



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER - NOVEMBER 2007

Change to EDAS Web Site

Owing to problems with Spam e-mails we have decided to change the address of our web site. It is now at www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk instead of www.edas-archaeology.org.uk E-mails can be sent to us at mail@dorset-archaeology.org.uk

Recent Events

Last EDAS Lecture

At our last lecture Duncan Brown, Curator of Archaeology at the Southampton Archaeology Museum, gave us a talk entitled "BC. Southampton's Prehistory on Display". Southampton has a lot of interesting and relatively well-known archaeology: a Roman settlement (Clausentum?), an Anglo-saxon district, and a mediaeval district. However, knowledge of prehistory in the immediate area is much sparser. This is because Southampton has had such a long history, and therefore much of the land is built over. The museum wanted to raise the profile of the prehistory in the area, and this is how the BC exhibition came about. Duncan's talk highlighted the other crucial aspects of producing an exhibition that is successful. It is not just a question of putting artefacts on display: the presentation must attract and keep the interest of people who are new to archaeology; it must take them through the information in a logical and understandable way, and hopefully engender a longer term interest in archaeology itself. From Duncan's presentation of the BC exhibition we saw that an excellent job had been done, with interesting and thought-provoking displays. We now understand better the huge amount time and thought that needs to go in to such an exhibition, and thank Duncan for a very interesting and enjoyable talk.

Sunday 28 October - Guided walk around Wareham

10 hardy souls joined Lilian and her husband Mike on a very wet day for a walk around Wareham. We started at Lilian and Bob's house with a slide show of the history of Wareham. This took us up to lunchtime, when we hoped that the weather might have improved for our walk around the town. But it didn't, and so after lunch we accompanied Lilian, firstly to St Mary's church. This was a Saxon church, but the Victorians demolished the Saxon nave in the 1840s and rebuilt it in a plainer style. Lilian had shown us a drawing of the pre-1840 church, which showed the Saxon interior and the box pews. On the south side of the church we saw a medieval chapel which has a Norman doorway. This is dedicated to St Edward who was martyred at Corfe in 978. On the wall of the chapel is a plaque commemorating John Hutchins, the well-known county historian who was Wareham's rector from 1744 until his death in 1773. We then ventured back into the rain to see the rest of the town.

Lilian took us to the town quay where boats used to be loaded with clay for the Potteries. From the nearby bridge we were able to glimpse the mound where the castle formerly stood, which is now occupied by a large house. Our amble took us past the old vicarage where a plaque records that John Hutchins lived there. He was away when the great fire of Wareham in 1762 broke out, and his wife had the presence of mind to rescue his manuscripts from the house. Our walk then took us up South Street where we saw the Manor House built in 1712, albeit somewhat hidden by tall trees and shrubs. Across the road stands the Black Bear Hotel, an inn of circa 1800. Continuing up the street, we passed Lloyds Bank where a plaque explains that this was formerly the site of the pub where the great fire started. Turning into East Street, Lilian pointed out the former almshouses built in 1741. Our walk then took us up North Street passing numerous old properties until we reached St Martin's church. This is the only Saxon church in Dorset surviving in anything like its original state. Unfortunately, it was locked so we

were unable to appreciate the interior, which includes a monument to T.E. Lawrence. The final part of our walk took us along part of the Saxon earth walls which surround the town on 3 sides. King Alfred built these as a defence against the Vikings.

Many thanks to Lilian for her extremely interesting walk and slide show and for the morning refreshments.

Peter Walker

Forthcoming Events

Saturday 17th November - Scrub Clearance on Pilsdon Pen, from Heather Worth

We are looking for volunteers to help on Sat Nov 17th at Pilsden Pen and I wondered if you may be able to help? We specifically are looking for 16-25 year olds, but would be very willing to open the day up to over 25s too. The ramparts of this Iron Age hillfort have become covered in scrub and we would like to spend a day with as many people as possible to make the site more understandable and accessible to visitors. We will give a tour of the hillfort and provide tools, training and equipment. Pilsdon is a very beautiful place, almost the highest hill in Dorset with good views into Somerset, Devon and across the Marshwood Vale to the Dorset coast. We hope you can help. Please contact me via the email address if anyone is interested. Many thanks, Heather Worth, Team Manager, The National Trust.

heather.worth@nationaltrust.org.uk

EDAS field trip 2008

Next year's field trip will be in and around Dartmoor from June 8 to June 13, and is being arranged by Brian Maynard. See last month's Newsletter for more details, or contact him on: Tel **01202 677707** or email **brian.retired@ntlworld.com**

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 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 last Newsletter for more 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.

2008

- Wed 9 Jan EDAS Lecture: **The Southampton Greyfriars Excavation** with Dr Andy Russel, Archaeology Unit Manager, Southampton City Council.
- Wed 13 Feb EDAS Lecture: **The life and times of the Mary Rose 1509-1545** with Bill Moore of the Mary Rose Information Group. Bill will be dressed in Tudor Period Costume.
- Wed 12 Mar EDAS Lecture: **"Dorset's first Railway"** with Peter Sills, chairman of the Purbeck Mineral and Mining Museum Group