

## CDAS – July 2017 – Letter

### Museum – Warblington Exhibition

CDAS will be holding an exhibition on Warblington in the Emsworth Museum from 11<sup>th</sup> August until 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Havant have given permission for us to include what is referred to in the publicity as the “mystery find”. The museum is open: Saturday morning & afternoons, Sunday afternoons and in August, Friday afternoons. For times see [www.emsworthmuseum.org.uk](http://www.emsworthmuseum.org.uk) .

The Museum itself is fully manned by their volunteers; however, two years ago we provided 1 or 2 stewards per half day session and this was appreciated by the visitors and the Museum. A steward’s briefing pack will be provided. Please contact me if you are able to provide support for one or more half-days. [ann.davies34@btinternet.com](mailto:ann.davies34@btinternet.com) Thank you.

### Warblington Roman Villa

Although we have not yet received the formal document approving our application to excavate, we understand it is on its way.

**Timing.** It is our plan to excavate from 4th September to 18th September inclusive.

4th September is the set up day, when we will de-turf; remove the topsoil; collect tools and equipment from Fishbourne. 18th September is the day when we will fill in the trenches; return tools and equipment to Fishbourne; and re-turf. There will be an excavator on hand to help on both days!

We plan to excavate every day except the Sundays 10th and 17th September.

**Director.** James Kenny has generously given up his holiday to direct the Warblington villa excavation with CDAS for the past five years. He now quite reasonably feels that his family commitments no longer allow him to do so. Therefore, in 2017 Trevor Davies will direct the excavation. James will contribute as a consultant archaeologist visiting the site on 5 days during the excavation. As a result, our excavations will be on a smaller scale than in previous years, but hopefully no less interesting.

**Excavation.** CDAS propose to open three trenches in 2017; we believe that they will provide an interesting and varied insight into the archaeology:

1. A 4 metre by 8 metre trench over the hypocaust to the west of the 2016 trench. This trench is to understand the extent of the hypocaust; how this structure links with the villa; and the phasing of the structure. This trench is labelled 2017 (1) in the plan attached.
2. A trial trench over one of the features in what we think is the “industrial” area of the villa complex – the area as yet completely unexplored in the north east corner. This is labelled 2017 (2) in the plan attached.
3. A small trench over a circular feature. This is very close to the bath house and hypocaust. One interpretation is that this is a well which was used to supply the necessary water to this complex. The objective is to determine what the feature is. If it is a well, we do not plan to excavate it in its entirety because of the Health and Safety risks.

**Volunteering.** If you want to be involved please let Trevor Davies know the dates when you will be available, and whether you would prefer to excavate, process finds or a mixture of both. We will be staffing the Finds Processing team in the expectation that we will recover a substantial volume of building material from the trench. Experience is not necessary. We will train people on the job – usually by “buddying up” with someone who is more experienced. [trevor.davies28@btinternet.com](mailto:trevor.davies28@btinternet.com)

### **CiTIZAN**

CiTIZAN is Lottery funded project that has been running for a few years. It is concerned with coastal monitoring: CDAS & individual CDAS members have become involved. CiTIZAN are holding an event at Fort Cumberland on the 29th July for the Festival of Archaeology, it involves a morning talk about CiTiZAN and an app workshop followed by a picnic and a tour of Fort Cumberland. Spaces are limited but they have asked that we circulate the invitation amongst CDAS members - details are online at:

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/app-workshop-picnic-and-tour-of-fort-cumberland-portsmouth-tickets-35959306253>

### **Suggestion for Study Day**

A friend is basically into weaving but also looks at the history & ancient history of the subject. She recently attended a study morning in Cambridge, which looked at what had been learnt from archaeology in relation to weaving and woven/knotted products & how this understanding feeds back into understanding of trade and the development of human skills. We discussed the possibility of a study morning/afternoon for CDAS including her bringing a table weaving frame so we understood how things actually work & what traces can be left (e.g. loom weights, beaters, etc. as well as cloth & thread). If you think tht you might be interested could you please contact me and we can give it further consideration. It would not take place until well into the autumn.

Ann Davies

CDAS Chairman