

## Report on talks at SSARG AGM on 17th March 2013

There were four talks after the meeting at the AGM on 17th March about the various fieldwork projects that SSARG have been involved with over the past year. The first was a summary of the results of the geophysical surveys at Misterton near Crewkerne and at Great Ground, North Cadbury by Liz Caldwell. Both sites still need further work carrying out to complete the surveys. Great Ground is the immediate priority as we only have a month before the field is sown. After that we hope to return to Misterton to finish the surveys begun there. Misterton is a multi-phase site where a lot of finds dating from Bronze Age to Medieval have been found by a local metal detectorist.

After Liz's talk, Clare Randall talked about the results of the test pitting carried out at Great Ground only a week before the AGM. She said the team managed to get the information that they wanted from these test pits. In brief, it looks like this:

- Nothing conclusive from the roundhouse, but nothing to argue with it being Bronze Age. There were also probably two phases of house.
- We know how deep everything is – in general terms, not very, so the site is accessible to us, but also sadly under threat from the spuds.
- Neil also found out how deep the 'weird wiggly blobs' are – Very. More questions than answers.
- There isn't anything seen so far (albeit unwashed) that conflicts with the big N-S 'thing' being Iron Age – yes you read that right. Currently figuring out the implications, which are considerable and definitely need to get the last quadrant surveyed – in particular the bit with the continuation of the ditch on it....

The combination of the numerous recuts combined with a suspicion that the potential hollow way, if it is such, started to fill up in the Middle Iron Age, implies that it may have started to form long, long before. The side ditches may actually be a later addition which formalise the space. The only way to fix it is to dig up a much larger proportion of the field. The landowner is keen for us to do this, but at present that would be impractical, and we need time to think about precisely where to go. The plan is to complete the geophysics - on both sides if possible - and with that knowledge, target some specific areas. We would also like to apply to someone or other for some money to support it so that we have a pot of cash for C-14 etc before we start....more later.



*Clare, Brian and Elaine (doing the work)*



*Neil surrounded by his toys*

Dave Durkin then gave a fascinating presentation about the geophysical survey that SSARG members helped to carry out last October on Hambledon Hill. Dave was hoping to find evidence for a Neolithic causewayed enclosure within the Iron Age hillfort. The survey results with a report by Dave appeared in the December newsletter last year. If you have joined SSARG since last November and would like to see Dave's article please email Liz at [chair@ssarg.org.uk](mailto:chair@ssarg.org.uk).

Finally Nigel Harvey gave a talk on behalf of James Gerrard about the excavation carried out by SSARG and students from Newcastle University in one of the fields south of Lufton Villa near Yeovil last summer. SSARG have carried out a lot of geophysics in the fields south of the villa, which have revealed a complex multi-phase landscape which we hoped to get dating evidence for by excavation. The trench last Summer uncovered what appears to be a late Iron Age or early Roman ditch and an Early to Middle Bronze Age round house. We will be returning to the area around Lufton this summer along with James and the Newcastle students to open up further excavation trenches. Look out for more information in future newsletters.