



# East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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**NEWSLETTER - MIDSUMMER 2006**

## **RECENT EVENTS**

### **Last EDAS Lecture**

At our last Lecture Steve Wallis of Dorset Archaeological Services talked to us about the "**The Dorset Monument Management Scheme**". The Council have a duty to look after the monuments in their care, but often this is not very pro-active because of the restraints on a limited budget. Recently, however, some archaeological organisations such as English Heritage have been able to provide some extra funding, and the Archaeological Services have been involved in a wide range of different preservation and consolidation projects. These include stabilising the banks at Poundbury and other hill forts, and significant repair to Sharford Bridge on the Isle of Arne, which is one of Dorset's most important Pack Horse Bridge. They work very closely with the local farmer or landowner, and the emphasis is on preservation while still respecting the practical use of the land.

Preservation often involves filling holes in, rather than digging them, but preservation is every bit as important as excavation. We are very glad that many of Dorset's monuments are in such good hands, and thank Steve for a very interesting and enjoyable talk about the 'other side' of archaeology.



[  
[Sharford Bridge]

### **Sunday 21 May – Walk around the Tarrant Valley with Phil Roberts**

4 members, plus 2 non-members, accompanied Phil on a rainy day for his walk around the Tarrant Valley. The first feature we saw was the former mill at Tarrant Rushton. We then plodded on through wet meadows and fields to pass the humps and bumps representing that part of Tarrant Rawston village which has disappeared, leaving a much shrunken village. We were able to view the former St Mary's parish church which is now in private ownership, and saw the interior, including the gallery at the west end.

On arriving at Tarrant Monkton, Phil pointed out the site of the henge which members excavated last year. We then repaired to the local pub for lunch. In the afternoon the rain stopped, although we were assailed by strong winds for the second half of our walk. We also saw our numbers reduced to 4. Our route took us past Hogstock Coppice, which Phil explained had been a deer park. On arrival at Tarrant Rushton airfield we looked at the war memorial and noted the various units that had been based there. After walking part of the perimeter track, we arrived back in Tarrant Rushton and visited St Mary's church. The church is an unusual shape – an equal-armed cross. Set up high in the chancel wall there are 2 large medieval cooking pots, apparently set there to improve the acoustics. Our last visit was to the very large tombstone of Sir Alan Cobham and his wife in the churchyard.

Despite the poor weather it was a fascinating journey, taking in many different periods. Many thanks to Phil for all his research.

Peter Walker

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

### **Saturday 22 July – Walk from Corfe Castle with Peter Walker**

This walk is dedicated to Mike Fryatt, who died in April, who was to have led it. A walk of about 5 miles to Corfe Common, Kingston and Church Knowle. Meet at **10.00** at Corfe Castle Visitor Centre, just before the village, SY958825. Please note that this walk is on a **Saturday and starts at 10.00**. Peter expects the walk to be completed in time for optional lunch in Corfe. Any queries to Peter on 01425 471326.

### **Saturday 29 July – EDAS Barbeque at Down Farm**

See enclosed form for more details.

### **Saturday 19 August – Walk from Max Gate, Dorchester with Peter Walker**

A mostly flat walk of about 7 miles to pass and in some cases visit Winterborne Came House and church, Whitcombe church, West Stafford church, Kingston Maurward Manor and Stinsford church (graves of Thomas Hardy & Cecil Day-Lewis). Meet at 10.30 parking near Max Gate off A352 SY704899 Explorer Map OL15. Bring a packed lunch. Please note that this walk is on a **Saturday**. Any queries to Peter on 01425 471326.

### **Shaftesbury Abbey Lecture**

Prof. Mick Aston will give a lecture about Shaftesbury Abbey at 7:30pm on 8<sup>th</sup> November at Shaftesbury Art Centre, Ball Street. Tickets are £6 (£5 to EDAS members) and will be brought to our meetings in September and October.

## **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**

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| <u>Sat 22 Jul</u> | <b><u>Walk from Corfe Castle with Peter Walker.</u></b> See earlier for more details. This walk is on a <b>Saturday</b>                 |
| <u>Sat 29 Jul</u> | <b><u>EDAS Summer Barbecue.</u></b> ** This is now the confirmed date **<br>See application form in with this Newsletter.               |
| <u>Sat 19 Aug</u> | <b><u>Walk with Peter Walker around around the Dorchester area.</u></b> See earlier for more details. This walk is on a <b>Saturday</b> |
| <u>Wed 13 Sep</u> | First EDAS lecture of the new season: “ <b><u>The Wreck of the Earl of Abergavenny</u></b> ” with David Carter                          |
| <u>Sun 17 Sep</u> | <b>Walk</b> with Karen Brown around Dorchester town. More details later.  |
| <u>Wed 11 Oct</u> | EDAS lecture: “ <b><u>The Milestones of Dorset</u></b> ” with John Tybjerg of the Milestone Society.                                    |
| <u>Sun 22 Oct</u> | <b>Walk</b> with Steve Smith. More details later.   |
| <u>Wed 8 Nov</u>  | Lecture from <b><u>Prof. Mick Aston about Shaftesbury Abbey.</u></b> See earlier for details.   |
| <u>Wed 8 Nov</u>  | EDAS lecture: “ <b><u>Hands-on Osteo-archaeology</u></b> ” with Mark Maltby of Bournemouth University.                                  |