



CDAS Circular – April 2021

Hello Everybody

Another month, another newsletter. However, this month we can celebrate being (partially) let out from our lockdown. 6 people or two households can now meet outside and this opens the possibility of us doing some things together, plus more scope generally to meet people. But please: Stay Safe.

Membership

You should all have received your reminder from Brian Tomkinson by now for the annual subs due on 1 April. The monies are flooding in, but do please pay as soon as you can, as we need the money. We currently don't have the funds we usually raise from the raffle and bar at our meetings and with more fieldwork on the horizon all money will be gratefully received. Please also do have a look at the Health & Safety Policy on the website ([CDAS Health and Safety Policy July 2020.pdf](#)) as it contains important information about your responsibilities (not onerous) when you take part in our various events and activities.

Activities

While on the subject of activities, you will recall that Pauline Blagden, who had very successfully arranged all our non-fieldwork activities, was required by our constitution to stand down at the last AGM. She wasn't replaced at that time as there were no activities on the horizon. With lockdown coming to an end and the opportunity for us to meet again in groups from 17 May we need to start planning and arranging our programme of activities.

So, I am calling for a volunteer to take on the role of activities coordinator. The role involves identifying opportunities for an activity (and the good news is that a long list of possibilities already exists), determining a suitable date, making any bookings with external people or organisations that are needed, advertising the opportunity to members and taking reservations. Risk assessments (for which templates are available, together with lots of guidance) and attendance registers need compiling but this can be delegated to the leader of the activity so attendance isn't always necessary. The role isn't particularly onerous or difficult and Pauline has generously said she will be available to give help and advice. This is a wonderful opportunity to get to know more members while at the same time helping the Society – and of course being on the General Committee so you will find out more about how the Society functions.

So how about it? If you are interested please drop me an email (just reply to any of my circulars). All applications gratefully received so don't be shy.

Fieldwork

What a happy coincidence that our release from the absolute lockdown occurred when there was a particularly low tide which meant CDAS, working with Citizan and the National Trust, and led by our Peter Murphy, were able to carry out some survey work on the fish trap that had previously been found at East Head (West Wittering). I am grateful to our intrepid seafarers who braved the waters and supplied me with the following pictures and initial reports.

Firstly, from Peter Murphy:

Thank you very much to everyone who came along yesterday. Although the water level was higher than we hoped for, we did achieve a good deal. It was a splendid day: let's hope it's a new start for CDAS fieldwork this year. People have sent Malcolm a good number of images but I have more if required.

1. I took samples with the auger from the sub-sand clays into which the posts are driven. I will analyse these for macrofossils shortly. It is clear, though, that the structures were originally in a more tranquil sedimentary environment, no doubt an intertidal creek which must then have been behind the then-equivalent of East Head spit.



2. Therese took additional GPS readings on posts, stones and other features whilst Mark and Dom boldly recorded post diameters. This will enable Therese to produce a more refined plan.
3. James' find of a basket stratified next to the East Head 1 was really rather pleasing: one can almost imagine the fishwives filling baskets from the pound!

There is some more recording to do, notably of horizontal roundwood from wattling, which I hope we can do in September.

From Mark Seaman:



The water level did not drop as much as we expected. I found out the reason at the end. The channel where the weir is, which usually flows quite strong, has turned into a lagoon with only a small outlet. So the water did not drain out very fast and was probably 30-40cm higher than expected (thigh rather than ankle high).

Nevertheless, we achieved a great deal. We measured the diameter of all the posts in the main trap and Therese took further GPS readings including some of the stones which help support the structure. We did find a lot of fishing rubbish caught on the posts including a large lobster/crab pot which I removed! I'm sure some of the posts were missing and some were very wobbly.

Unfortunately, with the stream that usually flows down the channel weakened, I would expect the area to silt up again. But that might not be a bad thing if it helps

protect the weir for the future! I suggest we go back in September and see what it's like and I'm sure Peter King will keep an eye on it. I would like to take further measurements of the 2nd (South) trap if we are able to.

From Peter King:

Interesting observation by Mark regarding the 'lagoon' draining, this could explain the reason why the fish weir was reported back in 2014 and then not seen until changes in the beach allowed that section to drain last year?

From Dom Escott:

My pictures attached!





The Fieldwork Committee has been active reviewing opportunities and developing plans for some outdoor activity. Details must await the various permissions (lots of fields currently are under crops) but as a taster here are some possibilities:

Idsworth (possible bronze age roundhouse, also barrow cemetery)

Stansted House gardens

Halnaker Hill (possible neolithic, medieval, WWII activity)

Langford Farm (roman villa - possibly in September)

Hoyle Farm

Goodwood estate

Brooms Farm, Chilgrove

- but Priory Park will have to wait until next year, with May2022 the target.

So plenty of possibilities to whet your appetites. We shall all have to be patient until arrangements can be completed. Watch this space!

General matters

Those of us of a less intrepid disposition have been continuing with our committee meetings.

The General Committee has endorsed the expenditure (covered by a grant) for some carbon 14 dating of the Medmerry fish weir and we await results this month. We also hope that a new magnetometer will be purchased in the near future which should be available for our geo-phys' work this summer. We have taken the bold step of booking the New Park theatre for our autumn talks so we will at least have a venue if we may, and wish, to resume our 'in person' talks.

Our next talk will be by Andy Duncan on 28th April and will again be provided as a You Tube broadcast. As before, I shall circulate links to both an introduction from me and the talk (subject yet to be advised!) first thing on the morning of 28th.

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:

Saturday, 10 April 10.00am-12.00pm – Roman Coins

Lecturer: David Rudling

The last of a series of 3 linked lectures will provide participants with an introduction to the development of coinage in Roman Europe. Each lecture can be attended as a stand-alone event. The lectures are suitable for collectors, archaeologists, and those interested generally in both history and coinage/money. To pay for this course please either post a cheque for £10 made payable to the Rottingdean Whiteway Centre **at my address** below (or send me by bank transfer £10 to Mr D. R. Rudling - Lloyds Bank (77-63-26) – Account number 00950468). David Rudling 01273 843026 26 North End, Ditchling, Sussex, BN6 8TF

Thursday 15th April 18:30

Association for Roman Archaeology

Registration is now open for the next three free talks in the new monthly series. Details of these talks are now shown on the Events page of the ARA website: please see <https://www.associationromanarchaeology.org/> and click on "Events" in the left-hand panel. The next talk is at 18:30 on Thursday 15th April when ARA's President, Professor Tony King will speak on "Two Romano-Celtic temples in Southern Britain: Hayling Island and Meonstoke".

You will need to register separately for each talk that you wish to attend: the listing contains the links for registration. The registration form only needs your name and email address: after you have filled it in, Zoom will send you a confirmation email containing the link to join the talk. This link will also be included in reminder emails that you will receive from Zoom one day before the talk and one hour before it starts. You do not need a Zoom account in order to listen to the talk.

These talks are free to attend. They are also open to non-members. If you have any difficulties with registration, please contact Tim Arnold at ARAEventsUK@outlook.com

Wednesday 21st April 2021, 7.30pm

University of Sussex Archaeological Society - The Holleyman Lecture
Henges and Hand Grenades: Discoveries from the Army Basing Project, Wiltshire
Speaker: Martin Brown (Principal Archaeologist, Tetratex)

Martin will talk about the project and discoveries made, including Neolithic double henges, a new Neolithic causewayed enclosure and a Great War (WW1) training landscape. He will also make some points about how collaborative working with the County Archaeologist and Army made it all happen on time, while also shedding new light on the Stonehenge landscape. Sign up [here](#)

Saturday 8th May - The Surrey Archaeological Society Roman Study Group conference "Shining a Light on the transition from Late Iron Age to Early Roman SE England" is finally taking place [postponed last May] via Zoom on 8th May. You can book online at <https://www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk/content/shining-a-light-on-the-transition-from-late-iron-age-to-early-roman-se-england-zoom>

Also, do please check out our CDAS page on Facebook where we publish items gleaned from other Facebook pages – particularly some interesting items from Worthing Museum.

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

Malcolm Pheasey

Chairman, CDAS