

# Southampton Archaeology Society



## January 2018 Newsletter

Dear Members

The SAS lecture programme this year started last month with Chris Sellen's excellent talk about the activities of WARG (for Winchester Archaeology and Local History) in ten years of excavations around Hampshire. They welcome volunteers to join them, and we plan to organise a visit to the 2018 dig in August (location to be confirmed).

Our next lecture will feature a return visit from Dr Miles Russell who came to speak about three years ago about Bournemouth University's Durotriges Project in Dorset. This time Miles will talk on the latest discoveries in the Late Iron Age settlement of 'Duropolis'; and we hope he may touch on the geophysical surveys of Dorset hill forts and book *Hillforts and the Durotriges* which he's also involved with.

Some of our own members have continued their activities, for instance recording Southampton's historic milestones, and I am grateful to Martyn Dowell, Dr Andy Russel and John Langran for the information contributed to this edition; and also the SAS graffiti survey team and Karen Wardley for the report on the work undertaken recently in God's House Tower. Looking forward, we are hoping to arrange an outing for members in April or May, to the Winchester College Treasury, which opened last year as Museum of Art and Archaeology, and contains some fascinating treasures from the Orient. Finally, don't miss our Study Day on 16<sup>th</sup> June *Hamwic: the Middle Saxon Settlement of Southampton* – speakers are booked and planning is well under way, and it promises to be a highlight of the year!

**Sarah**

### **Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February 10.00 to 17.00 University of Southampton Study Day The Archaeology of Southampton from the Ice Age to the Middle Ages. Avenue Campus, Highfield Road SO17 1BF.**

The Southampton area is home to unique and nationally important archaeological sites, many of them the focus of study since the 19th century. The archaeology includes everything from exceptional Palaeolithic sites in the Solent area, to the hidden gems of the medieval town of Southampton, taking in the later prehistoric settlements of the Test, Itchen and Hamble, and the riches of Roman Clausentum and Saxon Hamwic. This study day will look at the ways that the environment has influenced the use of the area and how successive settlements have exploited locations on the banks of the local river estuaries.

The speakers, many of them alumni of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Southampton, have many years of experience working on the environment and archaeology of the region. The first part of the study day will summarise the main periods of archaeology in Southampton, drawing on the most recent discoveries in the area. This will be followed by case studies of artefact analysis and environmental investigation, with insights on the methods and techniques used to reveal and record evidence, from chance discoveries in gravel quarries to large-scale excavations, that provide insight into one of the richest archaeological landscapes in the south of England.

For online booking copy the link into your browser:

<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/lifelonglearning/news/events/2018/02/17-archaeology-of-southampton-study-day.page?>

Alternatively you may telephone the Lifelong Learning office on (023) 8059 3728. Full cost: £42 for the day, including refreshments and lunch; 'loyalty' discounts: £28 or £20 staff/students.

## Graffiti Survey of Gods House Tower, Southampton



Gods House Tower stands at the SE corner of Southampton's medieval town defences, and is a Grade II listed monument. The original gatehouse was built in the late 13th century, and extended in the early 15th century with the addition of a two-storey gallery and a three-storey tower. This was one of the earliest coastal defences specifically built to carry cannon, and for two centuries was the home of the Town Gunner, his guns and gun powder. The building was used as the town gaol in the late 18th century, and finally became the Museum of Archaeology in 1961, which closed in September 2011, in advance of opening the new SeaCity Museum. It is managed by the arts organisation aspace, and due to reopen as an arts and heritage centre in 2018.

Due to the loss of the original interior stone surfaces, and the removal of any surface plastering or lime-washing, disappointingly little historical graffiti was found inside the building. Two possible pieces of medieval graffiti were found. One may be part of a shield on a reused piece of Portland marble in the alcove at the bottom of the stairs, near the entrance (*Image 1*). The other is a weathered ship graffito on one of the window embrasures in the tower, with some of the masts and rigging still visible (*Image 2*).

*Image 1.*



*Image 2.*



Most of the other graffiti consisted of modern initials, probably left by visitors to the museum, on the walls and on the wooden newel post (*Image 3*) in the stairway and on the door to the roof, and pencil lines and calculations left by modern workmen on the tower walls. The date 1778 was found on the

first floor landing, but the form of its carving suggests it could have been made more recently. Modern masons left the date 1959 over the back door (*Image 4*). The date 1953 and initials STC were found on the exterior north wall.

*Image 3.*



*Image 4.*



Visits were made on 21.11.2017 to the interior of the building, and on 05.12.2017 to the roof and exterior walls. Surveyors from Southampton Archaeology Society (SAS) were: Martyn Dowell, Matt Garner, Sarah Hanna, Gill and Roger James, Julian Porter, Sue and Derek Stewart, Karen Wardley, Joan and Brian Webb. A further visit is required to survey the modern boiler room, which is currently full of equipment obstructing access to the walls.

Karen Wardley      January 2018

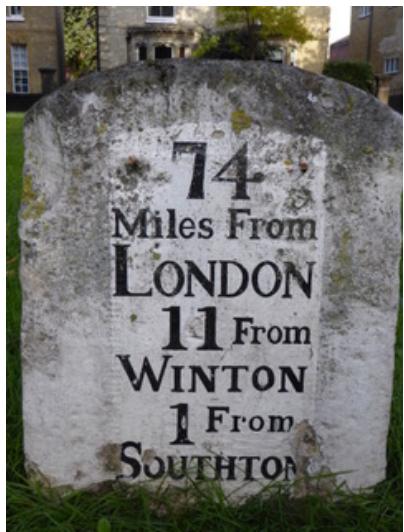
## **Southampton Milestones Project**

In the late eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries, most of Britain's major road routes were adopted by Turnpike Trusts, using the fees charged to maintain them. This was decades, even centuries, overdue but only seems to have taken off in the light of the success of the canals and later the railways. Milestones were installed on these routes for the convenience of travellers and surveyors, and those which survive have been submitted for listing by most local authorities, although (surprise, surprise) not in Southampton.

Dr Andy Russel, Ancient Monuments Officer for SCC noticed this omission, and he suggested that milestones surviving within the city boundary should be recorded by Southampton Archaeology Society members, so that they could be considered for listing. He designed a form requiring details such as descriptions, measurements and photographs to be provided for each milestone. A meeting held in June 2017 agreed to set up the project, when a small group of five apportioned the Turnpike routes we each knew best. Len Mockett and his wife Pat took the road to Romsey, John Langran the London Road north, while Rowan Bright and I took the Northam route to the east, and the surveys were carried out separately.

The northern route seems to have been the most interesting, with historic stones of all sorts jumping out of the foliage (two illustrated overleaf). Despite extensive searching, Rowan and I found only one survivor, surprisingly on Lances Hill, Bitterne where the road has been greatly widened. The Mocketts noted among others, the milestone in Shirley Road by the old Police

Station, which is threatened by the proposed new Lidl development. How much you can see when you look carefully at an area you thought you knew well!



*Left: Milestone at Asylum Green, Basset Avenue, Southampton.*



*Right: Milestone on the Avenue, Southampton south of junction with Highfield Avenue.*

A meeting was held in November to pass the records over to Andy Russel. Full details of eight existing milestones were made while four were recorded as missing, and another present but without details. The information was entered on the Portcities website, and will be used to submit to Historic England for listing.

**Martyn Dowell** January 2018

## **Southampton Archaeology Society Study Day**

**Saturday 16<sup>th</sup> 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; with a grid of streets, a western ditch, houses, workshops, pits, and rubbish deposits. The discovery of cemeteries, in several parts of Hamwic, has given the opportunity to study the beliefs, health, and demographic composition of the population. The excavated rubbish provides evidence of diet, crafts, and trade. 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 will include:** Phil Andrews, Matt Garner, David Hinton, Andy Russel, Nick Stoodley

Full programme details and a booking forms will be available in April 2018.

## **Southampton Archaeology Society lectures to May 2018**

Lectures are free to members and £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.

### **February 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 Dr. Miles Russell 'Finding Duropolis: Life and Death in Iron Age Dorset'**

Excavation and survey in Dorset since 2014 has unearthed dramatic evidence of prehistoric activity, including the large Later Iron Age settlement, dubbed 'Duropolis' by the press, which further helps explain what happened in the immediate aftermath of the Roman Invasion. Dr Miles Russell, co-director of Bournemouth University's Durotriges Project will discuss these discoveries and what it all means for our understanding of late prehistoric and Early Roman Britain.

Dr Miles Russell is a senior lecturer in prehistoric and Roman archaeology. He is currently director of Regnum and co-director of the Durotriges Project, both investigating the transition from the Iron Age to Roman period across SE and SW Britain, and co-director of Bournemouth University's archaeological field school <http://staffprofiles.bournemouth.ac.uk/display/russellm>

### **March 13<sup>th</sup> 2018 Professor Alistair Pike 'Dating the origins and development of Palaeolithic cave painting in Europe''**

Archaeologists are investigating the origins and development of Palaeolithic cave art by using the latest in scientific techniques to build on earlier research to date the age of art not just in northern Spain, but from numerous localities across southern Europe. This will allow evolving artistic traditions to be related to the social and behavioural changes recorded in below-ground archaeology. Furthermore, it will make it possible to consider what was behind the first appearance of cave art, and whether its emergence relates solely to the arrival of modern humans or if Neanderthals were also in some way involved.

Alistair Pike is a Professor of Archaeological Sciences at the University of Southampton  
<https://www.southampton.ac.uk/archaeology/about/staff/awp1y11.page?>

### **April 10<sup>th</sup> 2018 Phil Andrews Recent excavations in Southampton [title to be confirmed]**

Phil Andrews is a project officer with Wessex Archaeological Trust and was involved in the excavations at St Mary's Stadium and other recent sites in Southampton.

### **May 8<sup>th</sup> 2018 Annual General Meeting**

Please join us for our AGM and a glass of wine. Afterwards Dr Andy Russel will give a short presentation on recent archaeological work carried out by the Southampton Archaeology Unit.

## **Southampton Archaeology Society** **Changes to Subscriptions May 2018**

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

Any member who would like to change their payment method to standing order should ask John Langran, Treasurer to send them form (see contact details on back page) or pick one up at a meeting. Payments by cash/cheque may be made at any time.

## Forthcoming events

**Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> February** 1.30 for 2.00pm. Southampton Ancient Egypt Society lecture by John Billman on *Hapshepsut: the eternal female pharaoh of Egypt – her monuments explored*. Daughter of one Pharaoh, widow of another, Hapshepsut is known as Egypt's first successful female ruler. Her monuments are explored, from the Deir el-Bahri temple with its famous scenes and archaism, to her obelisks and the Red Chapel at Karnak, along with evidence from Nubia which challenges her traditional story. Members £3, non-members £6, incl refreshments. Oasis Academy Lordshill, Romsey Road SO16 8FA. [www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk](http://www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk).

**Southampton Tourist Guides** have organised a programme of walks for Spring/Summer 2018, on diverse themes including *Blitz to D Day*, several dates February and March; *Stroppy Women & Jane Austen and the Navy* on 8<sup>th</sup>/10<sup>th</sup>/11<sup>th</sup> March; *Old Town Double-Bill* a full day walk on 2<sup>nd</sup> April; *Titanic: a Southampton Story* on 9<sup>th</sup> to 13<sup>th</sup>, and 15<sup>th</sup> April. From April to September walks 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 available from [wegottickets.com](http://wegottickets.com).

**Saturday 28<sup>th</sup> April 2018** 10.00am to 5.00pm. Sussex Archaeological Society Spring Conference *Ancient to Modern: The Changing Landscape of Sussex*. This will take a broad overview of Sussex landscape and people from Neolithic times to the twentieth century. Chair: Caspar Johnson, W Sussex Record Office; and speakers include Dr Matt Pope UCL on Stone Age Landscapes; Dr John Manley on the Roman period; Dr David Martin on Wealden buildings; Dr Sue Berry on Georgian/early Victorian innovations; Prof Brian Short on Sussex 1850-1939. Venue: King's Church, Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2BY. Cost: £50 (students £25) – includes lunch and refreshments. For booking details please see <https://sussexpast.co.uk/event/landscape>.

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.

### 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

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