



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk

mail@dorset-archaeology.org.uk

NEWSLETTER - MAY 2009

Membership Renewal

Many thanks to those of you who have already renewed your membership, particularly those who paid by standing order. If you have not yet renewed your membership (which was due on 1 April) can you please arrange to do so in the next couple of weeks so that our Membership Secretary and Treasurer don't have to waste time chasing you up. Details of how to renew were in our March newsletter.

Recent Events

EDAS Lecture

Our last EDAS lecture took place at the Ancient Technology Centre in Cranborne, and drew a large number of attenders. We were led around the site by Luke Winter, and some of his team. Starting as a single Iron Age round house many years ago, the Centre has developed into a complex of buildings. It now comprises a very large central Earth House which is used for group lectures, a 'family' hut that has been actually lived in by volunteers using 'authentic' Iron Age practices, a working Roman blacksmith's shop, and a partly constructed Viking long house. The Centre is an excellent way of getting young people interested in Archaeology, and is also used to teach skills to children who do not do well in conventional classes. The younger children also learn some of the realities of life: some of them who see processed meat on supermarket shelves do not realise that an animal had to die to produce it.



Another very important aspect is the experimental archaeology side of things. For example, the team that actually lived in the family hut found that you do not put a hole in the roof; this draws the sparks and ignites the thatch. However, with a closed roof you do not actually suffer from the smoke, and meat hung inside it will last for over a year. Another experiment showed that storing grain in pits for many years was a viable way of preserving it. When reconstructing the

Viking house based on archaeological remains, the team found they had effectively built an upside down boat which needed much less structural support.

The description above shows the many varied and very valuable things that the ATC project is doing for the community. The great enthusiasm and total dedication of the

team was very plain to see. We thank Luke and his team very much for an extremely interesting and authentic look into the past.

Sunday 26 April – Guided Walk around Medieval Southampton

This will be written up in the next Newsletter.

Forthcoming Events

EDAS FIELD TRIP 2009

In case any EDAS members are not yet aware, this year's Field Trip was cancelled, as not enough had people signed up for it. The Committee will see if there are any lessons to be learned from this for next year's Trip (2010).

EDAS Display at the Priest House Museum

We have been working with Gill Broadbent on a new display for the Priest House Museum featuring the excavations at Worth Matravers. We looked through hundreds of photos provided by Phil Roberts, Bryan Popple, Gill and ourselves to select the best to illustrate the most important features from both the first and second years of the dig. Gill trawled through many boxes of finds to select the best and prepared them for the display. Finds from Bronze Age flints through Iron Age pots to Roman Samian Ware are all included, together with a group of Roman bronze finds. These included a brooch, a pair of tweezers, a coin and the bowl of a spoon. Featured are two large Iron Age pots brilliantly reconstructed by Dave Stewart from a mass of small fragments found in the large pit excavated in year one. Finds are displayed by the kind permission of the landowner Robert Kenyon.



Also included is a small section on the recent watching brief in Wimborne carried out by Phil Roberts. Finds included bone, Verwood pottery and an excellent example of an almost complete 17th century clay pipe. The display was completed just in time for the spring opening of the Museum on the 1st April.

We hope that members will support EDAS and our local museum by paying a visit and having a look at our display.

Maureen & Malcolm Houghton

POOLE HARBOUR HERITAGE PROJECT LIMITED DORSET ALUM AND COPPERAS INDUSTRY – UPDATE

Because of the wet weather over the autumn and winter it has been agreed with English Heritage that excavation work on Studland Heath can be delayed until the autumn. All being well this should now go ahead in early September and once final arrangements have been made an item will be put in the EDAS newsletter.

However, in spite of the cold weather over the winter, progress has been made at Studland. The circles have been recorded and measured and the area for a more detailed survey, including excavation, has been identified. Work is now underway photographing each circle before an interim report is prepared.

Mark Corney joined four volunteers on Plateau Heath at the end of January and



showed us how to record a circle using a simple but effective technique with tapes and a plane table. As an extension to the existing project we are proposing to put together a programme of work to survey all the circles in this manner over the summer months. If anyone would like to help with this work please contact either Alan Hawkins or me. The project e-mail address is PHHP@live.co.uk

The field work at Kimmeridge which was postponed from March will now start on Friday 8th May. This will consist of recording various features within the scheduled area and excavating trenches just outside this area where features, possibly connected to the alum works, were revealed during building work in the 1970s. A geophysical survey of this area has been carried out but unfortunately was inconclusive. Again if any member of EDAS would like to help with this work please contact Alan Hawkins or me.

Gill Broadbent

The Muster Rolls

Names as a means of tracing people has to be treated with caution because over the years they can undergo considerable change. One source of finding out who was living in Dorset in the 16th. century is to look up the Muster Rolls.

In the 16th. century, when King Henry VIII was on the throne, there was a great fear that the French would invade us. In preparation for such an invasion a list of all men between 16 and 60 for all England was made, called the Muster Rolls. This exercise was repeated over several years and many of the rolls still exist for Dorset. Periodically there were musters of able men; ideally the mustering points were within half a days travel for each man.

The Muster Rolls noted if the persons were 'able' or 'unable' and what equipment they had. Such rolls included the names of widows if their husbands had had weapons, and it was recorded to whom these were to be given at the time of invasion, such as Cath Batt of Horton who was to supply 12 arrows. Some men had no weapons and the rolls relay such demands as "ordered to find one harness, one bow and sheaf of arrows", such as John Byrte of Chalbury who in 1539 was ordered to find a Bill. Such lists have several points of interest, not least names and the numbers of males in the villages. Names that can still be seen today include John and Richard Blanchard, who lived in Horton in 1539; at that time they had no equipment, while John Sevyer of Chalbury had a bow. It is not impossible that he was an ancestor of the Seviours now in Horton. This is a name that occurred again in Holt in the 17th. Century, where they were Brick Burners.

Though there was a fear of the French it is interesting that there were a number living locally – William Logewyse in Horton who had no weapons, Pet Frensheman in Stone, Nic Frenchman in Canford, to name a few. A name in Iwerne Minster, Phil Byssshop, is probably one that had been Phil By the Shop and later become Byshop then Bishop. This is a not uncommon corruption and one that rarely means the ancestor was a senior member of the church

In Horton in 1539 we come across an early branch of the Harte family, William, who owned a bow and 12 arrows.

Thomas Loder had a bill, a family name that appears over many years in Horton. It seems likely that John Lydlynche came from that place; in 1539 he possessed a bow and 6 arrows in Hinton Martel. Also in Martell was Wulston Arney, who was able bodied but had no equipment. This is surprising as the Arney family were very wealthy. One can wonder if it is an example of a poor person being named after a local great man, such as naming after the place one came from. John Arney of Witchampton had a whole harness and bill. Richard Arney of Chalbury owned a bow, 6 arrows and splint. At this time there were only 3 Arneys on the Muster Rolls of the whole of Dorset, and as the Arney home was in Chalbury it is reasonable to assume that Richard was a member of the wealthy Arneys and not unlikely so was John.

There were 37 different types of equipment, some of which were: a bill, which was the same as the agriculture tool and mounted on a 6ft. shaft; Harquebus, a early type of firearm; Jack, a leather jacket reinforced with small plates; sallet, a helmet; splints, metal strips sown on the arm of a garment to protect the forearm; harness, general term for armour.

The bow was a long bow, about 6ft. long and the archer could loose off 6 arrows a minute, hitting the target with accuracy at 150 yards. He had to be fit and well trained.

John W. Day

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.

2009

- Wed 13 May EDAS lecture: **They do things differently there! Archaeology around the world** with Tim Schadla-Hall of University College London.
- Sat 18 Jul **EDAS Summer Barbecue** at Down Farm. More details to follow.
- Sun 23 Aug **Walk around Christchurch Commons** with Mike Tizzard and Sue Newman
- Wed 8 Sep EDAS Lecture: **“Archaeology of the New Forest and its Coast”** with Frank Green, Archaeologist at the New Forest National Park Authority.
- Sun 20 Sep **Walk around Corfe Village and Castle** with Nancy Grace.
- Wed 14 Oct EDAS Lecture: **“Subject to be Confirmed”** with James Grasby