



# Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association



## Newsletter



June 2009



### Contents:

- Letter from the Chairman
- Dates for your Diary
- Winchester City Council Update
- Wall Paintings in 43 High Street
- The Winchester Waytes
- Saint Swithun upon Kingsgate – Pew Ends
- Self Criticism amongst the Cathedral Guides
- All roads lead to ???

Editorial Team: Denis Howe 01962 713512 e-mail: [d.f.howe@clara.co.uk](mailto:d.f.howe@clara.co.uk)  
Tony Humphrys 01962 854881 e-mail: [tandm@3mvwinch.fsnet.com](mailto:tandm@3mvwinch.fsnet.com)  
David Sutcliffe 01962 865570 e-mail: [D@sutcliffe677.fsnet.co.uk](mailto:D@sutcliffe677.fsnet.co.uk)

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

We are well into our season of themed tours with some being well supported and others less so. I only had 6 on my High Street tour but on the plus side, I now have a much better understanding of how the High Street developed and also some gems to include in other tours. I am sure it is important to vary what we say on regular tours as it makes it more interesting for us and this usually means it is more interesting for the customers.

I should like to convey my particular thanks to the guides who are doing the Sunday morning tours from outside the Cathedral. We are keeping an eye on the numbers for these tours as I would not wish too many "no shows". Having said that, numbers on rota tours have not been that good although this may be partly due to the recent refurbishment of the TIC. On the plus side, we now have a much brighter looking TIC. I was surprised how much larger it looks. Let's hope it attracts customers to our tours as well.

Thanks to all of you who have volunteered so far for the tours in connection with the KT International conference in September. I should like to encourage a few more of you to volunteer, particularly for the coach tours. I am planning to arrange a recce for the guides doing the Jane Austen tour if there is demand. This will help to consolidate the knowledge obtained during Elizabeth's excellent lectures in the winter. In addition, little guiding is required at either Steventon or Chawton as this will be provided locally. In addition, why not volunteer for the coach trip to the Watercress Line. Your role will primarily be to escort participants and their partners to and from Alresford. This will be a good opportunity to try your hand at coach work without having to worry unduly about guiding content.

We still have little news on the new professional body for guiding. At this rate, 2009-2010 will be a continuation of the status quo! With regards to the proposed Blue Badge Course, Pamela has submitted a revised curriculum to the ITG for accreditation. Subject to approval and sufficient applications, it is hoped to commence the course at the end of September. Please contact Pamela for further information.

One of the items for discussion at the next General Meeting will be the composition of the committee in 2009-2010. I shall have completed my 3 years as Chairman and Angela her 3 years as Secretary. It is important that these roles are filled and if any guides would like to consider one of them please do not hesitate to contact me. There are lots of ideas about how to increase and improve guiding but we do need people to implement them. Please consider volunteering.

Summer is the time for being outdoors and I hope to see as many current and former guides at the Summer walk. Dale is planning an interesting walk for us around Northington on Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> July followed by supper at the Woolpack Inn in Totford.

In the meantime, good guiding this summer

Sue

## Dates for your Diary

### **WATGA Events**

- 11 June (19:00) WATGA General Meeting, Education Centre, Inner Close  
16 July WATGA Summer evening walk in Northington, followed by supper in the "The Woolpack" at Totford. Details soon.  
21 Sept (19:00) WATGA AGM, Guildhall

### **Winchester Events:**

- 2 Jun ->(13:00) Lunchtime Concerts, Winchester Cathedral – most Tuesdays throughout the summer.  
20 Jun 10:00/14:00 Deanery Garden Open Day. For Cathedral events see: <http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/events/3/>  
22 Jun (10:30) Armed forces Flag Raising Event, Great Hall.  
26-28 Jun Festival of Art and Mind, Winchester Discovery Centre  
26 Jun (18:00) Jazz at Wolvesey Castle <http://www.winjazz.com/>  
27 Jun St Cross Fete  
29 Jun – 4 Jul Writers Conference and Book Fair  
2-4 Jul Winchester Hat Fair (34<sup>th</sup> year)  
3-12 Jul Winchester Cathedral Craft and Design Fair  
10-19 Jul The Winchester Festival <http://www.winchesterfestival.co.uk>  
24-26 Jul Open Up, Lighten Up

### **Events in the Local Area**

- Jun-Jul Grange Park Opera <http://www.grangeparkopera.co.uk/>  
Jun- Jul Chawton House Library – various Jane Austen events - see <http://www.chawton.org/news/index.html>  
1-31 Jul Hampshire Food Festival  
16-19 Jul The Glade Festival, Matterley Bowl (previously "Homelands") <http://www.gladefestival.com/2009/>  
8-16 Aug Mid Hants Railway – Days out with Thomas see <http://www.watercressline.co.uk/>

### **"CPD" Events ( i.e. a chance to enhance your knowledge)**

- 9,16,23,30 Aug Tours of Wolvesey Castle by English Heritage (14:00)  
4 Jun – 3 Sep Winchester City Trust evening walks <http://www.cwt.hampshire.org.uk:80/trust/walks09.htm>

### **Winchester Cathedral, special Wed afternoon tours (13:30)**

Tours last approximately 1 hour and 15 minutes. Please reserve places in advance on 01962 857225 as tour places can be limited. No information yet on charges.

- 22 July: A Walk through Living Stones  
29 July: Monks and Their Masters  
5 August: Beauty in Wood  
12 August: 700 Years of Stained Glass  
19 August: Bishops Abounding  
26 August: William Walker – the Winchester Diver  
9 September: Tour of the Cathedral Close  
16 September: Winged Messengers  
23 September: The Life and Times of Jane Austen  
7 October: Our Military Heritage – Service and Sacrifice

## **Winchester City Council Update (Alison Woods)**

### ***Re-opening of tourist information centre (TIC)***

The TIC is now fully open in its usual home on the ground floor of Winchester Guildhall. The TIC team would like to thank the guides for accepting the temporary arrangements in the Courtyard Café with such good spirit.

Do pop in and see our new look TIC. We are really excited to have even more to offer our visitors, including locally made jewellery from the Colour Factory. Please bear with the team whilst the inevitable de-snagging takes place! The TIC is now open from 10am to 5pm Monday to Saturday and 11am to 4pm on Sundays and Bank Holiday Mondays.

### ***New Parchment Street sculpture is flying high***



Parchment Street in Winchester is home to the city's newest landmark, the Kite Flyer.

Created by sculptor Marzia Colonna, the Kite Flyer is a bronze figure of a young man joyfully flying a gilded kite whilst walking across a bridge which spans Parchment Street at a height of nearly 6 metres. The bridge was constructed locally by Denmead's Metal Art Design foundry in the Winchester District.

The new landmark adds to the city's fine collection of sculptures such as Sir Hamo Thornycroft's King Alfred, Elisabeth Frink's Horse and Rider, and Antony Gormley's Sound II in the Cathedral crypt.

### ***Open Up and Step Up***

The economic and cultural services team are organising a programme of free events to mark the Cultural Olympiad open weekend, which takes place from 24 to 26 July 2009. This year's theme is 'Open Up and Step Up'. The event will also include a series of festive Fridays following on from 24 July with activities to promote the early evening economy. Please contact Eloise Appleby, Head of Economic and Cultural Services, at [eappleby@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:eappleby@winchester.gov.uk) if you would like to offer free tours as part of the weekend.

### ***Coming soon: new cricket leaflet and website***

Winchester City Council's tourism service is about to launch a new publication – 'Cricket: Its evolution in Winchester and Hampshire's countryside'. The leaflet offers an opportunity to trace the history of the development of the sport across the county and encourages visitors to uncover the fascinating landmarks of cricket dotted across Hampshire using Winchester as a base.

The leaflet will be launched at a special event on Sunday 21 June during which Roger Johnson of South Today will unveil the John Arlott memorial plaque and a

celebratory cricket match will be played. The leaflet will be available in the TIC and other outlets and will be complemented by a dedicated website [www.cricketingwinchester.co.uk](http://www.cricketingwinchester.co.uk) to provide more in depth information.

### **The wall paintings in 43 High Street (Sue Coles)**

After a recent tour Clare and I needed a coffee and Clare asked whether I had seen the wall paintings in the West Cornwall Pasty shop at No. 43 the High Street. I had not, so we drank our coffee and viewed the paintings. Feeling guilty that I knew nothing about them I contacted the City and looked at the recent conservation report. Below is a summary:

The wall paintings are on plaster above the 1<sup>st</sup> floor fireplace. There are two schemes;

- a) possibly a Royal Coat of Arms dating from the mid to late 16<sup>th</sup> century,
- b) stile and rail panelling scheme with strapwork cartouches and strapwork frieze. By comparing it with other regional examples, this scheme has been dated to early/mid 17<sup>th</sup> century.

In addition there are fragmentary traces of paint on the limestone fireplace. Analysis has identified 3 schemes: One is possibly contemporary with the first scheme on the painted plaster and another is probably 18<sup>th</sup> century (as it contains Prussian Blue).

The house itself has been dated by dendochronology to 1508 although the basement is part of an earlier building. The basement contains flint and stone rubble with dressed stone quoins and dressed stones. The ground floor contains reused dressed limestone, including some decorative work originally thought to be from the Norman palace but now thought to be from Hyde Abbey.

### **The Winchester Waytes (Don Bryan)**

The Winchester Waytes, re- formed during Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II's Golden Jubilee Year, have been recreating the sounds of 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> century Wintanceaster the ancient capital. This Mediaeval Town Band has been filmed on and in the ancient Westgate, situated at the top of Winchester's High Street, the oldest still useable High Street in Europe.



During the halcyon days of Winchester in the 13<sup>th</sup> century the streets of the Capital of England resounded to the “musick” of the Winchester Waytes. As watchmen, city warders and champions of Winchester, the Waytes patrolled the streets and played for civic and ceremonial occasions.



The instrumentation of the ensemble includes recorders, shawms, rackets, cornetts, curtals, bagpipes, bombards, flageolets, doucaines, flutes, hornpipes, panpipes, tabors, nakers, and kettle drums.

The varied wind and percussion ensembles allow for the segregation of both “indoor” and “outdoor” whether for background music for banquets and formal dinners or for fanfares and flourishes and dancing.

Many of the instruments used have their roots in the Late Middle Ages (c1100 – 1400). This variety was due largely to contacts with the Arabs, known at that time as “Saracens”. This was the time of the founding of the great courts and cities, the future employers of the trumpeters in particular.

A CD of the Winchester Waytes can be bought at the TIC..

For information on the instruments see:

[www.communicate.co.uk/hants/winchesterwaytes/](http://www.communicate.co.uk/hants/winchesterwaytes/)

## **Saint Swithun upon Kingsgate – Pew Ends (Tony Humphrys)**

Occasionally there have been enquiries about the initials and dates on the pews.  
 ”Who are these people ?”

In early 1963 the pews were uncomfortable and made of cheap wood. As part of the programme of restoration in the rectorship of Humphrey Llewelyn a 'pew fund' was

started to replace the existing pews with more comfortable ones made of English oak. The work was finished by 1968.

Parishioners who contributed (sums between £20 and £60) were allowed to dedicate a pew (usually, but not always, to a deceased relation) and the initials of the relation and their dates were inscribed on the pew end.

The pew on the north side, next but one from the west, has the initials GEB - which stand for George Edwin Bishop. He was clerk and vergier of St Michael's church for 46 years. (there is a plaque in his memory on the south side (outside) of St Michael's). On the same pew the initials KAB stand for Kitty A Bishop who lived in the same house in Culver Road for all of the 83 years of her life. She is the person most recently to be commemorated

### **Self Criticism amongst the Cathedral Guides (Tony Humphrys)**

In the course of recent training and testing, the new guides and the group of guides who had done the testing, together, recorded their thoughts on leading a tour.

Should we emulate their zeal? Extracts from their notes are shown below:-

“Watch that you don't ignore anyone in the group. Repeat any questions for the whole group to hear”

“Make it a 'look and see tour', not a talk. Don't talk and walk. Change your tour so your approach stays fresh”

“For most visitors a tour is an entertainment rather than a lesson (nor a lecture on the hoof)”

“Don't talk about things that are at a distance (or can't be seen). Get close to items and speak, point and touch to ensure that people know what it is you are talking about.

### **“All roads lead to ???” (Michael Fielding)**

Recently, I was studying a map of Hampshire published around 1904, in the days when Bournemouth was still part of the County. Looking at it reminded me of road maps we had when I was a child for railway lines and stations were also shown. In particular, I wanted to check the line of the A34 and that of the DNS Railway but realised, on inspection, that there was no route number to identify the road from Winchester to Newbury. When, I wondered, did the road numbering system start?

It seems that the first body to develop a classification system was the Automobile Association in 1906, the year after the Association was formed. Their system was not based on numbers but rather on the names of Roman roads\* (e.g. Watling Street) or according to the route taken from London (e.g. The Great North Road).

In 1910, The Government created the Roads Board with the intention that existing roads should be upgraded and new ones built to accommodate the increase in motor traffic. This process was to be funded by the then new road and petrol tax. Work began on the classification of roads in 1913 but the work was suspended during the First World War and did not resume until 1919 with the creation of the Ministry of Transport. The Ministry had authority to classify highways and to allocate funding for road maintenance.

Initial classification dealt only with important routes which connected large areas of population or which handled much through traffic. Such roads were designated Class 1 and a list was published 1922/23. This list was revised in 1926/27 and included roads of lesser importance known as Class II. It would appear that such numbers then started to appear on road atlases. During the early years of classification there was much expansion of the road network and this led to tinkering with the numbering system.

The Local Government Act of 1966 introduced a new classification known as 'principal roads'. Under this Act all the then existing classification legislation was revoked and all roads were renumbered. Principal Roads became 'A' roads and the remaining former Class 1 and Class II roads became 'B' roads. It should be noted that many roads did continue with their old numbers but under new 'A' or 'B' headings. The non-Motorway road numbering system, for England and Wales, is based on a radial system centred on London. There are 6 such zones and a further 3 are centred on Edinburgh: zones 7, 8 and 9. Roads starting in a particular zone take the first digit of their route number from that of the zone. Hampshire comes under zone 3 which includes the Isle of Wight, Dorset and the South West: land south of the A4 and north west of the A3. Routes originating in our region therefore start with "3".

\* Note by the Editor:

It is interesting that, although the Romans built many thousands of miles of roads in Britain, we don't know the names that they used to describe them – we know them only by their Saxon names. Looking at Roman roads on the continent, many were named in honour of the ruling Emperor (always a good idea to keep in with him!) – even though individual Legions should have claimed the credit for the hard work involved building them.

One can only postulate how the roads in Britain were identified. I can almost hear a Roman traffic report from Venta Belgarum “... reports are coming in of a jack-knifed chariot on the A XXXIV – about X miles south of Calleva - and traffic is backed up for several miles”

See [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman\\_roads\\_in\\_Britain](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Roman_roads_in_Britain)