

CDAS Newsletter January 2022

Welcome to my first CDAS Newsletter. As I'm still getting to grips with my new role with the support of the General and Sub Committees, please bear with me as I get used to the rhythm of the various meetings and publications, but I'll aim to keep these monthly and where we have talks scheduled, ahead of the monthly New Park get-together.

Reminder

Change of January Lecture detail*

The January lecture will be at **7:30 pm on Wednesday 26th January** in New Park when **James Kenny** will talk about **Priory Park**. This is a change to the previously published lecture from Bob Turner. With the emergence of the Omicron Covid variant Bob was uncomfortable presenting this talk in person and we absolutely understand and support this position. Whilst we can, we would prefer to offer in-person talks and lectures to members and so will look to re-arrange Bob's talk for later in the year. Thank you Anne (and James) for arranging the replacement talk which I am sure will be of great interest to members.

The arrangements will be the same as for the lectures last year;

- We will ask you to sign in as usual
- We will ask you to wear masks unless you are actually speaking or exempt
- We plan to have the lecture in New Park and simultaneously transmit it online

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 restriction and of course our members.*

26th Jan 2022 – James Kenny, Chichester District Council Archaeology Officer – on “The Archaeology of Priory Park”.

23rd Feb – Trevor Creighton, Project Archaeologist at Butser Ancient Farm, will talk about the recent experience of “Reconstructing a Neolithic House – the Butser Experience”

23rd March – James Sainsbury “Recent Discoveries at Edburton – Roman and Mesolithic” – excavations in a waterlogged site near Petworth have revealed a previously unknown Roman site including Roman timbers.

27th April – to be confirmed

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.

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.

Fieldwork

Priory Park Archaeology Project

James is progressing the 2021 Excavation post-ex and reporting. We have some Geophys (Res) Scheduled for the week of 14th Feb. Trevor Davies has sent out invites.

Old Idsworth, Main/Church Field

Mark Seamen is working to establish whether it will be possible to fit an excavation and additional magnetometry around the crop schedule.

Oyster Quay – Pook Lane (MK)

Excavation planned for 1st April 2022 subject to permissions from Chichester Harbour Trust.

Coastal Monitoring

A call for volunteers has identified additional members who would like to be involved in this continuing work including re-visiting Medmerry in the early Spring before birds return to breed. The first report on CDAS's work at Medmerry has now been published in SAC (Sussex Archaeological Collections), available at <http://www.cdas.info/MurphySAC2020.pdf>. Please do take time to review the fruits of Peter Murphy's efforts with the support of many CDAS Members.

Thorney Condition Assessment

Next full Condition Assessment planned for March 2022. Mike Kellaway will be contacting members to establish who might want to get involved over and above the core team.

Thorney - Managed Retreat of West Coast

Retreat project currently on hold. However, CDAS projects remain valid and include :

- Building works identified a wide Roman ditch running east-west. Geophys might track its route. A review of Lidar/photo-images & site visit to be followed up with geophys (res)
- Channel leading inland from south-western corner may link into a Roman settlement. Possible initial examination during condition assessment visit in 2022.
- Investigate in more detail the Lithics & pottery sites identified along the western shore.

Auxiliary Unit Hideouts

- Halnaker Hideout – Survey to be scheduled for early 2022.
- Eartham – small excavation possibilities to be explored

Hill Top Enclosures

A draft outline for this project has been produced by James Kenny identifying two types of site; Neolithic Enclosures and IA hill forts. The Fieldwork Committee agreed to focus on The Trundle and Harting Beacon. Both projects cover large areas on the Downs and would therefore need up to date magnetometry equipment (see below re Mag Equipment funding)

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.

Member Mojo

Brian Tomkinson has continued his work developing Member Mojo and migrating the data from the old Membership database. As a reminder, the main benefits of Member Mojo are:

- It simplifies the membership monitoring process, so in future it will need less time from the Membership Secretary.
- It makes the CDAS GDPR protocols more robust. Committee Members who need to do so because of their role can email the members without seeing any contact details.

Brian will make a short presentation about Member Mojo at the beginning of the January meeting, prior to its use in renewing members' subscription in March 2022.

Funding CDAS

As per previous update, 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!

Social Media

Simon Walton has recently joined the committee to take responsibility for Social Media and Publicity. Simon is formulating his approach and will be contacting members in due course to ascertain how we best represent CDAS across Social Media and Online and how we reach the widest cross section of members. We currently have a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to supplement our main CDAS Web page.

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 , primarily 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.

Second-Hand Book Sale

I suggested to the General Committee that we should have a Book Stall at the New Park Talk events. I believe this has been tried before and was quite successful. We would be looking for donations (I'm sure like me members will have duplicates and books which seemed like a good idea at the time or you might simply need the space). Donated books can be brought along to New Park (please 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). I'll kick things off as we receive donations but in time we'll perhaps look for volunteers to man the stall.

Dickie

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