



trilithon

Newsletter of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

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£1
Free to
Members



White Horses arrive at the Museum, Ali Rushent

If you drive or walk along Long street at the moment, you will see two giant white horses dressing the outside of the Museum buildings. These eye-catching creations were made by young people from Wiltshire Young Carers, who took part in a project that we ran in partnership with Wiltshire Scrapstore.

During the summer, the Young Carers Group met us at Bratton Village Hall where they were introduced to the work of Eric Ravilious and they then set about creating the horses in sections, all working on a piece each. With Covid restrictions, this was easier than working on one large project together: it also ensured the horses could be more easily transported and stored.

Recycled bubble-wrap and sticky back plastic from Wiltshire Scrapstore were used to build up the horses' bodies and to give them a 3D effect. These materials were chosen as they are lightweight and waterproof, necessary if the horses stand any chance of surviving the wind and rain they will be exposed to!

After the horses were finished the group visited Bratton Camp to see the Westbury White Horse and to experience the chalkland landscape. The day ended at the Museum with an opportunity to explore our galleries and have a fish and chips supper before heading home.

All the pieces were joined together so that they could be suspended on the building. Hopefully they stay together until the end of the Ravilious Exhibition!

Many thanks to Wiltshire Young Carers for their enthusiasm and hard work on the project, to Kate from Wiltshire Scrapstore whose creativity and artistic skill made our project possible and to Tony of Superior Plants, based in Market Lavington for installing the horses on the Museum.



Supported using public funding by
**ARTS COUNCIL
ENGLAND**

Welcome

The *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition is proving to be a great success. Our Guest Curator, James Russell, has worked closely with our team to develop a top quality exhibition that is bringing visitors from across the country to the Museum and to hotels and restaurants in our town. Our thanks to the funders and lenders that have made it possible and my personal thanks to my colleagues who have made the exhibition a triumph.

The Assize Court project is proving to be moving at a glacial pace, but a significant development is that we have been awarded funding by Arts Council England for an oral history project to capture the story of the Court. Led by an experienced consultant, we will be working with students from Bath Spa University and our volunteers to record interviews with a wide range of people, including, we hope, some who appeared in the dock! More in future editions of *Trilithon*.

This edition of *Trilithon* includes a brief overview of our Annual Report, the full version of which can be found on our website. Despite the COVID pandemic, we have been able to run a programme of exhibitions, events and activities, and moving online has brought both challenges and successes. We are in better financial shape than I could have dared hope, and we are enjoying the success of the Ravilious exhibition. We are deeply grateful for the ongoing support of our members and volunteers, which makes it all possible.

David Dawson

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Museum Connect

Amy Hammett, Community Curator

Sarah Gregson, our previous Community Curator left in April for an exciting new role with Salisbury City Council. Her replacement, Amy Hammett, has 'hit the ground running' progressing all the exciting projects started by Sarah, and developing new ones.

The Chalk Hills project takes place during October, with students of Fairfield's Farm College. They will create a piece of art inspired by the 'dummy' book of Eric Ravilious. The project aims to inspire the creativity of the students by exposing them to the artwork of Ravilious, as well as allowing them to paint the same landscapes as he did.

With lockdown restrictions easing, the photography project with students from Wellington Academy, has been completed. Started in 2019 it came up against several hurdles before it could be completed. The young people have spoken very highly of the project and are very eager for it to continue to enable other young people to learn skills. The students work will be displayed at the school until the end of 2021 and then at Wiltshire Museum from early 2022.



The second stage of our Climate emergency project with Devizes 4th Guides is about to get underway. They will work with an artist to show their reaction and views on the climate emergency, and their work will become part of an online exhibition, as well as being displayed in the Museum itself.

And lastly, our Curious Kids under 5's programme has restarted at the Museum, on the first Saturday of the month. More details in the What's on Section.

AGM: new Trustees and proposed changes to the Articles of Association

The Society's AGM will take place on 13 November at Wiltshire Museum, commencing at 3pm. Details have been sent to all members.

Three new Trustees are proposed to join the Board of Trustees: Claire Dobbin, Ruth Kerr and Katie Marsden; together with the re-election of Gillian Kenny and Lachlan Robertson. The Board recommends the election of all five candidates.

The main business of the meeting will be to approve updated Articles of Association. The main change, following legal advice, is the proposal to make the Director/Chief Executive role an ex-officio Trustee. The Board of Trustees have recognised that the Director plays an active role in developing the strategic direction of the Society and should, therefore, play a full role in the responsibility, deliberations and decision-making of the Board. Many similar organisations have already made the decision to make their Director a Trustee. The opportunity has also been taken to make some other changes, such as changing Chairman to Chair. Full details can be found on the website and in the AGM papers.

Sadly, we have to report the death of a long-standing member and former Trustee Dr James Thomas. James was Deputy Chairman of WANHS from 2000 to 2004 and continued to be the local history editor of our *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* right up until the time of his death. Our condolences to his widow and family.

Support Curiosity and Creativity at Wiltshire Museum 2020 Appeal - Update

Rachael Holtom, Development Officer

Thanks to members, and online supporters of Crowdfunder, our 2020 Appeal raised a fantastic £7,832.50 for our learning programme.

Some funds backfilled the Learning Team's costs as a result of income lost from school visits during the pandemic. Some has paid for equipment to ensure we could provide services to families and schools unable to visit during the lockdowns.

Education and Outreach Officer, Ali Rushent, has been able to purchase duplicate replica artefacts to allow her to explain them via Zoom to school groups in classrooms while she stayed in the Museum. The quality of the loans boxes has also been improved, which are in higher demand post-Covid.

Some of our gallery interactives have been updated and new items are planned. Watch out in the coming months for the arrival of some intriguing historic shoes that children can try on in the Medieval Gallery, a 'smelly' interactive for the Roman Gallery (being designed by our Youth Panel) and more ...

Thank you again for your help in enhancing and improving our education and learning offer.



The Fall of Rome: George takes a tumble

George, who takes pride of place in our Roman Gallery, took a tumble in the summer. He was taken off display temporarily, which caused some mirth as he was moved! No lasting damage was found and he is now back on display.

How a legacy has benefited the Museum. The Dennis Shelton Legacy for Archaeological Acquisitions

Lisa Brown, Curator

In 2011 Dennis (Den) Shelton, former WANHS Trustee and long-standing Member, bequeathed a £10,000 legacy to the Society for the sole purpose of acquiring archaeological finds. Over the past ten years this generous gift has been used to acquire almost 40 objects for the collection, most of which are Treasure finds made by metal detectorists and reported through the Portable Antiquities Scheme.

Legacies like these are very important to the Museum enabling far more items to be acquired for the collection than would otherwise be possible. Such acquisitions strengthen our outstanding collections, Designated as being of national importance.

Den's legacy not only enabled the purchase of smaller items 'outright' but has also been used to provide match-funding for more expensive items where grants were awarded from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, Art Fund and Headley Trust. This includes a 10th - 11th century Viking Ring made from six strands of gold plaited together, found in the Stockley area, near Heddington; and an Anglo-Saxon sword pommel of 'cocked-hat' type, dating to 7th century AD, from the Cricklade area. A few examples are shown below.

Some of the objects acquired are on display, others are in store and form part of an important research collection.

All, and many others like them, are available to search online: www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/collections/.

- *Civil War hoard of 21 silver coins found in Stanton St Quintin.* The hoard comprises 7 half-crowns and 14 shillings. The earliest coin is a shilling of Philip and Mary, 1554-5. The latest coin, a shilling of Charles I with the initial mark (R), minted 1644-5 suggests that the hoard was deposited in or after 1646.
- *Silver gilt medieval annular brooch found in Urchfont.* The front of the brooch is flat and decorated with an incised design consisting of three panels of leaves and three panels of Greek crosses and saltires. The latter may be imitating an inscription.
- *Hoard of two early medieval silver sceattas.*
(1) Obverse: Diademed head right, beaded serpent circle at 6 o'clock, blundered legend in margin. Reverse: Bird to right on cross pattée, annulets each side, beaded serpent circle at 6 o'clock, blundered legend in margin, c.680-710.
(2) Obverse: Diademed draped bust right, cross in front of face, beaded border. Reverse: Beaded standard enclosing saltires pommées in the angles, around central pellet in annulet, pellets in the field and outside standard, c.710-720. Found in Urchfont.
- *Late Bronze Age gold plated penannular ring.* 1150 - 750 BC in date. Found in the Marlborough area.
- *Iron Age gold strip fragment broadly rectangular in shape.* The front face has punched decoration consisting of a stylised flower with oval petals. Located next to one of the petals is a central perforation. No clear parallels for this object have been found. It superficially resembles a casket ornament but is earlier than 1st century AD in date. The perforation suggests that the fragment was once secured to something made of wood or leather. The decoration suggests a date of between 250 and 50 BC. Found in the Marlborough area.
- *Roman gold ring of Henig Type VIII with a red oval garnet setting.* The bezel is decorated with crescent shaped markings down the sides. The hoop is bent and the garnet is decorated with a thyrus (staff of giant fennel) and ribbons behind a centrally positioned male head, facing left. Late 3rd century AD in date. Found in Fyfield.
- *Roman green gem-set gold finger-ring,* dating to the 3rd century AD, found in Clyffe Pypard.
- *Hoard of fifteen, and one cut, Medieval silver pennies,* ranging in date from AD 1180- 1217. All these coins, except for the cut penny are from the reign of John I. Found in Purton.

From the left: A coin from the Civil War hoard coins found in Stanton St Quintin; (2013.29) Roman green gem-set gold finger-ring (2015.16); Medieval silver penny (2017.24); Iron Age gold strip fragment (2014.9); Late Bronze Age gold plated penannular ring (2014.8).
Not shown to scale.



Legacies are valuable in underpinning the Society's finances and we are most grateful to those members who have made bequests to the Society in their wills.

If you would like to consider leaving a legacy contact the Director, David Dawson, or visit www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/legacy/

Objects on Tour



The Society's collection has been Designated as of national importance and to prove this, our collections have been in demand for international exhibitions.

Stonehenge - People and Landscapes

Hosted by the Museum for Archaeology, Federal State Museum for Westphalia, Herne and the Ludwig Boltzmann Institute for Archaeological Prospection and Virtual Archaeology and guest curated by Julian Richards. Items from our collection featuring in the exhibition includes gold, amber and jet objects from the Wilsford G7 grave group, the Mere G6a grave group (including a gold sun disc) and a small number of minute gold studs from the Wilsford G5 dagger handle (Bush Barrow).

The exhibition focuses on the archaeology of Stonehenge and its uniquely preserved prehistoric surroundings. The historic and present-day landscape of Stonehenge will be compared and contrasted with the landscape in Westphalia, in north-western Germany. The contrast between the prehistoric and contemporary cultural landscape is particularly striking in Herne as part of the Ruhr Metropolitan Region: there is hardly any other landscape in Germany that is so shaped and man-made as the Ruhr Cultural Landscape.

www.sonderausstellung-herne.lwl.org/de/

The World of the Nebra Sky Disc – New Horizons

At the State Office for Heritage Management and Archaeology Saxony-Anhalt State Museum of Prehistory, Halle (Saale), Germany.

The exhibition includes the Sun disc from Monkton Farleigh; the Early Bronze Age grave group from Preshute G1a and a circular dark red glass bead from Wilsford G42.

Secrets of Stonehenge

The overseas tour of this exhibition, co-ordinated by Museums Partner and curated by Mike Parker Pearson is due to open at Auckland Museum in December 2021 and then move on to Australia in mid-2022. The exhibition includes objects from the early Bronze Age burials: Amesbury G54 (Stonehenge flint dagger); Roundway G8 (Roundway archer Beaker burial) and Wilsford G8 (high status female burial with gold and amber).

www.scoop.co.nz/stories/CU2110/S00011/breakthrough-science-reveals-the-secrets-of-stonehenge-at-auckland-museum.htm

A fee is charged for all these loans, a welcome addition to Society funds. See later in the newsletter for details of a new temporary display to replace the items currently on tour.



Lisa packing objects ready for their journey overseas.

Legacies

As reported elsewhere in this newsletter legacies are invaluable in underpinning the Society's (i.e. the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society) finances and even a small bequest can have a significant impact on meeting the objects of the Charity:

to educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit.

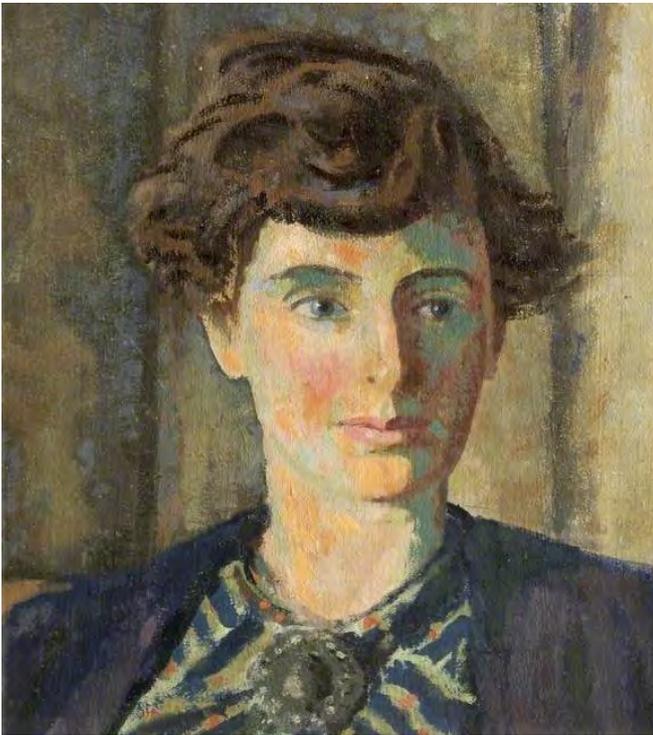
In 2021 we have been very fortunate to receive a number of legacies and the Board of Trustees have agreed these legacies will be used to fund a number of essential items:

- *Dr Pamela M Gough*, a life member of WANHS who, in addition to a financial bequest, left her Wiltshire research including thesis, notes, maps, books on Wiltshire and other reference books. The funds received have contributed towards the replacement of an old boiler and insulation in part of the building (match-funding a grant from the Devezes Area Board); and to establish a Gough Acquisitions Fund to purchase items for the collections (archaeology and archive and library).

- *Susan Rasey*, secretary of the Devezes Chamber of Commerce, an active member of the Development partnership and a former marketing manager. Sue was a great supporter of the Museum and used her professional expertise to help promote it. Her legacy has been invested to support the ongoing work of the Museum.
- *Kenneth Watts*. Ken was a noted author and a member of the Society for over 30 years. His substantial legacy will be used to fund works to fit out the archaeology store purchased in December 2019, to carry out essential repairs to the Museum building, and £100,000 has been invested in the Society's Endowment Fund.
- We also received a donation in memory of Malcolm Watts.

These legacies come as a result of long-standing associations with the Society and especially for the support that we were able to give to researchers early in their careers. They are also the result of a long-standing campaign by Doug Roseaman to publicise legacies and to ensure that we regularly report the impact of legacies in the work of the Society.

www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/legacy



Oil on canvas depicting portrait of Mrs Margaret (Peggy) Guido, by Frank Griffith, R.A. c.1935. Purchased with the aid of a grant from the V&A Purchase Grant Fund, in 1996.

Did you know Peggy Guido?

Peggy was an outstanding archaeologist and excavated many prehistoric sites in Wiltshire and became a leading authority on glass beads from the Iron Age to Anglo-Saxon period. On her death she left a substantial legacy not only to the Society but to the National Trust to help purchase land surrounding Silbury Hill.

Do you have any memories of Peggy and her contribution to the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society? Maybe you have some photographs or ephemera which feature Peggy?

If you do we would love to hear from you and add those memories to the museums collections. Your memories can be written down or recorded for our Oral History archive.

Please mark your contributions for the attention of Jane Schön, Collections Officer: Archive and Library, Wiltshire Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, SN10 1NS, or email: archive@wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

Reopening of Archive and Library

The Archive and Library should reopen for researchers in early 2022 – the date will be announced in our e-newsletter and on social media.

The part-time Collections Officer: Archive & Library is currently dealing with a back-log of enquiries and acquisitions - the latter are currently covering the research space!

Some enquiries can be dealt with via email (archive@wiltshiremuseum.org.uk), but it will not be possible to book visits until next year. We apologise for the inconvenience, but thank you for your patience as we work towards returning to normal.

More information about the collections online at www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk/library/

January 2021 saw the release of *The Dig*, a film about the 1939 excavation of an Anglo-Saxon burial site at Sutton Hoo, Suffolk and the personalities involved. Amongst the cast are Ben Chaplin and Lily James, playing archaeologists Stuart Piggott and his wife Peggy, both of whom have a more local claim on our attention because of their long association with Wiltshire and the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society.

Born in Hampshire in 1910, Stuart Piggott became an assistant at Reading Museum on leaving school. A few years later he met Alexander Keiller, then excavating Windmill Hill and who was to offer him the post of personal assistant on a range of projects in the Avebury area. By 1935 both he and Peggy Preston found themselves at Mortimer Wheeler's recently established Institute of Archaeology. For Peggy, born Cecily Margaret Preston in 1912, an early interest in Roman coins had led to excavating Verulamium (St Albans) with Wheeler and his wife in the early 1930s. Stuart and Peggy were married in late 1936 and settled at Rockbourne, just over the Hampshire border, making a living as freelance excavators and thereby becoming involved at Sutton Hoo. Both had joined the Society by 1939, Stuart sitting on the Council and the author of a short piece on Neolithic pottery from Hackpen in the December 1937 issue of the magazine.

In 1946, after war service and research on the 18th Century antiquarian William Stukeley, Stuart Piggott was appointed Abercromby (Applecumber he called it) Professor of Prehistoric Archaeology at Edinburgh, remaining there until retirement in 1977. He still found time to keep in touch with the Society, remaining on the Council until 1954 and publishing papers on Wiltshire in our magazine and elsewhere. In 1965 he produced the Neolithic and Bronze Age chapter for Volume I.1 of the Victoria County History for Wiltshire, which has been called his final statement on the earlier prehistory of Wessex. Retirement to Berkshire saw renewal of closer links with the Society. He became a Vice-President in 1977, and then President from 1987 until his death in 1996.

The mid 1950s had seen the end of the marriage. For Peggy there was a brief second marriage to Luigi Guido, a Sicilian academic. Then in 1975 she moved to Devizes where she lived at 44 Long Street. Close by at Chancel End was fellow archaeologist Eve Machin (1915-1999) with whom Peggy formed a close friendship. It was during these Devizes years that her *Glass Beads of the Prehistoric and Roman periods in Britain and Ireland* was published, to be followed posthumously by *Glass Beads of Anglo-Saxon England*. Peggy too joined the Society's Council soon after coming to Devizes, becoming a Vice-President in 1983 and holding that office until her death in 1994. Looking back it may not be altogether fanciful to see a certain rightness about both Stuart and Peggy holding high office in our Society more than half a century after they had become members in the first flush of their lifelong enthusiasm for archaeology.

WHAT'S ON?

As new lectures are arranged details are published on our website, e-newsletter and social media.

Currently lectures are being presented online using Zoom webinar, which may be recorded for viewing after the event. We plan to return to in-person lectures in 2022, hopefully with an online option for those of you not able to visit Wiltshire. More about this at a later date.

Art Course: *Inspired by Ravilious*, by Sue Martin.

A six-week course (in 3 parts) of practical workshops. £140 (£120 WANHS members). **22 October to 10 December: 10:30 am.**

October Holiday Activities:

26 October – *Chalk landscapes and White Horses*

27 October - *Halloween*

£6 per child (adults free). For ages 5-11.

10:30 am and 1.30pm.

Online Lecture: *Sutton Hoo 2021 - old stories and new adventures*, Prof Martin Carver. *A joint fund-raiser for the Saxon Church of St. Laurence, Bradford-on-Avon Museum and Wiltshire Museum.* £7 per screen (£4.50 WANHS and Bradford on Avon Museum Members). **28 October: 7:30 pm.**

Online Lecture: *The World of the Nebra Sky Disk: new horizons in Bronze Age Europe*, by Dr Regine Maraszek, Head of Special Exhibitions Department, Landesmuseum für Vorgeschichte Halle (Saale). £7 (£4.50 WANHS members). **4 November: 7:30 pm.**

Curious Kids: *Horses*. 50 minutes of stories and multi-sensory fun for children ages 2 to 5. Cost: £4 per child (adults free). **6 November: 10:15 am.**

Young Curator's Club: *Ravilious and the Chalk Downland Landscape*. £6 per child (adults free). **13 November: 10:30 am.**

Online Lecture: *Wiltshire's White Horses*, with David Dawson. FREE – WANHS Members (£4.50 non-members per screen). **15 November: 7:30 pm.**

Online Lecture: *From Milan to Draycot Cerne. The Funerary Helmet of Sir Thomas Long*, by Chris Dobson, historian and researcher. £7 (£4.50 WANHS members). **18 November: 7:30 pm.**

Museum Explorer's Club: *Ravilious and the Chalk Downland Landscape*. £6 per child (adults free). **20 November: 10:30 am.**

Online Lecture: *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man*, by James Russell. £7 (£4.50 WANHS members). **2 December: 7:30 pm.**

Curious Kids: *Toys and Games*. Cost: £4 per child (adults free). **4 December: 10:15 am.**

Young Curator's Club: *Christmas Traditions*. £6 per child (adults free). **11 December: 10:30 am.**

Museum Explorer's Club: *Christmas Traditions*. £6 per child (adults free). **18 December: 10:30 am.**

ONLINE LECTURES start at 7.30pm and use Zoom webinar – the link is emailed on the day of the lecture.

Membership News

Subscription Rates - no increase in 2022!

There will be no increase in the membership subscription rates in 2022. Donations are always welcome - you can increase your membership level to Amber, Gold or Jadeite, or make a one-off donation via our website.

FREE entry to Stonehenge - on production of a current membership card. Visit their exhibitions, which feature items from our collection, and visit the landscape throughout the year.

If you do not have a current membership card (and we have not sent these automatically during the pandemic), please contact us: hello@wiltshiremuseum.org.uk



Thank you to all our speakers and walk leaders for contributing their time to provide an events programme. *Image: Glyn Coy of Hidden Wiltshire, led a series of outings over the summer exploring the Wiltshire Countryside.*

MUSEUM OPENING TIMES

Pre-booking RECOMMENDED

Monday to Saturday: 10am to 5pm
(opening 11am Mondays)

Sundays: 11am to 4pm

Information and booking details
www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

Online, telephone 01380 727369, visit the Museum shop or email: hello@wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

Events can be cancelled at short notice if insufficient bookings are received. DISCLAIMER: No responsibility can be accepted by WANHS for accidents or injury sustained during the course of any event arranged by them.

Wiltshire Museum, 41 Long Street, Devizes, SN10 1NS

ENVIRONMENT POLICY

The plastic envelopes which we use for our mailings are recyclable. If anyone has a product/supplier to recommend, please get in touch.

We recycle as much material as possible and recycling boxes are located around the Museum building.

Eric Ravilious: Downland Man

For the very first time Wiltshire Museum has borrowed artworks from major National Museums to bring an international standard art exhibition to the County.



The exhibition, masterminded by James Russell, explores for the first time, Eric Ravilious's (1903-1942) fascination for the chalk downlands of Wiltshire and Sussex. Watercolours and wood engravings included in the exhibition show dew ponds and farmyards, a cement works and a field roller, modern military fortifications and ancient monuments. Iconic watercolours such as *The Westbury Horse* and *The Wilmington Giant*, are displayed alongside other rarely-seen works. The exhibition offers a new view of the artist as a chronicler of the landscape he knew better than any other.

James Russell, who created the successful Ravilious exhibition at the Dulwich Picture Gallery in 2015, has also written an illustrated catalogue (pictured above) to accompany the exhibition, which can be purchased from the Museum shop or online.

Central to the exhibition are watercolours of chalk figures made in 1939 in preparation for a children's book, to be called *Downland Man*. The book was not finished and for many years the prototype or 'dummy' made by Ravilious was believed lost. It resurfaced in 2012 and this precious relic was bought at auction by Wiltshire Museum. It contains delicate pencil drawings of chalk hill figures, ancient monuments and prehistoric earthworks in Wiltshire and features in the exhibition.

The exhibition will appeal to art lovers and those who love the local landscapes. Artworks have been borrowed from Tate, V&A Museum, Imperial War Museum, British Museum, National Museum of Wales, the prestigious Towner Art Gallery in Eastbourne and private lenders.

A number of grants, donations and sponsorships made the exhibition possible and we would like to thank them for their support: the Weston Loan Programme with Art Fund, the Heritage Fund, the Lottery Fund via the Arts Council, the Mercers' Company Foundation, the Golsoncott Foundation, the Verdon-Smith Family Trust, the Walter Guinness Charitable Trust, Wansbroughs Solicitors, Gaigers Ltd and members.

Exhibition at Wiltshire Museum until 30 January 2022. The Museum is open seven days a week and online booking is strongly recommended. Free entry for WANHS members. More information at www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk

Elements of Ravilious with Arts Together

Local groups are also getting involved in the 'Eric Ravilious: Downland Man' exhibition.

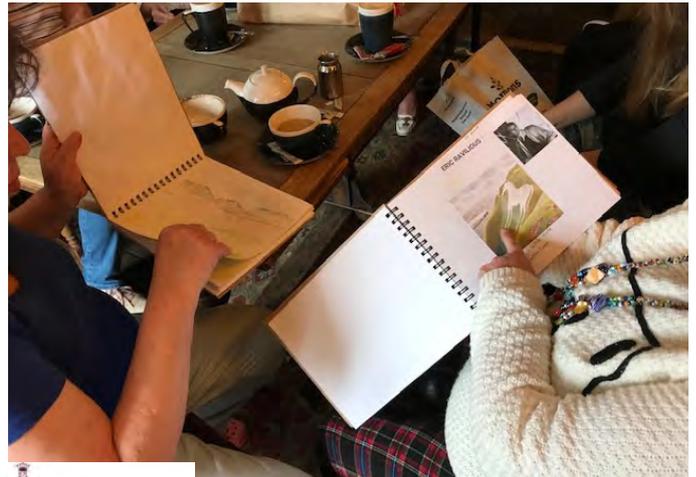
Arts Together

Creative projects inspired by museum artefacts and artworks can be really powerful and this one, with the Devizes branch of Arts Together, definitely proves the point.

*There was a young man called Ravilious
Whose paintings were skilled and fastidious
The works that emerged
As his genius surged
Were nothing - if not - quite marvilious!*

Arts Together is a pioneering charity which works to improve the health, well-being and quality of life of older people through a range of participatory arts projects. With a grant from the Mercers Company, members learnt about Eric Ravilious' downland works and then created their own artworks on that theme (pictured below).

This was achieved with the added complication, and resulting insecurities, of creating art in isolation at home. The project was successfully completed through a series of carefully planned project letters and workshops on Zoom, run by Sue Martin and coordinated by Belinda Chandler from Arts Together. The final art works are on display at the Museum for the duration of the Ravilious exhibition.



Members comparing project sketchbooks at their first post-pandemic meeting.

Belinda said "There are some really thoughtful pieces and it's clear that the group has fully engaged with the project and felt very passionate about their work. We are immensely grateful to the Museum for giving us the chance to bring this vulnerable group together again during an extended period of isolation. The project has given them a strong sense of purpose but also restored their identity as a group. It has been wonderful to see."



Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

Annual Report and Accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021

(Charity No. 1080096, Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales no. 3885649)

The Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society (the Society) was founded in 1853 and is registered with the Charity Commission and Companies House. The Society's objects are to

Educate the public by promoting, fostering interest in, exploration, research and publication on the archaeology, art, history and natural history of Wiltshire for the public benefit.

To achieve this the Society undertakes a range of activities

Maintains a museum, library and art gallery, open throughout the year, and mounts exhibitions to stimulate and enhance appreciation of the county of Wiltshire.

Staff are employed to manage the daily operation of the building and the nationally important collections, supported by a team of volunteers. The Museum is open throughout the year, seven days a week, apart from the Winter months when it is closed on Sundays and Mondays to enable essential work to be undertaken. Committees and working groups are formed to follow up on specific issues.

The Museum tells Wiltshire's story through eight subject galleries – from Prehistory to the Story of Devizes. The Museum hosts visits by a wide range of groups, including schools, youth organisations, local history groups, universities, archaeological societies, tour operators and even sleepovers!

However this year has been overshadowed by the impact of the Coronavirus Pandemic. The Museum was closed for much of the year and we were not able to offer our usual programme of events, learning activities and exhibitions. However, we did find different ways of engaging with our audiences online and even to expand those audiences in the online world.

We are fortunate that, as far as we know, the health and well-being of our members, volunteers, trustees and staff has not been directly affected. Those who have been affected are in our thoughts.

We were able to maintain core services to members and, when allowed to open, welcomed visitors back to the Museum to enjoy our displays and exhibitions, even though we had to restrict numbers and remove interactives, so invaluable for engaging our younger visitors.

For many charities, the pandemic has had a serious economic impact. However, with careful management of Society finances, the continued support of our members and Government schemes, particularly the 'Furlough Scheme', we remain in a good financial position.

Our exhibition programme continues to be varied, to attract both new and returning visitors to the Museum *Out of Egypt* opened in August 2020 (having originally been scheduled to open in March 2020) and the *Eric Ravilious: Downland Man* exhibition, originally scheduled to open in September 2020 was rescheduled to late September 2021.

The loan of items to and from the Museum are important in making the collections available to as many people as possible. Items from the collection were seen by visitors to the Stonehenge visitor Centre and also further afield in America. Plans are underway for exhibitions in Australia and New Zealand in 2022.

Actively collects objects and documents, through the Collections Trust, that tell the story of Wiltshire

Acquisitions to the collection are recorded in the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine*. The highlights of the year, reflect the diversity of the collection. Two Viking gold stranded wire finger-rings, dating to 8th – 10th centuries AD were in a private collection and purchased by the Museum at auction. The rings were placed inside one another in antiquity and are now on display in the Museum. Donated to the Museum by the owner were a German cap badge and model German U-boat made from wood and wire, marked in black ink 1945. J. DASHFIELD. They were made by Hermann Siemonsmeier, a German anti-aircraft gunner who gave them to John Dashfield, a then 9-year-old boy who befriended Hermann as a POW. Hermann and John kept in touch after the war.

Organises lectures, conferences and visits to disseminate greater knowledge and appreciation of our heritage, to both the Society's members and wider audience.

With the Museum in lockdown from 17 March 2020 all events had to be cancelled and all ticket holders were contacted. Very few requested a refund, the majority prepared to wait until events could be rearranged.

As the year wore on, and Covid-restrictions were introduced which limited the numbers who could meet in person, our lecture programme moved online, using the Zoom conference platform (Zoom webinar). With a little trial and error we all became used to the new technology, which enabled the postponed lectures and Archaeology Conference to be held virtually. New online lectures were organised as the third lockdown wore on. These lectures had many advantages - attracting speakers who would not be able to visit Devizes on a Saturday afternoon and attracted an audience from across the globe. Lectures were also arranged in conjunction with other organisations, including the Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society.

We would like to record our thank you to all the speakers for giving of their time to present these lectures and to all the viewers for attending - and their patience when the technology let us down!

Inspiring people to explore the archaeology, history and environment of Wiltshire

This is a summary of the full Annual Report and Financial Statements, which includes the minutes of last year's AGM. They are available on our website – www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk - or from the Museum office.

Provides activities for young people to enable them to appreciate and develop their understanding of the local environment and its history (including school visits to the Museum and workshops at schools).

The Museum's Education Service continues to offer activities to schools and families across the county, both on a formal and informal basis. When not on furlough leave she was able to hold classes online and in small groups in the Museum. In conjunction with the Wessex Museums partnership a learning strategy has been developed to enhance the education offer.

Engages with local community groups to offer arts, culture and heritage activities for all generations.

A growing area is engagement with local community groups. Sarah Gregson, our Community Curator (a post funded by the Wessex Museums Partnership) worked jointly with ourselves and Salisbury Museum to attract groups who do not currently engage with the museums. She was able to offer online activities during the lockdowns.

Provides opportunities for volunteers, without whom the Society could not offer the scale and variety of activities.

Our volunteers continue to be an important part of the work of the Museum and Society. Whilst many activities had to cease due to the various lockdowns and restrictions, research, cataloguing, visitor engagement and much more remain important to the Museum. Regular Zoom coffee mornings were held to keep the volunteers in touch with each other and ourselves.

Promotes, encourages and undertakes research and publishes newsletters, an annual magazine, reports, periodicals, books and other literature which are relevant to its activities.

We remain committed to supporting research, but because of the Covid-19 pandemic we were unable to accommodate any researchers during the year. Research will resume as soon as possible.

During lockdown it was possible to continue the work, funded by Designation Development Fund by Arts Council England to update our collections database with all the research carried out over the last 10 years on our collections, and to use this to revitalise the presentation of our collections online.

Our journal - the *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* - continues to be the journal for reports on archaeological discoveries in Wiltshire, alongside other relevant articles on the history of the county.

Finances, Fundraising and Investments

Funding is essential to achieve the Society's objects, and income comes from a variety of sources - grants, donations, membership subscriptions, investments and fundraising activities.

The financial situation at 31 March 2021 is shown in the Statement of Financial Activities and Balance Sheet on pages 10 and 11 of this newsletter. Full details and notes can be found in the Annual Report and Financial Statements - available at www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk.

Income received in the year totalled £330,508 (2020 £398,344), from donations, charitable activities, trading activities and investments. We received income from grants, including from Wiltshire Council, which are a very valuable as they support core expenses. Specific project grants enable the Society to extend its work in ways it would be unable to undertake without such support and we are extremely grateful for all the grants we receive. We also received monies from the Government's income Support Scheme (furlough) and Wiltshire Council Covid-19 recovery grants. Expenditure totalled £397,685 (2020 £387,069).

The Trustees consider that, in line with the Charity Commission advice, the Society should have at least one years core costs in unrestricted reserves (i.e. designated funds plus unrestricted reserves), currently set at £300,000 to provide a measure of security; however, as the Society has become heavily dependent on its investments to provide ongoing but uncertain income for its operations, unrestricted funds have to be substantially greater. The Unrestricted Funds at 31 March 2021 were £728,632 (2020 - £695,868). The unrestricted reserves are used to support the charitable activities of the Society where there is a deficiency of net income on core activities or to take account of new opportunities. The Society holds Designated Funds (which are part of total unrestricted funds) of £430,535 (2020 - £378,629). Designated Funds can only be utilised for other purposes if the expenditure they defray either ceases to exist or is charged to core activities. The Endowment Fund currently stands at £407,444 (2020 - £348,744), the capital of which is not distributable. Rathbone Investment Managers are employed to manage the investment portfolio with the primary objective to achieve a balanced return from income and capital at the low end of a medium level of risk.

The principal risks facing the Society include falls in the Stock Market; long-term staff or Trustee absence; inadequate staffing and dependence on a small team of full-time employees; and physical risks to the collections or buildings. Added to this will now be closure due to pandemics. All of these are regularly reviewed.

Future Plans

A new Strategic Plan was agreed in 2019 and takes into account the proposal to relocate to the Devizes Assize Court, whilst working on action plans with the Wessex Museums Partnerships to develop our exhibition programme, services and offers to members, visitors and the wider community. A 2021/22 Forward Plan has been prepared, taking into account the Covid-19 pandemic.

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

The following two pages summarise the accounts for the year ended 31 March 2021 and the Balance Sheet at that date.

The investments showed a net gain at 31 March 2021 as the stock market recovered following the Covid-19 pandemic and lifting of the lockdown and restrictions. Most of the Designated funds are those we received when we took over the Wiltshire Life Society collections

and the income is used to store and maintain them. Most of the Restricted funds are funds from legacies. The income from the Endowment Fund is used to fund the operation of the Society and its Museum.

The Annual Report and Financial Statements are available at www.wiltshiremuseum.org.uk or from the Museum office.

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

(Charity No. 1080096, Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales no. 3885649)

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

	Unrestricted Funds	Restricted Funds	Endowment Funds	Total Funds 2021	Total Funds 2020
	£	£	£	£	£
Income and Endowments from:					
Donations and legacies	172,765	-	250	173,015	94,048
Charitable activities	90,224	-	-	90,224	215,800
Other trading activities	33,286	-	-	33,286	44,229
Investments	16,222	5,614	12,147	33,983	44,267
Total	312,497	5,614	12,397	330,508	398,344
Expenditure on:					
Raising funds	23,305	2,006	3,583	28,894	55,926
Charitable activities	368,791	-	-	368,791	331,143
Total	392,096	2,006	3,583	397,685	387,069
Net gains/(losses) on investments	103,799	35,925	58,450	198,174	(95,721)
Net income/(expenditure)	24,200	39,533	67,264	130,997	(84,446)
Transfers between funds	8,564	-	(8,564)	-	-
Net movement in funds	32,764	39,533	58,700	130,997	(84,446)
Reconciliation of funds:					
Total funds brought forward	695,868	223,299	348,744	1,267,911	1,352,357
Total funds carried forward	728,632	262,832	407,444	1,398,908	1,267,911

REPORT OF THE AUDITORS - FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2021

We have examined the summarised financial statements of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society, set out on pages 8 to 11.

Respective responsibilities of trustees and auditors

The Trustees (who are directors of the charitable company for the purposes of company law) are responsible for the preparation of the summarised financial statements and for being satisfied that they give a true and fair view.

Our responsibility is to report to you our opinion on the consistency of the summarised financial statements with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report. We conducted our work in accordance with applicable law and International Standards on Auditing (UK and Ireland).

Those standards require us to comply with the Auditing Practices Board's Ethical Standards for Auditors

Opinion

In our opinion the summarised financial statements are consistent with the full annual financial statements and the Trustees' Annual Report of the Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society for the year ended 31 March 2021, on which we expressed an unqualified audit opinion in our report dated 30 September 2021.

David Owen & Co,
Chartered Accountants and Statutory Auditors
17 Market Place, Devizes, Wiltshire
30 September 2021

Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society

(Charity No. 1080096, Company Limited by Guarantee in England and Wales no. 3885649)

BALANCE SHEET - AS AT 31 MARCH 2021

	2021		2020	
	£	£	£	£
Fixed Assets				
Tangible Fixed Assets		310,155		318,342
Managed Investments				
Securities	853,167		729,270	
Cash	8,882		26,716	
		862,049		755,986
Managed Endowment Investments				
Securities	380,083		331,249	
Cash	26,910		17,295	
		406,993		348,544
Total Fixed Assets		1,579,197		1,422,872
Current Assets				
Stock	14,442		14,031	
Debtors	21,053		93,593	
Cash at Bank	83,475		61,000	
Total current Assets	118,970		168,624	
Liabilities				
Creditors: Amounts falling due within one year	145,343		157,712	
Net Current Liabilities		(26,373)		10,912
Total assets less current liabilities		1,552,824		1,433,784
Creditors: Amounts falling due after more than one year		153,916		165,873
		1,398,908		1,267,911
The funds of the Society				
Endowment Funds		407,444		348,744
Restricted income funds		262,832		223,299
Unrestricted funds (including Designated funds)		728,632		695,868
		1,398,908		1,267,911

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the provisions applicable to companies subject to the Small Companies Regime and FRS 102 Section 1A.

The note on page 9 forms part of these financial statements.

The financial statements were approved by the Trustees on 30 September 2021, and signed on their behalf by:

M J Nye, Chair

C R Kelly, Treasurer

The Philip Crocker Drawings

Whilst some of our world-renowned objects are on tour the opportunity has been taken to display our volume of 52 beautifully detailed watercolour drawings, completed by Philip Crocker over 200 years ago. The drawings are of objects discovered by William Cunnington in Bronze Age burials excavated around Stonehenge and across Wiltshire.

To showcase all the content the pages are regularly turned. The first drawing displayed was the Stonehenge Barrel Urn, the largest Bronze Age burial urn found in Britain. Now on permanent display in the Museum it was discovered by William Cunnington in a barrow close to the western end of the Stonehenge Cursus - hence the name. It contained cremated human remains with the top closed with a triangular stone.

William Cunnington and one of his daughters, possibly Anne, are shown in the drawing (*top right*) holding the Stonehenge Urn. Initialed JW, 1802 it is attributed to Joseph Windham.

The page change is published on our social media and in our e-newsletter (to be added to the e-newsletter list, either join from www.wiltshireremuseum.org.uk (box at the bottom of the page) or email hello@wiltshireremuseum.org.uk.



Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Society - Please Join Us

To maintain the collections, Museum and Library the Society relies on admission charges, grants, donations and subscriptions from members.

Benefits of WANHS membership include:

- Free entry to our award-winning Museum, Archive and Library and special exhibitions
- Free welcome tour of Museum and Library
- Free entry to Stonehenge and it's Visitor Centre
- Discounted lectures, conferences and courses
- Regular newsletter with the latest news and forthcoming events
- Find out more about Wiltshire's story as you get to know fellow members and meet subject experts
- Make new friends by getting involved in the Museum and Society as a volunteer
- Get involved in archaeological fieldwork and excavation with our Wiltshire Archaeology Field Group
- Read the latest archaeological and historical research in your free copy of our annual journal
- Find out about where you live with free research access to the 50,000 books, documents, maps and images in our library and archive
- Free entry to Salisbury, Dorset County and Poole museums as part of the Wessex Museums Partnership
- Knowing that you are helping to support our vital educational work and the long-term care of our nationally important collections.

DONOR MEMBERSHIP

Would you like to give extra support to your Society and its Museum?

Two grades of donor membership are available, both comprising the regular subscription plus a donation towards the running of the Museum.

In addition to all the usual benefits of membership Donor members receive invitations to private viewings of exhibitions and other special events.

Gold Donor:

£10.88 per month or £129.00 per year

Amber Donor:

£5.88 per month or £69.00 per year.

Contact us to join WANHS or to upgrade your membership

NOT A MEMBER? IT'S EASY TO JOIN

Become a member and help us to continue preserving Wiltshire's past for the future. This newsletter is sent free to members and you will also receive a copy of our annual *Wiltshire Archaeological and Natural History Magazine* and much more.

Membership of WANHS starts from
£3.85 per month (£44.00 pa).

Student membership
£20.00 pa (£1.80 per month).

Join online or visit the Museum shop.

Editorial Team: David Dawson, Karen Jones

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