



CDAS – Chairman's Monthly Letter – November 2020

Things are starting to get back to something more normal with monthly talks and more regular fieldwork. This year has proved to be a challenging one for the Society but I am pleased to say that we have been well supported by our Members during this difficult time. BC has acquired a new archaeological meaning, Before Covid.

Fieldwork

It is clear from the responses we have been getting to our "Calls for Volunteers" that there is a pent-up demand for Fieldwork. We will try and meet that demand over the coming winter months weather permitting.

Medmerry Fish Trap

We received the excellent news that Historic England has approved radiocarbon dating for the fish traps, exposed earlier this year at Medmerry.

Langford Farm

We have decided to issue one report to cover the survey over the Villa and the site of the Roman Road. The report is nearly finished.

Hoyle Farm

This week and next we are surveying Hoyle Farm in Heyshott. Saxon pottery has been found in the stream running near to the house. There is also a seam of red clay in nearby woodland that looks to have been partially extracted. The clay is similar to that used in pottery made at Graffham. Taken together there are strong indications that there are pottery kilns on the site which we hope to find with the survey.

As I write, four days into the survey we have yet to find evidence of pottery kilns. However, we have only partly covered the site so there is plenty yet to survey.

Talks

Our YouTube channel is proving popular. Trevor's talk on Warblington has already been viewed by a good proportion of our members.

The next talk on our YouTube channel will be:

- 25/11/20 Bob Turner (Worthing Archaeological Society)
 - America from the ice age to Columbus

Based on the current situation with Covid19 it is unlikely that we will resume live talks for some months. We are monitoring the situation on a regular basis and will update members whenever there is something to report.

Activities

Our activities remain suspended due to Covid19 restriction I situation I fear that will continue for some time.

We hope to be able to restart once the situation eases as we have a number of activities in the pipeline.

AGM

We will hold our AGM as a virtual meeting on 2nd December using Microsoft Teams. We tested the system yesterday and believe that it will work including handling voting.

I will send out instructions for joining the meeting together with the Agenda, Chairman's Report, Minutes of 2019 AGM and Society's Accounts around the middle of November.

There is no need for members to download any software you can simply join the meeting via a web link. I will also include a guide on what to do after activating the link.

I hope that we will get a good response at the AGM and I look forward to "seeing" Members that I have not seen for several months.

CDAS Committee

I am pleased to report that Malcolm Pheasey has volunteered to join the Committee and has been co-opted. He will be standing for Election to the Committee at the AGM.

CDAS Equipment

Pat Ferry, the member of the Fieldwork Committee responsible for looking after all the equipment that CDAS uses for excavations and surveys wants to stand down from that role at the end of the year.

I am pleased to say that Brian Tomkinson has offered to take over from Pat and will join the Fieldwork Committee.

Other news

Anne Bone has asked if anyone has history or archaeology books (in particular) that they would be willing to donate to the Oxfam book and music shop on East St, Chichester?

These are very popular books and raise money to help with Oxfam's current campaign to support people in the developing countries facing the challenges of Covid-19 without access to clean water and soap.

Books can be taken to the shop on East St (at the end of the pedestrianised area) at any time – though if you can go on Wednesday morning or after 4pm on other weekdays that helps the volunteers safely deal with your donations.

Other books are also, of course, welcome as are CD's, DVD's or sheet music.

CITiZAN

Therese Kearns from CITIZAN has informed us that they have been working on a major update to their App which will be available for both Apple and Android products. They are hoping to launch for the Festival of Archaeology (24th October – 1 November). If you have used the previous app you will find this new version much more streamlined and easier to update.

They have also updated the [CITiZAN Coastal Map](#) so that you can now search by monument type, time period and height above sea level.

To accompany these updates, there is a new CITiZAN Guide to Coastal Archaeology. This 16-page guide is intended for budding archaeologists making trips to their local foreshore and covers what sort of features to look out for, how to record them using our app, common finds and site types etc. The full guide will shortly be available on the CITiZAN website.

Best wishes

Mike Kallaway

CDAS Chairman

29th October 2020

