

**WATER, SLAUGHTER & TRADE – ANDREW NEGUS**  
*(Romans to Dandies)*

An amusing and informative tour of ancient Southampton, all from the comfort of your Chair, told to a full house at last night's meeting.

In the beginning there were three separate areas until the Romans who were in Clausentum decided to move across the Hamwuld, which evolved to Hampton and being the South (*well you can see where this went*). *In fact Southamptonshire was the name for Hampshire as a whole.*

The reason they settled here was a no brainer, (*Sea, Deep Channels & Tides*). Ideal for the huge trading area that built up there.

When the Saxons moved in they built huge defences, but along came the Normans, and the area was divided into two parts, with the rich French area on the sea side leaving the poor English to the North. Within the French area, 5 parishes were set up. St Micheal's being the most important of these. A huge wool industry became the main trade with wool being exported to all parts of Europe, and the ships returning with large cargoes of wine. Wine cellars were built, with 60 still being in existence (*one of these being the King's, which would have been a grand building in its day*). At that time Southampton was believed to have the largest number of wine cellars in the country.

Again the defences were increased apart from where the rich merchants lived. They declared that they did not want their view restricted. BIG MISTAKE! As in 1338 one quiet Sunday morning, the French invaded finding their way into the city through this area. They burnt, robbed and murdered, leaving the city devastated and with this the trade industry died. What with the Black Death 10 years later, it was a devastating period in the City's history. Following the raids and the loss of all his wine! the King commanded that the defences be strengthened and the open area, in filled with a new city wall, but with windows, so that the merchant's could still have their view.

We did not realise as Andrew took us through the Old City, just how many original fortifications and buildings remain.

In Tudor times the city was in recession and poverty. But hey! Would you believe this! In 1750 a spring was discovered (*Del Boy comes to mind*), and from this Southampton developed into a Spa Town. Frederick the Prince of Wales even visited to cure his Gout, other famous people flocked to the area. Jane Austen resided there for a time. Along came the era of 'The Dandies & Fops'.

This was only Part 1, so Andrew will be returning to finish the story of Old Southampton, and it is hoped that a tour can be arranged in the near future.

Marilyn Wilton-Smith