



# Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association



## Newsletter



**March 2009**



### Contents:

- Letter from the Chairman
- Dates for your Diary
- March 16<sup>th</sup> visit to Wellow Church and Embley Park
- Winchester City Council Update
- Samuel Wilberforce
- Soak up the Soke
- A message from Tony Humphrys
- A few words from the Editor

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)**

It was good to see many of our former guiding colleagues at the New Year's Party, the largest number that I can remember. They helped to make it an enjoyable evening for all. Again many thanks to the organising team.

Winter is the time for training and we have benefited from some excellent lectures, not least the series by our in-house expert, Elizabeth Proudman on Jane Austen. One of my first tasks on returning from holiday will be to start recruiting the guides needed for the conference in early September. We are likely to need up to 8 guides for the ½ day Jane Austen tour to Steventon and Chawton plus another 4 for the Jane Austen walk in the afternoon. Guides will also be needed for the trip by conference delegates and their wives on the Watercress Line plus smaller visits to St. Cross and possibly a trip to Portsmouth, including Gunwharf Quay.

We also have an exciting programme of themed tours consisting of old favourites and new topics. We must now work hard to ensure that they get the audience they deserve. On a related subject, this panoply of special tours merits more than a single airing. The TIC often receives requests for guides for themed tours and their list of guides' special interests needs updating. If any guides would like to consider taking on the preparation of this list as a special project, please can you contact me in the first instance.

To help with our publicity, we are planning a generic leaflet that will have a longish shelf life and can be displayed in hotels and bed and breakfasts in particular. It will promote all our tours but the emphasis will be on regular tours where suitable marketing has been sadly lacking. The format will be colour printing, on card and probably 1/3rd A4. The leaflet needs an eye-catching design and it is likely that we shall have to use the services of a professional to achieve this. If any guides have been hiding their design skills under the proverbial bushel, now is the time to step forward. One piece of good news – and news welcomed by our Treasurer in particular - is that the City has kindly agreed to contribute £100 towards the cost of the leaflet.

This year, we are trying a couple of experiments on our regular tours. Firstly, the 2 for 1 offer being organised by South East Tourism and South West Trains. It will be interesting to see whether this offer does actually boost numbers. Secondly, we are changing our Sunday afternoon tours to the morning and starting them from the Rifleman statue outside the Cathedral.

I am in discussions with Naomi House about ghost tours in the week leading up to Halloween. We are offering a slight discount on our standard price but if the idea comes to fruition, it could give us an opportunity to try out a drama element as the tours may include actors as well as guides.

As I indicated at the recent General Meeting, I am personally very sad that very few of our Green Badge colleagues have applied for a place on the proposed Blue Badge Course, partly for cost but partly for other reasons. It is disappointing that the ITG has not been able to crystallize its ideas about a modular option that would have allowed Green Badge Guides to build on what they have already done. One

possibility for those of you unable to consider a Blue Badge Course now would be a DIY course, although this would not be an easy option.

Progress on the new professional body remains slow. In particular, the boundaries of the proposed branch covering Hampshire are still not clear. Nor we have a definite figure on cost, i.e. what will be the total cost of national, branch and local (WATGA) subscriptions. This is of particular relevance to those guides who only work within Winchester.

Wishing you all a good guiding season.  
Sue

### **Dates for your Diary**

16 March (11:00)	WATGA Tour - East Wellow Church + Embley Park (see below)
11 June (19:00)	WATGA General Meeting, Education Centre, Inner Close
13 July	WATGA Summer evening walk in Northington

### **Local Special Events:**

13-15 March	Mid Hants Railway – Spring Steam Gala
4-13 April	Mid Hants Railway – Days out with Thomas (Also in August)
25-25 April	Mid Hants Railway – St George’s Day Event
29-31 May	Mid Hants Railway – Diesel Gala see <a href="http://www.watercressline.co.uk/">http://www.watercressline.co.uk/</a>
28 March (19:30)	The Waynflete Singers (with the London Mozart Players.)
3 April (19:30)	The Sixteen Choral Pilgrimage 2009 (Handel Coronation Anthems)
7 April (13:00)	Lunchtime Concert, Winchester Cathedral
5 May (13:00)	Lunchtime Concert, Winchester Cathedral
2 June (13:00)	Lunchtime Concert, Winchester Cathedral ..and many other events at <a href="http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/events/3/">http://www.winchester-cathedral.org.uk/events/3/</a>

12-13 April	“The World at War”, Royal Armouries, Fort Nelson see <a href="http://www.royalarmouries.org.uk/events">http://www.royalarmouries.org.uk/events</a>
2 May	Winchester Sports Festival (Opening of new Sports Stadium)
3-4 May	Fine Food and Wine Festival, Winchester Cathedral
15-16 May	“Mayfest” = Music, song and dance around Winchester
17 May	Alresford Watercress Festival <a href="http://www.watercressfestival.org/">http://www.watercressfestival.org/</a>
20 May	Wickham Horse Fair
3 June	Grange Park Opera (also on 6 July)

### **“CPD” Events**

19 March (14:30)	Jane Austen Walk - Elizabeth Proudman (book with Sue Coles)
24 March (10:00)	“Winchester in 1535”, Brian Collins, Educ’n Centre, Inner Close (book with Sue Coles)
9 April (19:00)	“The Leper Hospital Excavations”. Talk by Simon Rofey and Dr. Phil Marter, Heritage Centre, Upper Brook Street. Details from <a href="mailto:secretary@cityofwinchestertrust.co.uk">secretary@cityofwinchestertrust.co.uk</a>

## **March 16<sup>th</sup> Visit to East Wellow Church & Embley Park (Chris Maxse & Dale Greenwood)**

Chris and Dale have organised an outing to East Wellow Church and Embley Park now a School, **but formerly the home of Florence Nightingale the centenary of whose death falls in 2010.** In addition to being a happy social occasion this promises to be an interesting and informative Tour.

DATE - Monday, 16th March.

TIME - 11.00

MEETING PLACE - East Wellow Church GR 303204

### DIRECTIONS

Leave Romsey on the A27 [West] passing Broadlands on your left and "The Cromwell Arms" on your right.

Immediately after "The Cromwell Arms" turn right on the A27, SP Salisbury, Whiteparish and Sherfield English.

In just over a mile you will pass the gates of Embley Park - now called "Hampshire Collegiate School" on your left.

In approx another 1/2 mile - at minor crossroads - turn left SP "The Wellows"

In approx 1 1/2 miles - about 1/4mile after a long left hand bend - turn right along a narrow lane.

In approx another 1/2 mile turn left along narrow lane to the Church. NB - it is easy to miss this turn. There is a poor sign on the right of the road "To the Church".

### PROGRAMME

11.00 - 11.15 - Assemble and choose food from the pub menu. Our lunch needs to be pre-ordered.

11.20 - 12.15 approx - Tour of the Church and Churchyard, viewing Florence Nightingale's grave.

12.30 - 13.45 - lunch at Cromwell Arms

14:00 Private Tour of Embley Park. (not normally open to the public)

NB - The School will be in session. Please have regard to whatever activities may be taking place and please would you all make a point of wearing your badges.

After the tour there will be time to visit the grounds and the visit will probably end about 15.30. There will then be time for an optional visit to "Carlos' Ices" at Wellow for tea and cakes - possibly a useful venue for future tours!

**COST: £4.00 p.p. This is to cover the donation to both the School and the church and overhead expenses.** Associate and Honorary Members will be most welcome on this outing - as of course will Partners. If you wish to attend please will you send the enclosed reply slip to Chris **NOT LATER THAN MONDAY, 9TH MARCH,** together with a cheque for £4 per person.

-----

To: Chris Maxse, Kings Paddock, Meonstoke, Southampton, SO32 3NH

I/We wish to attend the outing on 16th March 2009

Name[s].....

Signed.....

Date.....

I enclose a cheque for £..... payable to "Maxse Tours".

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

### **Tourist information gets revamp**

The tourist information centre will be benefiting from a much needed revamp this spring. Thank you to Sue Coles for her input with the plans which will include a more prominent display of local and events information.

The exact dates are yet to be confirmed but we hope that the TIC will be able to offer a limited service (hopefully to include guided tours) in the Courtyard Café during the refurbishment period.

### **Child friendly Winchester**

A key strand of the tourism business plan this year will be to involve and engage young people. Jelena from the tourist information centre is working with Clare Dixon to develop a children's trail. Guides are welcome to join in with this theme by providing family friendly tours this year or in the early part of 2010.

### **Museums' collections on the move**

Winchester Museums' collections facility will be moving out of Hyde Historic Resources Centre into F2 in the Bar End Industrial Estate. F2 will accommodate archaeological and local history collections and will have a room for researchers wishing to examine the collections as well as a community room for volunteers to enable them to wash and identify finds. The facility should be available in late spring and guides are welcome to attend the planned open day (date to be confirmed).

## **Winchester's Community History Partnership (CHiP)**

CHiP is a newly formed organisation which brings together local history societies, museums and other groups interested in the heritage of the Winchester District.

The intention is to provide mutual support and to work with Winchester City Council's museums service to provide opportunities that people living right across the district can enjoy.

One of the key objectives of this organisation is to be able to raise funds for specific activities such as:

- taking items from the reserve collections to local communities
- developing new programmes for schools
- funding specific acquisitions
- carrying out community archaeology projects

The group will also facilitate reciprocal help between members, for marketing and PR, pooling of resources, skill sharing and networking.

Following a preliminary meeting in the spring, a small steering group has been established and has agreed a constitution and work programme.

The guides will receive an invite to the next open meeting on 24 March at Winchester College. We would also like to hear from you, if you have any ideas about interesting way to bring local history to life for the people in your parish. Contact Museum Services Manager Sher Kent, email [skent@winchester.gov.uk](mailto:skent@winchester.gov.uk) ; tel: 01962 848557

## **New Cricket leaflet**

Ellen Simpson, Tourism Marketing and Development Manager, is currently developing a new leaflet to highlight the famous names and places in the Winchester area that are associated with cricket. This is part of building up sporting connections prior to the 2012 Olympics and Paralympic Games. The leaflet will be available from the tourist information centre.

## **Perspectives**

The next edition of Perspectives, the city council's magazine which is distributed to all 47,500 households in the district, will include a handy pull out year planner featuring major events. This replaces the previous more detailed what's on section. Guides who live out of the district can collect a copy from the tourist information centre.

## **Samuel Wilberforce (1805-1873) (Don Bryan)**

We cannot let this year of the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Darwin's birth pass by without the mention of Samuel Wilberforce, then Bishop of Oxford attempting to pour scorn on Darwin's *Origins of Species* at a meeting of the British Association in Oxford on 30<sup>th</sup> June 1860.

In the presence of over 700 people Wilberforce slated the ideas of Darwin and his evolution theory and addressed T H Huxley (who was standing in for Darwin) with these words in a light scoffing tone: - *rock-pigeons have always been rock-pigeons* and turning to Huxley asked whether *was it through his grandfather or grandmother that he claimed descendent from a monkey?* Huxley, a tall stern figure, very quiet and very grave replied: - *he was not ashamed to have a monkey for an ancestor; but he would be ashamed to be connected with a man who used great gifts to obscure the truth.* With these words the room erupted with applause, papers were thrown into the air, one woman fainted and had to be carried out. The feeling of the meeting that Wilberforce had been beaten in the debate.

Wilberforce's ornate cenotaph in the south transept of our cathedral was erected in 1878 by H H Armstead. It was paid for by a committee established to erect a suitable memorial, but Dean Bramston tried to resist their plans for such a large monument and incurred their displeasure.



Wilberforce was born at Clapham Common, London on 7<sup>th</sup> September 1805. In 1823 he entered Oriel College, Oxford. In the United Debating Society he distinguished himself as a zealous advocate of liberalism. The set of friends with whom he chiefly associated - among them William Gladstone and Henry Manning - were sometimes named the "Bethal Union" on account of their exceptionally decorous conduct.

Wilberforce graduated in 1826, taking a first in mathematics and a second in classics. He spent the summer and autumn of 1827 touring the continent. He married Emily Sargeant on the 11<sup>th</sup> June 1828 and the following December he was ordained as curate-in-charge at Checkendon near Henley on Thames.

In 1830, he was presented by Charles Sumner, Bishop of Winchester to the rectory of St Mary's Church, Brighthelmston (Brighton) from where he published several papers. In November 1839 he was installed as archdeacon of Surrey, in August 1840 was collated canon of Winchester and in October he accepted the rectory of Alverstoke.

In 1841, he was chosen Bampton lecturer, and shortly afterwards made chaplain to Prince Albert, an appointment he owed to the impression produced by a speech at an anti-slavery meeting some months earlier. In October 1843 he was appointed by the archbishop of York to be sub-almoner to Queen Victoria and in March 1844 he accepted the deanery of Westminster and in October the bishopric of Oxford.

In 1847 he became heavily involved with the Hamden controversy, and signed the remonstrance of the thirteen bishops to Lord John Russell against Hampden's appointment to the bishopric of Hereford.

1854 saw Wilberforce opening a theological college at Cuddesdon, now known as Rippon College which was afterwards the subject of controversy on account of its alleged Romanist tendencies. He became a member of the House of Lords and a Fellow of the Royal Society and continued to write papers, reviews and essays.

After twenty-four years in the diocese of Oxford, he was translated by Gladstone to the bishopric of Winchester in 1869. He was killed on 19<sup>th</sup> July 1873, by the shock of a fall from his horse near Dorking in Surrey. Huxley reportedly commented that Wilberforce's brain had at last come into contact with reality, and the result had been fatal.

Just a month before his death he wrote "that here God's world and its beauty was around him, nightingales singing and everything rejoicing".

He is buried at Woolavington Church in Sussex beside his wife, son and his wife's sister. A very controversial figure in life he had suffered intensely by the conversion to the Roman Catholic faith of his two brothers, his daughter and his friend Manning.

### **Soak up the Soke – or Soaked in the Soke? (Michael Fielding)**

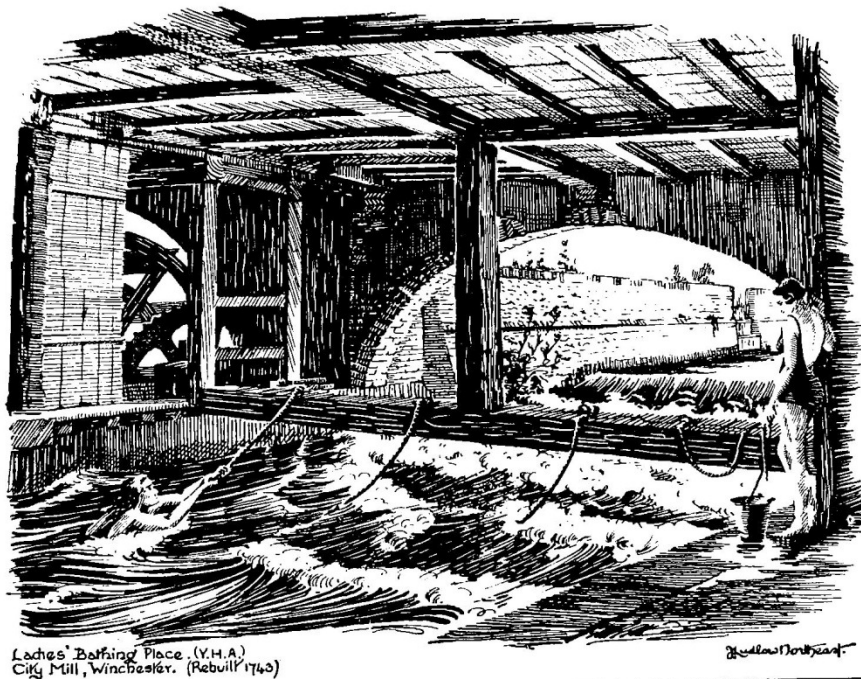
At the end of October I and three others were booked to do Tunnel Tours on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> November. When the booking form arrived I was a bit surprised to see that the party concerned was a U3A one from Chandler's Ford. However, bearing in mind their proximity to the once great railway works of Eastleigh I thought they could well have members who were onetime railway workers who wanted a trip down memory lane. I contacted the organiser and what they wanted soon became clear. In the morning they were having a tour of St Peter's Church (The Chesil Theatre) and after lunch they wanted a tour of the Chesil end of town, to the east of the Itchen, an area was not really known to them. They wanted to go into the tunnel but didn't want the full DNS Railway tour. It was accepted that an element of DNS would be necessary to put the tunnel into context.

When Tony first trained me for the Tunnel Tours the route was of the Chesil area and included such things as Mildmay House and the gates which went to Kingsland House, the City Mill, The Soke House (where we were invited in to see the panelling), St Peter's Church, the roads leading in and out of the town and so on. Here, I thought, was the basis for at least half a tour. In addition, a couple of years ago, I had been on one of Don Bryan's 'WOW' tours which had covered Beggars' Lane, The Blue Boar Inn and St John's Church and Helen Sutcliffe, on one of her

tours, took us into the church. This was sufficient, therefore, to create quite a reasonable tour.

One important consideration for the guides was to avoid having two tours in the tunnel at the same time but, for this tour, it was no longer necessary, as the “pièce de resistance”, for the tunnel to come at the end of the tour and neither was it necessary for there to be full back marker support. Clare Dixon kindly agreed to be tunnel monitor for both Chris’s group and for mine so we tried to arrange things so that as one tour finished with the tunnel the second was ready to enter.

It was agreed that Chris would have first go at the tunnel so I started at the City Mill, where the postcard of ladies bathing in the river (see below) always generates much interest - if only to wonder what the facilities for the men were like at that time. Water Lane followed and the footpath up to the church. The intention had been to go up Blue Boar Hill but the weather was not good and already the crocodile had begun to stretch out.



Ladies' Bathing Place (Y.H.A.)  
City Mill, Winchester. (Rebuilt 1743)

The Blue Boar Inn was the next proper stop; Thomas Thetcher’s final pub stop according to Phil Yates’s book which gave an opportunity to mention the former’s tombstone in passing and its attendant interest. St John’s Church was a welcome stop as it was an escape from the rain (and thanks to Chris for making that suggestion). We made our way to the tunnel with just a few comments on the way, such as the widening of the road by the Old Chesil Rectory and of the Rectory itself.

The group enjoyed the tunnel and were amazed by the quantity of wheelie bins. Afterwards a number seemed to have had enough, said their farewells and peeled off. My original intention had been to go up to the Station Master's House, go around to the right for the view over the town and then to go down to the footbridge and go along Chesil Street to the old forge and the Black Boy and to talk about some of the pubs before walking back along the Weirs. They had had a long day and even the stalwarts were flagging: the Station Master's House was abandoned and we went along to the car park and viewed the former Railway Inn, 42 Chesil Street, is (mentioned in Hampshire Houses\* by Edward Roberts). He states that it has one of the earliest secular examples of a king-strut roof. Felling dates for the timber are given as winter 1283/4 and winter 1292/3.

The pace quickened with brief comments around Wharf Hill and the Weirs including a quick look up to the back of what I think is 42 Chesil Street. During the winter months, with the trees all bare of their leaves it is now be easier to identify. I think it is the one with a black square in timber on a white gable end.

\*Hampshire Houses 1250 – 1799 Their Dating & Development, Edward Roberts with contributions by John Crook, Linda Hall & Daniel Miles.

### **A Message from Tony Humphrys**

I wish to express my thanks to the committee and members of WATGA for their support during Margaret's illness and my subsequent bereavement. The cards and letters were a comfort to Margaret when she was in hospital. Subsequent letters of condolence and attendance at her Service of Thanksgiving were a consolation to me.

She was and I am lucky to have had and have such friends. Tony Humphrys

### **A few words from the Editor (Denis Howe)**

Judy Simmons has given me an article from BBC History News (Feb 2009) which says that "historians are hoping to reconstruct the shrine to St Swithun" using a computer generated model based on analysis of the remains of the shrine. It also states that the Saint's skull has been rediscovered in Evreux, Normandy and, if the shrine were rebuilt, this could possibly be returned to Winchester... If anyone has more information about this project, could they please produce a short item for the next Newsletter? "Pointers" to interesting topics such as this are also welcome!

A request from Clare Dixon (01962-865869): "Having got caught up with my son's half term project to research a church in Winchester, we have been finding out about St Maurice's Church. One query I have been unable to answer is why the weathervane on the tower bears the date 1748. (At least I think that's what it says - it's a long way up!) Does anyone know? Also, does anyone have a picture of the church before its demolition taken from the High Street side? Many thanks!"

As ever, a plea to take your digital camera with you when you go out and about! This edition, whilst blessed with lots of information about events and activities and splendid "learned" articles, is short of "human interest" stories and pictures.