



CDAS Circular – March 2021

Hello Everybody

Pandemic developments

Here at the beginning of March I look back on February and think, “well, that was an interesting month”. Most of us will by now have had our first Covid jab, infections etc have been reducing and Boris has announced his aspirational route out of lockdown and back to the ‘new normal’. This has significance for CDAS.

Briefly, from March 29th the rule of six returns. When this applied before we were able to carry out geophysical surveys very successfully and I hope we shall be able to do so again. On your behalf I shall be looking to our Fieldwork Committee to gear up for some more surveying as soon as it can be arranged. A further challenge for them will be to see if we can accommodate some excavation work within the six-person limit. This might be more complicated, but all the more fun to overcome. The Fieldwork Committee is meeting on the 5th March and I shall be awaiting their views with great interest. If we are to do any surveying, we will need to go through a process of agreeing opportunities with landowners, which might take a little time, and then Trevor will be issuing his usual call for volunteers. Something tells me there won't be any shortage of willing workers!

The next step for us after that is expected to be May 17th when groups of up to 30 can meet outdoors. This opens up the opportunity for some more group walk activities for which I know some possibilities are being considered. We will discuss this at our General Committee meeting on 17th March.

Theatres and other venues have been told they may open from this date which may include the New Park Cinema in Chichester. We only have one scheduled talk after this date and, given the uncertainty about the progress of lifting lockdown, I think we should assume we will run that talk on-line as well. I do think we may be able to come together for our autumn season of talks but there is plenty of time to watch progress before we need to decide about that.

So, encouraging news about the pandemic for once.

Fieldwork

To keep you entertained, and remind you of the fun to be had from excavations, Ann Davies has kindly provided an advance ‘taster’ of her report on the wall plaster found at Warblington Roman site and analysed by Ann and the Finds Processing Team. This is attached as a separate document with this mailing.

Some great news from Peter Murphy. You will recall from previous newsletters that we have found a large fish trap and were eager to determine its age. I am delighted to report that we have been able to obtain a £700 grant from CBA-SE to pay for some carbon-14 dating by Belfast University which will enable us to determine when the posts making up the trap were felled. Particular thanks to James Kenny and John Mills (Sussex County Archaeologist) who wrote letters in support of our application.

Our virtual world

In the meantime, we shall continue with our on-line activity. We had a very interesting talk from Dr Julia Farley on 24th Feb (still available on our You Tube channel – contact me if you have mislaid the link) who showed us far more bling than I have seen in one place before. I found the talk fascinating, particularly the methods of production. Judging by comments received I think many of you also enjoyed it.

On 23rd Feb we had an absolutely fascinating talk from the Friends of Valletta about Neolithic monuments in Malta and I am most grateful to Ann Davies who developed the initial contacts. Again, this talk seems to have been widely appreciated.

Our next talk will be on **24th March**, when Judie English will be talking about “Place-names in the archaeological and historical landscape” using our You Tube arrangement. My thanks to Colin Wheeler for organising the speakers and to David Blagden for doing all the technical ‘stuff’.

In addition to ‘our’ activities I shall continue to provide details of other on-line events organised by other groups. One of the benefits of the lockdown and move to a world of Zoom and Teams is that we are now able to access a much wider range of talks than would be available just by physically going to them. Here as a reminder are some of the forthcoming ones:

4th March – 7pm - Sussex Archaeology Society (members only) – Elly Griffiths talking about “Becoming Ruth Galloway: How Elly Griffiths turned to crime - and archaeology.” Register for your place here

https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZUud-uvqzooGdGTiaXGVeYnwVTMN3t2gmt1?fbclid=IwAR18qApzccV03IO5hLDGtcs95YDQq3fNlVJ110S4dh7_MX_cLRfCuUC_lw4

Monday 8th March Lewes History Group Lecture 7-30pm

A Zoom Webinar David Rudling: **Romano-British Settlements in the Lower Ouse Valley** The Ouse valley in East Sussex is a key communication route from the Channel coast, via the Downs to the wide expanse of the Weald. It traverses and encompasses landscapes and archaeological sites of both local and regional importance – all connected by the river Ouse and its valley - £4 for non-members.

<http://leweshistory.org.uk/.../lewes-history-group-talk.../>

18th March – 7pm - Sussex Archaeology Society (members only) – Jane Church – Finds Liaison officer speaking on **The Portable Antiquities Scheme in Sussex**. A registration link will be available nearer the date.

24th March 2021 - 7.30pm - University of Sussex Archaeological Society (USAS) Zoom Lecture - Coin-rich Roman rural sites in SE England - Speaker: David Calow (Surrey Archaeological Society). No charge; no need to be a member of USAS. All are welcome.

Two wide-area Roman rural sites with over 1000 Roman coins and other Roman artefacts have recently been discovered in Surrey. Geophysics and excavation suggest that, although spread over 10-15 hectares, they are probably not small towns and, since over 50% of the coins are pre-AD 260, they differ from much of Roman Britain where coins are usually later. Trying to set the sites in context using the Portable Antiquities Scheme and other databases has shown many other unexplained wide-area coin-rich Roman rural sites in SE England. Each seems to have its own characteristics and whether they were mainly about religion, trade or something else is unclear. This online zoom talk will try to draw some conclusions from the evidence.

To register in advance for this meeting:

https://us02web.zoom.us/join/joinMeeting/register/tZ0udu6urjgsHtZP_IZUIkhLkPRf26heLrMo

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the meeting.

1st April - 7pm - Sussex Archaeology Society (members only) – **Dr Miles Russell - Wolstonbury Revisited - Excavations and Survey of an Enigmatic Prehistoric Enclosure.** A registration link will be available nearer the date.

17th April – CBA-SE conference on Archaeology and Climate Change (via Zoom). See the Newsletter attached as a separate document in this mailing.

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.

And keep an eye on the television as there are LOTS of archaeology programmes such as Raiders of the Lost Past (<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m000slq3>) and The Great British Dig on the More 4 channel

And finally, some exciting news from Pompeii where a roman chariot has been unearthed <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/world-europe-56222992>

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

Malcolm Pheasey
Chairman, CDAS