

Southampton Archaeology Society



2021 Annual General Meeting

AGENDA

- 1 Welcome and Apologies
- 2 Minutes of the 2019 Annual General Meeting
- 3 Chair's Report/s
- 4 Treasurer's Report/s
- 5 Election of Officers and Committee
- 6 Proposal for New SAS Constitution
- 7 Appointment of Independent Examiner
- 8 Any Other Business

Following the AGM we will have a short talk about the SCMAS Historic Buildings of Southampton Photographic Project 2003-2012

Invitations to join the meeting will be sent to current members of Southampton Archaeology Society a few days before the meeting. Voting forms are supplied for use of members unable to take part on the night.

SAS Chairman's Report 2020/2021

Looking back over the last year for Southampton Archaeology Society (SAS), it's been a bit of a rocky ride! As the country went into lockdown late in March 2020, we couldn't hold the year's final lecture in April, nor the AGM in May and both were rescheduled: the AGM to October and the lecture to a date early in 2021. The Annual Report 2020 covered the period from May 2019 to October 2020, but in the event we decided not to hold the Annual General Meeting in public, and couldn't arrange an online meeting in time. All the reports had been prepared for that meeting and sent out to members, so today we'll be asking members to accept Reports for both the 2020 and 2021 Annual General Meetings.

Since November 2020, the SAS lecture programme continued successfully online using Zoom, which had already proved its value at committee meetings from April 2020. We purchased the Zoom-Pro package which allows up to 100 devices to 'tune in' with no time limit, and at each lecture the audience figures have grown, from about 30 for the *Mayflower Lives* talk in November 2020 to 47 in April 2021 for a talk on the excavation of a Bronze Age barrow. Many thanks to John Langran for hosting the lecture and committee meetings, and to Matt Garner who managed to find two excellent speakers to complete the programme. The topics ranged widely – from 17th century religious separatists; Andy Russel's round-up of local archaeology followed by a spooky tale from Southampton; Neolithic axe-heads in Britain; the people of the medieval town of Old Sarum; prehistoric burials in Hampshire from Neolithic to Iron Age; and Bronze Age cremations in the New Forest.

Sadly our Mayflower Study Day had to be cancelled twice last year in June and October, and another provisional date last month was again postponed because of continued restrictions on indoor meetings. If at all possible we'll try to run it within this year; and Matt has already lined up a full lecture programme for 2021/22, starting in September. These lectures will we hope take place at St Joseph's Hall in Bugle Street, apart from one which will be on Zoom since the speaker has moved to Durham. But as the Zoom talks have been so popular we may keep this as a possibility for the future especially in the dark winter months.

Other activities have also suffered since March 2020: the Graffiti team have been unable to continue with recording, and weekly finds processing sessions on Monday nights at the Archaeology Unit have not yet been able to recommence. It is hoped to re-arrange the Mayflower Walk in the Old Town once a date for the Study Day is confirmed. The Annual Accounts for 2020/21 reflect the Society's lower level of activity, with both income and expenditure much reduced. I'd like to record our thanks to John Langran for his four years' service as Hon Treasurer, and also for his efforts in devising the proposed new Constitution, which will be presented this evening.

This is my final AGM as Chair of SAS and I'm pleased to say that my two main aims when I started in 2019 have been achieved – these were to set up a website (address below) and to introduce a new constitution. We have also enjoyed many interesting lectures and attracted new audiences through our Facebook page, and I wish to thank the committee and members very much for their help and support.

Sarah Hanna

April 2021

Honorary Treasurer's Report for the Year 2020-21

2020-21 was a difficult year for the Society with a significant reduction in income due to a low level of membership renewals, cancellation of the planned Study Day and the Annual Christmas party. The loss of the Study Day also had a further negative impact because income taken in 2019/20 had to be refunded in 2020/21. The situation was helped by the refund of the costs of room hire. This also provided funding for the successful investment in Zoom conferencing facilities.

There is no doubt that the strong underlying financial situation of the Society has enabled us to "weather this storm" and report an in-year deficit of only £53.65. Although there will be continuing financial challenges in 2021-21, I believe that our finances will start to bounce back toward a healthier situation. In particular, I expect that memberships will return to normal as this year we have treated non-renewal as putting a member into suspense and that most will re-join once the public meetings restart in the Autumn. We also hope that we will either run or have put the planning in place for a Study Day next year.

We have also taken our first steps in starting to use electronic banking during last year which is proving to make life a lot simpler for both the Hon. Treasurer and those we need to make payments to.

As I leave the position I want to thank Chris Sellen as our External Examiner who has been extremely patient and good humoured in his dealings, Sarah Hanna as outgoing Chair for similar forbearance and want to wish my successor well in taking the Society forward.

John Langran

April 2021

ELECTION OF COMMITTEE

If you would like to stand for one of the committee positions, please let the Hon Secretary have your name and the post you would like to stand for. As this will be an on-line meeting, we will ask for a proposer and seconder.

The Committee posts are Chair, Vice Chair, Honorary Secretary, Honorary Treasurer, and General Committee Members, with Archaeological Advisor (co-opted).

Sarah Hanna is standing down as Chair but will continue as a General Committee Member, whilst Martyn Dowell has agreed to stand for the role. John Langran is also standing down as Hon. Treasurer and will stand as Vice Chairman, with Sue Davies standing for the Hon. Treasurer's role. Both Martyn and John are standing for these posts unless anyone else comes forward.

Other Committee Members have agreed to continue and they are: *Secretary (Admin)* – Mandy Kesby; *General Committee Members: Secretary (Programme)* – Matt Garner, *Newsletter* - Sarah Hanna, Rowan Bright, Chris Evans, Karen Wardley; *Archaeological Advisor* – Dr Andy Russel.

We need new Committee Members to bring ideas to the table. If you think you might like to join us but are unsure, please speak to a Committee Member. People can be co-opted onto the Committee at any time so you can always come along and see what you think. The Committee meets 6-8 times a year, the meetings are informal and usually last no longer than an hour and a half. Committee meetings will be held via Zoom until it is safe to have face-to-face meetings, usually in Shirley.

SAS Attendance at Lectures 2020/2021

Due to the Covid restrictions causing havoc during our year, attendance records are not as reliable as usual, especially as on Zoom there are sometimes several people viewing on a device. The lecture in September 2020 was the only one held at St Joseph's Hall.

2020:

September 8 – The American Wall - 21 members, 4 guests

November 10 – Mayflower Lives – 30

October 12 – Cancelled AGM

December 8 – Christmas On-Line
Social – 32

2021:

January 12 – Imported Neolithic Axe Heads – 31

March 9 – Ancient Dead of Hampshire & Beyond – 37 inc.
5 guests

February 9 – Old Sarum Research - 40

April 13 – New Forest Pre-historic Past
– 47 devices inc. 16 guests

SAS Lectures//Events 2020/2021 for your diaries (full details to be included in forthcoming Newsletters):

2021:

September 14 *If Walls Could Talk: Recent Discoveries from the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project* by Karen Wardley, co-ordinator of the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project

October 12 *Living with Monuments: Recent Work in the Avebury Landscape* by Professor Joshua Pollard, University of Southampton

November 9 *2020: A Year to Remember* by Jo Bailey, Southampton's Monuments and Memorials Officer

December 14 *Christmas Social with the Hither Side of the Hedge* by Jigfoot with Jo and Simon Harmer (Christmas buffet and entertainment for members and their guests). Extra charge

2022

January 11 on ZOOM – *Dressing the (Female) Elite in Copper Age Iberia: the Montelirio beaded garments (Valencina de la Concepción, Seville)* by Dr Marta Diaz-Guardamino, Durham University

February 8 *The Victorian Discovery of Palaeolithic Southampton* by Francis Wenban-Smith, Ally Hayes and Wendy Stokes, University of Southampton

March 8 *Nokalakevi-Archaeopolis: the Triple Walled Fortress of Lazika* by Dr Paul Everill, University of Winchester

April 12 *Pieces of the Past – the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hampshire* by Jenny Durrant, Finds Liaison Officer – Hampshire

May 10 *Annual General Meeting*, followed by an update on Southampton Archaeology Unit's projects by Andy Russel

Lectures are free to members and £3 per visitor - tell your friends! This year we have used Zoom but when able, we will again meet at St. Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street. Most meetings start at 7.30pm (and generally finish by 9.00pm). Tea and coffee is served from 7.00pm.

SAS STUDY DAY:

We will eventually be going ahead with our long-arranged Study Day on “**Southampton & Hampshire in the Time of the Mayflower**” but until we have a clear knowledge of the easing of Covid restrictions, we will not be booking a date for this. We hope it will be either early autumn 2021 or spring 2022.

Thank you for your anticipated attendance of the Annual General Meeting for Southampton Archaeology Society. We hope to see you at our 2021/2022 lectures.

The SAS Committee

April 2021