



CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – June 2016

Until a few years ago CDAS issued a 6 monthly newsletter that was posted to all members. Now letters are issued monthly by email and up-to-date information is available on our Web Site. However, there are still a few members who are not on-line so the format of this letter has been adjusted to provide a summary of the last 6 month activities and the lecture schedule for next autumn.

Members Evening - 25th May- Celebration of 25 Years

Following what has become the traditional format for our members’ evening there were presentations on CDAS related topics given by Peter Murphy, Richard Bridgland & Trevor Davies.

We then moved on to formally celebrate our 25th anniversary. I explained that at our 20th Kieth Lawson, the then President, had described the founding of the society. The text of his speech is available on our Web Site. For this anniversary I focused on the last 10 years, which has been a time of significant change in the society. A summary will be available on our web site & will be sent out with this letter.

A number of the founding members are still members of the society and happily three were there to cut the cake namely James Kenny, Nigel Brown and Brian Worsfold. There was a good turn out in the bar afterwards; perhaps we need to have cake every month!



Talks

These take place in the cinema at New Park at 7.30. There is a charge for non-members.

28th September 2016	Nick Thorpe	Conflict and Care in Copper and Bronze Age Britain
26th October 2016	Mike Allen	A New Prehistory of Chalk lands: Environmental Archaeology from Microscope to Landscape
23rd November 2016	Alice Thorne	The 'Secrets of the High Woods' project
7th December 2016	AGM and Christmas Party	

Study Days

There were 3 courses all of which proved to be very successful:

- 27th Feb Bob Turner ran a course whose working title was “Flint through the ages - showing how flint changes and so can be used as a dating tool”
- 12th March - Roman Glass with Denise Allen which was a re-run of a popular course we organised a few years ago
- 21st May - Background to Warblington excavation a new course organised by members of the Fieldwork Committee.

If you have any suggestions for other topics then please contact Jenny Harvey:

Member Lead Walks

These are still relatively new. 9th April Henry Wakeford repeated his very entertaining walk round Petworth. However, due to a knee injury David Bone reluctantly postponed his “A ramble around Duncton”. Please contact Jenny Harvey or myself if you would be interested in leading such a walk.

Coastal Monitoring

Though visits were made to Chichester Harbour and Hayling and work was undertaken with the CiTIZAN Team the highlight this spring has to be the western side of the Medmerry breach. Thorney Farm. The weather should be quietening down so there will only be a limited number of visits until next autumn’s equinoctial gales.

Peter Murphy has written a report for the Environment Agency/RSPB on our activities at Medmerry a copy of which will be on our web site shortly.

Priory Park

July 2015 David Staveley undertook a “Ground Penetrating Radar” survey in Priory Park (Chichester). This revealed what may be the remains of buildings in the south western corner. At the end of May, under the direction of James Kenny, a few members of the Fieldwork Committee excavated a small (approx.1mx3m) trial trench. This exposed a roman floor surface and robbed out walls. A 3D image of the trench is available on our web site.

Mid-June we undertook a high resolution resistivity survey of the South West corner, which revealed what could be additional features. It is hoped that we might be able to undertake further investigations.

Geophys & Other Fieldwork

The weather and conditions underfoot limited the opportunities this spring. Trevor Davies will get in contact with those on his list as soon as a probable opportunity arises.

Warblington Excavation – Request for Volunteers

It appears that we are unlikely to obtain external funding. If indeed we are not successful it has been agreed by the General committee to cap the daily contribution towards costs at £5 with the shortfall coming from CDAS reserves.

We have not yet received the formal permissions but there is no reason to believe that they will not come through so we are starting the recruitment process.

The schedule will be:

- Mon 5th – set-up day - volunteers required to:
 - Baby sit delivery of loo & container
 - Trevor and Steve will supervise the excavator
 - Transport the equipment from Fishbourne store to the site
- Tues 6th to Sat 10th – normal days
- Tues 13th to Fri 16th – normal days
- Sat 17th – a normal day but focus will be on finishing off and recording
- Mon 19th – Close down day – Volunteers required to:
 - Baby sit collection of loo & storage container
 - Transport equipment and finds back to Fishbourne (leaving behind kit for turf relaying)
 - Trevor and Steve will supervise the excavator back fill
 - Replace turf – there will be three trenches so a start can be made as soon as the first is filled in.

Some of you may wish to spend some or all of your time finds processing. It is difficult to predict an appropriate size for the FP Team so we would intend to operate a small core team and call on other support as necessary.

If you would like to be involved in the project then please contact Trevor Davies trevor.davies28@btinternet.com indicating which days you would prefer and whether you want to Finds Process for all or some of your time. On some days last year we ended up with more people on site than we were happy managing so this year we may ration the allocation of places.

RSPB - Archaeology of Medmerry Beach

Peter Murphy is leading this walk on Sunday 17 July starting 1.30pm (duration 3 hours / 5 miles). Booking essential £12 per person / £9 RSPB members. If interested contact Roy Newnham, Visitor Experience Officer , Pagham Harbour and Medmerry Visitor Centre, Selsey Road, Sidlesham, West Sussex, PO20 7NE Tel 01243 641508 Mobile 07703 885322

Ann Davies CDAS Chairman