The Church RTI Project visit to St. Winifred's church in Branscombe.

Gareth Beale, Nicole Beale, Hembo Pagi and Rose Ferraby from the Church RTI project recently visited St. Winifred's Chuch in Branscombe to meet with members of the Branscombe Project and trial a new photographic recording technique.

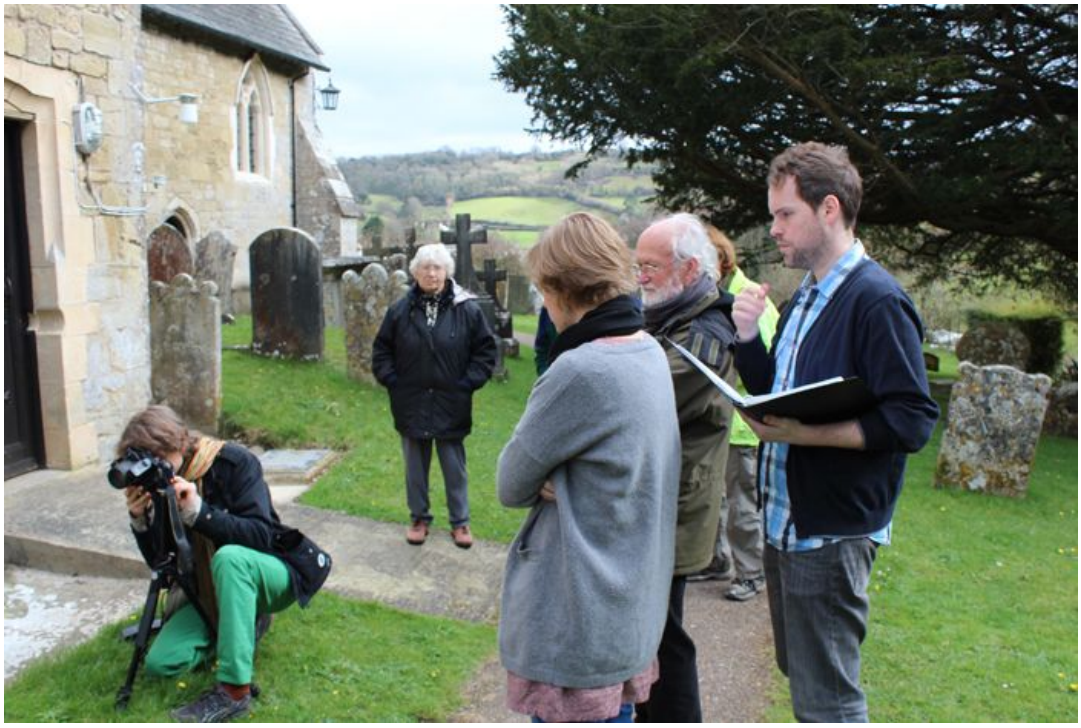
The demonstration of the technique, known as Reflectance Transformation Imaging, was highly successful and a grave stone which had previously been difficult to read became easily intelligible. The team hope to visit the church again in the near future to apply this technique elsewhere to gravestones which have proven particularly difficult to read.

The Church RTI project will also assist Branscombe Project members in producing a survey of the northern part of the church yard which has not yet been surveyed.

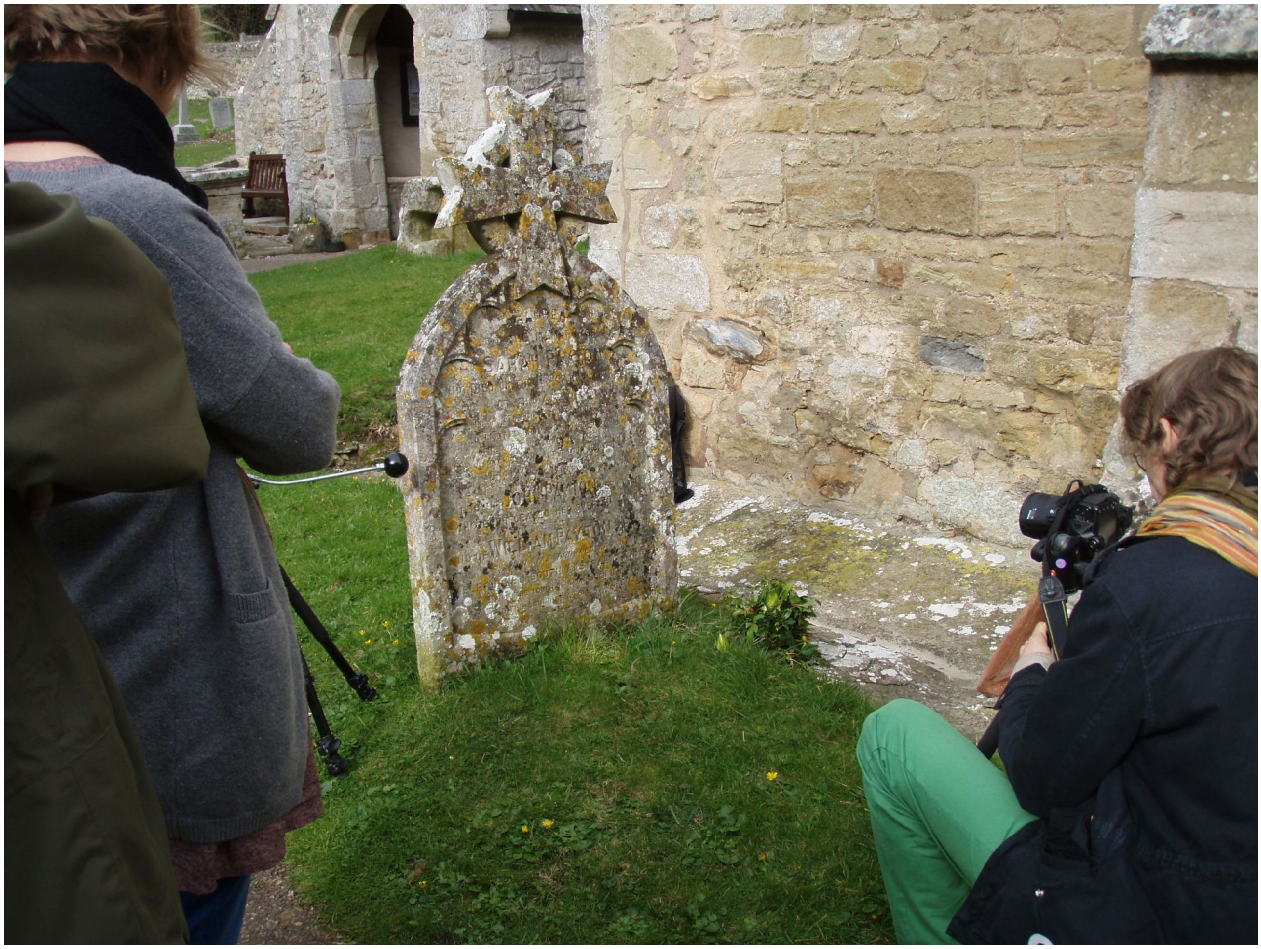
We really enjoyed visiting the church and meeting the Branscombe Project team, it was extremely helpful to us, allowing us to perfect the use of the technique in this context. We are very much looking forward to visiting again and helping to complete the survey of the church yard while continuing to experiment with RTI.… Gareth

What is Reflectance Transformation Imaging?

Reflectance Transformation images look like normal digital photographs but are different in that they allow the viewer to click on the picture and interactively move the light source. Reflectance Transformation Images are produced by photographing an object many times. In each of these images the camera remains still, mounted upon a tripod, while the flash is moved. The result is a series of images which are all identical, except that the light is in a slightly different position in in each. The freely available software can then compile these images into a Reflectance Transformation Image within which the light can be controlled.

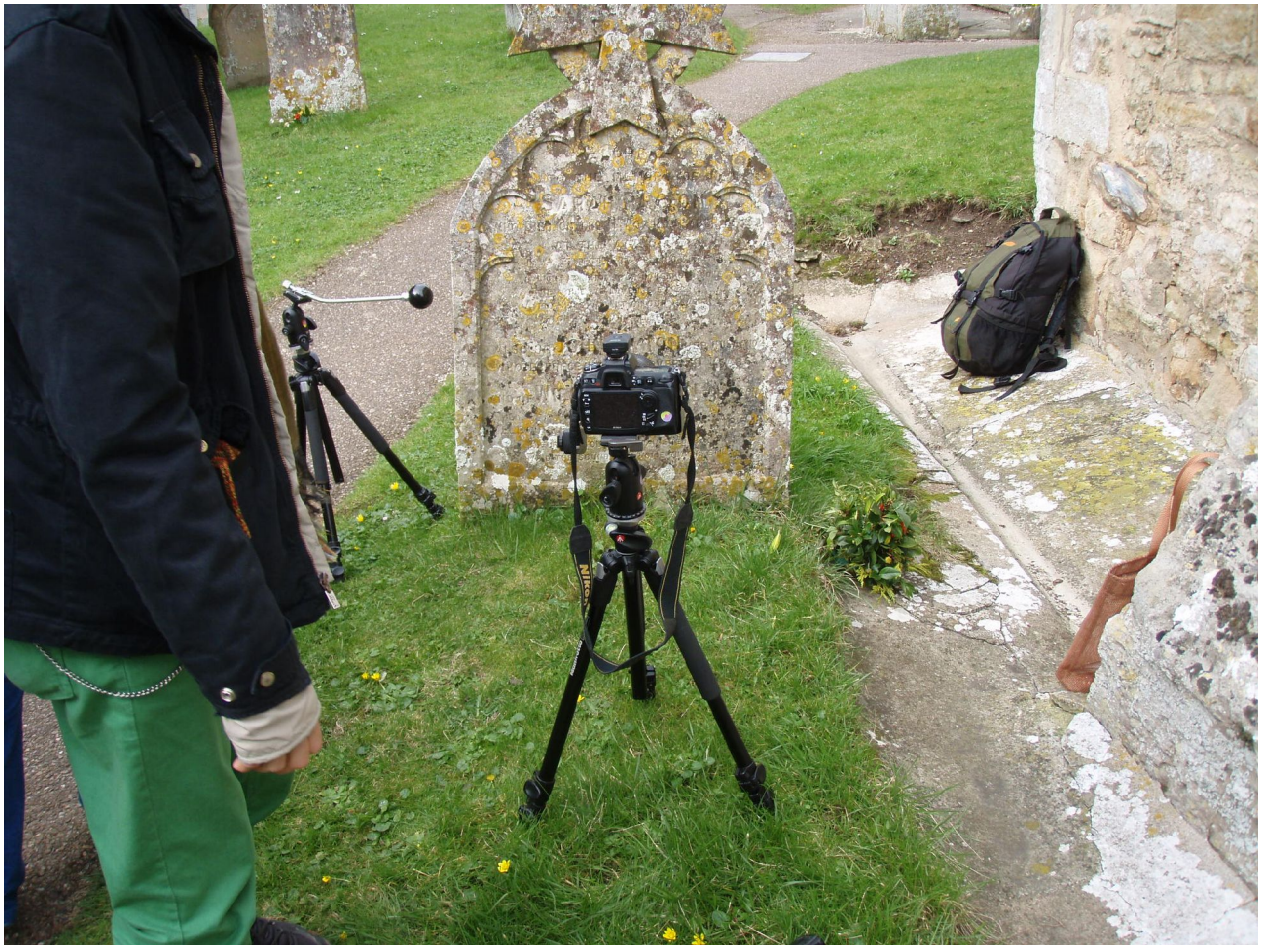


Hembo, Nicole and Gareth

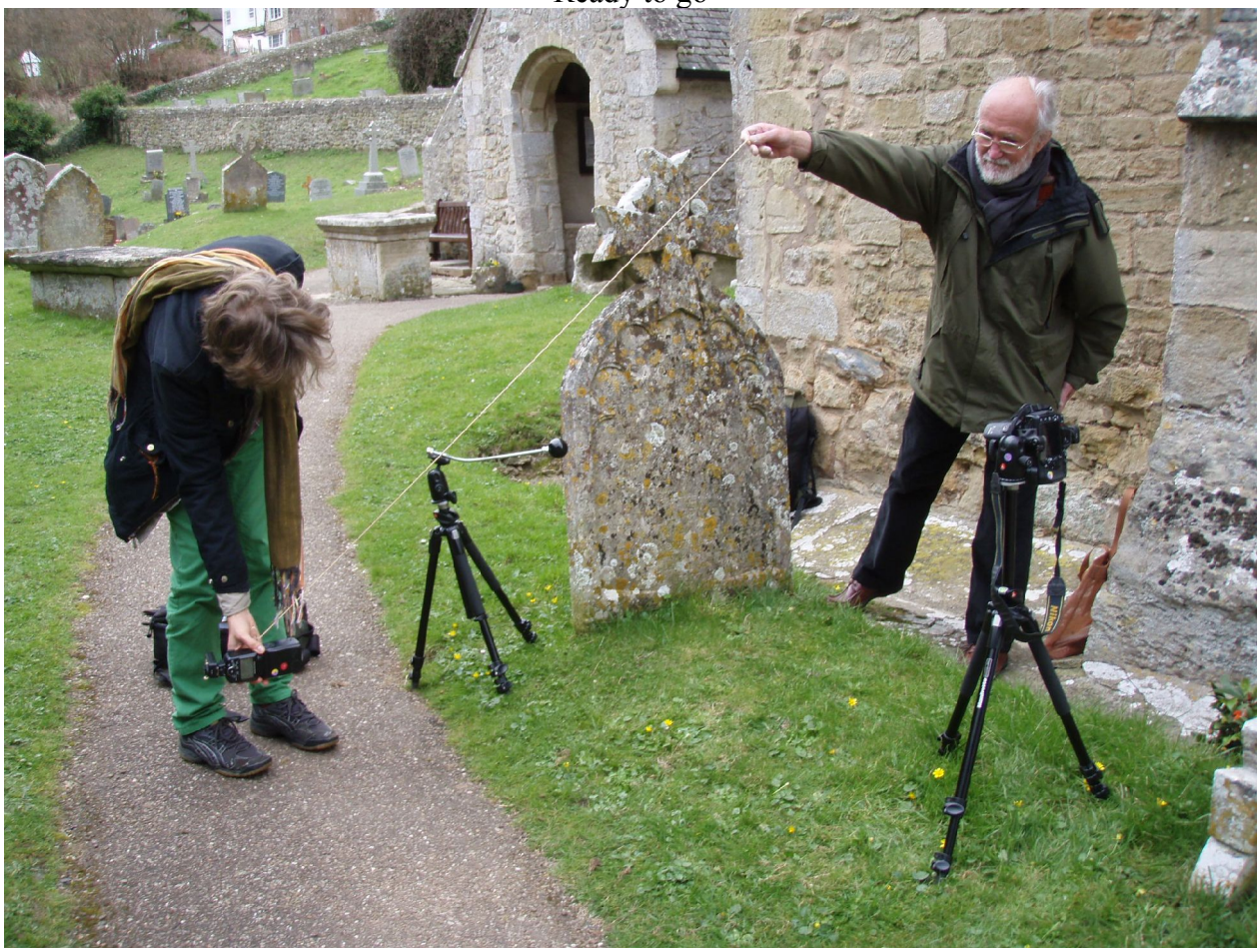


Setting up the equipment

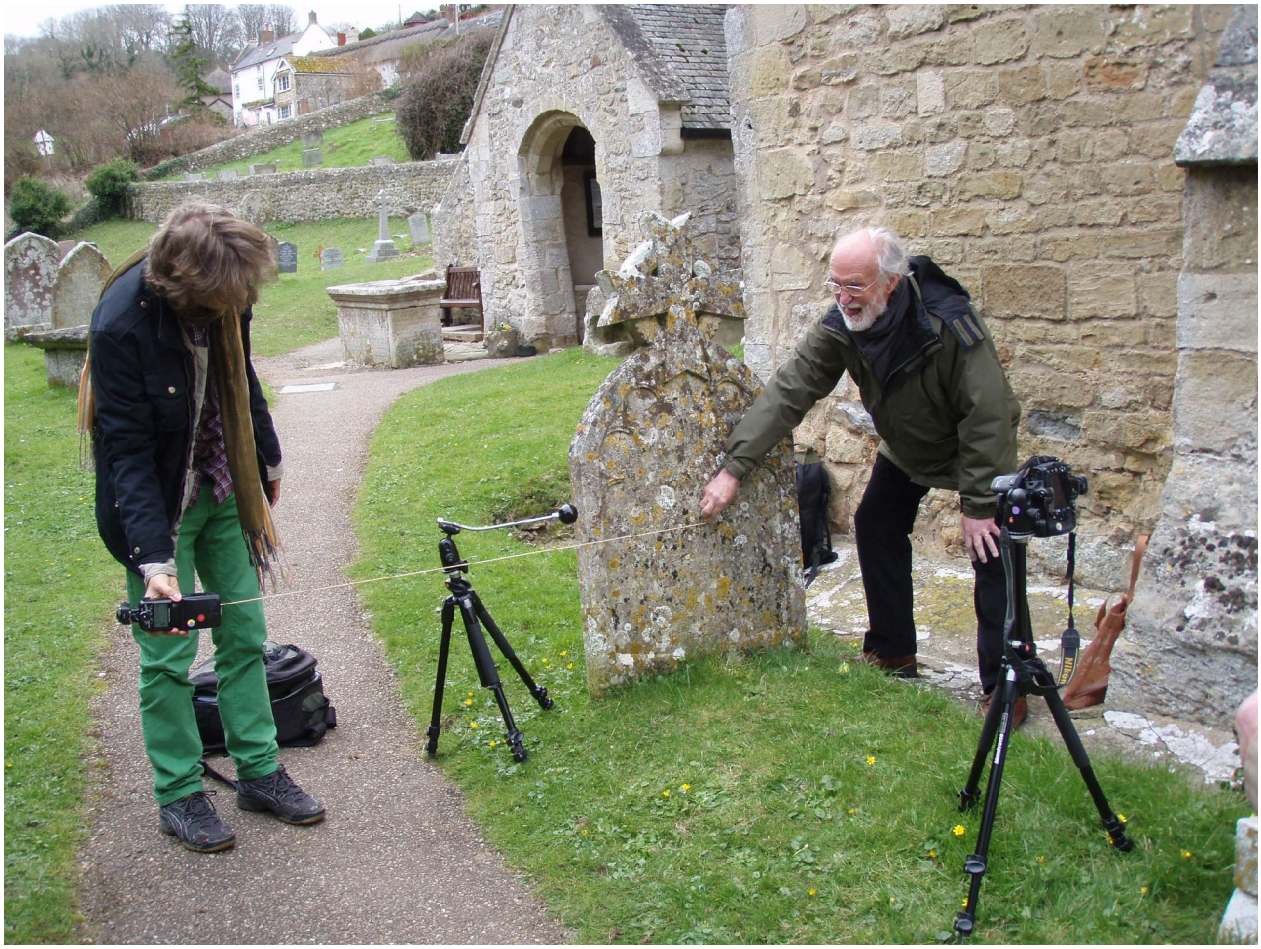
Explaining the method to us

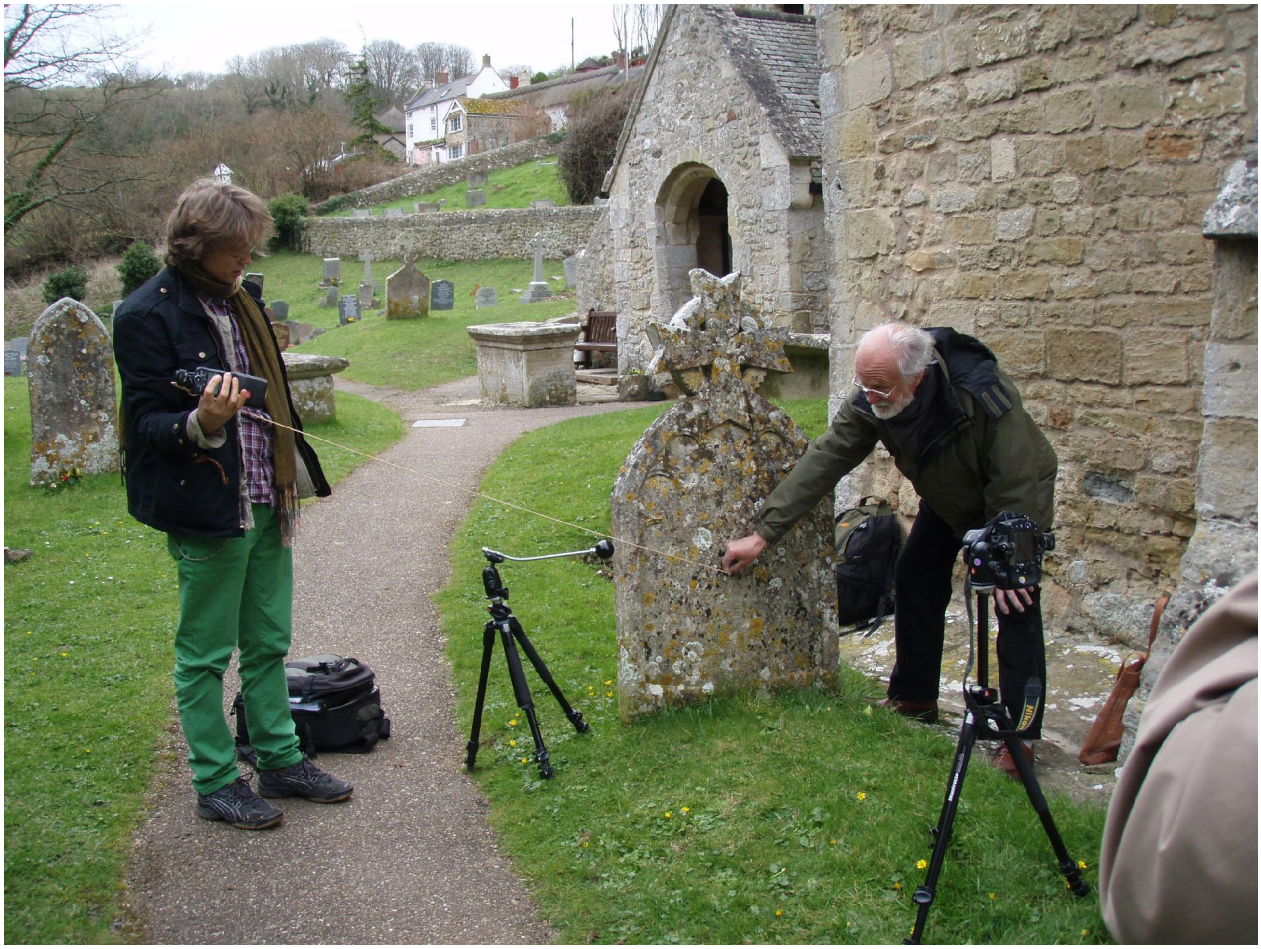


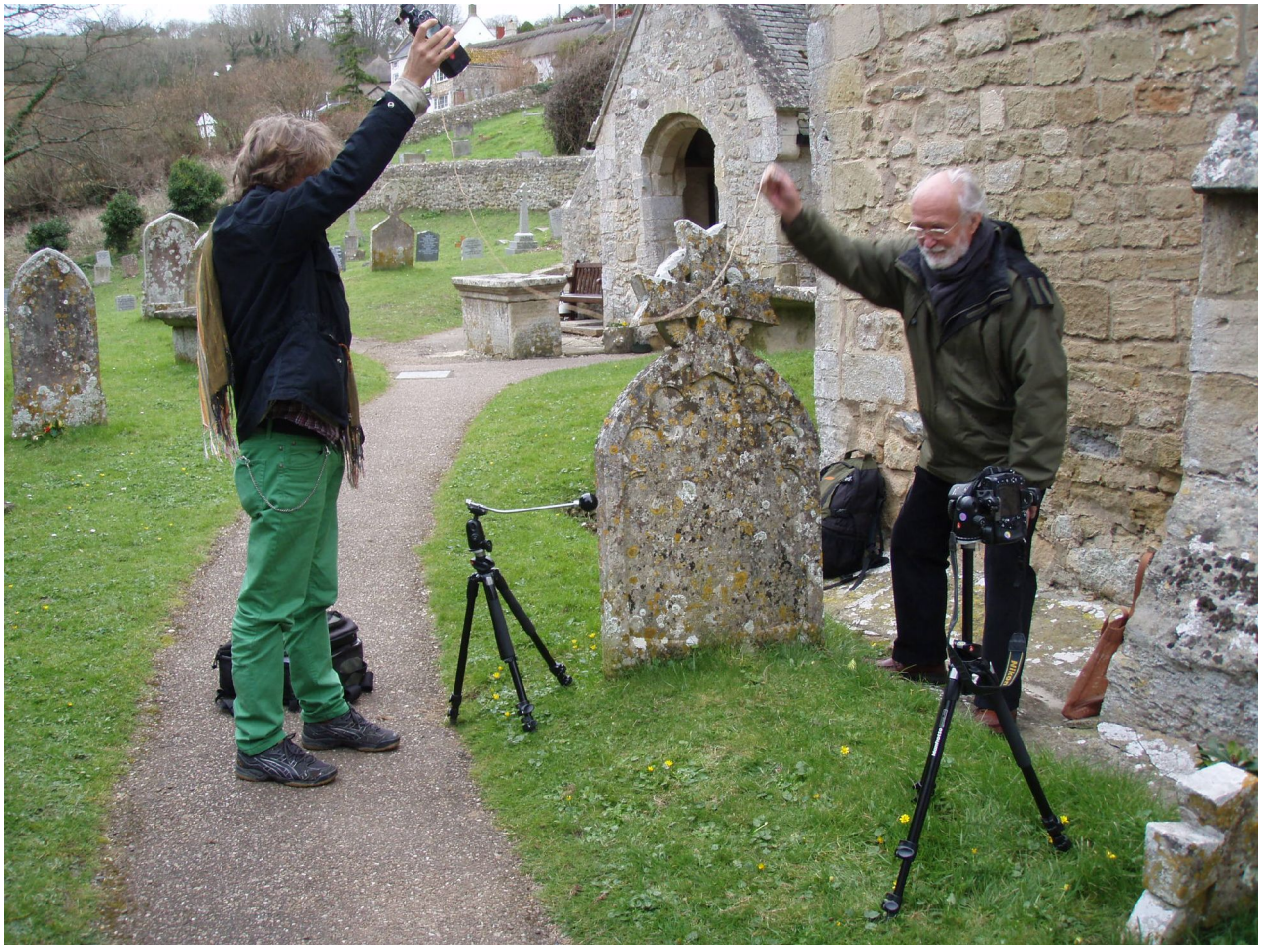
Ready to go

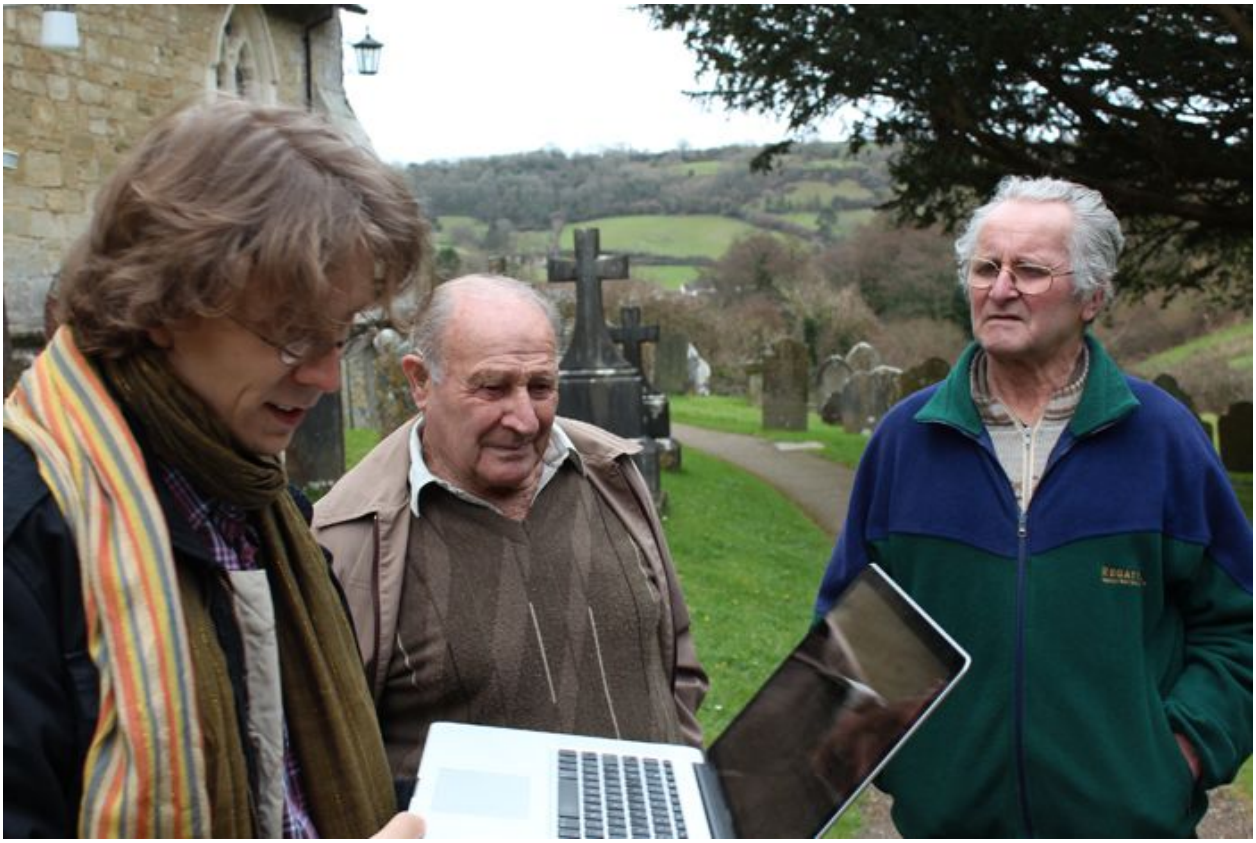


John Ponsford assists Hembo in keeping the light source a fixed distance

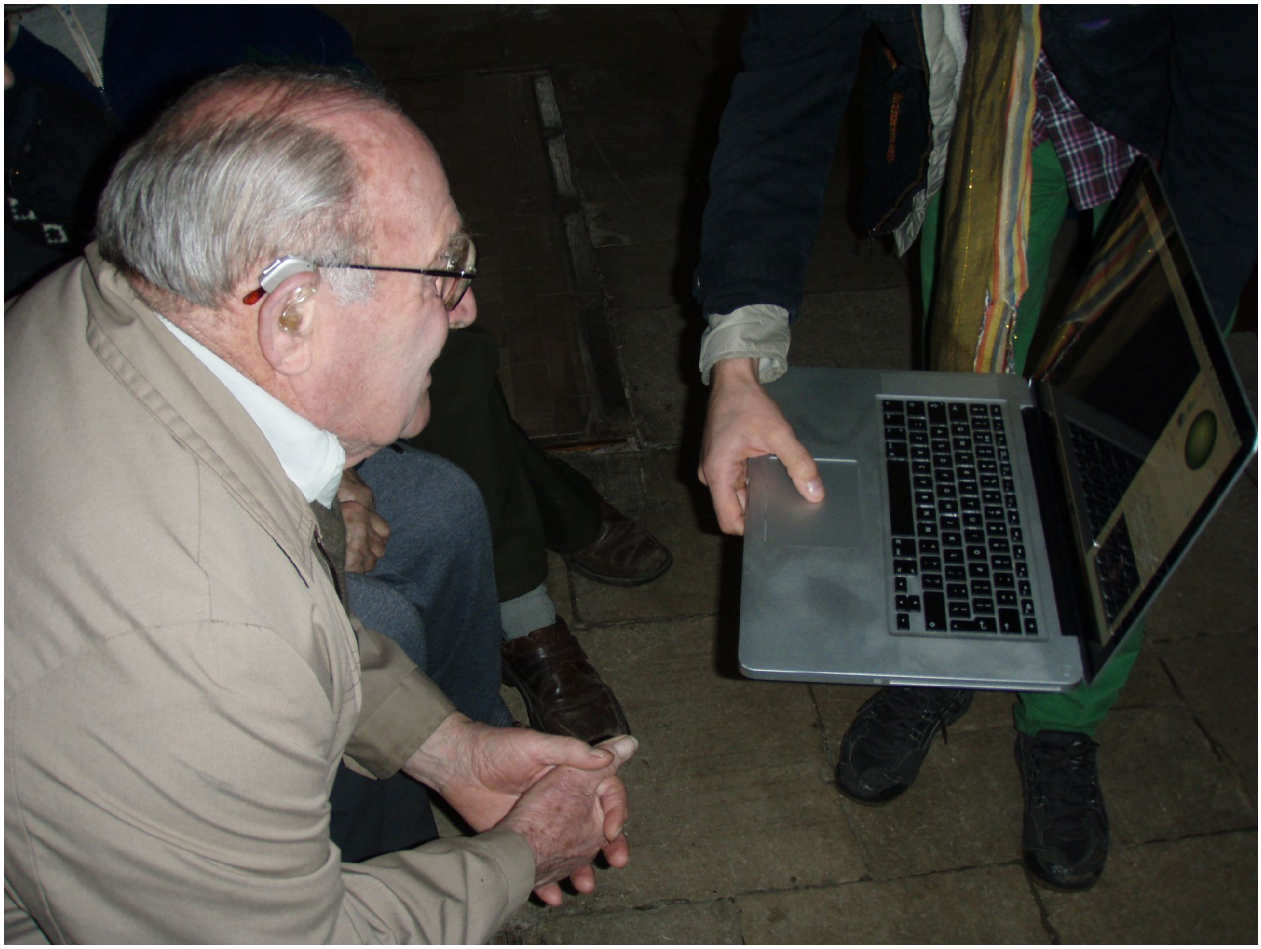


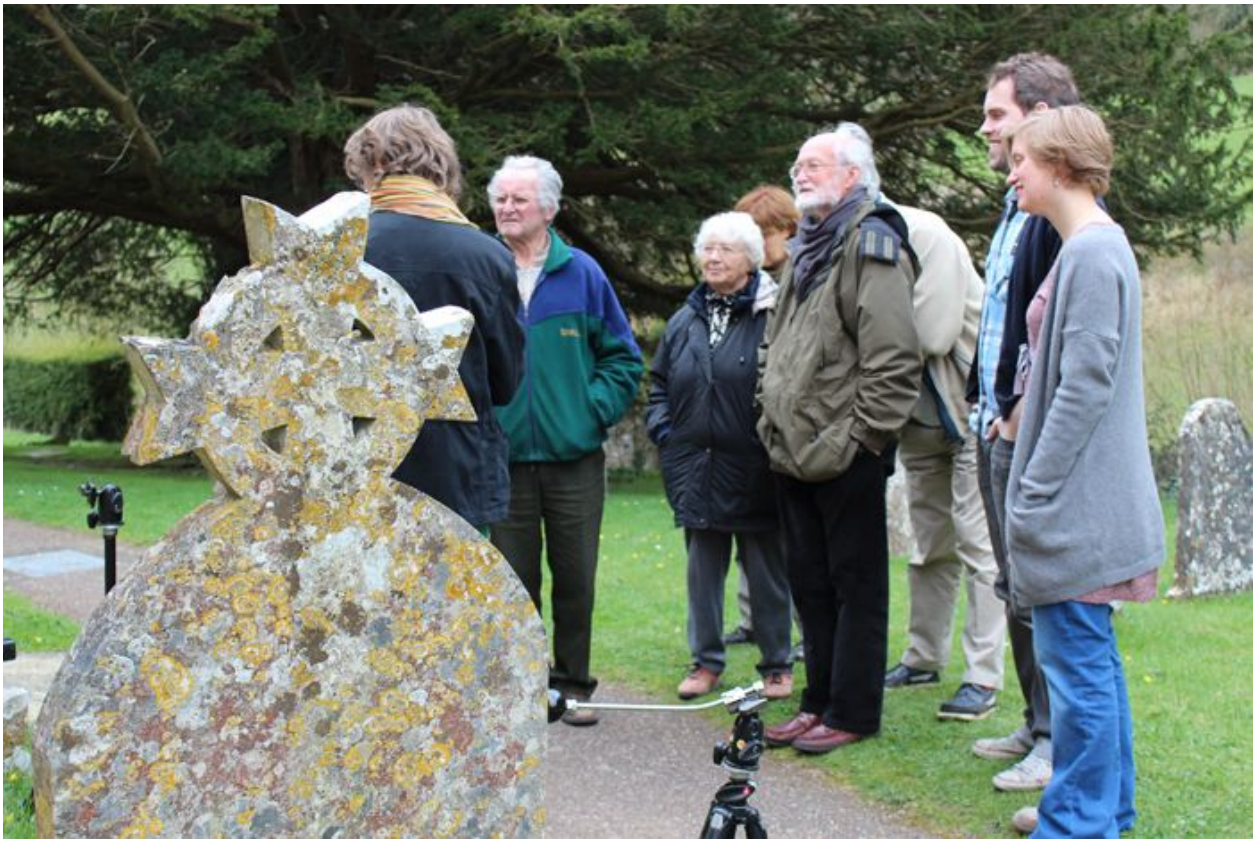


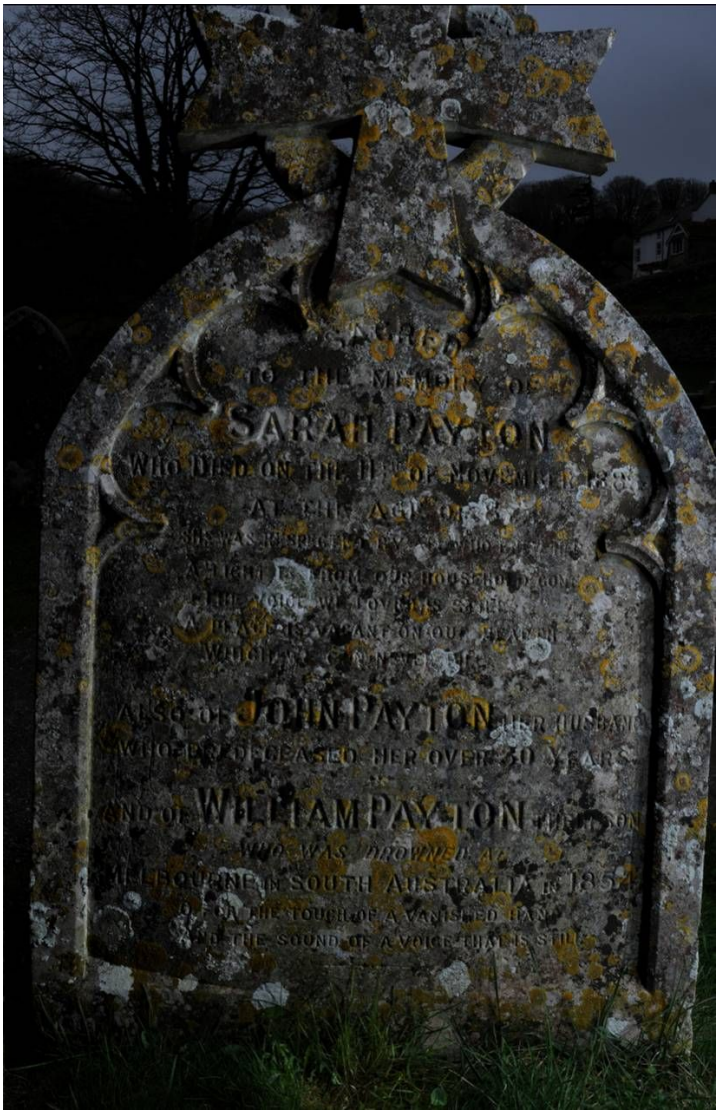




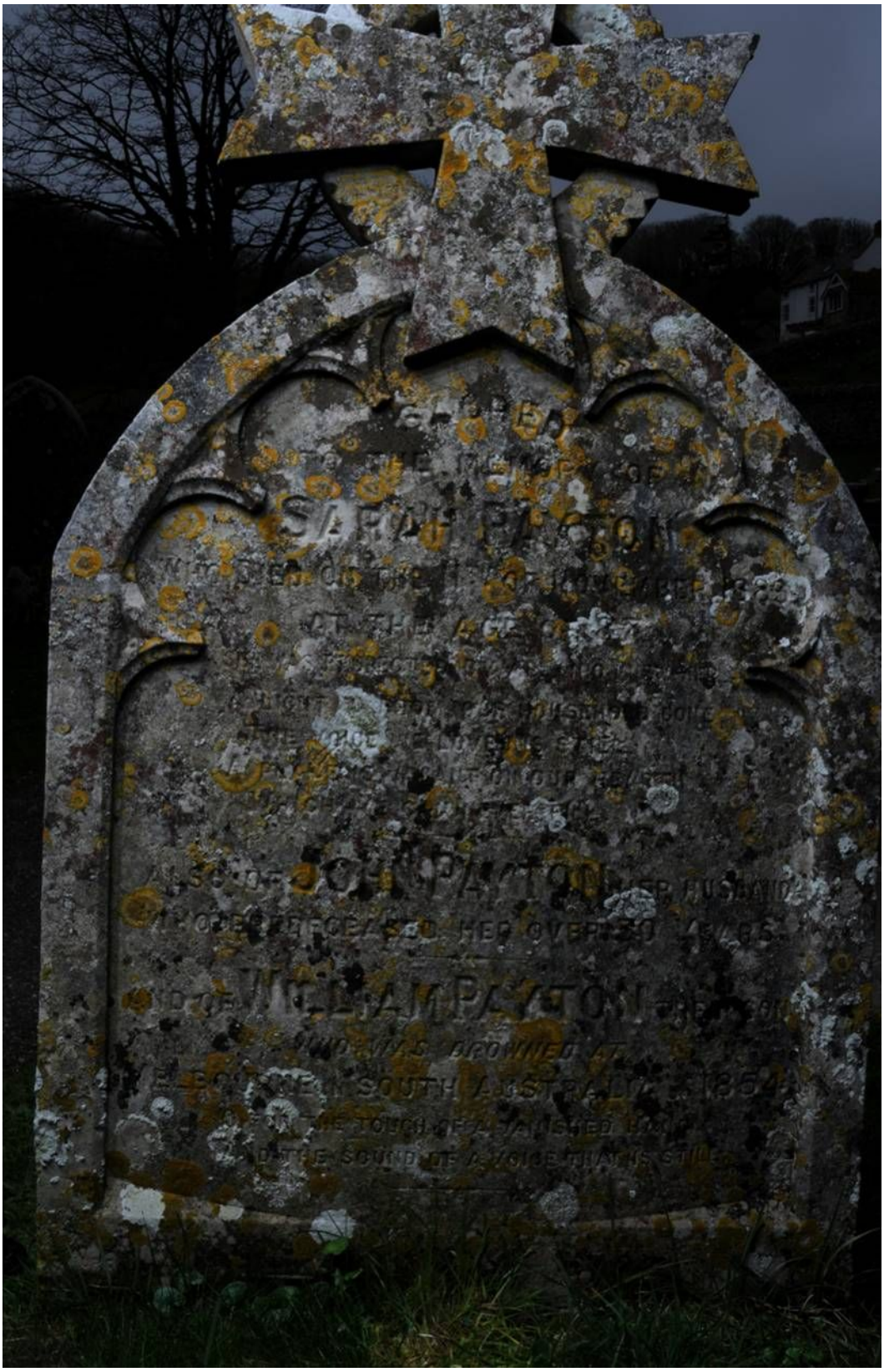
Sid and Edwin view the results on the laptop

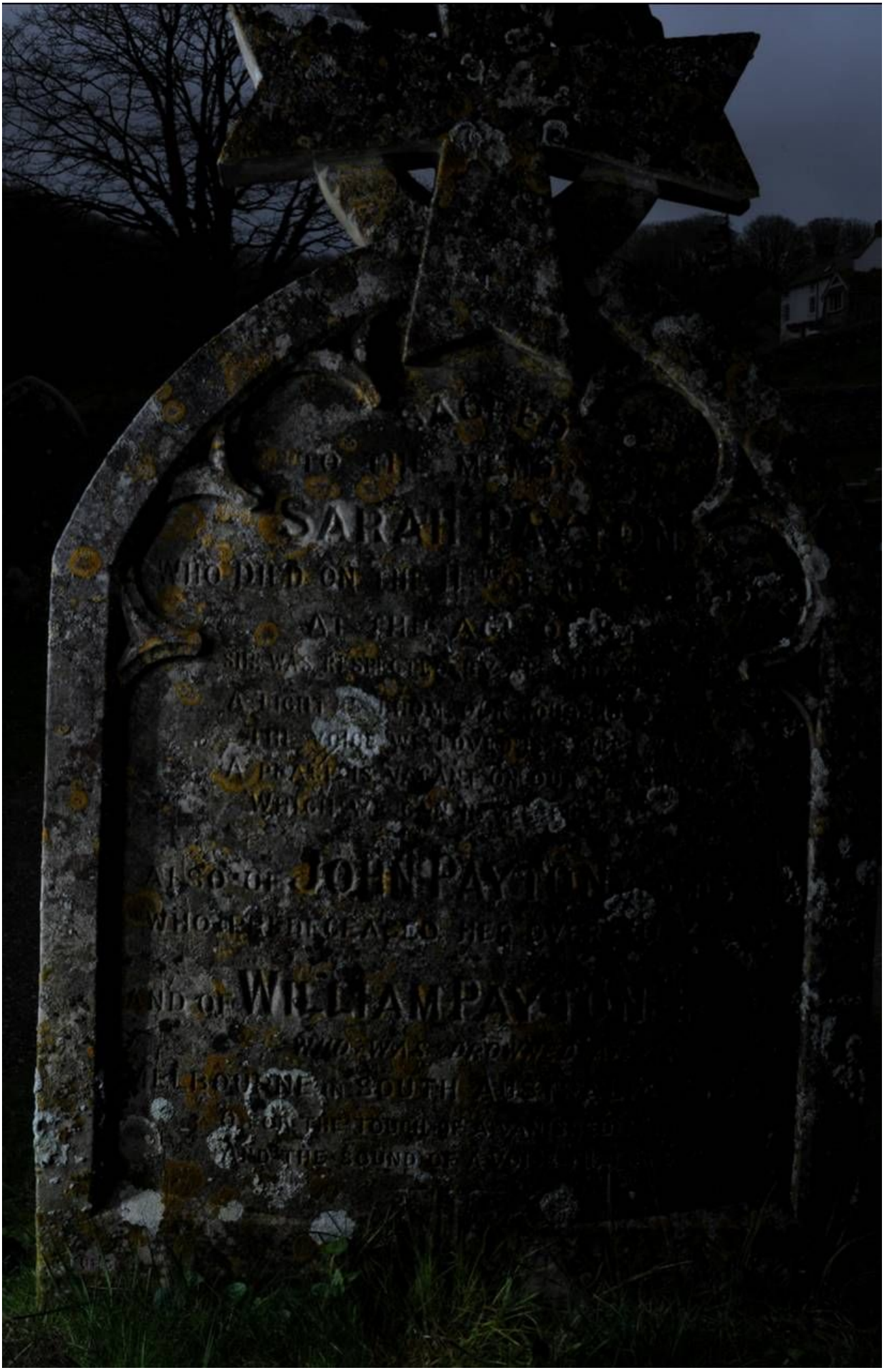


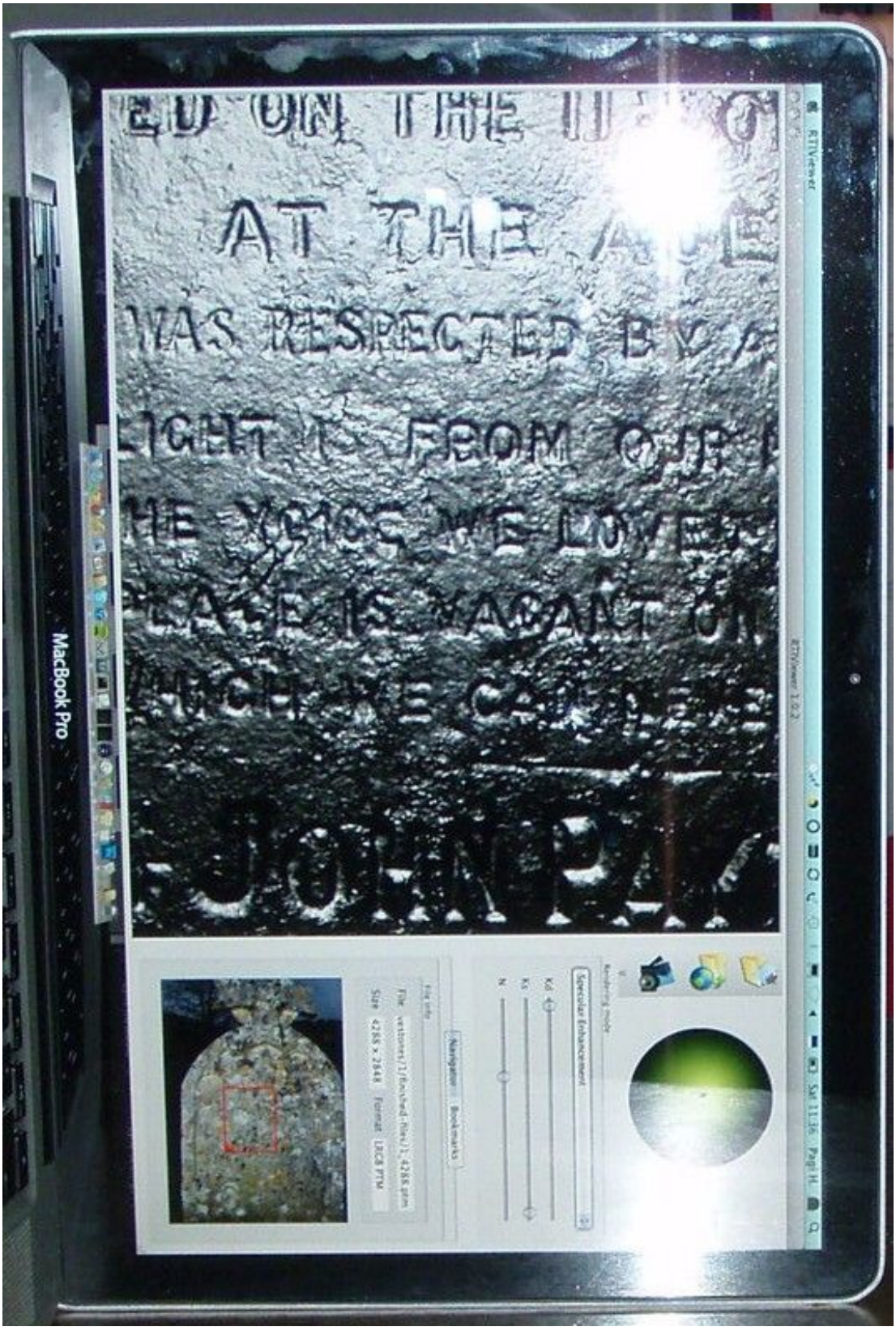




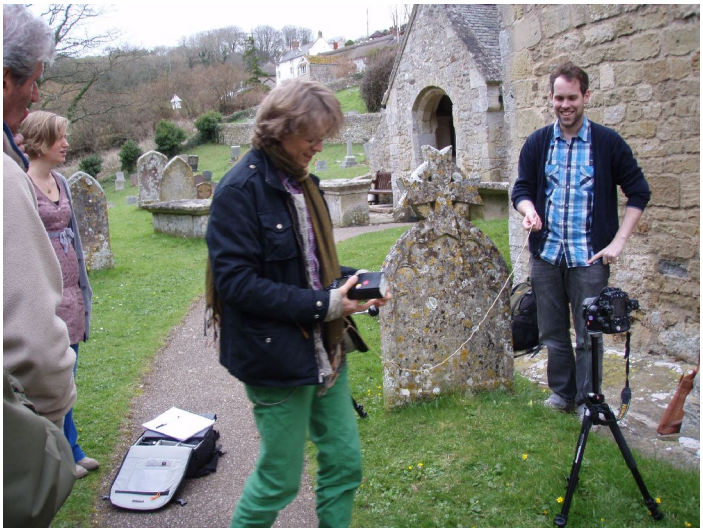
Here are three images that show how the varying direction of the light source changes the shadow and can make the inscription easier to read

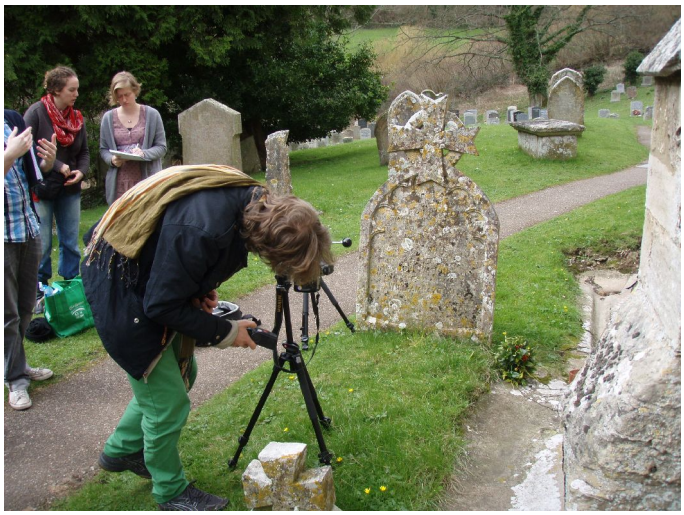



SARAH
JOHN
WILLIAM



A view of the laptop screen showing how the software makes the inscription easier to read





With thanks to Nicole, Rose, Hembo and Gareth
for an interesting and enjoyable morning.

To look at some examples click on he links below. With the last two links you will need to click on the picture to open the RTI:
http://www.portusproject.org/visualising/ptm/head.html
http://www.c-h-i.org/examples/ptm/gallery_gsb_2004/ptm_coin_double_thaler.html
http://www.c-h-i.org/examples/ptm/gallery_cher_2008/cher_oath_01_whole.html

We are grateful to St Winifred's church for their permission.