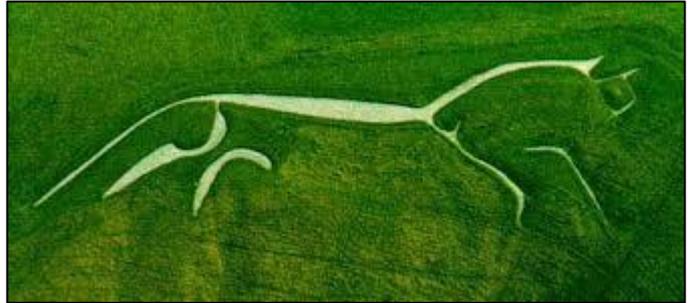


# Redlynch & District Local History Society

## The White Horses of Wiltshire by David Dawson

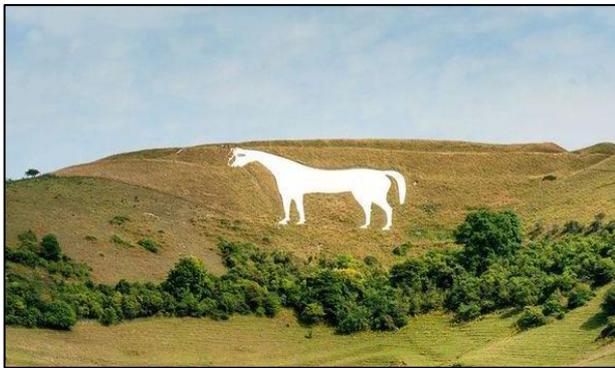
The guest speaker for the October meeting was David Dawson, director of Wiltshire Museum, Devizes, who gave an illustrated talk on the White Horses of Wiltshire.

He talked about their artistic forms according to the time they were made, and their location. Wiltshire has the largest number in the UK, however the oldest is the Uffington Horse in Oxfordshire (right), its leaping profile is also used on very early coins.



The White Horses are designed to be seen from the valley and appear out of proportion when viewed from the air. Most were facing to the left and were made near hill forts; all were carved into the chalk, which has to be redone on a regular basis.

The National Trust Westbury horse has been concreted over to eliminate this maintenance. Later horses of the 18th and 19th C appear to be related to monarchs of the time and resemble the horses portrayed in current paintings: the Hackpen horse was done at the time of Queen Victoria's Coronation. These later horses can all be viewed from the London-Bath road at convenient coaching stops; at least two were commissioned by inn keepers.



THE WESTBURY HORSE



THE HACKPEN HORSE

There are about four missing that we know of, and there are a few curious outlines such as at Foxhill, Wanborough. He also showed slides of Horses used in the artwork both as book illustrations, such as Westbury and on painted Banners. This aspect was to commemorate the White Horses following a 100 mile walk, called the "White Horses Walk", and the Devizes International Street Festival, where banners the were paraded and later hung.

Our next talk on is on the "Battle of the Somme" and will be given by Steve Western at 7.30pm, Tuesday November 1st at Morgan's Vale & Woodfalls Village Hall.