

CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – April 2018

Fieldwork

Fieldwork has continued at a lively pace in March

Although strictly a February event we managed to collect some good samples for radiocarbon dating the exposed wooden structures (fish traps?) on the East side of the Medmerry breach. We could still see the remains of the fish traps on the Western side of the breach. It is amazing how they have survived.

We completed the second phase of the geophysical survey at Idsworth at the beginning of the month with resistivity of the whole site and magnetometry of selected areas around the church. Based on the results we believe that the rectangular shapes along the bank of the Lavant are probably water meadows. The magnetometry confirmed the findings around the church from the resistivity survey whilst also revealing a few new features. More work needs to be done on interpreting the results and a report will follow in due course.

Our report on the survey of Chestnut Cottage’s rear garden was well received including a comment from Barry Cunliffe “It’s a most impressive and thorough piece of work”. We are not sure yet if we will be asked to do anything more.

We visited Thorney ground proofing some features on the EA LiDAR. We managed to validate some medieval field systems located on the airfield and to the south of West Thorney village. We also discovered what at first looked like a collapsed air raid shelter but after further investigation turned out to be the base of a building of uncertain vintage.

Two Neolithic Oval/Long Barrows at Stoughton Down were surveyed using both resistivity and magnetometry. Some interesting findings were made and these will be the subject of one of our talks at the Members Evening on 23rd May.

Tomorrow we will be returning to the Drovers Estate as part of the National Trust HART program. Our first visit was abandoned after an hour or so due to the rain so this time we are hoping for better weather.

Plans are well advanced for the **Excavation Study Day on May 12th** .at Eames Farm.

The Priory Park excavation is planned between **Monday 9th July and Tuesday 24th July** 2018. These dates are subject to final approval but we are fairly confident they will stand. A trench will be excavated that will encompass the entire footprint of the Roman Bathhouse. Initial excavation of turf and topsoil will be by machine, as will backfilling.

Please contact Trevor Davies surveying@cdas.info if you want to be on his mailing list of possible volunteers and are not already registered.

Talks

The current program of talks is listed below.

March 28th	Edwin Wood	Archaeological finds from Sussex: Portable Antiquities Scheme finds 2016-17
April 25th	Stuart Needham	Bronze Age Barrowscapes in the Rother region
May 23rd	Members evening	

Activities

The Textiles Study Day on 6th March and the Kingley Vale walk on 14th March were both well attended. Unlike some other events in March the weather was kind to the walkers.

There are still places on the following activities

Excavation Study Day led by CDAS members Steve Cleverly, Ann Davies, Trevor Davies and Mike Kallaway

Date: Saturday 12 May 2018

Time: To be confirmed. This is a full day event.

Location: Eames Farm, Thorney Road, Emsworth, PO10 8DE. Free parking is available. You will need to bring a packed lunch.

Cost: Members £25, non-members £30 (if places are available). Payment is due by 9 April. Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed.

The course outline:

The objective is to provide a general understanding of:

- How the excavation is justified
- What is involved in setting up an excavation
- The processes used in the excavation itself
- The post excavation analysis and reporting

At the end of this study day you should have a better appreciation of how excavations are organised. As well as making the experience more interesting you should have a better understanding of why you are asked to do things in certain ways, how what you are doing fits into the wider picture and why there are things that you never do.

Though it will not be possible to provide a real trench there will be practical elements to the day.

If you are interested in attending please email Pauline Blagden activities@cdas.info as soon as possible.

Flint Knapping - an opportunity to have a go

CDAS is organising an activity day at Butser led by Bob Turner on 9 June 2018. There will be a practical demonstration followed by everyone trying their skills with flint. Bob will give you a flavour of life in the Mesolithic / Neolithic showing how people lived and he will try to cover the full range of tools.

The cost is likely to be around £25- £27 for CDAS members, £30-£32 for non-members. This will include entry to Butser Ancient Farm.

If you are interested in attending please email Pauline Blagden activities@cdas.info as soon as possible.

Timber-framed buildings of the Weald, their development and dating for beginners. A Study Day led by Jeremy Clarke.

Date: Saturday 3 November 2018

Time: To be confirmed. This is a full day event.

Location: Fishbourne Roman Palace (David Rudkin Room), Roman Way, Fishbourne, Chichester PO19 3QR. There is plenty of parking.

Cost: Members £25, non-members £30 (if places are available). Payment is due by 10 September. Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed.

The course outline: This study day will cover terminology, how to approach dating a building, useful resources and a group practical session using site photographs and plans to try out the knowledge gained.

To book your place email Pauline Blagden at activities@cdas.info

Coastal Monitoring

Unfortunately due to other commitments Peter Murphy has had to cancel the session on March 29th. It is not clear yet if and when this session will be rescheduled.

As a result the next session of Coastal Monitoring is on Friday April 13th, the location will depend on the weather.

If you are not yet on Peter's mailing list and would like to be included in future please contact him on coastal@cdas.info

Warblington Exhibition

Following last year's successful temporary exhibition of the Warblington Roman Estate, Emsworth Museum will provide permanent home for the unique Warblington Cist and other finds from the excavation.

The new CDAS display cabinet will be formally opened by David Hopkins, the Hampshire County Archaeologist at 10.30 on March 31st.

Hampshire Field Club

CDAS is now affiliated to Hampshire Field Club and members are able to view their Studies by logging on to:-

Website: <http://www.ingentaconnect.com/content/hfcas>

Username: cdasarchaeology

Password: cdashfc

Bob Cottam

Bob who was a member of CDAS for a number of years died last year. His ashes are to be interred in Paradise within the Cloisters of Chichester Cathedral after Evensong on Sunday 15th April. His friends are welcome to attend, please telephone Freddie on 01243 823621 if you would like to come.

Other Events

Here are two other events that might interest CDAS Members

Trevor Davies is repeating his **Warblington talk** to the Friends of Fishbourne Roman Palace on Saturday 21st April at 2pm at Fishbourne Palace. The charge for non-Friends is £4. CDAS members would be very welcome.

Surrey Archaeological Society' Roman Studies Group is hosting a regional conference '**Shining a light on the 5th century AD in Surrey and the South-East: how did Roman Britain become Saxon England?**' which may be of interest to you.

It is being held on Saturday 8th May at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted 9.30-17.45. Speakers include specialists from across the Roman - Saxon interface and it is hoped that this conference will lead to a programme of work to look at this period across Surrey, which hitherto has been difficult to trace in the archaeological record.

Tickets are £15 a head, including morning and afternoon refreshments and can be booked by post (using the attached form) or online via the Society website www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

If you want to keep up with our latest news please click on the Facebook or Twitter links at the end of this letter.

Membership Renewal

We are approaching the time for members to renew their membership from 1st April 2018. Following the introduction of the new General Data Protection Legislation It is now essential that each member submit a completed application form on renewal.

Brian Tomkinson will be contacting all members about the process for renewing their Membership in the coming days.

Mike Kallaway

CDAS Chairman

26th March 2018

