



# Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association



## Newsletter



## MARCH 2007 ISSUE

### Contents:

- Acting Editor's Comments
- Letter from the Chairman
- Dates for your Diary
- Tourist Information Centre Update
- Green Badge Coach Training
- WATGA Website
- Visit to Meon Valley and Itchen Valley churches
- The Winchester's Saxon Bowl
- Summer Walk Enticement
- The Parish of Bentworth
- Brain Teaser
- The 'Marquis of Granby'
- The 'Passing of a Friend'
- Answers to the Brain Teaser

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

### **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.

### **Acting Editor's Comments (David Sutcliffe)**

*While Denis Howe is away enjoying an extended stay 'Down Under', I have volunteered to be your stand-in Editor for the March issue. I am indebted to the help and guidance given by Tony Humphrys and hope that you find this copy is up to the usual standard. Happy reading.*

## Letter from the Chairman (Sue Coles)

Dear Guides,

We started off the New Year with an excellent party and record numbers in attendance (see photograph below). Thanks very much to all involved, particularly Lis, Judy, Kate and Angela, and all those who coped with the mountain of washing up at the end!



Photograph by Denis Howe

Whilst not wishing to change a successful format, the record number does create its own problems and we are looking at ways of making the organisation less onerous both before and after the party.

For those of you who missed the Stained Glass course at the cathedral, it was a real treat. Members' donations to the cathedral contributed to the printing costs for the excellent stained glass booklet produced by the cathedral in conjunction with the course. It's good to see we are developing closer links with the cathedral and one result of this is that Angela has negotiated a favourable rate for the Taylor

Room (1<sup>st</sup> floor of the Education Centre) for our next General Meeting (the Carpenter Turner room is unavailable because of building works). In addition, we are offering cathedral guides 2 free tours of the city - a City Highlights tour and a tour focussing on the Eastern end of Winchester.

Because of the lack of accreditation for the recent coach course, we reluctantly decided to cancel the exam. Although the course provided valuable training of the area and coaching techniques, the attitude taken by the ITG was extremely frustrating. Attendance certificates will be issued to those who did the coach technique day and the Mayor will present these certificates on 14<sup>th</sup> March. The cancellation of the exam also means that we are unable to claim part of our Community Chest award. However, the purchase of the portable microphone for coach use has gone ahead.

With the new guiding season about to start, can I make the annual plea to all guides: Please make sure that your tour dates are clearly in your diaries and that you remember to contact the TIC by 9 am on the day of the tour.

Also remember that new rates apply for cathedral entry from 1<sup>st</sup> April:

Short visit:	£2 (children under 16 free in family group)
Full tour:	£3 (children under 16 free in family group) including entry to Library and Triforium Gallery if open.
Foreign language students:	£2 with free entry for accompanying adults.

We have an exciting programme of special tours this year, starting off on March 3<sup>rd</sup> with the Historic Series. In addition to an enjoyable afternoon for your friends and relatives, the Historic Series are excellent CPD. We are still finalising our contribution to the Year of the Sculpture and if any guides have tours with a sculpture/art theme they would like to offer, particularly in September and October, please contact Pam Boyes.

I hope that you approve of the new website, see [www.winchestertouristguides.com](http://www.winchestertouristguides.com). I think it is excellent and particular thanks to Geraldine and her son Ian for their work.

On a sadder note, many of you will know that Richard Sawyer died recently. He was involved in the Welcome to Winchester guides, the forerunner to WATGA and with his wife played a leading role in early training courses. His particular interest was military history.

Finally, I should like to thank guides for their generous contributions to the presents for Stuart Fensome and Barbara Basford. Stuart has been a key person in the TIC for many years and we shall miss him.

Good guiding in 2007.

### **Dates for your diary**

Wednesday, 14<sup>th</sup> March – "Charles II, Winchester and Newmarket, the search for a country seat" lecture by Dr Simon Thurley, Chief Executive of English Heritage at The Guildhall. Dr Thurley will entice us with the story of Charles II's attempt to create an 'English Versailles' in Winchester. As a leading architectural historian, he has written several books including one about the King's House, but this is the first time he will have spoken on the topic to a local audience. Tickets for the talk, priced at £10 for adults and £8 for concessions, are available from the Tourist Information Centre.

Sunday, 18<sup>th</sup> March - A guided walk on the King's Palace & the Peninsula Barracks around the site of Sir Christopher Wren's unfinished palace for Charles II, led by Tony Newing. This walk is in association with the Winchester Museum Service lecture by Dr Thurley on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. The walk starts at the Romsey Road Entrance to Peninsula Square.

Thursday, 29<sup>th</sup> March - Chris Maxse's car-based tour of East Meon and other parts of the Meon Valley, including a visit to Southwick House to see the Map Room where the D-day invasion was planned.

1st April - Queen Eleanor Medieval Garden Open Day

3rd to 30<sup>th</sup> May – "Anne Frank and You" exhibition at the Great Hall.

21<sup>st</sup> September to 10<sup>th</sup> January 2008 - Exhibition of work by the artist, Damien Hirst in the Great Hall

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

#### **Winchester City Pocket Guide**

Winchester Tourism has been able to offer Winchester's Official Tourist Guides a free advertisement (worth £480 plus VAT) in this year's *Pocket Guide*. The Pocket Guide, which is intended as a practical guide of things to do once visitors are here, is a good medium for advertising guided tours. It is dispatched on a wide distribution. Although it is not always possible to offer this space when there is a high level of interest from paying advertisers, we are pleased when the opportunity does arise to help the guides with some free publicity.

### Silver Hill Model goes on display in TIC

A model of the modified plans for the Silver Hill development in Winchester will be on display in the Tourist Information Centre until 26<sup>th</sup> February. Thornfields, the developer, has submitted these plans to the city council planners ready for consideration by the planning committee in the spring.

Key changes made as a result of public consultation held in the summer 2006 include: reducing the dense mass of buildings; creating more variety of height in key street elevations; enlargement of two further areas in the new pedestrian zone; changing the materials used on some facades; additional tree planting and landscaping; and an increase in the amount of affordable housing to 40% of the total, to meet Winchester's new housing policy.

Further detailed information about the plans can be found at: [www.silverhill-winchester.info](http://www.silverhill-winchester.info). The information is also available at Winchester City Council's Planning Department, Avalon House, Chesil Street, Winchester SO23 0HU, 8.30 am to 5 pm, Monday to Friday.

### A fond farewell to Stuart Fensome & Barbara Basford

It's with much sadness that we bade farewell to Stuart Fensome, Senior Information Assistant who left the TIC at the end of January to take up a new role in IT at Totton College. Barbara Basford, Information Assistant, also left in early February to join her husband in foreign travels, and is currently exploring New Zealand. Both were very touched with their generous leaving gifts from the Winchester Area Tourist Guides.

Rick Weeks, an archaeology graduate from the University of Winchester and a part-time custodian at Wolvesey and Bishop's Waltham, has stepped into Barbara's shoes and will be working Wednesdays, Fridays and some weekends. We are currently recruiting for Stuart's replacement. Please bear with us while we are replacing them and training the new crew.

### Green Badge Coach Training 26 January and 2 February (Acting Editor)

A thoroughly enjoyable day was had by both Blue Badge and Green Badge Guides who took part in the Coach Familiarisation Training Day on Friday, 26<sup>th</sup> January when we toured the Itchen Valley in the morning and the Meon Valley in the afternoon. Many interesting sights with particular historical significance were pointed out by Pamela Boyes and Chris Maxse, who took turns with the microphone. A stop was made at Chawton for an exclusive visit to Jane Austen's house where Tom Carpenter welcomed the guides and answered their questions - see photograph right.



Photograph by Colin Cook

Later in the day a further stop was made to enjoy a historic walk around Wickham led by members of the Wickham History Society - see photograph on next page.

A week later it was the turn of the Green Badge Guides to re-board the coach to practise their microphone technique and relay the knowledge gained from researching a section of each route allocated to each guide.

A stop was made to visit the Chawton House Library to include a conducted tour. This was a highlight of the day being able to see the extensive conservation work carried out by the charity established ten years ago by the American entrepreneur and philanthropist, Sandy Lerner and her husband.



Photograph by Colin Cook

As the day drew to the close a final stop was made at Bishops Waltham Palace where it had been specially opened to allow a walk round the grounds led by Geraldine Buchanan.

A special thanks to Pamela Boyes for all the work involved in planning and co-ordination of the two training days, with the certificates of “attendance” to be presented by the Mayor at a later date.

### **WATGA Website (Acting Editor)**

The WATGA website is now up and running accessible via your usual Service Provider by clicking on <http://www.winchestertouristguides.com>. Well done to Geraldine Buchanan, her son, Ian and the website sub-committee members for their work in achieving this. As yet it is not possible to log-on via Google or another search engine but this facility will soon be available.

### **Visit to Itchen Valley and Meon Valley churches (Helen Sutcliffe)**

On the 31<sup>st</sup> January several Blue Badge and Green Badge Guides met up at Bishops Waltham to visit some of the churches in both the Itchen and Meon Valleys. What a feast of churches: from the 12<sup>th</sup> century wall paintings of St Swithun in the Saxon church at Corhampton, to Tichborne with the Tichborne family Roman Catholic chapel within the Anglican church, to the mahogany box pews with hat/wig pegs at Avington’s Georgian church, and the Tracey Sheppard glass etchings at St Nicholas church, Wickham (see photographs right and on next page).



St Andrews church

Photograph by Colin Cook



The Tracey Sheppard Window  
St Nicholas church, Wickham



The tomb of Sir Benjamin Tichborne and wife 1621

Both photographs by Angela George

This was only a taster of the many churches visited and we thank Chris Maxse for his very passionate and knowledgeable leadership throughout the day.

### **The Winchester's Saxon Bowl (Colin Cook)**

(Photographs courtesy of Winchester Museums Service except where shown)

*For those of us who have not had the opportunity of seeing the Saxon bowl that was on display outside the Guildhall Gallery over the Christmas period\*, or attending the lecture given by Professor Barbara Yorke, here is an account of how it was found and of what it tells us about Saxon society in Winchester in the late seventh century.*



In August 1930, land was being cleared at Oliver's Battery for the erection of new houses and a shopping parade west of the site of an old prehistoric earthwork. A skeleton of a young Saxon man 5'9" tall (aged about 25-30) was discovered. On his breast lay a rare and beautiful bowl of beaten bronze with bright red enamelled fittings and suspension hooks, each one in the shape of a heron's head. It came to be known as the

Winchester Hanging Bowl.

Even by standards of the time the excavation was of a low standard. There are no location maps or plans, the recording of the grave goods was shoddy, and the body was left *in situ*. The site also had evidence of being a Romano-British enclosure in the first century AD occupying a commanding position across the Itchen Valley.



There were two other objects with the burial, a 'seax' or long knife with a silver pommel (a quite unusual find), probably used for hunting, and a javelin, now too fragile to display. The grave goods and the prominent position of the burial on the earthwork proclaimed the man's high status – perhaps that of a chieftain (or 'thegn').

There are twenty seven other Saxon sites so far discovered in England which contain hanging bowls, all dating from this period, Most recently, the Prittlewell site has revealed

more about the purpose of the bowl. In two sites they were found with remains of crab apples and onions in them. (St Cuthbert was very fond of onions on Lindisfarne). The nearest bowls found were at Ford (near Old Sarum) and Berkshire Downs. Many had a richer collection of grave goods, but the Winchester burial may have been influenced by the introduction of Christianity a generation before. The old Saxon burial tradition of placing in the grave useful and treasured items was still being adhered to until the early eighth century, despite the adoption of Christian beliefs. This grave is difficult to date as no coins were found, but these and other artefacts might be beneath it, if only it could be found again!



Photograph by Colin Cook

The Winchester Hanging Bowl measures 11” in diameter and is 5” high. The shape and decoration of the bowl show that it was of late seventh century British manufacture, possibly acquired through trade, as a gift, as loot, or commissioned from a native metalworker. Accompanied by a mix of both pagan and Christian symbols – the ‘trumpet spirals’ design, on a red enamel background confirm it is not of Anglo-Saxon manufacture, and places it in the west of Britain, perhaps even Wales where Celtic/Irish artists were found then. The closest parallel is with the *Book of Durrow* (c.700), produced in either Ireland or Scotland. A bowl mould was found in Malmesbury. It is unlikely to have been battle booty.

Gifts such as these were exchanged with

marriage contracts. The lineage of Cerdic, an early king of the West Saxons, was British, so it is logical that marriage gifts would be Celtic in origin.

Filled with clear liquid, so that the decoration inside would be seen. It was probably used for ceremonial feasts, and otherwise kept hanging in the thegn’s hall, when the more complex design on the underside would be visible (see right). Similar bowls have been found on church sites, where they would have held holy water.



At Prittlewell, the hanging bowl that was found was evidently hung on the wall of the grave ‘room’, much as it would have been in a Saxon thegn’s hall house. There is a school of thought that suggests the bowls held oil, and a wick for providing light, but all the light would have been reflected upwards, and this would have been very impractical. The Winchester Bowl is of medium size compared with the others, but was too big to wassail from, and too small to be a punch bowl. Yorke surmises that it was used for washing hands before a meal, and, unlike the rest of the household, who would have had to go outside to the nearest stream or well to wash, the thegn’s ablutions could be accomplished in the relative privacy of his own



accomplished in the relative privacy of his own

chamber. The *Fonthill Letter* (c.900) refers to King Alfred washing his hands.

Our man may have been amongst the last to be buried in Winchester in the heroic Anglo-Saxon manner – although he was buried east-west, which may suggest some Christian influence from the church in the valley (Old Minster) established around his birth.

But what was his status? He was not a king, unlike at Sutton Hoo or Prittlewell – there were just not enough grave goods. He was probably in charge of a sub-division of the king's lands, as a thegn or reeve. The old Roman road between Winchester and Old Sarum links this discovery with that at Ford. The sword denotes qualities and status – someone well up the 'pecking order'.



The site was prominent in the locality, and, after his death, would have provided a constant reminder to the population of the king's continuing authority. The discovery at Oliver's Battery finds an echo in the account of a ship burial from the Anglo-Saxon epic poem *Beowulf*.

'They laid their beloved prince, the ring-giver, on the breast of the ship. By the mast they laid the famous one... On his bosom laid a pile of treasures that were to go far away from him into the possession of the flood'

*Beowulf, the funeral of King Sclyd, written c.700*

\* The bowl was on loan from British Museum to mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Oliver's Battery Parish and the culmination of a two year community project to rediscover the archaeology and history of the area.

### **Summer Walk Enticement (Dale Greenwood)**

The summer walk seems to have become a happy part of our social programme. The "purpose" of the event is really threefold:

- It offers a pleasant evening out in the countryside when we have generally been fortunate with the weather, apart from last year!
- It provides an opportunity for our husbands/wives/partners and friends to join us for an enjoyable evening together.
- It enables us to visit a tourist attraction/site "off the beaten track" which would not otherwise be easily accessible: Lower Eldon Church and Clarendon Palace are good examples.

A date for the diaries of all guides is that the walk this year will take place on Monday, 2nd July and we plan to visit Bentworth, in a part of Hampshire which may be little known to many Guides. The probable venue for starting the walk will be at 'the Star' public house, subject to confirmation. The walk will include a visit to the church of St Mary's in the village.

Did you know for example that Cliddesden, Herriard, and Bentworth and Lasham once boasted railway stations on the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway, which closed to traffic in 1937? More on the railway may be the subject of a future newsletter article.

The next article has some interesting facts about the Parish of Bentworth which should make the planned walk that little bit more interesting, so read on...

### **The Parish of Bentworth (Dale Greenwood)**

Almost all the land in the Parish is within the 500 to 700 feet contours and there is no surface water. To meet the need for water, every farm and small settlement had at least one pond and often several. Most of these have now been filled in, but they still account for bends in the road and areas of scrub on the verge.

Although originally a Saxon settlement (it became a Royal Manor during the reign of Edward the Confessor), the history of Bentworth really begins in the 12th century when Henry I granted the manor to his friend, Geoffrey, the Archbishop of Rouen.

The modern village is lucky in that two buildings survive from this period - the medieval hall house, now Hall Place, and the handsome church which owes its grandeur to the munificence of Geoffrey and succeeding Archbishops of Rouen.

The arcades of the church with round columns and pointed arches date from about 1175 and so does the chancel arch. The beautiful priest's doorway and the triple lancet east window with dog-tooth ornament date about 1250. The nave in particular is an excellent example of the transitional period between Norman and the new Early English architecture. Of particular interest is the Jubilee Window to the west of the South door to mark the Queen's Silver Jubilee. It was commemorated in 1978 by the Archbishop of Rouen in the presence of John Taylor, Bishop of Winchester.

In the churchyard is the Bentworth Thorn, which comes from a grafting of the Holy Thorn of Glastonbury!

### **Brain Teaser (David Sutcliffe)**

As a one-off in this issue, a quiz is included for our guides to test their knowledge. You will find the answers at the end of the newsletter. No prizes I'm afraid but if you would like another quiz let the Editorial Team know!

- Q1. What unusual occupation has the sculptor David Harber (the Millennium Sundial) previously had?
- Q2. Where was Baron Seaton's statue originally situated?
- Q3. What is Winchester College also known as?
- Q4. What is the name of the Saxon earl who lost his head at St Giles Hill and in what year?
- Q5. Which architect is responsible for re-building Morley College and the rear of the present Guildhall?
- Q6. Who was the Roundhead who protected Wykeham's tomb from desecration by his fellow men-of-arms?
- Q7. Who led the Winchester riots in 1908 and what was the cause?
- Q8. Which famous English general dined at the White Hart Inn (now JJB sports shop)?
- Q9. How many husbands did Queen Emma have and who were they?
- Q10. Which former Dean of Winchester was a member and then became a Fellow of the Linnaean Society.

### **The 'Marquis of Granby' (Tony Humphrys)**

Why are so many Pubs called the Marquis of Granby?

The Marquis of Granby (1721-1770) was second in command of the cavalry at the Battle of Minden (1751). In that battle the Hampshire Regiment (37th Foot) distinguished itself and so on the anniversary day of the battle, wear 'Minden' roses in their caps.

The Marquis of Granby was an able cavalry general and as Colonel of 'The Blues' lead a charge so energetically that his wig blew off. His bald pate glistening in the sun became a guiding light to his men and so it is said gave the language the expression "going for it bald-headed".

He was acclaimed as a hero by the Georgian 'mob' and by old soldiers whose welfare was always his concern.

He was very rich and married a very rich lady and expressed the opinion that the whole point of having plenty of money was to be able to give lots of it away!

When his disabled senior non-commissioned officers retired he set them up as innkeepers. Hence the large number of pubs named the Marquis of Granby. The signs of such pubs often feature a bald headed figure.

Alas, there are no Marquis of Granby pubs listed in the yellow pages of the Southampton telephone directory - 'The Blues' didn't recruit in this area and so their old soldiers didn't retire here.

### **The 'Passing of a Friend' (James King: copyright owned by Julie Blakey)**

Today we mourn the passing of a beloved old friend, Common Sense, who has been with us for many years. No one knows for sure how old he was since his birth records were long ago lost in bureaucratic red tape. He will be remembered as having cultivated such valuable lessons as knowing when to come in out of the rain, why the early bird gets the worm, that life isn't always fair, and maybe it was my fault.

Common Sense lived by simple, sound financial policies (don't spend more than you earn) and reliable parenting strategies (adults, not children, are in charge).

His health began to deteriorate rapidly when well intentioned but overbearing regulations were set in place. Reports of a six-year-old boy charged with sexual harassment for kissing a classmate; teens suspended from school for using mouthwash after lunch; and a teacher fired for reprimanding an unruly student, only worsened his condition.

Common Sense lost ground when parents attacked teachers for doing the job they themselves failed to do in disciplining their unruly children.

It declined even further when schools were required to get parental consent to administer Panadol, sun lotion or a sticky plaster to a student - but could not inform the parents when a student became pregnant and wanted to have an abortion.

Common Sense lost the will to live as the Ten Commandments became contraband and criminals received better treatment than their victims. It took another beating when you couldn't defend yourself from a burglar in your own home and the burglar could sue you for assault.

He finally gave up the will to live after a woman failed to realize that a steaming cup of coffee was hot - she spilled a little in her lap, and was promptly awarded a huge settlement by the court.

Common Sense was preceded in death by his parents - Truth and Trust; his wife - Discretion; his daughter - Responsibility; and his son - Reason.

He is survived by three stepbrothers - I Know My Rights, Someone Else is to Blame, and I'm A Victim.

Not many attended his funeral because so few realized he was gone.

Editor's note: Grateful thanks to Julie Blakey for providing this contribution to James King.

### **Answers to the Brian Teaser**

- A1. Owner of a travelling theatre barge in Europe. He has also been a rock-climbing teacher, apprentice thatcher and potter. Started creating sundials in 1992.
- A2. Originally placed in the grounds of Government House, Devonport, near Plymouth, re-sited in Crownhill Army Barracks which were subsequently re-named Seaton Barracks. Seaton's descendents gained approval for his statue to be re-located to Peninsula Barracks when the barracks closed.
- A3. St Mary of Winton at Winton. The college is dedicated to the Blessed Virgin Mary of Winchester as depicted by the fine statue over the main gateway.
- A4. Earl of Waltheof, 1<sup>st</sup> Earl of Huntingdon and Northampton conspired against William the Conqueror and was beheaded. Allegedly his head rolled down the hill before toppling into the River Itchen. The year was 1075.
- A5. J B Colson who also did restoration work (as did his son, also John) on the west front of the cathedral.
- A6. Nathaniel Fiennes, who had stayed at Winchester School in December 1642.
- A7. Joe Dumper led citizens in an uprising over the move of a Russian gun captured in the Crimea war to St Giles Hill from its former site near the Broadway. Oddly he was made a police constable to quell the crowds!
- A8. The Duke of Wellington, who dined when he was the 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant of Hampshire.
- A9. Two. Ethelred II 'the Unready' and King Canute.
- A10. Thomas Garnier (1766-1873).

### **And Finally....**

I hope you have enjoyed reading this bumper issue. Please continue to produce articles (in Word format i.e. .doc files), especially the Blue Badge Guides who could whet our appetites with their wide knowledge and experiences, not necessarily in Winchester but in pastures far and wide.