

CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – May 2018

Fieldwork

The pace of Fieldwork has eased off a bit in April

The report on the Two Neolithic Oval/Long Barrows at Stoughton Down which were surveyed in March is being prepared. Subsequent analysis of LiDAR and comparison with the findings from the resistivity, magnetometry and topographical surveys has yielded some interesting results. Dom Escott will talk on his work at Stoughton and other barrows at the Members Evening on 23rd May.

We continued our work at the Drovers Estate as part of the National Trust HART program. We have located a number of features on the National Trust database and made assessments of their condition and risks of further deterioration. It is fair to say that we are still on a steep learning curve but are starting to develop a way of working. We hope to be able to open up the activity to the wider CDAS membership in due course.

We have continued our search for the Missing Auxiliary Unit Hideout in Kingley Vale but so far without success. John Wells, a local historian and former CDAS member, joined us on our most recent foray. With his help we have now narrowed down the search criteria which will help us in future trips. We have found plenty of evidence of WW2 activity including two unexploded 3” Mortar bombs which we reported to the authorities. One of these turned out to be a phosphorous bomb so it was lucky that we did not set it off.

We have received plenty of responses for our request for volunteers for The **Priory Park** excavation planned between **Monday 9th July and Tuesday 24th July** 2018. Trevor Davies is currently on holiday and will start compiling the volunteer schedule on his return. If you have not put your name forward and are interested in taking part please contact Trevor Davies at surveying@cdas.info stating which activities (digging, finds processing, stewarding) you are interested in together with your experience.

Talks

The Members evening on May 23rd will mark the end of talks for this season. The new season starts in September

The topics covered during the Members Evening will be:-

- Dom Escott - Neolithic Barrows including Stoughton Down
- Steve Cleverly - Fittleworth Fieldwalking and flints
- Mark Seaman - Idsworth survey
- Mark Seaman and Mike Kallaway - Ground-proofing LiDAR on Thorney Island

Activities

There are still places on the following activities

Excavation Study Day led by CDAS members Steve Cleverly, Ann Davies, Trevor Davies and Mike Kallaway

Date: Saturday 12 May 2018

Time: 9.30 to 16.00. This is a full day event.

Location: Eames Farm, Thorney Road, Emsworth, PO10 8DE. Free parking is available. You will need to bring a packed lunch.

Cost: Members £25, non-members £30 (if places are available). Payment is now due. Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed.

The course outline:

The objective is to provide a general understanding of:

- How the excavation is justified
- What is involved in setting up an excavation
- The processes used in the excavation itself
- The post excavation analysis and reporting

At the end of this study day you should have a better appreciation of how excavations are organised. As well as making the experience more interesting you should have a better understanding of why you are asked to do things in certain ways, how what you are doing fits into the wider picture and why there are things that you never do.

Though it will not be possible to provide a real trench there will be practical elements to the day.

If you are interested in attending please email Pauline Blagden activities@cdas.info as soon as possible.

Flint Knapping - an opportunity to have a go

CDAS is organising an activity day at Butser led by Bob Turner on 9 June 2018. There will be a practical demonstration followed by everyone trying their skills with flint. Bob will give you a flavour of life in the Mesolithic / Neolithic showing how people lived and he will try to cover the full range of tools.

The cost is £40 for CDAS members, £45 for non-members. This will include entry to Butser Ancient Farm.

If you are interested in attending please email Pauline Blagden activities@cdas.info as soon as possible.

**Timber-framed buildings of the Weald, their development and dating for beginners.
A Study Day led by Jeremy Clarke.**

Date: Saturday 3 November 2018

Time: To be confirmed. This is a full day event.

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

Cost: Members £25, non-members £30 (if places are available). Payment is due by 10 September. Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed.

The course outline: This study day will cover terminology, how to approach dating a building, useful resources and a group practical session using site photographs and plans to try out the knowledge gained.

To book your place email Pauline Blagden at activities@cdas.info

Coastal Monitoring

A visit was made to West Medmerry on 13th April and it was good to see that many of the wooden structures were still visible. We also located a new barrel well to add to the barrel and chalk lined wells found previously.

This year's program has now finished and Peter Murphy will send out a new schedule in the autumn. Hopefully we will get the results of the radio carbon dates for the wooden structures at Medmerry in the next few weeks.

If you are not yet on Peter's mailing list and would like to be included in future please contact him on coastal@cdas.info

Warblington Exhibition

I would encourage all of you who have not seen it to visit the permanent display of the Warblington Roman Estate at Emsworth Museum.

Other Events

Here are two other events that might interest CDAS Members

Surrey Archaeological Society' Roman Studies Group is hosting a regional conference '**Shining a light on the 5th century AD in Surrey and the South-East: how did Roman Britain become Saxon England?**' which may be of interest to you.

It is being held on Saturday 5th May at Ashted Peace Memorial Hall, Ashted 9.30-17.45. Speakers include specialists from across the Roman - Saxon interface and it is hoped that this conference will lead to a programme of work to look at this period across Surrey, which hitherto has been difficult to trace in the archaeological record.

Tickets are £15 a head, including morning and afternoon refreshments and can be booked online via the Society website www.surreyarchaeology.org.uk.

Friends of Idsworth Church are organising a 5-mile walk on Friday 10th August from **St Hubert's Church to Butser Ancient Farm** led by Sue Webber, Education Team, Butser Ancient Farm.

The walk starts at 9.30am, meeting at Butser Ancient Farm for car shuttle to St Hubert's. Tickets are £5, for further information and booking please contact friends-idsworthchurch@mail.com

If you want to keep up with our latest news please click on the Facebook or Twitter links at the end of this letter.

Membership Renewal

I would like to take this opportunity to remind members about completing and returning their membership renewal forms. This is important due to the new privacy legislation that comes into force on May 25th. If we have not received a renewal form by that date we will not be able to use your contact details to inform you about all the great activities that we have in the new programme. You may also be aware that non-members are not allowed to participate in fieldwork activities such as the Priory Park and Warblington digs.

All the details concerning membership are on our website and the forms can be downloaded from there. Hard copies will also be available at our members' evening on 23rd May, if you wish to complete them by hand.

Mike Kallaway

CDAS Chairman

1st May 2018

