



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER—December 2011



*We wish everyone a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year*



EDAS LECTURE: Roman Campaign Roads in West Dorset, by Peter Laurie

At our last lecture meeting, on the 9th November, Peter Laurie gave us a talk on “Roman Campaign Roads in West Dorset”. This was a fascinating description of the very methodical way (of course!) that the Romans used when invading, and thus permanently mastered the land that was taken.

It is now well accepted that the AD 43 landing in Britannia was made at Rutupiae (Richborough) under the Emperor Claudius. Peter showed us the network of campaign roads that spread West and South that the Romans built as they advanced. These roads allowed the increasing area of conquered land to be controlled and protected easily. The regular construction of these roads (it is assumed that a new one was constructed every year) made it reasonably possible to date each of them, and Peter showed us this on his ‘conquest map’. This simple description makes it seem that road building is a straightforward exercise but, as he went on to explain, a Legion required 26 tons of food and stores every day. Travelling with this amount meant that using donkey carts was much preferable to carrying packs, and the very best way to carry men and materials was with the use of ships to and from the very many (as compared to today) local ports.

Peter has also studied later Roman Roads in Dorset and beyond, and he showed us a number of Roads in Dorset that were not generally well known (to me, at least). Peter is obviously a real enthusiast and expert in his subject, and completely engrossed in his researches. We thank Peter for an absolutely fascinating and thought-provoking lecture about the conquest and some of our local roads. I wonder if sometime he would consider taking EDAS members on a walking tour of some of these roads so that we could learn a lot more from his knowledge.

Graham Adams

EDAS FIELD TRIP: to Exmoor 9th – 16th June 2012

If you have not already had details and would like more information or booking form for next year’s Field Trip. Contact email - alhawk@ntlworld.com

Alan Hawkins

Tel- 01202 668178 Mob 07985 957235

Prehistoric Exmoor

For those can't make the EDAS Field Trip but wish to find out more about Prehistoric Exmoor, Dillington House have a weekend course with Tutor Dr Josh Pollard. 18th - 20th May (residential fee £281. Non res £193). see www.dillington.com

Alan Hawkins

Salisbury Museum Exhibition – Down to Earth

EDAS member Martin Green has been helping to put an exhibition together at Salisbury Museum called Down to Earth. This exhibition runs from 19th October 2011 to 14th January 2012. Collaborating with the well-known potter Chris Carter they share their fascination of Cranborne Chase through artefacts and art.

At 7.30pm Tuesday 13th December, Martin is giving a lecture about the Archaeology of Cranborne Chase at Salisbury Museum; this should not be missed by anyone with an interest in this fascinating area.

This is one of a series of archaeological lectures at 7:30pm every second Tuesday of the month January to April and September to December.

John Day

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EDAS EVENTS – 2011
Wed 14th Dec	EDAS Lecture: “Early Mechanical Music” with Gordon Bartlet
DATE	EDAS EVENTS – 2012
Wed 11th Jan	EDAS Lecture: “Kingston Lacy House” with James Graseby of the National Trust
Wed 8th Feb	EDAS Lecture: “Archaeological Illustration - Talk and demonstration” with Nick Griffiths FSA
Wed 14th Mar	EDAS Annual General Meeting , followed by Members Evening.
Wed 18th Apr	EDAS Lecture: “The Damerham Project” with Dr Helen Wickstead MIFA of Kingston University and Martyn Barber, English Heritage
Wed 9th May	EDAS Lecture: “The Big Dig and Banjo's at Winterborne Kingston. Investigating the daily lives of the Durotriges” with Dr Miles Russell of Bournemouth University.
Sat 9th June to Sat 16 th June	EDAS Field Trip: To Exmoor, details of the programme will follow shortly.

Please Note:

- 1) The monthly lecture will start at 7.30pm.
- 2) Walks and field visits usually meet at 10.00am for 10.30am start, at the published OS Grid Reference. Ring the leader if the weather is doubtful or if more details are required.