

Southampton Archaeology Society



April 2018 Newsletter

Dear Members

Our final lecture this spring features the work of Operation Nightingale, offering injured service personnel the opportunity to become involved in archaeology to help with their recovery. Phil Andrews of Wessex Archaeology will give an update about their recent *Return to Barrow Clump* to investigate an AS cemetery disturbed by badger digging: more about the project can be found in *Current Archaeology*, May 2018 issue.

Our Annual General Meeting follows on Tuesday 8th May when there will be some changes to the committee. Anna Welch is leaving after

more than 20 years, many as Hon Secretary (+ Newsletter Editor/Programme Organiser) as her present job with the Institute for Archaeologists allows her little spare time; while Martyn Dowell has decided to retire as Chair after a long and successful commitment, taking SAS through many changes. We'll miss them both and while Martyn plans to stay on in a different role, we should like to recruit one or two new members – why not give it a go! The AGM Notice and committee nomination forms are attached/ enclosed, and if you're interested please speak to any committee member, or you could attend one of our meetings if you wish. Details of subscription and data protection changes are given on the back page.

Many thanks to John Langran for the article about volunteering with the New Forest National Park (see p 2) and to Matt Garner for co-ordinating the Study Day for us in June, when we look forward to hearing more about the Saxon Town and its wider context. Hope to see you there!

Sarah

Southampton Archaeology Society Study Day

Saturday 16th June 2018 10.00 to 17.00

St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street SO14 2AH

Hamwic: the Middle Saxon settlement of Southampton

The Saxon settlement of Hamwic flourished on the west bank of the River Itchen from the 7th to the 9th centuries. Investigations in the St Mary's area have revealed the layout of this town; a grid of streets, with western ditch, houses, workshops, pits, and rubbish deposits. The discovery of cemeteries in several parts of Hamwic, has allowed us to study the demographic composition, health and beliefs of the population. The excavated rubbish provides evidence of diet, crafts and trade, showing the people of Hamwic made textiles and objects of bone, antler, glass, and metal. The waste material and products of metal working have been found across Hamwic, and the abundance of particular coin types indicates that the town had a mint. Artefacts from beyond the English Channel include pottery, quernstones, and coins.

Hamwic is the most intensively investigated town of the period in England and is of international significance. This study day will consider the reasons for the founding of a settlement at this location and how it flourished for 200 years. The day will include the Early Saxon background of the area and the Late Saxon shift to Hamtun, alongside the River Test.

Speakers: Phil Andrews, Matt Garner, David Hinton, Ian Ridley, Andy Russel, Nick Stoodley.

Cost: members £12, non-members £15, under-18s £6. Booking details on the attached flyer.

Archaeological Volunteering with the New Forest National Park – a model for our future

We heard Lawrence Shaw of the New Forest National Park Authority (NFNPA) a year or so past, talking about LIDAR - the use of laser mapping survey techniques to identify previously unknown archaeological sites. This work led to LIDAR being awarded “Archaeological Innovation of the last 50 years” in the Current Archaeology Awards 2017.

However, their success also depended on a group of volunteers armed with GPS equipped devices recording the features on the ground (‘ground truthing’). Many of those volunteers had come from the earlier “New Forest Remembers Project” which recorded the area’s contribution during World War 2. This does mean that NFNPA built a knowledgeable pool to support the exploration of their heritage. They have organised occasional digs, including one at Bucklers Hard looking for lost shipyard buildings. The Authority also gave informal support to volunteers taking part in the National Hillforts Survey, through loans of equipment and local records. Last Autumn Alex Bellasario of the CITiZAN project told us how she hoped to draw on the support of New Forest volunteers in her work to record the WW2 Mulberry Harbours construction site at Lepe.

I joined one of the LIDAR teams at Backley Holmes near Burley nearly three years ago. We stumbled across Roman pottery which had been excavated by the local rabbits! Last October (2017) I was able to return to assist in a geophysical survey to look for kilns and other indications of Romano-British settlement.



It was a fantastic opportunity for an amateur to use state of the art equipment such as the magnetometers as shown here. The key to the surveying technique is to hold them at arms-length and walk at a steady pace over rough ground and through foliage! You can’t wear any metal eg zips or buckles, and it is harder than you would think!

The NFNPA team seems to coexist in a friendly competition with the New Forest History and Archaeology group, a volunteer led organisation which carries out many of its own activities including an annual dig.

We’d like to find out if there’s an appetite within Southampton for volunteers to help develop understanding of our heritage, complementing the work of the professionals – and to enjoy themselves immensely? We are also exploring the possibility of forming a CITiZAN group to monitor and record the nearby coastal inter-tidal zone for erosion of surviving sites – please let the SAS Committee know if you’re interested in taking part.

John Langran

Southampton Archaeology Society lectures to May 2018

Lectures are free to members and currently £2 per visitor - bring your friends! We meet at St. Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street SO14 2AH. Meetings start at 7.30pm (and generally finish by 9.00pm). Tea and coffee is served from 7.00pm. Please join us after the talks in The Duke of Wellington pub on Bugle Street.

April 10th 2018 Phil Andrews '**Saxons and soldiers – a return to Barrow Clump.**' English Heritage (now Historic England) undertook research on Salisbury Plain in 2003-4 to examine damage to prehistoric monuments by burrowing badgers. Barrow Clump, a large Early Bronze Age burial mound - with an earlier 'Beaker' monument and underlying Neolithic deposits - was the focus of their investigations. Excavation also revealed an Anglo-Saxon cemetery, and continuing damage led to the Defence Infrastructure/ Operation Nightingale/Wessex Archaeology project at the site in 2012-14. This innovative work involved injured service personnel to help aid their recovery, and revealed much information about the prehistoric burial mound and Anglo-Saxon cemetery, the results of which are now nearing publication. However, further disturbance led to a return to the site at the end of 2017 ... and a few new discoveries!

Phil Andrews is a project officer with Wessex Archaeological Trust.

May 8th 2018 **SAS Annual General Meeting**. Please join us for our AGM and a glass of wine. After the meeting Dr Andy Russel will give a short presentation on recent archaeological work carried out by the Southampton Archaeology Unit.

Forthcoming events: a mixed selection

Southampton Tourist Guides have organised a programme of walks for Spring/Summer 2018, on diverse themes including *Titanic: a Southampton Story* on 9th to 13th, and 15th April. From April to September walks held each Saturday will look *Inside and Under the Medieval Town*, while on Sundays there will be *Walk the Walls in 80 minutes*. Tickets from £5, details on wegottickets.com.

Ending Sunday 15th April Exhibition at Mottisfont Abbey (National Trust) - *Heath Robinson: Dreams and Machines* includes over 60 original pieces from the early to mid-20th century, witty cartoons and illustrations from the artist's books for children, and watercolour landscapes. Free to NT members, please see <https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/mottisfont/features/heath-robinson-exhibition-at-mottisfont> for opening times and entry prices, or tel 01794 340797.

Continuing to 28th October at SeaCity Museum: *We March On: Southampton Football Club, Then & Now*. The history of Southampton City Football Club over the past 130 years, current challenges and future plans. Open 10.00am – 5.00pm, Monday to Sunday at SeaCity Museum, Havelock Road SO14 7FY (entry fees apply: seacitymuseum.co.uk).

Saturday 21st April 1.30 for 2.00pm. Southampton Ancient Egypt Society lecture by Roland Enmarche – *the Tale of Sinuhe: Biography & Poetry in Middle Kingdom Literature*. This well-known work was popular with ancient readers for over 750 years, and constitutes a profound meditation on human nature and what it meant to be Egyptian. This lecture shows how the Tale relates to other Middle Kingdom texts in interpreting the story's meaning. Members £3, non-members £6, incl refreshments. Oasis Academy Lordshill, Romsey Road SO16 8FA. Please see www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk for further information.

Tuesday 24th April 6.00pm, Nuffield Theatres Southampton (NST) City. Historian Dan Snow, President of the Council for British Archaeology (and TV presenter) in conversation with Paul Beaver. They will discuss the Spitfire, iconic WW2 fighter plane built in Southampton and featured in the play *The Shadow Factory*, which premiered at the new Nuffield Southampton Theatres City. Tickets £14 available from www.nstheatres.co.uk or telephone the Box Office (023) 8067 1771.

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Changes to Subscriptions from May 2018

At last year's AGM it was agreed to raise subscriptions as they become due in May this year, and this is a reminder to members paying by Standing Order, who will need to inform their bank about the change. The increase for individual members is £1: up to £10 for adults and to £8 for seniors, students and under 18s; while joint membership goes up by £2 to £14. Charges for visitors to the lecture meetings rise to £3.

Any member who would like to change their payment method to standing order should ask John Langran, Treasurer to send a them form, or pick one up at a meeting. Payment of annual subscriptions is due from May 2018 and may be made at any time by cash/cheque.

Data Protection

There are also changes to the rules about the use of confidential information, under the new General Data Protection legislation which comes into effect next month (May 2018). To comply with this, the Society needs the consent of each member to hold and use their personal information, ie contact details. We would like to ask all members (including individual joint members) renewing their subscriptions to complete a membership application/renewal form to register their consent.

We also assure you that your details are held only for management and communication purposes and will not be shared with others, except with the consent of any individual member in particular circumstances. You are advised that your consent may be withdrawn at any time by contacting the Hon Treasurer, John Langran 8 Cavendish Grove, Southampton SO17 1XE

A membership renewal/application form for SAS is enclosed or attached with this edition of the newsletter.

Lectures are free to members and £3 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.

2017-2018 SAS Committee

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

Subscription Rates 2018

Individuals	£10.00
Senior Citizens	£8.00
Juniors/Students	£8.00
Family	£14.00

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 love to receive contributions to the Newsletter – by e-mail to sarahvhanna@hotmail.com or post to Sarah Hanna, 346 Hill Lane SO15 7PH. We reserve the right to edit as necessary.