



## 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)

Edited by: Andrew Morgan, email: [andrewmorgz@aol.com](mailto:andrewmorgz@aol.com) , tel: 01202 731162

### NEWSLETTER - September 2012

#### Newsletter publication and distribution

Peter Walker has taken over from Graham Adams emailing the newsletter to members and posting a hard copy to those without a computer. We take this opportunity of thanking Graham for all his hard work and dedication over many, many years (more than 25) in not only producing the newsletter but distributing it.

Any changes to your email address should now be sent to our Membership Secretary, Helen Brickell at [hmbriekell@googlemail.com](mailto:hmbriekell@googlemail.com) who will inform Peter.

Peter

Tel: 01425 471326

## EDAS ARCHAEOLOGY REPORTS

### Druce Farm Roman Villa

**Start Date: September 10th 2012 - Volunteers welcome.**

Finally the late summer sunshine has enabled the crop to be harvested and we have started the evaluation excavation at Druce Farm. Last week we spent two days on site in preparation; we laid out the grid and marked out three trenches. Bernard the tenant farmer, who thankfully wasn't as despondent as I'd feared, removed the top soil and remains enthusiastic.

Bernard removes the topsoil



Trench 2: divided into 5m slots



Janet, our off-road chauffeur



Lilian has carefully planned the site and each trench is divided into 5m lengths. By Friday afternoon we able to start trowelling and were soon finding pieces of prehistoric flint to capture our

imagination. On Monday and Tuesday several new volunteers appeared and we were well underway. The land owner has kindly made her trusty landrover available to us and Janet has become the driver, revitalising the skills she learned along the ragged desert tracks that cross the Indus Valley, smoothly double declutching with every gear change!

We remain optimistic that the villa has not been totally trashed by post war deep ploughing but whatever; the site has been used since the Mesolithic and will provide plenty of interest.

All volunteers are welcome whatever their experience, please contact our Site Director, Lilian Ladle for more information: Tel: 01929 553144, email: [bestwall@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bestwall@tiscali.co.uk)

**Andrew Morgan**

## **DUNG IN THE LIVING ROOM**

One cannot be but impressed with the sparkling splendour of Kingston Lacy, but it was not always like this. In 1404, at the time of John of Gaunt, Kinston Lacy house accounts contain the following, which is part of one entry.

*Four cartloads of stone purchased at Lytchet for making walls. And on carrying away dung from the hall and from the courtyard and carriage of straw to the courtyard, roofing the walls within the courtyard by 12 customary services called cart work at one halfpenny (each) sixpence. And in digging the afore said dung, cleaning the chambers within the court and carriage in help by 12 customary services (or customary workers) called "Daywyn) work at one halfpenny (each) sixpence. And in cleaning the chambers within the court at various times for the coming of the auditor and other ministers of the lord by 14 customary sevices called "Smalemen" work at one farthing (each) three and a half pence.....I man carrying wood from Holt to the courtyard for making for lathes for two carts one shilling each at 12d. per cart.*

This reminds me of the cleaning up that happens when mother-in-law visits! Visits to Kingston Lacy reveals what sort of state it was in. Removing dung by the cart load from the Hall and courtyard makes one wonder if any other than horses were living there at the time. It is possible to imagine carts filled with stone and wood trundling along what in the 15<sup>th</sup>. century were poorly made roads, if road is the right word, leaving great ruts and creating Holloways. Some of these trackways may still exist, though not always recognised. There is one at Pamphill that is now a picturesque public footpath.

Customary services were obligatory work that tenants were obliged to undertake. There were all sorts of tasks that this could include, from hay making to repairing bridges. One of the problems was the discrepancy that sometimes existed between the way one lord of a manor and a neighbouring lord over the way their demands were exercised. The peasants of Damerham were very disgruntled at the way they were treated, every ounce of blood got from them, while in the adjacent manor the lord had a more lenient attitude.

Tenants not only had obligations but also rights, such as panage (allowing their pigs to forage) and firebot (to collect firewood).

We are reminded in the record of wood coming from Holt that it has an important history as woodland. It is first mentioned in the Domesday Book as "foresta de Wimburne" and was later a Royal Chase. It continued to be called the forest of Wimborne in various ways, such as

“Wimburneholt”, until 1427 when we read of “le Holt”. Holt is old English for wood and so the name over many centuries simply meant “the wood near Wimborne”.

The Kingston Lacy archives held at The Dorset History Centre are a mine of interesting facts and awaiting EDAS members to review them and comment in the Newsletter.

**John Day**

### **DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

<b>DATE</b>	<b>EDAS EVENTS – 2012</b>
Wed 12th September	<b>EDAS Lecture: “The Chiseldren Cauldron”,</b> with Dr Andrew Fitzpatrick, Wessex Archaeology
Wed 10th October	<b>The David Johnson Memorial Lecture:</b> with Tim Schadla-Hall
Wed 14th November	<b>EDAS Lecture: “The Lands of the Queen of Sheba – Myth, History and Endemics”</b> Ian Lewis
Wed 12th December	<b>EDAS Lecture: “Were the Romans like us”,</b> with Geoff Taylor