



Established 1983

## East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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### NEWSLETTER – March 2014

#### EDAS Annual General Meeting

On Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> March we will be holding our AGM. This is an opportunity to meet the committee and raise any questions, make any comments and suggestions that you may have. You should have received all the relevant reports from Peter Walker our Treasurer.

After the meeting there will be a talk by EDAS Committee member Dave Stewart about his important work on Hod Hill, one of the most interesting hill forts in Dorset.

We hope you will be able to attend.

#### EDAS Lecture - Augustus Moore, Wareham's disgraced Tobacco pipe maker, with Lilian Ladle

The February talk was given to us by Lilian Ladle, who stepped into the breach after we received a last minute apology from Martin Brown, Principal Archaeologist with the MoD, who had been whisked off to a far flung location to meet an unexpected work assignment. Martin was very apologetic and promised to return at a later date to deliver his talk on – Burial Mounds and Battletanks.

Lilian brought us nearer to home and described an excavation that had been undertaken in Wareham that included a team of EDAS volunteers fresh from Druce Farm. Lilian explained that in 2011 she had been asked to undertake a watching brief as a new service trench was being dug for Frome House along the well preserved Saxon bank and ditch to the west side of Wareham. A large quantity of clay pipe fragments and a possible floor surface were found, suggesting a nearby pipe making kiln/workshop. She contacted Robert Lancaster and his colleague Heather, both pipe experts and members of the Dorset Clay Tobacco Pipe Research Group. They were very excited because pipe making kilns are very rare. Dave Stewart undertook a magnetometry survey.



Members go down in 10cm spits

Permission was granted to undertake an excavation. Three trenches were opened taken down in 10cm spits. An enormous amount of pipe debris was found but no evidence of a kiln.

In May 2012 the team returned and extended the excavation area. Much debris was uncovered including material from a kiln but still no definite evidence to confirm its location. However the pipe debris has proven to be very interesting to the Clay Tobacco Pipe research Group especially since they could detect the initials A & M, on some pipes.

They were able to identify the maker as Augustus Moore.

Lilian explained that the team has found out a great deal about this Wareham pipe maker and the challenging and relentless circumstances of those times, that were not so long ago. He was born in 1799 in Hampshire, and in 1824 married the widow Sarah Holland in Wyke Regis. They had five children. He committed a burglary in Wareham in 1834 with three accomplices. They were arrested, tried in Dorchester

and transported to New South Wales, Australia along with 260 other felons. From these records we also learn that he was 5ft 2ins tall, with dark hair and of a dark complexion. His poor wife and children became destitute and initially they had to turn to the Wareham workhouse. By 1861 Sarah is classified as a pauper in Weymouth, but somehow struggles on until her death in 1880. Meanwhile in Australia Augustus enjoyed better fortune. He gained some privileges enabling him to work and he went on to marry and raise ten children.

Whilst in one sense a modest excavation, nevertheless the remains of a demolished pipe kiln have been found, and a new pipe manufacturer identified along with new pipe designs. And it has proven to be a rare example when archaeology and historical research dovetail to unravel a complex human story. Robert Lancaster is currently writing up the report. The archive and finds will be deposited in Wareham Museum.

We enthusiastically thanked Lilian for her very interesting talk.

**Andrew Morgan**

## Archaeology Reports

### ARCHAEOLOGY DONATION

On behalf of EDAS we thank Mr Richard Shaw, Director of Savills, Wessex House, Priors Walk, East Borough, Wimborne, for their generous donation towards the costs of the Druce Farm Roman Villa Excavation. We hope that he and his colleagues will be able to visit the site during the summer.

## Druce Farm Roman Villa Excavation

The site will be prepared and available for excavation to recommence on Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> May.

Several members have asked for the opportunity to work on weekends and we have scheduled four weekends. Below are some key dates that we have diarised:

DATES	ACTIVITIES
May 6 <sup>th</sup>	Site opens
May 31 <sup>st</sup> / June 1 <sup>st</sup>	Weekend Working
June 28 <sup>th</sup> and 29 <sup>th</sup>	Weekend Working
June 29 <sup>th</sup>	Open Day
July 19 <sup>th</sup> /20 <sup>th</sup>	Weekend Working
July 19 <sup>th</sup>	CBA Archaeology Day
July 26 <sup>th</sup> /27 <sup>th</sup>	Weekend Working

Normally the site will be open from Monday to Friday, but to accommodate weekend opportunities the site will be closed for two weekdays on the following week.

One exciting development is that we have been working closely with Dorset County Museum and we are making the site available for school visits, which normally will occur on Tuesdays. We ensured that several secondary schools from East Dorset have been contacted. Sue Cullinane has been appointed our Education Officer.

There is a great deal of work to be undertaken this year so as usual volunteers are required and there are opportunities for people to become involved, whatever their level of experience. If you are interested then please contact: Lilian Ladle, Site Director, email: [bestwall@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:bestwall@tiscali.co.uk) or tel: 012929553144

### **Congratulations Lilian**

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> March, Lilian Ladle gave a talk to the Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society, in Dorset County Museum about the EDAS Druce Farm Roman Villa Project. Jon Murden the Museum Director suggested it was the largest audience they have ever achieved with well over 140 people attending. The talk was enthusiastically received with some insightful questions at the end. Congratulations Lilian for an excellent talk and for promoting the society so well.

### **WIMBORNE SQUARE SKELETONS - Update**

In 2012 a number of EDAS members were among a group of volunteers, under the direction of the Priest's House Museum that carried out a small excavation in Wimborne Square at the request of East Dorset District Council. A trench 5m x 3m and 1.20m in depth was required for the planting of a new tree as part of the Square Enhancement Scheme.

During the excavation a total of 23 individual burials were identified – nine adult females, five adult males and four adults where the sex could not be assessed, together with the remains of three infants, one child and one adolescent. A large number of other disarticulated human bones were also retrieved but these could not be attributed to specific burials due to post-cemetery activity and disturbance of the Square.

East Dorset District Council agreed to fund the analysis of the remains and the preparation of a report. The bones were, therefore, taken for examination and assessment to Dr Katie Tucker at Winchester University. Dr Tucker's report states that the ratio of male/female/ child skeletons she examined is fairly typical for a medieval attritional cemetery, a fact that does rather squash the local popular theory that the site was a plague pit! During her examination Katie noted a high proportion of the skeletons showed signs of degenerative disease and activity related skeletal lesions suggesting the population at this time was involved in heavy manual work. Amongst other conditions Katie identified was a healed trephination, evidence that two of the adult females had used their teeth as tools and one adult possibly suffered from brucellosis.

There is also some evidence to suggest that a number of the individuals may have been related. Here is where it gets technical – five individuals had evidence for *osteochondritis dissecans*, a localised disorder of the joint surface susceptibility to which, it has been suggested, may be inherited. Three individuals had evidence for volar grooving on the proximal hand phalanges an abnormality which again may be inherited. Two individuals showed evidence for retention of the metopic suture and six had evidence for wormian bones of the cranial sutures, both of which conditions can have a genetic predisposition.

Luckily for those who carried out the excavation in the Square in 2012, the weather at that time was considerably better than it was on the 12<sup>th</sup> February this year. High winds and driving rain accompanied members of the public, amongst them excavators, EDAS committee members and representatives from the Priest's House Museum who gathered in Wimborne Cemetery to witness the re-interment of the remains.

The arrangements for the re-burial were carried out by local Funeral Director, Nicholas O'Hara who also provided the specially made small caskets. The service was conducted by the Rector of Wimborne Minster, the Rev Vanessa Herrick.

No secure datable evidence for the burials was obtained during the excavation and no other date other than the broad brush "medieval" can be allocated at this time. In an attempt to obtain a more accurate date a request was made to East Dorset District Council for funding to obtain radio carbon dates on samples. Unfortunately the request was turned down. On hearing this Nicholas O'Hara has generously donated a sum of money to enable this investigation to be carried out. Samples from three of the skeletons are being sent to the Scottish Universities Environmental Research Centre's radiocarbon dating laboratories at East

Kilbride. It will take approximately 10 weeks for the results to come back and as soon as I have more information I will let you all know.

**Gill Broadbent**

## **EDAS Walks Programme**

The society organises a series of walks that we run throughout the summer period. This is being arranged by Peter Walker and to date we have four walks for your diary:

### **1. Exploring West Parley - Saturday 26 April led by John Cullen**

Meet John at 10.00 at the car park outside Parley Country Club, 275 Christchurch Road, West Parley. Entrance to car park is on left hand side of the B3073 from Parley Cross to Airport. Explorer map OL22 grid reference SZ 088 982.

The walk is about 5 miles and will take about 3½ hours. John will show us a wide variety of landscapes starting with a walk through ancient woodlands then a walk over ancient Parley Common. Then we go through West Parley to see Bronze Age barrows and Iron Age hill fort in the village on the highest parts then to lower ground on Stour Valley to see old buildings, Saxon church and sites where Romano- British remains found. Full details of this interesting walk can be found on the West Parley Parish Council web site [http://www.westparley-pc.gov.uk/heritage\\_walk.php](http://www.westparley-pc.gov.uk/heritage_walk.php).

If you want further details please contact John on 01202 582662 or email him at [johncullen50@hotmail.com](mailto:johncullen50@hotmail.com)

### **2. Pamphill Environs - Saturday 17 May led by David Smith**

Meet David at 10.00 at Pamphill Green opposite church. Explorer map 118 grid reference ST 992 005.

This walk takes place 3 days after David has spoken at our monthly talk about Kingston Lacy. The walk which will be about 3 miles will take about 2.5 hours. David will introduce us to the Saxon and Medieval landscape that may still be seen by visiting various sites such as the Saxon watch tower, the royal 'Cyninges tun', the Medieval village of Cowgrove ('Cougraue') and its fields and meadows and old highways.

If you want further details please contact Peter Walker on 01425 471326 or email him at [peter@peterwalker.info](mailto:peter@peterwalker.info)

### **3a. Tarrant Rushton Airfield-1: on Wednesday 18 June led by Peter Scriven**

Meet Pete at 6.30 pm at Windy Corner, Tarrant Rushton. Parking is limited so please share cars if possible. Explorer map 118 grid reference ST 950 062. The walk will take about two hours and is a shorter version of the Saturday walk (see below) including a visit to St Marys Church, Tarrant Rushton. Pete will talk about the history of Tarrant Rushton. He is creating a map which he will hand out to illustrate various features. He will explain how Tarrant Rushton played its part in the Second World War and in D Day whose 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary falls earlier in June.

If you want further details or a copy of the map please contact Pete on 01202 885012 or email him at [peteas@talktalk.net](mailto:peteas@talktalk.net)

### **3b. Tarrant Rushton Airfield-2: on Saturday 28 June led by Peter Scriven**

Meet Pete at 10.00am at Windy Corner, Tarrant Rushton. Parking is limited so please share cars if possible. Explorer map 118 grid reference ST 950 062.

This walk of about 4 miles will take us around the perimeter taxiway where Pete will talk about the history of Tarrant Rushton. He is creating a map which he will hand out to illustrate various features. He will explain how Tarrant Rushton played its part in the Second World War and in D Day whose 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary falls earlier in June.

If you want further details or a copy of the map please contact Pete on 01202 885012 or email him at [peteas@talktalk.net](mailto:peteas@talktalk.net)

**\*\*\*WANTED\*\*\***

**\*\*\*NEWSLETTER ARTICLES\*\*\***

This is a request to members to submit an article about something they have been involved with that has an archaeological or historical content. If you have been working on a project, attended an event or visited an exhibition then share it with your fellow members. It could even be a book review. The piece can be a short recommendation or a 1000+ word article with pictures....but if it's interesting to you then I'm sure it will be of interest to other members.

**DATES FOR YOUR DIARY**

DATE	EDAS EVENTS – 2014
12th March 2014	EDAS AGM and Lecture – Hod Hill, with Dave Stewart, EDAS Member
9th April 2014	EDAS Lecture – Egyptians and other Travelling People in Early Modern Dorset, with Judy Ford
26th April 2014	EDAS Walk – Exploring West Parley with John Cullen, for further details please contact John on 01202 582662 or email him at <a href="mailto:johncullen50@hotmail.com">johncullen50@hotmail.com</a>
6th May 2014	EDAS Druce Farm Roman Villa Project – the end date will be decided according to progress but undoubtedly we will continue through to September.
14th May 2014	EDAS Lecture – Kingston Lacy, an undiscovered history, with David Smith, National Trust
17 <sup>th</sup> May 2014	EDAS Walk – Pamphill Environs with David Smith. If you want further details please contact Peter Walker on 01425 471326 or email him at <a href="mailto:peter@peterwalker.info">peter@peterwalker.info</a>
18 <sup>th</sup> June 2104	EDAS Walk – Tarrant Rushton Airfield-1 : walk led by Pete Scriven, for further details please contact Pete on 01202 885012 or email him at <a href="mailto:peteas@talktalk.net">peteas@talktalk.net</a>
28th June 2104	EDAS Walk – Tarrant Rushton Airfield-2 : slightly longer version of 18 <sup>th</sup> June walk led by Pete Scriven, for further details please contact Pete on 01202 885012 or email him at <a href="mailto:peteas@talktalk.net">peteas@talktalk.net</a>

**Note:** all lectures start at 7.30pm.

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