

Chairman's Introduction

Hello everyone, welcome to the October Newsletter. It was good to get back into the new season of talks at New Park with our talk from James Brown, National Trust Archaeologist covering the South East. James introduced his talk by mentioning he'd heard all the jokes about his name so I was glad I decided not to mention it during my introduction! As ever, James was covering recent work some of which is unpublished so there is nothing that we could share online but I found this interesting piece on the NT web pages that James has contributed to. You may already be familiar with some of this work but it is a good summary of the NT focus on the South Downs area;

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/sussex/changing-chalk-downs-from-above--gis-portal>

On the 2nd of October members enjoyed a very informative tour of the church and churchyard of St. Andrews, Tangmere. Led by Sarah Nathaniel, Public Engagement Coordinator (South East), Commonwealth War Graves Commission the group learnt about those buried there and the ongoing work to honour them.



(Photo: Credit original photographer, source; CDAS Facebook)

In the wider world of archaeology, I was particularly saddened to hear the news of the death recently announced by Cotswold Archaeology, of Dr Tim Darvill. Many of you may have known Tim or at least read one of many books on Prehistory. I certainly liberally referenced Tim's books in my dissertation. Cotswold Archaeology's announcement can be read here,

<https://cotswoldarchaeology.co.uk/tim-darvill-1957-2024>

A word on Museums, Grahame Soffe highlighted this to me recently but we had already had some discussion at Committee. There is a worrying series of closures and changes in Hampshire Museums due to stringent budget cuts by Hampshire County Council in their funding of Hampshire Cultural Trust (HCT). As a result and following a strategic review, HCT have announced that five of the venues it operates were at risk of closure. Westbury Manor museum will now permanently close to the public from Monday 4 November.

For a full statement from Fareham Borough Council see;

https://www.fareham.gov.uk/latest_news/pressrelease

The issue also attracted comment in the Association for Roman Archaeology (ARA) Newsletter (I have been unable to find an online view to share) and the threat of this action was covered earlier in the year In the Museums Journal;



<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2024>

Hampshire Cultural Trust's own website (<https://www.hampshireculture.org.uk/news/four-museums-and-one-arts-centre-risk-closure-due-local-authority-funding>) states ;

“The five proposed venues could potentially close under a phased plan over the next three years. The venues affected and the anticipated time scales for closure are:

- *Ashcroft Arts Centre, Fareham – autumn 2024*
- *Westbury Manor Museum, Fareham – January 2025*
- *Eastleigh Museum – currently temporarily closed to the public; permanent closure January 2025*
- *Andover Museum and the Museum of the Iron Age – 2026*
- *Curtis Museum, Alton – 2026*

The trust will also cease to operate Bursledon Windmill in March 2024 following the withdrawal of funding by Eastleigh Borough Council in 2023.”

Whilst, at this stage these closures don't have a direct impact on CDAS, it is close to home and a growing problem impacting museums and archives. One to watch and you may want to do your own investigations and research.

Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester 2024

23rd October: Greg Campbell (MA) :Darkness Visible: what Fishbourne's shells tell us about archaeology's power to explain. *The shellfish excavated from Fishbourne Roman Palace and other sites in its vicinity (Fishbourne East, Fishbourne Harbour) have recently been re-examined and re-interpreted. These shells form a distinct pattern that varies with the times that they were excavated, rather than with the times were being used in the past. Using shells as a typical example of the many kinds of archaeological materials, the implications of how objects are recovered during excavation affect our ability to understand the past will be explored. There will be pie-charts!*

Greg Campbell (MA) has been a practising archaeologist for nearly 40 years, 'rising through the ranks' of field archaeology (volunteer, field technician, site supervisor, excavation director (briefly), cultural impact assessor for planning permissions, environmental archaeology coordinator) before switching to become a materials specialist, in archaeo-malacology. He has been publishing analyses of excavated marine shells for over 20 years and is currently researching how shell shape of commercial shellfish varies with habitat using multivariate statistics, and is cataloguing British examples of medieval Santiago scallop-shell pilgrim-badges.

Nov 27th: Dr Mile Russell Chichester District: archaeological evidence for an early Roman client kingdom Dr Miles Russell, University of Bournemouth, where he is Principal Academic in Prehistoric and Roman Archaeology and Director of Fieldwork in the Department of Archaeology and Anthropology. Miles graduated from the Institute of



Archaeology, University College London in 1988 and worked as a Field Officer for the UCL Field Archaeology Unit and then as a Project Manager for the Oxford Archaeological Unit, joining Bournemouth University in 1993. He has conducted fieldwork across the UK as well as in Germany, Sicily and Russia. He is currently director of the departmental training excavation, director of Regnum and co-director of the Durotriges Project (the latter two investigating the transition from the Iron Age to Roman period across SE and SW Britain). Miles grew up in Sussex and has also researched the pioneering work on flint mines undertaken by local amateur, John Pull. He gained his doctorate, on Neolithic monumental architecture, in 2000 and was elected a Fellow of the Society of Antiquaries of London in 2006.

4th December CDAS AGM – St. Nicholas Hall, Brooks Lane, Bosham, PO18 8LA

*****7:00 pm start*****

As we did last year, the committee will supply a selection of savoury ‘nibbles’ and sweet seasonal snacks. If you would like to bring along something yourself your contributions would be very welcome but please let me know what you intend to bring so we can avoid any duplication and help us decide what we need to provide from the committee.

All *talks* start at **7.30 pm** (note 7:00 pm start of AGM above). 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

Tuesday 19th November 2024; Visit to War Dyke at Whiteways (*spaces available*)
Led by William Foot.

Just announced.....

Monday 25th November 2024; Tour of West Sussex Record Office, Chichester led by Vicky Evans, Searchroom Archivist, West Sussex Record Office

Meeting Point: West Sussex Record Office, 3 Orchard Street, Chichester, PO19 1DD

Duration: 1.5-2 hours starting at 11am

Cost £6 Members, £11 Non-members, £2.40 Student Members

The visit includes a tour of the building and a small document display in the Searchroom. It's an opportunity to see behind-the-scenes. Please note it will be mostly standing/walking.

There are 6 visitor car parking spaces that can be reserved in advance for a cost of £4.50 per space (covers half a day). There is also a disabled parking space that can be reserved too and there is a lift in the building.

If you wish to book a place, email activities@cdas.info (include if you wish to reserve a parking space).



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

Fieldwork

Thanks to Mike Kallaway for this summary;

Priory Park Archaeology Project

This year's very successful dig exposed the remains of a military causeway or bridge that would have led to the city's Norman castle. We are investigating the possibility to establish using geophysics, the width/scale of the wall and whether there may be finds further east.

Thorney Island Condition Assessment

The southern shore of Thorney Island has seen the coastline recede by several metres in recent years. A type 23 Pillbox situated just beyond the end of the main runway is now threatened with collapse and eventual toppling into the sea.

We decided to make a 3D model of the pillbox, using photogrammetry before it deteriorated any further. This model is now available on the CDAS website at <https://www.cdas.info/Medmerry.html>

Coastal Monitoring

There was a visit to Medmerry East on 17th October, we have had a very good response to our request for volunteers. Updates and findings will follow in future Newsletters.

Stansted House Secret Garden Survey

The limited number of squares surveyed showed interesting results so it is proposed to return when the focus will be on resistivity.

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

I'm aware that a number of people joined recently, however you found us, welcome and it was good to see many new members at New Park last month.



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 few links for you this month all related to talks and webinars by other organisations;

The Novium Museum are advertising a talk by Trevor Creighton, "'Who were the Anglo Saxons, and what have they ever done for us?' – you may remember Trevor's talk to CDAS members on Roman Mosaics.

<https://chichesterboxoffice.ticketsolve.com/ticketbooth/shows/873649212>

The CBA South East is pleased to announce its Pots, Coins, Artefacts, and Archives: A Celebration of the Life and Work of Dr Malcolm Lyne Memorial Conference in partnership with Sussex School of Archaeology and History

A one-day in person and online Memorial Conference will be held on Saturday 16 November, 10am-5pm, at Kings Church Hall, Lewes, Sussex. ALSO AVAILABLE ONLINE.

Dr Lyne was an exceptional scholar who made many contributions to the archaeology of South-East England. He was foremost a Roman pottery expert.

This conference is being organised by the Sussex School of Archaeology & History in association with the Council for British Archaeology South-East.

For further information and to book see;

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/931983336247>

Cotswold Archaeology are advertising this online lecture;

This year's Joan Pye lecture: will be given by Professor Rebecca Gowland, University of Durham on Weds 6th Nov 2024, 7pm (GMT)

[Webinar: Life in Roman Britain - A view from the skeleton - Cotswold Archaeology](#)

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

Dickie

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