

Southampton Archaeology Society

July 2015 Newsletter



Dear Members

This is the first newsletter since the SCMAS AGM last May, and I expect most of you are aware that it was decided at that meeting to change the Society's name to **Southampton Archaeology Society**. This has been confirmed by our bank, TSB, and any outstanding subscriptions should now be addressed in the new name. The bank sort code and account numbers remain the same, so any one paying by Standing Order (whose subs have already been paid for 2015/16) needs to amend the payee name with their own bank before May 2016. Also at the AGM we

welcomed Matt Garner of SCC Archaeology Unit on to our committee; and the raffle raised £52 for Southampton YAC branch.

The HER report included with newsletters over the past few months is not available this time as too few reports have been received, but Ingrid Peckham, HER officer, provided information about a site known to many members which was scheduled earlier this year (see below). Some of the events 'On the Road to Agincourt', starting this week, have been included in the newsletter, and we hope you'll take the opportunity to join in the commemoration of this dramatic episode of Southampton's story. Thanks to Andy Russel and Matt Garner for information on excavations past and present, and to Martyn Dowell for the article on Croatia.

Our new lecture programme is almost complete and is attached/enclosed with this newsletter. Anna has been busy developing www.southamptonarchaeologysociety.org.uk, our new website which she hopes will be fully operational by the autumn (more news in September). Our first meeting will be held on Tuesday 8th September, 7.30pm at St Joseph's Hall, Bugle St, SO14 2AD, with Geoff Watts speaking on 'The Road to Agincourt' and we look forward to seeing you there.

Sarah

Roman Jetties at St Denys

Ingrid Peckham, Southampton Heritage Environment Record Officer reports that the Roman jetties found in the intertidal mud of the river Itchen off St Denys were scheduled by Historic England (ex English Heritage) on 29/04/2015. The official list entry is on the National Heritage List for England, here: <http://list.historicengland.org.uk/resultsingle.aspx?uid=1425731?>

These features were investigated by Dr Andy Russel of SCC Archaeology Unit in 1998/9 as part of the Itchen Foreshore Community Project (site code SOU 881) with help from members of SCMAS, the Southampton branch of YAC, and students from Southampton and Portsmouth Universities. The remains of three structures were identified and subsequently recorded. One was radiocarbon-dated to AD 0 to AD 300, another was dated to the spring of AD 201 by dendrochronology. They are interpreted as jetties projecting out from the shore at which ships could tie up, and pottery and associated finds confirmed they may have been in use between 1st and 3/4th centuries AD. (Information from Southampton Archaeology Unit Site Report 1077, 2013 by Russel AD, Elliott GL & McDonald EL).



View of St Denys foreshore at low tide showing Roman wooden piles. Bitterne Manor (site of Roman Clausentum) can be seen in the background.

Photo: A Russel

The Road to Agincourt

2015 is the 600th anniversary of the battle of Agincourt when Henry V's small 'band of brothers' defeated the flower of the French army. The build up to that campaign and its aftermath had long reaching effects on the history of England and of Hampshire. This two year programme, supported by Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) will explore and offer new interpretations of the events of 1415. Year One will focus on the 'Road to Agincourt' and includes three new productions inspired by those historical events; to be supported by a travelling exhibition, and guided walks and talks setting the productions in their local context. Events run from May to November 2015 and the main focus falls from late July to early August: for further details visit www.roadtoagincourt.co.uk.

Theatre: Across the Dark Water by Ben Musgrave tells the story of the Southampton Plot, to be performed at local venues significant on the journey to Agincourt. Tickets £10, from The Berry Theatre, 023 8065 2333 (Mon to Fri 09.30-17.30, Sat 09.30-15.30) or visit www.theberrytheatre.co.uk.

July 21st - 23rd 7.30pm Portchester Castle PO16 9QW

July 24th - 25th 7.30pm Peartree Church, Southampton SO19 7GZ

July 26th 3.00 and 7.30pm Royal Victoria Country Park SO31 5GA

July 28th - 29th 7.30pm Hamble Priory Church SO31 4JF

July 30th 7.30pm; 31st 3.00 + 7.30pm; August 1st 2.00, 5.00 + 7.30pm St Julians Chapel, Winkle St, Southampton SO14 2AR.

Conference: July 31st to August 3rd The War on Land and Sea. International conference at the University of Southampton, Avenue Campus, in partnership with The Royal Armouries and Battlefield Trust. Will include visits to The Mary Rose, Portchester Castle, Titchfield Barn, Titchfield Abbey and Fort Nelson. For details and booking: www.southampton.ac.uk/agincourt2015.

Study Day: August 1st 14.00 – 18.00. Part of the University of Southampton conference. Experts on medieval warfare and weapons will report on their research results, including Professor Jon Adams on the great ship of Henry V, 'Grace Dieu' and Dr Ian Mortimer on **The Meaning of War**, suggesting that the Agincourt campaign was more designed to show divine approval of the authority of Henry V, than to advance the interests of England. Cost: £15 or free to those under 18, fulltime students or in receipt of benefits (booking required, as above).

Living History Weekend: August 1st/2nd 11.00 – 17.00 In Henrys Footsteps, Medieval Merchants House, 58 French St, Southampton SO14 2AT. Family fun and revelry with a flavour of life at the time of Henry V: meet characters from the period, enjoy medieval music, dancing and singing in the heart of old town Southampton. Free to attend, no need to book.

Theatre: August 2nd to 4th 7.30pm. Sarah Siddons Fan Club presents: A Funny Thing Happened on the Road to Agincourt. Tells the story of events leading to the Battle of Agincourt in historic locations in Southampton, and through the eyes of local people in the city. Meet outside Medieval Merchants House, as above. Tickets £5, call 023 8086 2882, or from www.wegotickets.com/sarahsiddonsfanclub

Guided Walks: August 2nd, 8th – 9th, 11.00am and 2.00pm. Harrys Hampton. Walk the streets of old Southampton and discover its role in preparing for the Agincourt campaign, including the plot to overthrow the young Henry V. Meet outside Medieval Merchants House as above. Tickets £2 (Southampton Tourist Guides Association).

August 5th 7.30pm. Otterbourne and the Plot to Kill Henry V. A walk to discover summer flowers and the story of those who planned to murder the King in Southampton before he sailed to France in 1415. Meet on The Green near the Otter Inn, Otterbourne SO21 2HW. Tickets £2 (Hamble Valley and Eastleigh Heritage Guides).

Community Excavation at Quarr Abbey, Isle of Wight: Summary Report

Seven trial trenches were excavated on the site of the medieval abbey in September 2014 as part of the 'Two Abbeys Project' funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, which covers the modern Benedictine abbey and the remains of the medieval abbey in its grounds. The excavation was directed by Matt Garner and the team included people from Southampton City Council Archaeology Unit (SCCAU), the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society (IWNHAS), Nodehill Sixth Form Campus, and the University of Southampton. English Heritage issued Scheduled Monument Consent for the work.

The abbey was founded in 1131 under the Cistercian order; it was enclosed by a defensive wall with gun ports in the later 14th century, and dissolved in 1536. Percy Stone excavated part of the site (Excavation Field) in 1891. Since 1997 several fields have been surveyed by the University of Southampton using techniques including resistivity and magnetometry. Most of the trial trenches were four meters square (some up to five m sq), and were targeted on geophysical anomalies in the Excavation Field.

Walls, foundations, and demolition rubble were present in several trenches. Building material included West Country slate, local limestone rubble, Purbeck marble, lime mortar, plaster, roof tiles, glazed floor tiles, window glass, and lead cames. Pottery was dated to the construction, use, and demolition of the abbey. Post-medieval occupation evidence included pottery, tobacco pipes, animal bones, and oyster shells. The work showed that archaeological remains survive well in the Excavation Field. Features that matched resistivity anomalies were found in several trenches, but in trench three a substantial stone wall had not been detected by resistivity.



Trench three showing wall under excavation. Photo: M Garner.

Finds processing outside barn (former dormitory). Photo: M Garner.

The first season was treated as an evaluation, and analysis of the finds and records will continue. An interim report on the 2014 season has been sent to the client and English Heritage, the project design refined and Scheduled Monument Consent has been sought for two more seasons of excavation and environmental work in 2015 and 2016. The 2015 excavations will take place between 1st and 18th September, Tuesday to Saturday (closed Sunday and Monday) again directed by Matt Garner as a community excavation, for which volunteers would be welcome. Accommodation may be available at the modern Benedictine abbey, and more information about the abbeys can be found at www.quarrabbey.org.

To volunteer for work at the dig, please contact Matt (matt.garner@southampton.gov.uk) or on 023 8083 2937, or mobile 04979 758148. We hope to arrange a visit to the site on Saturday 12th September from Southampton, by Red Funnel ferry to East Cowes and Southern Vectis bus 4 to Quarr Hill – please let Anna or myself know if you'd like to go (see back page for contact details). Or to travel from Portsmouth take the Wightlink ferry to Fishbourne (IOW), which is within walking distance of the abbey and excavation site.

Matt Garner, SCCAU

The Dalmatian Coast

This year I finally visited the Dalmatian coast, having sought a land-based tour rather than the cruises more commonly offered. There are reasons for this: tourism has recovered sufficiently particularly in Croatia which owns much of the coast, but not to the levels it had been even under communist rule, although the town centres are generally lively. Also there are inconveniences to land travel caused by the new country boundaries. Travelling south from Split, the main route goes inland to Bosnia, then crosses into Croatia, back again into Bosnia for about six miles, and finally into the detached part of Croatia containing Dubrovnik. There are usually rigorous passport checks in and out at all points (unless the coach driver bribes the guards!), all of which is depressingly pathetic – and not at all typical of the welcome given to tourists by the people everywhere.

Archaeologically the highlight of the visit was of course to Split, whose old town was formed largely from reuse of Diocletian's palace on the sea front. Although there is now a road and promenade along the front, the walls were once lapped by water and the seaward entrance for both visitors and freight was direct from boat to cellar passage, which is still in use as an undercover street market. Accessible from it are a range of cellars under the entire palace, of the usual Roman brick and concrete barrel-vaulted design reminiscent of the bowels of great imperial bath-houses and amphitheatres. They are in remarkable condition having been filled with all sorts of rubbish during the medieval centuries, among which are displayed building and sculpture fragments, including wooden beams from the collapsed floors above.

Leaving the passage one climbs a half-storey to the peristyle, the southern half of the main thoroughfare. Making a half-turn, one could climb the other half-storey into the palace above, which is of linear plan spread along the entire seaside facade, but for centuries this has been divided into private apartments and cannot be visited. To the right of the peristyle is Diocletian's octagonal mausoleum, now forming the greater part of the little cathedral, and to the left the (rather smaller) temple of Jupiter. Beyond the partially colonnaded east-west street were the barracks of the Praetorian Guard, long gone in favour of homes and shops. It is lovely to sit among the remaining columns in one of the outdoor cafes there.



*View of Dubrovnik with its medieval walls and Napoleonic fort.
Photo: J Langran*



Dubrovnik's main street, the Placa. Photo: J Langran

Dubrovnik, like many of the historic towns, retains all of its medieval walls, and contains hosts of narrow passages some of which are in fact stairs. Like Venice without water, the only transport possible in most areas is by bicycle or moped. The city itself actually suffered a terrible fire in the eighteenth century so most buildings post-date this. However they look at least a century older so descriptions of the city as 'baroque' are not apt. There is a good modern museum of the defences within the ravelin itself at the north-east entrance.

Different from most towns, old Mostar consists of little more than a main 'street' or passage leading down to the famous bridge, and up the other 'muslim' side. Strategic when designed complete with D-shaped towers at each side by Sinan for Suleyman the Magnificent, it has long been by-passed by bridges more suitable for vehicles. Its destruction in the recent war must have been sheer spitefulness; nevertheless this brought the opportunity to fully excavate the abutments and examine the structure of the bridge in detail. One can visit the interior of one tower to view excavated traces of an earlier wooden bridge, together with other works. There is an excellent exhibition explaining the Sinan construction, and showing how it was rebuilt using over ninety percent of the original stones recovered from the river beneath. It is a unique design being hollow for lightness, the stones held together with a complex system of metal clamps and pins. These have been replaced in stainless steel which should assure its future.

The scenery is beautiful and varied, and we visited a national park where the river flows over a number of waterfalls and powers a restored mill complex. The island of Lokrum off Dubrovnik has a most peaceful botanic garden, a ruined monastery and opportunity for sea swimming, all very enjoyable.

Martyn Dowell June 2015

Events you may also be interested in ...

The exhibition on Saxon Southampton opened last Saturday 18th July at Tudor House and Garden Museum, St Michael's Square, Bugle St, Southampton SO14 2AD. Saxon Hamwic was a thriving town, international port and manufacturing centre situated in what is now the St Mary's area of Southampton. The exhibition sheds light on how people lived and worked here over a thousand years ago. Open Tuesday to Friday 10.00am – 3.00pm; Saturday and Sunday 10.00am – 5.00pm, closed Mondays. Normal entry charges apply. A private viewing for SAS and FoSMAG members will possibly be arranged during August (date to be confirmed by SCC).

Saturday 25th July 11-12.30 & 2-3pm. £5. Blitz Tours. Meet at Tudor House Museum & Garden, Bugle St SO14 2AD. Find out about Southampton's wartime past with Dr Andy Russel. Explore vaults used as air-raid shelters and learn about the impact the bombings had on Southampton. This is an outside walking activity. Please note that this tour is not accessible for wheelchair users or people with mobility issues. Booking essential: call 023 8083 4536 for more information or to reserve your place.

Sunday 2nd August 10.00 – 17.00. '17th Century kiln firing at Little Woodham C17th village'. Little Woodham Living History Village, Howe Road, Gosport, Hants PO13 8AB is a re-created hamlet set in the year 1642 which consists of a few houses and workshops peopled by volunteers in period costume (www.littlewoodham.org.uk). There is an ale house, with a blacksmith's forge, weaving shop, wheelwright, scribe and potter etc. A recent addition is the pottery workshop producing pottery thrown on a kick wheel of the period, and this year pottery will be fired in the recently completed replica kiln. The kiln has been fired up empty to test the basic structure, but the inaugural firing is due to start on Sunday, 2nd August. To find out more please contact rogerharris@pumpcottage.me.uk.

Sunday 9th August 2:00 - 4:00pm, £7.50 Tour and Tea at Tudor House (as above). Join us for a tour to discover more about the wonderful history of the museum that spans over 800 years. Enjoy a hot drink, scrumptious scone with lashings of jam and cream while taking in the views of our garden. Tour lasts one hour. Please be aware that this tour may be unsuitable for people with mobility issues. Price includes museum entry. Booking essential: call 023 8083 4536 for more information or to reserve your place.

Sunday 16th August 11.00 – 12.30 or 14.00 – 15.30. Agincourt Anniversary Tour of the City. Meet at Tudor House and Gardens, St Michael's Square, Bugle Street SO14 2AD, when Dr Andy Russel will tell the story of the Southampton Plot, as King Henry V was preparing to invade France in 1415, among the buildings and

streets of the Old Town. Cost £5 (£4 conc). Booking on (023) 8083 4536: outdoor walking, not accessible for wheelchair users or others with mobility issues.

Sunday 30th August 11.00 – 12.30 or 14.00 – 15.30. Vaults Tour. Meet at Tudor House and Gardens, and join Dr Andy Russel to explore Southampton's underground vaults. Cost and other booking details as above.

Thursday 3rd September 7.30- 8:30 pm. Westgate Hall, Westgate Street SO14 2AY. Talk on **Schools and Supermarkets: Recent Archaeological Work in Southampton.** Join Dr Andy Russel for another annual round-up of some of the archaeological highlights of the previous twelve months. Refreshments available. A reduced rate of £4 is available for FOSMAG, SCMAS and A&H Volunteers. Booking essential: call 023 8083 4536 for more information or to reserve your place.

PS Southampton University Archaeology Talks - open to all!

To celebrate the 2015 Festival of Archaeology in its 25th anniversary year, the University of Southampton has been presenting a series of ten talks each weekday evening at 6.00pm, from Monday 13th July to Friday 24th July. The talks are free to attend and each is given by a specialist from the University's Archaeology Dept, at the Avenue Campus, Highfield Road, Southampton SO17 1BF.

A wide range of topics is being covered, from Neanderthal genetics (**Prof Clive Gamble, 24th July**); ancient Egyptian burials (**Dr Sonia Zakrzewski, 20th July**); maritime archaeology (Dr Lucy Blue, 15th July) and Solent shipwrecks (Dr Julian Whitewright, 16th July); Bronze Age gold (Dr Chris Standish); Roman harbours and the imperial port of Rome (Dr Ferreol Salomon 14th July, and **Dr Nicholas Carayon, 23rd July**); to medieval Egypt at Lake Manzala (**Dr Alison Gascoigne, 22nd July**) and the medieval town of Old Sarum, Wiltshire (**Dr Kris Strutt, 21st July**). The talks often present recent research and the latest ideas from speakers at the forefront of their fields. I was lucky enough to catch the two excellent talks on maritime archaeology last week, along with a few other members of SAS, among others. There are several talks still to come this week and if you have the time I would like to urge members to go along! (This week's talks in bold).

Sarah Hanna

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.

2015 - 2016 SAS Committee

Chair – Martyn Dowell

Vice-Chair –

Treasurer – Sarah Hanna

Secretary – Anna Welch

General Committee Members – Terry Pook, Sylvia Horlock, Mandy Kesby, Rowan Bright 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 Sarah Hanna, with a cheque for the appropriate amount payable to Southampton Archaeology Society – or you can pay at next lecture.

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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 articles as necessary.