East Dorset Antiquarian Society

Charity No: 1171828

Founded 1983

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 – Midsummer 2023

Welcome to the Midsummer Newsletter, perhaps slightly misnamed given the weather we've been having. The next lecture meeting will be on 13th September, but the September newsletter should arrive before that with further details.

Thanks to Phil, we have a summary of the last lecture by Lilian: **Paving the Way – Mosaic Floors in the Ancient World**. We were very grateful to Lilian for stepping in at short notice with this excellent talk when Clare Randall couldn't attend.

Since the lecture we've had two major events. First there was the party to celebrate our 40th anniversary – an excellent event, thanks to the organisers and attendees, for a major milestone that a lot of local societies never reach. That's covered here with the snappy title of **EDAS 40th Anniversary Party**. Then there was our 29th field trip – a successful visit to Kent last month, judging by the comments received. There's a short article here on that with the equally snappy title of **Kent Field Trip 18-24 June 2023**. The trip will, of course, be described by co-organisers Phil and Geoff at the lecture after the AGM next March

And on the 40th anniversary, we continue with a further 4 more short articles, written by Vanessa Joseph and myself, on the 40 'items' members felt represented Dorset: **The Early Christian Cemetery at Worth Matravers**, **The Iron Age TB skeleton at MED**, **Lake Farm Roman Fortress** and **The Hardy Monument**.

Sue Pinyoun and Ian Richardson recently visited the **Wimborne All Hallows** church site, and Sue has sent a short update on that, for which thank you.

On the field trip, many thanks to Robin Dumbreck for his article on **St Peter's Church, Sandwich**. We were told some of the church's history during our guided tour of the town, but Robin went further in both visiting the church and adding some extra background.

Alan has kindly sent a bumper edition of **Weblinks** (No. 58) and **Highlights**, with articles covering pretty much every period.

There's already so much here that I was going to skip View from Above, based on Sue Newman and Jo Crane's aerial photographs, but realised that it's a continuation and you may have forgotten the previous one by September (if you haven't already). So here's **View from Above No. 55: Tenantry Farm, part 2**. Part 3 will follow. I have, though, dropped From the Archives this time

And then there's the **EDAS Programme**, now including next season's lectures from September to May next year. The **District Diary** is short (well, non-existent) as there are no details of the next season's talks yet**.**

Geoff Taylor

Paving the Way – Mosaic Floors in the Ancient World: Lecture by Lilian Ladle

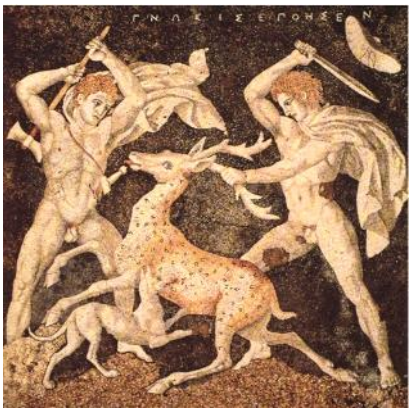
Due to unforeseen circumstances Clare Randall was unable to present her lecture on The Manor of Putton. We will invite her again at a later date. Instead, stepping into her shoes at short notice, we were fortunate to secure Lilian Ladle as guest speaker to talk about a subject close to her heart – mosaics.

Mosaic floors developed over millennia in the ancient world. spreading from Iraq and the Middle East throughout the Mediterranean into Crete, Greece, Sicily, Italy and, eventually, into Britain. By the time the Romans had established themselves throughout Europe and beyond, every country in the Empire had buildings with mosaics. Mostly they were laid on floors, but sometimes on walls. In their earliest form they consisted of limestone pavements, with later development using pebbles and, ultimately, *tesserae* using a variety of fabrics including stone, ceramics and glass.

Çatal Höyük in Turkey was one of the first known towns with a series of houses stacked up on each other around 7000 BCE. Excavations have found floors of limestone plaster which needed constant attention;

incredibly, up to 100 resurfacings have been found on some floors. Later, at Uruk in Iraq *c*.4000 BCE, the inhabitants created the first genuine city with a palace, temple and administration complex serving a population of about 10,000 people. Here were found the first examples of 'mosaic' technique, with half columns covered in clay into which were pressed clay cones of different colours. They produced pleasing geometric designs suggesting patterns based on matting or textiles.

At Ġgantija in Malta, around 3500 BCE, the temple complex used limestone blocks for flooring, whilst 2,000 years later a walkway at the Palace of Knossos in Crete was constructed of limestone edged with blue schist and red terracotta. Wall paintings also formed an important part of the decorative schemes at the palace. By around 800 BCE, graded blue, red and white pebbles were being used for decorative effect in small houses in Gordion, Eastern Turkey. The various, apparently random, designs probably had meaning and symbolism, and became part of the mosaicists' repertoire.



Mosaics discovered at Pelia, Greece, from about 400 BCE show a significant development in the quality of mosaic art. Carpets of carefully graded pebbles in repeating patterns were laid over large areas in wealthy houses, such as the House of Dionysius. The designs are complex and beautiful, often copying paintings as in *Alexander Hunting a Lion* where lead strips were used to highlight and outline the designs. Probably the first, and certainly the most accomplished, such depiction was made using a mosaic of pebbles. Called *The Deer Hunt*, it was signed "Gnosis" by the mosaicist.

A little later, The House of the Mosaics in Eretrea showed that Greek mosaics continued to be constructed in pebbles in archaic style, with figurative and geometric designs using black, white and red pebbles. Fourth century BCE Greek pottery used similar designs and motifs. A new form of paving was, though, developing in that century. A floor was found at the Punic (i.e. Carthaginian – originally Phoenician) city of Kerkouane in Tunisia which used tiny pieces of stone embedded in *opus signinum* – a waterproof cement of lime, sand and broken pottery. This must date before 310 BCE when the city was abandoned.

In fact, the period from the 4th century BCE seems to be a time of innovation in mosaics, perhaps best illustrated by Sicily, an island rich in ancient culture, with influence from the Phoenicians, Greeks and Romans. On Motya, a small island off the west coast, the Carthaginians copied Greek mosaicists *c*.350 BCE by creating a pebble pavement, but in a style quite untypical of themselves (below left). Selinunte, was an important and wealthy Greek colony developed from *c*.650 BCE, but which ultimately suffered from war and earthquakes. In an early 5th century temple that was remodelled in the 4th century by the

Carthaginians, there is an *opus signinum*-based floor depicting the goddess Tanit in tiny stones, along with an image of a bull's head within a floral wreath. The Greek city of Morgantina, founded *c*.550, BCE, though under Roman control by 211 BCE, has an *opus signinum* floor with the words 'welcome' in Greek. At the House of Gannymede, is a depiction of Gannymede and the Eagle from *c*.250 BCE (which, interestingly, is not unlike a much later mosaic at Bignor in West Sussex) featuring the earliest use of tessellation. This was the start of decorative motifs in mosaics which continued to be used over succeeding centuries.

It was the Romans who turned the production of mosaics on floors into an industry for the wealthy. Several sites boast plentiful richly decorated examples of the skilled work of the craftsmen that created them. Possibly the most famous is Pompeii, which, when covered in lava and ash from the erupting Mount Vesuvius in 79 BCE, preserved not only mosaics and wall paintings but also entire buildings and bodies in a single moment in time. Amongst the amazing array of mosaics, the Villa of the Mysteries has a magnificent, but simple, 2nd century BCE black and white marble floor with a simple geometric pattern.

The House of the Faun c.180-170 BCE, which was the largest house in the city, housed a water feature with *opus sectile* base (i.e. relatively large thinly sliced and cut stones) using expensive multi-coloured marble. Among the many other mosaics in the house is what is considered to be one of the finest depictions of marine life ever made (detail left), as well as the large Alexander pavement made with 1.5 million *vermiculata* (tiny tessera), which was based on a Greek painting (detail right).

Other highlights are in the Houses of Cuspius Pansa and of the Tragic Poet, where mosaic images of fierce guard dogs are set in the floor, warning anyone entering the building. The latter includes the well-known Latin for 'beware of the dog'.

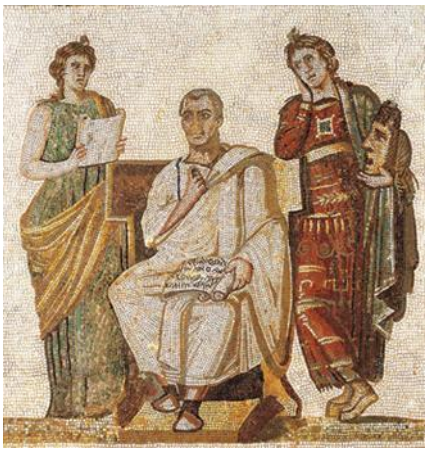
Not far down the coast, and suffering a similar fate to Pompeii (although covered with scalding mud rather than lava and ash), Herculaneum was also a bustling and wealthy town where many impressive mosaics have been uncovered. One of these is in the House of Neptune and Amphitrite where glass was used extensively on the walls in the dining room, a practice that began in the 2nd century BCE. Other notable discoveries there included a floor mosaic with a marine scene and another with panels containing swastikas (denoting good fortune) and motifs.

The nearby National Archaeological Museum of Naples has an extensive array of mosaics from the region, many of which have no provenance as they were looted and formerly held in private collections. Amongst these are a set of columns encrusted with glass tesserae which may well have come from Pompeii.

There are other fine examples of skilfully crafted mosaics in important buildings not far from Rome. For example, at Rome's port of Ostia one of the outstanding ones to have been excavated is in premises belonging to the Company of Shipmasters, with black and white mosaics advertising their

services. East of Rome, the Emperor Hadrian's extensive and luxurious villa at Tivoli included over 30 separate buildings. Not surprisingly, the floors were laid with the finest materials by the best craftsmen available in the empire.

However, probably the most skilled and talented makers of mosaics during the Roman period came later, with those from Tunisia in North Africa. The Bardo Museum in Tunis houses some outstanding examples, including Vergil and the Muses. Among many others, there are ones depicting marine scenes (found 100 miles inland!), Hercules at sea and the daily lives of the inhabitants, including fishing, farming and gaming. Wild animals are also portrayed, with some interesting variations from the norm such as an elephant which looks as if it is quilted and a scene with creatures that may be humanoid or monkeys.



The influence and participation of mosaicists from North Africa is almost certainly present in a 4th century luxury complex in eastern Sicily – the Villa Romana del Casale near the small town of Piazza Armerina. It may have belonged to emperors Maximian or Maxentius. The building complex survived because it was covered by a mud landslide in the Middle Ages. The range, quality and size of mosaics is outstanding, with an array of scenes including the transport of exotic animals, game hunts and bikini-clad women exercising. Images gleaned from other, sometimes distant, countries also appear here, including a personification of India with another quilted elephant [for more information on the villa see the March 2019 newsletter].

In Rome, at the House of Junius Bassus, who was Consul in 331 CE, luxurious materials were used to create an *opus sectile* mosaic with the upper register in Greek style and the lower one in Egyptian style. Scenes depicted include a tiger attacking a cow and a chariot race created using gold, glass and lapis lazuli.

Much closer to home, there are many examples of fine Roman-period mosaic work in Britain, including pavements at Fishbourne Roman Palace, Chedworth, Bignor (left), Lullingstone, Littlecote and Cirencester. Of course, Dorchester has several, including the town house in the grounds of County Hall and at Druce Farm (now reburied).

In conclusion, and after a whistle stop tour of some of the most exquisite mosaics from across Europe and the Middle East, it was stressed that the creation of mosaics is not a dying art as they have continued to appear over the centuries since the end of the Roman Empire, perhaps most notably the Byzantine mosaics across the eastern Mediterranean. In Australia they seem to be in the ascendancy, being used to decorate pavements, the walls of buildings and even primary schools like the one in Perth where there is an image of a Koala decorating the outside wall of a classroom.

With thanks to Lilian for standing in at such short notice and giving us such a fascinating and well-illustrated presentation.

Phil D'Eath

EDAS 40th Anniversary Party

Thank you to all those who attended the evening at the Museum of East Dorset on the 20th May and helped to make it such a success. Special thanks are due to Vanessa Joseph for doing much of the organisation, Simon Meaden for beer and cider (very important), Lindsey Dedden for cakes (important too), Robert Heaton for his film, and both Simon Dunk and Len Norris for their speeches. The weather was also kind to us.

It was particularly good to see some of our founder members there, as well as people who no longer live in Dorset, and a real pleasure to see people catching up after not seeing each other for a while. This is just some of the photographs taken on the night.

Vanessa

Henry (founder member) and Mrs Cole

Simon Meaden and Martin Green (founder member)

Haydn Everall and Len Norris (founder members)

Ian Richardson, Sue Pinyoun and Dave Long

Paul Cheetham

Phil D'Eath

Simon Dunk

Carol & Graham Boseley watching the film

Mike Tizzard, Robert Heaton and Jo Crane

Sue Newman, Stephen and Ann Limburn

Dave Stewart and Lindsey Dedden

Mike and Anita Becker with Peter Walker

Kent Field Trip 18-24 June 2023

The Kent field trip proved successful and enjoyable despite the late loss of two key venues due to closures (Lullingstone Villa and the Painted House, Dover) and some very hot and humid weather in the second half of the week. There was an exceptional rainstorm on the morning we arrived in Dover, but we were grateful that it was dry otherwise.

We were joined by 19 members: Sue Taylor, Claire & Robert Heaton, Sue Slater, Alan & Kerry Fryer, Steve Smith, Mike & Ayse Arthur, Mo & Mac Houghton, Alan & Lindsey Dedden, Stephen Tansey, Gill Vickery & John Oswin, Jo Crane & Sue Newman and Robin Dumbreck. We thank them for their company and, of course, the very helpful archaeological community in Kent for their site visits and talks.

Here are just some of the photographs received so far

Welcome dinner, Bell Hotel, Sandwich

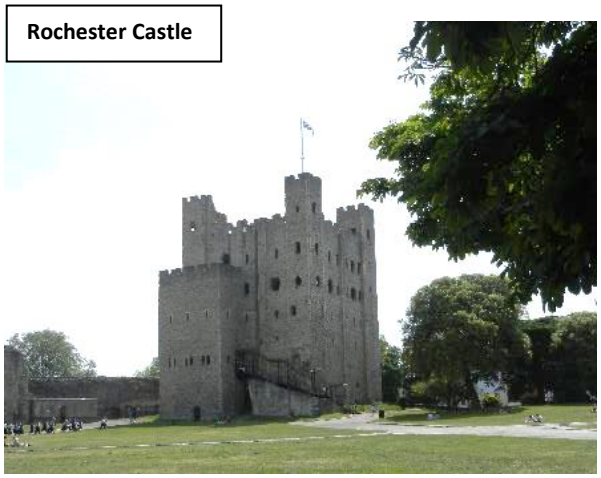
St Clement's, Sandwich

Walmer Castle

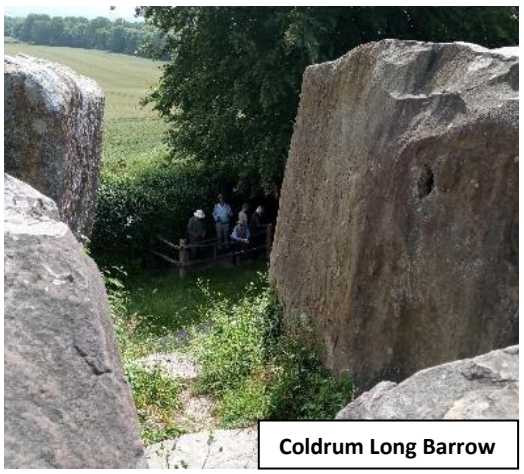
Dover Castle

Richborough Roman Fort

Boxley Abbey Barn



Rochester Castle



Coldrum Long Barrow

East Malling Villa Excavation

Lullingstone Roman Villa

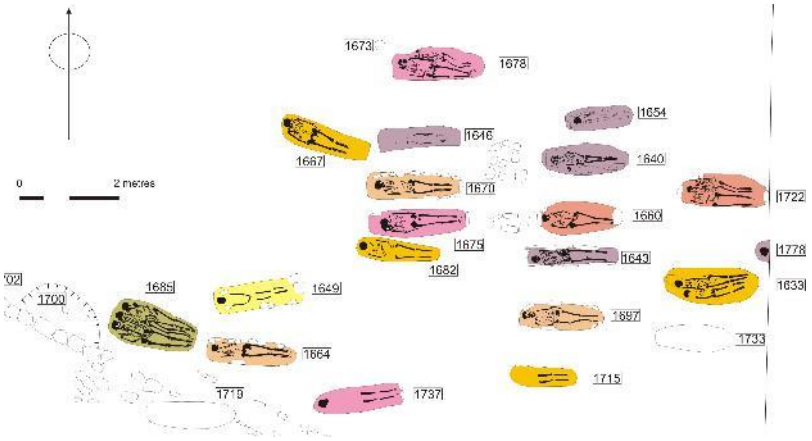
Otford Villa Excavation

The Last Supper, Fifi's, Maidstone

Phil D'Eath and Geoff Taylor

The Early Christian Cemetery at Worth Matravers (GT)

This post-Roman cemetery was excavated by EDAS 2006-2011, published in Lilian Ladle's 2018 monograph *Multi-period Occupation at Football Field, Worth Matravers, Dorset*.



The 21 burials were aligned from east to west with heads to the west, and appear well organised, with no intercutting graves. As can be seen on the plan from the volume, there are three rare double burials and even one triple grave, with the people in each apparently buried at the same time. As can also be seen, burial 1778 extended beyond the excavation limits, which suggests further burials to the east. The colouring shows the type of grave, ranging from simple earth-cut to complex cist-types.

Calibrated radiocarbon dates range from the early 5th to late 8th centuries, with most in the 7th century, and there was only one grave good – a small copper alloy buckle. This lack of grave goods is consistent with other post-Roman/early medieval cemeteries in the west of Britain, as opposed to furnished Anglo-Saxon burials. Stable isotope analysis implied a diet low in marine protein, somewhat surprising in view of how near the cemetery is to the coast. Recurring traits in the skeletons suggested that there may be kinship links amongst the people.

Bob Kenyon, the owner of Football Field, spoke to us a while back about ancient DNA (December 2019 newsletter) and gave us some predictions for this cemetery when DNA analysis of the remains was in its early stages. He wondered if the double and triple burials were related to the Justinian plague, as they were in a Cambridgeshire cemetery. He thought that the man buried at Worth with a stone anchor might well be a sailor from abroad, and hoped that we might be able to link this ancient population with modern ones.

The DNA analysis is now coming to a close, and initial information on the results suggest some interesting familial links and distant origins for some of the people – watch this space (well, actually, wait for the article to appear in *Antiquity*).

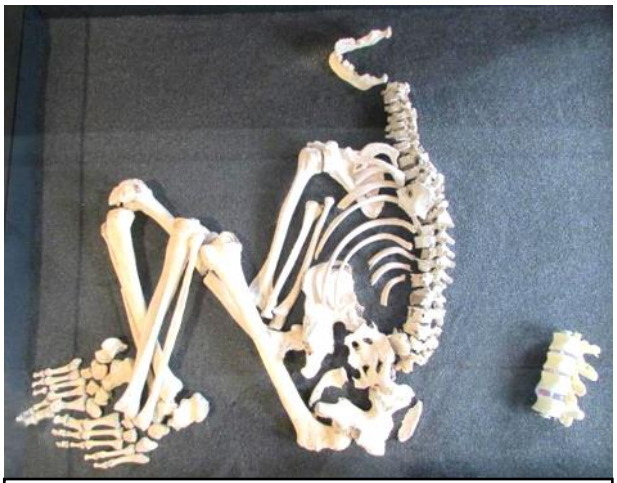
The Iron Age TB skeleton at MED (VJ)

Archaeological excavations at Tarrant Hinton between 1967 and 1985 uncovered the skeleton of an Iron Age man with signs of tuberculosis (TB). The man, who died between 400 and 230 BC, is still the earliest known case of TB ever found in Britain. His skeleton is now on permanent display at the Museum of East Dorset.

A paper published in 2005 by G. Michael Taylor, Douglas B. Young, and Simon A. Mays showed that the man, aged between 30 and 40 when he died, had advanced tuberculosis in his spine (also known as Pott's disease). The changes in his spine would have taken several years to develop and impaired his mobility and daily functioning. It is likely that his community cared for him, despite his illness, for him to have survived so long.

In 2019/2020, the museum asked Professor Alistair Pike, University of Southampton, to investigate stable isotope ratios using samples taken from skeletal remains. The results strongly suggest that the man arrived in Britain as a child.

He ate a mixed diet consisting of plants (cereal crops/vegetables) grown on chalkland, whilst the bulk of his protein came from cattle and sheep. His diet showed no evidence of marine or freshwater fish or pig. He lived on the southern British chalklands between the ages of 8 and 14, when his third molar was developing. However, the combined strontium and oxygen isotope analyses suggest a high probability that the man spent his early childhood in South or West Ireland, the Atlantic coasts of South West France or the Cantabrian Mountains of Northern Spain.



The IA TB skeleton on display at the Museum of East Dorset. The man's damaged vertebrae can be compared with a replica of the same part of a 'healthy' spine.

Dr Simon Mays, Human Skeletal Biologist for Historic England said: "We know from the DNA evidence that this person would have got his TB from another person, rather than from infected meat or milk. Finds of diseased skeletons in Continental Europe tell us that tuberculosis was present there for thousands of years before our Tarrant Hinton man was born. The isotope evidence is tantalising. Perhaps he caught his disease in mainland Europe. But it could equally well be that TB was already well-established here by the Iron Age."

Professor Alistair Pike commented: "The recent global Coronavirus pandemic has shown how the long-distance movement of people can rapidly spread disease and this will have been no different in the past. By using isotopes to trace prehistoric people's origins we hope to determine when, where and how far the diseases of the time were spreading."

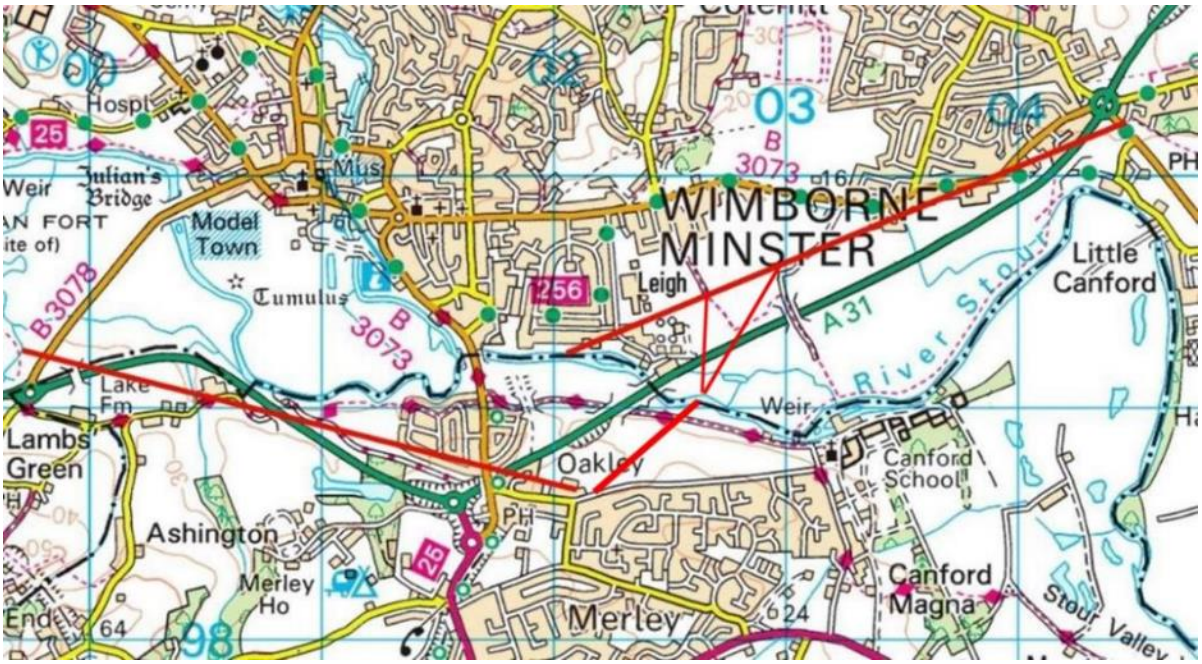
Lake Farm Roman Fortress (GT)

This fortress near Wimborne is clearly an important place in Dorset's history as the base of the Roman legion, *Legio II Augusta* under Vespasian, that ostensibly conquered this part of Britain. Paul Cheetham gave us a lecture on the fortress, summarised in the March 2021 newsletter, and it is difficult to find anything to add to that (though I can't resist showing a picture of 'Duracell' Dave Stewart again, as he did the vast majority of the geophysics that was the basis of the most recent publications. He apparently walked 300 miles in total).

So, here's some speculation on how the fortress was approached from the east, e.g. for resupplying it, mostly developed in discussions over a period with Dave, but starting with Paul's suggestion. He thought that the known line of the road leaving the east gate of the fortress could be continued with a sharp left turn to take it to the Stour where Canford Bridge now is – a possible ford, or a quay there at what could well have been the highest navigable point of the river.

There are, of course other considerations and possibilities. It has long been thought, with some limited evidence, that the known Roman road from *Venta Belgarum* (Winchester) and *Clausentum* (Southampton) to Stoney Cross continued roughly along the line of the A31, particularly on the straight sections through St Leonards and St Ives, and then the very straight road through Ferndown (now Wimborne Road East) towards Canford Bottom roundabout. A stretch of bank about 1km west of the roundabout, south of Wimborne Road West and roughly pointing towards Canford Bottom, was identified as a Roman road in the 1920s. I always thought this was uncertain until it was proved by Cotswold Archaeology's work ahead of the Quarterjack Park housing development, which extended the line but not very far west.

You might also prefer to approach the river where the flood plain is narrower, i.e. to the east of Canford Bridge. A feature in the fields north of Oakley could easily be a road, though Wessex Archaeology's report on the site says it's modern services (unspecified). Using these alignments, here are some possibilities – they are, though, just possibilities!



The Hardy Monument (VJ)

The Hardy Monument stands on an exposed location on the top of Black Down, above the village of Portesham. It was built in 1844, by public subscription, in memory of Vice-Admiral Sir Thomas Masterman Hardy, Flag Captain of HMS Victory at the Battle of Trafalgar in 1805. Amongst other things, Hardy became famous for kissing Nelson on his deathbed. Whether Nelson's last words were "Kiss me Hardy" or "Kismet Hardy" (kismet meaning fate) will never be known.

The site for the monument was chosen because the Hardy family wanted it to be in a position which could be used as a landmark for shipping. The monument has been shown on navigational charts since 1846, and is visible from a distance of 60 miles.

It was built of local Portland stone by Henry Goddard of Bridport to a design by Arthur Acland-Troyte. The octagonal tower, reaching 22 metres (72 feet) high, has a spiral stair ascending inside the column to a parapet at the top. It was designed to look like a spyglass as Admiral Hardy would have used on board ship. Its eight corners are aligned with the compass points. The monument was restored in 1900 by Hardy's descendants and sold to the National Trust in 1938 for £15.The future of the monument has been safeguarded thanks to a £150,000 restoration project carried out during 2011.

Some claim it watches over the best view in Dorset, with the full 18-mile stretch of Chesil Beach to the south, Devon to the west, the south Dorset coast to the east and the distant valleys of Dorset to the north. On a fine day, views from the top stretch 50 miles, all the way to the famous Needles at the western end of the Isle of Wight.

Hardy spent fifty-eight years of his life serving his country in the Royal Navy. It is probable that he became known to Nelson as early as 1795, when serving as a lieutenant on HMS Meleager, one of Nelson's squadron off Genoa. For his part in the great victory at Cape Trafalgar, he was created a baronet, received the Naval Gold Medal, a silver vase from the Patriotic Fund, and a presentation sword from the City of London.

He died in 1839, aged 70, and is buried within the Georgian Mausoleum at Greenwich, adjacent to the National Maritime Museum. In the words of the inscription on his memorial at Greenwich, he was "one of the noblest ornaments of the profession".

The Death of Nelson by Daniel Maclise at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool. Nelson is supported by Captain Hardy with Doctor Beatty bending over him.

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Wimborne All Hallows

Ian and I had been to the Summer Fair and Book Sale at Wimborne St Giles and, whilst there, had a walk out to the All Hallows site where EDAS excavated recently.

It was quite disappointing in some ways to see that it has reverted to the wilderness it was before the dig a couple of years ago, despite the villagers' professed interest in keeping it cleared. On the other hand, it is still a very beautiful and peaceful spot, and nature is enjoying its anonymity.

Sue Pinyoun

St. Peter's Church, Sandwich

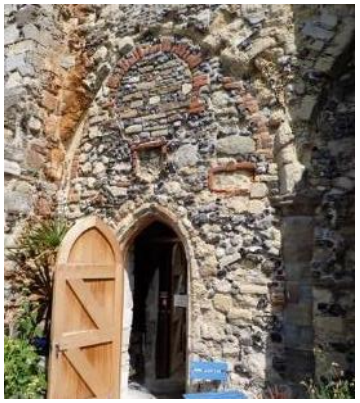
The story of a church probably founded before the Norman conquest but surviving, battered and altered, in the centre of Sandwich.

Sandwich had three large churches (hence three parishes) in the medieval period, a measure of the importance of the town because of its port. St Peter's, in the centre of the town and shown here (south side), was originally Norman but more than likely on an earlier site. The Norman church was quite large, but was destroyed in 1216 by French attackers. The rebuilding later that century, funded by the prosperity of the town's wool trade, expanded the church further, with north and south aisles and a crypt. A little later, the south aisle was further extended.

Needless to say, Sandwich was (and is) one of the principal Cinque Ports which, from the time of Edward the Confessor, had a large degree of independence in exchange for providing the monarch with ships and men to defend the country in times of trouble. The Cinque Ports had their own courts, laws and local taxes. In the 15th century, longshore drift was beginning to cause Sandwich harbour to silt up, a problem affecting many of the Cinque Ports. The town's prosperity began to decline, but further work on the church suggests it was hardly poor at that time.

This church had been founded originally under the patronage of St Augustine's Abbey, Canterbury, and was, of course, impacted by the Reformation. Henry VIII visited the town for the second time in 1539, when the church came under his control and it was reluctantly forced to change to Protestantism. It is said that he took all the church's wealth in silver and jewellery. If so, this was a major blow at a time when the continued silting of the harbour was severely affecting the finances of the town and, of course, the church. In 1573 Elizabeth I visited Sandwich and the civic dignitaries sought assistance in keeping the port open, but little was able to be done. Today the port is just an inland riverside and the Cinque Ports are an anachronism, retaining just a ceremonial role.

In 1560, Elizabeth I had granted a royal warrant for Dutch and Flemish Protestant refugees, fleeing persecution at home, to settle in Sandwich. They were allowed to use St Peter's for their services and, in 1564 when the plague hit Sandwich, to quarantine themselves there. I believe this accounts for their later dedication to the church building, and it is possible that the south vestry shown here was renovated around that time in a style clearly relating to their origins.



On 13th October 1661, the church tower collapsed destroying the south aisle. Some say that it was caused by an earthquake, though documents show the church was in dire need of repair. The Flemish and Dutch community, grown prosperous from their weaving, rebuilt the tower and remodelled the church without the aisle. This can be seen in the unusual style of the tower and the change to brickwork higher up. In order to do this the original internal arches, shown left and below, had to be closed and strengthened to support the tower. The bulk of what we see today dates from this time and the church has remained intact. There have been internal changes, including the almost inevitable Victorian 'improvements'.

In 1779 a tower clock was installed with four faces, and a set of eight bells. The main (and only working) bell is called the curfew bell and is rung every evening at 8.00 pm except on Sundays. A rota of local volunteers undertake this task, which involves climbing the tower. It seems that this was originally used to tell people that it was time to put out their fires and animals, rather than a legal requirement to stay indoors.

In 1948, with declining congregations, the three parishes were united and St Clement's became the parish church. St Peter's and St Mary's were 'redundant', although they have remained consecrated and are occasionally used for services. St Peter's was included in the Redundant Churches Fund, now the Churches Conservation Trust.

The Trust have done a considerable amount of work. In particular, as shown below, the tower interior has been fully restored, at great expense, to allow the bell to be rung and the clock to be restored and maintained. Visitors may climb the tower and enjoy the views for £3.50 on weekdays.

The clock is of a musical type, but now only chimes one bell which can be seen on the right of the next photo.

For a 'redundant' church, St Peter's still remains at the centre of the community and has much to offer. It acts as a local market, antiques centre and meeting place, staffed by local volunteers and open each weekday. The tower is safe, but narrow and restricted for access, but I can recommend that it is worth the effort for the views.

There is much more to see both within this church and the town of Sandwich. I must give thanks to the booklet produced by the Churches Conservation Trust for some of the background to this report.

Robin Dumbreck

Weblink Highlights Summer 2023

Not surprisingly, as it has been collected over a 10 week period, this edition of the weblinks is rather long. With many items to choose from the following meriting further comment.

The item on the jailed detectorists is a follow-up to an item in the previous list, and we can only hope it serves to deter others from similar transgressions. This item contributes to the 2 bad news stories featuring detectorists, against the 2 good news stories.

The item on the release of Jim Leary's book 'Footmarks' is included, not as an endorsement but because he takes a new approach to looking at the past – through movement. If you have not already heard about 'Footmarks', read the reviews as you may find it interesting.

We can only hope that the monument destroyed by the building of a new DIY store in France leads to better protection measures. There is increasing pressure on all historic monuments (both the known and protected, and the as yet unknown), and the loss through either carelessness or a deliberate 'blind eye' on the part of the authorities is deplorable.

Late News!

The news that the A303 tunnel at Stonehenge had been approved by the Transport Secretary, Mark Harper, came just as this edition of Weblinks was about to be published in the newsletter. The news has been covered by many media organisations, but in case you missed it, here are a few:-

Stonehenge road tunnel plans approved by transport secretary | Stonehenge | The Guardian

Stonehenge tunnel plans approved despite 'colossal' environmental concerns (telegraph.co.uk)

Stonehenge tunnel is approved by government - BBC News

Government gives green light for Stonehenge road tunnel | Andover Advertiser

Stonehenge: Reaction as A303 tunnel plans given green light | Salisbury Journal

As I write at 11.30am the day after the announcement, the Daily Express website has nothing on this news. Whatever your opinion on this decision, I feel it points yet again to a weakness in our political system that places long term and irrevocable decisions in the hands of those with overriding short term interests - the next election.

Alan Dedden

Summer Weblinks - No. 58

Ancient Necropolis Found Near Paris Railway Station here

Seemingly 'Empty' Burial Mound In Norway Found To Contain Viking Ship here

Couple Unearth One Of The World's Greatest Fossil Finds In Mid-Wales here

Modern Humans Migrated Into Europe In 3 Waves New Study Suggests here

DNA From 25,000 Year-Old Tooth Pendant Came From Woman Who Wore It here

New Map Plots London's 1.3 Mile Roman Wall Under Modern Buildings here

Detectorists Jailed For Conspiring To Sell Rare Anglo-Saxon Coins here

Study Suggests Human Noses Shaped By Neanderthal DNA here

Tunnels And rooms Discovered Under 1,500 Year Old Church In Istanbul here

153,000 Year Old Footprints In South Africa Are Oldest Homo Sapiens Tracks On Record here

150 Year Old Mystery Of Strange Half Circles Found At Palaeolithic Site In France Finally Solved here

6,000 Year Old Wood Carving Found In Boxford Garden here

'Lost World' Of Early Ancestors Revealed In Billion-Year-Old Fossilised Fat Molecules here

Thousands Of Clay Figure Offerings Found On Kythnos here

Evidence Of Hominins In Greece Is 250,000 Earlier Than Previously Record here

Neolithic Road Found In Adriatic On Croatian Coast here

Rare Roman Mausoleum Unearthed In Southwark here

Bronze Age Sword So Well Preserved It Shines here

Biggest Dig For 30 Years On Hadrian's Wall here

Ancient Stone Monument In France Destroyed To Build DIY Store here

New Species Of Dinosaur Discovered On Isle Of Wight here

LiDAR Reveals Previously Unknown Ancient Mayan City here

Thornborough Henges Neolithic Monument For Sale For £200,000 here

Oldest Known Neanderthal Cave Art Sealed In Cave For 57,000 Years here

Oldest House In Cardiff Excavated Under Car Park here

Archaeologists Excavate 4,000 Year-Old 'Stonehenge Of The Netherlands' here

Pompeii Archaeologists Discover 'Pizza' Painting here

Metal Detectorists Caught Red-Handed Plundering A Scheduled Roman Site here

Footmarks: A Journey Into Our Restless Past By Jim Leary here

Dorchester Father & Son Detectorists Find 14 Bronze Age Axe Heads here

3,000 Year-Old Hand-Sewn Boat Discovered Near Croatian Beach here

500 Year-Old Oak Boat Found In Dnipro River here

Medieval Ring Fit For A King Found By Detectorist In Yorkshire Village here

Mesolithic Pits Found On Houghton Regis Building Site here

Norwegian Couple Found A Viking Grave And Sword In Their Garden here

'High Status Area' Discovered In Dig At Medieval Settlement here

Giant Stone Artefacts Found On Rare Ice Age Site In Kent here

Outstanding Leader Of The Iberian Copper Age Was A Woman here

Remains Of 100 People In Medieval Mass Grave Found Under Planned Hotel Site here

Dozens Of 2,500 Year-Old Skeletons Unearthed In Negev Desert here

Archaeology Project On Sleaford Castle Approved By Historic England here

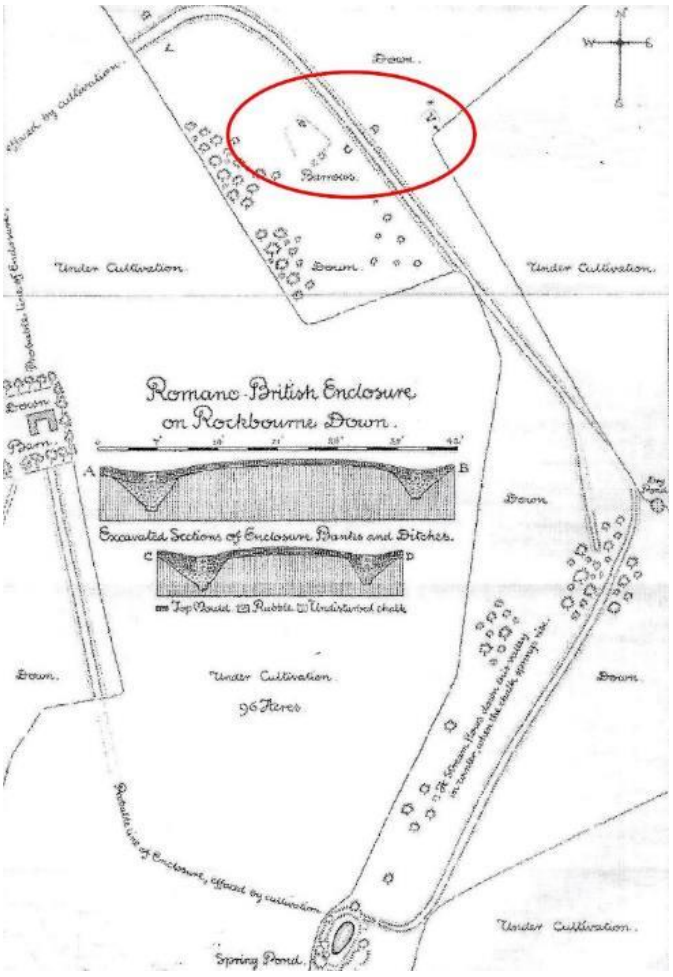
X-Ray Scans Reveal 'Hidden Mysteries' In Ancient Egyptian Necropolis Paintings here

View from Above No. 55: Tenantry Farm, part 2

Photos by Sue Newman and Jo Crane

This photograph is a closer, and somewhat clearer, view of the area in Sue and Jo's photograph in the previous View from Above. The top of the picture is just south of where the enclosure boundary turns south-west at the top of Heywood Sumner's plan below, and it covers the places excavated by Heywood Sumner in 1911-13 within the red ellipse.

The line of the double ditches defining the Romano-British enclosure is very clear. Sumner dug several wide sections across the line in this area to measure its profile and construction, e.g. at the dark mark which crosses both ditches near the centre of the picture. At that time there was a modern causeway built across the ditch, hardly necessary now that the whole of the feature has been levelled. As you can see in the centre of the drawing, the inner ditch is a little wider and deeper than the outer (the scale represents 42 feet) and both feature an 'ankle breaker' slot at the base. Large post holes close to the inner ditch were spaced at 4-5 feet apart, with a smaller post hole set back between each pair. A fence using these would have zig-zagged, which he suggested would have given it extra strength against the wind.



About 200m south of Spring Pond, which is at the southernmost extremity of the enclosure, is a wide drove road, apparently originally between Winchester and Poole. If this is a relic of antiquity it may suggest that the enclosure was a gathering point for livestock. There is evidence suggesting that herds were moved considerable distances in the Roman period, e.g. to supply the Hadrian's Wall garrisons.

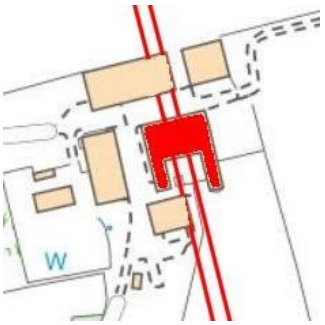
Sumner interpreted the enclosure as a farm stockade, presumably for animals although he isn't specific about that, which seems entirely possible. The bones found were principally cattle and horse, with some sheep and few pigs. As he says, at least where he excavated, the boundary ditches and bank were carefully measured and laid out, though they do appear to have some differences in form and size in different places, as partly illustrated on the drawing. The form of the illustrated ditches, banks and apparent fence puzzles me – why would a second ditch be needed?

To the left of the enclosure boundary is a Romano-British rectilinear ditched enclosure which Sumner called the 'Hypocaust Quarter' and on which he focussed most of his work. To the right of the boundary, i.e. outside the enclosure, opposite the Hypocaust Quarter along the dark line, is a dark 'blob' close to the edge of the photograph. This marks an area with two 'hypocausts', as interpreted by Sumner, apparently within an enclosure that he didn't comment upon. The latter seem have been constructed some time after the enclosure was completed; both will be covered in Part 3.

There are clearly several other features in the crop marks here: two probable Iron Age enclosures toward the top, possible 'Celtic fields' near the 'hypocausts', trackways, etc. More can be seen in other aerial photographs, and the farmer said he had maps of all the then-known crop marks, which he said included several likely roads or tracks converging near the enclosure, a few round barrows and a Neolithic long barrow (there are several marked on the Ordnance Survey map in this area). This is clearly an area that would be worth much more investigation.

Original entrances to the enclosure are uncertain. Sumner found one small entrance in the area of the ellipse, but it was a gated causeway added after the enclosure was completed, perhaps as a path to the two 'hypocausts'. The age of the gap in the ditches near Spring Pond (in part 1) is unknown; an aerial photograph in the right conditions could show whether the ditches originally continued across the gap but I couldn't find one.

The boundary does run through some of the Tenantry Farm buildings, though the only building shown on Sumner's plan is Down Barn. Historic OS maps of the period confirm this was the only building then, with the cluster of buildings around it clearly more recent. In this photograph Down Barn is the building cut by the lower edge roughly at the centre. The line of the boundary ditches is difficult to see running towards the top and curving away to the right, with the alignment approximately marked on the map and Down Barn shown in red.



I was told that the barn was probably built in the 1790s, and thought to be on the site of an earlier building. It is odd that this site, over a double ditch and bank, should be chosen for such a large and solid building, especially as it is entirely possible that the bank and ditches were more apparent then. The tenant farmer had used a laser measuring tool to check the barn and could find no evidence of it sagging at all. Perhaps, then, the main entrance into the enclosure was here.

Geoff Taylor/ Jo Crane

EDAS PROGRAMME 2023-24

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

Wed 13th September	Lecture	**Gordon Bartlet**	The Rise & Decline of Bournemouth & Poole Tramways
Wed 11th October	Lecture	**Anthony Firth**	The Historic Character of the River Stour
Wed 8th November	Lecture	**Tom Cousins**	The Maritime Archaeology of Poole Bay
Wed 13th December	Lecture	**Gordon Le Pard**	Dorset Churches
2024			
Wed 10th January	***Zoom*** lecture	**David Reeve**	The oldest secular buildings in Wimborne
Wed 14th February	Lecture	**Miles Russell**	Frampton Villa excavations
Wed 13th March	**AGM** & Lecture	**Phil D'Eath & Geoff Taylor**	The 2023 Field Trip to Kent
Wed 10th April	Lecture	**Harry Manley**	The Dorchester Aqueduct
Wed 8th May	Lecture	**Andrew Morgan**	The Origins of Dorset – in search of the Dorset/Hampshire Shire Boundary

DISTRICT DIARY

I have, as yet, not found any details of local society lectures from the autumn

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.