



*Extracts from the Chapter minutes from 1733 onwards and divers historical prospecting.*

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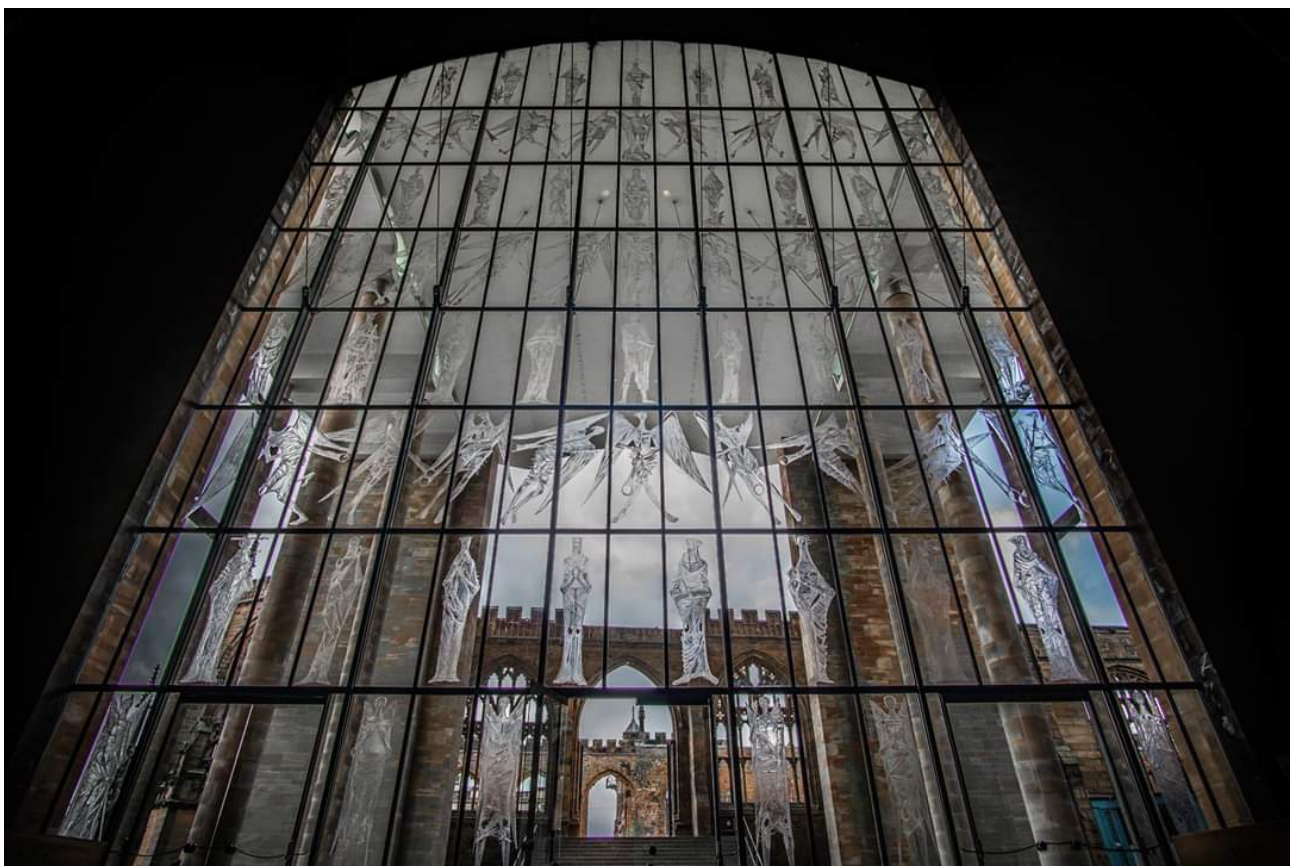
## A PEEK THROUGH THE WINDOW - NO. 10

Mike Deeming writes:

**M**The tragic loss of Susan Hill, a trainee teacher at the College of Sarum St Michael, who drowned at Harnham in 1966 whilst trying to rescue a child at the weir, is commemorated in the engraved glass window at the entrance to the Consistory Court (right). The window by the New-Zealand-born glass engraver, John Hutton, was installed in the Old Deanery (then part of the College) and moved to the Cathedral in 1978 when the College closed.



Hutton is best known for his engraved glass of the Great West Screen in Coventry Cathedral (below, *courtesy of Tara Rutledge 2019 Creative Commons*). It's just eighty years since the medieval Coventry Cathedral was largely destroyed by bombing on 14 November 1940. Parts of the shell of the building and of the tower survived and two charred roof timbers were nailed together to form a cross, and the words 'Father Forgive' inscribed on the sanctuary wall. Medieval nails were also fashioned into a cross which became a symbol of reconciliation. The architect Sir Basil Spence had worked





with Hutton on camouflage in WW2 so chose him to design the 66 panels of Saints and Angels in the Great West Screen. They took John Hutton 10 years to engrave and the Cathedral was consecrated in 1962.

A similar fate befell the Kaiser Wilhelm Memorial Church in Berlin (left) in an allied bombing raid on 23 November 1943. It lies at the top of Kurfürstendamm, the main shopping street in the former West Berlin. Both of Berlin's Cathedrals were also badly damaged, but they are in the eastern sector, so the rebuilding of

the KWMC was a crucial focus of restoration and reconciliation for West Berliners after the war. As with Coventry, the remaining structures were retained and a new church built alongside. A cross of nails, from Coventry, is on display in the KWMC restored tower.

Which brings us full circle. The new building of the KWMC by the architect Egon Eiermann, is encapsulated with blue glass by Gabriel Loire, the designer of Salisbury's Prisoners of Conscience window. It too is dominated by the medieval colours of Chartres glass, with jewels of red, green and gold shining through, and careful use of slab glass. The whole creates an oasis of calm, in total contrast to the traffic and shops outside.

This, too, is what Dean Evans was seeking to achieve with the Prisoners of Conscience window at Salisbury – a chapel of peace at the east end of the Cathedral.

## WESSEX



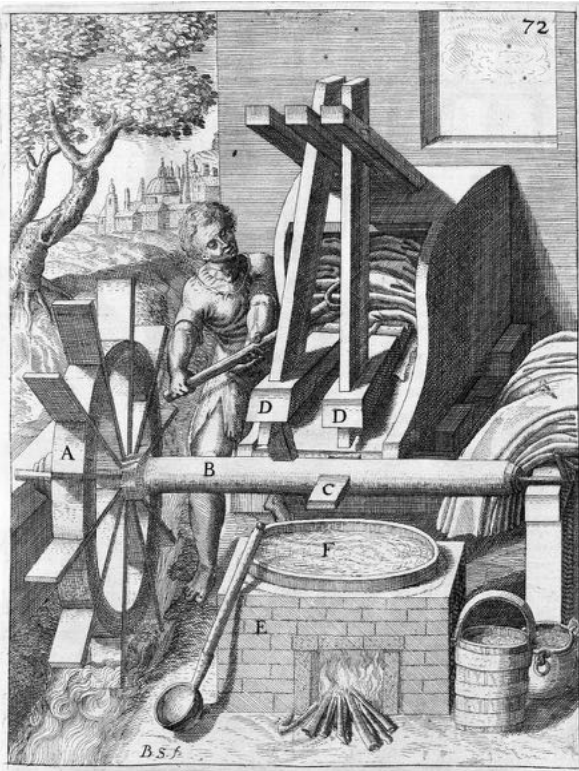
A recent acquisition is a second-hand copy of *Wessex From AD 1000* by J H Betty (Longman 1986) in which I found many references to my archaeological mentors, Professors Barry Cunliffe and Martin Biddle. Left, the editor (with hair) at the excavation of Winchester's Saxon Minster *courtesy of The Times*. Below are some of the nuggets I have unearthed.

One of the many crimes of which King John stands accused was the murder of his nephew, Arthur of Brittany, in 1203. What I did not know was that Arthur's sister, Eleanor (the Fair Maid of Brittany) was imprisoned for life in Bristol Castle as she had not only a claim to Brittany but Aquitaine and even England. When she eventually died in 1241, she was buried in Amesbury Abbey. Right, Alyenore la Brette *courtesy of the British Library, public domain*.



Henry III held a parliament at Marlborough in *the two and fiftieth year of the reign of King Henry, son of King John, in the utas of St.Martin*





Georg Andreas Bockler's *Theatrum Machinarum Novum* of 1661 *Public Domain*.

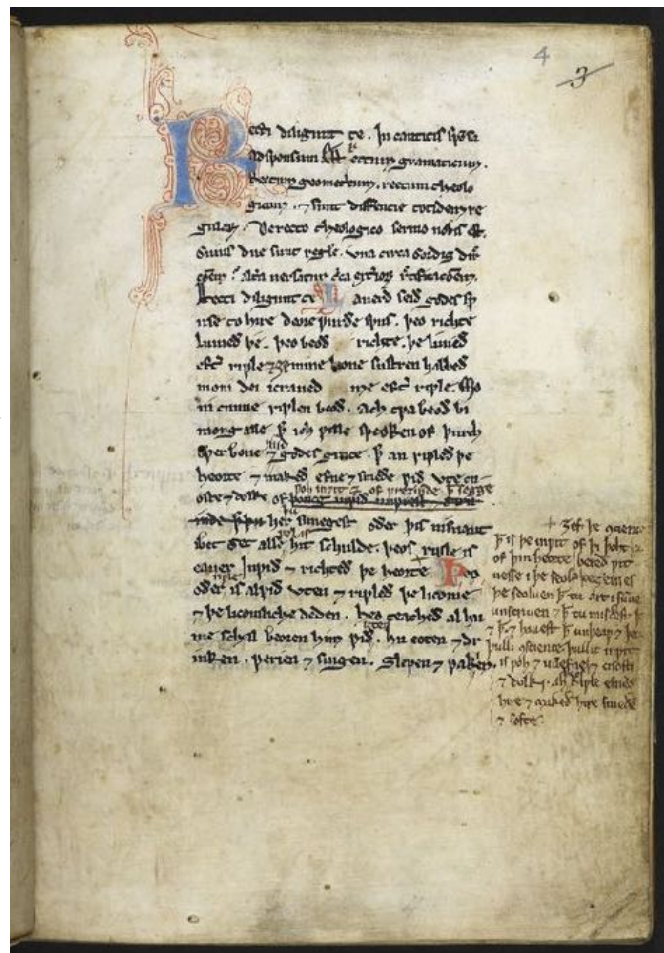
(Wikipedia). Utas is an archaic term to denote the eighth day after an event which results in this being 19<sup>th</sup> November 1267. Twenty nine chapters of law were enacted, four of which are still in force today. These four constitute the oldest piece of current statute law in the UK. These laws followed on from the Provisions of Oxford (1258) which in turn followed on from Magna Carta, showing that the tension between the Crown and the Barons still rumbled on.

As you know, Wessex in the 13<sup>th</sup> century was a wealthy area based on the woollen cloth trade. One part of the processes involved was Fulling, in which the cloth was pounded in water with Fuller's Earth (fine clay powder) and became felted. This method became mechanised with fulling mills (often known regionally as Tucking Mills) a highly profitable feature of the area. Needless to say the Church were at the forefront of ownership. The illustration (left) comes from

Most fulling mills were in the countryside but Salisbury had the advantage of on-site mills (eg Harnham 1299). We have talked in the past about a college being founded in 1262 which could have blossomed into a university. David Hinton has put forward a theory that the wealth of Salisbury resulted in high rents so that students could not afford accommodation in the city; Oxford however had cheap accommodation.

The white monks of Citeaux in Burgundy formed the Cistercian order that was introduced into England by William Giffard, Bishop of Winchester (1100 to 1129). King John founded Beaulieu Abbey and Bishop Richard Poore (1217 to 1229) founded a house for cistercian Nuns at Tarrant Crawford (where he was born) near Blandford Forum. It was for these nuns that he compiled the *Ancren Riwle* (sensible and practical rules of conduct) which became widely popular during the Middle Ages. It contains the injunction *Ye shall not possess any beast, my dear sisters, save only a cat*.

I am not sure of the veracity of the above as the Cistercians were not anchorites. There were three sisters, probably in Herefordshire, who had themselves walled up and for which an *Ancrene Riwle* was written, about 1230.





There are 9 surviving copies of which 4 are in the National Library. The language is Middle English but regional and rather archaic. What is known as the *Ancrene Wisse* (page 3) was collected by Sir Robert Bruce Cotton and translated by that great scholar J R R Tolkien.

#### MORE USELESS KNOWLEDGE

*Courtesy of Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase & Fable and Wikipedia.*

**F**rench undertakers jargon for a crucifix is *Henri*, a play on the letters that Pontius Pilate had placed above Jesus on the cross - INRI (an acronym for *Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews* in Latin). Whilst on funerals, a strike of the funeral bell was called a *teller*, three being given for a child, six for a woman and nine for a man. These followed the Passing Bell and were in turn followed by the Lych Bell (funeral toll). Doesn't this remind you of Dorothy L. Sayers' famous crime novel *The Nine Tailors*?

**T**olkien was a member of the *Inklings*, the literary circle that orbited around CS Lewis. They seemed to be chosen for their Christian names. Tolkien's being *John Ronald Reuel* and Lewis's being *Clive Staples*. They were joined by *Charles Walter Stansby Williams*, *Nevill Henry Kendal Aylmer Coghill* and *Henry Victor Dyson* Dyson (known as Hugo). The circle was very influential and inspired many of the next generation of poets and writers.

**T**hanks to Steve Dunn, we all know that the Cathedral is a complete mine of graffiti. One of the marks found throughout the world is the game of Nine Men's Morris (below). It is very ancient with the oldest board being cut into temple roofing slabs at Kurna in Egypt, possibly c. 1400BC. A similar carving has been found at Mycenae (Bronze Age). It was also written up by Ovid (c. 8AD) as it was particularly popular with Roman soldiers. In fact it is possible that *Morris* is a corrupted form of the Latin *Merellus*, a 'gamepiece'.

The game is played in three phases. **Placing pieces** in which turns are taken to place counters (9 each) on the intersections. If you get three in a row to form a *mill* (*miles*, Latin for soldier?), vertically or horizontally, you are entitled to remove an opponent's piece (*pounding*).

**Moving pieces** in which pieces can be moved to an adjacent intersection, and even back again to form another *mill*.

When one player has been reduced to three men, phase 3 begins.

**Flying** is where the loser can move his men to any vacant point and thus prolong the game. There are various variants such as Three Mens Morris, six and twelve.

The game, which is still sold, came to its peak in Medieval times and this form of graffiti can also be found at the cathedrals of Canterbury, Gloucester, Chester and Norwich, as well as Westminster Abbey.

