

Established 1983

East Dorset Antiquarian Society

Charity No: 1171828

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

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NEWSLETTER – January 2018

Notes:

January Talk: unfortunately Roger Hill is not ready to give his scheduled talk but we are delighted that EDAS member Jo Crane has agreed to talk about the fantastic aerial photography he and his wife Sue have taken of archaeological features across the Wessex area.

Blick Mead: David Jacques of the University of Buckingham was due to speak to us last November about the fascinating Mesolithic site of Blick Mead, which could be the key to understanding the Stonehenge landscape. Sadly he couldn't make it because of industrial action on the railways, but has kindly agreed to come to us next September instead.

Current Archaeology Awards 2018: For information the work at Blick Mead has been nominated 'Research project of the Year 2018' by Current Archaeology – see www.archaeology.co.uk/vote. You may like to vote for Blick Mead, though there are lots of other good projects nominated, and 'our own' Tim Darvill is one of only 3 nominees for Archaeologist of the Year 2018.

Worth Matravers Monograph: this very impressive work is nearing completion and we have agreement with the Dorset Archaeology and Natural History Society for publication next year. This is a massive achievement and we are delighted for Lilian that the end is finally in sight! Several events are being organised to promote the findings with the local community, EDAS members will be invited to a half day seminar to be held at Harmons Cross Village Hall on 10th March 2018. Further details in due course.

Interesting Members: big thank you to Paul Dibben for an article sharing his fascination with climate change and his obsession with snow patches.

Committee Issues: we have vacancies for two new committee members, if you are interested please contact one of the committee for further information. Application forms will be sent out with the January Newsletter.

Chairman: As you will recall committee members are now in office for a maximum of five years before they have to stand down. This is the fifth year since Andrew Morgan became chairman and he will formally stand down at the next AGM in March 2018. He has been asked by the committee to consider staying on for another term. However if you would like to stand as chairperson then feel free to speak to Andrew or one of the committee. An application form will be sent to all members.

EDAS Lecture: 'Impressions of China – Past and Present' by Geoff Taylor

This presentation was based on a 3-week trip through China in March & April 2017 – impressions of both modern and ancient China. Clearly, China is both huge and highly populated, so that you can hardly claim to know it in such a short time. The map only shows about half of China, and it's about 1500 miles from Shanghai to Lijiang. Of course, they have 1.3 billion people – a fifth of the world's population. It can also be difficult to get what you're certain is accurate information, and to know for sure that what you're seeing is actually old and not just very skilfully restored or reconstructed.



A key impression is that China has clearly modernised very quickly in transport systems, such as motorways and high speed rail lines, and buildings, such as new housing, business centres and shopping malls. A good example of the speed of development is high-rise Pudong, across the river from what we think of as Shanghai. The picture only shows a small part of this new 'city', without the 4 tallest buildings around 1,400 feet or more high; this was all farmland only 25 years ago. Thirty years ago there were only 1,000 private cars on the road; now Beijing alone is adding that many every day!

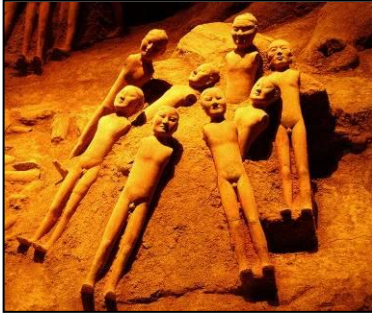
The rise of the Chinese middle classes means that many millions now have money, and can spend it on good food, consumer goods, cars and travel. Apartment prices have risen rapidly to around £8,000 per square metre in the centre of the biggest cities, fuelling borrowing and investment in further housing. Now that the Chinese travel, particularly in their own country, tourism has become 'big business'. Tourist sites and sights are graded up to AAAAA, attracting people and investment particularly to the 'better' places. There's then a big incentive to renovate or reconstruct and, at last, to retain some of the old in the face of the relentless drive to bring in the new.

It isn't just modernisation that's often swept away many of the older places, but also the wars and conflicts that China has suffered over the centuries, not least the Civil War, Japanese invasion and Cultural Revolution in the 20th century. Many places in China are prone to earthquakes too, like the one that devastated the 15th-16th century Old Town of Lijiang in 1996. Many of the buildings there are reconstructions and all have been heavily renovated, though a nearby village that wasn't badly damaged shows the work is faithful to the original buildings and it was good enough to be awarded UNESCO World Heritage status. The Old Town has 50,000 inhabitants and sees 35 million tourists every year.



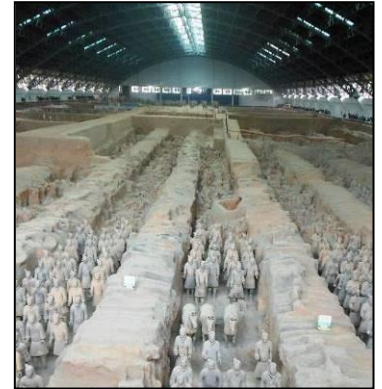
Ancient places and buildings do still survive of course, many of which are alterations to the landscape. They are often very beautiful like Black Dragon Pool, near Lijiang, shown below with Jade Dragon Snow Mountain in the background. The 100 acre pool and the buildings were completed in 1737, though the central building was reconstructed in 1963 after a fire. The other landscape below is just a small part of the stunning Dragon's Backbone in Longshen County near Guilin. These rice terraces were built, by hand of course, from 600 years ago as the means for the local ethnic minorities to feed themselves after being squeezed into this inhospitable mountainous region by the majority Han Chinese. The Han are 92% of the population, the rest being 55 ethnic minority groups. Some are relatively small but the Yao (as shown) and Zhuang peoples who dominate this region are 3 and 18 million strong respectively in total.





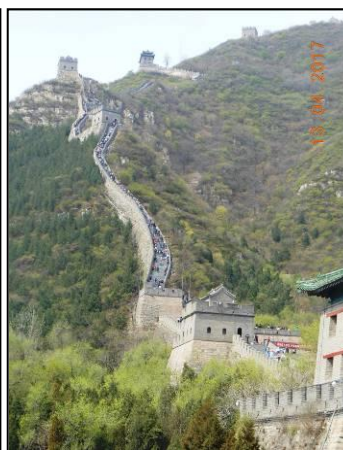
Few people seem to know of, or visit, the 'other terracotta warriors' site not far from the well-known one. It's the necropolis and tomb of Emperor Jingdi from about 140 BC, a site covering 20km² with 80 narrow burial pits near to a large burial mound, of which 21 are visible. They contain various figures representing the imperial court and army, as well as objects from its daily life, mostly under a glass floor you can walk over. The 50,000 terracotta figures found so far are quite small, about 40cm high, and originally had wooden arms and real clothing.

'The' Terracotta Warriors outside Xi'an are in the necropolis of Qin Shi Huang, the first emperor of a unified China. He died in 209 BC and, despite 37 years of work using up to 700,000 workers, the planned complex wasn't completed. All the same, core sampling and GPR show a site of 36 square miles, 5 times that of Emperor Jingdi; it seems you must be walking over some of it in the 20 minutes it takes from the ticket booths to the central plaza between the 3 opened pits under their huge buildings, the largest 860x200 feet.

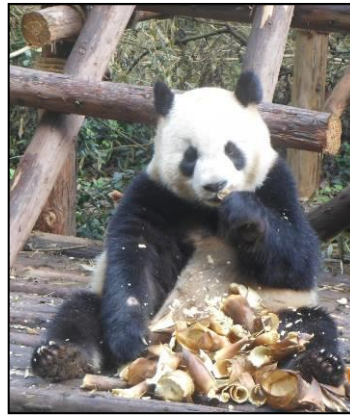


It's often not apparent that only the front ranks in the main pit have been restored so far, each soldier taking the restorer 4 months after the painstaking excavation, cleaning and labelling. Some of the restoration is shown further back in the main building, whilst something of the excavation work can be seen in the second pit. The museum displays examples of the different types of soldier among the 8,000 found so far, some showing traces of original colour, and there are also reconstructions of how colourful the soldiers would have been. The army had real weapons and, though many seem to have been looted soon after the emperor's death, examples are displayed from the thousands found.

Most of what's left of the Great Wall relates to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), with little of the earliest work from the 7th century BC or the extensive building of Emperor Qin (pronounced 'chin', the origin of our word China). It's taken as 5,500 miles long, all walked by 3 intrepid friends in 1984/5 who obtained widespread publicity that led to proper surveys and restoration work. There are now 3 sections within 60 or 70 miles of Beijing restored for tourists. Here, at Juyongguan, the wall splits into 2 sections, each with a massive gate to guard this vital pass to the capital. That brings a circuit said to take 3 hours, though I suspect rather more as much of it is very steep, narrow and quite crowded.



I'll finish this precis of the presentation with two pictures. The first is part of the stunning landscape of karst (limestone) mountains in Yangshuo, a landscape that runs all the way south hundreds of miles to the coast, and into Vietnam at Ha Long Bay near Hanoi. The second is, perhaps, iconic of China – one of the giant pandas at the Panda Reserve in Chengdu doing its favourite activity, eating bamboo shoots very messily. The second favourite activity is sleeping.



Geoff Taylor

We thanked Geoff for this most interesting talk and I am sure he has encouraged several people to consider a visit of a country with an amazing past and a country that will have an even bigger impact on our future.

View from Above No 7: Abbotsbury Castle, (NGR:35550866)

Abbotsbury Castle is a predominantly bi-vallate hillfort on Wears Hill overlooking Chesil beach and Abbotsbury that has been reinforced with additional banks and ditches to the south west where the approach is less steep. It has an internal area of 4½ acres. The earthwork straddles a ridge and the enclosure is roughly triangular in shape. The north, south and east sides, where there is a steep scarp to the hill-side, are defended by two ramparts with a medial ditch following the natural contours.



Photo by Sue Newman and Jo Crane

At the south east end the defences consist of four ramparts, of which the innermost, now of slight elevation, appears to mark the original end of a single-ditched enclosure which was later enhanced by a new bank, raised outside with two additional formidable ditches with outer marginal mounds. At the west end there also appears to have been an enlargement of the defences, but here the most notable addition is that of a small internal squarish enclosure of slight elevation, with a ditch cutting through the main ramparts of the camp. It has been conjectured to represent a Roman signal-post, but there is no evidence. There would appear to have been only one original main entrance, along the north east side. In the south east there are a number of circular hollows (c. 6-7 m diameter) which are likely hut platforms. Within the enclosure is also a mound with traces of a surrounding ditch.

Andrew Morgan

A Stunning Find from Co. Kildare, Ireland

This Middle Bronze Age (1600-1200 BC) axe was discovered deep within a peat bog at Brockagh, Co. Kildare. What is very unusual about the axe is that it was found within a small leather pouch that appears to have been specifically made to hold the artefact. The pouch is fashioned from a single piece of cow hide and tapers to reflect the shape of the blade. The axe itself is made from cast bronze and its surface is profusely ornamented on both sides with vertical lines of herringbone design.



Why this highly decorated axe was kept inside a leather sheath remains uncertain. It is possible that it was simply a means of transporting the axe prior to hafting, or it may indicate that the artefact was used as a hand tool. However, it could also imply that the axe was never intended as a utilitarian cutting implement and was instead some form of status symbol. If this was the case then this beautiful object may only have only been removed from its pouch on certain occasions for display purposes. It can now be viewed at the National Museum of Ireland, Kildare Street, Dublin.

With thanks to Adele Thackray, CADW and irisharchaeology.ie

Stonehenge 2018 - Special Stones Access

Thursday 10th May

Following the excellent tour of the Stonehenge landscape and special access to the stones earlier this year, Julian Richards will lead another tour in 2018. This time the access is in the evening at 8pm, so the timetable is as follows:-

- | | |
|--------|--|
| 2.00pm | Meet at Stonehenge visitor centre (admission to the exhibition etc is included in the special access booking for those who aren't EH or NT members).
Look at exhibition and Neolithic houses. |
| 3.00pm | Landscape walk (Cursus, Cursus Barrows, Avenue and return from Stonehenge to visitors centre in bus). |
| 5.30pm | Leave visitor centre in cars to look at Durrington Walls and Woodhenge

Suggested early supper at the Stonehenge Inn nearby. |
| 7.15pm | Return to visitor centre (need to be back there for 7.30pm). |
| 7.45pm | Bus to stones for special access (8.00-9.00pm) |

Sunset is at 8.43pm so this hour could be very "atmospheric" - let's hope the weather is as good as it was for this year's early morning visit. As before, Julian will provide an entertaining commentary throughout the day. For those who need to leave out any segment, the only fixed point in the timetable is catching the bus at 7.45pm.

Please note that the stones access is limited to 30 people (including Julian) so book early to avoid disappointment, and let me know if you will be missing for any part of the tour.

Cost is the same as for this year - £25. To book a place, please email Alan Dedden (alan.dedden@gmail.com) and remit the fee to the EDAS account (sort code 40-38-21, account no. 61334085 - put "Stonehenge" in the reference field), or post a cheque (payable to "EDAS") to Alan Dedden 44 Lake Road, Verwood, Dorset, BH31 6BX.

Please note that EDAS have already paid English Heritage, so fees will not be refunded in the event of cancellation unless we can re-allocate the places (however this was not a problem this year).

Alan Dedden

A Short History of Snow and Ice in Great Britain, by Paul Dibben

My interest in snow and ice was born out of the winter of 1946-47, a classic winter of persistent freezing conditions and frequent snow, transforming daily life. This led to a general interest in the weather and later a career in the Meteorological Office.

One of the more interesting questions in meteorology (apart from trying to forecast day to day weather!) is that of changing climate. There are two parts to this, firstly that of trying to reconstruct past climates, using for recent years instrumental data and for earlier periods using proxy data including tree rings, pollen analysis, ice cores and sea floor deposits (all with the problem of interpretation): secondly trying to explain past climates. Candidates are numerous, on long timescales we have the movement of continents (with associated mountain building and diversions of ocean currents), on shorter timescales we have subtle changes in the orbit of the earth round the sun (implicated in the cycle of ice ages and interglacials), more transient effects could include variations in ocean currents (including the temporary shutdown of the Gulf Stream), solar events and volcanic eruptions. In (relatively) recent years we have the increase in greenhouse gases due to the burning of fossil fuels leading to (manmade) global warming.

Some of the more interesting periods relating to snow and ice in Great Britain are described below.

About 700 million years ago the whole earth was enveloped in ice – the Snowball Earth. It was probably triggered by the eruption of a supervolcano bringing vast amounts of basaltic lava to the surface the weathering of which removed much carbon dioxide (the main greenhouse gas) from the atmosphere leading to global cooling and glaciation. The main evidence for this glaciation comes from glacial deposits found in Canada (at the time straddling the equator). There may have been several episodes of Snowball Earth.

From about 3 million years ago a series of advances (ice ages) and retreats (Interglacials) of ice sheets occurred in the northern hemisphere. During the last ice age the ice sheet over Britain reached as far south as the Thames valley. Much water was locked in the ice and sea levels were lowered by many meters allowing land bridges to develop; what is now the North Sea became largely dry at the height of each ice advance. Interglacials are rather short lived periods of relative warmth between the ice ages accompanied by the retreat of ice sheets, sea level rise with the destruction of land bridges and the advance northwards of vegetation zones.

We are now within an interglacial, the last ice age having reached its maximum extent about 10000BC. By about 8000BC Scotland became glacier free. The ice left its mark in Great Britain in the form of U shaped valleys (often with long, deep glacial lakes), corries and thick glacial deposits (for example the lens shaped drumlins of the Eden valley of northern England). The enormous quantities of water from the melting ice sheets carved what are now dry valleys in the chalk of southern England and elsewhere.

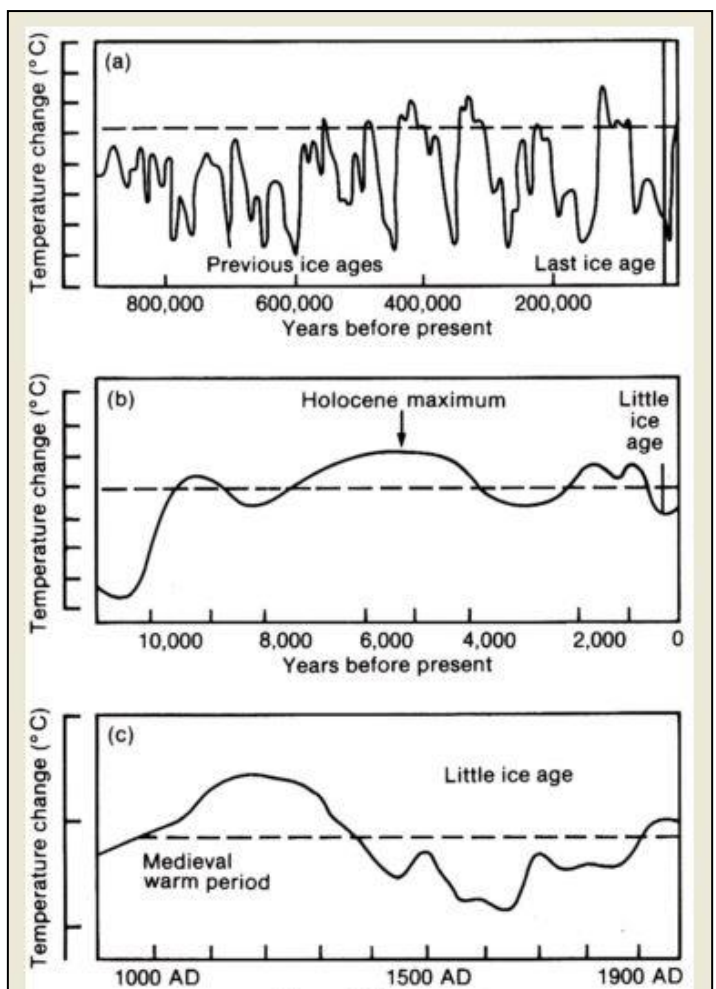


Fig 1. Shows the variation in global temperature during the last 900,000 years with three different timescales. The dotted line on each graph provides a reference to temperatures at the end of the 20thC. The changes from glacials to interglacials (globally about 6degC but larger at high latitudes) are shown and significant periods indicated.

During the ice ages temperatures were considerably depressed compared to present day. The rise in temperature since the last ice age has been somewhat erratic with warmer and colder intervals. For example the Medieval warm period about 1200AD (Fig 1c), when temperatures in England were several degrees higher than today. A notable cold period was the 'Little Ice Age' between about 1400 and 1600AD with a series of severe winters in NW Europe perhaps inspiring the winter landscapes of Brueghel and allowing frost fairs to be held on the Thames. It has been suggested that incipient glaciers may have formed in the Scottish Highlands during this time. The reasons for these fluctuations is not clear but may have involved volcanic eruptions, solar events and circulation of the deep ocean.

Since the Little Ice Age temperatures have shown a fairly steady recovery. Although man has been influencing the climate ever since he began to actively manage the landscape, perhaps starting with clearance of forests things became more serious with the Industrial revolution. Since the mid-18th C increasing quantities of coal have been burnt releasing the greenhouse gas carbon dioxide into the atmosphere leading to warming. Global temperatures are now more than 1degC above pre industrial levels. However the earth and its atmosphere is a complicated system and warming has not been uniform, there have been periods of little warming or even slight cooling (for example in the 1960's). Unfortunately the effects of warming are such as to deliver positive feedbacks, that is effects that are likely to enhance the warming, for example the melting of (highly reflective) sea ice exposing the darker ocean which absorbs additional sunlight producing more warming.

Following retirement in 2000 I have tried to visit Scotland between late September and early October to enjoy walking in the highlands and indulge my slightly eccentric hobby of checking for snow beds which have survived summer melting and have not yet been covered by autumn snowfalls. This 'best' window can vary from year to year Fig 2 shows an early autumn snow fall on Cairngorm 2/10/2008.



Fig 2: Daughter and dog beneath the automatic weather station on Cairngorm

Whether a snow bed survives depends on the balance between winter accumulation and summer ablation. Accumulation (in the mainly E or NE facing corries) depends (of course) on snowfall but also critically on prevailing wind direction. Snow with mainly easterly winds will lead to little accumulation but with winds between west and north large quantities of snow will be drifted into the corries. Summer ablation is determined mainly by temperature, the E or NE aspect and direct sunlight.

Before about the middle of the 19thC it was normal for a few snow patches to survive the summer, somewhere in the highlands. Since the late 20thC it has become quite common for snow beds not to survive. The longest lasting of Scottish snow beds is often 'The Sphinx', (Fig 3 and 4) a snow bed found within a corrie below the summit of Braeriach on the edge of the Cairngorm plateau.

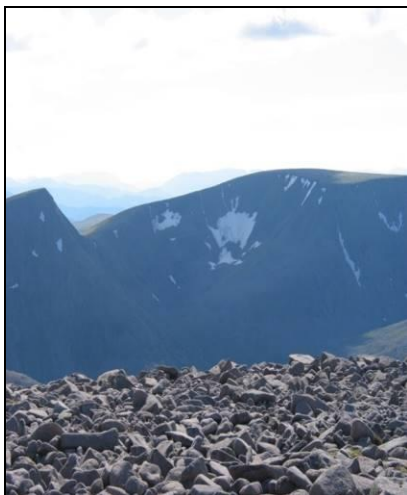


Fig 3: The Sphinx in summer 27/6/2005

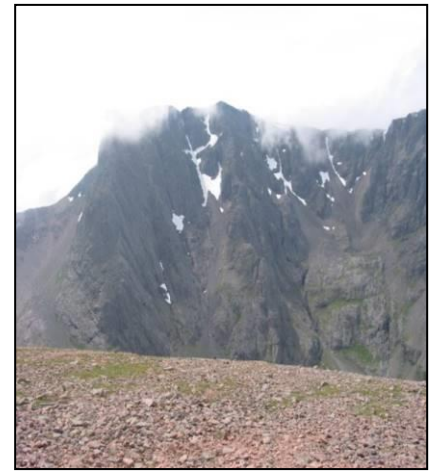


Fig4: The Sphinx in Autumn 29/8/2016

Snow beds will also often survive the summer in the deep gullies of the North Face of Ben Nevis (Fig 5) but they are often difficult to locate late in the season.

Although the trend of reduced snow bed survival is clear there is a good deal of year to year variation. In 2017 no snow survived but in 2015 more snow survived than in any year since 1994.

What of the future? With continued increase in greenhouse gases global temperatures will continue to rise but with temporary reversals. The frequency of cold snowy winters will reduce, while the frequency of hot summers and heatwaves will increase as will the volatility of the earth's climate. Scottish snow beds will become even less likely to survive through the summer and the alpine flora and fauna in the high mountains will come under threat including the ptarmigan – the iconic bird of the Scottish mountains.



*Fig 5: north face of Ben Nevis in summer
26/6/2005*

An interesting question is whether manmade global warming will delay/prevent the next ice age (already a bit overdue). Either way we are likely to lose the relatively benign conditions of the last 10000 years or so, putting pressures on populations in different parts of the world. Finally, perhaps we should contemplate the possibility that without changes in climate, evolution may have taken a very different course.

Paul Dibben

December Web Links – compiled by Alan Dedden

In the dark days of winter, I thought archaeological items would be hard to find, but:

Review of 2016 Detectorists Finds

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2017/dec/04/coin-laden-pot-pendant-british-museum-record-haul-2016-treasure-finds>

Note: a special mention for the Piddletrenthide hoard comprising 2,114 base silver radiates found in a pottery vessel. The coins date to 253-296 AD, the latest issues include the earliest products of the newly established Roman mint of London. See also the Portable Antiquities Scheme (PAS) and Treasure annual reports at the British Museum <https://finds.org.uk/news/story/293>

530 Million Year Old Eye Found

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/techandscience/oldest-eye-ever-discovered%E2%80%99-in-530-million-year-old-fossil/ar-BBGnvSQ?li=AA9SkIr&ocid=spartandhp>

The Lost (Roman) City Of Baiae

<http://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-5144469/Sunken-Roman-city-lies-beneath-waves-Italy.html>

Mummy Found In Egyptian Tomb

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/mummy-discovered-in-unexplored-egyptian-tomb/ar-BBGqZGB?li=AAmIR2Z&ocid=spartandhp>

Researchers Find Link From Ancient Farming To Social Inequality

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/dec/10/super-rich-elites-inequality-origins-ancient-farming-mckie-anthropology-society>

Ancient Rock Art In Venezuela Amongst World's Largest

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/offbeat/ancient-rock-art-in-venezuela-is-among-worlds-largest/ar-BBGsFee?li=AA9SkIr&ocid=spartandhp>

Stonehenge - A Fertility Monument?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/science/2017/12/09/stonehenge-fertility-monument-stones-positioned-cast-phallic/>

60 Million Year Old Penguin Fossil

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/man-high-monster-bird-fossil-found-in-otago/ar-BBGfznT?li=AAmIR2Z&ocid=spartandhp>

Roman Engineering Found Underwater In Greece

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/world/ancient-biblical-city-thought-to-have-been-destroyed-by-an-earthquake-1400-years-ago-found-intact-underwater/ar-BBGW2NM?li=AA9SkIr&ocid=spartandhp>

Treasure Found In Spurs Star Hotel

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/mousa-dembele-hits-the-jackpot-after-finding-%C2%A31million-worth-of-treasure-in-his-hotel-cellar/ar-BBGMKHY?li=AAmIR2Z&ocid=spartantp>

More Cellar Finds - This Time In Cambridge

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2017/dec/18/claphams-coffeehouse-cambridge-archaeologists-hundreds-items-unearthed>

Leicester Car Park Made Scheduled Monument

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/leicester-car-park-where-richard-iii-was-buried-given-protected-status/ar-BBH5H5C?li=AAmIR2Z&ocid=spartandhp>

Mystery Fossils Puzzle Paleontologists

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/techandscience/mysterious-fossil-baffles-paleontologists/ar-BBHatRO?li=AAmIR2Z&ocid=spartandhp>

Future LIDAR

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/uknews/laser-equipped-aircraft-to-map-england-in-3d/ar-BBHv3UL?li=AA59G2&ocid=spartandhp>

EDAS PROGRAMME 2018

Date	Event	Who	Title
Wed 10 Jan 2018	Lecture	Jo Crane	The archaeology of Wessex from the air
Wed 7 Feb 2018	Lecture	Martin Green	New light on the Knowlton complex
Sat 10 Mar 2018	EDAS Seminar	Lilian Ladle and team	Worth Matravers Excavation Seminar 2.00-5.00pm Harmon's Cross Village Hall Details to follow.
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.
Thurs 10 May 2018	Visit	Julian Richards	Stonehenge – Access to the Stones Contact Alan Dedden

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

This is a diary of interesting events held in the area. We cannot be held responsible for the arrangements so please check on the associated web-sites.

2018 Programme				
Date	Event	Group	Who	Title
Tues 9th Jan 7.30pm	Lecture	Shaftesbury	Jacqui McKinley Wessex Archaeology	The Ancient Mortuary Rite of Cremation
Wed 17 th Jan 7.30pm	Lecture	Wareham	Robert Heaton	Hook Sands and the Swash Channel Wreck Site
Fri 2nd Feb 7.30pm	Lecture	DNHAS Brownsword Hall	Kath Walker	"Scandinavian Type" Flint Axes in Britain
Tues 13 th Feb 7.30pm	Lecture	Shaftesbury	Julian Richards	Stonehenge – fact and fantasy (to mark publication of his new book)
Wed 21st Feb 7.30pm	Lecture	Wareham	Andrew Morgan	Archaeology of the Peloponnese – a Greek Odyssey
Fri 2 nd Mar 7.30pm	Lecture	DNHAS DCM	Dr Catriona Gibson	Bronze Age connections between Iberia and British Isles
Wed 21st Mar 7.30pm	Lecture	Wareham	Peter Cox	The archaeology of the Wessex pipeline in Dorset
Fri 6 th April 7.30pm	Lecture	DNHAS Dorford Centre	Prof Sir Barry Cunliffe	
Wed 18th April 7.30pm	Lecture	Wareham	Mark Corney	Hillforts after the Romans

AVAS: Avon Valley Archaeological Society

- at Ann Rose Hall, Greyfriars Community Centre, Christchurch Road, Ringwood BH24 1DW
- <http://www.avas.org.uk/>

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 various locations in Dorchester, now ticketed
- <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/>