



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER - APRIL 2010

Recent Events

Our Last EDAS Lectures

In March we had two lectures. The first was given at the regular March meeting by **Julian Richards, who talked to us about the work of OGS Crawford and Alexander Keiller.** These late Victorian gentlemen were wont to pack their automobile with chilled wine and food hampers, and to gallivant around the countryside of Wessex visiting various archaeological sites. Keiller was also a bit of a ladies man, and produced a succession of girlfriends to bring on these expeditions. (He was obviously the sort of archaeologist who would date any old thing!)

Although this might sound like just frivolous behaviour, they produced a book called "Wessex from the Air". This took advantage of the new biplanes which became available just after the end of the First World War. Crawford was himself a pilot, and they flew all over Wessex and took many hundreds of black and white pictures. These were carefully documented and described in their new book. Frivolous behaviour or not, this book showed that they had a very sound understanding of archaeology, including crop marks, shadow sites and air photographic interpretation. In fact, the dates that they claimed for some of the sites were criticised by other contemporary archaeologists. Very recent work using modern techniques has proved that many of their contested dates were actually right.

The photographic record in the book also has 'preserved' the details and state of the sites before the advent of modern ploughing, and this has provided a wealth of information for our modern day understanding of them.

We thank Julian for an excellent lecture which has given a look back into the past of many of our well known sites.

EDAS AGM - 24th March 2010

John excelled himself with the Committee Business, and this went even quicker than at previous AGMs. As per the constitution, all Executive officers stood down; all were re-elected. With the Normal Officers, Helen Brickell and Brian Maynard stood down and were re-elected. Phil Roberts had recently resigned from Committee, and Lilian Ladle was elected in the vacancy this created.

Our second lecture of the month was after the March AGM, when Brian Popple spoke to us about Vindolanda. A number of EDAS members go to Vindolanda each year to excavate different areas of the site. Other visitors also come from abroad, and it has become a regular 'fixture', with them all meeting up to dig. The archaeology is, of course, world class, and much new information about the Severine and Hadrianic periods of the fort comes to light every year.

Brian himself had a spectacular find under a Granary: part of a circular bronze ring that had 'peg holes' and Latin writing on it. This has been identified as a Roman perpetual calendar, which was used to record the passage of dates by officials, etc. These objects are known from other Roman sites around the world, but one has never been recorded in Britain before. The discovery was reported excitedly by the Journal "Archaeology". (Brian, we're all really jealous – Graham).

Wimborne Square

A copy of the excavation report has now been put on our web site

www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk

Membership Renewal 2010

A Membership Renewal form has been included with this Newsletter. Would those members who need to renew please fill in the form, and return it to Della with a cheque made payable to EDAS. (This does not include people who pay by Standing Order, or those who joined from December 2009.)

Forthcoming Events

25 April 2010 - Walk with Henry Cole over Stoney Cross Airfield

The walk is approximately 4 miles over level ground. We will explore part of the airfield using contemporary drawings, photos and documents. We will talk about some of the people who were stationed there between 1942 and 1946 including the grandfather of a man who is probably one of the most important men of the 21st century. We will be out for around 3.5 hours so bring a drink and snack.

Meet at Stoney Cross Plain Car Park SU247126 at 2.00pm. This is the car park with the memorial panel. There are two nearby pubs: the Royal Oak at Fritham, or the New Forest Inn at Emery Down. Both have connections with Stoney Cross Airfield.

First Swanage Walking Festival – 3rd to 7th 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 3rd & 7th of May 2010. They are sure it will be of interest to some of our EDAS 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 returned their form and deposit. Please could anyone who is definitely coming and has not let us have their form and / or deposit let Malcolm and Maureen have it at the next meeting or email the details to them. They are going to Wales at the end of March to do a recce and 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.

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>Wed 14 Apr</u> | *Programme Change* EDAS Lecture: " <u>Tarrant Monkton</u> " with Jeremy Webster. |
| <u>Sun 25 April</u> | <u>Walk with Henry Cole over Stoney Cross Airfield.</u> See earlier in this Newsletter for more details. |
| <u>Wed 12 May</u> | EDAS Lecture: " <u>Urban Studies: Topography and Development, A Winchester Study</u> " with Graham Scobie, Historic Information Officer, Winchester Museums Service. |
| <u>Sat 15 May</u> | <u>Walk around Cerne Abbas with Rob Curtis.</u> See a previous Newsletter for details and meeting up arrangements, etc. |
| <u>Sat June 12th to Sat June 19th</u> | <u>EDAS 2010 Field Trip to North Wales.</u> There will be more information in following Newsletters. |