

Dear Residents,

The film mentioned last month is now close to finalising after several editorial tweaks and will be posted on the BRA website in late November - we hope! Dame Judi Dench very kindly agreed to introduce the film for us. That is partly because she and her family lived in Charlecote for many years during her professional life when she was busy at the Stratford theatre and has fond memories of this area. Also we were fortunate to know a close mutual friend of Dame Judi and this enabled us to persuade her to take part, which she was more than willing to do so.

Likewise, editorial tweaks have delayed the Press Release from going out about the important information hidden from us about the Option/Lease agreement between St. John's College and Smiths Concrete. This item was detailed in the November edition of Village Voices. I am pleased to report that Matt Western MP has added a hard hitting piece to the narrative.

We continue to research the importance of Wasperton as the unique site of a complete ancient cemetery excavated in the early 1980's which has provided a rich seam of archaeological evidence. As a result, it has attracted the attention of many nationally known academics in the field of Archaeological History who continue to analyse and interpret the data and artefacts now held at the Warwick Museum. A very comprehensive book called "Wasperton" was published in 2009 by Boydell and Brewer which details and interprets all the significant finds. The authors were: Martin Carver, Professor Emeritus of Archaeology University of York; Dr. Catherine Hills, Senior Lecturer in Anglo-Saxon Archaeology University of Cambridge; Dr. Jonathan Scheschkewitz Officer for Medieval Archaeology Department of Historical Monuments, Baden Wurttemberg.

Essentially it concludes that Wasperton is the site of a continuous community dating back before the Neolithic Hengiform Enclosure times - over 5000 years. Since then archaeological scientists have coined the name 'Anglo-Saxon Corridor' to this short stretch of the Avon valley. One of the research scientists interested in this site is a Senior Fellow in History at Birmingham University who we have persuaded to write a report for us. He believes there is likely to be evidence of further settlements close by, including the area covered by the proposed quarry. We feel that these findings could materially increase the significance of the Landscape and Heritage report currently being prepared for us by the Senior Technical Director at Wardell Armstrong.

We have been liaising closely with leader of the Stop the Quarry Campaign at Hamble, Hampshire as they are in a very similar situation to us. Sharing information with them is proving to be useful to us.

We remain in regular contact with the Senior Minerals Planning Officer who, at our last meeting with her, indicated that Smith's Concrete had not yet responded to several statutory consultees and that it was likely she would invoke Regulation 25 to formally request more information from them. Smiths response will then trigger another three week consultation period in which all statutory consultees will have the opportunity to submit comments including the Barford Residents Association.

In the meantime we have asked the Senior Planner if there is an email address we can use to comment/object. I am pleased she has given us this: planningconsultation@warwickshire.gov.uk You can still use the online portal or write in to object. You must specify the planning application number WDC/22CM008 whenever you wish to submit an objection. The fight goes on. Happy Christmas and a healthy New Year.

Malcolm Eykyn