

Daniel G. Roberts Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology



The Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology

The Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology team in Southampton, United Kingdom. *Left to right:* standing are Lauren Tidbury, Julian Whitewright, Caroline Barrie-Smith, Christin Heamagi, Philippa Naylor, Brandon Mason, Jasmine Noble-Shelley, Sally Bennets, and Jan Gillespie; kneeling are Stephen Fisher, Garry Momber, and Amanda Bowens. Not pictured are team members Julie Satchell, Kathryn Dagless, and Virginia Dellino-Musgrave.

Established by the Society for Historical Archaeology (SHA) in 2011 and first presented in 2012, the Daniel G. Roberts Award for Excellence in Public Historical Archaeology for 2013 was presented to the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology at the society's annual conference in Leicester, United Kingdom. Trust director Garry Momber accepted the award on behalf of the trust. The mission of the Hampshire and Wight Trust is to "conduct pioneering" maritime archaeological research and fieldwork, with the results contributing to wide-ranging dissemination, outreach and education." The trust's work throughout the United Kingdom has allowed it to bring the excitement of maritime archaeology to the people of the United Kingdom and the world, with a special focus on school-age children and youth.

Cutting-edge research includes investigations at the sites of shipwrecks ranging from the second-rate warship *HMS Impregnable*, wrecked in 1700, to the merchant bark *Flower of Ugie*, sunk in 1852, to a World War II landing craft that foundered on the way to support the D-day landings. While much of the trust's work focuses on historical and postmedieval heritage, the team also works on submerged prehistoric sites, including a preserved prehistoric forest at Bouldnor Cliff

and the submerged landscape off Gibraltar. All these projects are presented to the public through exciting, entertaining, and educational products that reveal the thrill of maritime study and discovery while imparting the need for appreciation and preservation of these fragile sites.

The Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology is perhaps best known for the innovative educational materials it produces. Programs targeted to school children include visits to schools for in-classroom workshops and after-school club activities, as well as the marvelous Maritime Bus, a mobile underwater-archaeology educational facility and laboratory. The trust also delivers training for teachers and educators, focusing on using the methods and techniques of underwater archaeology to enrich curricula and to provide extracurricular activities. The Young Archaeologists Dive In! Program allowed children ages 12 to 17 to dive and work with trust archaeologists, learning mapping and recording techniques and other skills. Developed through special funding from the United Kingdom's Heritage Lottery, this program is one of very few that has overcome liability limitations to enable young people to actually get their heads wet and hands dirty on an underwater archaeology project.

While the trust's work with youth is a primary target, adults are not left out. The trust has developed interpreted diving trails at a number of historical period shipwreck sites that enable and encourage access while promoting appreciation and preservation. Shipwrecks at Alum Bay are featured on a trail, while a similar trail at the wreck site of HMS *Hazardous* allows sport divers to explore a protected wreck that otherwise would be off limits for visitors. Web-based podcasts, audio guides, short videos, and interactive maps allow the public to access information about its maritime heritage at any time. Further, the trust's exhibits, displays, and publications provide a wealth of information in many formats.

One of the trust's most innovative and timely projects is Arch-Manche, an international partnership designed to measure and understand coastal dynamics. Using archaeology, art, and coastal-heritage features, Arch-Manche will demonstrate the rate and scale of coastal change over thousands of years in order to predict future changes. This information will be disseminated to a wide audience, including the public, to illustrate the nature and effects of coastal change.

For all these reasons, and for the trust's leadership in developing new strategies for reaching all segments of the public to instill appreciation for archaeology and maritime heritage, the Hampshire and Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology is a most deserving recipient of the Daniel G. Roberts Award.

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