



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER - MAY 2007

Subscriptions

We would like to remind members that subscriptions are due for renewal for those who do not already pay by standing order.

RECENT EVENTS

Last EDAS Lecture : Treasure and the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Hampshire

Our last EDAS lecture was given by Rob Webley, Finds Liaison Officer (FLO) for Hampshire. Rob first gave us an overview of the scheme and described the differences between the old law of Treasure Trove (which dates back to medieval times) and the new Treasure Act which came into force in July 1996. A pilot portable antiquities scheme was established in 1997 and this was extended in 1999 to include Dorset and Hampshire. The pilot scheme was successful and was extended to cover the whole country in 2003. Rob described how he works with the local community, holding finds days where people can bring in finds for recording, and visiting local metal detecting clubs. A large percentage of the finds, especially in Hampshire, come from the many responsible metal detectorists who accurately record their find spots and report their finds. Rob went on to show us some of the many fascinating finds that he has recorded, including a rare gold "Angel" coin located "somewhere south of Ringwood". The finds database maintained by the scheme is open to public access for research and this is encouraged. The website of the scheme is <http://www.finds.org.uk> and contains details of all the FLOs and links to the database. Many thanks to Rob for a very interesting talk. Steve Smith

Walk on Sunday 22 April 2007 with Barry Perratt

Unfortunately, the Spanish Field Trip clashed with this walk, so only 3 members accompanied Barry on his 8 mile walk. We started from Martin Down car park and walked towards Bokerly Dyke. In a valley on the west side of the Dyke General Pitt-Rivers had discovered a fourth century encampment, which he thought was there 30\40 years after the end of the Roman occupation. Barry explained that the Romans had a camp, on the other side of the A354, which had a drain which ran into the valley where the C4th encampment lay, so it was perhaps strange to site the encampment in the valley.

We crossed the A354, which was originally the Great Western Turnpike created in 1759, at the point where Ackling Dyke crosses Bokerly Dyke. Barry pointed out where the Roman camp lay and also the adjacent Iron Age one. A walk through Vernditch Wood took us past Grims Ditch, which probably ran for 14 miles, and was constructed in the Bronze Age, it is thought as an enclosure for the containment and management of livestock. We reached Kitts Grave a burial mound supposedly covering the grave of a girl who had an illegitimate baby by a local squire! This lies close to where the boundaries of Dorset, Hampshire and Wiltshire meet. No doubt Katherine Barker will be including this area in her county boundary survey. We walked along Shire Rack, which formed part of the road in olden days from Bowerchalke to Martin and Damerham.

Lunch was taken after visiting Marleycombe Hill where we saw linear earthworks, which could be ancient, or could have been created when the land was divided for ploughing after Cranborne Chase was disfranchised. We then worked our way to the Ox Drove, an old byway along which cattle were taken to Wilton market. After a Bishop of Salisbury built a bridge, the market moved to Salisbury, but later moved back to Wilton.

The end of our walk was alongside part of Ackling Dyke, the Roman road which ran from Badbury Rings to Old Sarum. The agger (the raised ridge of consolidated earth and stone) is at its full width on this stretch and stands several feet high.

We thank Barry for another most interesting and informative walk. Peter Walker

Forthcoming Events

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 at **10.30 am** 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 400507 or philroberts@connectfree.co.uk

COUNTY BOUNDARY SURVEY

Members will recall Katherine Barker's talk at the AGM on her project of studying the County Boundary and interest was shown in our participation. Her group has already reviewed some areas but is shortly to be looking at the Bockerly Dyke landscape. This is something well worth while our joining in. There are to be two meetings this summer-

1. Thursday 24th May. Meeting at Martin Down Car Park. GR SU 0370202. 10am. to 4pm. bring picnic lunch.
2. Wednesday 6th June. Same meeting place and times.

Phil Roberts has very sensibly suggested that it would be useful if there was an EDAS co-ordinator for this project who was based in the east of the county. If you are interested then please contact him directly about this. (Phil's details are given above)

Sunday 5 August Visit to Silchester

In the March Newsletter we gave details of our proposed visit to Silchester. We have now been able to fix the visit for Sunday 5 August.

We will have a guided tour of the excavation, probably by Professor Michael Fulford, the excavation director. We will then walk to the amphitheatre and have a picnic lunch, returning to the coach via part of the town walls. If time permits, we will go to Reading Museum where the excavation finds are displayed.

Only a few members have so far expressed interest in going, so we will not be able to hire a coach. However, one member has offered to drive a minibus. So that we can finalise arrangements before the summer break could all those who wish to go, either by minibus or in their own car you please contact Peter Walker email: peter@peterwalker.info telephone: 01425-471326 or by post: 16 Whitfield Park, Ashley Heath, Ringwood, BH24 2DX) by Friday 25 May.

For more information about Silchester see <http://www.silchester.rdg.ac.uk/index.html>

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 9 May</u> | EDAS lecture: " <u>The Villages of East Dorset</u> " with Emma Ayling, curator of the Priests' House Museum, Wimborne. |
| <u>Sat 19 May</u> | Day School - <u>Identifying Medieval and Post-medieval Pottery</u> . See the last Newsletter for more details. |
| <u>Sun 20 May</u> | <u>Walk in the Tarrant Valley</u> with Phil Roberts. See earlier for more details. |
| <u>Sun 5 Aug</u> | <u>Visit to Silchester</u> . See earlier for more details. |
| <u>Mid-July</u> | <u>EDAS Summer Barbecue</u> . More details to follow, and final date to be confirmed. |