

WORLD of WIT

News from Wessex Institute of Technology and WIT Press



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The Origins of Wessex



You are probably aware that WIT stands for Wessex Institute of Technology, but do you know where Wessex comes from?

Wessex was the kingdom of the West Saxons in South West England from the 6th Century AD to 1066. The Saxons, along with the Angles and Jutes, were Germanic peoples from Northern Germany and Denmark. They formed part of the great migration of peoples that occurred during the 3rd to 6th Centuries AD and which contributed to the collapse of the Western Roman Empire.

The Anglo-Saxon Chronicles records that a chieftain called Cerdic

landed with five ships in AD495, probably somewhere along or near Southampton Water, and he began to carve out his own kingdom, assuming kingship in AD519. From Cerdic are descended all the kings of Wessex, who eventually became kings of England. Winchester became their capital and seat of religious power, and Hamwic, modern day Southampton, became the largest and most densely occupied settlement in Anglo-Saxon Britain.

Wessex became the strongest kingdom in England, due in no small part to the Vikings, who removed the rulers of all the other major Anglo-Saxon kingdoms.

Only King Alfred the Great was able to resist their conquest. It was due to

his literary efforts and the political dominance of Wessex that the West Saxon dialect of this period became the standard written form of Old English for the rest of the Anglo-Saxon period and beyond. It was King Alfred's grandson, Athelstan, who eventually became the first king of England.

Following the Battle of Hastings in 1066 and the death of the last Anglo-Saxon king, Harold, the English crown passed to the Norman William the Conqueror. Through the marriage of his son, Henry I, to Edith, the daughter of Malcom III of Scotland and descendant of King Alfred, Cerdic's lineage continues through to the current Royal Family.

Hello from WIT...

We have recently been very successful at Wessex Institute of Technology with numerous new projects supported by international organisations as well as by industry. The amount of industrial support that we continue to receive is particularly encouraging as this demonstrates that the computational tools developed by WIT – mostly based on the Boundary Element Method – are becoming better established. This reflects the importance of our research which, albeit complex, always aims to produce practical improvements

Our conference programme continues to attract a substantial number of delegates from academia, industry and research organisations. This is remarkable, in view of the difficult conditions of other meetings. It reflects well on our professionalism and on the care we take in editing and preparing the books which are now permanently available in our Web eLibrary (<http://library.witpress.com/>). It is our objective to increase the quality of these meetings and the associated books as a matter of general policy and as a way of differentiating WIT conference papers from all others.

WIT Press, the publishing arm of the Institute, not only produces conference books but also a series of monographs

that are written by authorities in their fields. This part of our operations has continued to grow and we are now becoming more professional and able to produce the books at higher standards and to be able to distribute them worldwide through an ever-expanding network of distributors.

WIT sees itself as providing a mechanism for knowledge transfer and to further that end a series of courses and seminars are regularly held on Campus. This programme will continue in association with our staff and other presenters of international status.

The new accommodation and conference facilities on Campus have now been completed and we are coordinating some of our activities to make better use of them. The latest developments have been related to improving our working environment.

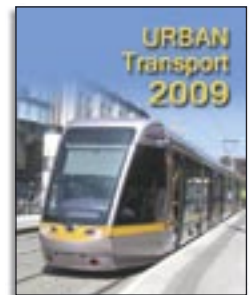
The hard work and dedication of all our staff and the cooperation of all our colleagues around the world results in the continued success of Wessex Institute, of which WIT Press is an essential part.

PROFESSOR CARLOS A. BREBBIA

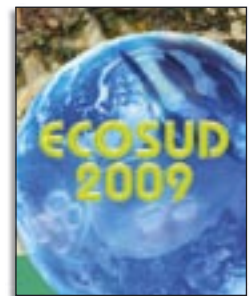
Conference Highlights



The 9th Conference is being held on 9–11 June in the popular tourist area of the Algarve, Portugal.



Now in its 15th 'term' this Conference will take place on 22–24 June in the historic town of Bologna, Italy



Covering the latest topics on ecosystems and sustainability. Taking place on 8–10 July in the beautiful spa resort of Chianciano Terme, Italy

New Book Titles



The Business of Biodiversity

M. Everard

Tackling questions such as 'why is biodiversity important and how best to approach it?' the author not only examines the relationship between biodiversity, society and economy, but also between biodiversity and business.

ISBN: 978-1-84564-208-2
£49.00

City out of Chaos: Urban Self-Organization and Sustainability

R.M. Pulselli and E. Tiezzi

Introducing concepts from thermodynamics, non-equilibrium systems theory and evolutionary physics in order to study contemporary

cities and to understand how human systems interact with the built environment. This theoretical framework asserts that cities can be conceived as ecosystems.

ISBN: 978-1-84564-133-7
£39.50

Handbook of Ecological Modelling and Informatics

S.E. Jørgensen, T-S. Chon and F.A. Recknagel

A comprehensive overview of all available types of ecological models is shown. The reader receives a clear understanding on where to use which type and in which context, illustrated by examples and illustrations on the accompanying CD.

ISBN: 978-1-84564-207-5
£180.00

Blackwell

WIT Press, a global science and technology publisher needs global partners to ensure the maximum exposure and sales of both their print titles and their eBooks.

Blackwell is a classic example of this genre. Founded in 1879 by Benjamin Henry Blackwell, this family owned and run business has grown through four generations to become a market leader in library supply and retail bookselling. Their reach is global with their office in Portland, Oregon as the US hub; Australasia and the Pacific-rim in general are served by the Australian office. However, at the centre of it all is the Oxford office rubbing, as it does, shoulders with the 'dreaming spires' where brand

recognition brings eponymity and in Oxford one does not shop for books in a bookshop, one goes to Blackwell!

Many readers of this newsletter will have visited their flagship shop in Broad Street and will no doubt do so again. Those of you who not yet done so, have a treat in store and remember as you browse the thousands and thousands of metres of bookshelves that this started in 1879 as a two-man business with 700 second hand books in stock. Today Blackwell sell some 3,000,000 titles each year including WIT Press titles and we can only endorse MILES BLACKWELL, a family member who said...

"We put worthy books into worthy hands"

Distributor's Corner



Watercolour of Broad Street, Oxford by Ken Messer painted in celebration of Blackwell's 125th anniversary in January 2004. It shows Blackwell's original bookshop with blue shop canopies.

Our 1950s Christmas Card

As October approaches, thoughts turn to new and wonderful ideas for the WIT Christmas card. Last year, after some great brainstorming in the design department, we decided upon the idea of an idyllic family Christmas morning set in the 1950s.

After some more thought we decided to give a comical twist to the card. We wanted there to be a 'look twice' effect; the more you look the more WIT associations you can spot – including Professor Carlos Brebbia, Director of WIT.

The whole team came together to help bring the 1950s to the lodge. We were lent original 1950s glass Christmas decorations and a lovely authentic radio. As for the clothes, it was quite easy to find the right outfits, piecing together items that people had brought in for us to use. We thought we might have a problem finding children to appear in the scene, but managed to 'borrow' a couple from colleagues at the Lodge. So, once we had all the models and props we were ready to start setting up the Tottenham room of the Lodge to make our homely 1950s scene.

We decorated a tree and set out all the props, including mince pies and various Christmas WIT objects. Keith (Graphic Designer & Photographer) then brought in all the necessary technical equipment – lights, flashes and camera. It took some time to get the lighting correct, as we wanted the illusion of a lovely warm glow from the fire to light up the faces of our models.

There was not an actual fire lit in the room – just clever illumination.

Numerous shots of the models were taken, some of them all together and some separate, so that the lights could be moved around to achieve the desired effect. Keith was then able to work his Photoshop magic to take all the best bits of the photos, pull them together and add some extra finishing touches to the image. So there you have it our 1950s Christmas card, with a twist of WIT!

How many WIT things can you see?

We managed to count 19 WIT and BEASY things in our card. First of all on the mantel and old radio. Next to the radio is a picture of Carlos Brebbia (Director of WIT). Among the other obvious things like the books and gifts, there's the wrapping paper and 2 BEASY gift cards. Also a tie with the WIT boat on. There are 2 bottles of wine, a LP and the photo of the Lodge on the wall.



Author's Corner



Ronald Hawker shaking hands with Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan

Ronald Hawker

A book launch patronized by His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan and presided over by Zayed University vice president Dr Sulaiman was held in 2008, at the Abu Dhabi campus of Zayed University.

Building on Desert Tides: Traditional Architecture of the Arabian Gulf is a survey of architectural form in the Arabian Gulf written by Dr Ronald W. Hawker, Associate Professor, Department of Art and Design at Zayed University in Dubai, and published by WIT Press. It traces the style and materials of Gulf architecture and relates them to the political and social context of the Gulf, with specific focus on the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. It is the first book to bring together the various parts of the Gulf as a whole.

His Excellency Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan wrote in the preface, noting that "...his work reveals how our universities are very active in the study of our traditions and heritage and are committed to

"the first book to bring together the various parts of the Gulf"

expanding the base for research and education that is relevant to the United Arab Emirates and the Arabian Gulf."

Dr Hawker, originally from Canada, has been a faculty member at Zayed University since 2000 where he teaches art history from around the world, but has a specific research interest in tribal art and architecture. He has also organised an integrated research project on the digital documentation, preservation and reconstruction of historic architecture.

WIT does its bit for charity

Thursday 30th November was WIT's "Wear it Pink Day", on which we all paid £2+ to wear something pink and raise money for breast cancer research.

The response was excellent and we saw a varying degree of pinkness in staff attire, from shocking pink tights, to long/short pink wigs, to tunics and cravats fashioned out of pink bin bags, and a full on bunny suit!

Several photographs, including some group pictures, were taken during the day to serve as evidence for the future! A selection of pink treats were also available for further donations and by the end of the day, just under £110 had been raised.



Letter from America...

The US office of WIT Press is situated in the town of Billerica, Massachusetts, about 20 miles northwest of Boston. Close enough to Boston to partake of its benefits, but in a less congested part of the state.



Office Administrator Linda Ouellette oversees stock, dispatch of orders, and billing, as well as general office operations. A true mistress of all trades, if something needs doing, Linda will find a way to get it done. In her spare time, Linda enjoys watching her 3 grandchildren, Matthew, Abigail, and Kiley blossom, and travelling to Cape Cod to visit her mother and sister. Dee Halzack sees to the marketing needs of the office, organizing mailings and liaison with major customers. A student of languages, Dee enjoys interacting with international customers. When not at work, Dee can usually be found singing in the choir at her church or online pursuing some social justice cause. Donna McNulty assists both operations and marketing, dispatching review copies, assisting in stock maintenance and order processing, and maintaining the mailing lists. Donna can often be found creating some unique knitted, crocheted, or assembled gifts for her many family members.

WIT on the Web



Navigate clearly and smoothly through the World of WIT websites. Set up an account and glide through our book titles and Journals, with the option of ordering or downloading books and papers with rapid ease of access. Find out where our wide range of conferences are held around the world and see where you could go next.
www.witpress.com
www.wessex.ac.uk

New Forest Deer

WIT Press is based at Ashurst Lodge and is located in the New Forest, an outstanding National Park which borders the south coast of England. 'The Forest', as it is known locally, was set aside as a hunting ground by William the Conqueror in 1079, principally for the pursuit of deer.

Britain has two native species of deer: roe deer, of which there are currently about 350 in the Forest, and red deer, whose population is kept to about 100-150 and is Britain's largest wild mammal. Fallow deer are the most numerous in the forest, estimated to be 1,200 individuals. Fallow were possibly introduced by the Romans, but it was the Normans who were responsible for their establishment.

More recent additions are the Japanese sika deer, which originate from four individuals who escaped into the wild from the Beaulieu Estate in the early years of the twentieth century, and Chinese muntjac deer, who are occasionally spotted on the New Forest boundaries, although they are not tolerated on the Forest as they compete with the native roe deer.



WIT FACT

Ashurst Lodge was originally the home of Cornelius Stephenson, who in the 1560s set up one of the earliest saltpetre works in Britain at Ashurst, for the production of gunpowder.

New Forest Recipe



Beef and Venison Casserole

Serves 6

- 700g (1½lb) diced braising steak
- 700g (1½lb) diced venison
- seasoned flour for dusting
- olive oil for frying
- 1 large onion, chopped
- 2 cloves garlic, crushed
- 560ml (19floz) red wine
- 90ml (3floz) red wine vinegar
- 15ml (1tbsp) tomato paste
- 750ml (25floz) beef stock
- 23ml (1½tbsp) red current jelly
- pinch ground cloves
- handful fresh thyme or 2.5ml (½tspn) dried
- 2.5ml (½tspn) ground black pepper
- salt

1. Heat oil in a large frying pan. Dust the meat and brown in batches. Place in ovenproof casserole.
2. Fry onions and garlic in same pan used for the meat over a gentle heat until soft.
3. Add the tomato paste, jelly and thyme, stir well then de-glaze with the wine and vinegar.
4. Once boiling, add the onion mixture to the meat with the stock and seasoning.
5. Cover and cook at 150°C/300°F/Gas Mark 2 for 3 hours.
6. Check the seasoning, adding extra red current jelly if desired.



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