



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER - OCTOBER 2007

Recent Events

EDAS Lecture: *The Dorset History Centre with Jacqui Halewood, County Archivist*

At our last EDAS lecture, Jacqui, who is well known to many EDAS members, gave us a talk on the 'Dorset History Centre'. Formally known as the County Records Office, the service has renamed itself to emphasise the very broad range of information available. Records are held over a period of more than 1500 years, from an Anglo-Saxon charter to current births/marriages and deaths. Records are held and are viewable, in a range of forms, from microfiche, photographs, to paper documents (although these are usually very high quality copies, as originals are obviously stored away to ensure their preservation). The Centre deals with tens of thousands of enquiries a year, and is now the main resource for genealogy research. In its new guise it is now also possible to visit the centre without a prior appointment. However, Monday mornings are reserved for conservation and data recording/transcribing, and the Centre is always very interested in help offered by volunteers. EDAS is one of the many local archaeological organisations that are currently setting up closer working arrangements with the Centre.

We thank Jacqui very much for an interesting and informative talk that updated us on the services and resources available to us.

Walk in the Kimmeridge Area with Gill and Allan Broadbent on Sunday 2 Sept. 2007

10 members and 1 guest joined Gill, Allan and their dog Ben on their walk which started at Kimmeridge which Gill explained was largely owned by Cerne Abbey until the Dissolution of the Monasteries. We then walked on to Smedmore Hill and Swyre Head from where we had glorious views over Purbeck and Poole Harbour. We then descended to the cliff edge path at Rope Lake Head - this is apparently another name for a waterfall. Our route then headed West along the cliff path where we saw a short length of tramway track. With the continuing erosion of the cliff, the track will fall into the sea before long and perhaps someone should remove it now to a safer place so that it is not lost. We also observed evidence of stone jetties from where stone and shale were loaded on to boats. Our walk took us past Clavel Tower, built as a folly in 1831 by the Rev. John Clavell of Smedmore House. This has been taken down stone by stone and is in the process of being rebuilt by the Landmark Trust 50 yards back from the cliff edge.

During our walk, Gill told us about all the industrial activity which went on in the area in past centuries. This started way back in the Iron Age and we found briquetage - fragments of the clay evaporation pans in which salt was produced - on the shore near Kimmeridge, which may date back to this time. Shale was worked in the area, from which items such as bracelets, table legs and spindle whorls were made. Gill explained how the owners of Smedmore had started mining alum and had it processed in works on the eastern side of Kimmeridge Bay. Alum was a mordant for dyeing, as well as having uses by tanners, illuminators and painters. When this industry failed, the owners of Smedmore started manufacturing glass, although that too failed. Gas was produced from shale and at one stage was exported to light the streets of Paris.

In the afternoon, some of the group visited Smedmore House which was open to the public for one day to raise funds for charity. Originally built by William Clavell in James I's reign, to be near his Kimmeridge alum works, the semi-hidden seawards-facing front to the house was constructed in around 1700 by Edward Clavell, and in 1761 the new (main) front was added by George Clavell, the last of the male line. We were able to tour the ground floor rooms, which were interesting. Among the items on display were estimates for the cost of building the house. One of the outbuildings we saw was the brew house, an essential part of any house before the quality of the water could be assured.

We thank Gill and Allan for a very interesting day.

Peter Walker

Forthcoming Events

EDAS FIELD-WALKING ON HIGGINS FIELD, TARRANT MONKTON (from 16th October).

Most members will remember the EDAS excavation of a Late-Neolithic henge in Higgins Field, Tarrant Monkton, two years ago. Some will be aware that further work is being undertaken on the site, at very short notice. Jeremy Webster, whose geophysical survey in 2003 confirmed the presence of the henge, is extending his study of the field for a PhD that he is taking at the University College of Winchester. He has already completed a new geophysical survey, using a gradiometer (in 2003, he used a resistivity meter), of an enlarged area in the field. He has also planned a field-walking survey of most of the field. Some work has already been carried out by volunteers.

However, most of the field-walking (more than 200 x 20m squares) will be done from, and including, Tuesday 16th October, provided there are enough volunteers. If you are interested in taking part on any day of the week, for as many days as you would like, please let me know on 01929 400 507 or philroberts@connectfree.co.uk. I will give you further information about reaching the site and times, etc, when you contact me Phil Roberts.

Sunday 28 October - Guided walk around Wareham

Join Lilian Ladle at 10:30 at the Streche Road car park, West Walls. During the morning walk Lilian will tell us about the town's origins, the Iron Age and Roman beginnings, then the post-Roman and Saxon churches, before finishing with the Vikings and the town defences. Either bring a picnic lunch or eat at one of the many establishments in town. After lunch Lilian will continue the story by looking at the medieval town, the great fire of 1762 and the Georgian and Victorian rebuild. If you have any queries, please contact Lilian on 01929 462383 or email her at bestwall@tiscali.co.uk

Saturday 17th November - Scrub Clearance on Pilsdon Pen, from Martin Papworth.

I visited the West Dorset hillforts recently and the National Trust staff there have a lack of resources to clear some of the ramparts of scrub to enable the hillfort to be seen. Once the ground is open the grazing will keep the regrowth down. Would any of your members be interested in attending a working party at Pilsdon Pen on Saturday 17th November. I plan to meet up with the warden 10.30am give a guided tour of the hillfort and then clear scrub with whoever will help until 4pm. I know it is a long way from home but anyone from your group who is interested would be very welcome. With best wishes,

Martin

Saturday 17 November – DNHAS: Dorset County Boundary Survey

Members will recall Katherine Barker's interesting talk at the AGM about the DNHAS project to research the history, archaeological interest and natural history of the Dorset County boundaries.

The Dorset County Boundary Survey (DCBS) project is investigating the physical appearance and character of the boundary itself, bank, ditch and hedgerow, flora and fauna, spatial patterns of land management past and present, terriers, surveys and charters of the communities concerned, field and place-names and not least potential in selected places for small-scale archaeological investigation. Then there will be a wider picture to be drawn; the world of the Roman *civitates* and British tribal lordships, Anglo-Saxon defence and Norman taxation. Boundaries are amongst the oldest features in the man-made landscape; vested interests in their maintenance remain very strong. There are opportunities here for the project to consider some of latest thinking in this field.

Membership: New members are welcome to join the project. There is a £20.00 membership charge to cover material costs and room hire. Further details from Dr Katherine Barker tel: 01935 816714, email: katherinebarker@lanprobi.freemove.co.uk or John Newbould 01305 837384, john.newbould@btinternet.com or Andrew Morgan 07748961941 andrewmorgz@aol.com

Day School: The project have arranged a programme bringing together both Archaeology and Natural History with a panel of speakers to explore various aspects of the County Boundary, and will report on recent findings and identify future potential of this thought-provoking exercise launched in April 2006

**The Making of Dorset's Boundary; what, where and why?'
Dorset County Museum, High West Street, Dorchester
Saturday 17 November 2007 9.30am-5.30pm**

See attached sheet for details and how to obtain tickets

Andrew Morgan

EDAS field trip 2008

Next year's field trip will be in and around Dartmoor from June 8 to June 13. I am in the very early stages of planning this but it promises to be (I hope) a very varied and interesting trip.

For those not familiar with Dartmoor it is an astonishing Bronze Age landscape with over 1,300 prehistoric sites and monuments, most of which are in a remarkable state of preservation. These include stone circles and alignments, burial mounds and cists, hut circles and settlement sites, all scattered around in some of the most scenic and atmospheric countryside.

In addition, I foresee visits to several non-prehistoric locations including religious, secular, military and industrial sites.

Just a small word of caution: some of the Bronze Age sites can only be accessed on foot over possibly some rough tracks. Having said that I do not envisage any long treks and all the walking will be done at my pace (plodding) or slower.

I would particularly encourage members who have not been on one of our field trips before to give it a try. These trips have everything you could ask for: good company, wonderful places to see, lots of laughs and tearooms and immensely knowledgeable leadership. (ignore the last bit and insert confused).

So, put the date in your diaries and if you have any doubts or queries speak to me or anyone else who has been on a previous trip. More details will follow.

Brian Maynard

Tel 01202 677707 or email brian.retired@ntlworld.com

Around the Remedy Oak by John Day

This essay forms part of the research project by EDAS into the Allen Valley and its environs. Although the title refers to a specific tree, John covers a far broader subject area by considering oaks in general, trees in relation to sites of magic practices and the historically recorded attempts by various English Monarchs to cure disease using magic and religion.

The main thrust of this paper is to discuss the veracity of the legend that one particular venerable oak tree was the location where King Edward VI performed the ritual of *Touching for the King's Evil*, (i.e. curing scrofula). Much diligent research has enabled John to bring together a wealth of information on his topic, and in an exemplary manner he uses the summary to clearly distinguish fact from unsubstantiated possible events. He then makes a laudable attempt to reconcile the legend with his findings by offering a very plausible scenario.

The maps are helpful and the impressive number of references given for a work of this kind indicate the diligence with which the investigation was undertaken. Although there are typing and printing errors (no doubt the fault of a computer), these do not detract from the very worthwhile nature of this easy-to-read essay, which could serve as a template for authors interested in a single legend, as well as being a valuable source reference for students of the Allen Valley.

Barry Perrat

COPPER TRADE TOKENS OF THE 17th CENTURY

Copper tokens were issued between 1648 and 1672 by traders and local authorities in England. The tokens were unofficial pieces of money used when there were insufficient small silver halfpennies and copper farthings in circulation. Most tokens were circular and about 15mm. in diameter. The inscription on the token usually bore the name of the issuer, his trade and place of residence, his initials and those of his wife, the arms of his guild and a design indicating his trade. Those dated between 1648 and 1656 were farthings, the halfpenny token appearing later, and numbers peaked over the years 1666 and 1667.

In 1613 James I had granted a patent to strike copper farthings (the Harrington farthing). The cost of the farthings struck was £24,000 but the face value was £90,000. It seems that a similar ratio of profit was made on the tokens issued by the patentee. This was recognised by local authorities and led to the issue of their own tokens, the profit made in this way being used to help the poor of a city. Some tokens, for example, of Weymouth, Blandford and Wimborne were inscribed "for the use of the poor". Official copper currency of farthings and halfpennies was issued in 1672 when copper stamped with the "private stamps" of persons and corporations were banned by the King's Proclamation. A further Proclamation in 1674 led to the disappearance of tokens from circulation.

During the excavations at Bestwall, Wareham over the period July 1992 to August 1995, searches were made with metal detectors of the topsoil, the spoil from the site and the excavated areas of fields to the east of the town's east wall. Seventy items in the form of copper tokens of the 17th century were found: these included nineteen towns of issue of which eleven were Dorset towns. Twenty eight of the tokens including both farthings and halfpennies are illustrated below. Most of the items were 15mm diameter but the Local Authority tokens e.g. Lyme Regis (19mm) and Poole are seen to be larger. This indicates the greater prestige carried by the municipal issues. The items found at the Wareham site were issued as far apart as Bristol, Lyme Regis, the IOW, Petworth, Portsmouth, Putney, Yeovil, etc, supporting the view that the 17th century tokens were not restricted to a limited circulation. In three fields close to the east wall finds of pottery, clay pipes, lead balls for firearms (ca. 350), powder holder caps (9), and English and French coins of the early and mid-17th century, in addition to the tokens and in particular at a depth of about 50 cm below the original surface of the pasture, indicated the use of the area in the early/mid 17th century.

Reference.

Dickinson, M, 1986, *Seventeenth Century Tokens of the British Isles and their values.*

Ken Wheatley

Illustrations of Traders' Tokens



THOMAS SPEARE OF
BEEARE REGES



HENRY FORREST IN
BLANDFORD 1663
George and Dragon



RICHARD PAINTER OF
CROFE CASTLE 1666
Man with woolcomb



A FARTHING OF LYME RS
THE ARMES OF LYME RS
L R over 1669



FOR THE MAJOR OF YE TOWN
AND COUNTY OF POOLE 1667
Arms



CONSTANTINE BEAVMONT
IN POOLE 1667



ROBERT CLEVES
MERCER IN POOLE
Grocers' Arms



MOSES DVRELL
OF POOLE 1666



WILLIAM MINTY
MERCER IN POOLE 1665



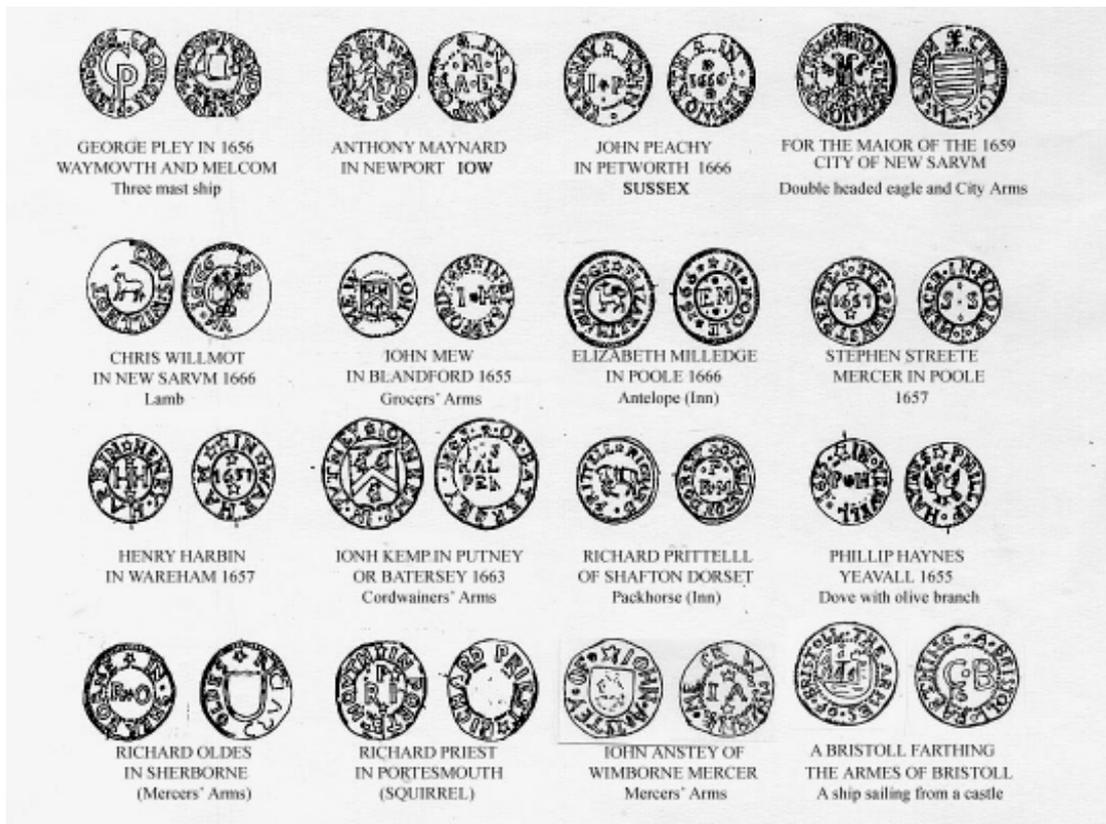
EDWARD TIZZARD
IN POOLE 1665
Man making candles



NICHOLAS NORTHOVER
IN STOBORRY 1657



ANTHONY TREW
OF WAREHAM



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 Oct EDAS Lecture: **BC. Southampton's Prehistory on Display** with Duncan Brown Curator of archaeology, Southampton Archaeology Museum.
- Tue 16 Oct Start of EDAS Field Walking on Higgins Field. See earlier for more details.
- Sun 28 Oct **Walk around Wareham** led by Lilian Ladle. See earlier for details.
- Wed 14 Nov EDAS Lecture: **In the Footsteps of Alexander The Great** with Peter Sommer, archaeologist, writer and documentary producer.
- Sat 17 Nov **DNHAS: Dorset County Boundary Survey - Day School**. See earlier for details
- Sat 17 Nov Volunteers wanted for **scrub clearing at Pilsden Pen**. See earlier for details.
- Wed 12 Dec EDAS Lecture: **The whole is the sum of the parts: naming the parts** with Bob Hill of The Historic Building Advisory Service.

Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society

The Dorset County Boundary Survey

'The Making of Dorset's Boundary; what, where and why?'

A Day School held in association with the Dorset Local History Group

Saturday 17 November 2007

at Dorset County Museum, High West Street, Dorchester

9.30am-5.30pm

In a programme bringing together both Archaeology and Natural History a panel of speakers will explore various aspects of the boundary as seen at present, will report on recent findings and identify future potential of this thought-provoking exercise launched in April 2006. Our Chairman – from across the border - has kindly accepted the invitation to act as disceptator.

- 9.30** Registration. Coffee will be available
10.00 **Roy Canham, Chairman, formerly Wiltshire County Archaeologist**
10.10-10.45 **Professor James Campbell, Worcester College, Oxford**
'Shires and their Boundaries'
10.45-11.15 Coffee
11.15-12.00 **Katherine Barker, Day School convenor, Hon Editor DNHAS**
'Where the boundary questions began; the shiring of Lyme - and onwards'
12.00-12.45 **Bill Putnam, Visiting Fellow, Bournemouth University**
'The Durotriges and the earliest Dorset boundary'
12.45-1.00 Questions
1.00-1.45 LUNCH - please make your own arrangements
1.45-2.30 **Bruce Eagles, Bournemouth University, formerly the Royal Commission**
'Romans, Britons and Saxons on the eastern bounds of Dorset'
2.30-3.15 **Iain Hewitt, Bournemouth University,**
'Lost in Suburbia; tracing the county boundary in the fast lane'
3.15-3.45 Tea
3.45-4.30 **Graham Hoddinott, Dorset County Boundary Research Group**
'The Edge of the Forest; north Dorset borderlands'
4.30-5.15 **John Newbould, Field Secretary, DNHAS**
'Ancient boundaries, living landscapes; current work on the north-eastern border'
5.15-5.30 Questions – and summing up
5.30 Close

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Please send me day school ticket(s) for 17 November; the day is open to everyone
(cheques to be made payable to DNHAS)

Name(s)

Address

.....Telephone

Tickets £12.50; students £5.00. Please return this slip with your remittance and SAE
to Madeleine Duke, Dorset County Museum, High West Street, Dorchester DT1 1XA;
telephone 01305 262735; prior booking recommended. Enquiries on 01935 81676