



# Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association



## Newsletter

**September 2006**

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### 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.

## **Letter from the Chairman (Elizabeth Proudman)**

Dear Colleagues,

The summer is over. First it was too hot, and then too wet, but I hope you have all had a good time and some rewarding guiding and a pleasant holiday.

The AGM is approaching. I hope you will make every effort to come, because there will be a lot to discuss: how many tours we should do, and what we should charge for example. Dale and I will be stepping down, and we shall need new officers and a new committee. Please think about what you might like to do to support WATGA and volunteer or propose people who might be interested in joining the committee.

The season has been mixed. The rota tours have been very disappointing, and the payments quite shameful for the effort put in, but the special tours have done quite well, I think. Those I have been able to go on have been well supported and very good and much enjoyed. I hope you agree that the work has been worth while. I think we should consider doing regular specials like this again next year. At the AGM we shall be asking for volunteers for next year. Think about new walks that we could do. I think these special walks raise the profile of guiding in the City, and there was a group of people who came regularly. Many people came because of 'word of mouth' recommendations. But also we must thank Geraldine very warmly for the all the work she has done in producing press releases and flyers.

It appears that there may be progress is establishing a Single Professional Body for the Guides. I hope there may be something to report at the AGM.

From 18th September the law has changed and all coach passengers (over 14 years of age) must wear seat belts. Those of us who do coach tours must be aware of this new law and if the coach driver does not point it out to the passengers, the guide should.

I have recently visited Fosters (The Courtyard Cafe) and Stephen, the Manager, has offered all guides a 15% discount on anything they spend there.

PS: A joke from the Edinburgh Festival: Two aerials on a roof fell in love and got married. The wedding wasn't great but the reception was fantastic!

## **AGM and Dates for your diary (from Sue Coles)**

The AGM is on Tues 26<sup>th</sup> Sept at 7pm in the Guildhall. It's an important date for your diary as it not only provides an opportunity to look back at the past guiding season but it is also the time when we elect new officers and committee. Several officers and committee members have completed their 3-year stint so we need new blood. I will be circulating nomination forms shortly and I look forward to the nominations flooding in.

Thurs 7 –Sun 10 Sept

Winchester Open Weekend (WOW)

Mon 11 Sept 4.30 pm

Queen Eleanor's Garden – Training Session\*

\*if you have not already done so, please tell Dale Greenwood if you wish to come.

Tues 26 Sept 7pm

WATGA AGM

Sat 7 Oct	UK Committee Meeting of Guild of Registered Tourist Guides, Guildhall, Winchester
Fri 17 Nov	Deadline for articles for Dec Newsletter
Tues 5 Dec 7pm	WATGA General meeting

### **Tourist Information Centre Update (Alison Woods)**

#### **New publications**

##### *Eye-openers*

The new edition of *Eye-openers*, a guide to public art and galleries in and around Winchester, was launched in July. Hopefully, you have all received copies. Valerie Greenwood, Tourism Marketing Officer, has suggested that guides conducting sculpture tours could hand these out to participants to complement their tours. Further copies are available from the TIC.

<http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/site/things-to-do/art-and-culture>

##### *Meon Valley Church Trail*

This new rural trail has been a joint project between the museums service and the tourism service. Boosted by a grant from the South Downs Sustainable Development Fund, the leaflet encourages people to explore the beautiful Meon Valley by walking or cycling from church to church – and to stop for refreshments at one of the excellent country pubs along the way! The churches, dotted along the length of the trail, encompass many architectural styles (ranging in date from Saxon to late Victorian) and an interesting variety of local building materials.

Copies will be making their way to you shortly. Please let us know if you'd like further copies.

Winchester Tourism would like to thank all the guides involved in producing these new publications.

#### **Winchester Open Weekend (7<sup>th</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> Sept)**

For further information log on to <http://www.visitwinchester.co.uk/site/winchester-open-weekend> or collect a programme from the Tourist Information Centre (TIC). Many guides are helping out during this weekend and a huge thank you to them for opening up the city's heritage to a wider audience.

#### **Winter Opening Hours**

From 1<sup>st</sup> Oct 2006, revert to its winter opening times, 10am to 5pm Mon to Sat.

### **“Riots and regrettable occurrences” – Friday 20<sup>th</sup> Oct 7:30pm (Barbara Hall)**

The Festival Players will perform another reading of their play in Saint Bartholomew's Church, Hyde Abbey, Winchester. The topic is the famous Winchester “Gun Riots”. Proceeds from the evening will be donated to the Hyde Abbey Garden project. More details from Barbara Hall Tel 01962-863987.

## **A New Regiment – The Rifles (Tony Newing)**

In early 2007 a new regiment, to be called The Rifles, will be formed, by the amalgamation of the Royal Green Jackets and the Light Infantry (including its new regiments the Devon & Dorset Light Infantry and the Royal Gloucestershire, Berkshire & Wiltshire Light Infantry). The new regiment will be very much a 'black button' rifle regiment and will wear a No1 uniform of Rifle Green, with black crossbelts being worn by all officers, warrant officers and senior NCOs. The crossbelt will have a new badge, with the bugle in the centre, surrounded by the words 'The Rifles' and 'Swift and Bold'.

The Rifles will have five regular battalions, based as follows:

- 1 Rifles – Chepstow (formed mainly from 1 DDLI & 1 RGBWLI, to work with 3 Commando Brigade Royal Marines)
- 2 Rifles – Ballykinler, Northern Ireland (formed from 1 RGJ)
- 3 Rifles – Edinburgh (formed from 2 LI – light role)
- 4 Rifles – Bulford (formed from 2 RGJ - mechanised)
- 5 Rifles – Paderborn, Germany (formed from 1 LI - armoured)

These will effectively become permanent locations and individuals will be posted between battalions to give a variety of employment and career opportunities.

There will also be TA battalions, with headquarters in Exeter (6 Rifles) and Reading (7 Rifles) with a spread of companies and detachments around England. There will also be a regular band and two TA bands.

The Regimental Headquarters will be in Peninsula Barracks, with several outstations, including one in London.

There is a new website: [www.therifles.mod.uk](http://www.therifles.mod.uk), which will be regularly updated.



The New Regiment's Badge

## **St John's Bible (Pamela Boyes)**

In January, three WATGA Blue Badge Guides took the St John's Bible Group from Minnesota, United States, around part of Winchester and then they were welcomed at Winchester Cathedral and shown the Winchester Bible.

The St John's Bible was commissioned by St. John's Abbey and Saint John's University in Collegeville, Minnesota and is the first bible to be completely written and illuminated by hand in more than 500 years. When open, it will be two feet tall, three feet wide and contain 1,150 pages (each page is 24½" x 15 7/8") 160 illuminations and 1,079,961 words across seven volumes. It has been written entirely by hand using quills on calf-skin vellum and paints hand-ground from precious minerals and stones such as lapis lazuli, malachite, silver, copper and 24 – carat gold. The artistic director of the project, Donald Jackson, is one of the world's foremost calligraphers and scribe to Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth's Crown Office at the House of Lords.

"Illuminated manuscripts have always marked the time and place in which they were created, and **The Saint John's Bible** will reflect our world at the beginning of the twenty-first century for future generations" said Brother Dietrich Reinhart, OSB, president of Saint John's University. "Today, through partnerships with museums and educational outreach, we hope to touch people of all cultures and creeds with the spirit and beauty of this book."

**The Saint John's Bible** will be completed in 2007 and housed permanently at the Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, Saint John's Abbey and University in Collegeville, Minnesota, in the Midwestern United States, where it will be used in worship and made available to scholars and the public.

(This is an extract from *The Saint John's Bible* website [www.saintjohnsbible.org](http://www.saintjohnsbible.org))



The frontispiece to the Acts of the Apostles

### **Was Jack the Ripper a Wykehamist? (Don Bryan)**

On Monday December 31<sup>st</sup> 1888 Henry Winslade, a Thames waterman, found the decomposed body of a man off Thorneycroft's wharf at 1.00p.m. and brought the remains ashore. Constable George Moulston 216T made a complete listing of the possessions found on then unidentified corpse:

- Four large stones in each pocket
- £2.17s.2d in cash
- A cheque for £50 and another for £16
- Silver watch on a gold chain
- Pair of kid gloves
- White handkerchief
- First class half season rail ticket from Blackheath to London
- Second-half return ticket from Hammersmith to Charing Cross dated December 1<sup>st</sup> 1888.

The body was identified as Montague John Druitt by his brother William. Montague Druitt was aged 31; he was a barrister-at-law and an assistant teacher at Blackheath School but had been dismissed for his alleged homosexual tendencies.

Following his suicide the Whitechapel murders of Jack the Ripper ceased – thus putting suspicion of the murders on Druitt.

Born on August 15<sup>th</sup> 1857, Druitt was the second son of William Druitt, Wimborne's leading surgeon. The Druitts lived at Westfield House which still stands. Montague Druitt was educated at Winchester and New College Oxford. While at Winchester Druitt was heavily involved in the debating society, choosing mostly political topics for his speeches. He was also a very keen sportsman, playing cricket for the Winchester First Eleven. Druitt also became talented at Fives, winning the Double and Single Fives title at Winchester and Oxford. Although having a gaunt appearance Druitt had formidable strength in his arms and wrists and was able to throw a cricket ball some 92 yards.

He was selected to play cricket for Kingston Park and Dorset Cricket Clubs. After graduation he began teaching at a boarding school in Blackheath where he joined both the Blackheath Hockey and Cricket Clubs.

In 1882, Druitt decided to change careers and was admitted to the Inner Temple on May 17<sup>th</sup> but still retained his post at Blackheath. In 1885 he was called to the Bar. The Law List of 1886 places him in the Western Circuit and the Winchester Sessions.

In 1885 his father passed away as a result of a heart attack. Tragedy struck again in 1885, when his mother Ann succumbed to mental illness and was confined in Brook Asylum in Clapton.

Druitt was dismissed from Blackheath School on November 30<sup>th</sup> 1888, receiving two dismissal cheques of £50 and £16. Was it the events of his father's death and his mother's illness or the embarrassment of dismissal that drove Druitt to place the stones in his pocket and jump into the icy water of the Thames? Or was there another reason?



Montague John DrUITT

The brunt of the argument contending DrUITT was the Ripper lies with a quote made by Inspector Macnaughten's memoranda, who referred to Montague in the following quote:

*I have always held strong opinions regarding him, and the more I think the matter over, the stronger do these options become. The truth, however, will never be known, and did indeed, at one time lie at the bottom of the Thames, if my conjections be correct!*

DrUITT disappeared around the same time as the Miller's Court murder. His appearance and likeness to the murderer was described by five different witnesses. The claim against him was that the times he played cricket around the London area coincided with the murders of Jack the Ripper – very flimsy evidence indeed!

As for the suicide – suicidal tendencies ran in the family with his mother and sister attempting an overdose and his grandmother jumping out of an attic window to her death.

The file held at Scotland Yard on DrUITT reads:

***Mr M J DrUITT a Doctor of about 31 years of age & fairly good family, who disappeared at the same time of the Miller's Court murder, and whose body was found floating in the Thames on 31<sup>st</sup> December i.e. 7 weeks after the said murder. The body was said to have been in the water for a month or more ... on it was found a season ticket between Blackheath and London. From private information I have little doubt that his own family suspected this man of being the Whitechapel murderer; it was alleged he was sexually insane.***

### **Stone Work at Peninsula Barracks (Tony Humphrys)**

One hears it said many times that the Carolean stonework was retrieved from the burnt out shell of the barracks and was reinstalled. Furthermore, that the blackening on some of the stones may be soot marks from the time of the fire in 1894.

One should not take as gospel all that one reads in the Hampshire Chronicle (!), but the following extract from a description of the return of the soldiers to the new barracks which appears in the issue of 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1904 throws doubt on the story.

“The undamaged stonework with the royal coat of arms (added by King George III about 1810) was carefully numbered, taken down and stacked with a view to its re-erection. This however, was found impracticable, so the coat of arms has alone been preserved in its original form and is set up on the short block of the higher level, or Rifle , buildings (sic). The rest of the stone has been re-worked and built into the

same block in various forms. The central facades, however, of the long and short blocks are a copy of those of the old building”

What then is the provenance of the story so often told that the stone work was reinstalled in its entirety??

### **Creina Francis - a former Winchester Guide (Dale Greenwood)**

During the course of a walking holiday in Mid-Wales, my wife, Ann, and I were invited to visit Creina and her husband, Matthew, at their home in Llanon, a village just inland from the coast of Cardigan Bay, about 12 miles south of Aberystwyth and 4 miles north of Aberaeron.

Creina and Matthew's home is a delight - it dates from about 1790 and is full of character. After lunch, they took us on a walk in the sunshine down to the coast and around the village. The churchyard was fascinating - in West Wales gravestones are inscribed with the addresses as well as the names of the deceased – important as almost everyone seems to be called Evans, Jones or Davies!!

I passed on to Creina your warm good wishes and brought her up to date with news of what has been happening in Winchester. She maintains a keen interest in what we have been doing and reads the newsletter avidly to help keep up to date. She asked me to give her love and every good wish for the future to all WATGA members.

### **Technology Corner (Denis Howe)**

#### **Access to the Hampshire Library Catalogue via the Internet**

Do you know that you can search for books, reserve them and even renew them via the internet?

To do this you will need a pin, which can be obtained at your local library by showing them your borrower's card. Your borrower number and the pin are used to login to: [http://libcat.hants.gov.uk/cgi-bin/vps2.5\\_viewpoint.sh](http://libcat.hants.gov.uk/cgi-bin/vps2.5_viewpoint.sh)

Reserving books is very easy. If you have updated your “Borrower information” with you email address, you can be emailed when the book is at your chosen library.

#### **New website!**

The Domesday Book is now on line <http://www.nationalarchives.gov.uk/domesday/>

\*With the latest version (7) of the Adobe reader, you can jump straight to the link using your web browser by moving the cursor over the link (the cursor will turn into a hand with a pointing finger) and then press and hold down the Ctrl key and left click the mouse.

#### **Don't help the “spammers” – use Bcc:**

When sending an email to a large number of people, please use Bcc: (blind carbon copy)! If you simply put all the email addresses into the To: “box”, full details of the all the addresses appear on every copy of the message sent. With Outlook Express, you can show the Bcc: “box” by selecting **All Headers** in the **View** menu...

## **First impressions – by the new City Guides (Angela George, Kate Colwill)**

Sept 2005 – our first rota tours – the moment of truth has arrived. The training is now behind us and the long-dreaded practical day during Hat Fair is now a distant memory. Now we are on our own, and a group of tourists is waiting expectantly.

For each of the Green Badge Guides the past year has presented different opportunities, experiences and challenges. To the rota tours have been added special tours and evening walks, while for some of us, there has been the frustration of finding some tours don't actually take place! On the practical side, despite all our well-rehearsed techniques, tourists don't always behave according to plan. Despite all our gentle bidding they don't stand where we put them – they turn away – they wander off, and occasionally stumble over bumps and have no sense of our determination to keep them safe and sound.

During training walks the effort of filling the 5 minutes at each stop seemed an almost impossible task. Now, it's so different - we have far too much to say and before we know it we must move on as the 1½ hours is rapidly ticking away.

But, despite our growing confidence there is always 'that' question – the one we struggle to answer - that 'knowledgeable tourist' who is always out there. And who hasn't come across the visitor who wants to chat and insists on trying to monopolise our attention.

The first pay cheques – opened with such anticipation – brought us back to earth. Being a tourist guide is not going to make our fortunes! But, did we seriously ever expect it to? Instead it's the compliments, the positive comments, the obvious enjoyment of our groups and, for us, the feeling of a job well done that has made it all worthwhile.

It's amazing - we have all survived our first year!

The Class of 2005

## **A Guiding Experience in Winchester (David Sutcliffe)**

Although one of the newly trained Green Badge Guides, I have already experienced the vagaries of the general public during a tour. Let me tell you more.

With Colin Cook, I took a SAGA party on a City walk on Christmas Eve last year. Colin quickly set off with his group in one direction whilst I expected to head into Abbey Garden. Well, the first problem was enticing some of the tour party off the coach! Plainly some were less than keen to enjoy and hear about the sights of Winchester because it was an extremely cold day. This was not helped by the fact that a couple of the party were better dressed for an autumn day and did not have enough warm clothing.

Another member of the party wanted suitable sustenance to bolster his well being for what he felt was going to be quite a challenging walk by loudly demanding "Where's the whisky"! With all the charm I could muster (remembering the communication skills learnt from our training), the gentlemen was let down gently with a promise that a nice hot cup of coffee (with possibly a tot included in it) would be available when we reached the Refectory. This immediately improved his temperament.

Needless to say the rest of the walk was conducted with no further “difficulties”, even if I was mindfully aware that to linger too long at a stop might have frozen some of the party to the spot. But on reaching the Cathedral, the relative warmth brought some colour to their faces. Did they actually enjoy the walk? Most said that they did, so their visit to Winchester must have been worth it.

### **I learned something useful about guiding from that!**

We can all learn from our experiences (both good and bad!). I hope that we can be open enough to share our “learning experiences” with our fellow guides. Here goes!

#### **“Freeloader” (Denis Howe)**

A fairly standard rota walk. Only a handful of customers to begin with, but then a last minute rush of people wanting to buy tickets. In the confusion, I didn’t do a thorough check that everyone had tickets. During the walk, I became aware of a Norwegian guy who was clearly far “too big for his boots”. On a hunch that this guy would be the sort of person that would try and cheat the system, I checked back with the tic on the number of tickets sold. – Just as I had suspected, I had one more person on the walk than the number of tickets sold! Grrrr!

Lesson from Life – do a thorough check that everyone has a ticket. I could also have easily checked how many tickets had been sold, before the walk started.

#### **(Too) Secure Car Parking at the QEII Cruise Terminal in Southampton Docks (Dale Greenwood)**

I know that a number of you who are Blue Badge Regional Guides obtain occasional assignments meeting Cruise Ships. At the QE2 Terminal at the Eastern Docks we park our cars in the large compound diagonally opposite the Terminal Building.

A word of warning! One Sunday I had an unusual "one off" assignment which involved a very long working day. I returned to the Docks about 8.0 pm to find the car park locked and padlocked and everywhere deserted. We returned to Dock Gate 4 where the Security Guard obtained the keys and shut the barriers while he returned with me to rescue my car. He told me I had been extremely lucky not to have been clamped !! It would seem that for any late running jobs alternative car parking arrangements may have to be made?

### **Words from the Editors (Denis Howe and Tony Humphrys)**

Thank you for your feedback on the first edition of the “new format” Newsletter. The majority of responses indicated that you want a mix of articles specific to guiding in Winchester and of human interest items. In general, you are less interested in “learned articles” on general topics – since such information is readily available from the internet.

On the technical side we have slightly increased the font size to make printed copies of the newsletter a little easier to read. Have we gone far enough?

Finally, a big “thank you” to all those of you who have contributed articles to make this a “bumper issue”