

CDAS – Chairman’s Monthly Letter – February 2018

The Minutes of the AGM have been circulated together with this Monthly Letter

Priory Park

We are still at the early stages of planning but I am pleased to say that we will be excavating in Priory Park this year. Last year the excavation coincided with Roman Week at the end of May. Unfortunately it is not possible to excavate at the same time this year due to other activities in the Park. We have agreed provisional dates with the Park for two weeks in Mid-July. The current plan is to excavate the whole of the bath house that we partially excavated in 2017.

Priory Park celebrates its centenary this year and we will be working with the Friends of Priory Park to make the most of this event.

Talks

The current program of talks is listed below.

February 28th	Trevor Davies	The Roman villa at Warblington: a review after 10 years of investigation
March 28th	Edwin Wood	Archaeological finds from Sussex: Portable Antiquities Scheme finds 2016-17
April 25th	Stuart Needham	Bronze Age Barrowscapes in the Rother region
May 23rd	Members evening	

Activities

I am pleased to say that the study day on Roman period pottery on 10th February is now fully booked.

We have a number of upcoming activities listed below. If you want to be sure of a place it is important to book now.

Introduction to QGIS, a Practical Guide: a study day led by Mark Seaman, Mike Kallaway and Brian Tomkinson

Date: Saturday 24 February 2018

Time: 1000-1600

Location: Eames Farm, Thorney Road, Emsworth, PO10 8DE. [Directions](#) Free parking is available. You will need to bring a packed lunch.

Cost: Members £25, non-members £30 (if places are available). Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed.

The course outline: This is an introductory course to the most commonly used graphical information system, QGIS. The objective is to introduce delegates to this powerful set of tools and use QGIS to achieve basic but very useful results. It is a practical course, and delegates should bring a laptop previously loaded with QGIS. Instructions to load up QGIS will be sent out beforehand. Course notes will be provided for future reference.

Assistance will be provided on the course if any difficulties are encountered. If a laptop is not available then one can be shared. We will use one of our laptops to project on to the screen and work through the course material.

To book your place email Pauline Blagden at activities@cdas.info

Textiles: A study day led by Sue Wallis

Date: Tuesday 6 March 2018

Time: 1000-1530

Location: Eames Farm, Thorney Road, Emsworth, PO10 8DE. [Directions](#) Free parking is available. You will need to bring a packed lunch.

Cost: Members £25, non-members £30 (if places are available). Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed.

The course outline: Textiles require a huge amount of time and resources to produce. Surviving evidence of textiles and textile technology is often scanty. The significance of textile production to our ancestors is easy to overlook. An understanding of the history of textiles is fascinating and gives insights into the levels of interconnectedness of ancient societies. The study day will give an overview of the evidence for ancient textiles and an opportunity to have 'hands on' experience of some of the technology. The leader of the Study Day has a strongly scientific background and is currently Chairman of the Cambridgeshire Guild of Weavers, Spinners and Dyers. She has always had an interest in textiles and has been a weaver since 2010.

To book your place email Pauline Blagden at activities@cdas.info

Guided Walk - Kingley Vale

Date: Wednesday 14 March 2018

Start time: 10:00

Meeting point: West Stoke Car Park, Downs Rd, Chichester PO18 9BE. [Directions](#)

Leader: Mike Kallaway

Cost: Members £1.00, non-members £6.00 (if places are available) payable in cash on the day. Please book your place in advance by emailing Pauline Blagden at activities@cdas.info.

Kingley Vale is a well-known National Nature reserve within the South Downs National Park. Most visitors are aware of the ancient yew tree forest, Devils Hump Bronze Age Barrows and Iron Age settlements. Less well known is Kingley Vale's past as a military training site particularly during World War 2. During this walk we will explore a number of military sites from the 19th Century rifle range to Auxiliary Unit WW2 hideouts. We will look at the evidence that still remains of its military use and the efforts made to clear munitions from the site after WW2. The walk will be illustrated by the use of old maps, aerial photos, LiDAR images and other documents. Other more ancient features such as field systems, settlements, enclosures and unusual barrows will also be revealed.

The walk will start and finish in West Stoke Car Park. From the Car Park to the entrance to Kingley Vale Nature Reserve is around 0.8 miles adding 1.6 miles there and back to the overall route. The full walk will take around 3.5 to 4 hours. A shorter option is possible taking about a mile out of the route. People who chose this option will have a break whilst the others take an "excursion" to see other sites. The climb from the car park to the top is around 150 metres and is quite steep in parts so appropriate footwear should be worn. There are no facilities.

Flint Knapping - an opportunity to have a go

CDAS is organising an activity day at Butser led by Bob Turner on 9 June 2018. There will be a practical demonstration followed by everyone trying their skills with flint. Bob will give you a flavour of life in the Mesolithic / Neolithic showing how people lived and he will try to cover the full range of tools.

The cost is likely to be around £25- £27 for CDAS members, £30-£32 for non-members. This will include entry to Butser Ancient Farm.

If you are interested in attending please email Pauline Blagden activities@cdas.info as soon as possible.

Timber-framed buildings of the Weald, their development and dating for beginners. A Study Day led by Jeremy Clarke.

Date: Saturday 3 November 2018

Time: To be confirmed. This is a full day event.

Location: Fishbourne Roman Palace (David Rudkin Room), Roman Way, Fishbourne, Chichester PO19 3QR. [Directions](#) There is plenty of parking.

Cost: Members £25, non-members £30 (if places are available). Payment is due by 10 September. Details of how to pay will be sent when your place is confirmed.

The course outline: This study day will cover terminology, how to approach dating a building, useful resources and a group practical session using site photographs and plans to try out the knowledge gained.

To book your place email Pauline Blagden at activities@cdas.info

Fieldwork

On Monday 5th February a small team will be making a geophysical survey of the rear garden of a house on the South side of Fishbourne Road. This is believed to be the site of a bath house that was part of the Proto-Palace built before the construction of the main Flavian Palace. It is an exciting opportunity for us and reflects the wish of the new owner of the house and support from Historic England.

We have a busy schedule over the coming months. These will include completing the recent geophysical survey at Idsworth which revealed some interesting features.

Please contact Trevor Davies surveying@cdas.info if you want to be on his mailing list of possible volunteers and are not already registered.

Coastal Monitoring

The next session of Coastal Monitoring is on February Thursday 27th at 1300. We plan to visit Medmerry East and hopefully gather some samples for radiocarbon dating. Peter is currently making arrangements with Bunns who own the holiday camp and will be circulating final plans shortly.

Two other sessions are planned on:-

March Thursday 29th 1300

April Friday 13th 1300

The locations for surveys will depend on the weather.

If you are not yet on Peter's mailing list and would like to be included in future please contact him on coastal@cdas.info

If you want to keep up with our latest news please click on the Facebook or Twitter links at the end of this letter.

Mike Kallaway CDAS Chairman

4th February 2018

