



## CHICHESTER AND DISTRICT ARCHAEOLOGY SOCIETY

### **Chairman**

The important news item this month is that Malcolm Pheasey has resigned as Chairman with immediate effect for personal reasons. We all appreciate Malcolm's commitment to CDAS in standing to be elected as Chairman at the last AGM. The circumstances of the Covid pandemic have undoubtedly made his job somewhat more challenging. I am sorry that it has not worked out as we had hoped.

As President, I stepped in to chair the last General Committee Meeting. This is a short-term solution. It is not a role that I should perform for any but the briefest of periods.

### **Succession Planning**

Since it was founded CDAS has had the rule that no one can serve on the Committee for longer than four years enshrined in its constitution. I am a firm believer in the benefits of this rule. It means that firstly CDAS cannot be taken over by a small clique. Secondly, it means that anyone who is elected to serve on the committee only does so for a limited period. Of course, persuading members to stand for election to the committee is not always easy. However, if we cannot maintain a full committee, parts of the CDAS programme will suffer.

So, I am adding my plea for volunteers to come forward to help run our society. Detailed archaeological knowledge is not necessary, an ability to organise and work with others is essential.

The AGM is planned for Wednesday December 8<sup>th</sup>. At that meeting the following members of the committee are required to retire under the four-year rule and for whom we are now looking for replacements.

- Chairman
- Treasurer
- Lecture programme
- Membership Secretary
- Publicity and Social Media (David and Pauline Blagden are planning to move away from the area soon. David has generously said he will continue his work until the AGM).

Ros Cheetham has agreed to be co-opted immediately as Events Co-ordinator, taking over from Pauline Blagden. She will be formally elected to the Committee at the AGM.

So, I urge anyone who is able to fulfil these roles to contact me as soon as possible on [president@cdas.info](mailto:president@cdas.info) for a confidential chat - without commitment.

## **Geophysics**

Steve Cleverly and his team have been bravely battling with the elements at Seeley Copse on the Goodwood Estate. The high temperatures early in the survey meant the ground was so hard, no resistivity readings could be taken, and the CDAS magnetometer was somewhat unstable. Then the rains came and three days were lost.

We are grateful to Dom Escott for the loan of his magnetometer, which has allowed the team to survey about 8 hectares over two fields. The results are looking good revealing more detail than the data derived from the National Mapping Programme.

Once again, this survey was successfully run under Covid restrictions. We hope that we can organise further geophysical surveys later in the year – under Covid restrictions if need be.

WSCC have asked us to make a geophysical survey of the area designated as a scheduled monument on Halnaker Hill. This comprises the medieval windmill, WW2 direction finding sites and a causewayed enclosure. We have applied for a Section 42 licence to undertake the survey. We hope to be able to make the survey in August.

## **Priory Park.**

We remain hopeful that we will be able to excavate in Priory Park again between 31<sup>st</sup> August and 14<sup>th</sup> September. I think the latest data and Boris's announcement postponing the easing of restrictions until 19<sup>th</sup> July gives us pause for thought. The fundamental issue is unchanged. Under reasonable circumstances, we believe we can manage the safety of the CDAS members, but we have no control over the safety of the public – apart from relying on the effectiveness of the vaccination programme. So, we are completely dependent on Government instruction.

In the meantime, I have accepted the quotation for the excavator, and ordered the Heras fencing. A final decision will be made towards the end of July.

## **Emsworth Museum**

As many of you know, I am Chairman of the Emsworth Maritime and Historical Trust Committee, which is responsible for Emsworth Museum. The Museum is now open Saturdays 10.30 – 4.30 and Sundays 2.30 – 4.30, under social distancing precautions. I encourage you to visit and examine or re-examine the display relating to CDAS' Warblington excavations. There are also displays about P. G. Wodehouse' time in Emsworth; the WW11 Free French camp named after a Libyan oasis; an original 1908 wedding dress and much more. This is a must visit destination in your staycation planning.

Look after yourselves

Best wishes

Trevor Davies