



Charity XT29402

SOUTH OXFORDSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL GROUP

Founded in 1969

PATRON: Prof. Malcolm Airs
PRESIDENT: Hazel Williams

Annual Report & Accounts for 2017

SOAG 49th ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING Goring Heath Parish Hall, Whitchurch Hill 2:00pm on Sunday 22nd April 2018

“Christmas” came early for some, when our second Trier beaker was found in the Gatehampton cess pit,



but much too late for others, as the hardy High Wood team opened up the 2018 trenches amidst a picturesque but freezing March snowscape.



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Chairman's Report

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

In 2017 SOAG again had a very active year with fieldwork continuing at two locations (High Wood, and Gatehampton – see notes below). Although we were unable to do any work in Blewbury, we aim to be back in the Autumn of 2018. We are also planning to resume our work at Ascott Park in the Summer, under Ian Clarke's leadership. In addition to the fieldwork we enjoyed a full programme of events organized by Nancy Nichols, including numerous interesting lectures and site visits. I would like to thank the whole membership for their continued support and contributions, which make the fieldwork and events possible, and the committee for putting it all together.

Again this year we have added substantially to our field equipment most notably by the purchase of a new resistivity meter which is proving most useful. Furthermore I am pleased that we have at last found a long term solution to our equipment storage problem. We have invested in a transport container and arranged a permanent location for it at modest rent. Both of these capital items have been funded out of Cynthia Graham Kerr's kind bequest. In addition to this, Geoff Deakin has very kindly donated his Magnetometer to the Group: many thanks Geoff.

Membership and Finance

Our core finances remain in reasonable balance (see report from Kaz Greenham, our Hon. Treasurer). Membership in 2017 grew slightly and was ahead of our budget assumptions. We warmly welcome all our new members and hope to attract many more in 2018. 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. John Hefferan and Mike Green 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. Our project leaders 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

Work at the **High Wood** Roman site in 2017 was designed to further examine the walls found previously. These walls resolved into two rooms of probable 4th century AD date, divided by a doorway. These overlay an earlier pit which contained artefacts dated to the late Iron Age/ 1st century AD.

Test pitting indicated that the outer wall of these rooms extends for at least 35metres, and a corner was identified at the western end. In 2018 it is proposed explore this range further and to continue test pitting with a view to identifying the character of this building complex – which remains enigmatic.

David Nicholls, who initiated this project, was unwell throughout the period of the dig but Alan Hall was in post as Site Director. David has regrettably withdrawn from the project and Alan has assumed overall responsibility, ably supported by a team comprising Andrew Allum and Mike Vincent.

2017 was planned to be the final year of excavation at **Gatehampton** Roman Villa, SOAG's longest running project, under Hazel Williams' leadership. The main trench, one that was opened originally over the bath house in 2000 and in which most of the substantial building was excavated, was finally closed. However, discoveries in the new trenches at the eastern end of the building where work has focussed in the last few years brought some exciting discoveries that have led to the decision to extend the project, on a reduced basis, into 2018. Most importantly, there is evidence that there may be a second bath house at the east end of the building and this will be the focus of the excavation in 2018.

Participation was good during 2017 with a substantial amount of work required to complete the excavation of the cess pit and to progress the other two trenches. The annual Open Day was again very popular with both SOAG members and the local community.

Dave Carless (Chairman)

March 2018

Lecture Programme

- Jan 26 **Jim Leary** (University of Reading):
Between Avebury and Stonehenge. The Vale of Pewsey Project
- Feb 23 **Ken Walsh** (Oxford Archaeology):
Excavations at Thame
- Mar 23 **Paul Smith** (Oxfordshire County Archaeologist, retired)
Recent Discoveries and Other Animals in Oxfordshire
- April 23 **Review of SOAG Archaeology and AGM, followed by SOAG Social**
- Sept 28 **Prof Trevor Rowley**, Oxford University
The Landscape of the Norman Conquest
- Oct 26 **Richard Oram**, Oxfordshire County Archaeologist
Shining a light on the Past - how Lidar transforms our view
- Nov 23 **Andrew Allum**, SOAG member
High Wood, the Mound and Other Enigmas
Lindsey Bedford, SOAG Committee member
Boxford – a Villa and a Mosaic
and
SOAG Christmas Seasonal Party

Events and Visits

- July 28 & 31 Visit to the Iron Age site at Winterbrook, Wallingford, courtesy of Oxford
Archaeology
Organiser: Mike Vincent
- Sept 24 Open House at SOAG Gatehampton Archaeological Excavation
Organiser: Hazel Williams and SOAG Diggers

Treasurer's Report 2017

Core Activities:

Despite some expenses from 2016 being included in the 2017 figures, the year-end accounts show a small surplus on Receipts and Expenditure for our Core Activities.

This is mainly due to a combination of higher than expected Subscription income, and lower than expected costs of the production and distribution of Bulletin 2017.

When adjusting the figures to remove all 2016 items, we show a surplus of approximately £350.

Non-Core Activities:

These again show a significant but budgeted deficit for 2017. During the year, we have purchased a new resistivity meter, funded from Cyn's Bequest. The High Wood project continues to both raise and spend money, ending the year with a higher balance of funds than one year ago.

Assets:

In addition to the purchase of the new resistivity meter, the Committee have also agreed for the purchase of a large storage container, and rented a space for it to be sited. This will solve the ongoing issues with equipment storage and retrieval. (The container was in place in early in 2018, the cost will show in the 2018 accounts) The purchase of the container is funded from the Bequest, the site rental will be funded from our annual income.

Looking forward to 2018

We anticipate subscription income to be similar to 2017. We expect to end the coming financial year with a small surplus.

Kaz Greenham
Honorary Treasurer
March 2018

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 2017

Receipts and Payments				Assets		
2016		2017	2018 Core Activities Budget	2016	Monetary Assets	2017
17,708	Balance as at 1st January	15,542		736	Main Account	2,411
	Receipts			14,806	Reserve Account	12,082
	<i>Core Activities</i>			15,542	Total Cash	14,493
1,615	Subscriptions	1,667 ¹	1,607		Represented by	
307	Gift Aid	326	321	1,794	Unrestricted Fund	1,983
4	Refreshments income	17	28		<i>Restricted Funds</i>	
0	Lecture Visitor Donations			1,000	P Preece Trio	1,000
<u>1,925</u>	Subtotal, Core Activities	<u>2,010</u>	<u>1,956</u>	2,443	Highwood Project	3,966
					<i>Designated Funds</i>	
1,358	Grants/Donations	5,908 ²		442	Gatehampton Project	379
10	Diggers Fees	530 ³		864	Digitisation Project	864
30	T-shirt Sales	45 ⁴		<u>9,000</u>	Cyn Bequest	<u>6,302</u>
42	Training fees	80 ⁵		15,542		14,493
69	Bank Interest	27			Fixed Assets	
0	Other	40 ⁶			<i>Cost</i>	<i>NBV 16</i>
<u>1,509</u>	Subtotal, Non-core Activities	<u>6,629</u>	<u>1,956</u>	2,678	TR Resistivity meter	2,698
3,434	Total receipts in year	8,639		6,288	Geoscan RM15-D Resistivity Meter	675
	Payments			0	5700 GPS Receiver	3,200
	<i>Core Activities</i>			0	Geodimeter CU and 600 CU	3,200
20	Messenger	79 ⁷	35	734	HP NC6320 Laptop	79
1,384	Bulletin	680	680	505	Toshiba X2000 LCD Projector	54
174	Publicity	5	5	<u>350</u>	Dumpy Level	<u>37</u>
102	Website	0	84	10,555		9,943
81	Room Hire	82 ⁸	60			
283	Insurance	285	320			
1	Office/Admin Costs	71 ⁹	25			
0	Hall hire	355 ¹⁰	178			
180	Speaker Expenses	220	240			
52	Refreshments/Events expenses	0	40			
	Storage Costs	163 ¹¹	144			
60	Affiliate fees	21	60			
<u>2,336</u>	Subtotal, Core Activities	<u>1,961</u>	<u>1,871</u>			
173	Equipment	2,698 ¹²				
0	Training Costs	40 ¹³				
3,067	High Wood Expenses	4,317				
18	Gatehampton Expenses	593 ¹⁴				
6	Digitisation Expenses					
0	Equipment Repairs	80 ¹⁵				
0	Other					
<u>3,264</u>	Subtotal, Non-core Activities	<u>7,728</u>				
5,601	Total payments in year	9,688				
-411	Surplus/loss for year on Core Activities	49	85			
-1,755	Surplus/loss for year None-Core Activities	-1,098				
<u>-2,167</u>	Total Surplus/loss for year	<u>-1,049</u>				
15,542	Balance carried forward	14,493				

Notes to the Accounts

- 1 Higher than projected membership
- 2 HighWood project received £5,840, mainly as donations, but including income of £240 for sale of flint excavated from the site
- 3 Fees (and open-day donations) from Gatehampton, 2016 and 2017
- 4 T-shirts sold at Gatehampton
- 5 Fees received from members attending LIDAR training (Some associated costs will appear in 2018 accounts)
- 6 Compensation from Barclays Bank, re poor service
- 7 £36 incurred in 2016
- 8 Includes hire cost of £27 from 2016
- 9 Includes £47.57 incurred 2016
- 10 Hall hire for both 2016 and 2017 lecture series
- 11 2017/2018 Rent for space at Coppid Farm for the new storage container
- 12 Purchase of new Resistivity Meter
- 13 Partial cost for running LIDAR training Day (Room-Hire cheque, £25 still to be banked)
- 14 Expenses incurred at Gatehampton, 2016 and 2017
- 15 New batteries for the GPS system
- 16 Assets shown at both purchase cost, and a depreciated value as at year-end.

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 2018

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 2017

A signed copy of these accounts is on file

SOAG OFFICERS AND ORDINARY COMMITTEE MEMBERS

As they stand at the end of year 2017-2018 & 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