

EAST DORSET ANTIQUARIAN SOCIETY  
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING  
St. CATHERINE'S HALL  
MARCH 25<sup>th</sup> 2009

Once again we welcome members to an Annual General Meeting after another successful year. Established members will know our everlasting problem in our AGM's. We want to give members every opportunity to participate, make comments, ask questions, but at the same time create a quick business side of the meeting-not a banquet-so that we can sit back and listen to the speaker.

Our speaker this year is committee member Brian Maynard. He will give an illustrated talk on the society's visit to Dartmoor last June. Such were the number of places seen, from Dartmoor Prison to prehistoric monuments, and such was the number of photographs taken, we know we are in for rich pickings. Brian once gave us a fascinating talk on the Crusades. This year's field trip, as advertised in recent Newsletters, is organised by Rob Fenwick and already next year's, once more, by Malcolm and Maureen Houghton.

Our strength, numbers of members, finances, social and practical activities, have been maintained, as will be seen from the various annual reports.

Phil Roberts supervised our excavation at Worth Matravers; he has written this up in the January Newsletter and in the forthcoming Proceedings of the Dorset Natural History and Archaeological Society. There was evidence of a Roundhouse and several pits that had been storage pits then later used as middens. A skeleton of a middle aged woman was recovered. Work is in progress on the artefacts. Thanks are extended to Gill Broadbent and David Stewart for their assistance to him and Lillian Ladle whose expertise from her experience at Bestwalls is invaluable, and to her and Janet Bartlett who put in many extra hours, often in the poorest of weather, and thanks to those members who participated in what was often inclement weather, but never-the-less an attractive place to work in.

A watching brief was kept by myself when Mark Shattock of Bournemouth University, and E.D.A.S member, did a series of exploratory trenches preparatory to the construction of a new community hall in Horton. A range of pottery was recovered but no specific evidence of the kiln site that had been operative nearby in the 17<sup>th</sup>. century.

Phil Roberts kept a watching brief during the construction of a restaurant in Wimborne. Despite the site was in an archaeological sensitive area there was little of interest to report upon.

Gill Broadbent and Alan Hawkins have continued researching Brownsea Island and aspects of Poole Bay. Jeremy Webster is researching for his Doctorate on the Neolithic and Bronze Age monuments around Tarrant Monkton and Dave Stewart's survey around Hod Hill has revealed a settlement site that spans the Neolithic to Romano-British periods.

All these studies will have scope for EDAS members to participate in practical field work over the coming months.

We extend our best wishes to Ken and Marjorie Wheatley, both of whom have been unwell. Never-the-less Ken has done some metal detecting in the past year, with his usual success. He found a Roman brooch and medieval tweezers at Worth and while helping David Stewart at Stourpaine unearthed a Roman coin among a few other things. Members will know of our reluctance to use metal detectorists but find Ken's involvement of great help. Ted Bestow is working on the sculptors of Shaftsbury Abbey and Sandra Game on cataloguing John Boydens aerial photographs.

One incidental interesting find was retrieved in Horton when Keith Allsop cut an oak tree down in his garden. There among the roots was a cannon ball - a relic of the civil war. This is not the

first civil war artefact to be found in Horton; it is said civil war artefacts were recovered from Horton Manor. There is no record of a skirmish in that area so presumably the billeting of soldiers may have taken place. As William Uvedale, the Lord of the manor, was asked in the early stages of the war by the King to take a message to Parliament, to negotiate ending the fighting (request refused), one guesses the peasants of the village followed their boss and were Royalists.

Gill Broadbent and Maureen Houghton created a successful exhibition of EDAS excavations at Priest House Museum. We appreciate Gills work in representing us on the museums committee. We congratulate the museum workers for attaining the Sandford Award and wish them success in being nominated for The Dorset

Steve Smith and David Stewart have kept us well supplied with excellent lectures of good quality. We have ranged from a fascinating overview of the history of Hengisbury Head, (Steve has an associated DVD which can be borrowed), to a review of the Roman invasion of Britain.

Steve and David have next seasons programme well underway. As usual they are anxious to have members opinion of speakers and if there is any speaker we have not had and that members can recommend.

Henry Cole did us proud with our BBQ last July when he showed off his skill as a cook, and we all thoroughly enjoyed the musical duo. Henry is arranging it at Down Farm again this year. Date to be confirmed but probably July 4<sup>th</sup>. Appreciation is extended to Martin and Karen Green for the availability of their property and the opportunity of seeing what must be the best private archaeological museum on the south coast.

The occasional week-end walks have had varying success and we thank Peter Walker for organising them.

The library is suffering with success in the number of books available. This has created space problems and it is proposed to bring some each week for members to purchase. A number will be retained and these stored by several committee members and volunteers, which can be borrowed on request. We thank Alan Hawkins for his sterling work in organising the library.

Several members are involved in historical research, but we do not always know who they are or what they are researching. Heather Raggett is now self employed and undertaking research projects. We are always keen to get contributions for the Newsletter from members. These need not be long, preferably one or two pages of A4 and sent to Graham Adams. Neither would letters become amiss.

Graham has been our Editor for some years now, a task involving time limits, to which he responds with amazing expertise and calmness in frustrating situations, and for which we thank him.

We are fortunate in having Helen Brickell to organise the tea-break. The tea break is an important social event, gives the opportunity to rest and reflect on the subject lectured on, and gives the chance to have an off the record natter with the speaker, but, particularly on those occasions when there is a large audience, it can prolong the break time to an undesirable length. Thanks must go to those members who swallow hot tea with unhealthy speed and those who help in the kitchen to make restarting in a respectable time.

I take this opportunity to thank committee members for the work they put in to make the society the success it is, particularly Gill Broadbent who, while continuing to be involved in several aspects of the societies functions, is retiring from being secretary. I thank all those members that support the society by attending lectures, joining in with practical activities, and those who give a few extra pounds with their subscriptions. We hope that all members believe they get their money's worth.

John W. Day