



Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association



Newsletter



JUNE 2008 ISSUE



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Letter from the Chairman (Sue Coles)

This Newsletter coincides with the General Meeting and much of what I would have put in the Chairman's letter is in my report for the General Meeting which has been circulated to all Full and Associate members. I don't plan to repeat that report but just pick up on a couple of points.

The summer is the time when we are hopefully busy with guiding and benefiting from the excellent training programme over the winter. It has been a concern for some time that the Green Badge guides have not been able to expand their area of guiding by doing a Blue Badge course. However, I hope that the wait is almost at an end. Pamela Boyes is planning a Blue Badge Course based on the old Southern Tourist Board region. We are looking at the possibility of grants in order to reduce the outlay per person. This development is excellent news – not only for the Green Badge guides personally but also for the Association. It should make the Association more outward looking.

Don and Dale did a tour of Alresford to coincide with the Watercress Fair and it would be good to expand our repertoire to include some of the other small towns such as Bishops Waltham, Wickham and Stockbridge. The demand for rota tours is flat but numbers on special tours are increasing, particularly those targeted at local or semi-local people, e.g. the Street Series. We do need a discussion on what tours we should be developing in the next few years. Planning one year in advance may not be enough.

All this is closely linked to the Proposed New Structure incorporating the ITG and the Guild of Registered Tourist Guides. As with many proposals, the devil is often in the detail and the thorny issue of cost of membership including insurance is likely to be contentious. We are trying to be proactive by inviting Alan Cross and Tony Anderson to our EC meeting.

In my Chairman's Report for the June General Meeting, I commented on the proposed developments in the Close and Cathedral linked to the relocation of the Bible to the ground floor and the building of a new Song School. If anyone wants more information on this, both Elizabeth Proudman and I attended the recent workshop/seminar and will be pleased to answer your questions if possible.

We all send our best wishes to Gerald Gledhill. Gerald is currently in Brendoncare, Park Road but his condition is improving and we hope that he will be back in Alresford and guiding 'ere long. He welcomes visits!

I know that some of you were unable to attend the recent General Meeting so could not contribute to the debate on future tours. If so, please let me have your comments.

Good guiding for the rest of the season.
Sue

Dates for your diary

General Meetings:

Monday 22nd September 7 pm AGM

The Guildhall

Exhibitions:

Sunday 31 May – Sunday 31 August - Cathedral Summer Exhibition – Saving the Cathedral – telling the story of William Walker, Francis Fox and Thomas Jackson

5-13th July – Contemporary Art, Craft and Design Fair, Cathedral Close

<http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/events/3/>

16th -31st August – Hampshire Open Studios

<http://www.hampshireopenstudios.org.uk/>

Guided Walks:

The City of Winchester Trust is organising a series of evening walks – see:

<http://www.wpt.hampshire.org.uk/trust/newsletter/0608walks.htm>

...and don't forget our very own WATGA walks

<http://www.winchestertouristguides.com/tours.html>

Special events:

30th June (pm) - Adjutant General's Corps (exercise right to) march through city

1st – 31st July – Hampshire Food Festival – see <http://www.hampshirefare.co.uk/>

3 – 6th July Winchester Hat Fair – see <http://www.hatfair.co.uk/2008/index.php>

4th – 13th July Winchester Festival – see <http://www.winchesterfestival.co.uk>

16-20th July – Southern Cathedrals Festival 2008

26-27th July – Family fun weekend, Cathedral Close – for these events see:

<http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/events/3/>

Summer Walk:

Monday 21st July: Tony Newing is organising our walk this year: Meet 6 pm at The White Lion, Soberton for walk along river to Droxford and then back along the old railway to the White Lion and food! Includes church visits and possibly the old station at Droxford.

Autumn Visit

Dale and Chris are hoping to organise a visit to Wellow Church and Embley Park School [with refreshments at Carlos' Ices!!] at the end of the guiding season in late October/early November. A date will be circulated as soon as arrangements can be finalised

Winchester City Council Update (Alison Woods)

Staff Update

We are pleased to announce the arrival of **Ellen Simpson**, our new Tourism Marketing and Development Manager. Ellen takes over from Karen Brazier, who left the city council in January. Ellen has extensive publishing, business development and marketing experience and specialises in brand consultancy and change management. Her most recent post at Andante Travels, who offer archaeological tours world-wide, related to her original background as a History teacher.

Ellen says,

“I’m delighted to be joining an organisation that has so much of real value at its heart - Winchester is a city that has far more than most to offer. We’re looking forward to developing the way we promote this to encourage visitors to choose it as a preferred destination, stay longer when they are here and get more out of each visit.”

Rachel Abbott will also join the tourism marketing team, on 30 June, as the Tourism Marketing and Development Officer. Rachel is currently working as a Marketing Officer at Southampton University, and brings with her a host of marketing-related qualifications, a solid track record in communications development and great enthusiasm for the Winchester district.

There’s also a third Alison joining the wider cultural services team on 9 June: **Alison Davidson**, our new Historic Environment Manager, will be responsible for promoting all aspects of our historic environment including archaeology and historic buildings.

Not to be outdone, the Tourist Information Centre will also be welcoming our annual complement of summer season information assistants:

Derek Fancett – who liked TIC work so much, last year, has come back for a second helping.

Katy McCaffrey – who is studying for an HND in Event Management at London Metropolitan University.

Sopida Noochouy – who also works part-time at the Discovery Centre.

Stewart Taylor – who also works part-time as a supply teacher and actor!

We are also sad to announce that Gilli Latimer, the TIC's long standing Saturday Assistant, will be leaving on 31 May to start a new career, as a Paraplanner. We are currently recruiting for a replacement.

Tourist Information Centre Opening Hours

A reminder that, as of the beginning of May, the tourist information centre changed to its summer opening hours:

Monday to Saturday	9.30am to 5.30pm
Sundays	11am to 4pm
Bank Holiday Mondays	10am to 4pm

2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games

It may seem a long way off but we'd like guides to start thinking ahead to the Olympics with a view to developing a set of themed walks which tie in – anything from Greek (!) to sporting connections. Or in fact anything that would support the general values of the Cultural Olympiad (below). Please send any initial ideas to Sue Coles (email suecoles1@aol.com).

The Olympic values

excellence, or personal excellence
friendship
respect

The Paralympic values

courage
determination
Inspiration
equality

Cultural Olympiad

Core values:

- welcome the world – “celebrate London and the whole of the UK welcoming the world – our unique internationalism, cultural diversity, sharing and understanding”;
- inspire and involve young people (from planning to delivery); and
- leave a lasting and positive legacy “for example through cultural and sports participation, audience development, cultural skills, capacity building, urban regeneration, tourism and social cohesion and international links”

Themes:

- bring together culture and sport;
- encourage audiences to take part;
- animate and humanise public spaces – through street theatre, public art, circus skills, live big screen sites;
- use culture and sport to raise issues of environmental sustainability, health and wellbeing;
- honour and share the values of the Olympic and Paralympic Games;
- ignite cutting edge collaborations and innovation between communities and cultural sectors; and
- enhance the learning, skills and personal development of young people by linking with our education programmes

Coming soon at City Space

Looking ahead to the summer, the following exhibitions will be showing at City Space, in Winchester’s Discovery Centre.

Recent Work: paintings by Clare Goodman (Saturday 7 June – Sunday 22 June 2008)

Clare is a popular local artist who, after graduating from Winchester School of Art in 1985, spent several years dividing her time between Devon and Hampshire, exploring the contrasting scenery of the two counties, and developing her technique

in many different aspects of landscape and seascape painting. Clare now lives and works in Winchester and, in between running art classes and completing commissions, has produced many new works exhibited here for the first time.

The Big Fat Hairy Hat Fair Exhibition (Saturday 28 June - Sunday 20 July 2008)

A big, bright, colourful exhibition celebrating 34 years of the Hat Fair, the UK's longest running street arts festival. Founded in 1974 by Jonathan Kay, the festival has grown into a four day event of national and international significance attracting over 30,000 visitors annually. Over the years, a vast amount of material – photos, banners, posters, costumes and other memorabilia – has been accumulated and is now in the process of being archived, to form part of the collection of Winchester Museums. Making use of this material, the exhibition will focus on performance, education, 'behind the scenes' and production, and the Hat Fair's unique history.

Butterfly Summer (Saturday 26 July - Sunday 31 August 2008)

This exhibition features work by local artists inspired by the butterfly and the environment in which it lives, particularly the areas of chalk downland that form much of the landscape around Winchester.

In partnership with the Hampshire and Isle of Wight branch of UK Butterfly Conservation, it will focus on the local natural environment of chalk down and water-meadows that surround the City, drawing attention to the recent decline of some of our butterfly populations and highlighting ways in which people can help.

Sir John Colbourne (1778-1863) (Tony Humphrys)

Sir John Colborne's statue stands in the Peninsula Barracks between Long and Short Blocks.

Sir John Colborne distinguished himself as Colonel of the 52nd Foot which repulsed the last desperate charge of Napoleon's Old Guard at the close of the battle of Waterloo (June 18th 1815)

The 52nd (with the 43rd) came to be called the Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire Light Infantry and then became one of the regiments which comprise what is now called The Rifles.

Colborne was born at Lyndhurst in 1778 and at 16 entered the 20th Foot (Lancashire Fusiliers) and thereafter won every step of promotion to full general without purchase.

He was a fighting soldier. He served in Egypt (1801) and in the Peninsula (1809) at Busaco, Torres Vedras, Albuera, Ciudad Rodrigo (where he was badly wounded) and in the Pyrenees and at Waterloo.

Subsequently he was Lieutenant General of Guernsey and Lieutenant General of Canada and was made Baron Seaton in 1839. Then he was appointed High Commissioner of the Ionian Islands (Greece) and Commander in Chief, Ireland and died a full general in 1863.

His bust can be seen on 'Musa' (the arched loggia to the south of War Cloister in Winchester College now used as the Dons' common room)



New Graves in “Paradise” (Tony Humphrys)

If you take visitors past “Paradise” (outside the East end of the Cathedral) they may possibly ask about the newly dug grave and the grave with a new ledger stone.

The newly dug grave is that of Hassan Barnaba Dengani-Tafti, Bishop of Iran, died 29th April 2008, aged 87.

The new ledger stone is that of John V Taylor, born 1914, died 2001. Bishop and Theologian, he worked in Uganda as a missionary and subsequently as Africa Secretary of the Church Missionary Society. He was then Bishop of Winchester 1976-1984.



Winchester connections – the Duke of Wellington’s daughter (Sue Coles)

When I was researching my tour on Dr. Milner, I was intrigued by a reference to the fact that the Duke of Wellington (Arthur Wellesley) paid the fees of one of girls who came with the refugee Benedictine Nuns to what is now the Royal Hotel in 1795. There was an inference that she was either Wellesley’s daughter or that of his brother. I asked Peter Bogan about this and he in turn contacted Jimmy O’Toole in Ireland, an expert on Irish aristocratic families. He has pieced together the following:

Arthur Wellesley, the future Duke of Wellington, was born in May 1769. As a result of a relationship with the Honourable Jane Barnwall, a member of an aristocratic Catholic family he became a father at the tender age of 17 or 18. Perhaps that was why young Arthur was sent off to join the army in 1787! As far as Jane Barnwall was concerned, she was promptly married off to a wealthy Catholic tenant farmer called Hanlon and the child was christened Jane Hanlon. Later the child joined the Benedictine nuns in Brussels and in 1795, when the nuns moved to Winchester, she came with them. The school run by the nuns was regarded as an elite boarding school for the daughters of Catholic families. The parish registers of St. Peter’s Church show that Jane was confirmed on 17th August, 1800.

Jimmy O’Toole in his book “The Carlow Gentry” writes that Jane had pleasing recollections of the great Milner who was the parish priest in Winchester. Jane was

apparently a most cultured woman and also a fine needlewomen. Her descendents still have a piece in silk on satin that was done whilst she was a border at the convent in Winchester.

According to family sources, Arthur Wellesley funded her education and maintained a house in Carlow as a discreet meeting place for himself and his daughter. Jane married a man much older than herself, William O'Callaghan, from a family of wealthy general merchants in Tullow. They had several children, one of whom became a Brigidine nun. Jane died on Christmas Day, 1867, aged 80 and was buried in Grange Cemetery. Her husband had predeceased her two years earlier at the age of 96.

Sources: "The Carlow Gentry" Jimmy O'Toole and (many thanks to) Peter Bogan

A word from the Editor (Denis Howe)

So, what have you all been doing? I'm most grateful to Alison, Tony and Sue for their contributions, but I was also hoping for some articles on experiences from your current guiding activities. So, **please** take your digital camera when you go on the next "different" guiding engagement, take some fun pictures and write us a short article! Go on, Go on, Go on!

...and finally

Does anyone recognise this man? Found wandering in the city by some friendly Winchester Guides who took care of him and dressed his wounds...



Photo by Clare Dixon