



Chairman's Introduction

Welcome to the Summer 2023 Newsletter.

Firstly I should explain why communications have been quiet in recent months. Sadly my Father-in-Law died in July after a short illness which involved protracted hospital and care arrangements and at the same time I have been struggling with a prolapsed disc in my back which stopped me digging this year. I would like to thank the General and Fieldwork Committees for their forbearance as I have been effectively out of circulation dealing with these personal matters. I hope to be able to apply appropriate focus to CDAS matters going forward and am keeping my fingers crossed a recent procedure on my back will provide me medium to long term relief.

Prior to having to deal with these matters, May saw the Member's Evening talks, whilst I was cruising up the Norwegian Fjords. I believe all the talks were well received, I hope you found them enjoyable and they were informative of what CDAS has achieved in the past year.

The end of May then saw our main excavations in Priory Park, again led by James Kenny with CDAS support from Steve Cleverly. As always this represents a fantastic showcase for the work we do as an amateur organisation and the contribution we can make to archaeology in the region. From what I saw of the end results the archaeology was really well laid out and James was able to tell a great story to those visiting on the final Saturday.

Local press has given us great coverage, here are just a few links;

<https://www.sussexexpress.co.uk/news/remains-of-chichesters-norman-castle-uncovered-for-first-time-since-the-middle-ages-4174821>

<https://www.v2radio.co.uk/news/west-sussex/priory-park-dig-uncovers-norman-castle-hidden-for-hundreds-of-years/>

And Hugh has again worked wonders with his digital photography to create this amazing 3D model which is now available on our website <https://skfb.ly/oHXX9>

In early June, I was able to attend the visit to Martin Green's Down Farm with a group of members and it didn't disappoint. I had visited Down Farm over 20 years ago whilst studying my A-Level Archaeology and was pleased when Ros was able to arrange a visit for CDAS members.

Down Farm is situated within the ritual landscape of Cranborne Chase and Martin walked us through his archaeological journey from a chance discovery to excavating a vast natural pit filled with prehistoric and Roman finds; excavations of a pond barrow, round barrow and a section of the Dorset cursus, all of which were included in our visit.

Walking around the prehistoric sites, Martin also enthused over the natural history conservation work he does on the farm with re-instated wild meadows and talk of the wildlife he has been able to attract.

By far the star attraction at Down Farm is Martin's home-grown museum consisting of finds made by him and his father over the years on the farm, finds from the numerous excavations with Bournemouth, Southampton and Reading Universities and from the surrounding 4 parishes.

Unlike other museums that select their finest finds displaying only singular examples of types of flint or pottery, Martin's museum has it all laid out in huge collections of Palaeolithic hand-axes, Mesolithic microliths, Neolithic and Bronze Age arrowheads and blades and most of which you are free to handle. Neolithic pottery, Grooved-ware and Bronze Age urns are all well represented and Martin enthusiastically recounts the digs from where they were retrieved and his sometimes trial and error methods of preservation, conservation and display. Martin's museum makes Pitt-Rovers look positively minimalist!

His museum extends to local history exhibits and a similarly wealthy collection of geological finds and fossils.

After our time in the museum and stroll around the barrows and cursus we all headed back to the farms where Martin's friends had prepared us a wonderful cream tea with copious home-made cakes. A fine end to a wonderful afternoon.

If you would like to read more about Martin's archaeological journey on the farm I can highly recommend ; "A Landscape Revealed: 10, 000 Years on a Chalkland Farm"

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Landscape-Revealed-Years-Chalkland-Farm/dp/0752414909>

Martin introduces us to the farm and explains how he stumbled across the rich archaeology of Cranborne Chase





Martin's sharing his knowledge of the artefacts



Anne and Sam Joy staring into the abyss – Martin's excavation of a natural chalkland pit that was full of archaeological deposits





A section of The Dorset Cursus



Excavated Pond Barrow with Dorset Cursus far in the distance rising up the hill



Now, who's for a nice cup of tea and a slice of cake ! Heading back to the farm.

The section of Dorset Cursus left after excavation to share with visitors and examine how it becomes naturally infilled



On my way to Down Farm I had to stop at Knowlton Henge. Whilst this might look idyllic, this photo had to be timed to avoid two sit-on mowers and 3 chaps with petrol strimmers !





Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester

2023

Summer Recess

Sept 27th – Simon Stevens Working with Children and Animals– The Stiances
Archaeological Project

Oct 25th – **Jaime Kaminski** - Bronze Age finds from Chichester and Sussex (provisional)

Nov 22nd – **Jane Evans**, Finds Liaison Officer Sussex - Recording our Past – recent finds from the Portable Antiquities Scheme in Sussex (provisional)

Dec – date tbc AGM

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

Activities

Full details are on the website here <http://www.cdas.info/Activities.html>

Walking Tour of Roman (and Medieval) Chichester - Saturday 16th September

led by James Kenny, Archaeology Officer, Chichester District Council. Due to popular demand and a realization that there's so much to see and learn about the City James has kindly offered to lead a second walk.

Study Day: Dangerous Waters & Golden Sands - Saturday 23rd September

The maritime history of the Chichester area, by writer and historian Dr Ian Friel.

Paper mosaic one day workshop - Thursday 12th October - led by Sue Eames - make your own mosaic in a traditional hand made Roman style.

Please book your place in advance by emailing **Ros Cheetham** at activities@cdas.info

And for something a bit different, Rob Symmons, Curator had Fishbourne Roman Palace has contacted us about an art workshop being hosted at Fishbourne on the 28th Oct. The idea is that folk spend the day thinking about the animals that would have been at the Palace and their relationship with the human inhabitants, and then design and paint (watercolour, gouache and gold pigment) a page in the style of a medieval bestiary. The day is led by a couple of really well respected natural history artists.

More importantly, it's a chance to meet the project team and learn first-hand some of the results of the project that relate to Fishbourne (there are some REALLY amazing stories coming out of the work. It will also include artefact handling, talks and tours.



A nominal £5 fee includes all materials AND entry to the Palace!

For full details see;

<https://sussexpast.co.uk/event/modern-bestiary-art-workshop/>

Fieldwork

Thanks to Mike and Ann for the following summary from the Fieldwork Committee

Fishbourne Store

The CDAS archive and equipment is currently divided between one member's garage and another's outhouse. The finds are in the Fishbourne Finds store. However, as this is quite an expensive option there is increased focus on the existing long-term project of reviewing and, where appropriate, disposing of Warblington Finds.

Langford Farm (Well Down Roman Villa)

At the last minute the landowner and tenant agreed to CDAS running an excavation this autumn. It is scheduled for 25th August – 11th Sept with Tues 29th through to Sat 9th Sept (not Sun) for excavation & recording. Mon 11th Sept backfill & close down.

Steve Cleverly has sent out a call for volunteers if you are interested could you respond quickly as there is not much time to arrange the schedule.

Monkton DMV

1st draft of the report on Geophys survey is in hand.

Equipment & Store (BT)

CDAS has gazebo for which it no longer has a use. Would a member be interested in buying it? If so, contact Brian Tomkinson.

JK Walk round Chichester on 24th June

This was a great success and covered about half the route. It was over-subscribed so is to be repeated in the autumn. The second part will be scheduled for 2024.

Chich YAC (SC)

Visited Mr Smith at Fittleworth for "flints study". Now off until September.

CDAS 100 Club

Don't forget the CDAS 100 Club is a great way for you to support us whilst having a bit of a flutter! Here's how it works...

Join the 100 Club by giving £2 a month (or £24 annually) to CDAS.

This buys you one membership number (that we will allocate), which enters you into 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.

If you win, your winnings will be paid to you by bank transfer and the winning numbers published in CDAS's monthly newsletter.

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

Richard New our Membership secretary is finalised this years membership renewal. Thank you all.

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>

A few months back we welcomed Alice Dowsett to New Park for a talk on 13000 years of natural & human-induced landscape change in the Wantsum Channel in Kent. She was unable to share an online talk at the time due to the usual publishing constraints however she has now been able to share this version of the talk on her public youtube account;

<https://youtu.be/liEFChE7EQM>

Thank to Graham Soffe for passing on this info about the British Archaeological Association having its annual conference in Chichester (4-8th Sept).

<https://thebaa.org/event/medieval-chichester-cathedral-city-and-surrounding-area/>

Here is an interesting article on the Roman Road network in the South West;

<https://news.exeter.ac.uk/faculty-of-humanities-arts-and-social-sciences/roman-road-network-spanning-the-south-west-identified-in-new-research/?fbclid=IwAR0LHI5cRpudZzQOZxSpilb22LhqxtJA0GjOdjNmF5I308OYIunPvEk-gEO>

YAC have launched a Youth Advisory board, details here;

<https://www.yac-uk.org/news/launch-of-the-new-cba-youth-advisory-board-and-young-associate-network?fbclid=IwAR2SzYwKpmsFAGHEF6soTCUFFSaGErD0ksLWsobnWWu8peQ6y8EvSh5DMJI>

and finally this has had a lot of social media coverage, public access to a section of Roman wall in the City of London;

<https://historicengland.org.uk/whats-new/news/city-wall-at-vine-street/?fbclid=IwAR1aWud8kVCW9AWnwvDldrFJ8LApgaZogbYbfAsSGIIBbbQbF6CJnrcXOXY>



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

Dickie

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