



Southampton Archaeology Society

Lecture Programme 2023/24

Lectures are usually held on the second Tuesday of each month between September and April, at St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton SO14 2AH, from 7.30 to 9pm unless stated otherwise. Refreshments are provided from 7pm. Lectures are free to members and £3 to visitors (with additional charge for the Christmas meeting).

September 12 – Professor Michael Fulford, University of Reading

'Silchester: recent excavations'

First excavated by the Society of Antiquaries in 1903-4 in the context of their supposedly total excavation of the Roman town at Silchester, re-excavation took place between 2018 and 2021, to gain a clearer understanding of its origin, development and how it was used. What has emerged is a much more complicated story of change over time. The finds reveal the identity of some of the users and of associated recreational activities; the environmental evidence insight into their health.

A graduate and post-graduate of Southampton University, Mike Fulford is Professor of Archaeology at the University of Reading, specialising in Roman archaeology, particularly Roman Britain. He has been excavating at Silchester for many years, most recently on the public bath house. His publications include 'Silchester Revealed: the Iron Age and Roman Town of Calleva' (Oxbow 2021), aimed at specialist and non-specialist readers.

October 10 – Presidential Address by Professor Josh Pollard, University of Southampton

'The Origins of Avebury'

The Avebury henge ranks among the great monuments of prehistoric Europe. Comparison is often made with nearby Stonehenge, but unlike that monument Avebury has not been subject to the same intensity of research, and so many questions about its development and role remain unresolved. Incorporating the results of recent work, both within its immediate landscape and beyond, this lecture reviews what we know about Avebury and outlines new perspectives on its coming into being and its changing status from the late 4th to early 2nd millennia BC.

Joshua Pollard is a Professor of Archaeology at the University of Southampton. He previously held posts at the Universities of Belfast (Queens), Newport (Wales) and Bristol, prior to that working for the Cambridge Archaeological Unit. Much of his research centres on the Neolithic, and he has conducted fieldwork in both the Avebury and Stonehenge landscapes.

November 14 – Kris Strutt, University of Southampton

‘Recent work in Southampton’

Research has been carried out in the last two years by the Dept of Archaeology at the University of Southampton, in collaboration with the Southampton Archaeology Unit, focusing on the medieval buildings and archaeology of the town. Work has integrated technology, including laser scanning and Ground Penetrating Radar, to map and interpret the town layout. This talk will present some of the latest results from the project.

Dr Kristian Strutt is a Senior Teaching Fellow at the University of Southampton. He specialises in landscape archaeology, including survey and geophysics, and has worked on research projects in Italy, Spain, Egypt and Turkey. He is currently involved in the Old Sarum Landscapes Project, and research into the medieval town of Southampton; and he also instructs undergraduate and postgraduate students in Archaeological Geophysics, Landscapes, Archaeological Practice and Archaeological Placement.

December 12, 7pm – Richard Henry, Southampton City Council Curator of Archaeology

‘From Roman temples to Terry Pratchett, the making of the *Terry Pratchett: HisWorld* exhibition’

In 2014 a Roman temple dedicated to the previously unknown god Bregneus was discovered in Wiltshire. In an archaeological version of six degrees of separation this ultimately led to an award winning exhibition on Terry Pratchett. Join the exhibition curator at the SAS Christmas meeting to hear about the Roman temple and some of the finds which were made, how this led to an exhibition on Terry Pratchett and a virtual tour of some of the objects which were on display.

Richard Henry is a finds specialist who has worked for the Portable Antiquities Scheme as the Finds Liaison Officer for Wiltshire, for Historic England and as a curator for Southampton County Council. He has published books and articles on Roman archaeology, material culture, coinage and hoards. His most recent publication 'Roman Buckles & Brooches' looking at the end of Roman Britain and material culture was published in November 2022.

Christmas buffet for members and their guests. **NB** Extra charge, booking essential – further information to follow.

January 9, 2024, 7pm on ZOOM – Ian Riddler, freelance finds specialist

‘From Late Roman to Early Anglo-Saxon, via the comb’

The transition from the late Roman period to the early Anglo-Saxon world has fascinated archaeologists for decades, if not centuries. Traditionally, coinage, ceramics and metalwork have formed the basis for discussions of material culture of the fourth and fifth centuries, but recent advances in dating techniques and typologies mean that it is possible to trace the development of other object types as well, notably combs and needle cases. Viewed together, they may provide a different perspective on the period.

Ian Riddler is a small finds enthusiast with a specialist interest in objects and waste of antler and bone. Aside from Hamwic, he has published texts on material from a wide range of sites, extending from the Late Neolithic to the medieval period, with a particular interest in the early medieval emporia and their material culture.

February 13 – Mark Peryer, Chair of Basingstoke Archaeological & Historical Society
‘Stanchester: a Roman rural settlement’

The Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society have been investigating the Stanchester site since 2016. It appears to be a rural farmstead that developed from Iron Age beginnings. So far the complex has yielded three distinct buildings one of which has a domestic component. The talk will include the findings of the 2023 excavation season as well as an overview of our on-going geophysical surveys.

Mark Peryer is the Chairperson and Fieldwork Director of Basingstoke Archaeological and Historical Society and has led most of the recent excavation work at Stanchester. An Electronic Engineer by profession, he took up Archaeology in his forties and volunteered to take part in many excavations in the North Hampshire area, learning excavation techniques on the job. He has published several reports in the Hampshire Field Club newsletter and has a keen interest in applying technology to archaeology.

March 12 – Matt Leivers, Wessex Archaeology

‘What was Stonehenge for?’

Recent work in the Stonehenge landscape has cast new light on everyone’s favourite archaeological mystery – what was Stonehenge for? This talk will present the results of some of that work, and the new understandings of Britain’s most famous Neolithic site and its surroundings which it has allowed us to develop.

Matt Leivers is A303 Stonehenge Consultant Archaeologist at Wessex Archaeology in Salisbury. After obtaining a PhD from Southampton University in 2000 he spent four years working for the City Council’s Archaeology Unit before moving to Wessex in 2004. He has researched and written numerous publications on Stonehenge and its landscape, including ‘Archaeology on the A303’ (2008), ‘A Research Framework for the Stonehenge, Avebury and Associate Sites World Heritage Site’ (2016) and ‘The Archaeology of the Stonehenge Visitor Centre’ (2023).

April 9 – Jane & Andy King, WARG (Society for Winchester Archaeology & Local History)
‘From Bishop’s Deer Park to a Southampton Merchant’s Mansion – 300 Years at Hursley Park. The WARG excavations 2021–23’

Three seasons of excavations by WARG at Hursley Park have investigated the remains of a substantial brick-built house, predecessor to the current 18th century house, and evidence dating back to the 15th century deer park. This talk will present the preliminary results and what they add to the documented history of the site, as well as exploring the most significant finds.

After graduating in Archaeology and Geography from Exeter in 1977, Andy King made a 15-year career in various aspects of archaeology – excavation, field survey and finds research, becoming Keeper of Education and Antiquities at Winchester Museums Service, then following a second career in education. His main interests are in Roman, medieval and post-medieval ceramics, and he chairs the Fieldwork Committee of WARG.

Following a family break from practical archaeology, since 2010 Jane King has been active in Hampshire archaeology excavating and surveying with local groups, most notably the People of the Heath project in Petersfield where she undertook the micro-excavation of four Bronze Age burial urns. She volunteers with the archaeology collections of the Hampshire Cultural Trust and on the Council of Hampshire Field Club.

May 14 – Southampton Archaeology Society Annual General Meeting

The AGM will be followed by wine and nibbles, and an update on Southampton Archaeology Unit's recent projects by Dr Andy Russel.

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