



CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – September 2016

All committee members can be contacted via our web site.

Warblington Excavation

Site preparation was unusually exciting this year as the storage container was craned in over the trees rather than the delivery truck driving onto the field. We had further excitement a couple of days later when a red helicopter circled around us; within an hour a gasman had turned up on site asking about Gas Easement restrictions. Thanks to Peter Harding we were aware that there was a pipeline & had the necessary documentation to illustrate that we were outside the restricted area. So he went away.

Given the storms that were swirling round the UK we were very lucky that we only lost one day due to rain. Once again it was during the final Friday and Saturday that the excavation got really interesting and the trenches deep. If you look on our website you will see the 3D images of the three trenches “stitched” together by Hugh Fiske using the photos taken by John Pilkington. Many thanks to both of them. We will present an update once we have had an opportunity to get the pottery assessed and to think through what was found.

It was good to see that 50 members (over a 1/3 of our membership) got involved and that quite a few of these were relatively new members. Feedback indicates that everyone enjoyed themselves. The volunteers contributed 220 days of hard effort and our especial thanks go to those who volunteered for the close down day. This included the relaying of the turf. An essential process if we are to get permission to return.

I had thought that the volumes of Ceramic Building Material (CBM) and stone could not exceed last year’s but they did with the CBM weighing in at 485Kg an increase of 38%.

British Library - Web Archive

CDAS has been contacted by the British Library who requested that they include our website in the UK Web Archive and make it publicly available. The UK Web Archive was established in 2004 to capture and archive websites from the UK domain and across the web, responding to the challenge of a digital black hole in the nation’s memory. It contains specially selected websites that represent different aspects of UK heritage on the web, as well as important global events. The British Library work closely with leading international institutions to collect and permanently preserve the web, and the open UK Web Archive can be seen at <http://www.webarchive.org.uk/>.

I am not sure how they selected us but I believe that we should take it as a complement.

They need to go through due process and if we pass their checks we get loaded up. I will let

you know if they contact me but I think it is just a question of checking their web site every now and again.

Talks

The talks take place in the cinema at New Park at 7.30; the autumn schedule is shown below. There is a charge of £3 for non-members.

26th October 2016	Mike Allen	A New Prehistory of Chalk lands: Environmental Archaeology from Microscope to Landscape.
23rd November 2016	Anne Bone	The 'Secrets of the High Woods' project
7th December 2016	AGM and Christmas Party	This takes place at Bosham Village Hall

CDAS Study Days

Sat November 12th - Medieval Pottery - presented by Duncan Brown. He last gave a course some years ago and we thought that there are sufficient new members to make a repeat worthwhile. You get an opportunity to handle pottery. The event will take place at Fishbourne Roman Palace. The charge for members will be £25 and £28 for non-members.

If you would like a place then please contact Jenny Harvey at seajay_harvey@yahoo.co.uk or via the contacts list on our Web site.

Further options for are being investigated. If you have any suggestions then please contact Jenny.

Member Lead Walks

Please contact Jenny Harvey if you would be interested in leading such a walk.

Coastal Monitoring

Peter has prepared an autumn schedule outlined below. This provides a basic framework; extra ones are arranged when the weather is particularly stormy. If you are not yet on Peter Murphy's list and would like further information then please contact him.

12 th Oct – 10.30	Medmerry Breach West
10 th Nov - 9.30	Ellanore (East Head)
13 th Dec	Medmerry Beach East

Geophys

Two surveys were undertaken in August. One was at Priory Park and the other near the Iping mansion. Possible options are being investigated. Opportunities often arise at short notice so please contact Trevor Davies if you want to be on his mailing list of possible volunteers and are not already registered.

Chichester Walls Trust:

Our sister organisation is holding its next meeting on Tuesday October 18th in St Pancras Church Hall 2.30 - 4.0 pm. James Kenny will be talking about recent geophysics work around Chichester, including GPR and LIDAR results, and there will be an update on what's been happening around the city's historic walls. The session includes tea and cake. If you have a free afternoon then, do come along. Please let the Trust Hon Sec (Doris Norton 539752) know in advance.

Ann Davies
CDAS Chairman