



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2006

***** NOTICE ABOUT THE MAY LECTURE MEETING *****

Please note that as the church require the hall on the second Wednesday of May, our **Lecture meeting** has been **put back to the third Wednesday 17th May.**

RECENT EVENTS

Last EDAS Lecture

Our speaker at the March meeting was Professor Tony King of University College Winchester. Tony spoke to us about Romano-Celtic religion in Wessex and in particular the Romano Celtic temple on Hayling Island which Tony helped to excavate. The structure of the temple followed the expected layout of an "ambulatory" (or more prosaically a corridor) and a central Cella (incidentally the origin of the word Cell as in a monks cell). The main difference was that the Cella was circular in shape, as is also found at Ulay and several French examples. Indeed there are several French examples which still exist, pretty much to full height, and have been incorporated into a (much) later Chateau! The scale of the Cella was much grander than normally imagined (as per the example at Maiden Castle) and it was remarkable that they have survived almost 2000 years. The assemblage of bone remains was also found to be very interesting, and tended to reflect the species of the animals associated with the god worshipped at the temple, for example goat and hen for the god Mercury.

Many thanks to Tony for a very interesting and thought provoking lecture, presented in multi-media using both slides and overhead projector.

Steve Smith

AGM

The business of our AGM was conducted very quickly and efficiently as usual. All executive members of the committee were re-elected, apart from Sue Churchill who stepped down due to work commitments. Mike Fryatt and Steve Bungay stepped down from the committee and chose not to be re-elected. We thank them very much for their help in running the society. Gill Broadbent has been appointed as Secretary, and David Stewart as a new committee member. The committee now is:

Chairman:	John Day	Membership Secretary:	Della Day
Treasurer:	Peter Walker	Programme Secretary:	Steve Smith
Secretary:	Gill Broadbent	Special Advisor:	Martin Green

Ordinary Members: Graham Adams, Keith Allsopp, Helen Brickell,
Phil Roberts, David Stewart

In the second half of the meeting Geoff Brown gave us a talk about Henrietta and Hilary Bankes of Kingston Lacy, Dorset. The extent of Geoff's researches into the subject are extremely impressive. He told us not only about the family's history and fortunes, but also some very personal details of their life, and how they interacted with the local community. All of this was supported by pictures of the individuals concerned, and the content of personal letters and diaries. At the end of the talk we almost had the impression that Geoff had somehow known some of them personally! We thank him for a very interesting and well researched talk, and look forward to his forthcoming book.

Sun 19th March 2006 – Walk around Poole

Brian Galpin of the Poole Historical Society led a group of members around the historic part of Poole near the quayside. Brian explained that in medieval times the water's edge was about 50 yards further inland than it is at present. Initially jetties were built to enable goods to be unloaded from boats. As time went by, rubbish was dumped under the jetties, so that eventually land was reclaimed from the sea and the local people were able to build on it.

Whilst our walk took us no more than 100 yards from the quayside, Brian was able to show us many of the old buildings which have survived and described their origins and functions. These included the Mansion House (now a hotel), the Custom House, the Waterfront Museum, Scaplen's Court and St James Church. We also viewed the town wall, which was not built for defensive purposes, but to keep the sea out.

Many thanks to Brian for a most interesting walk, and to Alan Hawkins for arranging it.

Peter Walker

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

Sun 23rd April 2006 EDAS Walk around Maiden Castle and Martinstown

Join Gill and Allan Broadbent for a spring walk in pre-historic Dorset (with just a little Roman thrown in). Meet at 10.30 am at the car park at Maiden Castle SY 668 889. This is a 6 mile walk over easy ground with only slight hills with most of the walk on good paths with only a little that may be muddy if there has been recent rain. However, walking boots are recommended. Picnic lunch on Martinstown village green or pub lunch at the Brewers Arms in Martinstown. If there is time after the walk we can visit Maumbury Rings and have afternoon tea in Dorchester. Any general queries or in case of bad weather on the day ring 01202 841547.

Sun 21st May - Guided Walk around part of the Tarrant Valley with Phil Roberts

Meet at 10.30am by the noticeboard at the T-junction in the centre of Tarrant Rushton Village. No special parking area, park somewhere in the village. We will view any or all of 3 churches, a moated site, several bowl barrows, a disused airfield, a deer park, a DMV, a Medieval Cross, a shrunken village, Roman road and a listed public house. No steep gradients, but wear stout footwear. Lunch at the public house, the Langton Arms, or picnic nearby.

People who don't want to do the walk (about 6 miles) but who would like to join us for lunch at the Langton Arms would be most welcome. Would anyone who wishes to lunch there, at about 12.30, please let me know so that I can advise Barbara Cossins (Landlady) accordingly, by 14th May. Phil, on 01929 400507 or philroberts@connectfree.co.uk, for bookings and information!

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.

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| <u>Wed 19 Apr</u> | EDAS lecture: " <u>The Piltdown Man hoax</u> ", with Dr Miles Russell of Bournemouth University . |
| <u>Sun 23 Apr</u> | Walk with Alan and Gill Broadbent . See earlier. |
| <u>Wed 17 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> . See earlier. |