



Charity XT29402

# SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Founded in 1969

PATRON: Prof. Malcolm Airs  
PRESIDENT: Hazel Williams

## Annual Report & Accounts for 2019

### SOAG 50th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Goring Heath Parish Hall, Whitchurch Hill 2:00pm Sunday 28th April 2019

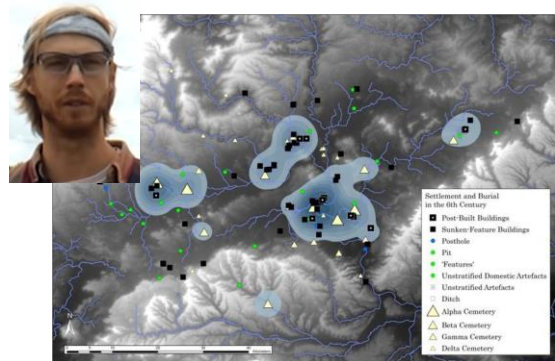
*We're not just about fieldwork – our lectures last year:*



**Carl Champness:** *Wallingford, Winterbrook: Excavations of a multi-period site with Prehistoric and Early Saxon settlement*



**Adam McBride:** *The Origins of Wessex Long Wittenham & the Context of Power*



**Dr Simon Draper:** *Recent Research for the VCH in Goring and Goring Heath parishes*



**David Bird:** *The Claudian Invasion of Britain – An Alternative Interpretation*



**Dr Michael Walsh:** *Excavations on the 17th century warship, the London*



**Dr Peter Warry:** *The Evolution of Roman Ceramic Building Material in Southern England*



## Contents

	<i>Page</i>
<b>Chairman's report</b>	<b>2</b>
<b>Lectures in 2018</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>Treasurer's report</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>SOAG Accounts for the year ending Dec 31 2018</b>	<b>6</b>
<b>SOAG Officers and Ordinary Committee Members 2018-19</b>	<b>7</b>

### **Chairman's Report**

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

Founded in 1969 by Cynthia Graham Kerr, SOAG is now in its 50th year of archaeology in Oxfordshire and I am pleased to report that we are still going strong! 2018 was a very busy year for fieldwork with projects running at four locations (Ascott Park, Blewbury, High Wood, and Gatehampton – see notes below). Our project leaders and others continue to broadcast our achievements in lectures to other interested groups and national and regional publications.

The group's use of technology is growing and bringing new benefits. GIS (Geographical Information System) is increasingly being used by the group, led by the projects at High Wood, where it is used to record details of the excavations, and at Blewbury, where it is used for larger scale mapping of sites and features of archaeological interest around the village and surrounding area. We are also engaged with Ed Peveler of the "Beacons of the Past – Hillforts in the Chilterns Landscape" project which has provided several GIS training sessions, and which will soon provide new Lidar data relevant to some of our own work. We are also making good use of the total station kindly donated by Keith Lowndes for levelling work at Gatehampton High Wood, and Ascott Park. Photographic recording of our work has been enhanced by Richard Miller's stunning 3D images of sites and finds.

Nancy Nichols, our Vice Chair, has again organized an excellent programme of events (see below), including numerous interesting lectures and site visits. Attendance at our meetings has been growing providing good opportunities for communications between members out of the fieldwork season.

#### **Membership and Finance**

Our core finances remain in reasonable balance (see report from Kaz Greenham, our Hon. Treasurer), augmented by a significant Gift Aid contribution (thanks to our Hon. Secretary, Mike Vincent).

Membership in 2018 grew by 9% to 145 members and was ahead of our budget assumptions. Our web site and the High Wood project in particular continue to attract new members. Linda Annan, our Membership Secretary, warmly welcomes all our new members and hopes to attract even more in 2019.

#### **Publications and Communications**

Mike Green has continued to be the focus of our routine communications with all of the group's members and beyond by and management of the web site, and by ad hoc email updates. In 2018 we produced seven editions of SOAG Messenger the publication of which is now undertaken by joint editors Mike Green and Nigel Peters. John Hefferan and Janet Eastment edited and produced our flagship annual report, SOAG Bulletin.

In addition we publish results of our research projects to a wider audience through the CBA South Midlands Archaeology annual report. We also give presentations to other archaeological organisations, thereby raising the profile of SOAG and our research work. Work also continues, under the leadership of Mike Green, on digitising and making available our written archive of past projects.

#### **Fieldwork and Research**

Under the leadership of our Vice President, Ian Clarke, in early 2018 SOAG secured permission from Oxfordshire County Council for the long-anticipated return to **Ascott Park**, Stadhampton, for a new excavation of the traditional site of the 17th century manor house, which burnt down in 1662 when nearing completion. The traditional site is marked by a large rectangular hollow (a cellar or basement) fronting a linear earth bank (a raised terrace). The principal aim of the excavation is to try to prove 'beyond reasonable

doubt' that the 1662 house was built at the traditional site and that the archaeology of the hollow and bank is what remains of that house. The excavation is planned to take three years and the first dig was over ten days in July 2018 under the direction of Roelie Reed, backed up by Mike Vincent. Despite this coinciding with some of the hottest days of the year, significant heavy digging by the enthusiastic team ensured that good progress was made with recovering the ground plan of the house and terrace and establishing their structural relationships. We also recovered prima facie evidence that the basement was vaulted, one of the most important elements of the research. The 2019 dig will again be over ten days, starting this time in late August.

At **Blewbury**, under the leadership of Lindsey Bedford and Dave Carless, we returned to the Manor for a short but intensive programme of test pitting, geophysical surveying and auger surveying. No new significant features were identified but we were able to make some progress in understanding features located in earlier work. In particular we found evidence to demonstrate that the moat, which at present has only three sides, had never had a fourth. A dark linear feature found on our 2014 geophysical survey was shown to be a former ditch containing demolition material. This may have been a long wall closing off the moated area.

Work at the **High Wood** Roman site led by Alan Hall (supported by Andrew Alum, Mike Vincent and more recently Stephanie Pollard) was designed to further examine the walls found previously. This had resolved into a range of rooms of probable 4th century AD date, which was found to continue to the east but the terminus probably lies under a public footpath and remains to be discovered. Underlying the eastern room was a furnace, which may have been associated with iron ore roasting, and appeared - from remaining post holes - to have been surmounted by a wooden structure.

The western extent of this range extends for at least 45metres, where a further room was excavated. This room was well built but showed no evidence of flooring. However, a substantial deposit of bloomery slag and evidence of nearby smithing was found at the lowest level. A western wall was found but a search for southern and eastern walls was fruitless although regular scatters of building material suggest they are present. We expect the complex to cover an area of 50m x 50m.

Work in 2019 will focus on further exploration of the northern building range and continuing the search for the extent of the complex with a view to identifying the character of this building complex – which remains enigmatic.

At **Gatehampton** Roman Villa, SOAG's longest running project, led by our President, Hazel Williams, the focus of the excavation during 2018 was on the probability of a second bath house at the eastern end of the villa. A plunge pool and associated unheated cool room had already been excavated in 2017. Limited work during 2018 revealed two adjacent heated rooms with hypocausts, evident from small sondages into the floors of both rooms, that will need more investigation in 2019. Further excavation and recording in the workshop and cesspit areas resulted in the discovery of the corner of an earlier building under the eastern end of the villa. As a result of these new developments, the project will continue in 2019 when the earlier building and other features beyond the eastern extent of the villa will be explored. It is also planned to extend the trench over the bath house to find the stoke room and other features.

*Dave Carless (Chairman)*

April 2019

## Lecture Programme

- Jan 25      **Adam McBride** (Oxford University)  
The Origins of Wessex: Long Wittenham and the Context of Power
- Feb 22      **Carl Champness** (Oxford Archaeology)  
Excavations at St Aldate's, Oxford
- Mar 22      **Dr David Bird** (retired County Archaeologist, Surrey)  
Route of the Roman Invasion
- April 23     **Review of SOAG Archaeology and AGM, followed by SOAG Social**
- Sept 27     **Dr Simon Draper** (Victoria County History)  
Recent Research for the VCH in Goring & Goring Heath parishes
- Oct 25      **Dr Peter Warry FSA**  
The evolution of Roman ceramic building material in southern England
- Nov 22      **Michael Walsh** (Cotswold Archaeology)  
Excavations on the 17th century warship, the London  
and  
**SOAG Christmas Seasonal Party**

## Events and Visits

- Feb 16      Visit to the Oxford Radiocarbon Dating Unit (as guests of BARG)  
Organiser: David Cox (BARG)
- Mar 25      Visit to the open day at Tackley Roman Villa site,  
courtesy of Thames Valley Archaeological Services
- July 17     Visit to the last season of the excavations of Roman Dorchester-on-Thames  
Organiser: Mike Vincent

## **Treasurer's Report 2018**

### *Core Activities:*

Despite a minor training expense from 2017 being included in the 2018 figures, the year-end accounts show a small surplus on Receipts and Expenditure for our Core Activities.

This is despite higher costs of the production and distribution of Bulletin 2018 (we have more members, so need more copies), and the new item of storage costs, which is more than covered by our higher than expected Subscription income.

When adjusting the figures to remove all 2017 items, we show a surplus of approximately £44.

### *Non-Core Activities:*

These again show a significant but budgeted deficit for 2018. As mentioned last year, we have purchased the storage container, funded from Cyn's Bequest, and are paying a small annual rental fee for the site. The High Wood project continues to both raise and spend money, ending the year with a lower balance of funds than one year ago, but still maintaining a healthy project balance. There has also been a small cost involved in the development of the Ascott Park Project, funded from our previous surplus income.

### *Assets:*

As mentioned, we have purchased the shipping container, to solve our long-term storage problems. In addition, the High Wood project has also purchased a smaller container, for secure storage at the dig site.

## **Looking forward to 2019**

We anticipate subscription income to be slightly higher than 2018. We expect to end the coming financial year with a small deficit.

Kaz Greenham  
Honorary Treasurer  
March 2019

### *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 2018

Receipts and Payments			
2017	2018	2019 Core Activities Budget	
15,542	14,493		<b>Balance as at 1st January</b>
<b>Receipts</b>			
<i>Core Activities</i>			
1,667	1,844 <sup>1</sup>	1,730	Subscriptions
326	330	330	Gift Aid
17	17	8	Refreshments income
0	3		Lecture Visitor Donations
<u>2,010</u>	<u>2,194</u>	<u>2,067</u>	<b>Subtotal, Core Activities</b>
5,908	500 <sup>2</sup>		Grants/Donations
530	45 <sup>3</sup>		Diggers Fees
45			T-shirt Sales
80			Training fees
27	29	23	Bank Interest
40			Other
<u>6,629</u>	<u>574</u>	<u>2,090</u>	<b>Subtotal, Non-core Activities</b>
<b>8,639</b>	<b>2,768</b>		<b>Total receipts in year</b>
<b>Payments</b>			
<i>Core Activities</i>			
79	52	52	Messenger
680	820 <sup>4</sup>	790	Bulletin
5	0	0	Publicity
0	83 <sup>5</sup>	83	Website
82	55	30	Room Hire
285	350 <sup>6</sup>	448	Insurance
71	19	19	Office/Admin Costs
355	185	185	Hall hire
220	260	260	Speaker Expenses
0	0	55	Refreshments/Events expenses
163	288 <sup>7</sup>	144	Storage Costs
21	63 <sup>8</sup>	63	Affiliate fees
<u>1,961</u>	<u>2,175</u>	<u>2,129</u>	<b>Subtotal, Core Activities</b>
2,698	258 <sup>9</sup>		Equipment
40	25 <sup>10</sup>		Training Costs
4,317	2,329		High Wood Expenses
593	0		Gatehampton Expenses
0	145 <sup>11</sup>		Ascott Park
0	1,500 <sup>12</sup>		Storage Container
0	22 <sup>13</sup>		Pat Preece Landscape Fund
80	0		Equipment Repairs
0	0		Other
<u>7,728</u>	<u>4,279</u>		<b>Subtotal, Non-core Activities</b>
<b>9,688</b>	<b>6,454</b>		<b>Total payments in year</b>
49	19	-39	Surplus/loss for year on Core Activities
-1,098	-3,705		Surplus/loss for year None-Core Activities
-1,049	-3,686		Total Surplus/loss for year
<u>14,493</u>	<u>10,807</u>		<b>Balance carried forward</b>

2017	Monetary Assets	2018
2,411	Main Account	295
12,082	Reserve Account	10,511
<u>14,493</u>	<b>Total Cash</b>	<u>10,807</u>
<b>Represented by</b>		
1,983	Unrestricted Fund	1,736
<i>Restricted Funds</i>		
1,000	P Preece Trio	978
3,966	Highwood Project	2,137
<i>Designated Funds</i>		
379	Gatehampton Project	379
864	Digitisation Project	864
	Gatehampton Post excavation	2,000 <sup>14</sup>
	Storage Management	412 <sup>15</sup>
6,302	Cyn Bequest	2,302
<u>14,493</u>		<u>10,807</u>
<b>Fixed Assets</b>		
<i>Cost</i>		
2,000	Storage Containers	1,600 <sup>17</sup>
0	FM18 Gradiometer	800 <sup>18</sup>
2,678	TR Resistivity meter	2,158
0	5700 GPS Receiver	2,560
0	Geodimeter CU and 600 CU	2,560
6,288	Geoscan RM15-D Resistivity Meter	540
734	HP NC6320 Laptop	63
505	Toshiba X2000 LCD Projector	43
350	Dumpy Level	30
<u>12,555</u>		<u>10,354</u>

### Notes to the Accounts

- 1 Higher than projected membership
- 2 HighWood project donations
- 3 Fees from the Ascott Park Project (Previous year: 2 years of Gatehampton income. Gatehampton digger fees not charged in 2018)
- 4 Costs of current year printing. Distribution costs will appear in 2019 accounts
- 5 Website hosting costs
- 6 The premium is increasing year-on-year, due to both increasing premiums, and our increasing equipment and asset ownership
- 7 Annual site rental for storage container (£144) plus costs of racking
- 8 Membership of two local plus one national archaeological groups
- 9 Includes resistivity meter accessories, digital camera equipment and accessories
- 10 Balance of 2017 training costs (Venue rental cheque not banked before previous year-end)
- 11 Costs incurred in development of Ascott Park project
- 12 Purchase of container for general equipment storage (Site rental shown separately)
- 13 Permits, plus copying of old maps
- 14 Allocation of funds from the Cyn Bequest to Gatehampton, for post-excavation expenses, as discussed and agreed by the Committee
- 15 Allocation of funds from the Cyn Bequest to fund storage solutions, as discussed and agreed by the Committee
- 16 Assets shown at both purchase cost, and a depreciated value as at year-end.
- 17 2 storage containers purchased, 1 by the HighWood Project, the other by SOAG, for secure storage of equipment
- 18 A Gradiometer has been donated to SOAG

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 2019

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 2018

A signed copy of these accounts is on file

## SOAG OFFICERS AND ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*As they stand at the end of year 2018-2019 & including reference to any special roles*

Hon President	Mrs Hazel Williams (also Director of the Gatehampton Roman Villa dig)
Vice President	Mr Ian Clarke (also Director of the Ascott Park dig)
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 (joint 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 Nigel Peters (co-opted) (joint Editor, <i>SOAG Messenger</i> )
	Mr Bill Marks (co-opted)
Non-executive officer	Mrs Linda Annan (co-opted as Membership Secretary)