



Founded 1983

East Dorset Antiquarian Society

Charity No: 1171828

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

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NEWSLETTER – April 2019

Please note the EDAS April Lecture will be held on 24th April in the Barnes Lecture Theatre at Bournemouth University see below.

THE FIFTH ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGY LECTURE

*Organised by East Dorset Antiquarian Society and
hosted by Bournemouth University,
Archaeology, History and Anthropology Society*

VILLAS, CHURCHES and BAPTISTERIES:
review of the evidence from western Roman Britain

Lecture by Mark Corney

WEDNESDAY 24th April 2019

at 7.30 pm

BARNES LECTURE THEATRE, TALBOT CAMPUS,
BOURNEMOUTH UNIVERSITY,
FERN BARROW, BH12 5BB

Mark will examine the evidence for Christian structures and practices in Late Romano-British villas. Whilst primarily dealing with material from western Roman Britain, reference will also be made to other parts of Roman Britain and Gaul. The emphasis is how to identify and interpret possible Christian activity in the fourth and fifth centuries and the implications for late Roman and early post-Roman society.

EDAS, in association with the **Bournemouth University Archaeology, History and Anthropology Society**, is pleased to invite you to this fascinating talk given by Mark Corney a highly respected and experienced, independent archaeologist. Mark is a good friend of EDAS and has a keen interest in the development of Christianity from Roman times.

Notes:

April Lecture: we have to apologise for the late notification of the arrangements for this month's lecture, there have been more problems than usual arranging it this year. This is the fifth annual lecture we have held at Bournemouth University hosted by the students' Archaeology, History and Anthropology Society (see page 1 for details).

This annual event was originally set up as a way of developing our relationship with the university, reaching out to the next generation of archaeologists and an opportunity to invite a very wide audience. It is also very popular with our speakers. We have two further talks arranged for next year with more exciting speakers. If you have any thoughts about the event please do make them known to a committee member.

AGM and Talk: we thank everybody who attended the AGM, it was a very kind audience, and we hope you enjoyed the talk about last year's field trip. Details of the trip were covered in the Field Trip Journal compiled by Vanessa Joseph that was sent out to all members last summer. If anybody hasn't received a copy please send a request to Andrew.

The Final Unveiling of Wimborne: Dr David Reeve will be leading his third historic walk around Wimborne Minster on Sunday 28 April 10:30pm. This is the last of his series of walks and continues the themes of economic, social and politic development of the town in the 18th and 19th centuries. He will also discuss contributions of some of the families and even smuggling!

Meet at 10.00 for 10.30 start, at the corner of the churchyard by Cook Row and the High Street. The walk will take between 2 – 2 ½ hour. No need to book and there is no charge.

Day Visit to the Ashmolean, Oxford's Museum of Art and Archaeology:

After the great success of the trip to the British Museum last year you are invited to a trip to the Ashmolean Museum on Sunday 29th September 2019. Cost £19, (see page 4).

CBA Wessex Conference and AGM – 2019: 'Sunrise over the Stones: recent research into Neolithic and Chalcolithic Wessex' will be on **9 November at Bournemouth University**. Confirmed speakers include Mandy Jay, Mike Parker-Pearson, Josh Pollard, and Alison Sheridan. Tickets to include lunch will soon be on sale from CBA website.

Zulu Wars: we thank Geoff for another interesting article revealing some of the truths about the ill-fated wars with the Zulus, (see page 5).

March Weblinks: another great and eclectic selection of articles from the web selected by Alan, several of interest to budding palaeontologists, (see page 8).

Cadbury Chocolate Co promotes looting to encourage egg sales! (See page 9)

Membership Renewal Form: those members who renew their membership annually please see the form on page10.

View from Above No 1: Water Meadows on the Avon

In the comparatively recent past waters meadows were important features along many rivers in the area. Through a complex and carefully engineered matrix of channels and sluice gates nutrient rich river water could be made to irrigate meadow land over a wide area. This created particularly lush grass for grazing. While these systems are now out of use there is interest in using them again as a means of reducing pollutants in river water.



Photo by Sue and Jo Crane

You may remember the fascinating and very popular lecture Watermeadows: their history, technology and future, given with great enthusiasm by Michael Heaton on 13th September 2017. This lovely photograph by Sue and Jo of show the sophisticated arrangement of water meadows on the Avon. These are an amazing feat of engineering excellence, an almost forgotten world of leats, ridges and panes, sluice gates and stops, all maintained by highly skilled drownsmen.

Dorset was at the centre of technological innovation for water meadows. For examples in Dorset look at aerial photographs of the Frome river especially near Dorchester where an echo of the abundant but now disused water systems still remain as abandoned earthworks along stretches of the river valley.

Jo Crane and Andrew Morgan

Day Visit to the Ashmolean, Oxford's Museum of Art and Archaeology

Sunday 29th September 2019. Cost £19.

This trip is jointly arranged between EDAS and the Wareham and District Archaeology and Local History Society. After the great success of the previous trip to the British Museum last year you are invited to come on a trip to explore the treasures in the Ashmolean Museum in Oxford.



Fragment of wall painting depicting the very affectionate Akhenaten and Nefertiti

The coach will pick up at Dorchester, Bere Regis, Wimborne and Ringwood. This has been timed to include the 'Last Supper in Pompeii' exhibition, where the original objects from Naples and Pompeii are on display. Further details are to follow.

If you are interested in reserving a place please email Karen on:

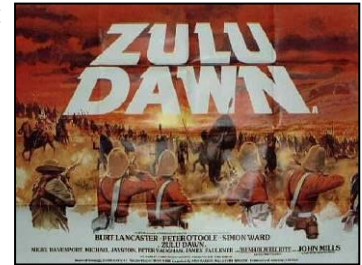
karen.brown68@btinternet.com

Or give your name to Lilian Ladle – EDAS, Wareham and District Archaeology and Local History Society: lilianladle@hotmail.com,

Isandlwana & Rorke's Drift – Battles of the Zulu War

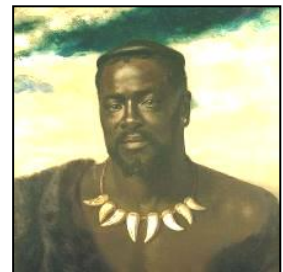
This article is more concerned with history than centred around archaeology but then, as antiquarians, I think we're interested in 'all things from the past'. In this case I'm looking at two famous battles of the Zulu War of 1879 that took place on the same day and were both immortalised in film. Most people will have seen *Zulu* (1964), perhaps several times on TV, with Stanley Baker and a then almost unknown Michael Caine. Despite its glittering cast, including Peter O'Toole, John Mills and Burt Lancaster, *Zulu Dawn* (1979) is much less well known.

Zulu recounts the battle of Rorke's Drift on 22nd January 1879 when about 150 British soldiers held off around 4,000 warrior Zulus. It is widely considered a great film, perhaps because accuracy in details wasn't allowed to get in the way of telling a strong story, which still captures the spirit of the battle. For example Private Hook, the malingering drinker in the film, actually had an exemplary record and was teetotal. *Zulu Dawn* tells the story of the Battle of Isandlwana (or 'Isandhlwana')



earlier the same day, when a force of British soldiers was all but wiped out with the loss of over 1,300 men (some sources suggest nearer 1,700). As far as I can tell it is much more historically accurate, despite including an American actor, but reviews and comments on it are decidedly mixed.

The Zulu War was one of several imperial wars not started by the British government, who tried hard to avoid a conflict. The powerful Zulu empire, with a standing army of 40,000 disciplined warriors, posed a potential threat to the emerging British South Africa, but one that was considerably exaggerated by the officials and administrators in Cape Town. In charge was the scheming Sir Henry Bartle Frere who, with the connivance of the military commander, Lord Chelmsford, took matters into his own hands. An impossible ultimatum was issued to the Zulu King Cetshwayo (or 'Cetewayo', etc., here in a portrait of 1882); when it wasn't met, Chelmsford took his force of 5,000 men into Zulu territory.



The arrogant and self-confident Chelmsford's incompetence was the cause of the disaster at Isandlwana. Since birth counted for more than competence, he remained a favourite of Queen Victoria and, through bare-faced lies, managed to escape much of the blame. Chelmsford, like most of his men, believed that "savages with spears" would be no match for the modern British army. He left a third of his force under the sphinx-like hill of Isandlwana with insufficient and conflicting orders, ignoring advice to entrench and to laager the wagons, and took the better soldiers, cavalry and artillery on a wild-geese chase for the main Zulu army without proper reconnaissance. They didn't return, even when Chelmsford was told that a major force was approaching the camp. About 20,000 Zulus attacked the men at Isandlwana, using their classic 'horns of a buffalo' technique to overwhelm the flanks.



The British on the battlefield were almost all killed, and it is likely that the Zulus lost at least as many warriors. Although several dozen British escaped the field, these too were mostly hunted down on their way south; the men were doomed without a horse, but the terrain was such that Zulu

warriors on foot could often keep pace with men on horseback. Even crossing the Buffalo River into the ostensibly British area now called Fugitives Drift, where we stayed, didn't bring safety. This was the fate of Lieutenants Melville and Coghill, who escaped on horseback with the Queen's colours, lost in the river but retrieved later, and were killed some way up the far bank. They were buried where they fell, under a large pile of rocks, and the site later monumentalised. Both gained VCs, unreasonably in my view; as Sir Garnet Wolseley, who later took over from Chelmsford as commander-in-chief, wrote, "I don't like the idea of officers escaping on horseback when their men on foot are being killed".

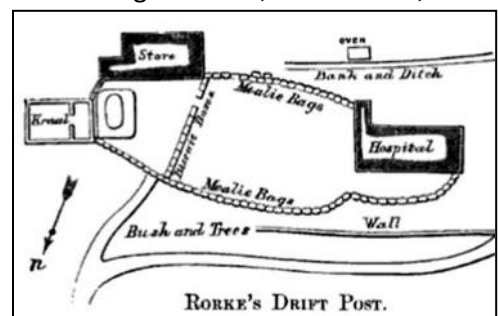
Our guide, Mpiwa, was a Zulu whose grandfather and great-grandfather had both fought at Isandlwana. He brought the battle to life with information from both sides, although British accounts are of necessity rather limited, such as showing us how easy it was for Zulu warriors to slip through the tall grass unnoticed. Cairns of stones, now painted white, mark the places where,



months after, concentrations of bones were found and buried together, the cairns sized roughly in proportion to the numbers killed in each area. The largest ones are around the central camp, underneath the mountain, but there are smaller ones off into the distance for at least a mile. Monuments were only erected if the family had sufficient money, some on the places where artefacts allowed individuals to be identified. There is a Zulu monument too, though we didn't see it.



On the following day we went to tour Rorke's Drift, which has some similarities to the film although it was shot several miles further down the valley. Cetshwayo's half-brother, Prince Dabulamanzi kaMapande, was in charge of several *impis*, or regiments, of Zulus totalling around 4,000 warriors, which reached this area around 4pm. They hadn't taken part in the battle as their job was to cut off any British retreat, but the impetuous Dabulamanzi wanted to join in the success. The younger warriors (some were over 50) were probably eager to 'wash their spears', i.e. use their short stabbing *assegaïs* on an enemy, otherwise they couldn't marry. Despite express orders only to defend their homeland, they attacked the men at Rorke's Drift on the British side of the river.



Our guide took us around the site explaining each of the key elements of the battle, much as portrayed in *Zulu* if not always particularly accurately. It really struck us just how small an area was being defended, from end to end no more than 90m, anchored by the church (on the right in the photograph), then used as a store, the house taken over as a hospital, now the museum, and a stone cattle kraal. The rest of the defences were improvised from mealie

(corn) bags and large biscuit boxes, their lines now marked out by rows of cobbles.

Repeated attacks by the Zulus lasted for about 8 hours until after midnight (though accounts do

differ), continuing after nightfall lit by the burning hospital, when the British had retreated to the much smaller redoubt by the church and then had to abandon the kraal. Fire continued to be exchanged till the Zulus withdrew around 4am. By then over 20,000 rounds of ammunition had reduced to around 1,000 and another attack would probably have seen the defenders wiped out. But the Zulus were spent, having been on the move for 5 days then jogged 15 miles, swum a swollen river and not eaten properly all day. Unlike the film, there was no morning attack, though an *impi* did appear on a nearby hilltop they, too, were hungry and exhausted, and could probably see the relief column on its way.



Just 17 British were killed, including those who died of their wounds, though only 13 are listed on this face of the monument in the nearby cemetery. A further 15 were listed as wounded, although almost everyone had some sort of wound. 351 Zulu bodies were counted after the battle, but later investigations suggested that perhaps 500 more of their wounded and captured were also killed afterwards. The Zulu monument is nearby, a fitting tribute to their courage in facing modern guns with a short spear and cowhide shield.



As is fairly well known, 11 Victoria Crosses were awarded to the defenders, although contrary to popular belief this isn't the most in one day (16 at Inkerman, 1854) or for a single action (28 for Lucknow, 1857). Less well known is that Lieutenants Chard (Baxter in the film) and Bromhead (Caine) were additions by Lord Chelmsford, seeking to obscure his conduct and causing amazement amongst many fellow officers. The real hero was, by many accounts, Commissary James Dalton, played by Dennis Folbigge in *Zulu* (as shown). He persuaded the officers to remain, organised the means of defence and continually inspired the men by his quiet courage, despite being badly wounded. He only received a VC a year later after intensive press lobbying.



This all demonstrates lessons that most of us already know: historical films are not history and 'known facts' may not actually be true.

Geoff Taylor

Web Link Highlight March

Two items stood out for me this month - and for similar reasons. First, the item about the Nile shipwreck yet again showing that however much you think you know, a new discovery can always be around the corner to prove you wrong. In this case, there is added poignancy because it also proves that an ancient, wrongly dismissed, source has been shown to be very accurate. This item is also a good example of a particular bugbear of mine. Journalists all too often rely on their descriptive powers when a simple diagram (or in some cases, a map) would be so much better. I can only guess why this is. Perhaps it is just that their language skills are far in advance of their graphic skills, or it could be that long training to get the message across in the least number of column inches takes precedence (this, of course, should not be an issue for online articles). Whatever the reason I wish they would realise the primary objective is for the reader to understand the content, however it is conveyed.

The second piece was the discovery of one of King John's royal charter in a cardboard box in a library archive. How many of us have "discovered" that long lost item when searching for something entirely different in the loft, or garage? Given that most, if not all museums, are full to bursting with finds and I suspect libraries are the same with documents, it makes you wonder what has been incorrectly labelled, or misfiled, or badly catalogued.

Alan Dedden

WEBLINKS – March

March Weblinks

Spanish Shipwrecks Logged To Record Maritime History

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/mar/01/spain-logs-shipwrecks-maritime-past-weather-pirates>

Clues to Alexander the Great's Tomb

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/culture/2019/02/lost-tomb-alexander-great/>

Mary Rose Crew May Have Included Some Of African Origin

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/mar/14/mary-rose-crew-might-have-included-sailors-african-heritage>

Nile Shipwreck Proves Herodotus Was Right

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/mar/17/nile-shipwreck-herodotus-archaeologists-thonis-heraclion>

Dig Planned At Rare Neolithic Mortuary

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-47626652>

110 Million Year Old Fossilised Bird With Unlaid Egg

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-6829759/Ancient-bird-died-110-million-years-ago-perfectly-preserved-egg-inside.html>

Fossils of 50 Previously Unknown Species Found In China

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-6837469/Thousands-undiscovered-fossils-including-50-previously-unknown-species-China.html>

Thames Shipwreck To Be Excavated

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/mar/23/thames-shipwreck-secrets-old-brig-seasalter-kent>

Tyrannosaurus Rex Found In Saskatchewan Declared Largest And Oldest

<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2019/03/190322163331.htm>

Natural History Museum To Dig Dinosaurs In The US

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2019/mar/25/natural-history-museum-to-start-dinosaur-dig-in-us>

Original King John Charter Found In Cardboard Box

<https://news.sky.com/story/ancient-royal-document-from-819-years-ago-found-in-cardboard-box-11675457>

Alan Dedden

Cadbury Chocolate Outrage

- encourages children to become illegal treasure hunters

In a mindless new advertising campaign the now American owned Cadbury Chocolate company launched Cadbury's Treasure Campaign which was aimed at children, and encouraged metal detecting and digging at known and often protected archaeological sites.

This is illegal and a destruction of protected landscapes.

They have been warned that digging without permission at such places is deemed as looting, and could break laws including trespass, theft, criminal damage and contradicts the 1996 Treasure Act,

Embarrassed by the immediate reaction to their campaign Cadbury have withdrawn their advertisement to reconsider.

EDAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

Your membership fee is due on 1 April no matter what time of year you joined. Those members who pay by standing order or who joined this year can ignore the remainder of this note.

Please pay your fee to me either at the April meeting or send your cheque (please do not send cash through the post) to me together with the attached renewal form. If you want to pay by standing order please let me know and I will send a form to you.

If you have online banking facilities and would like to pay us direct, our bank details are HSBC Ringwood. Sort Code 40-38-21. Account 61334085.

Peter Walker
Treasurer

EAST DORSET ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Surname/Forenames

Address and Postcode

..... Telephone No.

E-Mail.....

Individual £8.50, Family £12, Junior Associates 16 or 17 years old £5, Student 18 or over £5
Cheques payable to EDAS.

Please return form with cheque to: Peter Walker, 16 Whitfield Park, Ashley Heath, Ringwood, Hants, BH24 2DX or email: mail@dorset-archaeology.org.uk or Tel: 01425 471326 for a standing order form.

EDAS PROGRAMME - 2019

2019			
Wed 24 th Apr 2019	Lecture	Mark Corney	Annual Bournemouth University Lecture – 'Villas, Churches and Baptisteries - a review of the Evidence from Western Britain'
Sun 28th Apr 2019	Guided Walk	David Reeve	Wimborne – the final walk by David revealing the historic town of Wimborne through the C18 and C19th
Wed 8th May 2019	Lecture	Dave Stewart	Once Upon a Hill: a study of Dorset hillforts

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
Sat 6th April	Conference	BUni	Various	Archaeology of Hengistbury Head: Past, Present, and Future (see EDAS Feb Newsletter p.11 &12)
Sun 7 th April	Walk and Discussion	BUni and HH Heritage Centre	Prof Tim Darvill and Dr Kath Walker	Hengistbury Head and future research
Sat 9 th November	CBA Conference	CBA	Various	CBA 2019 conference 'Sunrise over the Stones: recent research into Neolithic and Chalcolithic Wessex'. Held at Bournemouth University

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

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).

<p>different times</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events usually held at Talbot Campus, Bournemouth in Kimmeridge House room KG03 on Talbot Campus. <p>Blandford Museum</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events held at different venues <p>CAA: Centre for Archaeology and Anthropology: Seminars and Research Centre Meetings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Events usually held at Talbot Campus, Bournemouth in Kimmeridge House room F111 on Talbot Campus. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • http://wareham-archaeology.co.uk/
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