



Established 1983

East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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NEWSLETTER –September 2017

In Memoriam

It is with great sadness we announce that Jane Randall passed away on 21st August. Jane had not been a member of EDAS for long but because of her experience and skills she was encouraged to stand for election to the committee which she achieved at the 2016 AGM. She soon volunteered to take on the important role of Programme Secretary and became a very active member. Jane had taken a degree in Archaeology as a mature student and worked on pottery from the EDAS Worth Matravers excavation for her dissertation. Also she was a volunteer supporting the Bournemouth University excavation at Winterbourne Kingston. She was a keen advocate of practical archaeology and very supportive of the work done by the society. She brought a wide range of professional knowledge and expertise to the committee and was a key member of the team that helped us achieve charitable status. She will be missed.

We send our condolences to her husband Kevin and the rest of her family.

The funeral arrangements, referred to by her as “Jane’s Last Junket”, are on Thursday 7th September at 10.30 am at Poole Crematorium and then onto Furzebrook Village Hall, Wareham, BH20 5AU.

Please no flowers or sympathy cards and wear bright and casual clothes as per Jane’s wishes.

From the Chair

Another season starts and we have a programme of very interesting talks not least the first on 13th September about Watermeadows. People in Dorset were leaders in the development of new techniques to manage watermeadows and extend the growing season to provide more feed for their livestock.

We are still working at Druce Roman Villa and there is an article overleaf about two very interesting finds and how Sue and Phil felt when they found them. Due to exciting developments on the site we will organise a visit to the site for EDAS members. We are now working in the field adjacent to the villa site which has revealed some surprises. See article for further details.

On Sunday 8th October we have a chance to learn more about Wimborne when EDAS member Dr David Reeve will lead a walk around the town to uncover life in the seventeenth century.

I am pleased that more members are writing articles for the newsletter; please do take the opportunity to share your cultural heritage experiences with us. This month Geoff Taylor has written about working on an archaeological site in Georgia, a truly fascinating if rather sad country. Alan Dedden has written about visiting two sites that were on the 2017 Field Trip itinerary but were not accessible on the day.

As always we warmly welcome all members new and old and please speak up if you want further information about the society or have suggestions for improvements.

DRUCE ROMAN VILLA UPDATE - News from the Trenches.....

Work at Druce Farm this year has concentrated on trying to understand the function and dating of the two large enclosure ditches which lie to the west of the villa site. The ditches are about 25m apart, straight and parallel. They are about 2m wide and over 1m deep. Currently, we think that they were dug in the 1st century AD and had started infilling by the second half of that century. Generally, the ditch fill consists of horrible sticky clay/loam together with lots of flint-gravel which varies in size from tiny to exceedingly large. Finds have not been numerous, although some sections have yielded large chunks of pottery.

Special Finds

Although to date the number of finds has been low compared to previous seasons two of our excavators have uncovered particularly interesting and unusual finds.

Millefiore, enamelled disc brooch

Sue Pinyon has been with us for four years now – she and Ian came to an Open Day and somehow they got drawn in to volunteering. Sue is a natural excavator – careful, meticulous – and misses nothing. For three months this year, after shifting large amounts of soil and flint she could hardly believe her eyes when she unearthed one of the most attractive metal objects to be found to date.



This was a damaged, but beautiful circular, copper alloy, millefiore, enamelled disc brooch with a date range of AD 130-300. The brooch has a diameter of 25mm; the back has the remnants of fixings for a pin mechanism. The front edge of the brooch is raised to contain the enamelling which consists of alternate rows of checkerboard patterns in blue, red and white. There are nine squares across the diameter and each square measures a tiny 2mm.

Millefiore (*a thousand flowers*) describes polychrome patterns in glass and is made by arranging glass rods of various colours together, fusing these by heating and then stretching them out into long, very thin canes. Slices are cut from the canes when they have cooled and are then placed together to form delicate and intricate patterns.

A small number of very similar brooches have been found around the country by metal detectorists; they are not common and are generally designated 'of county or regional importance' by the Portable Antiquities Scheme. In its day, our brooch would have been expensive, and would have belonged to someone of wealth and status – no doubt one of the residents of the nearby villa.

Sue's reaction: "having experienced sadness caused by the loss of an item of jewellery, it was with very mixed emotions that I picked the beautiful millefiori brooch out from the soil - excitement at being the first person for hundreds of years to see and handle this lovely artefact and a sense of sympathy for the owner who, one day in the distant past, had realised her loss and had doubtless felt a great sense of sadness and frustration. Maybe it had been a gift from a partner on a special occasion, maybe a family heirloom, maybe a prize won? For me, however, it was a very special find and I appreciate how fortunate I was to be holding it in my hand. The colours were so crisp and the workmanship so intricate, it was hard to believe this brooch was almost two millennia old!"

The brooch has been sent to Laura Ratcliffe in Truro for conservation.

Long-necked conical glass jug

Long-standing EDAS member Phil D'Eath has worked on a number of our sites, but has really honed his trowel to a sharp edge at Druce. Like everyone else this year, Phil initially dug up his share of soil and flint from his ditch section, then (it was of course home time and Friday to boot) he started uncovering the top of a glass jug.



At first, the rim and long neck were exposed, and before the eyes of the assembled (envious) diggers, the top of the body and a decorated handle came into view. It took Phil another two days to meticulously uncover the jug. It had of course, been broken before it was discarded in the ditch and the impact of throwing it in resulted in even more breaks.

Despite the damage, our glass expert, Dr Denise Allen has been able to give us the following information. The fragments belong to a blown, long-necked, conical jug with a long, angular, 'pinched trail' handle. The glass is pale blue/green with few bubbles indicating that it was well-made. The jug must have belonged to a wealthy family. It would have been a status symbol and between meals would have been carefully stored away in a cupboard. It was of the type used to serve wine (which had been decanted from an earthenware flagon) and would have been part of an array of fine tableware associated with formal dining.



This type of jug was manufactured in the Rhineland or northern Gaul, came into use about AD 60 and is most common from AD 70 to 130.

Phil's reaction: "You always hope that one day you will find something special when you are trowelling away, especially in a ditch on a Roman site as they were invariably used to dump all sorts of broken discarded and sometimes lost items. That Friday afternoon I was near the bottom and had given up hope of finding anything more than I had already found over the past few days (a few pieces of worked/burnt flint and flecks of charcoal). Unearthing the edge of a smooth shiny green object I initially thought that it was a piece of flint. As a larger bottle shape began to emerge I felt a sense of exhilaration and my heart started to beat faster. Surely this must have been something left behind by a previous excavator or farm hand working the field in the 18th or 19th century? There was a temptation to rush at trying to reveal it all straight away but I knew that this would most likely result in unnecessary and irreversible damage to what was clearly a fragile artefact, which at that stage appeared to be fully intact.

As fellow excavators gathered around the ditch to take a look and provide advice and support I was reassured that it must be some kind of Roman glass container. It also began to dawn on me what a responsibility I now had on my shoulders to protect and preserve what I had started to uncover. It was clear that there was no way that it could be further excavated on the day, as it was time to go home. With assistance from others I carefully covered it with bubblewrap, spread a thin layer of soil on top and placed a bucket on top to shelter it from rain and any inquisitive uninvited visitors to the site. What followed was one of the longest weekends of my life, losing sleep and waiting for excavation to recommence the following Tuesday. In the meantime I carried out a google search and eventually found and copied a web page showing what looked like a similar 'very rare late first to early 2nd Century jug' with

the same ornate base to the handle. Clearly a very precious object. On further excavation, the jug proved to be broken with a large amount of the thinner glass that would have made up the bowl and bottom missing. No matter. I had been privileged to be the first person to have seen and touched it since it was thrown in the bottom of the ditch. And it is a beautiful object that has contributed further to our understanding of the Druce Roman Villa site and the people who lived there. “

Both of these finds add a little more to the Druce story. The very early date for the glass may imply that our villa was occupied in the late 1st/early 2nd century AD. This fits in well with the early Roman pottery which is coming out of other ditch sections. The brooch and the glass are high status objects and would have belonged to a very wealthy family who had access to the best that Roman money could buy.

Lilian Ladle

Druce Roman Villa - Site Visit

Aswell as the well-defined ditches the geophysical survey also featured concentrations of anomalies which we have investigated by opening three large trenches. These have resulted in the discovery of two well-built flint walls forming part of a Roman building; elsewhere we have discovered a number of possible post holes that are carefully aligned in three parallel rows suggesting a large wooden rectangular building, although to Nick Griffiths they suggested an orchard! The holes are filled with a fine silt-like material and so far we have only a very small number of finds none of which have enabled us to date the structure.

Although this year the site is not suitable for an Open Day we will offer the opportunity for EDAS members to visit and see our excavations at first hand. We have many ditch sections and some pits which are quite impressive in themselves and we have the Roman building and a possible orchard to show you.

We have not finalised the dates yet but it is likely they will be in the second/third week of October.

Due to the awkward nature of the site we have to carefully manage the visits and we will cater for parties of 24 and take them round in smaller groups of six people. We can cater for two parties per day at 11am and 2.00pm.

The visit will be approximately 1 hour on site with another 20/30minutes walk to and from the car park. We will try and cater for everybody who wants to visit and set aside several days if the numbers warrant it.

For information we will also arrange visits for members of the Puddletown community and other societies.

If you are interested please contact me and I will add you to the list:

email: andrewmorgz@aol.com

Tel: 01202 731162

Andrew Morgan

View from Above – Flower’s Barrow

In the second of our series of aerial photographs taken by EDAS members Sue Newman and Jo Crane we can enjoy views of Flower’s Barrow, an Iron Age hillfort in Purbeck. According to AD Mills the misleading term “barrow” is likely to have been a Tudor variation of the OE word “burh” meaning a pre-English earthwork; the first element is possibly the landowner’s name.



This iconic hillfort is located near the western end of the Purbeck Hills chalk ridge, it overlooks the stunning Worbarrow Bay, providing a natural harbour, set invitingly at the bottom of a steep slope.

It is an early Iron Age multivallate hillfort with double and triple ramparts, the parallel double ramparts on the east and west flanks are connected along the northern border and are clearly visible. Because the cliff face provides a natural defence it is possible that there were never ramparts along the southern end. Several sections of the interior of the hillfort have been exposed following coastal erosion. Hut circles are visible within the interior of the fort. During a minor excavation in 1939 fragments of Iron Age pottery, as well as sling-stones and bones were found in a pit near the western entrance. Erosion of the cliff is gradually reducing the extent of the hillfort.

Seen from the air I wonder whether Flower’s Barrow should be classified as a promontory fort, like the spectacular Porth Y Rhaw site that we visited with the archaeologist Pete Crane on our field trip to Pembrokeshire in 2011. Promontory Hillforts are typically located above a steep cliff, often only connected to the hinterland by a small neck of land, making optimum use of the topography for defence. They are found in large numbers along the Atlantic Seaboard stretching from Brittany, Cornwall, Wales and up to the Orkney Islands.

Andrew Morgan

EDAS Visit

Street Life of Seventeenth Century Wimborne Minster" led by Dr David Reeve

8th October 2018

**Meet 10.15 for a 10.30 start
Wimborne Minster Churchyard**

EDAS is always eager to welcome Dr David Reeve back to Dorset to lead a walk around Wimborne. This walk will be based around his PhD study of the town and focus on aspects of town life at a time of great political and religious upheaval. The town as we know it is very different from the sights, sounds (and smells!) of the early modern period. We will get to walk manorial boundaries, learn about how the town was organised, what people did, what they believed in and even hear stories of ordinary Wimborne folk in their own words as they went about their daily lives.

The walk takes place on Sunday 8th October; meet at Wimborne Minster churchyard 10.15am for a 10:30am start, on the corner opposite the Priest House Museum and on the site of Widow Darby's house for those who remember where that is!! The walk will be a gentle stroll around the core of the town and should finish by 12:30pm

David Reeve

EDAS Members are invited to:

The first Annual Pitt River Lecture "Pitt Rivers: Pioneer"

By Professor Richard Bradley (Reading University)

On 31 October 2017 at 7.00pm

In the Fusion Building, Talbot Campus, Bournemouth University BH12 5BB at 7:00pm
(Displays and welcome reception from 6:30pm).

This is a free public lecture, but please book your place by visiting the dedicated Eventbrite page at:
<https://pittriverslecture.eventbrite.co.uk><<https://pittriverslecture.eventbrite.co.uk/>>

The first Annual Pitt Rivers lecture launches the celebration of 50 years of archaeological and anthropological teaching and research at Bournemouth University and its predecessor intuitions, and has been organized by staff and students connected to the Centre for Archaeology and Anthropology
(<https://research.bournemouth.ac.uk/centre/archaeology-and-anthropology-group>)

Professor Timothy Darvill OBE

WIMBORNE MINSTER PROJECT – Looking for St Cuthberga’s Monastery

EDAS has been contacted by Ian Grimby representing the Parochial Church Council of the Minster Church regarding a proposed HLF funded project to “explore the church and its precincts and gain a clearer understanding of the church’s history and construction”. This includes the investigation of the eighth century double monastery curtilage of Wimborne Minster Church.

The principal contractor for the exploration will be Bournemouth University Archaeological Research Consultancy (BUARC).

This grant application comprises three main investigations:

1. Desk Based Assessment – researching all published information relating to the history of the church and its immediate surroundings
2. A measured survey of the church interior and exterior to produce phased plans of the church’s construction
3. A non-invasive archaeological exploration using ground penetrating radar and electrical resistance technologies

We have agreed in principle that EDAS will support the project and we look forward to learning more about the opportunities for members’ involvement in due course.

If you would like to become involved in this research project then please contact me and do mention if you have any specific interest or knowledge about this period.

Andrew Morgan

Hadrian's Wall Field Trip - Filling The Gap

If you have read the report of the recent field trip to Hadrian's Wall, you will know that we did not get to see Binchester or Stanwick on the final day. By chance I found myself in the area in July with a day to spare. Lindsey was attending a National Association of Local Councils visit to local councils in the area to look at "best practise". Our intention was to spend a day after the council visits to look around Durham Cathedral and Castle. On the evening we arrived I mentioned my intention to visit Binchester and Stanwick and another partner (Chris) said she would be interested in joining me, as she was also interested in archaeology.

The following morning we set off in fine weather armed with Mark's notes and headed for Stanwick. This site is a



Church of St John's Saxon Cross

Romano-British enclosure with embankments marking the boundary. It is thought to be a primary location of the Brigantes as clients of the Romans. Unlike many other settlements of the various British tribes, Stanwick is not on a hilltop. As we approached Stanwick we noticed impressive embankments alongside the road. We found the point Mark Corney had intended to show us and parked up. There was a public footpath along the embankment at this point so we headed along it until we came to something which appeared to be a water holding tank (there was a notice warning of deep water, but it was bone dry on the day). It took us some time to realise that we were looking at Wheeler's Wall. Our difficulty in recognising the site was caused by nature reclaiming the site since it was photographed. It was so overgrown that I could not take a photo that would have shown anything other than trees and undergrowth - and maybe a few small parts of the stonework.

Chris was interested in identifying the spring line near to the centre of the enclosure so we went to The Church of St John The Baptist at Stanwick St John. The present church dates from the 13th century, but the site obviously has earlier "ceremonial" significance. There is the shaft of a 9th century cross displayed in the church, and unusually the church sits in a circular churchyard.

(Ed Note: the shape of the churchyard may indicate that the site had been used by the Celtic church). A stream runs close to the church and the source, while not visible from the road, is evidently within the enclosure.

From Mark's notes and maps there were 2 points on the far side where earthworks should be accessible from the road, so we decided to take a look. Both earthworks run at right angles to the B6274 so relate to internal divisions of the site rather than the outer boundary. Walking on the track alongside the more northerly earthwork, we noticed a large worked stone pillar lying on top of the earthwork some distance from the road (see photo). It seemed a strange location for a gate (assuming it might have been a gate post), and of course could not guess its age, but it could possibly have been associated with the nearby farm. The more southerly earthwork again was very visible, and we walked along the track alongside it for some distance, but could not explore the earthwork itself as it was very densely covered with trees and undergrowth. As we pondered the extent of the site - at this point we were a kilometre from Wheeler's Wall - Chris found the satellite view of the area on her mobile and we were amazed to see what appeared to be remnants of the original in field boundaries extending beyond the remaining earthworks, particularly down the western side. More recent research, however, has shown this western edge to be the disused Forcett Quarry railway! It does however, raise the question - did the railway use or follow earlier earthworks? The western edge of the remaining southern earthworks terminates at the quarry.



Fallen Stone Pillar



Looking across vicus

There are public footpaths along several other earthworks, but sadly we did not have the time to explore them. As Chris had not seen Piercebridge, we stopped by there on the way to Binchester. As Piercebridge was fully covered in the previous write-up, I will not cover it again here. Except, that is, to say that while walking back from the partially exposed fort area I looked across the adjacent field (under which lies the remains of the vicus) and was surprised to see a modern house looking somewhat like a roman villa.

My first impression as we approached Binchester was of a site not doing its best to attract visitors. Little signage as you approach the site (we missed the car park and parked in a disused farm yard), the only person looking after the site was not in the reception building (a large garden shed) when we arrived and some of the display boards did not match the archaeology we were looking at. None of this, however, should distract from the amazing bath houses. The commanders bath house (within the fort) has almost complete floors and hypocaust with complete pillars and box flue tiles in the walls. It is easy to follow the process from the furnace, through the hot room to the warm room and the cold plunge pool.

The other bath house (outside the fort) is still undergoing excavation (but not the day we were there) and again shows all of the rooms and furnaces with walls in several places up to the start of the vaulted roof. However the hypocaust and floors have not survived as well as in the commander's bath house. This bath house had undergone a refurbishment during its life with added rooms, so it was a challenge to spot where the original rooms ended, blocked doorways etc.



Hypocaust in Commanders House

Chris and I both thoroughly enjoyed the day and are already looking forward to exploring more archaeology next year while Lindsey views more local council best practise - and we know who gets the better of that arrangement!

Alan Dedden

PS. Good as the day was, it really brought home to me just what a difference it makes having an expert guide - especially one with a sense of humour.

The Mystery Object - in search of an identify

In response to my plea in the last issue many thanks to Mike Arthur who has speculated on my possible identity. If anyone has any further thoughts, please let me know.

“The roundness of the whole object, and of the central (perforating hole), could mean rotation was involved. If this were the case, the ‘pattern’ of 4 indentations, together with the central hole, suggests there may have been a central shaft (as in a spindle whorl) with the 4 indentations acting as splines to locate the shaft, with only the central boss on the shaft penetrating through the stone, via the central hole. However, in this interpretation, the shaft would have had a diameter of at least 5.5.cm, which is rather excessive for a spinning spindle.



It is possible that there was no active rotation and the shaft was just a static structure, either a (horizontal) cross-piece or standing vertically. This might account for the underside of the object being particularly smooth and not in contact with another surface. Otherwise, it is likely it would have rapidly fractured and disintegrated. The underside shows that the hole's diameter is slightly wider than on the first side - possibly due to a shaft wagging back and forth on this side, while constrained by the 'splines' on the other. If this is the case, it would suggest a shaft projecting downwards on this side, with no projection on the other side (other than a fixing by the 'splines').



Of course, it might also be just a simple weight, located by splines on a wooden shaft to give (possibly adjustable) leverage. This could be, perhaps, on an agricultural appliance but obviously not as an original piece of equipment, more a bodge for a broken part. Perhaps it fell / broke off an agricultural appliance and was discarded, though, in that case, I would expect such a large object to be discarded to the edge of a field, rather than being left in the middle. Is there any sign of field boundaries being changed?

Maybe a farmer or a farm museum might have another idea.”

Vanessa Joseph - on behalf of the object

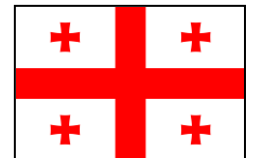
Georgia and Nokalakevi, August 2005 – Part 1

If you take an archaeology degree there's a requirement to do at least 4 weeks of taught and supervised excavation work. The University of Southampton tries to run a varied summer programme of both overseas and UK digs and one option was Georgia, where I went – when else are you likely to travel there? This is the first of two articles on the country, giving background about Georgia and its history and archaeology, as well as describing Nokalakevi, the village I stayed and excavated in. The second article will cover the archaeology of Nokalakevi and some of my experiences as a novice digger.

Georgia lies to the east of the Black Sea, surrounded by Turkey, Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation. At its height in the late 12th-early 13th centuries the Georgian 'empire' extended much further to the west and south, as well as to the Caspian Sea in the east. It became part of the Russian Empire in 1801 and, after a brief independence following the Russian Revolution, part of the Soviet Union in 1921. I have marked the capital, Tbilisi, on the map to the east, and the main port of Batumi (birthplace of Stalin) on the Black Sea Coast. The remaining red dot marks Senaki, the nearest town to Nokalakevi.



Georgia is predominantly Christian, particularly Georgian Orthodox, but religiously tolerant; a street in Tbilisi has a church, mosque and synagogue side by side. Its patron saint is, perhaps unsurprisingly, the same as England's – St. George – and their flag is based on the cross of St. George. Its language is called Kartvelian, spoken in a few versions only in and close to Georgia; it's a 'primary language group', not known to be related to any other language. The same goes for the original and distinctive Georgian script, with an alphabet of 33 letters.



The population is under 4 million, not that much more than Wales but with an area over half that of England. The north of the country is covered by the Greater Caucasus mountain range (pictured) and the south by the Lesser Caucasus – leaving only a long east to west central area, much of which is hilly, for most of the population. Georgia seceded from the Soviet Union in 1991 and then suffered a decade of internal civil conflict and wars in Abkhazia and South Ossetia, leading to the brief Russo-Georgian War in August 2008. It still has no control over these two regions. The economy was in crisis from 1991 and only really started to improve after political changes in 2003. At the time of my visit it was said that the main industry was producing scrap metal from dismantling infrastructure, such as obsolete Russian factories.



Georgia has a long human history, with fossils of *Homo erectus* found there from the 1990s; at 1.8 million years old these are probably the oldest hominin fossils known from outside Africa (as with all such discoveries, there remain questions about the exact species). During the classical period several kingdoms developed, with that of Bronze Age *Colchis* centred on the western lowlands of Georgia by the Black Sea. Nokalakevi was then *Archaeopolis*, one of its main towns. This is the land in Greek mythology to which Jason and the Argonauts travelled before the Trojan Wars, c.1300 BC, in search of the Golden Fleece. The date fits quite well with the likely rise of *Colchis*, which lasted in various forms until around 100 BC despite being under outside control for several periods, notably of the Persian Achaemenid Empire, and Greek settlement along the coast.

Colchis was slightly outside the area conquered by Alexander the Great but it, and indeed the rest of Georgia, continued to suffer invasions and frequent changes of ruling power right up to the Russian takeover, particularly by the various Persian empires – Parthian, Sassanian and, much later, Ottoman. *Colchis* became Roman *Lazica* in 63 BC and later part of the Byzantine 'Eastern Roman' Empire until the 7th century, though again with long periods under other powers or even independent. Several Roman/Byzantine forts were built along the coast, the best preserved



probably being *Gonio* (previously *Apsaros* in reference to its part in the Argonauts' legend). We visited it on a day trip, not far south of Batumi and almost in Turkey. There was then relatively little to see inside, though continuing excavations have revealed a great deal and there's a modern museum.

This still ignores 5 centuries of Arabic rule and the Mongol invasion of 1236! *Archaeopolis* was at the centre of many of the conflicts, and critical in some. What remains gave Nokalakevi its name – literally “ruins where a town was”. Yet what struck us all, in the days after a rather uncomfortable 6 hour journey from Tbilisi, was the effects on the modern village of the conflicts of the previous dozen years or so, perhaps unsurprising as it changed hand at least 4 times.

We approached from the west on a bridge over the River Tekhuri which, thankfully, hadn't been destroyed in the fighting. On the left was the largest remaining wall of ancient *Archaeopolis*, mostly Byzantine with some modern restoration. The cows show how rural the area was. Nokalakevi had been, and was becoming again, a local tourist destination because of the ancient site, the pebble beaches on the Tekhuri, the beautiful river gorge beyond them



and hot springs a little further north. On the right, and explored later, were the ruins of a small hotel and good restaurant, destroyed in the civil conflicts.

In front of us, the museum looked closed (it was) and somewhat dilapidated. In fact it, too, had suffered from the fighting and many of the finds from years of *Archaeopolis* excavations had been looted. The picture shows the old Russian 'jeep', used for our weekly trips to Senaki, 10 miles west, for supplies. The lady is Nina, head cook for our stay. Her pay for the 4 weeks would go to buy a second cow and probably a pig, a massive boost for her family in those troubled times. We passed the school, missing some of its roof and derelict for the past decade or more. The strung-out village then stretched away for a mile or so along the pot-holed road to the east, with houses mostly to the north and fields on the plain to the south, changing imperceptibly into the next village.



Each house had a plot of several acres, designed for self-sufficiency, with the original cottages set well back but bigger houses built in front during the more prosperous period under Soviet rule. One of these, I think the home of a local official, had been severely damaged but the rest were intact, if often in need of repairs and a coat of paint. The electricity supply failed, or only worked sporadically, after 1991 and, of course, piped water came intermittently too. The villagers had retreated to the older cottages, which didn't rely on such modern services, but were moving back as the power supply became more reliable.

There was a shop, almost a concrete bunker with metal grills and shutters, had a rather eclectic and limited range of goods. Oddly, they stocked Cadbury's chocolate bars. Roadside kiosks supplemented the shop every few hundred metres, or they had in the past – I only ever saw the one open. Telephone lines were mostly gone, probably for scrap metal, but those who had mobile phones said the signal was good. Water was still an issue, though the old wells were a safe supply. Most of the washing was in the river or an outside shower fed by a tank filled from the well; heated a little by the sun, if you were lucky. The sewers were the biggest problem, almost certainly because many of the pipes had been removed for scrap. The state of most toilets was indescribable, even the old 'long drops' – ostensibly cleaned by natural running water but often blocked somewhere along the line. All these difficulties were balanced by an apparently positive attitude from the



local people, to a fault friendly and hospitable. All the same, I'll leave you with the description coined by one of the students, "Medieval with mobiles", and continue with the archaeology of *Archaeopolis* in the next article.

Geoff Taylor

PRIEST HOUSE MUSEUM – REVIVAL PROJECT

As some of you may know, the Priest's House Museum (PHM) in Wimborne is hoping to spend over £1.8m on a redesign and refurbishment to transform the visitor experience and ensure the museum is fit to meet the challenges of the 21st century. The museum must increase its income as the funding from Christchurch and East Dorset District Council will cease in the next few years. The Revival Project is particularly aimed at attracting more visitors – especially families - and volunteers of all ages, and making the whole museum more accessible, including a lift and wheelchair access to the upstairs galleries. The East Dorset Tourist Information Centre, which is now managed by the PHM Trust, is intended to be integrated with the rest of the Museum.

An initial development grant of £145,200, given by the Heritage Lottery Fund after a successful Round One application, has been used to obtain the services of Jane Alexander as Project Manager and Claire Fear as Project Architect, to produce detailed plans and costs for the proposed changes, as well as to prepare an initial Interpretation plan on potential themes, and on the future look and feel of the museum. During the mid-term review which took place on 18th July, the HLF officers expressed their satisfaction with progress to date on various aspects of the project. Proposed building plans, which have been approved by Historic England and the local conservation officer, were presented to Friends of the Museum and interested parties after the HLF meeting.

There is, of course, much more to do in finalising and agreeing many of the details, and in designing the new galleries and exhibition space. However, before the museum can submit its Round Two application to HLF in November, significant match-funding must be obtained. The PHM's 'volunteer funding team', i.e. EDAS Committee member Vanessa Joseph and EDAS member Sara Marshall, will need to raise in excess of £300,000. Following the mid-term review, they are now starting to approach potential funding organisations.

The Revival Project plans have been developed after extensive public consultation with input from 1,600 people. The PHM was felt to be fairly invisible, even to many locals, with a confusing layout and visitor route, parts that were effectively hidden away and with a separate entrance to the TIC. What can be changed is limited by earlier structural changes, the museum's location in a conservation area, its status as a Grade II* listed building and, of course, funds. All the same, an ambitious project is planned that I think will make the PHM a much more accessible and attractive tourist destination... and Wimborne isn't short of visitors looking for things to do.

The current entrance will be cleared of clutter, floored with flagstones (to reflect an earlier outside courtyard) and will display only a few of the best items. Entrance will be through the TIC, with the existing frontage partly replaced with a large floor to ceiling window, designed to show off the architecture of the building inside. From the TIC, an opening will give a view right along the building, drawing people in and starting a clear route around the ground floor. A lift and new stairs at the back will give access, including for wheelchairs and buggies, to the first floor with, again, a clear circulation route. Gentle ramps and changes to walls and doors will make it much easier to move around and allow more open space for galleries, not to mention better access to improved private offices (pretty poor at the moment).

The plans include making the building's structure much more visible, such as beams and half-timbered walls currently hidden by plasterboard, cabinets, etc., perhaps partly by a 'see-through ramp'. More prosaically, the toilets at the rear will open inside the building and new heating and lighting systems will be installed, making a big saving, and improving the quality of the visitor and volunteer experience – it can be very cold in some of those rooms in the winter. The routes to the garden and tea room will become a bit more obvious, and visitors will be channelled through the shop at the rear of the TIC – museums do need to make money where they can.

I am certainly looking forward to seeing the new PHM, but meanwhile I'm sure we all wish Vanessa and Sara the very best in their fund-raising work. Any and all support will be gratefully received.

Geoff Taylor

EDAS PROGRAMME 2017-2018

Date	Event	Who	Title
Wed 13 Sept 2017	Lecture	Michael Heaton	Watermeadows: their history, technology and future
Sun 8 Oct 2017	Walk	Dr David Reeve	A walk round Wimborne to explore the features that remain from the 16 th century.
Wed 11 Oct 2017	Lecture	Dan Carter	Potting on the heath: in search of the medieval and post medieval East Dorset pottery
Wed 8 Nov 2017	Lecture	Prof David Jaques University of Buckingham	Blick Mead Mesolithic site: key to the Stonehenge landscape?
Wed 13 Dec 2017	Lecture	Dr Peter Stanier	Dorset Breweries: malting and brewing
Wed 10 Jan 2018	Lecture	Roger Hills	The landscape of Wimborne in 10 th & 12 th century
Wed 7 Feb 2018	Lecture	Martin Green	New light on the Knowlton complex
Wed 14 Mar 2018	AGM	AGM & Lilian Ladle	AGM followed by Lilian Ladle talk about the 2017 EDAS Field Trip to Hadrian's Wall
Wed 11 April 2018	Lecture at BU	Tim Schadla-Hall UCL	"The pick and the shovel is the only true discoverer of the past." <i>Our annual lecture hosted by the BU students' Archaeology, History and Anthropology Society</i>
Wed 9 May 2018	Lecture	Dr Robert Bewley	Endangered archaeology in the Middle East and North Africa.

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

To ensure EDAS members are aware of other meetings on archaeological subjects we include a diary for other events held in the area. We cannot be held responsible for the arrangements so please check on the associated web-sites.

Date	Event	Group	Who	Title
Tues 12th Sept 7.30pm	AGM & Lecture	Shaftesbury	Julian Richards	Update on SAVED project covering site of Shaftesbury Abbey and related monuments,
Wed 20th Sept 7.30pm	AGM & Lecture	Wareham	Lilian Ladle	The definitive Hadrian's Wall
Fri 6th Oct 7.30pm	Lecture	DCM	Dr David Parham	Shipwrecks of the Bronze Age
Tues 10th Oct 7.30pm	Lecture	Shaftesbury	Prof David Jaques Buckingham University	Blick Mead Mesolithic site – the starting-point of Stonehenge?
Tues 31 st Oct 7.00pm	Lecture	BUni	Prof Richard Bradley	"Pitt Rivers: Pioneer" in the Fusion Building, Talbot Campus, Bournemouth University BH12 5BB at 7:00pm. Book your place by visiting the dedicated Eventbrite page at: https://pittriverslecture.eventbrite.co.uk < https://pittriverslecture.eventbrite.co.uk/
Fri 3 rd Nov 7.30pm	Lecture	DCM	Prof Tim Darvill	Sticks and stones and broken bones – first monuments along northwest Europe Atlantic coastlands
Tues 14th Nov 7.30pm	Lecture	Shaftesbury	Dr Nicola Snashall of National Trust,	Avebury - recent excavations and new discoveries
Fri 1 st Dec 7.30pm	Lecture	DCM	Prof Richard Bradley	The land and sea 4000-600BC
Tues 12th Dec 7.30pm	Members evening	Shaftesbury	Members	Mince pies and short talks on recently-visited historical sites, plus seasonal quiz, wine & mince pies.
Fri 2nd Feb 2018 7.30pm	Lecture	DCM	Kath Walker	Jade Axes
Fri 2 nd Mar 2018 7.30pm	Lecture	DCM	Dr Catriona Gibson	Bronze Age connections between Iberia and British Isles

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.

CAA: Centre for Archaeology and Anthropology: Seminars and Research Centre Meetings

- Events usually held at Talbot Campus, Bournemouth in Kimmeridge House room F111 on Talbot Campus.

Dorset Humanists

- Event held at Moordown Community Centre, Coronation Avenue, BH9 1TW. .

DNHAS: Dorset Natural History and Archaeology Society

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

Shaftesbury & District Archaeology Group:

- St Peters Hall, Gold Hill, Shaftesbury.

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/>