

Southampton Archaeology Society

October 2018 Newsletter



Dear Members

I'm writing this during the autumn half-term, and already we've heard two excellent lectures this term - in September Ruth Pelling spoke about conserving plant remains preserved by metal corrosion in a hoard of Iron Age cauldrons, which had been packed in bracken (prehistoric bubble-wrap?) This month's lecture concerned *Researching protected wrecks*, an account of which appears on p3 of the newsletter.

We've received a letter from Sue Woolgar, of Hampshire Archive Trust, who writes: 'I'd like to thank ... your Society for making this donation in Terry's memory [*Terry Pook former treasurer of SCMAS and to Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery (FoSOC)*]. As much of my career as an archivist was spent in Southampton I have particular reason to be appreciative of Terry's contribution to research on Southampton and the mention of Tudor House and the Atherley estate brought back lots of memories. FoSOC did a huge amount in recording headstones and much information would have been lost without ... their work. We are fortunate to have such supportive and dedicated people in our county. Be assured the Trust will put the money to good use, and I'd like to mention that we are going to launch a new grants programme at our AGM on 3 November 2018.'

I wish to thank Matt Garner for his article on volunteering at Eling Tide Mill, and Brian and Joan Webb for their contributions about their craft work in cross-stitch embroidery and stone carving, which they both design and make themselves - see their advertisement accompanying the text!

We are holding our Medieval Pottery Workshop on Thursday 8th November, to be led by Dr Andy Russel at the Archaeology Unit in Melbourne Street, 1.00 to 5.00pm. A few spaces remain if you'd like to join this, and a booking form is attached with the newsletter.

The next lecture on Tuesday 13th November will be given by Jane Russell, formerly archaeological illustrator and site planner with Archaeology South East, who will talk on *Rock Art of Britain and Ireland*. This will take place at St Joseph's Hall, Bugle Street SO14 2AH at 7.30pm. Also enclosed with the newsletter is the booking form for our Christmas meeting on 13th December when members, family and friends are invited to join us for a talk followed by a buffet and glass of wine.

We hope to see you there!

Sarah

SAS Website – www.southamptonarchaeology.uk

We're delighted to announce the launch of our website – at last! We have planned this for some time, in fact the process was started four or five years ago by Anna Welch but it was interrupted by her taking up a new post in Reading with the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA). Since then Anna has been more than fully occupied with her day job and she has now left the SAS committee. Meanwhile one of our members Chris Sellen offered to take up the task as he runs websites for groups connected with archaeology including the Hampshire Dowders. A small group of us met with Chris and agreed on specifications, and Hey Presto! the site appeared a few weeks later. The launch took place on 11th September at our first lecture this season, and the site now needs more contributions especially from members! These might be photographs and reports about working in archaeology, or visits to new sites, lectures or conferences, book reviews or any items of interest to do with archaeology in Southampton or elsewhere. Many thanks to Mandy Kesby, who was inspired to write about the BBC History Weekend in Winchester (5th to 7th October), where she attended several lectures - and you can read all about it on the website, under Events Archive.

Volunteering at Eling Tide Mill by Matt Garner

Eling Tide Mill re-opened, after refurbishment, in April 2018 and I have volunteered there since then. The opening was very well timed as I moved to the area in March of this year. I am enjoying a more rural life since I moved from the centre of Southampton.

A mill has stood in Eling since the time of the Domesday Book but the present tide mill was built in the 1780s. It operated until the 1940s and was eventually sold by Winchester College to New Forest District Council in 1975. A group of volunteers restored the mill and it was opened to the public in 1980. Recently New Forest District Council and Totton and Eling Town Council collaborated on a project, supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund, to further restore the mill, extend and alter the visitor centre, and improve local footpaths. Now known as The Eling Tide Mill Experience, it is based at Eling Lane, Totton SO40 9HF.

Totton and Eling Town Council started recruiting volunteers for a variety of roles in 2017. Training was provided in early 2018 before the venue re-opened, and further training is given to volunteers and staff as required. I volunteered as a tour guide and to support education. I assisted at several educational events in the summer and particularly enjoyed textile block printing and making a (paper) Roman helmet! Also I do 'front of house' work involving attending the mill or Discovery Room to provide information and help to visitors. Showing people around the mill is especially rewarding.

The main parts of Eling Tide Mill Experience are the mill with its working machinery and shop, the Discovery Room with exhibits and interactive displays, a new café, and a circular walk beside Bartley Water. In addition, an Activity Room is used for lectures and other educational events. Everywhere is accessible to wheelchairs except the upper floors of the mill, but the ground floor of the mill has a large screen to show films of all parts of the mill and the milling process.

During quiet moments in the mill I have entertained myself by searching for graffiti and carpenters' marks. Interesting examples can be found on all floors and the SAS Graffiti Group hope to record them in future. Also, I'm trying to learn more about standing buildings – very different to digging ancient post-holes!

Eling Tide Mill: hopper and gear mechanism in action.

Photo: M Garner



The mill is one of only two working tide mills in the country. Eling flour is available to buy in the shop and café, and the café also sells bread made with Eling flour. I have been inspired to take up baking again (not by TV programmes) and have had good results with the local flour.

I plan to organise an SAS group visit to the mill in the spring next year. If you can't wait till then you can find visitor information at www.elingexperience.co.uk. Eling Tide Mill Experience would like to recruit more volunteers so please look under Vacancies on the website if you are interested. We will hear more about the mill when Community Engagement Officer, Ruth Kerr, gives the SAS February 2019 lecture.

SAS Lecture 9th October: Researching protected wrecks.

This month's lecture gave us double value, with two speakers: marine archaeologist Alison James of MSDS Marine and conservator Angela Middleton from Historic England (HE). They talked about two wrecks from the 17th and 18th centuries, the *London* and the *Rooswijk*. Alison told the story of the *London*, a British naval vessel loading up at Tilbury in 1665 with supplies to join in the Anglo-Dutch War, but unfortunately she exploded and sank with the loss of over 300 men. The hull broke into two parts which were found over 200m apart and although it was a catastrophic event at the time, the wreck lay forgotten until discovered in 2005 by dredging, and the site was eventually protected under the Protection of Wrecks Act 1973. Diving conditions are difficult in the Thames, and a group of local volunteer divers became involved to manage the site, which has produced lots of archaeology including a spectacular gun carriage – but not before a number of items were removed illegally, such as cannon, some of which have been returned. A selection of the artefacts is currently on display at the National Maritime Museum at Greenwich in the Tudor & Stuart Seafarers' Gallery; and an exhibition at Southend on Sea (close to the wreck site): *The London Shipwreck: A Sunken Story* also includes one of the recovered cannon.

Angela then told us about the Dutch East India Company (VOC) ship the *Rooswijk* which foundered in a storm on the Goodwin Sands in January 1740, en route to Batavia (now Jakarta) with trade-goods. At the time nothing was found apart from some letters being carried on board, but she was rediscovered in 2005 and designated in 2007, as the site was being damaged by erosion and salvage work. Historic England has been working with the Dutch Cultural Heritage Agency (RCE) to record and excavate the site during 2017/18. Several outreach events were organised during the excavation and were well-attended.

Angela showed examples of finds in the process of assessment, including iron objects which are x-rayed before removing concretions to ensure no information is lost; and the care taken with conservation of small artefacts such as a wooden violin key and a tiny metal dress pin, and luxury leather boots. Rare survivals include a leather book cover; callipers used for measuring cannon balls; a metal sundial and other navigational aids.

On Sunday 11th November Historic England is holding an Open Day at Fort Cumberland, where the project team will display artefacts from the *Rooswijk* and showcase the methods used to stabilise artefacts for study. Free entry 10.00 to 15.00, Fort Cumberland Road, Eastney, Portsmouth PO4 9LD (flyer attached).

You can explore the *London* site for yourself on the HE funded virtual dive trail at: www.cloudtour.tv/London.

A virtual dive trail for the *Rooswijk* will launch on 10th January 2019.

Sarah Hanna

Installation at 'Canute's Palace', Southampton

During September 2018 the 12th century Norman longhouse (aka Canute's Palace) at Porter's Lane in the Old Town was the scene of several enactments organised by ArtVaults: Live. The theme was about King Canute, who was crowned in Southampton 1016 and died in 1035. The photo left shows an installation by Amanda Moore which was in place for the month, it is made up of glass vessels filled with water from the Solent and suspended over the roofless building. Daylight shining through the vessels would cause reflections and changing light effects, and at the end it was planned that the water would be returned to its source - thus recalling King Canute's rebuke to his courtiers who claimed he could control the tides. I hope some of you were able to go to the events, which I missed, but I was happy to catch this image on 29th September.



Advertisement



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All items attract a 10% discount for SAS members

Embroidery – the art of decorating fabric using needle and thread by Joan Webb.

Textiles in the archaeological record are not particularly common but may survive from dry climates like Egypt, or wet environments if the soil conditions allow. Fossilised remains of stitched and decorated clothing have been found dating back to 30,000 BC. This ancient art was known in early China, Greece (where it appeared in mythology), and in Iron Age, Roman and Anglo Saxon times - for instance the famous Bayeux Tapestry – not a tapestry but an embroidery! Beautiful 14th century work on copes and church hangings can still be seen. By the 16th century embroidery was enjoyed by ladies of the period, notably Catherine of Aragon and Mary Queen of Scots, who were experts in black work and cross stitch. The Broderers Company received its first charter in 1561. Portraits of the time show embroidered clothing often with gold and silver work, beads and precious jewels; and in Tudor and Stuart times, when furniture was not upholstered, cushions, wall hangings and table cloths (known as table carpets) made homes more comfortable.

During the 17th century girls were encouraged to make samplers (i.e. examples) of stitch patterns and alphabets, not as decoration but to show their skill if going into service. The earliest known sampler is signed by Jane Bostock and dated 1598. Later more decorative examples show people, flowers, trees or a religious verse. In the 18th century samplers were worked in a variety of stitches, sometimes depicting maps thus using needlework to teach geography. Victorian embroiderers favoured Berlin work using woollen threads, and commonly beads, to make their designs. Until the 19th century threads would have been coloured by natural plant dyes, now however artificial chemical dyes made purple shades possible and affordable.

Cross stitch is one of the earliest embroidery stitches and very simple to work (with two diagonal stitches forming a cross, as the name suggests). It has gone in and out of fashion over the centuries, and I became aware of this form of needlework in an era of revival in the 1990s and found it enjoyable. However, local pictures were not available so I made my own starting with a design of the Bargate. I discovered that other stitchers were interested and I have produced several more to market in kit form. Called the “Wessex” series, they depict famous historic buildings in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight.

To see these and other examples please check my website www.arnsby.co.uk for the details.

Stone carving by Brian Webb.

This is a very ancient art. Technologically, it couldn't be more straightforward. You "simply" take a piece of rock, millions of years old and, using very basic tools, chip out all the bits you don't want until left you are left with a shape that is a product of your own skill and imagination. Man has been doing this for millennia and the results of these endeavours survive for hundreds or thousands of years.

Historically, stone carving has been practised by architectural masons who are taught under long apprenticeships to decorate cathedrals and grand buildings; and by sculptors, who are taught in art studios to create statues of human or other figures. As a hobby it is quite underdeveloped and I represent this group, producing small-scale ornamental and sculptural objects for decoration. Hobbyists are often not able to undertake long apprenticeships or full-time courses, nor do they have the resources to tackle large and heavy blocks of stone. I only started stone carving after I retired. I had thought of wood turning or carving, but several of my friends do this and I wanted to try something different. I had a new garden shed built with a small workshop where I do my carving which is of course, an extremely dusty pastime.

My medium is Maltese limestone, which is similar in texture and quality to Caen stone, used in cathedrals and churches all over Europe. It has a lovely pale cream colour and can be finished to a very smooth surface and larger areas even to a shine. Malta is geologically a young island, formed about 35 million years ago of sedimentary rock containing mainly skeletal fragments of marine organisms. The age of Maltese rocks is placed into perspective when considering that the extinction of the dinosaurs took place 65.5 million years ago, so when the lower layers of rock comprising the archipelago were laid down, the dinosaurs had been extinct for over 30 million years.

My first attempt proved successful, producing a number plaque for our own house and I have now made a variety of items, from house number plaques and tee lights to clocks and barometers. Customers provide me with their requirement and I draw a proposal, which they may approve or alter until they are satisfied with the design, to make the item personal to them. Only then do I commence carving. The final article is sealed to eliminate stone dust when handling and to make it weather resistant for use outside. It is a satisfying, relaxing and enjoyable hobby although occasionally can be frustrating if a piece breaks off in the wrong place! If you are interested in seeing my work please visit my website www.arnsbycarving.co.uk, and you may even like to purchase something.

Notice of book publication

The Exploits of Our Fellow Townsman, Mr Wolff 1796 – 1845. By Alan Morton, paperback in two volumes. Price £40 (introductory discount offer), available from the author admort@btinternet.com.

Andy Russel writes: "Alan Morton retired from Southampton City Archaeological Unit in 2009 after forty years in the field, including ten years in charge of the city's unit which saw about 60 developer-funded investigations each year, every year, including some of the largest and most complex sites opened in southern England. Alan's new book, *The Exploits of Our Fellow Townsman, Mr Wolff*, is a detailed history of a short period in Southampton's existence, about the time of the Reform Act (1832), when the townspeople had reason to hope for a variety of types of future prosperity, most of which proved illusory."

[See flyer attached, and we hope to have a review of the book posted on the SAS website soon. *Ed.*]

Forthcoming events

Tuesday 6th November 11.00am to 3.00pm. New Forest Heritage Fair where many local groups will set up stalls to display their work, including Romsey Local History (LTVAS) and Hampshire Medieval Graffiti Project. Talks on their work will run through the day. Lyndhurst Community Centre – further information available on: nfknowledge.org.

Friday 9th/Saturday 10th November 10.00am to 4.00pm. Romsey Local History Society Exhibition and Book Sale. Romsey Town Hall (basement). Enquiries to Romsey Local History Society: romseyhistory@ltvas.org.uk.

Sunday 11th November 10.00am to 3.00pm. Historic England Open Day at Fort Cumberland, Portsmouth showcasing finds from 18th century wreck *Rooswijk*, and the work of the project team to conserve artefacts from the wreck site on the Goodwin Sands. Free entry. Please see attached flyer or contact info@msdsmarine.co.uk for further details.

Thursday 15th November 7.30 – 8.30pm. Armistice Talk: *1918 – An Orderly Abroad*. Andy Skinner tells the story of medical orderly Albert Dartnell on the Front Line in 1918. Venue Tudor House & Garden, Bugle Street SO14 2AD. Cost £5 (£4 for FoSMAG, SAS and A&H volunteers); pre-book on 023 8083 4536.

Friday 16th November 1.30 - 2.30pm. Talk by Dr James Taylor on *Dazzle: Disguise and Disruption in War and Art*. Discover how art was used to confuse and deceive German U-boats, and how this style has influenced artists since then. Venue Art Gallery Lecture Theatre, Commercial Road SO14 7LY. Cost £4, pre-book as above.

Saturday 17th November 10.00am to 6.00pm. *Medieval Archaeology and History in England: Reflections and New Perspectives*, Day Conference in honour of Professor David Hinton. University of Southampton Highfield Campus, Lancaster Building, SO17 1BJ. Free to attend, more information and tickets available from: eventbrite.co.uk.

Saturday 17th November 10.00am to 4.30pm. *Hands-on Humanities Day*, part of national Being Human Festival of the Humanities 15th to 24th November 2018. A family day for all ages, with interactive workshops, talks and tours giving insight into the university's Humanities research. Help archaeologists unearth new finds, have a historical adventure, hear a magical story or write a poem. University of Southampton Avenue Campus, Highfield Road, SO17 1BF (free parking). Booking on: humanworldfestival.com; further information from: beinghumanfestival.org.

Sunday 25th November 11.00am to 4.00pm. Christmas at Bursledon Brickworks Museum – Christmas Market with stalls, music and seasonal fun all round the museum. Entry: £3 adults, £1 children. Bursledon Brickworks Industrial Museum, Swanwick Lane, Swanwick SO31 7HB. Find out more on: bursledonbrickworks.org.uk.

Monday 10th, Tuesday 12th & Friday 14th December 7.30pm – 9.00pm. Sarah Siddons Fan Club presents *Strangers, Foreigners & Aliens – Christmas Ghost Walk*. Featuring past residents of Southampton, including the French in the 16th century: how were immigrants and visitors welcomed? It's all about trade and money! Starts from Holyrood Church, High Street Southampton SO14 . Tickets £5, from www.wegotickets.com.

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

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.

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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.