

## WAS Newsletter - March 2022

WAS has a busy schedule lined up for 2022, largely in the open air; it contains walks, cellar tours, pottery analysis and a new Project photographing and recording features of ancient Winchelsea.

**Guided Walks** - Start at the Town Well at 2.15pm and last maybe 75 minutes. All are welcome. They will begin on **Saturday March 26th** visiting **'The Remains of Iham'**.



- What do we know about Iham - the cinque port limb of Hastings?
- Was there a castle in Castle Field?
- Where was St Leonard's Well?
- See the remains of St Leonard's Church.
- Was Iham occupied prior to the arrival of William the Conqueror in 1066?

A shortened version of this guided walk will then be repeated three times for the general public at monthly intervals on the second Saturday afternoon each month from April to June.

The second WAS walk is planned in early June on **'Winchelsea and the Pilgrims'**. The date is to be confirmed. This walk will take place on a Friday at 12 noon to allow access to Greyfriars en route to the south side of the town. The third WAS walk in September is on **"Winchelsea in the Wars"**.

Public walks from July to October will be arranged after a review of those scheduled for April to June.

**Cellar Tours** - WAS works with FOAM to provide guided cellar tours on each Saturday morning from April to the end of October. This year the first two Saturday mornings in April (before Easter) will be free to residents of Winchelsea or members of FOAM or WAS.

**Pottery analysis** - Recording of the 90 crates of pottery sherds from the Blackfriars Barn cellar is drawing to a conclusion. However there is a stream of items found in Winchelsea brought in to our experts. In recent months, this has included a Stone Age flint and a sherd from a fourteenth century Rye ware jug.

**History recording** - The National Trust Heritage Records Online contains information on over 88,000 archaeological sites and historic buildings situated upon, or adjacent to, National Trust owned land; there are nearly 300 records for Winchelsea - these do not contain photographs or ten-figure GPS grid references. WAS hopes to start carrying out

such recording later this year and is discussing details, such as training sessions, with the National Trust.

This is an ambitious programme which we would like to carry out. But we need help - people to act as stewards on the walks or cellar tours particularly at the busy bank holiday weekends, people who could help in updating the monument records with photographs or GPS data. It is intended that the proceeds from the walks and cellar tours will be used to fund future research equipment, such as a new resistivity meter, drone photography to develop three-dimensional computer models of the sites of interest - this would be so interesting for the sloping site of Blackfriars by the Pipewell Gate.

Please email Andrew at [andrewscottb@aol.com](mailto:andrewscottb@aol.com) or Merv at [mervynhack@sky.com](mailto:mervynhack@sky.com) for more details or if you are interested in joining the Society, helping on the Committee or assisting in the research.

You would be most welcome, as the greater the membership, the more we can do.