



## Talk Report – 6 Solent Wrecks – Jasmine Noble-Shelley (MAT)

Well done, we broke records last night for the Winter Programme so far this year!!

42 members attended the clubhouse in person, and another 9 joined on Zoom to make a total of 51, almost exactly half of the number of members that we email out to – which is a brilliant turn-out .... so thank you!!!!

Especially when it was such a dire night with wind and rain. Our Commodore advanced a theory – “We had a good turn-out as people were mad keen to get out of the house after days of being stuck indoors”! I thought ... speak for yourself, I came out because I organised it!”

Our Guest Speaker on Tuesday was Jasmine Noble-Shelley, a Senior Projects Officer with the Maritime Archaeological Trust, based in Southampton. Apparently chauffeured by her husband Andrew, Jasmin was in the advanced stages of pregnancy, so we firstly thanked her for her determination to deliver the presentation, if not something else!



After some club updates, Jasmine set the scene. Six Solent wrecks were going to be discussed in detail, 5 of which are “Protected” wrecks under the Protection of Wrecks 1973 legislation. This creates an area around each wreck to prevent uncontrolled interference, and a licensee to oversee all aspects of documentation, reporting and access.

From its inception in 1991 as The Hampshire and Isle of Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology, and a name-change in 2012 to the Maritime Archaeological Trust, they now work in partnership on projects with a range of UK and EU organisations and funding bodies, and have recently celebrated 30 years of existence.

The sites ranged in location from the Shingles Bank to the West, and Horse Dean Sands to the East, and were mostly all in relatively shallow water. The majority were military ships,

one was clearly a merchant ship, and whilst the identity of a few were obvious because of local reporting and available documentary evidence, one or two needed forensic work and careful elimination of alternatives to establish the ship's name. This was fascinating, where the team would use wood and metal dating, ship-building practices, dating of artifacts known to be associated, shipping records, and a wide range of other material to be able to say it was "X" out of a possible list of, say 303 wrecks! It was a bit like Sherlock Holmes ,or CSI, even!

The talk ended with a heartfelt round of applause for the fascinating presentation, and for the next adventure to come shortly for Jasmine and her husband.

**NEXT TALK – Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2024. Clubhouse & Zoom**  
**Myths and Legends of the Oceans – Dr Simon Boxhall**