



# Winchester Area Tourist Guides Association



## Newsletter



## SEPTEMBER 2007 ISSUE



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## Letter from the Chairman (Sue Coles)

Dear Guides,

We are almost at the end of another season's guiding. I should like to thank all guides who have worked with such dedication to provide visitors and locals alike with interesting tours. Generally speaking, the themed tours on Tuesday evenings have been well supported with tours such as the Pub Tours, Tunnel Tours and Abbey House being sold out. I think it makes sense to expand on these themed tours in 2008. We recognise the entertainment element of Pub Tours in particular and the skill will be combining this element – which attracts a new audience – with historical accuracy.

Less successful in terms of numbers have been the rota tours for the City Council and the group tours booked through the TIC. At the AGM we will discuss the Executive Committee's proposals for the frequency of rota tours in 2008 and this proposal will be circulated before the meeting. We have tried to find a balance between the reality of low numbers and the need for guides to do regular tours, not least to "keep their hand in". Please try and come to the AGM as we shall be also discussing changes to the Partnership Agreement with WCC. This too will be circulated before the meeting.

We are planning several 1-hr tours of the Cathedral and High Street area to coincide with the Christmas Market in the Inner Close. Full details will be circulated shortly with the request for volunteers but dates are given below in dates for your diary.

Sadly, Barbara Hall has decided that she is not currently fit enough to continue City tours and so has resigned as a Full Member. Barbara has been an outstanding guide for 26 years and was an excellent chairman. We shall miss her as a member of the active guiding team but she will become an Honorary Member and I hope that we shall see her at our social events and in the Cathedral as she is planning to remain as a cathedral guide.

The winter months are time for training and updating our skills. We have a talk by John Crook on William Walker at our December General Meeting and Peter Bogan has offered to talk to us about the time spent by the Poor Clares at Abbey House and we may ask him to expand this to cover Catholic Winchester post Reformation. We are in discussions with the Cathedral about joining in with some of their activities and are hopefully that this will provide additional training opportunities.

On the subject of training, it is now time to submit your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) forms to the Chairman. You can either send these to me separately (by email if you wish) or include them with your subscription payment for 2007/2008. They need to be with me by the end of September.

Michael Fielding is now able to add items of interest to the Members' page of the website. We plan to add items such as previous issues of the Newsletter and minutes of General Meetings.. This is your page. Its value is dependent upon material being added to the section and guides reading them! In case you have forgotten how to access the page go to [www.winchestertouristguides.com](http://www.winchestertouristguides.com) then click on members at the bottom of the home page. You will be asked for an ID and password. The ID is WATGA and the password is guide. Any difficulties with accessing it, please contact Michael or Geraldine.

Winter is also the time for the New Year's party. After much deliberation, we have decided to continue using St. Lawrence's Hall as with a different table layout, we can accommodate a higher number. Full details to follow but the date is Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January.

Finally, I should like to thank the outgoing committee of Angela, John, Pamela, Kate, Geraldine and David. They have been a good team to work with and have all worked hard on your behalf. I should like to thank Pamela in particular as she is stepping down from her position on the Executive Committee although she hopes to remain as Guild representative. Her work has been outstanding.

Best wishes to you all.

Sue  
Chairman

### **Dates for your diary**

Monday, 17 September 7.45pm                      Illustrated lecture by Dr. John Hare 'In search of Peter Symonds: a tale of two cities' exploring the life and times of Peter Symonds. Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds' College, (If anyone wishes to attend please contact Sandra Showell at PSC on [sshowell@psc.ac.uk](mailto:sshowell@psc.ac.uk))

Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> September 7 pm                      AGM, Wykeham Room, Guildhall

Friday 5<sup>th</sup> October–Monday 8<sup>th</sup> October              Visit by Laon guides

Monday, 22nd October - 2.0 p.m. - Visit to Norton Park Hotel [details to follow].

Tuesday 13th November at 1.30pm Titanic tour (CPD) Southampton.  
(more information will be sent to all Guides later)

Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> December 7 pm                      General Meeting preceded by talk from John Crook on William Walker (St. Lawrence's Hall)

Christmas Walks              Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> and Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> December  
Saturday 8<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 9<sup>th</sup> December and  
Friday 14<sup>th</sup>, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> and Sunday 16<sup>th</sup> December,  
(They will last for 1-hr and will start at Luminous Motion.)

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> January 2008                      New Year's Party, St. Lawrence's Hall

### **The "Summer" Evening Walk (Dale Greenwood)**

The 20 brave souls who ignored the elements and turned up for this year's evening country walk deserve a special word of praise. Although the heavy rain which had lashed the area for days on end [and which greeted us when we alighted from our cars at Bentworth] thankfully ceased so that we had a dry evening with some sun - the conditions we encountered underfoot were some of the worst I can recall during the past 20 years or so of walk leading!! The saturated ground and the mud slowed our progress to such an extent that I was forced to divert from the planned route and follow a "short cut" to reduce the distance to the pub. The sight of Winchester Guides and their Partners struggling through head high undergrowth; crawling under barbed wire fences [which had no business to be there] and ankle deep [or worse] in farmyard mud, had to be seen to be believed! Well done and congratulations to everyone who stuck it out with fortitude and without complaining - we all wish Tony Newing better luck with the conditions for the 2008 walk.

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

### **The TIC is an “Enjoy England Official Partner”**

**VisitBritain**, the national tourism body, has begun a new campaign to promote the TIC network. The first step was to identify centres that were keen and able to play a part in the national tourism industry and which excel in the services they offer to customers.

Winchester TIC was chosen as one of the Enjoy England Official Partners from the south east – along with 19 other top visitor destinations such as Brighton, Canterbury, the Isle of Wight, Oxford and Windsor.

The centre will be entitled to display the new Enjoy England Official Partner quality marque sign and will benefit from access to national and international marketing through VisitBritain (online, WAP and print advertising). Official Partners will also receive enhanced training programmes for customer service and product knowledge, alongside ‘mystery shopper’ assessments. Another advantage will be access to business development toolkits and Enjoy England point-of-sale and campaign materials.

### **Staff update**

Hannah Baldwin joined the TIC crew as a Saturday assistant in June. She's a Wintonian, living in Weeke, and has just passed ‘A’ levels in Latin, History and Classical Civilization at Peter Symonds College. In September, she starts a history degree at the University of Winchester. She speaks French and Italian.

### **Winchester’s Saxon Hanging Bowl is home!**

Over 75 years after its discovery, the 'Winchester Hanging Bowl' is coming home to the city, where it will be on permanent display at the City Museum in The Square.

Wintonians have Hampshire County Council - the owners of the bowl - to thank for requesting its return from the British Museum, where it had been on long term loan since its discovery, and who have generously co-operated in lending it to Winchester City Council. In August 1930, local archaeologist W J Andrew was excavating at Oliver's Battery, a few miles south-west of Winchester. While trying to discover the origins of the earthworks, he made a totally unexpected find - the grave of a young Saxon man who had been buried with a javelin, a short hunting sword or 'seax' and a beautiful bronze bowl. The bowl, decorated with spiral red enamel designs, and with suspension hooks and fittings in the form of aquatic birds, proclaims the man's high social status, perhaps even that of royalty.

Experts, noting similarities in decorative style between the bowl and Irish illuminated manuscripts, believe the bowl may have been made in Ireland in the late 7th century AD or perhaps commissioned from an Irish craftsman.

The bowl was on a temporary loan to the Guildhall Gallery. It became clear after the issue was raised by Judy Simmons, one of the guides, at the end of the 2006 Christmas lecture by Prof Barbara Yorke from the University of Winchester, that lecturer goes felt that the proper home for the bowl was in the city where it was found. Following close co-operation between Hampshire County Council, The British Museum and Winchester City Council, the bowl and seax were soon heading for a long term home in Winchester's own City Museum.

### **Warfare, Wealth and Wisdom of Alfred the Great**

The new Discovery Centre in Jewry Street will have a new purpose-built exhibition space, performance area and classroom. Warfare, Wealth and Wisdom of Alfred the Great will be the opening exhibition at the art gallery and will run from 1 February to 27 April 2008.

There will be several very high value loans from other libraries and museums including the Alfred Jewel. It is hoped to have 4 or 5 'aestels' on display. These have never been shown together before.

60,000 visitors are predicted for the exhibition and timed tickets may be required. No final decision has been made on admission price but educational visits will be free. There will also be associated workshops and activities.

### **Marketing Theme for 2008: Year of Heroes**

Following on from the Alfred exhibition, the tourism team will be using 'Winchester's Heroes' as a marketing and PR theme for 2008. This also ties in with the Cathedral's plans during 2008 to celebrate the work of William Walker. It is hoped to broaden the theme out to local and unsung heroes and generate plenty of human interest stories for PR purposes. Guides are invited to submit their own ideas, if they can see easy ways in which they can tap into this theme. Please send any ideas to the Chairman, Sue Coles (email: [suecoles1@aol.com](mailto:suecoles1@aol.com)).

### **Exhibition at City Space: Jewry Street**

The city council has a permanent exhibition area at the Discovery Centre called City Space, and the opening exhibition there will be on Jewry Street. Archaeological material as well as documents, photographs and artefacts from the more recent past will reveal 2,000 year's of the street's history.

The exhibition is scheduled to run from November 2007 to mid February 2008.

Once again guides are encouraged to include the Jewry Street theme into their tours.

### **New charge introduced for the Winchester Walk leaflet**

From September 1<sup>st</sup> we will start charging £1 per copy for the Winchester Walk leaflet in a bid to slow down take up. The tourism marketing service is currently printing thousands of copies per year and unfortunately does not have the budget to do this.

### **Winchester Open Weekend**

The Winchester Open Weekend took place this year from Thursday 6 to Sunday 9 September. A special thank you to all the guides who helped during the weekend.

## **“NEXT TRAIN’S GONE!”- (Dale Greenwood)**

These were the immortal words of Jeremiah Harbottle [played by Moore Marriott] the one toothed porter/ticket collector/deputy station master of Buggleskelly Station in the classic 1937 film comedy “Oh! Mr. Porter” starring Will Hay. What is less well known is that the film locations were largely in Hampshire and that Buggleskelly was in fact Cliddesdon Station on the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway [part of the Southern Railway network].

The history of this railway is unusual and may even fascinate those of you with little interest in railways. It starts with a tale of late Victorian “Industrial Espionage”.

After failing to reach Southampton on the Didcot, Newbury and Southampton line, the GWR turned its focus on Portsmouth as it was convinced there was money to be earned from this port. Under the aegis of the GWR, the Portsmouth, Basingstoke and Godalming Railway Company was formed in 1895. Faced with this threat to its Portsmouth revenue, the LSWR [London & South Western Railway] - the forerunner of the Southern Railway - proposed a “blocking line” to prevent their great rivals reaching Portsmouth. To achieve this goal they took advantage of new legislation - the Light Railways Act of 1896. This enabled lines to be built more quickly and with lower standards of construction, so long as trains operated at slower speeds and with fewer carriages!

So the Basingstoke and Alton Light Railway came into being and opened to traffic in June 1901. The downside was that the LSWR now had to run a railway they didn’t really want - it was claimed to be “the Railway to Nowhere which served No one”!! There were 3 intermediate stations at Cliddesdon; Herriard, and Bentworth & Lasham - but these were all situated some distance from the villages/hamlets they claimed to serve. From the outset passenger traffic and receipts were minimal. There were only 3 return journeys a day [although this was increased to 6 in 1909]; the maximum speed was 25 m.p.h.; and the 12 mile journey took 45 minutes!

Relief for the railway company arrived through the outbreak of WWI in 1914 when the line was closed to passenger traffic. Moreover in 1916 the Government ordered the track to be lifted so that it could be re-laid in France for munitions trains! From contemporary records it is apparent that the L&SWR quietly hoped the little line would soon be forgotten. However this was far from the minds from a small group of wealthy land owners in Hampshire who, having got wind of the proposed total closure, instigated a long and hard fought battle involving Parliament to save the line. No sooner had the battle been won and lost and the L&SWR taken steps to relay the tracks than the company was subsumed in the Southern Railway in the amalgamation of 1923.

From the outset the Southern insisted they would review operations within 10 years. With this in mind they did everything in their power to ensure the line was not a workable commercial proposition. Thus all passing loops were removed and only 3 trains a day were scheduled in each direction. In 1932 the line was closed to passenger traffic and in 1937 it was closed to freight traffic as well. Only then did fame arrive with the Gainsborough film mentioned above.

If there is sufficient interest I will write a further article about the spectacular crash scene filmed in 1928 for the film “The Wrecker”. and also the filming of “OH! Mr. Porter” for a subsequent newsletter.

## **The “Duke of York's House” 26/27 St. Swithun's St. Winchester (Tony Humphrys)**

The title has been put in parenthesis because there is evidence that these houses, often referred to as being the residence of the Duke of York in the late 1600's were not built until 1730.

Principal References:

1) Pamela Peskett

In “26 St.Swithun Street, Winchester, Hampshire, A History “ by Pamela Peskett a copy of a lease dated 27<sup>th</sup> July 1730 is shown which indicates that Robert Box was given permission to build a dwelling house on a 'void' piece of land which coincides with the plot upon which the house now known as 26/27 St Swithun's Street is situated. In a lease dated 10<sup>th</sup> day of October 1745 it is indicated that Robert Box had erected a dwelling house on this piece of land.( see page 5 and appendix 3 Peskett's paper)

2) Keene

In Keene's “Survey of Medieval Winchester Book 2 (Gazetteer)” on page 859 (fig.99) a map shows the area to the north of the city wall and indicates that the plot of land upon which the 'Duke of York's House' is situated was developed in 1730. A note under the map reads “the dates indicate when the land was enclosed “

Other References:

In Winchester College Archaeological Society's “Winchester, Its History, Buildings and People” (1st edition 1913) on page 100 one reads “James, Duke of York,lived in St Swithun's Street where St Thomas Street joins it. This was built by Sir Christopher Wren and has been spoilt by the addition of a large and projecting double window“ This is the earliest reference to the association of the house with the Duke of York which has been found. ( In the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition the house is wrongly placed at the junction of St Swithun's Street and Symond's Street).

Vesey -FitzGerald in”Winchester” misplaces the house as well so it would seem that he was just quoting from the Winchester College 3<sup>rd</sup> edition.

Carpenter Turner in” Winchester “ (1<sup>st</sup> edition 1980, page 121) writes “traditionally being described as being the Winchester house of the Duke of York”.(similarly in the 1992 edition page 105) .

Dean Kitchin in “Historic Towns – Winchester “(1907) makes no mention of the Duke of York.

Benham in “Winchester Diocesan Histories” (1884) mentions the Duke of York but doesn't connect him with a house.

Beaumont -James in “Winchester“ (English Heritage publication (1997) writes “26/27St. Swithun's Street (1680) possibly originally built for James 11 when Duke of York.”

Peskett in her paper referred to above , points out that Godson on his map (1750) features notable houses but does not mention the Duke of York. Neither Milner in his “History of Winchester” nor Ball in “An Historical Account of Winchester with descriptive walks” (1818) associate The Duke of York with the house.

### **Conclusion**

Setting aside Carpenter Turner's “traditionally” and Beaumont James's “possibly”

and the notable absence of any mention of an association of 26/27 with the Duke of York by Benham, Kitchin, Milner, Ball and Godson we are left with Peskett's leases (with Keene's support) and Winchester College Archaeological Society's publication(1913)

If anyone finds a reference earlier than 1913 it would be helpful if they would tell me. It would seem, however, that sufficient doubt has been raised to make it rash to assert that 26/27 St Swithun's Street had anything to do with James Duke of York (1633-1701)

Acknowledgements to John Crook for his help, advice and hard work checking on the absence of references to the Duke of York and to finding the 1913 ,Winchester College reference; also to Celia Root (the current occupant of the house) for showing me round and lending me a copy of Pamela Peskett's paper.



The "Duke of York's House", 26/27 St Swithun's Street

(photo Denis Howe)

## The Royal Oak, Winchester - A Royal House Indeed! (Graham Scobie)

### Introduction and Early History

The first royal connection with the Royal Oak dates to 1002 when King Ethelred the Unready granted his wife Emma the tenement then known as *Godebiete* as a wedding present. Their son King Edward the Confessor almost certainly spent part of his early years on the property.

During Oliver Cromwell's rule the Royal Oak, then known as The Chequer, was a notorious haunt of the city's royalist supporters. Following the restoration of Charles II to the throne, the inn gained its present name.

### King Ethelred the Unready

King Ethelred the Unready, meaning "uncounselled" or "unwilling to take advice", was the great, great grandson of Alfred the Great. Like Alfred, his reign was dominated by Viking attacks and invasion. Unlike Alfred, he didn't have much success. He tried fighting them, but he kept losing. He tried to bribe them, but they just came back for more. He then tried to find a political solution and searched for a Viking princess to marry to help form an alliance. He found one in Normandy (Normandy meaning Northman's or Norseman's land), the 16 or 17 year old \* Emma ("The Pearl of Normandy"), daughter of Richard I of Normandy, the great grandfather of William the Conqueror.

### Queen Emma

The marriage between Ethelred and Emma must have involved a culture clash between Saxon and Viking ways of life. Under Saxon law, the wife of a king could not sit on a throne, not wear a crown, nor could she be entitled queen, but only the king's wife. Viking culture was much different as women held equal rights to men. Part of the marriage negotiations involved Emma's status, and here the Viking way of life won. Immediately following the wedding marriage Emma was crowned queen. As such **Emma is the first Queen of England.**

*Note: There were a number of queens before Alfred's reign, one (Ealhswith) became sole ruler after the death of her husband. Her unpopularity led to the tradition mentioned above.*

Another cultural difference was that it was normal for Saxon kings and queens to live in separate residences. The king's Winchester residence was the Royal Palace that was located just to the west of the Saxon Old Minster. On their marriage, Ethelred gave Emma an estate in Winchester called 'The Manor of Godbegot'. Today the building next door bears the name Godbegot, but the original grant included Russell and Bromley, Godbegot, to the east of the Royal Oak Passage, and all the properties to the west up to Barclays Bank.

To the east side of the Royal Oak Passage were shops and houses from which Emma received an income. One of the shops was called Elric's Good Bargain, which over time became corrupted as Godbegot. To the west of the passage was a house called 'Emma's Tenement', which served as her Winchester residence. Attached to it was a private chapel that later became the church of St. Peter's in Fleshshambles (the area being the Butcher's Market). Although within the city, Manor of Godbegot was a semi independent state, since in the original grant there was the provision that no royal or city official could enter the property without Emma's permission. After her death

the property was granted to the cathedral priory who retained these privileges into the 15<sup>th</sup> century

Although Emma and Ethelred appear to have lived apart, their union produced a son named Edward who almost certainly spent the early years of his life here in Emma's tenement.

Ethelred died in 1016 and less than a year later he was succeeded to the throne of England by the Viking **King Cnut**, who was crowned at Winchester Old Minster (Saxon Cathedral). One of Cnut's first acts as King of England was to marry Emma. Emma and Cnut produced a son, Harthacnut who succeeded Cnut in 1040, and after his death in 1042, the English summoned Edward back from Normandy and he reigned as **Edward the Confessor** until 1066.

Many consider Edward the Confessor as the last true Anglo-Saxon king, for Harold II who fought and died at the Battle of Hastings had no royal blood in his veins.

The Norman version of events leading up to the Battle of Hastings states that the Edward the Confessor, who died childless, had made an agreement to pass the English throne to **William the Conqueror**. They may be right! Edward the Confessor was, after all, half Norman through his mother Emma. He had spent almost all of his early life in exile in Normandy and was Norman by upbringing. William was his first cousin once removed.

We could suggest that the Battle of Hastings in 1066 was the final act of a play that had been running for over 50 years, and that the true Conqueror of England was the teenage Emma on her marriage to Ethelred the Unready in 1002.

### Key Dates:

Emma born		c985 (989?)*
Marries Ethelred the Unready	Easter	1002
Gives birth to Edward (the Confessor)		c1004
Edward is first sent to Normandy		1013
Ethelred dies	23 Apr	1016
Edmund II (Ironside) reigns	Apr-Nov	1016
Viking King Cnut crowned	Jan	1017
Emma marries Cnut	Jul	1017
Harthacnut born		1019
Cnut dies		1035
Harold I (Harefoot) reigns		1035-1040
Harthacnut reigns		1040-1042
Edward crowned (Winchester)	Apr	1043
Emma dies (St Mary's Winchester)	Mar	1052
Edward dies	Jan	1066
Harold II (Godwinson) reigns.....	Jan-Oct	1066
William the Conqueror crowned	25 Dec	1066

Editor's notes:

1) : Dates and relationships shown above are taken from "Brewer's British Royalty" by David Williamson (published by Cassell 1996) ISBN 0-30-4-34933-X.

2) \* Some sources claim that Emma was only 13 when she married Ethelred in 1002.

3) "A Hollow Crown" by Helen Hollick (published by William Heinemann 2004) is a *huge* historical novel about the life of Emma. Several copies are in the Hampshire Library.