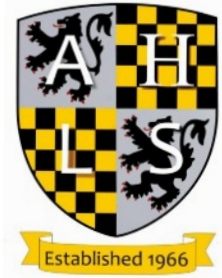


Alresford Historical & Literary Society

Newsletter January 2020



## Operation Nightingale and Rat Island Rescue

With award winning Archaeologist-Richard Osgood

on **Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> January**



7:30 Methodist Church Jacklyns Lane, Alresford. Visitors Welcome: £3:00 at the door.

### Synopsis.

Since 2004, Richard has worked as Senior Archaeologist for the Defence Infrastructure Organisation or DIO, responsible for managing and preserving monuments and archaeological sites within the entire Ministry of Defence estate – including over 770 Scheduled Monuments and parts of 10 World Heritage Sites. Previously, he was Research Assistant to Professor Sir Barry Cunliffe and also advised Philip Pullman on archaeology in the His Dark Materials trilogy, recently shown on TV. Richard is a regular contributor on the BBC's Digging for Britain.

In 2011, Richard co-founded Operation Nightingale – an award-winning initiative using archaeological fieldwork to aid the recovery of wounded veterans – and since then the project has gone from strength to strength. In the last year, its excavations have barely been out of the pages of Current Archaeology, including work at Barrow Clump, Rat Island, Bulford, and Barton Farm, which was also nominated independently in the Rescue Project of the Year category.

At the prestigious Current Archaeology Awards ceremony 2019, top honours for 'Archaeologist of the Year' went to Richard Osgood.

**Newsletter.** Latest copy date for the February issue is January 29<sup>th</sup> 2020 Please note this date  
Please send Copy to Robert Fowler 01962 734125 email to: [secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk](mailto:secretary@alresfordhistandlit.co.uk)

### **Did You Know. Tithes: An old fashioned tax -really?**

The practice of the church and landowners demanding a tenth of a farmers produce or his animals in the form of a 'Tithe' has been around since 4000 BC

In Alresford the 1845 Tithe Apportionment Maps and text are the definitive documents for studying the social history of farmers and landowners in our area. However, the story of Tithes in England and Wales does not end in 1845 and many will find it unbelievable that this archaic method of taxation was not abolished in England until 1981.

The 1836 reforming Act created a myth that Tithes had been abolished in England and Wales. Instead produce in kind was replaced with a 'Rentcharge' based on the fixed purchase prices of wheat, barley and oats. In the more enlightened parts of our Union, Tithes were abolished completely. (Scotland in 1547 after the Reformation and Ireland in 1869). The 1836 Act also introduced draconian measures for recovery of unpaid Rentcharge which enabled bailiffs to seize goods for defaulted payments. This would normally be livestock for ready resale.

Between 1930 and 1934 in a period of Depression, with many farmers facing financial ruin, thirty Counties from Norfolk to Kent formed Tithepayers Associations to fight against the unjust and pernicious Tithe Rentcharge. In Hampshire Farmers formed an alliance with the South Wiltshire Tithe Association.

A series of 'Tithe Wars' soon broke out, mainly in East Anglia, with farmers resisting and fighting Bailiffs who were trying to remove livestock and possessions from farms. They were joined in this fight by the right wing Black Shirts of Oswald Mosley who were often arrested along with locals, charged under trumped up public order offences and sent to prison.

In 1936 a new Act was passed which enabled Tithe Redemption to be paid over a 60 years period but it came with a clause which made any debts personal thus enabling Tithe resisting farmers to be declared Bankrupt and Liable for imprisonment. In 1960 the Redemption Commission was transferred to the Inland Revenue which employed 200 staff in 1965, costing £300,000 to run in 1973 even though it was only collecting small sums as low as £1 from some Tithes.

The Tithe Office was eventually closed in 1981, but the Chancel Repair Charge lived on with the Chancel Repairs Act of 1932. "...in this world nothing can be said to be certain, except death and taxes" -Benjamin Franklin 1789.

*The above is only a very brief summary of a little known part of English History. ED*

### **Executive Committee to April 2020**

Chair: Glenn Gilbertson 732726

Secretary & Membership:  
Robert Fowler 734125

Treasurer:  
Vic Prior 733380

Newsletter Editor:  
Robert Fowler 734125

Speakers Secretary: Vacant

Hall Steward-  
Andrea Sutton 07799 410229

### **Other Committee Members:**

Brian Davies/ Nancy Webb/Brian Tippet/John Miller

### **Library closures**



A public consultation over the future of Hampshire libraries is to be launched in January.

Hampshire County Council bosses have confirmed that details over the future of libraries across the county will be released on January 9 when a ten-week consultation will be launched.

It comes after last month county councillor Peter Chegwyn claimed that 37 of the 52 libraries in Hampshire could face axe.

Please write to support Alresford's Library. The consultation, which will be published to Hampshire residents and stakeholders, will reveal the emerging vision for Hampshire Libraries to 2025.

Many millions have to be cut from the HCC Library budget and no doubt the axe will fall on Buildings, staff and purchase of quality Non Fiction books