

EASTBOURNE ANCESTORS DAY OF ARCHAEOLOGY 2012

July 2, 2012 Hayley Forsyth Anglo-Saxon, Community Archaeology, Day of Archaeology, Day of Archaeology 2012, Education, Finds, Museum Archaeology, Osteology Archaeological sub-disciplines, Archaeology, Artifact, Bioarchaeology, Bournemouth University, Canterbury University, cemetery site, Eastbourne, Eastbourne Museum Service, Exeter University, Museology, Sussex

This is the first 'Day of Archaeology' that we (Eastbourne Ancestors) have taken part in and so we are quite excited to be involved!

I'm also excited as this is my first full time job in archaeology as the Project Co-ordinator for Eastbourne Ancestors. I work in the commercial world of archaeology as an osteoarchaeologist (human and animal remains) in my spare time too, as well as excavating with a local society and the Eastbourne Museum Service. Archaeology is for everyone and I strongly believe in the community aspect, getting hands on.

You can follow our progress here: <http://www.facebook.com/EastbourneAncestors>

Although the 'Day of Archaeology 2012' fell on 29th June, I was in meetings which wouldn't have made for exciting reading...but today is a different story.

We are a Heritage Lottery Funded project run by the Eastbourne Museum Service in East Sussex.

Our aim is to To fully examine all the human skeletal remains in our collection from the Eastbourne area in order to produce a demographic profile of the past populations that were living here.

The skeletal analysis will include determining the age, biological sex, stature, metric and nonmetric traits, ancestry, health, diet, handedness and evidence of pathology. We will also be conducting research into migration studies using isotope analysis, physical appearance using facial reconstruction and family connections, DNA and C14.

As part of this project, we will be giving volunteers the opportunities to participate in artefact conservation, osteoarchaeology workshops, field work, study days, talks and demonstrations and much more. We will conclude the project with academic and public published material as well as an exhibition.

On Friday, Jo (the boss) and I took a road trip to Bournemouth University to deliver 30 skeletons to students to study for their MSc dissertations. We also have a student from Exeter University studying clavicles for two weeks with us for her research. In a few months time we will be taking some of the collection to Canterbury University to be studied by their MSc and BSc students too.

Today is our first volunteer day, we have 5 volunteers busily cleaning skeletal remains from an Anglo-Saxon cemetery site in Eastbourne. Each day for a month, volunteers will be helping to get the remains ready for analysis, which they will also receive training for as part of the Project.

By the 2013 'Day of Archaeology' I hope to have some interesting findings to write about: Where did these people come from? Are they local? How did they live and die? What did they wear? What did they look like?