

THE CORNWALL AND ISLES OF SCILLY MARITIME ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

Society Matters

At the inaugural meeting of the society held at the Portreath Arms on 12.III.2004 the core members of the committee were elected. Geoff Fuller was elected chairman, Brendon Rowe treasurer and Kevin Camidge secretary. Further members will be added to the committee once we start to get things underway – anyone interested in serving should let me know.

Anyone wondering why their cheque has not yet been cashed be assured that all monies will be banked once Lloyds bank get around to opening our account – so far this has taken them over a month and will apparently take several more weeks yet!

As many of you will already know, the society was started principally to enable funds to be raised to facilitate the Colossus debris field survey. However, now that the society exists I would welcome suggestions from the members for any projects which you think the society should be addressing.

Coincidentally a similar maritime group has just been started in the Scillies – Isles of Scilly Shipwreck & Underwater Heritage Group. Membership is by invitation only. We have established links between the two groups and I am hopeful that we can work collaboratively on the Colossus project.

Colossus Debris Field Survey

LHI Grant

The committee met with the Local Heritage Initiative representative on 17.III.2004. We were informed that our bid for funding for the Colossus Debris Field Survey could go forward but that we needed to include more community outputs. Principally these are to include a video, booklet, web site and public display outlining the work of the project. To make this possible part of the LHI grant would be used to provide training for society members to enable the society to produce the required 'outputs'. This will ultimately depend on there being sufficient society members with an interest in becoming involved with this project. If there is not enough interest we shall have to consider forgoing the LHI grant and continuing the survey as a self-financed project. So if you want to get involved – this is your chance – here are the opportunities connected with the Colossus Debris Field Survey:

1. Video

We would buy a digital video camera and an underwater housing for it. All aspects of the project (above and below water) would be filmed. We would buy in training from an established underwater film maker. We have also identified editing facilities and training in their use, so that finished short films of the project can be produced. We would need some usable film by spring 2005. I suggest that several members could be involved with this part of the project.

2. Booklet

We intend to produce a small, full colour booklet explaining the project to the general public. Initial thoughts are for a print run of 500, A5 32-page booklets. The booklet will not go to print until after the survey has been finished (autumn 2005), but work could start on the booklet now. A number of people could be involved with this aspect of the project – and you would get your name in print.

3. Web site

A web site of the project will be constructed; once again money will be set aside for training those who undertake this task. Work could start on this so that once the survey begins the results can be posted on the web site.

4. Display

The results of the project will be explained in a public display – possibly in the museum on Scilly. This needs to be ready by spring 2005. We propose to form a team of volunteers who will receive appropriate training to enable them to produce a suitable display. This would consist of an exhibition board with information, photographs and drawings explaining the project and the results so far. We propose to attempt to implement an interactive display on a modified PC. This has been accomplished using a special keypad in the Penlee Museum, here in Penzance. If this proves impractical then we will use a video display instead to show a short film of the project. Either of these options would be achievable within the available budget.

Survey

Six members will undertake part one of the debris field survey in the first two weeks of September this year. The participants, who all agreed to fund their own costs, booked their places before the society was formed. Robin & Janet Witheridge are kindly giving us use of their RIB which will make this project possible. A maritime group recently formed in Scilly (the Isles of Scilly Shipwreck and Heritage Group) will hopefully be collaborating with us on this project. There is the possibility of other society members getting involved with this survey if an additional boat can be found (up to a further six divers). Anyone interested in taking part this year or next should let me know.

Magnetometer Survey

The debris field survey is largely based upon investigating targets identified by a caesium magnetometer survey conducted by the ADU in 2002. This survey covers less than half of the designated area of Colossus. We intend therefore to survey the rest of the designated area using a hired caesium magnetometer, probably in spring 2005. This will be a non-diving operation and will probably take about a week. We hope to build up skills in this type of work to facilitate further surveys on other projects. I would anticipate a team of 4-6 to undertake this project.

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