

CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – March 2017

This is earlier than usual as I am sending out the Priory Park invitation at the same time.

Memberships expire at the end of March; the membership fee for the year “April 17/March 18” is £20. Those of you who pay by Standing Order need to remember to change the amount from £18. Membership form and payment details are on our website.

Priory Park

The dig will take place for 2 weeks starting 22nd May; further details including an invitation to volunteer is in a separate document.

Talks

We had 88 attendees at our February meeting, which might be a record; it was a very buzzy meeting. As well as David Staveley’s publicised talk Trevor Davies presented the Geophys results for Priory Park and James Kenny provided an introduction to the Priory Park dig.

Not such good news is that from 1st April Chichester Council will apply parking charges until 8.0pm at their New Park and Theatre car parks. Current rates for New Park are 50p for ½ hour and 1.20 for whole hour. A show of hands indicated that members preferred to keep to the present start time of 7.30 rather than delaying the start of the meeting so that people only had to pay for a half hour.

The talks take place in the cinema at New Park at 7.30; the spring schedule is:

Date	Speaker/Activity	
22nd March 2017	Guy Salkeld	Archaeology in the Ministry of Defence Estate
26th April 2017	Mark Roberts	The Forest of Arundel and the Fitzalan Earls' Deer Park at Downley, Singleton, West Sussex
24th May 2017	Members evening	

Activities

Pauline Blagden has recently taken over the organisation of CDAS activities (study days, walks, etc.) and is keen to take a fresh look and get an understanding of what might be of interest. Pauline has organised an on-line survey. As at the Wednesday meeting about a third of our membership had participated; it would really help Pauline if some more of you could do so. The survey will only take a few minutes to complete and will be valuable in planning future activities. Please follow the link <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/KPXTM8X> to take the survey.

The survey will close on 6th March.

For the two member lead walks described below the leaders will make use of LiDAR data for the area and also explain what their desk based research has revealed.

Guided Walk - LIDAR around Stansted Forest - Wednesday 8 March 2017.

Start time: 14:00. Meeting Point: the entrance to Stansted on the corner of Finchdean Road, Rowlands Castle. This is about 100m east of the “Tea on the Green” café and the Castle Inn. Parking is along Finchdean Road opposite the Castle Inn or around The Green in Rowlands Castle. Leaders: Mark Seaman and Brian Tomkinson. Cost: Members £1.00, non-members £6.00 (if places are available) payable in cash on the day

David Bone - From villa to church, the building stones of Warblington - Saturday 18 March 2017 .This is fully subscribed with a waiting list

Guided Walk in Kingley Vale - Wednesday 5 April 2017.

Start time: 10:00. Meeting point: West Stoke Car Park, Downs Rd, Chichester PO18 9BE. Leader: Mike Kallaway. Cost: Members £1.00, non-members £6.00 (if places are available) payable in cash on the day

Saturday 22 April - Matt Pope – West Sussex landscapes and geology for the archaeologist- This is fully subscribed with a waiting list

Full details of these activities are available on the CDAS Web site. If you would like a place or further information then please contact Pauline Blagden at activities@cdas.info.

Coastal Monitoring

Peter Murphy has prepared the spring schedule. This provides a basic framework; extra visits are arranged when the weather is particularly stormy. If you are not yet on Peter’s list and would like further information then please contact him on lecture@cdas.info

Date	Time	Location
27th March	1400	Medmerry Breach West
26th April	1400	Chidham

Geophys

Three surveys were organised for the spring:

1. Idsworth - We were looking for a Deserted Medieval Village. For early February the weather was amazing. As is so often the case the results raised as many questions as were answered. We hope to go back to the area.
2. Petworth gardens - This has been postponed by the National Trust until at least the autumn.

3. Aldwick - In the late 18th century there was a Napoleonic barracks on the site, constructed to house soldiers who were defending the coast. 20th, 21st and 22nd March.

All these were fully subscribed within about a week of the invitation going out. If you think you might like to be involved then you really need to be registered on Trevor Davies's mailing list of possible volunteers rather than wait for the monthly letter.

Warblington Excavation

The Hampshire County Councillor who represents Emsworth has very generously given a grant of £500 grant towards last year's costs.

We are hoping to run the Warblington excavation this year but as always there are a number of issues (including funding) that need to be resolved. If we go ahead it will run for 2 weeks starting on 4th September.

Ann Davies
CDAS Chairman