

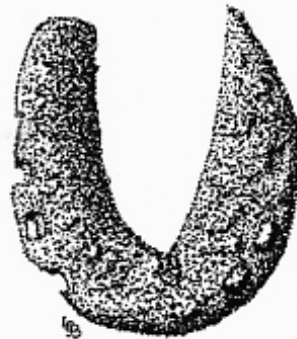
ISSN 0268652



# Chronicle

Volume 5 No.3

October 1991



*Journal of Yeovil Archaeological and Local History Society*

Unit Meeting at Petter's House (25th September). After that, forthcoming events are as follows:

12th October CBA Gp 13 Archaeological Activity Symposium and AGM at Downside School

11th November, Unit Meeting at Petter's House, followed by further Unit Meetings at the same venue on 11th December 1991 and 23rd January, 24th February and 25th March 1992.

BRIAN & MOIRA GITTO

AN UNRECORDED MEDIAEVAL EFFIGY AT WEST LYDFORD, SOMERSET

The village of West Lydford is situated on the north bank of the River Brue, about  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile to the west of the A 37. In the churchyard to the west of the church lies a moss strewn stone figure. examination of the figure at the end of July 1991 revealed that it was a 14th century monumental effigy of a male civilian, with his head on a cushion and his hands at prayer. The figure is bare-headed, with the long curling hair of the period and he is shown wearing a long gown with relatively short hanging sleeves. The style of the dress would indicate a date of about 1330. the effigy is carved from a single block of oolitic limestone which has not yet been identified. A elderly man cutting the grass claimed that it had been in the same location in the churchyard for as long as he could remember (i.e. some 70 years). It would originally have been set up in the church and was presumably thrown into the churchyard at the 19th century rebuilding. We have been unable to find any reference to the existence of the figure, which is therefore, being recorded for the first time and should be regarded as an addition to Fryer's list of 'Monumental Effigies in Somerset', (published in many parts in the Proc. S.A.N.H.S, between 1915 and 1925). We would like to thank Pat Knight for bringing this figure to our attention.

BRIAN AND MOIRA GITTO



Plate 20 Sketch of the 14th Century Civilian Effigy at West Lydford.