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East Dorset Antiquarian Society

Charity No: 1171828

www.dorset-archaeology.org.uk

mail@dorset-archaeology.org.uk



<https://www.facebook.com/dorset.archaeology>

Edited by Geoff Taylor, email: geoffnsue@hotmail.co.uk, Tel: 01202 840166
224 Leigh Road, Wimborne, Dorset BH21 2BZ

NEWSLETTER – April 2023

A few days ago, someone reminded me that the first lockdown came into force 3 years ago. They also reminded me that the weather was considerably better then. Swings and roundabouts.

The next lecture meeting is on the 12th of April, with Peter Cox of AC Archaeology speaking on '40 Years of Archaeology in Dorset'. He'll be telling us about some of his most memorable projects in over 40 years of archaeology (we tweaked the title in recognition of our 40th anniversary; sorry).

Our last meeting was the AGM and there's a short summary here, snappily entitled **Annual General Meeting: 8th March 2023**. I think the title of the item **Message from Phil D'Eath – new EDAS Chair** doesn't need any explanation from me.

There's no summary here of Andrew's lecture after the AGM as we had problems getting his slides to show on the screen. Andrew still managed to give a fascinating, if rather briefer, talk about the Dorset County Boundary – a far more interesting subject than it might at first appear. We thought that it would be good to hear the talk in full, so it will be given at a future meeting. And the projection problem has been fixed.

As promised, there are 4 more short pieces, written by Vanessa Joseph and myself, celebrating our 40th anniversary in 40 Dorset items: **Jadeite axe-head**, **Verwood pottery**, **Down Farm Museum** and **Mary Anning**.

Lindsey Dedden passed me the March 1999 Journal of the Dorset Family History Society as it has an article submitted by our then Chairman, John Day. I've summarised that briefly as **Poverty in 19th century Dorset**, but was also interested to note that the journal advertises that Lilian Ladle, "an archaeologist and local historian", is to lead an evening walk around Wareham. Unfortunately they failed to state when.

Many thanks to Alan Dedden for the short piece about the Woodland Trust supplying oak for a recreation of the Sutton Hoo ship, buried in the early 7th century: **The Woodland Trust and the Sutton Hoo ship**. Thanks also to him for the 56th **Weblinks** and **Weblink Highlights**

I am grateful to our long-standing member, Gill Broadbent who, from her home in Somerset, has sent the article here: **Burrow Mump – Far from the Madding Crowd**. Not only does it have history, archaeology and even geology, but also what looks like an interesting place to visit when you're in the Somerset Levels.

Many thanks also to Jim Stacey for sending me the article that I've summarised as **The 'other' Queen Cleopatra**. The full article can be found [here](#) in the free digital publication Aeon – a registered charity providing knowledge without ads, paywall or clickbait.

There are a couple of items here that I might not normally include, but I have the space from the 'missing' lecture summary to fill. I hope you find them of some interest anyway: **SS Warrimoo 31 December 1899** and **A Timely Warning**.

The series of (usually) shorter articles continue with **From the Archives 9** and **View from Above 53: Winterborne Farringdon**, based on Sue Newman and Jo Crane's aerial photograph.

And then, of course, there's the **EDAS Programme** and **District Directory**, shorter at this time of year but, I imagine, expanding again with bookings for the 2023-24 'season'.

Geoff Taylor

Annual General Meeting: 8th March 2023

Thank you very much to those who came to the meeting on a rather unpleasant night although, at least, the sometimes forecast snow or sleet didn't appear.

As announced, we said goodbye to Lilian from the committee and to Andrew as Chair. They received gifts as just a small appreciation for all they have done (so far!) to make EDAS the foremost archaeological society in the county. A visit to Kent as part of preparations for the field trip in June showed that EDAS were even known there.

Phil D'Eath accepted nomination as Chair, Andrew's 5-year term was up so he was also nominated to the committee, with a further nomination for Robin Dumbreck as a new committee member. All were unanimously elected. The current committee is listed below and you'll see we have a vacancy, which we are keen to fill. Could that be something for you?

The committee continue to appreciate the members and their ongoing support for EDAS, now with 264 people – the highest ever. In particular, thanks to David Long for examining the accounts and to Lindsey Dedden and Sue Slater for the tea, coffee and biscuits, re-started after the AGM.

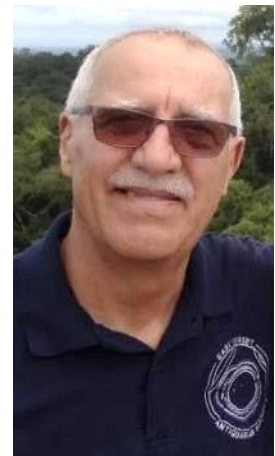
As previously announced, the refreshment break is being reinstated, without charge for a trial period. Time will be called before the end of the break to allow those in the kitchen to clear up before the presentation continues. Help will be gratefully accepted.

Phil D'Eath	Chair	Robert Heaton	Member
Peter Walker	Treasurer	Vanessa Joseph	Communications Officer
Geoff Taylor	Secretary	Andrew Morgan	Member
Alan Dedden	Programme Secretary	Bryan Popple	Member
Ian Drummond	Member	Ian Richardson	Membership Secretary
Robin Dumbreck	Member	Vacancy	

Message from Phil D'Eath – new EDAS Chair

I am delighted to be writing to you following the elections at the recent *Annual General Meeting*. It is an honour to have the role of representing such a respected and well-supported organisation, and I hope that I will get the chance to say 'hello' to most of you who I haven't already met in the near future.

We have been extremely fortunate over the past ten years to have been led as Chair by Andrew Morgan, who has overseen the development of EDAS into one with a thriving membership of over 260 people. A healthy proportion of this number attend monthly lecture meetings and other activities, which I believe provides an accurate reflection of the healthy state of our organisation.



Our status within national archaeological networks has grown, largely thanks to the field work excavations at Worth and Druce. The special partnership between Andrew and one of our 'honorary members', Lilian Ladle, was instrumental in helping to bring both projects into published reports within remarkable timescales. We are indebted to him for his inclusive attitude, approachability and commitment as Chair of EDAS. Thank you Andrew for being such a hard act to follow and for remaining on the committee!

As many of you will not know me, I thought it might be useful to say a little bit about my background and involvement with EDAS. Similarly to our founding chairman, John Day, most of my working life was spent with the Council delivering services for children and young people. Thanks to a long term fascination with all things archaeological, and inspired by Time Team, I was fortunate to attend Adult Ed GCSE and A level archaeology courses in the late 1990's (alongside fellow Society members Steve Smith and Mal & Mo Houghton).

My involvement as a member of EDAS began about 25 years ago, and I have since had the opportunity of expanding both knowledge and interest through talking to fellow members, participation in some fascinating excavations and attendance at monthly lectures. I joined the Committee a couple of years ago and, with support, have gradually been getting more involved in organising activities. A comparatively short induction, but one which I hope will have prepared me to successfully carry out my new role as Chair on your behalf.

Hoping to see you at the next meeting,

Phil D'Eath

The **Museum of East Dorset** scooped a Silver Award for 'Small Visitor Attraction of the Year' at the [South West England Tourism Excellence Awards](#). The event took place at the Eden Project in Cornwall. The judges spoke of "a surprising building and an even more surprising experience". They described the Museum of East Dorset as "a wonderful resource for the market town of Wimborne both for visitors and residents".

For EDAS members who have never visited the museum, the museum's archaeology collections include rare and unique exhibits of local and national significance.



Jadeite axe-head, Newton Peverill (GT)

This polished axe-head, 19.2cm long, was found near Sturminster Marshall in the 19th century and given to Augustus Pitt-Rivers by “Mrs Cartwright” in the 1880s for his newly established museum at Farnham. Sold when the collection was dispersed in the 1970s, it came on the market in 2007 and was bought by Dorset County Museum for £24,000. They only have a brief description online and no photograph.

One of the finest examples of the less than 20 complete ones found in Britain, the stone originated in the foothills of the Italian Alps. Finishing and polishing was probably done in south-west France or Brittany, before it arrived in Britain in the early Neolithic, thought to be around 3800 BC. Examples are known as far north as Scotland, but I’ve not found a clear picture of the mechanism by which they came to Britain – trade/exchange or, perhaps more likely, immigration.

In any case, the effort to make such an artefact, estimated at over 1,000 hours, made them highly valued – heirlooms or community treasures, perhaps symbols of power. They were not made to be used as axes for everyday tasks, but seem to show a strong appreciation of quality and beauty by the early farmers in Britain, here, of course, in Dorset.



Verwood pottery (VJ)

Verwood and Horton have been associated with earthenware pottery from at least as early as 1280. In 1489, there is reference to the earliest named potters in the Cranborne Court Roll. Records show that kilns in Verwood and Horton produced earthenware pottery in a traditional manner from the 1600s until the last pottery closed in Verwood in 1952. The pottery was known as Verwood Ware, which was used for domestic and dairy purposes, and typically included items such as jugs, colanders, pitchers, storage jars, utensils for the dairy and garden pots.



A party of visiting ladies enjoys a demonstration, 1926. Photograph reproduced by kind permission of Verwood Historical Society.

Some of you might know the Verwood costrels, also known as ‘Dorset owls’ because of their two frilled ears as seen on this example, probably from the 19th century. They were traditionally used in the fields for cider, ale, or cold tea during harvest time. From 1905, when there was a lavender farm at Corfe Mullen, Verwood supplied tiny costrels for the lavender oil to local perfume manufacturer Rivers Hill & Co. These were sold at Liberty's in London.



In the 1900s, the industry branched into more artistic products like the tricorn vase shown, dating from the 1890s. Fred Fry, who took over the Cross Roads pottery in 1908, introduced a huge variety of “fancies” there. It is believed that the vases were sent to art colleges in London for students to decorate. The famous archaeologist General Pitt Rivers also commissioned Fred Fry to make copies of ancient pots.



Today, the Museum of East Dorset holds the largest Verwood pottery collection in existence. Many were bequeathed by Penny Copland-Griffiths, who had a passion for pots and spent several years researching this local industry.

Down Farm Museum, Cranborne Chase (GT)

This is an appropriate item for our 40th anniversary as Martin Green was one of our founders. He is, of course, also one of our honorary members in recognition of the vast amount of support he has given to EDAS. Those who have visited his museum at Down Farm will know that it is a treasure house of the items found on the farm over decades of excavations, since Martin decided archaeology was more interesting than farming. Perhaps that wasn't surprising given the archaeological riches on his land – parts of the Dorset Cursus and Ackling Dyke, barrows, settlement sites and so on.

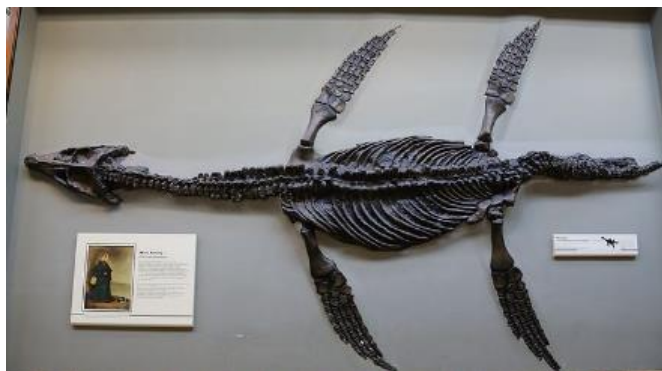
From the outside, the museum looks to be a rather unprepossessing Nissen hut, but the items and displays inside are breath-taking. Even better, you can handle some of the artefacts – perhaps to feel how an ancient hand axe was shaped to fit the hand and do the job it was made for. As the person who submitted this said “arggg”!



Mary Anning, princess of palaeontology (VJ)

If you had lived in Lyme Regis in Victorian times, you might have spotted a lady carrying a wicker basket in one hand and a small geologist's hammer in the other. She was likely dressed in a plaid coat and cape made of heavy wool and accompanied by her small dog, Tray. This was Mary Anning, arguably the greatest fossil hunter of all time.

In an era where fossils were considered curios, Mary hunted and sold them to supplement the family income. With her brother, she found the first complete Ichthyosaurus in 1810-1811. Over the years, new, more complete skeletons of ichthyosaurs were discovered, followed by a complete skeleton of the long-necked Plesiosaurus (below), the 'sea-dragon', in 1823 and the 'flying-dragon' Pterodactylus in 1828.



Mary's contribution had a major impact at a time when there was little to challenge the biblical interpretation of creation and the flood. The spectacular fossil remains shook the scientific community. Mary's work added proof that species can become extinct and helped pave the way for Darwin. Mary played a key role in informing the work of her learned, male contemporaries, notably William Buckland, Henry de la Beche and William Conybeare. She found the fossils; they got the credit.

Mary died in 1847 from breast cancer, aged 47. By the time of her death, geology was firmly established as its own scientific discipline. Her death was recorded by the Geological Society (which did not admit women until 1904) and her life commemorated by a stained glass window in St Michael's Parish church in Lyme. In 2010 the Royal Society listed her as one of the 10 most important British women to influence the history of science.

Poverty in 19th century Dorset

In 1999 John Day had sent the Dorset Family History Society a transcript from the *Poole & Dorset Herald* of January 7th 1847, with some additional comments. It is a report of evidence to the Commissioners (I assume Poor Law Commissioners) from Susan Galpin of "Preston cum Sutton", just to the north-east of Weymouth. She was the daughter of Mr Miller (first name unstated) and sister of William Miller. Although the exact dates are unclear, both had died within three days of each other, William at 32 and his father aged 67.



Dorset was a very poor county at that time, and conditions were particularly bad for rural workers; one writer said that they were suffering more than those in Ireland then affected by the 'Great Famine' caused by potato blight. At a time when Parliament was arguing whether a minimum wage should be 25 or 30 shillings a week (i.e. £1.25 or 1.50), the wage rate for Dorset labourers was around 7 shillings, with 1 shilling docked for rent. And that was if work could be found.

The story of the Millers is a very sad one, no doubt repeated for many other families. Both had shortness of breath for some time but then grew more ill, said to be "influenza" by the doctor from the workhouse, who provided a little help and said that William would be better in two or three weeks if he went into the workhouse. When Mr Hine, the 'Relieving Officer' at the workhouse 4 miles away, visited to see William, he said that Mrs Miller should go to see him. Susan went as her mother wasn't capable of the journey but, after waiting 2 hours, was told there was nothing left. After being treated badly by Mr Hine, she eventually obtained an Order, i.e. to allow William to enter the workhouse. However, she was told that he had to walk there, but he was too ill.



William had worked for Mr Wallis, I assume the landowner, for 20 years or more, and his father all his life as a carter. Pay for William was said to be 5 or 6 shillings a week; that for his father as a carter isn't stated. Mr Miller had been too unwell for regular work for a while, but was paid 6 pence a day if he was able to do odd jobs, or received 1 shilling and 6 pence a week from the parish when not working. The Wallis family provided some food to the Millers, but it was too little, too late. As Susan Galpin said, the problem wasn't influenza but the lack of sufficient nourishment.

An extremely insensitive introduction to the report, which seems to evidence the lack of general concern for these people and their problems, says "... Dorsetshire, that beautiful county which is adored by the wealthy gentry of Weymouth and the genial patronage of Mr Banks." By way of contrast, the subsistence allowance for those working on this Commission, and several Royal Commissions in the 1840s, was around £1 per day.

John Day/ Lindsey Dedden/ Geoff Taylor

A Timely Warning

From a newspaper in New Zealand – the Rodney & Otamatea Times (Waitemata & Kaipara Gazette):

"Science Notes and News: COAL CONSUMPTION AFFECTING CLIMATE

The furnaces of the world are now burning about 2,000,000,000 tons of coal a year. When this is burned, uniting with oxygen, it adds about 7,000,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide to the atmosphere yearly. This tends to make the air a more effective blanket for the earth and to raise its temperature. The effect may be considerable in a few centuries."

Dated Wednesday, August 14, 1912.

Burrow Mump – Far from the Madding Crowd (with apologies to Thomas Hardy)

The unusually named Burrow Mump is a natural conical hill 24 meters in height which, like its better-known companion to the east, Glastonbury Tor, rises above the once swampy and impenetrable Somerset Levels. With the top dominated by a ruined church, the hill sits at the confluence of the rivers Tone and Parrett, and overlooks the small village of Burrowbridge. The village and surrounding area are peaceful and quiet, a far cry from the hustle and bustle of Glastonbury with its hordes of tourists enticed by the myths and legends of Merlin and King Arthur.



For the geologists amongst us, the Mump is composed of Triassic sandstone capped by deposits of the Mercia Mudstone Group.

Burrow Mump today is under the stewardship of the National Trust, having been donated to the Trust in 1946 by Major A C Barrett as a memorial to those of Somerset who died in the Second World War. The Mump is a Scheduled Monument (no. 1011823) and the church on the summit a Listed Building (no. 1344609). For anyone wishing to climb the short distance to the top of the hill to take in the far-reaching

views, there is a small National Trust car park just outside Burrowbridge.



The church ruins commanding the summit of the hill are of 18th century origin, but the Mump has a much longer, complex backstory. Both the words Burrow and Mump mean "hill", and the earliest known reference to the hill is in 937 when, under the name of "Toteyate", it was given to Athelney Abbey as part of the manor of Lyng. However, archaeological excavations undertaken in the nearby area have uncovered Roman material, pottery and coins which, due to the location at the junction of tidal rivers, suggests possible earlier trading links.

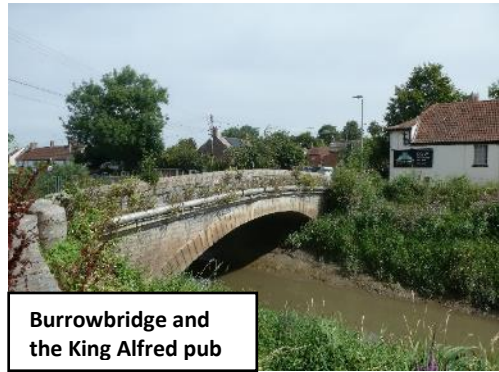
Sometime during the medieval period the top of the hill was levelled to create an area of flat land. This level area formed the motte for what is considered to be the earliest fortification on the site, a Norman castle, though interestingly the castle was not recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

In 1480 the hill was referred to by William of Worcester as "*Myghell-borough*" which, as this is an early form of a dedication to St Michael, indicates the presence of a chapel on the Mump in the 15th century. Following the dissolution of Athelney Abbey, the land at Burrow Mump was acquired by John Clayton in 1544, and the continued existence of a chapel on the hill is confirmed by the inclusion of "The Free Chapel of St Michael" in the list of Somerset Chantries of 1548.

The chapel was still extant in the 17th century when, during the Monmouth Rebellion of 1685, it was the location of a short 3-day resistance by 120-150 Royalist troops. By the late 17th century repairs to the chapel were necessary, but these do not appear to have been carried out as, by the end of the 18th century, a completely new church was planned. Subscriptions for a new building came from, among others, William Pitt the Younger and Admiral Hood. Although a new building was started it was never completed, but left roofless as it appears today, overlooking the current church of St Michael's in the village below.

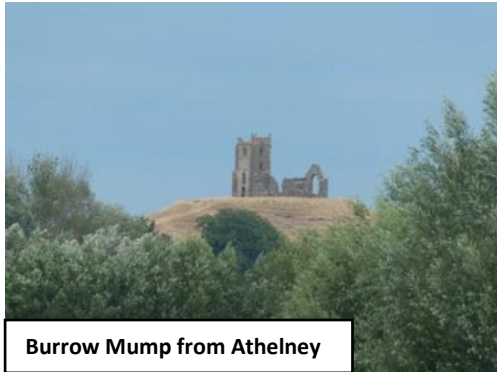
A short walk of just over a mile from Burrowbridge brings one to the Isle of Athelney, where King Alfred is known to have taken refuge following his defeat by the Danes at Chippenham. In the past, the Norman defences on the summit of Burrow Mump have been referred to as King Alfred's fort and the public

house in Burrowbridge is called the King Alfred. However, whilst it is very appealing to conceive of an association between Burrow Mump and King Alfred, unfortunately to date no evidence has arisen to support any connection. However, due to the Mump's commanding position above the surrounding landscape and the river system leading to the coast, it is not inconceivable that it would have been used as a lookout against a possible incursion from the coast.



Burrowbridge and the King Alfred pub

The Isle of Athelney, like Burrow Mump was, before the Somerset Levels were drained, within an area of swampy



Burrow Mump from Athelney

impassable marshes accessible only by boat. It lies to the east of the Anglo-Saxon burh of Lyng. The name of Athelney derives from the Anglo Saxon "*edelinga ieg*", thought to mean the island of princes. Although today mainly associated with King Alfred and his refuge from the Danes in 878, the isle had acquired its name some 200 years earlier when it was occupied by Æthelwine. Thought to have been a hermit, Æthelwine was the son of Cynegils, King of the West Saxons from 611-642 AD, and the brother of Cenwealh, also King of the West Saxons from 642-672 AD. It is likely, therefore, that the potential of the Isle as a shelter from the Danes was well known to Alfred.

From the Isle of Athelney, after all the other kingdoms of England had fallen to the Vikings, Alfred organised a resistance campaign against the Danes. Forces were rallied from Somerset, Wiltshire and Hampshire, leading to the defeat of the Danes at the Battle of Edington and their final surrender at Chippenham in 879. To give thanks for the great victory, in 888 Alfred dedicated the monastery on the Isle of Athelney, which persisted until the Dissolution but was never a rich community. The last Abbott was Robert Hamlyn who, with the 8 monks of the community, surrendered the Abbey on February 8, 1540.

The Abbey was then turned into a private residence, with demolition of the buildings being steadily undertaken by the various owners and the robbed stone used in other buildings in the area, for example at the nearby Athelney Farm.



Although today nothing of the original buildings remains above ground, geophysical surveys have shown that foundations still exist below the surface. The site of the original abbey is marked



by a small monument on top of the isle. This was erected by Sir John Slade in 1801 and stands on private land belonging to

Athelney Farm, but the site is accessible by a permissive path past the farm.

Now the burning question – was Alfred really responsible for the charred cakes during his sojourn on the Isle? As with other legends, the first known account of the incident occurs in the Life of St Neot, which is thought to have been written in the late 10th century – a long time after King Alfred's death.

Gill Broadbent

Your Somerset correspondent

The 'other' Queen Cleopatra

Or perhaps we should call her *The African Queen* in homage to the CS Forrester novel and the Humphrey Bogart and Katharine Hepburn film from 1951. The article on which this piece is based is, though, rather more academic – written by Jane Draycott, lecturer in Classics at the University of Glasgow.

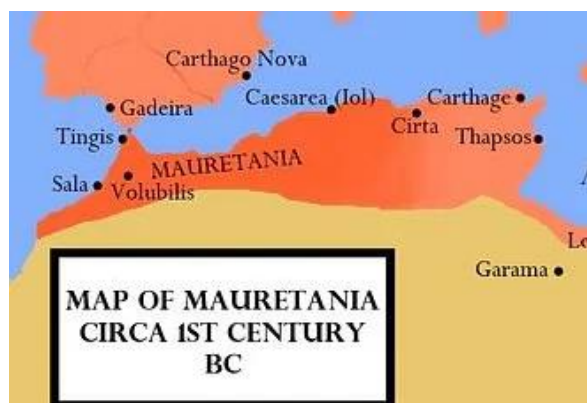
You may well have seen or heard of coins of the 'original' Queen Cleopatra, like that here, that suggest she was not much of a looker. However, it is felt by some academics that the hooked nose, as also found on Egyptian coins showing Mark Antony, is a reference to the hawk-headed god Horus, i.e. to assert that the Ptolemies were the rightful rulers of Egypt. But Cleopatra (69-30 BC, full title Cleopatra VII Philopator) was almost the last Ptolemaic ruler of Egypt, a dynasty that had lasted for 250 years. Her famous suicide, and that of her lover, Mark Antony, a year after their defeat at the Battle of Actium in 31 BC, paved the way for Egypt to become a Roman province. Her son 'Caesarion', apparently the only known offspring of Julius Caesar, ruled as Ptolemy XV Caesar for just a few days before being killed on Octavian's orders.



But Cleopatra VII also had twins, Alexander Helios and Cleopatra Selene, then aged about 11, as well as a son of 6 or 7, Ptolemy Philadelphus Antonius. All had been acknowledged by Mark Antony as his children, and they were taken to Rome by Octavian and forced to parade in his military triumph in 29 BC. Unlike, for example, Vercingetorix they weren't ritually executed at the end of the triumph, but they presented a problem as potential heirs to Egypt. In fact, Cleopatra Selene had been declared Queen of Crete and Cyrenaica (eastern Libya) in her own right by Mark Antony in 34 BC when he was in control of part of the Eastern Empire.

It seems that the 3 children were put under the control of Octavia, Octavian's sister and Mark Antony's 4th wife. What happened to the boys is uncertain as they disappear from history after the triumph; it is thought that Ptolemy Philadelphus may have died in the winter of 29 BC. Cleopatra Selene, however, certainly survived, and Octavian's solution to the problem of her potential inheritance came in the form of another of his wards, a young man named Gaius Julius Juba.

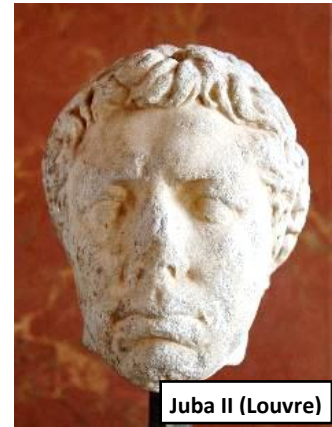
Gaius Julius was the only son of Juba I of Numidia (western Libya and further west), who was defeated by Julius Caesar in 46 BC, and subsequently committed suicide (the parallels with Cleopatra are obvious!). Gaius was raised by Caesar and then Octavian, whom he accompanied to the Battle of Actium. His birthdate is uncertain, but he was an infant when, like Cleopatra Selene, he was paraded in Caesar's triumph; by 29 BC he was probably around 18 or 19, and had been granted Roman citizenship. He is said to have been one of Rome's best educated citizens – a formidable intellectual and polymath, author of works on many subjects (one site says that included a book called *Roman Archaeology* in 2 volumes, written in his early 20s).



Octavia is said to have acted as matchmaker to bring Cleopatra and Gaius together, and they were married in or about 25 BC. Octavian, by then Caesar Augustus, made them joint rulers of the newly created Roman client kingdom of Mauretania. The exact extent of that is uncertain as there were constant re-organisations of North Africa around this time, and the map doesn't give a clear demarcation to the east. Nevertheless, this was a huge kingdom and a land of abundance, with considerable natural resources ranging from staples like grain and fish to luxuries like

purple dye. While the population was diverse, with many indigenous groups, there were also hostile tribes raiding from the south, where the border was ill defined.

Gaius, now Juba II, unusually for classical antiquity, actually had a lower profile than his wife because of her lineage back to Alexander the Great, her royal titles and direct connections to the imperial family. Cleopatra's prestige seems to have boosted Juba's authority. Together they embarked on a lavish building programme, particularly renaming the capital from Iol to Caesarea (now Cherchell, Algeria) and turning it into a centre for scholars and artists.



Archaeological and epigraphic evidence of their reign survives, but Jane Draycott says that numismatic evidence is also informative. However, she also points out, as we've seen with Cleopatra VII's coin portrait, that it can have different interpretations. We don't necessarily know anything about the message intended to be given by the coin, inscriptions may be limited and the coin may be undated (though years of study may well have given a close idea). But, the more we know of the historical, cultural and social background, the closer we're likely to get to a coin's message. Here, most of the background is clear enough to give good interpretations.

Coins were issued where both Juba and Cleopatra appear, but she also issued coins in her own right. The majority show her title in Greek as BASILISSA KLEOPATRA, i.e. 'Queen Cleopatra', but some are inscribed for 'Queen Cleopatra, daughter of [Queen] Cleopatra'. It seems clear that she, and indeed Juba, were keen to publicise the royal lineage and links to Egypt. For example, there were Mauretanian coins with crocodiles or ibises on the reverse, with others linking Cleopatra to the goddess Isis, her mother's favourite deity. Perhaps the clearest link to Egypt and the Ptolemies is a coin with Cleopatra as Isis on one side and Juba as the horned god Amun on the other (Amun was king of the Egyptian pantheon), shown here on a British Museum example.



Cleopatra Selene was, in some respects, more successful than her mother in ruling and developing a fairly calm and prosperous kingdom, though she's clearly not as famous. As far as we know, she died a natural death and lived for longer than her mother – though perhaps not for much longer as the date is uncertain, though many suggest c. AD 6. Juba's reign was long, until he died in AD 23. He married again after Cleopatra's death, but is buried with his first wife in the mausoleum pictured, just outside Caesarea.



Geoff Taylor/Jim Stacey

View from Above No. 53: Winterborne Farrington

*Photo by Sue
Newman
and Jo Crane*



(Note: some references include the “u”, but Winterborne seems more common for all of the following.)

Winterborne Farrington is an abandoned medieval village just 2km south of Dorchester, with its church halfway between Winterborne Herrington to the west and Winterborne Came to the east, both about 1km distant. Most of the hamlets that lined the Winterborne valley were deserted, or almost so, in the 15th and 16th centuries when the land was converted to raising sheep. For example, Winterborne Came petitioned the crown for help in 1521 but none was granted, and there were only 2 inhabitants by the mid-17th century. As with Winterborne Herrington, there are now a very few scattered dwellings, but both have manor houses.

The aerial photograph shows the western block of Farrington, with the single remaining wall of St. German’s church visible centre top and pictured right. Whilst this incorporates a 14th century window, it is thought to have been rebuilt in the 18th or 19th century. Beyond the last earthworks at top left of the aerial is an open area, before the smaller eastern block of remains. Although linked by a track, these may actually have been part of Winterborne Came as they are as close to St. Peter’s in Came as to St. German’s.



St German's church wasn't included in the *Taxatio Ecclesiastica* of 1291. This was the definitive base for church taxes, both for the Catholic Church and for the king, until the time of Henry VIII. It isn't clear whether this was a mistake (there are some omissions), if it was too poor to be taxed or even if there was no church/village there then. Several “Winterbornes” are recorded in Domesday, but there is little certainty as to which are recorded. The village seems to appear as ‘St Germain’s’ from the mid-13th century (suggesting a church then), with Winterborne Farrington first recorded in the mid-15th century.

The village was certainly recorded in 1397, but not taxed in 1428 as there were fewer than 10 residents. From the late 16th century both Farrington and Came were often served by the same incumbent and, in 1650, it was proposed that the churches be united – at that time there were only three households in Farrington and few in Came. By 1774 Hutchins noted that Winterborne Farrington had long been depopulated.

Jo Crane/ Geoff Taylor

From the Archives 9

I left one paper from the 1888 Proceedings out of the 8th in this series, 'The Dorset Colony in Massachusetts', as it seemed likely to require too much space. However, having now read through this, it actually covers matters that are reasonably well known, but also shows an appalling attitude to the suffering inflicted on the native Americans by the arrival and spread of British (and other) colonists. Perhaps I shouldn't be surprised by that.

Volume X from 1889 again contains no archaeology, nor are there really any items of much historical interest except one concerning the minutes of Dorchester Corporation from 1629-1637, from which I've taken some points. This was a period when Puritanism was thought to be fairly dominant in the county:

- No-one was allowed to move from their town of residence without clear means of support or a certificate from the previous town (exactly what it said isn't stated).
- Unless then granted freemanship of the new town, the person couldn't conduct commercial business (it seems waived if paying for a stand or stall at a fair).
- As just one example, a man claiming to be a scholar from Cambridge and son of a baronet in Herefordshire, but without certificate, was "punished" (assumed to be whipped) and sent away.
- Both swearing and drunkenness were treated quite severely with fines of 4 shillings or more, time in the stocks or even short prison sentences. A skilled worker might earn up to 2 shillings a day then.
- A scold was someone, though usually applied to women, who disturbed their neighbours' peace by complaints, gossip or generally unruly behaviour. The penalty for conviction was often to be 'plounced', basically immersed for a significant period using a ducking stool, several times in the worst cases.
- The penalty for not attending church might be a fine of 1 shilling or a couple of hours in the stocks. It seems that penalties were more likely to be applied to more persistent offenders, but there were cases where fines were levied for late attendance or leaving early. Indeed churchwardens were often accused of favouritism, the wealthier classes in particular were more likely to avoid penalties.

The first item of interest in Volume XI concerns a Romano-British well excavated near Winterborne Kingston, apparently not far from a similar one in a nearby field. Unfortunately, as confirmed by RCHME, it's exact location is unknown. The well, found when a traction engine passed over it, was about a metre in diameter and about 25m deep to the water level. Six coins were found, ranging from 82-330 AD (Domitian to Constantine I). From the accompanying illustration, the coins were in excellent condition although, as shown by the coin of Domitian here, don't reproduce very well. Pottery included samian and New Forest wares, there were 2 bronze fibulae and a bronze pin, part of a Purbeck marble mortar and a shallow vase of the same material, as well as Kimmeridge 'coal



money' (recognised as being the core left when making shale armlets and similar). The finds were apparently deposited in the County Museum.



An article on Badbury Rings is groping towards what we now believe about its construction, as are accompanying comments about the location of the Roman road from Hamworthy long before the Lake Farm legionary fortress was known. Without the sketch map, mentioned in the article but not shown, it is, unfortunately, difficult to decide what route is being described from statements like "opposite to Mr Charlton's dairyhouse". The article mentions a local legend that there is a gold coffin buried somewhere between Badbury Rings and Shapwick, one I'd not heard before.

The almost complete Roman amphora pictured here, just over a metre high and stamped "P.", was found in the "Weymouth Backwater". Near Max Gate, Dorchester, 3 isolated Romano-British crouched inhumations were reported, accompanied by pottery and bronze fibulae. Until and unless it is put online, I can't say whether discoveries like these are in Dorset's Historic Environment Record.

Geoff Taylor

The Woodland Trust and the Sutton Hoo ship



The Woodland Trust magazine for Spring 2023 has a short piece about the Trust supplying timber for the Sutton Hoo ship recreation project. The timber – a 21ft length with a precise curve – came from Hainault Forest as they were thinning the oaks to get more light into the hornbeams, which are survivors of that ancient wood pasture. As the Trust’s head ranger for Hainault Forest says, “One historic restoration project aiding another”.

The photograph of the template placed on the oak tree is from the website of The Sutton Hoo Ship’s Company (<https://saxonship.org/>), the charity which is building the full-size replica. I imagine that a similar approach was taken in Hainault Forest. I learnt from the

website that “attempts have been made to reconstruct the ship, including a half-size replica”. I only knew of the 1/10th scale model in the Sutton Hoo Museum, but the half-size replica (shown) was built in 1993 and named *Sae Wylfing* (Sea Wolf Cub). It is now looked after by the Woodbridge River Trust.



Alan Dedden

The CBA Wessex April Newsletter is [here](#), with conferences and lectures that you might like.

Weblink Highlights March 2023

The silk dress now on display at Kaap Skil Maritime and Beachcombers Museum in the Netherlands was recovered in 2014, but first announced in 2016 (see [400-year-old dress found in shipwreck sheds light on plot to pawn crown jewels | Netherlands | The Guardian](#)). The previous announcement had apparently escaped the notice of the author of the latest announcements in the New York Times, however.

The opening of the restored charterhouse in Coventry is a heartening story of a property developer rescuing heritage rather than the more normal outcome in such situations.

Alan Dedden

March Weblinks - No. 56

Aboriginal Spears Taken By Capt James Cook To Be Returned To Australia

[Aboriginal spears taken by Captain James Cook to be returned to Australia - BBC News](#)

Long-Lost Shipwreck In Lake Huron Confirms Tragic Story

[Long-lost ship Ironton found in Lake Huron, confirming tragic story \(nypost.com\)](#)

Secret Chamber In The Great Pyramid Discovered

[Secret chamber inside the Great Pyramid is uncovered after 4,500 years | Science | News | Express.co.uk](#)

New Digs Reveal Pompeii Is Far From Frozen In Time

[Treasures from new digs reveal that Pompeii is far from ‘frozen in time’ | Archaeology | The Guardian](#)

Lost Letters Reveal How 'Desperate' Shackleton Was To Rescue Stranded Crew

[Lost letters reveal how 'desperate' Shackleton charmed Falklanders to save stranded crew | Exploration | The Guardian](#)

New Analysis Of Ancient Human Protein Could Unlock Secrets Of Evolution

[New analysis of ancient human protein could unlock secrets of evolution | Evolution | The Guardian](#)

Roman Altar Found In Leicester Cathedral Precinct

[Ancient Roman altar discovered underneath Leicester Cathedral - Leicestershire Live \(leicestermercury.co.uk\)](#)

Oldest Reference To Odin Discovered In Viking Treasure Find

[Oldest reference to Norse god Odin found in unearthed Viking treasure | Norwich Evening News \(eveningnews24.co.uk\)](#)

Roman Burials Found In A Previously Unknown Leeds Cemetery

[Historic Leeds cemetery discovery unearths secrets of ancient Britain](#)

Silk Dress Survived For 3 Centuries At The Bottom Of The Sea

[This Dress Survived for More Than Three Centuries at the Bottom of the Sea - The New York Times \(nytimes.com\)](#)

Roman-Era Burial Sealed-Off To Shield The Living From The 'Restless Dead'

[Roman-era tomb scattered with magical 'dead nails' and sealed off to shield the living from the 'restless dead' | Live Science](#)

200 Million Year Old Dinosaur Fossil Goes On Display At Charmouth Heritage Coast Centre

[200 million year old dinosaur fossil on display in Charmouth | Bridport and Lyme Regis News \(bridportnews.co.uk\)](#)

Experts Flabbergasted At Discovery Of Fossilised Hoofprints Of Giant Zebras In Ancient Dunes

[Experts flabbergasted after discovering fossils of giant zebras in ancient dunes | Science | News | Express.co.uk](#)

Scottish Fossil Dig Unearths 'Rosetta Stone' For Ancient Past

[Scottish fossil dig unearths 'Rosetta Stone' for ancient past | The National](#)

Coventry's Medieval Charterhouse Opens To The Public After 11 Year Restoration

[Coventry's medieval Charterhouse opens to public after 11-year rescue effort | Coventry | The Guardian](#)

T-rex's Fangs Were Hidden Behind Lizard-like Lips

[T-rex's 'ferocious' fangs were hidden by lizard-like lips | Tech News | Metro News](#)

SS Warrimoo 31 December 1899

It is claimed that the passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was once navigated to a point such that it simultaneously spanned two different hemispheres, two centuries and two seasons.

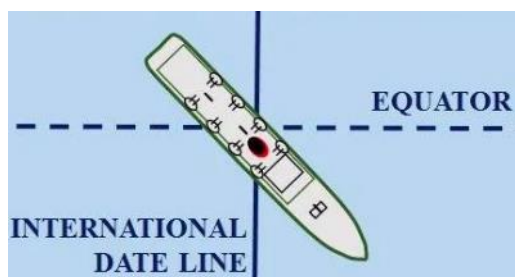
The ship was launched in 1892, sailing between Australia and New Zealand, then between Canada and Australia. Converted to a troopship in 1914, it sank in 1918 after colliding with a French warship. The unusual claim came whilst on the way from Vancouver to Australia almost at the turn of the century.

The navigator brought the ship's position to the master, Captain John Phillips, as Latitude 0° 31' N and Longitude 179 30' W. They realised that they were only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line.



Captain Phillips had the position carefully checked, then made a slight alteration of course and speed, helped by calm, clear weather, so as to reach the intersection before the end of the day. At midnight they lay at an angle across the Date Line and Equator. That meant:

- The stern was in the northern hemisphere, and in the middle of winter on 31st December 1899, and
- the bow was in the southern hemisphere on 1st January 1900 in the middle of summer.



Of course, anything crossing the equator briefly straddles hemispheres, and hence seasons; anything crossing the date line bridges days. Here there's also a bridging of centuries (if you ignore the point that the 20th century didn't technically start until 1901). But did it really happen?

I imagine that navigation technology then made the accuracy of the ship's position uncertain, but we should allow for the intent and the officers' belief at the time. Contemporaneous reporting shows that the Warrimoo was in roughly the right area at the right time. It left Vancouver in the afternoon of 15 December and arrived in Brisbane on the afternoon of 7th January. However, the report only appeared, in a Canadian newspaper, 40 years after the supposed event. Attempts to find contemporary corroboration, such as ships' logs or other reports, have proved unsuccessful. I have to say, "nice story but unproven".

Post script: A tradition in the US Navy (and perhaps others) is that crossing dateline and equator simultaneously is a 'golden shellback', requiring an initiation ceremony, which includes those who have separately crossed either or both lines before.

EDAS PROGRAMME 2023

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

Wed 12th April	Lecture	Peter Cox	40 years of archaeology in Dorset
Wed 10th May	Lecture	Clare Randall	The manor of Putton and the potential of medieval archaeology in Dorset

DISTRICT DIARY

Wed 19th April	Down to earth: the story of Sandford Pottery	Wareham Society	Patrick Andrews
Thu 20th April	The Congresbury Kiln Assemblage	AVAS	Amy Thorp
Thu 20th April	Archaeology and Mental Health	Blandford Society	Megan Russel
Wed 17th May	Dorset Churches	Wareham Society	Gordon Le Pard
Thu 18th May	Report on the excavations at Druce Farm Roman villa (tbc)	Blandford Society	Lilian Ladle
Wed 21st June	What's in a name? A history of Wareham through its street names	Wareham Society	Lilian Ladle

Archaeology Societies

- Avon Valley Archaeological Society: <http://www.avas.org.uk/>
Meetings at Ibsley Village Hall, BH24 3NL (<https://ibsleyhall.co.uk/>), 7:30pm 3rd Thursday of month except June, July & August. Visitors £3.50; membership £10 pa.
- Blandford Museum Archaeology Group:
<https://blandfordtownmuseum.org.uk/groups-and-projects/archaeology-group/>
Meetings normally 7:30pm 3rd Thursday of each month September to May at Blandford Parish Centre, The Tabernacle, DT11 7DW. 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.