

Southampton Archaeology Society

January 2020 Newsletter



Dear Members

It's nearly a month since the new year, so Christmas is already a distant memory. We welcomed 45+ members and friends at the December meeting, with a fascinating talk on the history of sound recording by Martyn Dowell, and our traditional buffet supper and wine. The Raffle raised £52 for Southampton Young Archaeologist's Club.

The January lecture took place on a wild wet night when Paul McCulloch of Pre-Construct Archaeology told the story of an excavation at Barton Farm, Winchester where evidence of two 18th century military camps was uncovered – thank you to Martyn Dowell for his report on the talk. Also included in this issue is the final instalment of Andy Russel's report on the 2019 Excavations at Queensway, **Post-medieval**, and many of the finds can still be seen at Tudor House, until February 23rd. Thanks to Andy for these reports, representing a snapshot of the history of central Southampton; and thanks to Joan and Brian Webb for their account of a holiday in Scotland last summer, which introduced them to the Picts and their enigmatic carved stones.

The year ahead promises some challenges, as the SAS Study Day in June will form part of Southampton's Mayflower400 celebration to mark the anniversary of the voyage of Mayflower in 1620. This involves a change of venue to a purpose built lecture theatre - see the notice below for more information on the day. As an introduction to the day we are arranging a Mayflower Walk for members in March or April, with SeeSouthampton guide Godfrey Collyer (more details to follow).

Meanwhile our next lecture at 7.30pm on Tuesday 11th February will be given by Mary Harris on **Anglo-Saxon Charters of the Lower Test Valley**, explaining the methods and results of a project to identify the boundaries described in the charters. Venue St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street SO14 2AH (poster attached) We look forward to seeing you there.

Sarah

Southampton Archaeology Society Study Day 27th June 2020

Southampton & Hampshire at the Time of the Mayflower 1620

Our 2020 Study Day is being organised in association with Southampton City Council and Mayflower400, to be held at the Southampton Art Gallery lecture theatre, Civic Centre Southampton SO14 7LY, 10.00 to 17.00. The Study Day will look at early 17th century Hampshire and Southampton; the Mayflower story and ships of the period, and how Southampton was chosen by the group as their intended port for departure. Other talks will focus on archaeological evidence of the time from Southampton, religious dissent in Hampshire, illustrated by examples of contemporary graffiti found in Winchester Cathedral. Life in early 17th century Hampshire will be related by costumed re-enactors, and the story of the Mayflower memorial erected in Southampton a hundred years ago. Speakers: Dr Andy Russel, Emma Anderson of Southampton Archaeology Unit, Dr Rosalind Johnson and Dr Cindy Wood (both University of Winchester), Geoffrey Wheeler of SeeSouthampton guides and Mary and Roger Harris (Little Woodham 17th century village). Tickets include buffet lunch and refreshments: £20 (members), £28 (non-members), £18 (students/u18s).

Book at southamptonarchaeology@gmail.com.

Part 3 Post-medieval

This third article describes the post-medieval evidence found by Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit on the excavations on the east side of the Bargate Quarter development.

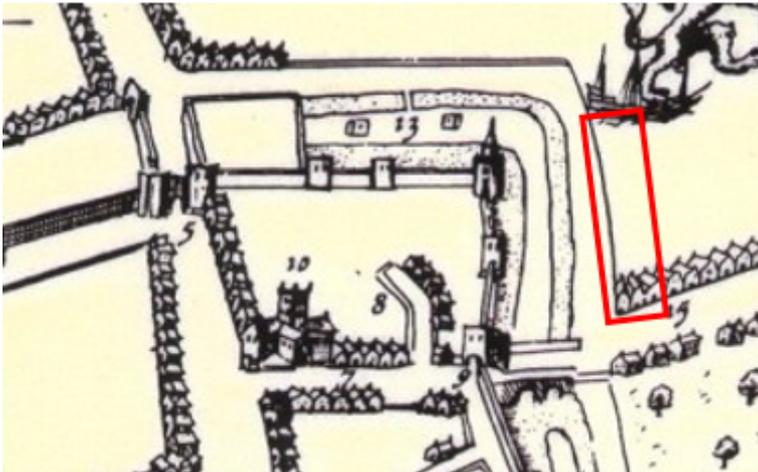


Fig 1. John Speed's map of Southampton, published 1611, showing area excavated as SOU 1791 in red.

The site lies on the west side of Queensway, and runs N-S covering a strip of land outside the medieval town ditches (fig 1). Speed's map shows houses on the East Street frontage at the south end of the site. These were probably timber-framed buildings sitting on stone sleeper walls, and later developments of the site meant nothing survived. A rather wiggly ditch may have been a property boundary (fig

3, next page). Speed's map shows the two town ditches running down the west side of the site. In the post-medieval period the ditches were allowed to silt up, but they do not appear to have been used as rubbish dumps, as the Borough leased them out for grazing and fishing. In 1535 the town leased the ditches from Bargate to God's House Tower to Sampson Thomas (the fact that he was Mayor in that year undoubtedly had nothing to do with it). He owned a great deal of property in the town, and managed to get hold of the Friary site after the Dissolution. In 1595 they were leased to Roger Pedley, as part of his contract to bring a better water supply from the Common into the town. In 1720 the 'the town ditches with the fishing thereof' were leased to Dr William Cropp (Mayor 1696). Later leases refer to the need to allow the water from Houndwell and the Town pond to flow into the ditches and then southwards.

In the mid-18th century Southampton rediscovered itself as a Spa. Other towns in England were discovering springs of medicinal water and around 1740 the spring northwest of the Bargate was found to be able to cure all ills apart from a broken heart. Shortly after Southampton was able to add sea bathing to the cure, something most other spa towns lacked. The Prince of Wales visited in 1750 to bathe in the sea and drink the local water, and the town boomed. The population soared. The 1771 map of Southampton shows no buildings on the site except those on East Street, but by 1802 Baker's map shows that a new road called Paradise Row had been made along the east side of the town ditch, and terraces of housing built on the land north of the East Street plots (fig 2).

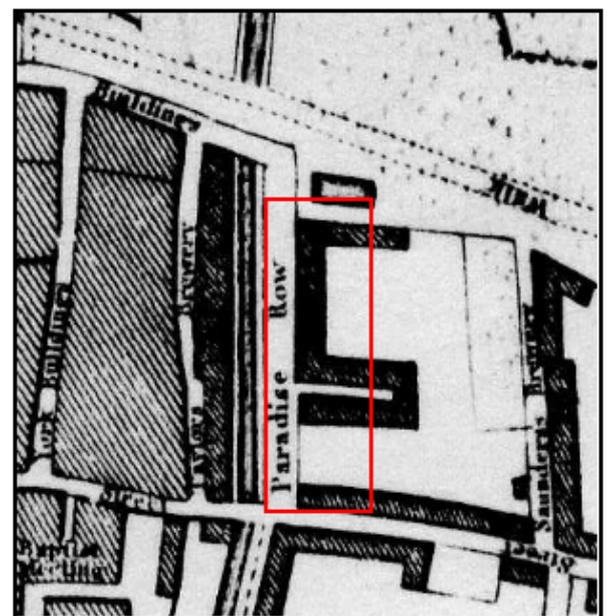
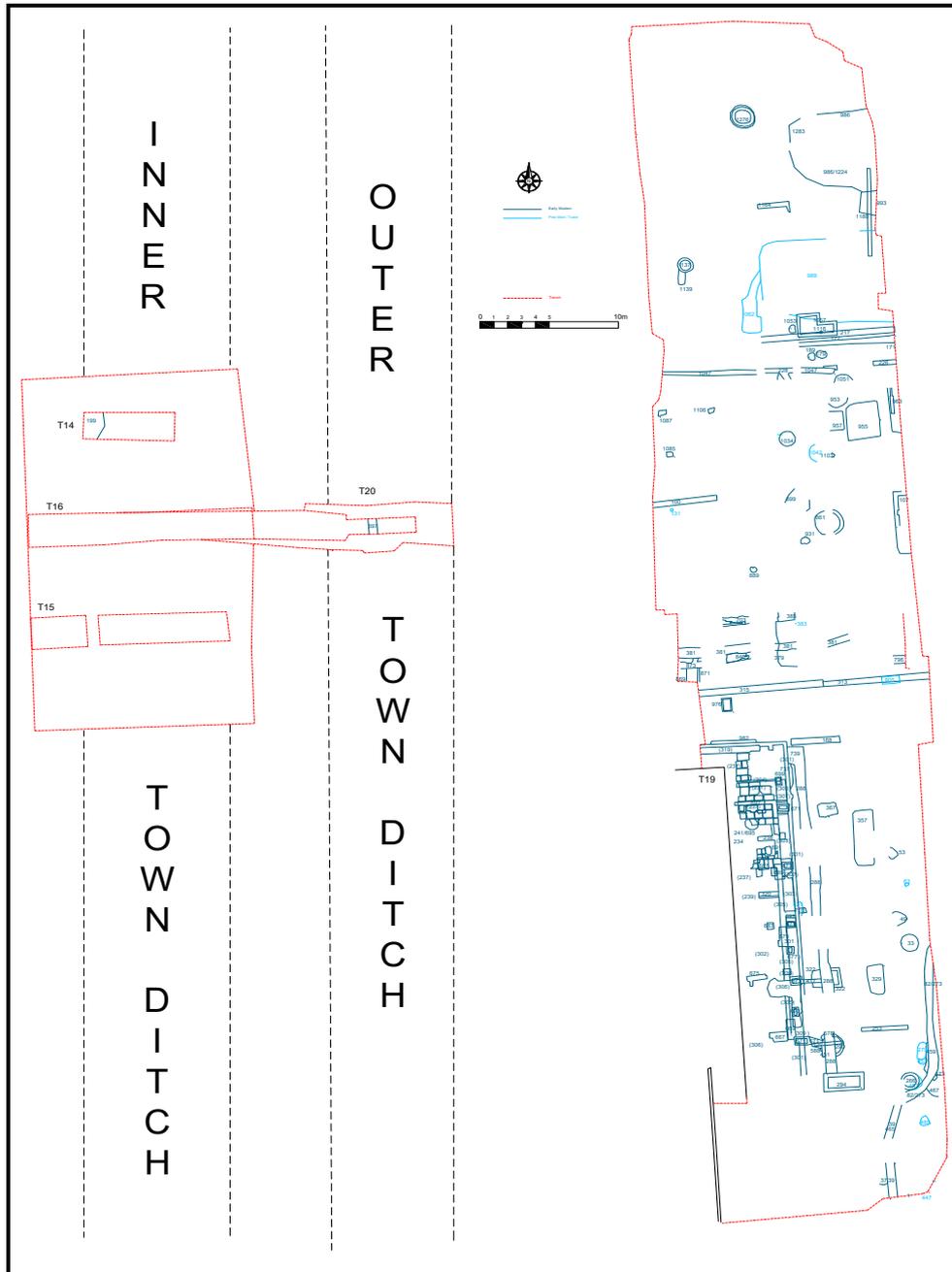


Fig 2. Site area overlain on Baker's map of Southampton, 1802 showing the recent developments.

Fig 3. Plan of the site showing post-medieval evidence, with excavation trenches in red.



Southampton's trading network grew rapidly at this time and tea and tobacco become popular. Numerous fragments of Chinese porcelain, clay tobacco pipes, and a bottle of King's Cephalic Snuff (*Safe cure for deafness, defects of sight, fits, polypus in the nose and diseases of the head*) show how the people of Southampton embraced these new past-times. A very unusual find was a fragment of a buffet dish (Fig 4) decorated with a grotesque design of a bare-breasted woman in a grotto surrounded by fountains, showing that Sotonians of the time were buying fashionable crockery for their dinner parties.

Fig 4. Fragment of tin-glazed dish, 1730-50, possibly Spanish with design inspired by frescoes in Nero's Golden House in Rome, rediscovered during the Renaissance.

In the south west part of the site we found an early 19th century terrace of houses with cellars and cesspits, in which was found a stoneware bottle advertising John Shartman's blacking (Fig 5). Born in 1774 in Somerset he came to Southampton in the late 18th century and married Hester Gauntlett in St Michael's Church in 1798. They had eight girls and a boy, including a Maria Urania Elizabeth Dyer Shartman baptised 27 July 1809 at Holy Rood church. The planet Uranus was named in 1782, the metal named after it in 1789,

but why it was chosen as a girl's name is a mystery. In 1811 Cunningham's directory gives John Shartman, broker at 50 High Street, and by 1830 he was in Paradise Row listed as Auctioneer, Appraiser and House Agent. By 1836 most of the Shartmans had moved to another spa town, Tunbridge Wells, but Fletcher's Directory of 1836 lists Miss Shartman as a broker in Paradise Row.

In the late 19th century the terrace was modernised and the cess pits were replaced with stoneware sewer pipes leading to indoor toilets built in the corner of each cellar.



Fig 5. Left: Early 19th century English stoneware bottle stamped Shartman 49 High Street Southampton, and right: an 18th century Westerwald tankard from Germany. When made the base was so thin it did not hold liquid, but it came all the way to Southampton before anyone spotted it, at which point it was dropped down a rubbish pit intact.

Other finds – on display at Tudor House Museum until 23rd February 2020.

Right: 18th century Chinese porcelain. Plates, saucers and tea bowls show 18th century Sotonians had taken up tea drinking in a big way.



Below: 19th century plate and tea pot lid from a doll's tea party set. German porcelain.





Left: A boxwood nit-comb and a tortoise-shell hair ornament. 18th century.



Right: Tin-glazed ointment jars, c. 1750.

The site team April 2019.



Picts in Scotland

By Joan & Brian Webb

We had planned a short holiday in Scotland to visit some castles, abbeys, souterrains and stone circles etc. and admire the amazing scenery. But after seeing our first Pictish carving we were totally “hooked” and these became our main focus, altering our itinerary to take in as many as we could.

This then posed two questions: who were the Picts? and what was the meaning of the carvings?

A little research answered the first: Briefly, the Picts were decedents of the native Iron Age inhabitants from part of the area we now call Scotland. It was the Romans who named them the Picti, or “Painted People”, but that was not how they would have referred to themselves. They spoke a Brittonic/Celtic language similar to Cornish or Welsh and settled in farmstead enclosures. They did not however, have much of a written language, mostly what has survived are short inscriptions, a King list and some Ogham engravings. Therefore, our knowledge of them comes from outside sources such as neighbours or the peoples they traded with. Their Pagan beliefs are unknown but they were converted to Christianity by Irish monks around the mid 6th century. By the 11th century their tribes had been incorporated into the new kingdom of Alba.

The second question was a lot more difficult: What defines the Picts to us are the amazing sculpted symbol stones from approximately the 6th and 7th centuries and crosses mostly dating from the 8th and 9th century (plus some beautiful silver jewellery). There are various theories as to why these symbol stones were set up – they may have been boundary markers, to indicate trackways, for personal identification, or at ancient sites to reaffirm traditional beliefs by incising Pictish symbols on prehistoric standing stones. Some experts believe they may have been painted.

The symbols themselves are fascinating with several in common use that reappear on many different stones. They can be divided into three main groups:-

- Abstract: e.g. double disc and Z rod, crescent, and V rod.
- Everyday objects: e.g. mirror and comb.
- Animals: e.g. snake, boar, deer and a Pictish beast (sometimes referred to as the swimming elephant), also a sea horse (or hippocamp).



Abstract



Everyday Objects



Animals

The crosses are just as elaborate and as beautifully carved often depicting Biblical characters e.g. King David playing his harp, representations of the 12 apostles or the resurrection. Sometimes on the reverse face they show a hunting scene or warriors. Grave covers, too, have details of Christian imagery and reminders of Hell.



Cross



King David with harp



Grave cover

Maybe in the future someone will be able to decipher these intriguing carvings to give a better understanding of these fascinating people. Until then we can only admire their skill.

Acknowledgement: "The Picts" by Jill Harden, published by Historic Scotland.

SAS Lecture 14th January 2020: 'Investigating the Hessian Militia and Hampshire's Camps at Barton Farm, Winchester: kitchens and sleepy hollows'

January's lecture was given by Paul McCulloch, Regional Manager for Pre-Construct Archaeology in Winchester who has experience on many sites in Europe, the Middle East and in the British Isles. In recent times he has been excavating Barton Farm ahead of a very large housing development between the Andover (Roman) Road and the old London road, just north of Winchester's built up area. As expected on a multi-hectare site, periods from the Neolithic to the post mediaeval are represented, in particular a Neolithic henge monument (rare in Hampshire), Bronze Age funerary monuments, a Roman aqueduct and a Roman settlement.



This time, however, Paul chose to concentrate on two 18th century army camps which occupied this area. The first was for 8000 Hessian mercenaries who camped here from 1756 to '57. This camp was formed in a straight line across the site and beyond its edge, the most visible feature in the archaeology being their rectangular field kitchens, and a variety of dug-outs created for shelter during the winter months. Later, in 1761, the same area was used by the Hampshire militia regiment, who formed a similar linear camp on another alignment but with field kitchens in circular form (illustrated left). Given the military connection, Operation

Nightingale excavators joined the team at this stage. There were very few finds (and only one latrine discovered!), showing that a strict clearance regime had been adhered to when the camps disbanded.

It was also possible to compare the archaeology with written records and maps from the time, which included a diary mention of his presence with the Hampshire militia from none other than Edward Gibbon, historian of the late Roman Empire!

Martyn Dowell

Mary Huggins 1931 to 2019

We were sad to learn of the death late last year of Mary Huggins who was a member of SCMAS/SAS for many years and regularly attended our lectures, as recently as December 2019. Mary had lived in Southampton since the 1950s with her late husband Doug Huggins and they were both enthusiastic members of Southampton Operatic Society where they took part in many productions. Following Doug's death in 2005, Mary continued an active social life as a member of numerous community groups, the Labour Party, and she supported the establishment of the Sholing Valley Study Centre near to her home.

The Humanist memorial ceremony was held at Southampton Crematorium on Friday 17th January, attended by many members of Mary's family, former social work colleagues and friends, as well as several members of Southampton Archaeology Society. We'll all miss Mary's presence at our lectures this year and send our sympathy to her family and friends.

Sarah Hanna

Some forthcoming events

Thursday 6th February 7.30pm. Millbrook Local History Society talk on **The Mayflower's Maidens, Matrons and Minors** by Sandra Lock. Venue: Holy Trinity Church Hall, Millbrook Road SO15 0JZ (near Homebase). Non-members welcome.

Monday 10th February 7.30pm. Romsey Local History Society (LTVAS) talk - **How 16th century Hampshire tackled smoking: Hampshire timber-framed buildings** by Bill Fergie. Venue: Council Chamber, Romsey Town Hall, Market Place, Romsey SO51 8YZ. Free to members, £2 guests (donation)

Tuesday 11th February 7.30pm Southampton Archaeology Society lecture on **Anglo-Saxon Charters of the Lower Test Valley**, by Mary Harris. Venue: St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street SO14 2AH. Free to members, guests £3 (poster attached). Refreshments available from 7.00pm.

Wednesday 12th February 7.00pm Eling Tide Mill Experience talk by Dr Katherine Walker on **The New Forest Knowledge**. This online gateway holds information on the New Forest from both local and national sources, including catalogues, databases, maps, photographs and articles. Venue: Eling Tide Mill Visitor Centre, 24 Lexby Road, Totton SO40 9HD. Cost £5, book online at elingtidemillexperience.co.uk/events. Suitable for 16+ years. The café opens at 6.30pm for refreshments.

Saturday 15th February 2.00 to 4.30pm. Southampton Ancient Egypt Society lecture **The Life and Work of Nina de Garis Davies** by Lee Young. Venue: Oasis Academy Lord's Hill, Romsey Road SO16 0XN. Cost: £4 members, £6 guests, free refreshments (from 1.30pm).

Thursday 27th February 11.00am to 12.30pm Tudor House Thinking Thursdays – first of a new series of talks, tours and workshops on Southampton's history. Talk by Helen Wallbridge **The 'D-Day' Wall**. Venue: Tudor House & Garden, Bugle Street SO14 2AD. Cost £8, pre-book on 8083 4536 (add £6.50 to include lunch).

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.

2018-2019 SAS Committee

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

Subscription Rates 2018

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| 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

www.southamptonarchaeology.uk

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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.