



Charity XT29402

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Founded in 1969

PATRON: Prof. Malcolm Airs
PRESIDENT: Hazel Williams

Annual Report & Accounts for 2016

SOAG 48th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Goring Heath Parish Hall, Whitchurch Hill
2:00pm on Sunday 23rd April 2017



(Clockwise from top left) While some messed around at High Wood with pole-cams, and others on the Downs above Blewbury with augurs . . . and lunch . . . some picked over the pieces. But pride of place in 2016 must surely go to the “**Gatehampton Beaker**” (centre)

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Chairman's Report

(Compiled by the Chairman from reports by members of the Committee)

Firstly, I am delighted to announce that the committee has unanimously recommended that the AGM appoint Ian Clarke as an Honorary Member of SOAG. Ian has been a member since 1999 and has made major contributions to the Group both administratively and as a project leader. Having served as Secretary and then Chairman, he is currently our Honorary Vice President, has been prominent in instigating and leading our BBCHAP and Ascott Park work, and been a most generous benefactor with his recent donation of Geoplot software to SOAG. Thank you Ian.

Once again, we had a busy year in 2016 with major fieldwork activities in three locations (Highwood, Blewbury and Gatehampton – see below) and a full programme of events including lectures and visits organised by Nancy Nichols. On behalf of the committee I would like to thank the whole membership for their continued support and contributions.

Membership and Finance

Our finances remain on an even keel (see report from Kaz Greenham, our Hon. Treasurer). Membership in 2016 fell slightly to 130 which is a little disappointing but within our budget assumptions. We welcome all our new members and hope to attract many more in 2017. Again our Hon. Secretary, Mike Vincent, was able to secure a substantial Gift Aid contribution.

Publications and Communications

My thanks to all those who undertake these vital roles. Mike Green works tirelessly to maintain communications with all of the group's members both routinely through publication of SOAG Messenger and management of the web site, and by ad hoc email updates. Mike Grinsted works on vital local communications to broaden our appeal. John Hefferan and Mike Green edited and produced our flagship annual report, SOAG Bulletin 70, Mike taking over from Janet Eastment who has done this so excellently for many years but had to relinquish (temporarily we hope) the role this year. In addition to Bulletin we also publish results of our research projects to a wider audience through the CBA South Midlands Archaeology annual report.

Work also continues on digitising and making available our written archive of past projects.

Fieldwork and Research

Fieldwork at Gatehampton Roman Villa, under Hazel Williams' leadership, has been in progress for more than 20 years. The project has provided easy access to excavation for SOAG members and newcomers throughout the summer months and the annual Open Day in September 2016

was as popular as ever. Since we have now opened and researched almost all the accessible areas of the villa it was thought that 2016 would be the last season. However new discoveries were made late in 2016 and with the recent removal of the hedge across the villa improving access, there is a real chance of resolving some of the remaining mysteries of the villa. Regular Sunday digging will continue during 2017 at Gatehampton.

The High Wood project in 2016 provided an enjoyable and instructive experience for many of our members. The archaeology revealed a Roman structure whose function is not yet understood and operations in 2017 will be directed at learning more in the and, hopefully beginning to answer this question. We are delighted that the project leadership team will be strengthened for next season. David Nicholls, who has been leading the project hitherto, will remain as overall project director and Alan Hall MA who joined SOAG in 2016, from Surrey Archaeological Society, and who has directed several excavations on sites in that county, will be Site Director. We will also again benefit from advice from Oxford Archaeology.

The Blewbury Big Dig project, under the joint direction of Lindsey Bedford and myself, took its first steps out of the village and into the fields in 2016. Making full use of all of our available surveying techniques (magnetic and resistivity geophysics, auger surveying, metal detecting and field walking) and much expertise from within the group, we began investigations of some interesting crop marks on the downs. Having discovered an unexpected shaft, with potential Iron Age or Roman ritual significance, we are keen to get back to the site for further work but constrained by almost continuous agricultural activity.

Dave Carless (Chairman)

06 April 2017

Lecture Programme

- Jan 28 **Dr Simon Townley**, Victoria County History
Ewelme and Ewelme Hundred: Recent VCH Work
- Feb 25 **Professor John Blair**, University of Oxford
The Anglo-Saxon Upper Thames region: New Discoveries and New Thoughts
- Mar 24 **Mike Allen**, Allen Environmental Archaeology
New interpretations of the prehistoric environment of Stonehenge: why
Stonehenge is really where it is & other stories from environmental archaeology
- April 24 **Review of SOAG Archaeology and AGM**, followed by **SOAG Social**
- Sept 22 **Tim Allen**, Oxford Archaeology and SOAG Hon Member
Excavations at St Briec, Brittany - an Iron Age town?
- Oct 27 **Ben Ford**, Oxford Archaeology
The Westgate Project, Oxford
- Nov 24 **Allan Hall**, SOAG member
Field Work by The Roman Studies Group of Surrey Archaeological Society
Dave Carless, SOAG Chairman
Excavating a Saxon sunken featured building in Blewbury
and
SOAG Christmas Seasonal Party

Events and Visits

- Sept 16 SOAG visit to the Oxford University Institute of Archaeology Saxon Hall House
excavations at Long Wittenham.
Guide: Adam McBride
Organiser: Nancy Nichols
- Sept 18 Open House at SOAG Gatehampton Archaeological Excavation
Organiser: Hazel Williams and SOAG Diggers
- Dec 19 Visit to the Houses of Parliament, courtesy of the office of John Howell MP
Organiser: Mike Vincent

Treasurer's Report 2016

Core Activities:

As expected, the year-end accounts show a deficit on Receipts and Expenditure for our Core Activities. This is primarily due to the print costs of Bulletin 2015 not being paid until February 2016.

There were some costs outstanding at this year-end, which will again show in the 2017 year-end accounts, primarily £178 hall hire, and £80 equipment repair costs.

When adjusting the figures to show all 2016 items, we show a deficit of just over £100. This can be easily absorbed by Reserves from previous years. We do not need to draw from the Cynthia Graham Kerr Bequest to support our day-to-day activities.

Non-Core Activities:

These again show a significant but budgeted deficit for 2016, due to the High Wood project. Although more has been spent than acquired this year, the project still has a healthy cash reserve.

Assets:

We have this year been gifted a Total Station at no cost to the Group. We also expect to take delivery of a new resistivity meter early in 2017, which will be funded from the Bequest.

Looking forward to 2017

We anticipate subscription income to be similar to 2016. Although the Committee will continue to keep a tight control on Core Expenses, we expect to end the coming financial year with a small deficit.

Kaz Greenham
Honorary Treasurer
February 2017

Notes:

Core Activities: The day-to-day running of the Group, such as insurance, room hire, and lecture series. It is always the intention to fund these activities from Subscription and associated income.

Non-Core Activities: The various Projects currently being undertaken. All projects are expected to be self-financing, and funds for these are identified as Designated Funds.

Restricted Funds: Funding for specific projects as declared by the donor at the time of donation. They cannot be used to cover other expenditure

Designated Funds: Funds for specific projects, as agreed by the Committee

South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group (SOAG)
Accounts for the year ending 31 December 2016

Receipts and Payments			
2015		2016	
19,054	Balance as at 1st January	17,708	2017 Core Activities Budget
Receipts			
<i>Core Activities</i>			
1,610	Subscriptions	1,615 ¹	1,545
311	Gift Aid	307 ²	329
23	Refreshments income	4	
0	Lecture Visitor Donations	0	
<u>1,944</u>	Subtotal, Core Activities	<u>1,925</u>	<u>1,874</u>
1,228	Grants/Donations	1,358 ³	
588	Diggers Fees	10 ⁴	
180	T-shirt Sales	30 ⁵	
70	Training fees	42 ⁶	
76	Bank Interest	69 ⁷	39
0	Other	0	
<u>2,141</u>	Subtotal, Non-core Activities	<u>1,509</u>	<u>1,913</u>
4,086	Total receipts in year	3,434	
Payments			
<i>Core Activities</i>			
43	Messenger	20	65
106	Bulletin	1,384 ⁸	742
57	Publicity	174 ⁹	25
	Website	102 ¹⁰	80
87	Room Hire	81	90
189	Insurance	283 ¹¹	314
47	Office/Admin Costs	1	48
178	Hall hire	0	178
200	Speaker Expenses	180	240
0	Refreshments/Events expenses	52 ¹²	77
58	Affiliate fees	60 ¹³	60
<u>964</u>	Subtotal, Core Activities	<u>2,336</u>	<u>1,919</u>
290	Equipment	173 ¹⁴	
150	Training Costs	0	
3,116	High Wood Expenses	3,067	
781	Gatehampton Expenses	18 ⁴	
130	Digitisation Expenses	6	
0	Equipment Repairs	0	
0	Other	0	
<u>4,467</u>	Subtotal, Non-core Activities	<u>3,264</u>	
5,431	Total payments in year	5,601	
980	Surplus/loss for year on Core Activities	-411 ¹⁵	-6
-2,326	Surplus/loss for year None-Core Activities	-1,755 ¹⁶	
<u>-1,346</u>	Total Surplus/loss for year	<u>-2,167</u>	
17,708	Balance carried forward	15,542	

Assets		
2015	Monetary Assets	2016
772	Main Account	736
16,937	Reserve Account	14,806
<u>17,708</u>	Total Cash	<u>15,542</u>
Represented by		
2,229	Unrestricted Fund	1,794
<i>Restricted Funds</i>		
1,000	P Preece Trio	1,000
4,160	Highwood Project	2,443
<i>Designated Funds</i>		
450	Gatehampton Project	442
870	Digitisation Project	864
9,000	Cyn Bequest	9,000
<u>17,708</u>		<u>15,542</u>
Fixed Assets		
<i>Cost</i>		<i>NBV ¹⁷</i>
6,288	Geoscan RM15-D Resistivity Meter	844
0	5700 GPS Receiver	4,000
0	Geodimeter CU and 600 CU	4,000
734	HP NC6320 Laptop	99
505	Toshiba X2000 LCD Projector	68
350	Dumpy Level	47
<u>7,877</u>		<u>9,057</u>

Notes to the Accounts

- 1 Includes £45 prepaid 2017 subscriptions
- 2 Gift Aid Income on 2016 Subscriptions
- 3 Donations of £1,350 for High Wood project
- 4 Gatehampton income & expenses received/paid directly to/from bank account
- 5 Sales of SOAG t-shirts
- 6 Fees received from members attending Pottery Training Course, October 2015.
- 7 Interest received on Deposit Account
- 8 Costs of Bulletin printing x 2 (2015 and 2016) plus distribution of 2016 edition.
- 9 Pop-up SOAG publicity stand
- 10 Website migration costs, plus 3-year domain name
- 11 Insurance cover for equipment and personnel/volunteers (includes GeoScan)
- 12 Lunch for summer visit guides, plus end-of-year party
- 13 Membership of Oxford Architectural and Historical Society, Council for British Archaeology, national and local group
- 14 Purchase of storage boxes, and deposit on new resistivity meter
- 15 If pre-paid 2017 subs (£45) previous year expense items (Bulletin print @ £642, and room hire @ £36) are excluded, and expenses incurred but not cleared the bank (£178 hall hire, £80 equipment repair, £76 Admin expenses) are included, our deficit for the year is £112
- 16 Mainly High Wood project expenses
- 17 Assets shown at both purchase cost, and a depreciated value as at year-end. Survey equipment which was kindly donated to SOAG in 2016 now included in asset listings

These accounts were prepared, on a receipts and payments basis, in accordance with guidance from the Charities Commission 'Statement of Recommended Practice' (SORP 2005) by Kaz Greenham, Honorary Treasurer, February 2017

These accounts have been examined by Sue Fogden against documentation provided. In her opinion these are a true and accurate presentation of the transactions made by the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group in 2016

A signed copy of these accounts is on file

SOAG OFFICERS AND ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As they stand at the end of year 2016-2017 & including reference to any special roles

Hon President	Mrs Hazel Williams (also Director of the Roman Villa dig)
Vice President	Mr Ian Clarke
Chairman	Dr David Carless (co-Director, Blewbury “Big Dig”)
Vice Chairman	Prof Nancy Nichols (SOAG Events Secretary)
Hon Secretary	Mr Michael Vincent
Hon Treasurer	Mrs Kaz Greenham
Ordinary Members	Mr John Hefferan (Editor, <i>SOAG Bulletin</i>)
	Mr Michael Green (Editor, <i>SOAG Messenger</i> , SOAG webmaster and SOAG archive digitisation project manager)
	Mrs Janet Eastment
	Mrs Lindsey Bedford (co-Director, Blewbury “Big Dig”)
	Mr Alan Hall (Site Director, High Wood)
	Mr John Moughton