



SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Founded in 1969

PATRON: Prof. Malcolm Airs
PRESIDENT: Hazel Williams

Annual Report & Accounts for 2010



*Investigating the 'drain' discovered at the 2010
BBCHAP dig in Brightwell Park*

SOAG 42nd ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
Goring Heath Parish Hall, Whitchurch Hill
2:00pm on Sunday 17th April 2011

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
<i>Chairman's report</i>	2
<i>Lectures and Visits in 2010</i>	5
<i>Treasurer's report</i>	6
<i>SOAG Accounts for the year ending Dec 31 2010</i>	7
<i>SOAG Budgets Centre Forecasts and Actuals for 2010</i>	8
<i>SOAG officers and ordinary committee members 2010-11</i>	9

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

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

The AGM of 2011 marks the 42nd year of SOAG. That great length of time may offer an explanation as to why we have sadly lost a number of our founding members during the past year. Cynthia Graham Kerr, who died in January, had been the main force behind the formation of SOAG and had been active until relatively recently at Gatehampton. She only relinquished her role of President to become Emeritus President some two years ago when many of you will remember seeing her at the 2009 AGM celebrating SOAG's 40th year.

We also lost Mary Kift, whom I will particularly remember for the books she wrote on the history of Caversham, and Marian Fallowfield, who, together with Pat Preece, contributed so much to our understanding of the landscape of South Oxfordshire.

Pat has made a generous donation to SOAG with a view to helping SOAG members carry on their excellent work in landscape archaeology. The money, so kindly donated, has been used to set up a fund which will assist members with the costs of undertaking approved landscape projects. The simple rules governing the fund are published elsewhere, but the committee is looking forward to hearing of project plans that the fund will help bring to fruition.

FINANCES

We also received another grant from the Robert Kiln Trust following an application by David Nicholls in his role as a SOAG project leader; this is intended to help with the costs of the Greys Mound project. That, together with the necessary small rise in membership fees a year ago, does mean the group is financially sound for the time being, that is, we break even. However, our basic running costs do continue to rise significantly, with simple things like printing and posting the SOAG Messenger and SOAG Bulletin costing around a third of a member's subscription, in addition to the annual insurance charge required to cover members during group activities, and the lecture programme expenses. As those of you who actively dig on our projects will know we now make a daily charge to attendees. While this is capped, these extra funds are used by the individual project leaders to pay expenses directly incurred by the individual project. It is not unknown for our leaders to dip deeply into their own pockets to allow an excavation to proceed as it should.

SOAG PUBLICATIONS

While they are relatively expensive productions, I am sure members will agree that both our monthly *SOAG Messenger* and annual *SOAG Bulletin* are excellent publications. After his recent, and first-rate, lecture to the group, our Patron Professor Malcolm Airs told me how much he thought of them and said he did read both from cover to cover. So thank you to Mike Green for his editing work on *SOAG Messenger* (and also the SOAG website) and Sue Sandford for editing *SOAG Bulletin*; both put in a great deal of time to produce the

publications. It is with regret we will be losing Sue from this role, as well as from the committee, after many years service to the Group.

I must also thank the committee as a whole for the time they put in both inside and outside of the committee meetings. These meetings cover a lot of ground on behalf of the group and it is not unusual for them not to finish until very late. The committee then have individual actions to be followed up before the next meeting plus tasks associated with their basic roles.

LECTURE AND VISITS PROGRAMME

Nancy Nichols has, with suggestions from other committee members, generated a really good lecture programme and also organised two summer visits. The speakers have been very well qualified to give their lectures and would grace any high level academic archaeological event. However, some lectures have had poor audience attendance even though Keith Lowdes efforts in promoting them to non SOAG visitors has had some success and raised a small income.

Poor attendance is of great concern to the committee and it has become clear that the village location of our venue is a significant factor. To correct this we are looking at a possible venue change to the centre of Henley-upon-Thames, which offers a more attractive location on dark winter nights. The membership will be consulted prior to any such change as some will undoubtedly have to travel further than at present, but many more will find the journey easier if not shorter. In considering this, the SOAG Committee is also mindful that a base for SOAG in the capital town of South Oxfordshire would offer enhanced status, better access to funding and local support, and the potential for a significant boost to membership – all factors vital to the future survival and continued success of the Group.

FIELD ARCHAEOLOGY

Our four major projects have all carried on this year.

Gatehampton (Director: Hazel Williams)

At Gatehampton the “bath area” of the villa had been backfilled as the new landowners wanted access to their land, so during 2010 the villa area looked much different compared to previous years. The main focus this year was the central room. Some excellent teamwork resulted in the collection of a large quantity of small mammal bone samples for the ongoing study of Roman owl pellets. Alongside this the recording of a substantial fall of roof tiles and the plotting of the nails within the deposit has resulted in some interesting research; some of the nails were found to have mineralised wood still attached. Most of the Gatehampton team worked on this during the season and once the demolition deposit was removed, one of the largest areas of floor so far excavated in the villa was exposed.

Part of the old trench 3, closed in 2000, was also re-opened and a start was made on establishing the layout of the building, particularly how and if, in fact, the walls in the two trenches connect. Work on this will continue in 2011. The Gatehampton team also plan to look further at the central room and north corridor for any evidence of an earlier phase of the building. Nearly 50 people dug at the site in 2010 and it continues to attract new members from both the local area and farther away. It provides a good opportunity for newcomers to archaeology to gain basic training and for more experienced diggers to increase their skills.

Thanks to all who have taken part during the last season, particularly Hazel Williams as site Director. Hazel who was SOAG’s vice-chairman has now become our President and I hope will remain in that role for many years.

Greys (Project Leader: David Nichols)

At Greys Mound the continued work at this important late Neolithic/early Bronze Age site covered two sessions of geophysical survey. Dr Tim Astin of Reading University lead a\

team in scanning the previously unavailable area inside the line of hay bales (the pheasant cover area) with a magnetometry instrument, thus completing our overall survey of this field. Following this, Janet Eastment organised field walking in this area. To the north of this area, Geoff Deakin, Mike Green and David Nicholls lead teams of SOAGs who completed further resistivity surveying.

A further field walk planned for the adjacent Row Croft field did not take place due to problems with harvesting and ploughing caused by the unusual weather patterns. Rafael Korzinsky – Reading University – completed test pitting to the west area of the field for soil stratification.

At the site we have called Greys 2, to the north of the mound, two sessions of resistivity scanning were undertaken: one lead by Geoff Deakin in October, which extended in November to 16 grids by a team lead by Mike Green. Inconclusive results were obtained which did not confirm the suspected two barrow imaging obtained from GoogleEarth. We have now ceased further investigations in this field.

Bix (Project Leader: David Nichols)

The final work at the site at Bix, also directed by David Nicholls, was reported in the last *SOAG Bulletin* and concluded that we had found Christian burials, but the masonry on which some of these rested was probably Roman.

Brightwell Park (BBCHAP) (Project Leader: Ian Clarke)

The BBCHAP project continued with Ian Clarke directing a good sized team of excavators with a main aim of confirming the location of the main gate or gatehouse into the Medieval/Tudor courtyard that was in front of the main house. This was achieved by re-opening the southern part of the 2009 excavation with extensions to the south and west. The dig uncovered a flint approach track ending at a fine chalkstone pavement, cobblestone lined surface gully, and the remains of a compacted flint hard-surface, that together made up a robust and decorative threshold to the main gate. Although we uncovered little direct evidence for the gateway (or gatehouse) itself, the indirect evidence from the surrounding archaeology leaves little doubt about where it once stood – on the high central area of Trench 1, with a gate about 3m wide centred on and parallel to the threshold pavement.

One important outcome is that we now know precisely where we are on this vast, complex and fascinating manor house site. That has already allowed Ian to plan this year's activities which are expected to investigate the house itself. I spent some days at the dig and certainly went away with the impression of it being a quality excavation. A big thank you is due to all of the volunteers who took part and worked with such enthusiasm to make the fortnight a success. And we are once again most grateful to landowners Nigel and Tessa Mogg for their continued support and encouragement.

New projects

It is hoped that a new project will be started with the intention of looking at the landscape around Henley: more on this as project planning continues. SOAG has also become a partner in the Victoria County History of Oxfordshire project centred on the Hundred of Ewelme; some of you have already taken part in field walking and there is much more to come over the next few years.

Finally I must offer my apologies for not being able to attend at the AGM due to personal circumstances.

Dave Oliver (Chairman) March 27th 2011

LECTURES AND VISITS IN 2010

- Thu 28 Jan **Steve Allen** (*Wood conservator from York Archaeological Trust*)
'Boats, Bowls and Buildings- Recent work in the Conservation Lab'.
- Thu 25 Feb **Paul Smith** (*Oxfordshire County Archaeologist*)
'Review of Recent Archaeology in South Oxfordshire'.
- Sun 28 Mar **SOAG 41st Annual General Meeting and Review of SO AG Archaeology 2009-10**
- Thu 22 Apr **Helen Webb** (*Osteo-archaeologist from Heritage Burial Service, OAU*)
'Two case studies of medieval to post-medieval burial archaeology in Oxfordshire:
- Sat 10 Jul Visit to **Silchester Roman Villa** (hosted by Professor Mike Fulford)
- Sun 1 Aug Visit to **Brightwell Park** (hosted by Ian Clarke) and **Ascott Park** (hosted by John Sykes and John Steane)
- Thu 23 Sep **Dr Richard Massey**, (*English Heritage*) Looking for the Atrebates - settlement and change in the Iron Age of Southern Britain
- Thu 28 Oct **Dr Rick Schulting**, (*Institute of Archaeology, Oxford*) – 'Knocked about the head: evidence for interpersonal violence in Neolithic Britain'
- Thu 25 Nov **Julian Munby**, Oxford Archaeology - 'Timber Buildings in Oxfordshire & Berkshire'

TREASURER'S REPORT

It has been mentioned in previous reports that all account categories can be affected by a timing issue, since we report on when the banking transactions occur rather than when payment was actually made or due. Examples of this can be seen in subscriptions for 2010 collected and banked in late 2009 or expenditure for 2010 not paid or cashed until 2011. To improve clarity, we decided in 2010 to produce an accounts sheet that reflects the actual income/expenditure for the year, so that this could be used in conjunction with budget planning to facilitate better management of the Group's costs, this is attached as Budgets Centre Forecasts and Actuals. In addition, it was also decided that all projects should aim to be self-funding, covering their costs by diggers' fees and fund-raising.

Although appearing quite healthy, it should be noted that if we exclude the income/expenditure for the digs, the basic running costs of SOAG are quite close to the money raised by subscriptions. This is something we will need to monitor closely in the coming years. This can be seen more clearly in the Budgets Centre Forecasts and Actuals.

Notes to the 2010 Accounts

1. General

These accounts were prepared in accordance with guidance from the Charities Commission 'Statement of Recommended Practice' (SORP 2005).

2. Payments

i) Dig expenses

During 2010 projects were undertaken at Gatehampton, Bix, Grey's Mound and Brightwell Baldwin. As mentioned above, the general principle was that all projects should aim to be self-funding in 2010, this was broadly successful.

ii) Insurance

The cost of insurance rose slightly due to year-on-year cost rises, but was further increased by the necessity to arrange cover for hired-in equipment which will continue for the foreseeable future. More rises should be expected if the Group's activities lead to concurrent digs with an increase in the number of diggers operating simultaneously.

3. Receipts

i) Subscriptions

Although membership numbers declined by about 8% in 2010 the rise in membership fees drove a 17% increase in income from this source. However this growth in revenue is not accurately reflected in the figures shown due to the reasons mentioned in the first paragraph of this report, since this amount is subject to the timing of renewal requests, the members' responses and the banking of the subscriptions.

ii) Donations

Once again, the Group has been supported by generous donations from various sources. The most significant of these were the £1000 donated to support our activities in the field of Landscape Archaeology, and the £1000 from the Robert Kiln Trust arranged by David Nicholls.

4. Monetary Assets

Restricted Fund

The donations mentioned above were given with specific ends in mind, hence they will be "ring-fenced" and managed in accordance with those wishes.

John M. Gibbs (27th March 2011)

**SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP
ACCOUNTS FOR THE YEAR ENDING 31st DECEMBER 2010**

**Receipts and Payments Account
for Year Ended 31 December 2010**

<u>UNRESTRICTED GENERAL FUND</u>	
RECEIPTS	
<u>31/12/2009</u>	<u>31/12/2010</u>
<u>£1,132.83</u> Balance brought forward	<u>£2,251.30</u> 1
2235.00 Subscriptions	1126.50 2
15.00 Sale of Bulletins	0.00
1061.25 Donations	2229.29 3
2.74 Bank Interest	0.30
294.00 Visitors'/Diggers' Fees	465.00
57.50 Equipment Sale	0.00
<u>£3,665.49</u> TOTAL RECEIPTS	<u>£3,821.09</u>
PAYMENTS	
167.00 Venue Hall Hire	220.00
367.16 Insurance	387.38 4
680.00 Bulletin	159.93 5
170.00 Speaker Expenses	320.00 6
100.00 SOAG Party	34.87
48.00 Standing Orders	22.10
0.00 Equipment Purchase	11.49
0.00 Replacement cheque	0.00
8.50 Publishing SMA	0.00 7
765.21 Dig Expenses	1058.72 8
64.74 Office Expenses	97.35
66.41 Messenger	186.88 9
0.00 Reimbursement	0.00
79.00 Committee room	86.00
31.00 Website	17.00
<u>£2,547.02</u> TOTAL PAYMENTS	<u>£2,601.72</u>
1118.47 Surplus for year	1219.37
<u>£2,251.30</u> Balance carried forward	<u>£3,470.67</u>

**Statement of Assets & Liabilities
as at 31 December 2010**

MONETARY ASSETS	
<u>31/12/2009</u>	<u>31/12/2010</u>
1350.69 Main Account	2,569.76
830.52 Reserve Account	830.82
70.09 BBCHAP Account	70.09
<u>£2,251.30</u> TOTAL MONETARY ASSETS	<u>£3,470.67</u>
REPRESENTED BY FUNDS	
2251.30 Unrestricted General Fund	1,470.67
0.00 Restricted Fund	2000.00
<u>£2,251.30</u> TOTAL FUNDS	<u>£3,470.67</u>

MAJOR FIXED ASSETS	
Geoscan RM15-D Resistivity Meter	6288.36
HP NC6320 Laptop PC	734.36
Toshiba X2000 LCD Projector	505.24
Dumpy Level	349.00
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>£7,876.96</u>

Accounts prepared by:
John M. Gibbs

Notes

1. See general comments in Treasurer's Report concerning Year-On-Year differences.
2. Actual subscriptions for 2010 were £1,831.50.
3. Includes £1000 donation from Pat Preece and £1000 from Robert Kiln Trust.
4. Insurance actual cost £471.48, majority of rise due to additional hired-in equipment cover.
5. 2009 Bulletin costs included 2008 costs, actual 2010 costs were £476.63.
6. Actual speakers costs £200.
7. SMA Publishing costs now part of project costs,
8. Increased activity, however all projects still funding.
9. Actual Messenger costs £133.88.

This account was examined by Trudi Kidd from documentation provided and provides a true and accurate presentation of the transactions of the South Oxfordshire Archaeological Group during 2010.

Signed by: **Trudi Kidd** (Examiner)

Dated: **27th March 2011**

(signed original on file)

BUDGETS CENTRE FORECASTS AND ACTUALS FOR 2010

<i>Item</i>	<i>Budget Holder</i>	<i>Projected Income</i>	<i>Actual Income</i>	<i>B/W</i>
<i>Membership fees</i>	Mike Vincent	£1,777.00	£1,831.50	£54.50
<i>Expenses</i>		<i>Budget</i>	<i>Actual</i>	
Core activities		<i>Forecast</i>	<i>Costs</i>	<i>B/W</i>
Events	Nancy Nichols	£435.00	-£347.99	£87.01
Insurance	John Gibbs	£370.00	-£471.48	-£101.48
Bulletin	Sue Sandford	£480.00	-£476.63	£3.37
Messenger	Mike Green	£135.00	-£133.88	£1.12
Committee room	Mike Vincent	£100.00	-£117.00	-£17.00
Membership admin	Mike Vincent	£30.00	-£84.56	-£54.56
Website	Mike Green	£40.00	-£17.00	£23.00
Publicity	Keith Lowndes	£0.00		£0.00
Misc/Contingency	(n/a)	£100.00	-£22.10	£77.90
		£1,690.00	-£1,670.64	£19.36
<i>Actual income versus actual expenditure (excluding projects)</i>				£160.86
Projects		<i>Actual Income</i>	<i>Actual Costs</i>	<i>Suplus/ Deficit</i>
Project: BBCHAP	Ian Clarke	£596.30	-£625.38	-£29.08
Project: Villa	Hazel Williams	£302.00	-£86.25	£215.75
Project: Greys	David Nicholls	£500.00	-£131.30	£368.70
Project: Bix	David Nicholls	£500.00	-£139.48	£360.52
		£1,898.30	-£982.41	£915.89
<i>Total</i>		£3,729.80	-£2,653.05	£1,076.75

SOAG OFFICERS AND ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

(As they stand at the end of year 2010-2011)

Hon President :	Mrs Hazel Williams (also Director of the Roman Villa dig)
Vice President	Mr Ian Clarke (also Project Leader of the BBCHAP project)
Chairman	Mr David Oliver
Vice Chairman	Vacant at year end (formerly Hazel Williams)
Hon Secretary	Mr Michael Vincent
Hon Treasurer	Mr John Gibbs
Ordinary Members <i>(including reference to any special roles)</i>	Mrs Susan Sandford (Editor, <i>SOAG Bulletin</i>)
	Mr Michael Green (Editor, <i>SOAG Messenger</i> , and SOAG webmaster)
	Mr Keith Lowndes (SOAG Publicity)
	Dr Nancy Nichols (SOAG Events Secretary)
	Peter Stapleton (co-opted in early 2011)