now be working part-time. Julie's new hours will be Wednesday to Friday (although she will have Fridays off when she works on a Saturday). Judith Hoskins, who has been working in the TIC since May this year in a seasonal post, has been offered the other half of Julie's job. This new arrangement began at the beginning of November.

We also have the sad news that Barbara Basford is leaving the TIC on 2 February 2007 for a life of foreign travels with her husband.

For those of you who remember Beatrice Walton, our previous Senior Information Assistant, you will be delighted to hear that baby Walton number three, a little girl called Amelie, was born in November.

### The Statuettes on Bishop Fox's Chantry Chapel (Tony Humphrys)

The statuette to the left of the entry door attracts visitors' attention because it features a figure wearing a mitre and holding a severed crowned head. The figure wearing the mitre is Saint Cuthbert (634-687 AD). He was buried at Lindisfarne. He is holding the head of Saint Oswald, king of the Northumbrians who was killed and dismembered by the Mercians. His head was recovered and venerated by the monks at Lindisfarne who kept it with the body of Saint Cuthbert. After the Viking raid of 875 Saint Cuthbert's body and the head of Saint Oswald were exhumed by the monks who carried the body and the head with them until they settled at Durham in 995. In 1847 Saint Cuthbert's coffin was opened and a skeleton and two heads were found (picture below left)

There are 14 complete statuettes on the south side. The one (damaged) on the east side is probably that of a pregnant Virgin Mary.

St Cuthbert with the head of St Oswald (see above)

DOOR

St Richard – holding Chalice - was dropped but no wine spilt

St George – with Dragon

St Alban—Roman Soldier

St Birinus-

St Columba—Very plain clothes (no trendy dressing in Iona!)

St Ethelreda—Female clothes -one of 5 sisters, all saints!

St Patrick—Snake at foot – hence no snakes in Ireland (picture below right)

Venerable Bede—holding a Book (reading his own chronicles?)

St Boniface—Praying

St Alphege—Axe at foot (he was killed with an axe)

St William of York -

St Thomas—Sword blade stuck in head

St Hugh—Swan (had a pet swan)



## **St Peter's Chesil -and its link to The City of Winchester Trust Logo** **(Michael Fielding)**

A morning service at St Peter's, on Sunday 2nd January 1949, brought to an end Christian services which had been conducted on the site for over 800 years. As with most churches of ancient origin, it had been repaired and changed over its ecclesiastical lifetime and its fortunes reflected the prosperity of the parish it served, in the one-time autonomous area called The Soke.

Those who have visited the church will have realised that its structure is unusual: a near square with a tower added to the south-eastern corner. Perhaps the shape of the site was determined by its proximity to the Portchester Road, the Itchen River and the density of local housing and businesses.

After the ending of church services much thought was given to what could be done with the church, its fabric and contents. The organ, for example, was sold, the font went to All Saints, Highcliffe, the largest bell went to St Barnabas, Weeke, and some of the west window glass went to St Swithin-upon-Kingsgate.

In February 1961 the then Winchester Preservation Trust (now The City of Winchester Trust) launched an appeal to restore the building, which earlier it had helped in preventing its demolition as part of a road-widening scheme and to provide a home for the peripatetic Winchester Dramatic Society. The leading light in the former was the late Barbara Carpenter Turner and the president of the latter was Peter Smithers MP who died in June 2006. The ecclesiastical authorities imposed various conditions. These included the prohibition of political meetings and instructed that plays should not be performed which were deemed to be unsuitable by the bishop. On one occasion, the Dramatic Society performed Mary O'Malley's play "Once a Catholic" - but only twice! The bishop heard of this production and subsequent performances were banned.

Next time you walk along Chesil Street pause outside the City Council offices in Avalon House and look across at St Peter's and you will see the inspiration for the Trust's logo, namely the tower and the two pitched roofs representing the Trust's first success.



### **Clarendon Palace Walk (Keith Woodward)**

The site is first documented as a military gathering place in the mid eleventh century and was used from 1072 to 1453 as an occasional residence of the English Royal Family.

Henry I and Henry II constructed buildings on the site which have always been known as a "Palace" rather than a "Castle" since even during its zenith it was not fortified.

It was much used during the 14th and 15th centuries but went into decline when it was confiscated by Parliament after the execution of Charles I in 1649.

By the start of 20 century, it was almost completely covered in overgrowth until the site was gradually excavated.

The main historical event associated with the site is the Constitution of Clarendon(1164) which was promulgated by Henry II as an attempt to redefine Royal prerogatives as they existed before the anarchy of the Civil War during Stephen's reign. The main clause which was to cause trouble was one which prevented appeals to Rome without the monarch's permission. Initially, Thomas Beckett agreed to this clause, but on learning that the Pope did not support it, he changed his position thus precipitating events which would lead to his murder in Canterbury Cathedral.

Our thanks to Dale Greenwood and Don Bryan for an excellent walk in July this year.

### **Technology Corner – email attachments (Denis Howe)**

Many people seem to have problems with email attachments. Let me try and throw some light on the topic. For the purposes of this, let me assume that you are using Windows and Outlook Express (– if you are using something else, you are probably a computer nut anyway, and what follows will be like teaching granny to suck eggs!)

Q – What is an attachment?

A – Something that is "attached" to an email that will travel to the destination along with the message that you type. The recipient can then read or save (or ignore?) it.

Q – What is attached?

A – A computer file (aka object) that exists somewhere in your computer. Typically it will be something that you have created - such as a MS Word document (e.g. partyinvite.doc), or something that has been loaded into your computer, such as a photo uploaded from your digital camera (e.g. PB220275.JPG)

Q - How do I add an attachment to my email

A – When you are creating an email, click on the Attach icon (looks like a paperclip) in the toolbar at the top of the window. A pop up window entitled "Insert Attachment" will appear. Use this to locate the file that you want to attach. Use the "Look in" field to get to the appropriate area (documents, pictures, etc.) and then select the file that you want (with a single left click on the mouse) and its name will appear in the "File name" field at the bottom of the window. If you are happy, click "Attach" and, bingo, you've done it! When you are ready, send the email to the lucky recipient(s) and the a copy of file that you have chosen will tag along with the message.

Q- OK – so what do I do if some SENDS me an attachment?

A – You will see that there is an attachment because in the list of emails there is a paper clip symbol next to the email. Double left click the email and a new window

showing the email will appear. You will see that under the “Subject” line, there is now an additional line “Attachment”. If the attachment is a picture, you’ll see it below the words of the email. If it is something else (e.g. a Word document), double left click the name of the attachment. Windows will now issue a “health warning” – “Do you want to open this file?”. IF you are happy that the email is from someone that you know, click “Open” (more on the dark side of attachments later). Now, provided YOUR computer knows what to do with the sort of file that you have received, you will see what you have been sent. If not – talk to the sender and see what you need to do to be able to read the sort of file that they have sent you.

Q – Will I always be able to look at the file that has been sent as an attachment?

A – Yes, provided you don’t delete the email to which it is attached.

Q- I’d like to keep the file somewhere else on my computer.

A – OK – you have a couple of ways to do this. You can either

a) Save the file using the program that you used to view the file

b) Exit the viewing program and RIGHT click on the name of the attachment.

You will then see a drop down menu with “Save As…” as one choice. Click on this and a pop up menu “Save Attachment as” will appear. Use this to chose where you want to save the attachment. At this point you may give the attachment a more meaningful name (but **DON’T** change the dot and the last 3 characters e.g. .jpg) because if you do, your computer won’t know what to do with it.)

Phew!

Notes:

1) Health warning. Some nasty people send emails with attachments that, if opened, will harm your computer. **Never ever** open an attachment that you aren’t expecting.

2) If you have problems reading a particular type of attachment, you’ll need to add a program to your computer. Most software companies accept that people want just to be able to read their files and supply (via the internet) a free “reader” program. For example to read the Newsletter you will need to download an Adobe Acrobat Reader that can read files ending in .pdf (Portable Document Format).

3) Confused by all this? – but really would like to learn more about emails and browsing the internet? Why not treat yourself to a guide such as: “Internet Explorer 6 for Dummies” by Douglas Lowe published by Hungry Minds.

### **Some experiences (Good and Bad!) with foreign Guides (Helen Sutcliffe)**

#### 1. Verbosity

Our guide in Montevideo talked continuously on the coach and outside for 4½ hours - we longed for silence!!

#### 2. Health and Safety

In Buenos Aires our guide walked us along pavements and roads resembling a bomb site with no words of warning.

#### 3. Finding an Affinity with Your Group

In Ecuador, our football loving guide could talk knowledgeably about his fellow country man who played for Crystal Palace!

#### 4. Give Examples of Local Specialities

Our coach guide in Venezuela stopped to buy local fruit at the roadside to show how to chop and eat it before passing samples around the passengers.

#### 5. Entertainment Value

On another trip in Venezuela our female guide suddenly burst into song in the minstrels' gallery, singing a local folk song beautifully. We later discovered she had been a music student.

#### 6. Recognising Your Group

Our guide in Lima the guide didn't recognise the passenger she had been sitting next to on the coach, and accused him of being on the wrong bus! (She was in fact the concert pianist on the cruise ship).

#### 7. Keeping Your Group Intact

On visiting the city of Valencia in Venezuela, our coach was escorted around by 8 police outriders who stopped traffic to let us through, like royalty. We wondered whether it was to protect us from 'unfriendly' locals or, perhaps them from us!!

#### 8. Patience with Difficult Public

A frail but very obstinate lady insisted on doing a coach/walk up to the castle tour in Cartagena, Columbia in great heat. When she felt unwell, she thought that the bus should take her back, refused the taxi which was ordered for her, unless the guide personally accompanied her back. The lovely, tactful guide eventually persuaded her to return alone in a second taxi.

#### 9. Group Management

The young student guide in Dublin never waited for the group to convene. He collected his fee at the second stop and never looked for, or waited for his group. Fortunately, we didn't have any taggers-on that day; a case of keep up if you are interested - if not don't bother!

#### 10. Suitable Footwear

Our female guide in Slovakia drank too much vodka (we thought it was water!) and fell off her platform sandals breaking a strap! She was helped back to the coach and was replaced the next day!

### **Editors' Postscript**

Since Denis is off to Australia in February, David Sutcliffe has bravely volunteered to help edit the Newsletter during his absence. Tony and David will want your contributions for the March 2007 issue by Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> February. Please email them to [D@sutcliffe677.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:D@sutcliffe677.fsnet.co.uk)

Do you know the history of any of our Winchester pubs? CAMRA member, Ray Massey, is trying to collect such information. Please contact him on 01794-502022 or by email [sueandray@whiteheather.freeserve.co.uk](mailto:sueandray@whiteheather.freeserve.co.uk)