

CDAS Newsletter May 2022

Welcome to the May CDAS Newsletter.

Reminder

The May New Park talk will be our 'Member's Evening' consisting of talks from Trevor Davies, Steve Cleverly and Mark Seaman at 7:30 pm on Wednesday 25th April in New Park

Getting Involved

As I mentioned last month, at this year's AGM we again have a number of committee members who will have come to the end of their tenure and will be seeking new recruits to the committee. In addition to committee membership, if you feel you have skills or experience that you would be prepared to offer (see also Skills Matrix section below), please do get in touch.

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 and of course our members. Thanks to **Anne Bone** for the work done on pulling this schedule together. I hope you'll agree there's some really interesting talks now scheduled to the end of 2023!*

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. We currently have Trevor , Steve and Mark lined up to talk about recent activities.

September 28th – Mike Allen - The Cerne Abbas Giant (as recently featured on Digging For Britain)

October 26th – still awaiting final confirmation

November 23rd – David Rudling – Roman Sussex

December – AGM

2023

January 25th – Trevor Creighton - 'Recreating the Sparsholt Mosaic at Butser Ancient Farm – shedding light on mosaic making in Roman

February 22nd – Matt Pope - The Future of Archaeology in Sussex

March 22nd – Hayley Evans - Excavation by ASE in Chichester (provisional title)

April 26th – Elke Raeaman - Finds and Artefacts from ASE excavations in Chichester
(provisional title)

May 24th Member's evening

Sept 27th – Simon Stevens Working with Children and Animals–The Stiances
Archaeological Project

Oct 25th – Jaime Kaminski - Bronze Age finds from Chichester and Sussex (provisional)

Nov 22nd – 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.

Finds Identification – a new member has asked about bringing along some small finds for possible identification – I'm sure there'll be plenty of folk eager to express a view. This will be on an adhoc / informal basis for now. I'm not sure a full blown 'Finds Table' (for Detectorists fans) will be necessary, and I hope discussion will include reference to the FLO and PAS!

Activities

Last few places available, please book your place in advance by emailing **Ros Cheetham** at activities@cdas.info

Bignor Roman Villa

Date: Saturday 21st May

Start time: 10:30

Cost: Members £12, non-members £17

A guided tour of the Roman Villa, plus free time to explore the site. Tearoom available for refreshments.

Coultershaw Big Open Day

Coultershaw Heritage Site are planning another day on Sunday 19th June, 10:30 to 4:30. We previously had a stand at this event, it would be great to be involved again - **We are currently a little short of volunteers** for this event, if you can help out it would be greatly appreciated . Please contact Ros Cheetham at activities@cdas.info

Fieldwork

Trevor Davies has recently issued a call for volunteers for **Priory Park** which I hope you will have seen;

The Priory Park excavation is planned between **Tuesday 24th May and Tuesday 7th June 2022**. **Sunday 29th May and Friday 3rd June** will be rest days with no excavation activity but with stewards in attendance on the 29th and if there are sufficient volunteers, Friday 3rd June as well.

This year we will be excavating north of the Guildhall. There will be two trenches, the larger one near the bowling green and the smaller one just to the north of the western end of the Guildhall. There are a number of restrictions relating to tree roots, the Jubilee celebrations and weddings that we need to work round.

We have had a good response to the request for volunteers and schedules have been issued.

Initial excavation of turf and topsoil will be by machine, provided by B+M. All the spoil heaps will be backfilled by B+M.

On **Saturday 4th June**, there will be a **Family Fun Day** in Priory Park run by Chichester City Council. The excavation will be one of the attractions.

This excavation will still be under Covid conditions. We currently plan the following regime which has been approved by the Chichester District Council Health and Safety Manager: We will change this protocol if the need arises.

- Only CDAS volunteers will be allowed inside the compound
- All CDAS volunteers inside the compound will have had been vaccinated and not show any symptoms. We ask that you confirm that you agree to these conditions when you volunteer.

The following is a summary of other activities currently being carried out under the governance of the Fieldwork Committee (thanks to Mike for the summary, it makes my life easier pulling this Newsletter together) ;

Old Idsworth, Main/Church Field

If we can obtain permission from the farmer/landowner there may be an excavation in the autumn, which would focus on a section across the ditch to the north of the church.

Oyster Quay – Pook Lane

A small team excavated 2 small trenches on 1st April, this exposed a hard chalky layer at a depth of about half a metre. The extent of this layer will be investigated later this month by auguring.

Thorney - Condition Assessment

Following the visit to Thorney in April a previously unknown gun emplacement has been identified. It will be added to the HER and included in the condition assessment programme.

Thorney – South West Corner

As part of the Condition Assessment visit a team undertook a walkover survey in the south western corner. One field has some interesting “lumps and bumps” ; this could be target for a res survey.

Petworth North Lawn

A return to Petworth with excavation of 3 shallow trenches; this to tie in with NT open day on 12th June. A call for Volunteers has been issued.

Small Projects No. 1

The first of our small projects was a geophysical survey at Forest side Rowlands Castle. The survey went well in terms of training. However, the Resistivity results were generally poor. In order check out our equipment we will redo a square at Priory Park during the excavation.

Notes on Small Projects

The Fieldwork Committee is keen to build-up a bigger skill base amongst CDAS members. They are proposing to run some small-scale projects with an emphasis on training; these will go through all the usual project stages. Given that such projects will make use of skilled members and equipment they will still need to be approved & scheduled by the FWC in the same way as other projects. These small projects will be just one or two days long and usually aimed at a single archaeological feature. The organisation requirements are intended to be lighter than the larger one to two weeks projects.

CDAS In the Community

We have been asked by a local Primary School if we could go along and talk about what Archaeologists do and Romans in Chichester linked to our work at Priory Park. We are preparing a pack targeted at Key Stage 2 pupils and the activity is currently being planned for later in June. With a targeted pack, this could be the type of activity we could do more of if anyone is interested in getting involved in this activity please let me know, obviously experience of dealing with children aged 7-8 would be a great help !

Membership Update /Member Mojo

Any issues please contact Brian at membership@cdas.info

Social Media

We currently have a presence on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter to supplement our main CDAS Web page, if you haven't already, please engage in the chat and comments on these forums. It is as the name suggest, a more *social* way of interacting with other members and a good way of engaging new members and links to other local and national societies

Simon Walton has reported back to the General Committee his findings from the CDAS interaction survey. His final report should accompany this Newsletter..or will follow shortly after if I forget !

As part of Simon's work on Social Media and publicity he is collating a CDAS 'library' of images that can give a representative view of the work and activities we do. If you have any images from digs, walks or events that you believe would fit the bill , please let Simon know. Obviously images should be you own and you should consent to their use for CDAS purposes. Where possible appropriate credit will be given.

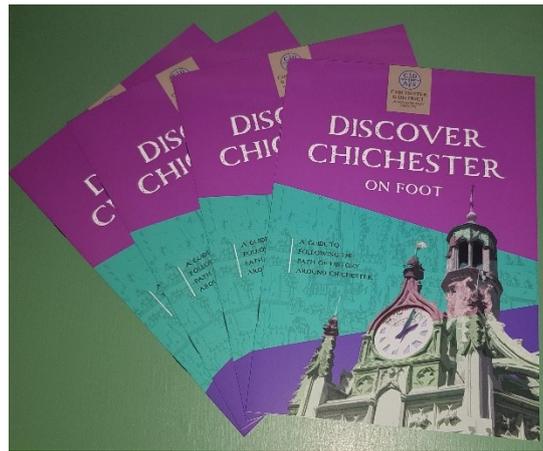
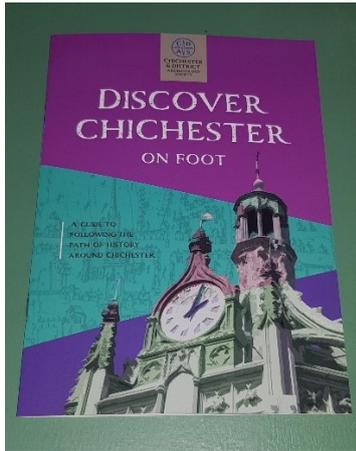
Magnetometer

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. **Trevor Davies** has this month submitted an application via the **Heritage Lottery Fund**. Fingers crossed.

Discover Chichester on Foot – A new guided walk book

Our new, revamped, glossy Walking guide to Chichester is now in stock and will be available to buy at the New Park Talk on Wednesday! They will also be sold at the Novium and available for us to sell direct at events. The books are priced at £3.00 (£2.50 to members) so the more we sell direct the better the return for us to fund CDAS activities.



If you would like a supply of books to sell either at an event or direct to friends and family, please let me know and we can make appropriate arrangements.

Skills Matrix / Skills Passport

We have had further discussions on this as a concept at General Committee and this is starting to get some traction. The idea is that CDAS has its own version of the Archaeology Skills Passport utilized in the industry on a professional basis. This would serve 2 purposes ;

- i) it would be a way for members to track their skills level across a wide range of activities offered by the society, and identify activities that perhaps they were not aware of that they might want to learn or participate in on future digs /fieldwork
- ii) it would be a record of member's skills for the society to identify people with appropriate skills when scheduling the roles required in field activity. It might also surface skills that members have that we are unaware of that we could utilize within the society (of course only if members wish to offer such services)

As a start point and strictly ***on a voluntary basis**, we hope to have Skills Forms for people to complete at Priory Park , either in paper form or via a Word document /email. Brian Tomkinson, our current Membership secretary has volunteered to pull this information together, with my assistance.

The skills matrix itself will be a simple list of all the activities we undertake and you will be asked whether you consider yourself ; Novice, Intermediate or Expert in each area.

**to be clear this is a voluntary scheme that is intended to help both members and the society – it is not a report card ! Nor does it replace the BAJR Skills Passport, if members are*

pursuing an academic or professional path in Archaeology you would still need to maintain and complete the industry passport.

There are no changes to the following items in the Newsletter but I've left them in in case you have not read before and as they remain pertinent

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.

Second-Hand Book Sale

Thank you to those who have donated books and journals these are proving popular and are generating funds for the society. If you have any unwanted or duplicate books or journals please bring them along to New Park (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). If anyone wants to volunteer to assist Brian on the stall please let me know (or Brian at membership@cdas.info) or on the night.

Affiliations

CDAS has affiliations with the following organisations. Where possible we share the news and activities put on by these groups including;

- CBASE monthly newsletter
- Sussex Archaeology: Sussex past & present and their Collections, when published
- Association of Roman Archaeology: ARA news
- Hampshire Field Club: Newsletter and Hampshire Studies

We (I) might sometimes miss forwarding these to members via email so if there is a particular communication you are aware of but haven't seen, please let me know and I'll check we've forwarded all that we've received.

Funding CDAS

As per previous updates, 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!

Thanks for taking the time to read the Newsletter – any ideas for future inclusion please let me know.

Dickie

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