

Southampton Archaeology Society

April 2016 Newsletter



Dear Members

I'm writing with warm spring sunshine coming through my window and as always at this time of year we hope for plenty of opportunities to visit archaeological sites and perhaps take part in excavations. The last two lectures in our winter programme, about excavations on an Anglo-Saxon royal manor at Lyminge, Kent (March); and last week on the Neanderthals in ice-age Jersey gave a foretaste of the possibilities ahead, and we are also planning a couple of outings this summer.

Meanwhile our next monthly meeting will be the Annual General Meeting on 10th May, 7.30pm at St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street SO14 2AH. The Notice and Agenda are attached herewith, and we look forward to refreshments after the formal business, and to Dr Andy Russel telling us about the work of SCC Archaeology Unit. Please see Anna's article below about our need for new committee members – Anna has much less time for the day to day role of Hon Secretary now she's commuting to Reading every day!

In a recent posting I mentioned that membership subscriptions become due at our AGM, and the current rates for different types of membership are given on the last page of this newsletter. I'm grateful to those members who have already paid their subs, which can be paid direct to the Treasurer at any meeting or by post to 346 Hill Lane SO15 7PH, (cheques payable to Southampton Archaeology Society, please). Anyone who pays by Standing Order (SO) to our TSB account should ensure they have changed the name with their bank before 15th May, when most orders are paid. You may be able to do this without signing a new SO authority, but in case your bank should require a new form, or you wish to start paying by SO I enclose a form with this mailing.

During the summer we have two outings planned: the first will be on Tuesday 14th June when we've persuaded Matt Garner to lead a Walking Tour around Hamwic, starting at 6.00pm from the Archaeology Unit, 18 Melbourne Street SO14 5FB. The walk will take about an hour and a half and there will be a small charge of £2 per person, and members are welcome to bring guests. On Saturday 17th September we will arrange another visit to the Quarr Abbey excavations, near Ryde on the Isle of Wight, and further details will be included in the next newsletter.

With best wishes

Sarah

Join the SAS committee and help to shape your Society.

It's AGM time again - the time when Society Committees everywhere try to persuade their members to step forward and share in the behind the scenes work that's needed to organise your monthly meetings. Every year we ask people to join the Committee and someone usually comes forward through election on the night or, more usually, by co-option after the AGM. As a General Committee Member you'd attend meetings (about six during the year) and help to decide what SAS can offer members throughout the year, help to run our evening meetings and perhaps take on a task such as publicity or making new people feel welcome at meetings. General Committee Members might stay for years or just a couple of seasons but

sometimes it's more difficult to get people to take on Officers' tasks. This can mean that people stay for years as Officers because there's no-one to take over.

This year, as well as General Committee Members (who are always welcome) we're particularly asking members to volunteer for two jobs – Hon. Secretary and Treasurer. Sarah Hanna announced her intention to stand down from her Treasurer's role a few months ago – so she's given lots of notice! She intends to stay on the Committee and is standing for Vice-Chair, and will also carry on the excellent job of producing the newsletter. The SAS accounts are straightforward and she'll be around to support someone into the role so if you've been a book keeper, accountant or are simply good with figures please offer your expertise to the Society,

Over the years the Hon. Secretary's job has been divided up so the main duties now are organising the lecture programme, liaising with speakers, creating formal documents such as the Annual Report and will also include contacting members and the Committee. The Committee Minutes are already taken by a General Committee Member and Anna Welch (who has now been Hon Sec for more years than she cares to think about) is prepared to carry on setting the lecture programme for the time being, if necessary. If you have an admin background or just think you'd like to give it a go please get in touch. The job of Membership Secretary has been done by both the Secretary and Treasurer over the years but could be done as a stand-alone role or a 'job-share' by a General Committee Member.

We'll struggle without either a Treasurer or Secretary so please give us a bit of your time to ensure SAS carries on and goes from strength to strength.

Thank you

Plans for a new natural play area on Southampton Common

Southampton City Council is planning to redevelop the play area on the Common, incorporating the site of the present Paddling Pool and they propose to construct a Nature Play Space there, commissioned from award winning landscape architects Davies White Ltd. This is currently under process of consultation with members of the public, local residents and schools to further develop the design proposals, before applications are made for planning permission and to the Secretary of State. For more information on the project see the website, www.davieswhite.co.uk/SouthamptonCommon, where you can give your own feedback. You may also contact the City Council's Development Co-ordinator (Play), Tony Hill on 023 8083 2267 or write to him at Civic Centre, Southampton SO14 7LY.



Image showing larch trunk climbing structure from Nature Play Space constructed previously by Davies White Ltd.

It is expected that once agreed the Play Space will be installed in time for the summer holidays 2017. Part of the preliminary work is likely to include an archaeological evaluation/assessment which could involve survey and some limited investigation, and Dr Andy Russel hopes this can be organised as a community archaeology exercise. In that case, members of Southampton Archaeology Society, Southampton Young Archaeologists' Club and members of the community would be invited to volunteer, and we'll keep you informed about the progress.

Sarah Hanna

Community Excavation at Quarr Abbey, Isle of Wight

I make no apologies for featuring the Quarr Abbey site again, and we enjoyed our visit last year so much that Southampton Archaeology Society plans another visit on the Open Day, Saturday 17th September.

Matt Garner writes: “The second season of the community excavation on the site of the medieval abbey took place in September 2015, as part of the ‘Two Abbeys Project’ supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund. The team included people from Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit, the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society (IWNHAS), the IOW Young Archaeologists’ Club, and archaeology students from the universities of Cardiff, Southampton, and Winchester. Historic England issued Scheduled Monument Consent for the work. IWNHAS members have recorded abbey remains and carried out resistivity surveys.

The abbey was founded in 1131, defended by an enclosing wall with gun ports later in the 14th century, and closed in 1536. Percy Stone excavated part of the site (Excavation Field) in 1891. Several fields have been surveyed since 1997 by the University of Southampton using techniques including resistivity and magnetometry. Seven trenches were excavated in the Excavation Field, mostly two metres square and targeting geophysical anomalies.



The medieval features were oriented north–south and east–west. Building materials included West Country slate, local limestone rubble, Purbeck Marble architectural elements (see pictures *left*, and *below*), lime mortar, wall plaster, floor and hearth tiles, roofing and ridge tiles, lead window comes and glass. Fragments of Kimmeridge shale indicate its possible use in building, and other medieval finds included a sparse scatter of pottery sherds. One trench in the north-west area revealed a north–south stone-lined conduit or drain. A limestone rubble wall in the north-east area was aligned north-west to south-east and contained post-medieval brick fragments. Soil layers around the wall revealed evidence of post-medieval occupation including bottle and window glass, roof tiles, clay pipes, iron nails, redware pottery, a

musket ball, bird and mammal bones, and oyster shells.

The work showed that archaeological remains survive well in the Excavation Field, including evidence of post-medieval occupation. Medieval features that matched resistivity anomalies were found in several trenches, but we found a stone-lined drain and two walls which had not been detected by resistivity.”



Fieldwork in 2016 will take place between Tuesday 6th and Saturday 24th September (Tuesday to Saturday), led by Matt Garner of Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit and involving students and volunteers as in previous years. It is still possible to volunteer to work there although accommodation on the site is already booked up and you would need to find your own place to stay nearby. Please contact Matt before 19th August, at the Unit 8083 2937 or 07949 758148, or online matthew.garner@southampton.gov.uk.

Thanks to Anna Welch and Matt Garner for photos of the Purbeck Marble column capital in situ (lower) and close-up held by Matt.

Events and meetings you may be interested in:

Current Exhibition 25th March to 4th June 10.00am – 5.00pm daily. The Pavilion at SeaCity Museum, Civic Centre, Southampton **Port Out, Southampton Home: The Age of the Ocean Liner**. The history of ocean liners and their importance to Southampton, from the early days of ocean travel in the 1890s to present day cruiseliners, showing how the docks developments in the 20th century were driven by the increasing size of liners, providing industry and employment to the city. Includes many rare and varied items from Southampton's maritime collections and interactive exhibits for you to try. Special exhibition charges with concessions for 5-16yrs and over 60s.

Continuing to 1st May 10.00am to 4.00pm daily **New Forest Remembers World War 1** Exhibition at New Forest Centre, High Street, Lyndhurst SO43 7NY tel 023 8028 3444. Free entry, further details from newforestcentre.org.uk.

Monday 25th to Wednesday 27th April 7.15pm. Sarah Siddons Fan Club presents **Hold back the Tide! or The comical tragedy of King Canute**. A theatrical walk starting from the Bargate, Southampton, tickets £5 from (023) 8086 2882 or online via www.WeGotTickets.com.

Saturday 30th April 10.00am – 4.30pm. Conference on **Anglo-Saxons and River Valley Settlement** organised by Romsey Local History Society with University of Winchester archaeology and history departments, at Crosfield Hall, Romsey. A project on Anglo-Saxons in the Lower Test Valley has been studying A-S settlements within the Hampshire Basin, and this conference aims to link their work with different aspects of the A-S world in southern England. Speakers include David Hinton, Andy Russel, Nick Stoodley and others. Tickets £18, please contact Phoebe Merrick on 01794 513751 or 19 The Thicket, Romsey SO15 5SZ. (Cheques payable to LTVAS Group).

Saturday 7th May 10.00am – 4.00pm. Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery **170th Anniversary** of the cemetery, Southampton Common. Opening 10.30am by the Mayor of Southampton with piper, the Bishop of Southampton will also attend. Local choir and other musical performances through the day, see discoversouthampton.co.uk for full details. Parking available in Cemetery Road.

Wednesday 11th May 10.30am FoSMAG lecture to be given by Jo Smith, Southampton Archivist (title tbc). Members £4, non-members £5. Meon Suite, Southampton Solent University, 157-187 Above Bar Street, SO14 7NN.

Saturday 14th May 12.30 – 16.30 HFC Historic Buildings Section **Hampshire Churches Medieval Graffiti Survey – volunteer training session** with Mark Champion, Director of the Norfolk Medieval Graffiti survey. King John's House, Church Street, Romsey SO51 8BT. Cost £10 per person, tickets from Karen Wardley 141a St James Road, Southampton SO15 5FQ (cheques payable to Historic Buildings Section, HFC; please send sae or give email address for reply).

Saturday 14th May 10.00am – 4.00pm Fishbourne Roman Palace and Sussex Archaeological Society present **Roman Recipes**: a practical workshop to learn about Roman dining and to create and taste authentic recipes of the time. Cost £45 per person, pre-booking essential on 01243 785859. Fishbourne Roman Palace, Roman Way, Fishbourne, Chichester, W Sussex PO19 3QR.

Wednesday 18th May 7.30pm HFC Annual General Meeting, followed by a lecture to be given by Jane Ellis-Schön on **Finding Pitt-Rivers – the father of British Archaeology**. Peter Symonds College, Berewecke Road, Winchester SO22 6RX. See www.fieldclub.hants.org.uk/programme.

Friday 20th May Day trip from Southampton to visit **SS Great Britain, Bristol**, organised for people with Parkinson's and open to all. Cost £26.50, pick-ups start 7.55am in Sholing. Please contact Mary Shorter for information on (023) 8044 9652 or mobile 07702 905547.

Saturday 21st May 1.30 for 2.00pm. Southampton Ancient Egypt Society Lecture **Piercing the Sky: the Obelisks of Egypt** by Glenn Worthington. A look at the history of obelisks, iconic symbols of Egyptian culture, their meaning in Ancient Egypt and some extraordinary stories of their re-use and relocation. Members £3, non-members £6. Oasis Academy Lordshill, Romsey Road, Southampton SO16 8FA. More information from www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk.

Sunday 22nd May 09.30 – 16.30pm. Lithics Studies Society Day Conference: **From Lithics to Landscape**. Oxford University Dept for Continuing Education Lecture Theatre, University of Oxford. Topics include Palaeolithic sites eg Boxgrove, Sussex; La Cotte de St Brelade, Jersey; Hoxne, Northumberland; Tiverton, Devon; and other Mesolithic, Neolithic and Bronze Age lithic sites. Cost £20 for members, students or unwaged; £30 non-members. Please register by 8th May. Contact www.lithics.org/conference for more information.

Wednesday 8th June 10.30am FoSMAG lecture by Jake Simpkin on **Southampton's Lido** with personal memories of the iconic bathing pool. Details as above (11th May).

Tuesday 14th June 6.00pm Southampton Archaeology Society **Walking Tour of Hamwic** led by archaeologist Matt Garner, who has spent many years excavating sites in Hamwic. There are few visible remains on the ground but Matt's extensive knowledge brings the Saxon town to life! Cost £2 per person, open to members, guests and others. Meet at Southampton Archaeology Unit base, 18 Melbourne Street SO14 5FB (behind St Mary's Stadium, free parking). Advance bookings only, contact Anna Welch on 07812 851095 or archaeoanna@yahoo.com for information or to book. Please give a contact number and names of all members of the party at time of booking.

Sunday 10th July Day visit (own transport) with HFC Archaeology Section to the '**Durotriges' Excavations** by Bournemouth University at Winterbourne Kingston, Dorset. Site Open Day and guided tour of Iron Age 'oppidum' from the time of Roman arrival in Britain. Contact Chris Sellen on chris.sellen@ntlworld.com or 07507 263500 (a small charge will be made to cover expenses).

Lectures are free to members and £2 per visitor. Please bring your friends! All lectures will take place in St. Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton SO14 2AH, unless otherwise stated, from 7.30pm to 9.00pm. Tea and coffee is served from 7.00pm. Please join us at the Duke of Wellington pub after the meeting.

2015 - 2016 SAS Committee

Chair – Martyn Dowell

Vice-Chair –

Treasurer – Sarah Hanna

Secretary – Anna Welch

General Committee Members – Terry Pook, Sylvia Horlock, Mandy Kesby, Rowan Bright and Matt Garner. Archaeological Advisor: Dr. Andy Russel.

Subscription Rates

Individuals £9.00

Senior Citizens £7.00

Juniors/Students £7.00

Family £12.00

If you or a friend would like to join (or if you haven't yet renewed your subscription) please send your details to Sarah Hanna, with a cheque for the appropriate amount payable to Southampton Archaeology Society – or you can pay at next lecture.

Contact us

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We would be very glad to receive contributions to the Newsletter – by e-mail or post (it doesn't have to be typed). Whilst we will endeavour to print articles in their entirety, we reserve the right to edit as necessary.