

East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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Established 1983

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 <https://www.facebook.com/dorset.archaeology>

NEWSLETTER – MARCH 2017

2017 EDAS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Wednesday 8th March

Our next meeting will also be the **2017 Annual General Meeting** when we will consider what we did during 2016 and give you an update on our application to the Charity Commission. As always we look forward to your comments and any suggestions for activities and improvements.

The accompanying talk will be given by Lilian Ladle who will provide us with an update of the work continuing at the EDAS excavation of the Druce Farm Roman Villa.

Note: To help members be aware of the talks given by other groups in the area, we have added a new District Diary at the end of the newsletter. We welcome information about other suitable events that will be of interest to members.

EDAS Lecture: A tomb with a view, new investigations on Cotswold-Severn long barrows, by Prof Tim Darvill.

On 7th February we met at the Bournemouth University for our annual meeting hosted by the BU students' Archaeology, History and Anthropology Society. As usual there was a very good turnout in the excellent Allesbrook lecture theatre, with many students and members of other societies and the general public joining EDAS members.

Tim's talk was inspired by his work in the Cotswold Hills where scattered across the landscape are more than a hundred great stone long barrows of the Cotswold-Severn type dating to the period 3800 to 3300BC. They were built by early farming groups to contain the remains of their dead and also perhaps as territorial markers, they are found over a large area particularly in the Cotswolds but also along the South Wales coast to Gower. He explained how these sites have been investigated over the last two centuries, and what is now known about their origins and use, and what preliminary excavations by Bournemouth University at a recently discovered example near Cirencester have started to tell us about the location and relationships of these sites.

The Neolithic agricultural revolution spread gradually across Europe from the Middle East reaching the English Channel by c. 4500BC when it stopped. To the south people had adopted the Neolithic package of arable farming, animal husbandry and a predominantly sedentary life style which included pottery, burial chambers and large scale monumental building. The British Isles had long been cut off from the continent after Doggerland had been submerged by rising sea levels more than 1,500 years earlier. It appears to have remained isolated: a land where a more traditional hunter gatherer life style persisted, although as Tim pointed out this was quite sophisticated and the people were masters of their natural environment and led a complex lifestyle which may have been quite agreeable and healthy in times of plenty. It appears that the advance of the agricultural revolution was halted for some 1000 years. Having raised this fascinating piece of information Tim put it aside for another day.

On the continent regional cultural developments have been identified. To the north was the Funnel (-neck) Beaker culture (TRB) c. 4300–2800BC, an archaeological culture that evolved in north-central Europe. In central Europe developed the Michelsberg culture c. 4400–3500BC, covering much of West Central Europe, along both sides of the Rhine. To the west lay the Chasséen culture c. 4500-3500BC, the name given to the archaeological culture that spread throughout the plains and plateaux of France, including the Seine basin and the upper Loire. They were sedentary farmers growing rye, panic grass, millet, apples, pears, prunes and herders of sheep, goats and oxen. They lived in huts organized into small villages of between 100-400 people.

Eventually each of these cultures would have an influence on different parts of Britain, but the south-west and Atlantic sea board area was heavily influenced by migration across the channel from Brittany and Normandy, the area of the Chasseen culture. There are marked similarities with the Breton monument sequence from passage graves, round barrows and long barrows, as well as a number of material links with stone axes, rings and bracelets of shale that appear to have been deliberately broken into pieces and then shared out to be made into pendants.

Tim mentioned that many enthusiasts have been investigating the Cotswolds monuments since the 18th century but in the autumn and winter of 1920 OGS Crawford, working for the Ordnance Survey, made the first extensive survey of the Cotswolds Long Barrows. Travelling by bicycle he visited 208 sites around the Cotswolds and mapped 81 previously unknown barrows.



Notgrove Long Barrow

Elsie Clifford excavated Notgrove (1934-35) a Neolithic chambered tomb of the Cotswold Severn type, the long barrow mound was trapezoidal in plan and orientated east-west; it was approximately 46 metres long, 30 metres in width and a maximum of 1.7 metres in height. The mound was originally retained by a dry-stone revetment wall. At the eastern end of the barrow was a forecourt flanked by extensions of mound on either side. Within the mound was revealed an earlier dome-shaped chamber now recognised as a Rotunda Grave which is dated to c. 3700-3600BC, it predates the long barrow by at least

100 years. The long barrow featured an inner gallery or passage, aligned east-west approximately 12 metres long and two metres wide with four side chambers and an end chamber to the west. There is evidence of burning, and Neolithic pottery, human and animal remains, and flints. There was evidence that the barrow had been robbed and disturbed since at least Roman times. In one chamber, which had not been disturbed, two human skeletons were uncovered beneath a large flat stone. They were accompanied by animal bones and teeth, a leaf arrowhead, and a jet or shale bead.

There are two basic forms of this type of long barrow (LB): a terminal LB with a forecourt and entrance at one end such as West Kennet, or a lateral LB with entrances and chambers along the flanks of the mound. Several examples have both features. A small number have been recorded without any chambers, but the question is whether these were the result of inaccurate excavation, or previous damage.

They are carefully built monuments intended to be permanent features in the landscape; an objective that the builders achieved. They comprise retaining walls around the edge of the monument and internal walls forming cells which were infilled with rock, much larger stones were used to construct the burial chambers. Several show evidence of the mound being extended, suggesting these had been built in phases. Most of the material would have been found locally, usually there are quarries adjacent to the structure. The larger stones needed for the chambers may have been brought several miles to the site. The Hetty Pegler Tump LB contains many large stone slabs weighing many tonnes. To the south where large stones are less readily available wood and earth replaced stone, but the mounds still stand proud. The burial areas had three components: an entrance, a passage and the burial chambers to contain the ancestral remains. The burials remains are usually disarticulated suggesting the bones have been moved, possibly on multiple occasions, but the final burial often remains complete, and it is possible that it was deposited within a bag immediately before the mound was finally closed.



OGS Crawford and Bicycle



Hetty Pegler Tump Chamber

The Hazelton North long barrow was excavated by Allan Saville in 1979-83 and is regarded as the best excavated and recorded of these monuments although the work resulted in its total destruction. It measured 50-metre long

and was a stone-built tomb constructed c. 5,500 years ago, and was probably used for several generations. It would have been re-opened to add fresh burials and was found to contain the bones of 39 individuals. It was only in use for about 70 years, just three generations. At the Ashcott under Wychwood LB there are remains of people who died by arrow and another who had been poleaxed by a stone axe, raising the question whether these beautiful artefacts were used for ritual slaughter. The graves contain few grave goods. There are over 100 long barrows in the Cotswolds and they are contemporary with caused way enclosures. It is recognised that not every community built such a labour intensive monuments. They are usually found on higher ground often overlooking a waterway or spring; they were prominent in the landscape, possibly acting as territorial markers.

Several years ago a family were camping in a field on the Abbott Home Farm near Cirencester and were convinced that the slight irregular shape in the field represented an as yet undetected long barrow. This resulted in Bournemouth University getting involved. They took advantage of a relationship with a German university and used their state of the art magnetometry equipment which has 16 sensors and can be drawn behind a vehicle; this enabled them to survey a huge area of 4 square kms over two seasons. Tim explained that previously he has been fortunate enough to identify two unknown long barrows and this work discovered the third when the bump in Sister Field was indeed confirmed to be a long barrow, and is located overlooking the site of a spring. It has an elongated mound c.34m east to west by 12m north south, about 0.75m high. The mound is very stony and they identified slight hollows north and south suggesting possible quarry scoops.

In 2015 recognising that these are special places that previously have been treated with respect over thousands of years, Tim engaged with the local community to ask their permission before excavating the site further. This also helps to engage the local people and raise their awareness and respect for their archaeological heritage. The team opened two 2mx30m trenches across the profile of the monument and came across wall chambers and confirmed the quarries at either side.



Excavating the Sisters Long Barrow

The site has proven to be very exciting and they have found a new Cotswold-Severn style long barrow with both a terminal entrance and lateral chambers. It shows several phases of construction and there are pits with rich deposits, as well as disarticulated bone there are also samples of cremated bone and a fragment of a stone axe that may well have come from Brittany, although this has yet to be confirmed. Tim concluded by saying that the work is just beginning.

Andrew Morgan

Current Archaeology - Druce Roman Villa Project

We are delighted that having visited the site in 2015 Andrew Selkirk has written a six-page article about the EDAS excavation, which is published in the January edition of Current Archaeology and has featured Len and Heather on the front page. We have already received several enquiries because of the article.

CA has provided the team with a number of copies and these will be available for purchase at the AGM (£2 each, all towards project costs).

For information in the March edition is an article by Tim Darvill about the megalithic monuments of Pembrokeshire many of which EDAS visited during the annual 2011 Field Trip.



EDAS Site Visit to the Durotriges Big Dig on 5 July 2017

Following our most interesting and enjoyable 2016 visit to Bournemouth University's continuing excavation of prehistoric/Romano-British settlements on chalk downland near Winterbourne Kingston, we have organised the opportunity for a visit to this season's dig.

June/July 2017 will be the University's ninth consecutive season of excavation at various locations on the land of North West Farm. Past seasons have uncovered: a Middle/Late Iron Age banjo enclosure containing round houses, work surfaces and storage pits; a Durotrigian cemetery; the footings of a late Romano-British masonry building; possible Bronze Age roundhouses and BA pottery deposits; a late 4th century AD mortuary enclosure; an open Iron Age settlement containing up to 150 roundhouses; and in 2016, a late or post-Roman farming settlement consisting of five buildings and associated kilns and ovens, dating to the period AD 300 – 450. So who knows what this year's trenches will reveal? All we can guarantee is that it will be intriguing and good fun, and they will have found most of it by the time we visit!



Dr Miles Russell explains everything to EDAS

We have been asked to arrive at the site by 11am, so can assemble near the farm buildings from 10.30 onwards (parking will be available, but please share cars if possible). There is an uphill walk to the site of around 20 minutes – comparable to that for Druce - transport will be available for those unable to cope with that distance. There are loos on-site, but bring whatever refreshments you may need!

If you wish to come, please email Jane Randall (randallj19@gmail.com) and give her your name(s) and a telephone number for any last-minute contact on the day. She will circulate a map and joining instructions nearer the time of the visit, which is being offered free of charge. We will hope to accommodate all who want to go.

Bournemouth University

Centre for Archaeology & Anthropology
Department of Archaeology, Anthropology & Forensic Science,
Faculty of Science & Technology

THE BIG DIG EXHIBITION

Sharing what past cultures created, and inspiring future generations

ATRIUM GALLERY, Talbot Campus

Monday 3rd April to Saturday 27th May

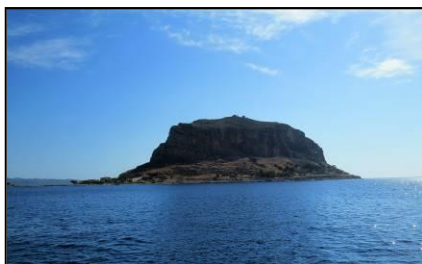
For more information contact Damian Evans email: devans@bournemouth.ac.uk



Sketches from the Peloponnese – Part II: Monemvassia and Mystras

Rome declined and eventually fell in 490AD marking the end of the Western Roman Empire, but the Eastern Roman Empire, later referred to as the Byzantine Empire, continued for the next 1,000 years. The Roman Emperor Constantine I (r. 306–337AD) built the city of Constantinople on the site of the old Greek polis of Byzantium, on a small strategic peninsular controlling the Bosphorous and the rich trade links to the Black Sea, Asia Minor and beyond. Constantine I was the first Roman emperor to claim conversion to Christianity; the Edict of Milan of 313AD decreed tolerance for Christianity throughout the Roman Empire. He called the First Council of Nicaea in 325AD, from which the Nicene Creed was agreed and adopted: with some difficulty it affirmed that Jesus the Son was co-eternal with God the Father and was therefore of equal divinity. Theodosius I (r.379-395AD) made Orthodox Nicene Christianity the official state religion. During the reign of Theodosius II (r.408-450) the construction of additional double defensive walls was completed, these Theodosian Walls were to protect the empire for a thousand years. Under the reign of Heraclius (r. 610–641) the Empire adopted Greek as the official language, replacing Latin; although the people continued to refer to themselves as Romans. Constantinople was to become the largest, the richest and most sophisticated city in Europe.

The Peloponnese peninsular was a core part of the Eastern Roman Empire and in due course offered its final outpost. Monemvassia and Mystras are two important Byzantium sites; they offer an insight into this less well known period of Greek history. Their story tells of the challenges Byzantium faced against the Slavic tribes and Islamic expansionism, and explains that the greatest threat was from fellow Christians. Frustrated by the failure of the Fourth Crusade the leaders of the mainly Frankish and Venetian armies turned on their erstwhile ally and brutally sacked Constantinople in 1204 and created a new Latin Empire. The Byzantines eventually recovered their city in 1261 but the betrayal was the final act confirming the great schism between the Roman Catholic Church and the Eastern Orthodox Church. The Byzantine Empire eventually fell to the Ottomans in 1460.



Monemvassia

Few ventured further to explore this fascinating historic town. Much of the lower part of the town spreading from the main gateway has been meticulously renovated; beautiful cream-stone buildings with small doors and windows are organically arranged, separated by meandering single-file alleys. An occasional square with its compulsory church provides space for peace and contemplation; they often feature undemanding modern sculptures. The town is enveloped by fine city walls that slope down to the sea. Towards the further end of the town

Monemvassia is a majestic island, a small perfectly formed table-top mountain set in the sea. There is a narrow rim along its southern edge where a town has been carved out from the slopes, and it is crowned with a fortress providing protection from above. It is connected by a narrow causeway, of two hundred metres, to the east coast of the Laconian peninsular. It is now an important tourist site as the numerous coaches and nearby cruise ship, at anchor in the bay, testified. Thankfully the hordes restrict themselves to the narrow shop-lined streets in the immediate vicinity of the main gateway.



Main gateway into Monemvassia



Back alleyways

there are areas of rubble which have yet to be reclaimed and where are found the occasional cannonball. The buildings gradually peter out further up the slope towards the fortress. Ignoring warning signs that the fortress was closed it was disappointing to prove them accurate but the climb was rewarded by a fine view.

The town and fortress was founded in 583AD by people seeking refuge from the Slavic tribes invading Greece from the north, as recorded in the medieval Chronicle of Monemvassia. By the 10th century AD, the town had developed into an important trade and maritime centre. The fortress withstood invasions

by the Arabs and Franks until the all-powerful William II of Villehardouin, ruler of the Frankish Principality of Achaea, took it in 1248 after three years of siege. It was eventually recovered in 1262 by Michael Palaiologos, a member of an aristocratic Byzantine family who dominated the final period of the Empire. After the fall of Constantinople in 1453 to the Ottomans under Sultan Mehmed II, Monemvassia remained part of the Despotate of Morea. This lasted only until 1460 when the city was sold to the Pope who promptly handed it to the Venetians, always keen to enhance control of the profitable trade links. It eventually fell to the Ottomans in 1540 who ruled until the Greek War of Independence in 1821.



From Mystras castle towards Sparta

After capturing Monemvassia in 1248, the industrious Villehardouin set out to control the remainder of the Peloponnese. First he subdued the fierce independent mountain tribes of Mount Taygetos and the Mani peninsular. He then toured the country selecting sites for new fortifications such as Grand Magne and Leuktron and finally just outside the ancient polis of Sparta on the edge of Mount Taygetos, he built the fortress that became known as Mystras. These are the same hills where, long ago,

Spartan boys were sent for their ultimate trial of survival. In 1262 after defeat by Michael Palaiologos, Villehardouin was forced to hand over his new fortress to the Byzantine Empire. Fighting continued with the Frankish Kingdom of Achaea to the north and Byzantine citizens congregated to Mystras where they built a new city under the protection of the fortress. From 1348 until its surrender to the Ottoman Turks on 31 May 1460, Mystras was the residence of the Byzantine governor of the area referred to as the Despot of Morea. This was the city's golden age, it witnessed a cultural renaissance and became a centre of learning, the town attracted philosophers and teachers, artists and architects from all over Europe, a time when the fine churches and palaces were built.



Mitropolis the Bishop's Palace – which contains the museum



Peribleptos Church Fresco

Some of the most memorable features of the visit are the frescoes that appeared to cover every wall and ceiling in the churches and monasteries. Most are old and worn, maltreated by the elements and by believers who needed to touch, but the images of old Christian saints and warriors remain powerful, captured in warm reds and golds, all bathed in a



Pantamassa Monastery Fresco

background of opulent blue. The frescos in the Peribleptos Church, dating between 1348 and 1380, are important examples of late Byzantine art. Mystras was the last centre of Byzantine scholarship; the most notable scholar being the Neoplatonist philosopher George Gemistos Plethon who lived there until his death in 1452. He and other scholars based in Mystras had a strong influence on the Italian Renaissance, having accompanied the emperor John VIII Palaiologos to Florence in 1439.

The last Byzantine emperor was Constantine XI Palaiologos, who had been Despot of Morea before he came to the throne and handed the title to his brother Demetrius. He eventually surrendered the city to the Ottoman emperor Mehmed II in 1460. Renamed as Mezistre, it became the seat of a Turkish sanjak. The Venetians occupied it from 1687 to 1715, but otherwise the Ottomans held it until 1821 and the beginning of the Greek War of Independence. Mystras was abandoned later for the new city on the plains below, built over the site of ancient Sparta.

The city including the fortress, palace, churches, and monasteries, is a UNESCO World Heritage Site.



Constantine XI Palaiologos 1404 -1452

ASSOCIATION FOR ROMAN ARCHAEOLOGY

VAGNARI VICUS - An excavation in Italy directed by Professor Maureen Carroll University of Sheffield

This summer, the 6th season of the **Vagnari Vicus Archaeological Fieldwork Project** will take place from July 1-August 2, 2017. The site is located in the beautiful rolling hills of Puglia (ancient Apulia) in south-east Italy. **The field school is open to students and to non-students interested in Roman archaeology.**

The aim of the project is to explore the central village (*vicus*) of a rural estate belonging to the Roman emperors in the first to third centuries A.D. in order to retrieve archaeological evidence for a range of agricultural and industrial activities. It also explores the evidence for slave and free manpower in rural Roman Italy, contributing to an understanding of elite involvement in the exploitation of the environment.

This year we will be targeting the remains of a Roman building in which wine was made and stored in large ceramic vats, and we will be exploring the new structural and artefactual evidence for a Hellenistic settlement of the second century B.C. which became the core of the Roman imperial village. An in-depth study of Hellenistic and Roman ceramic assemblages also will be conducted.

The field school runs for 4 weeks under the direction of the Department of Archaeology at the University of Sheffield, in collaboration with
Application deadline is 15th April 2017.

The participation fee is £2200 and includes supervision and training, instruction in finds and artefact processing, daily transport to and from the site, meals during the working week, and shared accommodations in the lovely medieval town of Gravina in Puglia. Participants are expected to make their own travel arrangements to and from Italy.

To find out more about the project and to apply, please go to the project website at:

http://www.sheffield.ac.uk/arc_haeology/research/vagnari

or contact Prof. Maureen Carroll (p.m.carroll@sheffield.ac.uk).

Follow us on facebook: Vagnari Vicus Archaeological Fieldwork Project

Crick Crack Club
at the
ANCIENT TECHNOLOGY CENTRE CRANBORNE



In a field on the outskirts of Cranborne village, there is a hill, and it has a door....

One of Dorset's best kept secrets, the Earthhouse is a 200-seat theatre – lit by lamplight and fire-light. Here audiences sit on wooden benches, under an earth roof, held up by 21 huge oak tree trunks... they come to listen to stories. The Ancient Technology Centre works with the Crick Crack Club to bring some of the finest contemporary performance storytellers to this fabulous off-beat venue – turning it into a cinema of the imagination.

'I was spellbound – I don't use the word lightly' THE TIMES

'the art of storytelling is in the surest, safest hands here' REMOTE GOAT

SAT 22 APRIL 7.30PM

7 PRINCESSES

by Xanthe Gresham-Knight & Arash Moradi

'When night poured out its silken sack of musky black, King Bahrum, overcome by wine and love, asked the Black Princess with eyes like a gazelle, to open up her treasure box and tell him a tale....' So begins the first of seven playful, poetic, and often deeply erotic tales.

Xanthe Gresham and Arash Moradi serve up a wild Persian fairytale. A labyrinthine epic of secret rooms, impatient passions, clever women, wigs, and a prince who wrestled his crown from the teeth of two wild lions to become King.

Nizami, one of the best loved Iranian epic poets, wrote The Seven Princesses or 'Haft Paykar' in the 12th century AD, influencing generations of poets and storytellers across the world.

Join us for this remarkable show by two superb performers...

TICKETS: £10 adult, £5 children (suitable 12+) (booking fees apply on-line)

BOX OFFICE: call **01202 888 992** or [book on-line](#)

LOCATION: The Ancient Technology Centre, Damerham Road, Cranborne, Dorset, BH21 5RP

Wrap up warm, bring a cushion & wear sensible shoes



EDAS PROGRAMME 2016-2017

Date	Event	Who	Title
Wed 8 Mar 2017	AGM & Lecture	AGM	Members' Evening. Talk by Lilian Ladle about Druce Roman Villa excavation.
Wed 5 Apr 2017 First Wednesday	Lecture	Martin Papworth, National Trust	The late great Medieval manor house of Kingston Lacy
Wed 10 May 2017	Lecture	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
Wed 5 July 2017	Site Visit	Miles Russell Bournemouth University	Site visit to BU excavation at Winterbourne Kingston arranged for EDAS members. (See March Newsletter). Contact Jane Randall email: (randallj19@gmail.com)

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.**

<http://www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk/>

DISTRICT DIARY

Date	Event	Group	Who	Title
Sat 18 th Feb 2.30pm	Lecture	BNSS	Prof Barbara York, Winchester	'King Alfred: Man and Myth'
Wed 22nd Feb 7.00pm	Lecture	BU AHAS	Mike Parker Pearson, UCL	'Stonehenge: New Discoveries'
Fri 3 rd Mar 7.30pm	Lecture	DNHAS	Dr Kate Verkooijen	'Tears of the sun: Bronze Age amber spacer beads.'
Wed 15 th Mar 7.00pm	Lecture	Wareham	Rob Curtis	'Dead Interesting Dorset'
Thur 16th Mar 5.00pm	Lecture	BU AHAS	Peter Campbell, University of Southampton	'The Aegean's Largest Ship Graveyard: ancient trade networks of the Eastern Mediterranean'
Tues 21 st Mar 5.00pm	Lecture	BNSS	Stuart Clarke, conservation & countryside mgr	'Hengistbury Head, Past, Present and Future'
Fri 7 th April 7.30pm	Lecture	DNHAS	Dr Denise Allen	'Roman glass'
Wed 19 th April 7.30pm	Lecture	Wareham	Lilian Ladle	'Roman Life at Druce Villa'
Wed 17 th May 7.30pm	Lecture	Wareham	Ciorstaidh Hayward Trevarthen	The Portable Antiquities Scheme – Dorset Highlights
Wed 21 st June 7.30pm	Lecture	Wareham	Stuart Morris	'Storms, shipwrecks and floods around Portland'
Wed 20 th Sept 7.30pm	AGM & Lecture	Wareham	Lilian Ladle	The definitive Hadrian's Wall

BNSS: Bournemouth Natural Sciences Society

- Events held at 39 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth BN1 3NS.
- <http://bnss.org.uk/>

BU AHAS: Bournemouth University Archaeology, History and Anthropology Society

- Events held on different days and different times
- Events usually held at Talbot Campus, Bournemouth in Kimmeridge House room KG03 on Talbot Campus.

DNHAS: Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society

- Events held at Dorset County Museum
- <http://www.dorsetcountymuseum.org/events>

Wareham: Wareham and District Archaeology and Local History Society

- Meetings are at 7.30pm on the 3rd Wednesday of the month, unless otherwise indicated.
- The venue is Wareham Town Hall (on the corner of North Street and East Street).
- <http://wareham-archaeology.co.uk/>