



Chairman's Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to my November CDAS Newsletter.

This is my last Newsletter* as Chairman of CDAS - my, how that four years has flown by. Becoming Chair, as some of you may remember was not on my radar in 2021 when Trevor Davies approached me in Priory Park. I only ever saw this as doing my part for the society to get it out of a particular set of circumstances leaving us without a Chair and limited options for people to take on the role. Finding myself writing this newsletter, we're still here, we have grown our membership and I like to think we're in a relatively good place compared with other similar societies. We've concluded our participation in the Priory Park Archaeological Project and we've continued our program of Geophysical survey; we've had many visits, walks, activities and talks. Our Fieldwork Team has many potential opportunities for future excavation - maybe not with the luxury of the engagement with the Public we enjoyed at Priory Park, and probably not with a café close by selling coffees and ice cream - we really have been spoiled and that's saying nothing of the archaeology. As I look to pass on the baton of Chair, I'm excited to see what develops of the many irons we have in the fire in terms of potential opportunities to dig.

*I will continue to play an editorial role in the production of the Newsletter, pulling together information from the various sources including the new Chair.

Committee Update

As I mentioned last month, I'm really pleased to report that we have a way forward for the AGM with folk lined up for Chair and Committee; and also a wider group of members, able and willing to help out with non-committee functions. As I mentioned to those at New Park last month, I'm very pleased to confirm that Mark Seaman has agreed to be nominated as Chair for 2026. Many of you will know Mark, he has been Chair before; he spent time as our Treasurer and is still actively involved with the Fieldwork Committee. I'll shortly be issuing an invite to the AGM in which I will confirm the Committee nominations but I'm please to report the following CDAS members have agreed to stand ; Katie Reed, John Pilkington and Mark Roberts. Mark will be taking on the role of managing our Talks Schedule. With Mark's contacts I'm sure this will lead to an interesting program of talks at New Park.

As I've mentioned, some of the functions traditionally carried out by Committee don't necessarily have to be so. Therefore, non-committee members can get involved in arranging Activities and also help out with Social-Media. We'll therefore have informal groups of Members able to get more involved in these areas. I hope to be able to get more involved in Activities going forward and will be looking to build a group of members who can help with ideas, arranging activities, either one offs or continued involvement.

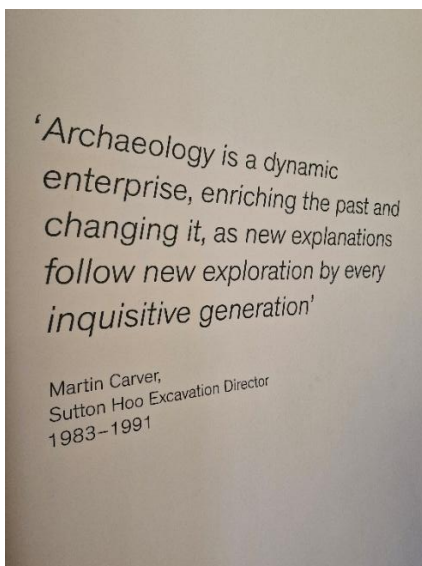
With new committee members and wider involvement in arranging CDAS activity, to help smooth the transition to a different way of working, I've created Terms of Reference for all these roles and functions, so anyone getting involved will know what they are undertaking, and for some areas, we will also have more details guidelines and templates.

As I mentioned, full details of the AGM will be included in the invite to be issued later this month but for now I would like to confirm that we'll use the same format as last year; Members should feel free to bring along any foods, savouries or sweet; please let me know what you intend bringing, the committee will than also bring along a selection of savoury snacks to fill any gaps.

As I mentioned last month, I'm now fully retired and enjoying my new non work schedule. Even though I have child minding commitments with my Grand Children, we did manage a short trip away to Suffolk, mainly, a long overdue visit to Sutton Hoo but also taking in Framlingham, or 'Danebury' as it is known to Detectorists fans.

I'm not usually one for a Visitor Centre, but with the artifacts being in the British Museum, once you've walked around the mounds there wouldn't be much to see so I think they've done a pretty good job. Tranmer House tells the real story of 'The Dig' and the relationship between Edith Pretty and Basil Brown as well as a proper appreciation of Peggy Piggott, who, if you've seen the film 'The Dig' was unfairly represented in my opinion (had she been alive, could she have gone down a similar path as Richard Taylor for his representation in The Lost King?

Here's just a few pictures of my visit;



I rather liked this



Basil Brown's Tape Measure



When in Framlingham...

This month I also accompanied Sam, Steve and Anne on a Chichester YAC visit to Butser Ancient Farm. I was reminded of a visit when I was about the same age as the YAC youngsters, at the original site the other side of the A3 below Butser Hill itself. I amazed myself at being able to find my Dad's original photos, digitised from his old Agfa slides;



That's me on the right watching the hang glider, with the original Farm in the distance . Photo c.1974



The villa and roundhouse photos 2025.



Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester 2025

26th November; Lawrence Shaw - Forestry England and Archaeology

10th Dec; AGM , St Nicholas Hall, Brooks Lane, Broadbridge, Bosham, PO18 8JT

Details of the AGM will be issued shortly in the form of a formal invite but at this stage, I would say that we will adopt the same format as last year; members are invited to bring along an assortment of festive foods, sweet and savoury. I will start a chat on the Whatsapp Group so we can co-ordinate and have a variety of foods available on the night. Committee will provide a selection of cooked savouries and look to fill any obvious gaps.

2026

28th Jan – James Sainsbury – Highdown Big Dig

25th Feb – David Pearson. Conservation Manager, The Mary Rose Trust

The surviving remains of the hull of the Mary Rose was raised in 1982 to a worldwide audience of 60 million. The conservation began as soon as she was out of the water and continues to this day. The Mary Rose now sits as the centre piece of a museum surrounded by some of the 19,000 artefacts. This talk will discuss the degradation of the wood, why so much survives and the conservation methods used for both the hull and the artefacts.

For those of you that attended Dave Johnson's talk on the wreck of HMS Adventurous, he mentioned the conservation work carried out by experts at The Mary Rose Trust, David Pearson was involved in that work and much more.

Future talks will be announced after AGM as part of the handover of our Talks Co-ordinator

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

There are currently no scheduled activities but I hope once the new Committee is in place we will also have a wider group of members willing and able to arrange visits, walks and study days. I hope to contribute to this group myself. In the meantime, I'm grateful to Anne Bone for a review of a non-CDAS event that she attended. Anne reported to committee as the subject of the SAS Conference was very much in our area and so may be of interest to CDAS members.

At the SAS Conference on Early Medieval Sussex recently, Gabor Thomas talked about the potential of village cores for archaeology and Michael Shapland talked about the development of the Anglo-Saxon kingdom of Sussex and the origins of Christianity at Church Norton and Bosham.

Anne talked to Scott Chaussee about his work at Bosham and Church Norton and the possibility of further archaeological research. Details have been passed to the CDAS Fieldwork Committee in the event that Scott reaches out to the wider archaeological community which could include CDAS.



Potential Study Day? - I saw on social media that Worthing Archaeology Society had a recent **Animal Bones Study Day**; David Rudling said: "Last Saturday Sarah Green, Manager of Sussex Archaeology & History, taught an animal bones identification day school for the Worthing Archaeological Society."

If this is something you might be interested in I'd be happy to organise at some time in 2026. Let me know if you might be interested, I'm not worried about exact numbers at this stage.

If you have any suggestions for activities or want to get involved arranging an activity, please email activities@cdas.info For full details see the CDAS website [here](#)

Fieldwork

No update from the Fieldwork Committee this month as they meet later this week, but I did visit the teams involved with the Stansted House Secret Garden Geophysics Survey - the results are looking good and a full Report will follow.

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. We'll be holding the 'catch up' draws on our return to New Park.

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

No update this month

Competition Time (how exciting!)

2026 marks our 35th Anniversary and Committee have been discussing how we might mark this milestone (Covid put pay to any celebrations of our 30th). James Kenny our President mentioned at a recent Committee meeting that our CDAS logo has served us well, but could do with bringing up to date with a re-brand. Now, we could pay *Tens of Thousands of Pounds for a Consultancy to come up with a new logo...that in my business experience would look very similar to the old one! Or we could invite Members, their family and friends to have a go at creating a new logo that encapsulates CDAS in the 21st Century.

*actually, we couldn't!

Competition Detail;

What we are asking you do Design a new CDAS Logo



When	Submissions November 25 – March 26 We will announce a winner at our May Members Talk
Who can participate	Members, Members Family or Friends (must be submitted through a CDAS Member)
Prize	1 Year's Free CDAS Membership Cash /Gift Token equivalent

Terms and Conditions 1. The Committee's Decision is final. 2. CDAS Committee reserve the right to amend the winning entry to arrive at a final new logo. 3. Entries should be in a format that can be subsequently modified. 4. There is no fee payable by CDAS for any work submitted as part of the competition. 5. The Copyright of any winning logo will be gifted to and owned by CDAS.

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>

SAS have a Zoom talk about Bosham and other centres of power; Dr Duncan Wright – Bosham, Bayeux, and Beyond: The Archaeology of England's Earliest Medieval Lordly Centres. Time: Nov 25, 2025 07:30 PM London. Free to SAS members, otherwise £5.

<https://sussexpast.co.uk/event/autumn-talk-dr-duncan-wright-bosham-bayeux-and-beyond-the-archaeology-of-englands-earliest-medieval-lordly-centres/>

Bronze Age Log boats now on display at Flag Fen...I'll have to go back

[Rare Bronze Age log boats on display in Peterborough first - BBC News](#)

There's been some discussion on this in our Whatsapp group already but if you haven't seen this, it is an interesting resource;

[Roman roads reimagined: new digital map expands the empire's network to nearly 300,000 km | Archaeology News Online Magazine](#)

Thanks for taking the time to read this Newsletter and for indulging my ramblings and occasional inaccuracies over my time as Chairman.

Dickie

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