



# East Dorset Antiquarian Society

Charity No: 1171828

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## NEWSLETTER – April 2020

### Editor's Notes

I did receive a little feedback after the last full newsletter, for which thank you very much. More is always appreciated, particularly if you can say the sort of articles you'd like to see more (or less).

I also got some contributions after the interim newsletter, for which I'm very grateful. Some appear here and the rest will come in future newsletters. **I was, though, disappointed not to be inundated by new contributors as I'd hoped. I'm sure many of you have interesting things I could include, so please don't leave it to 'everyone else'. It doesn't have to be historical or archaeological.**

PLEASE SEND ALL RESPONSES TO THE EDITOR ON THE ADDRESS ABOVE, **NOT** TO THE EDAS EMAIL ADDRESS AS THAT JUST MEANS THAT PETER HAS TO PASS THEM ON.

Small pieces, mostly **topical items**, are included throughout this newsletter but not mentioned here – you'll have to read it all!

Many thanks to all those who attended **the AGM**, one of our best attended meetings of the year. I'm sure that everyone came for the AGM, rather than to listen to the talk about **the Druce Neolithic site** by Lilian and Andrew. Both are summarised below.

Sad to say that that was our last meeting for a while, but there's lots to look forward to next 'season' in the **EDAS 2020-2021 Programme** towards the end. Thanks to Alan for putting it together and to all the committee members who arranged speakers.

I imagine many of you will find most, but not perhaps all, of the **Quiz** questions from Nick Ellis fairly easy. Next month we'll have the answers and a rather harder local knowledge quiz.

The **27<sup>th</sup> View from Above** reminds us what the wider countryside looks like, and give us this month's Roman fix with Sue & Jo's photograph of the Woodcuts settlement.

A few years ago we tried to get someone from the Must Farm excavation to present to EDAS, but they were just too busy. If you watch the fascinating **presentation on the Must Farm Bronze Age Settlement**, described below, you'll understand why. Our detailed recording on the Druce Neolithic site is nothing compared to what they did, starting with 6,000 pieces of wood, especially when you see how they had to do the excavation to avoid damage. Not a game for some of us old folks.

Following on from Vanessa's article last month on the **Travels of an Iron Age man** from the museum, is a second article covering further travels.

Alan continues to provide **Weblinks** to interesting and relevant news he has found on the internet, as well as **Highlights** to point to those he found most intriguing. **It would really help if you could actually send him things that you see on the internet.**

And, thanks to Eric Wallbank, there's an article on the intended **closure of Wimborne Market**. The particular concern for EDAS is the proposal for a 'country market', apparently on the site of the Lake Farm Roman fortress.

Not surprisingly, the **District Diary** is rather empty this month. Instead there's a 'replacement' that sets out the details of the **Government Guidance on lockdown**. It may well have been updated by the time this gets to you, and will probably have been made legally enforceable. It's not as boring as you might think, especially with some heavy-handed officials trying to stop shops selling Easter eggs as they're 'not essential' (many people say chocolate is one of the essentials to help get through the crisis, along with wine). Anyway, the guidance is on the type of shop that can stay open, NOT on what they can sell.

**Geoff Taylor**

## Annual General Meeting

The various reports and the accounts were all circulated before the meeting and no additional points were raised at the AGM. Several committee members were retiring by rotation and all offered themselves for re-election, i.e. Peter Walker, Geoff Taylor, Robert Heaton and Bryan Popple. Additional nominations were received from Ian Drummond, who was co-opted in November 2019, and Nick Ellis. All those nominated were elected unanimously.

### The current committee is:

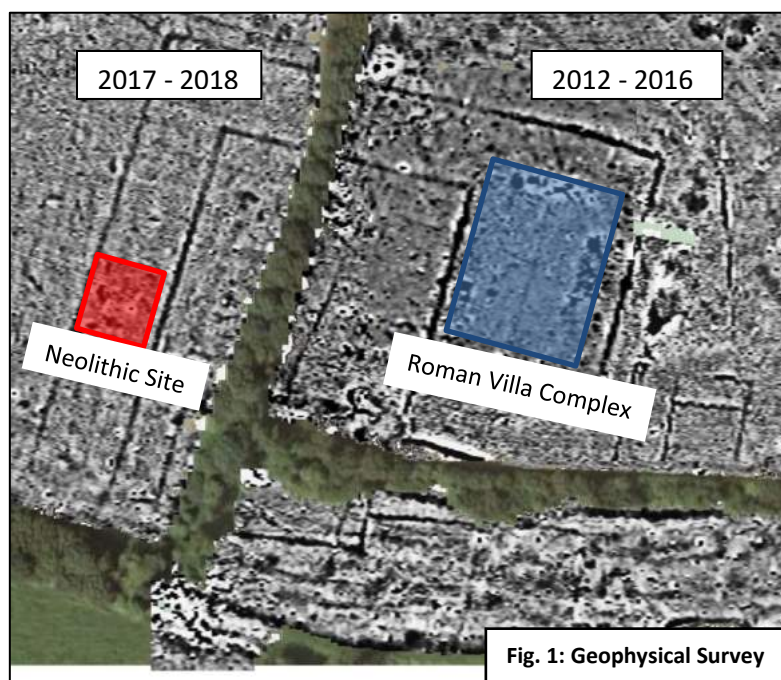
Andrew Morgan	Chair	Robert Heaton	Member
Peter Walker	Treasurer	Vanessa Joseph	Communications Officer
Geoff Taylor	Secretary	Lilian Ladle	Director of Field Archaeology
Alan Dedden	Programme Secretary	Bryan Popple	Member
Ian Drummond	Member	Ian Richardson	Membership Secretary
Nick Ellis	Member	Vacancy	

## March Lecture: The Druce Neolithic Project – the first farmers in Dorset

The lecture to accompany the 2020 AGM was delivered by Lilian Ladle and Andrew Morgan, who explained the fascinating EDAS Druce Farm Neolithic excavation.

The Druce Farm site lies 5km north-east of Dorchester on the south facing slope of the River Piddle. The underlying bedrock is chalk, which is rich in flint nodules and is overlain by a superficial deposit of clay-with-flint. Just beyond the bottom of the field is a spring that supplied warm water to the meadows in the bottom of the valley.

Between 2012 and 2016 EDAS had run an excavation of a Roman Villa and its extensive enclosure ditches. The geophysical survey produced by EDAS member Dave Stewart showed that the ditches around the villa continued into an adjacent field (see Fig. 1) and, in 2017, the team started to examine these ditches and various concentrations of geophysical anomalies. A number of sections were put through the ditches and other trenches revealing a Roman corn dryer and an ancillary building. Three other areas with large concentrations of anomalies were opened using a commercial digger. The first revealed a cobbled work surface with a quantity of Roman pottery sherds and a midden. The second area appeared sterile and was not pursued. However, the third area was to reveal something unexpected, but really exciting and rather brilliant.



Once the top soil had been removed two good sized areas of fine silty material were identified, indicative of likely pits. Other small irregular patches of the same material were also noticed and seemed to align. These were excavated and revealed a number of small pits. Meanwhile, on the western baulk of the trench, there was a layer of dark soil containing what appeared to be black-coloured pottery sherds; it was thought initially to be the edge of a Roman midden. This area was further investigated and soon became even more interesting. To our great excitement, closer examination of the pottery suggested it was not Roman at all and Lilian immediately recognised the biscuit-like fabric as Early Neolithic, and some were seen to be pieces of distinctive carinated bowls.

The trench was extended carefully and it revealed a C-shaped ditch, which had an upper infill of dark soil which contained the majority of the pottery. A number of sections along the length of the ditch were excavated. Elsewhere, by the end of the season, 18 small pits had been half-sectioned; they were aligned in three N-S rows and several E-W rows, forming a convincing grid arrangement. All contained the same fine grained silty material, but none contained any pottery and there were only a few small pieces of worked flint. Because biofacts within Neolithic soil are known to be scarce, and therefore quite precious, we were advised to take a large number of soil samples. So, we were dealing with an Early Neolithic ditch/monument, plus an intriguing alignment of small pits that have yet to be dated but with a degree of imagination could represent the postholes of an Early Neolithic timber-framed building. Interestingly the trench was devoid of any Roman material.

A number of experts visited the site; all were very interested in the Neolithic pottery and suggested dates around 3,600 to 3,500 BC. They also approved of our large assemblage of Neolithic worked flint from the ditch and from the two large pits that were partially sectioned. They offered tentative suggestions for the small pits: Nick Griffiths suggested they reminded him of a small orchard, Julian Richards stated that the slope of the ground was too steep for a timber-framed hall and Tim Darvill suggested they could represent a setting for some sort of monument.

The ditch, however, was definitely of great significance and we worked with Tim Darvill to devise a plan for the completion of the excavation. The first task was to get radiocarbon dating of the ditch infill which contained the pottery sherds. Eight soil samples were selected and sent to Wendy Carruthers our archaeobotanist to process. She identified two suitable biofact samples that were sent to Scottish Universities Environment Research Centre (SUERC) in Falkirk. The results were quite stunning:

- A hazelnut fragment returned a date of 3941-3816 cal BC (95.4% probability)
- A wheat grain returned a date of 3775 cal BC (95.4% probability).

These are the oldest radiocarbon dates returned in Dorset for the Neolithic period. We thank the Mick Aston Fund, managed by CBA Wessex, and Shaftesbury Archaeology Society, for helping to fund this work.

In 2018 we returned to the site and extended the trench on all sides. Tim had stated that the excavation must be precisely recorded and that all finds should be recorded in a 3-dimensional plan. The extension was marked out and excavated in 5m x 3m rectangles and taken down in 10 cm spits, with all finds carefully located and referenced. But the main effort was concentrated on the C-shaped ditch. This was eventually totally excavated by sections and again taken down in 10cm spits with every artefact meticulously recorded.

Work in the ditch was undertaken by Lilian and Geoff with some help from Finn, who joined us during his summer vacation from UCL. He had been working on a Neolithic site in Romania and we benefitted greatly from his recent experiences.

By the end of the season we had fully examined the extent of the trench (see Fig. 2) and had excavated and recorded:

1. Twenty nine small pits,
2. three Pit Groups,
3. the Early Neolithic Monument.

A total of 29 small pits had been identified and a new N-S row added, with 9 E-W rows identified. All the pits had been fully excavated and soil samples taken, with care to avoid contamination. Also, three pit groups were partially excavated, Pit Group-3 containing a small sarsen stone purposely positioned vertically. Pit Group-2 contained 5 smaller pits that had been dug into its infill.

The main effort concentrated on the C-shaped ditch, which proved very difficult to excavate, not helped by the clay-with-flints material through which it was cut. The edges were difficult to follow and the bottom of the ditch was irregular. In fact, it was not until the post-excitation work was undertaken that the full complexity of the feature was unravelled. It had been developed through five phases (see Fig. 3), each impacting on the previous one, which explained the challenge the team had faced during the excavation:

- Phase-1 was a single deep post hole
- Phase-2 was a single large pit
- Phase-3 was a series of five medium sized pits of oval shape in a crescent plan
- Phase-4 was a C-shaped ditch that was cut through the proceeding pits.
- Phase-5 was a smaller ditch cut into the fill and re-filled with a dark brown soil which contained the majority of the Early Neolithic sherds.

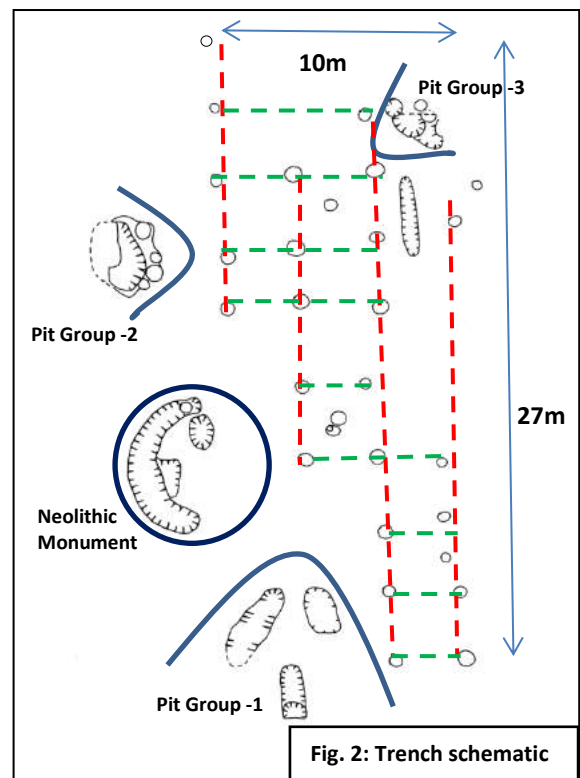
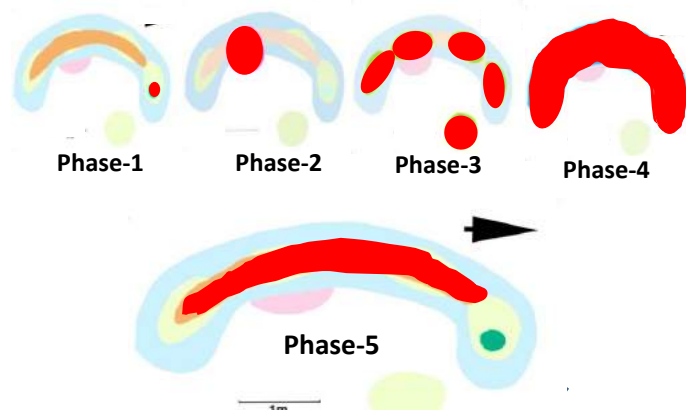


Fig. 2: Trench schematic

Fig 3 Early Neolithic Monument Phasing



The site was eventually closed in November 2018 and the features backfilled.

The post-excavation work has started. The analysis of the pottery assemblage will be undertaken by Lilian and Tim Darvill, whilst Kath Walker will be engaged to process the flint assemblage. Lilian has completed the phasing of the C-shaped ditch and Andrew is working on the small pits/postholes. Janet has been very busy preparing the drawings of all the important artefacts (see Fig. 4).

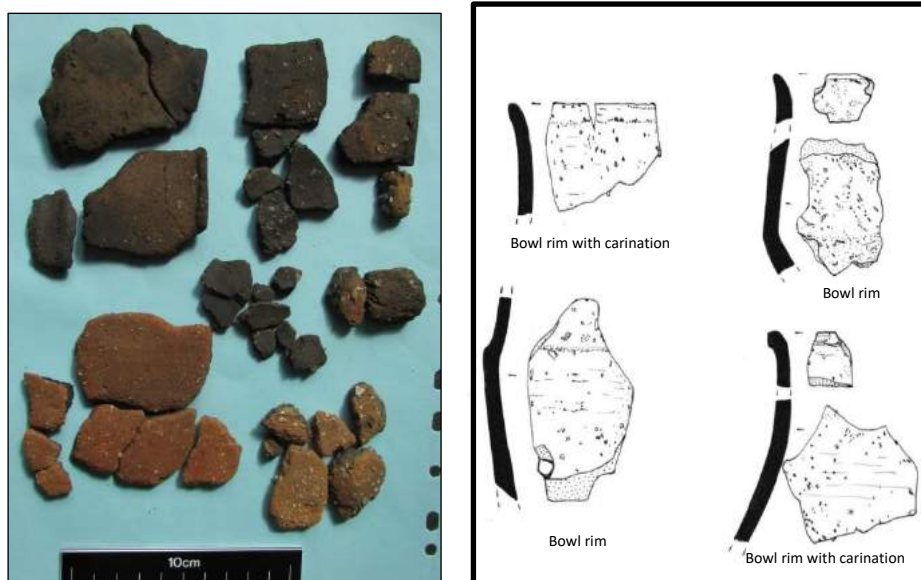


Fig. 4: Early Neolithic Sherds and Drawings

The radiocarbon dates came from the material representing the final phase. The other phases are earlier, possibly much earlier, and the feature could possibly demonstrate a continuity of site from the Mesolithic period into the Neolithic. Such sites are not uncommon and they represent an acknowledgement or even respect by the new culture for the older one it is replacing. Over the years working on the Roman Villa we have come to enjoy the local landscape and totally understood why it had been selected by the Romans 2,000 years ago. Now we have proven that 6,000 years ago a group of Neolithic immigrants also recognised the quality of the site. It is possible that the indigenous population of hunter-gatherers of the Mesolithic period were of a similar mind at an even earlier time. Hopefully we will be able to push the continuity of occupation back even further.

The most important task now is to get radiocarbon dating of the five phases of the monument and the other features. The soil samples have been assessed and 60 have been selected for analysis. These will be processed, both to understand the prehistoric environment and to identify biofacts that can be used for the critical radiocarbon dating that will unlock the story of the monument, as well as hopefully providing dates for the other features.

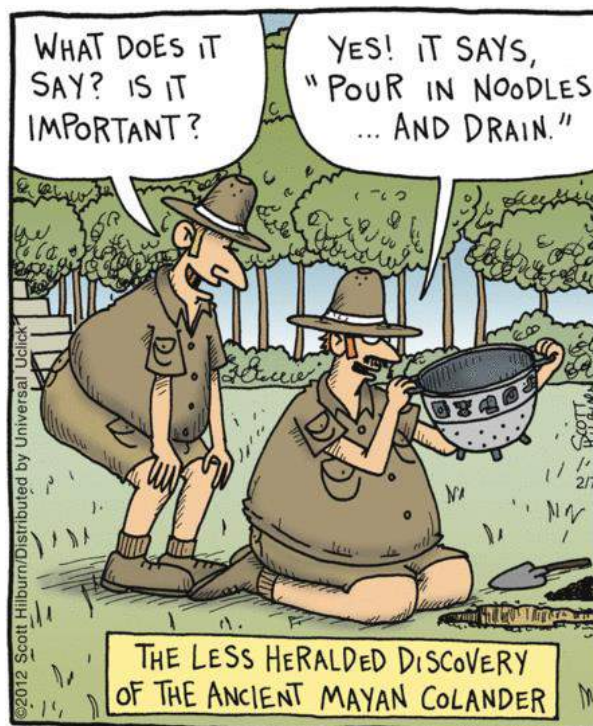
Lilian has been able to get glowing references from Professors Niall Sharples and Richard Bradley in support of our funding applications. The next challenge for the project is, then, to get funding for the outstanding tasks (provisionally estimated at £16,000). EDAS have earmarked a sum towards the costs and we have made a funding application to CBA Wessex for a sizeable grant to cover the costs of the first task, to process the soil samples. Other potential funding organisations have been identified.

Once the work is completed a report will be prepared and, ideally, will be published in the Proceedings of the Prehistoric Society.

### **Andrew Morgan**

Emma Ayling (Priest's House Museum) and Keith are now the proud parents of a baby boy, William, born 16<sup>th</sup> March. Many congratulations to them.

Since we couldn't have Francis Taylor to talk to us about the Mayans on 1<sup>st</sup> April, I thought you might like this:



### EDAS MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER

Unless you joined this year, membership fees are due on 1<sup>st</sup> April. If you've already sent a cheque or pay by standing order you can, of course, ignore the remainder of this note. Otherwise:

Paying by standing order reduces our administration and costs; let me know if you'd like to and I will send a form to you. Alternatively, since you can't pay at a meeting at the moment, please send your cheque (please do not send cash through the post) to me together with the renewal form below. Or, 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.

Please do get in touch if any of this causes you problems in the current crisis.

**Peter Walker**

**Treasurer**

### EAST DORSET ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

Surname/Forename(s) .....

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](mailto:mail@dorset-archaeology.org.uk) or Tel: 01425 471326 for a standing order form

**A good way to see the British Museum, especially the galleries, until we can visit again (through Google Street View):**

<http://emails.britishmuseum.org/q/17HRBPbzMDPsuYUjPpngOU/wv?fbclid=IwAR1hE3DbiyEuOWFvecGYLh7aOcBdplrNWSsyJb9EejJEVOyT6aY6G1jpkLo>

LOCAL KNOWLEDGE QUIZ		
No	QUESTION	ANSWER
1	Which are the main two Wilts & Dorset bus routes running from the bus station to The Square in Bournemouth?	
2	What was the Dolphin Centre called before its change of name?	
3	This whole village was evacuated in the last war (1943), but never returned to its inhabitants. What is it called?	
4	Which hero, killed in a motorcycle accident, is buried in Moreton Cemetery?	
5	What is the name of the pub at Worth Matravers with the sign of the Freemasons?	
6	To the nearest 5 miles, how long is the coastline of Dorset?	
7	What is Dorset's longest river?	
8	What is Dorset's oldest town?	
9	Which Dorset town is most famous for its ropes and nets, e.g. Wimbledon nets are made there?	
10	Which creature has been dying in record numbers along our shores in the last few years?	
11	Where in Dorset would you be able to walk along the Cobb?	
12	How many wavy lines are there under the Dolphin on Poole's logo?	
13	Where will you find the Police HQ in Dorset?	
14	What is the name of the little figure who sounds the time on Wimborne Minster?	
15	Going west by train out of Poole, what is the first station?	
16	What make of car do Gordon Ford principally sell?	
17	Where did Poole build a Park & Ride?	
18	In which Dorset town will you find Radipole and Lodmoor?	
19	Which local charity raises money to support a hospice for sick children?	
20	What is the name of the current Leader of Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Council?	

**Nick Ellis**

Colin sent me this 'Stone Age' spear that he had just finished making; it's to be attached to one of the signs at the Ancient Technology Centre, eventually. Just one example of how to make a lethal weapon to stop people getting too close. Oh, sorry, an example of the creative ways you can occupy yourself.

**Colin Alborough** (volunteer at the Ancient Technology Centre)

So here's a challenge – has anyone made anything more unusual than this while on lockdown? Tell me if/when you do, or if you make or do something you just want to share.



## View from Above No 27: Woodcuts Settlement

*Photo by  
Sue Newman  
and Jo Crane*



This ancient settlement actually lies on Woodcuts Common to the north west of the village of Woodcuts, and only about a mile from Tollard Royal. It is one of a very few Romano-British settlements with upstanding remains. That this was an enclosed rural farmstead wasn't recognised before it was excavated in 1884-5 by Lieutenant-General Pitt Rivers, who owned the land on which it stands and excavated several similar settlements on the estates that he inherited in 1880. Pitt Rivers called it Woodcuts (single "t"), as on the detailed model of his excavation that can be seen in Salisbury Museum, shown below (©Salisbury Museum). One of the Roman era well sites found by Pitt Rivers is marked by a plaque commemorating the excavations.

Pitt Rivers was, of course, a pioneering archaeologist, and has often been called the father of modern scientific excavation. He advocated keeping and/or recording all the finds, at a time when most archaeology was little better than treasure hunting, since he felt that the everyday objects gave a much better insight into the lives of the people who had lived on the site. Although he recognised that Woodcuts had been occupied for centuries and undergone many changes, he was unable to work out a detailed chronology. However, his excellent records allowed Prof. Christopher Hawkes to reinterpret much of his work in 1947<sup>1</sup>.



According to Hawkes, Woodcuts was a high status farming settlement which had three successive phases (plans and descriptions in the paper), starting with a late Iron Age circular enclosure. Three

sub-rectangular enclosures were added around AD 150 containing corn driers and a well. Although major alterations were made in the 4<sup>th</sup> century AD, it seems to have been abandoned by the end of the Roman period.

The Pitt Rivers 'Wessex Collection' was held at Farnham Museum, on the General's estate, which closed in 1966 after the death of Pitt Rivers' grandson. It was gifted to Salisbury Museum in 1975 in lieu of death duties. Their 'Finding Pitt-Rivers project', started in 2014, aimed to ensure that all of the items from Farnham were properly catalogued and made available online. One result was the discovery of 64 previously overlooked coins from the Woodcuts excavation, counted in the original publication but never fully published. A paper<sup>2</sup> was subsequently published providing a full list of the coins and a re-examination of them in the context of finds from similar sites in the area. That tended to confirm previous suggestions of a cultural, and potentially military, divide between the two sides of Bokerley Dyke in the later Roman period, similar to that seen in the post-Roman period. It also said that the steeply declining numbers of coins at Woodcuts in the later 4<sup>th</sup> century need not reflect settlement decline or abandonment, but simply a switch from arable to pastoral farming. In fact, Hawkes had already suggested the same thing 70 years earlier.

Editor's Note: Pedant that I am, I have to say that "Pitt Rivers" was not hyphenated on his books, for the museum in Farnham or the one in Oxford, nor on the model pictured. It often seems to be hyphenated now, as for the Salisbury Museum project, so there may be a reason. I just think it's wrong, as with the double "t" in the second reference!

1. Hawkes, C.F.C. 1947. Britons, Romans and Saxons round Salisbury and in Cranborne Chase. *Archaeological Journal* 104: 27-81.

(The *Archaeological Journal* to volume 120 is online at the Archaeology Data Service:

<https://archaeologydataservice.ac.uk/archives/view/archjournal/volumes.cfm>, and volume 104 covers a lot of archaeology around Salisbury and into Dorset. However, the contents list is wrong and, for example, Hawkes' paper is pages 27-81, despite being shown as 1-26.)

2. Henry, R., & Ellis-Schön, J. 2017. The Finding Pitt-Rivers project: a reassessment of the numismatic assemblage from Woodcuts in context. *Wiltshire Archaeological & Natural History Magazine* 110: 179–190.

**Jo Crane/Geoff Taylor**

## BE VERY WARY OF SPAM AND SCAMS

New ones are appearing all the time, often telling sad stories that are all too believable currently, e.g. Alan tells me of one claiming to be from a young girl in China who had lost her parents. Of course, he didn't open the link to find out more.

Watch out for emails purporting to be from friends or acquaintances, especially ones you've not seen for a while, desperate for cash because they're self-isolating, are stuck abroad or have other problems. DON'T EVER transfer any money without phoning people first.

Of course, never move money to another account because of a phone call purporting to be from your bank saying there's a security issue. Banks will not do this.

Some banks have introduced 'confirmation of payee' (at least Lloyds and RBS/NatWest), others are being slower. This tells you, in some form, whether the name on the account matches the one you used for an intended transfer, so doesn't just rely on the account number and sort code.

Look out for fake websites, especially selling things like hand sanitiser and face masks. Check for reviews which will often tell you about the site/product.

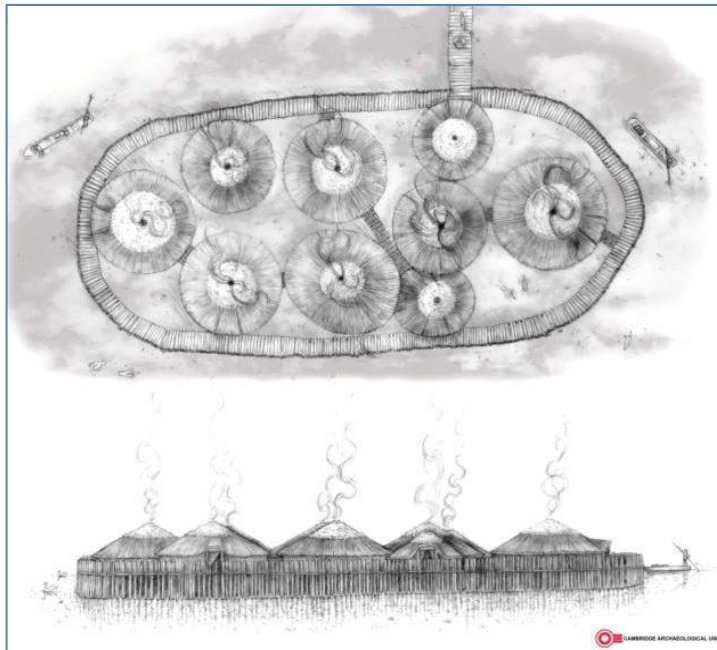
And anything that looks too good to be true probably is.

## TALK ON FACEBOOK by MUST FARM ARCHAEOLOGY

### MUST FARM BRONZE AGE SETTLEMENT

This is an excellent talk by the team who excavated one of the most important Bronze Age sites ever found in the UK. It was an innovative idea and delivered live via Facebook on Monday 24<sup>th</sup> March. We were only informed about the talk at the last minute and could only advise members through the EDAS Facebook page. However, it is still available on the Must Farm Archaeology Facebook page. It is very informative and well worth the effort.

**YOU DO NOT HAVE TO BE A MEMBER OF FACEBOOK OR TO SIGN IN TO WATCH THIS**



**Part of a Bronze Age settlement was uncovered at Must Farm quarry, near Peterborough, in Cambridgeshire, England. The site has the best-preserved Bronze Age dwellings ever found.**

The talk covers the excavation of the pile-dwelling settlement between 2015 and 2016, their discoveries and some of the post-excavation analyses and findings. There is also a Q&A session.

Go to (CTRL & click)

<https://www.facebook.com/MustFarmArchaeology/videos/2477007199071006/?type=2&theater>

If a Facebook log-in pops up just click on "Not now"

There should be a picture entitled "Excavations at Must Farm pile-dwelling 2015-16". To start the show you can click on the centre of the picture or use the 'play' arrow at bottom left. Of course, turn your speakers on and also hover cursor over speaker symbol and move slider to top to get best sound. You can move the long slider along the bottom to move through the presentation.

Nothing much happens for 2 or 3 minutes and the early sound is a bit flaky as they're trying new technology. Around the 10 minute mark they change things and the sound improves, though it does break up occasionally later. Nevertheless all 56 minutes are really worth listening to.

Thank you to Bryan Popple for mentioning this, I hope you will find it interesting.

**We must congratulate Must Farm Archaeology for a great idea and a fascinating talk.**

**Andrew Morgan**

## Travels of an Iron Age man – no. 2

The Iron Age TB skeleton at the Museum of East Dorset (previously Priest's House Museum) is the earliest identified case of Tuberculosis (TB) from Britain. Thanks to a grant from South West Museum Development, using public funds from Arts Council England and contributing Local Authorities, the museum has been able to fund further research.

In August, the skeleton was taken to Southampton University where samples were taken from his teeth, ribs and one of his long bones, as described in the March newsletter. The skeleton then returned to the Collections Store at the museum.

However, his story continues. Here is the second of his modern journeys, to **The National Oceanographic Lab, September 2019 to January 2020.**

Dr. Simon Mays, Human Skeletal Biologist for Historic England, suggested the focus of the research to enable me to apply for the grant of £1,000 from the South West Museums Development Programme. This would enable the museum to submit the skeleton for isotope analyses (strontium and oxygen) which would give more insight into the origins of our Iron Age man.

Professor Alistair Pike of Southampton University conducted carbon, nitrogen, strontium and oxygen isotope analyses on tiny samples taken from the teeth, long bone and rib of the skeleton. We expected the isotope analyses to be completed by late autumn, but this was wishful thinking as a series of events unfolded.

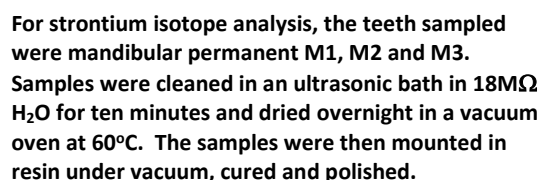
At the end October, the laser which would analyse the strontium isotopes died. A crucial part had to be ordered from the U.S.A. However, the yields from the collagen extractions had worked and were good. These and oxygen samples were put in the queue for analyses. In early December, the crucial part for the laser had still not arrived and we had to wait until late January before tests could be completed. There was also a problem with the machine which did the oxygen isotope analyses. In early January, I had to apply to South West Museum Development for an extension as I was unable to produce a final report within the agreed deadline for project completion.

However, despite these setbacks, there was plenty going on behind the scenes as you will see. Apologies to those people reading this who are not of a scientific bent, but some of you might be interested in the details. And I've learnt a lot from the project.

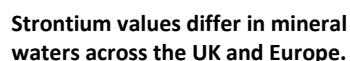
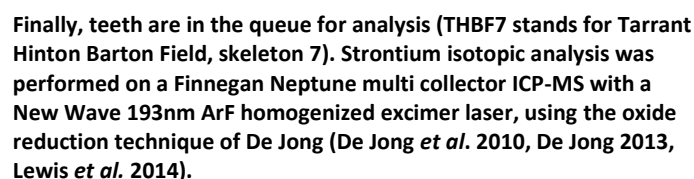
To be continued in a future issue...

Teeth were sampled for oxygen isotope analysis. After cleaning, the samples were ground to a fine powder in an agate mortar under acetone. The powder was leached for 30 minutes in 1M acetic acid to remove diagenetic carbonate then centrifuged and washed in 18MΩ H<sub>2</sub>O five times and dried. 5µg aliquots were weighed for analysis. The oxygen isotopes in the carbonate fraction of tooth enamel were measured on an Isoprime Dual-Inlet mass-spectrometer connected to a Gilson auto-sampler using standard carbonate procedures.





For carbon and nitrogen isotope analysis, the rib and long bone samples were demineralized overnight at room temperature in 1M HCl, centrifuged, rinsed and filtered. The residue was gelatinized in pH3 HCl at 70°C for 24 hours. Insoluble residue was then removed by centrifuging and filtering, and the soluble fraction containing the collagen was freeze dried.



## March Weblinks

### World's Oldest Art Under Threat

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/feb/21/worlds-oldest-art-under-threat-from-cement-mining-in-indonesia-sulawesi>

### Metal Detectorist Finds Spectacular Roman Horse Brooch

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8074481/Spectacular-copper-Roman-horse-brooch-Lincolnshire-field.html>

### British Museum Acquires Bronze Age Sun Pendant

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/mar/04/british-museum-acquires-3000-year-old-shropshire-sun-pendant>

### Egypt Reopens The Step Pyramid After 14 Year Restoration Costing £5m

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8079495/Egypt-reopens-ancient-step-pyramid-renovations.html>

### Remains Found By Victorian Workers Identified As Early British Saint

<https://inews.co.uk/news/archaeological-remains-victorian-workers-saints-saint-eanswythe-folkestone-2256118>

### Richborough Amphitheatre To Be Excavated

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/09/archaeologists-hope-to-unearth-secrets-of-roman-amphitheatre-in-richborough-kent>

### Smallest Dinosaur Skull Found Encased In Amber

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/science/2020/03/smallest-ever-fossil-dinosaur-found-trapped-in-amber/>

### Stegosaurus Footprints Found On Isle Of Skye

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/mar/11/stegosaurus-footprints-found-on-isle-of-skye>

### Medieval Brooch Found By Metal Detectorist Acquired By V&A

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-northamptonshire-51834880>

### Dead Sea Scrolls At The US Museum Of The Bible Are All Forgeries

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/2020/03/museum-of-the-bible-dead-sea-scrolls-forgeries/>

### Why Plague Doctors Wore Strange Beaked Masks

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/reference/european-history/plague-doctors-beaked-masks/>

### Redhills, County Durham, Wins Heritage Lottery Grant For Restoration

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/mar/15/redhills-pitmans-parliament-durham-saved>

### Ancient "Mantis Man" Petroglyph Discovered In Iran

<https://phys.org/news/2020-03-ancient-mantis-man-petroglyph-iran.html>

### Bone Circles May Explain Survival During The Ice Age

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/world/bone-circle-made-of-mammoth-remains-help-explain-how-man-survived-ice-age-a4389016.html>

### British Museum Says Metal Detectorists Found 1311 Treasures Last Year

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/mar/17/british-museum-says-metal-detectorists-found-1311-treasures-last-year>

### Typhoid Mary - The First Superspreader

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/mar/10/typhoid-mary-super-spreader-history>

### Oldest Fossil Of Modern Bird Discovered

<https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2020/mar/18/wonderchicken-oldest-fossil-of-modern-bird-discovered>

### Origin Of Our Hands In Ocean Creature 380 Million Years Ago

<https://www.msn.com/en-gb/news/techandscience/our-hands-originated-in-earths-oceans-at-least-380-million-years-ago/ar-BB11oeKG?ocid=spartandhp>

### Egyptian Goddess Isis Spread From Egypt To Britain

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/magazine/2020/03-04/isis-egyptian-goddess-worship-spread-egypt-england/>

### 550m Year Old Human Relative Found By Fossil Hunters

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/mar/23/fossil-ikaria-wariootia-bilateral-organism-human-relative>

### Tests Underway To Determine Age Of Cerne Abbas Giant

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-dorset-52004282>

and also a blog from Martin Papworth: <https://archaeologynationaltrustsw.wordpress.com/>

### Cave Find Shows Neanderthals Gathered Seafood

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/mar/26/cave-find-shows-neanderthals-collected-seafood-scientists-say>

### 19<sup>th</sup> C Bottles Of Beer Found Under Stairs In Leeds

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smart-news/hundreds-lead-spiked-beer-bottles-uncovered-19th-century-leeds-site-180974513/>

**Please send your weblinks to Alan Dedden at** [alan.dedden@gmail.com](mailto:alan.dedden@gmail.com)

## Web Link Highlight March 2020

The item on plague doctors' masks certainly fits the current situation. Many times this type of measure in general, and this one in particular, attracts a certain amount of scoffing, if not derision. However it occurs to me that in actual fact they were not so far off the mark. Granted, they were of very limited, if any, benefit, but they were on the right track. It is striking how similar the plague doctors were to current medics in full haz-mat suits and face masks.

The story of typhoid Mary is also 'of the moment', but it may also be very worrying. What can be done if it is found that today somebody can carry coronavirus – and spread it – but not suffer from it? As I write this, it has just been announced that Boris Johnson has tested positive. Could he be such a carrier?



This a modern version of the plague mask from the 'Medieval Shop' at £71. They're based in Spain. We're certainly not suggesting you buy one (ed.).

When I searched for the media sources covering the bottles of beer found in Leeds, the only two I could find were Fox News and the Smithsonian Magazine. It seems the Americans still have a thing about alcohol!

There's an interesting item on the attempt to date the Cerne Abbas giant, and interesting to see that Mike Allen is involved. If this is successful it will not tell the meaning of the giant, but it might eliminate some of the theories if the date conflicts with the story. Martin's blog tells the story as it evolves and

makes a good read. I am sure also that many of us can empathise with Martin for having to draw the sections on the only day it rained!

I am sure I am not alone in wondering why the "More 4" channel decided not to transmit the scheduled programme *Return of the Black Death: Secret History* due to be shown Saturday the 21<sup>st</sup>. It is not available on catch up or online either. It was, after all, about the 14<sup>th</sup> century plague. Are we so fragile that we cannot watch when the subject is perhaps a bit too close to home? Or do they think it will cause even more panic amongst those not able to distinguish between the 14<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> centuries?

On the subject of Channel 4, and if you run out of box sets or other fall backs in these times of quarantine, there is always the library of Time Team available on Channel 4 catch up. I especially like the first series (only a few episodes available) as it shows Mick, Phil, Carenza and the other non-TV people before they got used to being filmed. By turns it is both excruciating and hilarious. It is also a bit of a shock to see Tony with hair! Definitely lightens the mood in these dark times.

**Alan Dedden**



### **This Too Shall Pass**

When things are bad, remember:  
It won't always be this way.  
Take one day at a time.

When things are good, remember:  
It won't always be this way.  
Enjoy every great moment.

The title phrase is variously attributed, but probably comes from medieval Persian Sufi poets around the 13<sup>th</sup> century. It was used by Abraham Lincoln in a speech before he became president. The full quote seems to come from American author, artist and photographer Doe Zantamata less than 10 years ago.

## Wimborne Market

This is taken directly from an article in the 6<sup>th</sup> March Bournemouth Echo forwarded by Eric Wallbank.

The owners of Wimborne Market have released images of their vision for a new market in the town. Ensors hope their vision of a new country market and Roman Camp Heritage Centre will meet with the approval of local residents and planners. The company has also released a statement about its intentions but the Daily Echo has been unable to speak with owners directly.

Shocked traders at the historic Station Road market received letters on Friday telling them that the 165-year-old market will close later this year. They were told a new site has been identified at Wimborne Showground at Lake Gates, near the junction with the A31 and the B3078.



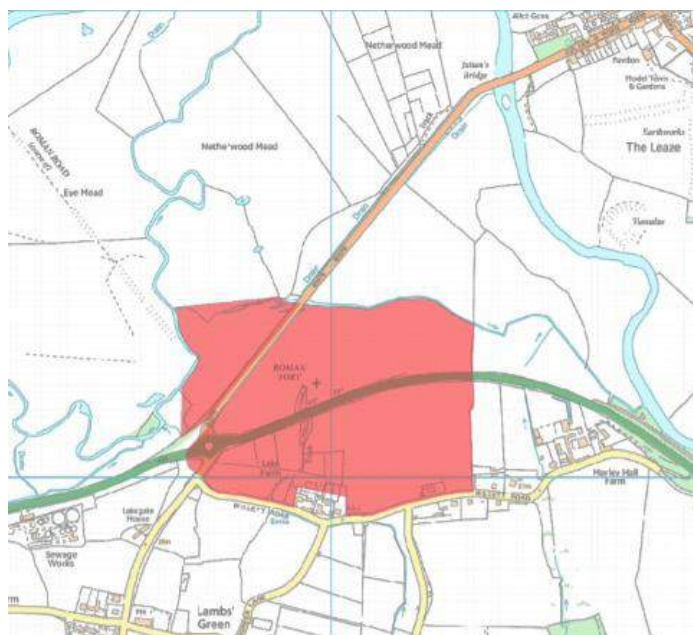
In a statement Ensors said: "The majority of Wimborne residents will be unaware of the Roman history that is locked below the Showground site – the aim of Ensors is to bring this important heritage sensitively back to life to enable a unique atmosphere to be generated and to provide an attraction that will bring new visitors into the town. Ensors have instructed a local architectural practice to produce an initial concept of what the market will look like and where it will be located. Ensors have also instructed local planning consultants to begin pre-application dialogue with the local planning authority and the Wimborne Town Council to ensure that the closure of the existing Wimborne Market site can dovetail with the opening of the new country market."

The spokesman added: "This is an important period for the town with much new residential development taking place. In order to keep Wimborne's distinct country character, it is considered that the new market site is essential in ensuring that the town doesn't simply become subsumed into the Bournemouth and Poole conurbation. There is also scope to provide community benefits via the new market location with perhaps a new park and ride facility or other measures which will alleviate transport pressures in the area generally."

Traders were told the existing market is no longer financially viable due to high business rates and changing shopping habits.

From a personal point of view, as a Wimborne resident, it is very sad that the market is to close. It has, though, been going downhill for some time. I know I'm not alone in the view that Ensors have managed it badly, probably because they want to develop the site for housing. However, this is not an issue for EDAS as such – it doesn't come within our constitution or aims as a charity.

There clearly is an issue for EDAS if the proposed country market is intended to be within the Lake Farm Roman fortress area (I am told that Ensor's previously planned to build there and were refused permission). Details of the schedule are at <https://historicengland.org.uk/listing/the-list/list-entry/1002418>; the map shows its extent. The area is also Green Belt, which should also stop any development unless the buildings are deemed 'agricultural'.



I believe Historic England are aware of the issue, but little more can be done until the plans become clear. No doubt the current crisis will impact this somewhat.

**PLEASE LET ANDREW OR ME KNOW  
IF YOU HEAR OR SEE ANYTHING.**

## EDAS 2020-2021 PROGRAMME

Unless otherwise stated, all lectures are from 7:30 – 9:30 pm at St Catherine's Church Hall, Lewens Lane, Wimborne, BH21 1LE. <http://www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk/programme.html>

**As you know, this season's remaining 2 lectures have had to be cancelled, but here's a list of next season's lectures and events that we can, we hope, look forward to.**

### 2020

**9th September                      John Smith                      The Battle of Britain Over Dorset, 1940**

In addition to describing the events in the air over Dorset, the talk will include the archaeological implications of aircraft recovery and a comparison of the methodologies used.

**14th October                      Andrew Birley                      Recent Excavations at Vindolanda and Revealing  
Magna Roman Fort**

This lecture is held jointly with [Bournemouth University](#) and covers some of the most remarkable discoveries from the World Heritage Site of Vindolanda, as well as offering a glimpse into the next project on Hadrian's Wall for the Vindolanda Trust.

**11th November                      Wayne Bartlett                      AD871 - The Year of Nine Battles**

AD871 saw a series of battles against the Vikings that resulted in Alfred becoming king on the death of his elder brother, Æthelred I, who is buried in Wimborne Minster.

**9th December                      Mark Corney                      Villas, Churches and Baptisteries**

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 on how to identify and interpret possible Christian activity in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> centuries and the implications for late Roman and early post-Roman society.

### 2021

**13th January                      Sophy Charlton                      Finding Mesolithic Britain: Biomolecular  
Approaches to Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology**

The range of scientific techniques used in modern archaeology is expanding at a pace. Sophy describes how the latest methods are used to tell us more about a period that has left very little evidence.

**10th February                      Paul Cheetham                      1000 Steps (tbc)**

New work on Vespasian in Dorset and the Lake Gates fort.

**10th March AGM                      Andrew Morgan & Lilian Ladle                      Keepers Lodge**

A look at the EDAS excavations at Keeper's Lodge, Kingston Lacy, in September 2019.

**14th April                      Mike Allen                      The Prehistoric Chalkland Landscape of  
Stonehenge, Avebury and Dorchester - tearing up  
the textbooks and starting again**

Mike's work combines a re-examination of earlier works by, e.g., John Evans and Martin Bell, with his own research, resulting in a re-interpretation of land use history and prehistoric community engagement. This new understanding shows that the old text books now need to be rewritten.

**12th May                      Julian Richards                      Shaftesbury - Alfred's Town, Alfred's Abbey**

Starting in late 2018, a team of volunteers set out to discover the truth of the 1930's Abbey depiction laid out in a series of rockeries. Doubt had long been cast on certain aspects of the layout, but until now these could not be tested. The team also looked at gardens in the Saxon town to try and add to the understanding of the ancient burgh.

## Rescheduled Events

New dates for the following events will be arranged as soon as practical:

### Guided tour of Devizes Museum

The Director of the museum, David Dawson, will lead a tour around the museum's many extraordinary exhibits.

### Cranborne Chase Walk

A 9 mile walk looking at the history of the Chase, including the Dorset Cursus, 19<sup>th</sup> century civil unrest in Sixpenny Handley, a Roman road and an 18<sup>th</sup> century landed gentry leisure pursuit. There will also be the opportunity to visit Martin Green's wonderful museum.

### London - Sir John Soane's Museum and the Museum of London (tbc)

A chance to visit two of London's museums – one is very well known, the other not so well known but a fine and very unusual example of the many smaller museums in the capital.

## DISTRICT DIARY

**Your information is very welcome, especially now  
– do let me know of any events if you hear that things are re-starting.**

**PLEASE CHECK RELEVANT WEBSITES/CONTACTS FOR THE LATEST INFORMATION BEFORE VISITING  
–the remaining two lectures are probably cancelled but I've not had confirmation – the Blandford site hasn't been updated recently and, as below, the Wareham Society's site is no longer updated.**

Thu 21 <sup>st</sup> May	Pre-Colombian Peru	Blandford Group	Lecture by Tim Brown
Wed 17 <sup>th</sup> June	Portland – Isle of Fascination	Wareham Society	Lecture by Stuart Morris, local historian and author

### Archaeology Societies

- Avon Valley Archaeological Society: <http://www.avas.org.uk/>  
Meetings at Ann Rose Hall, Greyfriars Community Centre, Christchurch Road, Ringwood BH24 1DW, 7:30pm 1<sup>st</sup> Wednesday of month except June, July & August. Visitors £3.50; membership £10 pa.
- Blandford Museum Archaeology Group: <http://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/araeology.html>  
Meetings at Blandford Museum, Bere's Yard, Market Place, Blandford Forum, DT11 7HQ, normally 7:30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday of each month (although the Museum is being refurbished from November 2019 – please check for alternative meeting location). Visitors £4; membership £10 pa.
- Bournemouth Natural Sciences Society: <http://bnss.org.uk>  
Events at 39 Christchurch Road, Bournemouth BN1 3NS; lectures Tuesday 7:30pm/Saturday 2:30pm.
- The Christchurch Antiquarians: <https://christchurchantiquarians.wordpress.com/>  
No lecture programme but involved in practical archaeology projects. Membership £10 pa.
- Dorset Natural History & Archaeology Society: <http://www.dorsetcountymuseum.org/events>  
Events at various locations in Dorchester, usually ticketed
- Wareham and District Archaeology & Local History Society: The website is no longer updated; for information contact Karen Brown at [karen.brown68@btinternet.com](mailto:karen.brown68@btinternet.com)  
Meetings at the Town Hall, Wareham (corner of North Street & East Street), normally 7:30pm 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of each month except July & August. Visitors welcome for £3; membership £10 pa.

### Bournemouth Natural Science Society 2020 Lecture Programme

(Tuesdays @ 7:30, Saturdays @ 2:30)

**ALL Q2 EVENTS ARE CANCELLED OR POSTPONED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

## Government Guidance on closure of businesses and premises

This is the actual guidance from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government relating to the Prime Minister's broadcast on 23<sup>rd</sup> March. There are some details here that don't appear in the summaries I've seen, for those who'd like to know (I have simplified wording and layout a bit). Whilst earlier guidance is now enshrined in law, much of this isn't actually legally enforceable at the time of writing. No doubt it will be by the time you read this and, as issues come to light, I imagine that some changes will be made. Go to <https://www.gov.uk/> and search for the latest information.

"As a country, we all need to do what we can to reduce the spread of coronavirus...

All non-essential premises must now close. Takeaway and delivery services may remain open and operational. Online retail is encouraged; postal and delivery service will run as normal.

Retail and public premises which we expect to remain open must:

- Ensure a distance of 2 meters between customers and shop assistants, and
- let people enter the shop only in small groups, to ensure that spaces are not crowded.
- Queue control is required outside of shops and other essential premises that remain open.

Parks will remain open but only for individuals and households to exercise once a day (*some authorities have closed them!*). Communal spaces within parks such as playgrounds and football pitches will be closed.

To remain closed	Exceptions
<b>Food and drink</b>	
Restaurants	Food delivery and takeaway can remain operational **.
Cafes, including workplace canteens	Delivery and takeaway can remain operational. Those in hospitals, care homes or schools; prison and military canteens; providing food/drink to the homeless.
Public houses, bars and nightclubs, incl. bars in hotels or members' clubs	
<b>Retail</b>	
Hair, beauty and nail salons, including piercing and tattoo parlours. Massage parlours	
All other retail with notable exceptions	Supermarkets and food shops, health shops, pharmacies incl. non-dispensing, petrol stations, bicycle shops, home and hardware shops, laundrettes and dry cleaners, garages, car rentals, pet shops, corner shops, newsagents, post offices and banks. <b>Off-licences added subsequently!</b>
Outdoor and indoor markets	Market stalls for essential retail, such as grocery and food.
Auction houses and car showrooms	
<b>Hotels</b>	
Hotels, hostels, B&Bs, campsites and boarding houses for commercial use	Those for people whose primary residence is unavailable and for use by key workers.
Caravan parks/sites for commercial uses	Those where people live permanently and for people whose primary residence is unavailable
<b>Non-residential institutions</b>	
Libraries	
Community & youth centres & similar	Can host essential services such as food banks
Places of worship for services	Funerals and solitary prayer; service can be live streamed
Cinemas, theatres and concert halls	Could live stream socially distanced small group performances

<b>Assembly and leisure</b>	
Museums and galleries	
Bingo halls, casinos and betting shops	
Skating rinks	
Fitness studios, gyms, swimming pools or other indoor leisure centres	
Arcades, bowling alleys, soft play centres and similar	
Spas	
<b>Outdoor recreation</b>	
Enclosed spaces in parks, including playgrounds, sports courts and pitches, and outdoor gyms or similar	

\*\* People can enter premises to collect takeaways but cannot eat or drink there. Planning regulations will be altered to allow restaurants, cafes and pubs to provide takeaways where they didn't previously.

These rules will be reviewed after 3 weeks (i.e. 13<sup>th</sup> April).

The document also summarises the financial and business support to be provided by the government, not covered here.

