



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

www.edas-archaeology.org.uk

mail@edas-archaeology.org.uk

NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2006

Personalia

Della has just come out of hospital after a significant operation, and we are very glad to report that the medical opinion is that the problem has been fully resolved.

Marion Roberts has damaged her back during a fall. She is now having bed rest to help things mend. We wish Della and Marion all the best for a speedy recovery.

RECENT EVENTS

Last EDAS Lecture

At our last EDAS lecture Dr John Chandler talked to us about "Shaftesbury and its Abbey". The last book on the Abbey, by Laura Sydenham, was published in 1959 and reprinted in 1978. John became involved in researching some panels for the new site displays, and finished by writing an excellent, brand-new book on the subject. He started his lecture by reminding us that evidence and historical thinking needs revisiting every so often; more information becomes available, and social attitudes and interests change. He quoted Sir Mortimer Wheeler, who said of one archaeological matter – "If we're sure we've known all about this for 30 years then we've probably got it wrong!". The town of Shaftesbury reportedly started in about 880, with the founding of a Nunnery by one of King Alfred's daughters. It was therefore a royal Nunnery, and one of its important purposes was to provide a safe place for privileged ladies, both for their wellbeing and moral behaviour. John succinctly described this as a benign form of house-arrest! As well as the Nunnery becoming a model for all others, it also became the largest in England.

The business of the Nunnery seems to go on reliably from day to day, with the occasional record showing, for example, that holiday worshippers were too boisterous and disturbed the nuns rest!

The Abbey suffered dissolution in the 1500s, but what followed was not decline, but a period of optimism. Most of the medieval town was replaced with new buildings, many of them using stone from the Abbey itself. There was very little to see of the Abbey until quite recently, when the site was improved and a small museum erected.

We thank John for giving us an extremely interesting and informative lecture. Your editor purchased his book and can highly recommend it!

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

EDAS lecture: "Romano-Celtic Religion in Wessex", with Professor Tony King

Martin Wright of Salisbury Museum, who has previously given us a talk on the history of the museum's excavations, has a number of books on the subject of Romano-Celtic Religions. Tony King, our speaker for Wed 8th Mar, has agreed that Martin Wright can bring some of these books to the meeting to sell.

EDAS AGM

Remember that our AGM takes place on Wed 29th March. This is your chance to let us know your views and suggest how EDAS might be improved. The AGM will be followed by a lecture "... **to partake of tea** ..." with Geoff Brown of EDAS.

Please see last month's Newsletter for more details.

Sun 19th March - Guided Walk round Poole with Brian Galpin – Local Historian

Meet at 10.30am outside Town Cellars (back of Waterfront Museum)

Brian has offered his services free as part of the fund raising activities for the new Waterfront Museum and a donation will be made by the Society. (no money on the day). The walk will take approx. 2½ hrs. In the afternoon we can take short drive and then walk to visit the oldest building in Poole.

There are a few unrestricted street parking places on Sunday around the High Street area. The road works in the High Street should be finished by the 19th – but check any new parking restrictions. The nearest public car park is the Old Orchard or if you plan on stopping for Sunday lunch (recommended) the Thistle Hotel car park charge £2 for 4 hours which is refunded to customers. Contact Alan Hawkins tel:- 01202 668178.

EDAS Library

Every year a group of EDAS members visit a chosen area – our regular Field Trip. In the course of our visits many guide books and maps have been collected for areas as far afield as Scotland and Cornwall, not all on our list. If you are planning a visit to another area check with our librarian to see what may be available (some may be privately owned but can be borrowed). Various individual guides are held such as Kingston Lacey and Corfe Castle and many local churches - check out the 'oddments' box when at our meetings. (Librarian – Alan tel 01202 668178)

EDAS FIELD TRIP – Booking Reminder

You will find details of the next EDAS Field Trip to Worcestershire with the previous Newsletter. You are advised to book your accommodation as early as possible because there is an overlap with the Three Counties Show.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The dates for EDAS events are underlined. The monthly evening lectures start at 7.30pm. Walks and field visits usually meet at 10.30 am at the published Grid Reference. Ring the leader if the weather is doubtful or if more details are required.

2006

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| <u>Wed 8 Mar</u> | EDAS lecture: " <u>Romano-Celtic Religion in Wessex</u> ", with Professor Tony King of University College, Winchester |
| Sat 18 Mar | A series of lectures: " <u>Pits, Pots and People - 10,000 years at Bestwall, Wareham</u> " at Dorset County Museum Book early to avoid disappointment. See an earlier Newsletter for more details. |
| Sun 19 Mar | Walk around Poole. More details to follow. |
| <u>Wed 29 Mar</u> | EDAS AGM, followed by "... to partake of tea ... A glimpse into the lives of Henrietta and Hilary Bankes of Kingston Lacy, Dorset" with Geoff Brown of EDAS. |
| <u>Wed 19 Apr</u> | EDAS lecture: " <u>The Piltown Man hoax</u> ", with Dr Miles Russell of Bournemouth University. |
| Sun 23 Apr | Walk with Alan and Gill Broadbent . More details later. |
| <u>Wed 10 May</u> | EDAS lecture: " <u>The Dorset Monument Management Scheme</u> ", with Steve Wallis of Dorset Archaeological Services |
| <u>Sun 21 May</u> | Walk with Phil Roberts in and around <u>the Tarrant Valley</u> . It is expected to include Tarrant Monkton and the Langton Arms. More details in a later Newsletter |