



# East Dorset Antiquarian Society

[www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk](http://www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk)

[mail@dorset-archaeology.org.uk](mailto:mail@dorset-archaeology.org.uk)

**NEWSLETTER - MARCH 2010**

## **\*\* Programme Change – EDAS AGM \*\***

The EDAS AGM was originally scheduled for 31<sup>st</sup> March, but as this falls in Holy Week **the date for the AGM has been moved earlier, to 24<sup>th</sup> March.**

### **Recent Events**

#### **Our Last EDAS Lecture**

Paola Palma and Dave Parham were due to speak to EDAS on the 14th April but were unable to make that date. So, after a change in date, and a reduction in personnel, Dave alone talked to us about "**The Swash Channel Wreck**". This ship is named after the channel near Sandbanks in which it lies, because the actual name of the ship has never been reliably identified. This is despite quite a lot of research by experienced maritime archaeologists. The ship has been identified as being built in the early 1600s (from tree ring evidence) and the wood came from Germany or Holland. The ship was built to a very high standard, with high quality carvings and other touches. Several other ships that have been documented in known archives show a very similar design. Whether the ship was a privateer, and how and why it foundered just outside Sandbanks is also a still mystery.

Bournemouth University has been excavating the vessel over a number of years. This sort of work obviously requires many more skills than simple 'terra firma' archaeology, and there are many new types of danger, such as moving propellers, and dangerous wash from the large car/cargo ferries that pass by frequently. Despite these extra difficulties, the project has been very popular, with many students eager to sign up for diving training.

The normal methods of archaeology used have also had to be modified. The wreck is a scheduled monument, but the forces of tide and storms cause the sand (once covering the wreck almost completely) to move and expose the wood of the hull. Then, marine wood boring worms move in and start to destroy the unprotected sections very quickly. The ship has now been extensively mapped, photographed, and recorded.

The 'dig' was therefore a complicated mixture of planned work continually interrupted by rapid 'rescue' archaeology. Dave's talk showed how expert the team had become in underwater archaeology, and also how much they knew about the building techniques and insides of such wooden warships.

This talk was one more example just this year of the extremely demanding and excellent archaeology being undertaken by Bournemouth University. We thank Dave very much for a very interesting and knowledgeable lecture.

### **Forthcoming Events**

#### **20<sup>th</sup> March - Archaeology Day School on the Weymouth Relief Road**

Dorset County Council has organised an archaeology Day School about the building of the Weymouth Relief Road. It is to be held on Sat 20th March at Weymouth Pavilion.

For further information see [www.dorsetforyou.com/weymouthreliefroad](http://www.dorsetforyou.com/weymouthreliefroad), or contact

Claire Pinder,  
Senior Archaeologist

Telephone: 01305 224921  
Email: [c.j.pinder@dorsetcc.gov.uk](mailto:c.j.pinder@dorsetcc.gov.uk)

### **First Swanage Walking Festival – 3<sup>rd</sup> to 7<sup>th</sup> May 2010**

Our members Len and Pam have notified us about the start of the First Swanage walking Festival, which is taking place between the 3<sup>rd</sup> & 7<sup>th</sup> of May 2010. They are sure it will be of interest to some of our E.D.A.S. Members.

(Len's Daughter-in-law is also helping to organise this event.)

See <http://www.walkswanage.com>

### **Field Week 2010 - North Wales – 12th to 19th June**

Thanks to all those who have let us have their form and deposit. Please could anyone who is definitely coming and has not let us have their form and / or deposit please let us have it at the next meeting or email the details to us. We are going to Wales at the end of March to do a recce and we have a long list of places to check out. A preliminary programme should be available after Easter. See previous newsletters for forms and additional information.

### **Wessex Numismatic Society**

Steve Smith, our Programme Secretary, has found details of the Wessex Numismatic Society, and their secretary Peter Preston-Morley has agreed to speak to EDAS during the next season. If anyone is interested in their finding out about their society, or getting details of their Programme, please see [www.coinclubs.freemove.co.uk/wessex.htm](http://www.coinclubs.freemove.co.uk/wessex.htm)

## **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.

### **2010**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <u>Wed 10 Mar</u>  | EDAS Lecture: " <b><u>Wessex from the Air - 80 years on</u></b> " with Julian Richards.   |
| <u>Wed 24 Mar</u>  | <b><u>EDAS AGM</u></b> followed by a talk by an EDAS member. More details to follow. <b>**<u>This is a change to the previously published AGM date</u>**</b>                |
| <u>Wed 14 Apr</u>  | <b>*Programme Change*</b> EDAS Lecture: " <b><u>Tarrant Monkton</u></b> " with Jeremy Webster.  |
| <u>Wed 12 May</u>  | EDAS Lecture: " <b><u>Urban Studies: Topography and Development, A Winchester Study</u></b> " with Graham Scobie, Historic Information Officer, Winchester Museums Service. |
| <u>Sat 15 May</u>  | <b><u>Walk around Cerne Abbas with Rob Curtis</u></b> . See the article in a previous Newsletter for details and meeting up, etc.   |
| <u>Sun 25 April</u>  | <b><u>Walk with Henry Cole</u></b> . More details to follow in the April Newsletter.  |
| <u>Sat June 12<sup>th</sup> to</u><br><u>Sat June 17th</u> | <b><u>EDAS 2010 Field Trip to North Wales</u></b> . There will be more information in following Newsletters.  |