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East Dorset Antiquarian Society

Charity No: 1171828

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BULLETIN – November 2020

We issued the 4th and last 'Interim Newsletter' in June as the lockdown was easing but now, of course, we're into one again. As I said then, if we did future newsletters between the main monthly ones, they would be called 'Bulletins' (with thanks to Peter Walker). You'll have noticed that I've not numbered this Bulletin because, of course, we're only going to have one, aren't we?

As with the Interim Newsletters, this Bulletin includes more topical and, hopefully, amusing content, but there are several items on the more usual archaeological and historical subjects.

Although we won't need any more Bulletins (!), I would still welcome your contributions, short or long, on anything that you think that readers would be interested to see. EDAS newsletters do find their way to many people beyond the EDAS membership (not least my sister in Australia, who became famous for her lockdown projects earlier in the year. Of course, Australia doesn't now have a general lockdown; rules vary by State, but aren't very restrictive in most areas, so probably no more projects from her.).

An important article in this issue is the summary of Andrew Birley's excellent talk that I wasn't able to include in the last newsletter: **Recent Excavations at Vindolanda and Revealing Magna Roman Fort**. Andrew has sent an update on the monthly lectures: **EDAS ZOOM Lecture Programme 2020/21**. And Vanessa has sent news about a special exhibition of pots curated by Julian Richards, including a virtual gallery tour where you need to book your place: **Virtual Museum celebrates 6000 years of Pots**.

To find out what else is here, read on.

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

Geoff Taylor

LAST CHANCE FOR FREE BOOKS

No-one asked for any of the books offered in the last newsletter, but do let me know if you'd like any and I'll make arrangements to get them to you; otherwise, sadly, they'll be binned:

- Dorset Monograph 6 on R-B Industries in Purbeck, 1987
- Dorset Monograph 7 on Poundbury Excavations Vol 1- Settlements, 1987
- Wessex Archaeology Report 4 on Excavations at County Hall in 1988, 1993
- CBA Research Report 7 on Rural Settlement in Roman Britain, 1966

Recent Excavations at Vindolanda and Revealing Magna Roman Fort: Zoom lecture by Andrew Birley

Andrew represents the third generation of Birleys to work at Vindolanda since his grandfather, Eric, bought the land there in 1929. The Vindolanda Charitable Trust, of which Andrew is the current CEO, was set up in 1970 and, from very humble beginnings, now welcomes around 100,000 visitors to the site and its excellent museum in a normal year. Volunteers wanting to take one of the 400 places in the annual excavations need to move swiftly once places are released; the record for them 'selling out' is about 2 minutes. People come from across the world for their 2 weeks on site. It had been hoped to welcome the 10,000th volunteer amongst events to celebrate the Trust's 50th year but, of course, these have mostly had to be postponed.

Vindolanda is roughly in the middle of the country, 1.5km south of the Wall and right next to the Roman Stanegate, built about 40 years before the Wall to allow rapid movement of troops across the country. The existence of the fort has been known for centuries as its distinctive 'playing card' shape is very visible in the landscape, e.g. as shown in this RAF aerial photograph with the *vicus*, or extramural settlement, to the left. The earliest known photograph, from 1901, shows a cottage close to the site which has now gone. Like many buildings in the area, it may have used stones from Vindolanda or the Wall. John Clayton, from whose family Eric Birley bought the site, bought fort sites and much of the Wall in the mid-late 19th century, stopped the use of Roman materials and removed 'intrusive' buildings. We owe a great deal of what survives to him.



This recent aerial photograph shows just how much has changed after all the work there, not least the extent of the excavated *vicus*, as well as a little of the stunning landscape in the area. This is, basically, the fort built in AD 213, with its subsequent modifications, but there are 8 other forts underneath it, from the first one around AD 85. Each new garrison built a new fort. That brings an amazing depth of archaeology, up to 9m in places; to understand it all will take another hundred years or more. What none of this shows is the people who inhabited the fort(s) and the *vicus*; the real reason for excavating. We have learnt a great deal about them because of the anaerobic conditions that have preserved everyday objects in numbers and types only rarely found on other sites. Of course, the most famous of these objects are the 'Vindolanda tablets'.

The tablets give a unique insight into the people at Vindolanda and their lives, information that simply isn't available anywhere else and without any historical bias. This is a very recent one, after it has been preserved and the writing 'brought out', no small tasks in themselves; nor is deciphering them without its difficulties. It's from Masculus of the 1st Cohort of Tungrians (from modern Belgium), to his commanding officer, Julius Verecundus, asking for leave for 5 of his men. This is an early tablet as Verecundus was the first commanding officer at Vindolanda c.85-92.



Their current 5-year project, started in 2018, aimed to focus mainly on the Severan fort, initially in an area just NW of the final fort, north of the excavated *vicus*. The Severan fort, or perhaps 'fortlet', lasted for just a few years from c.208, and was unusual in having 'British' roundhouses inside its walls. This area contained Smiths Chesters farmhouse, shown on the earliest, 17th century, map of the fort and presumably built with Roman stone. It was cleared by John Clayton but its construction had badly damaged that part of the 3rd century *vicus*, though a Roman gaming board was found there.



This was by the main drain from the bathhouse, but the latrine outlet nearby provided more information from what seems an unpromising source. Soil samples showed fauna originating in human hosts, particularly tapeworm remains. Techniques are now such that the regional origins of these can be determined, here showing people from Gaul and from as far away as Rome. Perhaps even more surprisingly, human DNA can be extracted from tapeworm eggs, giving information about the gender and ethnicity of the people using the toilets.



Much of this area was difficult to excavate because of flooding, not least where several of the earlier fort ditches coincide, as they still funnel the water. This does, though, make for excellent preservation, and a small bronze hand of Jupiter Dolichenus that needed little cleaning came from close to his temple that had been inside the fort. These were used to give blessings and often 'sacrificed', from evidence around the Empire, though this is the first from Britain. Nearby, the remains of a wicker basket



contained 3 Roman keys, and it is interesting to speculate as to how these came to be there.

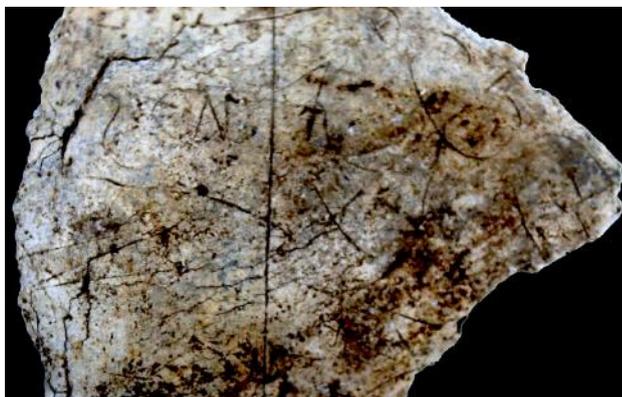
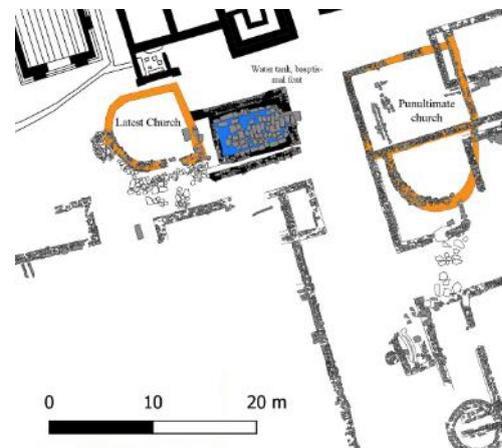
The Antonine period fort was on much the same orientation as the final fort, but its ditches were 4-5m lower. Despite a huge effort shoring up the land over earlier ditches, including large oak beams, it was clear that the ground had subsequently sagged. Discoveries included a small and very battered temple that had had its own hypocaust. Of course, with the fairly frequent demolition and rebuilding by the next garrison, such buildings often lasted only 10 or 15 years. A military diploma dated AD 156-8 came from the Antonine ditch, as well as a set of 4 heavy hipposandals used to protect horses' hooves and provide extra traction. Tooth isotope analysis on a human skull and maxilla from this period showed it was a fairly local lad, though why he was here will remain a mystery.

Exciting finds continued to come out as the excavations went lower, including perfectly preserved oak tent pegs (they were clearly not recycled) and an oak pipe that was still carrying water, preserved textiles, a spoon and even the remains of a clock. The various items of military kit included many well preserved boots and shoes, for which Vindolanda is rightly famous; that shown is a late 1st/early 2nd century military boot with lattice work. Digging was obviously now reaching the levels of some of the earliest forts, where the turf defences remain clearly visible. This area had been abandoned around AD 105 as it was eroding from constant flooding.



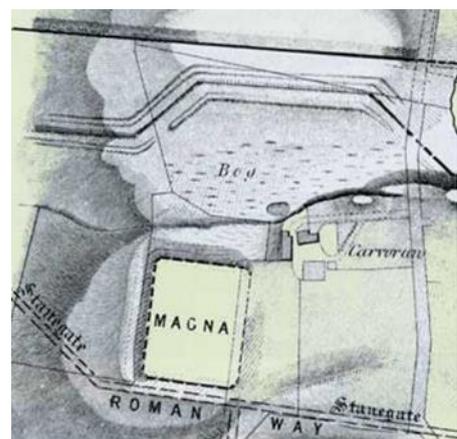
This was exactly the problem facing the excavators in 2019, when continued rainfall made excavation impossible and it was decided to start excavations inside the SW quarter of the fort. This is the area where there are the remains of roundhouses and where all the 9 forts coincide. It has evidence of continued occupation up the 9th century and mounds which looked almost monastic.

Work started with stripping by hand as the highest archaeology is close to the surface, and walls started to emerge almost immediately, including part of a Christian church, a 4th century warehouse, drains and a pool. Within just a few weeks structural sequences were being found of buildings on top of each other, including another Christian church, and this was really just scratching the surface. The churches were clear, not just because of their apsidal ends but also from the artefacts found in and around them. The most significant of these was a Christian chalice, probably earlier than the 6th century church in date, found by an Australian nurse. Although in 10 pieces, it contained an amazing amount of Christian iconography, including a depiction of a bishop. This is the only chalice known from Western Europe from this period.



When excavations can resume it's hoped that more of the Christian community will be found in the quadrant behind the church, perhaps showing the importance of Vindolanda to the Celtic Church before the Synod of Whitby in 664.

Magna Fort, about 10km to the west, was bought by the Trust in 1973 and intended as a site for future investigation (for more information see June 2020 Interim Newsletter No. 4, p.12). Like Vindolanda, it's on the Stanegate but only 150m south of Hadrian's Wall. The 17th century map clearly shows the mysterious kink in the Vallum, cut through bedrock here. The bog between fort and Vallum formed after the Romans left and continued until very recently, when it began to shrink.



This may seem counter-intuitive in such a wet place, but longer dry spells mean some of the peat dries out and is then washed away by the next rains. Much has been lost in the last 2 decades, greatly reducing the chances of well-preserved finds like those from Vindolanda, so that excavation work now needs to start soon. This will, at least, provide more opportunities for volunteers!

This is the base for one of Roman Britain's most exotic units: Syrian archers, who are known to have been here in the Roman period, as recorded on an altar found there. An inscription from Magna to a

Syrian goddess is the only poetry to have been found along the Wall. Perhaps the best illustration of what may be lost is this perfectly preserved bronze bucket that was found by a postman walking across the fields between his deliveries. He had used the closed top as a step to cross a wall for some time, before deciding to look more closely and pulling it out.



The Trust is, of course, a charity and its income has suffered greatly over this year. They need money to start rescue archaeology at Magna, and are aiming for £50,000 to fund just one year; having reached over halfway so far, Andrew is hopeful that they can reach that target. And if you have £50,000 to give, Andrew's dream of having a buffer for 2 years could come true. Please do look at the Vindolanda website, where you can make a donation but also read and download a great deal of fascinating information, including some learned articles: <https://www.vindolanda.com/>

Geoff Taylor

*If you read the Sunday Times you may well have seen the full articles from which I've extracted the pieces on Altruism and, further down, **Cafés and bars are more important to the economy than you might think**. You may disagree with the points they make, but I (Geoff) believe they are worth thinking about.*

Altruism

It seems likely that not one single person in this country has obeyed all the coronavirus rules all of the time. Did you really wash your hands religiously every time you should or never get within 2m of someone without wearing a mask? It is, though, surprising just how much compliance there has probably been. Can we see this as an outbreak of altruism?

Auguste Comte coined the term 'altruism' in the 19th century as the opposite of egotism; it's the desire to help others irrespective of the benefit to ourselves. That raises the question of whether there really is such a thing as a selfless act? We can certainly see something like altruism in the natural world where, for example, a bee gives up its life to protect the hive.

That suggests that altruism actually relates to balancing the harm to yourself against the benefit to someone or thing that you care about. In fact, an equation called Hamilton's Rule determines how likely a trait is to be favoured by natural selection, balancing the harm to the individual against the benefit to others and to how closely related to the individual those others are.

The government is asking you to act to help people close to you, but mostly to benefit lots of people that you will never know. Clearly that benefit, i.e. not to have a raging pandemic, is huge, but what about the cost to ourselves in acting altruistically? The 'cost' of washing your hands or wearing a mask is quite small, but what about things that damage people more, such as being unable to see close relatives or losing your job? The 'equation' of cost and benefit is always there.

The government's role in enforcing rules is important, but so too is our own sense of responsibility to the wider community or, indeed, not wishing to be seen to act irresponsibly. It's also often thought that 'altruism' is actually because acting properly makes us feel good. In fact, an MRI scanner will show our satisfaction sensors 'light up' when we behave well.

Perhaps, then, supposed altruism isn't really anything to do with personal morality. In the current situation it really doesn't matter why we act 'altruistically', or responsibly, just as long as we do.

Stig Abell

Place Names Quiz

For each pair of place names, only one is real (in UK) – but which is it? Answers further down.

- 1 A : World's End B : HellonEarth
- 2 A : Bargodbraichbriwbryncyncarrogloddiaucrifollynwynysgwydd
B : Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlllantysiliogogoch
- 3 A : Ouch B : Pity Me
- 4 A : Bopeafield B : Greensplat
- 5 A : Tittleshill B : Boobery
- 6 A : Salt Earth B : Greedy Gut
- 7 A : Nomansland B : Merry England
- 8 A : Great Snoring B : Wokenwell
- 9 A : Three Legged Cross B : Four Hand Crossing
- 10 A : Cows Dance B : Cattle Wood
- 11 A : Sheepwash Pond B : Fleecewell Lakes
- 12 A : Barrons Hill B : Biggleswade
- 13 A : Crackpot B : Ficklefigs
- 14 A : Roger Moor B : Connery Hill
- 15 A : Zennor B : Bree
- 16 A : Yield Hill B : Mercy in the Bottom
- 17 A : Koom Valley B : Glen Cune
- 18 A : Egypt B : Persia
- 19 A : Pretty Hill B : Ugley
- 20 A : Sargent's Coppice B : Corporal Woods
- 21 A : Barton in the Beans B : Mudchester in the Whey
- 22 A : Ringando B : Knockando
- 23 A : Coffee Pot B : Tea Station
- 24 A : Knockturn Lake B : Knockburn Loch
- 25 A : Jumpers Common B : Leapers Lake

Some of the ostensibly rude places in Dorset

DO NOT READ IF EASILY OFFENDED

Shitterton, at the edge of Bere Regis, stands out for the coy attempt at renaming it to Sitterton in the Victorian period. The name comes originally from Old English *scite*, or 'dung', from the stream running through it being used as a toilet. Partly to stop the hamlet's signboards being stolen, the inhabitants paid for a 1½ ton engraved block of Purbeck stone to proudly display the name, firmly concreted into the ground.

Shitterton's stream runs into the River Piddle, meaning 'to urinate', though that is quite possibly not the real derivation. Piddle is seen in a number of names but, again, sometimes changed to Puddle; some say the derivation may mean it was Puddle that changed to Piddle.



Scratchy Bottom is a valley near Durdle Door, Happy Bottom a nature reserve near Corfe Mullen and Burnt Bottom is a valley east of Beaminster. Unfortunately, no one knows which Mary gave her name to

Aunt Mary's Bottom, not far from Burnt Bottom. Pulham Down is said to be near Sherborne but I've not found it, whilst Shaggs is a hamlet just to the north of Lulworth Castle. Droop is a hamlet southwest of Sturminster Newton and Marnhull has a Sodom Lane, but I've not been able to find the derivation. Furze appears in many places though it's only rude in German, where it means fart.

Sadly, Sandy Balls is just in Hampshire; the name comes from 'sandyballas' – sand and gravel outcrops – which first appeared on maps around 1500. You may have seen the Dacia car adverts where place names like Wetwang and Brokenwind are hidden in different ways; these are all real names of places in Britain.

The initial idea to include the Dorset interest items that appear from time to time, like that above, was a piece in 'The Little Book of Dorset' (David Hilliam, 2010, The History Press). However, I quickly found that there's often a lot more that's of interest than is in the book and that the 'facts' need to be checked anyway: e.g. the book misses Winterborne Zelston in looking at the various Winterborne and Tarrant place names (March 2020 newsletter).



How ancient stores show that ley lines really exist (honest)

My apologies to Alan for usurping his position as the purveyor of interesting websites, but I couldn't resist this when I came across it by accident. It's a summary of an article by Keith Fitzpatrick-Matthews at the website given below.

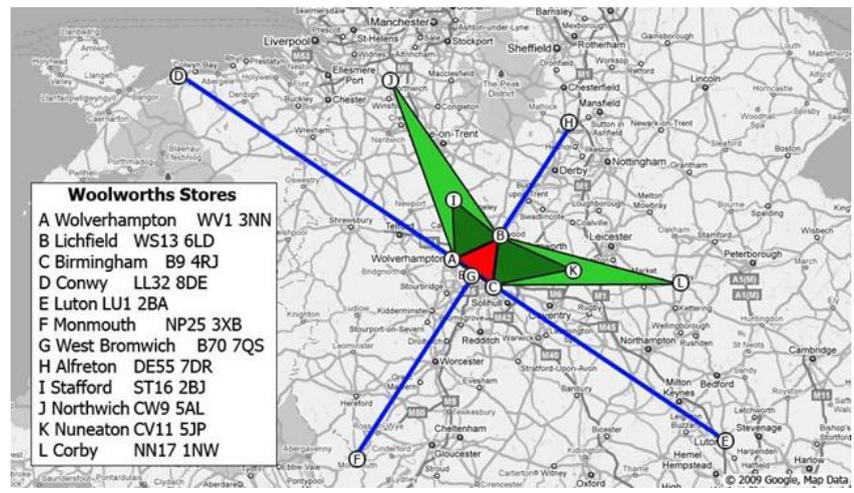
If you've met Keith, as I did several times a decade or more back, about the time the original article was written, you might have thought that he was a flaky 'New Age' type, with his shaved head, large ear piercings and collection of interesting T-shirts. His enthusiasm is boundless, but it's enthusiasm for proper archaeology and he loves to debunk the fringe theories about aliens and so on. He is based in Hertfordshire and responsible, amongst many things, for the definitive book on the archaeology of Hitchin and the publication of excavations at the Romano-British 'small town' at Baldock.

Apparently a person called Tom Brooks, described as an 'independent researcher' (=pseudoscientist), identified a series of aligned ancient sites that he claimed was evidence for a crude, prehistoric 'satnav'. This, of course, takes us back to Watkins' *The Old Straight Track* (1925) and ley lines. Brooks' results were reported in several places, including even *The Telegraph*, and moved mathematician Matt Parker (a real mathematician) to do his own research.

He chose the locations of the ancient stores known to archaeologists as Woolworths, ancient as the last one in Britain had closed a year or so earlier. They were, of course, weird enough to have some sort of mystical significance, with their affordable items for impulse purchases that had no business being together. As Keith put it “these were once quasi-religious sites best known for the provision of a mystical substance called broken biscuits”; certainly a place for me and my teenage friends to hang out on bored, wet Saturdays in the olden days.



Amazingly, Matt found that three Woolworths stores in the Birmingham area were positioned in a perfect equilateral triangle. Not only that, but these three aligned to five others in a cross shape. A bit more work showed that four others fitted into a meaningful pattern of isosceles triangles. How could that be explained unless it was directed by some higher intelligence?



Well, it’s explained by the fact that these are just 12 locations chosen from a set of 800, i.e. it ignores most of the data. That’s just what those who claim they’ve found ley lines do; Tom Brooks used 1500 sites, some clearly ancient and many just claimed to be. Even when they were ancient, they came from different periods or were of different types. Of course, the odds against these alignments are said to be ‘astronomical’ when, with that sort of choice and approach, they’re pretty much certain to occur. And if you look more closely you’ll often find that ley lines don’t quite pass through the centres of the sites, or just go through part of what is quite a large area.

The original article, worth reading for the links, is at: <https://badarchaeology.wordpress.com/2010/01/17/mysterious-ancient-stores-as-evidence-for-lines-of-earth-energy/>.

The ‘Bad Archaeology’ website has lots of interesting articles

Geoff Taylor

Links for Lockdown (with thanks to *Agnieszka Moukhine*)

Smithsonian online magazine with many interesting articles
<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/history/archaeology/>

Vatican digital collections <https://digi.vatlib.it/> – some wonderful items, though information about them is somewhat limited and indexing not always great. Perhaps one for more serious research.

For those with an artistic bent, take a look at the Turnip Prize finalists [HERE](#). I dare you not to smile.



EDAS ZOOM Lecture Programme 2020/21



Dear Members,

Our decision to broadcast our season of talks over the internet via Zoom has proven to be very successful in many ways. A key objective of the society is to promote an interest in our heritage, and from the beginning we recognised the opportunity of working with other societies. We have mutual agreements to share talks with the Avon Valley Archaeology Society (AVAS) and the Shaftesbury and District Archaeology Group (SDAG):

- **AVAS** on the first Wednesday of the month
- **SDAG** the second Tuesday of the month
- **EDAS** second Wednesday of the month

We also promote the EDAS talks with the Wareham and District Local History and Archaeology Society, the Bournemouth Natural Science Society (BNSS) and with the Bournemouth University students' Archaeology, History and Anthropology Society, and we have a growing list of guests who have shown an interest.

Our audience has been very impressive with between 80 and 90 people for our last two talks. Many people reported that they found using Zoom to be very easy and that they enjoyed the shared experience even though it is over the internet. A number of people who can't attend our normal meetings in person are grateful for the opportunity to keep in contact, including members and friends of the society from all over Dorset and even across the border in Devon and Somerset. We have easy-to-follow instructions for newcomers.

We recognise that some members have not participated, for whatever reason, and we look forward to the day we can reconvene at St Catherine's Hall and meet again in person.

Please make a note in your diary for our next Zoom meeting on Wednesday 9th December with our good friend Mark Corney entitled "**Villas, Churches and Baptisteries**" about the impact of Christianity on the later Roman period. The perfect Christmas talk.

Keep well,
Andrew Morgan



This is Buddy , I bought him as a surprise present for my husband but it turns out he's allergic to dogs . So unfortunately I'm going to have to find a new home for him , and I'm just wondering if anyone out there can help ? . His name is Alan, he's 61, great at DIY, drives a nice car and plans wonderful holidays.

Virtual Museum celebrates 6000 years of Pots

The oh-so-humble pot has contributed so much to our knowledge of the past. Throughout the ages, pots have been used for cooking, serving and storage. Plain and serviceable or highly decorated objects of beauty, they tell so much about cultures and societies that have gone before. Not so humble after all!

Julian Richards has curated a special exhibition for the Museum of East Dorset, entitled '*A Potted History of British Ceramics - 6000 years of ceramics, from prehistory to the present*'. The exhibition is part of the museum's Revival Project, funded by the National Lottery Heritage Fund.

Suffice to say, the exhibition looks fantastic but thanks to lockdown it is not possible to visit the museum until further notice.



Julian will be giving a **Virtual Gallery Tour** on Thursday 26th November at 6.30. If you wish to participate (and ask Julian questions as well), please book your place. Tickets are £5.00 from the Museum of East Dorset web site at <https://museumofeastdorset.co.uk/events/>

where you might be interested in MED's other events.

(the new website is being debugged so try a little later if you can't connect at first)

There will be an opportunity for 20 people to join Julian in a Zoom Q&A. If you are interested, please follow the instructions on the booking page and **add "zoom" in the additional info box**. Those selected will be notified by email.

Do YOU have a pot with a story?

Do you still have the pot in which your grandmother cooked your favourite meal or a pot in which you keep something that is very precious to you? In celebration of this modest but important artefact, we would love EDAS members to contribute to an online exhibition, either by submitting a photograph of a favourite pot and its accompanying story, or simply keeping an eye on the museum's social media in the coming weeks and "liking" your favourite pots.

All you have to do is email a photo of your pot and explain why it's special to you (max 100 words) to: events@museumofeastdorset.co.uk. You can include your name to run alongside it or remain anonymous if you prefer. The pots and their stories, along with a selection from the museum, will form an exhibition on social media [#potswithstories](https://www.facebook.com/potswithstories).

Even if you don't have a pot and story of your own, you can still take part by visiting the exhibition on Facebook, Instagram or twitter and liking and commenting on your favourite images. It'll be pots of fun!

Vanessa Joseph

Cafés and bars are more important to the economy than you might think

In the early 1970s the tech sector firms in Massachusetts were big, highly profitable and looked set to dominate the future. Silicon Valley was just a few small companies in the midst of former apricot farms. Yet by 2000 those small start-ups had created too many new technologies to list and most of the East Coast companies had gone bust. Why remains something of a mystery.

In the book *Regional Advantage*, sociologist AnnaLee Saxenian reckons she has the answer, and it lies in the bars, clubs and noodle joints that sprang up in the Valley. This wasn't about the brilliance of the people or the organisation of the companies, but about how innovation comes about, and she thinks it revolves around hospitality.

Whilst governments don't curtail hospitality venues lightly, and typically look for schemes to recompense them and their supply chains, they're not seen as vital in the same way as, say, electricity. Yet Saxenian sees them as just as vital, if somewhat more subtly. In 1983, Tom Wolfe wrote an article about the new venues constantly springing up in the Valley, where the 'techies' would go after work to have a drink, gossip, brag and trade war stories – to talk about hundreds of incomprehensible (to us) things like phase jitters, burst modes and PCMs. These 'mere' social venues were provoking the cross-pollination of ideas, and encounters between engineers, entrepreneurs and financiers.

Saxenian argues that it was ever thus, such as in the social clubs of the Scottish Enlightenment or the coffee houses of 19th century Vienna. Steve Wozniak came up with the idea for the Apple microcomputer after visiting the Homebrew computer club, where hobbyists congregated around a few beers. This simply didn't happen in Massachusetts where the companies were strung out miles apart along route 128; ideas circulated, but only within each firm.

So isn't that terribly similar to what is happening here and now, where people work at home, or go straight home or meet on Zoom, leaving ghost towns of the bars of the City, the tech hubs north of St Pancras, and their equivalents in Manchester, Edinburgh, and so on? It's obviously a real conundrum, since the physical proximity that allowed ideas to circulate is the same proximity that allows viruses to spread.

The move to working much more at home and remotely can, to a large extent, replicate the basic functions of centralised workplaces. People can do administration, meet over the internet and make or take phone calls. There are many benefits to companies in reducing costs and to workers in improved quality of life. Productivity may well improve, at least in the short term, but the victim is innovation; much more important in the longer term.

The final sentence of the original article is "when we curtail our sociality, we curtail our humanity". It isn't difficult to see how this could well be true – relating to the evolutionary view that we developed larger brains to deal with increasing social contacts (or is it the other way round?). What this doesn't tell us is how to solve the problem.

Matthew Syed

Did you know that ammonites are named after the Egyptian ram-headed god, Ammon (there are various spellings of the god's name)?



Place Name Quiz Answers

The real places in the UK are in **bold** according to the quiz I found. I've looked for them, as below.

- | | | | |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 | A : World's End | B : HellonEarth | Several places such as hamlet in West Berkshire, but there's a Hell on Earth in Michigan |
| 2 | A : Bargodbraichbriwbryncyncarrogloddiaucrifollynwynysgwydd | B : Llanfairpwllgwyngyllgogerychwyrndrobwlilllantysiliogogoch | Anglesey of course |
| 3 | A : Ouch | B : Pity Me | A village in County Durham |
| 4 | A : Bopeafield | B : Greensplat | In Cornwall, near St Austell |
| 5 | A : Tittleshill | B : Boobery | In Devon, SW of Taunton |
| 6 | A : Salt Earth | B : Greedy Gut | E. Yorkshire, near Spurn Head |
| 7 | A : Nomansland | B : Merry England | New Forest in Wiltshire & near Tiverton, Devon |
| 8 | A : Great Snoring | B : Wokenwell | Norfolk (Little Snoring is bigger),
Wokenwell is a fictional Yorkshire town from TV |
| 9 | A : Three Legged Cross | B : Four Hand Crossing | Too obvious |
| 10 | A : Cows Dance | B : Cattle Wood | Can't find this – does anyone know? |
| 11 | A : Sheepwash Pond | B : Fleecewell Lakes | Barnet, Guildford, Prestwood in Chilterns, etc. |
| 12 | A : Barrons Hill | B : Biggleswade | Bedfordshire, but they got this 'wrong' as there IS a village called Barrons Hill near Newry |
| 13 | A : Crackpot | B : Ficklefigs | Swaledale, N. Yorkshire |
| 14 | A : Roger Moor | B : Connery Hill | NW of Colne, Lancs., where I (Geoff) was born |
| 15 | A : Zennor | B : Bree | North coast of Cornwall,
Bree is a village in Tolkien's <i>Lord of the Rings</i> |
| 16 | A : Yield Hill | B : Mercy in the Bottom | A valley near Horsham |
| 17 | A : Koom Valley | B : Glen Cune | Northumberland, about 13km east of Carlisle,
Koom Valley is from Terry Pratchett's <i>Discworld</i> |
| 18 | A : Egypt | B : Persia | South Buckinghamshire,
the US has a Persia in New York State & in Iowa |
| 19 | A : Pretty Hill | B : Ugley | A village in Essex north of Stansted |
| 20 | A : Sargent's Coppice | B : Corporal Woods | A wood near Stratford-on-Avon |
| 21 | A : Barton in the Beans | B : Mudchester in the Whey | A hamlet in Leicestershire |
| 22 | A : Ringando | B : Knockando | On the River Spey east of Inverness |
| 23 | A : Coffee Pot | B : Tea Station | Can't find this – does anyone know? |
| 24 | A : Knockturn Lake | B : Knockburn Loch | A loch about 30km SE of Aberdeen |
| 25 | A : Jumpers Common | B : Leapers Lake | Outskirts of Christchurch of course |

Wife: Did I get fat during quarantine?
 Husband: You weren't really skinny before.
 Time of death: 11:05pm.
 Cause: Covid.

Ships don't sink because of the water around them; they sink because of the water that gets inside them. Try not to let what's happening around you get inside and weigh you down.