



# Salisbury Military History Society

December 2019 eNewsletter

Hello and welcome to our truncated December 2019 eNewsletter.

If you've missed any previous editions, you can find them on our website – [click here](#).

## Lost Roman Legions

The last talk of this year, delivered by Chris Hewitt, was on the subject of “Lost Roman Legions” in Germania. It was intently listened to by one of the largest audiences that we have had so far and Chris’s passion for his subject was clearly evident.

As well as detailing the events that led to the annihilation of the Roman Legions, Chris also dwelt upon the role of Xanten and its historical links with those doomed Roman Legions.

As Chairman of the [Salisbury-Xanten Twinning Association](#) Chris is ideally qualified to expound his knowledge of the City and its historical links both with Rome and Salisbury.

The Salisbury Xanten Twinning Association meet on the first Wednesday of the month at the Pheasant Pub in Salt Lane. Every May/June there is an exchange with Salisbury Association members going to Xanten in the odd-numbered years and with Xanteners coming to Salisbury in the even-numbered years. Accommodation is provided by host families and the group travels to Xanten by coach. The cost is circa £130. Please see the card below for further details.

**SXTA**  
Salisbury Xanten Twinning Association

**Chris Hewitt - Chair**  
01722 339578

~~Pat Corcoran~~ - Secretary  
~~01980 863255~~

Brian Batchelor - Comms  
01722 320045

- Meet up once a month
- Regular social events
- Make new German friends
- Two yearly exchange tours

For any information contact a member of the committee  
[www.salisburyxantentwinningassociation.wordpress.com](http://www.salisburyxantentwinningassociation.wordpress.com)

## Annual General Meeting

2<sup>nd</sup> December saw our inaugural Annual General Meeting being held at St John’s Place. The event was for Full Members-only as only these members have voting rights and votes were required to ratify our Constitution, accept the Financial report from our Treasurer and to elect our Committee members. This was all done over a glass of wine (or two), ample nibbles and highly tempting finger-food!

This process was completed with a show of hands. Additionally, the existing Committee was confirmed in post, as there were no other challengers for any of the positions. Two new Committee members were elected as Joint Events Officers, Alex Howie and Sandy Forrest. Our thanks to them for volunteering to help run the Society.

Once these formalities were voted on, in “Any other business” a request was made by Christopher Newbould that the ‘sound system/PA’ be further improved as it could be very difficult for members, at the rear of the hall, to hear with any clarity what is being said at the front. This will be followed up with the St John’s Place Committee.

During the break to recharge glasses, the Book Stall was doing brisk trade with Andy Sharpe presiding. The current stock of books for sale is available [here](#).

The “Show and Tell” table was also running and creating great interest amongst the attendees. Amongst the items on display were Photograph Albums, Maps, Prints and even a Rangefinder!

John Drewienkiewicz, aka “John DZ”, was also displaying a section of his wargame boards which will be used at the upcoming Wargame event... date to be confirmed.

After the break, Alan Rooney had devised a ‘testing’ quiz for the five teams to attempt. It was an excellent quiz which teased the ‘little grey cells’ of all of us, in one way or another. At the end, 6% was all that separated the teams but the winning team, led by Bob Kershaw, all leaving with a bottle of Prosecco each to celebrate their well-deserved victory.

It was a very convivial evening and enjoyed by all those who attended. However, we were left somewhat over-catered as a third of those members who had specifically said that they were attending, then failed to attend on the evening. In future, please let a Committee member know if you are unable to attend any event that you have previously said that you would attend. It’s not only courteous... but it also stops wastage... rant over!

#### **Two dates for the diary:**

Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> January: Mike Watson will be speaking on “37 Howitzer Battery RFA: The Curragh to Le Cateau, August 1914”. More details in the January eNewsletter.

Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> April: There are also two places left for our visit to the Small Arms Collection at Waterloo Lines, Warminster. Please note that this is a Full Members-only visit. Should you wish to add your name to the list please contact us via the website.

Posters/flyers for future events can be downloaded from the website – [click here](#)

## **Military History News:**

### **Sir Michael Howard (1922-2019)**

On 30<sup>th</sup> November we lost the father of war studies. A Coldstream Guardsman, he served in Italy and was awarded the Military Cross. It was as a professor at King’s College London that he approached military history in a far more holistic way than any predecessor and in 1962 he founded the War Studies department. In 2014 the ‘Sir Michael Howard Centre for the History of War’ was named in his honour. [Read more](#)

### **Military History: The Definitive Visual Guide to the Objects of Warfare**

After you’ve exhausted our book stall, you may want to take a look at the Smithsonian’s latest publication - [read a review](#)

### **Insane tactics**

While we’ve all no doubt heard of the Soviet’s anti-tank dogs whose training meant they were more likely to head towards familiar Red Army tanks than Nazi Tigers, Mighty Networks have collated their shortlist of the “four most insane military tactics people actually used”. [Read more](#)

### **The history and evolution of military body armour**

Taking a look back over the centuries, media agency ‘Task & Purpose’ have compiled a 10-minute video tracing the history of body armour. [Watch now](#)

### **How G&T built empires**

Winston Churchill credited gin and tonic with saving the lives of British soldiers, but the medicinal characteristics of the cocktail date back centuries. The British first tasted the Dutch gin Genever during the Thirty Years War, but the Spanish drank quinine mixed with sugars to stave off malaria during their conquests

in Latin America. It is perhaps no exaggeration then to believe G&T invaluable in British longevity in India. [Read more](#)

## Current and forthcoming events in Salisbury (and around Wiltshire/the SW)

Temporary exhibition: “WW1”, Fordingbridge Museum ([click here](#))

17<sup>th</sup> December – “17,000hrs in the air”, Boscombe Down Aviation Collection ([click here](#))

28<sup>th</sup> December – “Starlight Cinema: ‘Top Gun’ on the Flight Deck”, Fleet Air Arm Museum ([click here](#))

8<sup>th</sup> January – “Luftwaffe’s Last Big Day”, Army Flying Museum ([click here](#))

10<sup>th</sup> January – “Living on a Nuclear Submarine”, Crofton Beam Engines ([click here](#))

30<sup>th</sup> January – “The Long Hard Road to Victory: the Tank Corps 1918”, Royal Green Jackets Museum ([click here](#))

...and that’s it for 2019!

All that is left for us to do is to wish you all

**A Very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year!**

Kind regards,

Keith Rigden  
Membership Secretary

Dave Simons  
Marketing Officer

### **Useful links:**

Website - <https://salisburymilhist.com>

Email - [SalisburyMilHist@gmail.com](mailto:SalisburyMilHist@gmail.com)

Facebook - [SalisburyMilHist](#)

Twitter - [SalisburyMHS](#)

### **Who’s who:**

Joint-Chairman & Speaker Secretary: Alan Rooney

Joint-Chair: Bob Kershaw

Treasurer: John Loades

Marketing Officer: Dave Simons

Secretary: Andy Sharpe

Membership Secretary: Keith Rigden

