



## Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the March 2023 Newsletter.

Firstly, I've had a request to include a retrospective summary of New Park talks in the Newsletter. This could be difficult editorially and may not always be possible but this month, I think Matt Pope's talk lends itself to me adding a CDAS slant. Matt Pope is a Principal Research Fellow in Palaeolithic Archaeology UCL Institute of Archaeology. Matt's talk on the **The Future of Archaeology in Sussex** was introduced as "*how the heritage sector is vulnerable and under threat, nationally but very much so in Sussex. While the last half of the 20th century saw the emergence of a broad-based professional archaeology and protection of the historic environment, the first two decades of the 21st century saw expertise and heritage under increasing threat. In this lecture Matt Pope considers the challenges archaeology faces in Sussex and considers how we can best respond to issues such as under funding, climate change, and threats to expertise.*"

Unlike other talks, Matt didn't take us through a large powerpoint pack, in fact he got near to his allotted time and had only really shared a couple of slides. Instead, Matt gave us an impassioned call to arms, firstly for us all to recognise the cracks and gaping holes appearing in the heritage sector. He highlighted the crisis in the provision of archive space and the challenges Museums are facing in finding suitable facilities that are economically viable, meet strict environmental criteria whilst still being accessible for research. For me the message in Matt's talk that resonated the most was the role we can all play in advocacy and activism. If we do not have a voice in heritage matters we are in danger of being hobbyist bystanders.

Finding CDAS's voice might take time but I would like to think we can make use of our CDAS membership to support heritage matters, specifically in our region but I see no reason why we shouldn't be advocates for national campaigns. If the archaeologists are united, we will never be divided! Whether it's intervening in planning applications, lobbying local councils or writing to MPs and Government Departments as Matt covered in his talk.

I don't know to what extent members are already active in supporting this type of activity but I will endeavor to pass on information to members and seek their support in whatever way is appropriate and if you hear of heritage under threat, please let me know and I'll pass on to members.

Also, new to the Newsletter this month, I welcome a contribution from Chris Skelcher. Chris contacted me a few months back explaining that he'd been studying undergraduate courses in landscape archaeology and medieval history with the University of Cambridge's continuing education department, on-line - over the past 2.5 years. At the end of the Newsletter Chris shares his experience and the value that he's found on his return to education 'later in life'.

This is not dissimilar to my distance learning undergraduate journey with the University of Leicester so I found it an interesting read, I hope you do to. If you fancy writing a piece on your archaeological/heritage journey please let me know, you can either submit directly to me or I'd be happy to help you in the writing and editing.



## Talks and Lectures Schedule

### The New Park

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> – Hayley Nicholls** - Excavations by Archaeology South East in Chichester. This talk will consider some of the work undertaken in Chichester over the recent years.

**April 26<sup>th</sup> – \*\*\*Stop Press \*\*\*\* Unfortunately the scheduled talk from Elke Raeaman has had to be post-poned. We look forward to welcoming Elke at a future date**

Instead, and thanks to Anne Bone for arranging this at short notice, we have ;

**Alice Dowsett** – “The Wantsum Channel in North East Kent” , whilst slightly beyond our region, common themes of geoarchaeological investigation and palaeoenvironmental data analysis have a relevance to coastal work along the south coast

**May 24<sup>th</sup>** Member’s evening

**Sept 27<sup>th</sup> –** Simon Stevens Working with Children and Animals–The Stiances  
Archaeological Project

**Oct 25<sup>th</sup> – Jaime Kaminski** - Bronze Age finds from Chichester and Sussex (provisional)

**Nov 22<sup>nd</sup> – Jane Evans**, Finds Liaison Officer Sussex - Recording our Past – recent finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Sussex (provisional)

**Dec** – date tbc 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.

## Activities

Please book your place in advance by emailing **Ros Cheetham** at [activities@cdas.info](mailto:activities@cdas.info)

Full details are on the website here <http://www.cdas.info/Activities.html>

### Hands-on Rope Making Demonstration - Saturday 25th March

Traditional Rope making Demonstration using a rope making jack donated to Emsworth Museum. Tony Douglas (CDAS member) has designed and constructed the other parts of the ropewalk so the process can be demonstrated. Come and help to make the longest piece of rope made so far with this machine. Led by **Trevor Davies**, CDAS President.

Suitable for Members and Members/children/grandchildren.

### Training Day

*(Editor’s note: I’ve seen the pack for this and it’s a really thorough coverage of everything you need to know, and a great introduction to archaeology and promises to be a great session)*

Date: Saturday 1st April

Time: 9.30 - 4.00pm

Cost: £7 Members £12 Non-members.



Location: Eames Farm, Thorney Road, Emsworth, PO10 8DE

There are a few places remaining. It is aimed at anyone who has an interest in, or would like to take part in, our excavation related activities. This can be in any capacity – NOT just digging!

Among the topics covered will be:

The preparations that have to be made to plan and set-up a project.

How a dig is conducted, what happens during the excavation and why.

What finds are, their importance, how they should be handled and preserved.

Recording and publication

Our upcoming project in Priory Park, Chichester.

There will be an opportunity to take part in practical sessions which include site-recording and finds handling.

## **Walking Tour of Chichester - Saturday 24th June**

A walk around Roman (and medieval) Chichester. Led by **James Kenny**, Archaeology Officer, Chichester District Council.

**Study Day** – Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September - Dangerous Waters and Golden Sands  
The maritime history of the Chichester area. Led by Dr Ian Friel, writer and historian.

## **Fieldwork**

### **New Bartington.**

A number of projects are in the process of being planned where Bartington will be used live.

### **St Huberts, Old Idsworth**

We have been asked to carry out a geophysics survey within the church enclosure of St Hubert's, Idsworth by the Parochial Church Council. Please see email from Mark Seaman calling for volunteers for this activity which will take place in the w/c 3rd April.

The first day (3rd April) will be mag using the Bartington. The second day (4th April) we will use resistivity. Whilst this is taking place, there will be an opportunity for anyone interested to try out the Bartington.

These dates can of course slip a day or so due to the weather. We will just need a small team – 2 extra on the mag day and 4 extra on the res day. We will probably get quite a bit of interest from passing walkers, so there's an opportunity for anyone who fancies some stewarding.

### **Priory Park Archaeology Project**

2023 Excavation – scheduled for 22<sup>nd</sup> May to 6<sup>th</sup> June; this will coincide with Roman week.

### **Coastal Monitoring – Medmerry & East Head**



On-going monitoring at Medmerry to resume though not clear how much remains. Timings depend on birds' breeding Season

## **Condition Assessment inc. Sea Defences – Chichester Harbour**

- Some sea defences failing round the harbour. CDAS to re-establish the program it undertook some years ago with CiTIZAN and formally walk sections of harbour to check whether any archaeology is being revealed.
- Thorney – There was a good turnout for the WWII site clearance visit on 1<sup>st</sup> Feb

## **Hoyle Farm**

Plans for a Mag survey of top end of field possibly w/c 27<sup>th</sup> March:

## **Fieldwork Training**

See details above under Activities

## **CDAS 100 Club**

A great way for you to support us whilst having a bit of a flutter! Here's how it works...

Join the 100 Club by giving £2 a month (or £24 annually) to CDAS.

This buys you one membership number (that we will allocate), which enters you into the monthly draw. All participants must be over 16 and a member of CDAS.

The draw will take place each month at a CDAS meeting.

If you win, your winnings will be paid to you by bank transfer and the winning numbers published in CDAS's monthly newsletter.

The prize money will be 35% of the membership fee taken that month. The remaining 65% goes to CDAS to help fund equipment, resources and opportunities for membe

## **Membership Update /Member Mojo**

### **Important information about this year's renewal**

I would just like to remind members about the decision in our 2022 AGM, that the annual membership fee for CDAS is increasing from £20 to £25 with this year's renewal on 1st April 2023. Please can you remember this when paying this year, and crucially, could members who pay by annual Standing Order please check that their instruction to their banks have been amended accordingly. Thank you in advance for your co-operation, Richard New as new membership secretary would greatly appreciate a smooth renewal process this year.

## **Have you Seen?**

I get a lot of emails and links on social media and I never know how much you might be sent by being members of various other groups or by following on social media. In this new section to the newsletter I thought, rather than forward emails throughout the month, I'd include the links here.



If you have found a particularly interesting or useful website that you think Members might not have seen then please feel free to forward to me and I'll include here. A lot of links are already included on our main website;

<https://www.cdas.info/Links.html>

Interesting coverage of an 1800 year old altar stone excavated in the grounds of Leicester Cathedral

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/03/excavations-reveal-roman-altar-stone-in-shrine-or-cult-room/146401>

<https://www.theguardian.com/uk-news/2023/mar/07/amazing-roman-altar-stone-unearthed-at-leicester-cathedral>

Romano-Celtic temple found near Lancaster Castle using hydrogeophysics

<https://www.heritagedaily.com/2023/03/evidence-of-romano-celtic-temple-found-in-northern-britain/146420>

Interesting update from Orkney, sadly I didn't get to Rousay on my recent travels . this piece focuses on the work at Knowe of Swandro on Rousay

<https://archaeology.co.uk/articles/features/the-knowe-of-swandro.htm>

More coverage of the current crisis in archive provision

<https://www.museumsassociation.org/museums-journal/news/2023/03/clock-is-ticking-to-find-storage-solutions-for-archaeological-archives/#>

Is repatriation the answer to creating space in museum ? Don't mention the Elgin Marbles !

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/news/australian-aboriginal-spears-taken-by-james-cook-to-be-repatriated>

Nice find from the A14 Highways Agency work near Cambridge

<https://www.cambridge-news.co.uk/news/history/bone-comb-made-human-skull-26350651>

Interesting work on Neolithic settlements in France, not dissimilar to recent work at Avebury and Ness of Brodgar

<https://phys.org/news/2023-02-archaeologists-homes-europe-monument-makers.html>

The archaeology of archaeology in Winchester

<https://www.hampshirechronicle.co.uk/news/23377035.council-u-turn-archaeology-winchester-city-centre-site/>

Lastly some late breaking coverage of an interesting Roman burial

[Roman Lead Coffin Unearthed in Northern England - Archaeology Magazine](#)

Thanks for taking the time to read the Newsletter – any ideas for future inclusion please let me know. Please read on for the interesting contribution from Chris Skelcher.

**Dickie**

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**Member Profile: Chris Skelcher**

Like many people in 2020, I was wondering how I could keep my brain active during 'lockdown'! Then an invitation to the CBA Online Festival of Archaeology popped into my inbox – and set me off on a stimulating couple of years grew up about a mile from Stonehenge, so I'd always been fascinated by the remains of prehistoric earthworks. Later, many years living in the Midlands involved walking across fields of ridge and furrow and past the remains of moated manor houses. But I'd never done more than have a cursory glance at the history of these features.

What the CBA Festival offered was a workshop on aerial photography run by the specialist from Historic England and staff from Barnsley Archives. This seemed an exciting prospect. After the initial session, we were invited to undertake a small project to interpret a landscape using the archive of historic photographs on the downloadable version of Google Earth and old OS maps and photographic overlays available at [maps.nls.uk](http://maps.nls.uk)

I chose a nearby park where I'd noticed rectilinear areas of enhanced grass growth. Locals said this was caused by temporary buildings placed there in the 1940s. However, historic photos showed this was relatively recent archaeology – there used to be football pitches on the site and the calcium carbonate used in line marking had added nutrient to the soil!

This was enough to get me hooked on finding out more about landscape archaeology. I searched for a course that was part-time and delivered through live on-line sessions rather than a 'correspondence course', and was affordable.

The 12 month course in 'The Making of the English Landscape' at Cambridge University's extra-mural department fitted my criteria. One term was devoted to each of the prehistoric/Roman, Anglo-Saxon/medieval and post-medieval periods. It promised to be inspired by, but update, W. G. Hoskins' book of the same name, something I'd read in the late 1960s.

I found myself in a group of around 20 students, aged from 30s through to 70s, one-third of whom were based in the USA. The course was delivered through weekly lectures/seminars

conducted live over Zoom on a Wednesday evening for 90 minutes, together with occasional Saturday afternoon seminars.

I know many people now shudder when Zoom is mentioned, due to their dependence on it during lockdown. But it worked particularly well as the tutors made extensive use of photos, maps and diagrams - so it wasn't a case of 'talking heads'!

There was also a 1-hour pre-recorded lecture (again populated with photos and graphics) to view each week and recommended reading (with articles, books and reports easily accessible in electronic form from the University library or other on-line sources). There were small projects to undertake either solo or in short 'breakout groups' with 3 or 4 other students during the Zoom sessions. One looked at the origins of place names (I chose the Westbourne Hundred) and another explored the boundaries of Anglo-Saxon administrative hundreds and medieval field systems in Wiltshire.



Figure: Part of a project on the origins of place names, example from the Westbourne Hundred.

We had some virtual field trips – essentially, a detailed case study of a site covering site selection, excavation and historical research design and techniques, conservation, findings and so on. These drew on the tutors' own archaeological research.

The course leads to an undergraduate certificate if the 3-4,000 word essays (one per term) are passed. I particularly enjoyed researching and writing these as they provided scope for students to study locations in which they are interested. In one, I compared the way medieval lords reshaped the agricultural landscape in two contrasting parishes in Warwickshire that I know well. In another, I assessed the contribution and limitations of various techniques and sources for the analysis of historical landscapes. However, there is no obligation to do the assignments.

What's my assessment of the course?



Overall, I thought it was excellent. The quality and content of the sessions was very high indeed, and the tutors were clearly experts in their fields. The examples were all topical and many were based on tutors' own excavations and historical research. It wasn't possible for me to attend all the live sessions, but each is recorded and can be viewed later.

The tutors were very willing to discuss and clarify points either in the sessions or separately by e-mail. And there was a lively exchange of views, advice and thoughts between the students using the on-line 'forum'. Three of us were interested in Sussex, so we formed a sub-group to share sources and the results of our work.

I enjoyed and gained so much from this course that I subsequently signed up for another on the early medieval period. This went into much more detail, including a whole term on Anglo-Saxon art and architecture.

I should say that I was 69 when I started, so it was quite a time since I'd last studied – although as a former social scientist I was used to researching a topic and writing in an academic style!

One issue that engaged many of us was that there was more reading suggested than one could possibly undertake. I tended to read one or two items each week, and concentrated most of my reading on the essay topic. Writing assignments also created some anxieties, but the staff (and other students) were invariably helpful and writing on topics or sites of personal interest also helped.

So that initial CBA seminar took me on an unexpected – but very worthwhile – path!

Chris Skelcher

