

SCA NEWSLETTER & ANNUAL REPORT

FROM THE SOCIETY FOR CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY
SPRING 2018
ISSUE NO.19

Letter from the Chair

SPRING has finally arrived and I write this with warm sunshine pouring from a cloudless sky. It is very tempting to drop everything in order to go on a good church crawl! Spring too brings one of our regular committee meetings and it is pleasing to report that our new committee members are settling in well to their roles. We are particularly grateful to Martin Huggon and Norma Oldfield for the zest with which they have flung themselves into being Editor of the society's journal and Secretary respectively.

Martin is well-advanced with production of the next volume of the journal and also has papers accumulating for the one after that. We therefore have high hopes of being able to catch up with the backlog on journal production which I am sure will please you all. Martin is also updating the submission guidelines for prospective contributors to the journal which will hopefully make the process of submission more fluid in future.

Norma meanwhile, as well as ensuring the smooth running of the SCA committee, has kindly taken over organisation of the annual conference. She is currently working hard to ensure that all goes well for this year's conference which will be held in Hull between Friday 14th and Sunday 16th September. The theme will be War and Commemoration in Churches and Churchyards, appropriate for 2018, the 100th anniversary of the Armistice. Details are on the website and in the flyer.

As in previous years, the society invited applications in 2017 for funding from its Annual Research Grant. The grant can be used to cover research expenses, travel related to research, fieldwork, or the sundries of fieldwork. The award this year went to Solange Bohling for her project entitled Physical impairment and disability in later Anglo-Saxon England: Investigating differential mortuary treatment and the influence of the Church. The project is examining three later Anglo-Saxon English churchyard populations (8th–10th centuries AD) with two aims: to determination of whether an individual's physical impairment had an impact on how they were treated by their community; and exploration of the influence that the church may have had on the treatment of disabled individuals in death.

With regard to the future, the Society is exploring online hosting of the journal so that digital copy will be available to members. Digitisation of back numbers is in hand and members will be notified of access arrangements to the digital copies once the process is complete.

This newsletter has been put together by Jackie Hall to whom thanks are owed for gathering in all the contributions.

Brian Ayers Chairman

OFFICIAL RECORDS 2018

THE SOCIETY for Church Archaeology is governed by its Constitution, formally adopted by the Society on 23rd March 1996.

The Society was formed to promote the study, conservation and preservation of churches, other places of worship and associated monuments in their other aspects by the achievement of the advancement of public education.

The Society for Church Archaeology is an unincorporated association and is registered with the Charity Commission under no. 1056194.

Membership at the 31st December 2017 was 267 (288 with joint subscriptions), of which 11 were institutions. Subscriptions are available through the Society website or through applications to Dr Josh Schwieso, Membership Secretary.

The postal address for the Charity is: c/o Council for British Archaeology St Mary's House 66 Bootham York, YO30 7BZ

The Trustees from the 2017 AGM are:

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Vice-Chairs: David Baker & Jackie Hall

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CONFERENCE 2018



The Commemoration of Conflict, 14-16 September 2018, Hull

The SCA is pleased to be bringing this year's conference to Hull, the UK's 2017 City of Culture. For the first time in our conference history, we will be addressing the theme of war and commemoration in churches and churchyards. This is apposite as 2018 marks the centenary of the end of the Great War, but the conference will also consider ecclesiastical expressions of the conquest and remembrance of the dead from before the Norman Conquest into the early modern period.

Speakers include John Borland (Pictish sculpture), Matt Champion (graffiti), Michael Lewis (Bayeux Tapestry), Andrew Marriott (Somme crosses), Aleks McClain (sociocultural transitions), Jonathan Trigg (Liverpool war memorials), Beatrice Widell (sacred places of remembrance).

Our esteemed Chair will give us a walking tour of Hull and other highlights include a tour of Hull Minster and the ever-popular Sunday coach trip, this time covering some known and lesser known churches in the East Riding. The trip will visit Lockington, Garton-on-the-Wolds, Patrington and Hedon, with lunch at the Railway Inn, Ellerby.

Full details and booking form can be found in the flyer sent out with this Newsletter and on the website.

Student Bursaries

As in the last two years, and thanks to the bequest from Mick Aston, the SCA is happy to offer a limited number of funded places. So, if you are aware of any students who have a keen research interest in church archaeology, let them know, and direct them to the website:

churcharchaeology.org/conferences.html

CONFERENCE 2017 REVIEW

Worcester Conference, 15th-17th September 2017

This was one of the great SCA conferences: the talks, the catering, the site visits and even the weather – nothing could be faulted. The Society thanks all the speakers and guides, and especially our valiant conference organiser Anne Sassin, now taking a much-needed break from this arduous activity.

The theme was 'The Articulation of Light and Space', so the emphasis was very much on buildings and parts of buildings. Liz James, Professor of Art History at the University of Sussex, kicked things off with what was, for many of us, an introduction to Byzantine mosaics. She considered some of the ways in which light, dark, colour and shade are all fundamental elements in the appearance, effectiveness and function of these images, as well as alluding to the technical expertise in manufacture. Louise Hampson, from the Centre of the Study of Christianity and Culture at York University, demonstrated the Centre's recent work in recreating past spaces digitally and using these virtual spaces to explore the medieval use of light and space. Her examples included the crypt at Worcester Cathedral, and St Stephen's Chapel, Westminster. As reconstructions so often do, given the juxtaposition of apparently precise and complete with quite speculative, this generated some serious discussion.

The next session turned to glazing and stained glass, with Hugh Willmott (Senior Lecturer, University of Sheffield), looking at glaziers, repairs and the recycling of glass, especially looking at excavated evidence.

This was followed by a fascinating paper by PhD student Emma Woolfry (University of York) examining the relationship between Benedictine stained glass and Benedictine liturgical rites. Tomás Ó Carragáin, from the University College, Cork, took us back in time to early Irish churches, noting how dark they were, and how light was carefully used to highlight the altar; darkness may have been used to set the space apart, while the placement of windows can reflect changing liturgical practice with the altar changing locations.



Worcester Cathedral Crypt

The final session turned to the 19th century, with Chris Guy looking at the restoration of Worcester Cathedral's great west window, taking place as a result of the First World War Centenary Fund. Chris Guy is Worcester's Cathedral Archaeologist, and we have to thank him not only for this talk, which served as a great introduction to the cathedral tours that took place at the end of the day, but for helping to organise the whole conference with Anne, including access to workshops and higher levels in the cathedral, and to the wonderful lecture theatre space in the Old Palace.

The last lecture was by Dav Smith, University of York, looking at restored parish churches in Ryedale, North Yorkshire. His examples showed how, by carefully examining parish church space before and after major restorations, we can see how Victorian architects, on the one hand, often completely rebuilt churches despite their initial desire to only restore them, creating a unified Gothic Style along the way, but, on the other hand, retained the medieval layout in the new buildings.

The conviviality, good food, and great hospitality of Friday evening and Saturday, continued into Sunday's coach tour. The tour, which took us round the fabulous countryside of the Malverns and surroundings, carried on the themes of the lectures, starting with Great Malvern Priory, famous for its exceptional and extensive 15th-century glass, as well as many other features including late medieval misericords, and a major collection of tiles. The tiny church of St Faith's, Berrow was at the end of a major restoration project when we visited and the project co-ordinator, with their lighting consultant, demonstrated how good lighting can be used today to illustrate the history of a church, and be used in various ways for different events.



Fifteenth-century glass at Great Malvern Priory



Memorial to Bishop Foliot, founder of St Katherine's almshouses, Ledbury

The afternoon was spent at Ledbury, first at St Katherine's almshouse and chapel. They have been in continuous use since their foundation in 1232 by Bishop Foliot, but rebuilt in the 19th century. The hall and chapel date from c. 1330–40, while the master's house is multi-period.

The parish church, of St Michael and All Angels, is a major parish church full of architectural delights and mysteries, including a substantial chapel added on the north side in the 14th-century, with grand traceried windows in West Country style, smothered in ballflower ornament. Despite a lack of documentation, the chapel gives every appearance of being a chantry chapel of some sort. It was a fitting conclusion to a great conference.



St Michael and All Angels, Ledbury, outer north chapel

COMMITTEE NEWS: NEW MEMBERS

Norma Oldfield: New SCA Secretary



Originally from Washington, DC, Norma moved to the UK in 2014 to undertake an MA in Medieval Archaeology at the University of York. While there, her dissertation explored the relationship between population composition, seigneurial power and spatial patterns of church construction in villages of the Anglo-Norman Danelaw. A summary of this work was most recently published in *Medieval Settlement Research*.

Currently, Norma works at Trent and Peak Archaeology as their Geomatics Project Officer. Some of her more interesting work here so far has included the excavation of a dozen human remains on the site of the former church of St Martin's, Lincoln and the photogrammetric survey of the Haughton Chapel of St James the Great.

Norma hopes to eventually make her way back to academia, where she would like to expand on her MA research and also delve into additional research interests such as rural settlements, monumental commemoration and buildings archaeology. You can find her on Twitter at @normaoldfield_

Martin Huggon: New SCA Editor



Martin is Associate Tutor in Archaeology and Heritage at Bishop Grosseteste University, Lincoln, and just completed his doctorate at the University of Sheffield examining the architecture and archaeology of medieval hospitals in England and Wales. His research focussed upon the relationship between health, poverty, and religious lifestyle and how these manifest through the material culture and architectural layout of hospital sites. Elements of this have been published

in chapters in the Oxford Handbook of Later Medieval Archaeology in Britain (OUP 2018) and the forthcoming The Buildings of Medieval Europe: Studies in social and landscape contexts (Oxbow 2018), with further publications planned for 2019.

Martin was one of the project team for the Thornton Abbey Project, run by Dr Hugh Willmott and Dr Pete Townend from the University of Sheffield, where the hospital of St James and associated Black Death burial ground was found during research excavations of the medieval and post-medieval activity on the site. He is also one of the staff of Bishop Grosseteste University's Dig Lincoln project, run by Dr Duncan Wright, which this year will be investigating the site of the Augustinian friary in Lincoln.

Martin's continuing research interests focus on the archaeology of medieval religious practices, especially monastic and mendicant practices. In particular, he is interested in the archaeology of the military orders in Britain, as well as continuing to examine hospital sites and exploring the archaeology of health and death.

SOCIETY UPDATES

The Journal

Martin Huggon took over as journal editor and reviews editor in the autumn and has been busy putting together Volume 19 of Church Archaeology. There have been some delays as he has got up to speed but Volume 19 is shaping up to continue the long tradition of varied and important scholarship we have come to expect. This volume will include several papers looking at a range of new research, including the World War I memorials to the Durham Light Infantry at the Somme, an exploration of the uncertainty about the location of an important monastery in the Scottish county of Argyll and Bute, and the contextualisation of survey work carried out on the nave of St Mary's Church, Maldon. Alongside these will be a number of book reviews, covering some of the new releases over the past few years. It is hoped Volume 19 will be heading to you around the end of summer.

Data Protection

Like most organisations, from 25 May 2018, the General Data Protection Regulations means that the Society has updated its privacy policy and a full version will soon be available on our website. Please know that we only store information related to your membership, and that this information is never shared with or sold to third parties. We appreciate the trust you place in us by being members and are committed to respecting your privacy.

Every year we send out at least one newsletter, organise an annual conference and provide other occasional information to members, as well as publishing a journal. Some members have signed up to receive information by email. We'd love more members to sign up – just let our membership secretary Josh Schwieso know (schwieso@hotmail.co.uk).

Subscriptions

A gentle reminder (including to some committee members!) that last year's AGM agreed to raise the subs for ordinary and concessionary individual members by £3. Joint Memberships and Institutional ones remain the same. Because of delays in the sending out of the last newsletter some of you paid the old rate for 2018 rather than the new one. Quite a few of you have since sent our membership secretary Josh Schwieso £3 either by cheque or by BACS – for which, much thanks!

If you paid the old sub (£25 full / £12 concessionary membership) and haven't done anything so far, please could you send us a cheque for the difference (£3), or just sort out the payment with your bank, and email Josh (schwieso@hotmail.co.uk) to let him know. Please also correct your standing order if you haven't done so – to make things easier, we've included the form in this newsletter. Many thanks!

STANDING ORDER MANDATE

If you need to update your standing order, please complete the mandate below and return it by post or scan and email to: Membership Secretary Josh Schwieso, Eastgate House, Four Forks, Spaxton, Somerset TA51AD or schwieso@hotmail.co.uk)

Individual	£28
Individual – unwaged	£15
Individual – student	£15
Individual - retired	£15
Two at the same address	£35
Two at the same address (unwaged, etc)	£20
Institution	£75

Society for Church Archaeology Standing Order Mandate

Name	
Address	
	Postcode
Email	
Bank	
Bank Address	
	Postcode
Sort Code	Account Number
Please pay HBSC, 186, Broadway, Didcot, Oxfords credit of the Society for Church Archaeology (Acco sum of (in words)	unt no: 21097407; Bank Sort Code 40-19-35) the for my subscription to the Society now,
Please also cancel any current standing orders I may	have in favour of the Society for Church Archaeology
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RESEARCH GRANT REVIEW

Chantal Bielman was awarded the SCA research grant in January 2017. Here she reports back on what she has done.

Surveying Early Medieval Churches in Ticino's Mendrisio District

In May 2016, a small team comprising University of Leicester (Chantal Bielmann, Neil Christie), University of Leicester Archaeological Services (Andy Hyam), University of Kent (Patricia Baker), and Virginia Tech (Glenn Bugh) members, conducted a nine-day building survey on churches in the pre-alpine district of Mendrisio in Ticino, southern Switzerland (pictured here). Sponsored by an annual grant award of the Society of Church Archaeology, the survey aimed to investigate the standing archaeology of churches with foundation dates in the late antique and early medieval periods. What building techniques can be observed? What local trends can be traced and what commonalities, if any, exist between the building phases of the churches? Are the materials all locally sourced? We were fortunate to have the support of Virginia Tech via Glenn, who arranged apartments in the small community of Riva San Vitale, and put us in contact with local expert Daniela Doninelli who provided a tour of the region and arranged access to the churches. We also had excellent access to the unique fifth-century baptistery of Riva San Vitale (Battistero di San Giovanni), the oldest standing church in Switzerland.

So why choose that particular region to study? Why not the high Alps or the pre-Alps on the other side? Some practicalities had to be considered: Alpine churches tend to be spread out and thus conducting a survey where we would need to drive a far distance to get to a solitary church would prove difficult; gaining access (i.e. the keys!) to these churches would also be more difficult without local connections; finding a suitable area to set up 'camp' was needed. In terms of actual research, the district had many intriguing features, ranging from its geology and geography to its archaeology. Nestled between Monte San Giorgio and Monte Generoso with Lago di Lugano to the north, the valley had access to a vast array of different stone: limestones (a local type known as Meride Limestone), marles, shales, granite, and even a type of red marble, still quarried today at the Cave di Arzo, located near Meride. Archaeologically, the region is known for its Roman-period pottery and brick production as well as an Iron Age hill-top settlement near Tremona. For our purposes, the district of Mendrisio conveniently features a set of churches located on hills and valley floors - well suited for our intrepid team. Furthermore, with the Alps to the north and Italy to the south, including the major city of Como (also a late antique bishopric), the survey location allowed us to question whether any trends observed could be considered 'northern' or 'Alpine' or more 'Italian' and thus southwards-looking.

The team from left to right: Neil Christie, Chantal Bielmann, Glen Bugh, Andrew Hyam (Patty Baker taking the photo)

In total we scrutinised six local churches to which we had access inside, plus the baptistery of St John, and four other churches we found during our travels but where, unfortunately, we could only survey the exterior. We each had our jobs, usually working in pairs: Neil and Glenn recording measurements and drawings of the churches alongside their own observations; Patricia and myself working on the detailed photographic shots and records of the churches; and Andy focusing on the general shots and the phasing of the structures. Some initial observations include: the variety of stone – pink granite, black granite, white limestone, mudstone, sandstone, and more found across the region (Rovio, pictured here, is a great example of the diversity); Andy's insight that roof structures inside the churches often featured a standard kingpost but with a gap; a complete absence of pottery during walks around the sites.



Rovio's San Vigilio

We are now finalising the results of the research in a paper – as expected the survey produced many more questions. Moreover, we realised there could be another project or a doctoral thesis which examines the archival resources looking at the history of church archaeology in Switzerland. Already we have had a poster shared with colleagues in Virginia Tech in the States as well as our contacts in Ticino and delivered a presentation as part of the Research Seminar Series at the University of Leicester's School of Archaeology and Ancient History.

A trip to the archives in Bellinzona also revealed an untapped resource - original diaries of excavations at the Riva San Vitale baptistery and many other churches alongside original aerial photographs (one pictured here). It was during that trip that we made some unscheduled stops, including a brief look at San Vittore's strange church built on a massive boulder, its equally strange Torre di Pala, which spans the top of two other massive boulders, and a survey (exterior only) of an Alpine church at Mezzovico-Vira with foundations dating to the sixth century.



Scan of one of the original aerial photographs of Mendrisio's San Martino with suggestions of potential features for a larger complex. Unknown photographer; found at Bellinzona's archives.

Remember!

Details of the Society's Research Grant can be found here: churcharchaeology.org/research.html This year's deadline is 15th November

POSTGRADUATE DIPLOMA

The online Postgraduate Diploma (PGDip) in Parish Church Studies: History, Heritage and Fabric at the University of York is a part-time, two-year programme, it is the only course of its type in the UK. New for 2018, it is partnering with the Churches Conservation Trust (CCT), offering students an unparalleled opportunity to gain detailed and practical knowledge of the history, use, care, art and conservation of the English parish church. The interdisciplinary nature of the diploma will enable you to explore the very complex relationships between setting, building and community, from the Anglo-Saxon era to the modern day, and the impacts these have had and continue to have, in understanding, using and managing these buildings. The online format offers you the opportunity to study in your own home, at your own pace, whilst also being extensively supported by an expert in the field and with the ability to participate in a lively yet scholarly online community. For full detail, and how to apply, please see: york.ac.uk/ lifelonglearning/pg-parish-church



St Neot's Church, Cornwall, with its often overlooked saintly shrine, is illustrative of how the programme introduces students to the history and practice of worship and religious ritual in parishes and parish churches through time. It shows how these practices, and the ideology behind them, has shaped church buildings, both internally and externally, and in turn been shaped by them.



St Mary the Virgin, Lindisfarne (Holy Island) is an example of how the programme engages students with the fabric of a church building in its social and physical context. Topics include how to 'read' a church building from its fabric and how that fabric relates to its locality in terms of raw materials; economy; skills; ecology. Varying perceptions of sacredness have influenced the way churchyards and church buildings have been used and reused, viewed and managed.

SOCIETY FOR CHURCH ARCHAEOLOGY ACCOUNTS 2017

Report on the Financial Accounts for the Year Ended 31 Dec 2017

The Society for Church Archaeology had no assets and/or liabilities, other than those listed in the accounts, during the financial year beginning on 1st January 2017 and ending on 31st December 2017.

Account	Opening Balance 1 January 2017	Closing balance 31 December 2017	Difference
Current Account	£ 16,782.38	£16,150.60	-£631.78
Paypal Account	£571.62	£1,002.82	£431.20
Investment (COIF) £16,782.39		£16,809.09	£26.70
Totals	£34,136.39	£33,962.51	-£173.88

The Society continues its financial consolidation with a small increase in membership fees. The Annual Conference produced a healthy surplus of £808.08 which has been re-invested into the Society's general account.

We awarded one research grant of £550 and grants from the Mick Aston Bequest totalling £165.

The Mick Aston Bequest (a deposit in 2015 of £8,110.47) is held in general funds, but grants given from it are recorded separately in the accounts for purposes of transparency. The Bequest was given for any purpose relating to the Society's charitable purposes, and the Trustees decided that it should be used to provide grants to allow needful students to attend the annual conference for free.

Losses continue to be slightly mitigated by our income from interest on deposit accounts. As at 31 Dec 2017 our deposit accounts totalled £16,809.09. As agreed at the 2017 AGM these deposit accounts have now been moved to a higher yield investment account with a spread portfolio and an ethical investment policy, run by the CCLA.

Our in-year expenditure exceeded income by £173.88 across all accounts. The small rise in membership fees from 2018 onwards, coupled with a drive towards recruiting new members, particularly students, is calculated to mitigate this loss in 2018.

This statement represents the Society's accounts for its twenty-first year of operation. The finances are set as a record of overall income and expenditure under a series of sub-headings, and as a balance sheet to 31 December 2017. The accounts for 2016 are included for comparative purposes.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

BALANCE SHEET AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2017

Represented by: Current Account £16,150.60

PayPal Account £1,002.82 Investments £16,809.09

TOTAL £33,962.51

INCOME	2017	2016
Membership subscriptions	£5,623.15	£4,939
Zeitlinger ⁱ & EBSCO ⁱⁱ	£600	
Donations, sales and misc income	£150	£1,676, £415
Conference Income	£4,493	£6,312.40
Coif Account Interest	£26.70	£83.49
TOTAL	£10,892.85	£13,425.89

EXPENDITURE	2017	2016
Journal/Newsletter/Publications	£5,420.57	£6,919.22
Trustee Meeting Costs (room hire & subsistence)	£1,216.44	£1,843.21
Sec Services and website	£34.90	
Grants from general funds	£550	£1,000
Grants from Mick Aston Bequest	£165	
Conference Expenditure	£4,012.25	£4,423.93
Insurance		
Heritage Alliance Membership	£132	iii
TOTAL	£11,531.16	£14,186.36

Notes on the Financial Information and Balance Sheet

¹ZEITLINER. Dutch library and publishing organisation based in Leiden, with UK offices in Abingdon

ii EBSCO. US-based journal distribution service

iii Membership was renewed but fell into 2017 financial year

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

2000 Years of History: The World's Cultural Capital

15th Jun 2018, Society of Antiquaries, London

Looking at the role of international heritage in perceptions of London through the achievements of traders, craftsmen, artists, exiles and adventuers from overseas . For details: www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/info/125137/international_medieval_congress

International Medieval Congress

2nd-5th Jul 2018, University of Leeds

A congress with multiple sessions and over 1,900 individual papers. This year's special theme is memory. For details: www.leeds.ac.uk/arts/info/125137/international_medieval_congress

Churches, History, Significance and Use

5th-6th Jul 2018, Rewley House, Oxford Univeristy

Looking at church architecture and furnishings and aimed at providing the skills necessary to draft statements of significance. For details: conted.ox. ac.uk/courses/churches-history-significance-and-use

Society for Medieval Archaeology Annual Conference

13th-15th Jul 2018, Durham University

Grave Concerns: Death, Landscape and Locality in Medieval Society looking at aspects of death, dying and burial AD 300–1500 in Britain, Ireland and further afield. Details: medievalarchaeology. co.uk/index.php/events/conferences/

Harlaxton Medieval Symposium

17th-20th Jul 2018, Harlaxton

Performance, Ceremony and Display in Late Medieval Britain, including oral performance in a variety of ecclesiastical and social contexts. Details: harlaxton.org.uk/

Leicestershire and Rutland Festival of Archaeology

14th-30th Jul 2018, Leicestershire and Rutland

Eighty events, including several on churches and religious houses. Details: leicsfieldworkers.co.uk/festival-of-archaeology-2018/

British Archaeological Association Annual Conference

1st-5th Sep 2018, Cambridge

Cambridge: College, Church and City, exploring its medieval artistic, architectural and archaeological wealth. Details: thebaa.org/event/2018-annual-conference-in-cambridge/

Deerhurst Lecture

15th Sep 2018, Deerhurst Church, nr Tewkesbury

'Deerhurst, Pershore and Westminster Abbey' by Dr Richard Mortimer, former archivist of Westminster Abbey. Details: deerhurstfriends. co.uk/lectures-events/

Ecclesiological Society Annual Conference

6th Oct 2018, London

All day conference on Arts and Crafts churches in central London. For details: ecclsoc.org/events/ ecclesiological-society-annual-conference-2018/

Brixworth Lecture

27th Oct, Brixworth Church, Northamptonshire

'King Æthelstan and the Making of England' by Michael Wood, Professor of Public History at Manchester University. Details: https://www2.le.ac.uk/departments/mrc/events/michael-wood-king-aethelstan-and-the-making-of-england.