# East Dorset Antiquarian Society

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# NEWSLETTER – May 2022

## Editor's Notes

All of a sudden, or so it seems to me, we've reached the last newsletter of the 'season' yet again, before we go into our summer break after the May lecture. I do, though, aim to send out a 'midsummer' newsletter in July.

This month's lecture is on *Zoom* as our speaker is in York – that's Dr. Jim Leary of the University of York to tell us about the Vale of Pewsey Project, particularly their investigation of a henge and the excavation of a long barrow. The lecture will be at 7:30 on Wednesday 11th May, and Andrew will send out the joining instructions a few days beforehand.

Vanessa has provided an excellent summary of the April lecture by Denise Allen – **Roman Glass in Britain**. She is only sorry that space didn't allow her to include more of the fabulous items that Denise showed.

Andrew has sent an article summarising a visit to a Dorset church, relevant to the ongoing research on the Wimborne All Hallows project: **Churches of Dorset - St Andrew's Church, Winterborne Tomson**.

And Alan has provided the third of his follow-ups to Leonard Baker's lecture on the history of Cranborne Chase: **'The Most Riotous, Unprincipled Men' – The Main Characters, Part 1**. Following that are Alan's **Weblinks** and the month's **Weblink Highlights**.

The article **Phoenician shipwrecks off the coast of Southern Spain** was kindly provided by Phil D'Eath a couple of months ago whilst I was away, so my apologies to him for the delay in including it.

'View from Above' continues with the 45th in the series, on **Rotherley Wood**, and there's the second in the new series of **From the Archives**.

Finally, as well as the **Programme** and **District Diary**, there's a page listing the planned **Lecture Programme 2022-23** starting in September.

With my best wishes to everyone for a good summer and my hopes that the weather co-operates.

***Geoff Taylor***

## Roman Glass in Britain – Lecture by Denise Allen

"The properties of glass, neither solid nor true liquid, make it one of the most versatile materials manufactured by humankind. It has been described as a fourth state of matter: a super-cooled liquid, completely fluid at high temperatures, flowing less and less as it cools, until it becomes strong enough to hold its shape for centuries". Denise Allen *Roman Glass in Britain*.

Denise began her lecture by raising two points. Firstly, that glass fragments and complete vessels are less common on Romano-British excavations than one might expect (this was certainly true when EDAS members excavated the Druce Farm Roman Villa site). The reason is that glass was often recycled. Although small fragments of vessels have been recovered from various sites, and window glass has been found in villa bathhouses, it seems that most complete objects usually come from burials, where glass vessels were either re-used as cremation urns or included as grave goods. The second point is that the most complete and exquisite Roman glass vessels are found in museums.

**The Radnage Bowl (Bucks), found 1923 with a 1st century cremation burial. © British Museum**

**The invention of glass**

In ancient times, the main components of glass were fine sand (silica) and soda, either from natural desert deposits of natron or soda-rich plants such as Salicornia. Lime (from limestone or occasionally seashells) was used as a hardener. When Pliny the Elder described glass in his *Historia Naturalis*, he wrote about a discovery which had been made about 3,000 years earlier. The 'cradle of civilisation' (now Iraq and Syria) was the most likely birthplace of the glass industry, between 3000 and 2500 BC, and the first vessels were made around 1500 BC.

**Active trade in raw glass materials**

There is little evidence of early primary glassmaking, as most glass tank furnaces found (mainly in Israel and Egypt) date from the 2nd century AD onwards. However, we know what the furnaces produced. The Uluburun Late Bronze Age shipwreck *c.* 1300 BC revealed cakes of glass (right) weighing a total of 350 kilos in four colours, as well as amphorae containing glass beads.

The contents of another shipwreck found in Embiez, France (lost at the beginning of the 3rd century AD) strongly suggest the existence of a stable, long-term source of semi-finished products, and the western world's dependence on glass manufacturers/primary suppliers located along the Mediterranean coasts, mainly in the Levant and Egypt. The Embiez shipwreck represents a unique example of the westward redistributive trade in raw glass materials, such as those shown left.

**Glass in Britain**

The earliest glass in Britain was in the form of imported beads, or occasionally bangles, found in Bronze Age contexts, followed by both imported and manufactured beads during the Iron Age. When glass blowing was invented in the middle of the 1st century BC, glass vessels became cheap, practical and decorative alternatives to pottery and metal. Glass was waterproof and did

not taint its contents. It was recyclable. In fact, its only fault was that it easily shattered when exposed to sudden stress.

**Iron Age glass bead *c*. 250-50BC**
**© Museum of London**

There is limited evidence of glass vessels in use in Britain pre-AD 43. Where found, these have consisted of mould blown imports from the Mediterranean, recovered from both settlement and burial sites. The glass blowing revolution coincided with the expansion of the Roman Empire. Local availability of raw materials was no longer an issue as ingredients could be shipped inwards and finished articles traded out. Simple glass vessels and window glass started to be produced in Roman Britain in the second half of the 1st century.

Angela Wardle, in her book *Glass working on the margins of Roman London*, discussed the evidence for secondary furnaces where glass waste was recycled and worked into new vessels. Evidence of Roman glass working (melting of glass and blowing of vessels) comes in the categories of furnaces, glass melting ceramic crucibles and glass waste. Evidence of Roman glass working has been confirmed from excavations at 22 Roman towns or military bases, and one rural site near Frome in Somerset. It ranges from fragments of crucibles, to quantities of glass waste, to remains of furnaces at Mancetter and Leicester.

Glass vessels reached Roman Britain as personal possessions through the movement of troops and administrators and their households, whilst many arrived through organised trade. The finer wares came mainly from the continent – Italy, the Rhineland and Northern France.

**Few illustrations of Roman glass furnaces survive. However, this 1st century AD pottery lamp from Slovenia shows a seated figure apparently blowing glass. Today, Denise works closely with 'The Roman Glassmakers', Mark Taylor and David Hill, who use modern technology and experimental archaeology, and have made a major contribution to the understanding of Roman glass working.**

**Different styles of Roman glass**

During the early years of the Roman invasion, imported vessels were of very bright colours, created by adding metallic oxides. Decoration consisted mainly of patterns of colour in the glass such as deep blue, emerald green, dark brown, purple, amber, peacock and opaque red. Lead antimonate yellow proved particularly runny and difficult to manage; this colour went out of fashion by the 2nd century.

**The casting method was used to produce open forms such as bowls, dishes and plates. Often, elaborate polychrome decoration was used, resulting from various composite patterns of rod-sections and strips of glass fused together (*millefiori*).**

Strong bright colours disappeared after AD 70 to be replaced by colourless and pale green tinted glass. This may have been due to a change in technology or it may have been dictated by fashion. Pliny wrote in his *Historia Naturalis* that "the most highly valued glass is colourless and transparent, as closely as possible resembling rock crystal".

As the fourth century AD progressed, there was a marked decline in the range and quality of glassware produced in Britain. More yellow-green and olive-green glass was used, often with visible impurities. Elaborate cut decorations disappeared and cruder decorations of applied coloured blobs appeared. The markets and trade routes of the glass makers were destroyed. Many of the skills went back to Byzantium and were lost to Western Europe until the Renaissance period.

**An elaborate form of mould-blown cup with two-frieze chariot race made of blue-green glass, from Colchester. © British Museum**

**Fragments found at Vindolanda 1974, 1992 and 2007. Late 2nd /early 3rd century, enamel paint.**

**Elaborate cutting techniques can be seen in this magnificent 12cm high cage cup, found November 2020 in a 4th century tomb in *Augustodunum* (Autun), France. Almost the entire outer surface was cut and ground away, leaving an outer patterned network cage joined to the main body only by narrow bridges of glass. Only a few fragments of such cups have been found in Britain.**

**Engraved decorations are not always easy to see and details often appear clearer on drawings. Here, candlelight is used to show off the beautiful freehand engraving on the 4th century Wint Hill Bowl (Ashmolean Museum).**

### A few words on window glass

Thanks to the British climate, windows were often glazed. Widespread production of square windows began during the first century AD. It is likely that molten glass was poured into a tray and tools used to push the glass to the sides and into the corners (left picture below). Window glass was 'matt-glossy' in appearance. After about AD 300, window glass was blown (right hand picture). This 'muff' process was still widely used for windows until the 19th century.

**Examples of late Roman high iron, manganese and titanium glass.**

More of the cargo from the Embiez shipwreck, now identified as domed windows for bathhouses, using the same technology as for glass bowls.

The women's baths, Herculaneum, with *in-situ* window glass.

**Writer's note.** Glass gave Roman craftsmen the perfect medium with which to experiment and innovate. I have always loved glass as a decorative material but had never truly appreciated its wonders and versatility. Denise showed that glass can be moulded, pinched or stretched when hot and engraved, cut or painted when cold. This article only pulls out a few of the fine examples of Roman glass which were shown in the presentation, and relies heavily on Denise's book for the facts.

***Vanessa Joseph***

## Churches of Dorset - St Andrew's Church, Winterborne Tomson

St Andrew's church, Winterborne Tomson, is a special place; to paraphrase Pevsner it is "a gem which fulfils all one's expectations". The apsidal chancel is a clear statement of its age, its Norman origins are confirmed by three shallow pilaster-buttresses, and there is a typical small Norman window in the south wall of the nave, featuring a narrow loop with an elliptical head.

View from the south: apsidal chancel and Norman window.

Winterborne Tomson is a small settlement that sits a short distance north of the A31, some 4 km east of Bere Regis. The church is positioned on the edge of a farm with an impressive barn

and manor house constructed in the Tudor period. Remains of a deserted medieval village can be detected from earthworks in fields just to the south.

The building is a single cell: a simple rectangular nave and apsidal chancel with no dividing arch. It was built in the early 12th century and is the only church in Dorset with an apse. Many Norman churches started with this simple arrangement, but when they were enlarged the apse was usually lost. The walls are of flint and rubble with ashlar dressings of local heathstone. They are about 750mm thick at the base, but taper towards the top and appear to lean slightly outwards. The roof is made of ceramic tiles with stone-slate verges and there is a simple weather-boarded bell turret on the west end. On the north side of the nave are three buttresses; one of stone is dated to the 15th century and blocks an early doorway, above which is a defaced corbel. The other two are in brick and more recent.

Significant amendments and repairs were made during the 16th century. The roof was heightened and three new windows were added to the south nave, each of two lights with segmental heads, moulded jambs and mullions and square labels, the moulding above the window to divert rainwater.

You enter the church at the west end, through a square-headed doorway, dating probably to the 18th century; the door is heavily decorated by rows of iron studs. The interior is a further delight with a wagon roof dating to the 16th century, it is a continuous structure from the nave into the chancel where the ribs form a half dome. One or two of the bosses feature the Tudor rose. The nave has ten high-sided box pews in oak. The pulpit is built in the same style and positioned in the SE corner of the nave; it features a polygonal oak sounding board above. All the internal features are believed to have been provided by William Wake, Archbishop of Canterbury 1716–37.

The font is an octagonal bowl of Purbeck marble and dated to the 15th century.

A great debt is owed to A. R. Powys, who restored the church in 1931 with money from the sale of Thomas Hardy manuscripts. He is buried in the churchyard.

The visit was part of the ongoing research being undertaken for the Wimborne All Hallows project. We are grateful to Robert Heaton, who arranged the visit, and to our guide, Rupert Hardy, the local representative of the Church Conservation Trust.

***Andrew Morgan***

## 'The Most Riotous, Unprincipled Men' – The Main Characters, Part 1

In the previous notes I have looked at the history of the Chase and events leading up to the turbulent period described by Leonard Baker in his December talk. This note looks at the main characters involved in those disturbances.

**The Lords of the Chase**

As mentioned in the previous article, the Lordship of the Chase was sold by the Earl of Shaftesbury to Thomas Freke in 1695, and from there it passed down to Lord Rivers. This, however, was not a simple line of inheritance. The Freke family fortunes were by Robert Freke, Auditor and Teller of the Exchequer under Henry VIII. His son, Thomas, bought the manor of Shroton (Iwerne Courtney) adding it to Hinton St Mary. In 1695 the latest of 3 more generations of Thomas bought the Lordship of Cranborne Chase from

the Earl of Shaftesbury. With no sons to inherit, he made provision that it should pass to either his father (died 1701), his wife (died 1714), his wife's sister Lucy (died 1697) or Lucy's husband, George Pitt – the only survivor when Thomas died in 1721. Thus begins the longest line of direct inheritance of the Lordship in the history of the Chase – 4 generations of George Pitt over 107 years. The inheritance included Rushmore Estate, adding to the land the Pitt family owned across Dorset, mainly from Sir William Pitt during the reign of Elizabeth I.

**George Pitt, 1st Baron Rivers, by Thomas Beach, 1779 (The Keep Military Museum, Dorchester).**

The 3rd George Pitt was created Baron Rivers in 1776, holding the Lordship of the Chase from 1745 until his death in 1803, and setting the stage for the events surrounding the disenfranchisement debate and negotiations. He held many positions, including Lord Lieutenant of Hampshire, Lord of the Bedchamber and Lord Lieutenant of Dorset, and was an MP 1742-47 and again 1754-74. His main residence was Stratfield Saye in Hampshire but, until his political career intervened, he hosted 3 weeks of hunting each September on the Chase. During this gathering in 1749 a dispute arose with the owner of Gunville Park, Squire Harbin. Harbin's estate included a deer park, located in the outer bounds but bordering the inner bounds, and Pitt's keepers alleged that deer were being lured from the Chase by the smell of pomace after cider making. Once they had leapt the fence, they could not get out. During the 1749 hunt, Pitt and his keepers pulled down a section of the offending fence, and forced the gate to admit the hunt. Despite the hunt not raising any deer in the park, Harbin brought an action against the keepers at the next Dorchester assizes, but it was later dropped.

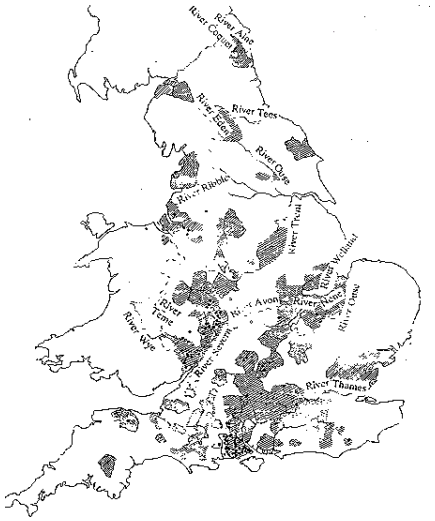
This episode does, however, identify Pitt as someone who would be very protective of the ways of the Chase, or, at least, his version of those ways. It was also during his tenure that the landowners formed a group known as 'The Proprietors' and petitioned him to disenfranchise the Chase in 1791. It is perhaps not surprising that these initial attempts were unsuccessful. His actions to end the traditional annual hunt allowed for the people of Tollard Royal, in 1789, had also added to the growing discontent of the community, who regarded this as one of the liberties.

On the death of George Pitt in 1803, his son, George Pitt 2nd Baron Rivers, assumed the Lordship of the Chase. Like his father, he had a political and military career with various military roles, as an MP 1774-90 and Lord of the Bedchamber from 1804-19. He was an enthusiastic huntsman with an admired pack of greyhounds. He became patron to the Swiss painter Jacques-Laurent Agasse, one of whose paintings shows Baron Rivers coursing near Stratfield Saye. Perhaps Hampshire was his favoured hunting ground, rather than the Chase, although he sold Stratfield Saye to the nation so that it could be gifted to the Duke of Wellington. He then rebuilt the house at Rushmore in 1817 as a summer residence, but clearly also spent time at his London residence, Grosvenor Place, where he died in 1828.

Whilst both the 1st and 2nd Baron Rivers clearly loved to hunt, I said previously that deer hunting had considerably declined in popularity. Game in general, and deer in particular, had lost value over the centuries from medieval times, when dealing in game was either very restricted or even outlawed. A value of £200 was placed by 'The Proprietors' on the loss of income to the Lord of the Chase against an amount of £1,000 stated by Baron Rivers as the gain to the landowners; in earlier centuries these figures would have been reversed. Perhaps a clearer illustration of the decline comes from the New Forest. When William I created his favourite Royal Forest it is said he cleared out 36 parishes to allow game to

roam free and improve the hunting. By 1698, the demand for timber for ships was a much higher priority, and the first Inclosures Act allowed up to 6,000 acres to be enclosed, with both commoners and deer excluded. This clearly caused friction with the commoners due to the increased pressure of deer on their remaining land. Successive Inclosure Acts only made this worse, until the 1851 Deer Removal Act allowed the commoners to clear deer from the forest to compensate for their loss of land. They set about this with gusto and achieved it in 2 years. Though roe and fallow deer gradually repopulated the forest, red deer never did and were reintroduced in the 1970s.

By the time of The Proprietors negotiations with Baron Rivers, many hunting forests, chases, warrens and deer parks across the country had been abandoned or converted to agriculture or timber production. Cranborne Chase was one of the few remaining franchises from the vast tracts of land devoted to hunting in the 12th century (right). The negotiations with 'The Proprietors' continued but stuck on the question of compensation, and little progress was made until the Thomas King incident and subsequent ruling in 1816 noted last month. It wasn't until 1828, the year of the 2nd Baron's death, that the Act of Parliament to disenfranchise the Chase was passed.




**Lord Anglesey**

A few highlights of the life of Henry Paget, later Lord Anglesey, were given by Leonard Baker in his talk last December, including the loss of part of a leg at Waterloo and his elopement with Lady Charlotte, sister-in-law to the future Duke of Wellington. At the start of the French Revolutionary Wars in 1794, aged 26, he raised a volunteer regiment in Staffordshire and fought in Flanders. Continuing promotions and distinguished service in the Peninsular War resulted in him becoming a Lieutenant General by 1808, but he then had to withdraw from Wellesley's command after eloping with Lady Charlotte. He was an MP 3 times up to 1810.

On his father's death in 1812 he became Earl of Uxbridge and inherited his father's estate, including land around Sixpenny Handley. He was created Marquess of Anglesey in 1815, holding a number of appointments in his later life including twice being Lord Lieutenant of Ireland. It is no surprise that, with such a busy life, Paget was an absentee landlord. According to the 1827 Land Tax Assessment he owned the two largest farms on the Chase, but there is no record of him visiting the area before his death in 1854. William Castleman was, therefore, appointed as an agent to look after his affairs locally.

**William Castleman**

William Castleman was born at Hinton St Mary in 1766. By 1789 he was married and living in Wimborne Minster; he and his wife, Mary, had 10 children but, sadly, only 3 survived to adulthood (one was Charles Castleman, known for the Castleman Railway, aka the 'Corkscrew Line'). In 1823 William built Allendale House in Wimborne after failing to buy Chettle House.

As Leonard Baker stated, he acquired an impressive list of clients for whom he acted as agent, including Henry Paget for his lands at Sixpenny Handley from about 1814. He was obviously held in high regard, as Paget stated on his death that he was "an amiable and zealous man of business" and Paget's agent-in-chief said of him that "I have never received more satisfactory information in matters of detail of accounts from any of Lord Anglesey's agents". It may have surprised them to learn of his links with Isaac Gulliver, albeit after his 'reform' around 1800. William was a witness to Gulliver's will (he died in 1822),

and William's son Edward married Isaac's granddaughter Ann Fryer in 1832. He died in 1844 and is buried in Wimborne.

To be continued … next time we'll look at Captain Peyton and Harry Dibben.

***Alan Dedden***

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## Weblink Highlights April 2022

This month's list of internet items is one of the shorter ones, but Stonehenge manages to keep making its regular appearances. This month the Stonehenge item is reporting that the landscape before Stonehenge was wooded, but more open than previously thought and roamed by grazing animals. Interesting that they seem not to have spoken to, or referenced, Mike Allen's work as his research has found much the same thing, and was the subject of his EDAS talk in May 2021.

My attention was also taken to the item on the planned caravan park at Skegness. The writer has perhaps been guilty of some exaggeration. The presence of archaeological remains at any site is unlikely to stop the planned development going ahead. The most likely course will be for an archaeological investigation (known as 'rescue archaeology) before, or sometimes alongside, the development. Indeed, the EDAS talk planned for May next year is about just such an excavation in Dorset. After reading through the Skegness item I then noticed that the writer is a trainee reporter, so perhaps I should not be too critical.

***Alan Dedden***

## April Weblinks

**Only Above Ground Remains Of The Lost Roman Town Of Durolevum** here

**4 Dorset Hill Forts Removed From 'At Risk' Register** here

**112m-Year-Old Dinosaur Tracks In Utah Damaged By Construction Machinery** here

**Fashion Capital Of Prehistoric World Revealed** here

**Charles Darwin's 'Stolen' Notebooks Left On Library Floor In Pink Gift Bag** here

**Fossil Of First Dinosaur Killed In The Asteroid Strike Found At Tanis** here

**Exhibition Of Pompeii's Erotic Art** here

**700 Year-Old Ship Found 5 Feet Below Tallinn Street During Construction Work** here

**New Discoveries Shed Light On Key Moment In Great Pacific Migration** here

**Dig In Turkey Uncovers Massive Underground City** here

**Roman Era Decapitated Skeleton Baffles Experts** here

**Roman Pottery Workshop Discovered In Egypt** here

**Stonehenge Built On Land Inhabited By Deer And Wild Boar 4,000 Years Earlier** here

**150 Skulls In Mexican 'Crime Scene' Cave Found To Be Ritual Sacrifice From AD900** here

**Prehistoric Remains Threaten New Caravan Site Near Skegness** here

**Re-examination Of 1976-1990 Finds Identifies Fossil Tooth From Largest Carnivorous Ichthyosaur** here

The CBA Wessex May Newsletter can be found HERE, with the usual mix of walks, talks and other events.

## Phoenician shipwrecks off the coast of Southern Spain

Back in October 2021 we were treated to a fascinating presentation by Dave Parham from Bournemouth University about Bronze Age shipwrecks. Fast forward to January 2022 and I unexpectedly found myself staying in an apartment in Spain about 300 metres from the excavated sites of not one, but two, ancient Phoenician sailing ships. A surprise to me as I had no idea that there were any sites of maritime shipwrecks anywhere in the vicinity, making me realise that I should have done my homework!


The location is Puerto Mazarron, a small fishing and sailing centre, with a splash of tourism, on the south-eastern corner of the Iberian peninsula. It lies on a stretch of Mediterranean coastline that has distinctive geological features, with outcrops of rocks that periodically jut out at right angles to the sea, forming a series of sandy bays and, in one particular case, an inlet sheltered by a small island a few hundred metres off the coast. It was in this inlet, known locally as 'La Playa de la Isla', that the remains of two Phoenician shipwrecks were discovered.

**Phoenician ship sculptures on a local roundabout.**

Known respectively as 'Mazarron 1' and 'Mazarron 2', the first wreck was spotted in 1988 during a systematic exploration of the area being undertaken by a team from the National Museum of Subaquatic Archaeology in Cartagena. They surveyed 7,200m$^2$ of the seabed. As well as excavating and removing (to rescue) what remained of the first vessel and its contents over the following years, they discovered the wreck of Mazarron 2 during their 1994 season.

The latter proved to be in a far better state of preservation, having been protected by layers of seaweed and sand. This necessitated a more meticulous campaign of excavation and preservation which lasted over three years between 1999 and 2001. Trumpeted as the best preserved seagoing vessel of its period to be found anywhere in the Mediterranean, the decision was reached not to remove what remained of the shell of the boat. Having removed its surviving cargo, as shown, the frame of the ship was carefully refilled with sand as ballast. It was then secured within a metal frame designed to protect it in its resting place from the ravages of strong currents, storms and human interference, as it had sunk only 3 metres below the surface.

The two wrecks were seen as contemporaneous, possibly even having succumbed at the same time. Dating evidence confirmed that they were constructed in the second half of the 7th century BC (the early Iron Age in that region). They are the 'Hippos' type of small draught vessel, used mainly as merchant ships for shorter coastal journeys and ferrying goods to larger vessels. The date puts them firmly in the period when Phoenician trade was in its ascendancy in the Mediterranean.

During the early centuries of the 1st millennium BC, the Phoenicians (originating from an area that roughly equates to Lebanon today) founded a large network of colonies along the Mediterranean coast in Cyprus, Crete, Malta, Southern Italy and Tunisia. In the latter they founded what was to become their main colony at Carthage which, from the 6th century BC onwards, was to impose its control over others. In the Western Mediterranean they settled in the Iberian peninsula, developing a dense network of settlements headed by modern day Cadiz. Eventually, through the 7th century BC, they expanded to the Portuguese Atlantic coast. Their exploration took them even greater distances, with evidence having been found that they circumnavigated Africa.

And what of the two vessels? Mazarron 1 was only partially intact, with a few of the strakes and frames of the original structure remaining. Some of the cargo of ivory tusks remained on the wreck site, and other artefacts found suggested that it was also carrying amphorae and was probably laden with food.

Mazarron 2, however, remained virtually intact at 8.20m long, 2.20m wide and with a maximum depth of only 1.10m. The quality of the remains has meant that a full understanding of its design and the materials used in its construction has been possible. The keel (in perfect condition) was made from cypress, the frame from fig trees, strakes from pine and tabs from olive trees. The hull was sealed with pine resin, and a lead anchor with rope still attached was amongst items to survive in the benign conditions. It had been carrying a cargo of 2,820kg of circular lead oxide ingots to be used in silver production..

For those interested, there is a Centre of Interpretation near the excavation site in Puerto Mazarron, with photographs, some explanatory information with English translation and the scale model above.

The Museum of Maritime Archaeology in Cartagena, just 10km east, is a comparatively small but extremely interesting centre of learning. The remains of the wreck of Mazarron 1, and finds from it, are preserved and on display there. There is also a great deal of information about Mazarron 2, with videos showing a recent removal of the metal casing and re-opening of the site to assess how well the wreck has been preserved since its original excavation There are also interpretative information boards with English translation and the life size model of Mazarron 2 here, showing it as found in Playa de La Isla bay.

The most recent re-opening and reassessment of the Mazarron 2 site took place in 2019 following severe storms. The conclusion reached was that the wreck was still in good condition and should remain in situ. However, as recently as December 2021 it was reported that that decision had been changed and that the remains would be removed to the Maritime Museum in Cartagena following consultation with leading world specialists on undertaking this kind of excavation process. It will be interesting to see how it works out.....

***Phil D'Eath***

## View from Above No. 46: Rotherley Wood

***Photo by Sue Newman and Jo Crane***

This later Iron Age and Romano-British settlement stands on the brow of a hill at Rotherley Down, about a mile north of Tollard Royal, just within Wiltshire. It was excavated by Pitt Rivers in 1885-6, after he had excavated the nearby Woodcuts settlement (see View from Above 27, April 2020 newsletter). The clarity of the features is partly due to Pitt Rivers' partial reconstruction of the earthworks, and he also left an inscribed stone plinth recording his work.

The settlement covers about 2ha (5 acres) with a series of enclosures, and lies within a 'Celtic Field' system. The excavations suggested that it was occupied continuously from the 1st century BC to 3rd century AD, but there was evidence of much earlier activities – Neolithic and Bronze Age stone and flint tools, and a Bronze Age burial with a Beaker pot.

The large sub-circular enclosure at the centre of the site, defined by a bank and a ditch, contained storage pits and four-post granary structures. Around it further banks and ditches define fields and enclosures, storage pits, the remains of two or three houses, and several inhumation burials. New features during the Roman period include a corn drying (or malting) oven, working hollows, a large rectangular building and a stock enclosure situated outside the main settlement area.

Bones from the burials were found to be smaller than those discovered elsewhere on Cranborne Chase, notably at Woodcuts, suggesting to Pitt Rivers that the inhabitants here were in "a lower condition of life". However, the sample sizes were small and any differences were probably just those that can expected within any population.

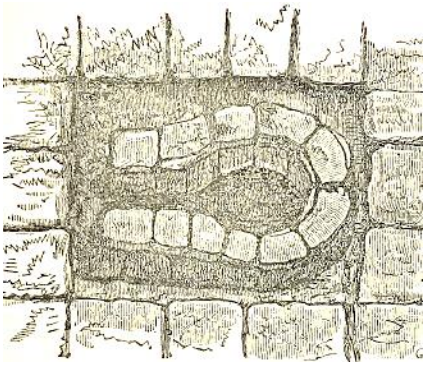
As with Woodcuts, finds from Pitt Rivers 'Wessex Collection' are now held by Salisbury Museum. Also as with Woodcuts, Pitt River's meticulous records allowed a re-examination by Prof. Christopher Hawkes in 1947. His excellent summary description of the site, accompanied by a re-drawing of Pitt-Rivers site plan, does bring with it some different conclusions. In particular, he identified some of the post-holes as relating to a large circular dwelling, rather than a granary, with at least one smaller round house (it seems that Pitt Rivers felt that remains of round houses couldn't generally be found, so rarely interpreted post holes as such). Although unstated, it seems that the settlement was rather less poor than Pitt Rivers had thought.

***Geoff Taylor/ Jo Crane***

## From the Archives 2

Volume II of the Proceedings (1878) includes an article about excavations on the farm owned by Prof. Buckman, Secretary of the Field Club, who wrote about the Thornford Roman villa in the previous volume. He talks of searches occasioned by finds after ploughing East Hill, east of Bradford Abbas, when he "sent men to work with pickaxe and spade". Building material, with stone roof tiles matching those from Thornford villa, was found on a large, roughly paved, area, though he doesn't say exactly where. This appears to relate to the possible villa known as 'Bradford Abbas 1' at ST 592152, only just over a mile north of Thornford villa across the River Yeo.

Many quern stones (here called "molars" from the Latin) were turned up, some complete, in a variety of rocks including Cornish granite and a volcanic grit from Andernach on the Rhine. "Fictilia", Latin for objects made from clay, included rude kinds of pottery but also "black pottery of better form and workmanship", quite possibly Black Burnished Ware from the kilns at Bestwall. There were also the remains of 5 separate buildings with floors of flat lias limestone partly over flask-shaped fire pits, as shown, thought to be ovens or stoves. The buildings were suggested as the dwellings "inhabited by Celts who were their [the Romans'] slaves or labourers". I believe that we would see these as grain dryers or malting floors, similar to that found at Druce Farm, suggesting the area produced significant quantities of cereals.



In the previous Proceedings, Prof. Buckman also wrote of some old squat glass bottles found on his farm with designs impressed in the glass, and follows this up with further examples here. What struck me, though, was the bottle he had recently had from the wine merchant, stamped 'CHATEAU YQUEM/HAUT SAUTERNES/GRAND CRU', suggesting he was rather wealthy. A recent vintage of Chateau D'Yquem would cost around £400 now (an 1875 bottle was recently auctioned for almost £10,000).

At the time this volume was published, it was just 20 years since Boucher de Perthes in France had convinced others that worked flints were tools made by people who lived alongside animals that were now extinct. John Evans' papers of 1860 and 1862, read to the Society of Antiquaries, were the start of serious study of these objects in Britain, despite many who still preferred the supposed Biblical timescales. We may smile at Buckman's description of the tool shown, which we could call a 'scraper', as a "bird bolt", thought to have been used to knock down birds when hunting. However, it is clear that he took Evans' views seriously and wanted to persuade others; he hoped his descriptions were "enough to convince our members that many of these articles point to a time when metals were scarcely, if at all, in use".

Another article described the 'Hellstone' at Portesham, near Abbotsbury, for which the Welsh term 'cromlech' was preferred to the word dolmen that we might use now. The article points out that such monuments can be found in many places, such as Brittany and the Channel Islands. It is clear, despite some people arguing otherwise, that these were generally thought to be prehistoric burial chambers once covered by a mound of earth. Dating was then uncertain, though these are now known to be mostly early Neolithic.

***Geoff Taylor***

## Lecture Programme 2022-23

We would usually have produced a Programme Leaflet by now, but couldn't have passed it on because this month's lecture is on *Zoom* and not in the hall. In any case, communication problems mean that a few details have still to be finalised: basically, some speakers have agreed to do the presentation but then proved elusive in firming up details. This can be for quite legitimate reasons, such as university staff being on projects overseas.

Rest assured that we will be continuing our wide-ranging monthly programme of lectures from September, and believe that these people will speak on the dates below. It may be that the finer details of the talks change a little.

**2022**

**14th September - Lilian Ladle**
***The Romans at Druce Farm Villa - Mosaics, Middens and Military?***
The latest interpretation of Druce Farm Villa after all the finds have been analysed.

**12th October - Helen Farr**
***Marine Archaeology in the Black Sea***
Ancient shipwrecks and submerged landscapes in the Black Sea.

**9th November - Richard Hobbs**
***Hinton St Mary Mosaic - Fieldwork & Excavations***
New fieldwork and recent excavations on the Roman villa site at Hinton St Mary.

**14th December - Mike Gill**
***Redefining the Neolithic Map: Recent work on Cranborne Chase and Avon Valley long barrows***
A good deal of detective work is needed before a possible new Neolithic monument can be located, surveyed and, hopefully, confirmed. Mike will cover new sites and their impact on previous views.

**2023**

**11th January - Julian Richards**
***The last wild Britain - the Mesolithic people at Springhead***
A chance find of a box of Mesolithic flints led to excavations at Springhead, Fontmell Magna, searching for more evidence of the makers – a project led by Julian & Sue Richards with a team of amateurs.

**8th February - Neil Meldrum**
**Ancient China**
Chinese culture in its earliest phase, the so called Three Dynasties *c.* 2000-221 BCE, when Qin Shih Huang, the first true Emperor of China emerged; looking at China's inexorable path to early empire.

**8th March - AGM**
TBD

**12th April – Peter Cox**
**40 years of archaeology in Dorset**
Looking at some of the memorable projects during Peter's more than 40 years of experience of archaeology in Dorset.

**10th May - Clare Randall**
**The manor of Putton and the potential of medieval archaeology in Dorset**
Based on the excavation of the manor at Lower Putton Lane, Chickerell, built in the 12$^{th}$ century, this lecture explores the medieval landscape of Dorset and the lives of the people who lived there.

***Alan Dedden/Geoff Taylor***

# EDAS PROGRAMME

**Unless otherwise stated, and subject to coronavirus restrictions, lectures are from 7:30 – 9:30 pm at St Catherine's Church Hall, Lewens Lane, Wimborne, BH21 1LE.**

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Wed 11th May** | Zoom Lecture | **Dr Jim Leary** | The Vale of Pewsey Project - Marden Henge and Cat's Brain Long Barrow |

# DISTRICT DIARY

**Nothing new this month I'm afraid, but do let me know of anything you know or hear about.**

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|---|---|---|---|
| **Wed 18th May** | The Battle of Britain over Dorset | **Wareham Society** | John Smith |
| **Thurs 19th May** | Underfloor excavations at Avebury Manor | **Blandford Group** | Briony Clifton, Avebury National Trust |
| **Wed 15th June** | Dorset Shipwrecks and Maritime Archaeology | **Wareham Society** | Gordon Le Pard |
| **Wed 16th Sept** | Finding Nero (and other Roman Emperors), after AGM | **Wareham Society** | Miles Russell |

**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 1st Wednesday of month except June, July & August. Visitors £3.50; membership £10 pa.
- Blandford Museum Archaeology Group:
  https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/groups/archaeology-group-revised/
  Meetings normally 7:30pm 3rd Thursday of each month September to May at the Tabernacle. Visitors £3; 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: Their website isn't updated but they are on the Wareham Chimes site here, or contact Karen Brown at karen.brown68@btinternet.com
  Meetings at Furzebrook Village Hall, BH20 5AR, normally 7:30pm 3rd Wednesday of each month except July & August. Visitors welcome for £3; membership £10 pa.