

Reports

1. Library Committee Report, 2019

The Committee has met four times since the last AGM, in May, July and October 2019, and February 2020. Since then no meetings have been possible, due to the coronavirus pandemic. The Committee members between them bring knowledge and expertise in all four of the Society's areas of interest, and we were pleased to welcome Carol Dimmer to the Committee in February. As a retired National Archives staff member, Carol brings a wealth of experience in working with archival material. Rob Hutchings and Sue Goodman are also Trustees of SANHS, and act as liaison between the Board of Trustees and the committee.

As usual, new Library acquisitions are listed annually in *Somerset Archaeology and Natural History*; interim lists are also added to the SANHS website at regular intervals. Short notices are also included in the e-bulletin, and the annual printed newsletter. Donations of both books and journals have been received throughout the year, covering a wide variety of subjects of interest to the Society. Notable acquisitions (purchase and donation) include 'Roman imperial coinage, vol 2 (III), Hadrian' (2019 – continuing the series), 'The designs of William De Morgan: a catalogue' (1989), and 'The Beau Street, Bath, hoard' (2019).

The Library now has its own page on the SANHS website, including illustrated examples of the stock, an introduction to the major collections of illustrations, and updates on new Library acquisitions.

Philip Rahtz's slide collection was received last summer, from his widow, Lorna Watts; it comprises several thousand 35mm slides. An example can be seen on the Library page of the website. Philip Rahtz (1921-2011) was described by Mick Aston as 'the 20th century's most important archaeologist in Somerset'.

The committee was involved in discussions about publishing *Somerset Archaeology and Natural History* [i.e. the Proceedings] in an electronic format as well as print. This was part of the ongoing project to seek economies in publication of the journal. Legal deposit copies, copies sent to exchange partners and those for commercial subscribers will continue as print only.

As part of the overall review of journal costs, the five overseas exchange arrangements were terminated. The remaining 29 UK exchanges were deemed to be still valuable.

A proposal by SWHT to move SANHS' archaeological journals, currently shelved in the Research Room in SHC building 2, to the main archive strongrooms was not supported by the committee; however, no formal recommendations have yet been made.

We know that Mick Aston's slides on the HEIR website are being used by other researchers, as someone pointed out (and corrected) an error in one caption. All research is valuable!

Sue Goodman, Chair of the Library Committee

2. Publications Committee Report, 2019

The chair of the committee resigned towards the end of the year, as did one of the members, so this report has been compiled from the minutes of the three meetings held. The only book production was a small reprint of Maritime Somerset 1; the next volume (4) was in the pipeline. The text of David Rabson's book on the River Tone was complete and work on the illustrations was progressing. The text for a book on George Cumberland of Weston-super-Mare was received and would be considered. Publications on Dunster and Winscombe were expected when those projects completed.

An online survey of attitudes to Proceedings showed that most respondents wanted to continue with paper publication, while making digital versions available. Despite this there was a proposal to charge members extra to receive paper versions which caused the committee great concern as it was felt that production and dissemination of Proceedings was central to SANHS's charitable aims. After many problems with typesetting and printing, an exceptionally thin Proceedings 162 was produced in November.

Chris Webster, Chair of the Publications Committee

3. Historic Buildings Committee Report, 2019

The beginning of the year saw the conclusion of a series of talks on the subject of building conservation at the studio of Thread Architects. The series was much appreciated by those attending, although numbers were low. Speakers included Stuart Blaylock, archaeologist; Lizzie Induni, corrugated iron buildings; Thread architects, Duncan Ball, surveyor and Sean Wheatley, decorative plasterer.

The visit to Croydon House in March with Christopher Chanter went well and the April visit to the West Coker Twine Works was enjoyed by those who attended. The unfortunate sudden departure of the chairman, Anthony Bruce, caused some disruption to the programme, but Lizzie Induni stepped up to take on the position and has been very active after settling in.

The Early Dunster Project continued through the year with regular surveys being carried out and with events for volunteers. Owing to the volume and complexity of the work, an application to Historic England for an extension of time was accepted and the project will now run until September 2022. A review of progress to date took place for the benefit of volunteers, kindly hosted by Exmoor National Park Authority, in November. A section on the Project can be found on the Society website and includes recent newsletters for the group.

November also saw a joint event with Local History - an all-day seminar on "Victorian Architecture" which included a visit to St. Andrew's Church, Taunton. The day was very well attended, and the talks were excellent. The main report for this day is in Local History.

Lizzie Induni, Chair of Historic Buildings Committee and Mary Ewing

4. Local History Committee Report, 2019

As with everyone else, our year has been drastically altered by the pandemic, so we have not had any talks or walkabouts this year after February. Prior to that date we had six events, mainly in 2019, but one did make the start of this year. Of the six events two were walks, three were talks and one was a symposium. A walk in Cheddar was poorly attended, but another around the medieval walls of Exeter had a reasonable number of participants and was well worth the extra mileage, with leader Des Atkinson's knowledge of the area being a great asset. Our first talk was by Tom Mayberry on the Peterloo Massacre, in conjunction with the Museum of Somerset. Tom took the involvement of Henry Hunt, who had family links to Somerset and was imprisoned in Ilchester gaol, as his main topic and produced a talk up to his normal excellent standard. John Page gave a talk on Bishop Savaric and Glastonbury (see SANHS site for report) and David Victor gave the third of these talks, on John Periam, who came to Milverton in 1680 to find his fortune and became Steward of the Royal Borough and Manor of Milverton, Lord of the Manor of Bishops Lydeard and a very successful attorney and land-owner. This was well attended and was a very interesting evening.

Our Symposium topic was "Victorian Architects and Architecture," which was highly successful, with Julian Orbach recalling many of Somerset's leading Victorian architects, Jerry Sampson discussing Victorian church restoration and John Crockford-Hawley discussing Hans Price, architect of Weston-super-Mare. We also had a delightful visit to St. Andrew's Church, thanks to Sue Goodman and her husband. This fine example of Victorian architecture was designed by J Houghton Spencer, with additions by Edmund Buckle. Everyone attending felt it was a memorable day.

Altogether, our events last year managed to show a reasonable profit for SANHS, in the order of £350. My grateful thanks are due to the rest of the Committee, especially Mary Siraut, for helping to organise the events.

Unfortunately, we lost one of our Committee members this year, as Des Atkinson is now concentrating on his work in Devon and though we did have a new member join our Committee, his work has also taken him into another county, so he has also left us. Which means that we are actively looking for new members. If you are interested, please do get in touch. It is not a major commitment as there are only three meetings a year, besides the walks and talks, but we are always looking for new ideas. One of these which we are starting to pursue is a SANHS Somerset Chronology. This will comprise an accessible online record of dates comprising major events in the county (or nationally, if they significantly affect the county), births and deaths of famous people connected with Somerset and any other meaningfully important dates. More information about this will be forthcoming in a month or two.

John Page, Chair of Local History Society

5. SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

Annual Report by Somerset County Council to Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, 1 April 2019 – 31 March 2020

1. Staff

In the year under review the Head of Museums, Sam Astill, graduated from the Museums and Resilient Leadership (MRL) programme funded by Arts Council England. MRL is a unique year-long continuous professional development programme designed to create cultural leaders for the 21st century.

Michele Green joined the South West Heritage Trust on 8 January 2020 as Assistant Curator on a 12-month fixed-term contract. The focus of Michele's role will be on providing curatorial advice and support to Weston Museum and caring for and managing the North Somerset museum collection. Michele joins us from the Royal Albert Memorial Museum in Exeter where she worked as Assistant Curator, focusing on the fine art collections. She has worked in the museum sector for 15 years and brings a wealth of experience of caring for, managing and curating museum collections as well as specialist knowledge of art and social history objects.

Ed Caswell, Finds Liaison Assistant, moved to a new post in Oxfordshire and Josh Tickner came to the end of his 12 months as a Museum Futures trainee. This programme focuses on developing digital skills relating to museum collections in 18- to 24-year olds. During his time with the Trust, Josh achieved a level three qualification in cultural heritage and contributed to a range of digital projects. Giles Lingwood left the museum curatorial team in May 2018 after fulfilling an eight month contract as a Collections Management Project Assistant.

Mary Humphreys, Site Manager at Somerset Rural Life Museum, left her post on 18 July after more than two years at the museum. She had been a central figure since the museum reopened in 2017. After a competitive process Sue Leask was recruited as Site Manager. Sue previously worked at the Museum of Somerset as well as at Oxfam and Hestercombe Gardens.

There has been significant change in the front-of-house teams at the two museums. Rachael Coward, Visitor Services Assistant at the Museum of Somerset, left to take on an arts education role in Oxfordshire, and Emily Fear departed to begin a teaching qualification. At Somerset Rural Life Museum, Olivia Morris-Soper left the site team to undertake a master's degree in history.

Sean Kozikowsky joined the Visitor Services Team at the Museum of Somerset and Maria Rose, Victoria Taylor, Caroline Barter, Joanna Briar, Kate Dimambro, Sally Jones, Joanna Masters-Maggs and Claire Lynch have joined Somerset Rural Life Museum as Visitor Services Assistants. Laytn Sharp, who is well known to the Trust, returned as a freelance Exhibition Technician.

Bethan Murray, Curator of Social History, Costume and Textiles, was awarded a Jonathan Ruffer curatorial grant by the Art Fund to explore costume collections and their display in UK museums. Amal Khreisheh, Curator of Archaeology, was awarded funding from the British Museum and the South West Museum Development programme to research and develop a future exhibition based around migration to Somerset.

2. Audiences

2.1. Museums and Schools

The South West Heritage Trust has continued to deliver its 'Museums and Schools' programme and has recently received confirmation that a further year's funding will be made available by Arts Council England and the Department of Education.

In its first year, the project was very successful in increasing engagement with schools across the county, especially in West Somerset. It supported 4,363 visits by students from 126 schools and has resulted in improved learning resources, new sessions, travel bursaries and specific projects. It also enabled us to make improvements to the learning spaces at the Museum of Somerset and Somerset Rural Life Museum, to expand our workshop offer for the new academic year and to develop new school trails.

As part of the project, 517 students visited The Museum of Somerset during the year to take place in Storywalks sessions led by poet Christopher Jelley. The sessions offer an innovative way for pupils to engage with museum collections while developing their creative writing skills. The project also supported visits to the museum by students from Danesfield Middle School. They came to see the Doris Hatt exhibition, and took part in two creative workshop sessions in the gallery space and a printmaking workshop at Contains Art in Watchet. Their artworks formed the basis of an exhibition in the Hammet Room at the Museum of Somerset called 'Lessons in Colour'. Several of the students had never visited an exhibition before and were very excited to see fine art at first hand.

School visits to Somerset Rural Life Museum were at a record level during the autumn term. During December 2019, 742 children visited for 29 booked sessions, mostly the Victorian Christmas workshop.

Four members of Trust staff have been trained as Arts Award facilitators. Arts Award 'Discover in a Day' was launched at Somerset Rural Life Museum.

There are now 54 subscribing schools to the Heritage Learning Service and an additional 12 non-subscribing schools that also use the service.

2.2. Evaluation

Intensive evaluation continued to be undertaken by the museums service to shape a new approach to the collection, evaluation and use of visitor data. Visitors at both museums participated in 'Audience Finder' research surveys supported by the Audience Agency. The results of the surveys have revealed important information in connection to visitor demographics and experiences that will be used in future planning and audience development. Temporary exhibitions were also a focus of significant evaluation by the Museums Service along with other key performance indicators such as admissions income, footfall and commercial revenue.

3. The Museum of Somerset

The Museum of Somerset enjoyed another successful year. It largely maintained its excellent visitor numbers.

There was extensive work to manage stock levels in the museum shop and improve the operation of the site's till system. Networking of 'Merac' point-of-sale software and tills was completed for the majority of the Trust's museum sites, allowing a live and integrated view of financial and visitor performance. This is a major step forward for the Trust.

The shop had a successful year, and we are grateful to those who support this much-needed source of income by buying cards and gifts. The Doris Hatt publication was particularly successful with additional copies being printed.

The café continued to perform well and was a key component of the site's offer. The Castle Hotel operate the café and continue to work closely with the Museum of Somerset team to deliver events and functions.

3.1. Temporary Exhibitions

There has been a full and varied programme of temporary exhibitions.

Doris Hatt: A Life in Colour

16 March – 22 June 2019

A loan exhibition at the Museum of Somerset featuring work by the English Modernist artist Doris Hatt (1890–1969) opened on 16 March. Doris Hatt lived most of her life in Somerset and her paintings, often of West Country settings, are vibrantly colourful. The exhibition was organised as a partnership with the Court Gallery and was widely praised. The introduction of a 'Pay What You Think' donations scheme for the exhibition proved very successful.

Wild Hares and Hummingbirds

20 July – 26 October

The summer exhibition at the Museum of was based on the nature writing of the Somerset author Stephen Moss and included illustrations commissioned from the graphic artist Stephanie Cole. The exhibition was very well received. It particularly demonstrated the design skills of the Trust's in-house design team. With generous support from the National Lottery Heritage Fund the exhibition included a public engagement project and a related exhibition called 'Does Happiness Grow on Trees', created in partnership with the Somerset AONBs' Health and Wellbeing programme.

Reedbeds and Waterways

27 July – 7 September 2019

This selling exhibition brought together artworks by the printmaker Jackie Curtis, produced in response to the landscapes and wildlife of the Somerset Levels. It was held in conjunction with 'Wild Hares and Hummingbirds'.

Landscapes of the Mind: The Art of Tristram Hillier

9 November 2019 – 18 April 2020

Tristram Hillier RA (1905–1983) was one of the most accomplished and distinctive 20th-century British artists. Painting for many years from a base in Somerset, he created pictures in a uniquely intense and memorable style. Opening on Saturday 9 November 'Landscapes of the Mind: The Art of Tristram Hillier' brought together over 50 pictures from private lenders and from national and regional collections. Major works included 'Variation on the Form of an Anchor' and 'La Route des Alpes' from the collections of Tate Britain and 'Pylons' and 'Quantoxhead' from National Galleries Scotland. It was the first retrospective of Hillier's work in more than 30 years. The exhibition received local and national coverage including a positive review in The Times.

Form & Fascination

23 November 2019 – 23 March 2020

Form & Fascination was a new exhibition of detailed watercolour paintings by Watchet-based artist Jenny Barron. It brought together several of the artist's distinctive still lifes, for which she has become well known, as well as some of her more imaginative works. The exhibition accompanied the Museum of Somerset's major retrospective of the artist Tristram Hillier and illustrated some of the ways in which still life painting and surrealist ideas can overlap.

3.2. Events

The programme for the museum's younger visitors included art sessions and drama as well as trails. We also held our usual mix of family events, a favourite being Halloween. This event was re-invigorated for 2019 and included the addition of a professional magician and storytelling.

The successful format of 'talk and tea' continued to reach a good number of people and were regularly sold out. As well as speakers from within the Trust there were several external speakers linked to the exhibitions programme. This has helped people to engage with the exhibitions at a deeper level. Evening talks have also continued to be a prominent feature of the programme.

The museum took part in the Youth Festival organised by Arts Taunton. The award-winning visual artist Tom Goddard was commissioned by Somerset Art Works to work with young people to create art responding to the theme 'breaking down barriers'. It was displayed in Castle House.

3.3. Castle House

The holiday apartment is now let through Sykes Cottages and had its most successful year to date. Ground floor room bookings continue to increase, particularly from the business community and from sector organisations such as the South West Museum Development Programme.

4. Somerset Rural Life Museum

After detailed preparation, the new admission fee structure based on a 'Museum Unlimited' annual pass was introduced at Somerset Rural Life Museum on 26 March 2019. The new structure aimed to be easier to understand and to increase footfall, especially among people living locally. 'Museum Unlimited' has been a significant success and has resulted in both improved visitor numbers and admissions income.

The unveiling of the weathervane in memory of Ann Heeley MBE took place at the Rural Life Museum on 20 April 2019. It was funded by the museum Friends. The carving of the doorstone with words from the Somerset Wassail was completed in July by the sculptor Tom Waugh:

O master and missus,

Are you there within?

Pray open the door,

And let us come in.

Somerset Rural Life Museum hosted a workshop for the Rural Museums Network. The site also featured in a *Museums Journal* article exploring the status of rural museums in the UK.

On 22 November, as part of Takeover Day, school children dealt with phone enquiries and greeted visitors at the museum. They also had the opportunity to see and experience some of the work the Trust does. Both occasions were lively and very successful.

4.1. Temporary Exhibitions

There has been a full and varied programme of temporary exhibitions.

The Art of the Potter: Somerset Slipware

3 July – 9 November 2019

This exhibition explored how slipware ceramics developed in the county from the late 1600s onward. Decorative and functional ceramics have been produced in Somerset for hundreds of years. In England, during the 17th and 18th centuries, some of the greatest examples of slipware ceramics were produced. This popular decorative technique was widely used prior to the introduction of enamel. The exhibition included Donyatt pottery, made in south Somerset, together with Elton Ware, Fishley Holland Ware made in Clevedon and Wesuma Ware from Weston-super-Mare.

Yield and Return

Emilie Taylor Responds to Donyatt Pottery

21 September – 9 November

This exhibition of new work by ceramicist Emilie Taylor was inspired by the historic Donyatt slipware pottery collections cared for by the Museums Service. Emilie worked as Artist in Residence at Somerset Rural Life Museum. She spent time re-interpreting the historic collections and worked with community and school groups. Some of the work produced was put on display in the 'Yield and Return' exhibition held in the Abbey Barn during Somerset Art Weeks.

Reedbeds and Waterways

16 November – 18 January 2019

This selling exhibition brought together artworks by the printmaker Jackie Curtis, produced in response to the landscapes and wildlife of the Somerset Levels.

My Somerset by Alison Jacobs

20 January – 21 March 2020

'My Somerset' was a new exhibition of paintings and iPad art by Somerset based artist Alison Jacobs. Alison's artwork often explores the county's rural landscape and environment, which is an important influence over her practice. A sense of connection to the real physical environment, especially the landscape and flatlands on the coastal margins, is a constant source of fascination and inspiration for the artist.

4.2. Events

The public programme at the Somerset Rural Life Museum increased significantly during the year and the site team delivered a range of events. 'Donkey Day' received over 300 paying visitors and the site's annual Wassail sold out for the second year in a row. An evening talk by Professor Ronald Hutton on the myths and legends of Glastonbury also sold out. The Chapterhouse Theatre Company, on its 20th anniversary tour, brought an enthusiastically-received dramatization of *Pride and Prejudice* to the farmyard at Somerset Rural Life Museum on 4 August.

The site has gained a growing reputation as a venue for craft and artistic workshops linked to the site's collections and temporary exhibitions programme. In the last financial year income through events increased by 180%

5. Weston Museum

We have continued to provide curatorial advice and support to Weston Museum in its third year of operation after its Heritage Lottery Funded redevelopment.

5.1. Temporary Exhibitions:

We delivered three temporary exhibitions in 2018–19.

Microsculpture

The Insect Photography of Levon Biss

18 May – 15 September

Microsculpture is a groundbreaking project by the British photographer Levon Biss. It presents insect specimens from the Oxford University Museum of Natural History like never before. The images reveal an unexpected and often breathtaking beauty and make visible the many intricate features of insect forms.

Matilda Temperley – A View From The Hill

28 September – 13 January

Documentary and fashion photographer Matilda Temperley worked on a year-long project to discover and document Somerset today. 'A View From the Hill' captured Somerset's wonderful distinctiveness and some of the issues facing its communities. Matilda is passionate about her documentary projects, many of which explore the experience of marginalised communities. She is probably best known locally for her work in response to the winter floods of 2013–14 which severely affected her family and the community where she grew up. Her sell-out book, *Under the Surface: Somerset Floods*, won the Royal Photographic Society's Vic Odden Award.

From Village to Town: Weston-super-Mare's Built Heritage

8 February – 9 May 2020

This exhibition brings together objects, images and film to tell the story of Weston-super-Mare's architectural development over the past 250 years. It expands on Historic England's new publication 'Weston-super-Mare: The Town and its Seaside Heritage'. The exhibition celebrates a complex and remarkable heritage which reflects Weston's transformation from a small village to a busy seaside resort. It has been created by the South West Heritage Trust in partnership with North Somerset Council and Historic England.

6. Collections

6.1. Accreditation

Staff delivered actions included in the Accreditation Forward Plan. Significant progress was made on the documentation backlog. Storage locations of over 100,000 objects were added to the museum database during the year.

6.2. Lead Ingot

A loan agreement relating to the **Westbury-sub-Mendip Roman lead ingot** was finalised between Somerset County Council, the Trust and Wells & Mendip Museum on 18 December. Display of the ingot at Wells and Taunton will be on an alternating annual cycle.

6.3. Small Grant Big Improvement

The South West Museum Development Partnership awarded £500 to Somerset Museums Service for a conservation project based around banners in the textiles collection. Match funding of up to £2,000 was generously provided from the SANHS Museum Collections Fund. This grant has been used to improve storage conditions for our regionally-significant collection of Friendly Society banners.

6.4. Fine Art Conservation

The programme of conservation on the SANHS-owned fine art collection continued with a further work undergoing treatment. The portrait of Edward Ellis as a child by Richard Phelps (TTNCM : 18/1995/22) was transformed by conservators Seonaid Wood (oil paintings) and Teresa Llewellyn (frames). The work was paid for through the SANHS Museum Collections Fund.

The Friends of the Museum of Somerset (FotMoS) and the Co-operative Group generously supported the conservation of a portrait of Captain Robert Poole of Staplegrove. The portrait, by an unidentified artist, is painted in oil on canvas and dates from about 1800.

Robert was born in 1761 and probably went to sea at a young age eventually working his way to the rank of captain. During his career he crossed the equator 22 times and sailed once around the world. He travelled as far as the 74th parallel north (Arctic) and 62nd parallel south (Antarctica). The portrait will be displayed in the Going Places gallery at the Museum of Somerset.

6.5. Pleistocene Animal Bone

Somerset Museums Service has facilitated an important research project into the SANHS-owned collections of Pleistocene animal bone. The project, called *Hungry Like a Wolf*, examines the impacts of carnivore competition and environment on morphology and prey choice. Led by Professor Danielle Schreve (Department of Geography, Royal Holloway University of London [RHUL]) and Dr Angela Lamb (NERC Isotope Geosciences Laboratory, British Geological Survey), with Dr Lucy Flower (Geography, RHUL), it builds on a pilot project, supported by SANHS, which used stable isotope analyses on Pleistocene mammal bones to shed light on predator–prey relationships. The NERC Isotope Geosciences Facility at the British Geological Survey has funded carbon and nitrogen isotope analysis of a further 135 samples. The results will provide a deeper understanding of Pleistocene carnivore prey choice under differing climatic regimes and competitors. It will also establish the degree to which direct (stable isotope) and indirect (morphometric) measurements of diet are ‘in step’. This is the largest and most significant dietary isotope study done on Pleistocene mammals using British material. 114 specimens from the SANHS collection were sampled and of these 63 produced viable collagen, which is an excellent success rate given the age of the material (between 40,000 to 200,000 years old).

6.6. Herbaria

The volunteer team of five members of the Somerset Rare Plants Group continued to meet weekly and completed the reorganisation and rehousing of the large SANHS collection of herbarium specimens. The collection is now organised according to Stace 3, a modern taxonomic system, and packaged in good-quality archival paper and card which protect the specimens from deterioration. The team is now focusing on incorporating specimens that they have collected in Somerset in recent years into the herbarium. These recent specimens include a number of vascular plants which have been discovered in Somerset for the very first time. This work is reinvigorating an important historic collection.

6.7. Human Remains

6.7.1. Repackaging Human Remains

In July 2019 Somerset Museums Service worked with two work placement students from the University of Cardiff on a project to reorganise and repack human remains in line with best

practice. The South West Heritage Trust cares for and manages skeletal remains (including cremations) of over 1,000 individuals from Somerset and North Somerset, some of which form part of the SANHS collection. The remains have a high research value and we are learning more about the individuals in our care all the time. During the year we repackaged and reorganised the remains in line with best practice, other work being carried out by a work placement student from Bath Spa University.

6.7.2. Life and Death in Iron Age Somerset

During the summer of 2018 Dr Richard Madgwick (Archaeological Scientist at Cardiff University) visited the Somerset Heritage Centre to look at the remains of 130 people from the Somerset County Council, North Somerset Council and Glastonbury Antiquarian Society collections. With four undergraduate students he examined the remains and, where appropriate, took samples. By looking at how bacteria attacked the bone microstructure, it was possible to discover how the remains were treated immediately after death. Different funerary practices leave different traces of bacterial attack. The team discovered that excarnation – exposing a body to the elements through so-called ‘sky burial’ – was rarely practised in Somerset. Instead it seems that most people were buried soon after death but dug up when their soft tissue had rotted away. Some bones were then extracted and circulated or curated before being deposited elsewhere.

Isotope analysis on surviving human teeth allowed the team to work out where 40 of the individuals had grown up. It seems that 31 people were probably raised in Somerset and nine came from further afield. Of these nine, three were probably from the Mediterranean and one from Brittany. The team discovered that people’s remains were treated in the same way after death regardless of where they were from. Whether people had met a violent end or had died naturally also made no difference to their treatment. The project has greatly enhanced our understanding of Iron Age Somerset, suggesting that it was a more multi-cultural place than we knew.

6.7.3. Ancient DNA

In 2017 and 2018 Dr Ian Armit (Professor of Archaeology, University of Bradford) and Dr Tom Booth (Senior Research Scientist, Pontus Skoglund Laboratory, The Francis Crick Institute) visited the Somerset Heritage Centre to sample Bronze Age and Iron Age human remains from the SANHS, Somerset County Council, North Somerset Council and Glastonbury Antiquarian Society museum collections for ancient DNA analysis. This work was carried out as part of a project to sequence the genome of British people over time, led by David Reichs of Harvard University. The results from the analyses of these samples are just starting to come through and are in the process of being written up. The initial indication is that when all the Bronze Age and Iron Age results from DNA analyses of human remains from collections across Britain are looked together there is a change in ancestry in England, but not in Scotland and Wales, around the Late Bronze Age (c. 1000 BC). This suggests that there were migrations of people into Britain, probably from regions in modern-day France, Belgium and Germany. It is thought that this might be related to the development of Celtic languages in Britain. Work on this important project will continue in 2020 and promises to reveal more about the individuals in our care.

6.7.4. Cannington Quarry Park Cave

Sharon Clough (Senior Environmental Officer, Humans Remains, Cotswold Archaeology), was awarded a grant by the British Association for Biological Anthropology and Osteoarchaeology to radiocarbon date two samples from the human remains from Cannington Park Quarry Cave, part of the Somerset County Council museum collection. The remains of at least seven individuals were recovered in 1964. Sharon became interested in the human remains while analysing the burials from Cannington bypass as part of the archaeological work that has been taking place at Hinkley Point. She wanted to establish whether the human remains from Cannington Park Quarry Cave had been placed in the cave in

prehistoric times or whether they were originally buried in the Roman period in a nearby cemetery at Cannington and had ended up in the cave after being disturbed during quarrying. Sharon took samples from two thigh bones, one from an adult and one from an under-18. The radiocarbon dates demonstrated that the bones from both individuals dated from over 9,000 years before present (which for this purpose is 1950). When calibrated the date ranges for the samples from the two individuals were 8545 to 8328 cal BC and 8237 to 7976 cal BC (both at 95.4% probability). This shows that both individuals dated to the early Mesolithic period (10,000–7000 BC) and are broadly contemporary with the human remains of Cheddar Man from the nearby Gough's Cave. This research is significant as Mesolithic human remains are extremely rare with only 20 firmly-dated sites known from Britain. The cave was completely destroyed by quarrying in the 1980s so the human remains are the only evidence of this important Mesolithic burial site. Further analysis of these remains is planned in 2020.

6.8. Somerset Pottery Fabric Type Series

Somerset Museums Service has worked with David Dawson (pottery specialist, Dawson Heritage) to prepare a project design for a Historic England-funded project to create a Somerset Pottery Fabric Type Series and make it accessible online. The funding from Historic England will include provision for the South West Heritage Trust to recruit an archaeological pottery specialist trainee on a 12-month fixed-term contract for three days each week. The project aims to improve the standard of archaeological reporting and the publication of pottery and the sustainability of pottery expertise in the region.

6.9. Acquisitions

Some significant acquisitions were made during 2019–20.

A fossil ichthyosaur, estimated to be 197 million years old, was received by the Museums Service on 17 January. The five-and-a-half-foot-long marine reptile was found in the intertidal zone of Bridgwater Bay National Nature Reserve on 14 December by an amateur geologist, Jon Gopsill. He was walking his dogs, one of whom, Poppy, has informally given her name to the fossil. It was successfully lifted on 27 December in a collaborative rescue involving the Trust, Natural England, the Environment Agency and the specialist consultancy Geckoella. It has received worldwide publicity and now enters a long period of conservation before it can be displayed.

Three works by the Somerset artist Rachel Reckitt were acquired with the support of the Golsoncott Foundation. Rachel Reckitt (1908–1995) was a British artist who in a long career worked as a wood engraver, sculptor and designer of wrought iron work. Her output included book illustrations, tombstones, church sculptures and pub signs.

Several important items have been acquired through the treasure process. These include a Bronze Age gold bead from Muchelney dating from c. 2200 to 800 BC, a post-medieval silver vervele (a ring attached to a bird's leg) from East Chinnock dating from 1550 to 1700 and a post-medieval silver spoon or pendant (perhaps for wine tasting) from Trudoxhill dating from 1500 to 1700.

We have also acquired a Roman lead pig (ingot) from Selwood dating from c. AD 150 to 410. A finder generously donated a Roman copper alloy figurine of Jupiter from Brompton Regis dating from c. AD 43 to 410.

6.10 Hadspen

Staff from the museum service have contributed to the development of the reconstructed Roman villa and museum at Hadspen, Castle Cary.

6. SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL

Museum Forward Collections Management Plan 2020-2021, Under the Terms of Agreements Dated 2 September 2008 And 31 October 2014

By an Agreement dated 2 September 2008 Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society agreed to lend to Somerset County Council, and the Council agreed to accept on loan, museum collections belonging to the Society.

Under the terms of the Agreement of 2008 the Council agreed to consult the Society in developing a Forward Collections Management Plan and in reviewing the plan. The Council also agreed that it would submit an Annual Report on the plan to the Society's Annual General Meeting. Under a Forward Loan Agreement dated 31 October 2014 between the Society, the Council and the South West Heritage Trust, it was agreed that some obligations of the Council under the Agreement of 2008 would be jointly performed with the Trust, as more fully set out in the Agreement of 2014.

The collections of the Society, the Council and others are distinct in ownership and documentation, but are curated and interpreted as a single resource because of their complex curatorial interrelationship. This plan therefore details actions which in some cases relate not just to the Society's collections but to the wider museum resource managed and cared for by the Trust on behalf of the Council. It also details actions which are not predominantly collections-related, but which have direct curatorial implications.

Objectives marked with * include collections owned by SANHS.

REVIEW OF MUSEUM FORWARD COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT PLAN 2019–20

Objectives	Resources	Responsibility	By when	Progress
Access				
Implement temporary exhibition programmes and associated events programme at MoS, SRLM and Weston Museum:	SWHT plus grant aid and sponsorship	SA, SC, TB, LB, AK, RM, BM, MG		
MoS:				
<i>A Life in Colour: The Art of Doris Hatt</i>			March 2019 – June 2019	Complete
<i>Wild Hares and Hummingbirds: The Natural History of an English Village</i>			July 2019 – October 2019	Complete
<i>Tristram Hillier: Painter Pilgrim</i>			November 2019 – TBC 2020	Complete
<i>The World Before Yesterday: The Photography of Stanley Kenyon</i>			February 2018 – TBC 2019	Complete
RLM:				
<i>Matilda Temperley: A View from the Hill</i>			December 2018 – June 2019	Complete
<i>*Somerset Artworks Ceramics Project</i>			June 2019 – December 2019	Complete
Weston Museum				
<i>From Spinning Tops to Space Hoppers: Growing Up in Somerset</i>			January 2019 – May 2019	Complete
<i>Microsculpture: The Insect Portraits of Levon Biss</i>			May 2019 – September 2019	Complete
<i>Matilda Temperley: A View from the Hill</i>			September 2019 – January 2020	Complete
Stewardship				
*Re-organise museum stores and update storage locations of collections.		AK, BM	Ongoing	Ongoing, but good

				progress made
*Continue adding to, checking and upgrading data on CMS.		AK, BM	Ongoing	Ongoing, but good progress made
*Continue to work with SANHS in conserving paintings owned by the Society.		SA, AK	Ongoing	Ongoing, but good progress made
*Plan funding application for project to conserve banners supported with match funding from SANHS.		SA, BM	Ongoing	Complete
*Continue to support the Somerset Rare Plants Group to upload images of the vascular plant collection (pressed plants) to a specialist botany website and in the re-arranging all the specimens in the collection (over 20,000) into new storage cabinets and according to a modern classification.		AK and members of the Rare Plants Group	Ongoing	Complete
*Continue to support research to analyse the geochemistry of carnivore tooth enamel using specimens from the Ice Age mammal collection.		AK, Danielle Schreve and others	Ongoing	Ongoing
*Continue to support research into ancient human DNA using samples from human remains.		AK	Ongoing	Ongoing
*License key items through Bridgman Images.		AK, JT	Ongoing	Ongoing, but good progress made
Continue to support the Somerset Military Museum Trust in a review of collections.		MM, SA	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue programme of targeted acquisitions.		TM, SA, AK, BM	Ongoing	Ongoing
*Begin review of loans out and loans in.		AK, BM	Ongoing	Postponed until 2021-2022
*Support the creation of a research framework for palaeoenvironmental archives.		AK	Ongoing	Ongoing

*Create a report exploring the Collections Management issues facing SMS with a budgeted action plan and programme.		EG, AK, BM	Ongoing	Postponed until 2021-2022
*Support the creation of a Somerset Pottery Fabric Type Series, creating a project design to access Historic England funding.		AK	Ongoing	Complete
*Support the South West Implement Petrology Group's Historic England funded project to make its collections accessible through digitisation.		AK	Ongoing	Will be complete (by end March 2020)

MUSEUM FORWARD COLLECTIONS MANAGEMENT PLAN 2020–21

Objectives	Resources	Responsibility	By when	Progress
Access				
Implement temporary exhibition programmes and associated events programme at MoS, SRLM and Weston Museum: MoS: <i>Landscapes of the Mind: The Art of Tristram Hillier</i> <i>The Arborealists</i> <i>Martin Brown: Horrible Histories and other books</i> <i>Quiet Revolutionaries: Coleridge and his Friends in Somerset:</i> <i>Brian Rice (TBC)</i> SRLM: Music, Mud, Mayhem: Photographing Glastonbury Festival *The Bath and West: A Celebration Selling exhibition (TBC)	SWHT plus grant aid and sponsorship	SA, TB, LB, AK, RM, BM, MG, SC	November 2019 – April 2020 April 2020 – July 2020 July 2020 – October 2020 November 2020 – February 2021 February 2021 – July 2021 March 2020 – July 2020 July 2020 – November 2020	Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing Ongoing

Weston Museum:			November 2020 – March 2021	
Wild Hares and Hummingbirds: The Natural History of an English Village			June 2020 – September 2020	Ongoing
*Fine Art Exhibition (TBC)			September 2020 – March 2021	Ongoing
Stewardship				
*Monitor Accreditation Forward Plan		SA, EG	Ongoing	Ongoing
*Re-organise museum stores and update storage locations of collections.		AK, BM, SGR, MG	Ongoing	Ongoing
*Continue adding to, checking and upgrading data on CMS.		AK, BM, SGR, MG	Ongoing	Ongoing
*Continue to work with SANHS in conserving paintings owned by the Society.		SA, AK, MG	Ongoing	Ongoing
*Deliver project to conserve banners supported with match funding from SANHS.		EG, BM, RM	June 2020	Ongoing
*Support the creation of a Somerset Pottery Fabric Type Series, using Historic England funding.		Ak, EG and David Dawson	December 2021	Ongoing
*Continue to support the Somerset Rare Plants Group to incorporate recently collected specimens of pressed vascular plants into the newly reorganised historic collection of pressed vascular plants .		AK and members of the Rare Plants Group	Ongoing	Ongoing
*Continue to support research to analyse the geochemistry of carnivore tooth enamel using specimens from the Ice Age mammal collection.		AK, Danielle Schreve and others	Ongoing	Ongoing
*Continue to support research into ancient human DNA using samples from human remains.		AK	Ongoing	Ongoing

*License key items through Bridgman Images.		AK, MG	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue to support the Somerset Military Museum Trust in a review of collections.		MM, SA, BM	Ongoing	Ongoing
Continue programme of targeted acquisitions.		TM, SA, AK, BM	Ongoing	Ongoing, but good progress made

Sam Astill

Head of Museums, South West Heritage Trust on behalf of Somerset County Council March 2020

7. SOMERSET COUNTY COUNCIL AND SOUTH WEST HERITAGE TRUST

Report on Activity Relating to the Library of the Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society, 2019

1. Introduction

This report provides a summary of activity relating to the management of the SANHS Library during 2019. It has been made under clause 7.1(g) of the Library Collections Agreement (LCA) of July 2010.

The management of the library under the SWHT has continued smoothly throughout 2019. The forward management plan which runs from 2019-21 is being implemented. Two meetings were held between SANHS and SWHT to discuss a range of matters, including the library. A further annual meeting between SANHS, SWHT and SCC was also held.

2. Collection Care and Access

The library continues to be cared for in environmentally-controlled strongrooms, providing a constant temperature and humidity which supports the long-term preservation of the books and related material. Strongroom conditions have been constantly monitored using data loggers, and regular building checks have been undertaken to ensure we meet the requirements of BS 4971:2017 'Conservation and care of archive and library collections' and BS EN 16893:2017 'Conservation of Cultural Heritage.'

Books from the library are consulted in the searchroom at the Somerset Heritage Centre. During 2019, 90 books were requested from the library for use in the searchroom. A total of 15 books were borrowed by Society members during the year. Details of all loans are entered on a spreadsheet.

Online catalogue

Volunteers continue to help with building and developing thesaurus information, which will greatly enhance the searchability of the online catalogue. Work continues to streamline the Organisational thesaurus.

A project of indexing and embellishing key sections of the library catalogue continues, volunteer time permitting. Records of works in the Tite Collection are being examined for

accuracy and searchability, with indexing terms and bibliographic information being added where known.

Research guides are now integrated into the online archive catalogue. This includes a guide called 'Somerset Archaeological and Natural History Society FAQs, which provides a further way in which people can find out how to access items from the SANHS library and archive collections.

3. Projects

Collaborative work between SANHS volunteers and staff from SWHT has continued. The digitisation of the Braikenridge images has been completed, and many of them have been uploaded online via Know Your Place. Work continues cataloguing the smaller topographical collections.

A project to add the c.3,000 slides in the Mick Aston collection to the Historic Environment Image Resource continues, with further additions of slides of aerial views of Somerset.

4. Acquisition

Acquisition of new items for the library has continued, based on the recommendations of the Society's Library Committee and the Hon. Librarian and in accordance with the provisions of the LCA. During 2019 new acquisitions comprised 445 books and journal parts.

Dr Janet Tall

Head of Archives and Learning South West Heritage Trust on behalf of Somerset County Council 12 March 2020

8. Somerset Record Society, 2019

GENERAL EDITOR'S REPORT, 2020

[This year's timetable for the preparation and publication of volumes was disrupted by the current covid-19 virus pandemic]

Volume 99. *Somerset Recipes and Remedies in the 17th and 18th centuries*, ed. Andrew F. Butcher (based on initial, preliminary researches by Jim Skeggs, assisted by Liz Grant, and including a biographical essay on Jim Skeggs by Adrian Webb)

1. Introduction

2. Part I: 'Elizabeth Clarke her booke, 1665' (MS SHC DD/SF/9/4/1)

3. Part II: 'Maddam Alice Cole Her Receipt Booke' - Late 17th century (MS SHC DD/SF/9/4/6)

4. Part III: 'Book of recipes, c. 1700' - Harbin (MS SHC DD/HN/3/2/2)

5. Part IV: Recipes and Remedies Miscellaneous (MS SHC DD\SF/9/4/2)

6. Glossary

This volume is concerned with the 17th and early 18th century descriptions of medical and culinary recipes and remedies surviving in manuscript and deposited in the archives of the Somerset Heritage Centre. In particular, it includes three collections in manuscript book form: i) "Elizabeth Clarke her booke, 1665" (SHC DD/SF/9/4/1), ii) "Maddam Alice Cole Her Receipt Booke"- Late 17th century (SHC DD/SF/9/4/6), iii) "Book of recipes, c. 1700" - Harbin (SHC DD/HN/3/2/2). These three collections are predominantly of medical remedies with a few culinary recipes interspersed. One further collection described here is of "Recipes and Remedies Miscellaneous" (SHC DD\SF/9/4/2), mostly culinary recipes written on loose sheets of paper, with one stitched recipe booklet of 82 recipes, and 4 medical remedies included on loose sheets.

The 'Introduction' (1) aims to introduce the reader to the descriptive and critical literature concerned with medical and culinary texts as it has recently been explored, in particular in the period from c. 1920-2020, from Pollard and Redgraves' *A Short-Title Catalogue of Books Printed in England, Scotland and Ireland, and of English Books Printed Abroad, 1475-1640* (1926 and the revised and enlarged edition of 1976) to E. Leong, *Recipes and Everyday Knowledge. Medicine, Science, and the Household in Early Modern England* (Chicago and London, 2018) and A. Withey, *Physick and the family, Health, Medicine and Care in Wales, 1600-1750* (2011). Some thirty works are reviewed here in the interests of evaluating a complex and fast moving field of enquiry. This field reaches from classical and medieval literature through manuscript and early printed books, from popular and household vernacular writings, through scientific, professional medical, and academic and theoretical studies. The increased emphasis in modern works on the popular and household should not, however, conceal the complex of sources which are drawn upon from a wide variety of intellectual origins and the extensive field of personal contacts employed in the processes of textual composition.

Chapters 2-5 (Parts I-IV) consist of detailed transcriptions and editions of manuscript works which are unique texts, drawing on a wide variety of sources, identified with particular households. Among these the two works from the household of Elizabeth Clarke of Chipley together make the most substantial contribution, comprising some 60,000 words of which the greater part is medical (c. 32,000). The four manuscripts edited here are provided with a detailed codicology and description of the intellectual contents.

In addition to this a detailed interpretive apparatus is provided in the form of a Glossary, providing an extensive means of understanding, in particular, the medicinal properties of plants and the range of food-stuffs (D.E. Allen & G. Hatfield, *Medicinal Plants in Folk Tradition*, 2004; M. Simmonds, M.-J. Howes, J. Irving, *The Gardener's Companion to Medicinal Plants, An A-Z of Healing Plants and Home Remedies*; S. Francia and A. Stobart, *Critical Approaches to the History of Western Herbal Medicine*, 2015). And the compilation of this Glossary nicely reminds the editor of Jim Skeggs whose early interest in these manuscripts was significantly encouraged by his own local botanical interests, interests which he imagined to have provided a similar inspiration to Elizabeth Clarke.

Volume 100, *Somerset Records: Past, Present, and Future*, ed. Andrew F. Butcher and Robert W. Dunning

A celebration of the first hundred volumes of the Somerset Record Society, dedicated to the memory of former SRS Chairman, Gerard Leighton.

Chapters 1-8 provide new transcriptions and editions of manuscripts possessing historical significance for Somerset. Chapter 9 explores the contributions of the archivist, the conservator, and the Somerset Record Society editor in the past, present, and future of the preparation of SRS volumes for their readership and their scholarly use.

1. Robert W. Dunning

i. 'Introduction: Somerset Records, the First Hundred Volumes'

ii. 'Wells' Receiver's Account, 1280-90' (MS SHC DD\CC/B 131909/16)

2. Andrew F. Butcher

i. 'Rentale de Wechet, c. 1334' (MS SHC DD\L/P32/20/4)

ii. 'Household Manuscripts of the Luttrell Family: Economic, Legal, and Administrative Documents, c. 1412-25' (MSS SHC DD\L/P1/10-31)

3. Joe Bettey, 'Evidence of Farming Practice in North & North-East Somerset c. 1550-1750'

4. Steve Hobbs, 'The Court Rolls of the Manor of Allowenshay, 1501-1628' (Wiltshire and Swindon Archives 2667/14/4, 12/49, 14/7, 12/50, 14/8, 12/51, 14/9, 14.14-16, 12.47, 14/17 18, 12/53, 14/19, 12/54, 14.20, 12/55 - 1572-83, 1588-92, 1594-97, 1601-02, 1605-16, 1620-28)

5. Adrian Webb, 'Somerset Extracts from the City of Exeter Quarter Sessions Minute Books, 1621-42' (MS DHC, ECA 62, folio 62-63)

6. Anne Crawford, 'The Busby Letters, 1680s' (Westminster Abbey, Busby Collection, XB/01/01/022)

7. Phillip Ashford, 'The Account Book of George Hayman of Youghal, Minehead and Bye Farm Old Cleeve, 1685-1689' (Including a transcription and edition of 'The Waste Book of George Hayman of Minehead, 1675-1742' by Andrew F. Butcher) (MS SHC DD/X/HYN1)

8. David Bromwich, 'John Cannon's Somerset Topography: a reconsideration of the chronicles, 1684-1733' (MS DD/ SAS C/1193/4)

9. Esther Hoyle, Mervyn Richens, and Andrew F. Butcher, 'The Archivist, the Conservator, and the Editor: a conversation'.

Further and forthcoming volumes:

Bath & Wells Ordinations, 1465-1526, ed. Robert W. Dunning

The Commonplace Book of John Walker, c. 1640, ed. Esther Hoyle

The Ashe Ledgers, 1631-66, ed. John Gaisford

Somerset's Loyalties on the eve of Civil War: Episcopacy, Petitioners, Royalists and Ireland, 1638-42, ed. Adrian J. Webb & Sue Berry (provisional)

The Manorial Court Rolls of West Somerset, c. 1250-1550, ed. Andrew F. Butcher

Discussion continues over an occasional series of volumes under the Society, entitled 'Studies in Somerset History'; an occasional series concerned with 'Introductions to Somerset Records'; and an improved SRS Website.

Andrew F. Butcher, General Editor of the Somerset Record Society