

Southampton Archaeology Society

July 2018 Newsletter



Dear Members

We're enjoying wonderful weather this summer, and some wonderful events are reported below, including our Study Day on Hamwic in June; and in April our guided tour of Winchester College Treasury. Thank you to Matt Garner for organising the study day, and to Alison Parsons for her account of the visit to the Treasury. We also had some sad news that Terry Pook died in April, and a short obituary is given below.

The AGM in May was attended by 37 members (including two who joined at the meeting!) when some changes to the committee line-up were made. Anna Welch stood down as programme secretary and Matt Garner has taken on her role (many thanks to them both), while Martyn Dowell takes on the role of vice-chair, and I'm the new chair – for the time being. Following the formal meeting Andy Russel gave a talk about the work of the Archaeology Unit, which has been incredibly busy this year. For those unable to attend the Annual Report and Finance statement are enclosed.

Looking forward, we're arranging an outing to the WARG excavation at Barton Stacey in August (details attached) and our new programme of lectures starts in September. In October we hope to have a guided tour of Eling Tide Mill, and plan to re-schedule the Medieval Pottery Workshop which we were unable to hold in June (dates tbc).

Meanwhile, a range of events is featured below to take you out and about in the summer weather!

Sarah

Remembering Terry Pook 1937 - 2018

We were sad to hear that Terry Pook died in April a few months after he'd been diagnosed with a brain tumour, although Terry had been ill for some time. The funeral was held on 18th May, attended by many members of his family and friends including friends from Southampton Archaeology Society. Terry was a long term member of SCMAS (now SAS) and well known to members as Treasurer, the post he held for ten years until 2012. He then became treasurer to the Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery (FoSOC).

Born in Wandsworth and brought up in south London, Terry showed interest in nature and joined the Sea Scouts as a boy. He worked as a draughtsman with John Lewis and during National service, followed by a period overseas as a cartographer with Ordnance Survey (OS). He was a keen cyclist and had a motorcycle with sidecar. Terry met his wife Pauline and married in 1960, moving to Southampton with OS. The couple had four children and Terry later became a Scout Leader, showing practical skills such as sewing rucksacks.

Terry's interests included history and archaeology: he took part in the 1959 excavation of Nonsuch Palace, Surrey and later volunteered with Southampton Archaeology Unit. He was an active historical researcher with Southampton and Hampshire, and represented SCMAS as a member of Hampshire Archives Trust. The results of Terry's research featured regularly in the SCMAS/SAS newsletters, most recently (January 2017) an article on George Rogers former owner of Tudor House, Southampton. After his wife's death from breast cancer Terry published a book, *An Ideal Location* about an area of Shirley, formerly the Atherley estate bordering on Southampton Common. The book focused on the history of his own street, Evelyn Crescent, and copies were sold for the benefit of Cancer Research. Terry remained a member of the SAS committee until the 2017 AGM, and we shall miss his presence at lectures and events.

SAS visit to Winchester College Treasury Museum

On 13th April 2018 SAS members were treated to an exclusive tour of the recently opened Treasury Museum of Art and Archaeology at Winchester College. Led by curator Rachel Wragg, a friendly and informative guide, we were shown a wealth of objects that indeed lived up to their description as treasures.



Not just the contents, but the Medieval building containing them has been beautifully restored and fitted out, made possible with an appeal to alumni of the College which enabled the £3m required to be raised. The building is believed to be one of the first to be constructed on the College site in the late 14th century, and was used until the early 20th century as stables. The restoration has also carefully preserved the timbered crown post roof to allow it to be fully appreciated by visitors (see left).

The stunning array of objects on display form four galleries. They come from around the world and are of national importance. The first gallery contains the College's Medieval treasures from the early history of the school, such as the 15th century ornate silver gilt Election Cup and silver Henslowe Ewer and Basin. Around the walls are medieval and pre-Raphaelite stained glass windows, beautifully lit. These were discovered in a Victorian building, which is now owned by the College and used as accommodation for students. They include decorative borders of flowers and foliage in the style of illuminated manuscripts. Also in this gallery are fascinating old maps and the model of an early 19th century Naval ship, made from mutton bones by French prisoners of war. It was made to a high standard of craftsmanship and has opening port holes for the miniature cannon.



Right - Curator Rachel and group with model ship made by French prisoners after Napoleonic wars.

Photo: Matt Garner



In the 19th and 20th century the College received important bequests of Chinese ceramics. These include Tang dynasty tomb figures and porcelain from the Ming dynasty. Most eye catching is a Tang horse, modelled half standing with one out stretched leg; and an exquisite collection of "chicken fat" yellow porcelain dishes, made in this colour for the Emperor alone.

Ancient artefacts from the classical world were also acquired to support the College's teaching, with objects from Egypt, Greece and Rome, including red and black figured Greek wares. Full size casts of sculptures from the Parthenon Frieze in Athens, many of them featuring horsemen, are best appreciated when walking up the stairs to the fourth gallery on the mezzanine floor. The original of one of these panels was one of the last to remain in its position on the Parthenon, before being removed due to the effects of acid rain and pollution. The cast preserves many details lost due to this damage.

Above - Tomb Horse, ceramic with painted decoration. Tang Dynasty, ~750AD. Photo: Matt Garner

The final gallery holds archaeological collections from Bronze Age Greece and Pre-Columbian Central America. Those from the Greek island of Melos include worked blades of obsidian, a naturally occurring volcanic glass used for tool making in the same way as flint. The American objects include clay figurines, jewellery and pottery made by native Indians who were subsequently wiped out after the arrival of Europeans in the early 16th century.

Needless to say, a visit to the Treasury is highly recommended, and thanks are due to Sarah Hanna and Karen Wardley for organising the visit for SAS. The Treasury is open from 2pm - 4pm on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturday and Sundays (except late December-mid February) and timed tickets, priced £5, must be purchased in advance, either on the website www.treasury.winchestercollege.org or from Kingsgate Bookshop in Winchester. They are not obtainable from the College.

Acknowledgement: Winchester College Treasury guide leaflet.

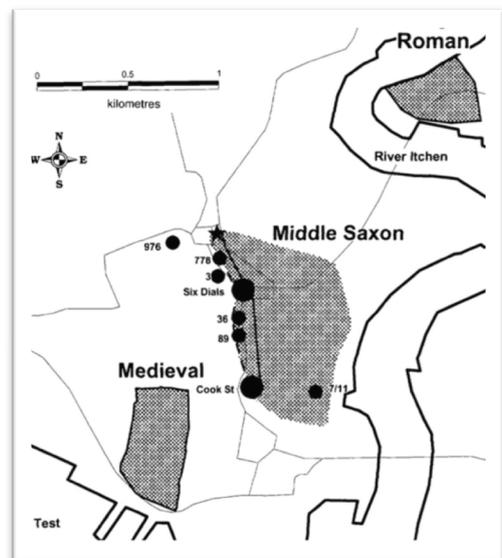
Alison Parsons April 2018

SAS Study Day 2018: Hamwic – the Middle Saxon Settlement of Southampton

Our Study Day on 16th June at St Joseph's Hall provided a detailed view of the archaeology of Hamwic, when an audience of sixty members and visitors were treated to news of the latest discoveries and research on the settlement. Talks featured the growth and development of this community, which thrived on the west bank of the Itchen from the 7th to 9th centuries with evidence of its daily life, industries, death and decline.

The six speakers are all experts in different aspects of the settlement: **Nick Stoodley** in *Before Hamwic: The Itchen Valley in 5th to 7th centuries AD and origins of the 'wic'* spoke about earlier Saxon settlements inland, which until the 7th century appeared to keep away from the Itchen estuary and coast. The excavation of an elite Saxon cemetery prior to building the SFC football stadium at St Mary's uncovered early cremation burials but few grave goods, and the radiocarbon dates were uncertain. The discovery of high status 'furnished' burials gave rise to suggestions that the area may have been the site of an Anglo-Saxon royal estate, with a military role to support the growth of trade, and the settlement of Hamwic grew up to service it.

Matt Garner in *An Introduction to Hamwic* discussed the extent and plan of Hamwic, where St Mary Street and Chapel Road survive as main routes through the area. In over 70 years of excavation several cemeteries were uncovered and analysis of burials gave insight into the subsistence, health and beliefs of the population. Radiocarbon dates on burials showed the pattern of different types of cemeteries during the existence of Hamwic. Pits filled with domestic and industrial rubbish hinted at international trading links. Recent work indicates that the settlement had a greater extent and longer lifespan than previously thought.



Location of Roman, Saxon and Medieval areas superimposed on map of modern Southampton; + sites excavated in St Mary Street. SCCAU.

After coffee **Ian Riddler** talked about *Antler and Bone Working at Six Dials, Hamwic*. His analysis of the large collection of antler and bone waste from Hamwic has identified four phases of production for goods such as antler and bone combs, pins and decorative objects, concentrated in the north of the occupation area. Dating of these phases has been problematic and dependent on evidence from coins and ceramics, but suggestions of a wider timescale for the settlement led to the development of a more workable timeframe. This has implications for ideas regarding the circulation of bulk commodities for craft production or exchange networks, with goods of similar manufacture discovered in widespread areas of Europe.

In the early afternoon Professor **David Hinton** spoke about *Gold, Silver & Copper Alloys: Metals and Trade in Hamwic*. He discussed how these finds may reflect the settlement's trading contacts. While the excavation of St Mary's stadium site vastly increased the number of objects of precious metals found here, Professor Hinton concluded that more everyday objects found in pits and wells, such as pins, pots and coins are of greater significance in the study of trade links.

Phil Andrews spoke next on *Iron and Ironworking* in Hamwic, where there is no evidence for iron smelting but ample traces of smithing activity (mostly waste slag and at least three blacksmith's hearths). It is thought that iron smelted at Romsey was transported to Hamwic for manufacture into goods for domestic use such as shovels, buckets and barrels made of staves bound with iron bands. Steel-edged knives were produced, and weapons such as swords and daggers as well as cart wheels. Many of the iron objects deteriorated after excavation, but from scientific analysis there is evidence of a high degree of technological knowledge and superior workmanship, which has been recorded by x-ray photography.

The final speaker of the day was **Andy Russel**, whose talk *Hamwic: the End of the Line?* looked at the later stages of the settlement and various theories concerning its decline in the 9th century. He showed records of the use of the name Hamwic, first recorded in the 8th century, while Hamtun appears towards the 9th century; and in 10th century the settlement further south is referred to as South-Hamtun. Viking raids were recorded by the Anglo-Saxon Chronicle at Hamwic in the 840s and 860 but the traces of a few burned houses and hurried burials dated to the mid-9th century do not suggest a sudden catastrophic end. However, these houses were not rebuilt at all, and by the later 9th century occupation at Hamwic had ceased. Much evidence of late Saxon occupation has been revealed beneath Medieval Southampton, suggesting that by the 10th century the centre of occupation had moved to the south.

Congratulations to Matt Garner who gave us the idea for the day and recruited the speakers, and thanks to everyone who helped in the preparations and on the day.

Sarah Hanna

Southampton Graffiti Project (thanks to Karen Wardley)

The graffiti group spent a few weeks between February and April 2018 recording at St Mary's, South Stoneham, where most of the graffiti was 20th century and found in the organ loft. This was of interest to the church as some people whose names appear (mainly former choir members) have family connections with the church.

On 24th April we had an interesting visit to Pear Tree church (or Jesus Chapel) on Peartree Green, Bitterne, which will commemorate its 400th anniversary in 2020. No examples of graffiti were found relating to the early years of the church, but we saw the memorial to poor Richard Parker (19th century shipwreck victim of cannibalism) and a lot of 20th century graffiti around the organ, left by teams of organ pumpers.

Our next visit on 12th June was to St Juliens in Winkle Street, Southampton (the 'French Church'), dating to the 12th century. Most of the original wall surfaces have been lost as a result of 19th century restorations, but a small quantity of historical graffiti was found. By the north door is a fine cross within a circle and close by are two other circles, one containing a cross. Some worn and illegible graffiti were found on the circular window surround on the south nave wall; and very abraded initials around the west doorway, with dates from the 17th and 18th century. Outside this doorway, low down, is a VV or Marian mark next to a very worn cross, the date 1644 and a triangular arrangement of dots beneath. In the vestry on a painted wooden cupboard, are faint traces of concentric circles, forming "daisy wheels", thought to be apotropaic symbols, and interesting to find them in a relatively late context. A report has been submitted to the Southampton Heritage Environment Record.

Most recently on 26th June the group visited St Mary the Virgin, Eling, of Saxon origin and a fascinating building, but due to zealous restoration in the 1860s very little graffiti survives. We did find some VV symbols in the south arcade, very high up: are they masons' marks? But some seem too deeply and carefully inscribed, including one with serifs. There is a compass-drawn circle in the chancel, masons' marks on some reused stones in the exterior walls and also 18th or 19th century initials. Some 21st century graffiti is the work of self-proclaimed "reincarnated vampires" who were convicted of harassing the vicar and banned from the churchyard, later receiving prison sentences. Amazing stories thrown up by graffiti!

Our research will continue in the autumn when we hope to explore a possible Templar site in North Baddesley, and maybe visit the Dancing Man (medieval Wool House) at Town Quay, Southampton.

Southampton Archaeology Society Lectures September/October 2018

Lectures are free to members and £3 to visitors. We meet on the second Tuesday of each month between September and April (unless otherwise advised), 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.

September 11th 2018 Ruth Pelling **'Posies from Pewsey and other examples of copper corrosion preserved plants from late Roman vessel hoards'**

Archaeobotanical remains are routinely recovered from archaeological excavations and provide information concerning human use of plants and background vegetation. Most commonly, archaeological plant remains are preserved by charring or waterlogged conditions. Less frequent is mineral replacement preservation where a 'sub-fossil' or cast of the plant item is created, usually by calcium phosphate replacement and occasional metal corrosion. This paper will present some remarkable finds of plant material preserved by copper corrosion product replaced mineralised remains recovered from a series of late Roman bronze vessel hoards. All the finds have been the result of metal detecting finds recorded with the Portable Antiquity Scheme. The recognition and identification of the plant remains adds further details of human behaviour and use of plants associated with hoard deposition.

Ruth is an archaeobotanist with Historic England where her role is to research and advise on ancient plant remains from England. She retains a research interest in the plant remains of N Africa, subject of her PhD.

October 9th 2018 Angela Middleton & Alison James **'Researching protected wrecks - Looking at the case studies of the London and Rooswijk'**

This talk will give an overview of maritime archaeology within Historic England and focus on two recent case studies: the London and the VOC Rooswijk. Both investigations have resulted in a rich material archive that is presenting a variety of specialists with material to research. We will be presenting observations, initial results and ways we are sharing this information through different channels.

Alison James is a Maritime Archaeologist formerly with Historic England, and Angela Middleton is an Archaeological Conservator who works for Historic England.

The full list of lectures for 2018/19 will be available in September.

Forthcoming events

The Southampton Tourist Guides' programme of walks is continuing into September 2018 - walks held each Saturday will look *Inside and Under the Medieval Town*, while on Sundays there will be *Walk the Walls in 80 minutes*: see southamptontouristguides.com for full details of these and many others walks. Tickets from £5, from wegottickets.com.

Thursday 19th July 3.00pm. Talk: *Saints at War – Second World War*. Club Historian David Bull explores what happened to Southampton's footballers from 1939 – 1945. Cost £4, includes entry to SCF exhibition at the Pavilion at SeaCity Museum. Venue: Art Gallery Lecture Theatre, Commercial Road SO14 7LY. Pre-book on (023) 8083 4536.

Saturday 21st July 1.30 for 2.00pm. Southampton Ancient Egypt Society Study Day – *Last of the Pharaohs - Incest, Intrigue & Bloodshed under the Ptolemies and Cleopatras* with Sarah Griffiths. £20 members/£25 visitors/ Under 18s half-price. Oasis Academy Lordshill, Romsey Road SO16 8FA. Please see www.SouthamptonAncientEgyptSociety.co.uk for further information.

Saturday 21st & Sunday 22nd July 10.00am to 5.00pm. Festival of Archaeology at Salisbury Museum: talks, activities and displays – entry £2 donation; talks £8. The programme is available on museum@salisburymuseum.org.uk or phone 01722 332151.

Saturday 21st July, OPEN DAY 10.30 am - 3.30 pm. Meon Valley Archaeology and Heritage Group (MVAHG) Excavation of hexagonal Roman Temple site at Exton. Further information from www.saxonsinthemeonvalley.org.uk, or Alisonm.Smalley@Virgin.net, Postcode SO32 3NU takes you to Church Lane, Exton. Parking is available close to the site in Church Lane, off the A32 Warnford Road. Talks at 11am, 12pm, 2pm & 3pm, no need to book.

Tuesday 31st July 10.00am - 3.00pm **Tudor House Spectacular** - Open Day for families, with 6d entrance fee as in 1912! They will need people for decorating the house and preparing activities on Monday 30th, and on the day help with: Face Painting; Time Capsule activity; Dressing up; Attic and Cellar & Garden Tours; Object Handling; Victorian School Games. Contact (023) 8083 3007 or tudorhouseandgarden.com. Tudor House & Garden, 59 Bugle Street SO14 2AG.

Thursday 6th – Sunday 9th September 2018 National Heritage Open Days. Further information from <https://www.heritageopendays.org.uk/>

Thursday 13th September 7.30pm. Talk on *Scratching the Surface: Hampshire Medieval Graffiti*. Graffiti was accepted in the medieval period when people might leave their marks for many reasons. Join Karen Wardley, coordinator of Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project, to explore these tantalising traces from the past. Cost £5/£4 (FoSMAG, SAS, A&H volunteers); pre-book on (023) 8083 4536. Tudor House & Garden, 59 Bugle Street SO14 2AG.

Saturday 15th September Southampton Heritage Open Day 2018. 10.00am – 5.00pm Heritage Fayre at St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street SO14 2AH with SAS Display and stand. Free entry, light refreshments (donations, please)

Saturday 15th September 11.00am. Talk: *There are Saxons on the Pitch – The Archaeology of St Mary's Stadium*. In advance of construction of the stadium, an extensive archaeological investigation was undertaken: join archaeologists (and Saints fans) Phil Andrews and Roland Smith to explore the story of the St Mary's excavation. Cost £4, includes entry to SCF exhibition at the Pavilion at SeaCity Museum. Venue: Art Gallery Lecture Theatre, Commercial Road SO14 7LY. Pre-book on (023) 8083 4536.

Saturday 3rd November (Advance Notice) 9.30am to 5.45pm. *Dawn: from our earliest Ancestors to the Hunter-Gatherers of the Mesolithic*. The CBA Wessex 60th Annual Conference, with keynote speaker Professor Alice Roberts and numerous Palaeolithic specialists, taking place at University of Southampton, Highfield Campus. Tickets (inc. lunch) £45 CBAW members; £55 non-members; £25 f/t students. Booking and information through www.cba_wessex.org.uk.

SAS 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, Matt Garner and Karen Wardley. 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

**Mandy Kesby,
Hon Secretary.**
29 Abercrombie Gardens
Lordshill
Southampton
SO16 8FQ
amandybutt@aol.com
Phone: 023 8073 5360

**John Langran,
Hon Treasurer.**
8 Cavendish Grove
Southampton
SO17 1XE
john.langran@hotmail.com
Phone: 023 8022 4472

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.