



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER - MIDSUMMER 2008

PERSONALIA

The work of two EDAS members has just been recognised with awards.

Lilian Ladle has been awarded an MBE in this year's Queen's Birthday Honours List for her services to archaeology in Wareham. Also Dr. David Reeve has won the Mansel-Pleydell award for his essay on Wimborne. (This will be published in the forthcoming Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society Proceedings).

We wish them both many congratulations.

Membership Fees

EDAS Members who do not pay by direct debit are reminded that this year's membership fees are now due. (This is the last reminder)

Recent Events

At our last evening lecture Dr Miles Russell of Bournemouth University gave us a lecture entitled: **Reviewing the Roman invasion of Britain – why everything you thought you knew about AD 43 could be very wrong!** This presentation went back to the sparse, original Latin sources which recorded the invasion, most of them written many decades after the original events. To complicate matters even further, the surviving texts had been copied many times, with spelling mistakes and ambiguities creeping in. Miles gave us one example of different possible translations, which could have meant *either* that a particular British Chieftain was fighting *with* the Romans or *against* them. There is some documentation that describes the subsequent triumphal arrival of the emperor Claudius to Britain (with some elephants to impress the natives). However, this only talks generally about a 'river crossing', and there are a number of possible different choices for the actual location. Therefore, we still have no clue from this where the Romans actually landed, and what form and direction the campaign took.

Miles' lecture reminded us that our received 'history' of the Roman invasion has arisen slowly since Victorian times. At that time educated gentlemen of leisure (but not necessarily trained archaeologists) would have interpreted the ground evidence, and sometimes must have put forward their own pet theories. These have been built on over the years to form the official 'body of evidence' upon which we have all relied, even though we would today use techniques that are very much more rigorous.

We thank Miles for a very interesting and thought-provoking lecture that reminded us that archaeologists cannot necessarily take anything for granted

(Where we Romanists go from here is quite another question!)

Forthcoming Events

Last month there was a 'flyer' in the Newsletter which provided details of three EDAS events over the summer period: the Walk around Wimborne Town; the EDAS Summer Barbecue (please let Henry Cole know as soon as possible if you are going); and the guided tour around Sherborne and the Waterwheel Museum. The details are given below, or in previous Newsletters.

Visit to the Knowlton Dig

As you will probably know, Bournemouth University has been digging recently at Knowlton. Continuing the arrangement of the last two years, John Gale will be providing "Cook's" tours of the Highlea Farm site on one day towards the end of the dig. This year it is planned for Sunday 29th June at 11:00 and all EDAS members are welcome. It has been arranged at this time so that EDAS Members could have lunch afterwards, and still make the Wimborne Walk which starts at 2pm.

The dig has been investigating a line of barrows that run south from Knowlton, and *High Lea Farm is actually 3 miles south of Knowlton* on the Wimborne-Cranborne (B3078) road at the junction with the Witchampton turning (SU 003058)

We apologise that this information has only just become available, but those who receive their newsletter by e-mail should get it in time. If you know of another 'post' EDAS member who might be interested then please give them a ring.

Red House Museum

I have been asked to forward this message to EDAS members. During National Archaeology Week there are two drop-in sessions at the Red House Museum Christchurch that might interest any youngsters (and perhaps the not so young) they might know. See www.hants.gov.uk/redhouse for more info.

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>Sun 29 Jun</u> | <u>Visit to the Knowlton Dig</u> . More details earlier in this Newsletter. |
| <u>Sun 29 Jun</u> | <u>Walk around Wimborne town</u> looking at the buildings with Bob Hill of the Historic Building Advisory Service. Meet outside the main door of the Minster at 2pm. More details in the last Newsletter. |
| <u>Sat 5 Jul</u> | <u>EDAS Summer Barbecue at Down Farm</u> . More details in the last Newsletter. |
| <u>Sun 31 Aug</u> | <u>A guided Walk around Sherborne</u> and group <u>visit to Castleton Waterwheel Museum</u> with Steve Smith. More details in the last Newsletter. |
| <u>Wed 10 Sep</u> | EDAS Lecture: <u>The Results from a large scale excavation at Staple Gardens, Winchester</u> with Ben Ford, Oxford Archaeological Unit. |
| <u>Wed 8 Oct</u> | EDAS Lecture: <u>Life in a Medieval town</u> with Nick Griffiths. |
| <u>Wed 12 Nov</u> | EDAS Lecture: <u>Forensic Archaeology</u> with Paul Cheetham of Bournemouth University. |