



Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association



Newsletter



MARCH 2008 ISSUE



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Letter from the Chairman (Sue Coles)

The year started off well with one of the best – and certainly the largest – New Year party. It was good to see so many of our former colleagues and particularly Creina and Matthew who made a special journey from Wales to be with us. We raised a record sum on the raffle and so our Treasurer was beaming all the way to the bank.

I should also like to welcome two new Associate members – Doreen and Brian Barrett from Wickham. Many guides will remember them from the excellent walking tour of Wickham that we did as part of the Meon Valley training. They are also Portsmouth guides and so as well as attending our social and training events I hope that they will be able to provide us with a greater insight into S.E. Hampshire.

There have been some excellent training and social events over the winter with a good mix of Winchester and the surrounding area. In March, many of you are attending the First Aid course and we need to thank Winchester City Council for subsidising this event.

I should also like to thank Hampshire County Council for inviting us to a preview of the Alfred exhibition “Warfare, Wealth + Wisdom” at the Discovery Centre. It provided us with an excellent opportunity to learn more about Alfred and his times and of course see the wonderful jewels.

March 2008 is traditionally the time to look forward to the new season. We have some excellent themed tours; the season kicks off with the Historic Heroes and Personalities and continues with the Street Series. Both will offer a fascinating picture of Winchester and for guides they are excellent CPD. The £2 rate for guides continues; simply pay the guide direct. The tour sub-committee are to be thanked for producing such an excellent programme.

With the new season upon us, marketing remains one of our biggest challenges. We need your help, particularly with spreading the word to other organisations. If you have links to a particular organisation, we can provide fliers and posters. Please get in touch if you can help. In the slightly longer term, we want to train additional guides in the process of updating the website. If you feel this is an area that you would like to tackle, please let me know.

The Institute of Tourist Guiding (ITG) and the Guild of Registered Tourist Guides have announced their next attempt at a single structure, this time without the involvement of the Association of Professional Tourist Guides. At this stage we don't know what the new structure will look like but Pamela is taking an active role and I am sure she will represent the needs of regional associations such as Winchester. There will also be an opportunity for members to comment on any new structure.

Wishing you all a good guiding season.

Sue

Dates for your diary

General Meetings:

Thursday 12th June 7 pm General Meeting 1st Floor Cathedral Education Centre
Monday 22nd September 7 pm AGM The Guildhall

Exhibitions:

Until Sunday 27th April 2008: Alfred the Great: Warfare, Wealth and Wisdom at the Discovery Centre, Winchester. For information on remaining events associated with the Alfred Exhibition and also details of exhibitions at the City Space - see <http://www3.hants.gov.uk/wdc.htm>

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

Lectures:

Thursdays 6th March, 10th March, 3rd April, 1st May and 8th May Architecture Lecture Series (Various lectures on architecture in Winchester) – see <http://www.wpt.hampshire.org.uk/trust/papers/riba.pdf>.

Special events:

Friday 21st March 6 pm – 9 pm: The Winchester Passion; Scenes showing the Easter story will be performed at various locations around the city centre, culminating in the crucifixion in the cathedral grounds - see www.thewinchesterpassion.org.uk.

15 – 18th May MayFest Folk and Roots Festival – see <http://www.winmayfest.co.uk>

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

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.

Tourist Information Centre (TIC) Update (Alison Woods)

Staff Update

Alison Parker will join the Winchester Tourist Information Centre team, as a part-time information assistant, on 2 April. Alison, who is currently working at Southampton Airport, will work Wednesdays and Fridays and some weekends. Not to be confused with Alison Woods, Tourist Information Centre Manager!

Karen Brazier, Tourism Marketing Manager, left the city council on 11 January for her new role as Communications and Marketing Manager at Bryanston School - another classy product, but rather nearer to her new country cottage in Dorset! Karen has been an inspirational marketing manager, completely changing the look

and feel of our print and web presence, and winning plaudits from Visit Britain in the process. Her ready smile, sympathetic approach and stylish dress sense will be missed, as well as her excellent technical skills and encyclopaedic knowledge of the district. I know we are anxious about the very big shoes she will leave for her predecessor to fill but we will be sure to find a worthy successor, when we interview for a replacement on 2 April.

Valerie Greenwood, Tourist Marketing Officer, will be retiring on 4 April 2008. She is looking forward to having more time to look after her house and garden, to travel and to enter more long distance runs. She will also be volunteering at Marwell Zoological Park.

Tourist Information Centre Easter opening times

Good Friday	10am to 4pm
Easter Saturday	10am to 5pm
Easter Sunday	11am to 4pm
Easter Monday	10am to 4pm

The staff at the tourist Information Centre would like to wish all the guides a happy Easter.

FREE Pocket Guide advertisement

Winchester Tourism has been able to offer Winchester's Official Tourist Guides a FREE advertisement (worth £495 plus VAT) in this year's Pocket Guide. The Pocket Guide a practical guide of things to do once visitors are here, is a good medium for advertising guided tours. It has a print run of 450,000 and is distributed to tourist information centres, B&Bs, hotels, shops and restaurants in the city centre and within two hours' drive of Winchester.

The new guide should be ready in time for Easter.

What do you think about traffic, roads and cycling in Winchester?

People who live and work in and around the city centre are being asked their views on a draft Town Access Plan for Winchester, and the proposed High Street maintenance and improvement scheme.

A public exhibition will be held at Winchester Guildhall in the Saxon Suite on 7 March from 1pm to 6pm, and 8 March from 10am to 1pm. If you can't make it to the exhibition, complete an online questionnaire at

www.winchester.gov.uk/winchestertownaccessplan.

The Winchester Town Access Plan (WTAP) and the High Street project are being developed by Hampshire County Council and Winchester City Council

The WTAP will follow on from the Winchester Movement and Access Plan, developed in the early 1990s, and aims to preserve and enhance the city's streetscape whilst encouraging economic prosperity and improving accessibility for all.

The exhibition will explore a number of issues such as walking and cycling, public transport, traffic management, parking, 'shared space' environments, and their desired affects over the next 10-20 years.

Mayor's Choice 2008 Exhibition City Space

Winchester Then and Now is the latest exhibition at the City Space in Winchester's Discovery Centre and runs until 27 April 2008.

It has become a tradition and delight each year for the current Mayor to delve into the collection and select a small group from the museum's archives for public display. This year the elected Mayor, Chris Pines, has concentrated on watercolours - mostly from the 19th century.

To complement the theme of 'then and now', a selection of objects from Winchester Museums' extensive reserve collections, rarely seen by the public, will be displayed with their modern equivalents. Some objects, like the Bronze Age axe, have changed remarkably little despite 3,000 years of progress.

INTECH's Planetarium

The UK's largest Planetarium will open at INTECH Science Centre, Winchester, at Easter. This huge domed cinema places you right in the action, giving the illusion of floating through space and time. For further information, see www.intech-uk.com.

Memorial Sculptures in Winchester Cathedral (Frances Brook)

A number of WATGA Guides were privileged to attend a Winchester Cathedral study group run by Denise Willows. This consisted of two lectures and a guided walk around the Cathedral to see the memorials.

Lecture 1 - Early History

In the 5th and 7th centuries ecclesiastical councils confirmed that no bodies should be buried within a church. Later on saints and royalty became exceptions, but early burials weren't named and often a sarcophagus was empty. The introduction of effigies made identification easier and the first of these in Winchester was Peter des Roches who died 1238. Dates of tombs were often estimated from style and the materials. Purbeck marble which was used a great deal in the 13th century tends to deteriorate if the skin is broken but has the advantage that it can be painted. True marble from abroad is more expensive and can be seen in many of the later monuments, and then there is alabaster which is the softest on Moh's scale (a scale for the hardness of rock). This is easily carved when newly quarried and there are seams in the north of England.

Lecture 2 -Post Reformation

This focused mostly on post Reformation memorials with changes in artistic style and epitaphs. If we should need help with Latin translations of epitaphs these are available. For specific research on a monument after the founding of the Hampshire Chronicle (1772) there are interesting accounts of their installation - sometimes relating fierce reactions from the public. Another resource is handbooks with details of the various monuments which the Cathedral guides hold and would be happy for

us to peruse. Sue Coles will have a copy. In their library they also have a book called "The Great Screen" with details of the statues on it.

Visit to Cathedral

It was interesting to discover all sorts of amusing details on tombs which most of us had never noticed before. Just to mention a few ...on the frieze inside the Waynflete Chantry for example is a mermaid and King Nebuchadnezer eating grass, the sarcophagus of Bishop Willis has lions' feet with savage looking claws, John Vaughan's memorial has lovely birds and plants - as he was especially fond of them. On other monuments there are elephants, pelicans on the nest, wild boar, dolphins and snakes. You will not find any Jacobean tombs with weepers along the sides, examples of which can be seen in other cathedrals, Westminster Abbey and some parish churches. Winchester Cathedral, however, has an outstanding collection - considered the best by many - of Chantry Chapels.

Besides enlightening us on the wealth of wonderful memorials in the Cathedral, we also enjoyed Denise's anecdotes about the departed and the artists and sculptors who created their monuments, and we thank the Cathedral guides for giving us the opportunity for us to join them for this study group.

The Cathedral Tombs, Monuments and Memorials (John Flood)

The recent three part course has brought to life an important part of the Cathedral's history. One early tomb and one memorial have been selected for study, based on knowledge gained on the course.

Arnaud de Gaveston (d. 1302) - The effigy of a knight in armour with crossed legs and a lion at his feet is often taken as that of a crusader knight. In de Gaveston's case there is no evidence that he was ever a crusader and the crossed legs merely indicate a stylish way of standing.

De Gaveston originated from France. He came to England having been made a hostage to King Edward I by his French overlord; a common practice in those times. De Gaveston soldiered in Wales for Edward. Such was the esteem that the king felt for him that he sent a length of gold cloth and money for de Gaveston's funeral. This tomb represents one of the earliest lay burials in the Cathedral. The tomb is separated from its heraldic backing, which lies under the altar in the Guardian Angels Chapel. De Gaveston's son was Piers Gaveston, the 'favourite' of King Edward II. Both he and Edward were murdered*

Sir John Clobery (d.1687/88) - Sir John was one of the Army officers who assisted General Monk in restoring King Charles II to the throne in 1660. He was well rewarded with an annual pension of £600 per annum. He became an MP and lived in Clobery House in Parchment St. He fought for James II at Sedgemoor in 1685. The memorial, by Sir William Wilson, was one of the first free standing figures in the country. It is also one of the largest memorials in the Cathedral. This was a new type of memorial, with a doorway surrounding the figure itself and with no overt reference to Christianity.

Examination of an early print shows that originally pikes and axes adorned the shield above Sir John's head. These have since disappeared; as indeed has his original staff of office, which was stolen. It has been replaced by a less attractive but functional broom handle! Sir John's family members are buried in the floor in front of his memorial.



Lion at the feet of Sir Arnaud de Gaveston (photo Tony Humphrys)



Sir John Clobery's memorial (photo Tony Humphrys)

***Edward II's "favourites" (from notes by Judy Simmons)**

Edward II's first love was Piers Gaveston, later Earl of Cornwall. He was captured in 1312 by a coalition of noblemen and beheaded at Blacklow Hill, Warwick.

See - http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Piers_Gaveston

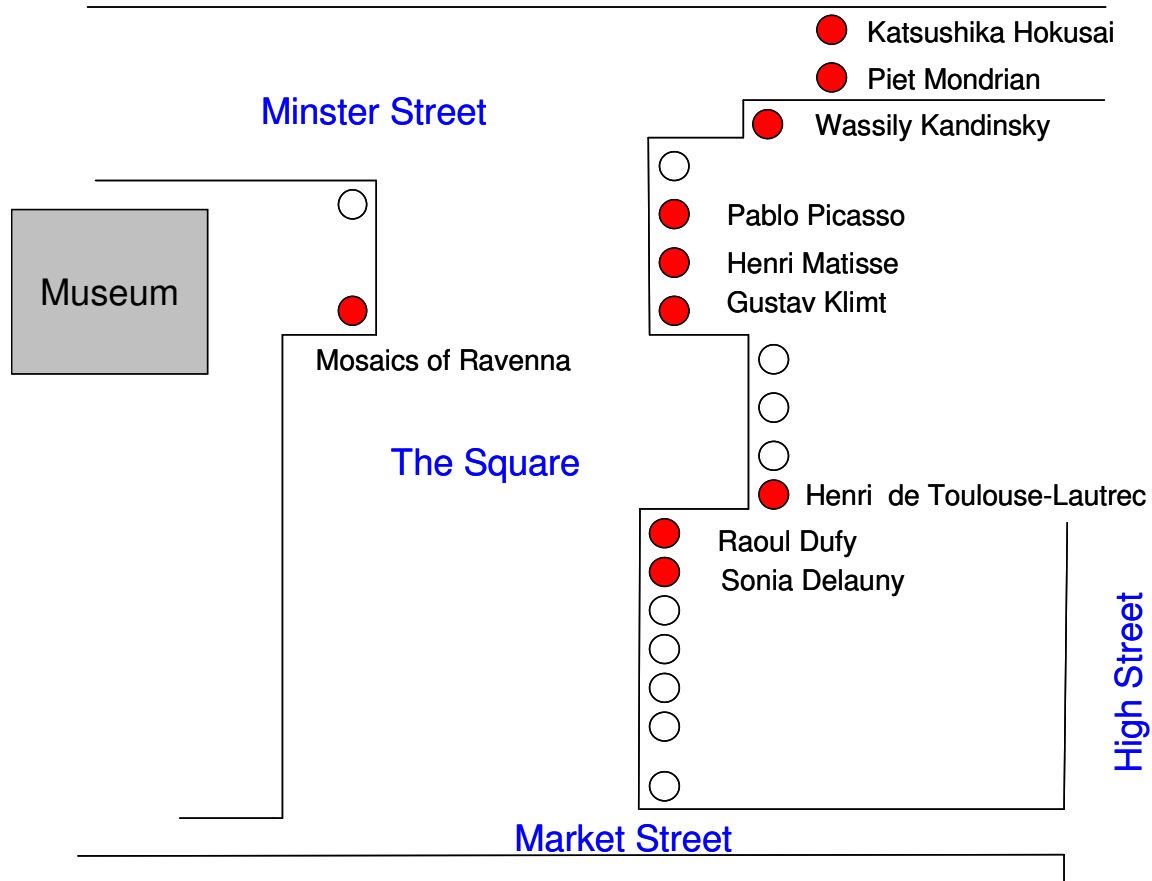
Edward's later favourite was Sir Hugh Despenser, executed at Hereford in 1326 and buried at Hulton Abbey, Staffordshire. Recently, remains of a mutilated body have been found in the abbey graveyard. These bear the hallmarks of having been hung drawn and quartered and are presumed to be the remains of Sir Hugh.

The Bollards in 'The Square' (Tony Humphrys & Angela George)

These bollards have been painted by artists who occupy the 'Colour Factory' in the style of different well known artists, as indicated on the chart below.

There are two painters in the 'Colour Factory' as well as other artists who work in glass, mixed media [film and video] and embroidery.

The workshops are situated in the old Park Keeper's house, off to the right as you face the Recreation Centre in Gordon Road. [tel: 01962 870789]



Mosaics of Ravenna (photo Tony Humphrys)



Piet Mondrian (photo Denis Howe)

Out and About with the Winchester Guides (Denis Howe)

You would think that the Winter would be a quiet time for the Winchester Guides before the hectic of the Summer. Not so! - a commendable variety of special walks and events have been organised by hardworking members. Amongst there were:

A preview of the King Alfred Exhibition at the Discovery Centre



Chairman Sue Coles with Professor Barbara Yorke of the University of Winchester and Kirsty Nutbeen of Hampshire County Council (photo Denis Howe)



The "jewel" of the Exhibition (The Alfred Jewel from the Ashmolean Museum) (photo Denis Howe)

The famous Snowdrop Walk at Warnford Park organised by Chris Maxse



Warnford Park showing the church of Our Lady of Warnford

(photo Denis Howe)

A walk to Horsebridge and Eldon organised by Dale Greenwood



"The Last train's gone!" - Horsebridge Station

(photo Colin Cook)

A word from the Editors (Denis Howe)

Well, that's it folks! Many thanks for the contributions and photos. I announced in the last edition that David Sutcliffe would be the editor for this edition as Ann and I were going to Australia. Sadly, less than a week before our departure we found that Ann needed an urgent operation and the trip was postponed. We are now booked to go to Australia in November and David has kindly volunteered to be the editor for the December edition. I know that the busy guiding season is approaching, but PLEASE think about an article that you can contribute for the June edition – and PLEASE remember to slip your digital camera into your pocket when you go out for a trip!