



Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association



Newsletter

June 2006

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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 (Elizabeth Proudman)

Dear Colleagues,

The beautiful spring has arrived as I write. I hope it means that we shall have lots of people coming on our walks. The spring series and the Family walks have begun well, and have been very good and much enjoyed. Geraldine has done great work on the publicity, and I am sure that has helped to attract people. Don't forget to help her by taking leaflets wherever and whenever you can.

You may remember that the UK committee of the Guild and the Institute have been meeting to try and form a 'Single Professional Body'. It seems that little progress has been made, but we have been assured that anyone who was a member of WATGA in September 2005 will be covered by Guild insurance at least until September 2007. The main stumbling block to reaching an agreement is that a group of London guides (the APTG) belong to a Trade Union (Amicus) and the rest of the Guild members do not want to. The Regional associations are keen that an SPB be formed as soon as possible, and we want to remain as group members. We will keep you posted with developments.

At the last Executive Committee meeting we discussed the arrangements for special tours and the thorny question of the role and duties of the second guide. You will have heard by now what the decision was. I am afraid not everyone will be pleased, but we did consider every angle and were unanimous that this plan is the best. Let's just hope that No. 2 guide will often be needed to do the tour.

The Da Vinci code exhibition has begun, and Meridian TV came and filmed Keith as he did his training walk.

I hope you all have a good summer both guiding and at leisure, and that we shall meet out and about.
Elizabeth.

Dates for your diary (from Sue Coles)

Tuesday 20 th June 7pm	General Meeting at Guildhall
Friday 7 th – Sunday 16 th July	Winchester Festival
Monday 10 th July	Summer walk and social (Pitton/Clarendon Palace)
Monday 14 th August	DEADLINE for September Newsletter
Thursday 7 th – Sunday 10 th September	WOW weekend
Tuesday 26 th September 7pm	AGM at Guildhall

Country Walk and Social Evening -From Pitton to the Palace (Dale Greenwood)

Dale and Sue have now completed plans for what promises to be another enjoyable and interesting country walk and social evening. Details are as follows:

DATE - Monday, July 10th TIME - 5.15 p.m. prompt

MEET - the car park of "the Silver Plough" pub in Pitton [30 mins. or so from Winchester]

WALK - 5 miles maximum [including looking round the extensive site] to see the remains of the once great Norman Palace at Clarendon.

NB - the walk is mainly on the level with no stiles but the ground at the Palace itself is uneven and bumpy so walking boots or good footwear recommended.

FOOD - the pub have allocated their pleasant "snug bar" for our exclusive use after the walk provided numbers are reasonable.

Once again partners and friends will be most welcome. Menus will be circulated nearer the time. Please will you advise Dale [by email if possible] NOT LATER THAN 1st July if you are able to come. His address is:

dale16@ntlworld.com

Dale Greenwood M.I.T.G.
16 Stoke Road
Winchester
Hants
SO23 7ET
(Tel): (44) 1962 866502

Horse and Rider (or “Page 3 stunner”) (Tony Newing)

Does anyone recognise this man? (the one on the horse, of course!)



The statue is one of the “Horse and Rider” series by Dame Elisabeth Frink (1930-93) and obviously very similar to the statue in front of the Winchester Law Courts. It is located on Piccadilly at the junction of Dover Street (opposite the Ritz Hotel). More information on Dame Elisabeth can be found on the internet e.g.:

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Elizabeth_Frink
<http://www.sherbornehouse.org.uk/house/frink.html>

Turning the Pages Ceremony in Winchester Cathedral (Tony Newing)

There is a long-standing tradition of the monthly ceremony of Turning the Pages of the King's Royal Rifle Corps and Rifle Brigade Books of Remembrance in Winchester Cathedral. The Ceremony usually takes place at 1100 on the third Tuesday of every month, except November, when it is the Thursday before Remembrance Sunday. The Ceremony lasts no more than 10 minutes and is well worth watching, if you have not seen it before.



Dates for the remainder of 2006 are:

20 June
18 July
15 August
19 September
10 October (**)
9 November (*)
12 December (**)

(*) Note: Thursday

(**) Note: Date changed because of other events in the Cathedral

Why St. Catherine's Hill? (Elizabeth Proudman)

Catherine of Alexandria was born between 120 and 400 AD. She was a Christian virgin who refused to marry as she was ordered, and she was condemned to be broken on the wheel. For some reason that did not happen, and she was executed on top of a hill instead. Some years later a monastery was founded in Sinai on a hill, and when it was nearly completed they found St. Catherine's bones nearby, so they dedicated it to her. Throughout the middle ages it became customary to dedicate churches on hills to St. Catherine - hence ours and also the church on Hengistbury Head, etc. St. Catherine reminds me a bit of King Arthur, because no-one is really quite sure if and when and where she lived and they found her bones at a convenient place and time just like the monks at Glastonbury. But that is the story

Opus Dei (Latin = God's Work) - Yesterday, today and tomorrow (Judy Simmons)

Sources: 1) Oxford Dictionary of World Religions
2) Encyclopaedia
3) BBC Channel 4 – written and produced by Mark Dowd (ex. Catholic friar)

Yesterday

Originally, Opus Dei came from the Benedictine monks whose primary duty was prayer. It specifically refers to the recitation of prescribed prayers (the Divine Office) at set times known as the Canonical Hours, namely Matins, Lauds, Prime, Terce, Sext (noon), None, Vespers and Complin.

Today

It is an international Roman Catholic religious association founded in Madrid by an ambitious priest José Maria Escrivá de Balaguer in 1928. It is known as the "Priestly Society of the Holy Cross and the Work of God". His movement is said to have split the Roman Catholic Church.

Members

Over 85,000 members worldwide, 20 members within the Vatican including the Pope's press spokesman. Members are recruited mainly from the young and white-collar workers such as lawyers, architects, doctors, priests and politicians. Ruth Kelly, the Education Secretary is a member. There are 500 members in England.

Opus Dei supports 15 universities, 7 hospitals
166 student residences worldwide
36 schools – total of 25,000 pupils

It owns houses in 80 countries.

World HQ: known as the "Tower" or "Tower of Power" is at 243 Lexington Avenue in the heart of Manhattan, New York. It cost \$US 47 million to build and was paid for by donations. The Director is called Silas Agbim and is from Nigeria - not an albino as in Dan Brown's book! He appears there once a month.

Real HQ: Rome at the Opus Dei centre. It is here that the founder José Escrivá died in 1975 and was canonized by Pope John Paul in 2002 some 17 years later. His body lies in a tomb below front of the high altar of the chapel. It has become a place of pilgrimage and veneration.

London HQ: Orme Court in City of Westminster. Director is Jack Valero. It has just acquired its 1st parish church – Sir Thomas More at Swiss Cottage, North London, a gift of Archbishop of Westminster Cardinal Cormac Murphy O'Connor.

Spiritual organization

In its purest form, each member must lead a daily life of commitment to their founder to worship and to God. Mainly based upon the speeches and writings of José Escrivá, especially his collection of 909 maxims republished in 1939 called "The Way". There are several levels of membership.

"Numerarii"

They are the highest level of membership and make up a quarter of members. They live in communities and the sexes are totally separate. They take vows of celibacy and study theology and philosophy for many years and particularly study closely the teachings of their founder. There are no rules and no one wears a habit or uniform. Each member has a spiritual advisor who may send them anywhere.

Corporal mortification

Cilice: this is a strap studded with sharp metal bars which is strapped to the top of the leg and worn for 2 hrs every day by each member to show love for Christ. Corporal mortification was very important part of the founder's teaching. He went so far as to whip himself till the blood

ran down his back to show his great love of Christ. Apparently, you can obtain a cilice from the Carmelites.

Assistant Numerarii

These are women who take care of the housework for the Numerarii at the various communities. They too follow their founder's teaching.

Super Numerarii

Their vocation is to marry and have children who are brought up with their founder's teachings and prayers everyday. The women remain in the house to bring up the family. Their priorities are 1) the family, 2) spiritual upbringing and 3) work in that order.

Opus Dei tomorrow

Whatever you may feel about Opus Dei it has now moved more into the centre of the Roman Catholic Church, maybe because of Dan Brown's book or the film. Their numbers are growing and the new Pope is a personal admirer, whether you like it or not

The Huge Hampshire Read - 'Persuasion', by Jane Austen (Elizabeth Proudman)

A lot of effort by the Hampshire Library service is going into making this a great event, so it is just possible that we shall have people showing more interest in JA than usual. Here are a few notes about 'Persuasion', which might be useful to those who do not know it already. Be on your guard, because it is many 'Janeites' favourite book.

It is the last book she completed. In the autumn of 1816 she wrote 'Finis' at the end, but it was not published in her lifetime. She put it on one side and began again and wrote eleven chapters of a new novel 'Sanditon'. 'Persuasion' is much the shortest of her completed novels and it has been suggested that she was not satisfied with it and that is why she did not prepare it for publication. Some of the characters are not so well developed as in the other novels (eg Elizabeth, William Elliot, Mrs. Smith). It has a sad, wistful quality about it which may be explained by the fact that she was ill when she wrote it. It is possible that the idea for the plot - a young girl persuaded against marrying the man of her choice - was inspired by her own broken love affair with Tom Lefroy at Ashe in 1796.

The great interest in 'Persuasion' for many people, apart from the wonderful depiction of Anne herself, is that it shows a world in transition. The old order, the Eliots and their like, are being replaced by the new men who are making their way in the new world. This is not just the successful naval officers, but also the Musgrove family where the parents are old fashioned and their children much more modern. Jane Austen noticed this change taking place, and I think she preferred the new ways. Captain Wentworth made his fortune at the Battle of St. Domingo in 1806. Captain Francis Austen fought there too, but sadly only got a medal!

Jane did not give the novel a name, and it was published in December 1817 after she died by her brother Henry in a single volume with the other unpublished novel 'Northanger Abbey'. It received little critical notice, and 282 copies were remaindered in 1820. Her sister received £515.17.7d from the proceeds.

Between 18th July and 6th August 1817 she re-wrote Chapters 22 and 23, and the rejected chapters are the only manuscripts which remain of her adult novels. They can be seen in the British Library, and there is a hope that they may be on show in Jane Austen's house in Chawton in the autumn this year. These chapters are published in the Penguin Classics edition of 'Persuasion' if you want to see them, and also the 'Biographical Notice' by Henry Austen, and the 'Memoir' by James Edward Austen Leigh. Not bad value for £2.50, and I recommend it.

WATGA Laon Visit – March 2006 (Lynne Coburn)

How time flies! The Winchester/Laon Twinning Association was founded in 1994 and WATGA's first visit to Laon took place in 1995. Since then reciprocal visits have taken place between Laon and Winchester City Guides.

The third weekend of March a party of 12 including Full and Associate Members and some spouses were welcomed by our counterparts at the Laon Tourist Office for this or third visit to this fascinating little town which sits on a plateau.

A really splendid programme had been prepared for us. Saturday morning saw a visit to the Cathedral where tours were given in English and French affording memories for some of us and a first stunning impression for others. Little regard was given to EU Health and Safety Regulations because we were able to climb up exterior scaffolding (external work was in process) enabling us to get a close view of the intricate carved stonework of the tympanum over the north portal. The same morning we were taken to the Bibliotheque Nationale to examine ancient Irish manuscripts especially displayed for us. To our astonishment our ungloved hands were allowed to touch them and turn pages. Quelle imprudence!!

After lunch our French hosts ferried us to an impressive private art collection at the Musee Jeanne d'Aboville in the nearby town of La Fere followed by a picturesque drive back to Laon through the Foret de St Gobain and on the way we saw various ancient sites.

After this excursion we were welcomed with a Champagne reception by the Mayor of Laon in the elegant Mairie. Elizabeth responded in excellent French bringing greetings from the Mayor of Winchester.

More excitement on Sunday - first we visited an historic listed house in the rue Chatelaine - the owners of which had, in the course of renovation, discovered medieval wall paintings indicating that it could have been the site of a church. On uncovering the floor they discovered that the property had an immense depth. Another highlight that morning was a tour of the labyrinth of tunnels underneath 'the plateau' - this area had been especially opened for us. A pleasant tour of Romanesque and Medieval churches was undertaken in the afternoon.

A packed and thrilling programme was, needless to say, interspersed with gourmet French cuisine - nearly all prepared by our hosts. Such warm-hearted hospitality was overwhelming and we hope to have a return visit from our friends in Laon before too long.

Lynne has received a DVD of Laon and the surroundings from Rose Condette. Perhaps we could have a soiree chez Lynne in the autumn to see it.

We are pleased to announce the safe arrival of... Bethany Lauren Fensome



She was born on 14th May - a little earlier than expected. She weighed just 4lbs 9oz.

Hampshire Field Club and Archaeological Society (Tony Humphrys)

Members of WATGA might consider becoming members of this club. Over the period March to October 2006, 17 events have been or will be held. Of those, the eight following might be of interest to Winchester guides especially if they wish to expand their knowledge.

Waynflete's Towers at Farnham and Esher (day visit)
Hampshire and the Civil Wars (day conference .,in Winchester)

Salisbury Cathedral and Close (day visit)	10 th June
AGM and Bishop's Waltham (day visit)	11 th June
Dogmersfield Park (day visit)	24 th June
Michelmersh church and Manor (½ day visit)	1 st July
Stockbridge Marsh and Down (day visit)	15 th July
Silchester(1/2 day visit)	6 th August

The winter events are sometimes day visits but mostly they are meetings in the evening.

Membership. Single £10 Family £12 Student £7

See www.fieldclub.hants.org.uk for a membership application form.

Winchester Anniversaries (Denis Howe)

1906 In April, William Walker “the diver who saved Winchester Cathedral with his own hands” started the work that would last 6 years. There are several good books that chronicle his work – “The Winchester Diver – The Saving of a great Cathedral” by Ian Henderson and John Crook, published by Henderson and Stirk 1984, and, my favourite “William Walker The Diver who saved Winchester Cathedral” by the late Canon Frederick Bussby, published by the Friends of Winchester Cathedral 1994 (4th edition). There seems to some confusion about William Walker's birth date – the first authors say 1864 whereas Canon Bussby says that he was born in 1869. With the help of a friend, a family history expert, I have confirmed that William was born William Robert Bellenie on 21st Oct 1869 in Walworth, London.

1966 In December -“Winchester Cathedral” by the New Vaudeville Band went to the top of the American Hit Parade. The song was written by British composer Geoff Stephens and was recorded using studio musicians. After the chart success Geoff formed a group and toured the USA. As a guide, I have often been asked about the origins of the song e.g. “why Winchester Cathedral” – and eventually managed to track down Geoff. He is now in his 70s and has had a very full life as a musical composer. I am trying to arrange a visit to Winchester for Geoff, who lives in Hertfordshire, later in the year. Watch this space!

Words from the Editors (Denis Howe and Tony Humphrys)

Well – we've ALL done it! The first version of our WATGA Newsletter “under new management”.

As you can see we have been very well supported by the Association members who have provided us with articles and photos. In fact we have several articles that we are going to hold over until the September edition! Please keep the articles coming – as a guideline, a max of 400 words on a topic that is relevant to Guiding in general or about Winchester and the surrounding area in MS Word format or as an email – with digital photos please. Also information on interesting relevant websites will be welcome.

How was it for you? Did you

- 1) Find the new format (a PDF file distributed by email) easy to work with?
- 2) Enjoy the articles?
- 3) Think of ideas to improve the Newsletter or the distribution process?

Please email with your feedback Many thanks Denis Howe and Tony Humphrys