



CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – October 2020

September proved to be a good month for CDAS, fieldwork continued apace and our winter season of talks started.

Fieldwork

Langford Farm

The geophysical surveys at Langford Farm proved to be very successful. We managed to run both resistivity and magnetometry.

The surveys revealed a classic winged corridor Roman villa together with associated buildings. The trial trench revealed the footings of substantial walls indicating that the villa might have had two storeys.

In the South East of the field the surveys revealed faint traces where we expected to find the Roman road.

We are currently preparing two reports to summarise the results.

Bethwines Farm

We completed the resistivity survey as planned but unfortunately did not find any traces of the Roman road.

However, we did find a series of rectangular responses in the south east corner of the field. We are not sure what they represent, several options have been considered but none with any certainty.

A short report has been prepared.

Other Fieldwork.

We recognise that there is a pent-up demand to do more fieldwork and are currently working on other projects one of which we hope to do in early November.

We have a number of other small projects that we are working on.

Talks

We launched our winter season of talks on our private YouTube channel. Steve Cleverly gave an excellent and comprehensive talk on the work that we have done over the years with the National Trust at Petworth and as part of the HART programme.

Steve’s talk proved to be very popular and it has been viewed more than 100 times by CDAS Members. Bearing in mind that 50 would be a good attendance at a talk in New Park then this is an endorsement for the new channel.

We have also received requests to share Steve’s talk with other archaeological organisations a further endorsement.

The success of the YouTube channel does not mean that we have given up on running physical talks. We are still working on how we could operate in a suitable venue.

The next two talks on our YouTube channel will be:

- 28/10/20 Trevor Davies
 - Warblington – Overview of all the work done by CDAS

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

Activities

We did manage to have a very successful day at Butser making Iron Age Pots with Bill Crumbleholme. I have to say that the results were in a variety of shapes unfired as yet. We did fire some pots that Bill had made earlier both in a bonfire and simple kiln. Unfortunately, we accelerated the firing process resulting in fractures of almost all the pots.

Mark Seaman led a repeat of his popular walk around Old Idsworth.

We have had to review all our activities in the light of the latest Covid 19 restrictions. The Kingley Vale walk due today had to be cancelled as has the rest of our current programme.

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

Membership Renewal

We have 157 paid-up and honorary Members. In total 47 members did not renew their membership. This is a greater fall in the number of Members renewing than we have experienced in previous years but not a surprise in view of the impact of Covid19 on our activities and talks.

I have adjusted the mailing list to paid-up members only, this also applied to the link I sent out for September's YouTube talk.

AGM

We had planned to hold our AGM at the usual venue in Bosham on 2nd December. In the light of the situation with Covid 19 we are now planning to host a virtual meeting on that day.

We are currently investigating which virtual meeting platform to use; the choice is between Microsoft Teams and Zoom. The Committee will be conducting trials this month and I expect to be able to tell you more in November's newsletter.

If you have any thoughts on the best platform please let me know.

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.

If anyone is interested in taking over from Pat, they should contact her at equipment@cdas.info in the first instance to learn more.

Other activities Members might be interested in

Emsworth Museum

Emsworth Museum is now open, considerable effort has been made to ensure the Museum is safe regarding social distancing.

There is a new display featuring the Free French camp in north Emsworth including a full dress naval uniform from the period. Having seen this myself, it is well worth a visit.

There is a comprehensive display of the work that CDAS has done on the Warblington Villa including pottery, building materials and two of the Roman coins.

The Museum is open 10.30 – 4.30 Sat and 2.30 – 4.30 Sunday.

Located just North of the Emsworth roundabout

Entrance is free.

It is unfortunate that Covid 19 restrictions have recently become more onerous. However, I am confident that with careful we will maintain a good programme of fieldwork. Our virtual talks programme looks interesting and will continue until we can resume live talks safely.

Best wishes

Mike Kallaway

CDAS Chairman

30th September 2020

