



CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – June 2020

With the lockdown continuing our program of fieldwork, talks and activities remained suspended in May.

However changes to the guidelines starting on 1st June allowing people in England to meet in groups of up to six people in outdoor spaces as long as they remain two metres apart mean that some work might be possible. We will be looking at what fieldwork and activities we can do under these conditions and make plans accordingly. I have been maintaining regular contact with Worthing Archaeological Society sharing thoughts on what is possible.

Regarding our autumn program of talks it is not clear if they will be able to start in September. We have been considering offering pre-recorded video talks, perhaps on YouTube, in the event that New Park does not reopen in time.

As with last month’s newsletter I will report on things that have been going on behind the scenes so to speak. Some of you will already be familiar with some of these but for most of you hopefully it will a useful update

Fish-weir at East Head.

We have made a provisional date of 23rd August, when the tides are favourable, to visit and record the Fish-weir at East Head. 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.



Medmerry

Fish Trap

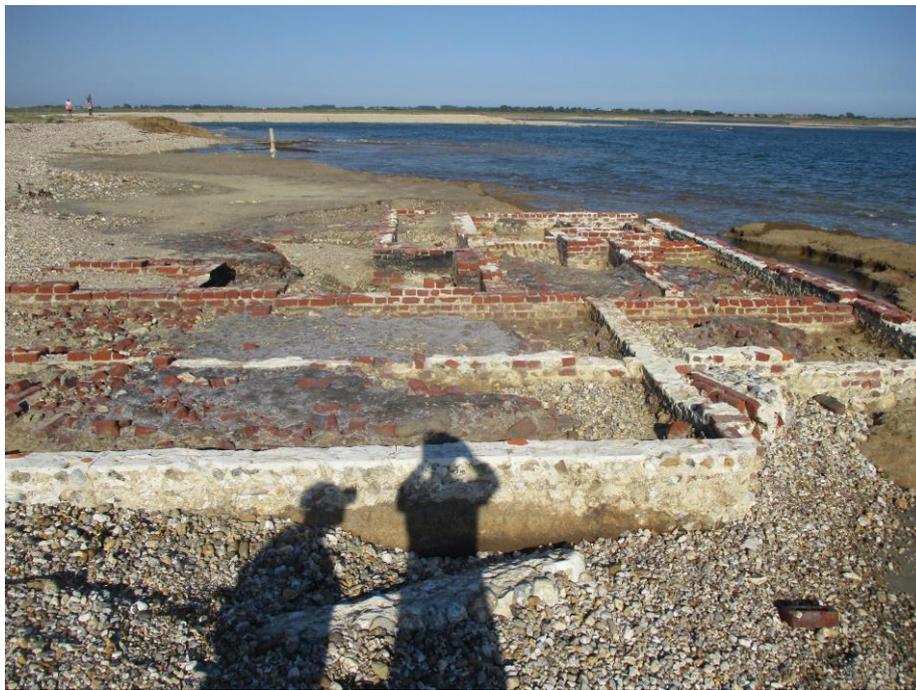
Peter King and Jeff Lander have been making regular visits to the fish trap at Medmerry that we last visited in February. Recent storms have changed the landscape significantly revealing more of the structure. I have included some of Peter's recent photos below.



We are in the process of preparing a plan to survey and record this structure. Bunn's Leisure is closed which means a long walk to get access to the beach. We also need favourable tides to be able to get a sufficient time window to be able to complete the work.

Coastguard Station

Peter King has also visited the Coastguard Station at Medmerry, below is a photograph taken yesterday. More of the structure is now visible but some has been eroded away.



North Bersted - Flint Arrow Head

Naomi Hamilton one of our members who lives in North Bersted discovered a flint arrow head in her back garden – see photos below. A cat or fox dug it up in a flower bed, it was just sitting on the surface.



I think that you will agree with me that this a very beautiful and intricate piece. Barbed and tanged flint arrowheads are prevalent throughout the Bronze Age. This is a particularly fine example perfect except for a small chip at the tip.

The find has been reported to the WSCC HER Officer.

CITiZAN Webinar



CITiZAN will be hosting a webinar on Thursday 4th June at 4pm, with special guest Dr Matt Pope from UCL Institute of Archaeology with a talk entitled - 'An Old View Over the Solent: Early Human Archaeology from the Coastal Plain of Sussex and Hampshire'. Register here - <https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/regist.../5449936498266987279>

Membership Renewal

As I write 124 people have renewed their membership out of a total at the start of 193. This is a significantly lower proportion than at this time last year, reflecting the unique circumstances due to Covid 19

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

Dig Ventures

DigVentures are organising a DigNation Festival that might be of interest to members.



13 - 14 June 2020

Get ready for DigNation Festival: Big Dig Energy!
We're hosting a huge, free, online festival celebrating
amazing archaeology from around the world

Need some archaeology to look forward to? DigVentures have just the thing for you!

Museums may be closed, digs postponed, and conferences cancelled, but all around the world there are still HORDES of archaeologists who want to share their discoveries, and the amazing stories they have about their work, with you.

From Albania to ancient DNA, from Chile to Croatia, from England to Ethiopia, and from Italy to India, we'll be streaming talks from some of the most brilliant archaeologists on the planet, and you'll get to discover some incredible stories about the past that most people will never have heard of - but really should!

DigNation Festival: Big Dig Energy is free to attend, and you can watch online from anywhere in the world

All you have to do is register and you'll have free tickets to a whole weekend of talks about amazing ancient sites, straight from the archaeologists who have been investigating them. For further information follow the link in the green box below.



Book for Sale

John Nundy has a brand new copy of Tim Taylors book "Dig Village" for sale. He acquired two copies by mistake. John says that it is a very comprehensive read, well written full of facts.

The book cost John £34.95 and he would be interested in offers in the region of £30. John would prefer any buyer to collect but deliver would also be possible.

John can be contacted by email at john.nundy@talktalk.net

We would welcome any suggestions from you on how to fill the void in our programme. Are there particular topics you would be interested in? Would contact using skype/zoom be of any interest?

I hope that you are all well and managing to stay in contact with family and friends during this difficult time.

Best wishes

Mike Kallaway

CDAS Chairman

31st May 2020

