

# SOUTHWELL COMMUNITY ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP

[www.southwellarchaeology.org](http://www.southwellarchaeology.org)

*news from Southwell Archaeology*

## Subscription news

Given that we have not been able to hold all the activities and given benefits that members normally enjoy, the Trustee's have decided that next year's membership subscriptions will be delayed. Normally due on the 1st of January, we will now ask for them on 1st May 2021.

## Chapter House visit and talk

Well done to all the volunteers who helped sift through the rubble taken out of the Minster Chapter House during the recent work to secure the leaves carvings.

We were very grateful to Professor Philip Dixon for giving us a guided tour of the work in progress and explain what is going on.

Philip is giving a talk about new understandings of the Chapter House, via Zoom, on Thursday October 15th at 7 pm. Members should already have received the link for this meeting. If not, please contact Stephen on:

[contact@southwellarchaeology.org](mailto:contact@southwellarchaeology.org)



## Flying the flag for SCAG

Southwell Town Council recently invited local groups and societies to purchase a flag that would be displayed on the flag-poles around town. Maureen, Stephanie and John collected ours. Have you spotted it in town yet? The flags will be up until the Bramley Apple Festival on the 17th October, when new decorations are being planned.





## SCAG buildings group

SCAG members were invited to go onto the roof of Elmfield House. Thanks to Chris for the invite and Dave for showing us round the renovations. Very interesting dragon beam roof structure constructed in 1749, and which has undergone a few re-configurations. A few nice examples of lead work graffiti, with a date of 1827 and signature S Sharpe.



Work is currently under way on writing up the investigations into the Saracen's Head wall paintings. We are awaiting some further details on the Raman analysis of the paint pigments. A highly technical article is due to be published in *The Journal of Raman Spectroscopy*. The team will be doing their best to provide a translation for us all!

## Virtual presentations

We have enjoyed three really good presentations to date. Julian Henderson, Professor of Archaeological Science at the University of Nottingham, spoke to us about early Islamic archaeology. Among Julian's specialisms are the silk roads, early Islamic archaeology, and the manufacture of glass.

The talk gave a real insight into a period that is little known to members of the group; among the highlights were descriptions of digs done at al-Raqqa exploring the industrial and artistic production of glass in large ancient cities of the 9th century Abbasid Caliphate. The talk was recorded and is available on our blog [www.southwellarcheology.org](http://www.southwellarcheology.org)

Jason Mordan (Senior Practitioner Historic Buildings Nottinghamshire County Council) gave us a fascinating talk on industrial buildings in Nottinghamshire and their evolution. He included information about the problems of their preservation and provided some useful contacts for future visits, when circumstances allow.

Janine Buckley (Historic Environment Officer for Buildings Nottinghamshire County Council) presented on her studies into the development of stables in country houses and how the archaeology was matched up to documentary records. Through the treatment of horses, the talk also gave us insights into the changing social history of 18th and 19th C England.

## KEEPING UP WITH ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORY

Hopefully during this pandemic you are all keeping safe and well and able to access interesting material either in print form or on-line.

Thanks to Collin for passing this on- there are some free local history videos available to watch:

Third Duchess of Rutland and the Lexington memorial Kelham - In 1726, Bridget Sutton, 3rd Duchess of Rutland commissioned a mausoleum to her father in Kelham Church. This video not only talks about that impressive memorial but also something of Bridget's life and her legacy. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tetOoEe4vPk>

The Abyssinian Jeremy Didler - In 1838 a young scholar was enrolled at school in Southwell. Born a slave, he had only been in England for two years. Dr. Karen Winyard traces the story of one of the most unusual students of Southwell Grammar School. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GdLq0gb4-fl>

Brother to Brother - Two brothers were called up at the beginning of WW2 and made different decisions. Their story is told through letters they, and others, wrote. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2oJFceWJlRA>