**Archaeologists Presentation on 26 October 2018**

There was a packed house in the Reading Room for the most informative talk by Kris Strutt and Alex Langlands ably backed up by Dom Barker. This is the team that has lead the investigations that have been conducted over the past few years both within Old Sarum and in the surrounding area – the so-called Old Sarum Landscapes Project. The team are very grateful to all the landowners who have allowed them access to their property to conduct both geophysical investigations and archaeological digs.

The presentations generated a lot of interest from the audience as was evidenced by the penetrating questions. We had to conclude the questions early in deference to the presenters. Kris and Dom had been teaching up to 5pm before rushing off to catch a train to Salisbury. Also Alex had been at an archaeological site in Scotland and had flown down especially to speak to us. He was then driving back home to Swansea immediately after the presentation.

As he was running out of time Kris omitted his preliminary conclusions slide. A number of people have asked me if they could see this. Kris has kindly provided me with a copy which is reproduced below; clearly he would have amplified some of the terse summaries if he had been speaking but the general thrust is clear:

*It is apparent from the results that the entire outer bailey* (of Old Sarum) *was heavily built up in the Middle Ages. Possible evidence of earlier settlement in Ground Penetrating Radar data.*

*The plan of the settlement and the nature of some of the structures* (within Old Sarum) *can be clearly identified. Among these is the presence of large structures abutting the defensive wall of the site, an open area in front of these structures with an urban residential plan surrounding the ditch to the inner bailey*

*Several later structural features are visible, suggesting small scale settlement of the site in the late medieval period or post-medieval period.*

*Outside of the monument curtilage, evidence for Romano-British and medieval settlement, building platforms and orthogonal town planning near eastern entrance confirms evidence from excavation of eastern suburb*

*Evidence from 2017 and 2018 gives a clear indication of the presence of a western suburb to the 12th/13th century settlement, also evidence for 12th/13th century and later settlement along Stratford Road, and 10th/11th century Saxo-Norman deposits.*

A report by Kris Strutt of the geophysical work in 2016 and 2017 is available to read on the village website for those wanting more detail.

<https://www.stratfordsubcastle.org.uk/old-sarum-landscapes-project-kd-sru>

The 2018 work is currently being written up. The team plan to come back again next year to continue their investigations but the exact form of the work has yet to be decided. Local volunteers, however, are always welcome.

**Jim Platt**









