



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2007

RECENT EVENTS

Last EDAS Lecture

At our last EDAS lecture Dr Jenny Chambers of the National Ice Age Network (NIAN) spoke to us on "The Big Chill? Environments and Inhabitants of England during the Ice Age." This was a very interesting overview of "things that you should know" about this very ancient archaeology. Jenny told us that the length of the latest Ice Age is now estimated to be at least 100,000 years, lasting until about 10,000 years ago, although there were warmer periods during this time. In Britain the peri-glacial region reached down to East Anglia and then Somerset on two of its advances. (forming Martin Green's Nailids).

Unsurprisingly, archaeological finds from this period are very few, and not many types of relic survive. Bone and tool related artefacts can survive, and the best hunting grounds are the now buried alluvial gravel beds that seemed to be suitable for prehistoric occupation. This means that the NIAN's work is funded by the same Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund that supports Rebecca Causer in her work for the Hampshire & Wight Trust for Maritime Archaeology (our recent December lecturer). However, what Jenny's talk, and our visit to Boxgrove on a previous EDAS Field Trip, made clear, is that, with the right specialist knowledge and experience, understanding the archaeology of the very distant past is not quite as impossible as we might have thought. Also, scientific methods are improving all the time, and it is now possible to know what the climate was at different times, as well as being able to date very old artefacts better.

We thank Jenny for a very interesting and thought provoking talk, and look forward to what the improving archaeology of these periods will reveal to us in the future.

AGM

The only change to the committee was that Karen Brown, who was a co-opted member, is now on the committee proper. The current Committee 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, Karen Brown, Helen Brickell, Phil Roberts, David Stewart		

Our AGM was on Wednesday 28th March. We also thank our speakers for two short talks. Our Programme Secretary Steve Smith talked about: "The EDAS field trip 2006: A taste of Worcestershire", and Katherine Barker gave us an informal talk on the Dorset County Boundary Survey Project.

Subscriptions

We would also like to remind members that subscriptions are also due for renewal in April if you do not already pay by standing order.

Forthcoming Events

Sun 22nd April – Walk with Barry Perratt around Vernditch Chase and Marlecombe Hill

Meet at 10.30 am at Martin Down Nature Reserve Car Park on the **SOUTH** side of the A354 (SU036201). 7 miles. Bring a packed lunch and wear stout footwear. (Tel 01725 519271)

Sunday 20th May - Walk in the Tarrant Valley with Phil Roberts

This will be the second of three walks exploring the Tarrant Valley from the source of the river Tarrant to its confluence with the river Stour. The walk will start and finish at the Spetisbury School car park (ST 985 030). It will be about 6 miles of easy walking and will visit an IA hillfort, 2 or 3 churches, a preaching cross, the remains of a 12th century Cistercian Abbey and the junction of the rivers Tarrant and Stour, amongst other things. Lunch will be at a pub (The True Lovers' Knot, Tarrant Keyneston) or packed and brought. It will be dry underfoot after fine weather; if it has been wet, stout footwear should be worn. Any queries to Phil at 01929 400 507 or philroberts@connectfree.co.uk

AERIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Part time help needed cataloguing aerial photos of archaeological sites taken over Dorset during the last 20 years, which will be lodged with the National Monuments Record: English Heritage.

Interesting work and reasonable payment.

Contact: . J. Boyden, Chebbard Farm, Cheselbourne, Dorchester DT2 7LW tel; 01258 837360

(John has, of course, produced many excellent aerial photographs, over the years, which have enabled local archaeologists to investigate new sites, especially on Cranborne Chase. Martin Green and many local archaeology units and societies have used John's APs. He no longer is taking APs. This opportunity could attract anyone who wants to make a few bob, doing an interesting and valuable job, in their spare time and in a delightful location. It would also be good to help John, who has stored our Myncen Farm finds for some years and who has always supported our ventures, including financially.)

CBA Wessex Study Days: 2007 Andy Manning

CBA Wessex, in partnership with Wessex Archaeology, is offering a series of study days, which give members an excellent hands-on experience of different aspects of archaeology, guided by leading experts.

In January, Bob Hill introduced us to the mysteries of historic building recording, including the ever changing techniques used in their construction. Case-studies showed that even apparently mundane buildings can provide surprising clues to the past. The day ended with a fascinating guided tour of the historic buildings within the Close and Salisbury town centre. Starting at the Salisbury and South Wiltshire Museum, one of the earliest of Salisbury's buildings, the tour even included that jewel of the 1960s, *Woolworths*.

In March, the study group embarked on a very different journey, looking at the basics of environmental archaeology with Dr Mike Allen. After learning how environmental archaeology can provide vital insights into the past, there was a guided tour of the Wessex Archaeology labs. Finally, the group got the chance to get muddy and undertook their own research with some environmental augering at a nearby field.

I would like to thank all those who took part and who made these study days a huge success. I am also very please to announce that we will now be offering a regular programme of study days, which will take place approximately every three months. As before, places are limited and early booking is essential. For the remainder of 2007, we are offering;

The Archaeology of Human Remains, Tutor: Dr. Jackie McKinley

Saturday 21st April: 10am to 4.30pm at Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury

An exciting chance to learn from a *Time Team* specialist, about what archaeology can tell us about our ancestors, how they were buried and what we can learn from their physical remains. There will be short illustrated lectures on burial types and what physical evidence we look for. There will be a practical session, giving an opportunity to try out newly acquired skills.

Cost £20 (includes tea and coffee, but not lunch) Limited to 15 people

A Guided Tour of Cranborne Chase, Tutors: Gill Swanton and Martin Green

Saturday July: 10am to 4.30pm at Cranborne Chase, Dorset

A day devoted to the study of one of the most important archaeological landscapes in Britain. There will be a guided tour of the significant sites and a visit to the museum.

Limited to 25 people- Please note **final date and cost to be confirmed**- contact Andy Manning for full details.

The Bluffers Guide to all you need to know about pottery, Tutor: Lorraine Mepham

Saturday November 10th: 10am to 4.30pm at Wessex Archaeology, Salisbury

Always wondered how old that piece of pot is? A hands-on whirlwind trip by Lorraine- Wessex Archaeology's finds expert- through the world of pottery, ranging from the Neolithic through to the Post-medieval period. How old it is, how was it made and what was it used for? The day is intended to give people the practical skills to identify what they find and ends with the famous Wessex Archaeology Test of the skills learnt.

Cost £20 (includes tea and coffee, but not lunch) Limited to 15 people

To book, please contact Andy Manning at Wessex Archaeology, Telephone 01722 343406 or email at a.manning@wessexarch.co.uk

EDAS Display at the Priest House Museum, Wimborne.

EDAS has been invited to mount a display on archaeology at the museum. The display features photographs and finds from the excavations of the Henge at Tarrant Monkton and the Roman buildings at Minchington with some information about EDAS. The display was devised and created by Gill Broadbent and Maureen Houghton with technical computer support from Malcolm Houghton and the location of finds, photographs and information by Phil Roberts.

The Museum opens to the public for the new season on Saturday 31st March. They have opened a new archaeology gallery this year so I hope members will take the opportunity to visit our local museum this year and take a look at our exhibit.

Saturday 28 April - HAMPSHIRE ARCHAEOLOGICAL COMMITTEE

LOCAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE 2007

Hosted by the Avon Valley Archaeological Society, Ringwood & District Community Centre, Greyfriars, 44 Christchurch Road, Ringwood BH24 1DW Hants on Saturday 28 April 2007.

Admission is free, and all are welcome. Tea and coffee will be available during the day. For lunch, bring a packed lunch, or there is a pub across the road. Society displays are welcomed, but tables need to be booked on the enclosed form. It would be helpful if Societies could let the Hosts know numbers of people attending for catering.

PROGRAMME

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| 10.00 am | Coffee or Tea |
| 10.30 am | Welcome - Richard Whaley, Chairman, HAC
Brief Update of HAC's plans to stimulate more active work in Hampshire |
| 10.45 pm | Ipley Manor, Avon Valley Archaeological Society |
| 11.15 am | Liss Roman Villa site by George Anelay, Project Director |
| 12.00 pm | Brief Updates
- Field Walking on Air Photo Crop Marks, and
- Woodlands Project, Basingstoke Archaeological Historical Society
- Winchester Roman Road & Centuriation, North East Hants Arch Soc
- Others offered |
| 1.00 pm | LUNCH BREAK - Coffee & Tea will be available |
| 2.00 pm | Flint Working at Nea Farm, Avon Valley, by Steve Ford, TVAS |
| 2.45 pm | Fieldwork in the New Forest, by Anthony Pasmore, New Forest Section |

- 3.15 pm Tea
- 3.45 pm Initial results from large scale excavations on either side of Staple Gardens, Winchester, by Ben Ford, Oxford Archaeology
- 4.45 pm Discussion and closing remarks
- 5.00pm Close of Conference

Sunday May 6th - Antique Bottle & Collectors Fair

For more details see:

<http://www.pooletown.com/bottleclub/forums/index.php>

<http://www.communitate.co.uk/dorset/dorsetbottleclub/>

Saturday 19th May - Identifying Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery

The Medieval Pottery Research Group

Wessex Archaeology, Portway House,
Old Sarum Park, Salisbury

This day will provide training for beginners in the identification of medieval and post-medieval pottery in Wessex. Participants will spend time handling and discussing previously unseen material from archaeological excavations in the county with advice and help from local specialists. The event is organised by Wessex Archaeology and the Medieval Pottery Research Group.

The day costs £25 (lunch not included) and numbers are strictly limited.

For more details and a booking form please contact:

Lorraine Mepham Telephone: 01722 326867

Email: l.mepham@wessexarch.co.uk

<http://www.medievalpottery.org.uk>

<http://www.wessexarch.co.uk/>

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 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** *.
- Sun 22 Apr **EDAS Walk** with Barry Perratt. See earlier for details.
- Sat 28 Apr **LOCAL SOCIETIES CONFERENCE 2007**. See earlier for more details.
- Sun 6 May **Antique Bottle & Collectors Fair**. See earlier for more web-site information
- Wed 9 May EDAS lecture: “**The Villages of East Dorset**“ with Emma Ayling, curator of the Priests’ House Museum, Wimborne.
- Sat 19 May Day School - **Identifying Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery**. See earlier for more details.
- Sun 20 May **Walk in the Tarrant Valley** with Phil Roberts. See earlier for more details.
- Sun 5 Aug **Visit to Silchester**. See last month’s Newsletter for more details.’