



CDAS – Chairman's Monthly Letter – December 2020

I spoke to soon in November's Newsletter that things are starting to get back to a more normal situation. Following the easing of the Lockdown at the beginning of December it looks like we will be on Tier 2 and back to the famous rule of 6 regarding Fieldwork.

Fieldwork

Langford Farm

We have published the report on the survey of the Villa site and Roman road. We hope to be able to excavate the villa site at some point in the future.

Hoyle Farm

We completed the survey of the area on either side of the stream near the house. The area around the stream looked promising as the site of a kiln based on the Saxon pottery found in the stream. Unfortunately, the survey did not find anything of note.

We had a fresh look at the area 300 metres south of the stream where the seam of red clay is located. During the summer there was a gentle trickle of water flowing in drainage ditch at the edge of the woodland. When we looked at it in November it was more of a raging torrent. This has made us think that pottery production might have been seasonal.

We intend to survey this southern area in the spring, probably in March.

Medmerry

Peter King has been keeping an eye on developments at Medmerry in particular the Coastguard Station. Some more of it has been exposed but other parts have been swept away. We will plan to make a visit to the site probably in February.

Talks

I have had a number of members contact me to say how much they enjoyed Bob Turner's talk on America from the ice age to Columbus. I certainly found it fascinating.

The next talk on our YouTube channel will be:

- 27/1/21 Josh Pollard (Southampton University)
 - New finds from Avebury

Based on the latest Tier announcements related to Covid 19 it is unlikely that we will resume live talks for some time. We are monitoring the situation on a regular basis and will update members whenever there is something to report.

Activities

Our activities remain suspended due to Covid19 restriction I situation I fear that will continue into the Spring.

We hope to be able to restart once the situation eases as we have a number of activities in the pipeline.

Virtual Coffee Morning

We held an informal virtual coffee morning using Microsoft Teams on 24th November. I gave a short presentation on the work we have been doing on Roman Roads. It also gave us a dry run of MS Teams in preparation for the AGM.

We had more than 30 people logged on to the meeting. A few people had trouble getting the link to work but the feedback from the majority was generally positive. A number of people contacted me after the meeting with comments and questions.

Reflecting on the generally positive response we have been considering making this a regular feature of CDAS's on-line presence. Currently we circulate fieldwork reports to participants but not the wider membership. Many of our reports are not published due to confidentiality requirements. Many members only see snippets about our fieldwork as they are reported in the Monthly Newsletter.

A short presentation in a virtual coffee morning would allow us to share our work with all the members without placing too much of a burden on those leading the fieldwork.

AGM

We will hold our AGM as a virtual meeting at 7pm on 2nd December using Microsoft Teams.

I will send out instructions for joining the meeting in the next day or so.

There is no need for members to download any software you can simply join the meeting via a web link. I will also include a guide on what to do after activating the link.

I hope that we will get a good response at the AGM and I look forward to "seeing" Members that I have not seen for several months.

EasyFundraising

We need your help! If you shop online, please could you sign up to easyfundraising to support Chichester & District Archaeology Society

It's a really easy way to raise money for us – you just use the easyfundraising site to shop online with more than 3,600 well known online stores like Amazon, Argos, John Lewis, Waitrose, Booking.com, eBay, Boden, and M&S and when you make a purchase, the retailer sends us a free donation, at no extra cost to you.

We want to raise as much as possible, so please visit our new easyfundraising page at <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/causes/cdasociety/> and click 'support us'. It is good if you can also add the donation reminder which is available when you sign up so whenever you go to a site such as eBay, it pops up and you can click it to confirm that CDAS will get a contribution

So far, we've raised £160 at no cost to our members.

Other news

James Brown, our contact at the National Trust is working on a new project the Changing Chalk landscape partnership scheme. This a potentially exciting archaeology project on the horizon through a proposed National Lottery Heritage Funded scheme: Changing Chalk.

Changing Chalk is a partnership that will work with local communities and landowners to connect people with nature and heritage as well as address some of the challenges facing the Sussex Downs to protect this fragile chalk grassland landscape for future generations. The focus is on the chalk grassland landscape of the Sussex Downs and the communities of the coastal urban fringe of Brighton and Hove, Eastbourne and Lewes.

The scheme is currently in a funded development phase which will result in a final application to NLHF in May 2021. If successful the whole scheme will commence in January 2022 and run for over four years.

Though the project is some way off and outside our area we have been invited to participate. It will be using a similar approach to the Secrets of the Highwoods project to map out archaeological features including identifying previously unknown ones.

Sussex Heritage Watch

Daryl Holter who you may remember gave us a talk on his work as Sussex Police Heritage Crime Advisor has set-up a new project Sussex Heritage Watch. This project is completely separate from his work for Sussex Police but builds on the skills he has developed in that role.

Sussex Heritage Watch is focussed on Heritage Preservation and Safeguarding. If you want to learn more please see <https://davidbexhill.wixsite.com/heritage>

Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of the Repatriation of Far East Prisoners of War 1945-46

Peter Durnford has made me aware that on the 18th November there was a ceremony to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the repatriation of almost 40,000 prisoners of war from SE Asia. If you would like to learn more about this please see the website <https://www.fepow75.org.uk/>

I am standing down as Chairman of CDAS at the AGM after four years on the Committee the last three as Chairman. Malcolm Pheasey is standing for election to replace me and I am sure that you will give him all your support.

I have enjoyed my time as Chairman. It has been rewarding working with such an enthusiastic and professional team of people. I plan to remain an active member of the Fieldwork Committee.

Thanks for all your support and best wishes

Mike Kallaway

CDAS Chairman

28th November 2020

