



Founded 1983

East Dorset Antiquarian Society

Charity No: 1171828

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NEWSLETTER – September 2020

IN MEMORIAM

JOHN DAY (1929–2020)



John and the team celebrating completion of an excavation at Badbury Rings 2004

John was the heart and soul of the East Dorset Antiquarian Society; a founding member and chairman from its inception in 1983 through to 2013. He was a man of compassion, humour and commitment, who kept people on their toes right through to the end. Loved by his family and friends, he was respected by his colleagues and everyone who met him. He was totally committed to EDAS and his desire to reveal the history of Dorset. Here are some tributes:

Tim Schadla-Hall: “How sad, I am so sorry. Years ago I gave WEA lectures in Wimborne; I remember it was such a lovely group. I only wanted to cover early prehistory, but John and Della wanted more and I continued for several additional years. John was so involved and thoughtful and, of course, from that little group EDAS was formed... Happy Days”

Hayden Everall: “The end of an era. It seems like yesterday we were discussing the possibility of starting our own group. We all chipped in with ideas but it was John who took the helm, and he led us to exceed our wildest dreams and ambitions. John leaves behind an amazing legacy and will be missed. God bless you John”.

Henry Cole: “I remember John and Della from the pre-EDAS days and we met in the early 70s. I will certainly raise a glass to John and the end of an era”

Len Norris: “John was the inspiration for the success that we see in EDAS today. His boundless energy, enthusiasm and good humour never waned and we reap the rewards for his amazing efforts supported by his soulmate Della.”

Alan and Anita Hawkins: “Sad to get the news about John. Lots of happy memories”

David Smith: “Oh dear. I am so sorry. John was a lovely man and did so much for archaeology within East Dorset. He will be missed”.

Steve Smith: “That is such sad news. John was the driving force of EDAS for many years, with such a knowledge and enthusiasm for archaeology. John and Della were a formidable team. He will be missed.”

David Reeve: “Sad news indeed. He and Della were so passionate about history and archaeology in the area and they were great friends. Perhaps EDAS will consider an annual John and Della Day Memorial Lecture?”

Roger Luffman: “Saddened at the news.”

Bryan Popple: “Very sad to hear the news, rest in peace John. He will never be forgotten.”

Corinne Board: “So sorry to hear of John Day’s death. I have fond memories of going through finds and cataloguing them over weekends at their cottage.”

Andrew Morgan: “John was a special man and it was a privilege to spend time in his company. Many will remember how very persuasive he could be and against my better judgement I felt unable to let him down when unexpectedly he asked me to take on the chair of EDAS.”



John and Della perambulating the walls of Conway - 2010 EDAS Field Trip

Thank you John and Della

Andrew Morgan

Editor’s Notes

I’m sad to have to report on John Day’s passing and also sad that I joined EDAS too late to get to know him. He was clearly a remarkable man and will long be remembered.

Thanks very much to those of you who sent me items that I couldn’t find space for this time – they will appear soon. It’s a pleasure, though, to be able to include Andrew & Lilian’s article on the success of our young friend, **Finn Stileman**, who managed to survive, and even thrive, on the company of the oldies at Druce. Phil D’Eath’s article on **The Greatest non-British Archaeological 'Discoveries'** encourages us to travel in the mind. What do you consider the greatest discoveries? Phil would very much like to hear.

I keep saying thanks to Alan for yet more interesting **Weblinks** and **Highlights** to expand our knowledge, without knowing how many he’s done. I will check back one day, honest. I do know that we’re now on

the 30th of Jo Crane and Sue Newman's photographs in **View from Above**, and that this is the 6th in the series on **Remembering the Romans**.

Do join our Zoom lecture meeting on 9th September about the **Mayans**, and Ian Drummond has sent details of what looks to be really interesting **online conference** in November, from the Norfolk society he was heavily involved with before moving to this area. It's free but you need to register.

Please send feedback and contributions to geoffnsue@hotmail.co.uk
NOT TO THE EDAS ADDRESS OR BY CLICKING 'REPLY'

Geoff Taylor

EDAS ZOOM Lecture Programme 2020

Please be reminded that we are about to start our 2020-2021 season of lectures. As you know, for the remainder of 2020 we will be delivering the talks over the internet via **ZOOM**. You can easily access **ZOOM** using a PC, laptop or smartphone.



We have run a small trial with a number of novices and everybody connected without any problems.

We will send all EDAS members the ZOOM Link ID by email a few days before the event, accompanied by simple instructions about using ZOOM.

Non-members can request the Zoom Link ID from Andrew Morgan, email: andrewmorgz@aol.com

Discovering the Maya with Francis Taylor



Wednesday 9th September

Sign-In: from 7.15 pm

Start Time: 7.30 pm

The Maya have often been described as a mysterious civilisation created by a lost race. In fact, they are not lost at all and there are still about 8 million of them living in the region that they occupied centuries ago. Francis will introduce us to their world and their history based on two of their greatest cities, Tikal and Copan. He will also tell the story of the Mayan creation myth and introduce us to their hieroglyphic script and their complex calendar. He will conclude with an explanation of why their civilisation collapsed. He promises that by the end of the talk we will all speak one word of Mayan!

Archaeology has been a life-long hobby for Francis. Over many years he has participated in excavations around the UK and has also served on various archaeological committees, including CBA (the Council for British Archaeology), CBA Wessex and WAFA (the Wessex Academy for Field Archaeology). Francis regularly gives talk and runs seminars on archaeological subjects.



A special display case at PHM

This bespoke high-specification display case has been specially designed by Armour Systems for the Iron Age TB skeleton at the Priest's House Museum, the Museum of East Dorset. Due to COVID-19, exhibition installations are being completed in an elongated time period to enable the various different companies involved to work safely.

Vanessa Joseph

Finn Stileman – The Druce Years

We are delighted and very proud to learn that Finn Stileman, a young friend of the society, has just graduated from UCL (University College London) with a First Class Honours degree in archaeology, and is about to start a Masters course prior to studying for a PhD. He acknowledges with great pleasure that his participation in the EDAS excavations at Druce villa (2014-18) played a large part in his decision to pursue archaeology as a career.

In 2014, we were asked if Finn could come and try his hand at archaeology. We were slightly dubious at first as he was only 15 years old, but his keen interest in the subject and his enthusiasm/expertise in metal-detecting persuaded us that his presence could be beneficial to all. The fact that many of the volunteers were at least 50 years older than him did not put him off and he politely ignored any eccentric behaviour.



A typical Finn lunch - 2017

Finn excelled at school and for the next three years he continued to spend his summer holidays 'with the old folk at Druce Villa'. He proved to be an incredibly hard worker who soaked up all we could teach him – the metal-detecting came in very handy too! By the time he left us to go to university he had acquired a good understanding of the practicalities and politics of 'life on site'.

We were not surprised to hear that he won the coveted 1st Year Undergraduate prize for archaeology and we were very pleased to welcome him back for our final year on the site in 2018. Finn had just returned from North West Romania where the university had excavated an Early Neolithic settlement and, as it happened, the villa work was complete but we were investigating our own Early Neolithic occupation area. This time we were learning from Finn and the excavation was much enhanced by his presence.

We have sent him our congratulations and best wishes and look forward to following his progress. He has even offered to deliver a talk to EDAS in the near future.

Lilian Ladle and Andrew Morgan

Finn on Site



Photo-1: Clearing back with Len



Photo-2: Digging sections with Janet



Photo-3: Planning with Carole



Photo-4: Examining Neolithic sherds with Geoff



Photo-5: Explaining to Sir Barry Cunliffe



Photo-6: Being embarrassed by Andrew

The Greatest non-British Archaeological 'Discoveries' ever made

Whilst we are still hoping for a further relaxation of the Foreign Office's selective international travel ban, I thought that it might be interesting to draw up a list of a top 12 'greatest' non-UK discoveries over the past four centuries. Not an easy task given the range of factors that can be used to determine what qualifies as 'greatness'.

Anyway, here are my choice of the top 12 discoveries that have significantly added to our knowledge and understanding of humankind, and captivated not only imaginations of archaeologists but also a general public hungry for good news stories and a bit of excitement. They are presented by date of discovery, whilst my own personal order of preference is revealed in the last paragraph. It would be fascinating to know whether EDAS members agree or have their own personal favourites which have not been

included. If there is sufficient interest I would be happy to compile a definitive EDAS 'chart' reflecting the views of members of the society. **Please send your choices to phild2354@gmail.com.**

Pompeii (and Herculaneum), Italy: Roman towns buried under volcanic ash by the explosion of Vesuvius in 79AD, having been founded as settlements around the mid-700s BC. Robbed over the centuries by locals, who dug tunnels through the lava and ash to search for valuable items, Pompeii was 'discovered' in 1592 by Domenico Fontana who was excavating foundations for an underground aqueduct. Formal state excavations began in 1748.



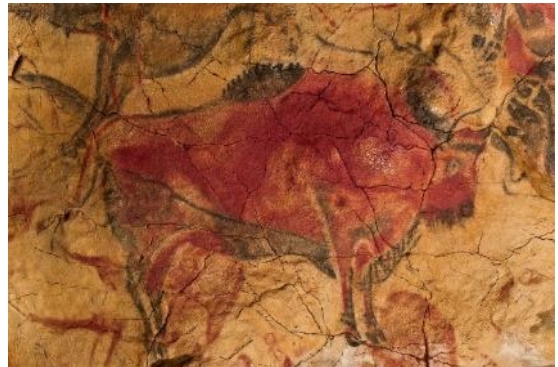
Palenque and Pakal's tomb, Mexico:

Abandoned 'lost' ancient Mayan city founded c.226 BC with ruins buried under soil and jungle undergrowth. Discovered in 1746 by Spanish priest Antonio de Solis. Selected ahead of other 'lost' Mayan sites such as Tikal, Chichen Itza and Copan by virtue of more recent discoveries, including a Jade mask belonging to *Pakal the Great* found during excavations of his undisturbed tomb between 1949/52 by Ruiz L'huiller. The lid from his tomb is shown here.

Rosetta Stone, Egypt: A seemingly unassuming piece of stone faced with carved inscriptions. Found by a French soldier in 1799 during the occupation of Egypt. Importantly provided the key to deciphering ancient hieroglyphics, which hitherto had been unfathomable.

'Tomb of King Priam', Troy, Hisarlik, Turkey: Known to be the location of a Roman City called *Ilium*, it wasn't until the early 1800s that the mound at Hisarlik was identified as the potential location for the Bronze Age Greek City of Troy made famous by Homer in the *Iliad*. Walls are believed to have first been erected between 3000 and 2500 BC. Following discovery in 1865, excavations were subsequently taken on by Heinrich Schliemann in 1868. He discovered the foundations of successive cities on the site as well as the tomb (with impressive grave goods) of what may have been King Priam.

Palaeolithic Cave Drawings, Altamira, Spain: Found by accident by the daughter of Modesto Cubillar in 1868, when a tree fell and disturbed rocks which had blocked the caves 13,000 years ago. Its inclusion in the top 12 ahead of other cave paintings, such as those at Lascaux in France (discovered when a dog called 'Robot' fell into a hole in 1940), is by virtue of its earlier discovery.



Viking ship burial, Oseberg Farm, Tonsberg, Norway:

The ship was buried as part of an assemblage under a mound on a plain in 834 AD. It was discovered by a farmer who took samples of wood he had found to the regional university museum. Excavation by two archaeologists, Haakon Shetelig (Norwegian) and Gabriel Gustafson (Swedish), between 1904 and 1905. Grave goods suggested a royal burial and included, amongst other things, a 4 wheeled cart, 4 sledges, 3 beds, a chair, chests, garments, textiles and other items [see Viking Ship Museum, November 2019].

Tomb of Tutankhamun, Valley of the Kings, Egypt: Although not the largest, nor most ornately decorated, of the royal tombs to be discovered in the valley, this one was unparalleled because of being found largely intact, containing 5,398 items of well-preserved grave goods. Steps were discovered by an Egyptian workman during the latter stages of Howard Carter's attempts to locate and excavate undiscovered royal tombs in the Valley in 1922. The burial dated from 1325 BC with evidence suggesting the young king was only 19 years old when he died.

Tomb of Puabi, Ur, Tell el Muqayyar, Iraq: Ur was an important Sumerian city state in ancient Mesopotamia dating from c.3800 BC, which was identified as such by Henry Rawlinson in 1849 having been lost to the desert. Extensive excavations followed, but it wasn't until the 1920s that Leonard Woolley discovered a royal cemetery with tombs dating from about 2600BC. In 1927 one belonging to an important woman called Puabi was found intact, with high quality and well preserved grave goods, including the head-dress and necklace shown.



Akrotiri, Thera, Greece: A city buried under volcanic ash from a massive eruption between 1600 and 1700 BC, on the island of Thera (Santorini), that all but destroyed the Minoan culture there and on Crete. As a trading port, it had thrived in the 15th century BC. In the 1860s workmen digging for raw materials for the Suez Canal at the site found building remains. It wasn't until



1967 that excavations by Professor Marinatos revealed a city with a standard of preservation of buildings and contents rivalling Pompeii and Herculaneum.

'Lucy', Hadar, Ethiopia: Unexpected discovery of an exposed forearm bone lying in the ground led to excavation in 1974 by Donald Johansen. The skeleton was found to be a 1.3m tall female of the species *Australopithecus Afarensis*, and provided evidence of the earliest known human with clear adaptations to upright walking. Named after the 'in the Sky with Diamonds' track by the Beatles, carbon dating

suggested that she was about 3.2 million years old. A more recently discovered (2019) 'human' skull, also found in Ethiopia, was estimated to be older at 3.8 million years. However, unfortunately, the rest of the skeleton and evidence of its evolutionary relationship to modern humans was missing.

Terracotta warriors, Tomb of Qin Shi Huang, Shaanxi, China: The final resting place of the first emperor of China, who was buried in 210 BC, has been a work in progress for about 36 years. The 'warriors', designed for protection in the afterlife, were first discovered (along with terracotta horses and chariots) by chance during the digging of a well next to Mount Li in 1974. Due to the belief that the rest of the tomb was deliberately flooded with mercury to deter intruders following burial, excavation work of the rest of the site has progressed extremely slowly.

Ötzi the Iceman, Otztal Alps, Hauslabjoch, Italy: Found in 1991, the perfectly mummified body of a male who lived between 3400 and 3100 BC emerged in the Simulain mountains of the Alps on the border between Austria and Italy. The body, and accompanying personal effects, had been covered in snow and ice at the time of death more than 4500 years ago. The discovery provided a previously unimaginable insight into the life and times of a man living in the Chalcolithic (copper) Age in Europe, including the clothes he wore as pictured.



My choice: 12th Rosetta Stone; 11th Lucy; 10th Palenque; 9th Troy; 8th Ur; 7th Viking ship burial; 6th Pompeii and Herculaneum; 5th Akrotiri; 4th Terracotta Warriors; 3rd Cave paintings; 2nd Ötzi the Iceman; 1st Tomb of Tutankhamun.

Phil D'Eath

View from Above No 30: Winkelbury Camp Hill Fort

*Photo by
Sue Newman
and Jo Crane*



Not to be confused with Winklebury, near Basingstoke in Hampshire, Winkelbury Camp overlooks Berwick St. John in Wiltshire (though entering “Winklebury” in Google still gets some references to the Wiltshire site). It sits on a spur of Winkelbury Hill, part of the hill’s 60ha (150 acres) SSSI, with steep slopes except on the south, i.e. where the two offset straight banks and ditches are (some would thus call this a promontory fort). About 500m further south, the plan in Heywood Sumner’s 1913 *Cranborne Chase* shows a ditch across the spur, much reduced by ploughing, which he interpreted as a further defence. The plan also shows a track, or hollow way, running down the slope within the modern line of trees – a route from Rushmore to Berwick St. John. The site is mentioned in early post-conquest charters as ‘Winterburh’, meaning winter camp.

This is classified as a ‘slight univallate hillfort’, one defined by a single, relatively small, line of earthworks, often with a simple entrance formed by a single gap in the ring of banks and ditches. They generally date from the Late Bronze Age to the Early Iron Age (8th to 5th centuries BC), the majority being used for only 150-200 years before being abandoned or reconstructed. Although relatively rare, they are more common in Wessex than elsewhere, and several are included within the fairly high concentration of hillforts across Cranborne Chase.

Winkelbury Camp enclosure is about 380x160m, defined by a bank up to about 2.5m high and outer ditch 4m wide and 2m deep. It covers an overall area variously described as 6 or 7.5ha (almost 19 acres), within which a later bank and ditch encloses 2.5-3ha to the north. The overlapping entrance is fairly unusual, and there seems to have been no attempt to link the ends of these straight ‘cross-dyke’ sections to the U-shaped ditch and bank around the spur, suggesting defence was not the main purpose of the ‘fort’. Similarly, the unusual construction of the U-shaped ditch and bank, apparently done as a series of separate sections with several gaps, suggests a lack of defensive capabilities or simply that the work was unfinished.

The hillfort was partially excavated by Pitt-Rivers in 1881-2, with several sections across the rampart, an examination of the central hollow way and excavation of six refuse pits and a hut circle. The round house seems to have been a fairly standard construction of timber with wattle and daub walls, whilst

finds suggested a fairly long period of, possibly intermittent, occupation or use into the Romano-British period.

Later excavation apparently interpreted the original construction of the straight sections as being from the 6th-5th centuries BC (possibly a cross-ridge dyke, which are often Bronze Age features?), with the later U-shaped bank and ditch from the 2nd-1st centuries BC. I haven't found a date for the bank and ditch cutting off the further end of the spur, although it cuts the U-shaped bank and ditch so is clearly later. Reductions like this in the size of a hillfort aren't common. Overall, it seems that Winklbury Camp does not match many of the features generally described as part of slight univallate hillforts.

Jo Crane/Geoff Taylor

Web Link Highlight August 2020

After however long I have been compiling the weblinks, this month an email about two BBC items included a link to an 'Archaeology' category in their news section that I was totally unaware of.

The link is <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/topics/c1038wnxyy0t/archaeology>

It is well worth a regular visit, but does not contain all items of interest the BBC publishes as some appear under 'Science' or local news.

The links to items on the earliest humans in the Americas includes three links because each gives a different date for the proposed first humans to arrive there. These items are all based on the original paper published in 'Nature', but this is only accessible by subscription. It would seem that the paper is perhaps leading to a conclusion that requires more evidence to move it out of the 'controversial' category.

Experimental archaeology with a difference! The item below should appeal to most of us as combining our pastime and our pleasure.

<https://theconversation.com/we-brewed-an-ancient-graeco-roman-beer-and-heres-how-it-tastes-94362>

I have to admit to feeling sceptical about the app intended to read hieroglyphs, particularly when I read that the image being translated can be 'enhanced' using 'Photoshop'. This seems to open up all sorts of possibilities of either direct misrepresentation, or simply getting the answer you think it should be.

Alan Dedden

August Weblinks

Viking Burial Found Under Norwegian House

<https://www.ancient-origins.net/news-history-archaeology/viking-grave-0013781>

Back Garden Archaeology During Lockdown

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/jul/19/back-garden-archaeology-britons-unearth-artefacts-during-lockdown>

Roman Amphora Found In Spanish Fish Shop

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/jul/23/roman-amphoras-discovered-in-frozen-seafood-shop-in-spain>

Evidence Of Earlier Human Occupation Of The Americas From A Cave In Mexico

<https://www.nature.com/articles/d41586-020-02190-y>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/science-nature/when-did-humans-reach-america-mexican-mountain-cave-artifacts-raise-new-questions-180975385/>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-53486868>

Google Launches Hieroglyphics Translation App

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/technology-53420320>

Earliest Confirmed Case Of Smallpox Found In Viking Era

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/jul/23/researchers-find-earliest-confirmed-case-smallpox-viking-era>

Woolly Mammoth Remains With Some Soft Tissue Intact Found In Siberia

<https://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/woolly-mammoth-excavation-siberia-muscle-sinew-pechevalavato-lake-global-warming-a9637211.html>

Woolly Mammoth Remains Recovered From Lake

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/aug/04/remains-of-10000-year-old-woolly-mammoth-pulled-from-siberian-lake>

Source Of Stonehenge Sarsens Discovered

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/jul/29/archaeologists-discover-source-stonehenge-giant-sarsen-stones>

3,000 Year Old Head May Be Face Of God

<https://www.livescience.com/ancient-clay-head-may-depict-god.html>

Research Shows Bluestones Took Overland Route To Stonehenge

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/news/article-8481339/Stonehenges-huge-blocks-DID-arrive-land-archaeologists-debunk-contesting-theory.html>

Greece Opens Underwater Museum

<https://www.theguardian.com/world/2020/aug/02/parthenon-of-shipwrecks-greece-opens-its-first-underwater-museum>

Lost Viking Waterway Found On Orkney

<https://www.orcadian.co.uk/lost-viking-waterway-revealed/>

Stone Tools Found In Arabia Made Using Same Technique Used By Native Americans

<https://www.dailymail.co.uk/sciencetech/article-8601209/Stone-tools-Arabia-using-technique-created-Native-Americans.html>

4500 Year Old Timber Circles Discovered In Portugal

<https://www.livescience.com/ancient-timber-circles-discovered-portugal.html>

Dinosaur Bones Found On Isle Of Wight

[https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-53738762#:~:text=A%20new%20species%20of%20dinosaur,to%204m%20\(13ft\)%20long.](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-hampshire-53738762#:~:text=A%20new%20species%20of%20dinosaur,to%204m%20(13ft)%20long.)

Detectorists Get Lucky - In Scotland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-scotland-south-scotland-53714864>

And Northern Ireland

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-northern-ireland-53617781>

Earliest European Bone Tools Found At Boxgrove

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-53743766>

Oxburgh Hall Restoration Reveals Tudor And Elizabethan Treasures

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2020/aug/17/restoration-of-norfolk-hall-uncovers-tudor-and-elizabethan-finds-oxburgh-hall>

Earliest British Isles Art Found On Jersey

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-53835146>

- And Thought To Depict Mammoths

<https://www.livescience.com/oldest-artwork-britain.html>

Stone Tools Map Early Homo Sapiens Route Out Of Africa

<https://www.livescience.com/early-humans-out-of-africa-flints.html>

Prehistoric Last Meal: Fossil Marine Reptile Found With Beast In Stomach

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/aug/20/prehistoric-last-meal-fossil-marine-reptile-found-with-beast-in-stomach>

Mummified Animals Digitally Unwrapped

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/stories-53841256>

Lost Medieval Sacristy Found At Westminster Abbey

<https://www.theguardian.com/science/2020/aug/23/lost-medieval-sacristy-uncovered-at-westminster-abbey>

Gold Coin Hoard Found In Israel

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-middle-east-53889695>

Scholar's Notes On Attempt To Decipher The Rosetta Stone Discovered At British Museum

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2020/aug/25/discovery-of-scholars-notes-shine-light-on-race-to-decipher-rosetta-stone>

Dinosaur Footprints Found At Penarth, Wales

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-53893502>

Dinosaur Bone Found On Isle Of Eigg

<https://www.standard.co.uk/news/uk/dinosaur-bone-found-scottish-island-a4533676.html>

Please send your weblinks to Alan Dedden at alan.dedden@gmail.com

REMEMBERING THE ROMANS VI

I ended the last article in this series looking at whether children, especially the very young, were valued, given their considerable under-representation in epitaphs. For the better off, some emotional distance from children might well have come from the common use of wet nurses and from child care being entrusted to slaves. On the other hand, rituals connected with pregnancy and childbirth, as well as the sheer number of protective deities for birth and childhood, suggest children were wanted. What might appear to be indifference in the literature might also be the result of parents following misguided, often downright dangerous, medical advice.

There were, also, conventions and laws to be followed. A baby (for which there's actually no Latin word) was not considered a person until the naming ceremony (*lustratio*) on its 8th day for girls or 9th for boys. There is some evidence that 'personhood' was not perceived in practice until the child was teething, or when walking and talking. Legally, infancy ended at 7, whilst childhood was considered to continue until puberty, legally 12 for females and 14 for males. Showing grief at an infant's funeral was thought inappropriate and no (public) mourning was allowed for those dying before their first birthday, whilst funerals for children (i.e. up to 12/14) were held at night.

It does appear that the night-time funerals were designed so as not to draw attention to the family's loss. I think that this distinction between public and private is the key – the loss of children would probably be mourned as much in Roman times as now, but the law and conventions aimed at that being a private matter. All the same, the very young could be commemorated, as shown in these two epitaphs:

D.M. ELPIS MAT(e)R FILIBVS SVIS
ELPIDIVS QVI VIXIT ANNIS VII
DALMATIVS QVI VIXIT ANNIS VII
SOR(o)R ILL(o)RVM VIXIT DIE XIII
MERITIS

Elpis to her sons – Elpidius who lived 7 years, Dalmatius who lived 7 years (and) to their sister (who) lived 13 days. On the actual epitaph, Meritis seems inserted into 'dead' space, perhaps the child's name or misspelled *meritus*, i.e. deserved, in the sense of meritorious. The letters in brackets are those omitted by the stonecutter. CIL 6.19227

To Julia Beronice who lived 15 days, but with no information about her family or who made the tombstone. It is possible this was originally alongside other family epitaphs. CIL 6.20394 Rome

D.M.
IVLIA BERONICE
VIXIT DIEB. XV

There are also poems mourning the loss of children, both in the literature and as epitaphs, though they tend to be for older children. For example, the poet Martial's verse in the 1st century AD to his daughter Erotion, who was almost 6 years old, and the father to his 13 year old daughter, Corellia Optata, in a verse epitaph from York.

Some of the strongest evidence that ages on tombstones weren't necessarily accurate comes from children. Parents would be better placed than anyone to know their children's ages, so perhaps Elpidius and Dalmatius above were actually both 7, but it may also be that this drew attention to the epitaph for passers-by. Another that caught our attention was one that would have been an even better example of the terrible effects of high mortality in article II, but I don't have the full transcript (it may also demonstrate the primacy of males unless, of course, there were no girls). This shows six boys with ages of 0 years/0 months/40 days, two of 2/0/5 and then ones of 2/0/30, 5/0/10 and 7/0/20. It is hardly credible that all were only days past their birthdays, or that the number of days was always divisible by 5.

The one shown here also lacks credibility, especially as I have several more similar examples.

To Cretonia Evresi aged 4 years, 4 months and 4 days, from her parents. CIL 6.35067 Rome (shortened)

D.M.
CRETONIAE EVRESI...
FECERVNT PARENTES
VIXIT·A·III·M·III·D·III

Perhaps, then, people's ages weren't accurately known in many (most?) cases, and what I might term a 'social age' was used, i.e. one that was roughly right but chosen to emphasise the stage of life. I'll look at this further in considering older ages in future articles.

Geoff Taylor

The Anglo-Saxon Agricultural Revolution in Norfolk

Saturday 14th November 2020

A day online conference to mark the 25th anniversary of the Sedgeford Historical and Archaeological Research Project ('SHARP').

Access to the conference is free but you do need to register. For full details of the day and a link to registration go to:
<https://www.sharp.org.uk/conference>

For more information about SHARP see their website <https://www.sharp.org.uk/>. They'd be very grateful for any donations to enable them to continue their research at Sedgeford: link at bottom of Home page.



Introduction

Sedgeford has emerged as a major site for investigating the agricultural revolution of 'the long 8th century'. This period, between c. AD 650 and 850, saw the consolidation of kingdoms, the rise of the Church, the creation of great estates, an agricultural transformation based on heavy ploughs, open fields, and nucleated villages, and the development of emporia, craftwork, and long-distance trade in prestige goods.

It was a new world of wealth, power, and connections; a world of landlords and warlords, merchants and monks, free men and serfs. It represented the emergence of the medieval order from the 'dark ages' following the fall of the Western Roman Empire.

What is increasingly clear is that changes in eastern Britain mirrored changes in the Carolingian Empire, especially in the coastal zones of north-west Europe. The North Sea, with its ready access to other seas and to estuaries and navigable rivers, was a busy highway for military, economic, and cultural interaction between communities located around the coastal fringe or on connected waterways.

This day conference will review the results of 25 years' work at Sedgeford in the context of new discoveries and changing ideas about the Mid Anglo-Saxon period in a) Norfolk, b) England as a whole, and c) the wider contemporary world.

Summary of conference

9.30-9.45 Welcome and Introduction

9:45- 11.45 Middle Anglo-Saxon Sedgeford

- A Middle Anglo-Saxon Malting Complex
- 'For a quart of ale is a dish for a king': malting, brewing, and beer in Middle Anglo-Saxon Sedgeford and beyond
- An Early Medieval Landscape Transformed
- Questions, Contributions, and Discussion

1200-2.00 Middle Anglo-Saxon East Anglia

- Reflections on 25 Years of Anglo-Saxon Archaeology in East Anglia
- West Norfolk in the Middle Anglo-Saxon Period: changing archaeological approaches and perceptions
- Sedgeford in the Economic Landscape of Middle Anglo-Saxon East Anglia
- Questions, Contributions, and Discussion

3.00-5.00 The Mid Anglo-Saxon World

- The Animal Economy: a zooarchaeological perspective on agriculture and trade in Anglo-Saxon England
- The Final Episode of the Cereals: consumption of bread and beer in pre-Conquest England
- Another country? Regional diversity and the 'Englishness' of Anglo-Saxon Norfolk
- Questions, Contributions, and Discussion

Ian Drummond

ADDITIONS TO AN UN-NAMED UNIVERSITY'S REQUIREMENTS FOR VOLUNTEERS ON SITE

- Supervisors should not be referred to as "master", nor can you claim to be a minion
- Whips are not allowed; in fact, any imitations of Indiana Jones are discouraged
- Singing "hi-ho" whilst using a mattock is frowned upon
- You may not recite Hamlet with any skull that is found (it's insulting to the skull)
- If jewellery is found, you should not call it "my precious"
- Being bitten by an insect does not mean you will become Spiderman
- Making the find of the day, week, or even month will not make you the 'chosen one'
- Do not talk about good places to bury a body in public
- Taking site photos is not an excuse to act like a fashion photographer
- There are better tests to decide if it IS a bone than licking it
- No-one can play 'king of the spoil heap'

EDAS 2020-2021 PROGRAMME

Subject to coronavirus restrictions, 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>

2020			
Wed 9 th September	Zoom Lecture	Francis Taylor	Discovering the Maya Change to programme
Wed 14 th October	Zoom Lecture	Andrew Birley	Recent Excavations at Vindolanda and Revealing Magna Roman Fort
Wed 11 th November	Zoom Lecture	Wayne Bartlett	AD871 - The Year of Nine Battles
Wed 9 th December	Zoom Lecture	Mark Corney	Villas, Churches and Baptisteries
2021			
Wed 13 th January	Lecture	Sophy Charlton	Finding Mesolithic Britain: Biomolecular Approaches to Hunter-Gatherer Archaeology
Wed 10 th February	Lecture	Paul Cheetham	300 Miles in the Footsteps of Vespasian – Lake Farm Roman legionary fortress
Wed 10 th March	Lecture	AGM and members' talk	Keeper's Lodge – Andrew Morgan and Lilian Ladle
Wed 14 th April	Lecture	Mike Allen	The Prehistoric Chalkland Landscape of Stonehenge, Avebury and Dorchester - tearing up the textbooks and starting again
Wed 12 th May	Lecture	Julian Richards	Shaftesbury - Alfred's Town, Alfred's Abbey
EVENTS TO BE RESCHEDULED			
tbd	Tour	Devizes Museum	Led by museum director David Dawson
tbd	Walk	Cranborne Chase	9 mile walk from Martin Green's farm looking at the history of the Chase, led by Alan Dedden
tbd	Day trip	London - Sir John Soane's Museum and the Museum of London (tbc)	Coach trip to visit two of London's Museums

DISTRICT DIARY

Your information is very welcome, especially now
– do let me know of any events or if you hear that groups are re-starting.
ALL EVENTS ARE SUBJECT TO CORONAVIRUS RESTRICTIONS THEN IN FORCE

Tues 27 th October	The origins of our species	Bournemouth University	Annual Pitt Rivers lecture by Prof. Chris Stringer (6:30 for 7:00) – see p.14 May newsletter
Sat 24 th Oct - Sun 1 st Nov	Festival of Archaeology	CBA	Events on the ground – see p.13 June newsletter
Sat 14 th Nov	The Anglo-Saxon Agricultural Revolution in Norfolk	SHARP	One day online conference – see p.12 this newsletter