



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER - JANUARY 2007

We wish aLL our members a Happy New Year

*** Changes to the published Programme ***

- Susanne Palmer who was to speak in April has cancelled. The March lecture with Robert Webley has been changed to the 11th April 2007.
- Dr Jenny Chambers of the National Ice Age Network will speak on the 14th March 2007 on "*Big Chill? Environments and Inhabitants of England during the Ice Age.*"

PERSONALIA

We are sorry to report the death of our member Ruth Fourmey. She was known as Joy to us, and we especially appreciated the help she gave in coffee breaks at lectures. Our condolences go to her family.

RECENT EVENTS

Last EDAS Lecture

At our last evening lecture Rebecca Causer of Hampshire & Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology talked to us about "Exploring the seabed of the Solent and Wight: Marine archaeology and aggregate". EDAS has been given a previous lecture on maritime archaeology around Langstone Harbour, where digging took place at low tide. The archaeological methods used for that were very similar to those that we landlubbers are familiar with. However, the work done by Rebecca's team is very different: they work in diving gear and aqualungs! Most of the audience were unaware of this type of work, and Rebecca explained that there are fewer than a hundred archaeologists working this way in the UK. The reason for the archaeological involvement is that much of the seabed around the Isle of Wight, and especially in the Solent itself, consists of deep alluvial gravel beds that were laid on existing land when sea-level was much lower. This gravel is extracted commercially under licence, but the same area is also enormously rich in shipwrecks - literally many hundreds of ships dating from Roman times to the present. Just like on land, the archaeology must be assessed, recorded, and, if necessary, scheduled for archaeological protection. Rebecca explained that, unlike the disturbed and jumbled surface archaeology that we are used to, a sunken ship can be like a complete time-capsule holding every-day artefacts and equipment, sometimes together with the bones of the people who had used them, all in exactly the same context.

Rebecca's enthusiasm for the work was very evident, and she gave us a fascinating introduction and insight into a whole new type of archaeology! We thank her for a very interesting and enjoyable lecture.

Library

Margaret Roebuck has given a book on the History of Broadstone, which she has co-authored, to the EDAS library. This is being reviewed, and the review will appear in the next Newsletter. We thank Margaret for the book.

John

Bournemouth University

Bournemouth University have sent us details of their Archaeological Field Schools for the summer of 2007 which are offered by the School of Conservation Sciences at the University.

They are offering volunteers who wish to gain experience in archaeological field practice at all levels the opportunity to participate in one of their field schools. Volunteers will develop a new set of skills that will allow them to contribute effectively on archaeological fieldwork projects elsewhere and gain extensive hands-on experience in a wide range of field techniques using some of the most sophisticated equipment.

Whether you need to gain experience as part of your studies or University placement, accumulate educational credit or just want to experience the thrill of unearthing the past as a volunteer, the field school can satisfy all these requirements.

Details of the Field Schools, including fees and an on-line application form, can be found on the website at www.bournemouth.ac.uk/conservation. The closing date for all applications is 30th April 2007.

If anyone requires further information or advice please contact:

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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.

2007

- Wed 10 Jan EDAS lecture: “**Industrial Archaeology of Wessex**” with Dr Peter Stanier of the Industrial Archaeology Society.
- Sat 13 Jan CBA Study Day: **Historic Standing Buildings**. See an earlier Newsletter for more details.
- Wed 14 Feb EDAS lecture: “**A Mill on the Stour**”, with Colin Cope, custodian of the White Mill at Sturminster Marshall.
- Sat 17 Feb CBA Study Day on **Environmental Archaeology**. See an earlier Newsletter for more details.
- Wed 14 Mar EDAS lecture: Dr Jenny Chambers of the National Ice Age Network will speak on the **14th March 2007** on “*Big Chill? Environments and Inhabitants of England during the Ice Age.*” * **Change from the published Programme** *.
- Wed 28 Mar **EDAS AGM** followed by a talk by an EDAS member. More details to follow.
- Wed 11 Apr EDAS lecture: “**Treasure and the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hampshire**” with Robert Webley, Portable antiquities officer for Hampshire. * **Change from the published Programme** *.
- Wed 9 May EDAS lecture: “**The Villages of East Dorset**” with Emma Ayling, curator of the Priests’ House Museum, Wimborne.