

Southampton Archaeology Society

April 2017 Newsletter



Dear Members

The AGM of Southampton Archaeology Society is coming up on 9th May, and attached with the newsletter you will find the Notice and Agenda, with other papers regarding nominations to the committee and payment of subscriptions, which become due at the beginning of May. Subscriptions may be sent to the Treasurer John Langran any time from now, or you could choose to pay by Standing Order through your bank (both forms are enclosed). You will see from the AGM Agenda that a proposal is to be made to raise the subscription by a small amount in 2018, as we find our regular income does not cover the expenses of lecture meetings: the discussion will also look at other solutions to this issue, and please let us know if you have any ideas on this.

This year we're sorry to say goodbye to Terry Pook who has served on the committee for many years, including ten years as Treasurer up to 2013. We thank Terry for his support to SCMAS and SAS. These days he is very involved in his own research, and I hope he'll still write occasional articles for the newsletter as they are always interesting and well-researched. This leaves a vacancy on the committee and we need new members, particularly someone to help with publicity but also other roles. If you're not sure whether to come forward we'd welcome you to attend a committee meeting which are held about six times a year – it's a great way to get to know the members and to help plan for the Society's future.

Thanks to all the members who took part in the survey on future plans for SAS which will be discussed at the AGM, when we hope to have news about opportunities to get involved with the Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project. Many thanks too to Joan Webb for the article on the history of the Friends of Old Southampton, which provides a taster for our Study Day on Saturday 10th June - *Southampton: destruction, construction and discovery – 80 years of archaeology*'. Later in the summer Matt Garner will lead another evening walk through Saxon and Medieval Southampton, on Wednesday 28th June at 6.00pm – a hand out and more news will be available at the AGM.

Best wishes for a fine Easter holiday, and see you in May.

Sarah

Southampton Archaeology Society AGM 9th May and Study Day 10th June 2017

Tuesday 9th May 2017 AGM, 7.30pm. Please join us for a glass of wine and a talk. We will welcome Alex Walker and leaders from Southampton Young Archaeologists' Club who will tell us why we need to engage children and young people with archaeology and history - and describe some typical (and not so typical) meetings.

Saturday 10th June 2017 9.30am to 5.00pm. SAS Study Day 'Southampton: destruction, construction and discovery – 80 years of archaeology'. The day will review some of the major archaeological discoveries in Southampton over the past 80 years, with members of the City Council Archaeology Unit and others involved in the work. A hand out and booking form is attached/enclosed with this newsletter.

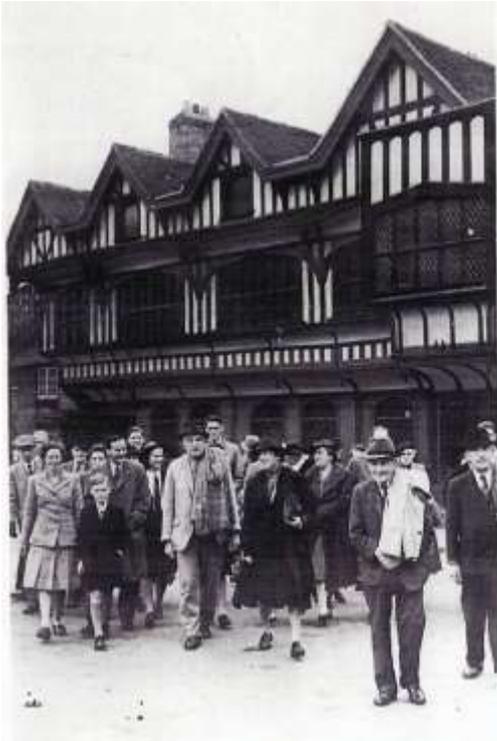
Venue: St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street, Southampton SO14 2AH.

Friends of Old Southampton - A Short History

As you all know, the “Friends of Old Southampton” recently disbanded so I thought it would be appropriate to give a brief history of this society.

In 1946 World War 2, of course, had just ended and it was extremely important to safeguard what remained of our heritage during the massive rebuilding and remodelling programme that followed the blitz. In fact the founders of the society made the first object of the constitution, (quote) “to foster public interest in all matters of historical, archaeological or architectural interest and the preservation and character of public lands and places”.

The first meeting was held on Wednesday 11th September 1946, assembling at Tudor House and making a short walking tour around the lower old town. There was a “plan B” had the day been wet. However it appears from this archive photograph that the weather was kind (shown below).



Our first Chairman was the internationally renowned archaeologist Dr OGS Crawford who later became President. The secretary at this time (later also to become Chairman and President) was Elsie Sandell and indeed it was she who was prominent in the actual formation of the society. A keen historian, she wrote many books and gave lectures on all aspects of Southampton’s past.

Another of our founder members and Presidents was Lawrence Burgess, a Southampton librarian who was fascinated by, and wrote several papers on local history. Later Chairmen included Philip De Grouchy and Ken Carey, who served for over 30 years. In fact, over the years, we have been honoured to have had as officers and members distinguished and knowledgeable local historians and writers, including our final President AGK Leonard.

However, the majority of our members had always been people who were interested in their city’s important and colourful past, its unique buildings, walls, architecture and archaeology, but most of all felt passionate about the conservation of our heritage. To this end it had been necessary, on occasion, to join with other local amenity societies to protect against encroachment of the Common, such as car parking and inappropriate usage, even taking proceedings as far as the High Court.

Yearly activities included visits to local archaeological digs and coach trips in the summer to places of historic interest, for example Butser Ancient Farm, Lacock Abbey and village, or perhaps a walk at Badbury Rings Iron Age hill fort. Speakers filled the rest of the year talking on many aspects of local history as diverse as Jane Austen, the parks and aviation. Latterly, although we continued having talks throughout the year, with decreasing membership and attendance the society became less viable and the decision was sadly taken to close last November.

On a personal note I can remember as a young child, attending talks with my grandmother and mother - both founder members – and in my teens as a Junior Member presenting a short talk on the history of the docks. Serving as the final Chairman meant that my family was involved throughout the Friends of Old Southampton story.

Seventy years is a good record for any society and I’m sure the founders would be proud to know that we prolonged their ideals for so long.

AGK Leonard cutting the 70th Anniversary cake.



Joan Webb

SAS Survey results April 2016

A survey form about future plans for Southampton Archaeology Society was included in the January 2017 newsletter and sent to all current members (total 67), inviting them to state their preferences regarding the introduction of workshops or practical sessions on a range of archaeological topics. Printed forms were available at the lecture meetings in February and March 2017, and digital copies sent to members who requested them, and to all members of the committee.

A total of 15 forms have been returned to date, just over 20% of the membership, but a lot of interest has been expressed generally, with most people supporting the proposed ideas, but one or two members said their interests eg individual research don't fit with a workshop format. There has been a lot of discussion and many people's answers included several options; the results showed a slight preference for weekday afternoons while fewer people chose weekend sessions or evenings. Regarding the subject for workshops, five were put forward on the form and people were invited to propose their ideas, with a number of suggestions for practical activities being made. Altogether ten topics are to be put forward, most popular being pottery (13), flintwork (12), bones (11), coins (10) and metalwork (8); while jewellery, geophysics, conservation and textiles were also requested.

Further ideas were sought for outings, and suggestions included a visit to Basing House and to places of local interest; and one request for work on Anglo-Saxon Southampton. We've received lots of ideas for projects, including work on restoring pots within the Southampton Heritage Collections, and surveys of graffiti in Tudor House and God's House Tower (see item below on Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project).

If you've missed the survey and would still like to take part you can use the the form which was included in the January newsletter, or just send responses before 30th April 2017, to me at 346, Hill Lane SO15 7PH or digitally sarahvhanna@hotmail.com; or to Anna Welch (archaeoanna@yahoo.co.uk) 20 John's Road, Woolston SO19 9BU. You may also send your ideas direct to our Facebook group (see [facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com)).

At the AGM on 9th May we will present some ideas for activities that members may wish to take part in.

Sarah Hanna

Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project

Launched in May 2016, this project has attracted considerable interest within Hampshire Field Club (HFC) and they have started a Facebook group where new discoveries are frequently posted. It's led by Karen Wardley, former Collections Manager at SCC Arts and Heritage, and surveys have been carried out in Southampton including the Bargate (as reported in HFC's Spring Newsletter, March 2017). Last month they held a preliminary survey at St Michael's Church, Bugle Street, but little was found apart from post-medieval graffiti on Sir Richard Lyster's tomb, and some enigmatic signs around the main entrance door.

Karen has contacted the SAS committee to offer opportunities for members to join the local volunteers in surveys at Tudor House, where there are reported to be more modern examples of graffiti in the attics and cellars, some dating to the 20th century especially WW1 and WW2. We hope to start work there about mid-May after meeting with a member of staff to find out more information. There is a possibility of a further survey at God's House Tower later in the year.

We'd like to invite SAS members to let us know if they are interested in joining in with this project - a list will be available to sign at forthcoming meetings, or speak to Martyn, John, Anna or myself.

Sarah Hanna

Some forthcoming events

Saturday 22nd April 10.00am – 5.00pm. Local Population Studies Society (LPSS) and the Wessex Centre of University of Winchester Spring Conference on *The New Poor Law*, discussing aspects of the 1834 Poor Law Act. This set up the Victorian workhouses, several of which became notorious in Hampshire. The booking deadline was 8/4/17, but information is available by email on lps@conted.ox.ac.uk.

Saturday 22nd April 2.00pm. Southampton Ancient Egypt Society lecture '*Djehutihote : Great Chief of the Hare Nome*' by John Wyatt. The talk tells the story of 12th Dynasty governor Djehutihotep and discovery of his tomb which contains magnificent wall paintings. Members £3, non-members £6. Oasis Academy Lordshill, Romsey Road SO16 8FA. See www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk.

***Saturday 22nd April** 9.30am - 4.15pm. Spring Symposium *Literary Hampshire: Historical Perspectives*, at Hampshire Record Office. Tickets £10 to HFC members, £15 non-members, from Richard Aldous, 3 Fell House, Whiteshute Lane, St Cross, Winchester SO23 9RA, tel 01962 860571, or Richard.Aldous@tesco.net.

Thursday 27th April 7.30pm Westgate Hall Lecture *The King's Ships: Henry V's Navy* to be given by Dr Ian Friel. Best known for his victories on land, Henry V also created one of medieval England's most powerful fleets. Many of his largest ships were built in Southampton. Westgate Hall, Westgate Street SO14 2AY. Cost £5 (£4 to SAS, FoSMAG, A&H volunteers). Pre-book on (023) 8083 4536.

Saturday 29th April 2.00 – 6.00pm. **University of Southampton Archaeology Department 50th Anniversary.** Free event open to local archaeologists and families, based at the Avenue Campus, Highfield Road SO17 1BF. For further information please go to (<https://generic.wordpress.soton.ac.uk/suarch50/>).

***Wednesday 10th May** 7.30pm HFC AGM at Science Lecture Theatre, Peter Symonds College, Berewecke Rd, Winchester SO22 6RX. Following the AGM, ~8.00pm Dr Andy Russel will give a talk on *Hung in Chains: A late Saxon execution cemetery at Oliver's Battery, Winchester*.

[*SAS is affiliated to Hampshire Field Club and we're eligible to attend their meetings - further details of these and other HFC events can be found on their website www.hantsfieldclub.org.uk.]

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.

2016 - 2017 SAS Committee

Chair – Martyn Dowell
Vice-Chair – Sarah Hanna
Hon Treasurer – John Langran
Hon Secretary – Mandy Kesby
General Committee Members – Anna Welch, Terry Pook, Sylvia Horlock, Rowan Bright and Matt Garner. Archaeological Advisor: Dr. Andy Russel.

Subscription Rates

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| 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 John Langran, with a cheque for the appropriate amount, payable to Southampton Archaeology Society – or you can pay at the 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.