



MARITIME AFFAIRS GROUP

MAG BULLETIN, SPRING 2005

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The case of SS Stora, the Newport Ship; Geophysical
research news from St. Andrews
Dates for your diary of forthcoming conferences,
seminars and open days on pages 8-9*

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Mark Littlewood (Ordinary Committee Member.) m.littlewood@oxfordarch.co.uk 01865 263800

It has been a while since the production of the last MAG Bulletin, we apologise for this. As you may be aware a new committee was elected at the AGM during the IFA conference at Winchester. Julie Satchell was elected as group chair with Mark Dunkley continuing as group secretary, Douglas McElvogue is now Group Treasurer. Dave Parham has retired as chair and has, sort of, returned to the backbenches by becoming an ordinary committee member.

I have also been elected as an ordinary committee member and my immediate duty is to compile the MAG bulletin. For those of you who have no idea who I am I am currently an Assistant Supervisor at Oxford Archaeology undertaking lots of survey and CAD tasks within their Geomatics department. I have two degrees in maritime archaeology, a BA from Bangor University and an MSc in Maritime Archaeology.

Please send any contributions for future editions of the Bulletin to me at Oxford Archaeology (e-mail address above) – particularly articles on regional round-ups.

FROM THE CHAIR

Parham's Passage: Chair's Report to the AGM

Over the last 3 and a half years the expansion of the MAG committee has enabled the widening of activities and representation, we have also seen membership rise by almost 50%. We have been luckily enough to witness a number of key events in the development of maritime archaeology in the United Kingdom. Notably (for those of us in England) the National Heritage Bill 2002, the subsequent increase in government heritage body involvement in the marine world and the increased funding for the discipline that has resulted from this.

This widening world has brought with it many things, not least much extra work for bodies such as ours; over the past few years the work of the group, all unpaid and conducted in our own time, has been substantial. We have:

- Replied to over 15 consultations on marine development or government policy
- Organized 3 maritime sessions at IFA conferences
- Organized 3 professional seminars
- Organized a very successful international conference, *Managing the Marine Cultural Heritage* last September, the proceedings of which we hope to publish in time for a second conference in 2006
- In conjunction with ALGAO, organized a two day training event for archaeological curators
- Managed and co-sponsored the establishment of *Keith Muckelroy Award* as a British Archaeological Award for Maritime Archaeology
- Contributed to the asking of questions in the Houses of Parliament about the Treasuries plans for the wreck of the 17th century British Warship *Sussex* which led to a change in policy for plans for the site
- Raised awareness of maritime archaeology within the IFA by encouraging the publication of 12 maritime related articles in *The Archaeologist* in addition to a maritime issue in the autumn of 2004
- Launched (and are soon to re-launch) a group website

In addition the group represented the IFA on a number of committees

- UK Diving Industry Committee
- Joint Nautical Archaeology Policy Committee
- Association of Local Government Archaeological Officers Maritime Committee

In addition we are working on guidelines to inform non-diving archaeologists about the use of diving contractors and a standards and guidance paper for the recording of nautical archaeological remains and a draught set of guidelines for the recording and recognition of such finds.

There are a number of aspects of the group that have not worked as well as we would have liked, and in some cases have collapsed under the weight of other work. Notable amongst this is communication with the membership via the MAG Bulletin. (*This is being addressed through this Bulletin and subsequent issues!*)

During my time as chair my major concern has been the general malaise that appears to affect maritime archaeologists when it comes to making their voices heard beyond their immediate colleagues. For much of my working life I have heard people complain, at length, about standards/funding/government interest etc, yet in recent times we have had many opportunities to let those in power know what our opinions are and galvanize public support behind us. In the last three years cases such as the Newport Ship and the *Sussex* have shown that with intelligent lobbying positions can be changed and funding found, yet this work has been undertaken by a very few. In most cases even when offered the chance to help improve the situation very few of us can find the time to attempt to make a difference. If we want the situation to improve then we all have to work together and stop winging at each other and start lobbying those that can; this WILL make a difference.

Finally I would like to thank the committee for all of their hard work over the last 42 months, Peter Hinton and Alison Taylor of the IFA for their unstinting support, English Heritage who have funded some of our work. And finally to my, and the other committee members, employing organizations who have provided support for the group.

Group committee 2003/2005 David Parham (Chair), Mark Dunkley (Secretary), Andrea Parsons (Treasurer), Paola Palma, Doug McElvogue, Julie Satchell and Annabel Lawrence.

Dave Parham

Satchell's Stand: Chair's Report

Dave's presentation to the group at the IFA conference sums up the achievements that have been realised under his leadership. The MAG committee, with support from the membership, has been working hard to ensure that maritime archaeology is well represented within the profession and beyond. Through determination, and no small measure of badgering, Dave has overseen the expansion of activities and a growing group profile.

I am pleased to have the chance to help continue the work of MAG over the next three years. I hope that the Committee and the wider group will all assist to keep up the momentum of activities, developments and dissemination. With increasing awareness of the potential of, and threats to, maritime archaeology there is no shortage of work to be done.

The increased awareness of the marine cultural resource, currently available funding sources and an expansion of development control work are putting the pressure on to increase capacity in professional maritime archaeology. This means there is a clear need and role for MAG in promoting the maintenance of standards, the provision of specialist advice and exchange of information across the archaeological profession.

Taking on board Dave's warning about the dangers of the 'general malaise' in relation to standing up and making our voice heard, I hope you will all continue to support the work of MAG and become involved in group activities and initiatives.

Julie Satchell

NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

The inaugural meeting of the new Maritime Affairs Group committee took place on the 28th of April.

The following principle issues were discussed as part of the agenda:

MAG's Mission Statement was reviewed to ensure it remains up to date and relevant.

Recruitment was discussed and a programme set in motion that will involve promotion of the group within and outside the IFA. As part of the recruitment drive the MAG flyer will be redesigned, a MAG stand will be developed, the website will be moved and revamped and the Bulletin will be updated. If you are reading this Bulletin and you are not a member of MAG or even the IFA please contact Mark Dunkley for information on joining (mark.dunkley@english-heritage.org.uk).

MAG Conference I - after the successful International Conference 'Managing the Marine Cultural Heritage' the committee are pushing forward with the publication of the proceedings. This is progressing well with a provisional commitments from the CBA and EH to support the publication.

MAG Conference II - discussion of the next planned MAG conference in September 2006 resulted in a timetable being established for the formulation of a conference business plan.

NEWS FROM THE CONFERENCE

Managing the Marine Cultural Heritage: Conference report

Those of you who are full IFA members would have seen the write up of the MAG Conference 'Managing the Marine Cultural Heritage' in the maritime themed edition of 'The Archaeologist'. For those of you who missed it, here is an abridged version!

Delegates and speakers from around the world gathered at Portsmouth Historic Dockyard for this conference on 29-30 September 2004. This event was instigated and organised by the IFA Maritime Affairs Group (MAG), with sponsorship from English Heritage and the British Academy. The aim was to bring together experts to present examples of maritime archaeological management practice and to stimulate debate on current issues.

The conference sessions boasted speakers from around the globe who presented details of their experiences of managing maritime cultural heritage (see www.magconference.org for a full list of speakers). The final discussion session brought out the main issues of the sessions, including urgent needs for:

- a maritime archaeological research framework for the UK
- a disposal policy for maritime finds
- debate over determining 'significance' in the marine zone
- more specialist maritime training
- a campaign for ratification of the UNESCO convention on underwater cultural heritage.

These pertinent issues require the attention of the whole maritime archaeological community and will provide a challenge for the future development of our profession. MAG is now working to publish the proceedings of this conference, so look out on the bookstands in the future!

MAG has chosen to follow up on the issues of 'Significance' with a further conference planned for September 2006 (see *Dates for your Diary* in this Bulletin).

David Miles leads the final discussion session



CHANGES TO THE BULLETIN

Brighten your Bulletin!

This is the first of our 'new-look' MAG Bulletin. We have standardised the timetable for the Bulletin in order to:

- Allow regular communication with Members
- Encourage members to contribute items for the bulletin
- Ensure the Bulletin is relevant, up to date and anticipated

The Bulletin will be published in pdf format for electronic circulation, this means we are able to include photos and images as well as weblinks etc.

So, if you have any news, short articles, reports or websites that could be included please let us know!

We are increasing our list of 'Dates for your Diary', so if you have seminars, conferences or meetings coming up email the details in.

COPY DATES FOR MAG BULLETIN:

Autumn 2005 deadline: 10th October 2005

Spring 2006 deadline: 27th March 2006

Remember! We encourage members to submit 'maritime' flavoured articles to 'The Archaeologist' to help increase the profile within the wider profession.



HMS SUSSEX ONLINE

An 'abridged for public release' version of HMS Sussex Project Plan is now available online, it can be downloaded and printed. See link below. You have to register on the Odyssey site to be able to look it.

<http://shipwreck.net/sussexpp.html>

SS STORAA

Full Hearing granted for SS Stora Case

SS Stora, an armed merchantman carrying war supplies, was sunk by an E boat torpedo on 3 November 1943. Half an hour before Stora had been firing guns to beat off an earlier E boat attack on the convoy. The daughters of one of the crew members who died that night had applied for the remains of the Stora to be designated under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986. This request was rejected by the Secretary of State due to the vessel not being in 'military service' when it sank.

This decision was questioned and a hearing of the High Court on 7 April 2005 granted a substantive hearing in order to examine the definition of the term 'in military service'. As the case is deemed to be of 'genuine public importance' those bringing the case will be protected from any claim for costs.

It is likely that the case will be heard by the High Court later this year. The outcome of this case could have implications for other wrecks from the World Wars. We await further news.

For further information from press sources see:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/england/southern_counties/4421587.stm
<http://www.guardian.co.uk/military/story/0,11816,1085752,00.html>

SUB SEA RESOURCES

Sub Sea Resources, (see <http://www.subsearesources.com/index.php>) an offshore salvage company is targeting wartime wrecks for commercial salvage. The company was set up to salvage commercial cargoes, such as bulk cargoes of non-ferrous metals, the majority of which were lost during the two World Wars with some post-war targets. The company says that the '*gross value of the first six wrecks, programmed for recovery in the period to 31 March 2008, is estimated at US\$180 million*'.

The companies website provide information on how the cargoes will be recovered, 50-100 tonne skips are positioned on the sea floor next to the wreck which are then filled with a grab worked from the stern of the salvage vessel. As metal cargo are usually transported at the bottom of a ship other material will have to be removed and presumably discarded on the seabed before the target cargo can be reached.

No heritage or war graves issues appear to have been considered, a particularly pertinent issue with the recent *Stora* case, high (see ???) which will examine the position of merchant ships (whose war losses were 250% those of the Royal Navy) and the definition of the term 'in military service' used to designated sites under the Protection of Military Remains Act 1986.

The majority of the wrecks of merchant ships lost during the two world wars are owned by the British Government and sources indicate that to date no approach has been made to the Government about this scheme. Having been already tipped off about the issue we can only hop that if they are approached Government will adopt an approach more in line with its recent ruling over the merchant ship *Titanic* than the one chosen for the warship *Sussex*

NEWPORT SHIP

News from Newport - Ship Open Days

There are Newport Ship Open days planned for 12th June, 3rd July, 11th Sept. The ship centre will be open for visitors from 11am-4pm (turn up when you fancy), and location is Unit 22, Maesglas Industrial Estate, Newport NP20 2NN. This is off junction 28 of M4 and follow signs for Docks. Further details will be available from

<http://www.newport.ship@newport.gov.uk>

GEOPHYSICAL RESEARCH NEWS

High-Resolution Geophysical Surveys of Submerged Archaeological Sites

A research team based at St Andrews is involved in two complimentary projects exploiting high-resolution geophysical survey techniques for archaeological purposes. Fieldwork supported by the Aggregate Levy Sustainability Fund (ALSF), through English Heritage, took place during April 2005

The principal project involved surveys of two sites, one in Plymouth Sound where an artificial test site was set up, and the other on and around the wreck of the *Stirling Castle* on the Goodwin Sands. The Plymouth test site comprised a wide selection of archaeological items and a range of intrusive materials found underwater, together with specifically designed targets of known size and shape. A particular focus of the work was an evaluation of how best to configure, deploy, and set up high-resolution multibeam sonar to provide the best survey data for archaeological purposes. For this a dual head Reson 8125 SeaBat system was used while additional data sets were collected with Klein and GeoAcoustics side scan sonars, and an SAE Echoplus acoustic ground discriminating system. Lessons learnt on the test site were used to apply appropriate configurations for both wide area and site-specific surveys on the Goodwin Sands.

The second project, supported by the University of St Andrews, dovetailed with the ALSF work and involved surveys of wreck sites ranging in date from the Bronze age to the 20th century, together with a survey of the submerged prehistoric landscape at the base of Bouldnor Cliff in the Solent.

The preliminary results from the two projects are exciting and demonstrate a marked improvement over previous archaeological multibeam survey data sets collected in the UK. This method of surveying clearly demonstrates that it is a very effective tool for preliminary assessment of a wide range of submerged site types and that it can also be of benefit during subsequent levels of archaeological investigation.

Martin Dean

UNDERWATER SCHOLARSHIPS

Our World Underwater Scholarship Society - Rolex Scholarships

Are you aged 21-25 a 3 Star CMAS or equivalent diver?
and do you:

have an excellent academic record?

Want to gain a year's worth of experience in a wide range of fields related to the underwater world with some of the world's top experts?

Could you be an ambassador for the marine environment?

Our World Underwater Scholarship Society award two experienced-based scholarships funded by Rolex one in Europe and one in USA each year. The scholar also receives full diving and underwater filming equipment.

The competition is tough but if there is something about you or someone you know which makes them shine the closing date for the next scholarship is 31st December 2005 for the 2006 scholar (awarded in April 2006).

The four previous scholars in Europe have gone on to:

work for the BBC Natural History Unit in the Amazon and Galapagos;

set up and run their own successful diving business;

work as Marine biologist for the British Antarctic Survey;

and the latest Scholar is the Underwater Co-ordinator at Pinewood Studios;

This is a real opportunity to find your career path and follow your dream.

To find out more please check out www.owuscholarship.org or contact me

JadeBerman@hotmail.com (Rolex Scholar 2003)

Mark Dunkley

ENGLISH HERITAGE BULLETIN FOCUSES ON MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY

Maritime and Coastal Heritage

English Heritage's *Conservation Bulletin* is a free, full-colour illustrated periodical on conservation issues. The latest issue, ***Maritime and Coastal Heritage*** (Issue 48: Spring 2005), has been split up into sections to download as pdf's from <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/server/show/nav.1114>.

NEW ENGLISH HERITAGE TEAM STRUCTURE

Mark Dunkley has provided the new structure of English Heritage's maritime archaeology team along with all of the relevant contact details, which are provided below:

Head of Maritime Archaeology: Ian Oxley
ian.oxley@english-heritage.org.uk 02392 856767
(Maritime archaeology policy lead, team leader/manager)

**Marine Planner:
Chris Pater**
chris.pater@english-heritage.org.uk
02392 856721

(Marine planning strategy and policy; Marine spatial planning; development control casework)

**Coastal Strategy Officer:
Peter Murphy**
peter.murphy@english-heritage.org.uk
02392 856724

(Coastal historic environment strategy and policy; Shoreline Management Plans)

**Archaeologist (Maritime)
ALSF:
Mark Dunkley**
mark.dunkley@english-heritage.org.uk
02392 856723

(Marine Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund casework; development control casework)

**Archaeologist (Maritime)
PWA:
Jesse Ransley**
jesse.ransley@english-heritage.org.uk
02392 856768

(PWA 1973 support, Designated Wreck Site casework; development control casework)

**Administrative Assistant
(Maritime):
Rhiannon Raitt**
rhiannon.raitt@english-heritage.org.uk
02392 856735

ENGLISH HERITAGE: MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY TEAM

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www.english-heritage.org.uk/maritime
maritime@english-heritage.org.uk

Placement Student

Protection of Wrecks Act documentation project

Placement Student

Maritime archaeology web project

Placement Student – Adam Partington

Inter-tidal and foreshore archaeology project

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Conferences, Seminars and Events!

2005

JUNE

20th June - Sarah Dromgoole will be giving a lecture called Legal Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage: Lessons from the Titanic between 6pm to 7pm at the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, 17 Russell Square, London WC1B 5DR. Admission is FREE

30 June - 3 July - International Festival of the Sea, Portsmouth

JULY

3rd - Newport Ship open day (see notice in Bulletin)

SEPTEMBER

11th - Newport Ship open day (see notice in Bulletin)

12 - 15 - Shallow Survey 2005, 4th International Conference: High resolution surveys in shallow water. Plymouth, Devon. www.shallowsurvey.com

OCTOBER

28th - UNESCO Seminar, Society of Antiquaries, London

28 - 30th October - Calpe Conference 2005 (Gibraltar)

The Gibraltar Museum is organising a conference "Sentinel of the Mediterranean: Gibraltar, the Navy and the Strait". The conference is part of the celebrations of the 200th Anniversary of Trafalgar. It will run from the 28th (to coincide with the anniversary of the arrival in Gibraltar of Admiral Lord Nelson's body aboard the *Victory* after the Battle) to the 30th October.

For details of the conference programme see:

www.gib.gi/museum/calpe.htm

The conference fees (excluding travel, accommodation and meals) are £100 for delegates who register before 1 July or £150 thereafter (students pay £25 before 1st July and £50 after). However, for groups of more than 20 will only be charged £50 per delegate.

NOVEMBER

12th - NAS Conference

24th - HWTMA Annual Public Lecture ' ADD TITLE'

AUTUMN 2005

IFA MAG/ EH Seminar on 'Diving Practices' Date to be confirmed.

2006

APRIL

11th-13th IFA Conference - Edinburgh
www.archaeologists.net

SEPTEMBER

27 & 28 IFA MAG Conference: Managing the Marine Cultural Heritage - Significance. Portsmouth Historic Dockyard.
www.magconference.org

Please feel free to copy and distribute this bulletin at your organisation

