



Chairman's Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to my March CDAS Newsletter.

I'm writing this as Steve Cleverly has just confirmed completion of the Mag Survey of one of what is hoped to be a series of surveys of hilltop enclosures. This was particularly satisfying for me as a) it was my first opportunity to get my hands on the Mag kit (thanks to Brian Tomkinson for his expert tuition and b) it was also my first opportunity of participation on a non-work day as I'm now semi-retired – hurrah!

During the course of the Survey, some CDAS members also spent a day performing a Res survey at Staunton Country Park;



Since my last newsletter a group of CDAS Committee members attended First Aid Training, this gives us extra cover when scheduling Fieldwork and activities. I'm pleased to say we all passed the Day assessment. There was some role-play injuries, someone was guilty of over-acting !



Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester 2025

26th March: Mark Roberts, *"Recent archaeological discoveries from some of the landed estates of western Sussex."*

Recent research and excavation work on the Honor of Arundel, as was, and its more recent successors at West Dean and Goodwood has revealed a wide range of material that continues to shed light on the archaeology and history of our area and allows a deeper insight into the formation and composition of the archaeological and historical records. From resolution of Pleistocene exotic rocks, through later Prehistoric use of the Downs, to new



Romano-British and Medieval discoveries, this will be a wide-ranging and, hopefully, thought provoking talk”

Mark Roberts is an **Honorary member of CDAS** and well known to many of us, helping us for many years with fieldwork advice and contacts.

Growing up in the Worthing area with interest in both archaeology and geology led to his student dissertation on the hand axes being found in Amey's pit at Eartham. The project looked for the environmental and early human evidence, culminating in establishing the world-famous site of Boxgrove. Mark's work at Boxgrove included experimental archaeology on the effectiveness of hand axes as tools for people half a million years ago. Two multidisciplinary volumes later Mark has worked extensively with the landed estates and their forestry and other staff on a wide variety of projects.

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

May 28th Members evening. Ok confession time, I'd mentioned about perhaps having a Q&A as part of the Member's Evening that I would facilitate, unfortunately, I'd completely forgotten I'm away that week on a return trip to Callanish Stones on the Isle of Lewis. The Memebers evening will therefore follow the usual format.

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.

Activities

25th March 2025: (Fully booked – I've left details here as a reminder to those already booked)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: 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.

Saturday

tbc May/ June: Assuming Priory Park dig goes ahead (all looking positive at time of going to press) it is proposed that on the middle Sunday, which is a non-dig day, 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. As a result we will also be asking for volunteers to attend the usual stewarding station...as we're there anyway (this may also be when I'm in Italy, I'm hoping I'll be back for as least some of the dig).



21st June 2025 Walking Tour of Roman (and Medieval) Chichester - Part 2 - led by our President, James Kenny, Archaeology Officer, Chichester District Council

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

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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.

A reminder about ASE holding their 50th Anniversary event;

At Archaeology South-East we are currently in our [50th anniversary year](#) and are planning on closing the celebrations with a [conference day event](#) on 5th April 2025 in Portslade near Brighton.

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 and Ann Davies for this month's summary of the Fieldwork Committees proposed schedule;

Priory Park Archaeology Project

Further investigation of Norman Arch – J Kenny has arranged for a GPR survey. Depending on the results it is anticipated that there should be an excavation 20th May – 3rd June Fingers crossed.

Coastal Monitoring

Dell Quay to Marina 18th Feb - Some new features found. Groups of flint features were referred to David Bone but he explained that they were natural -better safe than sorry.

Condition Assessment

Thorney annual assessment of WWII sites are planned for 28th March.

Hill Top Enclosures

Court Hill geophysical survey has concluded (see above) that

Well Down Villa (Langford Farm)

Unfortunately, our hoped-for excavation in summer/autumn 2025 will not be possible due to the farmers demands on the land. This is understandable but disappointing. We (Steve CLerverly) CDAS will keep in touch with the land owner and farmer and we hope for a window of opportunity in coming years..



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

You will hopefully have received your renewal reminder email from our Membership Secretary Richard New. 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'm grateful to Anne De Potier for sending me this link featuring Bosham Manor House and Bosham Church;

<https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/antiquaries-journal/article/where-power-lies-lordly-power-centres-in-the-english-landscape-c-8001200>

I found this development interesting, DNA analysis filling in some of the gaps of *recent* human evolution, I can see AI being used for good in this area in the future.

<https://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/genetic-study-reveals-hidden-chapter-in-human-evolution>

More Romans in London;

<https://www.theguardian.com/culture/2025/mar/18/excavation-roman-museum-of-london>

Interesting dating of Flagstones Monument in Dorset by Exeter University, Mr Cleverly and I started our degree paths with a Certificate in Archaeology at Exeter.



<https://archaeologymag.com/2025/03/neolithic-stone-circle-in-dorset-redated/>

This reminds me of a trip to Alton Towers when I took the family on a 2 hour diversion to Arbor Low stone circle in Derbyshire, I was almost as popular as when I took them to see Edith Piaf's grave on a trip to Euro Disney!

<https://www.bajr.org/3700-year-old-stone-circle-discovered-in-derbyshire-forest/>

I received an email from the Church Monument Society with details of events CDAS members might be interested in ;

The Church Monuments Society is holding a forthcoming Symposium at West Dean College (+ Chichester Cathedral + Arundel Fitzalan Chapel). Our theme for the lectures and excursions is Tombs of the Aristocracy and the event takes place 29-31st August 2025.

People can choose whether to attend residentially, or just for the day conferences. We have further details on [our web page about it](#). As you can see, the programme is packed with expert speakers on topics ranging from European monuments to UK church and churchyard memorials, to historical costume and arms and armour.

Final deadline (for all bookings) is 30th June 2025. Please email churchmonuments@gmail.com with any questions you might have, or to book.

The Society also has the following upcoming events if these are of interest, too (all are welcome):

16th April: [A Wren Tower in Twickenham](#)

24th May: ['Nonsuch Like Them'](#) at Cheam

28th June: [Birmingham Plus 1](#) coach tour

29-31st Aug: [Tombs of the Aristocracy](#) (CMS Symposium 2025)

4th October: AGM with tour of [Little Stanmore + Chandos Mausoleum](#)

31st October: All Hallows Online lectures begin (watch the website for announcements, tickets will be available nearer the time via [our Eventbrite page](#))

Elizabeth, Hon. Events Coordinator, Church Monuments Society

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

Dickie

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