



East Dorset Antiquarian Society

www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk

mail@dorset-archaeology.org.uk

Edited by: Andrew Morgan, email: andrewmorgz@aol.com , tel: 01202 731162

NEWSLETTER – March 2012

EDAS Committee – Member wanted

For personal reasons one of our Committee members is standing down, so we are looking for a replacement. No special skills are required other than enthusiasm and patience. Please contact John Day (*email*: john.della@btinternet.com) if you are interested in joining the Committee, or want further information.

John Day

EDAS LECTURE: Archaeological Illustration - Talk and demonstration with Nick Griffiths FSA

Nick Griffiths is one of the country's leading archaeological illustrators and he remains totally committed to the use of traditional methods. Throughout his talk, on 8th February, Nick repeatedly emphasised that he is an illustrator and not an artist. His is a technical skill that has been acquired after many hours of patient practise, it is not art. This prompted gentle heckles from some in the audience who were unconvinced, sure that they recognised artistic qualities in his work.

Nick started his talk by showing examples of early English illustrations, dating from c. 1250, and found in the inventory of the Treasury of St Alban's Abbey. They are probably by **Mathew Paris**, a Benedictine monk and well-known illustrator. They contained realistic drawings of Roman style jewellery. He then showed us a later example of illustrations made by **John Conyers** c. 1677, of pots found in a Roman kiln, discovered when foundations for the new St Paul's cathedral were being dug.

Nick then exhibited some stunning watercolour drawings by **Philip Crocker**, made in the early 19th century, of artefacts from the Upton Lovell Barrow excavation undertaken by **William Cunnington**, for **Sir Richard Colt Hoare**, the owner of the Stourhead estate. He set a high standard by being both accurate and devoid of embellishment. They were also made at the site, so he captured the items fresh from the ground, before they became tarnished. One set of illustrations were of a bronze dagger with a wooden handle which soon disintegrated, but not before it's memory had been captured. (**Note**: many items from this site can be found in the rather excellent Wiltshire Heritage Museum in Devizes).

Augustus Henry Lane-Fox Pitt Rivers, further developed the methodology of archaeology excavation and presentation, in the late 19th century. He realised that all objects had relevance so he included material which previously would have been casually discarded. And everything was meticulously recorded and illustrated. Although his draftsmen remain unknown they set new standards in the thoroughness and quality of their illustration. Other Victorian illustrators included **Charles Roach Smith** who wrote and prepared fine illustrations for his book called *Illustrations of Roman London*.

Then Nick surprised some of us when he showed more watercolour illustrations, because they were made by **Beatrix Potter** who worked as a scientific illustrator in the late 19th century.



Soles of Roman footwear, by Beatrix Potter

By the 1920's, influenced by **C.O. Waterhouse**, the British Museum started to define standards for illustration. Further improvements such as the convention for having the light from top left, the method for drawing sherds and the convention for showing the cross-sections of pots on the left and external form on the right, became standardised in the 1930's.

Due to the prohibitive cost of colour printing most illustrations are done in black & white, so colour presents a challenge. When colour is important the illustrator will adopt the heraldic convention using stripes and dots to represent different colours.

The challenge for the illustrator is to capture the significant features of an object, those that are of particular interest, remembering that each will be accompanied by a written description.

Nick then demonstrated how to illustrate a rim sherd. He explained, rather proudly, that he refuses to be computerised in any way. He uses a handful of tools, with which he travels the world to do his job. These include: a template for measuring the radius of the pot, a pair of dividers for accurate measurements, a carpenter's profile gauge, plus ruler, pencil and a well worn eraser. He emphasised that only rims or bases are worth drawing unless the sherd exhibits some decoration.

His example was a rim of familiar Verwood pottery and he quickly calculated the radius of the pot, the angle of the side and using the gauge he established the profile of the piece. Working upside down, for the benefit of the audience, by bending over rather than standing on his head, he drew out the profile. On the left he made the section and on the right side he drew relevant surface features. Within moments he had finished and had dismissed it as an easy task. He repeated this with a rather nice piece of a Roman Redware bowl from North Africa.

By the level of interest shown in the talk and demonstration, I know there are a number of members who will be trying to improve their drawing skills. An excellent talk by a delightful and warm man, and I think we all agree with Nick that a photograph cannot replace a beautiful illustration. Nick also mentioned that he is willing to return, to run a workshop for interested members. Steve Smith will be following this up.

Thanks Nick and come back soon.

Andrew Morgan

Workshop with Nick Griffiths

We are hoping to use the new facility at the Priest House Museum for a workshop with Nick. Arrangements are progressing and hopefully we can agree a date (hopefully a Saturday) for late April/early May. We will advise you of the arrangements as soon as possible. I am sure this will be a very popular activity.

EDAS ARCHAEOLOGY UPDATE

1. Worth Matravers Excavation

We were requested by the developers to return to the site on 5th March, to start the final task, to oversee their removal of the temporary access road. They will increase the depth of the foundations by 150 – 200mm which may expose new archaeology, especially in the area by the Post Roman cemetery. The first part was removed with no significant features being found. There is one final length to be removed in the near future.

The post excavation work is progressing well.

EDAS Submission for the 2012 British Archaeology Awards

Encouraged by Ben Roberts of the British Museum, Lilian Ladle and Andrew Morgan have made a submission of the Worth Matravers Archaeology Project, on behalf of EDAS, for the 2012 BAA Award for Best Community Archaeology Project.

2. Druce Farm – Roman Villa

A geophysical survey has been done by Hannah Simpson, of Bournemouth University, using both magnetometry and resistivity techniques. This has confirmed the presence of a Roman villa.

Discussions are to be held with the landowner and Bournemouth University, to agree the next steps. At the moment we expect to undertake a limited excavation to understand the level of preservation of the site. This is expected to take place in July/August period.

This will be an opportunity for EDAS members to participate in the excavation, but this will not be a training dig, and they will be required to work and record with limited supervision. The site is approximately 1 mile from the parking area. As yet it is not known what facilities, such as toilet and shed, will be available on site. There will be more details in the next Newsletter.

Lilian Ladle

3. Wimborne Square

This excavation is being undertaken as a joint venture with EDAS and Priest House Museum (PHM). The watching brief is being managed by Peter Cox (AC Archaeology); supported by four volunteers per day over a two week period. A full report of the findings will be in the next newsletter.

Emma Ayling is keen to joint work with EDAS on future projects to utilise resources and expertise.

Gill Broadbent

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

The programme is being finalised for this year's Field Trip to Exmoor. So far 15 members have registered and most have booked their accommodation in or around Exford. Its not too late to join us.

This is the draft programme which we believe is comprehensive and interesting:

Saturday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Evening get together in either Crown Hotel, or White Horse Inn, Exford
Sunday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Self-guided walk to Larkbarrow, near Exford, to view stone setting.● Longer walk for those wishing to explore Codsand Moor.
Monday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Dunster Castle – NT to lead guided tour.● Look in at Lutterell Arms – medieval house● Afternoon walk to nearby sites (approx 2ml)● Working Water Mill and Medieval (Packhorse) bridge● Medieval dovecote● Black Ball Camp in Dunster Deer Park● Bats Castle IA Hill fort. (between Dunster and Carhampton)● See also Gallox Bridge EH [Gallows site] and 18th century Deer Park.● Butter Cross (EH)
Tuesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Simonsbath Sawmill ENPA TBA▪ Picnic or lunch in Dulverton

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Afternoon Town walk R Barle -- Hill fort and Tarr Steps ▪ Meet with ENPA in DULVERTON ▪ Jessica Turner, archaeologist from the Exmoor National Park will give a talk on the Archaeology of Exmoor on the Tuesday evening
Wednesday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Free programme ● Meet 4pm at Hunters Inn. For Picnic and/or walk.
Thursday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Centred on Lynton and Lynmouth ● Morning - Meet at LYNTON ● Short walk (1 mile) to Valley of the Rocks ● Hut Circles Enclosures and Field Systems extended walk ● Cavudus stone. ● For those not wanting to take additional walk meet at the Museum in Lynton [12 noon] ● Afternoon Badgworthy DMV – RCHM report. Walk with ENPA Warden.
Friday	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Porlock & Porlock Weir - Tides will dictate when/if we are able to inspect the fossil forest. ● Porlock Small museum ● Afternoon- Non walkers meet at SELWORTHY CHURCH ● Short walk to Bury Castle – a fine example of a small ‘Hill Slope’ enclosure. Those who wish to can walk down to inspect the Church ● Tea room in Selworthy Green near the church

If you have not already had details and would like more information or booking form for this year's Field Trip, contact Alan and Anita Hawkins: email - alhawk@ntlworld.com , Tel- 01202 668178 or Mob 07985 957235.

Alan Hawkins

OBITUARY

We are sorry to announce the death of Dr. Michael Hirons, who passes away on 17th February. Michael was a retired GP and had been a member of EDAS since 2000. We offer our condolences to his wife Joan and their 4 children.

John Day

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

DATE	EDAS EVENTS – 2012
Wed 14th Mar	EDAS Annual General Meeting , followed by Members Evening: EDAS Field Trip 2011 “Adventures in Pembrokeshire” with Andrew Morgan
Wed 18th Apr <i>(Note: this is the 3rd Wednesday)</i>	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: (See article above).