

CDAS Newsletter April 2022

Welcome to the April CDAS Newsletter.

Reminder

The April lecture (Dr Kristian Strutt, 'Archaeological Landscapes, Survey Techniques, and Non-Intrusive Approaches') will be at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 27th April in New Park

Getting Involved

"Without People, you're nothing": Joe Strummer

I'm not sure Joe Strummer had CDAS in mind when he said this, but it is very pertinent to us right now. At this year's AGM we again have a number of committee members who will have come to the end of their tenure and we have to replace them with new blood so to speak. Whether you only attend the New Park talks, go on the walks, dig, process finds or steward at our public events, the society cannot function without its members and its committees. Please consider what you could have to offer (and let me or any of the committee member know in good time) – we can explain what's involved and if you choose to put yourself forward, you will be given all the support you need and it can be a very rewarding way of ensuring CDAS thrives in the future (which is unwritten – more Joe Strummer).

If you don't want to or don't have the time to commit to full Committee membership but have skills that could benefit CDAS, please also get in touch, a supporting cast can make committee life easier too and by relieving the workload on the Committee it might encourage and enable more members to put themselves forward.

Talks and Lectures Schedule

Note; *All Subject to change – we will continue to try and provide a broad selection of talks whilst respecting our invited speakers constraints around Covid restrictions and of course our members.*

27th April – Dr Kristian Strutt, 'Archaeological Landscapes, Survey Techniques, and Non-Intrusive Approaches. Recent Fieldwork by the Department of Archaeology, University of Southampton'

Kristian works at the Dept of Archaeology, University of Southampton, specialising in landscape archaeology, survey and archaeological geophysics. His PhD was on the settlement pattern and land use of the Tiber Delta and environs and he is currently director on the Old Sarum landscapes project but spend a lot of time doing undergraduate and postgraduate teaching in survey, environmental impact assessments.

25th May – Member's evening – hear about some of the work the Society and individual members have been doing to explore the archaeology of the Chichester area. May's meeting is traditionally a chance for members to tell us all about archaeology they have recently been involved with – whether it's as members of the Society or your own research. It can be as short as 10 minutes and doesn't have to have a presentation or anything fancy – if you want any help or advice do ask Anne as Programme Secretary or let her know what you'd like to talk about. We currently have Trevor and Steve lined up to talk about recent activities and Mark Seaman has offered to talk about our work at East Head and Idsworth.

September 28th – Mike Allen - The Cerne Abbas Giant (as recently featured on Digging For Britain)

October 26th – still to be confirmed.

November tbc – still to be confirmed

December – AGM

All talks start at **7.30 pm** prompt. 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.

Finds Identification – a new member has asked about bringing along some small finds for possible identification – I'm sure there'll be plenty of folk eager to express a view. This will be on an adhoc / informal basis for now. I'm not sure a full blown 'Finds Table' (for Detectorists fans) will be necessary, and I hope discussion will include reference to the FLO and PAS!

Activities

Please book your place in advance by emailing **Ros Cheetham** at activities@cdas.info

Guided Walk – Motley Copse

Mark Seaman has kindly offered to lead a guided walk near Rowlands Castle to see the remains of a motte and bailey castle, on Saturday 30th April at 10.00 am. It is described as one of the most complete and perfect of the Norman remains in Hampshire

Date: **Saturday 30th April 2022**

Start time: **10:00 am**

Meeting point: At the corner of Holt Gardens and Links Lane, Rowlands Castle, post code PO9 6BH (see below). People should park in Holt Gardens, leaving room for vehicles to pass and not obstructing any driveways. If that gets too busy, then Greatfield Way 150m to the south.

Leader: **Mark Seaman**

Cost: Members £1.00 (payable in cash on the day)

Non-members £6 (payable in advance by bank transfer to Chichester & District Archaeology Society, (Account 31438158, Sort code 40-17-16, Reference – Walk Motley)

Bignor Roman Villa

Date: Saturday 21st May

Start time: 10:30

Cost: Members £12, non-members £17

A guided tour of the Roman Villa, plus free time to explore the site. Tearoom available for refreshments.

Representing CDAS at a local Primary School

We have been asked by a local Primary School if we could go along and talk about what Archaeologists do, Romans in Chichester and our work at Priory Park. We are preparing a pack targeted at Key Stage 2 pupils and the activity is yet to be scheduled. If anyone is interested in getting involved in this activity please let me know, obviously experience of dealing with children aged 7-8 would be a great help!

Coultershaw Big Open Day

Coultershaw Heritage Site are planning another day on Sunday 19th June, 10:30 to 4:30. We previously had a stand at this event, it would be great to be involved again - volunteers needed. Please contact Ros Cheetham at activities@cdas.info

Fieldwork

Trevor Davies has recently issued a call for volunteers for **Priory Park** which I hope you will have seen;

The Priory Park excavation is planned between **Tuesday 24th May and Tuesday 7th June 2022**. **Sunday 29th May and Friday 3rd June** will be rest days with no excavation activity but with stewards in attendance on the 29th and if there are sufficient volunteers, Friday 3rd June as well. Volunteers are needed to excavate; process finds and steward. In comparison with previous years, we expect fewer finds, but a greater requirement for stewards.

Initial excavation of turf and topsoil will be by machine, provided by B+M. All the spoil heaps will be backfilled by B+M.

On **Saturday 4th June**, there will be a **Family Fun Day** in Priory Park run by Chichester City Council. The excavation will be one of the attractions.

This excavation will be under Covid conditions. We currently plan the following regime which has been approved by the Chichester District Council Health and Safety Manager: We will change this protocol if the need arises.

- Only CDAS volunteers will be allowed inside the compound
- All CDAS volunteers inside the compound will have had been vaccinated and not show any symptoms. We ask that you confirm that you agree to these conditions when you volunteer.

The following is a summary of other activities currently being carried out under the governance of the Fieldwork Committee (thanks to Mike for the summary, it makes my life easier pulling this Newsletter together);

Old Idsworth, Main/Church Field

If we can obtain permission from the farmer/landowner there may be an excavation in the autumn, which would focus on a section across the ditch to the north of the church.

Oyster Quay – Pook Lane

A team excavated 2 small trenches on 1st April. The results are being assessed.

Condition Assessment

Thorney was visited on 9th March and a number of sites need to be cleared of vegetation. CDAS may undertake some site clearance in the autumn. One potential new WW2 site was identified. This needs further investigation before the HER can be updated.

Thorney – South West Corner

As part of the Condition Assessment visit a team undertook a walkover survey in the south western corner. One field has some interesting “lumps and bumps” ; this could be target for a res survey.

Petworth North Lawn

A return to Petworth with excavation of 3 shallow trenches; this to tie in with NT open day on 12th June.

Small Projects

The Fieldwork Committee is keen to build-up a bigger skill base amongst CDAS members. They are proposing to run some small-scale projects with an emphasis on training; these will go through all the usual project stages. Given that such projects will make use of skilled members and equipment they will still need to be approved & scheduled by the FWC in the same way as other projects. These small projects will be just one or two days long and usually aimed at a single archaeological feature. The organisation requirements are intended to be lighter than the larger one to two weeks projects. A possible starter project at Rowlands Castle has been identified where we are planning a survey at Lodge Farm, Forestside. We aim to run both mag and res over these features (see email from **Mark Seaman** sent to all members for more detail).

Membership Update /Member Mojo

Brian Tomkinson has confirmed that almost all membership renewal activity has completed for this year. There were still a small number who had renewed via Member Mojo but payments hadn't been received, hopefully these are in the system now but if you haven't done so please make sure you complete your renewal by making the appropriate payment as per the instructions

Any issues please contact Brian at membership@cdas.info

Social Media

We currently have a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to supplement our main CDAS Web page, if you haven't already, please engage in the chat and comments on these forums. It is as the name suggest, a more *social* way of interacting with other members and a good way of engaging new members and links to other local and national societies

Simon Walton has reported back to the General Committee his findings from the CDAS interaction survey. It shows interesting, but not unsurprising demographics of our membership (of those that completed the survey). In summary, it would appear that by far the preferred interaction is via this Newsletter (thank you, I'll try and spend more time proof reading in future!) thereafter, Facebook is the preferred Social Media. The data from Simon's survey will help us target our interactions in future and we'll try to make it more widely available in due course.

Magnetometer

To support our proposed work on the Hill Top Project we need to replace our old Mag kit. The Fieldwork committee have agreed that Bartington best meets our requirements and financial support would be sought on the strength of the Hill Top project. This has been approved by the General Committee. A number of options are being explored , **Trevor Davies** is currently pursuing an application via the **Heritage Lottery Fund** but we may explore leveraging our partners including The National Trust, Heritage England, The South Downs National Park, Goodwood Estate and Sussex County Council

Discover Chichester on Foot – A new guided walk book

After a lot of work by many members, our new Walking guide to Chichester is at the printers! These will be sold at the Novium and available for us to sell direct at events (and to members). The more we sell direct the better the return for us to fund CDAS activities. **More details next month.**

There are no changes to the following items in the Newsletter but I've left them in in case you have not read before and as they remain pertinent

Fieldwork Project Managers

I am keen to maintain momentum on this item that Trevor raised last year. We have a concern that the effort of organizing Fieldwork projects falls on the shoulders of relatively few people. The need to be able to spread the load to other members might be made easier if we had documented processes, templates and a library of worked examples so as not to re-invent the wheel. This is something that I am pursuing with the General Committee to make it easier for people to assist in this area. If anyone is interested, please contact me.

Skills Matrix / Skills Passport

On the wider subject of Skills, one of the ideas I have floated with the General Committee is the possibility of CDAS having its own version of the Archaeology Skills Passport utilized in the industry on a professional basis. This would serve 2 purposes ;

- i) it would be a way for members to track their skills level across a wide range of activities offered by the society, and identify activities that perhaps they were not aware of that they might want to learn or participate in on future digs /fieldwork
- ii) it would be a record of member's skills for the society to identify people with appropriate skills when scheduling the roles required in field activity. It might also surface skills that members have that we are unaware of that we could utilize within the society (of course only if members wish to offer such services)

This requires more thought and will be progressed via the General and Fieldwork Committees.

Second-Hand Book Sale

Thank you to those who have donated books and journals these are proving popular and are generating funds for the society. If you have any unwanted or duplicate books or journals please bring them along to New Park (let me know if you have a large collection as we may need to ensure we can crate and transport for future meetings if necessary, I could also arrange collection if necessary). If anyone wants to volunteer to assist Brian on the stall please let me know (or Brian at membership@cdas.info) or on the night.

Affiliations

CDAS has affiliations with the following organisations. Where possible we share the news and activities put on by these groups including;

- CBASE monthly newsletter
- Sussex Archaeology: Sussex past & present and their Collections, when published
- Association of Roman Archaeology: ARA news
- Hampshire Field Club: Newsletter and Hampshire Studies

We (I) might sometimes miss forwarding these to members via email so if there is a particular communication you are aware of but haven't seen, please let me know and I'll check we've forwarded all that we've received.

Funding CDAS

As per previous updates, some members of the committee have been experimenting with the use of "Easy Fundraising" as a method of generating funds for the Society. It works as follows:

- Go to: www.Easyfundraising.org.uk
- The cause you wish to support is "Chichester and District Archaeology Society" which has already been registered.
- Create an account
- Download the donation reminder

Most sites do support Easyfundraising. Then when you go to a supporting site, a reminder will pop up. Just click on this and a donation will automatically be generated for CDAS at absolutely no cost to you!

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

Dickie

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