

Southampton Archaeology Society

January 2017 Newsletter



Dear Members

Thank you to all members who braved the cold for the first SAS meeting of the year, though once again we experienced problems with the heating at St Joseph's! Apologies for this, and we trust that the matter will be resolved before the next meeting on 14th February. I'm taking the opportunity to re-issue the list of remaining lectures this season as we've had to change the date for our Study Day planned for the end of

February, which will now take place on Saturday 10th June. The day will review the major archaeological discoveries in Southampton over the past 80 years, with members of the City Council Archaeology Unit and some others involved in the work. The programme will be sent out nearer to the date, about April.

Late last year we were sorry to hear that the Friends of Old Southampton Society decided to disband just after their 70th anniversary in November. They have made a £300 donation to SAS from their funds and we are most grateful to our members Joan and Brian Webb for their generosity.

We now have a presence on Facebook thanks to John Langran (see his note in this issue), which we hope will help with publicity. On the last page you will find a note and mini-survey about our plans for the future, as we're thinking of introducing practical archaeology sessions during the next year. We're asking for members' views on the best times and particular topics you wish to be covered – please let us know!

I am grateful to Terry Pook for the article on George Rogers, resident of eighteenth century Southampton and former owner of Tudor House. Thanks also to Ingrid Peckham from the SCC Historic Environment Team, for compiling the new list of site reports on archaeological work in Southampton (attached/enclosed with this newsletter).

The details of our next lecture are shown below, and the venue as usual will be St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street SO14 2AH, with tea and coffee from 7.00pm. It should be a fascinating talk and the speaker Martyn Allen is a former student of archaeology at Southampton University, whose PhD was based on animal bones from Fishbourne Roman Palace, so he knows this area well.

Please bring your friends (guests £2) - we look forward to seeing you there!

Sarah

Southampton Archaeology Society Lectures February – June 2017

February 14th 2017 Dr. Martyn Allen **New visions of the Romano-British countryside: an introduction to the *Rural Settlement of Roman Britain* project**

It has often been stated that Roman Britain was quintessentially a rural society, with the vast majority of the population living and working in farmsteads and larger villages. Yet there was clearly a considerable degree of regional variation, and with the huge mass of mainly developer-funded excavation data created over the past 25 years, the incredible diversity and density of Roman rural settlement across the landscape is now starting to be demonstrated. This talk will explore the background of rural settlement studies in Britain, with its focus on the 'villa', and how this led to the genesis of the current project. The aims and structure of the project will be reviewed, and a case study will be presented which highlights the range of diversity in settlement forms, landscape-use, and agricultural practices which occurred in the countryside.

Dr. Allen is post-doctoral research fellow at the University of Reading and a professional zooarchaeologist.

NB The Study Day has been postponed and will be held on Saturday 10th June 2017 (see below).

March 14th 2017 Chris Elmer '**Lego and Zombies- making sense of Basing House**'

The multi-period site at Basing House near Basingstoke has been the subject of archaeological investigation for over a century. Most recently the excavations have focused on the Tudor period 'new house'. The talk will provide an overview of the dig but also look at Basing House's more recent history as a heritage site undergoing rapid transformation.

Chris is currently in his final year of PhD research at the University of Southampton investigating public engagement with archaeology, focusing on Basing House, near Basingstoke in Hampshire. Chris was formerly Head of Hampshire County Council Arts and Museums Service Education team.

April 11th 2017 Matt Garner '**A community Excavation at Quarr Abbey, I o W, 2014–16**'.

The HLF-funded 'Two Abbeys' Project' included three seasons of excavation on the site of a medieval Cistercian abbey, in the grounds of a modern Benedictine abbey, near Ryde. The excavation was run by the Archaeology Unit of Southampton City Council in association with the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeology Society on behalf of the Quarr Abbey community. The workforce comprised members of that society, archaeology students from several universities, local 6th form students, the Isle of Wight Young Archaeologist Club, and other interested locals. The abbey was founded in 1131, the largest and most important monastery on the island, and it was dissolved in 1536. Licence to crenellate was granted in 1365, when the abbey was enclosed by a wall with gun-ports. Archaeological work recorded buried remains of the abbey including walls, foundations, conduits, and construction deposits. Post-dissolution demolition layers contained roof slates and ridge tiles, dressed stone, painted plaster, window glass and lead, and floor tiles, with evidence for post-medieval occupation in part of the site.

Matt Garner is Archaeology Officer with Southampton Archaeology Unit, and Director of the Project.

9th May 2017 **AGM**. Please join us for a glass of wine and a talk. We 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 **SAS Study Day 'Southampton: destruction, construction and discovery – 80 years of archaeology'**. Programme to follow.

George Rogers (1718-1792)

Anyone who has visited the Tudor House Museum must have seen the life sized portrait of George Rogers hanging above the staircase, and wondered who he was. The picture by the renowned artist, William Beechey was painted after the death of George's wife, Margaret, nee Tyers who can be seen in another painting with her husband, from around the time of their marriage at Dorking in 1742. After several years



The Tyers family

living at Vauxhall Pleasure Gardens, the Tyers family moved to the Denbies estate near Dorking, now a thriving vineyard. Margaret Tyers was the elder daughter of Jonathan Tyers, the entrepreneur who built and opened the Pleasure Gardens in 1732. There were four children in the family and it was Jonathan the younger who took over the management of the Gardens after the death of his father. All the children benefitted from the success of the resort, hence George Rogers as Margaret's husband benefitted financially, as at that time the property of

a wife belonged to her husband. George's younger sister, Margaret married the younger Jonathan Tyers so became Margaret Tyers while George's wife, Margaret Tyers became Margaret Rogers which does complicate the research!

The only reference to George's origins I have found is that he was Welsh, born in 1718 and at his marriage he was said to be 'of Southampton'. He had his own career being the secretary to Admiral Augustus Kepple (1725-1786), and as admirals' secretaries served alongside their employer George spent time at sea with Kepple during the Seven Years War



George and Margaret Rogers about 1742



Admiral Augustus Kepple

recording the Admiral's actions. As it turned out

these were closely scrutinised by a court martial concerning Kepple's actions, after a challenge by lesser naval officers. Kepple was exonerated and later became an MP, while George was promoted to Commissioner of the Navy for his final years of employment. During this time he was given an appointment by the Government relating to the peace (at the time) with France, to see that the condition for the reciprocal reduction of the navies of both countries was carried out completely, having been agreed by both sides. Considering that the French Revolution began in 1789 and peace with France was not finally achieved until 1815, it is difficult to understand how effective George's efforts were.

It was in 1763 that George and Margaret moved into Tudor House for their final years together and took a lease on one section of the town wall, in which he created a new doorway to provide a secure lock up for his private coach and stables, in what we now call King John's Palace. This was all part of his property including a first floor room above and the garden as we see it today, which was recorded in the sale particulars by George's sister in 1793. It was a sad day for George in 1786 when both his wife and his employer, Augustus Kepple died on the same day. Margaret's brother Thomas referred in her obituary to her love of family and entertaining their friends, when they visited the spa facilities. George was one of two executors to the Admiral, who left him £1,000 for his former services.

Art was a notable feature of the pleasure gardens when Tyers inhabited the haunts of London artists and he employed Francis Hayman, a stage scenery painter with his assistants to paint numerous pictures to enhance the supper boxes in his gardens. It was he who painted the portrait of George and Margaret shown above. As to George being an artist (shown in his portrait), art exhibitions were held at the gardens and on one occasion George exhibited water colour drawings, the only reference to George as an artist I could find. These were painted on the Isle of Wight during the time he lived at Bellevue House, near Cowes (Northwood House today, considerably enlarged) probably in the summer months after his retirement. At his death in 1792 he left legacies to his sister and all of his several servants. He was buried with his wife in St Mary's churchyard in a grave of which no trace now exists.

Terence Pook

We are now on Facebook!

We have just started a Facebook page for Southampton Archaeology Society. We will have a presence on “social media” through which:

- we can communicate with members about coming events and news
- members can post news about their activities and information
- potential new members can find us
- the Archaeology and local history community in and around Southampton can post their news and developments.

The Facebook Group is called **Southampton Archaeology Society**, and you can search for us under that name and join the Group.



The photo (left) is from the Chantry Hall excavation carried out by the Southampton Archaeology Unit a couple of years ago. It formed the subject of a talk by Andy Russell at our September 2016 meeting. We will post other pictures to illustrate our activities when we can.

We hope that Facebook will give us a better opportunity to keep in touch between meetings. If you are familiar with Facebook, then please join the Group so we achieve “critical mass” in membership. We will try to keep the news items fresh but you can also add your input. Tell us your news and promote your archaeological activities there. We want Facebook to enable us to reach out to potential new members and link us to other local societies and groups.

Stone-lined cess-pit from Tudor mansion at Chantry Hall site. Photo: A Russel

However, if Facebook is not “your thing”, don’t worry as the current ways in which we link with our members will continue. In the longer term we will set up a website for Southampton Archaeology Society. If you have a particular experience of social media to share please let us know. It could help in shaping future developments. You can contact members of the committee you know, or to me direct on: john.langran@hotmail.com.

We will welcome your views.

John Langran

Some forthcoming events

Thursday 9th February 8.00pm. Royal Geographical Society Lecture **Hidden Histories**, given by Mary-Ann Ochota, author of *‘Hidden Histories: A Spotter’s Guide to the British Landscape.’* The speaker is a journalist, broadcaster and anthropologist whose talk offers clues on discovering origins of villages, the age of a hedgerow and secrets of chambered tombs, churchyards and other features of the landscape. Turner Sims Concert Hall, University of Southampton SO17 1BJ. Tickets £15 (concs £14, Friends £13.50), from (023) 8059 5151 or turnersims.co.uk.

Friday 10th February 7.30pm. WARG (Winchester Archaeology & Local History) June Lloyd Lecture 2017, to be given by Prof Michael Fulford (University of Reading) on **Silchester: the Iron Age and Roman Town – a 500 year history.** Professor Fulford has worked on the Silchester site since the 1970s and has published widely on Romano-British and Roman archaeology. He is a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London and of the British Academy and was appointed CBE in 2011; and in 2015 he was voted Archaeologist of the Year in the Current Archaeology awards. Tickets £15 to WARG members; £17.50 non-members, from Julia Sandison, 22 Clifton Rd, Winchester SO23 5BP (cheques payable to WARG and please enclose SAE).

Sunday 12th February 10.15/11.30am. SeaCity Museum, SO14 7FY. **Beyond the Museum: Old Police Station Tour.** SeaCity Museum was once home to the central police station and law courts. Join a guided tour to explore areas of the building normally out of bounds, to see the old courts, padded cells and custody suites, with many original features. £6/£5.50 concessions (tour only). Pre-book on 8083 4536.

Saturday 18th February 2.00pm. Southampton Ancient Egypt Society lecture on **Egypt and the Assyrian Empire,** to be given by Paul Collins. Relations between Egypt and the kingdom of Assyria can be traced in some detail from c1300 – 600BC. The splendour of Egypt's New Kingdom helped shape Assyria's destiny as its armies expanded across the Near East, ultimately invading Egypt for a confrontation between the two great powers of the first millennium BC. Members £3, non-members £6. Oasis Academy Lordshill, Romsey Road, SO16 8FA. Doors open 1.30pm. See www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk

Saturday 8th March 10.00 -16.00. SeaCity Museum Havelock RD SO14 7FY. **Liners Study Day:** explore the story of ocean liners in Southampton with a day of interesting and insightful talks based around the current *Port Out: Southampton Home* exhibition. Tickets £35/£30 concessions, which includes entry to the exhibition and light refreshments (lunch not included). Pre-book on 8083 4536.

Saturday 18th March 2.00pm. Southampton Ancient Egypt Society lecture by Paul Nicholson on **The Sacred Animal Necropolis at North Saqqara.** The Sacred Animal Necropolis is the resting place of a vast number of animals associated with particular cults. The Apis bull is the most famous but many others – dogs, cats, ibises, falcons etc – are less well known. Many were discovered by Walter Emery in the 1960s and have since been worked on by Professors Smith, Martin and Nicholson. The talk summarises some of this work and discusses work taking place at the Dog Catacomb. Members £3, non-members £6. Oasis Academy Lordshill, Romsey Road SO16 8FA. See www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk.

Thursday 23rd March 2.00pm. Visit to **St Julien's Chapel, Winkle St SO14 2NY.** By arrangement with the History of Southampton group, organised by the Local History group of U3A, Southampton. Open to members of SAS, please email Jean Watts for information if interested (jeanwatts6@btinternet.com).

Saturday 8th April 2-3.00pm. SeaCity Museum **Titanic Talk: The Mysterious Life of Walter Henry** with historian Howard Nichols, who tells the story of surviving crew member Walter Henry, his mysterious account of the aftermath of the accident; and his part in making the film *A Night to Remember*. Learn about Walter's adventures in WW2 – helping to save aristocrats fleeing the Russian Revolution. Learning Deck 2, SeaCity Museum, Havelock Road SO14 7FY. Cost £6 (talk only); pre-book on 8083 4536.

Sunday 9th April 2-4.00pm. SeaCity Museum: **Violet Jessop's Tour and Tea.** Step aboard Titanic with First Class Stewardess Violet Jessop as she explores the story of the infamous liner through her own incredible life. Afterwards enjoy a pot of tea with scone, jam and cream. SeaCity Museum SO14 7FY. Cost £11.50 includes Museum entry; pre-book on 8083 4563.

Survey on SAS future plans

During next year's programme we hope to introduce practical sessions or workshops on topics such as pottery, bones, flint work, metalworking etc. These would take the form of extended sessions lasting 2 – 3 hours, with opportunities for members to gain experience in identification, or discussion and if possible demonstrations of technology.

The sessions would be led by experts and the cost would be based on their fees and the cost of hiring premises. Some sessions could be held at a provider's premises elsewhere.

Survey Questions

1. Would you be interested in attending sessions on practical archaeology?

- a) Weekdays – am/pm
- b) Weekends – am/pm
- c) Evenings.

2. Please indicate choice of topics, or any others not mentioned below:

- a) Bone identification
- b) Flint tool identification/demonstration
- c) Pottery identification/use in dating
- d) Coins
- e) Metalwork/conservation
- f) Any other topics

Name & contact Many thanks.

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.

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 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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2015 - 2016 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.

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.