



# **WRECK HUNTERS**

## **NEWSLETTER No. 2**

### **AUTUMN 2021**



In this second newsletter, to our ever-increasing list of those showing an interest in our project (thanks to all of you for taking the time to get in touch), we will be looking forward to 2022 and bringing you up to date with some developments.

*Mike Haigh, Project Director, Wreck Hunters*

#### **SEASON 2021**

As everyone knows international travel is at present fraught with uncertainty. No doubt everyone has had enough of Covid statistics by now, but it is impossible to ignore them. The rapid spread of the Delta variant is forcing the recalibration of many expectations, including travel. Right now, the population of the UK are 'lab rats', in an experiment to see what happens when all compulsory safeguards are dropped with a partially vaccinated population. Given such a backdrop it would be irresponsible on many levels to try and run a programme this year. So rather than try and salvage something from the unsalvageable in our view it is better to focus our energies on the future.

#### **SEASON 2022**



*The crystal-clear water of Utila, Honduras*

The plan is to be on site in Utila from July 18<sup>th</sup> to September 9<sup>th</sup>, 2022, so eight weeks. The general objectives will be the same:

- To establish a grid
- To set up a baseline
- To produce an outline plan of the site
- To record the orientation of the wreck
- To record the visible parts of the remains in detail
- To complete a probe survey of the site
- To produce a photomosaic of the visible parts of the wreck
- To produce a full photographic and video record of the site
- If possible, carry out an underwater metal detector survey of the area

Each participant will be responsible for their own transport to and from Utila and we are planning to provide self-catering accommodation at the cost of about £250 per week. You can of course make your own arrangements. In the original plan the first season was to be focused on the above – looking for personnel who had some experience in skills needed. This has not changed. But given the fact that we will have more time to fulfil our objectives there can be a greater accent on what we call in the UK ‘on the job training’. So please don’t think that because you are not a vastly experienced diver or not an expert artist, photographer or surveyor that you have nothing to offer. There is a place for a range of people with different levels of experience and skills on these types of projects, the best type of learning is by doing. In other words, our aim will be to combine training with work on the site. Which sounds like most diving archaeology projects I have been involved in!

However, you will need your own kit, bar tanks and weights. The objective of Wreck hunters is to spread the word, so to speak, about diving archaeology, so we will be looking to provide diving as inexpensively as possible. Details to follow.

As mentioned in the previous newsletter there will be the normal plethora of forms to complete for us. But that can wait for now.



#### **WRECKHUNTERS AT THE GO-DIVING SHOW 2022**

The first large post-Covid diving show in the UK is planned for March 4<sup>th</sup> – 6<sup>th</sup> 2022 at NAEC Stoneleigh, Kenilworth, six miles south of Coventry, and Wreck Hunters will

be there. We will have a large stand close to the entrance so please do come

along if you can. Go Diving, which attracts more than 100 exhibitors from around the world, is an interactive show, offering something to both seasoned and newly trained divers. With the exhibition space spread over two purpose-built halls and plenty of parking it is an ideal venue for such a show. With new equipment from the biggest brands, skills workshops, keynote speakers, interactive experiences and exhibitors from all areas of diving it promises to be an event not to be missed. Tickets available <https://www.godivingshow.com>

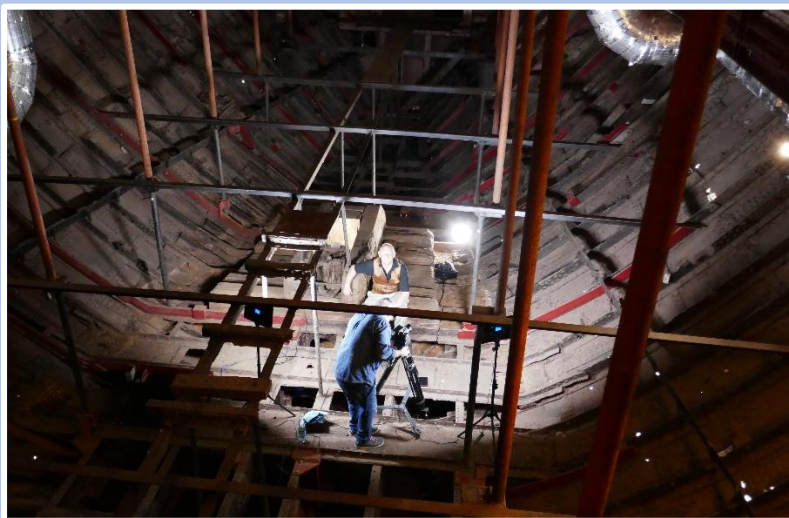


*SS Great Britain, pride of place in Bristol Harbour*

### **WRECK HUNTERS TEAMS UP WITH THE SS GREAT BRITAIN**

Many of you may have seen my videos on the Scuba Diver Magazine channel. If you have missed them, they will soon all, be on display on our own YouTube channel. Those of you who have will be aware that we often use the SS Great Britain, Isambard Kingdom Brunel's iconic steamship, as the 'backdrop' for these. We even

have one of the SSGB's specialists contributing to one of our sessions coming



*Mike Haigh presenting one of the Wreck Hunters videos from inside the rarely seen SS Great Britain cargo hold*

out soon. We have had discussions with the SSGB's media and communications team about doing some work with them. A number of ideas have been put forward and I will keep you up to date with them in future editions.

As frustrating as 2021 has been in diving terms, and for those in many other walks of life,

as long as we focus on the future it is often surprising how quickly events pass.

If you have any questions or queries regarding the Wreck Hunters project, please e-mail [mike@wreckhunters.co.uk](mailto:mike@wreckhunters.co.uk) Mike Haigh, FRGS, Project Director