



## Chairman's Introduction

Hello everyone. Welcome to my April Newsletter, a relatively light issue this month. I have just started my new work pattern; reducing my working days to just two days per week and effectively semi-retiring. This will mean I will be able to spend more time with CDAS, and not using up annual leave to attend digs and activities. Whilst my back is not recovered sufficiently to dig at Priory Park, I'll take the opportunity to Steward and assist with Finds processing. It will be good for me to experience these other aspects of CDAS activities. I hope to see many of you there during our residency in Priory Park.

I've been making the most of my long weekends in April with family trips away, here's a few gratuitous photos of The Rollright Stones, we were passing on a trip to the Cotswolds so I had to stop (my wife's awful sense of direction meant that a twenty mile diversion was 'just passing'). My previous visit is recorded with print photos so it must have been over twenty years ago since my last visit.



## Talks and Lectures Schedule

### The New Park, Chichester 2024

**24th April:** Judie English - South Downs and Low Weald; Landscape in the Bronze Age

**22nd May:** Members evening. Anne Bone is finalising the members that will be providing talks on the night.

\*\*\*Stop Press\*\*\* I've just received a reminder from Anne Joy and would like to give advance warning of a change of format to the raffle for May (this week's April raffle will be in the traditional format). We have already had some very nice prizes donated (thank you to members who have donated these). To recognise the number of higher value prizes available in the May raffle, the tickets will be sold at £5 per ticket rather than £1 per strip. Actually this might also help with the 'put it back/ draw again' scenario. Anne provided me with this teaser pic of the current prizes (as ever, thanks Anne for your efforts with the raffle it provides a much needed top up to CDAS funds);



*(A selection of what's currently in the May Raffle)*

**25th September:** James Brown, National Trust - Recent Excavations at Petworth (tbc)

All talks start at **7.30 pm**. The bar will normally be open after the lecture for drinks (hot, soft or alcoholic). For the time being it remains a cash free bar, so, payment by card only.

## Activities

**22nd June** - Walking Tour of Roman (and Medieval) Chichester - Part 1, led by James Kenny

**14th September** - Walking Tour of Roman (and Medieval) Chichester - Part 2, led by James Kenny

**19th November** - Visit the War Wyke at Whiteways, led by William Foot. See one of South Downs' greatest surviving Iron Age earthworks.

Please see the [Activities Page](#) on our website for the latest details and booking information.

## Fieldwork

Due to the timing of our New Park talk and the Fieldwork committee meeting I have not had an update to provide an up to date Fieldwork Summary but as a reminder of this upcoming dig activity;

### Priory Park Archaeology Project

An excavation is planned for 21<sup>st</sup> May – 4<sup>th</sup> June. Call for volunteers has been issued, Steve and Ann will be issuing the schedule shortly

## CDAS 100 Club

Don't forget the CDAS 100 Club is a great way for you to support us.

Join the 100 Club by giving £2 a month (or £24 annually) to CDAS. This buys you one membership number which is included in the monthly draw. All participants must be over 16 and a member of CDAS.



The draw will take place each month at a CDAS meeting. Winnings will be paid to you by bank transfer.

The prize money will be 35% of the membership fee taken that month. The remaining 65% goes to CDAS to help fund equipment, resources and opportunities for members.

## Membership Update /Member Mojo

Our annual renewal process is drawing to a close. Emails have been issued these are automated emails generated by Membermojo to remind members to submit their annual renewal payments. This is never entirely glitch free but mostly a great labour saving mechanism. If you experience any issues, please contact Richard New in the first instance.

## Have you Seen?

If you have found a particularly interesting or useful website that you think Members might not have seen, then please feel free to forward to me and I'll include here. A lot of links are already included on our main website;

<https://www.cdas.info/Links.html>

Just a couple of links that caught my attention this month;

The Kent Archaeological Society investigations into the Prehistoric landscape at Lees Court Estate in 2024 is nicely summarised on their website;

<https://www.kentarchaeology.org.uk/events/lees-court-project-2024>

Oxford Archaeology's excavations in Abbot's Vale cover multi-phase evidence at the site;

<https://www.oxfordarchaeology.com/abbots-vale-suffolk>

Excavations near Crowland Abbey in eastern England have unearthed a prehistoric henge that may have become a "holy island" for Christian hermits in the early medieval period;

<https://www.livescience.com/archaeology/prehistoric-henge-accidentally-discovered>

If found this interesting as I have had experience of work colleagues enthusing about Joe Rogan and Graham Hancock. It's difficult to enter into debate whilst respecting their enthusiasm for the subject (whilst not triggering an HR issue ) and tactfully steering them to academic archaeology rather than this social-media-friendly pseudo-archaeology, see what you think about how Flint Dibble dealt with this encounter on the Joe Rogan podcast;

<https://www.sapiens.org/archaeology/graham-hancock-joe-rogan-archaeology>

Thanks for taking the time to read the – any ideas for future inclusion please let me know.

\*\*\*

**Dickie**

[chairman@cdas.info](mailto:chairman@cdas.info)