



Established 1983

East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER – SEPTEMBER 2016

Welcome back for the new EDAS Season

We hope everyone has enjoyed the summer and you are looking forward to the EDAS programme for the next year. There are a number of very interesting lectures and we start with Zoe Barrass who will enlighten us about ancient diseases and disfigurements, I hope I don't have to look the other way! Please check out the EDAS walk around Wimborne on Sunday 9th October to rediscover Wimborne's Anglo Saxon origins, led by Dr David Reeve (see Newsletter article).

We were sad that Karen Winsor has decided to step down from the EDAS Committee after putting up with us for so many years and being so cheerful throughout our meetings, but we are delighted that Alan Dedden has agreed to be co-opted as her replacement.

We would also like to extend a special welcome to all new members and if you want further information about the society please come and chat with us. In particular committee members Jane Randall and David Hall will be trying to make your acquaintance. One of the best ways of getting to know people and becoming involved is to help out in the kitchen, so feel free to volunteer.

Druce Farm Roman Villa

This is our sixth season on the Druce Farm Roman Villa site. We returned primarily to evaluate the landscape surrounding the Roman Villa and answer some outstanding questions about the villa itself, which was covered at the end of last year. We concentrated on areas where interesting anomalies had been shown on Dave Stewart's geophysical survey. The main area was to the south west of the villa enclosure; another area to the east of the site where there were more ditches and a small enclosure. We have also taken the opportunity to undertake some further work on the aisled hall in the East Range, to better understand the development phases.

Preparation work on the site commenced in May and continued through June, the site was fully opened on 4th July. The summer has been successful, although we have as yet to find any additional building structures, we have found another midden feature and some interesting finds, including the first IA pottery fragment. The work will continue through September and possibly into October subject to the weather. We thank all the volunteers and we are delighted with their endless enthusiasm and commitment.

Next year we will return to investigate further anomalies in the adjacent field located to the west.

It was not possible to have an open day this year but a few walks have taken place to consider the surrounding landscape.

Any further queries please contact Site Director Lilian Ladle email: lilianladle@hotmail.com or tel: 01929 553144

Worth Matravers Monograph

Despite delays with some archaeological specialist reports, the work, undertaken mainly by Lilian, is progressing well and the monograph will be ready for publication in 2017.

Until the report is finalised we will not know the final publication costs, but be forewarned we expect to hold a series of fund raising activities next year.

Myncen Farm Excavation Report

As mentioned previously we have agreement that the report, of this EDAS led excavation, will be published in the DNHAS Proceedings.

Christopher Sparey-Green is making steady progress and has stated the report will be ready for the November deadline for the 2017 edition deadline. We wait in anticipation.

We thank Peter Walker for his long involvement with the work.

EDAS at the Wimborne History Festival 2016

In mid-July, EDAS participated in the first ever Wimborne History Festival. Over the Festival weekend, more than 2,000 visitors enjoyed a fantastic array of activities, exhibitions, displays and stalls as the Romans returned to the site of their vexillation fort at Lake Gates. The period encampments intrigued visitors with their attention to detail. There were re-enactors representing the Bronze Age, Roman occupation, the Viking invasions and up to the English Civil War.

We attended the event because EDAS is committed to supporting local cultural activities that promote our heritage. We consider it our duty to promote archaeology whenever we have the opportunity and we try to be a friendly, open and approachable society. The EDAS stand at the Wimborne History Festival site enjoyed a steady stream of visitors throughout the two days and everybody was suitably impressed with what we have achieved at Druce Farm Roman Villa over the last few years.



Visitors find out more about the Druce Farm excavation

You might remember that during the build up to the Festival, a series of community projects took place; designed to engage all ages with local history. The first of these was the clearance and interpretation of a Bronze Age Barrow at St Michael's School in Colehill. EDAS members received a special thank you for their professional expertise and support on this project in the Festival programme and in the feedback session after the event.

The Festival organisers plan to make the event biennial so it will return in 2018.

Vanessa Joseph

EDAS WALK: Queens and Saints; A Palace and Walls; Kings and Wars: Rediscovering Wimborne's Anglo Saxon Origins, led by Dr David Reeve

Sunday 9th October

Meet on Minster Green at 10.30am

We are delighted to announce the details of a historic walk rediscovering Wimborne's Anglo Saxon origins led by Dr David Reeve on Sunday 9th October. We will be discussing the original monastic site; the earliest part of the town and its subsequent development; the latest thoughts on the location of the Saxon Royal Palace; the locations of the three early town chapels, discuss the impact of civil war and Viking raids and the foundation of the college for secular canons. He will be talking about Queens and saints, palaces and walls, kings and war!! Much of this work is based around interpretations following the recent archaeological investigations in the town square and Priest House Museum. We will be meeting at the Minster Green at 10:30am and it estimated to be completed by 1pm. It will be a gentle walk around the centre part of the town.

The walk will be led by EDAS member Dr David Reeve who has been a regular speaker and led a number of walks for EDAS. He completed his PhD on 17th Century Wimborne and since then has been working on the town's origins. This is a rare opportunity to hear about David's work since he moved out of the county.

Friends of Ancient Monuments' (FOAM)

Encouraged by the work done with FOAM, in support of the Wimborne History Festival at St Michael's school, we are looking to see whether there is sufficient interest to set up an EDAS based group of volunteers to work with FOAM on protecting ancient monuments in the local area. This mainly involves clearing monuments of intrusive shrubs and trees that threaten their structure. There is also the ongoing maintenance of the monument.

We are only in the investigative stage as yet, but we will need to identify suitable monuments and gain the landowners' permission.

This is an opportunity for good physical work during the winter months.

We'll keep you informed of progress.

Please contact Alan Dedden if you would be interested or have any suggestions.

Bronze Age Goldsmith's Anvil now on display at the Priest's House Museum

A new exhibition "Precious metals and hidden treasures" celebrates a selection of finds made by responsible local metal detectorists, in the context of the Treasure Act 1996 (revised) which updated the ancient law of Treasure Trove.

The highlight of the exhibition is a Goldsmith's anvil from the Middle Bronze Age (c.1500 BC – 1100 BC) which was found in a Tarrant Valley field. It is a very unusual find which has generated considerable interest and discussion in the archaeology world. It was most probably used for the creation of intricate items of gold work and fine metalworking and still has minute flecks of original gold on the bronze work surface.

In the true spirit of bartering, we persuaded Martin Green of Down Farm to loan the Museum two late Bronze Age gold penannular rings in exchange for a chance to handle the anvil before we set up the exhibition. He loved it! These items, also known as "ring money" perfectly complement the anvil. Other rare and beautiful objects include a "Copper Age" dagger and a beautiful Roman frog brooch.

The exhibition, in the Museum's 17th century hall, is kindly sponsored by Wimborne's Gold and Silversmiths: Ockenden and Hemming.

Vanessa Joseph

Foundations of Archaeology Project

This interesting initiative run by the Cranborne Chase Area of Outstanding Beauty continues and there are several new opportunities in the next few weeks:

Monday 19th September: Aerial photograph recognition with Claire Pinder (Senior Archaeologist Dorset DCC) at Martin Green's farm, with walk out onto Gussage Down to look at the archaeology on the ground. All day event.

Sunday 25 September: . Tour of the Larmer Tree gardens (of Pitt-Rivers fame) at Tollard Royal, led by the head gardener. 10.45 start.

There will be a voluntary £5.00 contribution to cover anticipated tea and cake. 18 place capacity for this event.

Parking details, etc. will be given once you have booked into one or more of the above.

More exciting events at the planning stage for the autumn.

Please contact Philippe Planel to book any of the events: philippeplanel@gmail.com



Gary Smith, finder, and the Goldsmith's anvil.

2017 FIELD TRIP – Hadrian’s Wall

The trip, between 4th June – 11th June 2017, now has 23 people who have paid their accommodation deposit. It is possible to take a few more, please contact Lilian immediately if you are interested.

Further details from Lilian lilianladle@hotmail.com or tel: 01929 553144

2018 FIELD TRIP – South East Wales

Preliminary discussions have started regarding a possible field trip in 2018 to South East/Mid Wales.

Caerleon, Caerwent, Llantony Abbey, Offa’s Dyke and as many prehistoric sites as possible may well feature.

If you are interested in joining the trip or have any thoughts about this area please contact Geoff Taylor or Andrew Morgan.

East Dorset Archaeology Planning Group (EDAPG)

The pilot project has been completed and agreed to be a qualified success. Between 1st May 2015 and 1st April 2016 the team assessed 941 planning applications and made a recommendation regarding potential archaeology on 99 of them (10.6%).

Towards the end of the pilot East Dorset District Council (EDDC) merged with Christchurch Borough Council and migrated onto their planning system. This has resulted in degradation in system functionality which has caused significant problems for our team. Subject to the resolution of these problems the team has agreed in principle to move into a live mode as from September.

During the autumn, with the support of Professor Tim Darvill, meetings will be held with EDDC planning department about the end to end process and the role of EDAPG. The team intend to continue its programme to contact all the East Dorset Parish and Town Council planning committees and raise their awareness about their local archaeology. Dorset Archaeology Committee have asked for a presentation and Historic England have inquired about the project.

The immediate challenge is to find more volunteers. Training will be given and with a little experience assessment of the weekly list of planning applications normally takes between 2-3 hours.

If interested then please contact Ian Richardson: email [windowdiver22@gmail.com](mailto>windowdiver22@gmail.com)

EDAS POLO SHIRT - Now available



MALE Sizes:

- S= 34/36
- M= 38/40
- L= 42/44
- XL = 46
- XXL = 48
- XXXL = 50/52



FEMALE Sizes:

- 8,
- 10,
- 12/14,
- 16 etc

Cost is £12, which is a special price when we order 12 or more items at a time. **Sweatshirts also available @ £13.50 (order can be mixed with polos).**

Please place orders with Ian Richardson : email [windowdiver22@gmail.com](mailto>windowdiver22@gmail.com)

EDAS PROGRAMME 2016-2017

Date	Speaker/Leader	Title
Wed 14 Sep 2016	Zoe Barras, A to Z Archaeology	100 Ways to Die: the diseases and disfigurements of ancient times
Sun 9th Oct 2016	David Reeve	EDAS Walk: Rediscovering Wimborne's Saxon Foundation: a walk around the Town's early boundaries Minster Green 10.30 am start.
Wed 12 Oct 2016	Dr. Miles Russell, Bournemouth University	Finding Duropolis: a new type of Iron Age settlement for Dorset
Wed 9 Nov 2016	Richard Osgood, Operation Nightingale	The Archaeology of World War I
Wed 14 Dec 2016	Lawrence Shaw, New Forest National Park Authority	Shedding light on the New Forest's history: the results of LIDAR and other surveys
Wed 11 Jan 2017	Prof. Peter Andrews, Natural History Museum & Blandford Museum	An ape's view of human evolution: our fossil ape relatives and how they lived
Wed 8 Feb 2017 at the University	Prof. Tim Darvill, Bournemouth University	A tomb with a view: new investigations on Cotswold-Severn long barrows
Wed 8 Mar 2017	AGM	Members' Evening
Wed 5 Apr 2017 - NOT 2nd Wednesday	Martin Papworth, National Trust	The late great Medieval manor house of Kingston Lacy
Wed 10 May 2017	Kris Strutt, University of Southampton	Atomic magnetism, current & dielectric permittivity: how Physics has the potential to transform Archaeology: new discoveries from geophysics at Old Sarum and other sites

Note: unless otherwise stated all lectures are from 7.30 – 9.30 pm and are held at **St Catherine's Church Hall, Lewens Lane, Wimborne, BH21 1LE.**

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