

Chairman's Introduction

Hello everyone and welcome to my October CDAS Newsletter.

This month marks my long awaited (by me) retirement, or as my company's HR department now call it 'Voluntary Separation with the company. There is a logic to this in that you can now choose to 'retire' when you like, but this 'Good and Faithful Servant (Joe Orton)' found the term deeply unpersonal. I've been using my existing non-working days to get in some walking in readiness for the additional free time, here's a few pics of West Monkton and The Devil's Humps, Bow Hill (Kingley Vale). Apologies, someone showed me pics of West Monkton at New Park last month, it's always so hectic at the talks, I can't recall who it was, but I made a mental note to explore for myself.



Committee Update

Last month I put out a request for volunteers to put themselves forward to become committee members and I also explained how I believed splitting the Committee role from the more administrative tasks would have twofold benefits; i) people who are able to be on the committee but don't feel able to organise Talks, Activities etc can join the committee without the additional obligation to organise and ii) People who are able to assist in functions but don't



fancy being the committee (or are unable to due constitutional constraints) can get involved without having to join the committee.

I'm really please to report that I now believe 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. Full details of those standing for election at the AGM will follow in due course.

I have had some conversations with other members who had said 'if we are really desperate, they could help out'. If you believe that could be you and you would still like to be on Committee, please let me know, we can always have additional Committee members, the current drive has been to ensure we have a Constitutionally compliant structure for 2026.

Talks and Lectures Schedule

The New Park, Chichester 2025

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

26th November; Lawrence Shaw - Forestry England and Archaeology

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

Future talks will be announce 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

A few months back I shared an invitation from UCL to join the Tangmere Community dig and our current Activities Co-Ordinator, Ros Cheatham took up the invitation along with other CDAS Members and the General Public. Ros I spent two days volunteering on finds and digging , saying it was great experience working alongside the professionals. There was also an occasional specialist drop by to give a talk for the first hour of the morning. Alastair Threlfall, UCL Conservator brought along some artefacts and explained how they treat each item in specific ways with different chemicals. We will explore the possibility of Alastair coming to do a CDAS Talk, or maybe a separate full study day.

Other CDAS members took part included Peter Barker (in the pictures) below, Henry Young, Tony, Kate Shaw and Katie Reed..



Earlier this month, members enjoyed a guided tour of Staunton Country Park (Leigh Park Gardens in old money!) Thanks to Simon Walton for arranging and leading the tour, we will probably look to arrange a repeat of this activity as it was very popular and well received. Thanks to Ros for these pics of Simon in actions.



The last photo here, is one of mine, we'd visited on another occasion earlier this month with our grandson. I was really impressed with the renovation, conservation and general improvements since we used to visit in the 1990s with our children when they were young. I was less impressed with the price of parking, or even having to pay at all!



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

Fieldwork

No update from the Fieldwork Committee this month, 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

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>

"The remains of a pre-term infant found at Chichester Cathedral ahead of planned building work have been re-interred in a special burial service."

<https://www.chichestercathedral.org.uk/news/recent-burial-chichester-cathedral-late-saxon-premature-infant>

Members might find this online talk interesting ; "Dating Ancient Buildings" By Triskele Heritage . Using archives, archaeology & dendrochronology to understand the age of historic buildings. (Looks like Fee is via a donation , I've not researched, please check before booking if you are interested) Tuesday, November 25 · 7 - 8:30pm

<https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/dating-ancient-buildings-tickets>



The Friends of the Ridgeway provide a series of online talks about the histories and mysteries of the landscape around the Ridgeway National Trail which will resume soon. In the meantime, catch up with previous talks from archaeologists including Professor Gary Lock, Richard Oram and Dr Wendy Morrison, and the renowned photographer Hedley Thorne with artist Anna Dillon. All available on the Trail's YouTube channel. Click on Historic Ridgeway playlist to choose your next talk.

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC9MUTxl2Zjn5_LmNDRqo9cw

Sussex Archaeological Society have their Annual Conference; Join [them] at the University of Sussex on Saturday 8th November 2025 for The Sussex Archaeological Society's Annual Conference, Sūpseaxna: New Research from the Early Medieval Record

[The Sussex Archaeological Society Conference - Sūpseaxna: New Research from the Early Medieval Record - Sussex Past](#)

Worthing Museum posted this video of this year's big dig at Highdown. This is on Facebook, I couldn't find an external link to it so not sure if it is visible without a FB logon ;

<https://www.facebook.com/share/p/175HthVhxb/>

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

Dickie

chairman@cdas.info