



CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – May 2020

With the lockdown continuing our program of fieldwork, talks and activities remains suspended. There is no view yet as to when we might be able to restart. Many of us are hoping that our autumn program of talks will start in September as usual but who knows. We have also been considering what alternatives we could offer in the event that New Park does not reopen before September.

Normally my Newsletter focuses on Fieldwork that has been completed the previous month and future fieldwork and activities. With everything suspended it seems a good opportunity to try a different approach.

In this brief 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 be a useful update

Fish-weir at East Head.

Many of you will be familiar with the Fish weirs/traps we have found at Medmerry. One of which we hope to be able to go out and survey later this year.

A member of the public reported one that we were not familiar with at East Head not far from the mouth of the channel. It is on a sandbank which is only exposed at very low tides. As the sand moves around a bit it is sometimes visible and sometimes not.

It has an interesting design with the usual V shaped leaders to steer the fish towards the pound which is circular in this case. There is a similar example near Ashlett Creek in Southampton water. You can read more about it at <https://core.ac.uk/download/pdf/80698902.pdf>

Hopefully we will be able to visit the one at East Head later in the year





Medmerry Webinar

Solent Harbours
Discovery Programme
CITiZAN

Chichester & District Archaeological Society - Coastal Monitoring at
Medmerry, West Sussex

CITiZAN will be hosting a webinar on Thursday 7th May at 4pm on the work that CDAS has been doing at Medmerry, Peter Murphy will be hosting the event for CDAS.

Anyone interested in joining in needs to register for the event using the link below: -
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/1106993111441724175>

Reports

We have taken the opportunity in the lull to catch up on all our report writing.

Several sections of the report on Warblington have been drafted and various drawings and illustrations prepared.

The report on the Earham WW2 Auxiliary Unit Hideout has been drafted and is now ready for editing. There is a case for further excavations at this site which hopefully we can get permission for later in the year.

We published three reports on geophysics at Petworth at the Doric Temple, Pleasure Gardens and Sports Field.

Walk Booklets

We are in the process of updating our "Walk into Chichester's Past" booklets that we sell through the Novium and at our Priory Park Digs. The last major revision was in 2007 so an update is overdue.

We intend to make the walks a bit easier to follow with photos of all the features. The style of the current booklet is a bit stilted and needs to be more readable.

James Kenny has kindly volunteered to be the lead author. Tom Teichmann has overall responsibility for the project including "ground-proofing" the route and features.

Membership Renewal

We have had a positive response to the proposal I included in April's Newsletter regarding Membership Renewal and a potential later adjustment to reflect the time lost. As I write a little over half of our Members have renewed. This is a slightly lower proportion than at this time last year.

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

Covid19 Local Archive

West Sussex Record Office has started to create a countywide archive of the effects of this pandemic, particularly personal diaries, memories and images of the lockdown period.

They are looking for volunteers to take part in contributing to the archive. All they want you to do is keep a diary (on paper or as a video) recording your individual experiences, whether you're working to support residents, have been seconded to another area to help out or you're having to undertake your day job from home, they want to hear from you all. They would also like your help in collecting any other material that you might come across.

The diaries and papers will be kept alongside other pandemic related records, which will be catalogued, stored, and ultimately available to the public for research.

You can find out more about taking part by [visiting their blog post](#)

If you have any queries please email the organiser Martin Hayes at martin.hayes@westsussex.gov.uk

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?

We had our first CDAS Committee Meeting yesterday on Skype and despite a couple of minor technical hitches it worked pretty well. I am sure that we will be able to do better at the next one in June.

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

29th April 2020

