



Chairman's Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to my April CDAS Newsletter.

Last month at New Park we welcomed Mark Roberts for his talk on his work on the great estates around Chichester. Mark told us this was part of his 'wind-down' of talks and presentation so I was please so many members made him feel welcome and took the opportunity to reminisce...from what I heard, mainly about archaeology in the 80s and 90s and its association with local hostelrys.

Emails have been sent requesting volunteers for Priory Park. Our apologies to a group of you who may have received this late. The request coincided with a period where our Membermojo software handles 'pending' membership in a way such that some members were excluded. We will look into why this was and whether it could have been avoided but in the meantime my thanks to Steve Cleverly for uncovering the problem and for Richard New and Brian Tomkinson for quickly developing a manual intervention that has hopefully resolved the issue.

Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester 2025

23rd April David Bone; Studies in Tufa - Roman Baths, medieval churches and the place-name of Steyning

May 28th Members evening. Anne Bone is finalising the details of the member's evening but it will be the usual showcase of CDAS activities and work linked to CDAS Members.

24th September James Kenny - Priory Park

22nd October; William Foot "Of George and Allectus" – writing an archaeological novel

26th November; Lawrence Shaw - Forestry England and Archaeology

tbc Dec; AGM

All talks start at **7.30 pm** . The bar will normally* be open after the lecture for drinks (hot, soft or alcoholic). The bar is a cash free bar, so, payment by card only.

*at the time of going to press, I'm hoping we'll have a bar on Wednesday but with some absences I'm waiting on clarification of whether the bar can be opened. I'll repeat my call for volunteers to help out with this. Full training will be given but I'm assured it's not too onerous.

Activities

25th May Priory Park - it is proposed that on the middle Sunday of the Priory Park dig, we have an informal member's picnic in the park. An opportunity to bring along family and friends and have a picnic adjacent to the dig. This is now confirmed as a dig-day, Steve Cleverly has requested volunteers, I'd hope those participating on the day could participate in some way should they so wish and if they have family joining the picnic. I know diggers often do this anyway on days when family are in the park.

21st June 2025 Walking Tour of Roman (and Medieval) Chichester - Part 2 - led by our President, James Kenny, Archaeology Officer, Chichester District Council, this is the first opportunity to complete Part II of the walk that James first led (Part I) last year.



6th September Walking Tour of Roman (and Medieval) Chichester - Part 2

led by our President, James Kenny, Archaeology Officer, Chichester District Council, this is the second opportunity to complete Part II of the walk.

We are also continuing talks with Fishbourne Roman Palace about CDAS getting involved with activities on 25 July during the Festival of Archaeology which runs from July 19th – August 3rd. I will update members when /if details get finalised. I'll be in Italy on the 25th July so Richard New is co-ordinating our representation at the event.

To book any of the above, please email activities@cdas.info For full details see the CDAS website [here](#)

Fieldwork

My thanks to Mike Kallaway for this month's summary of the Fieldwork Committees proposed schedule;

Priory Park Archaeology Project

Following the GPR survey an excavation is planned for 20th May – 3rd June. We will re-expose the Norman Arch and investigate across and into the ditch. This will probably involve going deeper than we have in the past and this may change the nature of the excavation.

Coastal Monitoring

A small group will visit Medmerry East on 29th April to make an accurate recording of the structure/potential fish trap that was recorded in 2024.

Condition Assessment

Thorney annual assessment of WWII sites completed on 28th March. Most sites in reasonable condition some will need attention later in the year

Hill Top Enclosures

Court Hill geophysical survey completed successfully and results now being written up. Plans to survey other hilltop enclosures are being prepared

CDAS 100 Club

Don't forget the CDAS 100 Club is a great way for you to support us.

Join the 100 Club by giving £2 a month (or £24 annually) to CDAS. This buys you one membership number which is included in the monthly draw. All participants must be over 16 and a member of CDAS.

To join please email 100club@cdas.info

The draw will take place each month at a CDAS meeting. Winnings will be paid to you by bank transfer.

The prize money will be 35% of the membership fee taken that month. The remaining 65% goes to CDAS to help fund equipment, resources and opportunities for members.



Membership Update /Member Mojo

We are hopefully coming to the end of our renewal period and you will hopefully have received your renewal reminder email from our Membership Secretary Richard New. As a reminder this is a two step process, please follow the link in the email to renew your membership **and then make arrangements to pay your subscription to complete the process**. All the details are in the email recently issued. Understandably, some members, for whatever reason don't renew and leave us but at the end of this year we're entering the renewal period with more members than we've had for the duration of my tenure as Chairman.

Have you Seen?

If you have found a particularly interesting or useful website that you think Members might not have seen, then please feel free to forward to me and I'll include here. A lot of links are already included on our main website;

<https://www.cdas.info/Links.html>

I visited Malta many years ago and explored the Neolithic 'temples'. The similarities with North Eastern megalithic cultures such as our was quite striking. This article explores, amongst other things the long distance sea-faring that enabled this acculturation.

<https://www.nature.com/articles/>

This event is online. Julian Richards gives Cotswold Archaeology's annual Mick Aston lecture on Stonehenge - Old Rocks, New Theories

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/stonehenge-old-rocks-new-theories-tickets>

Interesting Roman deity head, found beneath a basilica in Rome;

<https://archaeologymag.com/2025/04/roman-deity-head-found-beneath-basilica>

Interesting piece on the impact of extreme drought in late Roman Britain;

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/extreme-drought-contributed-to-barbarian-invasion-of-late-roman-britain-tree>

Iconic Mesolithic artefacts need conservation, the Star Carr Headdresses were the subject of many an A-Level and undergraduate essay;

<https://commercial.yorkarchaeology.co.uk/mesolithic-marvels-conserving-the-star-carr-headaddresses>

As affiliate members of the ARA, you might also be interested in this series of talks, this note from Tim Arnold, also contains links to previous online talks ;



Dear members,

The final talk in the 2024/25 winter/spring series of talks for ARA members will be on Thursday 29th May at 18:30 when Marigold Norbye will speak about “Classical Albania”. This talk complements a series of three articles on archaeological sites in Albania and its Graeco-Roman history which will be appearing in future editions of ARA News, starting with issue 53 (Spring 2025). This edition is close to completion and will be with you shortly.

If you would like to attend Marigold’s talk (which is free), you need to register in advance on Zoom by following this link: [Classical Albania](#). Zoom will then send you a link to join the session on 29th May: it will also send reminders with the link one week and again 24 hours before it begins. If you have already registered, there is no need to re-register (but it doesn’t cause a problem if you mistakenly try to register a second time). The talk will be recorded for those unable to join live and I will circulate details of how to access the recording a few days afterwards.

Here are links to the recordings of recent talks.

Stephen Cosh	Replicas of Romano-British mosaics	30/11/2024	https://youtu.be/78Jsoa2O60U
Marigold Norbye	The ARA Study Tour to Istanbul, Troy and Assos	12/12/2024	https://youtu.be/lqgs554C5is
David Rudling	Ivan Donald Margary (1896-1976)	16/01/2025	https://youtu.be/Ezd7E4S_Glc
Trevor Creighton & Sue Webber	Three Mosaics and Butser Ancient Farm	20/02/2025	https://youtu.be/L-on7rOulYY
Roger Leech	Village, villa, farmstead, temple: Reflections on Romano-British Somerset	20/03/2025	https://youtu.be/eZHUzQUDnWo
Mike Stone	The Third ARA Study Tour to Turkey: Dalaman to Antalya	10/04/2025	https://youtu.be/mm-PZiCPhbk

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

Dickie

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