



CDAS Circular – May 2021

Hello Everybody

Time for another monthly newsletter. It seems to come around quickly when there are only 30 days in the month. Hands up all those who didn't advance their watch calendars by a day!

The Covid vaccination programme rolls on – my wife's 2nd vaccination today and mine tomorrow. More pleasing however is that the pandemic appears to be in retreat in this country and we have been able to enjoy shopping, meeting in small numbers outside, and outdoor eating for a couple of weeks now. More to look forward to this month when we can meet friends inside and restaurants open again plus being allowed to stay away from home. We are booked to visit our daughter in Falmouth and we can't wait! So, all progressing well, but please: Stay Safe.

Membership

Many of you have very punctually renewed your subscriptions and this is a gentle reminder to those a bit slower to not forget to do so. There is plenty coming up to make it worthwhile, but more of that a little later.

Activities

Last month I asked for a volunteer to join the Committee to take on the role of Activities Secretary. I have been overwhelmed by the response – not. Sadly, we have had no one coming forward so for now our activities (visits, day schools etc) will be in abeyance. If anyone has a desire to arrange an individual activity then we are more than happy for them to do so and will provide all the help needed regarding publicity, organizing bookings etc.

Current Fieldwork

Peter Murphy and his team spotted a low tide due in April and went out paddling again to try to recover an 'alleged' wicker basket near the East Head fish trap. Sadly, the tide didn't drop as low as expected and so the sea has retained the basket. They will have another go in September when Mark Seaman is threatening to appear in a wet suit – we might have to sell tickets for that sight!

In the meantime, Peter wonders if anyone would like to take on a bit of desk-based research. He says:

James Kenny made these suggestions re documentary research on fish traps

“A few years ago, following the Medmerry fish trap discoveries, I looked through Domesday Book for references to ‘fisheries’ and found quite a few. That these were static fish traps is obvious because most were inland, and some were specifically for eels (e.g. Duncton: ‘2 fisheries at 360 eels’), and in any case it’s doubtful that sea fishing would have been recorded in the same way (Brighton, for instance, has ‘from tribute, 4000 herrings’). It might be fun for one of the project team to expand this into something that might go in the East Head report, maybe with a map illustrating the point. Assuming East Head produces an early medieval date, of course.”

Domesday is all in published editions, of course, so would be more accessible than researching unpublished documents. I wonder whether someone who cannot take part in fieldwork might find this interesting to do?

If anyone is interested, please contact Peter at petermurphy73@outlook.com

Future fieldwork

Our Fieldwork Committee has not been inactive and I bring exciting news!

With the raising of lockdown restrictions, the opportunities for gathering together again for some fieldwork have reappeared. Of course, if the Pandemic recovery goes wrong again we will not be able to do this, so I have to preface these intentions with ‘subject to Government not reimposing restrictions’. However, all being well we are proposing

June (potentially 14th - 25th) – geophysical surveys at Seeley Copse on the Goodwood Estate

July (dates tba) – geophysical surveys at Old Idsworth (north of Idsworth church) – possible barrow cemetery

And most excitingly

August 31st to September 14th – **PRIORY PARK!** – excavation of the rectangle to the west of the last excavation.

We are also actively seeking permission (scheduled site) to do some survey work on/near Halnaker Hill, where there is a lot of multi-period archaeology.

Lots to look forward to. As plans come together, we will be calling for volunteers to put their names forward. Watch your inboxes!

Other matters

The Novium Museum is planning another Community Day at the Jubilee Hall in Bersted on Saturday 14th August and CDAS has again been invited to attend. It will take the form of a small stand with some finds and publicity on display, very much as we do for the public visitors to our Priory Park digs and gives us an opportunity to ‘reach out’ to the public, sell some of our Chichester Walls Walks booklets and maybe even generate some new members.

You would be very welcome to come along to help out – the more who volunteer to staff the stall the shorter each person’s stint will be. So how about it? Please put your names forward to David Blagden who is our Publicity Officer at david@blagden.info.

Monthly talks

I am very pleased how well our youtube-based monthly talks have gone with several of you making complimentary comments to me. We shall continue with this format for the May talk available on 26th May which will be Sam Fieldhouse talking on 'Using 3D prints and Virtual Reality 3D Models to Creatively Interpret the Past'. Should be fascinating.

Our next season of talks commences in September and our programme to Christmas is:

22nd September – Tony King – Hayling Island and Meonstoke Roman Temples

27th October – Stuart Needham - Golden Barrow of the Sun (near River Rother)

24th November – Mark Roberts (Goodwood Estate)

December AGM

Our current intention is that these talks will be face to face in New Park Cinema in Chichester (with raffle and bar!). However, as not everyone can get there, we are investigating whether these talks can be recorded and also made available on-line later

Other on-line talks

I am pleased that the links I have provided to various talks by other groups have been so well received. Here are some further new ones that are coming up:

Supplied by Sam Joy (to whom many thanks)

1730 5th May

Treasures of Sutton Hoo

In this free online lecture, British Museum curator Sue Brunning brings viewers closer than ever to the Sutton Hoo finds. Register at:

<https://www.britishmuseum.org/events/treasures-sutton-hoo>

From Horsham District Archaeology Group

Hello,

Our next zoom talk is this coming Wed 12th May 7:30pm.

A change of routine: We will send out the zoom link to all members in the week before this zoom talk making it easier for you to find. *[I will forward to CDAS members – Malcolm]*

Please also recommend it to a friend or family member who may be interested. We have decided not to make any guests' entrance fee (looking on this as a good recruitment opportunity!)

Sutton Hoo - a lot more than just 'The Dig' by Simon Stevens

The Netflix film 'The Dig' has rekindled interest in the excavation of the Anglo-Saxon royal burial ground at Sutton Hoo in Suffolk in the 1930s. The film's depiction of the archaeological work has proved controversial, but it is based on a novel, and was never designed as a documentary. However, the 'real' story of the Sutton Hoo is equally full of colourful characters and plot twists, with heroes, and even some villains.....

Simon Stevens is a Senior Archaeologist at Archaeology South-East and was employed by the Sutton Hoo Research Trust during work at the site in the 1990s.

Association for Roman Archaeology (ARA) Online Symposium and Talks.

A monthly programme of talks by Zoom. The next two talks will be free to join and information on them is listed below. Unless otherwise noted, the talks will last about an hour, including time for questions.

Saturday 15th May at 13:30 until 17:30. *Nero Symposium. This is held jointly with the Roman Society and kindly hosted by the British Museum in connection with the forthcoming exhibition. Register via Zoom at [here](#) The speakers are:*

Andrew Burnett, former Deputy Director of the British Museum: 'Augustus and Nero: two emperors who tried to reform the coinage'

-Susie White, Finds Liaison Officer for North Wales, Portable Antiquities Scheme: 'The Rossett Lead Pig and the Governor Trebellius Maximus'

-Ross Thomas, British Museum: 'Gems, 'fakes' and Nero'

-Carey Fleiner, University of Winchester: 'Claudia Octavia, Step-sister and Wife to Emperor Nero: Images and Imagination'

Thursday 10th June at 18:30. *Mike Stone will speak about 'Architectural Marvels of Ancient Rome'. Register via Zoom at [here](#)*

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Registration is free. After you have registered, you will receive an email from Zoom containing a link to join the talk: this link is personal to you. If you know anyone else who might like to join the talk, please forward the above links to register, or use the social media buttons on the registration page. For ARA-hosted talks, you will also receive a reminder email from Zoom one day before the talk and a final reminder one hour before the talk starts.

Keep well and I hope we shall be able to meet again soon.

Malcolm Pheasey

Chairman, CDAS