



Chairman's Introduction

Hello everyone, Happy New Year, and welcome to my first CDAS Newsletter of 2025.

It was great to see so many of you coming out on a cold December evening to join us at the AGM to attend to necessary CDAS business and then relax and chat over some seasonal savouries and nibbles. My thanks to Trevor Davies who as outgoing President shared some words on the achievements of CDAS over recent years, thanks also to James Kenny who was unanimously voted in as new President. James also shared some words on the achievement and professional manner in which CDAS conducts itself. We have some exciting prospects before us, not least the potential continuation of work at Priory Park. If you haven't already seen it I'll share the links here rather than at the end of the Newsletter (in case you don't get that far!)

<https://www.theargus.co.uk/news/24850705.chichesters-priory-park-archaeology-will-cost-around-225-000/>

Fingers crossed!

James is giving an Online talk to The Sussex Archaeological Society (Sussex Past) on **21 January**, tickets £5 for non-members;

[Spring Talk: James Kenny 'The Priory Park Project' - Sussex Past](#)

Are we all following Digging for Britain? I'm reliably informed some of our members are particularly enjoying all the gratuitous aerial shots of Dr Alice striding across another hillfort...or maybe not! Personally, I don't mind it. Television has moved on, if it attracts new interest in archaeology, it is a necessary evil. It's not Mortimer Wheeler driving into Maiden Castle standing in a Land Rover, but surely Dr Alice walking the countryside is just the modern equivalent?!

Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester 2025

22nd January: Dave Johnson, licensee of the wreck of HMS Hazardous in Bracklesham Bay, Chichester

26th February: Elke Raemen, Finds Officer Archaeology South East: Recent finds in the Westhampnett area

26th March: Mark Roberts, Archaeology and planning on the great estates of West Dean and Goodwood

Anne Bones is busy finalising future talks in the schedule.

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.

*another close call, this January, we have a number of regular bar volunteers absent. It's thank to Trevor Davies that we should be able to enjoy some refreshments after the talk on



Wednesday. Please, if you think you can help with the bar let me know or speak to Trevor on the night.

Activities

27 January 2025: Tour of the West Sussex Record Office - (2nd chance to visit) led by Vicky Evans, Searchroom Archivist. The visit includes a tour of the building and a small document display in the Search Room. It's an opportunity to see behind-the-scenes.

25th March 2025: Visit to the War Dyke at Whiteways - (2nd chance to visit) led by William Foot, author and CDAS Member. War Dyke at Whiteways is one of the South Downs greatest surviving Iron Age earthworks and possibly the least well-known.

10 April 2025: ** Newly announced** Bosham Church Tour - the historic building stones of Bosham Church - led by our very own David Bone, recognised local geologist. In this walk, we will discover the many different types of building stones in the church walls and the stories they tell us from the 1st/2nd C Roman occupation through to the consequences of the construction of the Hayling Island bridge in 1823. For additional interest, we will then drive a short distance to the shore of Chichester Harbour to view an unusual boulder with its origins in Ice Age Britain.

In addition to these activities we will also be represented by CDAS Committee members at an upcoming open-day at New Park on Saturday 15th February. The New Park are giving all regular users of the facility to share the works of their organisation.

We are also in early stage talks with Fishbourne Roman Palace about CDAS getting involved with activities during the Festival of Archaeology which runs from July 19th – August 3rd. I will update members when /if details get finalised.

Please see the [Activities Page](#) on our website for the latest details and booking information.

Fieldwork

Thanks to Mike Kallaway for the fieldwork summary;

A number of fieldwork opportunities are being investigated but as always everything depends on permissions from the landowner/tenant and the state of the ground after a period of very wet weather.

Meanwhile arrangements will be made to undertake the annual condition assessment of the Thorney WWII structures in the spring.

We have submitted project proposal to Historic England for a survey and “fingertip” search of the Flint Mines in Kingley Vale.

Following on from last year's excavation in Priory Park James Kenny is making arrangements for a professional GPR survey of the Norman arch.



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.

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 at a relatively high level of members currently so welcome any new members, I hope you get the opportunity to get involved in Fieldwork opportunities; attend some of the planned activities or come along to our monthly talks.

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>

Just a few links for you this month;

Interesting article co-authored by Miles Russell who was a recent speaker at New Park on "Continental influx and pervasive matrilocality in Iron Age Britain" ;

https://www.nature.com/articles/Continentalinfluxand_pervasivematrilocalityin_Iron_Age_Britain

If you don't subscribe to Current Archaeology, this online article is an interesting delve into the Fishbourne archives;

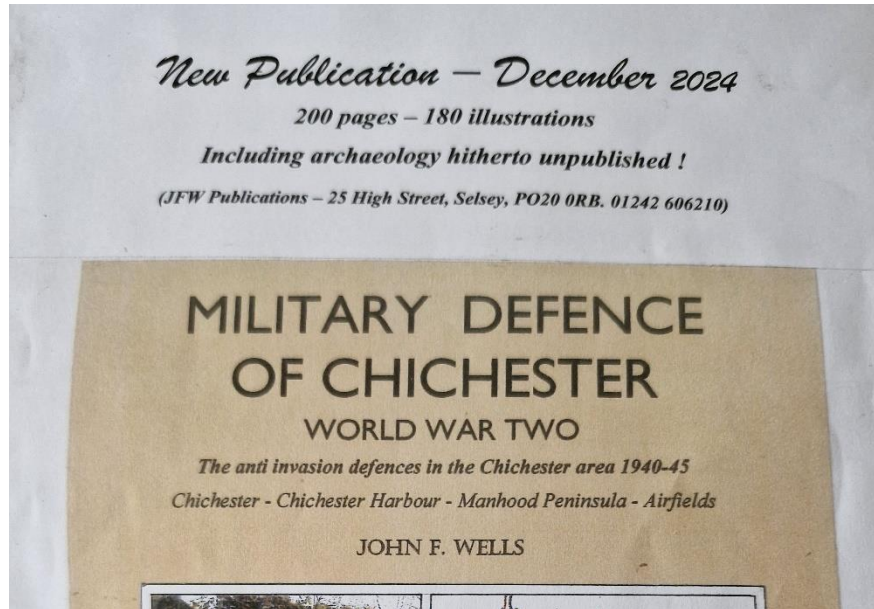
<https://archaeology.co.uk/articles/opinion/excavating-the-ca-archives-fishbourne-roman-palace>

Another recent guest speaker at New Park, Simon Stevens from Archaeology South East is featured in this BBC piece on Cooden Camp which was used as a base for troops sent to the front line during the First World War.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/articles/Archaeology_South_East



Finally, at the AGM, I spoke briefly with John Wells, John has a new book out ; “Military Defence of Chichester – World War Two”. Contact details are on a flier that John left with me I’ll also leave details at the desk for the New Park talk ;



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

Dickie

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