



CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – July 2016

CDAS operates a strict 4 year rule for membership of the General Committee and at this AGM Jenny Harvey will be standing down. Jenny runs the Study Programme and also took on the “Member Lead” walks when we decide to trial them. Trips have not been organised for some years but it may be that they are re-instated. I am working on the basis that these would be separate roles, though if someone wanted they could take on two or even all three. The roles are not particularly demanding; however, job sharing might be a way forward if two members are interested in being involved but short of time and/or concerned about committing to availability on a particular day. Detailed descriptions of the roles are included at the end of this letter. Please give this some thought and if you might be interested then contact me. We would like to have a period of parallel running so that there is a smooth hand over in December.

Trips

Trips used to be a major feature of CDAS activities. Over the years interest declined so coach travel became uneconomic and arranging car sharing was quite an administrative burden. For it to work the trip needs to add value in terms of a guide and/or special access and/or significant cost saving. From time to time members mention possible destinations so I am interested in establishing what the demand might be. If you think that this is something that you would like to be able to take part in then please contact me suggestions welcome.

Talks

These take place in the cinema at New Park at 7.30. There is a charge for non-members.

28th September 2016	Nick Thorpe	Conflict and Care in Copper and Bronze Age Britain
26th October 2016	Mike Allen	A New Prehistory of Chalk lands: Environmental Archaeology from Microscope to Landscape
23rd November 2016	Alice Thorne	The 'Secrets of the High Woods' project
7th December 2016	AGM and Christmas Party	

Study Days

Possible options for 16/17 are being investigated. If you have any suggestions then please contact Jenny Harvey:

Member Lead Walks

Some options being considered. Please contact Jenny Harvey or myself if you would be interested in leading such a walk.

Coastal Monitoring

The weather should be quietening down so there will only be a limited number of visits until next autumn's equinoctial gales.

Peter Murphy has written a report for the Environment Agency/RSPB on our activities at Medmerry a copy of which is on our web site (fieldwork/recent fieldwork/Medmerry).

Priory Park

It is hoped that we might undertake further investigations.

Geophys & Other Fieldwork

Trevor Davies will get in contact with those on his list as soon as opportunities arise.

Warblington Excavation – Request for Volunteers

We have just received the formal permissions for our excavation.

It is almost certain that we will not obtain external funding, which will leave a large (£1,500) hole in the project budget. The General Committee decided that for this year the daily contribution towards costs would be capped at £5 and that as a one-off the shortfall would be covered from CDAS reserves.

The schedule will be:

- Mon 5th – set-up day - volunteers required to:
 - Baby sit delivery of loo & container
 - Trevor and Steve will supervise the excavator
 - Transport the equipment from Fishbourne store to the site
- Tues 6th to Sat 10th – normal days
- Tues 13th to Fri 16th – normal days
- Sat 17th – a normal day but focus will be on finishing off and recording
- Mon 19th – Close down day – Volunteers required to:
 - Baby sit collection of loo & storage container
 - Transport equipment and finds back to Fishbourne (leaving behind kit for turf relaying)
 - Trevor and Steve will supervise the excavator back fill
 - Replace turf – there will be three trenches so a start can be made as soon as the first is filled in.

Some of you may wish to spend some or all of your time finds processing. It is difficult to predict an appropriate size for the FP Team so we would intend to operate a small core team and call on other support as necessary.

If you would like to be involved in the project then please contact Trevor Davies trevor.davies28@btinternet.com indicating which days you would prefer and whether you

want to Finds Process for all or some of your time. On some days last year we ended up with more people on site than we were happy managing so this year we may ration the allocation of places.

RSPB - Archaeology of Medmerry Beach

Peter Murphy is leading this walk on Sunday 17 July starting 1.30pm (duration 3 hours / 5 miles). Booking essential £12 per person / £9 RSPB members. If interested contact Roy Newnham, Visitor Experience Officer , Pagham Harbour and Medmerry Visitor Centre, Selsey Road, Sidlesham, West Sussex, PO20 7NE Tel 01243 641508 Mobile 07703 885322

CDAS General Committee - Vacancies

Members serve on the General Committee (GC) for a maximum of 4 years, where the year starts at the AGM in early December. You will be supported in your role by the other members. The GC meets about every 2 months depending on current activities and issues. The meetings are held in the evening currently at Emsworth.

I am seeking volunteers for three roles; brief outlines of what is involved for each follow. To spread the load it may be that two people could job share a role but one would need to be the lead for reporting purposes. It would be helpful to fill the roles sooner rather than later so that there can be a period of parallel running. In the short term you would be co-opted on the committee prior to ratification at the AGM.

Please contact me if you would like any further information and/or might be interested.

Study Days

These cover a mixture of training and more general topics, which though of interest may not be directly relevant to CDAS activities. They generally involve an element of practical work. Usually they are run at Fishbourne on a Saturday but this does not have to be the case. There is a charge for attending the objective of which is to cover the costs.

The role involves:

- Identifying possible options – support provided by the GC and Fieldwork Committee and members asked for suggestions
- Scoping option in terms of date, speaker, content, costs & attendance fee
- Arranging that event is publicised via monthly letter & web site
- Booking speaker & venue
- Managing the attendees inc. collecting fee
- Confirming Speaker & venue shortly prior to meeting
- Organising coffee/tea/milk/biscuits
- Managing the event on the day

A particular bonus associated with this role is that you attend the Study Day free

Member Lead Walks

These are a relatively new activity where a member leads a walk through an area pointing out features of archaeological interest and providing a back ground to the history.

The role involves:

- Identifying possible options – support provided by the GC and Fieldwork Committee
- Working with the Leader to develop specification in terms of date, location, duration, level of difficulty, period covered and whether there would be any out of pocket expenses (e.g. handouts)
- Arranging that event is publicised via monthly letter & website
- Managing the attendees inc. collecting any contribution to costs
- Confirming arrangements shortly prior to meeting
- Managing the event on the day

Trips

CDAS has not organised a trip for a couple of years. Certainly we moved away from coach hire some years ago and moved to car sharing. Periodically members point out something that they think would make a good trip. I think one way forward would be for that member to work with the committee member to make the arrangements.

- Identifying possible options – support provided by the GC and Fieldwork Committee and members asked for suggestions
- Scoping option in terms of location, what would be offered (visit/special guide/etc.), travel arrangements, costs
- Booking event as necessary
- Arranging that event is publicised via monthly letter & website
- Managing the attendees inc. collecting fees
- Co-ordinating car sharing
- Managing the event on the day

Ann Davies
CDAS Chairman