



CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – August 2020

With the lockdown easing we have added some fieldwork and activities to our forward schedule. We have arranged a preliminary programme for talks running from September through to May 2021. At the moment we have assumed that all of these will be on-line but the possibility of holding them in a suitable venue is being explored – more about that later in this Newsletter

Fieldwork

WW2 Auxiliary Unit Hideout north of Halnaker Hill

As many of you will have seen on social media, we found what we believe to be a previously unknown Hideout in woodland north of Halnaker. The location of the site agrees with a wartime map reference given by the Royal Engineers. As that map reference refers to a significant area, we will explore the area in the vicinity of our find to be sure that we have captured the right site. There could also be an associated Observation Post in the vicinity.

Fish-weir at East Head.

We still plan to visit and record this site on 23rd August, when the tides are favourable. In the light of the latest Covid 19 guidelines we should be able to put together a strong team of people to make the survey and photograph the structures.

Langford Farm

We are planning to run a geophysical survey across a field, northwest of Lavant, from week commencing 24th August till 4th September (excluding the extended Bank Holiday weekend). This investigation follows review of an aerial image (2018), within which crop marks allude to the site of a Roman villa. The results of the resistivity and magnetometer surveys, may lead to a trial trench.

We have had a very strong response to the call for volunteers, indicating a pent-up desire amongst our members to get back in the field. If anyone did not receive this email and wants to participate, they should contact Trevor Davies at surveying@cdas.info

Bethwines Farm

Earlier this year we had to postpone the geophysical survey of Bethwines Farm in Fishbourne due to water-logged ground. We now hope to be able to reschedule this to early September.

Talks

As mentioned in July’s Newsletter we have created a private YouTube Channel for showing pre-recorded talks. This will allow us to restart our talks programme even if we do not have a “safe” venue. Paid-up Members would be sent a link in order to access the YouTube Channel and view the talks. We have no means of charging for viewing the so the service would be for paid-up members only.

New Park has re-opened but as expected with significant restrictions on numbers in order to maintain Social Distancing. There are also additional measures in place to minimise the risk to attendees. We are reviewing what this means for us and also looking at alternative venues in Chichester.

Whatever venue we might choose it is clear that measures to control the spread of Covid19 will restrict what we can do. There will be little opportunity for socialising and probably no bar.

We are also aware that many of our members are more vulnerable to Covid19 due to age or underlying health conditions. In this situation many may not feel comfortable coming to an indoor gathering whatever measures are in-place to make the venue safer.

In order to get a feel for how many of our members would be happy to attend talks in person I intend to send out a questionnaire to all members during August. The response will help us determine what we should do regarding "live" talks and suitable venues

We have a programme of talks starting in September and going through to May 2021. The first three talks planned are: -

- 23/9/20 Steve Cleverly
 - Petworth – geophysical surveys and trial excavations
- 28/10/20 Trevor Davies
 - Warblington – Overview of all the work done by CDAS
- 25/11/20 Bob Turner (Worthing Archaeological Society)
 - America from the ice age to Columbus

Activities

We are delighted to report that activities have restarted. We plan to hold the following events this year.

Guided Walk – Old Idsworth – a repeat of the walk on 23 July which proved a great success

Date: Saturday 19 September 2020

Start time: 10:00

Meeting point: The entrance to the footpath up to St Hubert's Church. There's parking along the side of the road or opposite. Post code: PO8 0BE

Cost: Members FREE, non-members £5.00 (if places are available) payable in cash on the day. NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BOOK YOUR PLACE IN ADVANCE BY EMAILING PAULINE BLAGDEN activities@CDAS.info

Recent archaeological work by CDAS has revealed that the church of St Hubert's Idsworth is built on top of much older buildings and has potentially been used as a sacred site for thousands of years. In the Bronze Age there were numerous round barrows in the area. A complex series of boundary ditches have been found in the field. These date to the Iron Age and indicate that there is a pagan temple under the church. When the Romans arrived around AD 60, they built their own temple on the Iron Age site. Then, with the arrival of Christianity, a wooden church was built on the site. This was followed by the current stone-built church, the western wall of which has a foundation of Roman pilae. A considerable amount of Iron Age, Roman, Saxon and Medieval pottery has been found in the field.

It is known that Roman religious cults and then the early church "appropriated" significant locations from previous religions to convert or suppress them, and Idsworth would appear to support this theory.

The walk will include Old Idsworth Gardens where permission has been obtained to see its dovecote and icehouse. If open, and social distancing allowing, there will be an opportunity to see the medieval wall paintings in the church.

The walk will be illustrated with Geophys images and other documents. The total length is less than a mile. The going is fairly easy with one style and should take about an hour and a half. There are no facilities.

Guided Walk - Kingley Vale, led by Mike Kallaway

Date: Wednesday 19 August 2020

Start time: 10:00

Meeting point: West Stoke Car Park, Downs Rd, Chichester PO18 9BE

Cost: Members FREE, non-members £5.00 (if places are available) payable in cash on the day. NUMBERS WILL BE LIMITED. IT IS ESSENTIAL TO BOOK YOUR PLACE IN ADVANCE BY EMAILING PAULINE BLAGDEN activities@CDAS.info

Kingley Vale is a well-known National Nature reserve within the South Downs National Park. Most visitors are aware of the ancient yew tree forest, Devils Hump Bronze Age Barrows and Iron Age settlements. Less well known is Kingley Vale's past as a military training site particularly during World War 2. During this walk we will explore a number of military sites from the 19th Century rifle range to Auxiliary Unit WW2 hideouts. We will look at the evidence that still remains of its military use and the efforts made to clear munitions from the site after WW2. The walk will be illustrated by the use of old maps, aerial photos, LiDAR images and other documents. Other more ancient features such as field systems, settlements, enclosures and unusual barrows will also be revealed.

The walk will start and finish in West Stoke Car Park. From the Car Park to the entrance to Kingley Vale Nature Reserve is around 0.8 miles adding 1.6 miles there and back to the overall route. The full walk will take around 3.5 to 4 hours. A shorter option is possible taking about a mile out of the route. People who chose this option will have a break whilst the others take an excursion to see other sites.

The climb from the car park to the top is around 150 metres and is quite steep in parts so appropriate footwear should be worn. There are no facilities. Please bring a packed lunch and drink.

Practical Study Day: Make your own Iron Age Pot, led by Bill Crumbleholme

Date: Friday 18 September 2020

Time: 10:00 – 16:00

Location: Butser Ancient Farm, Chalton Lane, Waterlooville, PO8 0BG. There is plenty of parking.

Cost: Members £65, non-members £70 if places are available. Payment is due by 8 August 2020. Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed. Places are limited so book early.

This hands-on study day offers CDAS members the opportunity to learn about Iron Age pottery technology and have a go at making an 'Iron Age' pot. The day will include digging clay, preparing it and hand building pots. Then we will watch a simple bonfire firing. No experience is needed but wear old clothes!

Study Day: Chichester's Maritime Past, led by writer and historian Ian Friel.

Date: Saturday 28 November 2020

Time: 10:00 – 16:00

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

Cost: Members £25, non-members £30. Payment is due by 30 October 2020. Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed.

Covering the area from Pagham Harbour to Chichester Harbour, and the period from prehistory onwards, this study day will explore Chichester's maritime history through both archaeological and historical sources, drawing on Ian's own research. The maritime history of this area is much richer than sometimes realised. It includes, for instance, an Elizabethan sailor from Chichester who vanished in the Indian Ocean, the Harbour's role as a grain-exporting haven in the 18th century, its surprising history in constructing Georgian warships, the local oyster fishery, and the development of yachting and leisure boating in the 20th century.

To book a place please on any activity contact Pauline Blagden at activities@cdas.info

Membership Renewal

136 or around 70% of the 193 Members at the start of the process have now renewed their membership.

As we restart activities and fieldwork, we will need to ensure that participants have renewed their subscription in order not to invalidate our insurance.

In view of the possible risk of spreading Covid19 we ask members not to pay by cheque but use bank transfer instead.

Other activities Members might be interested in

The Novium has now reopened and you can visit the "Mystery Warrior: The North Bersted Man" exhibition which was due to close at the end of September but has now been extended until well into 2021.

To visit the Novium you will need to book in advance. The Novium website is not very clear on how to book but if you follow this link it will take you to the appropriate web page :- <https://chichesterboxoffice.ticketsolve.com/shows/873614639/events/128271113>

Health & Safety Policy

CDAS has always had a strong interest in the safety of its members and conducts detailed Risk Assessments prior to all fieldwork. We follow industry practice in this regard.

However, we recognised that we did not have an overall Health and Safety policy for the Society and the Committee felt that this was needed to cover all our activities not just fieldwork. Consequently, a new policy was developed and has been approved by the General and Fieldwork Committees and published on our website on the “About us” page.

I would like to thank Peter Mathews for his support in this work.

I hope that you are all well and managing to get out an about a bit more now that restrictions have eased. We look forward to seeing you during activities and in the field

Best wishes

Mike Kallaway

CDAS Chairman

29th July 2020

