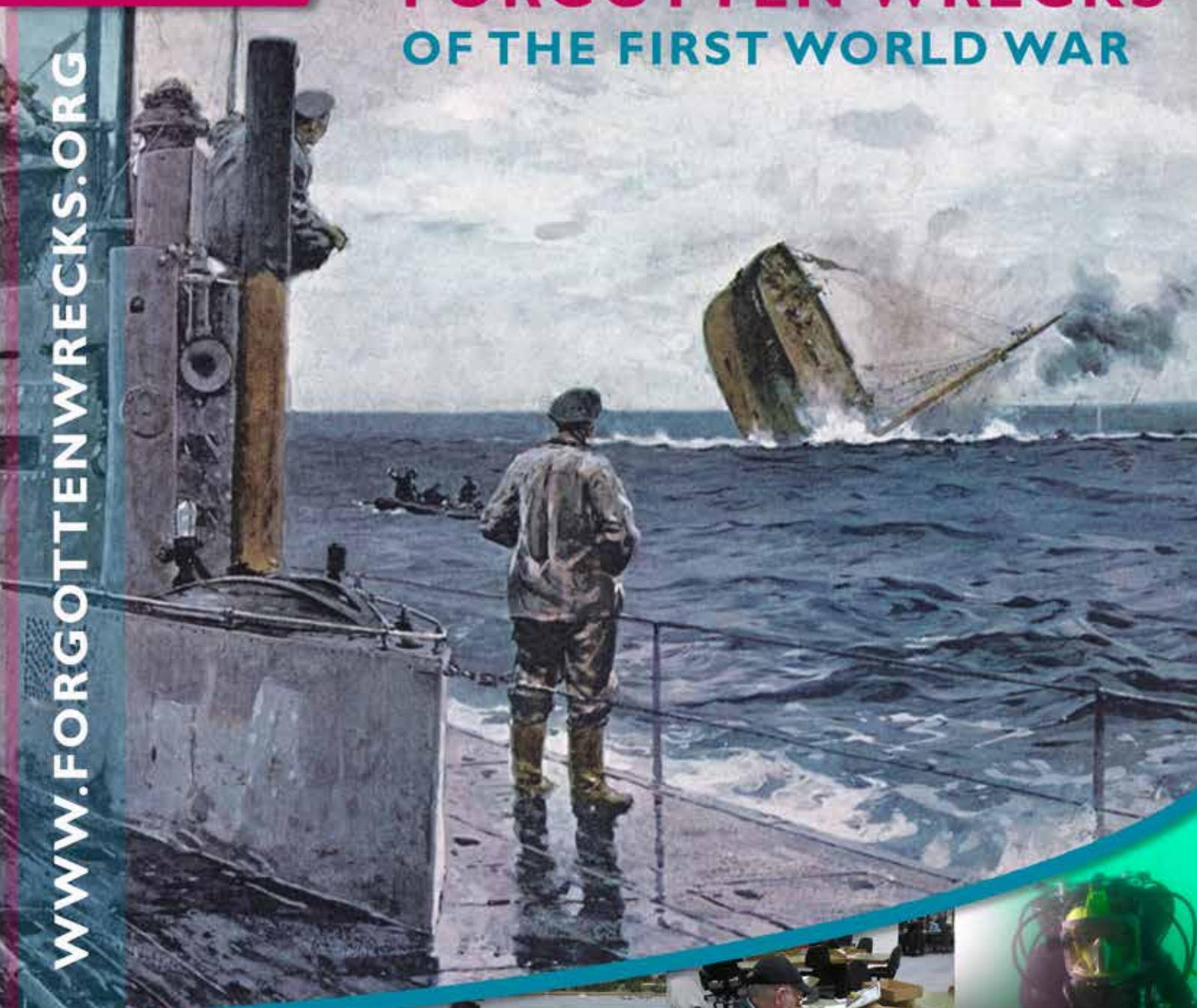


# FORGOTTEN WRECKS OF THE FIRST WORLD WAR

WWW.FORGOTTENWRECKS.ORG



USS Conover (1918)



USS Conover (1918), a  
Bainbridge-class, light  
cruiser, was the first  
cruiser to be built  
with a hull of steel.  
On March 1918, 1918, she  
was sunk by the German  
submarine U-90 south of  
the Azores.



Researching and Commemorating  
the First World War at Sea

## Chairman's Introduction

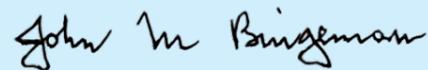
The Trust's Heritage Lottery funded project *Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War* will give much needed balance to the full historical record of the Great War. While attention has been focussed on the horrors of trench warfare, there was also a significant war going on at sea with considerable loss of life. Submarines inflicted terrible losses but if it were not for the merchant fleet and the Royal Navy, the outcome of the war would have been very different. This project will last for four years and publicise the maritime events of a century ago. Already we have inspected a number of these wrecks south of the Isle of Wight and researched their histories and contribution to the war effort. It was the Trust's experience and strengths developed over the last two decades that led to the development of this important project. As such, this publication is dedicated to the launch of the Forgotten Wrecks initiative.

Another triumph for the Trust has been the Arch-Manche project and its recent publication, *Coastal Management: A guide to using archaeological, palaeoenvironmental, historical and artistic resources*. It has taken three years to bring this to fruition with our partners: the French National Centre for Scientific Research, the Belgium Ghent University, and the Dutch Deltares Research Unit. This could not come at a more appropriate time as we have seen our coastline battered by storms of increasingly ferocity this last winter. These have cleared sand and shingle from beaches to reveal archaeological sites while sections of ship structure have been torn from shallow wrecks and spread along the coastline. The Arch-Manche Guide is a tool that explains how we can use our historic art and heritage to identify long term trends in climate and coastal change.

I wish to record the Trust's thanks to Garry Momber for his continued strong leadership, and to members of staff for their vital work on income generation, research and dissemination activities that has made the Trust such a success. I would also like to thank the European Regional Development Fund, Hampshire County Council, English Heritage, the Heritage Lottery Fund, Southampton City Council, Isle of Wight Council and the University of York, along with those other authorities, companies, organisations, Trusts and individuals who are listed in this report for their sponsorship and support over the past twelve months.

Finally, I wish to thank members of the Management Committee, our Trustees, for their guidance and support. David Guy, Isle of Wight Deputy Lieutenant, and Cllr Geoff Cadman, who were both founder members of the Trust, have sadly decided through age to stand down; thank you David and Geoff for your wise and sound counsel over many years.

John M Bingeman, Chairman  
October 2014



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### Maritime Archaeology Trust Officers

Garry Momber, BA (Hons), MSc, MIFA, FSUT. Director; Julie Satchell, BA (Hons), MA, MIFA. Head of Research

## The First World War at Sea



The First World War was the first truly global conflict and the war at sea was no exception. In fact it was the campaigns at sea that took the war to the most remote corners of the globe. Actions took place as far away as the Pacific and Indian Oceans, although the most significant actions were primarily fought between British and German ships.

Early in the war, Germany began attacking British trade routes in a bid to force the army to despatch forces to its Imperial colonies – forces the army could not afford to remove from the Western Front. In late 1914, German raiders in the Pacific inflicted the first defeat for a hundred years on the Royal Navy at the Battle of Coronel and a solitary German cruiser caused chaos in the Indian Ocean, but by early 1915, Germany's overseas squadrons had been defeated.

In the North Sea, the Imperial German Navy's High Seas Fleet and the Royal Navy's Grand Fleet constantly sought to force a battle on their own terms that could end the war. Britain also tried to blockade Germany, but could not stop the High Seas Fleet from making incursions into British waters in an effort to lure the Grand Fleet into a battle

nearer German ports. The anticipated battle finally came in spring 1916, when the largest ever battleship fleet action took place off Jutland. Although the High Seas Fleet dealt a severe blow to the Grand Fleet, the British were able to maintain their blockade and dominance of the North Sea until the end of the war.

Germany had plans for a blockade of its own, and saw its true strength in submarines. The Imperial German Navy adopted a policy of unrestricted submarine warfare and U-boats were responsible for so many merchant ship losses that Britain was soon at risk of being starved out of the war. However, an overhaul of the Dover Patrol and a barrage across the straits stopped the U-boats from taking the most direct route to the English Channel. This, combined with improved anti-submarine technology soon turned the tables.

By late 1918, the worsening effect of the British blockade on the German populace and a wildly optimistic plan for a fleet attack in the North Sea drove German sailors to mutiny. The revolution quickly spread and the Kaiser was forced to abdicate, precipitating the end of the war.

*"The whole course of our history, the geography of our country, all the evidences of the present situation proclaim beyond a doubt that Britain's power and prosperity depend on the economic command of markets and the Navy's command of the seas."*

**Winston Churchill**



**Chris Whiley**

Chris is responsible for the project's series of temporary exhibitions, a role well suited to his academic and professional background. After achieving a BA in Media and Cultural Studies, Chris has spent more than eight years organising events and exhibitions. His main focus in the project is to promote maritime heritage and the project's work to a diverse audience.





# Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War

*“Forgotten Wrecks will open up a part of our wartime heritage that has remained largely under-researched and undervalued.”*

**Stuart McLeod,  
Head of the Heritage  
Lottery Fund  
South East**



The Maritime Archaeology Trust, recognising the approaching centenary of the First World War, has been developing the Forgotten Wrecks of the First World War project since 2011. At the heart of the project is a desire to raise the profile of a currently under-represented aspect of the First World War. While attention is often focused on the Western Front and major naval battles like Jutland, historic remains from the war lie, largely forgotten, in and around our seas, rivers and estuaries.

With over 700 wartime wrecks along England’s south coast alone, the conflict has left a rich heritage legacy and many associated stories of bravery and sacrifice. These underwater memorials represent the vestiges of a vital, yet little known, struggle that took place daily, just off our shores.

Early in the project’s development, it was recognised that the study and promotion of these archaeological sites presented a unique opportunity to better interpret them and improve physical and virtual access. At the same time, it would provide opportunities for people of all ages and backgrounds to learn new skills, develop existing ones and discover their heritage.

The Heritage Lottery Fund’s two-stage application process enabled us to spend approximately nine months consulting with the general public, special interest groups, potential partners, teachers, schools and youth groups. We discovered considerable public interest in the subject and constant surprise at the number and nature of First World War wrecks that lie off the south coast of England. As a result the Heritage Lottery Fund generously funded the Forgotten Wrecks project through its Heritage Grant programme.

The project will focus on some of the underwater and coastal sites between Kent and Cornwall, which include merchant and naval ships, passenger, troop and hospital ships, U-boats, ports, buildings and foreshore hulks.

The Forgotten Wrecks project is particularly timely for a number of reasons. These sites, under water and on the foreshore, have been degrading and deteriorating due to natural and human processes for approximately 100 years and, as a result, are extremely fragile. In many cases, this project represents a final opportunity to record what remains on the seabed and foreshore before it is lost forever.

During the lifetime of this project, wrecks from the First World War will become 100 years old, at which point they should automatically be afforded protection under the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of the Underwater Cultural Heritage. Although the UK has not yet ratified this convention, the increasing importance of the Forgotten Wrecks sites is highlighted by their change in status in terms of the UNESCO Convention.

Another reason for the project taking place now is to coincide with the centenary of the First World War. Alongside this, or perhaps because of it, public appetite for new and innovative remembrance projects seems to be exceeding expectations on all fronts. In an increasingly volatile international political climate, perhaps reflecting on the past has never been more pertinent.

For a period with extensive historical records, the relevance and usefulness of archaeology can be (and indeed has been) questioned. It is true that local, regional and national collections hold many documents and photographs from the period and consulting these will be a major part of the Forgotten Wrecks project. Despite the existence of these and the fact that, in archaeological terms, 100 years ago is relatively recent, it is interesting to note that because the vast majority of ships involved in the First World War were scrapped in the years following the conflict, the vessel remains on the seabed



are often the only surviving examples of their type. While ships’ plans and Lloyd’s lists can provide interesting details, the majority of vernacular craft left no historic paper-trail.

Furthermore, what lies on the seabed can often tell a surprising tale, contradicting historic sources and re-writing commonly held theories. Accounts of a ship’s loss for example, can often contradict one another. This isn’t necessarily surprising in the drama of a sinking, but the true facts can often be clarified by inspecting the wreck.

The project can be split into two main areas: the collection of information (historic and archaeological) and the public dissemination of that information through schools, public events, exhibitions, a website, a range of informal and academic publications, presentations and talks.

Public involvement in all of these areas is vital to the success of the project and this publication aims to show the range and flavour of project activity and how you can become involved – either either through becoming an active project volunteer, or by accessing the project results.

The Forgotten Wrecks project aims to counterbalance the Western Front focus by commemorating the myriad of ordinary people linked to the ships lost off the south coast during the war. This included people of all nationalities, merchant seamen, fishermen, service personnel, civilian passengers, patients and nurses. Each day of the conflict, people like all of us worked, served and sometimes died along the south coast. This project will help us recognise and appreciate how their ordinary lives were impacted by the extraordinary circumstances of the First World War.

By discovering and telling their stories, we will remember them.

*“Public involvement is vital to the success of the project and this publication aims to show the range and flavour of project activity and how you can become involved .”*



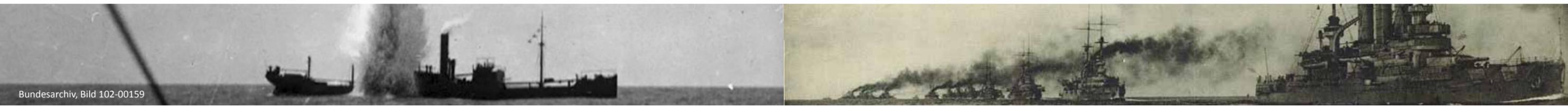
**Vir Dellino-Musgrave**

Vir is a Project Manager of the Forgotten Wrecks project. With a PhD in Maritime Archaeology, Vir has been promoting standards and best practice in the archaeological and wider community. Since her involvement in archaeology in 1991, she has supervised and coordinated a wide variety of land and maritime fieldwork activities in national and international contexts.



**Amanda Bowens**

Amanda is a Project Manager of the Forgotten Wrecks project. After graduating with an MA in Maritime Archaeology, Amanda has spent more than ten years working in heritage and voluntary organisations, including five years with the Nautical Archaeology Society. Amanda has a particular interest in bringing maritime archaeology to the widest possible audience.



Bundesarchiv, Bild 102-00159

# Diving the First World War

*“These sites, under water and on the foreshore, have been degrading and deteriorating due to natural and human processes for approximately 100 years. In many cases, this project represents a final opportunity to record what remains on the seabed before it is lost forever.”*

**Jan Gillespie**  
 Jan is responsible for the project’s dive fieldwork. Jan has extensive experience in archaeological diving projects in the UK and abroad including the organisation and involvement of volunteer divers. With a great interest in the history of shipwrecks, this is an exciting opportunity to bring a relatively under represented period of maritime history to public attention.

Depth charges on the wreck of the *Eleanor*. Photo courtesy of Mike Pitts.



The Forgotten Wrecks project area runs from the Isle of Thanet in the east to Land’s End in the west. It incorporates underwater sites as far out to sea as the edge of the UK Continental shelf and terrestrial sites up to one kilometre inland. Within this study area, the project is consulting a range of existing datasets including records held in English Heritage’s National Record of the Historic Environment, local and regional Historic Environment Records and United Kingdom Hydrographic Office wreck data.

These sources have so far identified more than 700 vessels that sank during the First World War. While some were lost due to poor weather or human error and some as a direct result of warfare, they all tell a largely forgotten and often tragic human story of maritime activity off the south coast of England during the First World War.

A number of related wrecks that fall outside of the 1914–1918 period are also being investigated. Some vessels that sank after the war had a significant role during the conflict – for example, a number of German U-boats were scuttled or lost under tow in the Channel during the 1920s.

The first season of project diving, undertaken in the summer of 2014, was focused on the waters around the Isle of Wight. The sites visited by project and volunteer divers represent the diverse range of sites in the study area in terms of vessel type, nationality, cause of loss, number of casualties and degree of preservation.

One such wreck was that of the *Eleanor*. This British built steamship had been requisitioned by the Royal Navy and was sailing to the Mediterranean from Immingham near Grimsby when, on the 12th February 1918, it was torpedoed by a U-boat. On board was a cargo of sea mines and depth charges, many of which broke free from the holds when the ship sank. Only one person from the 36-strong crew survived.

This year’s dive successfully located the wreck. Although upright, the ship lies in two sections and its decks have largely collapsed. The highest part of the wreck is the remaining cargo of mines and depth charges, many of which are piled in the area of the cargo holds. Fortunately most of them have long since corroded and the explosives once contained inside have been washed away.

# First World War on the Foreshore



As well as shipwrecks, sites on land along the south coast are also being investigated. Locations within 1km of the shore that had a military use or presence between 1914 and 1918 and those with a particular significance to the war at sea will also be included in the project database. Like the shipwrecks, they will be researched and in some cases visited by our archaeologists and volunteers.

These sites include, amongst others, hulked vessels on the foreshore. Numerous intertidal wrecks (known as hulks) lie in tidal rivers and estuaries around the country, silent reminders of the excess of vessels that were left over after the war. Port installations such as docks, hards, wharves and other landing

places will also be investigated, ranging from the large naval ports right down to small boat bases. Seaplane bases, training grounds, air defence sites, hospitals, barracks, depots and camps, particularly those with a maritime connection, will all be included in the project database and recorded and surveyed where appropriate.

Coastal defences were another important element of the war at sea. Defence sites and fortifications such as pillboxes, earthwork batteries and re-armed Victorian forts will also be included in the project’s scope. One such site is Renney Battery, one of several batteries that defends Plymouth Sound. The battery was built and armed between 1905 and 1907, but at the outbreak of the war it was reinforced with infantry blockhouses linked with an unclimbable fence. Although the battery remained in service until 1956 and its guns have been removed, much of the battery retains its First World War layout and features. Original fittings are still found inside and one of the infantry blockhouses is still in place.

Accurate surveys and assessments of sites such as these, will enable us to build up a picture of the material survival of many First World War sites on the south coast.

Southsea waterfront, showing the coastal defence guns. Collection of Stephen Fisher.



*“For non-divers, intertidal, terrestrial and post-fieldwork activities will enable anyone to have a go at archaeological survey, with no previous experience required.”*

**Lauren Tidbury**  
 Lauren is responsible for the diving and foreshore fieldwork for the Forgotten Wrecks project. After graduating with a BA in Archaeology and an MA in Maritime Archaeology, Lauren has led a number of archaeological projects over the last four years. Lauren is also a member of the Trust’s HSE archaeological dive team.



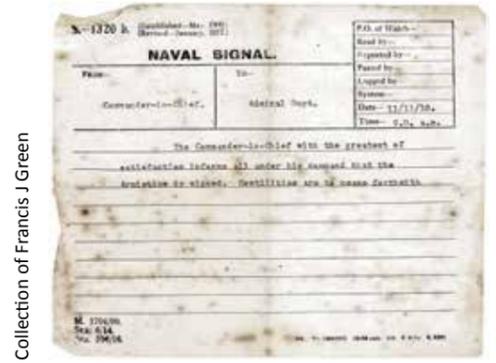
# Researching the Great War

The war at sea is an often overlooked aspect of the First World War. Even the thickest books on the subject tend to reduce the naval war to a fragmentary sentence here or a short paragraph there. Bookshelves can sometimes be overflowing with publications about the Western Front, but books on the war at sea are often hard to find.

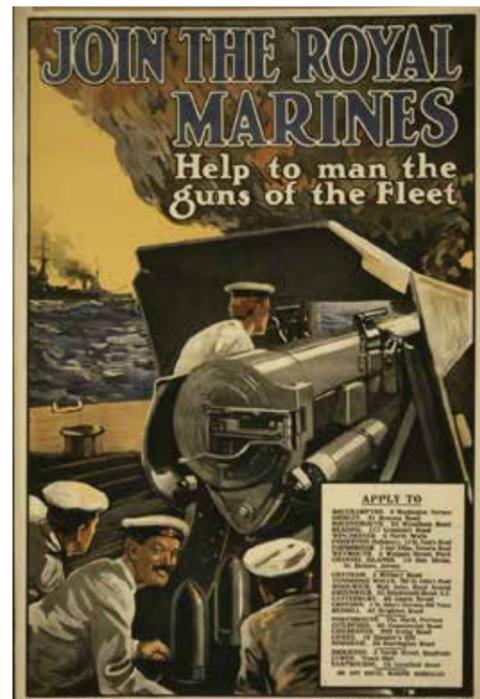
It may come as a surprise then, that records of the naval war are plentiful and often highly detailed. Many local archives contain all manner of information related to ports and harbours in their area. Crew lists and cargo manifests can be found not only in the UK, but around the globe.

For instance, in October 1913, a Central Index of Merchant Seamen was introduced. The index remained in use until 1941 and contains over one and a quarter million service records for crew serving on British registered merchant ships. Original copies of the index are located in Southampton Archives and although many of the 1913–1917 records were destroyed in the 1960s, they still form a valuable record of ships’ crews in the last year of the war.

Admiralty documents in the National Archives provide extremely detailed accounts of ship movements, patrols, actions and losses. Just one type of the many detailed records they hold concerns merchant ships sunk by enemy



Collection of Francis J Green



submarines. Special forms exclusively for this sort of incident were used in interviews with a ship’s crew after a U-boat sinking, so that as much detail about the events of a ship’s loss and the enemy perpetrator could be ascertained. These eight-page forms, often with handwritten notes, are not only very informative about the loss of a vessel, they are often extremely evocative reminders of the horror of a sinking ship. The fact that these forms have been bound into monthly volumes that are often several inches thick is a testament to the losses endured by the Merchant Navy during the war.

The Forgotten Wrecks project will consult hundreds of such documents, both in archives and online, over the next four years. With a wealth of material available, it is hoped that many new and fascinating facts about the war at sea, and the shipwrecks off the south coast, will be identified.

# Getting Involved



The Forgotten Wrecks project offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities – it’s much more than shipwrecks on the seabed! You don’t need to be a diver or an archaeologist: there is something for everyone, whatever your interests, experience or availability. As well as being involved in the project work, we will be hosting regular training sessions and social events.

Whether you are looking to learn new skills and add to your CV, or gain work experience or practise existing skills, volunteering with the Trust is the perfect opportunity to develop. It’s also a fantastic chance to find a new hobby, meet new people and visit new places, all the while playing an important role in raising the awareness of the often forgotten maritime heritage of the First World War.

You could get involved with:

- **Fieldwork** – qualified divers can join us on dives along the south coast. For non-divers there will be intertidal, terrestrial and post-fieldwork activities to get involved with – no previous experience required.
- **Research** – there will be regular visits to the National Archives at Kew and local archives to discover more about our past from contemporary documents. Internet research can also be undertaken at home.

- **Artefact Recording** – this will include photographing and recording relevant artefacts held in local and regional collections all along the south. So if you would like to explore behind the scenes in museums and collections, this might be of interest to you.

- **Education and Outreach** – our Maritime Bus and education team will be attending public events and working with schools and groups. We are always on the look-out for enthusiastic people that want to share their passion for history with the public.

- **Media and Film** – we are looking for people with media skills to help us produce audio articles and guides, podcasts and films.

- **Tech. Team** – if you are interested in building and maintaining our outreach resources, helping to maintain the website, creating 3D models or creating digital games, there are opportunities to put your skills to the test.

- **Resource Production** – we will be producing resources for schools and the public so if you have a creative flair, a talent for writing or teaching experience this may be of interest.

- **Remote Volunteering** – if you prefer to work from home, then many of the opportunities above are still available to you. Please speak to us to see how we can work together.

We are able to reimburse volunteers agreed expenses for travel and subsistence. Please note that working with children may require a Disclosure and Barring Service check.

Volunteers work with us in the field, at external sites (archives etc.) in our Southampton offices, or from home. Whether you are available for just a few hours from time to time or you are looking for a regular opportunity, we have something to suit everyone. For more information get in touch with us via the website on the front page or using the details on the back cover.

“Researching the background to your project can be very rewarding, either by exploring national and local records and archives online, or by visiting local museums, libraries, county record offices and archives.”

**The Council for British Archaeology**



**Stephen Fisher**

Stephen is the Forgotten Wrecks project’s Research Officer, a role that suits his lifelong interest in military history. After graduating in 2000, Stephen spent a number of years in Japan before roles with the National Trust and Forestry Commission. In recent years he has led the research for a number of projects, including historic mapping and the military history of the New Forest.

“The Forgotten Wrecks project offers a wide variety of volunteer opportunities – it’s much more than shipwrecks on the seabed!”



**Helen Wallbridge**

Helen has recently joined the Maritime Archaeology Trust as a Project Officer for the Forgotten Wrecks Project. Helen volunteered with the Maritime Archaeology Trust and the New Forest National Park Authority whilst taking a career break with her children. Helen graduated with a BSc (Hons) in Archaeology from the University of Leicester.





## Schools and Educational Resources



The Forgotten Wrecks project will create a lasting legacy of the maritime struggle along the south coast for future generations, at a time when first hand recollections of the war are becoming a distant memory.

To achieve this, the project will see an exciting education programme of facilitated workshops and resources. Created and delivered by our enthusiastic staff, this programme will be a unique and hands-on way to engage with the maritime history of the First World War. The project's education programme ties in closely with the new (2014) National Curriculum, not only in history but across other subjects as well. From maths to art, the maritime archaeology of the First World War can be applied across the breadth of the curriculum and, through its exploration, help to develop soft skills alongside academic skills.

The Maritime Archaeology Trust is experienced in creating flexible educational sessions tailored to the needs of any group and the project will be working with primary,

secondary and special educational needs schools, as well as universities and colleges.

In the interests of reaching broad and diverse audiences, the project will also produce a number of resources for schools, groups and individuals to use inside and outside of the classroom. These will include:

- Free to download PowerPoints based around key themes, including animals at war, submarine warfare and hospital ships.
- Hollybrook War Memorial Teacher's Guide, to fit with 'learning on the doorstep' aspects of the new National Curriculum.
- Artefact handling collection boxes for hands-on engagement with the past.
- DIY Shipwreck Research packs for self-guided learning.
- Audio articles for talking newspapers for visually impaired people.
- First World War themed geocaches for those keen to do a little exploring.
- 'People lost at sea' resource for a more personal look at the war at sea.
- Project information booklet.
- Short films focused on some of the archaeological sites around the south coast.
- Flash drive cards containing these teaching and learning resources, to be distributed towards the end of the project.

This education programme will help to increase access to our maritime heritage, bringing it to a wider range of people of all ages and backgrounds. There will be something for every type of learner and it will help develop transferable skills and embed an understanding of the local maritime aspect of the First World War from an early age.

## Public Outreach

The public outreach aspect of the Forgotten Wrecks project disseminates the results of the fieldwork and research far and wide, raising the profile of the First World War at sea along the south coast.

An extensive range of public talks and presentations, temporary exhibitions and a mobile Forgotten Wrecks exhibition in our Maritime Bus is planned along the whole south coast throughout the project. The Forgotten Wrecks team will be delivering talks and events for groups such as Local History Societies, Dive Clubs, Sailing Clubs and Ex-services organisations, in addition to academic talks and conferences.

Building on the successes of one of MAT's previous HLF funded projects 'Engaging New Audiences', a number of opportunities have been identified for extending the reach of the Forgotten Wrecks project. For example, new audiences will be reached through maritime First World War themed geocaches in each of the south coast counties.

By working with the UK Punjab Heritage Association and the Swadhinata Trust, the project aims to identify personnel from Southern Asia serving on merchant and naval ships during the First World War and bring to light some of their stories.



Visually impaired people across the country will hear about the project and its results via audio articles in Talking Newspapers distributed through the Talking News Federation and by working with a local adult mental health unit, we will create opportunities for service users to become involved with the project.

The project will engage and inform young people through talks and visits to Scouts/Guides, Young Carers and Young Archaeologist Clubs as well as the events, activities and resources delivered as part of the Education Programme.

Other ways for people to find out about the project and research include our website ([www.forgottenwrecks.org](http://www.forgottenwrecks.org)) which will include a database, interactive map and 3D models of selected sites. A Temporary Exhibition Programme will see small exhibitions of artefacts and information in a variety of venues in each of the six south coast counties. As well as museums and heritage sites, you will come across these displays in more unexpected settings such as theatres, shopping centres and service stations.

As with the Education programme, the Public Outreach programme has been designed to provide project information and results in a range of different formats and media so that more people and a wider range of people are able to engage with this under-represented aspect of their heritage.



*"...The history of WWI in terms of the navy has been neglected for too long... I think there needs to be a redressing of the balance between the trenches and everything else that happened .... I think it will be a valuable addition to our understanding of the war as a country."*  
**Secondary School Teacher**

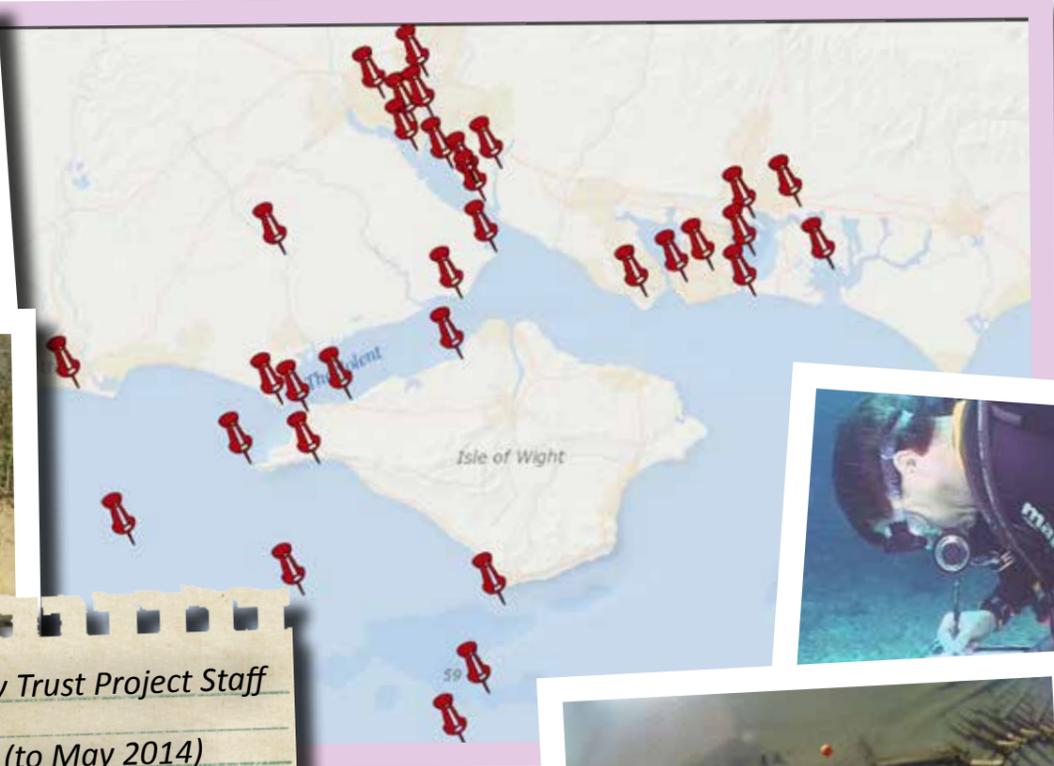
  
**Jasmine Noble-Shelley**  
 Jasmine has a BSc in Archaeology and an MSc in Archaeological Computing. After volunteering with the Trust for several years, Jasmine undertook a training bursary with the Trust through the HLF 'Hampshire Heritage Skills' placement scheme. On its completion, Jasmine joined the Forgotten Wrecks project team.

*"The Maritime Bus has added an extra element of fun and interest to the Young Carers Festival every time it has come to visit. Young people enjoy learning about something different in a fun environment."*  
**YMCA Sales & Marketing Manager**

  
**Jose-Oscar Encuentra**  
 Jose-Oscar's BA in Modern History, BA in International Politics, PGC in Education and MA in Maritime Archaeology stand him in good stead as an Education & Outreach officer for the Forgotten Wrecks project. Additionally he is a former history teacher in Spanish secondary schools and has broad fieldwork experience in underwater and maritime excavations in France, Spain, Bolivia and Belgium.



# The Maritime Archaeology Trust



**Maritime Archaeology Trust Project Staff**

- Caroline Barrie-Smith (to May 2014)
- Sally Bennetts (to May 2014)
- Amanda Bowens
- Kathryn Dagless
- Virginia Dellino-Musgrave
- Jose-Oscar Encuentra
- Stephen Fisher
- Jan Gillespie
- Christin Heamagi
- Brandon Mason
- Philippa Naylor (to March 2014)
- Jasmine Noble-Shelley
- Lauren Tidbury
- Helen Wallbridge
- Chris Whaley
- Julian Whitewright

**Sunken Secrets Staff**

- Sue Davis
- Katie Cambridge (to August 2014)
- Tony Rayner
- Jacqui Arnold (from August 2014)
- Charles Murphey (from August 2014)
- Rosemary Rayner (from September 2014)



*In the past 12 months, the Trust has engaged the public through numerous events, including:*

- More than 3,300 visitors aboard the Maritime Bus at 14 events.*
- 34 classroom and fieldwork sessions for more than 1,000 school pupils.*
- More than 4,000 visitors to Sunken Secrets in the 2014 summer season.*
- 75 volunteer days of diving fieldwork.*
- Over 100,000 hits on our website.*
- Reaching 125,000 users on Twitter.*
- More than 6,000 visitors and 96 incredible volunteers at Southampton Maritime Festival.*

Map sources: ESRI, GEBCO, NOAA, National Geographic, DeLorme, HERE, Geonames.org

# A Year in Summary

The past year has seen the MAT involved in a wide range of projects: gathering new data from the seabed and intertidal zone, researching sites and landscapes, and spreading the word through our dissemination programme. As the 'fleet' of MAT projects continues to expand it is increasingly difficult to summarise them all in an annual report. This year, therefore, we highlight some of the new, on-going and completed projects below and invite those seeking further information to visit the annual summary section of our website at:

[www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/2013-2014](http://www.maritimearchaeologytrust.org/2013-2014)

## Getting underway: New Projects

**ForSeaDiscovery Project** (Forest resources for Iberian Empires: Ecology and Globalization in the Age of Discovery): Working with Maritime Archaeology Ltd and European partners to deliver this Marie Curie Initial Training Network funded through the European Union Framework 7 programme.

**Solent 70:** Funded by a Hampshire County Council grant, match-funded by a contribution from the New Forest National Park Authority, this project worked with volunteers to research and disseminate the role of the Solent in Operation Overlord, 1944.

**Bait Digging Impacts on Archaeology:** Pilot study in Chichester Harbour to identify and survey areas impacted by digging in the intertidal zone for bait, funded through the Chichester Harbour Sustainable Development Fund.

**Common Cultural Connections Project:** Funding through the Creative Europe EU programme to work with French and Spanish partners to explore and disseminate cultural links through archaeology.

## Full Steam Ahead: On-Going Projects

**Arch-Manche Project:** Archaeology, Art and Coastal Heritage - tools to support coastal management and climate change planning across the Channel Regional Sea: Now in its final year, the project has been working with partners to demonstrate how heritage assets can demonstrate long-term coastal change. Fieldwork has included measuring erosion at Bouldnor Cliff, sediment movements around the Alum Bay wrecks and intertidal sites in Langstone Harbour.

**PRiME-C Project** (Partnering for Risk Management and Engagement on the Coast): Working with European partners to consolidate understanding and experience of coastal issues in relation to risk management, with funding from the EU Interreg Iva 2Seas programme.

**Southampton Maritime Festival:** A major event working with Southampton Heritage Federation to promote public engagement with all aspects of maritime heritage.

**Sunken Secrets Exhibition at Fort Victoria:** Another successful season at our permanent exhibition on the Isle of Wight.

**Alum Bay Wrecks:** Work to publish investigations in the bay which have been on-going for nearly twenty years.

**Maritime Archives of England:** Investigating the back-log of archives from investigations that have not yet been fully disseminated, funded by English Heritage.

**Stirling Castle Protected Wreck Site:** English Heritage funded analysis work which will ultimately result in a publication.

**HLF Catalyst Grant:** To support the development of fundraising initiatives to help deliver our core objectives.

**Submerged Prehistoric Landscapes of Saudi Arabia:** Work with the University of York to investigate sites of high archaeological potential off the Farasan Islands in the southern Red Sea.

## On the Ebb: Completed Projects

**Hampshire Heritage Skills Project:** This HLF funded project hosted two part-time training placements, thank you to Jasmine Noble-Shelley and Philippa Naylor for all their contributions over the past two years.

**Sinah Circle:** Assessment of this early Medieval shell fishing structure to help determine risks and develop future management, funded by English Heritage.

**SPLASHCOS Project** (Submerged Prehistoric Landscapes and Archaeology of the Continental shelf): MAT has been part of this international network of earth scientists and archaeologists funded through the EU-funded COST (Co-operation in Science and Technology) programme.

## Batten Down the Hatches: Winter Storms

The severe winter storms experienced in 2013–2014 had a significant impact on the coast and in the near shore zone. The MAT received many calls from members of the public, reporting discoveries of single objects through to the exposure of whole previously unknown wreck sites. MAT responded to this where possible through survey and recording of objects at risk and sites exposed. These included objects washed ashore at East Wittering, Hengistbury Head and Hayling Island, a wooden wreck exposed on the East Winner Bank, peat and timbers exposed at Hurst Spit and a timber feature at Pitts Deep on the New Forest coast.

While the storms demonstrated the fragility of our coastal and marine archaeological sites, it also highlighted public engagement with the resource and we would like to thank those who contacted us. These events have highlighted the importance of general donations to the MAT which allow us to respond in these circumstances. With grants moving increasingly to project funding (as demonstrated by the sections above), it is a timely reminder of the need to have the capacity to react to urgent situations.

# Supporters



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The First World War Centenary is a chance to understand the war better, uncover its stories and explore what it means to us today. Since April 2010, the Heritage Lottery Fund has awarded more than £58million to projects which explore the heritage of the First World War and is pleased to be working with the government on the UK-wide Centenary Programme.



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The British Marine Aggregate Producers Association (BMAPA) is the representative trade body for the British marine aggregate sector, and represents 11 member companies who operate dredgers off the coast of England and Wales. The industry acquires high resolution marine survey data to inform the assessment and management of marine aggregate operations; these same data offer the potential for significant added value in supporting research associated with the marine historic environment.



***The Maritime Archaeology Trust will promote interest, research and knowledge of maritime archaeology and heritage.***

The Maritime Archaeology Trust Policy Statement:

- Carry out maritime archaeological surveys, investigations and research in accordance with professional and museum codes of conduct and practice, the Institute for Archaeologists and the UNESCO Convention on the Protection of Underwater Cultural Heritage.
- Promote archaeological awareness and competence.
- Promote public awareness, enjoyment, education and participation in the maritime archaeological heritage.
- Support the publication of the results of maritime archaeological investigations, surveys and research.
- Liaise with other regional, national and international organisations involved in maritime archaeology and related disciplines.
- Provide maritime archaeological services to heritage agencies, local authorities and a wide range of marine operators.
- Support regional, national and international initiatives for improvements to the legislation regarding the preservation and management of the maritime archaeological heritage.
- Ensure that maritime archaeology plays an important role in coastal planning, management and policies.

## **The Maritime Archaeology Trust**

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*Images (top to bottom):* Volunteers at the Southampton Maritime Festival, examining prehistoric features on the French coast at Morbihan, winter storm erosion at Hurst Spit, the Trust's Maritime Bus at Bournemouth Festival of Learning.

